



THE FDC – FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION

A Quarterly Publication for the Membership of the Silvertown Fire District

www.silvertownfire.com

Volume 14



IT'S ACADEMY TIME!

The annual Recruit Academy has started! Silvertown Fire District is proud to announce we have 8 Combat Recruits and 1 Support Services Recruit. This includes a member from Marion County that is joining in. These recruits will put in the work through the upcoming months to join the ranks. A huge shout out to everyone teaching, assisting, supporting and cheering for these new recruits.

A SPOT OF RECOGNITION... FOR ALL OF YOU!

We've made it through another year! As 2025 comes to a close, we want to thank each and every one of you for all that you've done. Your dedication, professionalism, and commitment continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those you serve and protect.

Throughout this year, you, the members of the Silvertown Fire District, have gone above and beyond – responding to emergencies, maintaining a strong focus on training and preparedness, and building connections through public education and community outreach. The time, effort, and heart you put into every call, drill, and interaction do not go unnoticed. Thank you for your hard work and for another year of outstanding service to our community.



UPCOMING:

JANUARY

- 1st New Years Day
- 7th Drill Night
- 13th Board Meeting
- 15th Civil Service Meeting
- 14th Association Meeting
- 19th Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 21st Drill Night
- 28th Drill Night

FEBRUARY

- 4th Drill Night
- 10th Board Meeting
- 11th Association Meeting
- 14th Banquet
- 14th Valentines Day
- 16th President's Day
- 18th Drill Night
- 25th Drill Night

MARCH

- 4th Drill Night
- 8th Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 10th Board Meeting
- 11th Association
- 18th Drill Night
- 25th Drill Night



It's hard to believe that 2025 is over and 2026 is already here. As we close out 2025 and look back on all that we have accomplished, there is a great deal to be proud of. I am extremely proud of everyone's continued hard work and dedication. Over the past year, many members achieved new certifications – thank you for your commitment to personal growth and to serving our community at the highest level possible. In the fire service, training and improvement never stop. From the day we enter the Academy until the day we retire, continuous training is what makes us better and ensures we provide the best service we can.

The 2026 Training Academy officially began on Friday, January 2nd. I want to thank Lt. Dan Brown for an outstanding year of recruitment, which brought in eight new members, and for all the hard work he has put into organizing and running the Academy. A tremendous amount of effort happens behind the scenes to make the Academy successful. I also want to extend a sincere thank you to all the volunteers and staff who give up their weekends to instruct and assist with training our newest members. Training new volunteers is one of the most vital programs we have, and it is also one of the most rewarding and important responsibilities we take on as trainers and mentors.

Finally, I want to once again extend a huge thank you to Lieutenant Ray Dandeneau for his leadership and tireless dedication in running another successful Food and Toy Drive this year. Despite many challenges, his efforts continue to result in significant food and toy donations. Through partnerships with the Zenith Women's Club, SACA, and several other community groups, these donations help hundreds of families within the Silver Fall School District. Thank you, Lt. Dandeneau for your outstanding service and commitment.

Resident Donates Funds for brush Trucks for Fire Districts

The Silverton and Sublimity Fire Districts will soon be better equipped to respond to wildfires and rural emergencies thanks to generous donations from a local resident. The contribution is designated specifically to fund the purchase of a new brush truck; a critical piece of equipment used in fighting vegetation fires and accessing hard-to-reach areas.

Fire district officials said the donations will significantly enhance their operational capacity, particularly during wildfire season, when quick response and specialized vehicles can make a crucial difference. Brush trucks are designed to navigate rough terrain and narrow roads while carrying water, hoses, and firefighting tools needed to contain grass and brush fires before they spread.

"This gift allows us to move forward with important purchases that directly improves public safety," district representatives noted. "A brush truck is one of the most effective tools we have for initial attack on wildfires, especially in the rural and wooded areas surrounding Silverton and Sublimity."

