

SOUTH DAYTONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER
2025

PREPARED BY:

Kendra Williams

Location:

1672 S Ridgewood Ave
South Daytona, FL 32119



Message from Chief Brant...

As we close out September, I want to take a moment to recognize the tremendous work and dedication displayed by all members of the South Daytona Fire Department. Each shift demonstrated exceptional professionalism, teamwork, and commitment to serving our community, both on and off the emergency scene.

Operational Highlights

This month, our department responded to **194** calls for service, including incidents within our district and mutual aid requests in neighboring jurisdictions. Our crews handled a wide range of emergencies, from medical calls and structure fires to vehicle accidents and public assists. Despite the high call volume, each response was executed with precision, compassion, and efficiency.

Training and Development

Training continues to be the cornerstone of our department's success.

- A-Shift logged **65.5 training hours**, emphasizing emergency vehicle operations, pump performance, and driver/operator readiness. Relief Driver Candidate Fischer continues to excel in his development, while Firefighter Matos advances toward his Relief Lieutenant qualification. The crew also maintained area familiarization and completed **26 pre-incident plans**, enhancing operational awareness across key response zones.
- B-Shift led the department in **training with 357 hours** focused on hydraulics, hose deployment, ladder operations, and apparatus performance. Their productivity extended to **80 completed pre-incident plans**, ensuring accurate building layouts, hydrant locations, and access points are available for every structure in our response area.
- C-Shift logged **99.5 training hours**, highlighted by participation in the large-scale Active Shooter Training Exercise at South Daytona Elementary alongside our police partners, a vital step in the city's unified emergency response readiness.

Additionally, our personnel continue to advance their professional credentials. Firefighter/EMT Lazaro Carrillo completed his final Apparatus Operations course and is now eligible for state certification, while Firefighter/EMT Shawn Mercready completed Fire Service Hydraulics — marking his first step toward becoming a certified pump operator.

Community Engagement

Our department remains deeply connected to our citizens. Highlights this month included participation in the 9/11 Stair Climb at Halifax Landing, celebrating South Daytona resident Jean Klune's 95th birthday parade, and welcoming visitors for multiple station tours that showcased our apparatus, operations, and safety education. These events embody what it means to serve and build trust, education, and unity with the people we protect.

Every member of this department should take pride in what we've accomplished. From the **106 total pre-incident plans** completed this month to the hundreds of hours invested in training and professional development, your collective efforts reflect the highest standards of public safety and service excellence. Together, we continue to move South Daytona Fire Rescue forward, stronger, smarter, and more unified than ever.

Sincerely,



**Fire Chief
South Daytona Fire Department**



A-SHIFT

Lieutenant Ernie Jarvis - Paramedic

Michael Matos - Firefighter/EMT

Cameron Fischer - Firefighter/EMT

Lazaro Carrillo-Perez - Firefighter/EMT

During the month of September, A-Shift responded to a wide range of emergency calls, including residential and commercial fire alarms, medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, and public assists. Each incident was handled with professionalism, teamwork, and an ongoing commitment to the safety of the community and our personnel.

Relief Driver Candidate Fischer continued advancing his driver/operator training, focusing on apparatus operations, water supply management, and scene coordination. This month's training emphasized emergency vehicle operations, pump performance under load, and relay pumping scenarios. Fischer also assisted in setting up training evolutions, demonstrating initiative and leadership potential as he moves closer to his Relief Driver qualification.

To support our newest member's development, A-Shift dedicated time to **firefighter basic skills training**, including hose deployment, SCBA familiarization, ladder handling, and hand tool operations. Carrillo received hands-on instruction in engine company operations and fireground communication, ensuring proficiency and confidence during emergency responses.

Firefighter Matos continued developing toward the **Relief Lieutenant** position, focusing on tactical decision-making, leadership under pressure, and scene size-up exercises. His progress reflects dedication to the role and a clear understanding of the responsibilities required to lead effectively in the field.

Lt. Jarvis has been actively running the **daily operations and training** of A-Shift members, ensuring consistency, readiness, and professionalism across all functions. In addition, Lt. Jarvis has been planning and preparing for **Fire Prevention Month in October**. The **South Daytona Fire Department** remains strongly committed to community education and engagement. Throughout October, the department will host visits from local schools and daycare centers, providing fire safety education, apparatus tours, and demonstrations designed to promote awareness and prevention among children and families.

