

CITY OF SHARON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



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Sharon, PA 16146

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Sharon Fire Department

2025 Annual Report

*Serving the City of Sharon, Pennsylvania
Protecting Life, Property, and the Environment*

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DEPUTY CHIEF'S MESSAGE

As I reflect on 2025, I see this year not simply as a collection of statistics, but as the beginning of an important shift within the Sharon Fire Department.

For years, we have worked diligently to refine our tactics, improve our operational efficiency, and strengthen our response capabilities. Those efforts remain essential. However, in 2025 we began placing greater emphasis on investing in our people and encouraging growth within the organization.

This year was marked by unprecedented engagement in professional development. More members pursued advanced training and certification opportunities than at any point in our department's history. Personnel attended programs at the National Fire Academy, the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, and other nationally recognized institutions. Our training budget was not merely spent—it was invested. That investment reflects our belief that developing our personnel is one of the most effective ways to strengthen our department and ensure long-term success.

I am equally proud of the ownership demonstrated by our members in improving the department's infrastructure and daily operations. Throughout the year, personnel took pride in maintaining and improving their workspaces, including projects such as painting and upgrading areas within the station. Members also took the initiative to install a new fire station alerting system—an ambitious project that required significant time, effort, and technical skill. These efforts reflect something important: a sense of pride in the department and a willingness to invest personal effort into making it better.

While this report highlights growth in workload, inspections, training hours, and emergency response activity, the most encouraging progress in 2025 was the engagement shown by our personnel. Members across the department stepped forward to learn more, do more, and contribute more to the organization.

The work is far from finished, but 2025 represented an important step forward. By continuing to invest in our people and encouraging initiative, we are building a stronger foundation for the future of the Sharon Fire Department and the community we proudly serve.



ABOUT US

The Sharon Fire Department is an all-hazards emergency response agency dedicated to protecting life, property, and the environment. Operating from a single fire station within the City of Sharon, the department provides fire suppression, rescue services, hazardous materials mitigation, disaster management, and fire code enforcement to the community.

The department is led by two chiefs and includes a command structure of captains and lieutenants, supported by both full-time and part-time firefighters. At the time of publication, the department consists of two chiefs, two captains (with two additional captain positions currently vacant), four lieutenants, and seven full-time firefighters, supported by approximately sixteen part-time firefighters. The department also includes one full-time fire inspector and two civilian code inspection coordinators who assist with fire prevention and inspection activities.

Together, these members work to protect life, property, and the environment through prompt and skillful emergency response while also focusing on proactive community safety. Through fire inspections, public education programs, fire prevention initiatives, and strict enforcement of fire and building codes, the department strives to reduce risk and create a safer environment for residents, businesses, and visitors.

This commitment reflects the department's ongoing mission to safeguard the Sharon community through professional emergency services, prevention, and preparedness.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Emergency Response & Operations

In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department responded to 962 emergency calls, representing a significant increase in service demand compared to the previous year. Among the most notable trends was a doubling of building fire incidents, highlighting the continued operational demands placed on the department. Firefighters also responded to a substantial number of high-priority “ECHO-level” medical emergencies, where rapid intervention is critical while awaiting ambulance crews. Hazardous conditions such as gas leaks and downed power lines remained a consistent part of the department’s workload, while false alarms showed a modest decline, likely reflecting improved alarm reliability through ongoing inspection efforts. Despite the increased activity, the department maintained a strong response capability, achieving an average response time of 4 minutes and 40 seconds from dispatch to arrival, which meets the response time objectives established by NFPA 1710, including 80 seconds for turnout and 240 seconds for travel time for the first arriving engine company.

Community Engagement & Public Safety

Beyond emergency response, the Sharon Fire Department continued strengthening community safety and fire prevention efforts in 2025. The department’s fire inspector conducted more than 1,500 fire inspections—more than double the previous year’s total—helping ensure businesses and residential properties comply with fire safety standards. A major highlight was the department’s smoke alarm campaign, through which firefighters installed 285 smoke alarms in homes across Sharon, expanding access to life-saving early warning systems. During these visits and other service calls, crews also promoted the Community Connect program, which saw a significant increase in residents and businesses voluntarily providing critical information that can assist emergency responders during incidents. Firefighters also remained active in the community through public education events, station tours, and participation in community gatherings, reinforcing the department’s commitment to prevention and public safety.

Training & Professional Development

The Sharon Fire Department remained committed to continuous improvement through a comprehensive training and professional development program in 2025. A major highlight was sending six members to FDIC International in Indianapolis for the first time, where they attended lectures and educational sessions alongside fire service professionals from across the country. Firefighters also participated in numerous training sessions focused on operational effectiveness and firefighter safety. Several members attended advanced courses at the National Fire Academy, the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, and other regional training institutions, while others completed specialized certifications that expanded the department’s instructional and leadership capabilities. The entire department also participated in railroad emergency response training, strengthening preparedness for incidents involving rail transportation within the community.

New Equipment & Department Improvements

Several improvements in 2025 enhanced both operational capability and the daily working environment for Sharon firefighters. The department introduced additional rope equipment to assist with hose deployment to elevated floors, allowing crews to conduct “rope-drop” operations when advancing hose lines to upper levels of buildings. Work also began on installing a modern fire station alerting system, a major infrastructure upgrade that will improve how emergency calls are received within the station. The system utilizes ramping tones and lighting aligned with NFPA recommendations, allowing firefighters to hear dispatch information more clearly while reducing the sudden physiological stress associated with traditional alerting methods. Installation began in 2025 and is expected to be completed in 2026. Members also improved their workspace by completing painting and facility upgrades throughout the station, including the day room, alarm room, and administrative offices. The department also facilitated the installation of 29 additional Knox Boxes throughout the community, allowing firefighters to access buildings more quickly during emergencies while minimizing property damage.

