

Castle Rock Fire and Rescue Department



An Internationally Accredited Fire Rescue Agency Since 2012

July 2026 Monthly Report

Department News: The Quint in the parade and some members of the Pipes and Drums getting a ride on the antique.



The Keepers of the Star changing the lightbulbs to red, white and blue



Vision - Rock Solid. Relentless Service.
Values - Unity, Passion, Accountability, Respect

Operations Division:

Deputy Chief Oren Bersagel-Briese

Deputy Chief Commentary

July showcased the depth and capability of the department across emergency response, specialty programs, and long-term planning. Crews achieved two exceptional clinical saves, with both cardiac arrest patients surviving to leave the hospital neurologically intact. The Wildland Team deployed both as a Colorado Mutual Aid System resource to the Aspen Acres Fire and on an extended initial attack assignment in South Dakota. The Apparatus Team also completed the specifications for our next tower ladder, marking an important milestone in a significant capital project. July also marked the retirement of Engineer Chris Hinkle after decades of dedicated service to the department, while Zach Winters was subsequently promoted to Engineer. Finally, congratulations to Local 4116 on its 25th anniversary and the Town's passage of the recognition resolution. We look forward to continuing our partnership as we work together to move the department forward.

EMS: Congratulations to Carter Brown and Evan Mathias on graduating from paramedic school, and to Nick Adams and Jake Anderson on being accepted into the next Arapahoe Community College paramedic class. Congratulations to everyone that has completed the Basic Life Support (BSL) Attending clearance process so far, and several additional members continuing to work toward clearance. A significant amount of work was completed this month to improve the department's EMS supply system. Zach Winters led a comprehensive evaluation of our procurement, inventory, and quantity-on-hand processes, identifying several opportunities to improve reliability and efficiency beyond the capabilities of the current software. That work has resulted in a proposed long-term solution that will continue to be refined. We also continued working with AdventHealth Castle Rock leadership to improve responses to the medical office buildings, resulting in a continued reduction in call volume. Additional efforts included advancing protocol and equipment evaluations, completing quarterly waiver reviews, and continuing discussions on the feasibility of carrying blood products.

Special Operations: Shift-wide Special Operations drills were successfully completed across all three shifts, with training continuing at the Station 155 prop to reinforce technical rescue skills. Congratulations to Lt. Jay Allen on completing Tower Rescue Technician training. Hazmat continued coordinating with regional partners, the Hazmat State Summit, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and Station 153 to maintain response readiness. Strong work to all three shifts on the recent fuel transfer incidents, which required grounding and bonding operations and demonstrated the department's growing hazardous materials capabilities. The Wildland program continued refining deployment procedures and continued regional coordination efforts on WICC operations. Members also attended Paratech's Heavy Lift Training at Poudre Fire Authority, and are using those lessons learned to further develop Collapse 155's equipment cache and heavy extrication capabilities.

Pipes and Drums: The band performed at Chris Hinkle's retirement event, were joined by the Colorado Emerald Society during the Douglas County Fair Parade, and played at two events at the Wings over the Rockies in support of the Tunnels to Towers Foundation. A band member also played as part of the Colorado Emerald Society for the line-of-duty service for USFS pilot Vinh Quy Le.

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We are currently working on the following projects:

- Station 156 design and build
- SOG/Admin Directive updates
- Specialty station staffing plan
- Wildland deployment matrix
- Engine/tower specifications
- Position expectation program

We also:

- Attended the Metro Fire Chief's meeting
- Participated in an R&D Team meeting
- Completed a ride-along with A-Shift
- Worked on the Strategic Plan
- Attended the UL Research Institute Symposium

Call Statistics

For July, we responded to 716 calls for service. For the year, we have now responded to 4,438 calls, which is 284 more than at the same point in 2025. We averaged 23 calls per day for the month.

