

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Aurora, Illinois Fire Department

Proudly serving our community

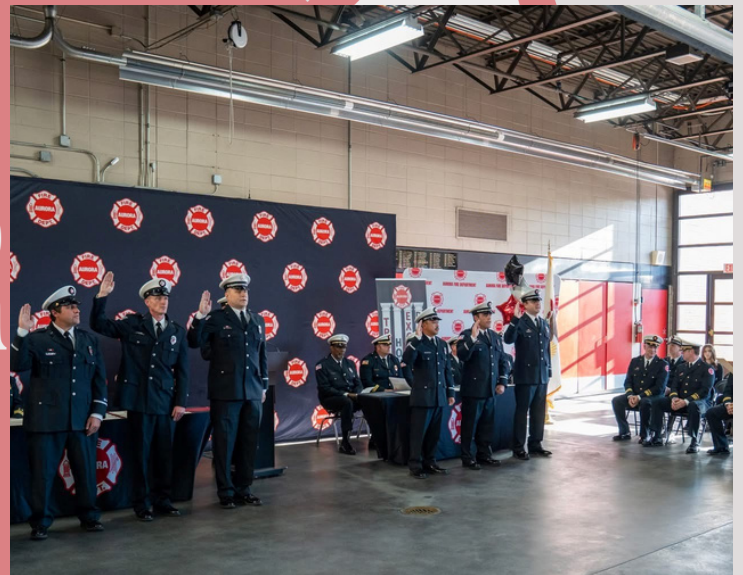


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Fires

Structure Fires - 148
Vehicle Fires - 71
Other Fires - 149
Total Fires - 368

Medical Calls

Medical calls - 18,202
Vehicle Accidents - 1,363

Other Calls

Other Rescue Calls - 62
Carbon Monoxide Calls - 118
Electrical Hazard Incidents - 135
Gas or Oil Leaks/Spills - 305
Other Hazardous Incidents - 97
Weather Emergencies - 15

Service/Good Intent Calls

Service and Good Intent Calls - 1,485

False Calls

Total False Calls - 1,731

2025 Total Incidents - 23,887

Note: Fire incident totals may include multiple response types for a single incident.
As a result, the sum of response types may exceed the total number of incidents.

Interim Fire Chief's Report

It is my honor to present the Aurora Fire Department's 2025 Annual Report. Throughout the year, our members continued to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to service, guided by our core values of Tradition, Honor, Excellence, and Discipline. The department responded to nearly 24,000 calls for service, reflecting sustained demand and the critical role our firefighters and paramedics play in protecting the community.

Service demands continue to be substantial, and our personnel have demonstrated excellent response capabilities and operational readiness in fire suppression, emergency medical services, and specialized applications. Investments in infrastructure and technology are evident as Stations 13 and 9 approach completion and construction commences on Station 4, thereby improving coverage for residents and visitors in Aurora. These advancements represent the culmination of strategic planning and will contribute to reduced response times and equitable protection citywide.

In addition to focusing on operational priorities, the department also participated in various budget discussions throughout the year to tackle the City's overall financial challenges. These initiatives involved a thorough review of every expense and resource allocation to ensure maximum efficiency, all while upholding essential services, dependable response, and firefighter safety.

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain focused on strengthening service delivery, supporting our personnel, and adapting to the evolving needs of our community.



Interim Fire Chief Kevin Nickel

Support Services/Administration

2025 was another busy year for the Support Services office and Administration Division. The Support Services Office continued its commitment to strengthening operational readiness, enhancing firefighter safety, and improving the efficiency of our facilities and equipment throughout the year. Several major projects were completed that significantly advanced the department's capabilities and infrastructure.

A new Medic 13 was purchased and placed into service, providing upgraded emergency medical response capabilities and ensuring reliable service to the community. In addition, a new Dive Rescue vehicle was acquired and placed in service, greatly improving the department's ability to respond to water-related emergencies and supporting the specialized dive team with modern, purpose-built equipment.

