

SALISBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER

July 2025 Edition



A Tradition of
Excellence in Public
Safety Since
1872

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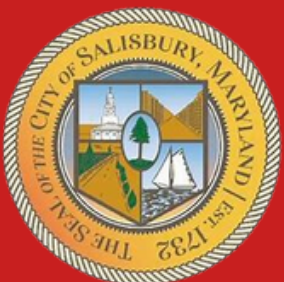
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From the Fire Chief



Hello again and Happy Summer!! I hope that everyone has been enjoying the warm weather with some pool or beach time, and time with family and friends. The SFD continues to deliver top notch service, responding to over 6000 EMS calls and 1700 fire calls in the first six months of 2025. The department has had several retirements since our last newsletter and we recently welcomed five new employees to our team. They are already off to a tremendous start after their 2-week Academy and are now in the Field Training portion of their probationary period. Welcome aboard Garrett,

Emma, Brayden, Benjamin, and Brandon!!

I am happy to announce that we have been able to secure the funding that was previously owed to the City for Fire & EMS services rendered outside of the municipal limits. Through professional discussions and relationship building with the County Council & County Executive, they have budgeted for the remainder of these funds to be paid in early FY26 and have agreed to fund the City for services to be provided in FY26 in advance. This is the first time, in many, many years that the City has been funded in advance of services provided and marks a monumental change in the funding process for services provided outside of the City. We look forward to continuing to build upon this solid relationship in the future, as we continue to provide services to non-City residents. Finally, I am happy to say that we worked through several issues to get the Station 1 parking lot re-paved. This project had been pushed back many times and ran into several hurdles during the construction phase, but the end result looks great! Additionally, the construction for the kitchen remodel at Station 1 will begin soon and may even have started by the time this newsletter is published. These two projects, along with the new rear door, will help to improve the functionality and give a fresh update to our oldest station. Additionally, we appreciate the items that the Volunteers of Station 16 and 2 have purchased recently. Mattresses, chairs, fire hose, and rescue equipment are just a few of the items that they purchased so that we can better serve the public and ensure that our living facilities are adequate.

In closing, our team here at the SFD has some of the best firefighters and EMS Clinicians in the area. We are proud of our tradition and we also embrace the future. I hope that you enjoy the information that follows in the newsletter and if your SFD can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us at 410-548-3120.

Emergency Medical Services

Submitted by: Lieutenant John Dennis

It has been a busy start to 2025 for our EMS clinicians. So far, we have responded to 6,750 calls for service (that is 3 calls every 2 hours!). These calls were handled by transport ambulances, fire unit assists, and our community paramedic unit. While the type of calls change from day to day, the majority of our calls are still for traumatic injuries, chest pain/cardiovascular issues, and ground level falls.

