

SOUTH DAYTONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025

PREPARED BY:

Kendra Williams

Location:

1672 S Ridgewood Ave
South Daytona, FL 32119



Message from Chief Brant...

As we close out February, I want to take a moment to recognize the dedication and hard work of our firefighters throughout the month. Our department faced a demanding period, responding to several high-acuity calls, including cardiac emergencies, gunshot wounds, and overdoses. Their swift actions and professionalism in these critical moments undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of those they served.

Firefighter health and wellness remain a top priority. This month, we provided One-Blood Cancer Screening for our personnel. Given the heightened cancer risks associated with our profession, these screenings focused on early detection of cancers that firefighters are more prone to be diagnosed. Proactive healthcare measures like these are essential in ensuring the long-term well-being of our firefighters and reflect our ongoing commitment to occupational safety.

Our hiring process was in full swing this month as we sought to recruit new firefighters. Candidates participated in a comprehensive selection process, which included interviews, EMS scenario, and a physical agility test. These assessments were designed to ensure that new hires possess the critical thinking, endurance, and skill set necessary to perform effectively in both fire suppression and emergency medical situations.

This month, our crews dedicated significant effort to pre-fire plans, training, and station projects. The fire station is more than just a workplace—it's our home, and maintaining a clean, efficient, and safe environment requires continuous hard work. We prioritize safety and minimize risks by staying organized and upholding high standards of cleanliness.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication throughout February. Your efforts—both in emergency response and station improvements—continue to strengthen our department and enhance our ability to serve the community. Let's carry this momentum forward as we move into March.

Stay safe and stay ready.

Sincerely,



**Fire Chief
South Daytona Fire Department**



A-SHIFT

Steven Evancho - Driver Engineer/Paramedic

Scott Ryan - Firefighter/EMT

Logan Gindner - Firefighter/EMT

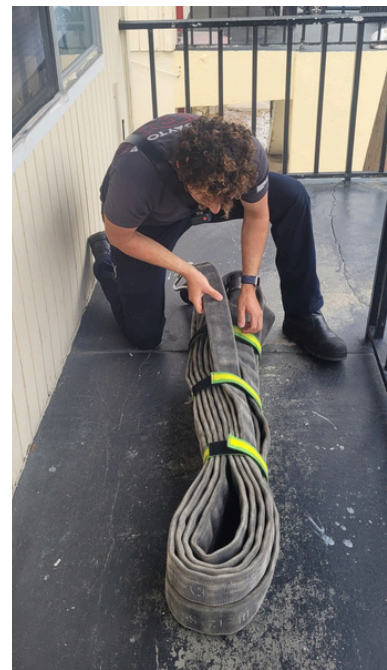
February, A-shift continued to work on training and start pre incident plans. We were able to train on the new high rise preload that we learned out at the county training facility last month. 2050 Ridge Apartments was very nice to allow us to train with one of their units, this helped us with testing which method would be the fastest and if the 75ft high rise hose would reach the back of the second story unit. A-shift continued to train with deploying a 2 ½ hose line and work on hose advancements, exposure loops and hydrant connection training out at Fosters way. A-shift spent some time over at our second station as well on Brian Ave working on searches, forcible entry, ladder training and more hose deployment and advancements throughout a structure.

During the month A-Shift was able to start working on completing pre incident plans throughout the city's businesses. These plans help with information about the building, location, pictures, means of egress, hazards and locations of hydrants. Our goal is to have every business done in the city by the end of the year. We were able to complete pre incident plans in the following stores; Sunshyne Furniture and Decor, High Fly Hobbies, Arkham Asylum Comics, War Games USA, Daytona Ice Rink, ET&T Distributions, La Baskios Jewelry, King Donut and Deli, Wholesale Lightning, Walgreens, Sandy Point Progressive Sports, Blue Water Pool Supplies and Services and Rossi's Dinner. Depending on the size of the walk through, each business can take up to thirty minutes to an hour to complete a pre incident plan.

Station 98 continues to be under renovation as A-shift helps with preparing to paint, replace ceiling tiles, clean up the bays and date and place new fire hose in service. A-Shift installed a Knox Box at a residential house and also helped install smoke detectors in others. DE Evancho attended a pediatric course that will be used to train the firefighters at South Daytona on the new Handtevy system. This system will make running on pediatric patients faster and less stressful. FF Gindner and FF Ryan continue to excel in their paramedic program as FF Gindner is in second semester and FF Ryan is in the fourth.