Of the 716 calls this month, 16 were fire-related, 36 were considered hazardous in nature, 108 were public service (including alarms and citizen assists), 442 were EMS calls (including motor vehicle crashes), and the remaining were miscellaneous. In July, we transported 336 patients to area hospitals, with 277 transported to Castle Rock, 52 to Sky Ridge, and 7 to other facilities.

Busiest Fire Station	Busiest Engine/Quint	Busiest Medic Unit
Sta151 with 434 responses	E154 with 250 calls	M151 with 175 calls

Significant Incidents

In July, CRFD responded to ten cardiac arrests, six structure fire calls, ten brush fire calls, and a hazmat fuel spill on the interstate.



Members supporting 2 of our recent paramedic graduates



Crews attempting to rescue a trapped fawn



The rescued fawn

Administration Division:

Fire Chief Norris Croom

Key Admin Issues

After years of diligent work by the leadership of Local 4116, on July 21 with a unanimous vote, the Town Council approved Resolution 2026-083, "Resolution of the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado Recognizing the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4116 as the Employee Organization for Certain Town Fire Department Employees for Non-Binding Consultation Purposes Only, and Setting Out Priority Elements for the Relationship Between the Town of Castle Rock and International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4116." This was a historic moment for the Local, the Department, and the Town, marking the next step in the evolution of our department. Congratulations, Local 4116!

We met with the Budget Team and the Town Manager's Office on July 27 to review our 2027 budget requests and discuss the proposed funding for next year. We are excited to share that we have received preliminary approval for several significant investments that will be included in the proposed budget presented to Town Council.

Some of the preliminary approvals for 2027 include:

- Department reorganization plan, including the addition of two new Deputy Chief positions, and other recommended position changes.
- Reclassification of six Lieutenants to Captains (Station Captains).
- A Training Captain position accelerated from the 2030 staffing plan.
- An Emergency Manager position accelerated from the 2030 staffing plan.
- Two Firefighter/Paramedic positions funded through 2A.
- Increases to multiple operating budget line items, including medical services, uniforms and PPE, tools and equipment, repair and maintenance, and new equipment.
- Replacement of our extrication tools.
- Replacement and updates to the Town's Stop the Bleed kits.
- Additional vehicles to support the new positions.

There are also significant capital items as well as the on-going construction of Station 156 and Logistics Center, so we continue to be very fortunate in the Town's commitment to us and public safety as a whole.

Fire Chief Commentary

Station 156 work continues, and the retaining wall continues to grow. The building site is also being prepped to start pouring the foundation mid-month, so we are making good progress. As a reminder, if you stop by the site, you must wear appropriate PPE, and please check in with the superintendent at the construction trailer. Per the construction schedule, we remain on target with a completion date of September 2027.

Due to the lack of moisture, fuel conditions, and new fire starts, Stage 2 Fire Restrictions were implemented on July 2 in conjunction with Douglas County and other municipalities. Using the Fire Restriction Evaluation Guidelines, we were meeting four, and on some days five and six, of the seven metrics to implement restrictions. Three are required for Stage 1, and four or more are required for Stage 2. Unfortunately, conditions did not improve, and we remained under Stage 2 for the rest of the month.

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While we have not experienced a significant increase in wildland fires in our service area, we have continued to support and respond to our neighbors when requested. One example was the Penley Fire in West Douglas's district right at the entrance to Jarre Canyon on Highway 67. When the fire broke out on July 26, we sent a number of units as part of the initial attack effort. Then, as the fire was delegated to the County, we provided additional resources the next day to help ensure the fire was kept in check. The goal in the County is to keep wildland fires under ten acres, and the Penley Fire was mapped right at three. It truly takes a team effort to protect our Town and County.

With the Stage 2 restrictions, the professional fireworks shows were canceled, and all fireworks tents were closed across the entire county. We did get a F16 flyover from the Colorado Air Guard, and while not quite the same, it was super impressive. We will work to find a date later this year to reschedule the fireworks show when conditions are improved.

