

# FIRE CHIEF REPORT

**Report Date:** 3/12/2026

**Call Volume:** February had 147 requests for service: 911 EMS 82, Transfers 52, Dive 2, and Fire 11  
January had 179 requests for service: 911 EMS 104, Transfers 56, Dive 0, and Fire 19

## District Staffing

District Staffing Level: 97 members

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

Administrative Assistant: 1

Chaplains: 3

St 1 has 39 members: 32 POC, 3 PT, & 3 Career (7 fire, 27 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 17 members: 16 POC & 1 Career (11 fire, 3 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)

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

## Members that have started Ambulance Field Training

FF/EMT-P Austin Landowski 2/9/2026

## Members that have completed Ambulance Field Training

FF/EMT-P Andre Fliehr 2/12/2026

## Members that have completed Fire Training

FF/AEMT Anthony Schlueter has completed Fire & Emergency Service Instructor 1 on 2/23/2026

## Member service anniversary this month

Captain Samatha McTaggart – 9 years of service

FF Kevin Zehr - 34 years of service

FF/EMT Michell Fischer - 13 years of service

FF James Lange - 2 years of service

FF James Martin – 2 years of service

Diver Dave Carli – 19 years of service

Captain Kris Krall – 9 years of service

## SOPs & MOGs of the Month

SOP 101-1 Harassment

SOP 1013 Ambulance Maintenance

MOG 3253 Older Frame Private Residence 1 or 2 Story

## Vehicle/Equipment Updates

Medic 4f in for service on 2/12/2026

Truck 1 in for a hydraulic hose leak on 2/17/2026

Truck 1 passenger side work light bulb replaced on 2/27/2026

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

## District Meetings

### Station Meetings

Station 1 meeting was held on 3/4/2026 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 2/19/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Schiedler, Officers, and members.

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### Fire Board Meeting

Special Meeting on 3/10/2026 with City of Altoona attend be Board Members from Town of Hallie, Town of Lafayette, Town of Howard, and Village of Lake Hallie, Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, DC Sheidler, several District Officer and Firefighters, and Mr. Bennesch & Mr. Dienger from the Fire Commission  
Special Meeting on 3/5/2026 with City of Altoona attend by Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, DC Jeffers, several District Officer and Firefighters, and Mr. Bennesch & Mr. Dienger from the Fire Commission  
Meeting held on 2/17/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Sheidler, several District Officer, and Firefighters.

### 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 3/5/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, DC Jeffers, and Station Officers.  
Next Meeting: 5/7/2026

### Employee Meetings

Career and Part-time Employee Meeting held on 3/5/2026 at Station 1 at 7:30am  
Next Meeting: 5/7/2025 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

Feb: Required annual Videos, Storm SOP Review, call review

#### Officer Training

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

### Other Meetings/Activities

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

REALiving EAP/Benefit Review Meeting attended by Chief Bernette on 2/16/2026

North Central Fire Chief Association Meeting attend by Chief Bernette on 2/19/2026

Meeting with Chief Renderman from City of Altoona and Chief Bernette on 2/23/2026

2027 Budget Meeting with Chief Renderman, City Manager, Assistant City Manager from City of Altoona and Chief Bernette on 3/3/2026

EMS/MC Meeting attended by Chief Bernette and Cathy Zeinert on 3/5/26

2027 Budget Meeting with Chief Renderman, City Manager, Assistant City Manager from City of Altoona and Chief Bernette on 3/9/2026

Town of Hallie Meeting attended by Chief Bernette on 3/11/2026

Town of Howard Meeting attended by Chief Bernette on 3/12/2026

### District Safety Message

For March 2026, prioritize safety by addressing end of winter hazards like ice, ensuring proper lifting techniques to prevent back injuries, and maintaining high-visibility for pedestrians around machinery. Strengthen cybersecurity with MFA and enhance emergency preparedness through updated CPR training and fire evacuation plans

#### Key safety focus areas:

- Winter Walkway Safety: Actively treat walking areas, remove ice/snow, and watch for melt/refreeze cycles.

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- Material Handling & Ergonomics: Use team lifts for items over 50 lbs and ensure proper fall protection on elevated work platforms.
- Vehicle & Driving Safety: Conduct daily pre-trip inspections and eliminate distracted driving by securing phones before moving.
- Emergency Preparedness: Conduct weekly site checks for debris, review fire evacuation routes, and train on fire extinguisher use.
- Health & Digital Security: Promote CPR training for American Heart Month and reinforce "stop, think, report" for phishing threats.
- Cyber Hygiene: Implement mandatory Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) to combat sophisticated, AI-driven phishing attacks.

**Note:** If you see something, say something!