Personnel Changes & Achievements

Personnel changes within the Sharon Fire Department were limited in 2025, reflecting a year of overall stability. One advancement included Bruce Minamyer’s promotion from probationary firefighter to part-time firefighter, recognizing his successful completion of initial training requirements. The year also included several notable achievements. The department was featured in *Fire Engineering* magazine, an internationally recognized fire service publication, with two articles highlighting the department’s operational practices. In addition, the department earned the Pennsylvania Participating Department Gold Level Certification, recognizing its commitment to training, operational readiness, and professional standards.

Grants & Donations

Grants and community donations continued to support several key department initiatives in 2025. The Sharon Fire Department received a \$16,322.02 grant through the Pennsylvania Fire Company & EMS Grant program, which helped fund the department’s new fire station alerting system and television monitors displaying dispatch information throughout the station. The department was also awarded a \$26,761.90 federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant, which will be used to purchase firefighter wellness equipment. Local businesses, civic organizations, and community partners also provided donations supporting the department’s first annual awards banquet, recognizing member accomplishments. Additional contributions helped fund professional development opportunities for firefighters after the department’s annual training budget had been exhausted.

RECOGNITION AND CERTIFICATIONS

The Sharon Fire Department has achieved several significant professional milestones that underscore our commitment to excellence in fire service operations, firefighter training, and community safety. These certifications and recognitions reflect the department's ongoing dedication to maintaining high standards in emergency response, leadership development, and operational readiness.

Blue Card Incident Command Certification

In 2024, the Sharon Fire Department became a "Blue Card" department, with all members completing the Blue Card Incident Command Certification. This nationally recognized program trains officers and firefighters to make critical fireground decisions using a standardized approach to incident management.

The department continues to maintain this certification by ensuring that newly hired firefighters complete the Blue Card program after finishing their probationary training process. By integrating this certification into the department's development pathway, the Sharon Fire Department ensures that every member operates within a consistent command framework, reinforcing operational discipline, firefighter safety, and effective incident management.



Shown above are members of the Sharon Fire Department at FDIC International in Indianapolis, Indiana, with Nick Brunacini, part of the family behind the Blue Card incident command system that has become a national standard for fireground operations.

ISO Class 3 Rating

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluates and classifies fire protection services across the United States, assigning Public Protection Classifications (PPC) on a scale from 1 to 10, with Class 1 representing exemplary fire protection. The Sharon Fire Department currently holds an ISO Class 3 rating, placing the department among the top-performing fire protection systems in the country.

This classification reflects the department's strong fire suppression capabilities, effective emergency communications, and reliable water supply infrastructure. Together, these factors demonstrate the department's ability to provide a high level of fire protection for the community and may also contribute to reduced property insurance premiums for residents and businesses.



Pennsylvania Participating Department – Gold Level

The Sharon Fire Department is proud to have achieved the Pennsylvania Participating Department Gold Level Certification, a distinction recognizing the department's commitment to firefighter training, professional development, and continuous improvement.

As of 2023, only 42 fire departments in Pennsylvania had earned this designation, placing the Sharon Fire Department among an elite group of agencies dedicated to maintaining the highest standards in fire service operations. This certification reinforces the department's focus on training, leadership development, and operational readiness, ensuring that personnel are prepared to meet the evolving challenges of emergency response.



These recognitions are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of the members of the Sharon Fire Department. Maintaining these certifications requires ongoing commitment to training, operational excellence, and continuous improvement. The department remains focused on upholding these standards while continuing to strengthen its ability to protect the lives, property, and safety of the residents and businesses of the City of Sharon.

OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

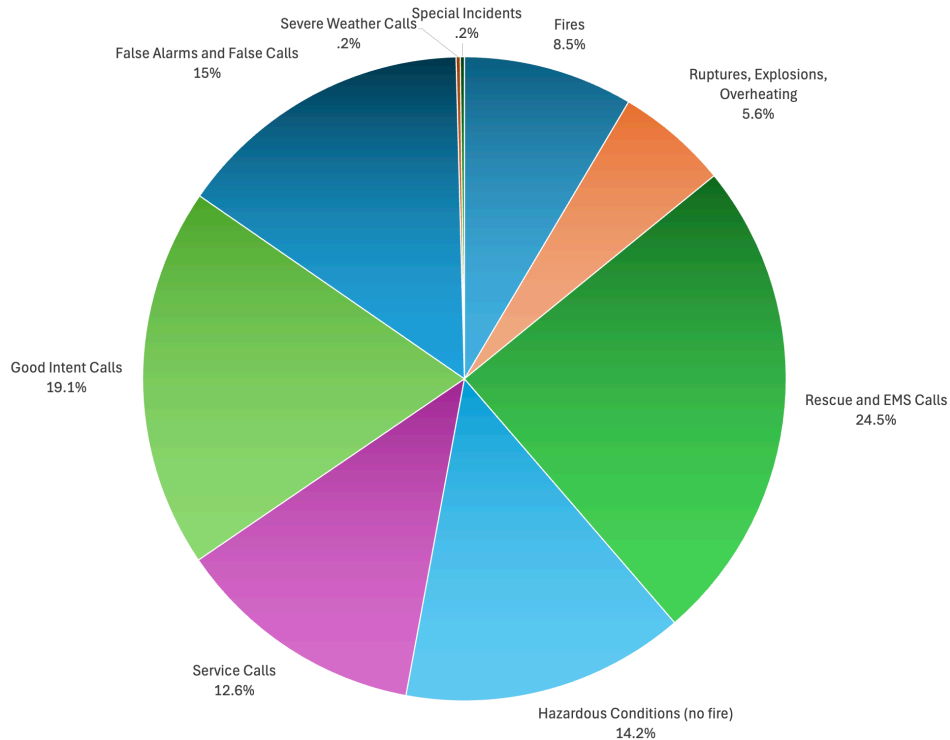
The Sharon Fire Department remains dedicated to providing rapid, effective, and professional emergency services to the community. In 2025, firefighters responded to a notable increase in emergency incidents, reflecting the continued demand for fire and rescue services within the City of Sharon. From fire suppression and rescue operations to hazardous conditions, service calls, and public safety responses, our personnel are trained and prepared to manage a wide range of emergencies. The following data provides an overview of the department's operational activity throughout 2025, illustrating the scope of incidents handled and the ongoing commitment of our firefighters to protecting the residents and businesses of Sharon.

