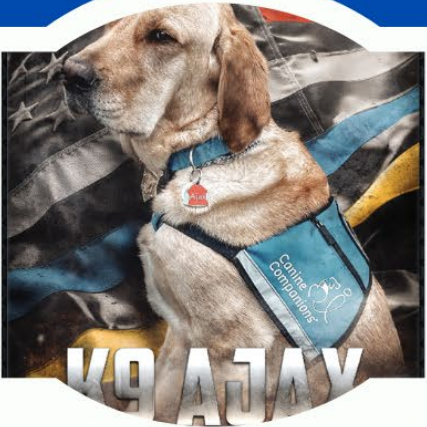


DELAWARE STATE FIRE COMMISSION



2025 Annual Report



September 23, 2025
The Honorable Matt Meyer
Office of the Governor
150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
South
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Meyer,

On behalf of the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission, I am proud to present our Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report. This year reflects meaningful progress in strengthening fire prevention, emergency medical oversight, and public safety across our state.

Highlights of FY 2025 include:

- Conducting 12 Commission meetings and multiple hearings to address fire company, EMS, and community concerns.
- Advancing accountability through impartial investigations and compliance reviews.
- Tracking and analyzing 135 firefighter injury reports to guide training and safety initiatives.
- Expanding health and safety programs to reduce risks and promote wellness for firefighters, EMTs, and staff.
- Managing a \$1.4 million budget responsibly, directing resources to personnel, education, and operations.
- Overseeing EMT and ambulance licensing to ensure readiness and quality of care statewide.
- Breaking ground on a new dedicated facility, marking a milestone in the Commission's history and future service capacity.
- Honoring the legacies of Commissioner Kenneth Ryder and Past Chief Bill Betts, whose service and leadership profoundly shaped Delaware's fire community.

These achievements reflect our unwavering commitment to protecting lives and property while being responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

We remain grateful for your leadership and support as we continue building a safer, stronger Delaware.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Marval
Chairman
Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission

