

Euclid Fire Department

ANNUAL REPORT



2025

Safety Director:

Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail

Fire Chief:

Jay Womack



A Message from Fire Chief Jay Womack

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present to you the Euclid Fire Department's Annual Report for 2025. It is an honor to lead such a dedicated team of firefighter/paramedics and this report gives the reader a look into the amazing work our team does every day.

In 2025, the Euclid Fire Department witnessed an unprecedented number of emergency calls, totaling an astonishing 13,080 incidents! Despite the challenges posed by this significant demand for our service, our department remained steadfast in our commitment to serving and protecting the citizens of Euclid.

In an era where communication is paramount, we have embraced social media platforms to keep our community informed about our activities and initiatives. Through Facebook and the City of Euclid webpage, we have enhanced our outreach efforts, ensuring that vital information reaches our residents promptly and efficiently.

With Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer-Gail's commitment to maintaining safer staffing levels, 10 new cadets were sworn-in to the Euclid Fire Department in 2025. The EFD seeks to hire the best and the brightest that want to serve here. The EFD continues to participate in the Northeast Ohio Regional Firefighter Entrance Exam. The civil service commissions of nine cities, including the City of Euclid, have collaborated to establish a diverse applicant pool. The lateral application option has also expanded our pool of applicants that want to serve our community. Maintaining safer staffing levels allows the EFD to provide excellent fire and emergency medical services to our community.

As you peruse through this annual report, I invite you to reflect on the achievements and milestones of the Euclid Fire Department in 2025. It is through the collective efforts of our personnel, the support of local, regional, and federal government, and the trust of our community that we continue to uphold our mission of safeguarding lives and property. Thank you for your continued support.

Please enjoy this report and if you have any questions about your fire department, please contact me at 216.289.8401 or jwomack@cityofeuclid.com.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief Jay Womack

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Our Promise to You:

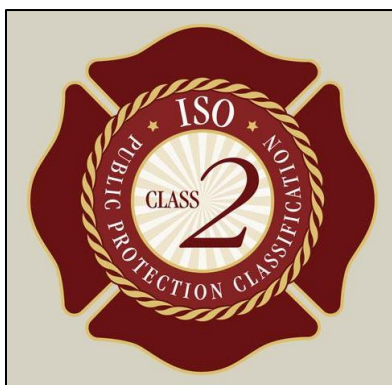
To protect your life, health, and property through training, prevention, education, and enforcement

To extinguish all fires within our community and investigate the causes of those fires