A long time district resident, with property in both Sublimity and Silverton fire districts, made the donations out of a desire to support first responders and help protect the communities she calls home. With wildfire risks increasing in recent years due to drier conditions and longer fire seasons, she wanted to contribute in a way that would have a lasting and practical impact.

The new brush trucks will add to the current fleet of brush trucks currently in service and is expected to offer improved reliability, modern safety features, and greater firefighting capability. Fire officials explained that newer brush trucks are typically outfitted with advanced pump systems, improved water capacity, and enhanced protective features for firefighters operating in challenging conditions. Silverton Fire District will be purchasing duplicate components that are being purchased for the B407 project with completion possibly winter or spring of 2027.

Once purchased, the brush trucks will be stationed at Silverton's Victor Point Station and Sublimity's Drift Creek Station in the southern portion of the two districts and available for local responses as well as mutual aid calls to neighboring communities when needed. Training on the new vehicle will be provided to ensure firefighters can operate it safely and effectively.

The Silverton and Sublimity Fire Districts expect the new brush trucks to be in service within the next two years, further strengthening their ability to protect lives, property, and natural resources throughout the district.

ASSISTANT CHIEF

Keith Veit



Starting the Year Strong: Health & Readiness

As we head into the new year, it's a great time to refocus on our health, readiness, and commitment to the future. Firefighting is physically and mentally demanding work, and taking care of ourselves is one of the most important responsibilities we have – to our families and the community we serve.

Getting your annual physical is a critical part of staying healthy and mission-ready. Regular medical exams help identify potential issues early, support long-term wellness, and ensure we're physically capable of performing the demanding tasks our job requires.

The District follows guidance from NFPA 1582, the nationally recognized standard for firefighter medical evaluations. These physicals are not designed to disqualify members, but rather to ensure firefighters can safely perform essential job functions and to identify health concerns before they become serious issues.

An NFPA 1582 physical typically includes a comprehensive review of a firefighter's overall health, such as:

- A medical and family health history review
- Vital signs, including blood pressure, height, and weight
- Vision and hearing evaluations
- Cardiovascular screening, which may include an EKG and cardiac risk assessment
- Pulmonary (lung) function testing
- Routine lab work, such as cholesterol and blood glucose
- A review of occupational exposures and age-appropriate cancer screenings

These evaluations are a proactive way to catch potential problems early – particularly cardiac and respiratory issues, which are among the leading health risks in the fire service.

The physical in its entirety is paid for by the Fire District; however, candidates and incumbents who have insurance and who use a medical provider other than the District's medical provider must use their insurance plan. If insurance is used, the District will reimburse any copays or other bills as a result of the physical. See Operational Guideline 1-2-7 for more information, or contact Office Administrator Cantu or myself if you have any questions.

Thank you for everything you do – on calls, at the station, and behind the scenes. Let's start the year healthy, engaged, and focused on the future!

TRAINING & RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR

Lt. Dan Brown



Into a New Year!


That was quick!! I can't believe 2025 flew right by. They say when you enjoy doing something, that time flies by... So I guess we had a fantastic time last year because I have no idea what happened to the time! Dang, that was fast!

That being said... We are currently 90% EMS certified, and have the best EMS equipment we've ever had. We get trucks out the door faster. We get to and work emergency scenes SAFER. We have changed more Smoke Detector batteries and hosted/taught Fire Safety to more people than we ever have. We have the best Turnouts and Wildland gear we've ever had. We taught CPR to the public more than we ever have. We attend more training than we ever have. We have more equipment and apparatus than we've ever had... and most of it works – most of the time!

I am SO proud to be a part of this organization. I see how much everyone is putting their hearts and souls, time and energies, blood, sweat and tears, guts, effort... ALL OF IT. And it makes me wonder... "Could it get any better?" The answer is always yes, but looking back on last year, it's obvious that we did a pretty good job as an organization. Let's keep that up. Let's keep working. Let's keep being positive, even though negative stuff keeps happening. Let's keep serving, training, participating, showing up, doing the work, putting in the hours, pounding the gallons of coffee, burning the midnight oil, and helping our community whether they like us, need us, want us or not. 2026 looks to be another great year, although I hope we have the presence of mind to enjoy the moments and slow ourselves down so we can. Lead who needs to be led, and follow those who need to be followed.

