



**Annual Report:
2025 Adair Rural Fire and Rescue
Prepared for the Adair Rural Fire Protection District
February 10th, 2026**



**Prepared For: General Public
Prepared By: Aaron Harris, Fire Chief**

Adair Rural Fire & Rescue 2025 Annual Report

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Response Summary

Adair Fire was requested to respond to 207 alarms in 2025. We were alerted to 118 medical calls, 52 fire calls, 16 motor vehicle collision (MVC) calls, 0 HazMat incident and 21 public assistance calls. This is our second year in a row above 200 calls. This increase in call volume is a local trend which has caught up with Adair Fire. I would anticipate our call volume will continue to rise.

This year the type of calls Adair Fire responded to shifted back toward our historical average. Medical calls for our department increased to 57% of our total call volume. Fire calls decreased by half from the previous year, totaling 25% of our call volume. MVC calls held steady at 8% of our call volume. Public Assistance calls increased to 10% of the total call volume.

This year the department had an increased number of calls within our own district. This year the district was responsible for 70% of Adair Fire's total call volume compared to only 44% last year. Typically, this would have shown a decrease in total call volume. Albany Fire Department (AFD) automatic aid response was steady and continues to provide about 17% of our calls. CFD calls for mutual aid decreased by two thirds, back down to historical normal levels at 10% of our call volume. Mutual Aid calls from Polk County Fire District #1, Philomath Fire & Rescue, and Hoskins-Kings Valley RFPD provided 3% of our calls.

Adair Fire continues to participate in the State Conflagration Act. This year Adair Fire was able to participate in Oregon's Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) by sending personnel down to the Palisades Fire in California in January. Chief Aaron Harris and Firefighter Mike Bowman provided the Engine Boss and crew for a Monroe RFPD type 3 interface engine. Firefighter Bob Aman was placed with Philomath F&R, but their engine broke down enroute to the fire. Lt. Mike Larkin along with FF Mike Bowman responded down to the Medford Area with Task Force-24 to the Shadow Glen Immediate Response need. Lt. Mike Larkin and FF Josh Dodson participated with Task Force-32 responding first to the Highland Fire conflagration, outside of Redmond. During demobilization from the Highland Fire, they were told to respond directly to the Cram Fire, north of Madras. Adair Fire spent a total of 30 days on fires this year.



Adair Fire assisting AFD with a barn fire in North Albany



Adair Fire extinguishing and escaped burn pile



1761's view out the front window at the Palisade Fire in California



FF Josh Dodson working with TF-32 on the Cram Fire

Personnel

2025 was a great year for new personnel for Adair Fire. The department has recruited seven new members. Three of the new members are trained to the level of Firefighter/EMRs and able to respond on all calls. Two are Junior Firefighters, who continue to train with the goal of being response ready on their 18th birthday. The newest recruit is EMR trained and able to respond to medical calls while earning his firefighting credentials. One of the members comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience and currently serves as a paid Lieutenant for Philomath Fire & Rescue. Also, two members completed their firefighting training to become response ready. The department lost four members to retirement, moving out of the district, or stopped volunteering with the department. Chuck Harris retired after 51 years of service. Mike Bowman and Kevin Fandrum both moved out of district. Kyle Anderson left the department to dedicate more time to his paid firefighting position.

The department held another Recruit Academy in the spring. We were able to get six people through the academy. We did promote one volunteer to apparatus operator while continuing to teach three others in this role, two of which should be promoted early in 2026. Chief Aaron Harris continues as the First Alternate for the Benton County Fire Defense Board Chief.

Board Members Fran Harris and Erin Scott along with Chief Aaron Harris participated in the SDAO conference in Bend. Chief Aaron Harris attended the OFCA conference held in Bend. Board Members Fran Harris, Becky Merja and Barb Lower participated in OFDDA's conference in Seaside.

Mary Hardenbrook resigned after decades of serving as a board member for the District. Former Captain Barb Lower has filled the spot left vacant by Mary.

Education/Training

As always, we continue with the motto "education leads to excellence" for our department. The Fire Chief encourages all opportunities to attend training outside of our area. He believes we need to complete extra education to make up for the limited repetition and experience our call volumes provide. With the state requiring the same training and skill level certificates for all firefighters, regardless of volunteer vs paid staff, extra classes are the best way to narrow the experience gap.

