



# THE FDC – FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION

A Quarterly Publication for the Membership of the Silverton Fire District

www.silvertonfire.com

Volume 15



## IT'S GRADUATION TIME!

Mark your calendars! After months of hard work, determination, blood, sweat, and a couple tears, the 2026 academy is ready to graduate! Please join us on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Silverton Fire District Station 1 to recognize these individuals and welcome them into the Silverton Fire District family.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### 2025 Award Winners

#### **Station of the Year**

Station 2

#### **Rookie of the Year**

Henry Bielenberg

#### **Medic of the Year**

Jared Breitbach

#### **Officer of the Year**

Jesse Hulett

#### **Support Service Member of the Year**

Rochelle Schmidt

#### **Resident Volunteer of the Year**

Diego Flores

#### **Staff Member of the Year**

Kaylee Spencer

#### **Firefighter of the Year**

Corey Selfridge

### Years of Service

#### **10 Years**

SS Frank Gyurgyik  
LT Anthony Klopfenstein  
FF James Ruks  
FF James Klopfenstein

#### **35 Years**

BC Jim Terhaar

#### **50 Years**

Chief Bill Miles

Congratulations to all 2025 recipients! Without the hard work and dedication of all members, both staff and volunteer, what we do wouldn't be possible. Please join us in congratulating these individuals for a job well done!

## UPCOMING:

### APRIL

- 1<sup>st</sup> Drill Night
- 5<sup>th</sup> Easter
- 8<sup>th</sup> Association Meeting
- 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> Drill Night
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Drill Night
- 25<sup>th</sup> Academy Graduation
- 29<sup>th</sup> Drill Night

### MAY

- 6<sup>th</sup> Drill Night
- 5<sup>th</sup> Cinco de Mayo
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mothers Day
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mothers Day Breakfast
- 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> Association Meeting
- 13<sup>th</sup> Picture Night
- 16<sup>th</sup> Pet Parade
- 20<sup>th</sup> Drill Night
- 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> Drill Night

### JUNE

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Drill Night
- 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup> Association Meeting
- 17<sup>th</sup> Drill Night
- 19<sup>th</sup> Juneteenth
- 21<sup>st</sup> Father's Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> Drill Night



Happy spring, everyone!

As we head into the warmer months, I just want to take a moment to say thank you. I truly appreciate the hard work, dedication, and commitment you all show in serving our community – it does not go unnoticed.

Spring always feels like a bit of a reset. It's a chance for us to shake off the winter routine, get back into a rhythm, and make sure we're ready for what's ahead. The next few months will keep us busy, so now's a great time to refresh our training, fine-tune our skills, and stay dialed in.

We're already starting to see some drier conditions, which means wildfire season is on our radar. Let's stay ahead of it – take time to review protocols, check your gear, and get those reps in. The work we do now really pays off when things pick up.

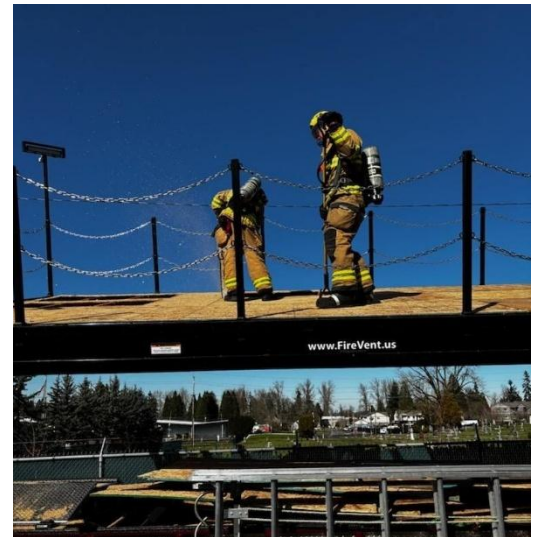


It's also a good time to remind folks in our community about outdoor cleanup and creating defensible space around their homes. We're offering free defensible space surveys, so please help spread the word to friends, family, and neighbors. They can sign up at: <https://www.silvertonfire.com/public-requests> or just give the station a call.

I also want to give a big thank you to everyone involved in the Academy this year. With midterms and live fire behind us, we're in the home stretch – just one month to go until the final and graduation. I really appreciate the time and effort from both the recruits and the instructors. Training new members is one of the most important things we do, and it shows in the quality of this group.

