

# Fire Chief Report

4/22/2026

## Staffing

District Staffing Level: 94 members

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

Administrative Assistant: 1

Chaplains: 2

St 1 - 36 members: 31 POC, 3 PT, & 3 Career (7 fire, 24 fire/EMS, 2 MPO, 2 EMS, & 1 Fire Investigator)

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

St 6 - 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 Support)

## Interviews

Apr: 4 Applicants interviewed on 4/20/2026

## Years of Service Anniversaries

Feb: DC Cory Jeffers (AEMT) – 22 years of service

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

FF/EMT Andrew Straszowski - 13 years of service

FF 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

Mar: 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

Apr: Fire Chief Bernette – 34 years of service (13 years with the Fire District)

Administrative Assistant Cathy Zeinert – 1 year of service

## SOPs & MOGs of the Month

Feb: SOP 101 General Rules and Reg

SOP 1012 EMS 28 Day Schedule

MOG 3252 Frame private residence 1 or 2 Story

Mar: SOP 101-1 Harassment

SOP 1013 Ambulance Maintenance

MOG 3253 Older Frame Private Residence 1 or 2 Story

Apr: SOP 101-2 Alcohol and Substances

SOP 1014 Qualification and Minimum Requirements EMS

MOG 3254 Private Residence Attached Garage

## District Meetings and Trainings

Station Meetings

Feb: Station 1 on 2/4/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, Officers, and members.

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

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- Mar: Station 6 on 2/19/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Schiedler, Officers, and  
Station 1 on 3/4/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, Officers, and members.  
Station 3 on 03/11/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Jeffers, Officers, and members.  
Station 6 on 3/18/2026 attended by DC Schiedler, Officers, and members.
- Apr: Station 1 on 4/1/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, Officers, and members.  
Station 3 on 4/8/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Jeffers, Officers, and members.  
Station 6 on 4/15/2026 attended by DC Schiedler, Officers, and members.

## Fire Board Meeting

- Feb: Meeting held on 2/17/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Sheidler, several District Officer, and Firefighters.  
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
- Mar: Special Meeting on 3/25/2026 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 Jeffers, DC Sheidler, several District Officer and Firefighters, and members of Chippewa Fire Commission  
Meeting on 3/17/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Sheidler, several District Officers, and members  
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

## Fire Commission Meeting

- Jan: 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.

## Officers Meetings

- Mar: District Officers Meeting held on 3/5/2026 attended by Chief Bernette, DC Nowak, DC Jeffers, and Station Officers.

## Employee Meeting

- Mar: Career and Part-time Employee Meeting held on 3/5/2026 at Station 1  
Apr: Career and Part-time Employee Meeting held on 4/3/2026 at Station 1

## Fire Training

- Feb: Blood Born Pathogen & ERG Manual. SCBA Drills Station 3 training building, and Fit test Station 6  
Mar: Wildland Fire Response and Fit test Station 1  
Apr: Utilities and Down Powerline Response

## EMS Meeting & Training

- Feb: Required annual Videos, Storm SOP Review, call review  
Mar: Peds calls and skill reviews

## Officer Training

- Feb: Scene Size Reports & Entering Reports in NERIS on 2/5/2026  
Apr: Severe/Storm Responses (SOP 504 Severe Weather) on 4/2/2026

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## Other Trainings, Meetings, or Events

- Jan: City of Altoona & Fire District Meeting on 1/28/2026
- Feb: 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  
Station 1 Officer Meeting on 2/4/2026  
EMS MC Billing Company Meeting attend by Chief Bernette on 2/11/2026  
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
- Mar: 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  
CVTC BLS/AEMT Advisory Committee Meeting online attend by Chief Bernette on 3/30/2026
- Apr: NERIS online training attend by Chief Bernette on 4/7/2026  
911 Policies & Procedures Workgroup Meeting attend by Chief Bernette on 4/8/2026  
Chippewa County Emergency Medical Services Association attend by Chief Bernette on 4/8/2026  
EMS/MC Meeting attended by Chief Bernette and Cathy Zeinert on 4/9/26  
North Central Fire Chief Association Meeting attended online by Chief Bernette on 4/16/26