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# VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

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2025 Quarter 2 Report



## Message From the Chief:

As we reach the midpoint of the year, I want to take a moment to recognize the momentum we're building—both on the front lines and behind the scenes. Q2 brought challenges, progress, and a growing sense of pride in what we're working toward together. Our call volume is trending to set another record for the year.

We responded to a steady volume of calls while maintaining a strong focus on community presence. Whether it was hosting family nights, updating our public messaging, or preparing for our upcoming "Behind the Bay Doors" open house, our team continued to show up with purpose. I'm especially encouraged by the early traction we're seeing in our recruitment and retention efforts. We've launched new outreach strategies and begun holding ourselves, and each other, to higher standards of engagement and accountability. This accountability is what is going to drive this department into the future.

Our grant writing team is continuing to seek funding for station improvements, enhancing our capabilities, and providing a better service to our community. We have several significant projects underway, including a drone response task force, and continuing plans to bring all of our equipment up to date.

This quarter also saw major success with our Off-Road Ride fundraiser. Thanks to the support of riders, sponsors, and volunteers, the event not only helped raise funds, but it also strengthened our bond with the community and brought in fresh energy and awareness to our mission. Looking ahead, we're gearing up for our 2nd annual Chili Cookoff on November 1st, and we're excited to welcome our neighbors, families, and local businesses for a fun and flavorful competition.

Finally, I want to express my personal thanks. Your hours, your commitment, and your belief in what Valley Fire & Rescue stands for make a lasting difference. Let's keep building on what we've started.

We're just getting started.

– **Chief Zach Adkins**  
Valley Fire & Rescue



## **Mission Statement:**

The members of the Valley Fire & Rescue Inc. department shall strive to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the communities through fire suppression services, pre-fire planning, and public education. We will serve these communities to the best of our abilities and training. We are committed to continuously improving our understanding of the communities of Valley Fire & Rescue Inc. in the State of West Virginia, Mason County.

