

2025



ANNUAL REPORT

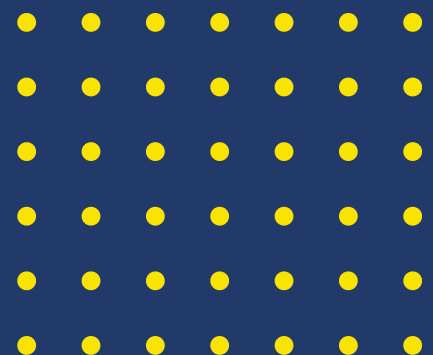




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YOUR LIFE, OUR MISSION...

The Metro West Fire Protection District provides fire, EMS and rescue services to 57 square miles of west St. Louis County. This includes all or portions of Ballwin, Castlewood, Chesterfield, Clarkson Valley, Ellisville, Sherman, Wildwood, Winchester, and unincorporated St. Louis County. 90 firefighter/paramedics run nearly 10,000 calls for service a year out of five fire stations. Metro West provides a host of specialized rescue services and maintains one of the only dive rescue teams in the region.



Core Values

Professionalism

Pride in who we are and how we do business.

Quality

The finest effort, every time.

Reputation

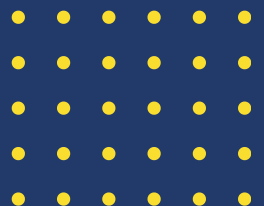
Built by those before us, grown by those with us.

Service

Bound by our duty to act.

Trust

Being committed to all that is entrusted to us.



From the Chief



Dear Metro West Community,

As we reflect on 2025, I continue to be inspired by the dedication and professionalism of the men and women who serve the Metro West Fire Protection District.

This past year marked an important transition for our organization as Fire Chief Mike Krause retired after decades of dedicated service to Metro West and the fire service profession. Chief Krause leaves behind a legacy of leadership, professionalism, and commitment to excellence which helped shape this district into what it is today. I am honored to continue building on that foundation.

Even during this time of transition, our mission never changed. In 2025, Metro West crews responded to a record-setting 9,973 calls for service, the highest call volume in district history. These calls reflect the trust our community places in us each day and the commitment of our personnel to answer every call with compassion, skill, and professionalism.

Throughout the year, we continued investing in training, equipment, facilities, and community outreach programs to ensure we remain prepared for the growing needs of our district. From emergency medical care and fire suppression to public education and community health initiatives, our focus remains on providing exceptional service while being responsible stewards of public resources.

It is a privilege to serve our community. On behalf of the entire Metro West Fire Protection District, thank you for your continued trust and support.

Brad Shelton
Chief of Fire & EMS

Board of Directors



Tim Flora
Chairman



Mark Macinski
Secretary



Mike Thompson
Treasurer



Command Staff



Brad Shelton
Chief of Fire & EMS



Mike Digman
Deputy Chief



Travis Bauer
Deputy Chief



Joe Haefer
Deputy Chief



Blake Chambers
Deputy Chief



Mike Thiemann
Division Chief



Rob Farr
Battalion Chief
A-Shift



Mark Moore
Battalion Chief
B-Shift



Dave Kupfer
Battalion Chief
C-Shift







Promotions

Brad Shelton, Chief of Fire & EMS
Blake Chambers, Deputy Chief of EMS
Joe Haefer, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal
Anthony Hunt, Battalion Training Officer
Stephen Guilford, Captain
Nick Klemme, Lieutenant
Andrew Graddy, Engineer

Retirements

Rod Cook, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal
Brian Jones, Engineer

Newly Hired

Ryan Heffernan, Firefighter/Paramedic
Austin Miller, Firefighter/Paramedic
Jesse Rebstock, Firefighter/Paramedic
AJ Smith, Firefighter/Paramedic
Ron Tisius, Fire Inspector/Investigator



Sworn to Serve

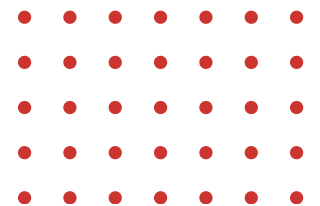


On August 19, 2025, Brad Shelton was officially sworn in as Chief of Fire and EMS for the Metro West Fire Protection District.

The swearing in ceremony was held at Metro West Station 3 in Wildwood, where more than 130 family members, colleagues, elected officials, and community partners gathered to recognize the leadership transition. During the ceremony, Chief Shelton was pinned by his wife, Kim Shelton, before taking the oath of office administered by the Honorable William Biermann.