Recruit Jason Hay completed his EMR training, he can respond on medical calls at this time. Firefighters Tyler Bird, Erik Jacobsen, Connor Goodwin and Josh Dodson finished their firefighter and medical training, with these certificates they are response ready. Jacob Snyder completed his EMR and Hazmat classes, he will be response ready early in 2026.

Firefighter Chris McElfresh completed the training for his Apparatus Operator and has been promoted. Firefighters Bob Aman and Jeremy Howes have completed the training for pumping brush rigs and the tender during Wildland operations. Firefighter Cody Aichele has completed the training to pump water from the brush rig during Wildland operations.

As a whole, the Adair Fire's Officer core is now the highest trained officer corps the department has ever had. Lt's Mark Hoffman and Mike Larkin are certified as Fire Officer 2, Live Fire Instructors, and Vehicle Extrication Technician. Lt Mike Larkin added Fire & Life Safety Educator 1 & 2 as well. Lt Tom Jones earned his Fire Officer 1, Live Fire Instructor, Instructor 2 and Vehicle Extrication Technician. Chief Aaron Harris attended S-330 Task Force Leader training and earned his Single Resource Firing Boss certificate. All in all, the department earned 34 DPSST training certificates and put 5 people through EMR training.

Adair Fire was able to send Chief Aaron Harris and Lt. Mike Larkin to Eugene-Springfield Fire for Inspector 1 & 2 class. Adair Fire hosted a Company Inspector Class and put on a local Fire Academy. Adair Fire held two Live Fire Training exercises out at EE Wilson. One of the trainings was held on a Wednesday Night as a drill activity. The second was held on a Saturday and we were able to invite Tangent Fire Department, Monroe RFPD, and Polk Co. FD#1. Adair Fire was able to send crews to two different live training burns. FF Cody Aichele and Lt Rob Macdonald participated at a Halsey-Shedd field burning exercise. FFRs Tyler Bird, Colton Bird, Kayden Deluc, FFs Bob Aman, Jeremy Howes, and Lt Mark Hoffman all attended the Herbert Farms Natural Area burn, hosted by Corvallis Fire Department.



Practicing protecting infrastructure at the EE Wilson training burn.



FFR Tyler Bird participating at the Herbert Farms Training Burn.

Community Participation

Adair Fire continued to be heavily involved in the community this past year.

Lts Mark Hoffman, Mike Larkin and Rob Macdonald were able to provide First Aid training to Scout Troop 170. Lt Mike Larkin and Chief Aaron Harris provided introduction to emergency response. Adair Fire attended the Adair Village Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Founders Day, and the National Night Out. Adair Fire participated in firefighter friendly events and station tours for Corvallis Montessori School, Santiam Christian Pre-School, and Zion Lutheran School. Our involvement in these events allows our department an opportunity to recruit, improve fire safety awareness, and increase public perception of our department.

July 4th at the department has turned into an annual event of lighting off fireworks in the parking lot. The Firefighter's families can light off their fireworks in the safe environment of the parking lot. Members of the community can attend, and everyone gets to share the visual enjoyment provided by the different families lighting off their fireworks. It's becoming a quick fan favorite of the kids.

In October, we were able to hold our annual Open House. Community participation was lower than anticipated this year. The department offered a hotdog lunch, fire truck rides, a kids agility course, and many other educational opportunities for the attendees. This year's Open House was disrupted by a call for smoke in the forest. Benton County CERT provided a booth. The Adair Rural Fire & Rescue Association had their first ever booth at the event.



Open House, FFR Colton Bird, assists with the Kids Challenge course.



Lt Tom Jones at Trunk or Treat

Projects

This year we worked on smaller projects to help with both public perceptions as well as move towards an improved capability. At the main station there was tinting added to the bay door windows. This helps decrease the heat inside the bays during the summer and decreases the amount of sun damage our turnouts incur. We were awarded a SDAO Safety and Security Grant which helped fund the placement of flood lighting over the gravel training area, on the south side of the station. Becky Merja coordinated the cleanup of the area outside the Substation. She was responsible for the removal of the engine block as well as clearing the forested and blackberry areas. A Soap Creek resident was supplied lumber to build a new sign out at the Substation. With the assistance of FF Tyler Bird's Bobcat, we were able to get the new sign into the ground without harming anyone.

