

2025

# Annual Report



Fire Chief  
Michael Tofano



Captain Justin Sink, Firefighter Wyatt Kirk, and Firefighter Chad Carroll in front of a fire truck.



Sergeant Nathan Spicer, Firefighter Cody Pressley, and Sergeant Colton Hedrick holding their Heartsaver Hero awards from the American Heart Association.



Chief Michael Tofano and Lexington Fire Department personnel receiving the department's ISO Class 1 certification paperwork from State Fire Marshal Brian Taylor.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As I look back at 2025, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the dedication, service, and accomplishments of the Lexington Fire Department over the past year.

Throughout 2025, the men and women of this department—both suppression personnel and civilian employees—demonstrated professionalism, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to serving the Lexington community. Every response to an emergency, every inspection completed, every training hour logged, and every administrative or support function performed contributed to the safety and well-being of our citizens.

This year was not without challenges. Like many organizations, we faced adversity and periods of change. What defines the Lexington Fire Department, however, is how those challenges were met—together. Our personnel worked as a unified team, supporting one another while remaining focused on our mission of delivering effective, efficient, and compassionate service to the community.

Several milestones highlight the progress made in 2025. The department proudly welcomed 13 new employees, strengthening our operational capacity and investing in the future of fire and life safety services in Lexington. In September, the department achieved a significant accomplishment by earning an ISO Class 1 rating, placing Lexington among a very small number of fire departments nationwide to receive this distinction. This rating reflects years of sustained effort in emergency response, training, fire prevention, communications, and community risk reduction.

As Fire Chief, I remain committed to supporting and advocating for the members of this department. Strong leadership, adequate resources, and a focus on continuous improvement are essential to maintaining the level of service our community expects and deserves. I am proud of the work accomplished in 2025 and confident in the direction of the Lexington Fire Department moving forward.

On behalf of the department, thank you to the citizens of Lexington for your continued trust and support. It is an honor to serve this community.

**Michael Tofano**  
Fire Chief



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Lexington Fire Department is to deliver the highest quality service in fire suppression, rescue, fire prevention, and fire education. We are committed to protecting lives, property, and the City of Lexington through professionalism, rapid response, and community engagement.

## **CORE VALUES**

### **Professionalism**

We uphold the highest standards of integrity, conduct, and accountability in every aspect of our service.

### **Excellence**

We strive for continual improvement, operational excellence, and a commitment to training, leadership, and performance.

### **Compassion**

We serve our community with empathy, respect, and a deep sense of duty, understanding the human impact of every emergency.

### **Effective Service Delivery**

We prioritize responsiveness, efficiency, and preparedness to meet the evolving needs of our citizens.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Our vision is to provide unparalleled fire and rescue services to the citizens of Lexington by setting the standard for excellence, compassion, and innovation.



# CONSISTENCY, COMPASSION, COMPETENCE

The 2025 Annual Report of the Lexington Fire Department reflects a year defined by consistency, compassion, and competence in service to our community. Throughout the challenges and uncertainties that touched our city, our firefighters stood as steadfast guardians, meeting every call with professionalism, humility, and unwavering dedication. What follows is more than a summary of events—it is a testament to our purpose, our growth, and our commitment to those who place their trust in us.

Day after day, our firefighters responded to emergencies with quiet reliability and steady resolve. Whether facing structure fires, medical crises, technical rescues, or public safety threats, each member of our department carried forward our shared mission—to protect lives and property while strengthening the sense of security that defines Lexington. It is this consistency, built on training, discipline, and teamwork, that anchors our work and ensures our citizens receive the highest standard of care.