Looking ahead, A-Shift will continue strengthening area and building familiarization efforts, ensuring all members maintain up-to-date knowledge of key response zones. Upcoming training will include search evaluations, advanced driver training, and communication drills aimed at enhancing coordination during complex incidents.

- **September's Total Combined Training Hours for A-Shift - 65.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)**

The crew remains committed to professionalism, continual improvement, and the safety of the citizens we proudly serve.



B-SHIFT

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

September was a highly productive month for B-Shift, we focused on both skill refinement and operational readiness. Training and real-world incidents provided valuable opportunities to reinforce critical firefighting and EMS principles. Our team emphasized hands-on learning, ensuring that every firefighter not only understood the “how” but also the “why” behind each evolution.



Training Summary

- **Pre-Incident Plans** - Crews completed **80 pre-incident plans** this month. A pre-incident plan (a “game plan” made before an emergency happens) helps us know the layout, hazards, and water supply options for buildings in our area. Having accurate pre-plans allows us to make faster, safer decisions during fires or rescues.
- **Hose Deployment Training** - We drilled on proper hose deployment techniques — pulling and advancing lines efficiently with minimal kinks or snags. This ensures firefighters can get water on a fire faster and maintain mobility inside a structure (think of it like practicing unrolling a garden hose perfectly every time, just with much higher pressure and stakes.)
- **Hose Load Training** - The focus was on reloading and maintaining our hose beds correctly. A clean, properly packed hose load saves time when we’re on scene and helps prevent line failure or tangles. Crews reviewed the loads commonly used on our apparatus.
- **Hydrant Training & Supplying Water Operations** - Firefighters practiced locating and connecting to hydrants under various conditions. The goal was to improve speed and coordination between engine crews, ensuring uninterrupted water flow during firefighting operations. (making sure the “big straw” to the water supply is hooked up fast and without leaks.)
- **Hydraulics & Apparatus Operations Training** - This month included advanced pump and hydraulic exercises, where firefighters reviewed friction loss, nozzle pressures, and relay pumping. We reinforced the importance of accurate pump pressures and communication between the pump operator and nozzle firefighter. (learning how hard to push the water through the hose so it sprays just right, not too weak and not too strong.)
- **Ladder Deployment Training** - Crews practiced ground ladder raises, carries, and placement techniques to ensure speed, balance, and safety. We emphasized ladder angles, stability checks, and working from height while maintaining three points of contact.
- **September’s Total Combined Training Hours for B-Shift - 357 (recorded through Target Solutions)**



B-SHIFT Continued

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

EMS Highlights

STEMI-Code with Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)

B-Shift responded to a patient suffering from cardiac arrest (with a present heart attack). The quick recognition and coordinated care led to a successful ROSC — meaning the patient regained a pulse.

Respiratory Arrest with Successful Intubation

Crews handled a respiratory arrest where the patient had stopped breathing. Through skilled teamwork, the patient was intubated — meaning a breathing tube was placed to help move air into the lungs. This ensured proper oxygenation and increased the patient's survival chances. We were updated by the family- the patient is making a full recovery and is doing well.

Personnel Development

Firefighter/Paramedic Julian Valiente successfully completed his final course, *Apparatus Operations* through Volusia County Fire Rescue. This milestone allows him to take the Florida State Pump Operator Exam, certifying him to operate fire apparatus as a State-certified Pump Operator. This accomplishment not only represents personal growth but also strengthens the shift's overall operational capability.

Firefighter/EMT Shawn Mercready successfully completed his first course, *Fire Service Hydraulics* through Ricky Rescue. This is his first step in becoming a State-certified Pump Operator. His next step is taking the Apparatus Operations course.

EMS Activity

- **48 Advanced Life Support (ALS)** PCR's documented — calls involving cardiac, respiratory, or critical trauma cases etc. requiring paramedic-level interventions.
- **13 Basic Life Support (BLS)** PCR's documented — calls managed with non-invasive care such as bleeding control, oxygen administration, or patient assist etc.

These numbers reflect a consistently high call volume and a broad range of patient care experiences for our personnel.

Overall, September demonstrated B-Shift's commitment to continuous improvement, teamwork, and readiness. The combination of structured training, diverse EMS responses, and personal professional advancement highlights the dedication of each Firefighter Paramedic/EMT on the shift. Our goal remains to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of South Daytona through preparation, education, and pride in our craft.

