

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Report Date: 2/11/2026

Call Volume: January had 179 requests for service: 911 EMS 104, Transfers 56, Dive 0, and Fire 19
December had 239 requests for service: 911 EMS 139, Transfers 72, Dive 0, and Fire 28

District Staffing

District Staffing Level: 97 members

Command Staff: 4 (1 Career Fire Chief & 3 POC Deputy Chief)

Administrative Assistant: 1

Chaplains: 2

St 1 has 38 members: 33 POC, 2 PT, & 3 Career (8 fire, 26 fire/EMS, 1 MPO, 2 EMS, & 1 Fire Investigator)

St 3 has 34 members: 31 POC & 3 Career (12 fire, 11 fire/EMS/dive, 1 MPO, 1 EMS, & 9 dive)

St 6 has 8 members: 17 POC & 1 Career (11 fire, 4 fire/EMS, 1 MPO, & 2 EMS)

EMS Training: 50 members trained as EMS Responders

Ambulance Staffing: 27-member training/approved to work on ambulance

Dive Team: 20 members (12 Divers & 8)

Department Interview(s)

1 new applicants have applied for an interview for paid on call positions

Members that have started Ambulance Field Training

FF/EMT-P Andre Fliehr 12/19/2025

FF/EMT Evelyn Richards 1/13/2026

Members that have completed EMS Training

Charles Halloway – AEMT 1/15/2026

Member service anniversary this month

DC Cory Jeffers (AEMT) – 22 years of service

FF/CC EMT-P Kali Junk - 8 years of service

FF/EMT Andrew Straszkowski - 13 years of service

Chaplain Dave Varga - 48 years of service

FF/CC EMT-P Kyle Frederickson – 14 years of service

EMT Hannah Frederickson – 1 year of service

Diver Zack Joyce – 1 years of service

FF Shawn Kalmas – 6 years of service

MPO Duane Wallsch - 27 years of service

SOPs & MOGs of the Month

SOP 101 General Rules and Reg

SOP 1012 EMS 28 Day Schedule

MOG 3252 Frame private residence 1 or 2 Story

Vehicle/Equipment Updates

Brush 3 serviced for regen issues on 1/14/2026

Brush 3 in for rust repair quote on 1/14/2026

UTV 1 in for annual service on 1/21/2026

Dive Boat in for annual service on 1/22/2026

UTV 3 in for annual service on 1/29/2026

Brush 1 batteries dead – radio issues – replaced on 1/28/2026

Medic 5 in for service on 2/3/2026

CV1 in for service on 2/5/2026

Squad 6 cascade system serviced on 2/5/2026

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Engine 1 in for service on 2/10/2026

Boat 1 in for service on 2/10/2026

DOT Inspections for St3, Portable Pumps, and Boats started in January 2026

District Meetings

Station Meetings

Station 1 meeting was held on 2/4/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, Officers, and members.

Station 3 meeting was held on 2/11/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Jeffers, Officers, and members.

Station 6 meeting was held on 1/21/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Scheidler, Officers, and members.

Fire Board Meeting

Special Meeting on 2/9/2026 with City of Altoona attend by Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, DC Jeffers, DC

Shideler, several District Officer and Firefighters, and Mr. Dienger from the Fire Commission

Meeting was held on 1/20/2026 attended by Chief Bernette and several employees.

Fire Commission Meeting

Meeting was held on 1/27/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Scheidler, DC Jeffers, DC Nowak, Station Officers, Station members, and several from the public.

Next regular scheduled meeting is scheduled for 4/28/2026

Officer's Meetings

District Officers Meeting held on 1/8/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, DC Jeffers, and Station Officers.

Next Meeting: 3/5/2026

Station 3 Officer Meeting with Anson FD Officers on 2/3/2026

Station 1 Officer Meeting on 2/4/2026

Employee Meetings

Career and Part-time Employee Meeting held on 1/22/2026 at Station 1 at 7:30am

Next Meeting: 3/20/2025 at Station 1 at 7:30am

District Trainings

Fire Training

Feb: Blood Born Pathogen & ERG Manual. SCBA Drills Station 3 training building, and Fit test Station 6

EMS Training

Jan: Call review

Officer Training

Feb: Scene Size Reports & Entering Reports in NERIS on 2/5/2026

Other Meetings/Activities

City of Altoona & Fire District Meeting on 1/9/2025

911 Policy & Procedure Committee Meeting attend by Chief Bernette (committee member) and DC Nowak on 1/14/2026

Chippewa County EMS Association Meeting attended by Chief Bernette, Dc Nowak, and DC Scheidler on 1/14/2026

NCFCA Meeting attended by Chief Bernette on 1/15/2026

Chippewa County MABAS DIV 132 Meeting attended by Chief Bernette and DC Scheidler on 1/22/2026

Chippewa County Fire Chief Meeting at attended by Chief Bernette and DC Scheidler on 1/22/2026

City of Altoona & Fire District Meeting on 1/28/2026

Meeting with Anson Fire Department and Station 3 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Jeffers, Capt., Hennlich, Capt. Larson, Capt. Schemenauer, and TO Hutchison on 2/3/2026

City of Altoona & Fire District Meeting on 2/4/2026

EMS MC Billing Company Meeting attend by Chief Bernette on 2/11/2026

2027 Budget Meeting with Chief Renderman from City of Altoona and Chief Bernette on 2/11/2026

District Safety Message

Heating, winter storms and candles all contribute to an increased risk of fire during the winter months.

- Heating is a leading cause of US home fires and home fire injuries and third leading cause of home fire deaths. Winter months are the peak months for heating fires. Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires, accounting for nearly one-third of the fires, as well as the vast majority of deaths and injuries in home fires caused by heating equipment.
- Candle fires peak in winter months with about 10 percent of candle fires in each of these months. Each year between 2020-2024, an average of 5,894 home candle fires were reported each year.
- Winter Storms, which can cause dangerous and sometimes life-threatening conditions. Blinding wind-driven snow, extreme cold, icy road conditions, downed trees and power lines can all wreak havoc on our daily schedules.

Home fires occur more in the winter than in any other season, and heating equipment is involved in one of every six reported home fires, and one in every five home fire deaths.

Note: If you see something, say something!