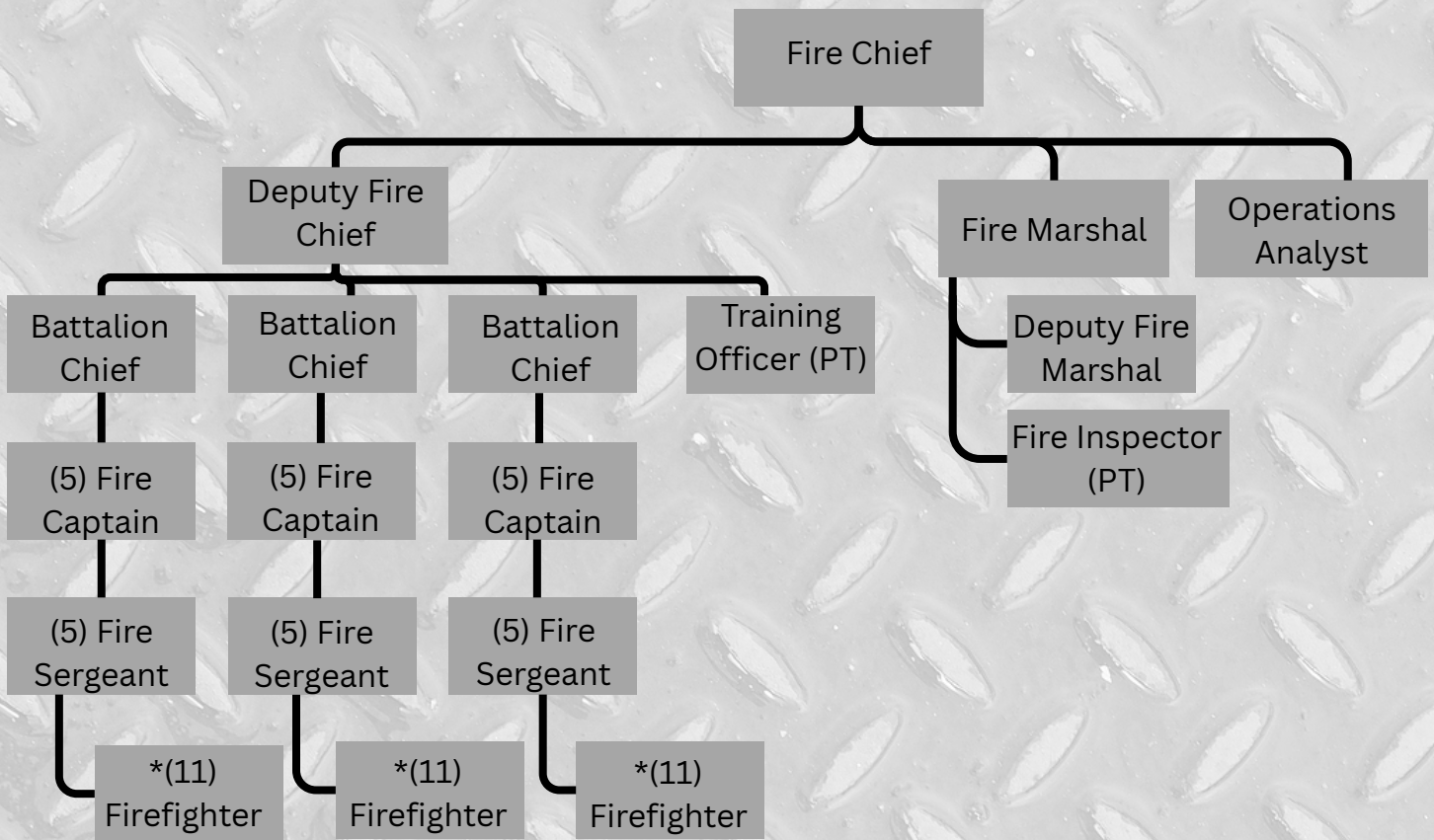
Training remained a cornerstone of our success in 2025. Through a structured and comprehensive training program, our firefighters sharpened their skills, embraced evolving best practices, and prepared for the unknown with confidence and precision. This commitment to professional excellence contributed directly to one of our most significant achievements, earning an ISO Class 1 rating. This designation places the Lexington Fire Department among the top fire service organizations in the nation and reflects the strength of our operations, readiness, and community partnerships.

Yet competence alone does not define who we are. Compassion remains at the heart of our service. Behind every response is a human story, and our firefighters consistently demonstrate empathy, understanding, and respect for those experiencing their most difficult moments. Whether offering reassurance to a frightened family, supporting community outreach programs, or simply being present when we are needed most, our members embody the values that unite Lexington.

The 2025 Annual Report is more than a record of calls, data, and milestones. It is the story of a department grounded in purpose, strengthened by training, elevated by excellence, and driven by compassion. It reflects our pride in serving the citizens of Lexington and our commitment to remaining a trusted partner in the safety and resilience of our community.



# LEXINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART



\*(18) Firefighters fund through SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response)



## **OUR TEAM**

**Certified Firefighters – 63**

**Certified EMR – 4**

**Certified EMT – 28**

**Administrative Team – 5**



Group of Lexington Fire Department personnel with other individuals during a 9/11 stair climb event.



# STATION 1



**200 East Center Street, Lexington, NC 27292**

Lexington Fire Station 1 serves as the primary headquarters for the Lexington Fire Department in North Carolina. Located in the heart of the city, Station 1 is strategically positioned to provide rapid emergency response to central and eastern Lexington. It houses key apparatus, command staff, and support personnel who handle fire suppression, emergency medical response, rescue operations, and community safety services.

Beyond frontline emergency response, Station 1 plays an essential role in fire prevention, public education, training, and departmental leadership, reflecting the department's mission to protect lives and property through professional service and strong community engagement.





## Engine 1

Engine 1 is a front-line response apparatus for the Lexington Fire Department, serving as a key resource for fire suppression and emergency operations throughout the city. This engine is a 2011 Toyne fire apparatus equipped with a 500-gallon water tank and a 1,500-gallon-per-minute fire pump, providing reliable water supply and pumping capacity for both initial attack and sustained operations.

Engine 1 is staffed with a four-person crew consisting of one Sergeant (driver/operator), one Captain, and two firefighters. Together, this crew is trained to quickly deploy hose lines, establish water supply, and to manage incident operations, ensuring a fast and effective response to emergencies in the City of Lexington.



## Ladder 1

Ladder 1, known throughout the department as "Big Red," is a critical component of the Lexington Fire Department's fire suppression and rescue capabilities. This apparatus is a 2022 Smeal aerial platform featuring a 100-foot ladder, allowing crews to perform elevated fire operations, ventilation, and rescue in multi-story incidents.

Ladder 1 is equipped with a 300-gallon water tank and a 2,000-gallon-per-minute fire pump, providing substantial water flow to support both aerial and ground operations. In addition to its firefighting capabilities, "Big Red" carries a full complement of technical rescue and extrication equipment, enabling the crew to respond to complex rescue incidents such as vehicle entrapments, high-angle rescues, and other specialized emergencies.

Ladder 1 is staffed with a five-person crew consisting of one Sergeant (driver/operator), one Captain, and three firefighters, ensuring the apparatus is ready to handle a wide range of emergency responses throughout the City of Lexington.



## Squad 1

Squad 1 serves as a versatile support vehicle for the Lexington Fire Department, providing enhanced capability for specialized and non-traditional emergency responses. This apparatus is a 2016 Dodge 4x4 crew cab designed to operate in a variety of environments, including off-road and difficult-access areas.

Squad 1 is equipped with a brush pump capable of flowing 100 gallons per minute and carries a 200-gallon water tank, allowing it to assist with brush fires, utility support, and initial suppression in remote locations. In addition to its firefighting support role, Squad 1 is used to support the department's technical rescue response and is capable of towing and transporting the confined space rescue trailer and associated equipment as needed.

Squad 1 functions as a support vehicle and is not permanently staffed, allowing it to be assigned and deployed based on incident needs throughout the City of Lexington.



## Battalion 7

Battalion 7 serves as a mobile command and control unit for the Lexington Fire Department, supporting effective incident management across the city. This apparatus is a 2020 Dodge command vehicle specifically outfitted to support emergency scene coordination and strategic oversight.

Battalion 7 is staffed by the Battalion Chief, who is responsible for providing command, control, and overall incident management at emergency scenes. The vehicle is equipped with communications, command, and operational support equipment that allows the Battalion Chief to coordinate resources, establish incident command, and ensure the safety and effectiveness of operations during both routine and complex incidents throughout the City of Lexington.



## STATION 2



**285 Hargrave Road, Lexington, NC 27292**

Lexington Fire Station 2 proudly serves the southern portion of the city and surrounding areas, providing rapid emergency response and community support. The station is staffed 24/7 by a dedicated crew of professional firefighters trained in fire suppression, emergency medical response, rescue operations, and public safety education. Station 2 plays a vital role in ensuring quick response times to residential, commercial, and roadway incidents throughout its district. In addition to emergency operations, the station team actively participates in community engagement, life-safety education, and preparedness initiatives to help reduce risk and enhance public safety.