In celebration of USA 250 / CO 150 birthdays, the Keepers of the Star turned it red, white, and blue. The Star was lit in these colors from July 1 through August 1, Colorado's birthday. We received lots of positive comments on it, and it looked awesome. Great job, Keepers!



We celebrated the retirement of Engineer Chris Hinkle after 25 years of service. Chris has accepted a position as Fire Chief in Divide, and we wish him the absolute best in his new role. Good Luck and God Speed, Chris!

Finally, after 23 years, we have augmented our administrative staff back up to three. We decreased admin staffing from three to two in 2003, and the department doubled in size since that time. With the 2026 budget, we were approved to add an admin position to the department, so on July 6, we enthusiastically welcomed Debbie Schmidt to our team. Debbie comes to us with extensive government experience having retired from the State, and she quickly jumped in and started learning the Castle Rock way. Welcome Debbie!

Fire and Life Safety Division:

Division Chief Kevin Sullivan

July combined a substantial inspection, plan review, permitting and compliance workload with active community education, outreach and risk-reduction efforts. Staff completed 159 inspections, 114 plan reviews and 36 permits, while fee collections totaled \$59,125.09. Public education activities reached 568 people through eight events, with an additional 3,000 contacts during Sparky's appearance at the Douglas County Fair and Parade and 15,104 digital contacts through HOA email distributions.

At-a-Glance

159 Calendar-month inspections	114 Plan reviews	54 Permits issued	\$59,125 Fees received
104 Violations found	47 Violations corrected	3,568 In-person contacts	15,104 Digital contacts

Inspection Workload

Construction and system-acceptance activity drove the July workload. Fire alarm rough inspections were the largest inspection type, followed by business inspections, sprinkler rough inspections, final life-safety inspections and complaint inspections.

Inspection Type	Count
Fire Alarm Rough	23
Business	28
Sprinkler (NFPA 13 & 13R) Rough	16
Final Life Safety	15
Complaint	13
Fire Alarm Final	13
Sprinkler (NFPA 13 & 13R) Final	9
Response	7
MFV Operational	6
All other inspection types	29
Total	159

Plan Review and Permit Activity

The permit statistics dashboard recorded 76 plan reviews: 65 initial reviews and 11 resubmittals. Average turnaround was three weekdays. The Division issued 43 construction permits and 11 operational permits, for a combined total of 54 permits.

Plan Review / Permit Metric	July 2026
Initial plan reviews	103
Plan review resubmittals	11
Total plan reviews	114
Average plan review turnaround	11.3 days
Construction permits issued	25
Operational permits issued	11
Total permits issued	36