On the admin side, we're wrapping up work on the proposed 2026-2027 budget. It's been a long process, and we'll be presenting it to the Budget Committee on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

Thanks again for everything you do. Take care of each other, stay safe, and let's have a strong season!



# ASSISTANT CHIEF

Keith Veit



## It's Almost Summer!

With summer not far off, it's time to start shifting focus toward wildland readiness. To be successful, we must take a proactive approach to preparedness. This includes completing annual wildland refresher training and recertifications as opportunities become available and conducting a thorough inspection of your wildland PPE now – not when the first fire hits. If deficiencies are identified, address them early. Replacement PPE lead times are extended – do not wait until peak fire season to place orders.

Progress continues on several key apparatus projects.

The B407 project is moving along well. Chief Terhaar is currently fabricating the winch bumper and roll-over protection. His work on this project has been outstanding, and his willingness to take this on is greatly appreciated. Once fabrication is complete, the unit will be sent to the upfitter for emergency lighting and radio installation, followed by installation of the slip-in tank and pump unit.

For B427, we are anticipating delivery of both the chassis and slip-in unit in the near future. The bed has already been built and is ready for installation once components arrive.

We currently have several grant applications in progress.

The new side-by-side UTV project is also progressing. A grant application has been submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior for a slip-in unit that includes a tank/pump package and stokes basket carrier. We expect to receive an update on the status of this application in midsummer.

A grant application has also been submitted to Salem Health to support and expand our life jacket program, increasing available inventory and improving access for the community.

Additionally, an application has been submitted to the PGE Drive Change Fund. If awarded, these funds would be used to procure an electric vehicle to support our community risk reduction efforts, including the smoke alarm program, address sign program, life jacket program, as well as transporting members for training and educational purposes.

I also want to recognize our Resident Volunteers – Brody, Brandon, Jared, Abi, Diego, and Cohen. They continue to do great work here at the station, maintain a strong, positive attitude, and are performing well academically. Their work ethic and “go get it” mindset do not go unnoticed. We appreciate the effort they are putting in every day.

As we move into a busier season, the expectation remains that we stay ready, engaged, and continue taking ownership of our roles. Whether it's training, equipment readiness, or supporting ongoing projects, our strength comes from the consistency and professionalism of our members.

There is a lot of good work happening across the district right now, and it shows. Let's continue building on that and ensure we are prepared to meet the demands of the season ahead.



# TRAINING & RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR

Lt. Dan Brown



## 2026 is off to a GREAT start!

We have a new Medical Advisor, Dr. Hallie Meador, who has been great for us so far! She attends medical drill nights on occasion and wants to be involved in our EMS program. We will be conducting BLS-level Case Reviews on a quarterly basis, so our (mostly) EMR's and EMT's can learn in an environment more directly related to how we operate. Q2 brings us Culture/Race/Ethnicity training in April, EMR recertification in May/June and May-August brings us MCI and Trauma training as we prepare for a large-scale Active Shooter scenario with PD, Ambulance, and Dispatch! We've got some great training plans put together, in conjunction with our fellow Emergency Response agencies!


Academy is going GREAT! This year's group are fast learners, complete their "homework" on time, and have really given our instructors a run for their money keeping them busy, learning new things, and coming up with new ideas to learn/retain skills. Keep it up, 2026 Academy! Graduation is April 25<sup>th</sup>, YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!

As we move into Q2 training, let's knock out our IMCT training early! Wildland PPE inspections, Heat Illness Prevention and Wildfire Smoke Protection are all available on Target Solutions! I will still post the RT-130 recert modules in Target Solutions, but Drill night is easier and less time-consuming! We'll be working on Relay Pumping, winching, Tender Ops, Gator/UTV training and structure protection! Q2 should be fun, engaging, and allow us to knock hit several RT-130 topics per drill night! We'll try to keep it a bit less "Conflag-oriented", and a little more "Silverton Fire".