If you have any interest in Instructing, Leading, Learning... Lemme know. I'll do what I can to getcha where you're lookin' to go.

Be more involved. Learn more. Do more. THIS IS THE WAY.

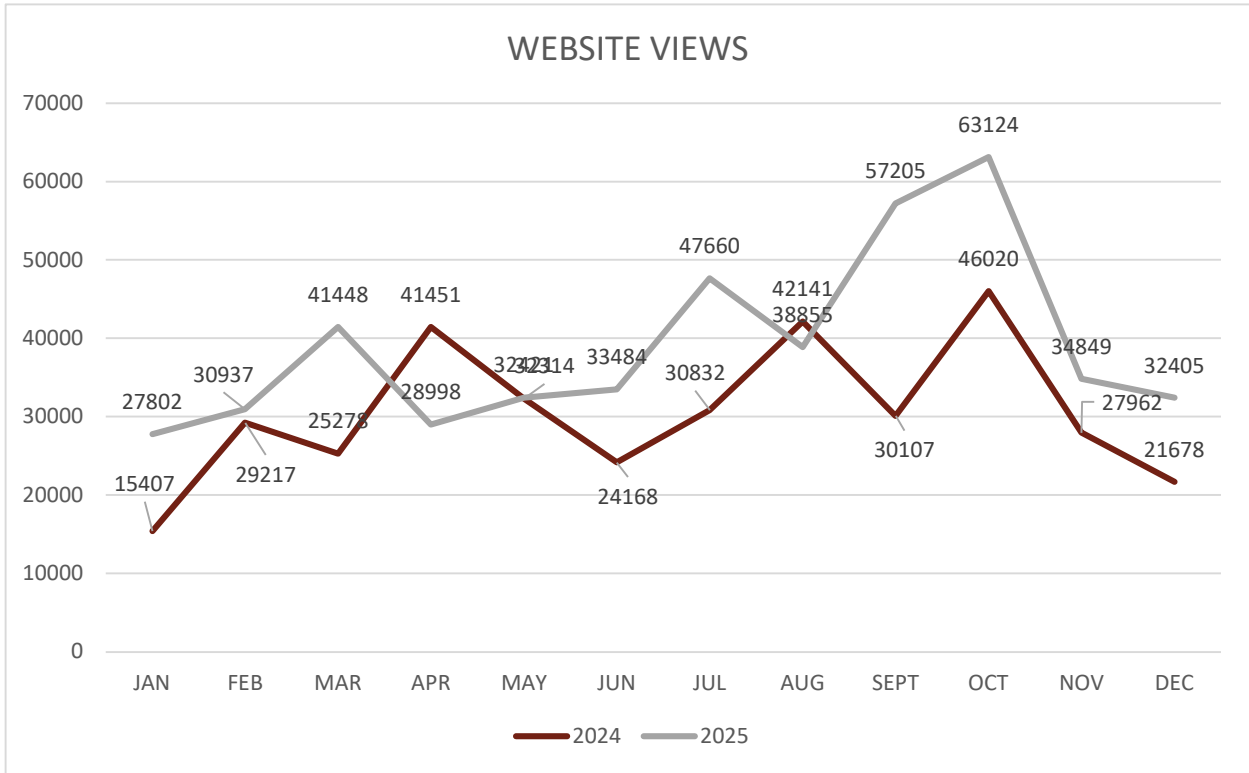
Silvertown Fire District  2026 Training Plan			
Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July – Sept.	Oct.- Dec.
FIRE/RESCUE XXXXXXXXXX	FIRE/RESCUE Wildland 5 th Wed = 4/29	FIRE/RESCUE XXXXXXXXXX 5 th Wed = Picnic 7/29, 9/30	FIRE/RESCUE XXXXXXXXXX 5 th Wed = 12/30
C=Don Matteson/Julie	C=?	C=?	C=Jen Homutoff/
Structural Skills MVA First Five Officer Training Multi-Story Target Hazards Target Hazard FF Skills Aerial & Water Supply Fire/RIT SOGs/Football	Pumper Relay drill(s) Bump & Run with Tenders Brush Rig Rodeo w/WINCH 1st 5 min Wildland Gator/ATV Ops-safety Progressive Hoselays/hosepacks MVA First Five	RTF w/PD H2O Shuttle w/neighbors L408 trng Structural Skills MVA First Five Porta-tank/ Tender OPs	Structural Skills MVA First Five Downtown Target Hazard Haz Mat RIT High Occupancy Evacuation
EMS Airway/Breathing/ Cardiology	EMS Wildland EMS	EMS Triage	EMS Basics
CPR Recert FF CPR/Rescue Patient Lead/Assessment/Vitals	Outdoor EMS Drowning Vital Signs	Active Shooter/RTF MPS vs MCI Triage Vital Signs	Evacuations Patient Assessment Vital Signs
IMCT	IMCT	IMCT	IMCT
CPR recertification IMCT Make ups	Wildland PPE Inspections (NWCG)RT130 (OSHA)Smoke/Heat Illness EMR RECERT 6-30-2026	IMCT Make ups	(OSHA)FIT Testing (OSHA) Structural PPE Inspection OSHA HazCom (OSHA)Annual BBP
Certification Training	Certification Training	Certification Training	Certification Training
FF1 Academy CPR HAZMAT AWARE/OPS	FF 1 Academy Wildland FFT2 & FFT1 NFPA DRIVER	Mobile Water Supply A/O	EMR (Nov) FF1 - 12 month (TPE)