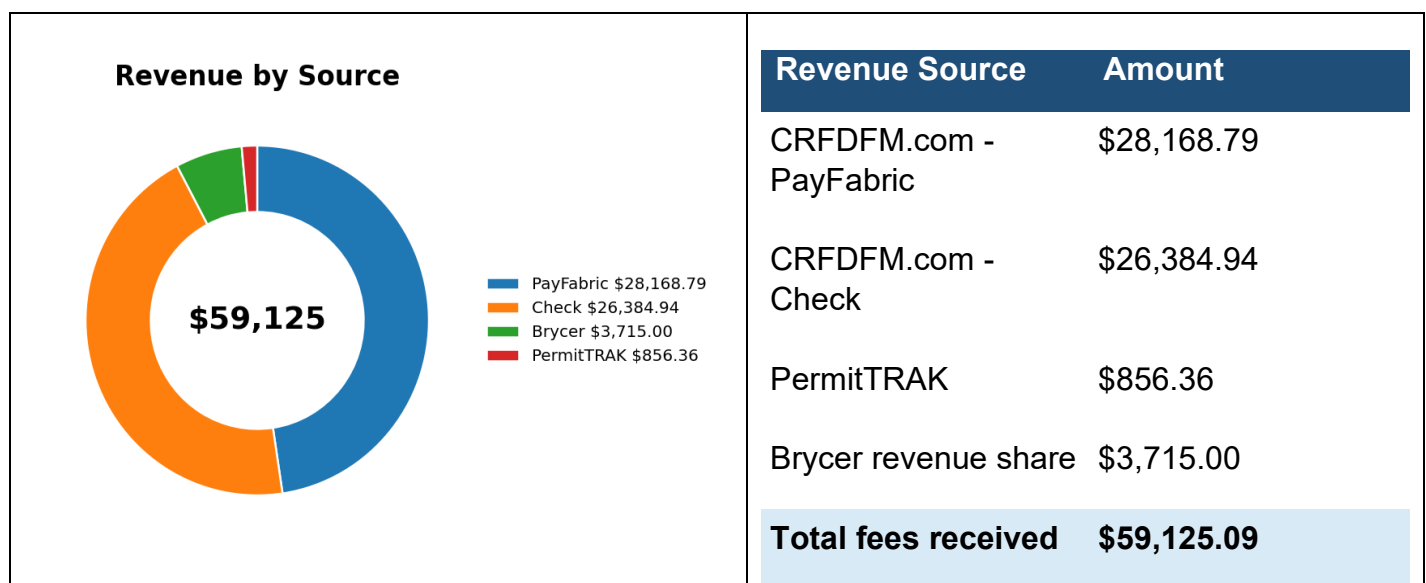
Violations and Compliance Follow-Up

Inspectors documented 104 violations and recorded 47 corrected violations during the rolling 30-day period. Corrected violations equaled 45.2% of violations found during the same reporting window. Because corrections may relate to violations identified earlier, this is a workload indicator rather than a direct closure rate.

104 Violations found	47 Violations corrected	45.2% Correction-to-finding ratio
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Financial Activity

July collections totaled \$59,125.09. The CRFDFM.com payment export recorded 50 paid transactions totaling \$54,553.73: \$28,168.79 through PayFabric and \$26,384.94 by check. PermitTRAK added \$856.36 and Brycer revenue share added \$3,715.00. Processing surcharges are excluded.



Top Violation Themes

Reported Violation Language	Occurrences
Improper use of extension cords, relocatable power taps or open junction boxes	2
DFPC-licensed sprinkler technician or required test documentation not provided	2
Equipment not readily accessible or not in a suitable location	2
Exit sign missing	2
Missing ceiling tiles affecting sprinkler and smoke movement performance	2

Crew Trivia

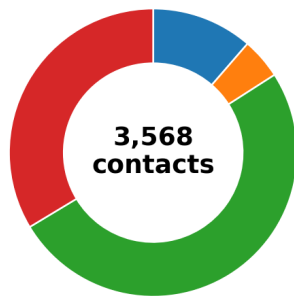
JUST FOR FUN	What is the world's largest municipal fire department by number of uniformed firefighters? A. Los Angeles Fire Department B. Tokyo Fire Department C. New York City Fire Department D. Paris Fire Brigade
LIFE SAFETY	Where should smoke alarms be installed in a home? A. Only in hallways B. Inside every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level C. Only near the kitchen and furnace D. One alarm anywhere in the home is sufficient

Answers: Just for Fun - C. New York City Fire Department, with approximately 11,000 uniformed firefighters. Life Safety - B. Inside every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

Fire and Life Safety Education

July public education and community outreach reached 568 people through eight events totaling 9.25 hours. Of those contacts, 405 were children and 163 were adults. Sparky also participated in the Douglas County Fair and Parade, reaching an estimated 1,800 children and 1,200 adults. HOA email distributions generated another 15,104 digital contacts.

In-Person Community Contacts



■ Event contacts - children (405)
■ Event contacts - adults (163)
■ Sparky - children (1,800)
■ Sparky - adults (1,200)



Sparky and CRFRD personnel greet the community during the Douglas County Fair and Parade.