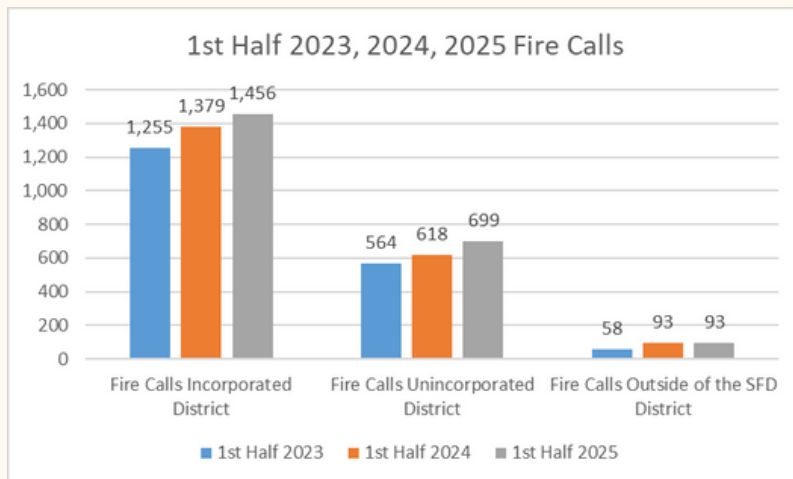
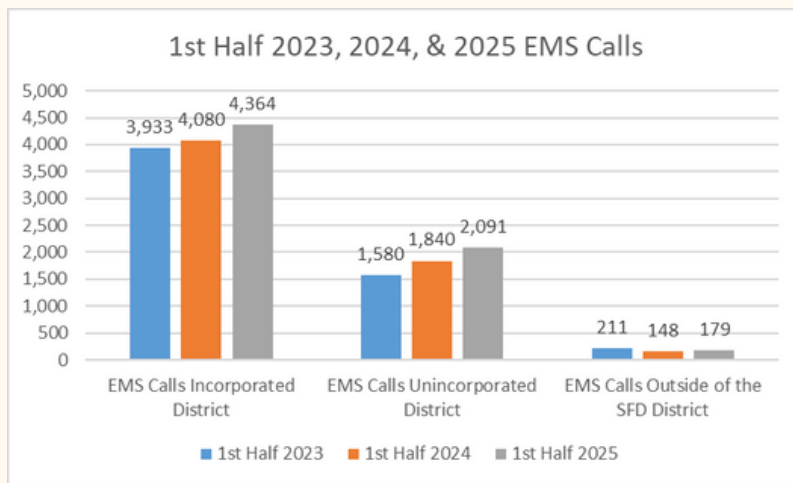
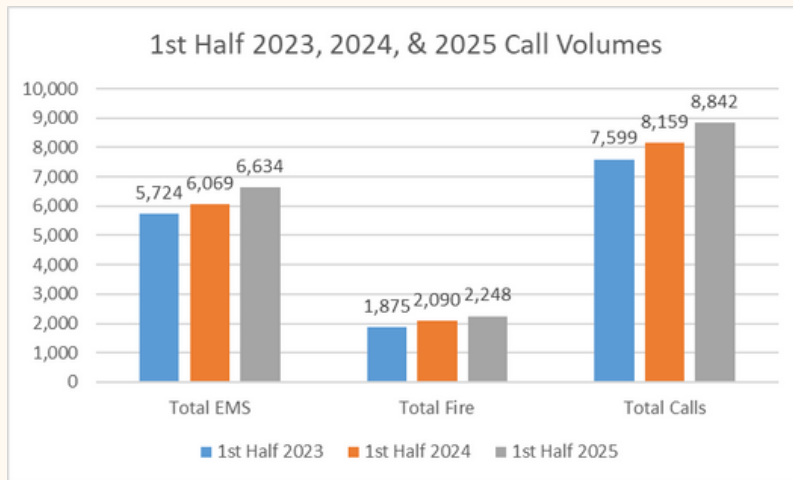
There have been some changes in our EMS oversight in the last six months as well. The man who created “SWIFT” and made our community paramedic program one of the best in the country, David Phippin, retired at the end of May. Our new MIH Coordinator, Miranda Webster, has been a community paramedic working in our minor definitive care now program for the last couple of years. David’s legacy of getting patients the right care when and where they need it will continue with Miranda taking this program to new heights.

We also had a few changes in our EMS operations supervision, as our former EMS supervisor (Chris Truitt) took a promotion to Deputy Chief. EMS is now in the capable hands of Lieutenant John Dennis, formerly of B Shift. John was one of our Department’s first shift-based EMS supervisors and is already implementing new tools and ideas to keep our EMS on the cutting edge of medicine. With John’s promotion, the Department was also able to promote Matt McCormick of D shift to EMS Sergeant. As the shift EMS supervisor, Matt will ensure competent and compassionate care is delivered to our community members and visitors.

As we move into July, our pre-hospital clinicians are ready to meet the needs and challenges of our community and visitors. With new protocols from the State, new assessment and treatment tools on the units, and highly motivated EMTs and Paramedics our Department is ready to meet the ever changing world of prehospital care.



Fire Marshal's Office



- 1st Half of 2025 Property Value Saved from Fire – \$4,298,946
- 1st Half of 2025 Property Lost from Fire – \$1,393,108
- 1st Half FM's Approved Building Plan Reviews – 59
- 1st Half FM's Building Inspections – 992
- Fires Investigated by the FM's Office in 1st Half of 2025 – 23
- Civilian Fire Deaths – 0
- Civilian Fire Injuries – 1

Training

Submitted by: Captain DJ Messick

As we hit the half way point of 2025 let's see what the training highlights are for the Salisbury Fire Department. At the 6 month, mark the crews have completed 5,309 hours of training. This training included Trench Rescue refresher, Hazardous Materials Technician refresher, Confined Space refresher, and Rope Rescue refresher. These special operations disciplines are low frequency, high risk incidents that require training that is not your traditional fire or EMS training.

I also want to send out a congratulations to the members that just completed their two-year paramedic program, FF/EMT Lauren Stanley, FF/EMT Emily Kitching, FF/EMT Justin Tull, and FF/EMT John Foraker. In the coming months these people will take their National Registry test for paramedic and will undoubtedly be successful. With this crew wrapping up their education, I also want to congratulate our new students in the paramedic program that will be starting in the fall. FF/EMT Julio Trejo, FF/EMT Trinity Donavan, FF/EMT Emma Houseal, and FF/EMT Garrett Herr.