A-shift continues to perform all these tasks while doing the daily truck checks, weekly truck checks, running EMS calls, running fire calls, completing EMS and fire related reports on time, daily duties, Target Solutions and finding time to perform physical fitness each day.

February, A-shift rode into the hospital one time for a critical patient with the Volusia County Ambulance Service. A-Shift responded to smoke in a structure in Daytona Beach and was able to make entry into the apartment, find and put out the fire and perform a search where one dog was found and rescued.



A-SHIFT Continued

Steven Evancho - Driver Engineer/Paramedic

Scott Ryan - Firefighter/EMT

Logan Gindner - Firefighter/EMT

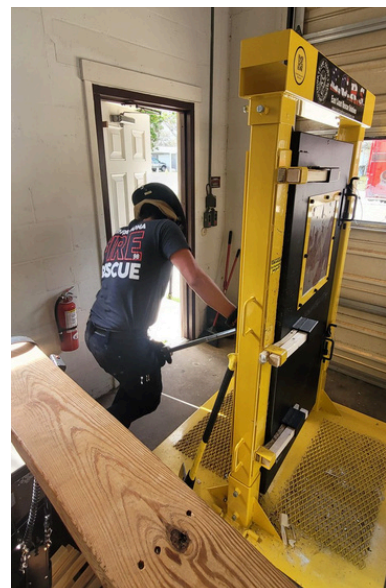
The South Daytona Fire Department recently conducted a new hire process, and DE Evancho and FF Ryan were chosen to be on the interview board. On February 18th, A-Shift welcomed FF Valiente to our department.

He is already proving to be a valuable asset to the team due to his education and previous experience in the fire service. We are excited to have him onboard and expect great things from him! Additionally, DE Jarvis has been moved from C-Shift to A-Shift, where he will bring his experience and knowledge to the crew. At the end of February, Scott Ryan will be leaving the South Daytona Fire Department, as he has accepted a position with Volusia County Fire.



- February's Total Combined Training Hours for A-Shift - 75.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)

*The future belongs to those who
believe in the beauty of their dreams.
~ Eleanor Roosevelt*



B-SHIFT

Chad Hubeck - Driver Engineer/Medic

Julian Valiente - Firefighter/Medic

Michael Matos - Firefighter/EMT

Shawn Mercready - Firefighter/EMT



B-Shift remained highly engaged in both operational and training activities, ensuring continued excellence in service delivery and personnel development during the month of February.

B-Shift played an integral role in the department's interview process for new hires. The team assisted with EMS scenario evaluations and physical agility performance tests to assess candidate readiness. Additionally, prospective candidates participated in structured interviews conducted by a designated interview board.

As part of our continued effort to strengthen the team, B-Shift welcomed two new recruits: **FF/Paramedic Julian Valiente** and **FF/EMT Shawn Mercready**. Both have undergone an extensive orientation program, which included:

- Hose deployment drills
- Hydrant operations for supply
- Forcible entry techniques
- EMS training and protocol review
- Area familiarization

We are excited to have them join the team and look forward to their growth within the department.

E98 responded to numerous emergency and non-emergency calls throughout the month. Among the most significant were **two respiratory arrest incidents**, which required advanced airway management techniques and seamless coordination with **VCEMS**. These calls underscored the importance of teamwork and efficiency in critical patient care situations.

This training ensures continued skill development and readiness for various emergency scenarios. **DE/PM Hubeck attended a 24-hour ICS-300 course** in Seminole County. This advanced training provided in-depth knowledge of the **Incident Command System (ICS)** focusing on managing emergency incidents and planned events at a **Type 3 level**. This training enhances our capacity to handle complex incidents effectively.



February was a productive month for B-Shift, marked by successful hiring, extensive training, and strong operational performance. The addition of new recruits and continued professional development of our personnel reinforces our commitment to excellence in emergency response and public safety.

- February's Total Combined Training Hours for B-Shift - 85.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)

C-SHIFT

Lieutenant Jason Taylor - Paramedic
Ernie Jarvis - Driver Engineer/Medic
Jordan Nield - Firefighter/EMT
Cameron Fischer - Firefighter/EMT

Throughout the month of February, C-Shift responded to several high-acuity calls, ranging from cardiac anomalies requiring emergency interventions to gunshot wounds and overdoses. In addition to our emergency responses, we took the initiative to improve station organization and safety by installing exterior cabinets. This effort has helped create a more organized and hazard-free bay area, ensuring that firefighters can access the engine more efficiently during emergencies.