## **Leadership Team:**

### **Line Officers:**

**Chief:** Zachary Adkins

**Deputy Chief:** Nathan McQueen

**Assistant Chief:** Open

**Captain:** Brandon Armstrong

**First Lieutenant:** Tyler Bonecutter

**Second Lieutenant:** Open

### **Leadership:**

**President:** John Hesson

**Vice President:** Roger Bennett

**Secretary/Public Information Officer:** Luke Tilka

**Treasurer:** Steve Tilka

### **Board of Directors:**

Lacey Parsons

Bobby Plybon

Jamie Dean



## **2025 Quarter 2 Emergency Response Statistics:**

Number of Calls Responded: 57

Requests for Assistance: 59

Mutual Aid Received: 12

Mutual Aid Given: 7

Automatic Aid Received: 15

Automatic Aid Given: 2

Average Response Time: 13.11 Minutes

Average Members per Response: 6.1

### **Fire:**

Structure: 5

Other: 4

Brush: 0

False Alarm: 1

Vehicle: 3

### **Rescue:**

Motor Vehicle Accident – no injuries: 7

Power Line/Tree Down: 2

Motor Vehicle Accident – injuries: 2

Severe Weather-Related Incidents: 13

Motor Vehicle Accident – entrapment: 2

Other: 9

Water Rescue: 1

Move Up Coverage: 0

Hazardous Condition: 2

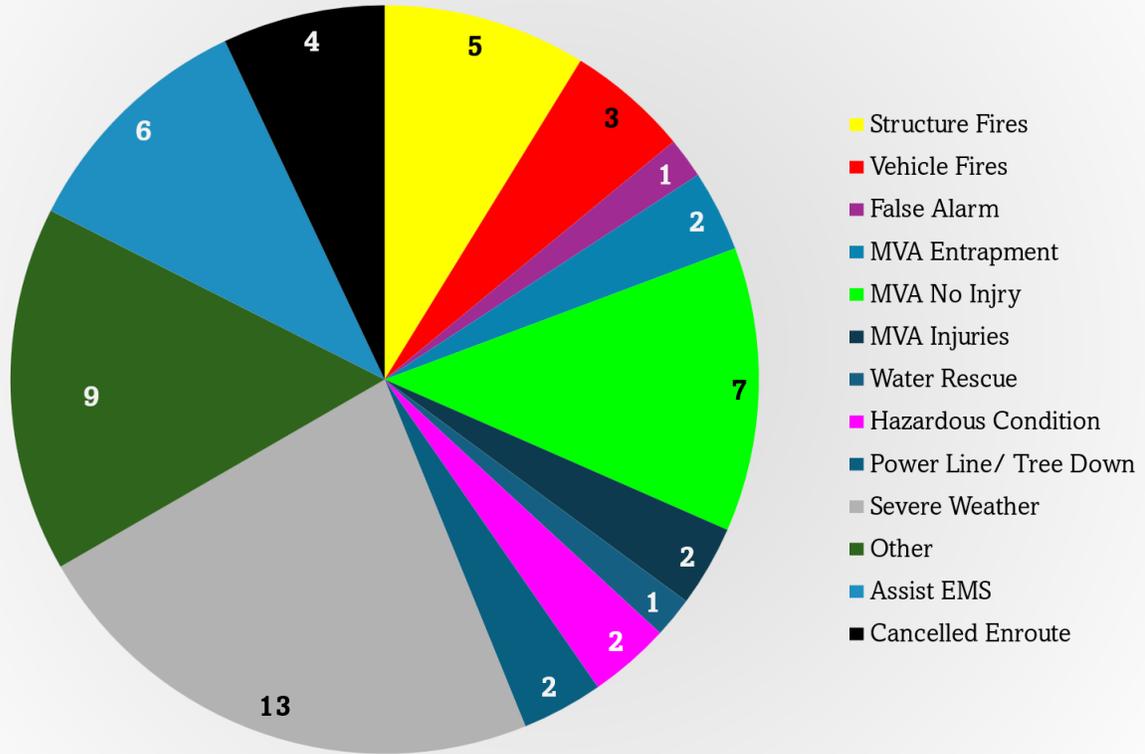
Assist EMS: 6

Medical Response: 0

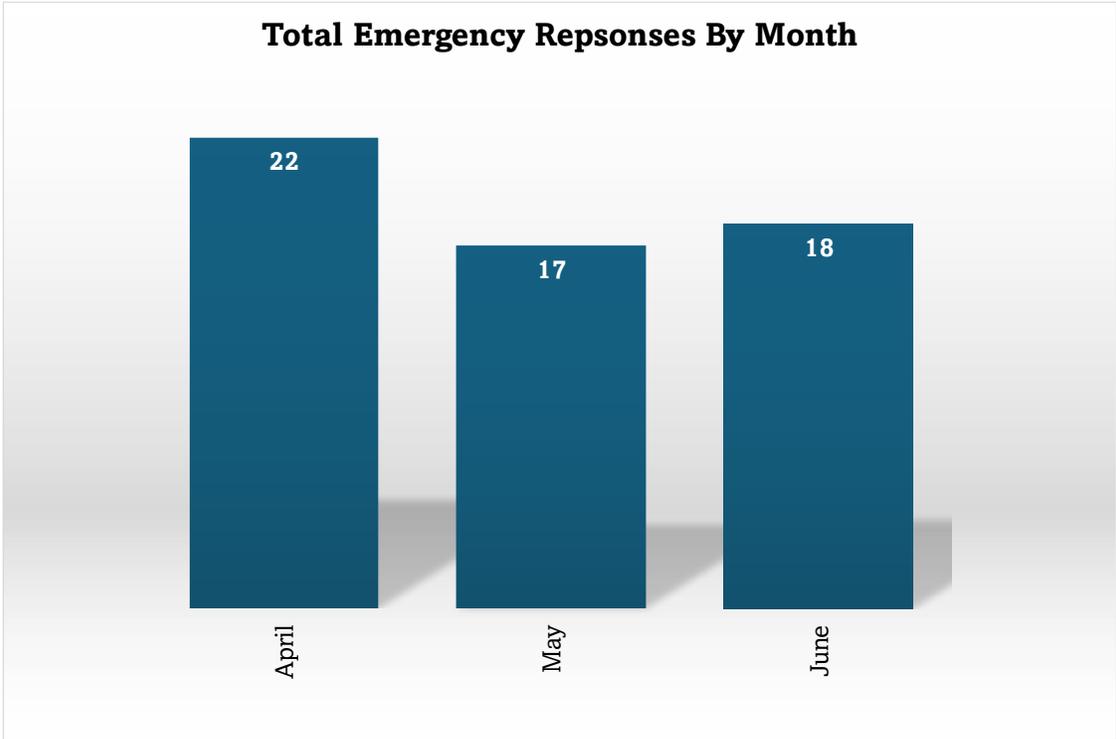
Cancelled Enroute: 4



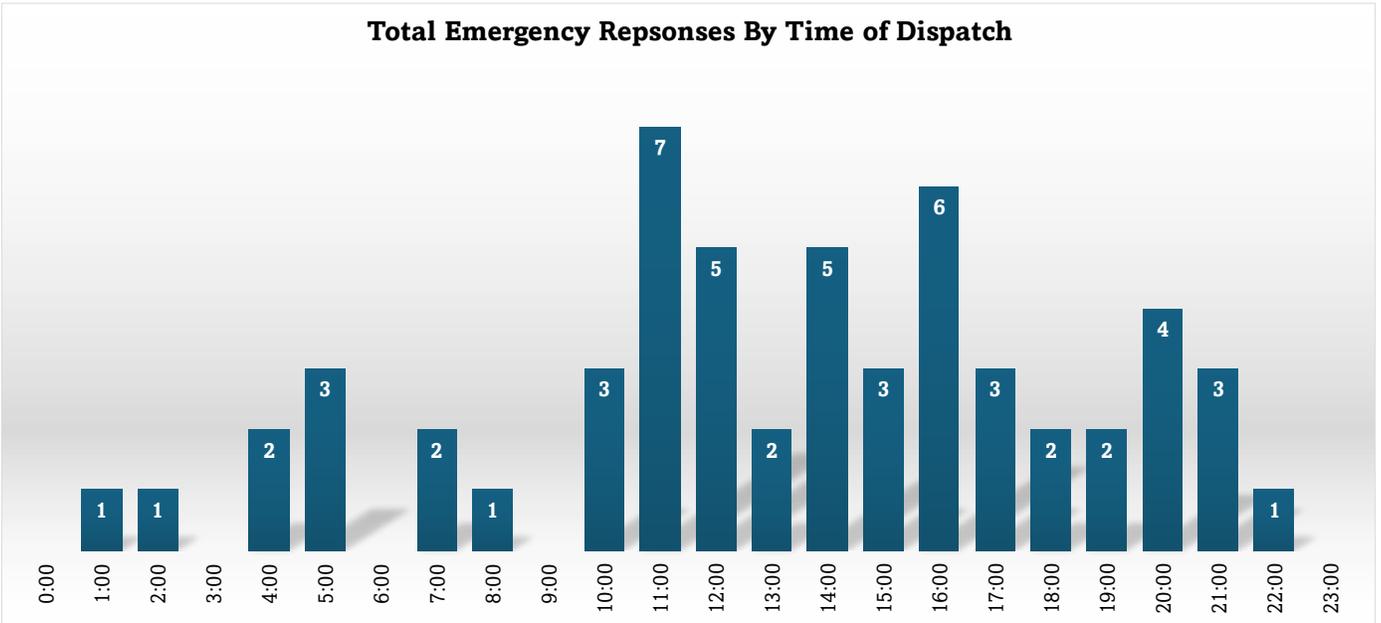