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Commissioners



Chairperson
Ron Marvel



Vice Chairperson
William Kelly



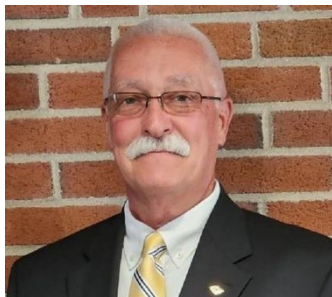
Lynn Truitt



Joseph J. Leonetti



Jeffrey Eisenbrey



Ron O'Neal



J. David Majewski Sr.

Executive Staff



Executive Director
Sherry Lambertson



Chief Investigator
David Truax



BLS Administrator
Jerry Brennan



Mental Health Administrator
Diane Glenn



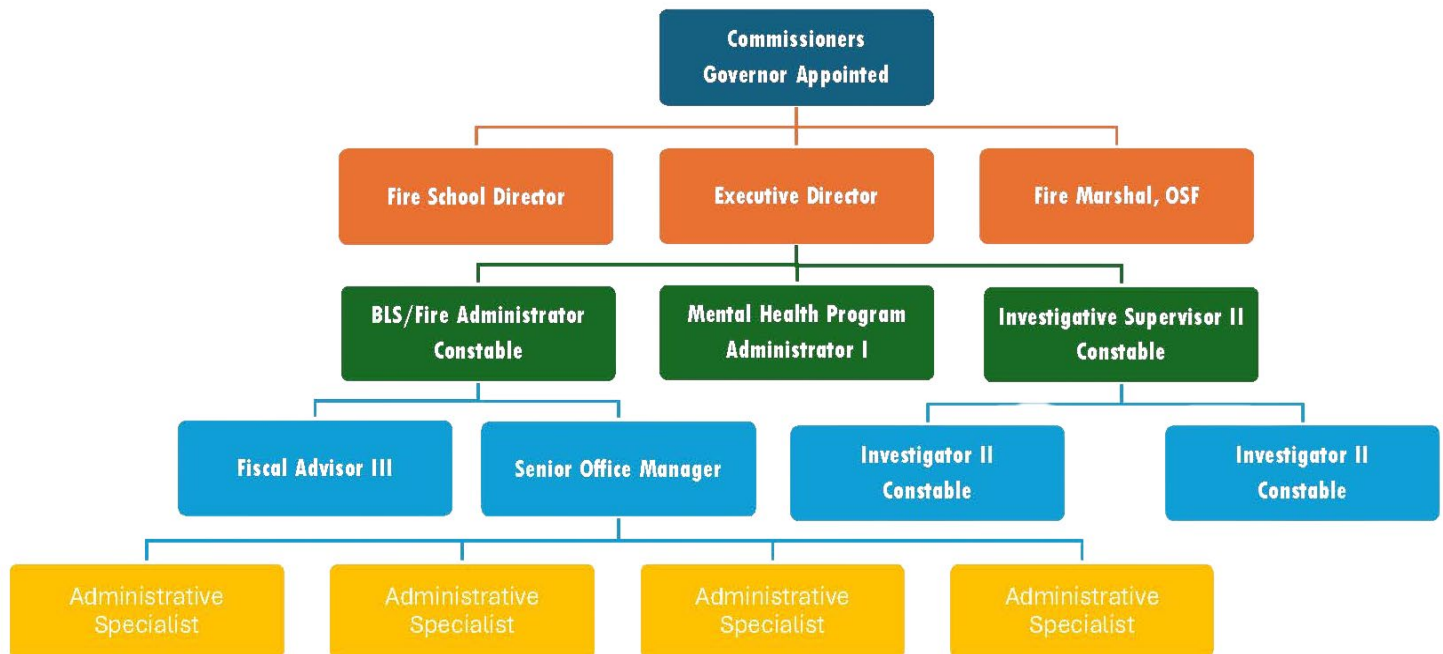
Fiscal Advisor III
Sharon Barr



Senior Office Manager
Patience Pierce



STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION ORGANIZATION CHART



Mission Statement

The Delaware Fire Prevention Commission is committed to protecting life and property by overseeing fire and Basic EMS operations, training, and certification statewide. Through public education, code enforcement, professional standards, and emergency response support, we ensure the highest level of safety for all Delawareans.

Statutory Responsibilities

The Statutory Responsibilities of the Delaware Fire Prevention Commission is to promulgate, amend and repeal regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from hazards of fire and explosion. The Statutory responsibilities of the State Fire Prevention Commission may be found in Title 16, Chapter 66 & 67 of the Code and are summarized as follows:

- The Commission shall consist of seven persons appointed by the Governor.
- They shall hold regular meetings at least once a month and special meetings may also be called.
- They shall also have the power to promulgate, amend and repeal regulations for the safeguarding of life and property from hazards of fire and explosion.