Fires	82
<i>Building Fires</i>	43
<i>Cooking Fires</i>	10
<i>Trash Fires</i>	10
<i>Brush Fires</i>	6
<i>Vehicle Fires</i>	8
<i>Other Fires</i>	5
Ruptures, Explosions, Overheating	54
<i>Excessive Heat (including burnt food)</i>	54
Rescue and EMS Calls	236
<i>Assist EMS (e.g., lift assists)</i>	112
<i>Vehicle Accident With Injuries</i>	41
<i>Vehicle Accident Without Injuries</i>	29
<i>Extrications</i>	4
<i>Elevator Rescues</i>	6
<i>Water-related Emergencies</i>	4
<i>ECHO-level EMS Calls (e.g., non-breather/CPR)</i>	25
<i>Other Rescue/EMS Calls</i>	15
Hazardous Conditions (no fire)	137
<i>Power Line Down</i>	29
<i>Carbon Monoxide Incidents</i>	5
<i>Natural Gas Leaks</i>	20
<i>Cable and/or Telephone Line Down</i>	33
<i>Downed Trees</i>	20
<i>Overheated Motors</i>	5
<i>Electrical Problems</i>	13
<i>Other Hazardous Conditions (no fire)</i>	12
Service Calls	121
<i>Unauthorized Burning</i>	39
<i>Water or Steam Leak</i>	14
<i>Animal Rescues</i>	11
<i>Animal Problem</i>	7
<i>Assist Police</i>	9
<i>Other Service Calls</i>	41
Good Intent Calls	184
<i>Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute</i>	54
<i>No Incident Found</i>	28
<i>Odor or Smoke Investigation</i>	77
<i>Authorized Controlled Burn</i>	9
<i>Other Good Intent Calls</i>	16
False Alarms and False Calls	144
<i>Fire Alarm Activations (unintentional)</i>	53
<i>False Alarms (malicious intent)</i>	3
<i>Fire Alarm Activations (malfunction)</i>	61
<i>Other Fire Alarm Calls</i>	27
Severe Weather Calls	2
Special Incidents (including investigating complaints)	2
TOTAL	962



Shown above is Sharon Fire Department Captain Kevin McMahon preparing to make entry during a residential structure fire at 334 Prospect Street in Sharon on December 4, 2025, after crews were advised of possible occupant entrapment.

PERCENTAGE OF CALLS BY INCIDENT TYPE, 2025

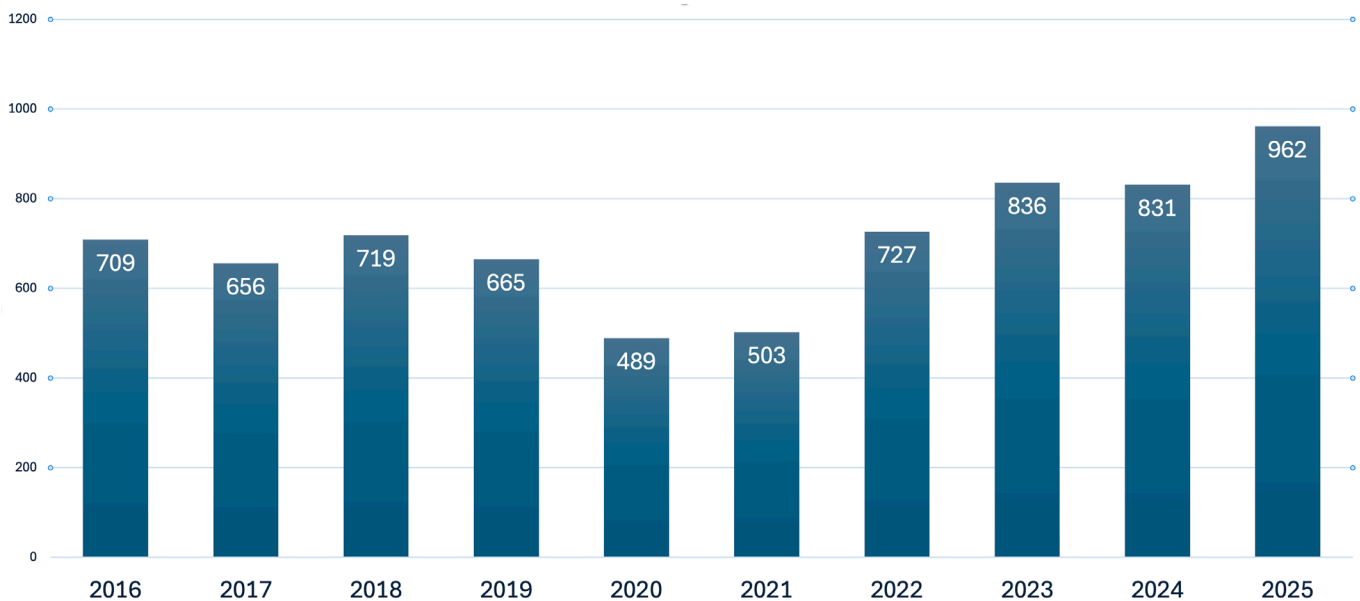


Note: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Nationally, Rescue and EMS Calls account for 64.2% of all responses, fires account for 3.9% of all responses, and all other incidents account for 31.9%.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration. (2022). *Fire department overall run profile as reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (2020)*. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v22i1-fire-department-run-profile.pdf>

Total Incidents, 2016-2025



FIRE SUPPRESSION

Fire Suppression utilizes specialized tools and skills to control and extinguish fires, including building fires, vehicle fires, cooking fires, brush fires, and other fire-related emergencies.



