

SOUTH DAYTONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2025

PREPARED BY:

Kendra Williams

Location:

1672 S Ridgewood Ave
South Daytona, FL 32119



Message from Chief Brant...

As we close out the month of August, I want to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments and progress made by South Daytona Fire Rescue. Each of you has contributed to ensuring that our department remains ready, reliable, and engaged with our community.

Call Volume & Operations

This month, our department responded to a steady number of calls, demonstrating once again the professionalism and skill our community counts on daily. Every response, whether fire, EMS, or public service, highlights the dedication and teamwork of our shifts. Your continued vigilance and quick action in all situations ensure the safety of our residents and visitors.

Training & Professional Development

Training remains one of our top priorities. Collectively, the department logged significant training hours in August, ranging from hands-on drills to continuing education courses. This commitment strengthens our operational readiness and helps prepare us for both routine responses and complex incidents. I appreciate the effort each of you puts into developing your skills and mentoring others.

Community Engagement

August also brought valuable opportunities to connect with our community. From station tours to public safety events, our crews helped strengthen trust with residents and reinforced the importance of fire prevention and safety awareness. These engagements are vital to our mission and leave a lasting impact on the people we serve.

Looking Ahead

As we enter September, we will begin preparing for Fire Prevention Month in October. With over 800 children scheduled for safety education programs, I encourage everyone to remain engaged and proactive as we expand our outreach efforts. Additionally, continue to support your fellow firefighters and maintain the professionalism that defines our department.

I remain proud of the work being done by every member of South Daytona Fire Rescue. Your dedication, resilience, and commitment to excellence ensure that our department is not only meeting expectations but setting the standard for service. Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,



Fire Chief

South Daytona Fire Department



A-SHIFT

Lieutenant Ernie Jarvis - Paramedic
Michael Matos - Firefighter/EMT
Cameron Fischer - Firefighter/EMT

This month, A-Shift responded to a variety of emergency calls, including a structure fire in an apartment building, medical emergencies of all types, citizen assists, and motor vehicle accidents. Each call was handled with professionalism and coordination, ensuring the safety of both the public and our crew.

Soon-to-be Relief Driver Fischer has focused on developing essential skills, including pumping operations, defensive driving, and scene management. Fischer participated in drills involving hydrant connections, water flow management, and pump operations under pressure. In defensive driving training, Fischer learned to navigate through traffic, mitigate risks, and handle adverse weather conditions. Additionally, Fischer received training on scene management from a driver's perspective, focusing on apparatus positioning and communication with incident commanders.

A-Shift also completed awareness-level rope rescue training, covering basic rope systems, equipment, and safety protocols. The team participated in hands-on scenarios, practicing low-angle rescues and self-rescue techniques. This training ensures that all personnel are equipped to perform rope rescue operations, even with limited equipment.

Firefighter Matos has also begun his journey toward becoming a Relief Lieutenant. This process will require extensive training and development, as the Relief Lieutenant position is a key leadership role, ensuring the safety of both the crew and the citizens we serve during the absence of the assigned Lieutenant.

Looking ahead, A-Shift will continue with more advanced rope rescue training, as well as further formalization of the area and building knowledge to enhance the crew's understanding of the city. The shift remains focused on maintaining readiness and ensuring safety in all operations.

- **August's Total Combined Training Hours for A-Shift - 97 (recorded through Target Solutions)**



B-SHIFT

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

During the month of August, B-Shift maintained a strong focus on training, operational readiness, and professional development while balancing a steady workload of emergency responses.



Training & Preparedness

- **Pump Operations** – Crews drilled on establishing and maintaining proper pump pressures, ensuring reliable water flow, and troubleshooting common pump issues under simulated fireground conditions. This training reinforced critical skills for both new and experienced drivers, with a focus on efficiency, communication, and crew safety.
- **Water Supply Training** – Companies practiced establishing hydrant connections, forward and reverse lays. Emphasis was placed on speed, coordination, and securing uninterrupted water supplies.
- **Ladder Training** – Firefighters conducted evolutions involving ground ladder deployment, placement for roof access, victim rescue, and secondary egress. Special attention was given to proper ladder angles, safe footing, and coordination between the firefighter on the ladder and the crews operating below.
- **Strength & Conditioning / SCBA Endurance** – To enhance both physical readiness and comfort under stress, crews engaged in structured workouts combined with **stair climbs in full gear with SCBA**. These sessions replicate fireground exertion, improving cardiovascular endurance, air management, and mental resiliency under physical load.
- **Pre-Incident Plans – 23 pre-incident surveys** were completed this month. These plans increase familiarity with building layouts, hazards, and access points, providing vital information for more efficient fireground decision-making.
- **August's Total Combined Training Hours for B-Shift - 90.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)**

This combination of technical training, physical conditioning, and district familiarization has ensured that B-Shift remains prepared for a wide range of operational challenges.

