

SOUTH DAYTONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

MAY 2025

MONTHLY REPORT



PREPARED BY:

Kendra Williams

Location:

1672 S Ridgewood Ave
South Daytona, FL 32119



Message from Chief Brant...

As we move into the summer season, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the exceptional dedication and performance of the South Daytona Fire Rescue team during the month of May. Our department responded to a total of **211** incidents, **two** fires, and a variety of other service and hazardous condition responses. This continued operational tempo reflects both the trust our community places in us and the professionalism of our personnel in delivering high-quality emergency services.

Internally, our team logged an impressive **462** hours of training, covering critical topics such as medical protocols, trauma care, EMS skills, apparatus operations, water rescues, vehicle extrication and fire suppression tactics. This ongoing commitment to training ensures we remain prepared to meet the complex demands of our service mission.

I would like to recognize Lt. Jason Taylor for obtaining his Associate's Degree in Fire Science from Columbia Southern University. We welcome Addison Ray to our department.

We also continued to advance our department through preventative maintenance, equipment readiness checks, and interagency coordination. These actions may not always be visible to the public, but they are essential to the reliability and safety of our response capabilities.

Finally, I'd like to extend my appreciation to our Fire Marshal Paul Nelson for completing **84** fire inspections this month and to our fire crews for completing numerous pre-fire plans to prepare them for responses to these locations. Operations Commander Howard is completing the same type of plans for all apartment complexes within our response area.

Thank you to all the men and women of South Daytona Fire Rescue for your unwavering commitment and professionalism. I also thank the City Manager, City Council, and our residents for your continued support.

Together, we remain dedicated to protecting life, property, and the community we proudly serve.

Sincerely,



Fire Chief
South Daytona Fire Department



A-SHIFT

Lieutenant Steven Evancho - Paramedic
Ernie Jarvis - Driver Engineer/Medic
Logan Gindner - Firefighter/EMT
Addison Ray - Firefighter

May was a month of growth, training, and community engagement for A-Shift at Station 98. We welcomed Firefighter Addison Ray, a recent graduate of fire school, marking his first fire-related role. His enthusiasm and dedication have already made a positive impact on our team.

Training & Development

A-Shift focused on comprehensive training for both Firefighter Ray and Firefighter Gindner. Key areas included:

- **Firefighting Skills:** Practicing rapid gear donning, efficient deployment and reloading of preconnect attack lines, ladder operations, deployment of high rise attack lines and mastering hydrant operations.
- **Extrication Techniques:** Hands-on training in vehicle and machinery rescue, providing valuable experience for our new hires. This training helps with knowing how to use extrication tools on scene of a motor vehicle accident when cars are rolled over or doors are unable to open.
- **Water Rescue Training:** Went to Daytona State College with Daytona Beach Fire and worked on how to get out of a pool with all your gear on, swimming test, tread water for five minutes, and work on water rescue techniques with responsive and unresponsive patients.
- **EMS Protocols:** I-gel training which included the I-gel device, an innovative non-inflatable supraglottic airway that offers a high seal pressure and reduced trauma. The I-gel includes a gastric channel to protect against aspiration and facilitates passive oxygenation during CPR. Volusia County has decided to move towards this device and South Daytona will have the I-gel on our truck's come June 1st. A shift also started online class training for Handtevy. Handtevy will be an app based tool for pediatric and adult medication dosing and protocols, enhancing decision-making and documentation during medical emergencies.
- **May's Total Combined Training Hours for A-Shift - 139.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)**

Operational Excellence

Throughout May, A-Shift maintained high operational standards:

- Completed **5** pre-incident plans, enhancing our preparedness for various emergency scenarios.
- Provided a public service to a resident and helped with retrieving her cat from behind her dresser walls.
- Installed one new smoke detector in a residences house.
- Assisted with spring cleaning at Station 98, ensuring a clean and safe environment.