- Prior to promulgation, they shall hold at least one public hearing on each regulation, amendment or repeal and shall have the power to summon witnesses, documents and administer oaths for the purpose of giving testimony.
- They shall appoint the State Fire Marshal and State Fire School Director. They shall have complete jurisdiction and management over the State Fire School and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- The Commission shall have power to authorize new fire companies or substations; resolve boundary and other disputes; prohibit cessation of necessary fire protection services.
- The Commission is empowered to enforce its orders in the Court of Chancery.

Commission Activity by the Numbers

The following information is an outline of the Commissioners' activities for FY 2025:

- Commission Meetings12
- Committee Meetings113
- Hearings:
 - Audit Hearings:7
 - Appeal Hearings:1
 - Boundary Hearings:4
 - EMT Hearings:1
 - Scratch Hearings:1
 - Ambulance Hearings:0
 - Grievance Hearings:0
 - Consent Agreements:3
 - Total Public Hearings:14**

Division of Professional Standards and Regulations

Office of Investigative Services



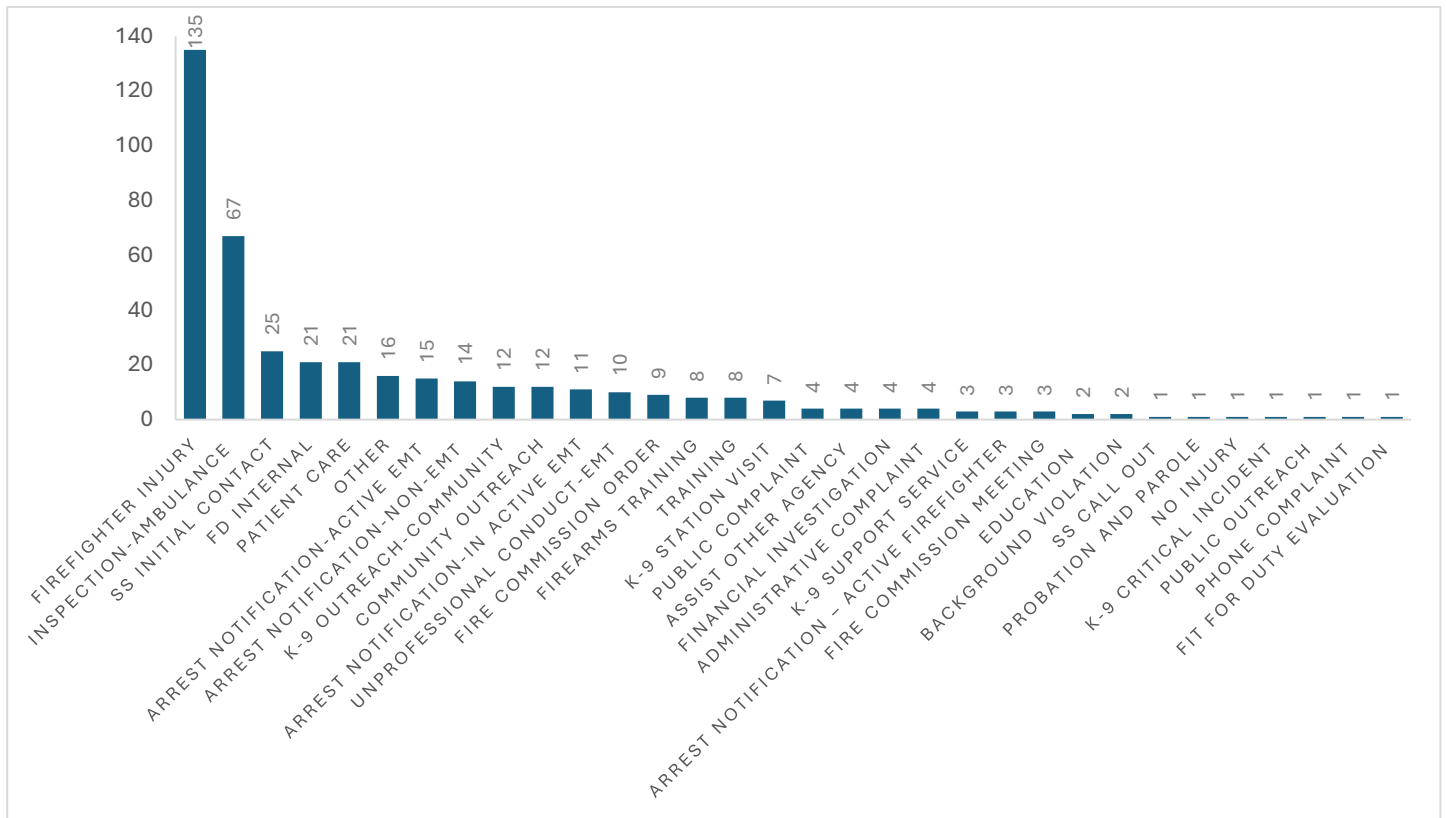
All investigative complaints involving patient care, fire companies, or regulations under any 700 sections must be thoroughly investigated without the interference or prior knowledge of any Fire Commissioner. It is essential that these investigations remain independent and free from influence to preserve their integrity. Fire Commissioners may serve as hearing judges when an individual or party formally requests a hearing; however, Commissioners are required to remain impartial throughout the process.