Hydraulics Course – Driver/Engineer Development

In addition to shift training, FF Shawn Mercready began his Hydraulics course, a requirement for State Pump Operator certification. This course is designed to give firefighters the mathematical and practical knowledge required to safely and effectively operate fire apparatus pumps.



B-SHIFT Continued

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

Key areas of study include:

- **Pump Theory** – Understanding how centrifugal pumps work, including intake, discharge, and pressure regulation.
- **Friction Loss Calculations** – Learning to calculate hose line friction loss at various lengths, diameters, and flow rates.
- **Nozzle Pressures & Appliance Losses** – Determining the correct pressures for smooth bore and fog nozzles, as well as appliances such as standpipe and sprinkler systems.
- **Relay Pumping & Drafting** – Training on multi-apparatus water supply operations and drafting from static water sources.
- **Practical Pump Operations** – Hands-on evolutions calculating required pressures, setting throttle, monitoring gauges, and supplying multiple lines simultaneously under fireground conditions.

Completion of this course represents a critical step in FF Mercready's development as a Driver/Engineer, ensuring he is capable of safely delivering the correct water supply needed for suppression efforts while supporting the operational success of his crew.

Incidents & Fireground Activity

B-Shift responded to a **vehicle fire** and a **structure fire** during the month. Both incidents were mitigated through coordinated suppression efforts, proper water supply management, and the application of foam to fully extinguish the fires. The events provided valuable real-world reinforcement of the skills practiced during pump and water supply training.

EMS Activity

EMS operations remained a significant component of the shift's workload, with **42 PCR**s (Patient Care Reports) completed in August. Among these, **four calls involved notable interventions**, including cases where fire personnel rode along to assist with patient care during transport. The crews performed **two successful intubations** and managed a total of **nine advanced airway interventions**, demonstrating both competence and confidence in critical care scenarios.

One of those intubations proved especially rewarding: the patient later visited our station to personally thank the crew for their efforts. He has since made a **full recovery** and expressed his gratitude, reinforcing the life-changing impact that effective prehospital care can have on our community. This moment served as a reminder of the profound difference that skilled interventions and teamwork can make in patient outcomes.

B-SHIFT Continued

Lieutenant Chad Hubeck - Paramedic

Julian Valiente - Firefighter/Medic
Shawn Mercready - Firefighter/EMT

Firefighter Highlights

- **FF Julian Valiente** has continued his professional development by **riding up as a Lieutenant** while actively progressing through his **officer task book**. He is working toward clearing as a **stand-alone ride-up officer**, displaying leadership and decision-making ability on the fireground and during EMS incidents.
- **FF Shawn Mercready** has been **riding up as a Driver/Engineer** and is making steady progress in his **D/E task book**, preparing to clear as a **stand-alone ride-up Driver/Engineer**. In addition, he has **begun his Hydraulics course**, a core component of the State Pump Operator certification process, which provides the technical foundation for advanced pump operations and water supply management.

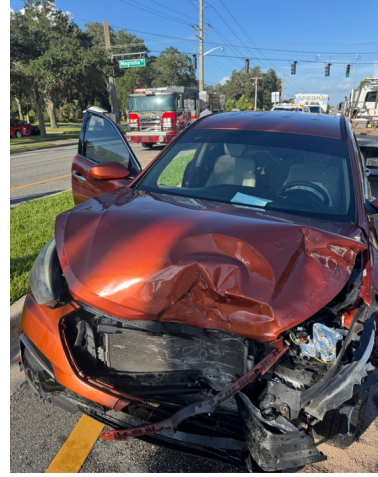
Summary

Overall, B-Shift displayed consistent dedication to training, incident readiness, and patient care throughout August. The balance of structured technical training, physical conditioning, and professional performance on both fire and EMS calls reflects the crew's ongoing commitment to operational excellence and service to the community. Individual firefighter development, particularly in leadership and driver/engineer roles, continues to strengthen the shift's capabilities and ensures a pipeline of well-prepared personnel for the future.



C-SHIFT

Lieutenant Jason Taylor - Paramedic
Jordan Nield - Firefighter/EMT
Lawrence Salemme - Firefighter/EMT
Zachary Rubin - Firefighter/EMT



August was an extremely busy month for C-Shift as we continued to train and develop two new firefighters while also mentoring a future ride-up Lieutenant. Despite the heavy training load, the shift managed several significant emergencies ranging from complex medical calls to vehicle extrications.