Chief Shelton joined the Metro West Fire Protection District as a reserve firefighter/paramedic in 1997 and was hired full time in 2000. Over the course of his career, he rose through every rank within the organization, serving as firefighter/paramedic, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, and deputy chief before being appointed fire chief.

During his remarks, Chief Shelton emphasized both continuity and progress, reaffirming his commitment to building upon the strong foundation established by previous district leadership while continuing to provide exceptional service to the community.





Proudly Serving Since
1957



A Legacy of Service

In 2025, Metro West recognized the retirement of Fire Chief G. Michael Krause III following a distinguished 32 year career in the fire service, including 10 years as fire chief.

A fourth generation firefighter, Chief Krause joined Metro West in 1993 and rose through every rank within the organization. Over the course of his career, he served as a firefighter, company officer, chief officer, and incident commander at countless emergencies.



Chief Krause guided Metro West through a period of meaningful growth and organizational advancement. Under his leadership, the district maintained international accreditation and earned a AAA bond rating while continuing to invest in personnel, facilities, apparatus, and lifesaving equipment. He also helped advance firefighter health and safety initiatives, strengthen regional partnerships, and expand community outreach and public education efforts.

One of Chief Krause's lasting contributions was helping establish the district's core values of professionalism, quality, reputation, service, and trust. Those values continue to shape the culture of Metro West and guide the organization's commitment to the community.

Chief Krause leaves behind a lasting legacy of leadership, mentorship, and service that will continue to influence the Metro West Fire Protection District for years to come.





Fire/Rescue Operations

Metro West experienced another year defined by operational excellence, complex incident response, and continued investment in emergency preparedness.

One significant response occurred in May when Metro West personnel deployed to assist with Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) operations following the devastating tornadoes impacting Clayton and the City of St. Louis. Crews worked alongside regional partners during the immediate response phase, assisting with search operations and damage assessments in heavily impacted areas.

Special operations teams also responded to high risk water rescues, hazardous materials incidents, and technical rescue emergencies throughout the year.

In 2025, the district further strengthened its special operations capabilities by placing a new rescue boat, 33B1, into service. The vessel supports emergency response operations on local waterways, including the Meramec River, and assists with regional dive operations. The district also placed 3310, a new fire engine, into service as part of its ongoing scheduled apparatus replacement program.

Investments in modern apparatus, equipment, and training remain a critical part of Metro West's commitment to providing safe, effective, and reliable emergency response services to the community.

REGIONAL DEPLOYMENTS

In February 2025, Metro West members assigned to Missouri Task Force One deployed to eastern Kentucky to assist with flood rescue operations. They deployed again in May after a tornado in the City of St. Louis and in July following flash flooding in Texas.



WILDWOOD HOUSE FIRE

On April 25, 2025, Metro West crews responded to a residential fire in a neighborhood without fire hydrants. Water shuttle operations were conducted to bring the needed water to the scene for extinguishment.

CHESTERFIELD PLANE CRASH

On November 11, 2025, Metro West was first on the scene of a small plane crash. All occupants were safely assisted from the aircraft which had been aided to the ground by an onboard parachute system.





EMS Operations

The Metro West Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division continued to demonstrate exceptional professionalism and dedication in 2025, responding to more than 7,600 EMS calls while maintaining a strong focus on advanced life support and high quality patient care.

Firefighter/paramedics participated in ongoing scenario based training developed by district EMS training officers in partnership with the medical direction team at Mercy. This training emphasized teamwork, critical thinking, and continuous improvement to help personnel remain prepared for a wide range of medical emergencies.

Exceptional Community Care

Supported by advanced equipment, extensive training, and a commitment to compassionate service, Metro West firefighter/paramedics continue providing exceptional emergency medical care to the community.

Battalion Training

Anthony Hunt was appointed as the district's newest EMS Battalion Training Officer, helping lead firefighter/paramedic education and professional development efforts.



Medical Control

Dr. Philip Moy of Mercy St. Louis began serving as the new Medical Director for Metro West, continuing the district's strong partnership with Mercy, which provides medical control and clinical oversight for EMS operations.