Facility improvements were a primary focus this year. Fire Station 7 received a new vehicle exhaust removal system, supporting a healthier work environment and reducing exposure to harmful emissions. The second floor of Fire Station 3 underwent full renovation, modernizing the space and improving functionality for on-duty personnel. At Fire Station 10, the officer's bathroom was remodeled, enhancing usability and addressing long-standing maintenance needs.

Energy efficiency initiatives progressed as well, with all firehouses receiving upgraded LED station lighting. This change not only improves visibility and safety but also reduces operational costs and supports the city's sustainability goals.

To improve reliability and reduce downtime, a comprehensive garage door maintenance service was implemented across all stations. Additionally, multiple fire stations were repainted, contributing to improved interior and exterior conditions and preserving facility longevity.

Overall, the Support Services Office completed a productive and impactful year, ensuring that personnel have the dependable tools, vehicles, and facilities necessary to deliver exceptional service to the community.

Assistant Chief Mike Kaufman and Division Chief Brandon Matson

Operations

Operations Overview

The Aurora Fire Department employs an all-hazards approach to managing emergency incidents. Beyond providing essential emergency medical services (EMS) and fire response, the department has specialists trained in several critical areas. These areas include water rescue operations—covering swift water, ice, and scuba rescue—as well as technical rescue situations such as trench collapse, confined space emergencies, and high-angle incidents. The department is also equipped to handle vehicle extrication, hazardous materials response, tactical emergency medical services, child protective seat installation, and fire investigations.

The responsibility for delivering these varied services lies with the Operations Division. This division ensures a daily minimum staffing level of 64 personnel. These professionals operate from 9 fire stations throughout Aurora to serve the community. Within these stations, the department staffs 13 fire apparatus—including 9 engines and 4 trucks—alongside 2 Battalion Chiefs and 9 medic units. In 2025, the department continued its commitment to advancing a strategic plan that has been developed over several years.

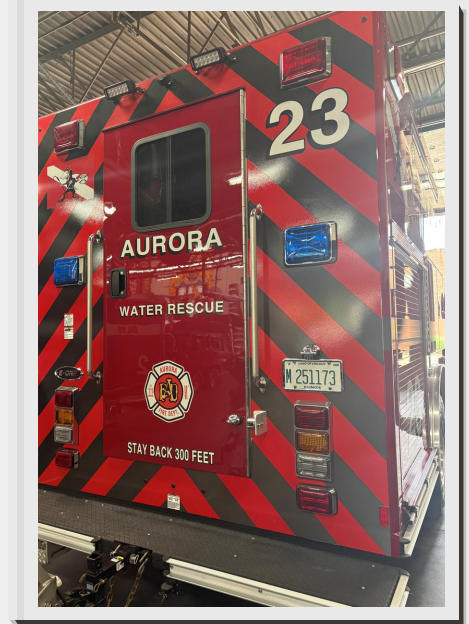
Station Deployment and Mutual Aid

The placement of fire stations is carefully planned to provide optimal service coverage for the community. Notably, Station 13 is set to become the first new fire station constructed in Aurora since the late 1990s. Additionally, the Aurora Fire Department supports neighboring communities by providing mutual aid as part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 13.

Commitment to Innovation and Safety

The Operations Division remains dedicated to seeking and implementing innovative resources, techniques, and training for Aurora's firefighters. The ongoing focus is to ensure personnel can perform their duties safely and efficiently. Looking ahead, the department anticipates a safe and productive 2026 for all members of the Aurora Fire Department.

Assistant Chief Matt Anslow



The Training Division continues to uphold its core pillars of Tradition, Honor, Excellence, and Discipline. These values serve as the foundation for every initiative and accomplishment throughout the year.

Recertification Achievements

The year 2025 presented new challenges for the division, most notably the Illinois State Fire Marshal's mandate for recertification across numerous credentials. Among the 248 sworn firefighters, a total of 537 State Credentials were successfully recertified. These credentials include Fire Service Vehicle Operator, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Fire Instructor I & II, Fire Inspector I & II, Fire Department Incident Safety Officer, and Hazardous Materials Operations. In addition, department members who serve on Special Teams also completed recertification in their respective specialties, such as Confined Space Technician, Fire Investigator, Hazardous Materials Technician, Rope Operations, Rope Technician, Structural Collapse, Trench Operations, and Technician.

