



2025

San Juan County
Fire & Rescue
Annual Report

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Message From the Chief

Dear Community Members,

I am pleased to share the 2025 San Juan County Fire & Rescue Annual Report.

2025 was a year of growth and accomplishment for our Fire Department.

As I complete my third year as Fire Chief, I am incredibly proud of the dedicated volunteer and career men and women who serve San Juan County. They continually exceed



my expectations in delivering critical services such as medical aid, rescues, fire suppression, and emergency response for anyone who calls 911. It is truly an honor to work alongside such a committed team that cares deeply for our residents and visitors.

In 2025, we made a substantial investment in training and equipping our firefighters to better meet the needs of our community. Recognizing that nearly 80% of our total incidents are medical emergencies, we focused on expanding our ability to provide Intermediate Life Support (ILS) services. This investment has increased the scope of medical interventions our Firefighter/ EMT's can deliver prior to the arrival of an ALS ambulance, ensuring our residents receive faster, more advanced emergency medical care.

In addition to strengthening our medical response capabilities, we continued to invest in updating our fire apparatus fleet and equipment to ensure we respond to emergencies with the tools necessary to mitigate any incident safely and effectively.

Our Training Division also delivered more than 8,000 hours of training in 2025, ensuring our firefighters are prepared to respond to the wide variety of incidents we face. Additionally, we facilitated a Fire Academy that welcomed 12 new fire recruits into our ranks, helping strengthen the future of our department.

As we look ahead, San Juan County Fire & Rescue remains committed to providing the highest level of service, preparedness, and care for our community. Thank you for your continued support, trust, and partnership. Together, we will continue building a safer and stronger San Juan County.

Sincerely,
David Vega
Fire Chief, San Juan County Fire & Rescue

San Juan County Fire & Rescue Overview

CY 2025 Calls for Service System Wide: **8,559**

San Juan County + Bloomfield
Average Calls Per Day: **23.45**

Major Call Type Breakdown:

Rescue & Emergency Service Incident:	4,556
Fires (all types):	391
Hazardous Condition (No Fire):	274
Service Calls:	549
Severe Weather:	15
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion Overheat (No Fire)	4

Service Area: Over **4,000 square miles** (5,000 mutual aid)

Our jurisdiction encompasses diverse landscapes and communities. With 26 fire stations strategically positioned, we aim to provide comprehensive coverage to every corner of San Juan County.

San Juan County Fire & Rescue (SJCFR) responds to the unincorporated areas of San Juan County but also provides mutual aid to the City of Aztec and City of Farmington. We maintain Intergovernmental Agreements with the City of Bloomfield and the Town of Kirtland to provide fire suppression and emergency medical response services. In Bloomfield, services are provided through operation of the Bloomfield Fire Department.

During wildland fire events, we coordinate closely with the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, New Mexico State Forestry, and other local agencies to contain and control fire incidents.

Our mission is to provide a progressive and professional all-hazards response, including:

- Fire Suppression
- Rescue Operations
- Emergency Medical Services
- Special Operations

Staffing Overview

Authorized Full-Time Staff:	34
Reserve Firefighters:	76
Civilian Support Staff:	9

We operate on three shifts (A, B, and C) using a 48/96 schedule (48 hours on-duty, 96 hours off-duty).

Stations & Apparatus

- 26 Fire Stations
- 25 Engine Companies
- 18 Water Tenders
- 2 Ladder Companies
- 2 Squad Companies
- 1 Heavy Rescue Company
- 11 Rescues
- 3 Special Response Trucks
- 21 Type 6 Brush Trucks
- 2 Type 3 Brush Trucks
- 1 Fire Boat

Operations Section

The Operations Section is responsible for the day-to-day delivery of fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue, and all-hazard response throughout the community. This section represents the department's front line, ensuring personnel and apparatus are staffed, trained, and ready to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Over the past year, the Operations Section responded to **8,559** incidents ranging from medical emergencies and fires to motor vehicle crashes and service calls.

Operations personnel routinely manage overlapping incidents while maintaining coverage across a diverse geographic area. Through coordinated deployment, ongoing training, and a continued emphasis on safety and operational readiness, the Operations Section remains capable of meeting the community's needs while adapting to evolving service demands.