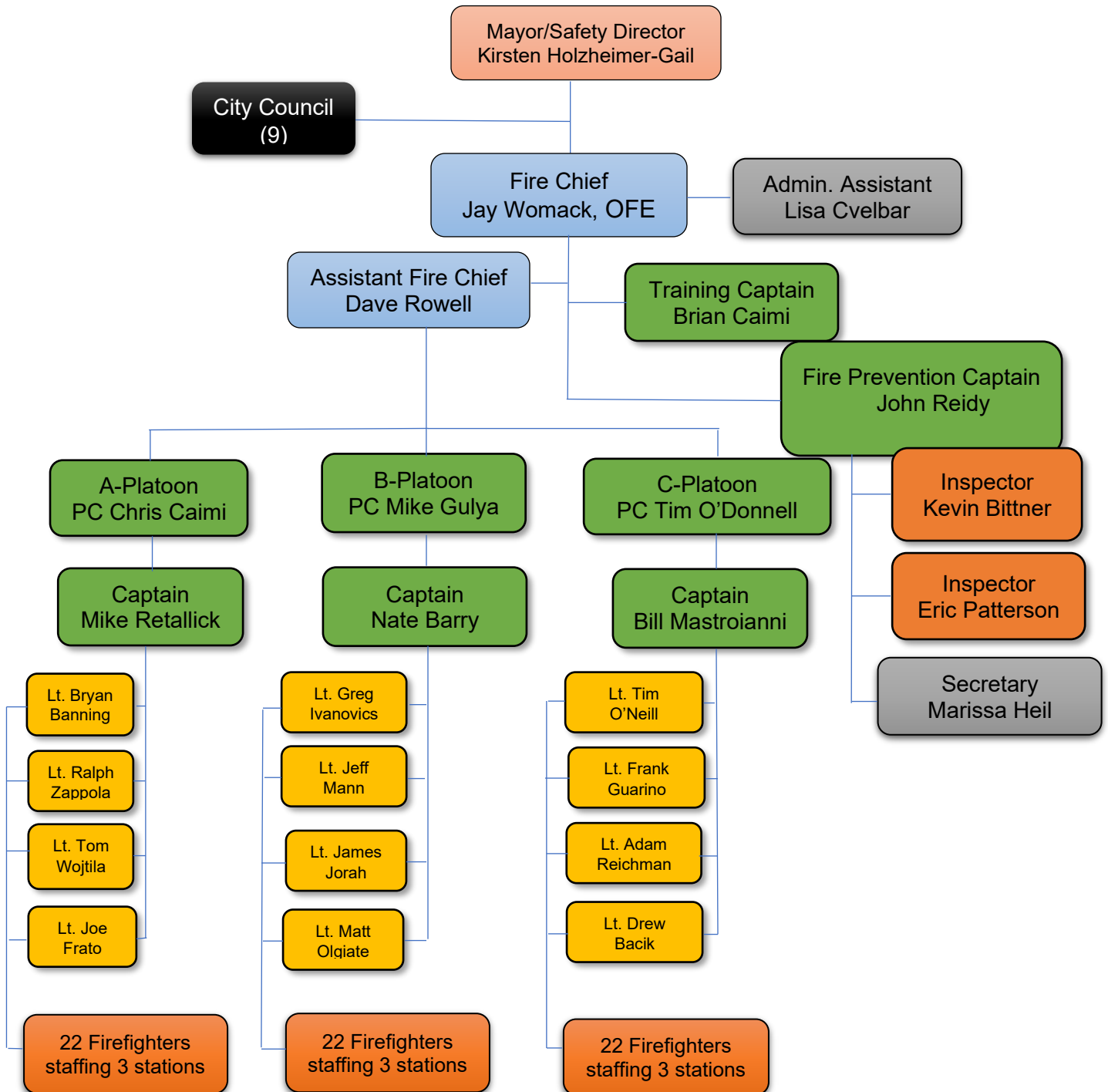
To inspect all businesses and public buildings to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local fire and life safety codes

To answer all calls for emergency medical assistance within our community

Less than 5% of
fire departments
nationwide meet
this standard!



Euclid Fire Department End of Year 2025 Organizational Chart



Year-End 2025 Department Overview

Fire Department Administration

Jay Womack
Dave Rowell
Lisa Cvelbar

Fire Chief
Assistant Fire Chief
Administrative Assistant

Fire Prevention Bureau

Tony Pellegrino/John Reidy
Kevin Bittner
Eric Patterson
Marissa Heil

Captain/Lieutenant
Fire Safety Inspector
Fire Safety Inspector
Secretary

Training Office

Brian Caimi

Captain

Professional Associations

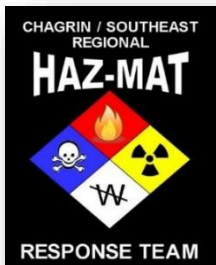


Regional/Shared Services Participation



Eastside Technical Rescue Team

Chris Caimi	Team Leader
Ralph Zappola	Team Member
Andrew McBride	Team Member
Brendan Cosgriff	Team Member
Craig Kovach	Team Member
Bill Hoose	Team Member
Brian Miller	Team Member
Nate Lapuh	Team Member



Chagrin/Southeast (SE) Regional Haz-Mat Team

Jay Womack	Team Leader
Greg Ivanovics	Team Member
Wayne Berger	Team Member



Euclid & Hillcrest Fire Investigation Unit

John Reidy	Fire Prevention Captain
Eric Patterson	Fire Safety Inspector
Kevin Bittner	Fire Safety Inspector
Adam Reichman	Team Member
Joe Buckels	Team Member
Matt Olgiate	Team Member
Brendan White	Team Member