As of July 2, 2025 the department has also added the following members as Rope Rescue Technicians, FF/EMT Wyatt Bishop, FF/EMT Jeremy Mumford, Assistant Chief David Cox, Sergeant Timothy Jones, FF/EMT Tri Townsend, Sergeant Kyle Gray, FF/Paramedic Lawrence Towles, FF/Paramedic Natalie Tull, and FF/Paramedic Sean Collins. This group of dedicated individuals spent 90 hours mastering the skills required to perform rope rescue.

Finally, during June, we ran another two-week academy for new hires. We had five people in the program that all learned the "Salisbury way". This group is now out on their shifts working through their recruit packets with their field training officers. At the completion of the process, they will be part of the great men and women of the SFD that are here to protect the community.



Shift Highlights A-Shift

Submitted by: Assistant Chief Logan Helmuth

New MedVac Landing Zones Established in Salisbury

The Salisbury Fire Department (SFD) has teamed up with Maryland State Police Trooper 4 to create six new landing zones (LZs) strategically placed throughout the city. Trooper 4 is deployed when patients require transport to specialty care centers due to the nature of their injuries. These new landing zones are designed to provide quicker and safer access for medic units and Medvac helicopters.

The Six New Landing Zones:

JMB Shipyard LZ (Located at Bennett High School)
Moss Hill LZ (Located near Brittingham Street and Moss Hill Lane)
Naylor Mill LZ (Located behind the mall near Dick's Sporting Goods)
Bennett Airfield LZ (Located at the Bennett Airport on Naylor Mill Road)
Pemberton LZ (Located at Nithsdale on the soccer field)
Salisbury Middle School LZ (Located at Salisbury Middle School)



Background and Benefits:

Before these designated landing zones were established, the only official option was the airport of Fooks Road where Trooper 4 is stationed. Alternatively, helicopters had to land wherever there was open space, which often posed risks due to debris and unknown obstacles.

Lieutenant Zach Bridges worked closely with Trooper 4 to scout and select the safest and most efficient sites across the city. Each landing zone is maintained weekly to ensure they remain safe and accessible for Medvac helicopters, including Trooper 4 and any other incoming medical helicopters such as Trooper 6 out of Easton and Trooper 2 out of Georgetown, DE.

New Hires:

A shift has welcomed two new Candidates which joined the SFD the first week of June. FF/PM Benjamin Shannon has been assigned to Station 2 and FF/EMT Brayden Moran has been assigned to Station 1.



Years of Service:

20 Years of Service- FF/EMT Gerald Brinson

10 Years of Service- Sergeant Brady Scott



A- Shift Notable Incidents



All 3 Salisbury Units responded Hinman Ln. for a reported house fire. Chief 1 arrived on location and found a 1 story single wide with fire showing. E1 and E16 initiated an aggressive interior attack while Truck 2 completed searches and opening up for the Engines. This was Captain Colegrove's first fire as an Acting AC.

ET 1-1 and Truck 2 were alerted to assist Delmar (Station 74) on a working house fire. Delmar units arrived first to find a single story, single family, dwelling with smoke showing from the eaves. ET 1-1 supplied Engine 74-3 and pulled a back up line and assisted Delmar with aggressive interior attack. Truck 2 split their crew initiating searches and outside duties. E1 was later added when command called for the working fire dispatch.



E1 and Truck 2 responded to multiple vehicle fires in the month a February.

All Three Stations were alerted to assist Fruitland with a reported Shed Fire. Car 3 would arrive first with a 1 story single family dwelling with fire showing from the C/D corner. E16 arrived first and assumed first due responsibilities. Engine 1 arrived second and pulled a backup line. Truck 1 arrived and performed searches and top side ventilation.



SFD was alerted for a reported Gas Leak at the Pepsi Plant off E. Locust Street. Crews found a large container of Liquid Carbon Dioxide. Crews operated for approximately six hours before leaving the scene.

Shift Highlights B-Shift

Submitted by: Assistant Chief Mike Donoway



Multiple members of B shift were awarded the CPR award, which recognizes their efforts in directly saving a human life! Members listed below are Lt. Gray, Lt. Dennis, FF/EMT Bradley, FF/PM Ginger Phippin, FF/EMT John Foraker, FF/PM Jen Larmore.