Shown above is Sharon Fire Department Firefighter Dillon Winger operating at a residential structure fire at 380 Madison Street in Sharon on September 4, 2025.

Fire Loss & Community Impact

Fire loss is an important metric in assessing the impact of fire-related incidents on a community. In 2025, fire incidents within the City of Sharon resulted in \$421,610 in property loss and \$158,975 in contents loss, for a combined total fire loss of \$580,585. Based on Sharon's estimated population of 13,000 residents, the per capita fire loss for 2025 was approximately \$44.66 per person. Per capita fire loss is widely used as a benchmark for comparing the financial impact of fires across communities of different sizes. These figures demonstrate the impact that rapid emergency response and coordinated fire suppression efforts can have in limiting the overall financial impact of fires within the community.

National & Local Trends

According to the most recent data available from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), total estimated fire loss in the United States in 2023 was approximately \$23.2 billion. Based on a national population of 336,755,052, this equates to a per capita fire loss of approximately \$68.90 per person.

Sharon's per capita fire loss of \$44.66 in 2025 remains lower than the national average, reflecting the continued effectiveness of local fire prevention efforts, rapid response, and coordinated fire suppression operations. However, the gap between local and national per capita fire loss has narrowed in recent years. While this does not yet represent a clear trend, it highlights the importance of continued vigilance in fire prevention, community awareness, and emergency response capabilities.

While fire loss can never be entirely eliminated, strong fire code enforcement, community awareness, and rapid firefighter intervention help significantly reduce its impact and remain critical components of protecting life and property within the community.

Building Fires

Of the 82 fire-related incidents handled by the Sharon Fire Department in 2025, 43 were building fires. 27 of these incidents occurred within the City of Sharon, while the remaining responses took place in surrounding jurisdictions through mutual and automatic aid. These calls ranged from minor cooking fires to working structure fires requiring coordinated suppression operations.

Staffing

In 2025, the average response to a building fire was 6.74 Sharon firefighters, which includes responding chief officers. With automatic aid from the City of Farrell, this number increased to approximately nine personnel. Even with assistance from neighboring departments, these staffing levels remain well below those recommended in NFPA 1710 for safe and effective fireground operations. While coordinated response with regional partners allows incidents to be managed successfully, the continued reliance on limited staffing underscores an operational challenge that warrants careful attention as the department works to maintain firefighter safety and protect the community.

Property Saved

Through intervention by the Sharon Fire Department at fire-related incidents in 2025, an estimated \$11,083,235 in property and contents was saved from loss. This figure reflects the monetary value of property preserved through fire suppression activities and does not account for the additional personal or sentimental value often associated with these losses. Overall, fire department intervention preserved nearly nineteen times more property than was lost to fire during the year.

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Technical Rescue utilizes specialized tools and skills for rescue, including vehicle extrication, confined space rescue, rope rescue, trench rescue, structural collapse rescue, ice rescue, and swift water rescue.

The Sharon Fire Department continuously trains in specialized technical rescue disciplines to ensure readiness for complex emergencies. Our personnel hold certifications in multiple rescue operations, demonstrating a commitment to ongoing professional development. This training is regularly applied during real-world incidents, including a motor vehicle accident with entrapment on January 23, 2025, at 639 Edgewood Road, where crews successfully removed a patient pinned beneath the dashboard using hydraulic rescue tools.



Shown above are Sharon Firefighters Matt Yurkovich, Christina Boren, and Bruce Minamyer conducting vehicle extrication training using hydraulic rescue tools during a technical rescue training exercise outside the Sharon Fire Department station.

Vehicle Extrication & Rescue Operations

- In 2022, all personnel earned National Vehicle Rescue Awareness (NVRA) and National Vehicle Rescue Operations (NVRO) certifications.
- Training covers hydraulic rescue tools (Jaws of Life), stabilization techniques, and extrication procedures for vehicle crashes.

Rope Rescue & Confined Space Operations

- In 2018 and 2019, all personnel earned certifications in Confined Space Rescue, Basic Rigging, and Rope/High-Angle Rescue I & II.
- Enables personnel to conduct high-angle rescues, confined space extractions, and complex rope-based operations.

Water Rescue & Boat Operations

- Several personnel hold Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission certifications in:
 - Water Rescue and Emergency Response
 - Emergency Boat Operations and Rescue
 - Advanced Line Systems Rescue
- These certifications support swift-water rescues, flood emergencies, and submerged vehicle incidents.

Dive Rescue Capabilities

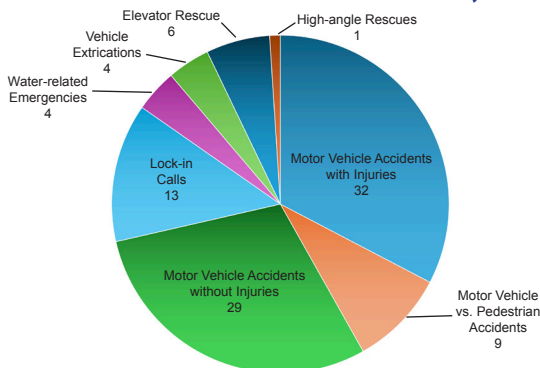
- Some personnel hold PADI Open Water Diving Certifications, allowing them to conduct underwater search and recovery operations.