A Snapshot of Emergency Response in San Juan County

Every emergency response tells a story. Together, these numbers show how quickly help arrives, how long crews remain committed, and when demand on the system is at its highest.

San Juan County Fire & Rescue

Countywide emergency response reflects a high-demand, all-hazards system serving a large and diverse geographic area.

Response & Operations

- Average Response Time: 15.02 minutes
- Average Time Committed Per Call: 26.21 minutes

Peak Demand

- Busiest Day: Saturday
- Busiest Time: 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Countywide activity is heaviest during weekend evenings, when multiple incidents may occur simultaneously, and operational demands are highest.

Bloomfield Fire Department

Bloomfield Fire operates in a high-tempo, single-unit response environment with rapid response times and consistent call volume.

Response & Operations

- Average Response Time: 6.38 minutes
- Average Time Committed Per Call: 23.26 minutes

Peak Demand

- Busiest Day: Wednesday
- Busiest Time: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Bloomfield's call volume peaks during weekday evenings, reflecting a steady demand for rapid, efficient responses with limited on-scene staffing.



Administration Section



In 2025, San Juan County Fire & Rescue made significant strides in enhancing both operational capabilities and infrastructure. Key accomplishments included the replacement of 198 SCBA units, the removal of all Class “B” foam, and strategic upgrades to fire stations, including the painting of Stations 14 and 82 and the completion of station lettering at multiple locations. These efforts reflect our commitment to maintaining a high standard of safety, efficiency, and professionalism across all aspects of our operations.

The department’s fleet modernization initiative continued with the receipt of six new fire apparatus, including three fire engines and three water tenders, as well as the placement of orders for two additional fire engines. Strategic funding through two New Mexico State Fire Grants facilitated the acquisition of critical resources, including a new fire engine, a breathing air compressor, and nominal fee grant to support reserve members. These investments underscore our ongoing focus on maintaining a state-of-the-art response capability and ensuring the safety and effectiveness of our personnel.

Training Division

We ended 2025 with 8,822 total hours of training for the department. Including the 2024 academy that finished in

February of 2025 we graduated 24 cadets to Firefighters. John Salka and Rick Lasky provided our folks officer boot camp which was beneficial officer level training. We had the vent prop built and trained on it which crews have used that training to successfully be on roofs of several fires and successfully provide vertical ventilation. The entire department went through a CAN confidence class to understand the benefits of searching with a water can and its ability to put out a larger volume of fire.

We have trained and certified 8 additional IFSAC Fire Instructors and 6 additional IFSAC certified Fire Officers. We trained 5 Live Fire Instructors to the 1403 standard. A Fire Lieutenant completed advanced ropes training as he works to become a ropes instructor for the Fire Department.



EMS Division

2025 was another landmark year for SJCFR EMS division, marked by significant advancements in provider readiness, patient care, and system modernization. Through strategic planning and fiscal stewardship, nearly \$450,000 in EMS Fund Act funding was secured, enabling critical investments including LifeScan NFPA 1582 physicals for 81 staff and volunteers, countywide standardization of SSCORT suction units with SJRMC EMS, and replacement of traction splints more than 20 years old with modern, highly versatile Slishman traction splints, improving treatment options for

traumatic extremity injuries. Additional safety and response enhancements included deployment of ballistic helmets for active threat incidents and NFPA-compliant replacement of AEDs on all water tenders. Through a Special Projects Grant, an additional \$74,000 was secured to purchase four LifePak 35 monitor/defibrillators, significantly expanding advanced life support capabilities across the county.



Training and workforce development were a central focus of EMS operations in 2025, with monthly continuing education delivered in all fire district zones, totaling 24 hours per member, and conducted in conjunction with the Medical Director to ensure systemwide competency verification. Training encompassed pediatric, medical, and trauma emergencies, as well as full-scale auto extrication with live patients and active threat response scenarios. Certification efforts resulted in 11 EMR, 4 EMT, and 6 AEMT students successfully completing programs, along with 43 members completing CPR/AED refreshers that included mandatory 2025 AHA updates. Additionally, four new EMS continuing education instructors were trained in accordance with New Mexico EMS Bureau requirements, strengthening long-term instructional capacity.