Over the years, the bay area had accumulated excessive clutter and workplace hazards that interfered with daily operations. Now, with everything having a designated place, the space is significantly safer and more functional. Additionally, the EMS inventory has been relocated inside to a climate-controlled environment in the lieutenant's office, where a secure safe has also been installed for narcotics storage.

- This month, we focused on developing a new training memorandum outlining our updated SOPs for conducting and integrating pre-incident planning into the mobile application FLOW MSP. This digital platform stores vital pre-incident information, allowing not only our department but also other agencies to access critical details in the event of an emergency or fire. This includes gate codes, Knox Box locations, hydrant placements, and more. This transition marks a significant improvement over our previous system, where pre-incident plans were manually typed or handwritten in physical books. Moving forward, this will be an ongoing process, with each shift conducting annual updates to ensure the information remains current. This month, we successfully completed 15 pre-incident inspections.
- We conducted a comprehensive hiring process to recruit new firefighters. This included structured interviews, EMS scenarios to assess medical proficiency and decision-making under pressure, and a physical agility test to evaluate candidates' ability to meet the demanding physical requirements of the job. These assessments ensured that prospective hires possess the necessary skills, endurance, and critical thinking needed to excel in both fire and EMS operations.
- Physical fitness remains a top priority, directly impacting performance and safety on the fireground. This month, we focused on a well-rounded regimen, including gear workouts, cardio, and strength training. Gear workouts build stamina in full PPE, simulating fireground demands, while cardio enhances endurance for prolonged incidents. Strength training improves muscle conditioning for hose advancements forcible entry, and rescues. Maintaining peak fitness is essential for readiness, injury prevention, and overall firefighter well-being.





C-SHIFT Continued

Lieutenant Jason Taylor - Paramedic
Ernie Jarvis - Driver Engineer/Medic
Jordan Nield - Firefighter/EMT
Cameron Fischer - Firefighter/EMT

- As firefighters, we take pride in being versatile and ready to tackle any task. This month, we installed a new ceiling fan and replaced ceiling tiles in the kitchen and living area, helping to improve the station's workspace and living conditions. These updates are part of the preparations for our upcoming kitchen remodel, ensuring a more functional and comfortable environment for the crew.
- We met with Battalion 10 from Volusia County Fire Rescue, who serves as the designated Hazmat Battalion Chief for our area, to enhance our understanding of hazardous materials response. The training took place at the Votran bus station, where we conducted a thorough review of potential hazards, including diesel spills, LP leaks, and other fuel-related risks. This discussion provided valuable insight into mitigation strategies, response tactics, and interagency coordination to ensure efficient and safe operations during hazmat incidents. Strengthening our knowledge in these areas improves our readiness to handle complex hazardous materials situations effectively.
- This month, our department partnered with One-Blood to conduct cancer screenings for our firefighters, reinforcing our commitment to early detection and long-term health monitoring. Given the heightened cancer risks associated with firefighting due to exposure to carcinogens, these screenings focused on detecting potential blood cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma through comprehensive blood analysis. The initiative ensures that firefighters receive proactive healthcare interventions, allowing for early diagnosis and improved treatment outcomes if needed. This effort aligns with our ongoing commitment to firefighter wellness, emphasizing the importance of preventive health measures in mitigating occupational risks.
- February's Total Combined Training Hours for A-Shift - 119.5 (recorded through Target Solutions)