2025 NFPA/NWCG/DPSST Certifications

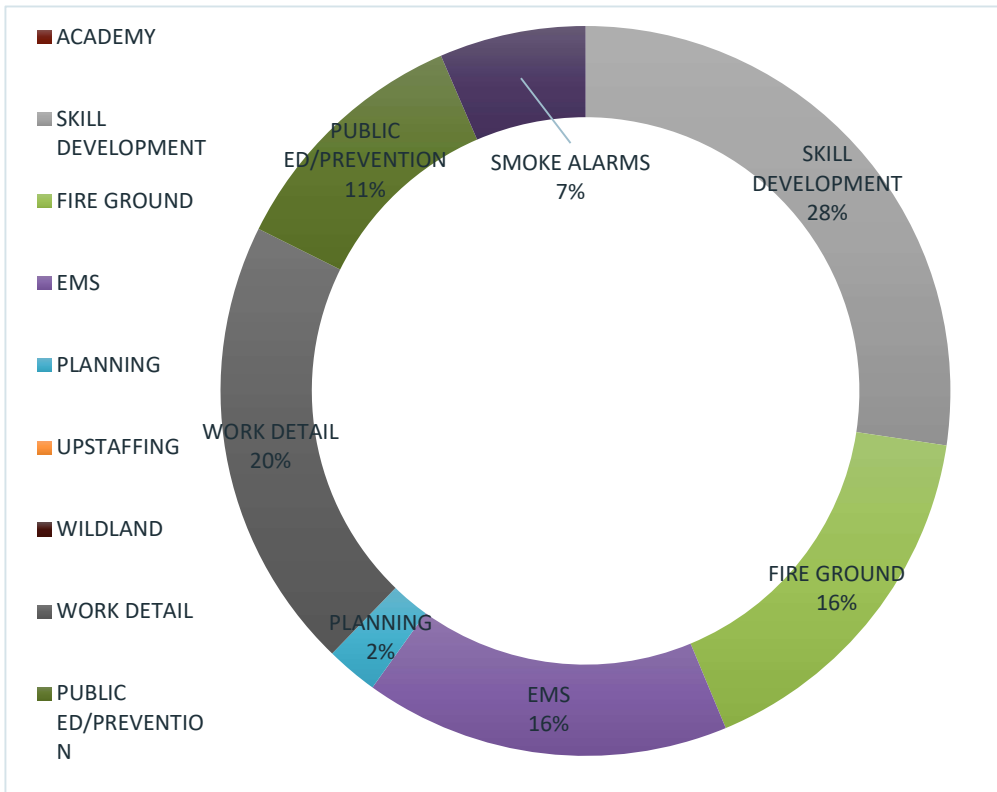
**Not including outstanding applications for certifications*