July Public Education Highlights

- Members of Fire and Life Safety, Logistics and Administration received the Town of Castle Rock Applause Award for the second year of the Bucket Brigade program.
- Life Safety Educators and crews visited preschools and before-and-after-school programs during the month.
- Life Safety Educators presented summer-safety information at the Healthy Living event and taught hands-only CPR during the Youth Police Academy.
- First Responder Freeze was held July 7 with Castle Rock Police in place of Splash Mob because of drought and water restrictions. Dairy Queen donated several hundred Dilly Bars and 275 community members attended.
- Smoke-alarm and home-escape planning education was provided at Castle Park Mobile Home Park.
- Community Risk Reduction messaging focused on fireworks safety and the CRFD Bucket Brigade.

Car Seat Education

Crews and Life Safety Educators completed 12 car-seat checks. Ten were scheduled appointments, one was completed by B Shift and one by C Shift. Technicians identified and corrected two installation errors.

Bureau Mayday Training

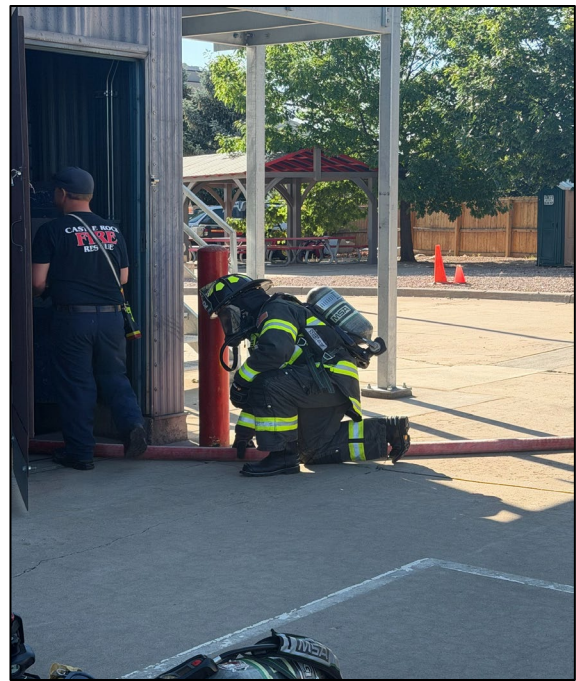
Fire and Life Safety Bureau personnel participated in mayday training to reinforce emergency communications, firefighter self-rescue and coordinated assistance during high-risk operations.

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Fire and Life Safety Bureau personnel practice mayday procedures in full structural firefighting PPE and SCBA.



Bureau personnel work through a mayday training evolution focused on investigator survival and coordinated rescue actions.



CRFD crews engage community members through a hands-on public education demonstration featuring firefighter tools, protective equipment and emergency response operations.

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Digital / Social Metric	Reported Value
Facebook post reach	256,026
Post interactions	3,137
Shares	114
Likes and reactions	2,801
Followers gained	486
PulsePoint monthly active users	8,248
PulsePoint CPR-alert-enabled users	2,382

July Inspection Detail by Type

The calendar-month export recorded 26 inspection types totaling 159 inspections.

Inspection Type	Count	Inspection Type	Count
Access Control Final	1	Fire Line Hydro	1
Business	28	Hood System Final	3
CO2 Alarm Final	2	Med Gas Rough	1
CO2 Alarm Rough	2	MFV Operational	6
Complaint	13	Repair Garage Operational	1
Construction Site	2	Response	7
FDC Flush	2	Special Event (Outdoor) Operational	2
FDC Hydro	2	Sprinkler (NFPA 13 & 13R) Final	9
FDC Rough	2	Sprinkler (NFPA 13 & 13R) Rough	16
Final Life Safety	15	Sprinkler (NFPA 13D) Rough	3
Fire Alarm Dialer Final	1	Sprinkler Compatibility	2
Fire Alarm Dialer Rough	1	Temporary Membrane Structure	1
Fire Alarm Final	13		
Fire Alarm Rough	23		
		Total	159

Training Division:

Division Chief Jeff Hood



Division Commentary and Happenings: Members completed 2,028 hours of training in July. Priorities focused on firefighter safety and survival, recruit academy preparation, continued safety bulletin work, training tower improvements, and several department programs that support long-term operational readiness.