C-SHIFT

Lieutenant Jason Taylor - Paramedic
Jordan Nield - Firefighter/EMT
Lawrence Salemme - Firefighter/EMT
Aramis Bello - Firefighter/EMT



Training

This month has been one of the busiest to date as we continue to prepare our firefighters for new roles and responsibilities. Training has been focused on developing our probationary firefighters, our ride-up lieutenant, and our newly hired paramedic.

Probationary Firefighters: We have been working through the probationary books, with a strong emphasis on fireground skills. This included throwing and operating ground ladders, conducting hose line stretches, advancing lines into simulated structure fires, and practicing basic search and rescue techniques. We also incorporated garden apartment scenarios, which required extended hose line stretches, as well as pre-incident familiarization of high-occupancy structures.

Ride-Up Lieutenant Preparation: Training for the firefighter in the ride-up lieutenant process has been geared toward tactics and strategies for first-due responsibilities. We conducted scene size-up drills for both motor vehicle accidents and structure fires, reviewed incident priorities, practiced command and control, and worked through accountability procedures. In addition, the ride-up lieutenant has been exposed to administrative duties such as completing incident reports, logging calls into the computer system, and handling daily station leadership responsibilities when a shift lieutenant is unavailable. This training ensures readiness to manage both emergency operations and routine station tasks.

EMS Training

- **Protocol Review:** Ongoing study of the Volusia County EMS protocol book to ensure complete familiarity with procedures.
- **Cardiac Arrest Scenarios:** Multiple practice sessions for both pediatric and adult cardiac arrests, including the use of advanced airway management techniques with ET tubes and I-gels.
- **Handtevy Training:** Hands-on practice with the Handtevy pediatric application, ensuring efficient and accurate drug administration for pediatric patients.
- **Equipment Orientation:** Locating, identifying, and deploying all EMS equipment on the apparatus to ensure speed and efficiency during calls.
- **Team Dynamics:** Reinforcing strong teamwork and communication during patient care to streamline scene operations.

Throughout the month, we had several notable calls that contributed to the clearing process, including a cardiac event, a semi-STEMI, syncopal episodes, an unresponsive patient with no vitals, and multiple altered mental status patients. These calls gave our paramedic real-world opportunities to apply the training and protocols in high-acuity environments. In total, 33 PCRs (Patient Care Reports) were completed for the month.





C-SHIFT Continued

Lieutenant Jason Taylor - Paramedic
Jordan Nield - Firefighter/EMT
Lawrence Salemme - Firefighter/EMT
Aramis Bello - Firefighter/EMT

Community Outreach

- **9/11 Stair Climb:** Firefighters participated in the annual stair climb at Halifax Landing Condominiums, completing 110 flights in full gear to honor the sacrifices of 9/11. The event was well attended by citizens, local church members, city council, the city manager, police chief, and fire chief. It was a privilege to participate and share in remembrance with the community.
- **Station Tours:** We welcomed members of the community into the station for tours, providing education on fire safety, apparatus operations, and the daily responsibilities of firefighters. These tours continue to strengthen our connection with residents and emphasize the department's commitment to public service.

Pre-Incident Planning

Pre-incident planning continued to be a priority this month, with a total of 26 pre-plans completed. These included walkthroughs of commercial and residential occupancies, focusing on hydrant locations, access points, and building layouts.

Training also included hose deployment in complex structures, such as garden apartments, where longer hose stretches are required. Firefighters practiced both forward and reverse lays and advancing lines into buildings where distance is a factor. These evolutions improved efficiency, coordination, and adaptability for potential incidents.

Special Training & Target Solutions

This month, the crew participated in an active shooter training exercise at South Daytona Elementary. The drill focused on unified command, rescue task force operations, and rapid deployment for life-safety priorities. It was an excellent opportunity to integrate with law enforcement and school officials, ensuring readiness for high-threat, low-frequency incidents.

- **September's Total Combined Training Hours for C-Shift - 99.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)**



South Daytona Fire Department

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **September 5th-** The on duty crew participated in celebrating South Daytona's citizen Jean Klune's 95th birthday with a parade in front of her home.
- **September 11th** - The department participated in the 911 Memorial Stair Climb held at Halifax Landing. Each year this memorial is held across the nation to honor the 343 firefighters and all other 1st responders that lost their lives on September 11, 2001. During this memorial event participants climb 110 flights of stairs, symbolizing the stairs climbed at those World Trade Center Towers that fateful day.
- **September 15th-17th** - meetings were held with each crew to discuss the upcoming Active Shooter training.
- **September 23rd & 24th** - Crews participated in the Active Shooter training held at South Daytona Elementary School, organized by the South Daytona Police Department.