- **NFPA Firefighter 1**
Taylor Alexander
Henry Bielenberg
Deanna Grimstead
David Kneeland
Cohen Mulick
Tyler Nightengale
Trevor Redman-Brown
- **NFPA Firefighter 2**
Robert Guenther
David Kneeland
Corey Selfridge
River Valdez-Savage
- **NFPA Fire App. Driver/Op**
Carson Brock
Diego Flores
Robert Guenther
Ian Isherwood
Johnathan Milner
Cohen Mulick
Tyler Nightingale
James Ruks
Rochelle Schmidt
Brandon Schurter
Kidron Schurter
- **NFPA App. Equipped w/Fire Pump**
Diego Flores
Ginnifer Miller
Cohen Mulick
Brandon Schurter
- **NFPA Wildland Fire Apparatus Operator**
Daniel Brown
Kyle Miller
Corey Selfridge
Keith Smith
River Valdez-Savage
- **NFPA Mobile Water Supply**
Kidron Schurter
- **NFPA Hazardous Materials Operations**
Taylor Alexander
Henry Bielenberg
Deanna Grimstead
Killian Knaus
David Kneeland
Brody Kuenzi
Abigail Nuttbrock
Cohen Mulick
Trevor Redman-Brown
- **NFPA Hazardous Materials Awareness**
Wyatt Tegen
River Valdez-Savage
- **NFPA Fire & Emergency Services Instructor 1**
Jared Breitbach
Robert Guenther
Ian Isherwood
Johnathan Milner
James Ruks
Brandon Schurter
Claire Varney
- **NFPA Fire & Emergency Services Instructor 2**
Julie Hansen
- **NFPA Fire and Life Safety Educator 1**
Ray Dandeneau
Max Hughes
Keith Veit
- **NFPA Fire and Life Safety Educator 2**
Ray Dandeneau
Max Hughes
- **NFPA Fire Officer 1**
Steve Baker
Dan Brown
Jesse Hulett
James Klopfenstein
Ted Klopfenstein
Buck Pilmore
Randle Redman-Brown
Wyatt Tegen
River Valdez-Savage
Claire Varney
- **NFPA Fire Officer 2**
Rick Heuchert
Keith Veit
- **NFPA Fire Officer 3**
Keith Veit
- **NFPA Fire Officer 4**
Keith Veit
- **Wildland Firefighter Type 2**
Taylor Alexander
Henry Bielenberg
Deanna Grimstead
Killian Knaus
David Kneeland
Cohen Mulick
Trevor Redman-Brown
- **Wildland Firefighter Type 1**
James Klopfenstein
- **NWCG Strike Team Leader/Task Force Leader**
Ray Dandeneau
- **Oregon Emergency Medical Responder**
Henry Bielenberg
Carson Brock
Deanna Grimstead
Anthony Klopfenstein
Clayton Kuenzi
Rigo Lopez
Tyler Nightingale
Danyelle Ort
Rochelle Schmidt
Kidron Schurter
Andrew Terhaar
- **Oregon Emergency Medical Technician**
Diego Flores
Robert Guenther
Isaac Kuenzi
Ashton Martin
Cohen Mulick
Noah Price
Brandon Schurter
Abigail Tallent
Alissa Wiebe
- **Oregon Advanced Emergency Medical Technician**
Abby Tallent
- **Oregon Advanced Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate**
Ted Klopfenstein
Claire Varney

2025 WEBSITE VIEWS



ACTIVITY HOURS
Quarter 4



Activities by members are hours beyond regular Wednesday night drills. These include Academy training and other training completed by members on their own accord. Public education and public assistance events can include many different functions; school assemblies, first Fridays, installing smoke alarms and batteries. Work Detail is when a volunteer(s) help with maintenance, cleaning, EMS Standby for sports etc.