The department was able to update some decals on a select few trucks. Updating to the newer logo and replacing sun bleached decals on 1463, 1421, 1472, and 1471. We purchased all new hose with nozzles for structural attack. We purchased 1200 ft of 1-3/4" and 600 ft of 2-1/4" along with 6, 1-3/4" fog nozzles and 3, 2-1/2" smooth bore nozzles. The Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund continues to be a fantastic source of funding. With the tribe's help we were able to purchase 5 pairs of Structural pants and jackets.

We had rollover from the OSFM "Upstaffing Grant" which was used until depleted. FF Mike Bowman and Connor Goodwin worked for the department under the grant this past summer. This past year the department was awarded just over 10 thousand dollars from grants.



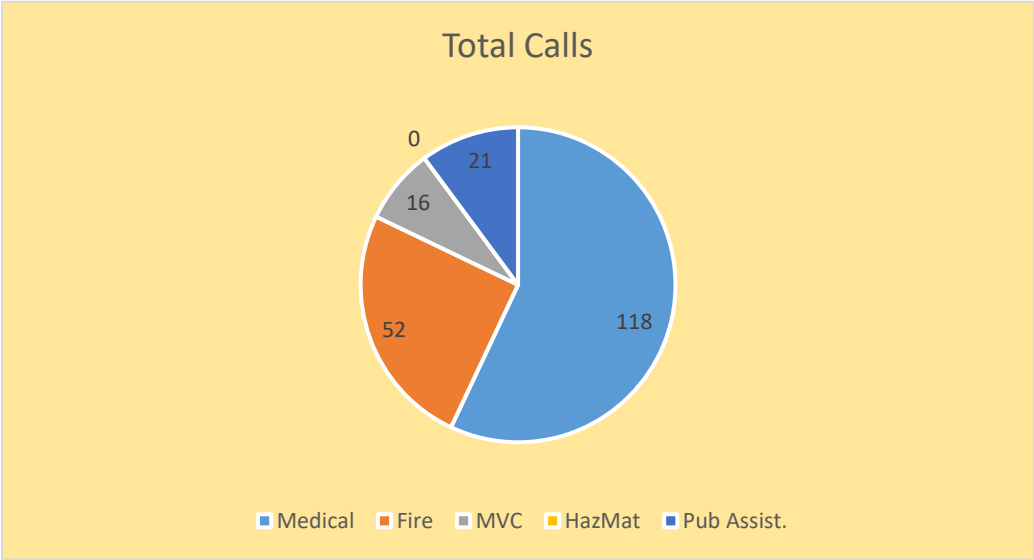
Installing the new sign at 1402.

Apparatus

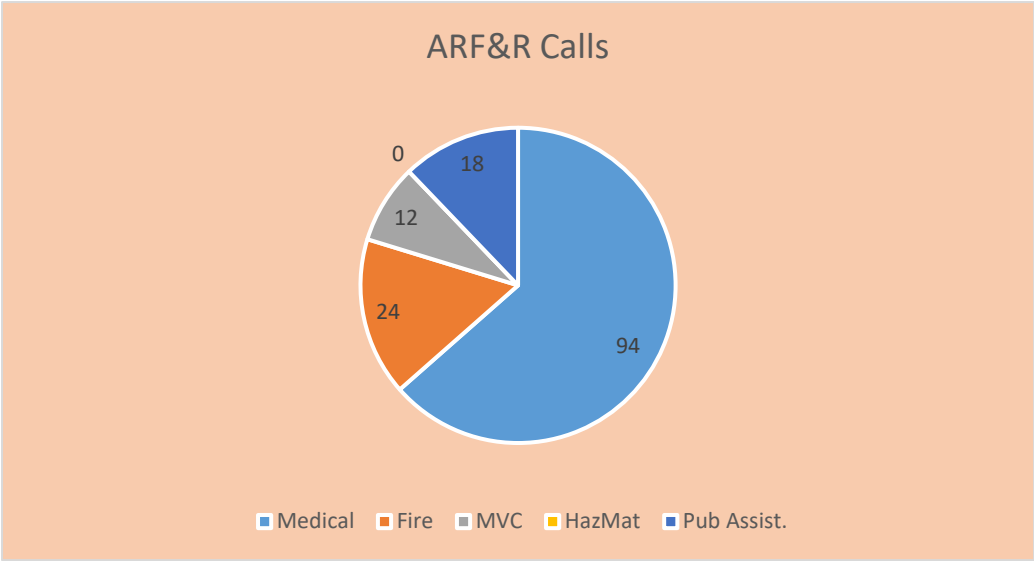
The department's apparatus continue to age, which brings increased maintenance costs. 1461, 1463, 1431, 1430, 1441 and 1462 have all had repair work done to their firefighting pumps this year. We are working towards downsizing 1463 to match what was done to 1461. This will give us two lighter more mobile brush rigs. The department is looking into options for acquiring funds via a Bond. 1441 continues to be the most dangerous apparatus we drive due to its aged safety features and its use well past its expected firefighting life span. I will continue to apply for a grant to replace it.