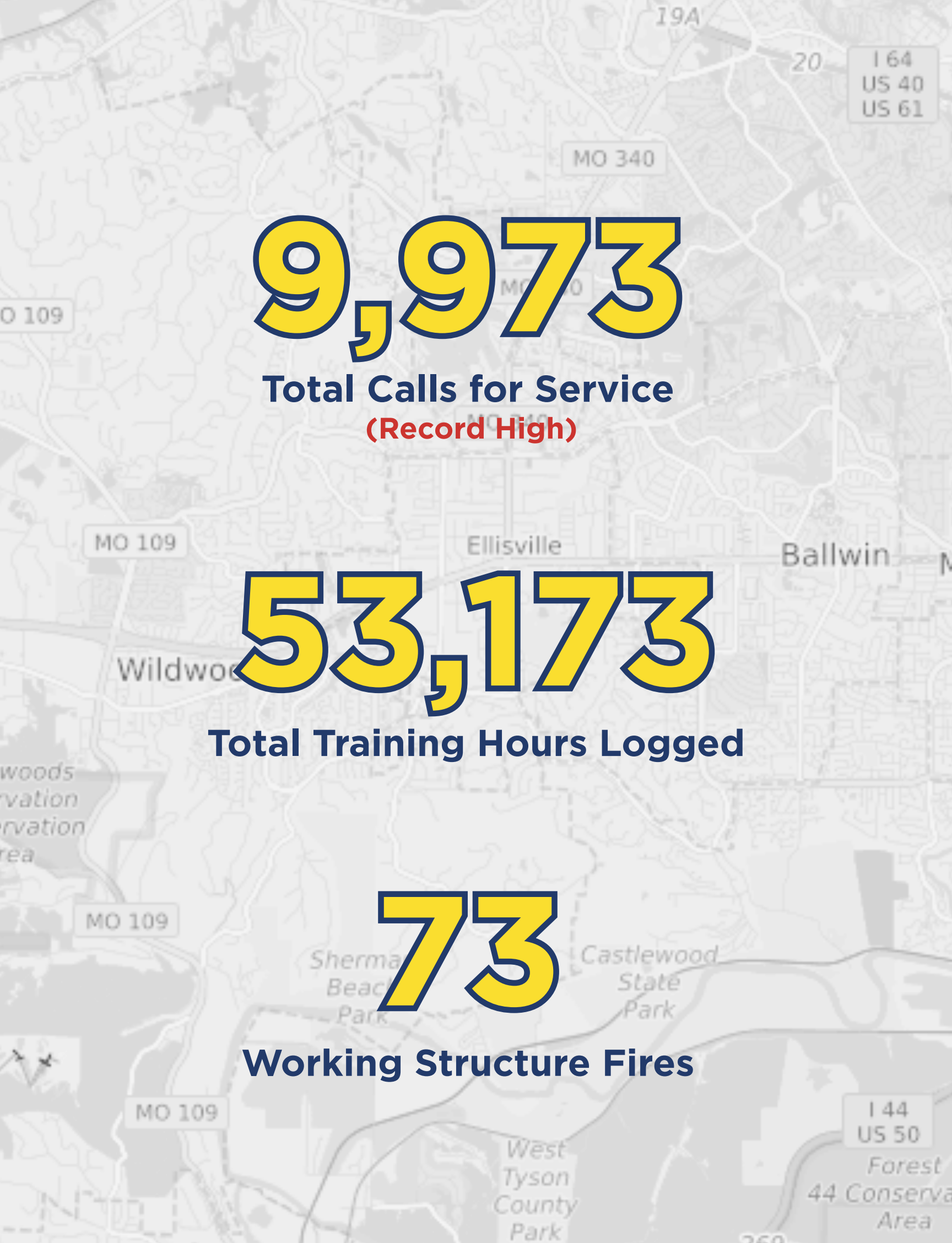
State Licensure

Metro West was relicensed by the State of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services as a ground ambulance service for another five year term.



CPR Compressions

Metro West placed the newest model of the LUCAS 3 mechanical CPR device into service on all seven district ambulances, enhancing advanced cardiac arrest care capabilities.

A light gray map of Missouri serves as the background. It shows major highways like MO 109, MO 340, I 64, US 40, US 61, I 44, and US 50. Various cities and towns are labeled, including Ellisville, Ballwin, Wildwood, and West Tyson. Parks such as Sherma Beach Park, Castlewood State Park, and Forest 44 Conservation Area are also visible. The number 9,973 is displayed in large, bold, yellow font with a dark blue outline.

9,973

Total Calls for Service
(Record High)

53,173

Total Training Hours Logged

73

Working Structure Fires

Dive Rescue Team

The Metro West Dive Team continued to provide specialized underwater rescue and recovery capabilities throughout the region in 2025.

During the year, the district placed a new dive and side imaging boat into service at Station 1, providing a more effective platform for dive operations and sonar assisted victim recovery missions. Team members also completed Advanced Critical Skills Diver training led by an instructor from Dive Rescue International, focusing on controlled stress exposure and zero visibility diving conditions.