FF/EMT Jimmer Gardiner (Left) was awarded his Years of Service award for his dedication of serving the department for 10 years
FF/EMT Ryan Lecates (Right) was awarded his Years of Service award for his dedication of serving the department for 5 years



Every day, B shift has daily training to maintain proficiency on their fire and EMS skills. Each Saturday and Sunday B shift gather as a collective shift to complete extensive fire and EMS training as a group, as well as individual shift training.

On February 15 at approximately 1900 hours, SFD was alerted for a structure fire at Cloverdale St. First arriving units found smoke visible from all four sides. A basement fire was confirmed with extension to the first and second floor. A second alarm was requested due to extensive overhaul needed, along with high heat and smoke. Crews worked diligently for approximately 2 hours to bring the blaze under control.



Between EMS and Fire calls, a few B shift members gathered for a send off to Lt. Dennis during his final shift on B shift. Dennis recently promoted to EMS LT. for the SFD and will be working on the administration side, overseeing all EMS operations daily. We wish him luck in his new promotion!

Recently EMT Foraker completed the necessary clinical hours and classroom hours to obtain his Paramedic licensure. Foraker had passed the appropriate testing for the State and National level. Congratulations to FF/PM Foraker, as the newest NREMT-P on B shift! Thank you to Paramedic Phippin for her dedication and knowledge in helping and precepting PM Foraker along the way!

Shift Highlights C-Shift

Submitted by: Assistant Chief Doug Parker

FF/EMT Justin Tull received the Mayor's Award for Exemplary Service. Last year Justin and his crew assisted an elderly couple who had just lost their beloved dog and were physically unable to bury their pet. Justin and his crew went above and beyond the call of duty, and gave the grieving family a proper burial for their beloved pet and allowed them the comfort and solace in their time of need.



Sergeant Ben Koons received the Mayor's Award for Exemplary Service. Last year, while operating at a fuel leak inside of a residence, Sgt. Koons identified a problem inside the residence that would not allow the occupants to stay in their home for the night. After attempts were made to relocate the family who resided in the residence with no success, Sgt. Koons made contact with a local hotel and paid for the room out of his own pocket to ensure the family was not left out in the cold for the evening. This compassionate gesture did not go unrecognized by the members of the department or the City of Salisbury. Strong work Ben!

Congratulations to FF/EMT Chris Weber and FF/EMT Tyler Sansone on the completion of their probationary period. Both members began in June of 2024 and have completed the requirements to operate on their own and count towards our minimum staffing standards. FF/EMT Weber is assigned to Station 16 and FF/EMT Sansone has been assigned to Station 2.



C-Shift Years of Service
10 Years of Service – Sergeant Tim Jones
5 Years of Service – FF/PM Lawrence Towles
5 Years of Service – FF/PM Jon Workman
5 Years of Service – FF/PM Josh Joyner



C-Shift Continued

Over the past several months, members of the department were awarded CPR awards. These awards are presented when the patient they are treating has been revived and had a return of spontaneous circulation or ROSC. The Salisbury Fire Department encourages everyone to learn CPR. Early CPR, activation of the 911 system, and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) are the key to successful outcomes of the patient in cardiac arrest.



C-Shift would like to welcome our newest member, FF/EMT Emma Bartness. Emma began her career in the Salisbury Fire Department as a volunteer in 2024 and has transitioned to the career side. Over the next several months, Emma will be working closely with her Field Training Officer, honing her skills before being cleared to count as minimum staffing. Welcome to the team Emma!



The City of Salisbury hosted a “Future Citizens Field Day” for kids from The Salisbury School. Students got an inside look at public safety from the Salisbury Fire Department and Salisbury Police Department. The children received tours of the emergency vehicles, had questions answered and learned about the services provided by the City of Salisbury. Learning opportunities such as these are what gets the younger minds thinking about a career into these professions.



Shift Highlights D-Shift

Submitted by: Assistant Chief David Cox

Promotions:

Matt McCormick was recently promoted to EMS sergeant on D-Shift.



Years of Service Awards:

5 Years of Service- Megan Baker FF/EMT

Accomplishments:

Captain Brooks Morris, completed his National Registry for EMT

Community Service Events:

Completed the Blazing a Trail for literacy program for the school year.

Other

Natalie Tull-Paramedic of the Year



New Driver Operators:

KJ Laird, Brush Truck

Jason Press, Aerial Tower

Corey Dean, Aerial Ladder



Training:

Truck 2 completed a pre plan of the new Sheriff's Office complex. As well as completed

Aerial High Point training focused on victim removal from elevated positions.