Hazardous Materials Response

- All personnel complete annual Hazardous Materials Operations Refresher training.
- In 2025, department personnel participated in a 6.5-hour hazardous materials training program titled “Responding to Railroad Emergencies,” conducted by Norfolk Southern. This course satisfied the department’s annual hazardous materials training requirement and focused on emergency response considerations for rail transportation incidents.
- Several members hold Hazardous Materials Technician-Level Certifications, qualifying them for high-risk hazardous materials incidents.

Through continuous training, specialized certifications, and real-world experience, the Sharon Fire Department remains prepared to handle technical rescues, hazardous materials incidents, and complex emergency situations in our community.

Technical Rescue Calls, 2025



Shown to the right is Sharon Fire Department dive team member Nicholas Samson operating alongside Hermitage Fire Department dive team personnel during vehicle recovery operations in Lake Julia at Buhl Park in Hermitage on March 19, 2025, following an incident in which a vehicle entered the lake and the occupant was successfully rescued.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services utilize specialized tools and skills to provide pre-hospital care, including patient assessment, basic life support, CPR, trauma management, and medical assistance at emergency incidents.

Expanded EMS Role in 2025

In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department continued to play a critical role in supporting emergency medical services within the community. As regional ambulance availability remained limited, firefighters were increasingly called upon to assist with a wide range of medical incidents, including lift assists, patient movement, gaining access to buildings for EMS personnel—often using the Knox Box key system—and time-sensitive emergencies requiring immediate intervention.

Firefighters are trained and certified in CPR, AED use, first aid, and *Stop the Bleed* techniques, allowing them to provide essential care upon arrival. With the ability to respond anywhere in the city within four minutes, the department remains well-positioned to deliver rapid, life-saving assistance when needed most.



Shown above is Elite EMS Ambulance Service, one of two EMS providers serving the City of Sharon. The Sharon Fire Department works closely with local ambulance crews to provide essential assistance during medical emergencies.

ECHO-level Emergency Response Initiative

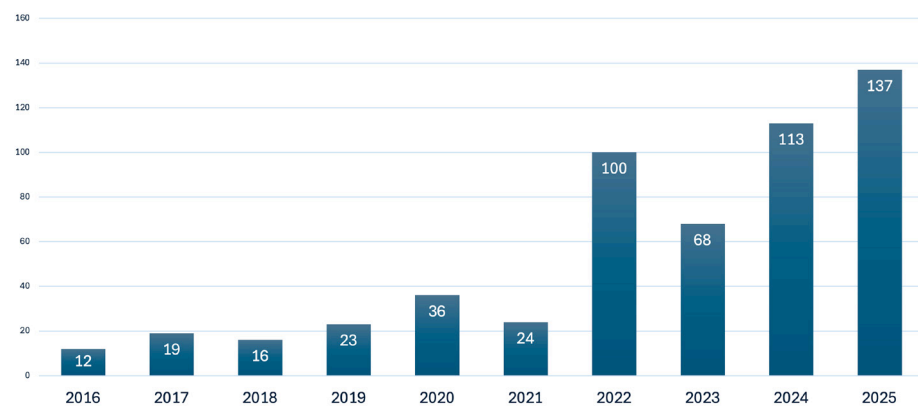
In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department implemented a significant enhancement to its EMS response model by beginning automatic dispatch to ECHO-level medical emergencies.

These incidents include the most critical, life-threatening situations, such as cardiac arrest, non-breathing patients, and CPR in progress. Historically, these calls were handled solely by ambulance services, which—due to regional staffing and availability challenges—often respond from greater distances with extended arrival times.

Recognizing the urgency of these emergencies, the department worked with Mercer County 911 to ensure that Sharon firefighters are now dispatched simultaneously to these calls. This allows trained personnel to arrive within minutes and begin interventions such as CPR, AED application, and other life-saving measures while awaiting ambulance arrival.

During 2025, the department responded to approximately 25 ECHO-level incidents, representing a major expansion of service delivery. Early feedback and operational outcomes indicate that this program has significantly improved response times and enhanced patient care within the community.

EMS Calls, 2016-2025



EMS call volume in 2025 reflects both traditional lift assists and the addition of ECHO-level emergency responses, resulting in a significant increase in total EMS-related incidents.

Supporting EMS During System Strain

The addition of ECHO-level responses reflects a broader trend in which fire departments are increasingly relied upon to support strained EMS systems. As ambulance resources are stretched across the region, fire departments serve as a critical first line of response, ensuring that no emergency goes unanswered.

Through ongoing training, strong coordination with EMS providers, and a commitment to rapid response, the Sharon Fire Department continues to adapt to evolving community needs while maintaining a focus on life safety and patient outcomes.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Risk Reduction utilizes fire prevention, public education, and community outreach to identify hazards, reduce risks, and improve safety for residents and businesses.

In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department significantly expanded its Community Risk Reduction efforts, emphasizing proactive strategies designed to prevent emergencies before they occur. Through a substantial increase in fire inspections, expanded smoke alarm installations, and consistent public outreach, the department worked to reduce risk and improve overall community safety.

2025 Community Risk Reduction Highlights

- 1,562 fire inspections completed (106.1% increase from 2024), including:
 - 1,346 non-owner-occupied (rental) property inspections (131.7% increase from 2024)
 - 216 commercial property inspections, including acceptance tests (24.1% increase from 2024)
- 285 smoke alarms installed in residential properties (3,971% increase from 2024)
- 28 public education and outreach events conducted throughout the community
- 112 new Community Connect accounts were created, expanding the availability of critical pre-incident information for responding personnel during emergencies

Fire Prevention & Code Enforcement

Fire prevention and code enforcement remain a cornerstone of the department's Community Risk Reduction efforts. The substantial increase in inspection activity in 2025 reflects a focused initiative to improve compliance, identify hazards, and reduce fire risk across both residential and commercial occupancies.