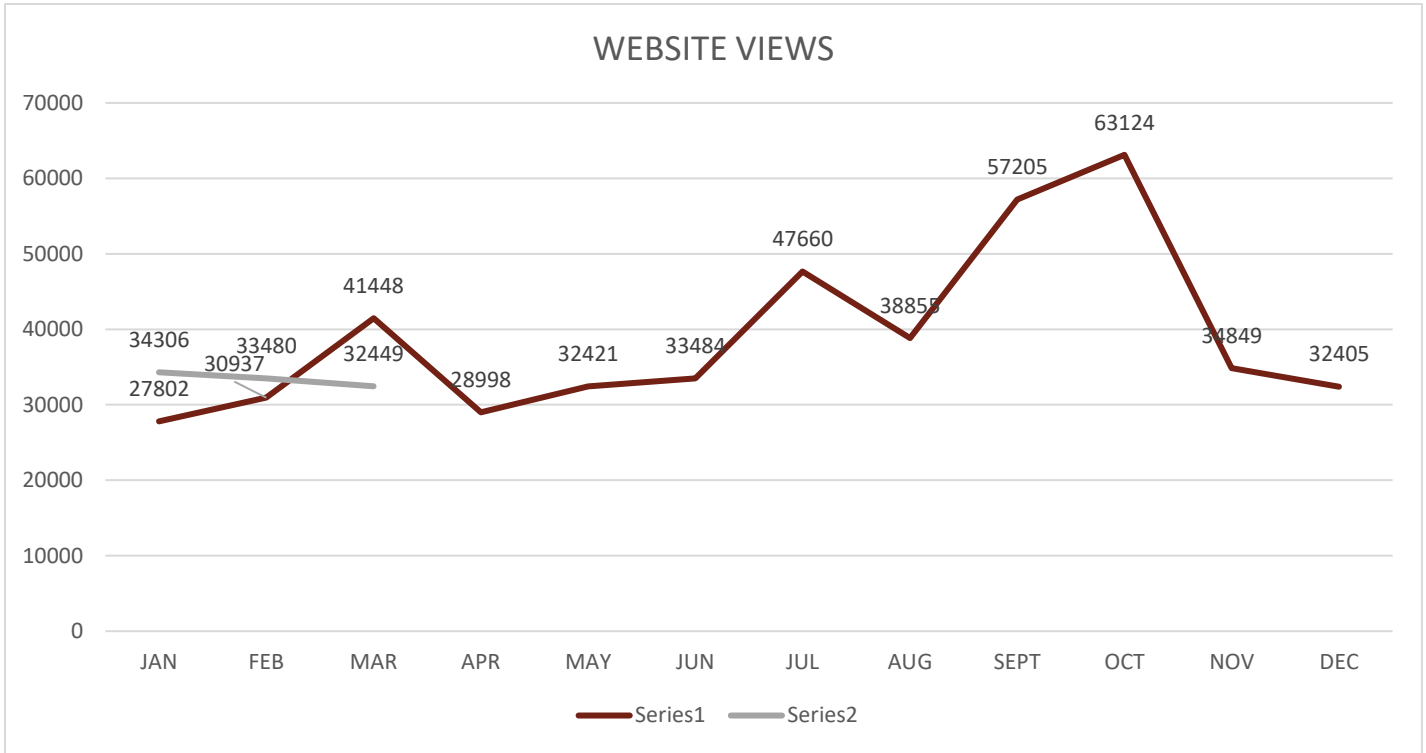
Wildland courses are also coming up! WLFFT1 and Engine Boss classes are available, and the Engine Boss Forum at OSFM will be great training for updates/review on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (only 1 day is required, and there's free lunch!) for all current Engine Bosses.

Remember, as we increase your abilities/capabilities through training, higher certification and emergency response, IT IS OUR DUTY to pass on what we have learned to those who are following in our footsteps! "We are what they grow beyond" – Master Yoda. Take the time and make an effort to teach your "cheat codes" to your crew. Use our chain of command to solve problems. Praise in public, "coach" in private. Continue to build each other up. You'd be surprised just how much of a difference you make with a little encouragement, a high-five and maybe even a hug once in a while.