## 2025 Q2 Emergency Responses By Category



### Total Emergency Repsonses By Month



### Total Emergency Repsonses By Time of Dispatch



## **Incident Highlights:**



### **Severe Weather Response:**

#### **April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

After a round of severe storms hit the Apple Grove area, Valley Fire & Rescue responded to 10 storm-related calls. Incidents included downed trees across roadways, structural damage, and one motor vehicle accident. Crews remained deployed throughout the night, addressing hazards and assisting with roadway clearance and scene safety.



### **Structure Fire – Keister Road:**

#### **June 21, 2025**

Units responded to a fully involved structure fire in the 700 block of Keister Road. Engine 21, Tanker 24, and Truck 27 operated on scene, with mutual aid from Ohio River Road VFD. A 1.5” hose line and deluge gun were used for fire suppression. Water shuttle operations were established. Winfield was canceled enroute. The structure was extinguished, and the cause remains undetermined.





## **MVA with Power Lines – Huntington Road:**

**June 28<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Units were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines with active fire. Chief 201 established command. Engine 21 and Rescue 23 responded and assisted with traffic control and scene security. Huntington Road and Ashton Upland Road were closed due to low-hanging lines. AEP disconnected power upon arrival. The vehicle was removed by Stapleton Towing, and the scene was turned over to AEP.