Firefighter Safety and Survival Training: The department completed its biennial Firefighter Safety and Survival training, focusing on radio discipline and Mayday communications. The training reinforced communication under stress, firefighter rescue decision-making, and the need to continually evaluate our approach as firefighter survival practices evolve across the fire service. Thank you to Lieutenants Kunau and Wehling for their work in developing and delivering this department-wide training.

Nance Drills and Below-Grade Firefighter Rescue: STOs completed Nance drills in honor of Columbus Firefighter John W. Nance, who died in the line of duty on July 25, 1987, after falling through a floor into a below-grade space. Crews practiced accessing, securing, and removing a downed firefighter while reinforcing Mayday readiness, RIT support, rescue benchmarks, and command communication.

2026 Recruit Academy: The 2026 recruits started with CRFD on July 30 ahead of the West Metro Academy start date on August 4. This marked the result of significant planning by Firefighter Mitch Murphy, serving as the full-time academy lead, and Assistant Training Chief Clay Kallweit in preparing the recruits for pre-academy orientation and academy expectations.

MSA Regulator Safety Bulletin: The Training Division released a Safety and Training Bulletin addressing reported MSA G1 regulator issues that can cause full alarm and PASS activation while air delivery remains unaffected in our observed cases. The bulletin provides interim guidance on air verification, PStrax reporting, SCBA removal from service, and IDLH decision-making benchmarks until formal manufacturer recommendations are issued.

Training Tower Maintenance and Upgrade Planning: Work continued on training tower maintenance and improvement projects, including contracts and invoices related to WHP work. Current priorities include improving the rappel setup, replacing Padgenite in the burn rooms, and adding thermocouple-based temperature monitoring to improve live-burn tracking and tower sustainment.

Hospital Area Command: We continued meeting with hospital executives and retired Clark County Fire Department Chief Greg Cassell to advance the Hospital Area Command initiative. This work continues to build regional collaboration around hospital coordination, patient distribution, and patient surge management during high-volume incidents.

Other Division Happenings:

- Continued working with Logistics on auto extrication tool evaluation, vendor follow-up, and quote gathering.
- Finalizing the Bridgewater building familiarization walk-through for a 142-unit assisted

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living and memory care facility, with department rollout planned for August.

- Worked with Special Operations to develop team credentials that will improve tracking of required training completion and proof of team commitment.



Safety and Survival Training Before



Safety and Survival Training After



Nance Drill



Nance Drill

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Logistics Division:

Division Chief Jeff Wenzel



Division Commentary and happenings:

The Logistics Division remained actively engaged throughout the month of July, continuing to support operational readiness, fleet reliability, and equipment lifecycle management across the department. Significant progress was made in personal protective equipment (PPE) maintenance, apparatus readiness, and facility improvements, ensuring the division continues to meet operational and safety standards.

A major focus for the month was the completion of NFPA 1850 gear washing and inspection. A total of 1,524 pieces of PPE were cleaned and evaluated, with 215 items requiring repair. These repairs included four jacket liners, 83 jacket shells, and multiple pant shells. In total, 116 members had their gear cleaned and inspected, resulting in an overall pass rate of 83.5 percent. This effort reinforces the department's commitment to firefighter safety and compliance with national standards.

In conjunction with these efforts, several PPE lifecycle initiatives were completed. All Your Town Academy (YTA) PPE was replaced with 2016-compliant sets and all Explorer PPE was upgraded to 2017 sets. Additionally, all 2018 PPE sets were traded in to Redline, resulting in a \$7,000 discount. The division currently maintains approximately 50 spare PPE sets stored in the basement at Station 153, ranging in manufacture years from 2019 through 2025. All pre-2016 PPE sets were donated to 5280 International Operations, where they will be redistributed to fire departments in Mexico, supporting international fire service partners.

