



# ST. PETERSBURG FIRE RESCUE

## IMPACT REPORT



# ST. PETERSBURG FIRE RESCUE

On behalf of the entire St. Petersburg Fire Rescue family,

I'm proud to present our annual Impact Report, highlighting our team's accomplishments and dedication throughout an unprecedented year.

Despite unique challenges, including responding to various emergencies and navigating three hurricanes—a first for many of us—our members demonstrated exceptional courage, professionalism, and resilience.

Beyond our exceptional emergency response, we've significantly expanded our community outreach and fire prevention education programs which are crucial for building a safer community and protecting our personnel.

Our achievements reflect the unwavering support and trust of our community, for which we are deeply grateful. As we look forward, SPFR remains committed to innovation, sustainable growth, and continually exceeding your expectations.

I'm incredibly proud of our team's dedication to excellence and inspired daily by their commitment. Together, we'll continue striving to provide the highest level of service to our community.

Sincerely,



*Fire Rescue Chief Keith Watts*





## MISSION

St. Petersburg Fire Rescue is committed to serving and protecting the lives and property of the St. Petersburg community with **exceptional emergency services, public education, and community involvement.**

## VALUES

We value **Respect.**

We value **Accountability.**

We value **Trust.**

We value **Empowerment.**

## ACCREDITATION

St. Petersburg Fire Rescue (SPFR) upholds the highest standards in fire protection and emergency management, earning an **ISO-Class 1** rating and accreditations from the **Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE)** and the **Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)**—three of the most prestigious distinctions in public safety. As of 2024, SPFR is one of only 312 accredited departments worldwide and among the elite 123 that have earned an ISO-Class 1 rating.



# ST. PETERSBURG FIRE RESCUE

## RESPONSE DATA

Total Annual Incidents: **67,043**

- Hurricane-Related Responses: **3,344**

EMS Responses: **57,049**

Fire Suppression Responses: **9,994**

## PERSONNEL

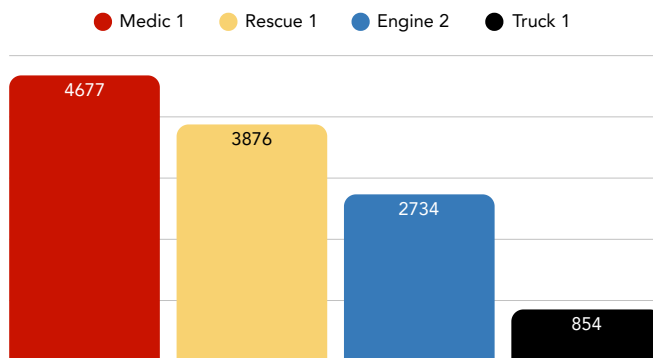
Uniformed Members: **394**

Civilian Staff: **42**

Fire Stations: **13**

Frontline Apparatus: **33**

## UNIT RESPONSE BY TYPE



## SPECIALTY TEAMS

Marine/ Dive Rescues: **164**

Hazardous Material Responses: **341**

Technical Rescue Responses: **17**

## TRAINING

Total Annual Training: **99,238** hours

New Engine Driver Certifications: **16**

## DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Throughout 2024, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated multiple times, including full activations for **Hurricanes Helene** and **Milton** and partial activations for **Hurricane Debby**, as well as during severe weather and flooding events. The **Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)** Team played a critical role, with eight Task Forces comprising **486 personnel** assessing **over 56,304 structures** in just six days.

In addition to hurricane response, crews managed over **50 hazardous incidents**, including gas leaks, chemical and oil spills, orphaned containers, and lithium-ion battery hazards. Teams also conducted **more than 150 rescues and emergency evacuations** from flooded areas and provided vital assistance during a **four-day deployment** to North Central Florida and South Manatee County.

These efforts reflect the department's commitment to swift, coordinated emergency response, safeguarding communities in times of crisis.



## IMPACT REPORT

In 2024, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue welcomed **two** new recruit classes, adding **17** uniformed members to its ranks, including:

- **5** Firefighter/Paramedics
- **11** Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
- **1** Paramedic



As part of the department's fleet replacement plan, **4 apparatus** were retired and replaced with clean-cab certified vehicles, enhancing firefighter safety by reducing exposure to harmful carcinogens, including:

- Engine 4
- Engine 8
- Engine 12
- Reserve Ladder Truck, Station 13



In 2024, SPFR received the **Gold Standard** award from the **American Heart Association** for providing top-quality emergency care to heart attack patients before they reach the hospital.

The department was honored by a visit from **Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, U.S. Fire Administrator**, recognizing its dedication and hard work during the response and recovery efforts for Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

The **U.S. Secret Service** recognized the department for its exceptional support, coordination, and medical coverage during the President of the United States' recent visit to the city of St. Petersburg.



# ST. PETERSBURG FIRE RESCUE

## PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Conducted **379** educational sessions, reaching **73,807** residents.
- Visited **35** schools, impacting **3,000+** children during the annual Great American Teach-In.

## WATER SAFETY INITIATIVES

- Distributed **525** life jackets and funded **113** free swim lessons.
- Raised over **\$1,300** for water safety programs throughout the community.



## CPR CLASSES

- Taught **247** classes to **2,005** local participants, including **328** city employees.

## JWB PARTNERSHIP

- Provided more than **200** free CPR class vouchers, with **58** vouchers utilized through the Juvenile Welfare Board (JWB) partnership.

## HOME SAFE PROGRAM

- Visited **133** homes, installing **258** smoke and door alarms to improve residential safety.



### LEADERSHIP AND DIVERSITY

- **Camp Ignite**, the department's first-ever all-girls fire rescue camp, provided 12 teens with hands-on fire and EMS training, CPR certification, and leadership development in partnership with the Pinellas County Urban League's 'EmpowHer' initiative.
- SPFR launched the city's first **Inclusivity Committee** to promote equity, diversity, and a culture of respect and belonging.
- Lindsay Judah became the **first female Chief on Senior Staff**, and Keith Watts was appointed as the department's **first Black Fire Rescue Chief**.



### ENSURING LIFE SAFETY

- Conducted **14,000+** commercial and residential property inspections.
- Reviewed **2,876** building plans and completed **2,996** new construction inspections.
- Performed **344** licensure inspections.



### BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

- Haunted Firehouse attracted **3,000** visitors, raising **\$14,000** for holiday programs.
- Shop with a Firefighter and Toy Drive supported **35** children during the holidays, and provided toy donations for nearly **450** children.
- Provided EMS coverage at **262** special events and distributed **40 doses** of Narcan through its Leave Behind Narcan program.
- Provided **\$7,200** in assistance to **11** fire-affected families, supporting **22** adults and **20** children with food, clothing, and childcare supplies.



# ST. PETERSBURG FIRE RESCUE

## 2025 VISION STATEMENT

St. Petersburg Fire Rescue will **lead the nation** in safety excellence, inclusivity, and innovative emergency response—setting the benchmark for service, resilience, and community trust.

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

**High-Water Vehicles:** To better serve the city of St. Petersburg during severe weather and flooding events, the department is adding **three high-water vehicles** to its fleet in 2025.

**Fire Station 2:** Currently in the **design phase**, the new Fire Station 2 will enhance emergency response, expand coverage, and provide a modern facility to better serve the surrounding community and personnel.

**Training Facility:** A new training facility is in the **design phase** at the department's drill grounds, ensuring firefighters have access to advanced resources and hands-on training to strengthen emergency preparedness.