## Truck 2

Truck 2 is a front-line apparatus for the Lexington Fire Department, providing critical support for fire suppression, rescue, and ventilation operations. This apparatus is a 2012 Smeal equipped with a 75-foot aerial ladder, allowing crews to conduct elevated operations and access multi-story structures.

Truck 2 carries equipment similar to Ladder 1, including tools for fire attack, ventilation, forcible entry, extrication, and rescue operations. It is equipped with a 400-gallon water tank and a 1,500-gallon-per-minute fire pump, enabling the crew to support both aerial and ground-based firefighting efforts.

Truck 2 is staffed with a four-person crew consisting of one Sergeant (driver/operator), one Captain, and two firefighters, ensuring a capable and efficient response to a wide range of emergencies throughout the City of Lexington.





## STATION 3



**70 Biesecker Road, Lexington, NC 27295**

Lexington Fire Station 3 serves the eastern portion of the city and surrounding neighborhoods, providing dependable and proactive emergency response. Staffed 24/7 by highly trained professional firefighters, the station responds to fire emergencies, medical calls, rescue incidents, and other hazards to keep the community safe.

Station 3 is an essential part of the city's fire protection network, ensuring fast and efficient response across its district. In addition to emergency operations, the firefighters at Station 3 are actively engaged in life-safety education, community outreach, and preparedness initiatives designed to reduce risk and strengthen public safety. Equipped with modern apparatus and tools – and guided by a strong commitment to service – Lexington Fire Station 3 proudly stands ready to protect the residents, businesses, and visitors of our community.





## Engine 3

Engine 3 is a front-line response apparatus for the Lexington Fire Department, providing dependable fire suppression and emergency response capabilities throughout the city. This apparatus is a 2021 Toyne fire engine designed to support both initial attack and sustained firefighting operations.

Engine 3 is equipped with a 500-gallon water tank and a 2,000 gallon-per-minute fire pump, allowing the crew to quickly establish water supply and deliver effective fire flows at a wide range of incidents.

Engine 3 is staffed with a four-person crew consisting of one Sergeant (driver/operator), one Captain, and two firefighters, ensuring a rapid, coordinated, and professional response to emergencies in the City of Lexington.





## STATION 4



**201 Cotton Grove Road, Lexington, NC 27292**

Lexington Fire Station 4 proudly serves the southeastern area of the city, providing reliable emergency response and community support. The station is staffed 24/7 by a dedicated team of professional firefighters trained in fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue operations, and life-safety education. Station 4 plays a vital role in the city's fire protection system, ensuring rapid response to residential, commercial, and roadway incidents throughout its district. Beyond emergency calls, the crews at Station 4 actively participate in community outreach and public education initiatives to help reduce risk and promote preparedness.





## Engine 4

Engine 4 is a reliable front-line apparatus for the Lexington Fire Department, supporting fire suppression and emergency response operations throughout the city. This apparatus is a 2003 Pierce fire engine that continues to serve as a dependable resource for a wide range of incidents. Engine 4 is equipped with a 500-gallon water tank and a 1,500- gallon-per-minute fire pump, allowing crews to establish water supply quickly and deliver effective fire flows for both initial attack and extended operations.