EDGE SWAT Team Medics

Noah Carney	Team Leader/Medic
Bill Kunchik	Medic
John Jaros	Medic



2025 Year-End Personnel Rosters by Platoon

A-Platoon	B-Platoon	C-Platoon
PC Chris Caimi	PC Mike Gulya	PC Tim O'Donnell
Capt. Mike Retallick	Capt. Nate Barry	Capt. Bill Mastroianni
Lt. Bryan Banning	Lt. Greg Ivanovics	Lt. Tim O'Neill
Lt. Ralph Zappola	Lt. Jeff Mann	Lt. Frank Guarino
Lt. Tom Wojtila	Lt. James Jorah	Lt. Adam Reichman
Lt. Joe Frato	Lt. Matt Olgiate	Lt. Drew Bacik
FF Joe Maruna	FF Dan Offutt	FF Kevin Shea
FF Joe Buckels	FF Brian Harrigan	FF Steve Caleris
FF John Jaros	FF Bill Hoose	FF Rob Swope
FF Matt Kalas	FF Jim Retallick	FF Brian Miller
FF Paul Unger	FF Bill Kunchik	FF Noah Carney
FF JJ Burnette	FF Chris Groth	FF Chris Alvord
FF Brendan Cosgriff	FF Wayne Berger	FF Rich Palmisano
FF John Angelo	FF Bryon Frye	FF George Abdelnour
FF Caden Loew	FF Craig Kovach	FF Joe Mucic
FF Stephen Anderson	FF Nate Lapuh	FF Ted Shannon
FF Ed Hoffman	FF Marty Chapman	FF Tom Panichi
FF Pieter Pelser	FF Eric Schraibman	FF Ryan Kovar
FF Dillon Harris	FF Jacob Sieg	FF Clay Krafft
FF Andrew E. McBride	FF Matt Hurst	FF Steven Stokes
FF Joe Hongosh	FF Sam Meaney	FF Owen Smith
FF Joel Harding	FF Dalton Wilson	FF Joe Gilbride
FF Corey Kelly	FF Ray Patterson	FF Paul Mehlretter
FF Brendon White	FF Briana Truett	FF Jacob Gulya
FF Santino Pirozzoli	FF Jared Venczel	FF Austin Giroski
FF Cody Stone	FF Adam Jablonski	FF Andrew S. McBride
FF Matt Henry	FF Alex Caleris	FF Ken Pritt
		FF Connor Trick

Looking Back: 2025 Memorable Events

- Number of incidents responded to: 13,080
- Promotions of the following EFD members: Lt Joe Frato and Captain John Reidy.
- Hired 10 Firefighters: Andrew S. McBride, Santino Pirozzoli, Jared Venczel, Ken Pritt, Joe Toole, Cody Stone, Connor Trick, Adam Jablonski, Alex Caleris, and Matt Henry.
- Retirement of Captain Tony Pellegrino, FF Dave Engeman, FF Elton Murray, FF Dave Strahan
- Resignations of 2 FF's
- Maintained department staffing of 90 members.
- Maintain federal SAFER grant that pays salaries of 4 firefighter positions.
- Participating in a regional civil service entrance examination in December.
- Delivery of new Sutphen Pumper (Engine 2) and new Ambulance.
- Insurance Services Office (ISO) Inspection – Class 2 Rating Maintained
- Train paramedic students from 4 local schools between our 3 firehouses.
- Hosted a Fire Officer 1 class for our members and surrounding departments.
- Addressed 5 areas of focus identified in 2023 Strategic Plan including: Physical Resources, Community Outreach, Staffing, Diversity Hiring, Training.
- Continually exemplifying our Core Values: Courage, Integrity, Teamwork, Professionalism and Compassion.



