

A photograph of three firefighters in full gear working on the roof of a building. One firefighter is using a chainsaw, and another is holding a hose. The scene is set against a cloudy sky with trees in the background.

SOUTH DAYTONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2025

PREPARED BY:

Kendra Williams

Location:

1672 S Ridgewood Ave
South Daytona, FL 32119



Message from Chief Brant...

July was an exceptionally active month for the South Daytona Fire Department, with all three shifts demonstrating outstanding dedication, training commitment, and operational excellence. Across the department, crews responded to 208 emergency calls, with Advanced Life Support (ALS) services making up nearly a quarter of our responses. In addition to serving our community, we provided 24 mutual aid responses to neighboring areas and received valuable assistance from Port Orange, Daytona Beach, and Daytona Beach Shores when needed.

Training and preparedness remained at the forefront. Our personnel engaged in a wide variety of high-impact training, including defensive tactics, active shooter response, and de-escalation techniques in partnership with Daytona Beach Fire Department and law enforcement. These scenarios, while challenging, build critical skills to ensure our crews are ready for any threat environment. In total, our department logged hundreds of combined training hours, enhancing both operational readiness and interagency coordination. Crews also completed pre-incident plans citywide, strengthening our preparedness for potential emergencies.

Medical and Fire Responses showcased our crews' adaptabilities. From managing multiple stroke and cardiac-related emergencies to extinguishing structure, brush, and debris fires—including incidents sparked by lightning strikes—our firefighters maintained high service standards, ensuring quick control and minimal property loss.

Community Engagement remained a priority, with events such as summer camp visits, school outreach programs, and informal interactions with residents reinforcing the strong bond between our department and the community we serve. We also continued our annual fire inspections, completing 54 in July to ensure public safety and compliance.

I want to commend each member of the department for their professionalism and teamwork. Whether it was responding to high-risk medical calls, executing complex training evolutions, or engaging with our citizens, every action taken this month reflected our shared mission—to protect lives, safeguard property, and bring calm to chaos. Your dedication ensures that South Daytona continues to be served by one of the finest fire departments in the region.

Stay safe, stay sharp, and keep looking out for each other.

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

During the month of July, A-Shift placed a strong emphasis on emergency medical services (EMS) readiness, personal safety, and infectious disease prevention. Our team focused not only on patient care but also on ensuring that every firefighter/EMT or paramedic remains protected from physical threats and potential exposures to diseases and biohazards encountered during emergency responses. A-Shift attended a three-week defensive tactics training program in Daytona Beach, dedicating one full day each week to developing skills that enable personnel to effectively and safely manage potentially combative patients or bystanders on emergency scenes. A shift also was invited to another training in Daytona Beach that including active shooter training at a local school. These sessions provided valuable, hands-on instruction in self-defense techniques and situational awareness, enhancing our ability to maintain safety in unpredictable environments.

Following each defensive tactics session, A-Shift conducted focused EMS equipment reviews and in-house refresher training to ensure all members maintain proficiency with the life-saving tools carried on our apparatus. Additionally, we completed our annual biohazard training requirement, which included both online coursework and in-station practical exercises. This training reinforced our knowledge of contamination control, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and decontamination procedures.

Training & Development

A-Shift remained committed to professional growth and technical excellence throughout July:

- **Firefighting Skills:** Training drills emphasized critical firefighting fundamentals, including rapid gear donning, efficient deployment and repacking of pre-connected attack lines, ladder placement and operations, and hydrant connection proficiency. Repetition and timed evolutions helped improve speed, coordination, and overall operational readiness.
- **EMS Training:** Focused sessions were conducted on a variety of medical tools, including traction splints, SAM splints, cardboard splints, pediatric immobilizers, the Kendrick Extrication Device (K.E.D.), and patient back boarding techniques. These hands-on refreshers ensured all members are confident in using specialized equipment during complex trauma scenarios.
- **Probationary Development:** Work continued on probationary task books for FF Gindner and FF Ray. FF Gindner is nearing the successful completion of his probationary year next month, demonstrating consistent competence in both fireground and EMS responsibilities. FF Ray has shown strong progress, building his knowledge base and practical skills in alignment with departmental standards.