A-SHIFT Continued

Lieutenant Steven Evancho - Paramedic
Ernie Jarvis - Driver Engineer/Medic
Logan Gindner - Firefighter/EMT
Addison Ray - Firefighter

- Responded to a structure fire in Port Orange on May 20th, collaborating with assisting neighboring agencies.
- Participated in a memorial event on May 22nd to honor our fallen brother, Jacob Bridger, joining with family, friends, and other agencies.
- Riding into the hospital once this month for a combative patient. This helped provide a safe transport for not only the patient but EMS as well.
- Dispatched for a possible lightning strike on a house. A shift investigated the issue from inside and outside of the home. This helped ensure the resident that the home was safe and secure.



Administrative & Reporting

A-Shift consistently met all administrative responsibilities:

- Completed daily and weekly truck checks to ensure equipment readiness.
- Responded promptly to both EMS and fire calls, maintaining a high level of service.
- Submitted timely reports through our reporting system, "Zoll," with call documentation ranging from five minutes to an hour, depending on the complexity.
- Fulfilled daily station duties, including cleaning and maintenance tasks.
- Completed required Target Solutions training modules to stay current with industry standards.
- Maintained physical fitness routines to ensure peak performance during emergencies.

Community Outreach

A-Shift was able to spend time with the community by:

- Supporting local shops like Mary Janes Ice cream to celebrate firefighter Ray's achievement of passing his national registry.
- Engaged with the community by hosting Warner Christian students during their superhero week, providing educational demonstrations and fostering positive relationships.
- Welcomed a special guest, Skylar, on May 31st, offering a tour of the station and showcasing our equipment.
- Engaging and interacting with the local community at the pickle ball courts during after hour's physical fitness and crew moral building.



"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." – Benjamin Franklin

As we move forward, A-Shift remains committed to excellence in training, service, and community involvement, ensuring that we are always prepared to meet the needs of our community.

B-SHIFT

Lieutenant Chad Hubeck - Paramedic
Julian Valiente - Firefighter/Medic
Michael Matos - Firefighter/EMT
Shawn Mercready - Firefighter/EMT

B-Shift Highlights

B-Shift maintained operational readiness and a proactive training schedule throughout May. Collaboration across all shifts helped complete several key station initiatives and advance protocol implementation.

Firefighter Julian Valiente successfully completed his paramedic clearing process with the Volusia County Medical Director. The process involved extensive protocol review, drug knowledge testing, and simulated medical scenarios. He is now officially recognized as a lead paramedic for South Daytona Fire Rescue and is authorized to operate independently.

Training Summary

B-Shift logged a total of **110.5** hours of training in May, covering a wide range of critical operational areas:

- **Vehicle and Machinery Rescue (VMR):** Focused on extrication techniques involving various vehicle types and heavy equipment. Included stabilization, hydraulic tool operations, cribbing, and patient packaging. Crews conducted realistic scenarios with overturned vehicles to reinforce technical rescue skills.
- **Firefighter Water Survival and Water Rescue:** Crews conducted water survival drills in full bunker gear and SCBA to simulate emergencies like pool submersion, swift water scenarios, or submerged vehicle rescues. Training emphasized self-rescue, SCBA control in water, and calm decision-making. Surface water rescue skills included throw bag deployment and victim retrieval techniques.
- **Strength & Conditioning and Cardiovascular Training**
- **I-Gel Supraglottic Airway Training:** In-house training to integrate the I-Gel as the new primary supraglottic device, replacing the King Tube protocol.
- **Station 2 Drills:** Including hose-line deployment, forcible entry with door prop, and search and rescue with ladder deployment.
- **May's Total Combined Training Hours for B-Shift - 110.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)**





B-SHIFT Continued

Lieutenant Chad Hubeck - Paramedic
Julian Valiente - Firefighter/Medic
Michael Matos - Firefighter/EMT
Shawn Mercready - Firefighter/EMT

Pre-Incident Planning

B-Shift completed **5** pre-incident plans, reviewed and logged to enhance scene familiarity and district-wide preparedness.

Station Projects

A thorough spring cleaning initiative was completed with support from A and C Shifts. Tasks included deep cleaning of living quarters, the apparatus bay, and storage areas. The result was improved station organization and efficiency.