The expansion of non-owner-occupied property inspections, in particular, represents a targeted effort to address higher-risk housing conditions and improve safety standards throughout the community.

Public Education & Community Outreach

In 2025, the department conducted 28 public education and outreach events, engaging residents through school programs, community events, and hands-on fire safety training.

These efforts included:

- Fire safety presentations in schools and community settings
- Fire extinguisher training for businesses and organizations
- Participation in community events such as parades, festivals, and public safety initiatives

These programs play a critical role in increasing awareness, promoting safe behaviors, and strengthening relationships between the fire department and the community it serves.

Smoke Alarm Installation Initiative

A major area of focus in 2025 was residential smoke alarm installation. Firefighters installed 285 smoke alarms, representing a dramatic increase from the previous year.

This initiative directly supports early fire detection and significantly improves life safety outcomes by ensuring residents have functioning smoke alarms in their homes.

Impact & Forward Outlook

The expansion of Community Risk Reduction efforts in 2025 represents a deliberate shift toward proactive emergency management. The scale of inspection activity, increased public engagement, and targeted safety initiatives reflect a commitment to reducing incident frequency and improving outcomes.

As service demands continue to grow, these prevention-focused efforts remain critical in reducing risk, protecting property, and improving life safety throughout the City of Sharon.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



TRAINING

Training ensures firefighters remain highly skilled, prepared, and capable of responding to a wide range of emergencies through continuous education, hands-on experience, and ongoing professional development.

In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department maintained a strong focus on developing personnel, strengthening operational readiness, and enhancing decision-making across all disciplines. Through company training, formal coursework, and nationally recognized programs, members continued to build the skills necessary to meet the evolving demands of the fire service. Notably, 2025 marked the first year the department sent a group of personnel to FDIC International in Indianapolis, representing a significant step forward in exposure to national-level training and best practices.

2025 Training Highlights

- Company Training Sessions Conducted: 151
- Building Familiarization Tours Conducted: 74
- Driver Training Sessions Conducted: 141
- Total Training and Professional Development Hours: 3,343

Fireground Operations & Command Training

- *Firefighter II Program* – Four members completed training and earned Firefighter II certification
- *Blue Card Incident Command Certification Simulation Lab* – Three members completed command simulation training focused on incident management and decision-making
- *Structural Burn Sessions* – Three members participated in live fire training to enhance fire attack and coordination
- *Flashover Training* – One member completed specialized fire behavior and survival training
- *Truck Operations 101* – Three members trained in ladder operations, forcible entry, and ventilation
- *Firefighter Survival Training* – One member completed survival training emphasizing self-rescue and mayday operations

Technical Rescue & Special Operations Training

- *Fire Investigation: Essentials (National Fire Academy)* – One member completed an 80-hour course in origin and cause determination and earned Fire Investigator certification
- *Plans Examiner I & II* – Two members completed training and earned certification to enhance plan review and code enforcement capabilities

Hazardous Materials & EMS Training

- *Department Haz Mat Training (Railroad)* – Department-wide training involving 26 personnel focused on rail-related hazardous materials incidents
- *Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)* – One member completed a 176-hour EMT program and achieved certification

Leadership & Instructor Training

- *Suppression Instructor (PA State Fire Academy)* – One member completed this flagship program, establishing the foundation to deliver entry-level firefighter training in-house
- *Instructor Development* – One member completed Instructor III training and achieved certification, expanding in-house training capability
- *FDIC International (Indianapolis, IN)* – Six members attended national-level training, bringing back modern tactics, techniques, and best practices
- *Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program (National Fire Academy)* – One member completed the first of four semesters of the National Fire Academy's flagship leadership development program
- *Leadership Under Fire / Midrise Mayhem* – One member completed scenario-based command training

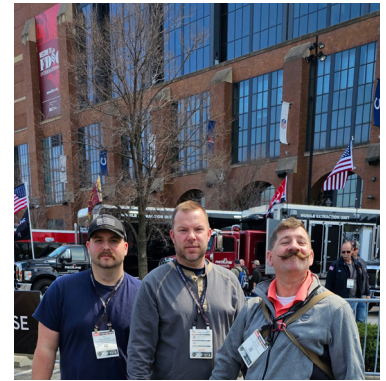
Probationary Firefighter Training

The Sharon Fire Department completed one probationary firefighter training program in 2025. The program consists of approximately 288 hours of intensive instruction covering fire suppression, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, vehicle extrication, and operational readiness.

Commitment to Excellence

Training remains the foundation of firefighter safety and operational effectiveness. Through continued investment in professional development, advanced certifications, and real-world training, the Sharon Fire Department ensures its personnel are prepared to meet the evolving challenges of the fire service while maintaining the highest standards of performance and service to the community.

TRAINING



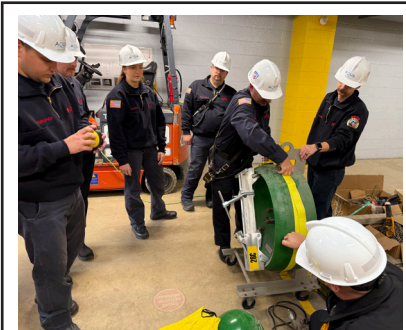
In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department sent a group of firefighters to Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) International in Indianapolis, Indiana for the first time, representing the department at a nationally recognized training conference. Members are pictured participating in conference sessions and on the FDIC grounds near Lucas Oil Stadium.



A Sharon firefighter participates in Truck Operations 101 training at Butler County Community College's Public Safety Training Facility, working alongside regional partners while utilizing Sharon Fire Department's aerial apparatus to perform ladder operations.