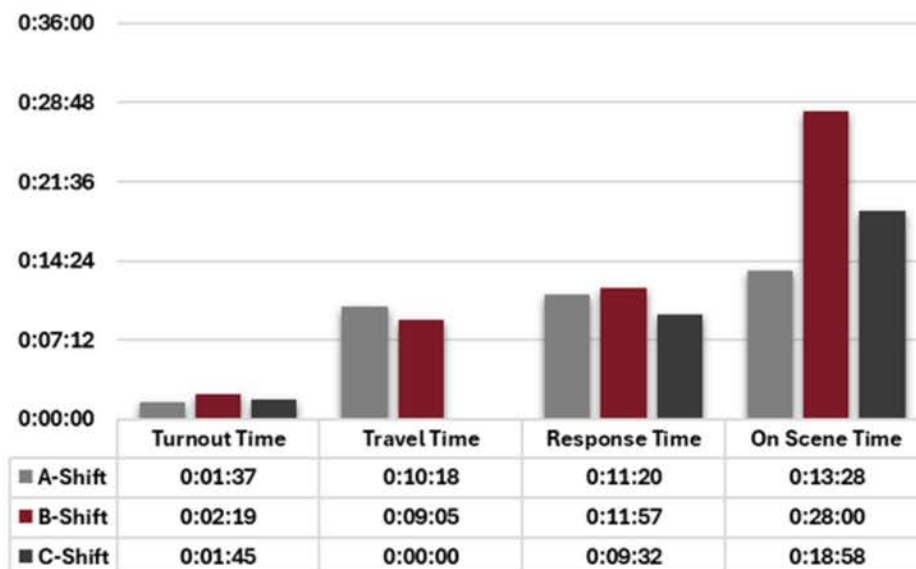


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Total number of completed Annual Fire Inspections for September.

The chart below provides a detailed analysis of the performance metrics for our three crews, focusing on turnout, travel, response, and on-scene times. Each metric is crucial for evaluating our efficiency and effectiveness in emergencies. By examining these reports, we can pinpoint specific areas that may require improvement, ensuring we enhance our overall operational capabilities and maintain the highest standards of service.

September Emergency Call Times



Operations
Commander Don Howard

In September, our department responded to **194** calls, including incidents within our designated district and beyond our borders. The accompanying graphs provide a detailed breakdown of the types of calls we received, as well as a day-by-day analysis of call volume segmented by shift. Notably, we conducted **21** calls within our county district, during which the Port Orange and Daytona Beach fire departments provided mutual aid a total of **14** times due to overlapping emergencies.

When our crews are not actively responding to emergencies, they engage in critical training sessions with new firefighters, enhancing their skills and preparedness. Recently, our department participated in a comprehensive two-day active shooter training program at South Daytona Elementary, organized in collaboration with the city's police department. This training was essential for fostering a cooperative response to tragic events, as it focused on protocols for police officers to secure the area while firefighters triage and transport victims to safer locations. Such joint training ensures seamless coordination between the two departments during emergencies.

We are modernizing our operational planning by moving away from outdated physical manuals. We are adopting an online network system, FlowMSP, which will significantly enhance our efficiency and response capabilities. When our crews are not responding to 911 calls, they are tasked with visiting all commercial businesses in our district. Here, they capture comprehensive photographs of the building exteriors and collect necessary contact information. This crucial data is then entered into the FlowMSP system, which will serve as an invaluable resource for our crews and other responding agencies. With this information readily available, we will be better equipped to identify potential hazards at these locations and have essential contact details readily accessible for any after-hours responses that may be necessary. Shown below is a picture of the city hall. As you can see, the street names are listed along with hydrant locations. You can attach multiple images with measurements included.





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

It is with great sadness that we announce the conclusion of our S.A.F.E. Resident Outreach Program, effective October 1st, 2025. Due to a lack of participation the program can no longer be sustained. It is our hope that in the future the program will be revisited and brought back when the funds are available to staff the program with a Paramedic to better meet the needs of the residents of South Daytona.

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