New Certifications Earned

Throughout the 2025 calendar year, forty-four new certifications were acquired. These include 19 Advanced Technician Firefighter, 11 Fire Service Vehicle Operator, 4 Basic Operations Firefighter, 4 Hazardous Materials Operations, 3 Structural Collapse Technician, 2 Rope Operations, a Confined Space Technician, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Fire Inspector I, Fire Instructor I, Fire Instructor II, Hazardous Materials Technician, Trench Operations, and Trench Technician.

Recruitment and Training

In the fall of 2025, twenty recruits joined the department. The Training Division proudly graduated eighteen recruits following a demanding 12-week hands-on Fire Academy, which included more than 400 hours of practical instruction. The recruits' learning continued after joining their shifts, with many department members actively participating in their preparation for an all-day practical evaluation—an eight-hour, hands-on examination of the department's Standard Operating Procedures.

Ongoing Training and Compliance

While these highlights are significant, they represent only a portion of the training activities carried out during the year. Countless hours were dedicated to company-level training, encompassing OSHA and ISO compliance, territory familiarization, driver training, and preplanning. The accomplishments of 2025 laid a robust foundation for ongoing development in skill and job performance. The Training Division remains dedicated to advancing firefighter proficiency and operational excellence.

Division Chief Phil Bergeron and Training Officer Mark Long



Emergency Medical Service

In 2025, the Aurora Fire Department provided Advanced Life Support (ALS) services to the City of Aurora with 9 ALS ambulances and 9 ALS fire engines. The ambulances are always staffed with at least two paramedics. Each engine crew consists of a minimum of one paramedic. In 2025, the Aurora Fire Department responded to 18,202 emergency medical assistance calls through the 9-1-1 system. In addition to 9-1-1 responses, the Aurora Fire Department provided standby medical services for 49 local football games, parades, and other community events. This is significantly fewer incidents than years past due to the renovations at RiverEdge Park.

New Paramedics

A total of 11 Aurora firefighters completed their paramedic training in 2025. We continue to work with the area hospitals for Continuing Medical Education for all our paramedics to provide the residents of the City of Aurora with highly qualified, skilled, and educated emergency medical providers.

Tactical Emergency Medical Service (TEMS)

The Aurora Fire Department's Tactical EMS program currently consists of a team of 15 tactical paramedics. With 29 training events completed in 2025, the TEMS medics are specially trained to treat wounded officers and civilians in hazardous environments such as drug interdiction, hostage negotiations, and barricaded subjects. These TEMS medics support the Aurora Police Department SWAT Team, with 19 total activations and an additional 19 stand-by events such as River's Edge concerts and local parades. The TEMS medic's role is to provide immediate treatment to injured persons during high-risk law enforcement operations, provide the scene commander with a medical threat assessment, and promote the safety and health of law enforcement personnel.

CPR

The Aurora Fire Department has 21 certified CPR Instructors that provided CPR and First Aid instruction to 514 individuals in 2025, including all members of the Aurora Police Department and other city employees, doctor's offices, and public organizations within the city.

The Quality Assurance program for Aurora Fire Department is responsible for the ongoing review and evaluation of all aspects of EMS from protocols, testing, education, equipment, documentation, and the wide spectrum of patient care provided by Aurora Fire Department paramedics.

EMS is a vital component and integral part of the Aurora Fire Department. EMS continues to evolve and provide outstanding services to all people within the City of Aurora. This is made possible by the dedicated and well-trained personnel that are committed to maintaining the highest standard of care that the City of Aurora has come to expect.