If a commissioner has prior knowledge of the subject matter of an investigation, they must not participate in the corresponding hearing unless it is determined appropriate by the Deputy Attorney General. In such cases, the Commissioner is obligated to consult with the Deputy Attorney General to determine whether recusal is necessary to avoid any appearance of bias or conflict of interest. Commissioners who proceed with hearing responsibilities despite prior knowledge, without proper clearance, risk compromising the fairness and legality of the process.

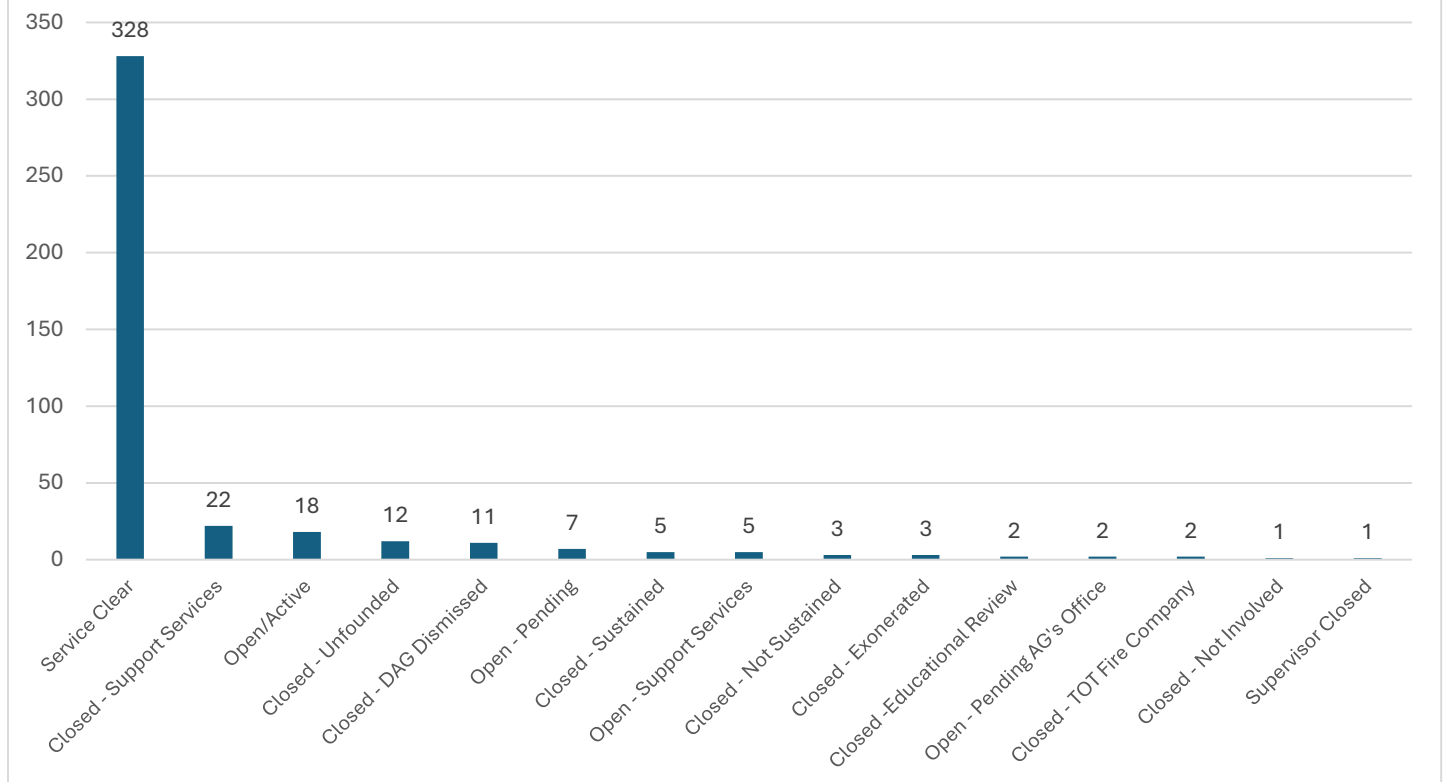
Maintaining the impartiality of Fire Commissioners and the confidentiality of investigations is critical to ensuring public trust and the lawful execution of oversight responsibilities. Any deviation from this process may result in the invalidation of findings or proceedings and may expose the department to legal and ethical challenges.