A-SHIFT Continued

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



- **Joint Defensive Tactics Training:** A-Shift participated in a multi-agency training program with Daytona Beach Fire Department (District 1), attending weekly sessions for three consecutive weeks. This collaborative environment enhanced interdepartmental familiarity and improved consistency in tactical safety protocols.
- **Joint Active Shooter Training:** A-Shift participated in a multi-agency training program with Daytona Beach Fire Department and Daytona Beach Police Department on July 30th. This training was active shooter training inside a school where PD and Fire were able to work together during a practice scenario. During the scenario police worked on clearing areas and making safe zones for fire personnel to triage, provide lifesaving interventions and package patients to get them out of the hot zone.
- **July's Total Combined Training Hours for A-Shift - 126 (recorded through Target Solutions)**

Operational Excellence

Throughout July, A-Shift maintained high operational standards and actively engaged in diverse emergency and non-emergency assignments:

- Completed **19** pre-incident plans, improving situational awareness and preparedness for potential hazards within our response area.
- **July 6th:** Hosted a student ride-along from Daytona State College's EMT program. These ride-alongs provide aspiring EMS professionals with real-world experience and exposure to field operations.
- **July 9th:** Stood by to provide medical support during a Taser training session conducted by the South Daytona Police Department.
- **July 12th:** Responded to a brush fire in Port Orange, which was extinguished by heavy rainfall prior to our arrival. En route back to the city, we were redirected to a lightning strike that caused a structure fire. Engine 98 performed a primary search and assisted with vertical ventilation, demonstrating adaptability and coordination during mutual-aid incidents.
- **July 24th:** Assisted in two critical EMS events requiring hospital ride-ins.
 - **1st Incident:** A basic life support (BLS) transport unit was assigned to an advanced life support (ALS) patient. Our lead paramedic accompanied the unit to ensure ALS-level care enroute.
 - **2nd Incident:** Managed a trauma alert patient where minimizing scene time was critical. Our team effectively reduced on-scene intervention to under ten minutes, optimizing patient survival chances by prioritizing rapid transport.

A-SHIFT Continued

Lieutenant Steven Evancho - Paramedic

Ernie Jarvis - Driver Engineer/Medic

Logan Gindner - Firefighter/EMT

Addison Ray - Firefighter



- **July 27th:** Responded to an assault critical call where a trauma alert was called on the patient and two fire fighters rode into the hospital with the ambulance to help with life saving measures.
- **July 30th:** Responded to a major motor vehicle accident with a vehicle on its side with patient entrapment. With help from Port Orange Fire, we were able to stabilize the vehicle, extract the patient out of the vehicle and get the patient to the proper facility for medical care and evaluation.

Administrative & Reporting

A-Shift completed all required administrative and operational tasks, including:

- Conducting daily and weekly apparatus checks to ensure operational readiness.
- Responding efficiently to EMS and fire incidents while maintaining high service standards.
- Completing Zoll documentation accurately and promptly, with report times varying from five minutes to one hour depending on call complexity.
- Performing routine station duties, including cleaning, equipment maintenance, and facility upkeep.
- Completing mandatory Target Solutions training modules to remain compliant with industry regulations and departmental policies.
- Maintaining physical conditioning through structured fitness routines, ensuring peak performance during emergency responses.

Community Outreach

A-Shift actively engaged with the public to strengthen community relationships:

- **July 3rd:** Hosted a local summer camp at the fire station, providing fire safety education, a station tour, and a hands-on hose demonstration.
- **July 9th:** Visited South Daytona Elementary for another summer camp program, teaching children about fire safety, familiarizing them with firefighter gear, and showing them the fire engine.
- During the Month of July, A shift is working hard on getting ready for back to school with the teachers and students for fire prevention month coming in October.
- Regular informal interactions with community members occurred at local restaurants, businesses, and parks, fostering positive connections and reinforcing public trust.