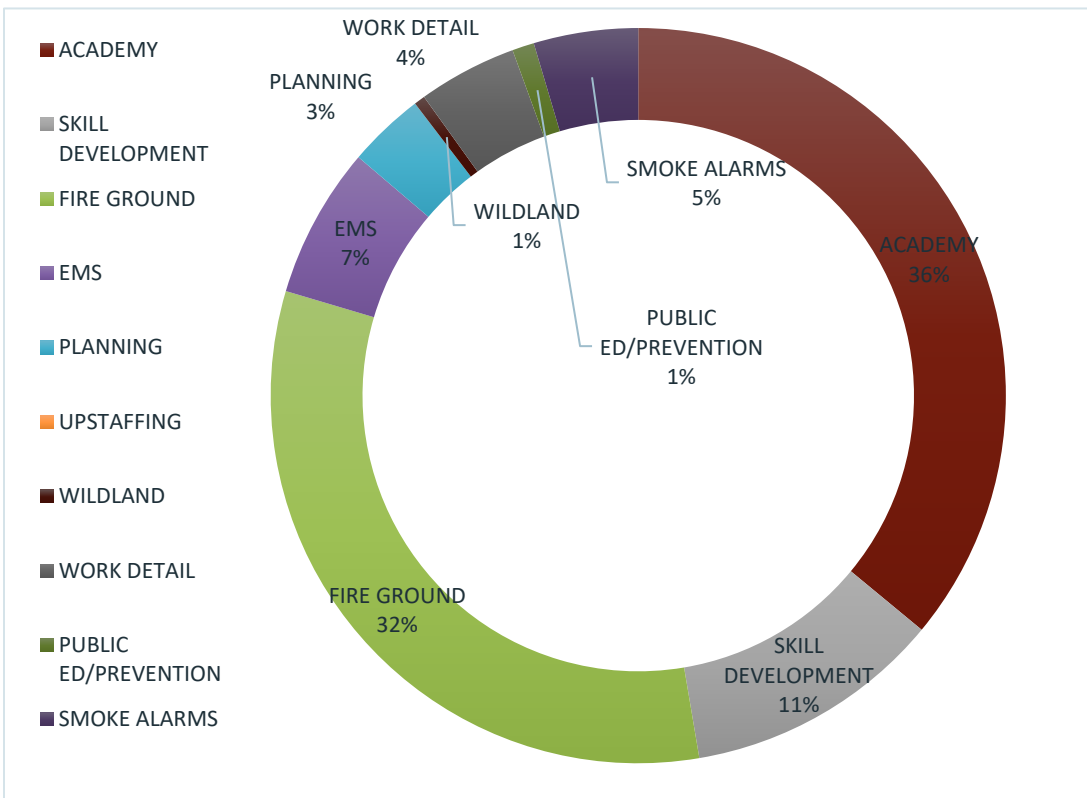
THIS IS THE WAY.

Silverton Fire District			
			
2026 Training Plan			
Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July – Sept.	Oct.- Dec.
FIRE/RESCUE XXXXXXXXXX	FIRE/RESCUE Wildland 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed = 4/29	FIRE/RESCUE XXXXXXXXXX 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed = Picnic 7/29, 9/30	FIRE/RESCUE XXXXXXXXXX 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 w/ 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)

2026 WEBSITE VIEWS



ACTIVITY HOURS  
Quarter 1



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:

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday**

Safety Committee, Apparatus Inspections, EMS Related Topic

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**

Officer's Meeting, Apparatus Inspections, Association Meetings

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

Apparatus Inspections, Fire Related Topic

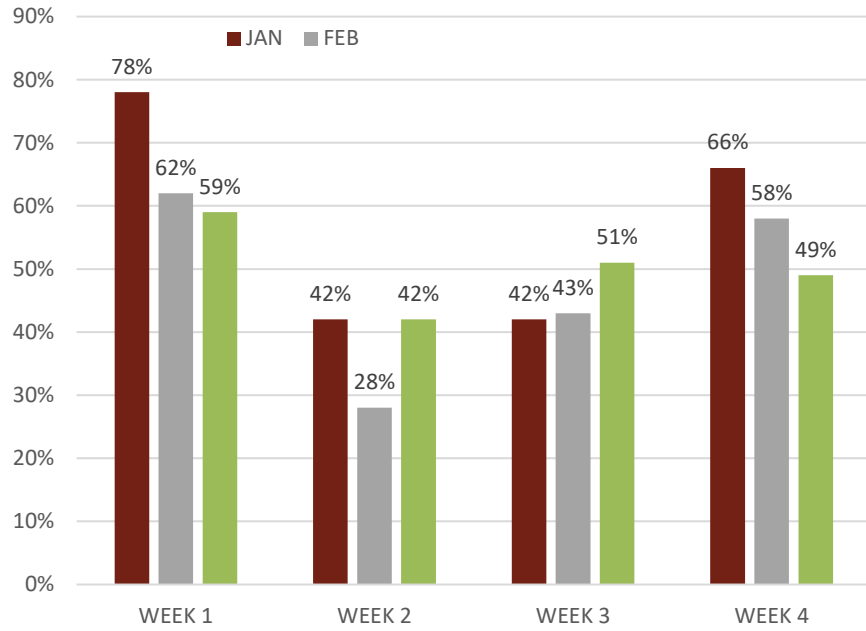
**4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