The team also responded to multiple recovery incidents throughout the year, helping provide answers and closure for affected families.



Community Health

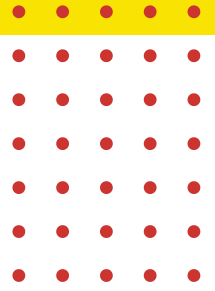
Metro West believes community health extends beyond emergency response and includes education, prevention, and long term support for residents. The district's community health program works to connect individuals and families with healthcare resources while helping residents safely maintain their independence and quality of life.

Services provided through the program include care coordination, health education, home safety assessments, fall prevention strategies, and assistance navigating available community resources. The program is especially valuable for older adults, individuals managing chronic medical conditions, patients recently discharged from the hospital, and caregivers seeking additional support.

By focusing on proactive outreach and personalized care, Metro West continues working to improve the overall health and well being of the community both inside and outside of emergency situations.



Division of Fire Prevention



The Metro West Bureau of Fire Prevention continues working to reduce fire risk and enhance public safety through education, code enforcement, inspections, and community outreach. Fire inspectors evaluate residential, commercial, and industrial properties while partnering closely with local building officials to promote safe construction and development throughout the district.

In 2025, the district officially adopted the 2021 International Fire Code (IFC), the 2021 International Building Code (IBC), and Ordinance No. 122, ensuring enforcement practices remain current and aligned with nationally recognized safety standards.

Late in the year, the district launched a new Home Safety Consultation Program focused on proactive residential engagement and fire prevention education. The program quickly proved successful in expanding community outreach and helping residents identify and address potential safety concerns within their homes.



According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes with no or inoperable smoke alarms.

External Affairs

Metro West maintains a professional and intentional public presence through public education, media relations, community outreach, and social media engagement. By sharing educational, informative, and positive messaging, the district strengthens connections with the community, promotes transparency, respects individual privacy, and helps keep residents informed about the services and programs provided by the district.



Public Education

Firefighter/paramedics serve as fire and life safety educators, delivering structured programs designed to promote safer behaviors and improve community awareness. These educational efforts reach a wide range of audiences, including schools, retirement communities, civic organizations, and community groups throughout the district.

Public Relations

District members regularly connect with residents through community events, neighborhood gatherings, station tours, and fire truck demonstrations, helping strengthen relationships while positively representing Metro West throughout the community.





School Resource Officers

Metro West utilizes a School Resource Officer program which assigns firefighter/paramedics to schools throughout the district. These members provide fire and life safety education, build relationships with students and staff, and help strengthen connections between the fire district and the community.

Media Relations

Maintaining strong relationships with local media partners allows Metro West to share timely, accurate, and reliable information with the community. These partnerships help keep residents informed, prepared, and connected during emergencies, major incidents, and public education initiatives.



Social Media

Metro West maintains a professional and intentional online presence by highlighting the work of its personnel and the essential services provided to the community. By focusing on positive messaging, public education, community engagement, and respect for individual privacy, the district helps foster trust, connection, and community pride.



Honor Guard

The Metro West Honor Guard serves as a ceremonial unit dedicated to representing the district with professionalism, pride, and respect. Honor Guard members participate in firefighter funerals, memorial services, retirement ceremonies, promotional events, and community gatherings throughout the region.

In 2025, Honor Guard members participated in the annual International Association of Fire Fighters Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial Ceremony in Colorado Springs. The ceremony honors firefighters who died in the line of duty, as well as firefighters whose deaths were linked to occupational cancer and reported to the IAFF during the year.

Through their commitment to tradition, service, and remembrance, the Metro West Honor Guard reflects the deep respect the district holds for the fire service and those who have sacrificed in the line of duty.



2

Funeral Honors

9

Community Events



The Phoenix Award

The Metro West Phoenix Award is presented to a firefighter/paramedic who has assisted in three clinical saves, incidents where a patient in cardiac arrest achieves return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC). ROSC marks the critical moment when the heart begins beating effectively on its own after stopping, often as a result of timely CPR and skilled emergency care. This award honors the life-saving impact of first responders and their role in giving patients a second chance at life.