New Hire Orientation and Probationary Training

C-Shift dedicated extensive time to probationary task book completion. Training included hydrant operations, catching and securing water supplies, multiple hose line deployments (20 lines pulled in August), garden apartment reverse and forward lays, and multi-family dwelling fire scenarios. Each new hire was rotated through realistic evolutions emphasizing speed, accuracy, and teamwork. Firefighter survival skills and SCBA donning/doffing were also reinforced.

EMS Responses – Seizures, Cardiac Calls, ALS Interventions

The shift handled several high-acuity medical calls including seizures requiring sedation, multiple cardiac-related emergencies, lift assists, and respiratory distress cases. Crews provided advanced life support interventions such as airway management and delivering medications.

Vehicle Extrications and Fire Service Calls

We responded to multiple vehicle accidents requiring extrication. Firefighters used e-hydraulic tools, cribbing, and stabilization equipment to safely access and remove patients. In addition, crews responded to fire alarms, service calls, and vehicle unlocks, demonstrating flexibility and professionalism across the full range of fire service duties.

EMS Training – Cardiac Arrest and Airway Management

Company-level EMS training emphasized pit-crew style cardiac arrest management. Crews practiced i-Gel insertion, CPAP application, and nebulized breathing treatments under timed conditions. Additional review included medication administration protocols and troubleshooting ALS interventions encountered in the field. These sessions ensured our firefighters remain sharp and consistent during high-stress medical emergencies.



Pre-Incident Planning and Community Outreach

C-Shift completed **8** pre-incident plan updates within the city. Particular focus was placed on target hazards and multi-family dwellings. Crews conducted walkthroughs, documented hydrant locations, and updated Knox access points. Firefighters also engaged with residents during service calls, reinforcing positive community relations.

C-SHIFT Continued

Lieutenant Jason Taylor - Paramedic

Jordan Nield - Firefighter/EMT

Lawrence Salemme - Firefighter/EMT

Zachary Rubin - Firefighter/EMT

Station and Equipment Duties

Routine station duties included bay cleaning, tool and equipment inspections, and preventative maintenance. Firefighters performed chainsaw servicing and blade replacement, rebuilt the station grill, and ensured all small tools were in a state of readiness. These projects supported operational efficiency and overall station pride.

High-Rise Training - Halifax Landing Condominiums

This month, C-Shift conducted high-rise training at Halifax Landing Condominiums. Evolutions included fire control panel familiarization, pump room operations, standpipe deployment, and lobby control responsibilities. Crews simulated hose line advancement on upper floors, integrating both new hires and the ride-up Lieutenant candidate to ensure readiness for first-due responsibilities at this target hazard.

Summary

C-Shift balanced a demanding month of high-acuity calls, extensive probationary training, and company-level drills. With 20 hose lines deployed, multiple ALS interventions performed, and targeted high-rise training completed, the crew demonstrated both skill development and operational strength. Our firefighters continue to show initiative, professionalism, and dedication to serving the City of South Daytona.

- **August's Total Combined Training Hours for C-Shift - 74.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)**



South Daytona Fire Department

All agencies within the county are currently in the process of transitioning to a new reporting system known as ESO. This innovative system will enhance our capabilities by consolidating the tracking of calls, inspections, and hydrants into a single, streamlined platform. This shift aims to eliminate the confusion and inefficiency of relying on multiple systems for tracking purposes.

Additionally, we are collaborating closely with the county to redefine the response zones within our district. This restructuring has reduced the number of zones from seven to three, which is anticipated to simplify the monitoring of higher-risk areas in the city and facilitate more responsive and targeted actions when addressing community needs.