Upon the official closure of an investigation, all Fire Commissioners shall be provided with a summary report of the case. This report shall include the nature of the complaint, findings, conclusions, and any actions taken. Providing this information with post-closure ensures transparency and allows Commissioners to remain informed of departmental matters without compromising investigative integrity.

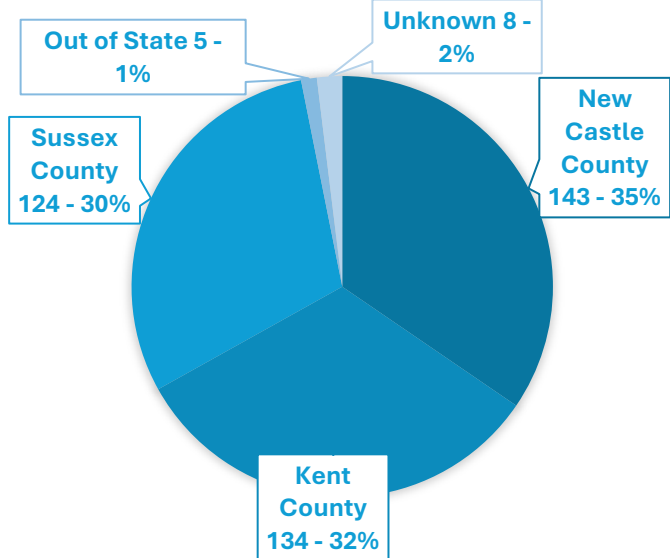
Investigative Summary



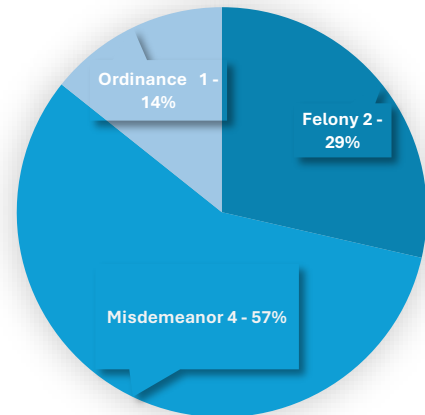
INVESTIGATIVE STATUS



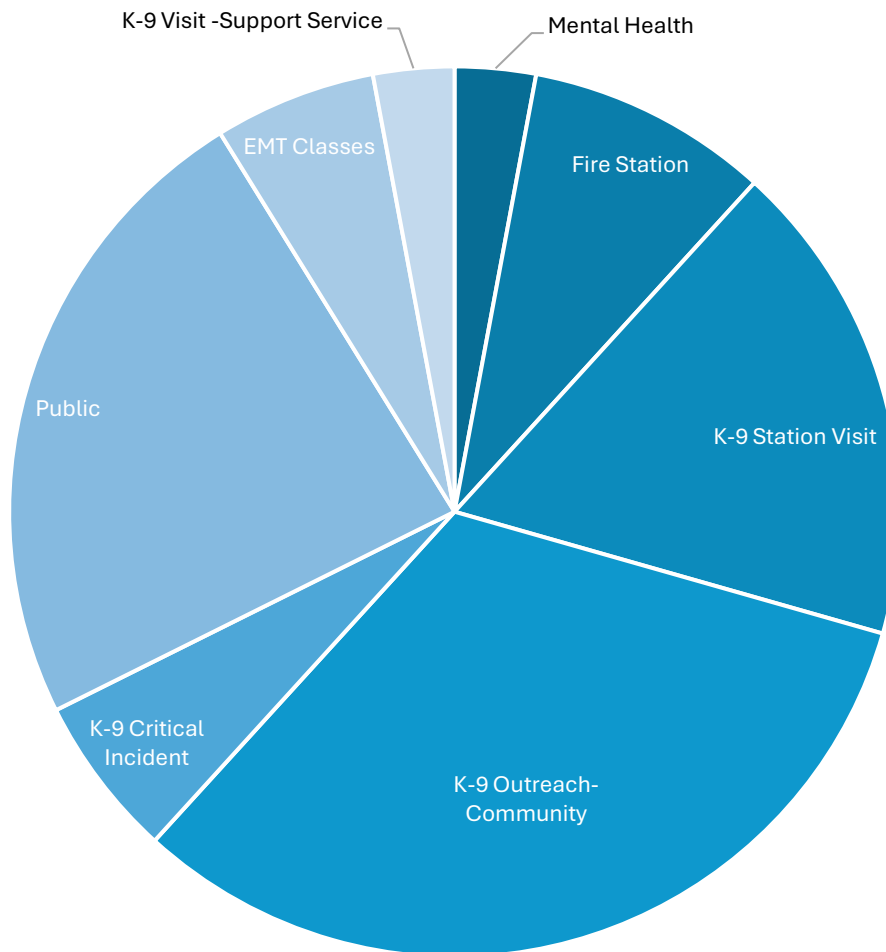
COMPLAINTS BY COUNTY



EMT ARREST TYPES



OUTREACH TYPES



Administrative and Compliance Summaries

The Administrative Division oversees all duties related to licensing Emergency Medical Technicians and ambulances, budget and fiscal operations, background compliance and support services to the Investigation and Compliance Division.

Fire Company Audits Received	63
Audit Civil Penalty	0
EMT Certifications for 2025	844
EMT Recertifications for 2025	442
Total Number of Active EMTs	1975

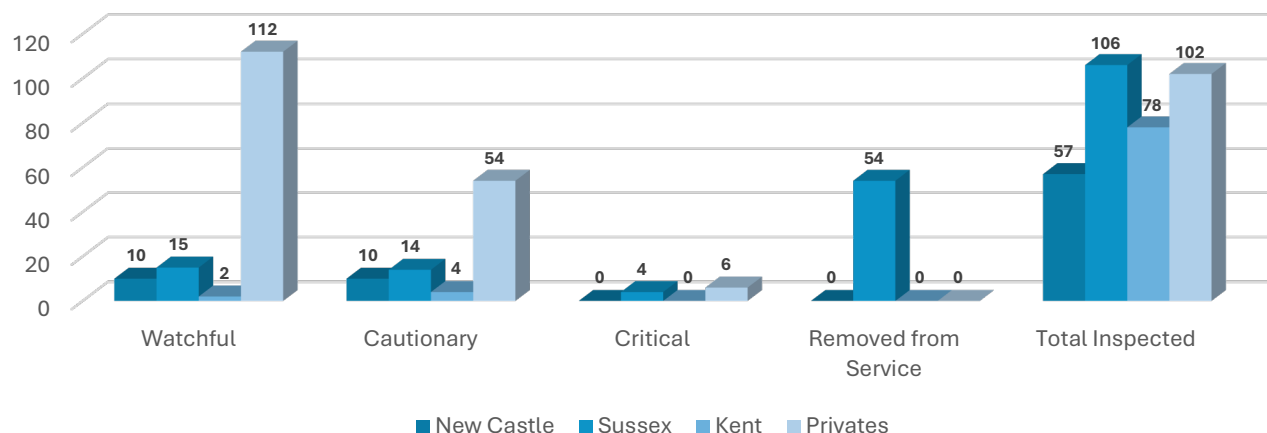
Delaware EMT Background Checks	459
EMT Verifications	50
Delaware Firefighter Background Checks	428
Ambulance Licensing/Renewals	469

The Compliance Division is responsible for licensing and inspecting all BLS ambulances that operate throughout the state of Delaware. The licensing and inspection process is to ensure that the ambulances are within regulations set forth by the Commission.