Protocol Integration

Progress continued in implementing the Handtevy Pediatric System. B-Shift contributed by:

- Assembling and organizing pediatric response kits
- Assisting in adapting protocols to fit Handtevy's structure
- Participating in planning discussions for future pediatric-focused training

Goals Moving Forward

- Finalize and deploy Handtevy kits on all units
- Complete department-wide I-Gel protocol implementation
- Continue cross-shift collaboration on special operations and Handtevy integration



C-SHIFT

Lieutenant Jason Taylor - Paramedic
Jordan Nield - Firefighter/EMT
Cameron Fischer - Firefighter/EMT



During the month of May, C-Shift remained highly active in both emergency response and firefighter development. The crew engaged in a wide range of hands-on training evolutions, continued pre-incident planning efforts, and responded to several high-acuity medical and fire-related incidents. Key highlights included onboarding two new hires, vehicle and machinery rescue training, water rescue and survival instruction, community outreach events, and a strong emphasis on physical fitness. Lieutenant Taylor completed his Associate of Science Degree in Fire Science.

New Hire Training

This month, C-Shift welcomed two new firefighters to the department. Initial onboarding focused on foundational skills such as proper gear donning and doffing, SCBA operations, and pulling and advancing attack lines. Firefighters emphasized fireground safety, situational awareness, and efficiency during live drills. The training provided a strong start for the new hires and will continue to expand into more complex evolutions throughout their probationary period.

Vehicle and Machinery Rescue (VMR) Training

C-Shift conducted a realistic VMR training scenario involving a simulated patient trapped beneath a vehicle. Crews utilized Rescue 42 stabilization struts in combination with box cribbing to secure the vehicle and create a safe working zone. Once stabilized, firefighters executed a full dash lift using our E-Hydraulic extrication tools. The training reinforced critical principles of cribbing, tool deployment, and coordinated movement during time-sensitive rescue operations.

Water Rescue & Firefighter Survival Training

In collaboration with Daytona State College, our firefighters participated in an advanced water rescue and survival course. Crews completed a four-lap swim, five-minute water tread, and practiced victim retrieval scenarios involving conscious, unconscious, and combative patients using longboards and PFDs. Firefighters also performed self-survival drills by entering the water in full gear and learning to safely remove it while remaining afloat. The training enhanced confidence and capability in water-based emergency environments.

Fire & EMS Responses

May was marked by several serious medical incidents, including multiple cases of cardiac arrhythmias requiring ALS interventions, medication administration, and cardiac monitoring. The crew also responded to trauma emergencies, including pedestrian vs. vehicle incidents. One notable fire response involved a fully involved engine compartment fire in a diesel pickup truck. Firefighters successfully contained the blaze without injury or exposure to nearby vehicles, utilizing a K12 and pick head axe to gain access under the hood and extinguish the fire.





C-SHIFT Continued

Lieutenant Jason Taylor - Paramedic
Jordan Nield - Firefighter/EMT
Cameron Fischer - Firefighter/EMT

C-shift also performed a cat rescue, that was trapped inside a closet wall, requiring the use of some unorthodox techniques to safely remove the cat.

Pre-Planning & Risk Reduction

Firefighters continued their pre-incident planning efforts throughout the city, concentrating on commercial occupancies, access routes for large vehicles, and updated hydrant locations. These walk-throughs ensure crews are tactically prepared and maintain current information for high-risk properties. C-Shift completed a total of **10** pre-incident plans throughout the month.

Community Outreach

C-Shift engaged with the community at the All-Star youth baseball event at James Street Park. Firefighters interacted with families, offered fire safety information, and provided an opportunity for children to view equipment and meet with our crew, reinforcing our presence and accessibility in the community.

Interagency Collaboration

This month, the crew provided forcible entry tool training to a South Daytona Police Sergeant. Instruction included hands-on use of the Halligan bar and flathead axe to gain access into residential structures during emergency situations. The session improved cross-discipline knowledge and built stronger collaboration for joint operations.