Retirements



Captain Tony Pellegrino

- Hired May 18th, 1996
- Promoted to Lieutenant – October 1st, 2001
- Promoted to Captain – May 5th, 2014
- Fire Prevention Captain – 2017-2024
- Retired January 3rd



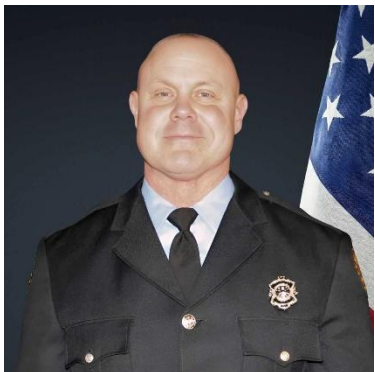
FF Elton Murray

- Hired March 1st, 1994
- 2015 Distinguished Service Medal from CCF
- Retired July 6th.



FF Dave Strahan

- Hired September 8th, 1997
- Community CPR Instructor - 1999-2001
- Eastside Technical Rescue Team - 2006-2025
- Fire Safety Inspector
- Fire Prevention Bureau - 2013-2016
- Retired – September 18th



FF Dave Engeman

- Hired April 19th, 1999
- Retired – May 13th

Our Partners

The EFD could not accomplish our mission without help from others. Many stakeholders, organizations, and individuals help us so we can help you. The agencies listed below make a positive difference in our ability to keep you safe and healthy. A brief list of our partners include:

- City of Euclid Police Dept.
- City of Euclid Service Dept.
- Chagrin Valley Dispatch
- Lincoln Electric
- Euclid Public Library
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- American Heart Association
- University Hospitals
- Hillcrest Fire Investigation Unit
- Chagrin/SE Haz-Mat Team
- East-Tech Rescue Team
- Euclid City School District
- Northeast Ohio Red Cross

Administrative Division Overview

The EFD administration helps create a safe, healthy, and economically viable community by supporting and overseeing effective and efficient emergency and non-emergency operations. These activities revolve around three major areas of responsibility that will be expanded upon in upcoming pages of this report:

- Fiscal management
- Emergency operations
- Non-emergency operations (including training and fire prevention)

Fiscal Management

The EFD operating budget was set by Euclid City Council during the Finance Committee meetings in early 2025. The total 2025 budget of the EFD was \$13,719,398.95. A budget breakdown by line item is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: EFD Personnel Expenses 2023-2025

Personnel Category	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual
Salaries/Wages	\$6,853,539.82	\$7,404,040.50	\$8,035,651.37
Overtime	\$472,465.27	\$508,227.39	\$513,154.10
Retirement/Separation	\$197,774.84	\$393,395/41	\$281,282.50
Healthcare	\$1,440,774.85	\$1,726,811.96	\$1,877,234.88
Vision	\$11,530.15	\$11,702.23	\$10,498.69
Dental	\$35,037.90	\$36,020.68	\$36,792.44
Life Insurance	\$16,934.20	\$17,549.61	\$18,480.35
Mandatory Medicare	\$106,657.53	\$117,788.46	\$125,166.22
Pension Expenses	\$2,112,542.59	\$2,349,848.24	\$2,434,035.89
Worker's Compensation	\$144,001.60	\$167,229.33	\$196,202.30
Clothing/Uniforms	\$158,262.34	\$172,621.55	\$171,514.17
Training	\$18,674.65	\$31,459.74	\$16,856.99
Tuition Reimbursement	\$686.50	\$1,574.00	\$2,529.05
Personnel Totals	\$11,569,069.24	\$12,938,269.10	\$13,719,398.95