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others." ~

Nelson Mandela

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



Training & Development Summary

1. Defensive Tactics & De-Escalation

B-Shift participated in joint training with Daytona Beach Fire Department focused on recognizing and safely managing aggressive or combative individuals during emergency scenes. Firefighters learned how to use calm communication, body language, and teamwork to reduce tension and avoid physical confrontations when dealing with distressed or potentially violent individuals.

Why this matters: Fire crews are often called to emotionally charged emergencies. Knowing how to talk someone down can prevent injuries and help the situation stay under control.

2. Hose Operations

Hands-on training included:

- **Hose Deployment:** Practiced pulling and positioning fire hoses quickly and efficiently.
- **Hose Load Configurations:** Reviewed how hoses are packed on the truck for the fastest deployment.
- **Catching a Hydrant:** Crews drilled on how to rapidly secure a water supply from a hydrant under time pressure.

Why this matters: When a fire breaks out, every second counts. Being able to get water on the fire fast can be the difference between saving a room or losing a home.

3. Rescue Task Force – Active Shooter Response

This joint training with Daytona Beach Fire and law enforcement covered how to respond during an active shooter event. Firefighters trained to enter the scene with police escorts to treat victims in "warm zones" where danger may still exist.

Why this matters: In mass casualty situations, getting medical care to victims quickly can save lives. This training helps crews do that while staying protected.

4. Respiratory Arrest Call

Crews handled a live emergency where a patient had stopped breathing. An advanced airway (intubation) was successfully placed.

Why this matters: These are high-risk, time-sensitive medical calls. Practicing them helps ensure the team is ready for real-life emergencies.

B-SHIFT Continued

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

Training & Development Summary continued

5. Fire Preplans

10 fire pre-incident plans were completed. These plans include building layouts, access points, known hazards, and fire protection features.

Why this matters: Preplanning helps firefighters make quicker, safer decisions during real emergencies, especially at complex or high-risk properties.

- **July's Total Combined Training Hours for B-Shift - 148.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)**

Personnel Development - FF/Medic Julian Valiente

- Cleared to operate as a ride-up relief driver/engineer
- Completed 80 hours of hydraulics and apparatus operations training through Ricky Rescue
- Successfully passed a live pumping evaluation scenario involving multiple handlines and maintaining appropriate pressure at the pump panel

Why this matters: Being able to confidently assign trained relief drivers is critical to ensuring continuous and safe operation of Engine 98 when the regular driver/engineer is off-duty or unavailable. The driver/engineer role is more than just driving — it requires mastering pump operations, water supply management, apparatus troubleshooting, and on-scene resource coordination.

FF/Medic Valiente's successful completion of both coursework and live performance scenarios demonstrates his readiness to fill this key position. His ability to independently manage water pressure, support multiple suppression lines, and operate under real-time incident conditions provides a reliable operational backup and strengthens the overall resiliency of B Shift.

This clearance also supports the department's long-term succession planning and promotes professional growth by recognizing individual initiative and technical competence.



C-SHIFT

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

July was an extremely active month for C-Shift, with a high volume of calls, hands-on training, and personnel development. We welcomed new hire Firefighter/EMT Lawrence Salemme to the shift. Lawrence brings a unique background, having previously worked as a home insurance inspector and personal chef. He has quickly integrated into the crew and is showing strong initiative.

Interagency Training:

C-Shift participated in multiple joint training sessions with Daytona Beach Fire Department. These included defensive tactics training—spread across three two-hour sessions—focused on managing combative patients using jiu-jitsu and wrestling-based techniques. While our standard protocol is to stage and await law enforcement, this training helps prepare us for scenarios requiring immediate action. We also completed active shooter response drills at a local Daytona school, practicing rescue task force operations, triage, and warm zone tactics.

EMS Development:

We conducted focused EMS training with our new hire, covering patient assessments, vital signs, and proper 4- and 12-lead EKG placement. Additionally, we hosted a Daytona State College EMT intern for a 12-hour ride-along, providing real-time mentorship during emergency responses.