Fire Prevention Bureau

FIRE MARSHAL'S MESSAGE

As Fire Marshal of the Aurora Fire Prevention Bureau, I am proud to present the 2025 Annual Report. This year reflects the dedication, professionalism, and community focus of our prevention staff, inspectors, community partners, and firefighters. Prevention is the foundation of a resilient community. By conducting thorough inspections, offering timely re-inspections, promoting safer business practices, delivering public education, and expanding community engagement, we continue to reduce risk before emergencies occur. The accomplishments detailed in this report are a direct result of our shared commitment to protecting lives, property, and the wellbeing of our community. Our mission remains clear: to reduce risk, respond effectively, and serve our community with integrity and excellence. I am confident that with the continued dedication of our team and the support of our community, 2026 will be another year of meaningful progress.

Fire and Life Safety Inspections

In 2025, the FPB conducted **5,329** inspections across commercial, educational, industrial, institutional, and multi-family occupancies. These inspections ensured compliance with all adopted fire codes, helping identify hazards before they could endanger lives or property.

To support and ensure compliance, the Bureau completed **1,437 re-inspections**.

Inspection Compliance Rate:

The compliance rate (73%) between initial inspections and re-inspections remains a key indicator of safety partnership and community accountability. The FPB observed strong engagement from property owners in correcting deficiencies and improving life safety systems. Many of the violations were resolved promptly and cooperatively, demonstrating effective enforcement and education strategies.

Specialized Inspections

Mobile food vendor oversight remained a priority in 2025. FPB performed **119 food truck inspections**, ensuring adherence to updated fuels, ventilation, and cooking safety standards.

Operational Permits

Operational permits play a vital role in regulating activities that pose elevated risks. In 2025, the FPB issued **156 permits**, including:

- Fire Pit – 24
- Assembly – 7
- Fireworks – 8
- Hazardous Materials – 8
- LPG – 50
- Open Burn – 56
- Special Permit/Tanks – 3

These permits ensure safe operations, promote code compliance, and allow FPB to conduct site safety reviews prior to the activity.

Public Education & Community Engagement

Community risk reduction remained a cornerstone of the FPB mission.

Public Engagement Activities – 109

These events included fire safety presentations, fire extinguisher training sessions, and community risk reduction programs. Public education continues to be one of the most effective tools in reducing fire-related injuries and property loss.

Station Tours – 28

Residents, community groups, and youth organizations visited fire stations to learn about firefighting operations, fire safety, and emergency preparedness.

School Events – 30

FPB partnered with schools throughout the year to deliver age-appropriate fire safety instruction and participate in classroom activities and safety fairs.

FIRE DRILLS:

THE BUREAU SUPPORTED SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES, AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES CONDUCTING OVER **60 FIRE DRILLS**, ENSURING OCCUPANTS WERE TRAINED IN SAFE EVACUATION AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.

AGING IN PLACE:

THROUGH A FEDERAL GRANT AND PRIVATE DONATION, THE AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU, WITH SUPPORT FROM AURORA'S SENIOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WERE ABLE TO INSTALL APPROXIMATELY **200** LOCKBOXES AND NEARLY **400** 10-YEAR SEALED BATTERY-COMBINATION CO/SMOKE ALARMS TO SENIORS WITH DISABILITIES. THIS PROGRAM IS JUST PART OF A LARGER ONE THAT HELPS TO ALLOW THEM TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES SAFELY. THE LOCKBOXES PREVENT UNNECESSARY DAMAGE AND COSTS TO THE RESIDENT'S HOME WHEN A NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSE IS REQUESTED. ALL SENIOR RESIDENTS WERE EDUCATED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE SAFETY, GIVEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS AND WERE INFORMED OF THE OPERATION OF THE SMOKE ALARMS. EACH RESIDENT ALSO RECEIVED VARIOUS FIRE SAFETY MATERIALS TO KEEP FOR FURTHER REVIEW.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The Aurora Fire Prevention Bureau goals for 2026 focus on building upon this strong foundation while addressing emerging challenges and opportunities. Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Enhancing our fire prevention and inspection processes through improved technology and data-driven strategies.
- Expanding public education initiatives to reach more residents, businesses, and vulnerable populations.
- Modernizing equipment and resources to support safer, more efficient operations.
- Investing in continued training and professional development for our personnel.
- Strengthening partnerships with local agencies, organizations, and community stakeholders to advance shared safety goals.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to public safety.

Fire Marshal Christopher Temes