Sharon Fire Department personnel participate in hands-on railroad emergency response training, working alongside industry representatives to enhance preparedness for rail-related incidents and hazardous materials response.



Sharon Fire Department personnel participate in an annual tour of the AQUA water treatment facility, where they review operations and practice controlling simulated cylinder leaks—such as a chlorine release—using on-site emergency repair kits.



Personnel from the Sharon Fire Department participated in Suppression Instructor development at the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy in Lewistown, PA, strengthening the department's ability to deliver high-quality in-house firefighter training.

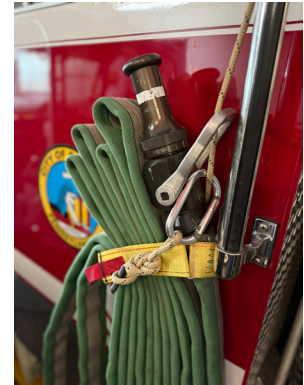


A member of the Sharon Fire Department is participating in the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program in Emmitsburg, Maryland—a flagship leadership development program focused on long-term organizational growth and command-level decision-making.

NEW EQUIPMENT AND DEPARTMENT IMPROVEMENTS

New equipment and operational improvements in 2025 focused on enhancing firefighter safety, improving response efficiency, and modernizing department operations.

- **Station Alerting System (Phase I) Implemented** – Installation of a modern station alerting system began in 2025, improving dispatch notification, situational awareness, and response times. Full implementation will be completed in 2026.
- **Turnout Gear Replacement Program Initiated** – The department purchased 14 new sets of turnout gear and implemented a long-term replacement schedule to ensure all personnel maintain NFPA-compliant protective equipment within the 10-year service life.
- **Situational Awareness Thermal Imaging Cameras Added** – Four new TICs were placed in service and made available to on-duty personnel, allowing firefighters to carry them throughout the shift, enhancing visibility, navigation, and overall firefighter safety in zero-visibility environments.



- **Rope Drop Hose Deployment Capability Implemented** – The department enhanced mid-rise fire response capabilities through the implementation of rope drop hose deployment, improving efficiency in upper-floor fire operations.
- **Electronic Truck Check & Asset Management System Implemented** – Apparatus checks and equipment tracking were transitioned to a fully electronic system accessible via department and personal mobile devices, improving accountability, consistency, and documentation.
- **Updated Command Procedures Implemented** – Command SOPs were revised to align with modern fireground practices and Blue Card incident command principles, strengthening operational consistency and decision-making.
- **Expanded EMS Response Capability (ECHO-Level Calls)** – The department began responding to ECHO-level medical emergencies, increasing its role in high-priority, life-threatening incidents.
- **Station and Workspace Improvements Completed** – Interior improvements, including painting and updates to living and administrative areas, enhanced functionality, organization, and overall working conditions.

Improving Emergency Access: Knox Box Installations

In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department oversaw the installation of 29 new Knox Boxes throughout the city, improving rapid access to secured buildings during emergency responses.

Notable locations include:

- Sharon Schools Facilities
- Verizon Building
- Buhl Mansion Guesthouse and Spa
- Harmony Apartments
- Evolve Gym
- Thornton Hall
- Joy Cone Paper Sleeve Plant
- Cycle Life Fitness

These installations enhance response efficiency, reduce forced entry, improve firefighter safety by reducing hazards associated with forcible entry, and help reduce property damage during emergency operations.

PERSONNEL CHANGES AND PROMOTIONS

In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department experienced a year of personnel stability, reflecting strong retention and a consistent workforce. Following significant hiring efforts in 2023 and 2024, the department maintained full staffing with minimal turnover. The absence of large-scale hiring needs and the continued service of recently onboarded personnel demonstrate the department's ability to retain qualified members and maintain operational continuity. Limited personnel changes included the addition of one civilian employee, a single promotional advancement, and two part-time separations.

New Hires

In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department welcomed one new full-time civilian employee:

- **Makayla Berkson** – Assistant to the Fire Code Inspection Coordinator, assisting with the administration of the non-owner-occupied property licensing program and supporting fire code enforcement activities.

Promotions

The following member advanced through the department's promotional process based on demonstrated performance and qualifications:

- **Bruce Minamyer** – Probationary Firefighter → Part-Time Firefighter

Separations

In 2025, two part-time firefighters resigned to pursue other professional and personal commitments. The department appreciates their service and contributions.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

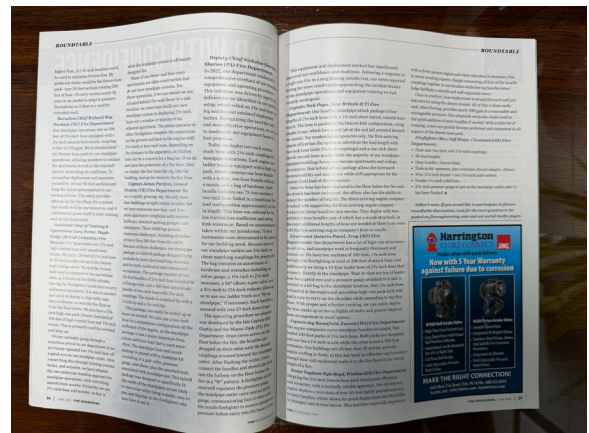
In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department received national recognition through multiple features in *Fire Engineering* magazine, one of the fire service's most respected professional publications.

In the June 2025 issue, Deputy Fire Chief Nicholas Samson contributed to an internationally published roundtable discussion on standpipe operations and equipment packages. The department's approach was featured alongside contributions from fire service professionals across the United States and abroad, highlighting practical, field-driven strategies for standpipe operations.