1461 after the downsizing.

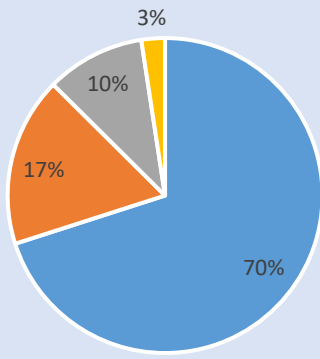


Total calls 207

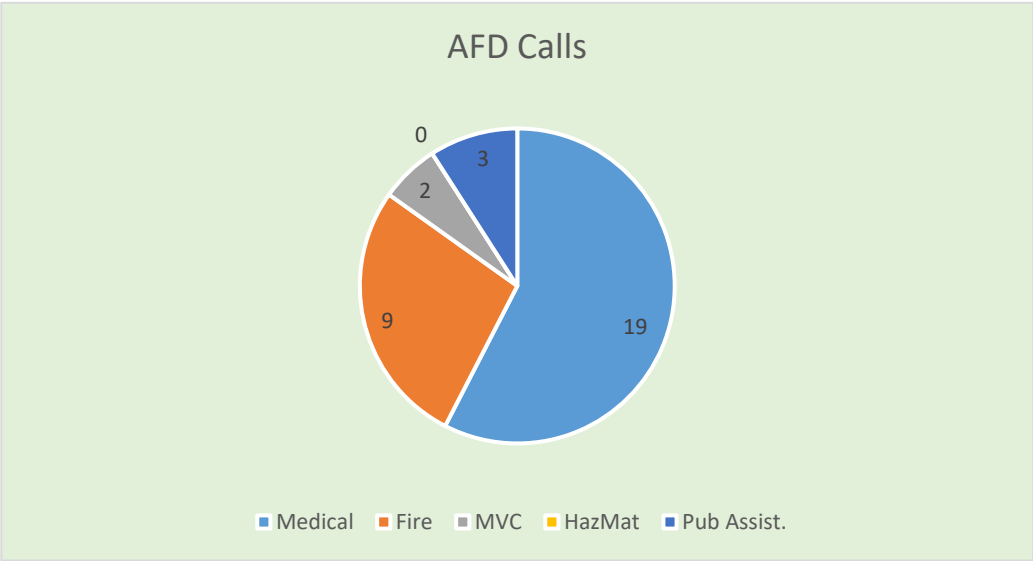


Total ARF&R Calls 145

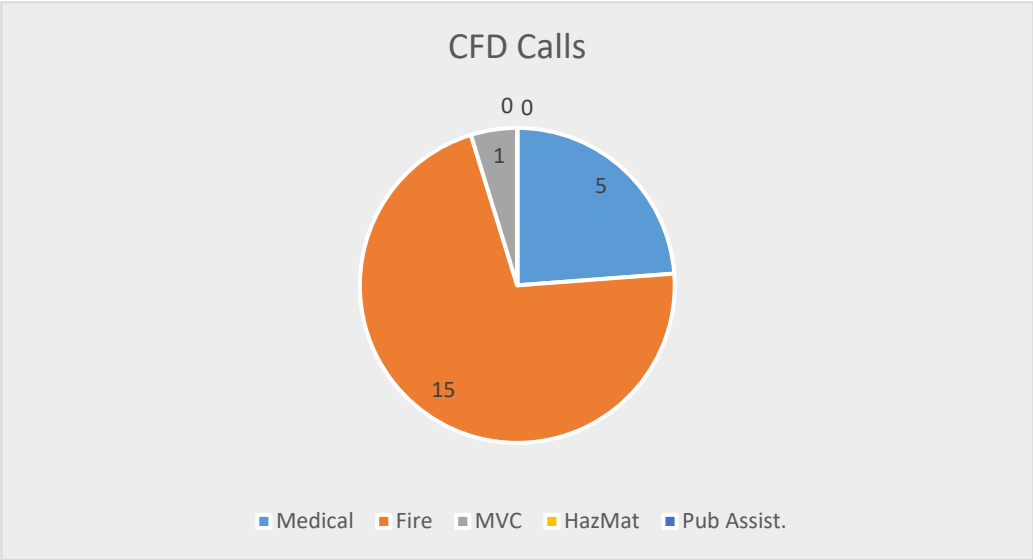
Mutual Aid



■ ARF&R ■ AFD ■ CFD ■ Other FDs



Total AFD Calls 36



Total CFD Calls 21

Accomplished Goals from 2025

PERSONNEL:

- 3 New Soap Creek or city volunteers
- 5 New volunteers on the year, 2 in SCV and 3 city volunteers. 3 are full responders, 1 is EMS only, and 1 is still a Jr. firefighter
- 3 New Apparatus Operators
- 2 New Firefighter IIs
- 1 New EMTs
- 1 New EMT, EMTI, and Paramedic
- Increase Community Outreach
- Hired a seasonal firefighter to work during Fire Season

PROJECTS:

- Get funds to replace 1441
- Improve cross lays to meet current NFPA standards
- Evaluate grant options
- Maintain Conflagration qualified
- Added lighting to cover the training area
- Installed new sign at substation
- Installed window tinting at main station

APPARATUS:

- Work towards replacing 1441
- Purchase 137 from AFD (if for sale)
- Sell 1430
- Replaced damaged decals on apparatus
- Renumbered 1451 to 1421 keeping with county standards

1401:

- Increase Cybersecurity

1402:

- Evaluate adding sleeping quarters for 1-2 sleepers vs
- Evaluate replacing 1402.

Key: Completed Items

Items completed that were not projected last year

Item not yet started

Item started not complete

GOALS 2026

PERSONNEL:

- 3 New Soap Creek and/or City Volunteers
- 3 New Apparatus Operators
- 3 New Firefighter IIs
- 1 New EMTs
- Maintain Community Outreach

PROJECTS:

- Finish hose upgrade and put them into service
- 5 sets of structural turnouts
- Replace wildland turnouts
- Evaluate grant options
- Maintain Conflagration qualified