D- Shift Notable Incidents



On January 4th 2025, Crews were dispatched to a structure fire on corner of N. Division Street and E. Isabella Street, working fire dispatch was requested for a two and a half story wood frame with fire on the first floor. Crews worked to extinguish the fire and ensure the fire had not spread to the second floor or attic. Crews worked on scene for approximately two hours.

February 21st 2025, Wicomico Central alerted Station 16 for the engine and Station 2 for the truck to respond to a reported appliance fire. Truck 2 arrived and had smoke showing from the second floor of a 2.5 story house. Engine 16-1 arrived and established a water supply. Crews found a stove fire with extension to the cabinets around the stove. The fire was held to the stove area and crews remained on scene to remove smoke from the house.



May 8th 2025, Wicomico Central alerted Stations 3 (Fruitland), 16, 1, 2, and 15 (Allen) for a reported structure fire in Fruitland. Engine 16 arrived and found one person trapped on a porch roof. The crew of Engine 16 threw a ground ladder and assisted the subject down off the roof to safety. Units then assisted with extinguishing the fire and overhaul.

May 16th 2025, D-shift set a record for the most calls in a 24-hour shift with 125 calls for service. The morning and afternoon hours had been busy with EMS calls, then after dinner time a storm came through the area causing widespread damage with trees and power lines down across the district. Crews were dispatched for an elevator rescue. Upon arrival crew encountered an elevator car that was stuck between floor 1 and 2. After making access to the elevator shaft, power was secured to the elevator and locked out. Crew made contact with an individual who was stuck in the car. Crews removed the car roof access hatch and lowered an attic ladder into the car. The victim was removed and was uninjured.

May 17th 2025, Crews on B2 and Truck 2 were dispatched for a maternity patient. Upon arrival crews encountered a frantic mother who directed them to her 2 hour old baby who was lying on the couch, blue, and not breathing. Crews quickly began CPR and ventilators efforts. After a few rounds of CPR, the baby regained a strong pulse and was trying to breathe on its own. Crew transported the newborn to PRMC. The newborn ultimately made a full recovery and was released to home.

Community Outreach

In February, members of our MIH team presented to a standing room only crowd at the MIH Summit in Tampa, Florida. This National conference brings healthcare leaders together to discuss new initiatives and trends that are occurring in the MIH field. Their presentation looked at reducing the number of falls that occur in the Salisbury Fire District. Approximately 12% of our EMS calls are for someone who has fallen. the steps they're taking will reduce this number and improve patient care. The SWIFT/MDCN team is a collaborative approach to alternative healthcare that includes the Salisbury Fire Department, TidalHealth, and the Wicomico County Health Department.



In March, our SWIFT/MDCN team provided Opioid education and distributed Narcan kits at the Men's Cold Weather Shelter. This was the first of many outreach and community education events related to the recent MOOR ORF Grant received. The SWIFT/MDCN team is a joint collaboration between Tidal Health, the Salisbury Fire Department and Wicomico County Health Department. The outreach program aims to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with opioids.

In March, crews participated in a two-day Career Fair at the Civic Center in an event put on by Junior Achievement. This event is put on every year, the event host thousands of 8th grade students from across the Eastern Shore. It gives students a chance to meet and ask questions to vendors about their future career they are interested in pursuing.



In April, crews from B-Shift attended a community event at the Village of Mitchell Pond Neighborhood!



Retirements



Deputy Fire Chief William D. Scott retires after serving the citizens for 35 years. Darrin began his career in 1990 as a volunteer firefighter at Station 2 and then later transferred to the career division.

He worked his way through the ranks of the department and has always been a well-respected and trusted friend and leader to all members of the department and surrounding companies. Darrin will be missed by the members, but his legacy and achievements within the department will forever remain.

Enjoy your retirement Chief Scott!



Sergeant David Phippin retires after serving the department for 20 years. David began his career in 2005 with the department as a Firefighter/Paramedic. In 2017, David was the organizer and leader in creating the department's Mobile Integrated Health/Salisbury-Wicomico Integrated Firstcare Team or MIH/SWIFT. Under his leadership, the service expanded in 2021 and joined forces with TidalHealth and now includes Minor Definitive Care Now or MDCN. In 2022, the service was expanded county wide and today the program has over 200 patients enrolled. David's commitment to helping the community has paved the way for the department and the program. We hope that you enjoy your retirement, David!

Community Correspondence



On this 25th day of April 25, 2025 I, the Fire Chief of the Day, request the members of Salisbury Fire Department "C" Shift to have the best day possible. Make a difference in people's lives and try to have some fun in the downtime. Today is great opportunity to have a good day.

Damian Inocencio

Fire Chief of the Day

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