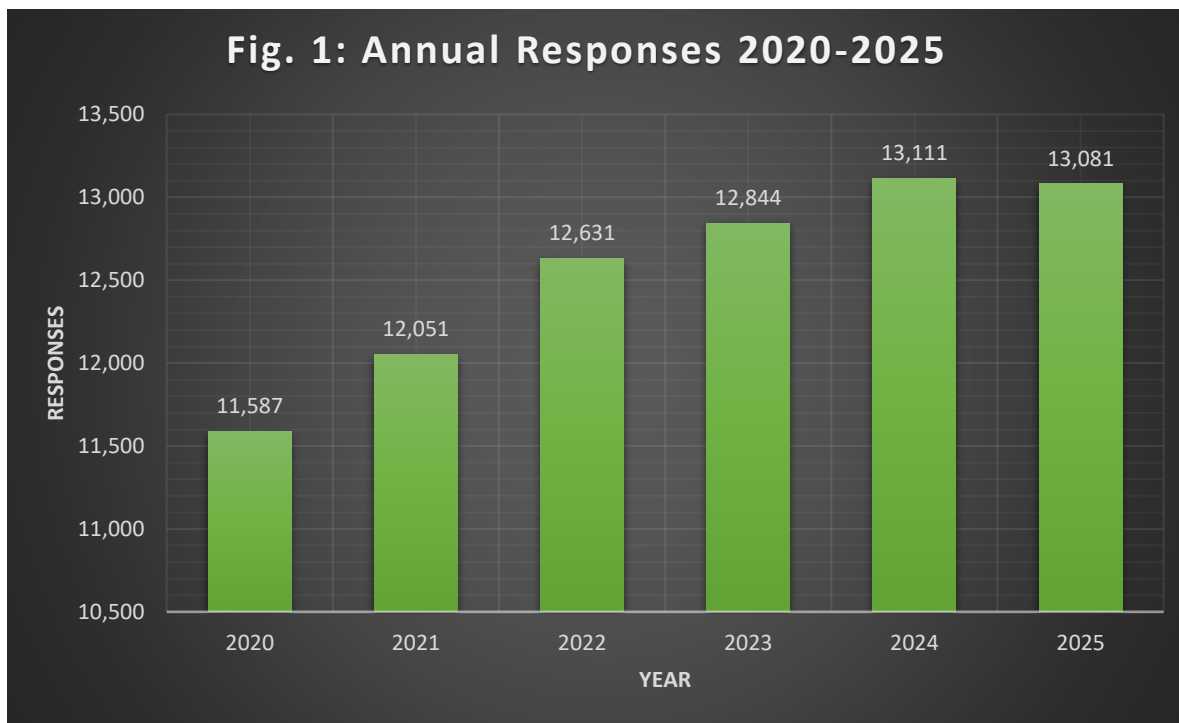
Emergency Operations

The EFD operates (3) firehouses: Station 1, Headquarters, houses the shift commander, ladder truck, and an ambulance; Station 2 houses an engine and two ambulances; Station 3 houses an engine and ambulance. The staffing arrangement helps ensure a prompt response to your call for help. Combined, the three firehouses had a minimum of 18 on-duty with on-duty personnel distributed accordingly.

- Station 1 (775 East 222nd St): 6 on-duty; average response time – 6:00
- Station 2 (1500 Chardon Rd): 7 on-duty; average response time – 6:14
- Station 3 (25970 Lakeshore Blvd.): 5 on-duty; average response time – 5:55



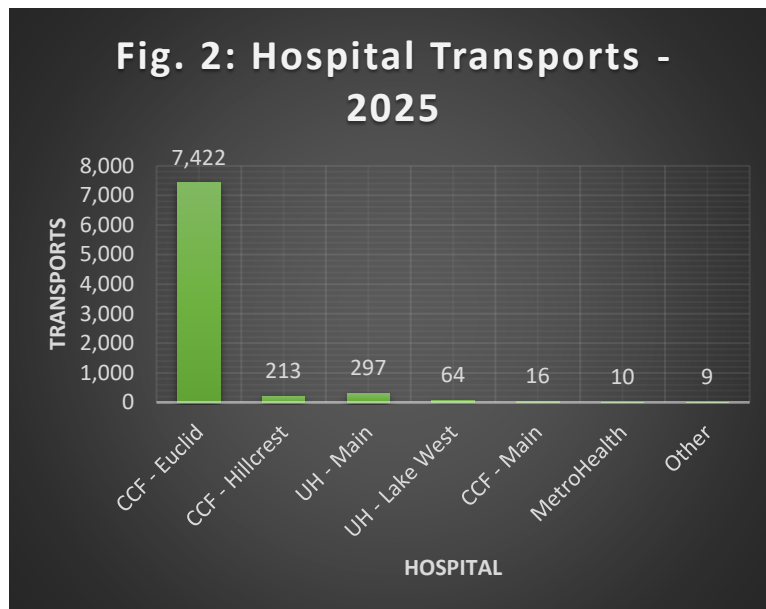
In 2025, we responded to 13,080 incidents (36 per day). Requests for emergency medical services (EMS) continue to be the predominant service provided, consistent with ongoing trends nationwide, since the inception of fire-based EMS in the mid 1970's. In 2025, the EFD responded to 10,801 EMS calls using four ambulances, many of these responses also included a fire apparatus to provide manpower for advanced life support. Mutual aid was received, from other fire departments, only 16 times during the