Data used for this report is rendered from the number of current active firefighters on our roll sheets divided by the number of personnel that attended drill night.

Additionally, drill nights typically follow a consistent training activity schedule as listed below:

1st Wednesday

Safety Committee, Apparatus Inspections, EMS Related Topic

2nd Wednesday

Officer's Meeting, Apparatus Inspections, Association Meetings

3rd Wednesday

Apparatus Inspections, Fire Related Topic

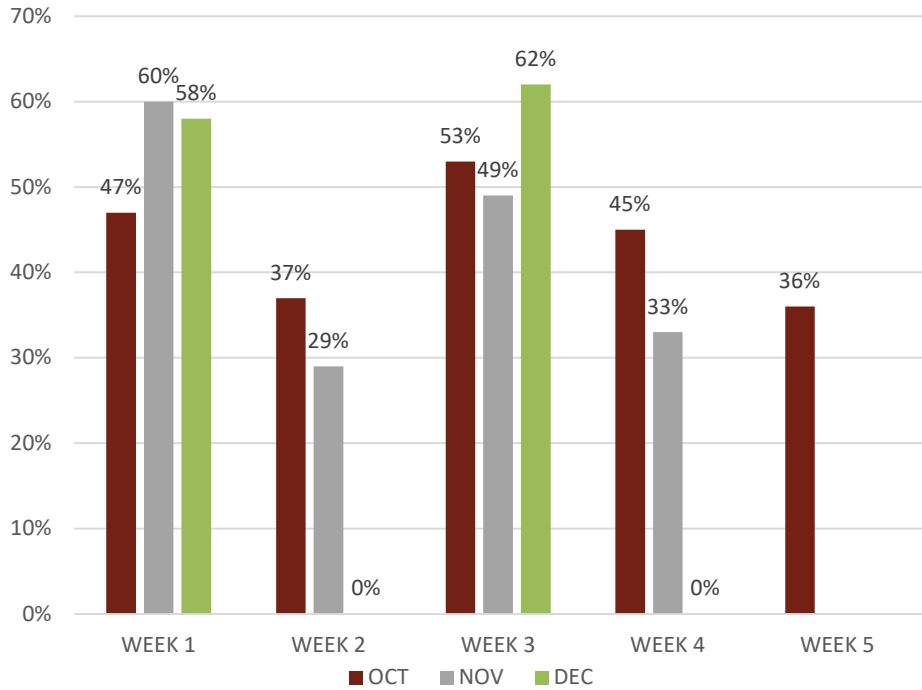
4th Wednesday

Apparatus Inspections, Fire Related Topic

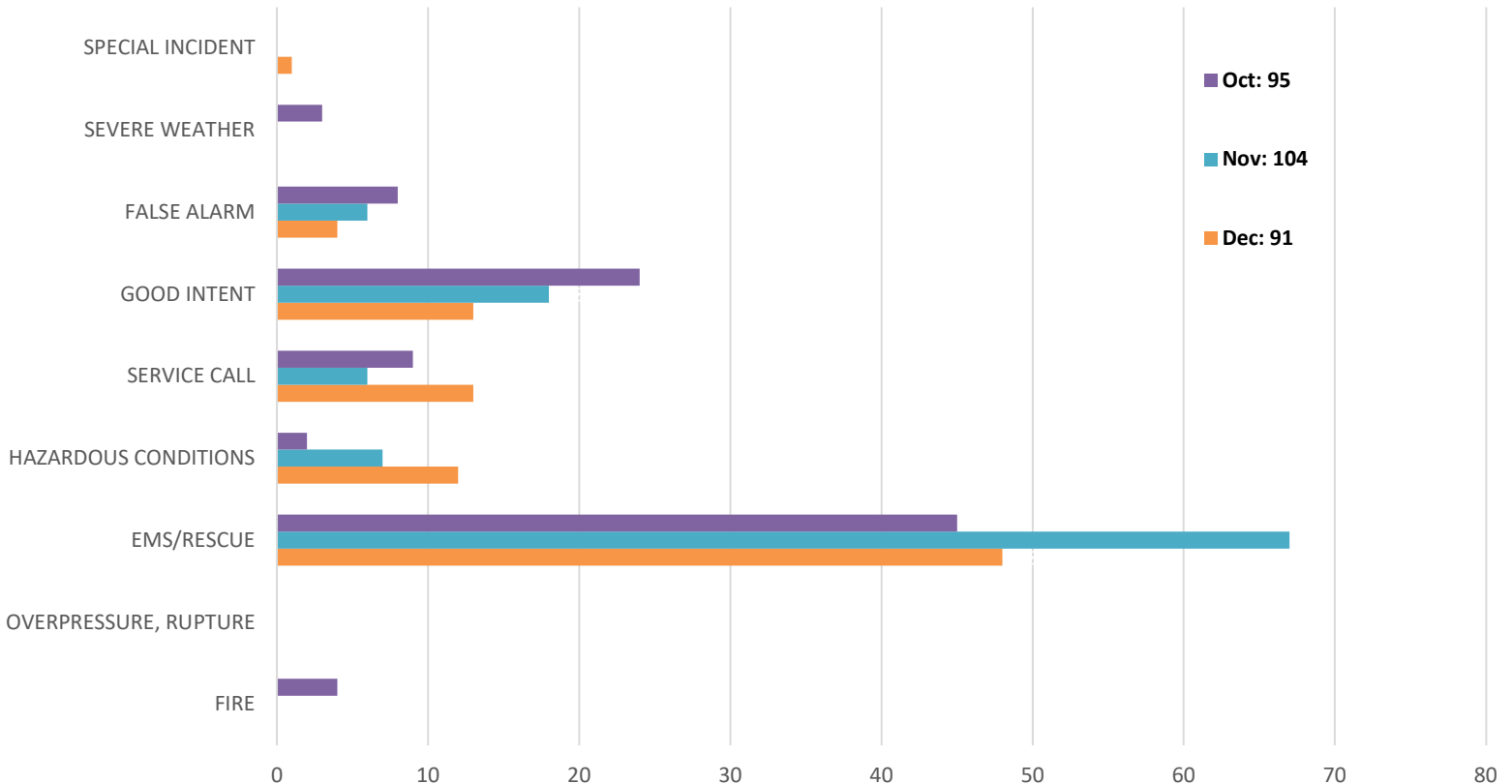
5th Wednesday

When fifth Wednesdays are present in the month, Officer or specialty training is given

**DRILL PARTICIPATION
Quarter 4**



**CALL DATA
Quarter 4**





Winter is here! Ice, snow and everything in between. This means *slips, trips, and falls* are more common due to the weather, especially severe weather events. Remember to wear your boot chains on icy surfaces. Utilize blankets for patient care. I have several disposable blankets in my office that are available. If you have any other supply needs, please reach out!

Some side notes –

- Light bulbs have been replaced in Station 8 bays. Huge thanks to Casey Stadel for letting us borrow his scissor lift!
- New security code locks are in the works for the exterior door by the EOC, as well as the door by the Station 1 ice machine.

FIRE PREVENTION

Max Hughes



As many of you know, this will be my last year with Silverton Fire District. Serving as the Public Educator here has been one of the most meaningful roles of my career, and I'm proud of the work we've done together in our schools and throughout the community.

Public education works best when it's not just one position, but a team effort. The kids we visit, the teachers we work with, and the families we interact with don't just see a lesson plan – they see firefighters. Those moments matter, and they leave lasting impressions.

As we move through this year, I want to encourage members to step forward and get involved as much as possible in our public education efforts – especially school visits. Whether it's helping with a classroom presentation, participating in a station tour, or simply sharing your experience with students, your involvement makes these programs stronger and more impactful.

This is a great opportunity to build continuity, share knowledge, and ensure our public education efforts remain strong well into the future. If you've ever been interested in participating but haven't yet, now is the time to jump in.