Apparatus Inspections, Fire Related Topic

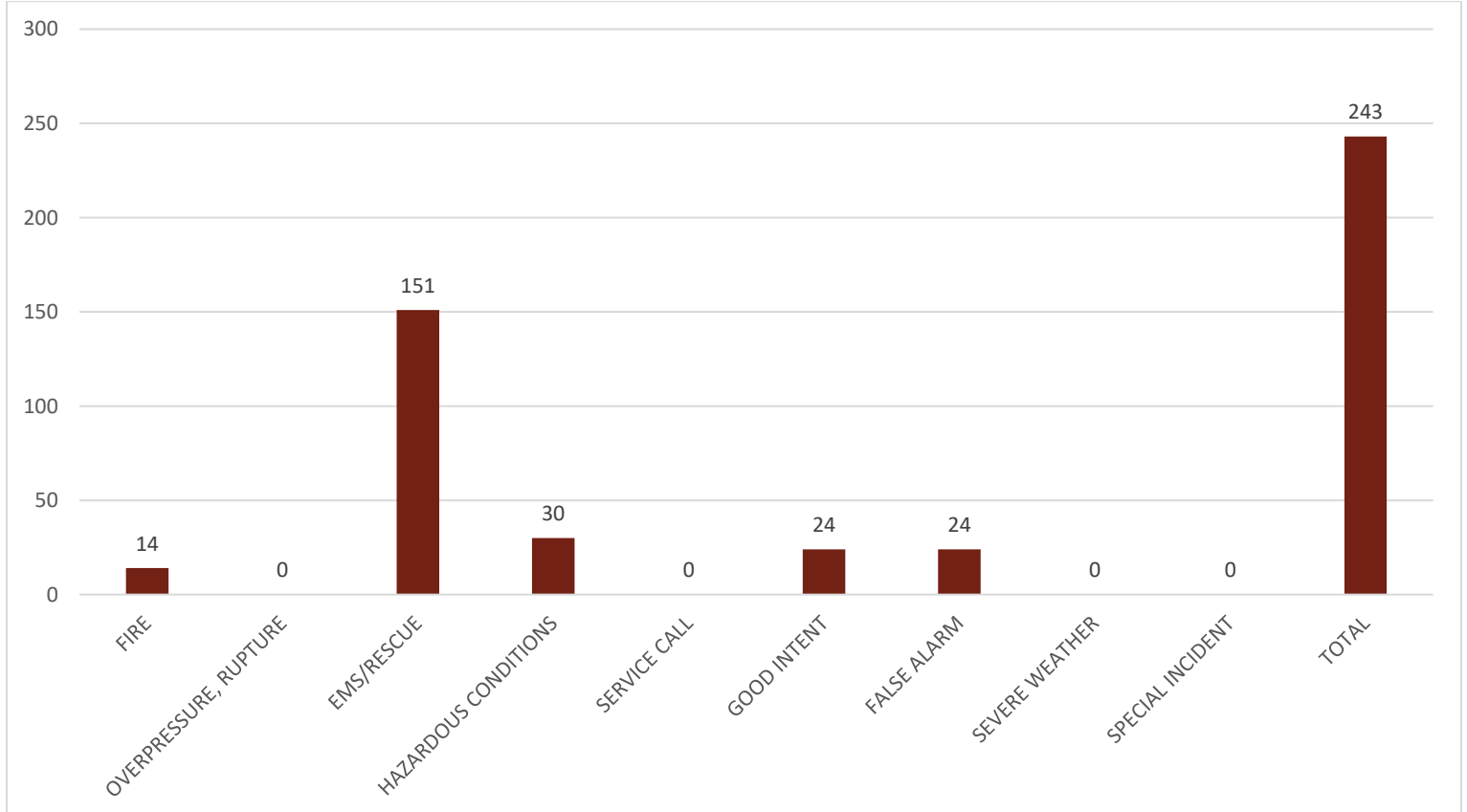
**5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday**