Medical Calls:

This month included two confirmed stroke alerts, multiple cardiac-related incidents, and a diabetic emergency that escalated into a cardiac-related ALS call.

Fire Calls:

The crew responded to a grass fire of unknown origin near an apartment complex, which was quickly extinguished with no exposures. On July 4th, we also handled a Waste Pro garbage can fire of undetermined cause. Additionally, during an overtime shift, the crew responded to a residential structure fire caused by a lightning strike. The fire was quickly controlled with minimal damage and no injuries reported.

Training and Development:

Lawrence has made steady progress in his rookie book, completing ladder throws, hose deployments, and other hands-on evolutions. At the same time, Firefighter Cameron Fischer continued progressing through his relief driver book, focusing on pumping scenarios, water supply, and developing stress-response muscle memory for operations.



C-SHIFT Continued

Lieutenant Jason Taylor - Paramedic

Jordan Nield - Firefighter/EMT
Cameron Fischer - Firefighter/EMT

- **July's Total Combined Training Hours for C-Shift - 161 (recorded through Target Solutions)**

Fitness and Wellness:

The crew has stepped up physical fitness this month, consistently completing gym workouts, Sweat Deck routines, and now incorporating yoga and breathwork exercises. These additions help strengthen not only physical performance but also mental clarity and resilience during high-stress calls.

C-Shift completed **5** pre-incident plans throughout the city.

Working at a fire department is a lot like building a championship baseball team. Every day, we strive to turn that double play — to move seamlessly, anticipate each other's actions, and execute under pressure. As we grow together through training, hard work, and shared experiences, we start to understand our roles more clearly. We become more in sync, more efficient, and more capable of making the play when it matters most. For us, that play is saving a life, protecting property, and bringing calm to chaos. That's the goal — every call, every shift, every day.



South Daytona Fire Department



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

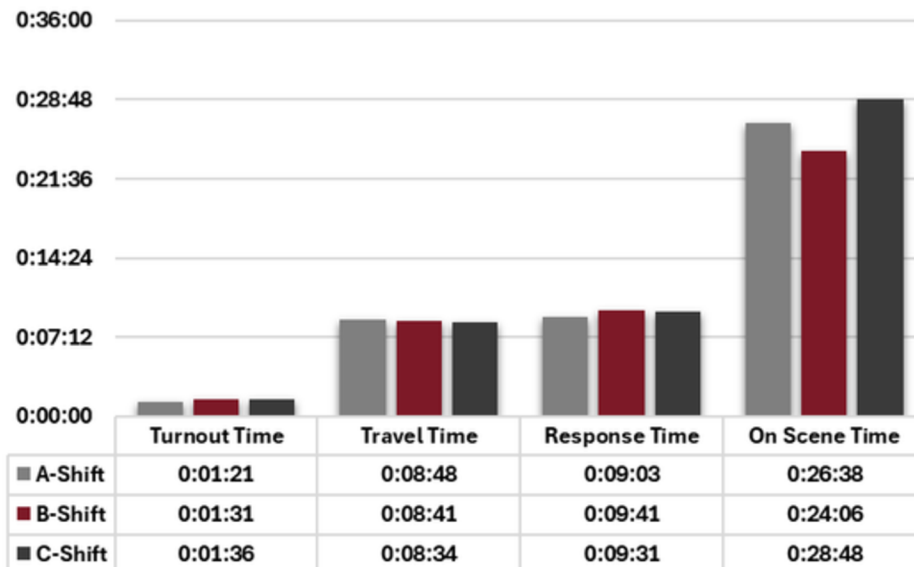
- **June 30th-July 2nd** - Crews attended De-escalation Training held at Station 1 in Daytona Beach.
- **July 8th-July 10th** - South Daytona Fire Department sponsored a NIMS(National Incident Management System) ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents class, held at the Piggotte Center. This class focuses on providing skills and knowledge necessary for individuals who may be in supervisory roles during expanding or Type 3 incidents. A Type 3 incident is a moderate-scale incident that requires more resources and a longer response time, such as: a wildfire or HAZMAT spill that requires evacuation of an area.
- **July 28th-July 30th** - Crews attended Active Shooter Training held at Hinson Sr. Middle School in Daytona Beach.