Thank you all for the support you've given me in this role – and for everything you do to represent Silverton Fire District in our community.



Hey everyone! Here's a quick **PPE and uniform update** for everyone.

Turnouts

A new **turnout order is in the works** right now for academy.

We have switched back to lion turnouts.

Carhartt Coats

The **Carhartt coat order has arrived**. If you were expecting a coat and haven't received it yet, or if there are any issues with sizing or condition, please reach out so we can get it sorted.

PPE Checks

Please keep up with **regular PPE inspections and gear checks**. Take a few minutes to look over your gear for wear, damage, or missing items. Catching things early helps us to stay ahead of repairs and replacements.

Waiting on Gear?

If you are **waiting on any PPE or uniform items**, contact me so we can check on the status and make sure nothing slipped through the cracks.

Request Forms

All PPE and uniform requests need to go through the **PPE/Uniform Service Request form**. This helps track everything and keeps orders moving. You can find the form at Station 1, in the Officers' Room filing cabinet OR on the website under Members only and forms.

As always, if you have questions about PPE, uniforms, or the request process, just let me know. Thanks for taking care of your gear and helping keep everyone safe.



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MAINTENANCE

Ian Peterson



It's cold outside! Time to start preparing for winter and the weather it brings. We've already seen some flooding in the district, along with a few down trees.

Look at your apparatus. Fluids, windshield wipers, chains, chainsaw paraphernalia, flares, rescue equipment, and make sure that all of it is in working order. If it isn't, please turn in a form so we can get it addressed.

Additionally, look around your stations. Check to see if you have salt to throw out on ice (before you need it). Consider your route into your responding station. Will you need to re-route if there is ice and snow?

This month is the annual flow testing for the SCBA's. January will be hydro testing for SCBA's. Additionally, annual servicing on all apparatus starts back up in January, with pump testing to follow in March and April.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Candace Cantu

W-2 forms will be distributed in mid-January. To avoid delays, please ensure your mailing address is current and accurate. Any address updates should be submitted as soon as possible.

At this time, the IRS has not provided definitive guidance on the reporting location for overtime earnings on the W-2. As a result, a separate supplemental report will be issued to individuals who earned overtime during the year. This report is intended to be provided to your CPA or tax preparer for reference when completing your tax return.

HISTORY'S HOT SPOT

"We all have our own reasons for being firefighters and medics, and they must be awful good ones to get us up at all hours to do the things that some people would not even do for themselves, let alone someone unknown to them. But whatever your reasons are, they are NOT GOOD ENOUGH when it comes to doing them without safety. You don't have a good reason not to wear your gloves and end up losing the function of a finger or hand. You don't have a good reason not to wear your boots, but instead be fitted for a cast. You don't have a good reason not to wear your turnout pants and coat, and spend time in the burn ward. You don't have a good reason not to wear your helmet and lose an eye because you didn't lower your face shield. Your reasons are NOT GOOD ENOUGH that you don't come home safely to your family because you did your job without safety."

Written by Safety Officer Bob McGowan, December 1987 Newsletter

2026 Annual Awards Banquet

We look forward to seeing each of you at the **2026 Annual Awards Banquet on February 14, 2026**. Social hour will begin at 6:00pm at the Oregon Garden!

The District Award Program will recognize individuals who provide a standard of excellence to the District and its citizens through outstanding participation in training, alarms, and volunteer activities. The awards are: Firefighter of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Medic of the Year, Officer of the Year, and Support Member of the Year. The nominations for awards will be from the Volunteers. Any member may nominate anyone. **Please complete a new form for each nomination – nominee.** Selection of award recipients will occur during the month of January. The Nominations will then be reviewed by chief officers who will select the award recipients. All personnel who are nominated will be recognized at the annual awards banquet in February.

Nominations must be submitted no later than 5:00p.m. on January 16, 2026. To make your nominations, visit our website under Members Only, 2025 District Award Nomination, or by scanning the following QR code.