BLS Ambulance Inspection Results

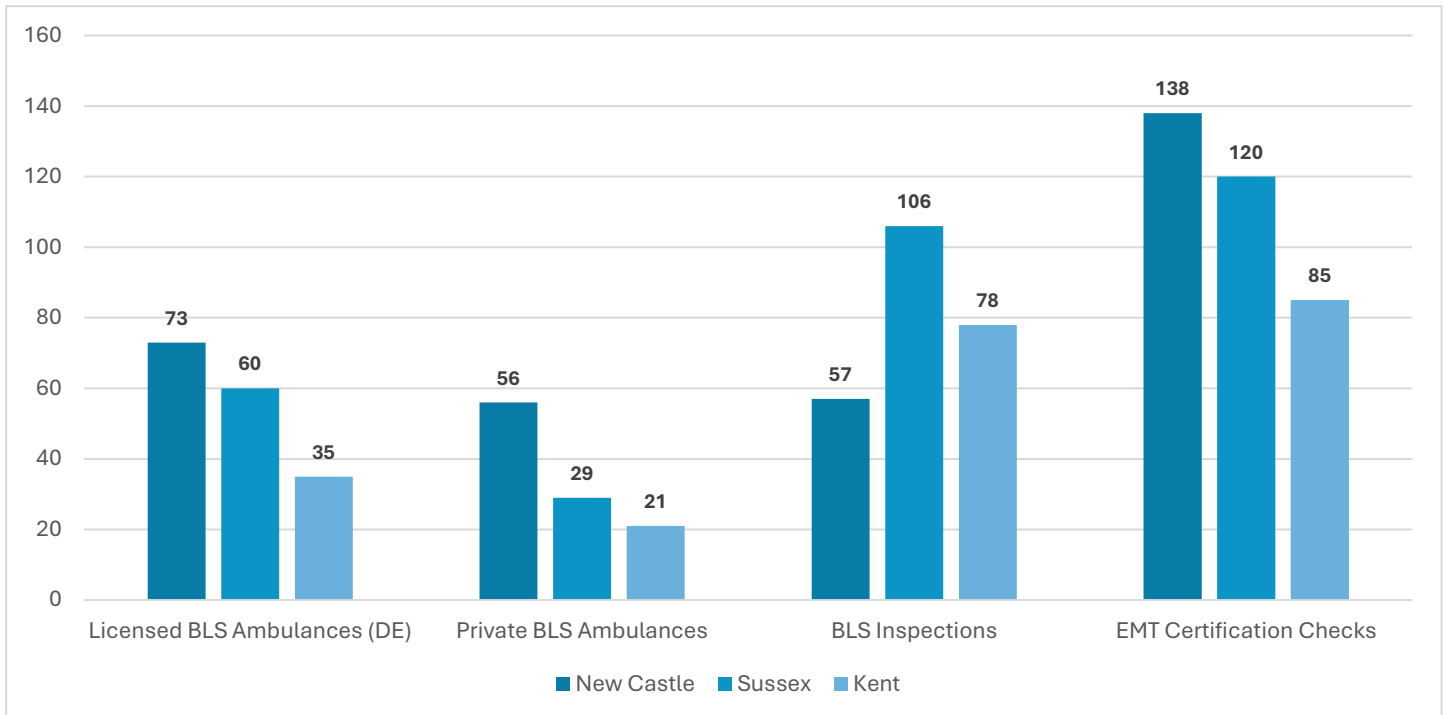
Region	Watchful	Cautionary	Critical	Removed from Service	Total Inspected
New Castle	10	10	0	0	57
Sussex	15	14	0	0	106
Kent	2	4	0	0	78
Privates	112	54	6	0	102

BLS Ambulance Inspection Results

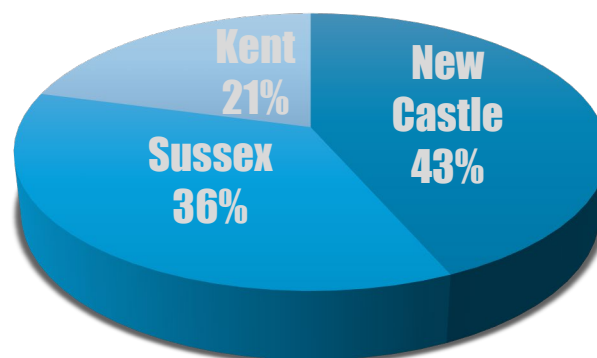


Compliance Division Activity

Region	Licensed BLS Ambulances (DE)	Private BLS Ambulances	BLS Inspections	EMT Certification Checks	Equipment Inspected
New Castle	73	56	57	138	5960
Sussex	60	29	106	120	4097
Kent	35	21	78	85	3164
Privates	—	—	102	70	7790



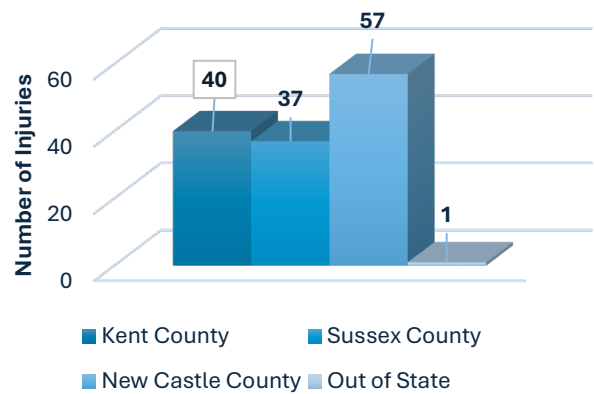
BLS AMBULANCES BY COUNTY



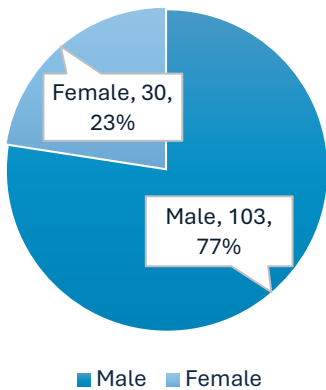
Firefighter Injury Reports

Incidents	135
New Castle County	57
Kent County	40
Sussex County	37
Out of State	1