## Training Highlights:



**Cabell County Chief's Fire Academy:** Valley Fire & Rescue members attended the Cabell County Chiefs Fire Academy during April. The multi-day training event brought together departments from across the region for structured, scenario-based instruction. Training topics included tactical thermal imaging, advanced pump operations, rural water supply, and heavy vehicle extrication. The academy provided participants with hands-on experience aimed at reinforcing core firefighting skills and introducing updated techniques aligned with current



**Rope Rescue Operations Training:** Members participated in rope operations training focused on constructing and utilizing 3-in-1 rope systems. These systems are essential for technical rescue scenarios involving the safe raising and lowering of personnel or equipment. The hands-on training provided members with valuable experience in system setup, mechanical advantage, and coordination—critical components in rescue readiness.





### **IFSAC Firefighter 2 Course:**

Valley Fire & Rescue hosted an IFSAC-accredited Firefighter 2 course during Quarter 2, with participants from four counties attending. The course covered advanced firefighting techniques and knowledge required for Firefighter 2 certification under the standards of the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). The program concluded with practical skill evaluations and written testing, and all participants successfully met the requirements for certification.



## **Member Spotlights:**

### **Luke Tilka, Zachary Adkins, Brendan Langsdorf, Nathan McQueen, and Wesley Amores**

Completed the NFPA 1006 Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations certification during Quarter 2. This training focused on technical rescue scenarios involving rope systems, mechanical advantage setups, and safe victim removal. The certification strengthens our department's technical rescue capabilities and ensures members are equipped to assist in complex rescue operations both locally and in mutual aid responses.

### **Bandon Armstrong, DC Janicker, Heather Lang, John Tilton, Katrina Tilton, and Emilee Wallace**

Successfully completed ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents instructed by Chief Adkins. This course prepares responders to manage incidents that extend beyond initial response, including events requiring multi-agency coordination and resource management. Completion of ICS-300 supports compliance with NIMS (National Incident Management System) standards and enhances our department's readiness for larger-scale emergencies.

### **DC Janicker, Zach Adkins, and Luke Tilka**

Identified and corrected issues with the station's septic system, including replacing a clogged leach line. This in-house maintenance avoided the need for contracted services and helped prevent further damage. Their efforts resulted in substantial cost savings for the department and ensured the system remained operational.

### **John Tilton and Davian Dowden**

Earned their IFSAC Firefighter II certification during Quarter 2. This advanced-level certification builds upon Firefighter I skills and includes training in incident command, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials operations, and advanced firefighting tactics. Their accomplishment demonstrates a strong commitment to professional development and further increases the operational capabilities of Valley Fire & Rescue.



## Quarter 2 Accomplishments:



### **New LED Sign Installation:**

Our new LED sign funded through the SAFER grant was installed this quarter and now serves as a dynamic tool for community outreach. The sign allows us to display real-time recruitment messages, event notices, and important updates to better engage with the public and grow our volunteer base.



### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual ATV Ride:**

In June, Valley Fire & Rescue hosted its first-ever ATV Ride, bringing together community members for a day of fun, scenic riding, and local support. With an impressive turnout and dozens of off-road vehicles lined up, the event helped raise funds for department needs while building connections with the residents we serve. We're already looking forward to making this an annual tradition.



## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Behind the Bay Doors Open House Event**– *July 23rd*

Intermediate-level Incident Command System training for expanding incidents.

### **ICS-400** – *August 16*

Advanced ICS training focused on large-scale and complex incident management.

### **Mutual Aid Live Fire Training** – *August 23 at 8:00pm*

Joint training with neighboring departments to enhance coordination and readiness in live fire scenarios.

### **Chili Cook-Off** – *November 1*

Annual community gathering and fundraiser. Come hungry and ready to vote for your favorite recipe!



## **Goals for Q3**

We appreciate the continued support of our members, partners, and community. As we move into the next quarter, we remain committed to progress, preparedness, and service.

By December 31, 2025, reduce our average emergency response time to under 15 minutes from the time of dispatch, measured monthly via incident logs.

Recruit at least 3 new volunteer firefighter applicants during our Fall 2025 Open House event by promoting the opportunity through flyers, social media, and school outreach beginning in August.

Establish formal operational protocols and train at least 2 certified drone pilots by October 1, 2025, through partnerships with at least one agency or training provider.

Apply for at least 2 grants and engage 3 local sponsors by March 2026 to secure funding aimed at advancing our safety and equipment.

Host a minimum of 4 community engagement or public education events by June 2026 to improve public awareness of department services and volunteer opportunities.

Increase monthly training attendance to at least 75% of active members by January 2026 by sending reminders, adding varied training formats, and recognizing consistent participants.