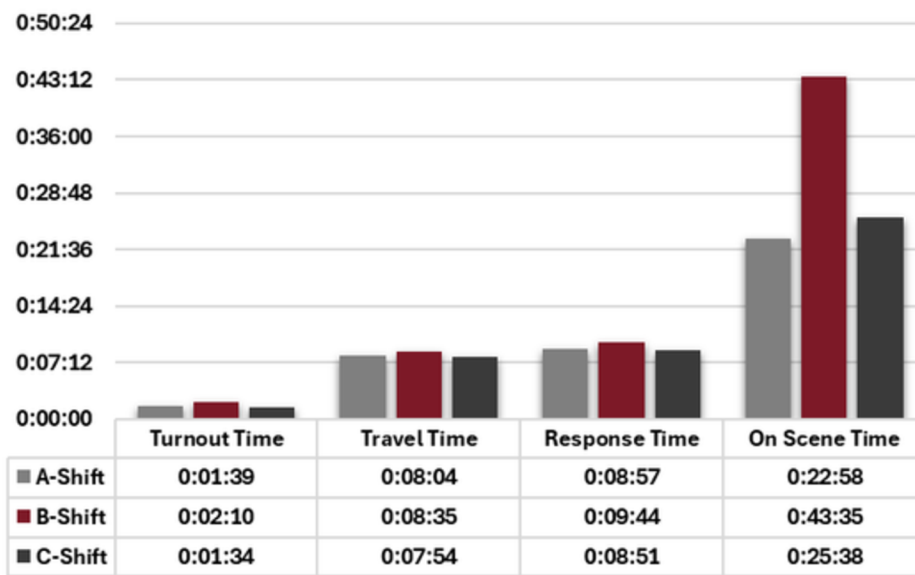


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Total number of completed Annual Fire Inspections for August.

The information presented below outlines the crew's response times and on-scene metrics for the month of August. These statistics provide valuable insights into the effectiveness and efficiency of the crew's performance when reacting to emergency calls. By analyzing these numbers, we can assess how timely the crew was in reaching the scene and identify any areas for improvement in our response strategies. This data is crucial for ensuring that we maintain high standards of service and continue to enhance our overall operational effectiveness.

August Emergency Call Times



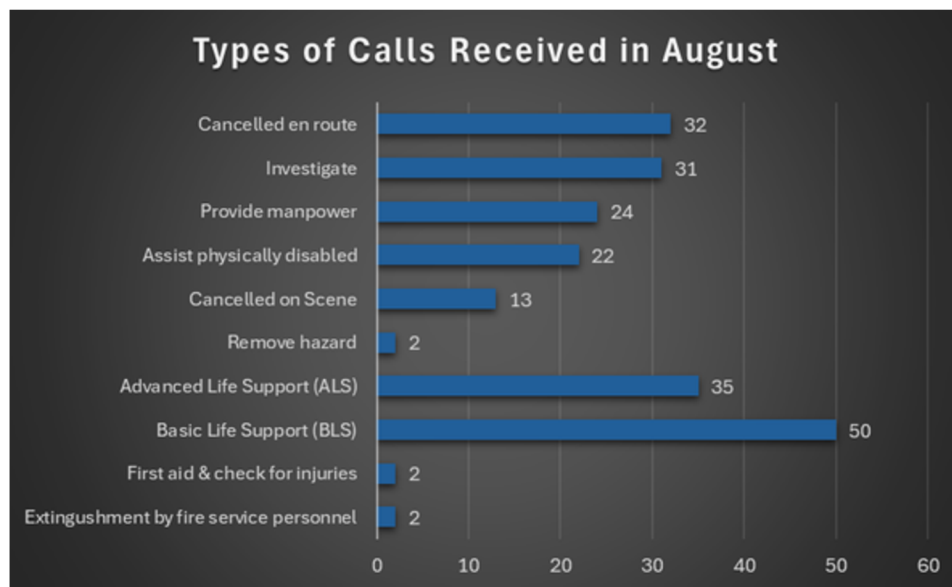
Operations

Commander Don Howard

In August, our department handled a total of **220** emergency calls. Of these, **7** calls required our engine to respond into the neighboring cities of Port Orange and Daytona Beach. Conversely, these cities answered calls within our district on **20** occasions, mainly due to overlapping emergencies that demanded immediate assistance from multiple agencies.

30 of the **220** calls originated from the county response area, showcasing the wide geographical scope of our service. On the medical front, our department responded to **102** ALS (Advanced Life Support) incidents categorized as **ALS Level 1** and **24** ALS incidents classified as **ALS Level 2**.

An **ALS Level 1** call involves situations that necessitate an advanced life support assessment performed by a qualified ALS crew. This may include at least one basic ALS intervention, such as the administration of a medication through intravenous (IV) means. An **ALS Level 2** call requires a higher intensity of medical care. This includes more complex procedures, such as performing manual defibrillation to restore a normal heart rhythm, conducting endotracheal intubation to secure the airway, as well as administering multiple medications through IV during the emergency response. The nature of these incidents underscores the critical role our team plays in emergency medical services and patient care.





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

The program currently has 0 resident enrolled in the program.

Below are some of the available resources offered in Volusia County for seniors:

- **Council on Aging of Volusia County**
386-253-4700
info@COAVolusia.org
- **Elder Affairs Florida**
850-414-2000
Communications@ElderAffairs.org
- **Elder Source**
888-242-4464
- **Senior Resource Alliance**
407-228-1835
- **Social Security Administration**
800-772-1213
- **Volusia County Human Services Program**
386-239-7757