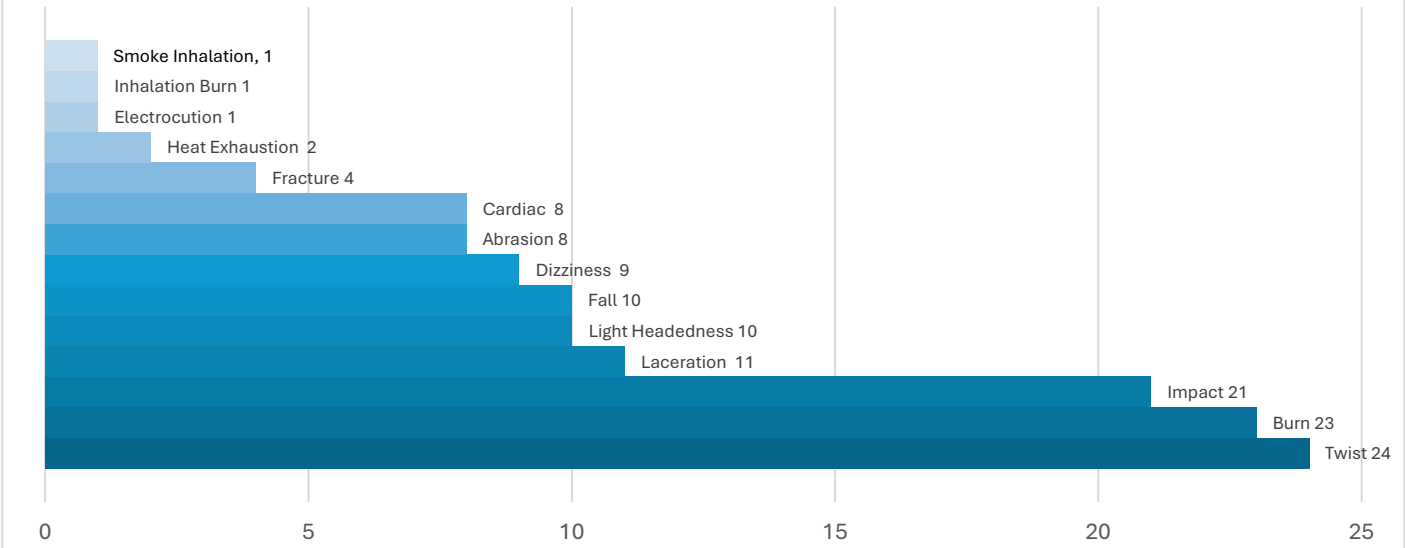
2025 Injuries by County



Injuries by Gender



Injury Type



Delaware State Fire Service Center

Health and Safety Team

Mission

The mission of the Health and Safety Team is to develop and promote a healthy and safe environment for all employees, customers, students and visitors to our facilities through the involvement of all individuals with regards to education, communication and safe work.

Team Roles and Responsibilities

The health and safety activities of the team will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Identify unsafe work practices and conditions by conducting health and safety inspections. Recommend corrective measures.
- Review accident / incident reports. Obtain and analyze available data on past injuries and illnesses and identify trends. Suggest appropriate corrective actions.
- Assist in the development and implementation of effective health and safety awareness programs.
- Encourage feedback from all individuals regarding health and safety related ideas, problems, and solutions.
- Provide support and serve as a resource in the development, implementation, and maintenance of a comprehensive safety, loss prevention and loss control program.
- Assist in the development of written programs or procedures to ensure compliance with OSHA health and safety regulations.
- Serve as an advisory body to management on health and safety issues.

Key Responsibilities

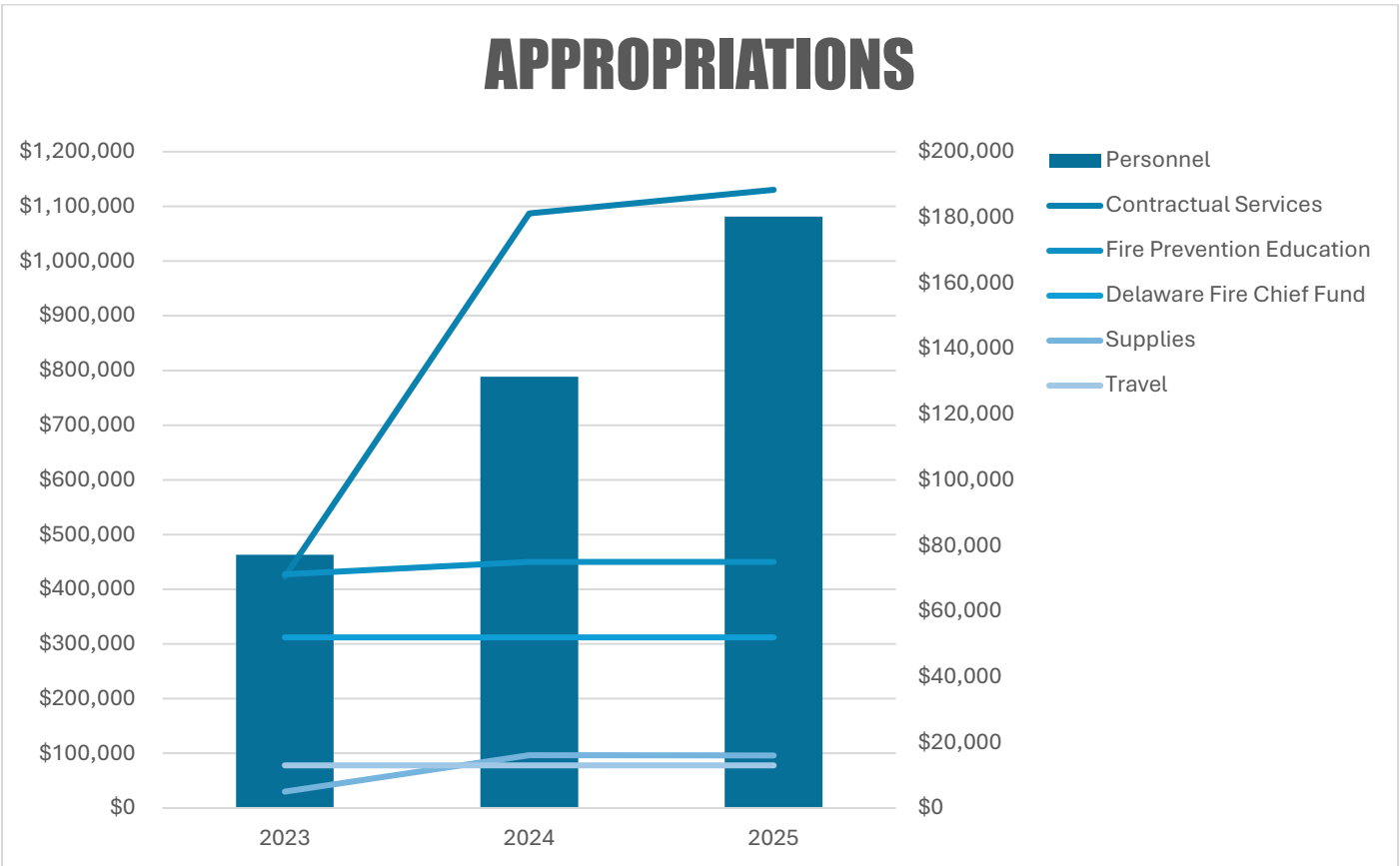
Management (fire school, fire marshal and commission) shall actively promote and support the Health and Safety Team in the following ways:

- Allow the time for team members participation in meetings, tours and assigned responsibilities.
- Allocate the funds/resources necessary to implement health and safety team activities.
- Support team decisions.
- Provide timely feedback to the health and safety team.

Individual Teams shall serve as a resource to the regular division/business group (fire school, fire marshal and commission) on health and safety issues and will provide reports and necessary documentation. Teams may occasionally support other business groups based on needs. Team members should be available when needed to support the FIRE Team by evaluating health and safety information resulting from fire fighter/EMT injuries including training and response activities. It is expected that a minimum of three employees from each business group be assigned to the individual health and safety team. One shall be the team leader.

Financial

Appropriation	2023	2024	2025
Personnel	\$463,097	\$788,325	\$1,081,547
Travel	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
Contractual Services	\$70,500	\$181,200	\$188,394
Supplies	\$5,000	\$16,100	\$16,041
Fire Prevention Education	\$71,223	\$75,000	\$75,000
Delaware Fire Chief Fund	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000
Total for FY	\$674,820	\$1,125,625	\$1,425,982



New Building



On September 6, 2024, the Fire Commission broke ground on a new building. This building will mark the first time since the establishment of the agency that a building has been solely dedicated to housing the Commission and the staff of the agency. This agency when established began with just one employee. As the duties and responsibilities have grown over the years, the Commission has expanded as we've accepted these new responsibilities. The EMS Service, Fire Service, and the public have always been of the utmost concern for each of the Commissioners and agency staff that serve in this role. We give a great deal of thought to provide the best level of safety and well-being for all of our first responders.



In Memoriam

Ken Ryder



It is with deep sorrow and profound respect that the Delaware Fire Commission pays honor and tribute to the passing of former Fire Commissioner Kenneth Ryder.

Commissioner Ryder passed away on January 23, 2025. He was a dedicated leader and a true servant of the community, having devoted over 50 years of his life to protecting his town and its residents while serving with the Felton Community Fire Company. His commitment to the safety and well-being of our citizens, along with his unwavering support for the men and women of the fire service, left a lasting impact on both the organization and our state.

Commissioner Ryder was known for his steadfast leadership, hands-on approach, and tireless work ethic. He inspired countless firefighters, earning their trust and respect through his actions as well as his words. Under his leadership, the fire service achieved numerous advancements in fire safety, all while fostering a deep sense of camaraderie among the firefighters. His legacy will live on in the values he instilled in all of us: courage, dedication, and an unyielding commitment to service. He was a leader, mentor, and friend, and he will be deeply missed by all who had the honor of working alongside him. He served as a commissioner from 2023-2024.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family, friends, and all members of the Felton Community Fire Company during this difficult time.

May Fire Commissioner Kenneth Ryder rest in peace.

Bill Betts



It is with the heaviest of hearts that we announce the passing of Past Chief Bill Betts.

Bill was a truly valued member of the Frederica Volunteer Fire Company, and his loss is felt deeply by all who knew him. He leaves behind a legacy of dedication, service, and friendship. He served as a commissioner from 1998 to 2010 and in 2020 after serving as the DVFA President.

Bill, you will be deeply missed in so many ways. Rest easy, Brother! We've got it from here.

Please keep the Betts family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. As arrangements are finalized, we will share further details.

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