54

Total number of completed Annual Fire Inspections for July.

July Emergency Call Times





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 July, there were no residents identified as possibly needing assistance through the S.A.F.E. Resident Outreach Program. Upon attempting to reach out no contact was able to be made with the resident or their family.

The program currently has 1 resident enrolled who was in a skilled nursing rehabilitation facility for therapy, but was able to return to their residence with continued home health therapies. Once this resident returned home to their residence I met with them to make sure they had access to all the assistance and resources that they may need.

Below are some statistics regarding home healthcare services availability for the elderly (65 & older) population in Florida per a report published in June of 2023 by the Home Care Association of Florida (the study examines 52 measures based on 22 data sources):

- Florida ranks **50th** in the nation in seniors' access to home health care workers.
- Florida is the **3rd** largest state with the highest proportion of seniors.
- Florida maintained a last-place ranking with only **16.0** home health workers per **1,000** older adults; New York has the highest ranking with **9.4** times more home health workers.
- The national average of home health workers are **62.0** per **1,000** older adults.

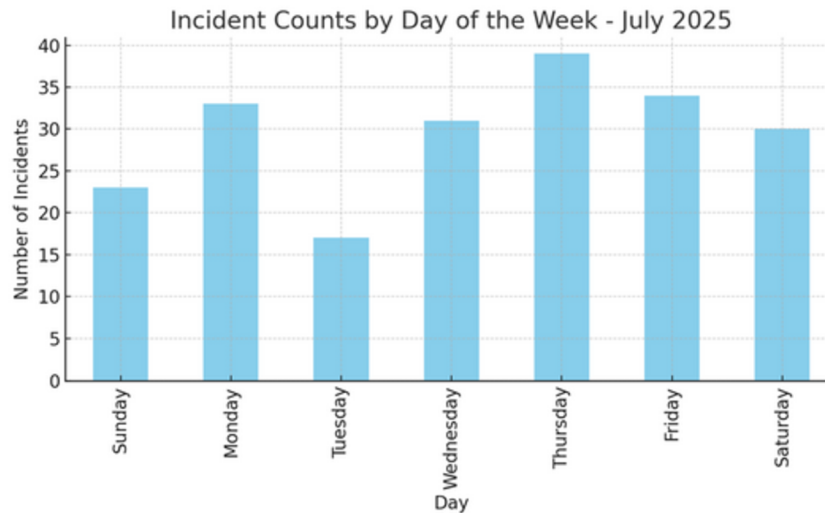
With the majority of seniors preferring to remain in their homes as they age, the shortage can lead to elderly adults not being able to receive the care they need, potentially resulting in hospitalizations, nursing home placement, and reduced quality of life.



Operations

Commander Don Howard

In July 2025, the South Daytona Fire Department responded to a total of **208** emergency calls. The most frequent type of call was Advanced Life Support (ALS) services, comprising nearly a quarter of all responses. The department also provided mutual aid and received assistance from neighboring cities: **24** responses were made to the county district, while Port Orange assisted in our jurisdiction **28** times, Daytona Beach **8** times, and Daytona Beach Shores **once**.



Training and Administrative Updates

At the beginning of the month, South Daytona crews participated in de-escalation training hosted by Daytona Beach Fire. This training is critical due to the increased frequency of violent incidents that fire departments now face.

Later in the month, personnel also participated in a multi-agency active shooter training held at Hinson Middle School. While we hope never to use this training, it prepares us for the worst-case scenarios.

The department continues to transition to a new county-wide reporting system, with implementation meetings being held weekly at the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Additionally, representatives from the department attended hurricane operations training at the EOC, which is essential for ensuring the city receives timely support and reimbursements during emergencies. In the future, all resource and assistance requests must be made through formal online channels.