South Daytona Fire Department

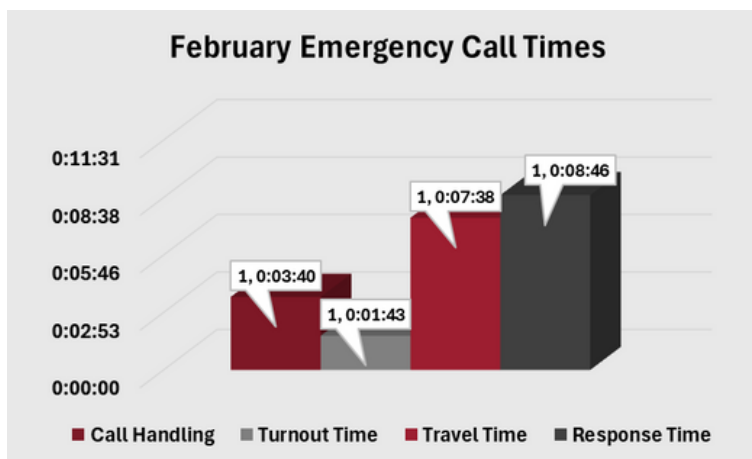


98 Total number of completed Annual Fire Inspections for February.



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Feb. 4th - Our department undertook a comprehensive hiring process aimed at strengthening our team. We evaluated a total of nine candidates, each bringing a unique set of skills and experiences to the table.
- Feb. 6th - CPR Training was held at the Piggotte Community Center for Citizens Alert, Citizens Patrol, CERT members, and members of the community.
- Feb. 18th - New hire Firefighter/Paramedic Julian Valiente officially joined our team for his 1st shift on duty.
- Feb. 25th - New hire Firefighter/EMT Shawn Mercready officially joined our team for his 1st shift on duty.
- Feb. 26th - 2024 Firefighter of the Year Jordan Nield was recognized during the Port Orange South Daytona Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Mayor's Dinner. During this event local Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and First Responders were recognized and celebrated for their sacrifices, dedication, and commitment to protecting and serving our community.





Community Risk Reduction Program

Kendra Williams

S.A.F.E. Resident Outreach Program:

S - Spot the Need **A** - Assess the Situation **F** - Facilitate Assistance **E** - Educate & Evaluate

Throughout the month, I monitor Zoll, the program through which our crews document their calls to assess if anyone who has reached out through the 911 system might be identified as needing assistance with additional resources to help keep them safe within their homes without continuously relying on the 911 system for that assistance. During February, 3 residents were identified as possibly needing assistance through the S.A.F.E. program.

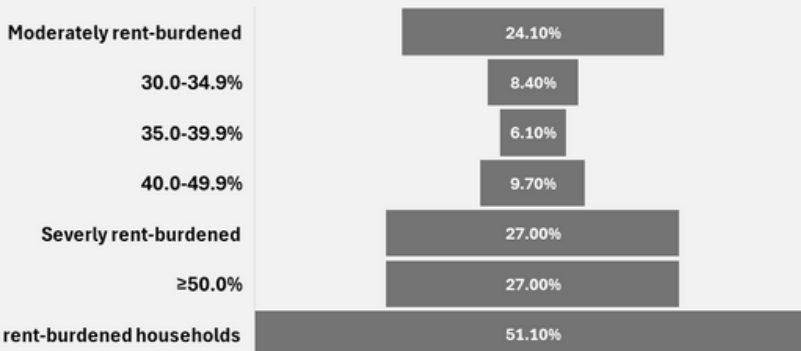
The program currently has one resident enrolled. During February, the S.A.F.E. Resident Outreach Program continued working with the resident enrolled in the program since November. I am currently working diligently to try to locate the resident elderly income-based housing so that they can finally have appropriate housing that is safe and warm. Locating him housing is proving to be difficult due to the lack of affordable housing availability.

The goal of the program is to assist residents with resources and assistance they may need as quickly as possible. Once this is accomplished, residents are discharged from the program, preferably no longer than 120 days from enrollment. Every case is different and treated on an individual basis, based solely on their individual needs, so enrollment length will always vary.

Below are some statistics concerning Volusia County's renter population:

54.4% Median Rent Increase (2010-2021)

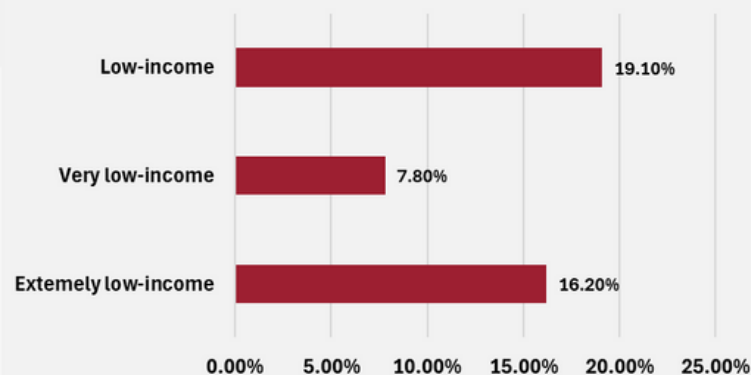
Rent-Burdened Households



Affordable Housing Stock

Supply (current stock)	983
Demand (total units needed)	15,542
Shortage	14,863

Low-Income Renter Households



Operations

Commander Don Howard

After careful consideration, we are pleased to announce that two candidates were selected during our interview process to join our ranks.