Fleet operations also saw several important updates. Engine 154 was placed back into frontline service following maintenance and lengthy repairs. At the same time, Engine 153 was taken out of service to undergo scheduled preventative maintenance, ensuring continued long-term reliability of the apparatus fleet. The new Assistant Chief of EMS/Special Operations vehicle was completed and placed into service, further enhancing command and response capabilities.

Apparatus development efforts continued as Engine 156 was returned to Front Range for the installation of remaining loose equipment. This process is expected to take several weeks and will prepare the unit for full operational deployment upon completion.

From a facilities perspective, Station 154 underwent a full plumbing system replacement during the month. This upgrade ensures reliable functionality and supports long-term infrastructure sustainability for the station and its personnel.

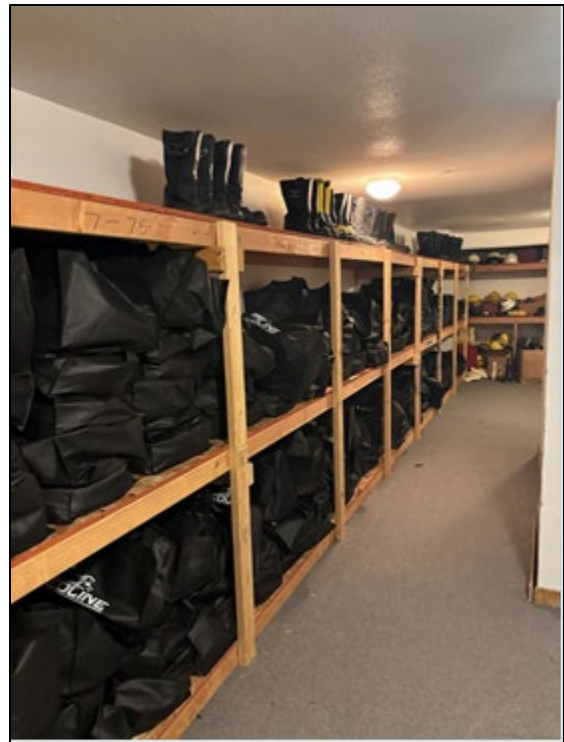
Looking ahead, the Logistics Division plans to get new builds in service and complete the ordering of several new apparatus.

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Assistant Chief of EMS/ Spec Ops



Spare sets in the basement at Station 153



Redline Gear washing



Redline Gear dyers

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Continuous Quality Improvement:

Accreditation Manager Katt Walsh



CPSE/CFAI Update:

The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) has approved the 11th Edition Fire and Emergency Services Self-Assessment Model (FESSAM). The updated model contains 250 individual performance indicators and serves as the framework for the accreditation and continuous improvement process.

More than simply a set of standards, the FESSAM provides a comprehensive roadmap for accredited agencies to demonstrate, document, measure, and evaluate organizational performance. The model supports a systematic approach to continuous improvement by helping agencies assess current practices, identify opportunities for improvement, validate performance through supporting evidence, and align organizational efforts with community needs and strategic priorities.

Department Implementation:

Beginning in August, department leads will begin receiving their respective division assignments and identified needs from the Self-Assessment Manual (SAM). As the review progresses, specific sections and performance indicators may also be assigned to personnel throughout the department based on their areas of responsibility and subject-matter expertise. This collaborative approach will help ensure the self-assessment accurately reflects current departmental practices, incorporates appropriate supporting documentation, and identifies opportunities for continued improvement.

Calls for Service and Apparatus Responses:

July 2026 calls for service reflect continued increases in service demand across the department. Station 154 again experienced the highest call volume during the month, followed by Station 151. Station 154 increased from 187 incidents in July 2025 to 223 incidents in July 2026, a 19.25% increase, reinforcing its role as one of the department's busiest response areas. Station 153 demonstrated an approximate 37% increase in call volume compared with the same reporting period in 2025. Station 152 also experienced notable growth this month compared to July of last year, with an increase of approximately 28.5% in calls for service.

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