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

## DRILL PARTICIPATION Quarter 1



## CALL DATA Quarter 1





Spring is coming! With the nice weather coming, we tend to get more outdoor activities and trauma calls. Just a refresher on Stop The Bleed:

1. Apply direct pressure/pressure dressing.
2. If not effective, apply tourniquet. For wounds not amenable to tourniquet, apply hemostatic agent.
3. Check pulse, motor, sensory (PMS) before and after treating.
4. Splint fracture/dislocations in the position found.

EMS Week is May 17<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> this year!

- Sunday: Health, Wellness, and Resilience Day
- Monday: EMS Education Day
- Tuesday: Safety Tuesday
- Wednesday: EMS For Children Day
- Thursday: Save-A-Life Day (CPR & Stop the Bleed)
- Friday: EMS Recognition Day
- Saturday: EMS Remembrance Day

**STOP THE BLEED** Why Do I Need To Know This?

People can bleed to death in minutes. **3 to 5 MINUTES**

Average time for Emergency Responders to arrive. **7 to 10 MINUTES**

Trauma-related deaths worldwide due to bleeding. **40%**

Your help may be the difference between life and death.

©Stop the Bleed Coalition | [stopthebleedcoalition.org](http://stopthebleedcoalition.org) | In cooperation with the Department of Defense STOP THE BLEEDS Campaign



As we move through March, fire season is quickly approaching. Warmer, drier conditions will be here before we know it, and now is the time to ensure your wildland PPE is complete, serviceable, and ready for use.

Take time to thoroughly inspect your gear:

- Nomex clothing – Check for rips, tears, excessive wear, UV damage, or contamination (oil, fuel, or chemicals). Ensure closures (zippers, Velcro, snaps) are functional.
- Helmet & shroud – Inspect for cracks, damaged suspension, and proper fit. Ensure your shroud is clean and deployable.
- Gloves – Look for holes, stiffness, shrinkage, or heat damage that could reduce dexterity or protection.
- Boots – Check soles for wear, ensure stitching is intact, and verify proper ankle support. Replace worn or separating soles immediately.
- Eye protection – Ensure lenses are clear, scratch-free, and provide adequate protection in smoky conditions.

Recently, new PGI Barri hoods have been issued to select members. These hoods provide enhanced particulate protection if you received one, ensure proper fit and wear, inspect for defects, and follow manufacturer guidance for cleaning and care. Make sure it integrates properly with your helmet, shroud, and eye protection without creating gaps. If you identify any issues with your PPE, submit a Uniform/PPE Request Form ASAP so replacements can be issued before the season begins.



# ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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# MAINTENANCE

Ian Peterson



- SCBA annual testing and hydro testing for cylinders is completed.
- Hose testing and ground ladder testing is completed.
- Extinguishers have been updated with 2026 dates.
- B497 has been repaired and is in service.
- New tires have been put on B487 and E415, as well as drive tires on L408.
- Currently in the middle of annual servicing on apparatus and getting ready for Fire Season 2026!