In the September 2025 issue, *Fire Engineering* published his article, "A Small City's Journey to Standpipe Success," which expands on the department's standpipe program and details the process of evaluating, updating, and implementing an equipment package and operational approach aligned with current best practices and tailored to local staffing and building conditions.

As part of the publication, several Sharon Fire Department personnel were featured in a promotional video for the *Fire Engineering* website, demonstrating Sharon's standpipe operations and equipment in a real-world setting. The video provided an opportunity to showcase the department's procedures and capabilities to a broad fire service audience.

These contributions reflect the department's commitment to continuous improvement, operational effectiveness, and sharing practical knowledge with the fire service.



GRANTS AND DONATIONS

In 2025, the Sharon Fire Department secured more than \$50,000 in grant funding and community donations. These funds supported critical investments in firefighter safety, professional development, station improvements, and community outreach initiatives.

Grants Awarded – \$43,083.92

- **Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania)** - \$16,322.02
Used to support installation of the new station alerting system and improve dispatch notification capabilities.
- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant (Federal)** - \$26,761.90
Awarded for the future purchase of firefighter wellness equipment to support health and readiness initiatives.



Community Donations – \$7,700.00

The department received strong support from local businesses, organizations, and community partners throughout the year. Donations were used to support firefighter training, professional development, station improvements, and the department's first annual awards banquet.

Major Contributions

- Sharon American Legion – \$1,500
- Winner Foundation – \$1,500
- Aqua Pennsylvania – \$1,500
- First Presbyterian Church – \$1,000
- Calvert Lumber – \$500



Additional Contributors

Quaker Steak & Lube; PHN Charitable Foundation; Walmart; Elephant #8; Our Gang's Lounge; Sharon Commercial Printing; Mercer County Community Federal Credit Union; McGonigle Ambulance Service; McGonigle Funeral Service; Laurel Technical Institute, and others.

Total Funding Secured: \$50,783.92

Community Impact

These funds directly enhanced the department's ability to operate safely and effectively while expanding community engagement efforts. Investments supported:

- Firefighter safety equipment and station alerting improvements
- Professional development and training opportunities that support skill growth and long-term member retention
- The department's first annual awards banquet, a key recruiting and retention initiative that recognizes firefighter contributions and reinforces appreciation from both the City and the community

Through continued partnerships with grant agencies and local supporters, the Sharon Fire Department remains committed to responsible stewardship of resources and reinvestment into both operational readiness and community safety.

2026 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Sharon Fire Department remains committed to continuous improvement through strategic planning, operational refinement, and investment in its personnel. In 2026, the department will focus on initiatives that strengthen organizational culture, enhance service delivery, and improve firefighter safety and readiness.

Planned Objectives for 2026:

- **Refine Department Mission and Develop Vision and Core Values**

The department will lead a collaborative process to refine and formalize its existing mission statement while developing a vision statement and set of organizational values. This collaborative effort will ensure alignment, strengthen organizational identity, and promote a more clearly defined, mission-driven culture across all ranks.

- **Establish Department Fitness and Wellness Facility**

Building on grant funding secured in 2025, the department will develop and implement a dedicated fitness and wellness space to support firefighter health, injury prevention, and long-term readiness.

- **Recruit and Onboard Part-Time Personnel**

In anticipation of staffing impacts following the conclusion of SAFER grant funding, the department will recruit and onboard approximately six additional part-time firefighters to maintain operational coverage and service levels.

- **Invest in Facility Improvements and Workplace Environment**

Continued improvements to station facilities—including interior upgrades, apparatus bay enhancements, exterior signage, and improvements to the station's exterior green space—will be pursued to promote pride, professionalism, and a positive working environment, supporting both recruitment and long-term member retention.

- **Enhance Training Opportunities Through Utility Partnership**

The department will coordinate with FirstEnergy to deliver hands-on training focused on electrical emergency response and infrastructure hazards. This initiative will improve firefighter safety and preparedness for incidents involving energized equipment, downed wires, and utility-related emergencies.

- **Complete Station Alerting System Installation**

Phase I of the station alerting system was initiated in 2025. Full implementation will be completed in 2026, improving dispatch notification, response times, situational awareness, and firefighter health and wellness through alerting practices aligned with NFPA recommendations.

- **Finalize Implementation of Single-Apparatus Response Model**

Following planning and stakeholder coordination in 2025, the department will fully implement a four-person, single-apparatus response model. This transition represents a significant operational shift aimed at improving crew integrity, communication, and on-scene effectiveness.

- **Conduct Comprehensive Run Card Revision**

With the implementation of the new apparatus deployment model, the department will complete a full revision of run cards and response protocols to ensure alignment with updated operational practices.

These objectives reflect the department's commitment to strengthening organizational culture, enhancing operational effectiveness, and investing in its personnel, ensuring the Sharon Fire Department continues to meet the evolving needs of the community.



A FINAL WORD

Workplaces have employees. Fire departments, like families, have members. That idea speaks to something deeper than the work itself. It reflects the relationships built over time—through long shifts, shared experiences, and the moments in between the calls. The conversations in the kitchen and the stories that get told and retold all shape who we are. Those moments build trust and create bonds that carry over into the job, especially when things get difficult.

The way we treat one another inside the department carries into how we serve this community. The Sharon Fire Department takes great pride in serving the residents, businesses, and visitors of our city. Every emergency call, training evolution, inspection, and community interaction is approached with professionalism, compassion, and a commitment to doing the job the right way.

This report reflects a year of personnel stability, operational progress, and continued investment in our people. We are grateful for the continued support of our community, city leadership, and partners, which strengthens our ability to serve.

As we move forward, the focus remains on building a department our members are proud to be part of and our community can rely on. Thank you for your continued trust in the Sharon Fire Department.