year to assist with simultaneous EMS incidents or for additional help at a fire or other incident. This is a direct result of EFD personnel taking care of the community by making themselves available to respond despite high call volumes.

We responded to other communities, either to provide mutual aid or for regional team responses, 31 times; 5 of those were for building fires.

To provide the best possible care, we have the capability to transport patients requiring certain specialties (i.e., OB/GYN, trauma, stroke, cardiac, pediatric) to the closest, most appropriate hospital. Of the 10,901 calls for EMS, 8,100 (75%) were taken to a hospital. Figure 2 shows the number of transports by destination.



Since the closure of UH-Richmond Heights in 2022, and continued centralization of hospital services, we have had an increase in the number of patients transported to outlying hospitals. If all EFD ambulances are unavailable, a fire apparatus will be dispatched to begin assessment and paramedic care. If the patient is stable, we will typically wait for one of our ambulances to become available for transport. Otherwise, if the patient is critical or there is an undue amount of time before one of our ambulances will be available, we will request mutual aid.

As expected, most of our responses were for EMS, another 2,179 responses were for fires, odor investigations, gas leaks, service calls, alarm activations, and vehicle crashes, among others. Table 2 offers data for all classifications of incidents for a five-year period.

Property and contents fire loss in Euclid was \$4,510,967.

Table 2: Incident Data (2021-2025)

Incident Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fires	188	146	150	149	150
Overpressures, Ruptures (no fire)	14	12	12	17	22
Rescues/EMS	10,163	10,507	10,593	10,871	10,901
Hazardous Conditions (no Fire)	272	327	392	467	290
Service Calls	369	439	476	418	358
Good Intent Calls	375	452	474	575	750
False Alarms/False Calls	663	678	714	609	594
Others	15	7	4	5	15
Total Incidents	11,587	12,051	12,815	13,111	13,080

Due to high call volumes, we occasionally needed help from our neighbors. Aid was received from other fire departments for only 12 incidents in 2025.

- Wickliffe Fire Department – 2
- Willowick Fire Department – 2
- Richmond Hts. Fire Department – 7
- South Euclid Fire Department – 3
- Highland Heights Fire Department – 1

Table 3 shows the number of responses by each frontline apparatus. Unit responses (17,466), equals the total number of responses. This differs from the number of incidents (13,080), since multiple units respond to some incidents.

Table 3: Responses by Frontline Apparatus

Apparatus	Type	Station	Responses
Car 3	SUV	1	791
Medic 1	Ambulance	1	3,266
Ladder 1	Ladder Truck	1	1,564
Medic 2	Ambulance	2	3,048
Engine 2	Pumper	2	1,571
Medic 4	Ambulance	2	2,203
Medic 3	Ambulance	3	3,123
Engine 3	Pumper	3	1,672
East-Tech	Tech Rescue	1	6
	SWAT Medic		45
Total Unit Responses			17,466

Though fires constitute a small percentage of overall calls, they also pose the most risk of injury, death, and property damage in terms of dollar loss. The [International Public Safety Data Institute \(IPSDI\)](#) uses national fire data to compare the EFD against comparably sized communities and fire departments across the United States. Year-over-year, IPSDI continues to affirm that the **community risk assessment for Euclid rated both the Fire Risk along with the Death and Injury Risk as High**¹. However, they rated our **Fire Spread Risk as low** which can be attributed to having 3 fire apparatus in service. The data corresponds with civilian casualty figures for 2025 shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Civilian Fire Casualties – 2025

Date	Injuries	Fatalities	Occupancy
March 17	1	0	Multi-Family
May 4	1	0	Single-Family
May 20	1	0	Single-Family
July 7	1	1	Single-Family
December 25	1	0	Multi-Family
Totals	5	1	

Efforts to increase availability for emergency responses

Non-acute or non-emergency responses negatively impact our readiness to respond to emergencies. This is recognized and we are approaching this in several ways including exploring the Cleveland Clinic’s Safer at Home program, meetings with properties to address abuse of EMS, alternative transport protocols, and social services referrals that can help get residents aligned with the services they need.