First Phoenix Award

Nick Harre, Firefighter/Paramedic
Michael Hotop, Firefighter/Paramedic
Austin Miller, Firefighter/Paramedic
Curtis Peffermann, Firefighter/Paramedic
Michael Rickman, Firefighter/Paramedic

Second Phoenix Award

Zach DeSalme, Firefighter/Paramedic
Brandon Folk, Firefighter/Paramedic
Daniel Holguin, Firefighter/Paramedic
Pat McDermott, Captain
Brandon Myers, Firefighter/Paramedic

Third Phoenix Award

Katie Carr, Firefighter/Paramedic
Chris Merrill, Lieutenant

Fourth Phoenix Award

Jamie Hoisington, Firefighter/Paramedic
Zach Jones, Firefighter/Paramedic
Johnie Ray Moss, Firefighter/Paramedic
Tim Sutter, Firefighter/Paramedic

Fifth Phoenix Award

Tom Bauer, Engineer
Ben Burrow, Firefighter/Paramedic
Tim George, Captain
Jake LeSeure, Captain
Kyle Sanders, Captain

Sixth Phoenix Award

James Bell, Engineer
Stephen Guilford, Captain

Seventh Phoenix Award

Scott Hulse, Captain
Tom Meyers, Engineer
Matt Seger, Captain

Eighth Phoenix Award

Jeff Wingate, Firefighter/Paramedic



Commission on Fire Accreditation International

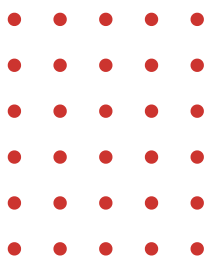
Metro West submitted a comprehensive annual compliance report to the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). The report, required to maintain active accredited status, was accepted by the commission for accreditation at the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

CFAI accreditation is an all-hazard, quality improvement model based on risk analysis and self-assessment. It promotes the establishment of community-adopted performance targets for fire and emergency service agencies.

Metro West is one of only six fire organizations in the State of Missouri and one of only 337 in the world to receive accreditation from CFAI.



Only 14% of the
US population is protected
by an accredited fire agency.



PulsePoint

PulsePoint continues to play a vital role in strengthening Metro West's chain of survival by empowering CPR-trained citizens to act during sudden cardiac emergencies. This innovative app alerts nearby responders simultaneously with fire/EMS, helping reduce the critical time between collapse and the start of life-saving interventions like CPR and defibrillation. By notifying trained bystanders already in the area, PulsePoint enhances the potential for positive outcomes. The free PulsePoint app can be down-loaded via the QR code shown.



PulsePoint

**BE A LIFE
SAVER.**

Be alerted to sudden cardiac arrests
in your immediate vicinity, so that you
can start CPR in the critical minutes
before EMS teams arrive.

Learn more at pulsepoint.org
Download PulsePoint Respond



Stations

Station 1

14835 Manchester Road, Ballwin



Ladder Company 3315
EMS Unit 3317
Engine Company 3310
Marine Unit 33B1

3,201
TOTAL RESPONSES

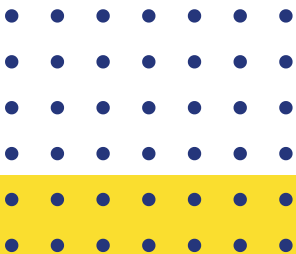
Station 2

1000 New Ballwin Road, Ballwin



Engine Company 3320
EMS Unit 3327
Marine Unit 3329
33-UTV-2

1,526
TOTAL RESPONSES



Station 3

17065 Manchester Road, Wildwood



Ladder Company 3332
EMS Unit 3337
Tanker 3333
Reserve Engine 3330
Reserve EMS Unit 3377
Reserve EMS Unit 3397

2,471
TOTAL RESPONSES

Station 4

16060 Clayton Road, Ellisville



Engine Company 3344
Rescue Company 3346
EMS Unit 3347
Dive Rescue Unit DIVE-33
Shift Chief 3302

3,918
TOTAL RESPONSES

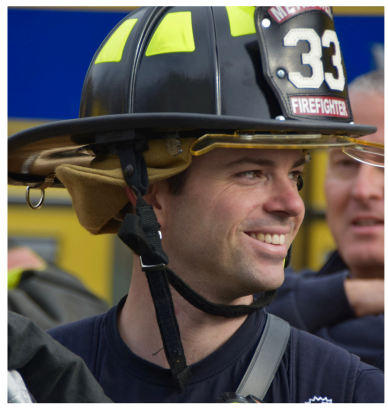
Station 5

18601 Starck Lane, Wildwood



Engine Company 3350
EMS Unit 3357
33-UTV-5

913
TOTAL RESPONSES





METRO WEST FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

17065 Manchester Road
Wildwood, Missouri 63040
636-458-2100
metrowest-fire.org