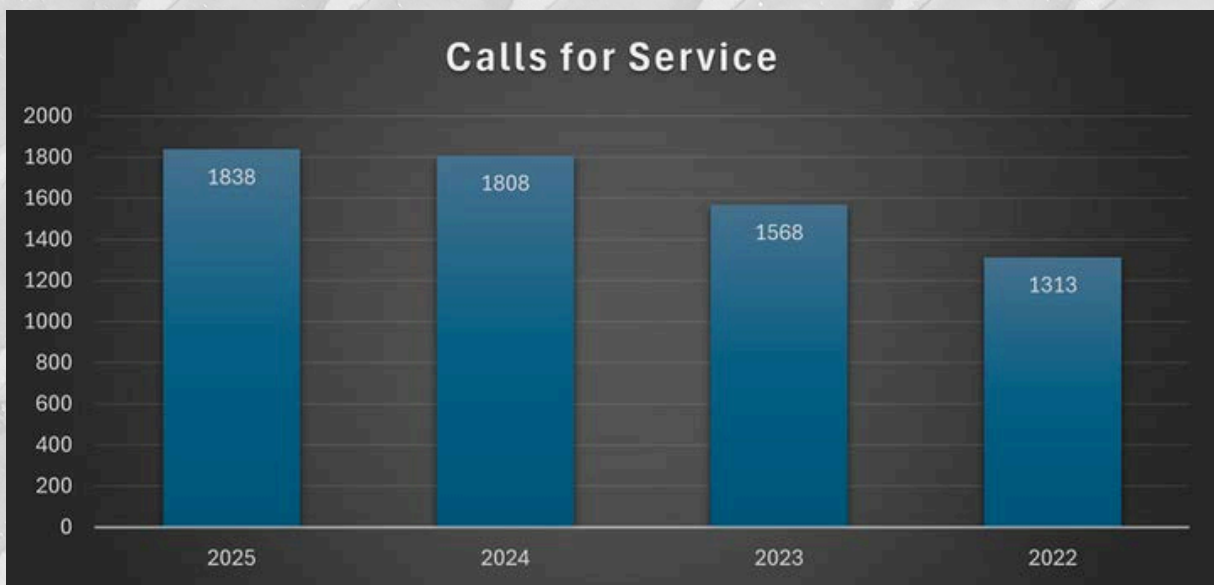
Engine 4 is staffed with a four-person crew consisting of one Sergeant (driver/operator), one Captain, and two firefighters, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response to emergencies in the City of Lexington.



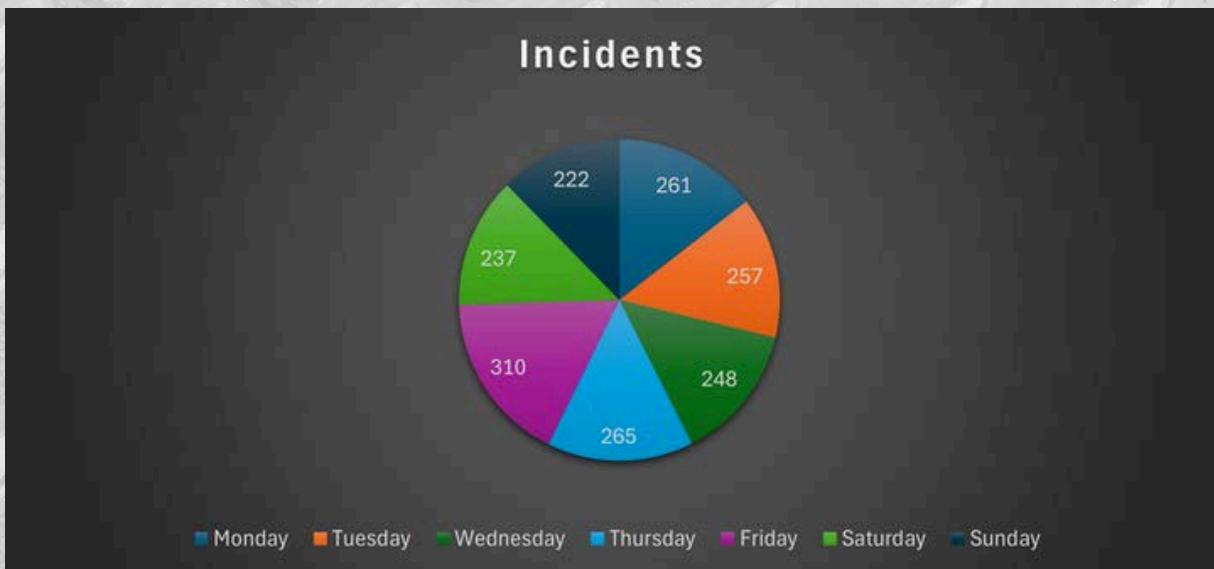


# RESPONSE TO CALLS FOR SERVICE

In 2025, the Lexington Fire Department promptly answered 1,838 calls for service, an increase of 30 incidents compared to the previous year. Should these trends persist, projections indicate that within a decade or less, Lexington Fire Department could potentially see its call volume surge to over 4,000 incidents annually.