Physical Fitness & Wellness

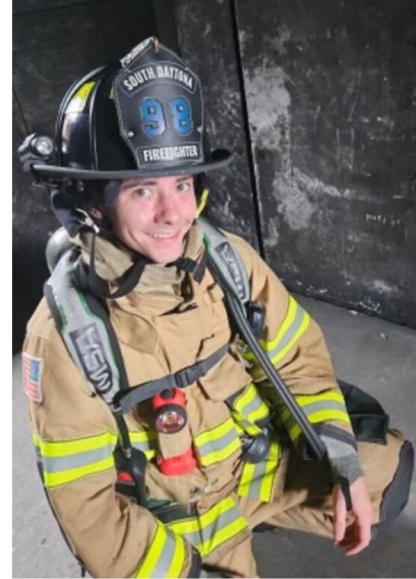
C-Shift maintained a high level of physical preparedness throughout the month. In addition to regular shift workouts, firefighters incorporated swim training from the water rescue program to improve endurance, cardiovascular health, and overall job readiness.

- **May's Total Combined Training Hours for C-Shift - 212 (recorded through Target Solutions)**



South Daytona Fire Department

*In Loving Memory of Firefighter/EMT Jacob Bridger
May 21, 2002 - May 22, 2024*

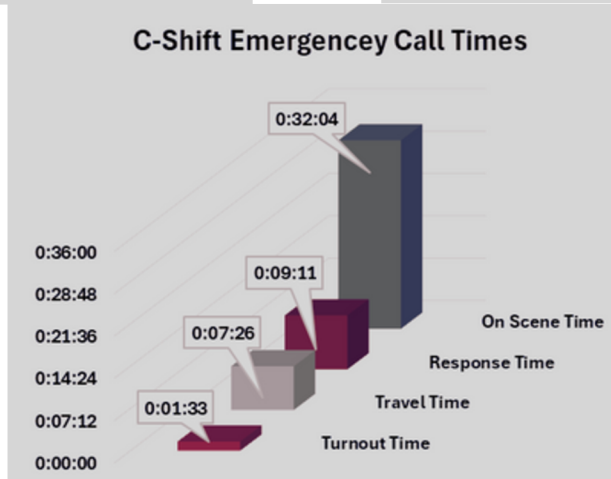
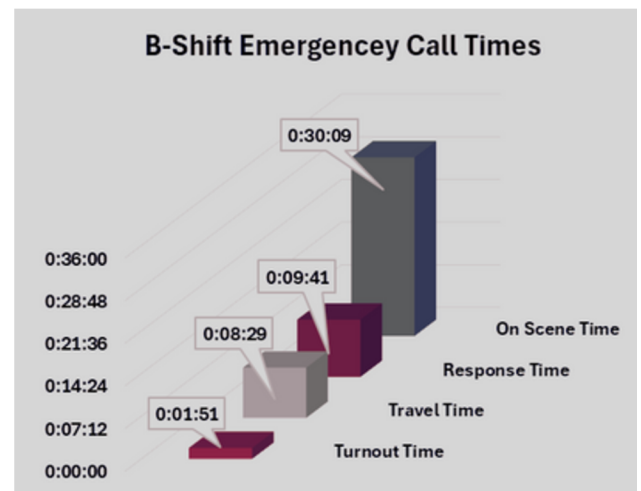
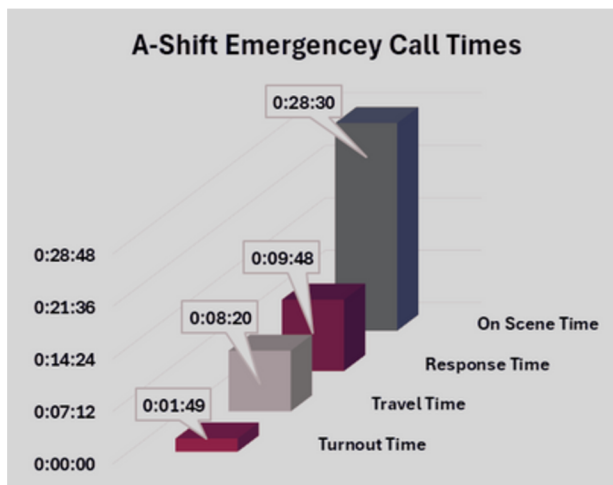


DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- May 21st-23rd - On duty crews participated in Vehicle and Machinery Rescue (VMR) training hosted conducted by C-Shift Lt. Jason Taylor.
- May 22nd - South Daytona Fire Rescue held a day of fellowship and remembrance with a cookout to honor the loss of one of our own, Jacob Bridger on the 1 year anniversary of his death.
- May 28th - The crew on duty participated in Superhero's Week at Warner Christian Academy, during which they showed the kids the truck and equipment while teaching them about what firefighters do during their work days.
- May 28th-30th - On duty crews participated in a Firefighter Survival Training in collaboration with Daytona State College utilizing their pool to learn survival skills within water in their full bunker gear and to simulate conducting rescues in water.