¹ International Public Safety Data Institute. (2026). Euclid (OH) Fire Department – Community Risk Assessment. FireCARES. <https://firecares.nfors.org/departments/81016/euclid-fire-department>

Non-Emergency Operations Training Office

The goal of the EFD Training Office is simple: to develop and conduct training that provides our personnel with the knowledge and ability to perform their jobs effectively as possible while being mindful of life safety. Through these efforts, we can provide the best possible service to you.

The fire chief assigns a member of his staff to serve as training officer, on a 40-hour workweek, keeping normal business hours. In 2025, these duties were assigned to Captain Brian Caimi. He was charged with the responsibility of ensuring all members of the department are adequately trained to a level satisfactory to both state requirements as well as the requirements of the EFD. Well-trained firefighters and paramedics are critical to the fulfillment of our primary mission which is to protect your life, health, and property. In 2025, Euclid firefighters completed 14,941 hours of training covering a variety of topics pertaining to fire and EMS service delivery.

In December, we participated in a active shooter drill at Euclid High School. The drill was coordinated by Cuyahoga County EMA, Euclid Police, Euclid Schools Security, and the EFD completed mock drills, which included live actors as well as simulated gunfire, to help prepare us to work in a coordinated and unified manner should an active shooter event occur.



In April, Capt. Caimi provided a two-week orientation to (pictured left to right): Andrew S. McBride, Jared Venczel, Joe Toole, Cody Stone, Ken Pritt, and Santino Pirozoli.



Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) was staffed by Captain John Reidy, Inspector Kevin Bittner, and Inspector Eric Patterson.

In 2025, the FPB arranged for or performed:

- 1,894 inspections (a 27% increase from 2024) on a variety of buildings within the city, including:
 - 272 hazard recognition inspections performed by on-duty firefighters
 - 1,622 fire safety inspections performed by the FPB staff
- 13 origin and cause investigations
 - 3 were determined to be intentionally set
 - 4 assists by Ohio State Fire Marshal (SFM)
 - 1 assist by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)
 - 2 assists by Heights Hillcrest FIU
 - 3 assistances to Heights Hillcrest FIU
- 9 hydrant permits issued
- 10 special event permits issued
- 11 service station permits issued
- 4 fire extinguisher training classes for Euclid businesses
- 1 propane permit
- 8 tent permits

The purpose of fire safety inspections is to identify and correct structural and/or maintenance issues that could endanger occupants and firefighters in the event of a fire or other emergency requiring evacuation. Euclid FPB recognizes its function in the larger scope of City operations. Weekly “building team” meetings and daily interaction with other City departments promote a collaborative approach to administering the City’s ordinances, zoning, building, and fire codes.

The fire prevention bureau also comprises part of the Euclid Fire Investigation Unit (FIU). The FIU is responsible for determining the origin and cause of fires, including referral to law enforcement (EPD, State Fire Marshal, and/or ATF) if the



fire is determined to be intentionally set. Our FIU also teams with the Heights/Hillcrest FIU to bolster the resources available in the area for fire investigation.

In addition to the duties listed above, the EFD's Fire Prevention Bureau conducted a number of plan reviews, in coordination with the Euclid Building Department, for new construction projects or planned renovations to existing structures. Many of those received multiple reviews since certain types of fire protection systems are required in new buildings based on use and square footage.

Operation Sound the Alarm Save-A-Life

According to the United States Fire Administration, more than half of home fire deaths occur in properties without working smoke alarms. To further this nationwide cause, which the EFD has participated in for over 30 years, the "[Operation Sound the Alarm. Save-A-Life](#)" program continued in 2025. This program is made possible by the Northern Ohio American Red Cross which provided 389 10-year battery Kidde photoelectric smoke alarms that were installed in 137 owner-occupied homes by Euclid firefighters, this is a 27% increase over the number installed in 2024.