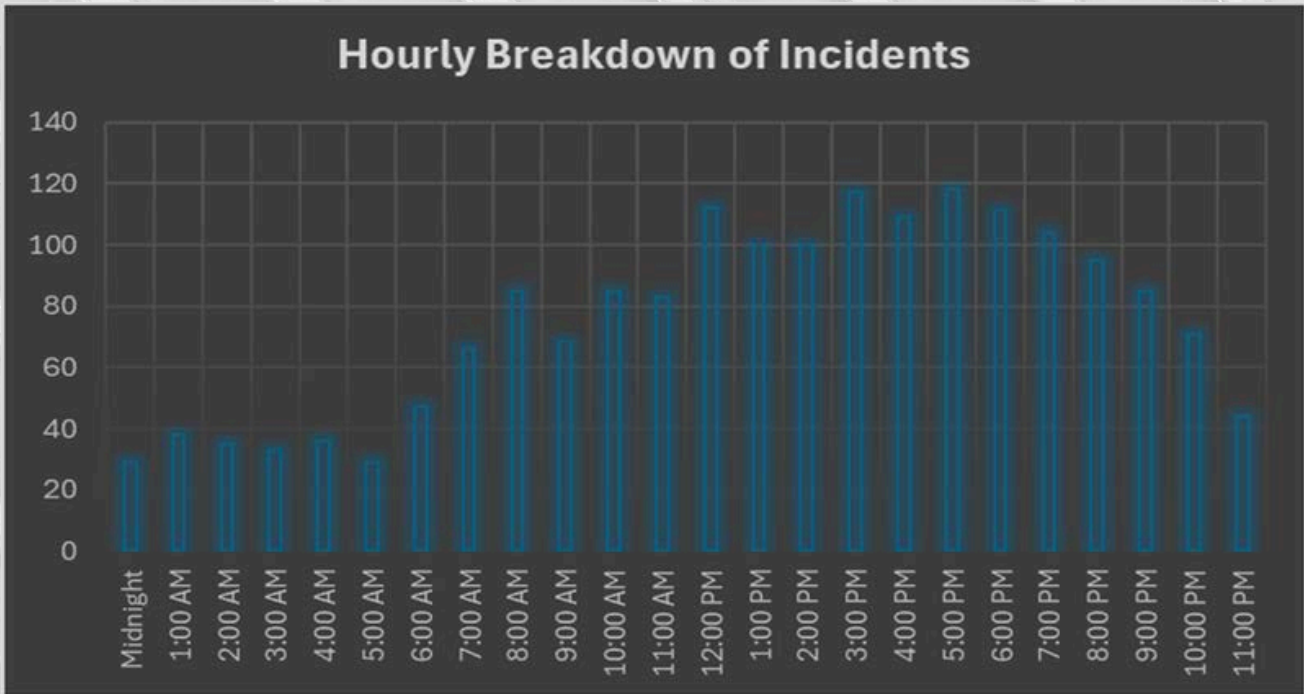


After thorough analysis, the findings reveal the following: Fridays emerge as the busiest days for the Lexington Fire Department, while Sundays register as the least active.





The Lexington Fire Department experiences its peak activity between 12 pm and 7 pm, with the most intense period typically occurring around 3 pm. It's important to note that these insights are derived from data collected from previous year responses.