84 Total number of completed Annual Fire Inspections for May.





Community Risk Reduction Program

Kendra Williams

S.A.F.E. Resident Outreach Program:

S - Spot the Need **A** - Assess the Situation **F** - Facilitate Assistance **E** - Educate & Evaluate

During May, there were no residents identified as possibly needing assistance through the S.A.F.E. Resident Outreach Program.

The program currently has 1 resident enrolled who is currently in a skilled nursing rehabilitation facility for therapy. While the resident is not at home, I still keep in touch with them to make sure that they are getting the assistance they need and to make sure that upon discharge the resident will have the proper assistance with the home. During May, the S.A.F.E. Resident Outreach Program worked with the resident with issues ranging from needing handrails installed in their bathroom for assistance with safety and falls to assisting a resident who was needing placement into a skilled nursing rehabilitation facility.

Below are key facts regarding Long Term or Skilled Nursing Care - Rehabilitation Facilities in Florida:

- Florida has 691 licensed Skilled Nursing Facilities and 3,080 licensed Assisted Living Facilities.
- The average annual cost of care for a private room in a skilled facility is **\$100,375 per year** and **\$48,000 per year** for an assisted living facility.
- **Medicaid** (which covers health care for low-income) pays approximately **60%** of all long-term care spending for the elderly or disabled individuals.
- Long-term care facilities create approximately **286,149** jobs in Florida.
- Long-term care facilities generate over **\$3.62 billion** in state and federal tax revenue.



"To care for those who once cared for us
is one of the highest honors."

~Tia Walker~

Operations

Commander Don Howard



211 Total Calls

20 Calls to the County

During March there was a decline in responses to our county area. The busiest days of the week for the month were Monday with **44 calls**, Saturday with **40 calls**, and Wednesday with **37 calls**.

There were **19** instances in which either Port Orange or Daytona Beach due to overlapping emergency 911 calls. This collaboration highlights the necessity for coordinated responses in our region.

A detailed analysis of these calls reveals that our department responds to a diverse range of medical emergencies requiring different levels of care. The classification of emergency calls shows that:

25.6% BLS - Basic Life Support

18.5% ALS - Advanced Life Support

During the month, the department successfully administered Narcan on **3** separate occasions, marking a notable decrease in opioid overdose interventions compared to the same period last year. Additionally, our crews provided narcotic medications for several emergency calls: Fentanyl was administered in response to a patient who experienced a fall, and Midazolam was given four times, including two instances involving a 13-year-old patient experiencing seizures.

The department proudly announced the promotion of two individuals to the rank of Lieutenant in May. This selection process was highly competitive, with three qualified candidates vying for the two available positions. To determine the best fit for these roles, candidates underwent a comprehensive testing process that included a written examination followed by two practical scenarios. These scenarios required candidates to demonstrate their command skills in managing a fire in both a commercial and a residential structure, simulating real-life crisis situations.

After successfully completing these challenges, the candidates participated in an oral board evaluation, which involved responding to a series of critical questions posed by a panel of three Deputy Fire Chiefs from various agencies on the west side of the county. Once all the scores were calculated and reviewed, the candidates who emerged at the top were Steven Evancho and Chad Hubeck. Congratulations to both of these outstanding individuals on their well-deserved promotions!

The department successfully cleared another medic through the Volusia County MD clearing process. Julian Valiente, a paramedic with over ten years of experience at the Lake County Fire Department, had to complete this process due to changes in protocols and a shift in medical directors. With assistance from his lieutenant, Chad Hubeck, Julian passed the clearing process with the medical director.