Beyond departmental training, San Juan County EMS personnel benefited from participation in the San Juan River EMS Conference, a regionally recognized educational event independently organized by a three-member governing board, which provides high-quality training opportunities and scholarships ensuring

local EMS members may attend at no cost. Collectively, these efforts have contributed to a marked increase in EMT-Intermediate skill utilization in the field, resulting in improved patient care and enhanced operational readiness.

Special Operations

For the 2025 calendar year, the Special Operations Division remained consistently active, with the wildland fire season beginning earlier than usual. Our first assignment commenced on January 9, and firefighters collectively spent 228 days assigned to large wildland fire incidents throughout 2025.



In addition to operational deployments, significant progress was made in strengthening our specialized response capabilities, community outreach, and firefighter wellness initiatives. The Rapid Extrication Module (REM) module continued to be developed for the wildland team, including the addition of a REM UTV and specialized technical rescue equipment to support both regional responses and large-scale incidents in remote areas nationwide. To further build operational capacity, specialized rope rescue training has implemented. San Juan County Fire & Rescue also continued its annual Septic Safe Spring public awareness campaign, aimed at educating residents on proper septic system maintenance and reducing



preventable emergencies related to system failures. As part of this effort, SJCFR met with a Community Risk Reduction committee composed of fire agencies from across the state, providing education on septic safety and sharing resources to help those agencies expand outreach within their own communities. Additionally, a comprehensive health and wellness program was launched to support firefighters' mental health and physical fitness, providing regular access to licensed mental health professionals and a personal trainer at the stations. These initiatives experienced substantial growth throughout 2025, and we look forward to expanding and enhancing them further in 2026.

Fire Marshal/ Fire Prevention



In 2025, fire prevention efforts remained a critical component of protecting lives and property across San Juan County and the City of Bloomfield. Fire Inspectors conducted approximately 270 annual fire and life safety inspections countywide, accounting for more than 315 hours, along with an additional 200 inspections within the City of Bloomfield totaling approximately 180 hours. While inspectors focused heavily on high-hazard occupancies such as schools, hotels/motels, and industrial facilities, we also completed numerous inspections of smaller business and mercantile (B & M) occupancies to

ensure broad code compliance throughout the community. In addition, The Fire Marshals Office reviewed 15 plans for new commercial construction or renovations, helping to address potential life safety concerns before buildings were occupied.

2025 By the Numbers

Fire Safety Inspections	270
Inspection Hours	315
City of Bloomfield Inspections	200
Community Risk Reduction Events	45
Fire Scene Investigations	19
Residential Fires	15
Vehicle Fires	2
Commercial Kitchen Fire	1

Beyond inspections, fire personnel conducted approximately 45 community risk reduction and public education events—30 throughout the county and 15 within the City of Bloomfield—including smoke detector installations, public safety events (such as the Lowes Event and the County Wellness Fair), the week-long county fair, and fire safety education delivered to all elementary schools in the county and city.

Fire investigators also responded to and conducted 19 fire scene investigations, including 15 residential fires—one involving an explosion and four resulting in fatalities—along with two vehicle fires and one commercial kitchen fire. I personally conducted twelve of the 19 fire scene investigations. Over the year, I conducted investigations in coordination with the Navajo Nation, FBI, The ATF, Farmington Fire Department

and the San Juan County Sheriff's Department. I also testified in District Court as an expert witness for a fire investigation I conducted, reinforcing the credibility and professionalism of the county's fire investigation program. Collectively, these efforts highlight the vital role of fire prevention, education, and investigation in safeguarding our community in 2025 and beyond.

Fleet Maintenance

In 2025 the shop dealt with approximately 444 writeups, 109 vehicles passed through the shop for PM and Inspections. 64 air samples were taken to confirm our breathing air compressors are in fighting shape. Approximately 52 sets of tires were replaced in our fleet. We took delivery of 6 new apparatus. The shop pump tested 53 trucks in the 2025 fire season.



**HELP FIGHT
THE BURN.
ALL TRAINING
PROVIDED.**



**RESERVE
FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED**

ORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

**JOIN TODAY AND SERVE A STRONGER COMMUNITY!
VISIT SJCFR.NET/JOIN CALL 505-334-1180**



SERVING A STRONGER COMMUNITY