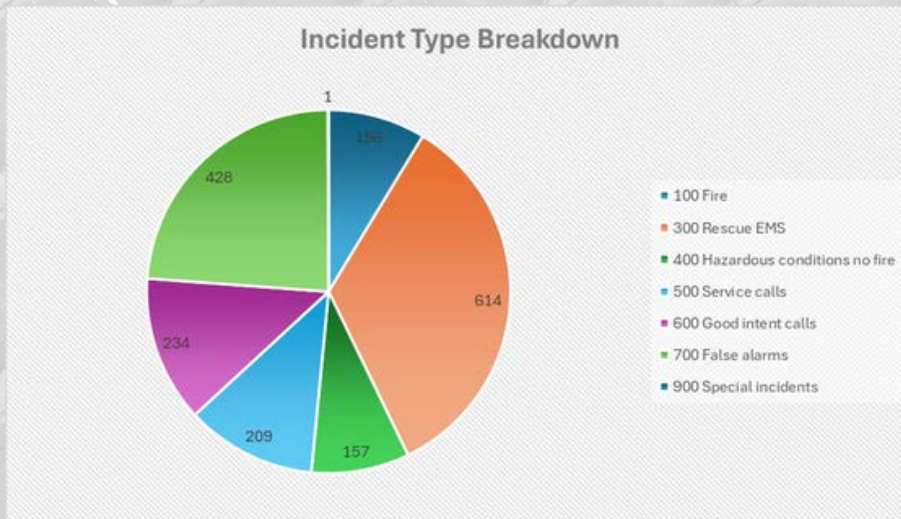




# BREAKDOWN OF INCIDENTS

The **National Fire Incident Reports System (NFIRS)** is a standard that fire departments use to uniformly report on the full range of their activities, from fire to emergency medical services to severe weather and natural disasters. After responding to an incident, a fire department member completes the appropriate NFIRS modules. Each module collects a common set of information that describes the nature of the call, the actions firefighters took in response to the call, and the end results, including firefighter and civilian casualties and a property loss estimate.

\*As a note, the Lexington Fire Department moved from the NFIRS system to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) in January 2026.



Picture of Ladder 1 and other fire trucks with aerial ladders extended during a training event at the Davidson Davie Community College fire tower.



Battalion Chief Tyler Forrest and Deputy Chief Michael Bargeron by the command vehicle during active fire operations.



An incident response is generated every time a Lexington Fire Department vehicle leaves a fire station to respond to a request for service. In 2025 there was a total of 1838 responses for Lexington Fire Department personnel.

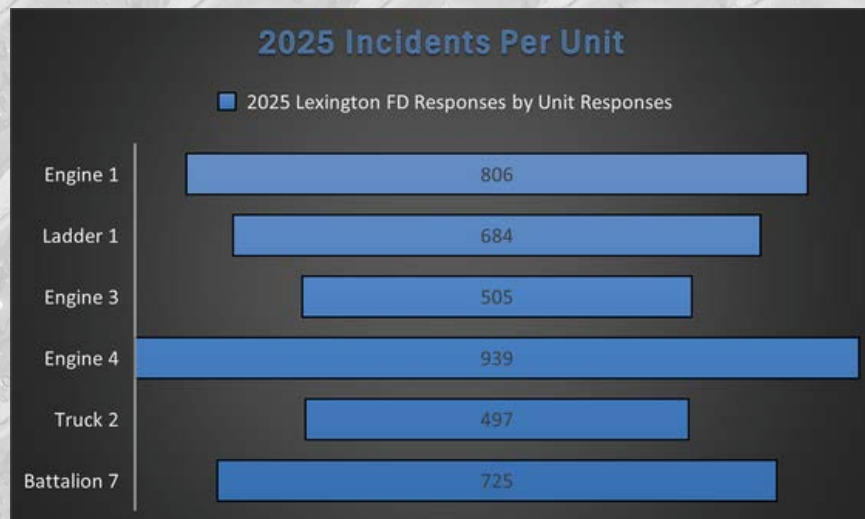
Fire Department apparatus are staffed in accordance with OSHA regulations and NFPA standards. OSHA law requires a minimum of four firefighters assembled on an emergency scene to enter into a structure fire (2 in, 2 out) unless a known person(s) are in the structure.

Engine 1 is staffed with four firefighters, Ladder 1 is staffed with five firefighters, Truck 2 is staffed with four firefighters, Engine 3 is staffed with four firefighters, Engine 4 is staffed with four firefighters, and Battalion 7 is staffed with one Battalion Chief.

**The daily staffing compliment is 22 suppression staff.**



Lexington firefighters training inside of an apparatus bay.