The first candidate, Julian Valiente, is a highly qualified firefighter paramedic with over ten years of experience in fire service, specifically from Lake County. His extensive background in emergency response and patient care equips him with the knowledge and expertise needed to excel in this role. His commitment to community service and his proven ability to work under pressure make him an invaluable asset to our department.

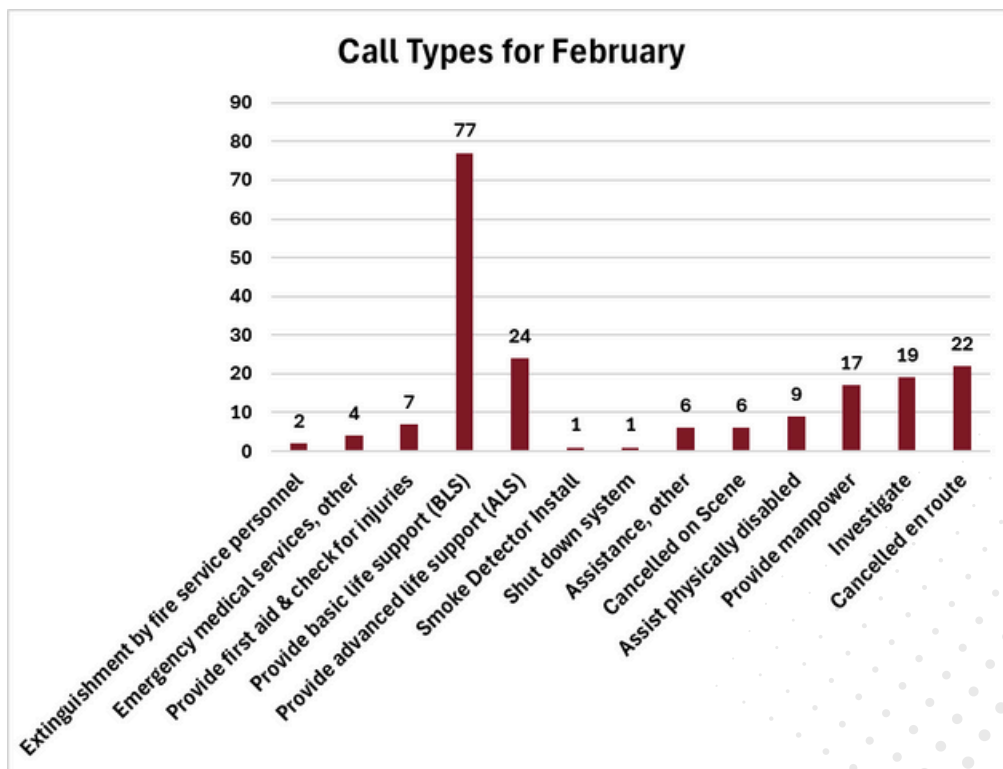
The second candidate, Shawn Mcready, has recently entered the fire service as a firefighter EMT. Despite being new to the field, Shawn brings a fresh perspective and a strong eagerness to learn. His determination and enthusiasm for firefighting reflect his dedication to the profession.

Currently, we have two additional positions that need to be filled. Both Julian and Shawn are exceptionally hard-working individuals who will undoubtedly contribute significantly to our department's mission to serve and protect our community while helping to drive our initiatives forward. We look forward to their contributions as they embark on this new chapter in their careers with us..



195 Total Calls

23 Calls to the County



Operations Continued

Commander Don Howard

Automatic aid was rendered to our city a total of 16 times by the following surrounding cities:

12 Port Orange **3 Daytona Beach** **1 Daytona Beach Shores**

Additionally, we have included a graph that details call volume categorized by the days of the week. It's important to note that these call volumes fluctuate throughout the year due to various factors, but our data reveals that Monday consistently emerges as the busiest day of the week for calls. Notably, in this chart, Fridays and Saturdays also stand out as the days with the highest call volume, indicating a potential surge in activity during the weekends. Such patterns can help us better allocate resources and prepare for peak times.