- Get a Bond measure passed

APPARATUS:

- Work towards replacing 1441, 1462, and 1430.
- Turn 1463 into a true type 6
- Purchase a Type 3

1401:

- Upgrade fire and security systems
- Evaluate adding sleeping quarters for 2-3 sleepers and a 6th apparatus bay

1402:

- Upgrade fire and security systems
- Clear out all non-fire department equipment/remove waste
- Evaluate adding sleeping quarters for 1-2 sleepers

Key: Completed Items

Items completed that were not projected last year

Item not yet started

Item started not complete

GOALS 2027

PERSONNEL:

- 3 New Soap Creek and/or City Volunteers
- 3 New Apparatus Operators
- 2 new Firefighter IIs
- 1 New EMTs
- Maintain Community Outreach

PROJECTS:

- Evaluate grant options
- Maintain Conflagration qualified

APPARATUS:

- Replace 1441
- Purchase a Type 1 engine
- Put the Type 3 engine in service

1401:

- Create blueprints for a 6th apparatus bay/sleepers' quarter

1402:

- Set up storage racks
- Evaluate adding sleeping quarters for 1-2 sleepers

Key: Completed Items

Items completed that were not projected last year

Item not yet started

Item started not complete

GOALS 2028

PERSONNEL:

- 3 New Soap Creek and/or City Volunteers
- 3 New Apparatus Operators
- 2 new Firefighter IIs
- 1 New EMTs
- Increase Community Outreach

PROJECTS:

- Evaluate grant options
- Maintain Conflagration qualified

APPARATUS:

- Replace 1441
- Put newly purchased Type 1 engine into service

1401:

- Secure Funding for a 6th apparatus bay/sleepers' quarter

1402:

- Evaluate adding sleeping quarters for 1-2 sleepers vs
- Evaluate replacing 1402.

Key: Completed Items

Items completed that were not projected last year

Item not yet started

Item started not complete