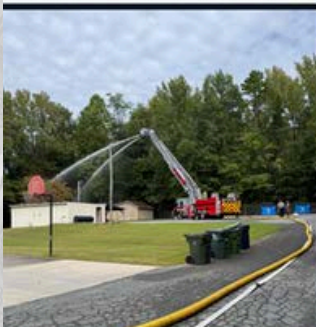
# TRAINING

Training is fundamental to effective firefighting and firefighter safety. At the Lexington Fire Department, training is a daily priority. Our personnel are assigned focused training topics each day and supported by a wide range of established curriculum resources to ensure continued proficiency, preparedness, and professional development.



Firefighter London Avant and Firefighter Neftali Hernandez during recruit training at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.

This Year the  
Lexington  
Fire  
Department  
completed



19,065 hours  
of training



## TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS

Throughout the past year, the Lexington Fire Department made significant strides in strengthening training, standardization, and professional development across the organization. A major milestone was achieving ISO Class 1, reflecting our commitment to excellence in training, operational readiness, and service delivery. To further enhance operational consistency and safety, hose loads were evaluated, updated, and standardized department-wide, improving efficiency on the fireground.

The department developed and implemented a formal training plan for all suppression staff, providing clear structure, expectations, and progression. This was complemented by the implementation of an informal training program, ensuring continuous skill reinforcement and adaptability during daily operations.



Firefighter Cory Deitz during a confined space training simulation at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.

To advance command-level decision-making, we implemented command lab training using SimsUShare software, allowing officers to practice incident management in realistic, scenario-based environments.

Investment in the future of the department remained a priority, with five recruits successfully sent to RCCC Recruit School, ensuring a strong foundation of training and professionalism for new members. Additionally, the department conducted an acquired structure live burn, providing invaluable hands-on experience under controlled, real-world conditions.

To support long-term career development and consistency, new Job Performance Task (JPT) manuals were implemented, establishing standardized benchmarks for training, evaluation, and advancement across all ranks. A Training Officer was hired and worked with our newly implemented training and professional development committees to ensure needs of our personnel are met through formal and informal training. These accomplishments reflect the department's continued focus on preparedness, safety, and professional growth—ensuring our personnel are equipped to meet the needs of the community today and into the future.



# MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

Fire Marshal's Office: Reducing Risk, Preventing Loss, and Protecting Public Investment

The Lexington Fire Marshal's Office serves as a frontline risk-reduction agency, protecting lives, property, and taxpayer investment through prevention-focused strategies that reduce emergencies before they occur. Our year-to-date outcomes demonstrate measurable cost avoidance and community protection.



Key results include:

- 111 fire and life safety education events reaching 11,597 residents, reducing preventable fires, injuries, and emergency responses through informed behavior
- 258 smoke alarms and 23 carbon monoxide alarms installed in 75 homes, significantly lowering the likelihood of fatal fires and costly medical and suppression responses
- Over 1,200 inspections and audits completed, identifying hazards early and preventing code violations from escalating into major incidents, business interruptions, or structural losses
- 24 fire investigations conducted, ensuring accountability and helping reduce repeat incidents
- 549 plan reviews finalized, integrating life safety and code compliance at the design stage—avoiding costly retrofits, construction delays, and future enforcement actions
- 303 hours of advanced training, ensuring staff expertise that leads to consistent enforcement, defensible decisions, and reduced liability exposure

Each of these efforts directly contributes to fewer emergencies, lower property loss, reduced strain on emergency services, and long-term savings for the community. The Lexington Fire Marshal's Office's prevention-first approach represents responsible stewardship of public funds while strengthening community resilience and public trust.

**Laura Ryggs**  
Fire Marshal



# LEXINGTON FIRE MARSHAL

## — 2025 YEARLY REPORT —

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**111** Events  
**11,597** People Reached

### SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM



**75** Homes Visited  
**258** Smoke Alarms Installed  
**23** CO Alarms Installed  
**117** People Reached

### INCIDENT RESPONSE



**21** Structures  
**1** Wildland  
**2** Vehicle

### INSPECTIONS & REVIEWS



**742** Initial Inspections  
**407** Re-Inspections  
**99** Audited Inspections  
**549** Plan Reviews



### TRAINING HOURS

**303** Total Hours  
**130** Inspector  
**41** Fire & Life Safety Educator  
**132** Fire Investigator

**Our Mission:** Protecting lives, property, and the City of Lexington through fire prevention, education, and rapid response.