Community Outreach

Community outreach, led by Assistant Chief Dave Rowell, is one of our five strategic initiatives derived from our community-driven strategic planning. Throughout 2025, EFD personnel participated in 36 events ranging from public safety fairs, career days, touch-a-truck events, fire extinguisher training, to parades. Duty crews as well as office personnel are used to fulfill this mission.

Stop the Bleed Program

Stop the Bleed was developed to train the public on how to control life-threatening bleeding. Unfortunately, this has become a necessary skill, as necessary as knowing CPR, to empower bystanders to take life-saving action to stop victims from dying due to blood loss following an injury, typically caused by mass violence.

The Euclid Fire Department has been teaching the American College of Surgeons Stop the Bleed "BConn" Course since 2018. We created a team of ten instructors and one Program Coordinator to meet the needs and requests of our community. Since 2018, we have provided free instruction to over 300 members of the residential and business communities.

No Stop the Bleed courses were requested in 2025.

For more information on Stop the Bleed or to request a class for your business or civic group, please contact Lt. Greg Ivanovics using the contact info below.

www.stopthebleed.org ivanovics@euclidfire.com

Community CPR

With a half-million cardiac arrests each year, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) increases the likelihood of surviving cardiac arrest, when the heart stops beating or beats too ineffectively to circulate blood to the brain and other vital organs.

CPR should be given when you see someone who is not breathing or only gasping for air. Having more bystanders trained in this simple skill can help save lives by putting more cardiac arrest victims within a few steps of lifesaving assistance.

In 2025, we had another active year with our CPR program. Ninety-three members of the community, 25 of which were high school students, received the training. This year we also included how to recognize and help in cases of low blood sugar.

To schedule a CPR class for your organization, business or individually contact FF Chris Groth at the email below.

groth@euclidfire.com

Euclid Fire Hockey (EFH) Club

Euclid Fire Hockey Club has just finished its 5th season and it is safe to say fun was had by all. The team has continued to grow as new members have been hired on the department. If you were to look around the Euclid Fire Department rosters of old and new, you will notice that public service can be a family affair with many sons and brothers wearing the uniform at one time or another. This is certainly reflected on the Club with three sets of brothers currently playing on the team: the brothers Frato; Euclid Fire and Euclid Police, the brothers Meaney; Euclid Fire and Willoughby Fire, and the brothers Jablonski; Euclid Fire and Euclid Police.

EFH Club again traveled to down south for Columbus Fire 23rd Annual Tournament and also participated in the Cleveland Firefighters Hockey Fest. Both of these events a great time, and for great causes. Fun was definitely had by all.



At home, Euclid Fire Hockey Club was able to win the Arko/Nagle Cup in the Euclid Senior Hockey league for the first time in three years, ending a great season. It is with great pride that members of Local 337 continue our strong traditions of athletics and camaraderie. Whether fighting fires, playing softball or hockey, Euclid Firefighters continue to exemplify the brother/sisterhood traditions of the fire service.

2026 Goals and Objectives

Achievements in 2025 will be extended into 2026 with the intent of:

1. Hiring 2 new firefighter/paramedics, maintaining staffing levels up to 90 personnel, maintaining a fourth ambulance in service to help meet the demand for service delivery and increase safety to our members and residents. This staffing is achieved with federal grant funding as well as a commitment from the city administration.
2. Increase training and development for our firefighters and officers.
3. Participating in a regional entrance exam for Firefighter/Paramedic as well as hire from the lateral-hiring program.
4. Purchase 1 new ambulance and refurbish a current ambulance.
5. Continued focus on labor management relationship.
6. Remaining current with industry trends and emerging issues.
7. Working with the Service Department to maintain each fire station until new facilities can be constructed.
8. Apply for 8 grants to support safe and efficient response to emergencies.
9. Continue to support our public/private partnerships with local businesses.

Thank you for your interest in our department; it is our honor to serve!