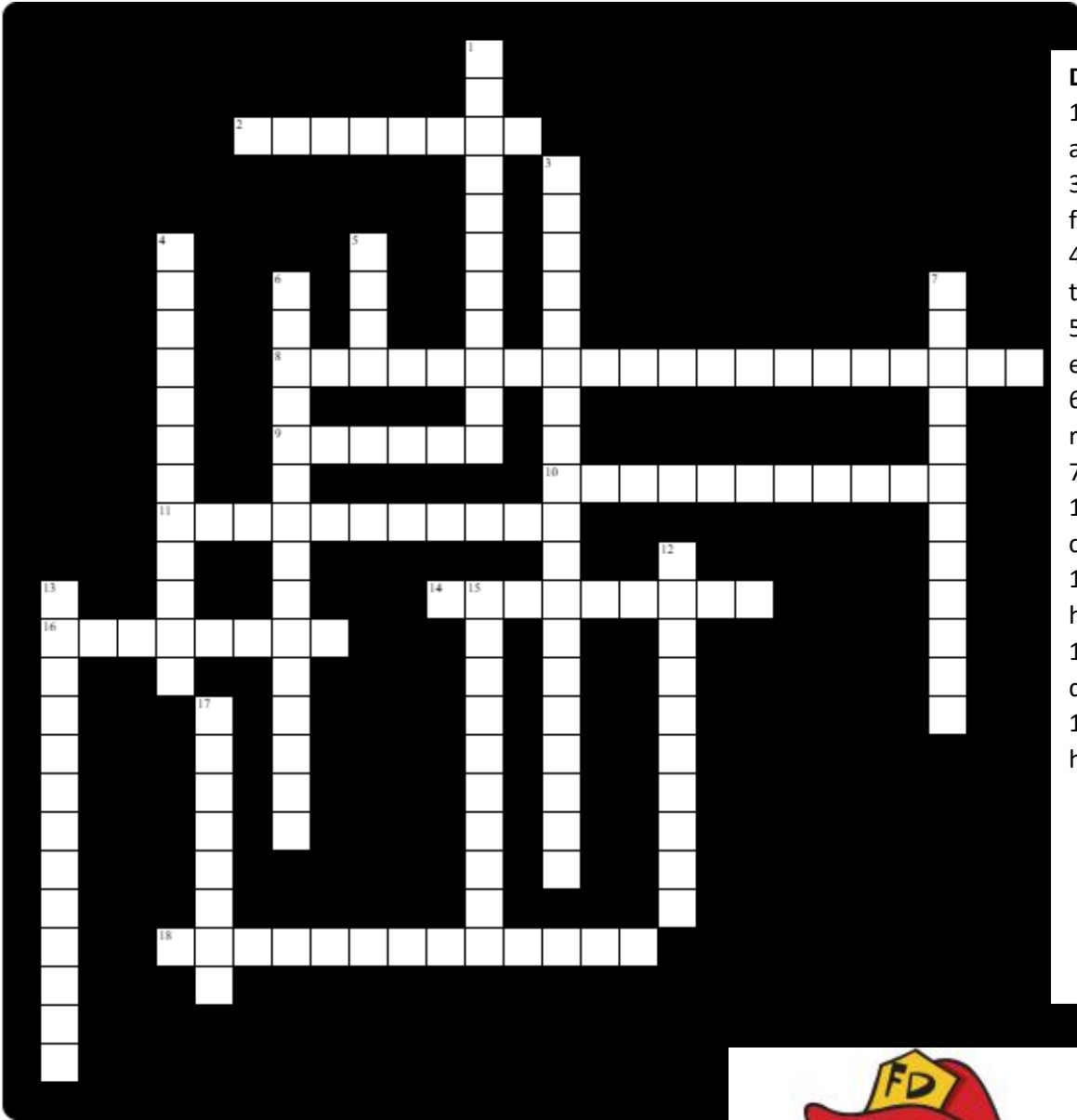
Stay safe and cool out there!



# OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Candace Cantu

All personnel submitting budget requests must follow the procedures outlined in Operational Guide #1-4-1. Requests are required to be completed in full, including a clear justification and description of the operational benefit, and submitted through the appropriate chain of command for review and recommendation. In accordance with the district's budget development timeline, all budget requests intended for consideration in the upcoming fiscal year must be submitted to the Fire Chief no later than April 15, 2026. Requests received after this deadline may be deferred to the following budget cycle.



- DOWN**
1. Commonly paired with another tool to make the irons
  3. Used to ventilate smoke from a structure
  4. Portable ladder carried on the apparatus
  5. Carries water from the engine to the fire
  6. Adjustable ladder used to reach upper floors
  7. Heavy striking tool
  12. Used to cut locks and chains
  13. Used to tighten and loosen hose couplings
  15. Ladder with hooks designed for roof work
  17. Appliance used to split one hose line into two

- ACROSS**
2. A firefighter's best friend for forcible entry
  8. Helps firefighters see heat through smoke
  9. Controls the direction and pattern of the water stream
  10. Axe with a pointed end used for penetration and overhaul
  11. Folding ladder used to access attic spaces
  14. Short hook often used during overhaul
  16. Used to pull ceilings and check for fire extension
  18. Tool used to open hydrants

