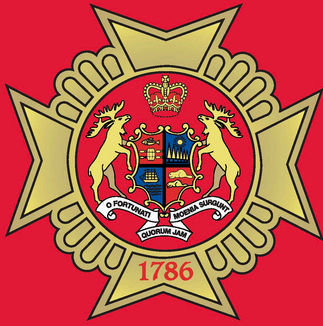


SAINT JOHN FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2025





SAINT JOHN FIRE DEPARTMENT

VISION

To be role models in the community and leaders in our profession.

MISSION

To protect lives, property and the environment through effective community risk reduction, preparedness and emergency response.

VALUES

Compassion.

For ourselves, our colleagues and the public we serve.

Professionalism.

Respected, engaged and skilled. Committed to being trained, capable and prepared to carry out duties.

Integrity.

In our words and our actions.



A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

Established in 1786, the Saint John Fire Department has a long and proud history of protecting lives, property, and the environment. While our foundational mission remains unchanged, the risk environment in which we operate continues to evolve. This shift requires us not only to adapt how we deliver services, but also to strengthen how we partner with our community to prevent harm before emergencies occur.

The year 2025 presented significant challenges. Prolonged drought conditions led to the closure of wooded areas and parks due to extreme wildfire risk, underscoring the growing impact of climate change on public safety in our region. These events are not isolated; they reflect a broader trend that is increasing the frequency, complexity, and severity of emergencies faced by modern fire services. As climate-related risks continue to rise, ranging from wildfire and extreme weather to environmental emergencies, fire prevention, education, and community awareness have become more critical than ever.

Prevention and public education are essential in reducing risk and building a more resilient community. By helping residents understand hazards and make informed choices, we can reduce both the likelihood and severity of incidents, from residential and wildland fires to complex, large-scale emergencies. Our focus continues to shift toward proactive risk reduction, ensuring that prevention principles are embedded in everything we do.

I would like to commend all members of the Saint John Fire Department for their professionalism, adaptability, and continued dedication during a period of growing complexity and change. While deeply rooted in tradition, our department remains responsive to emerging risks and evolving public expectations. We remain committed to continuous improvement through training, innovation, and collaboration.

In 2025, the department officially adopted revised Mission, Vision, and Values statements following a comprehensive review that actively engaged both department members and the public. These renewed statements reflect the realities of today's fire service and will guide our strategies, decision-making, and service delivery as we continue to focus on prevention, preparedness, and operational excellence.

The fire service has changed significantly over the years, and demand for our services continues to grow and diversify. One of the most notable challenges in 2025 involved responding to incidents associated with vulnerable populations within our city. These complex situations require more than emergency response alone, they require compassion, strong partnerships, and thoughtful coordination with community agencies. The professionalism and empathy demonstrated by our firefighters and partners are a testament to both the strength of our department and the resilience of our community.



ABOUT SAINT JOHN FIRE

The Saint John Fire Department has been operating since 1786. Today, the department is responsible for servicing 316 square kilometers.

The department's focus is on reducing loss of life, personal injury, property damage or impact on the environment through five primary services:

- Fire Rescue and Suppression
- Technical Rescue
- Fire Prevention and Investigation
- Medical First Response
- Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Emergency Response

FIRE RESCUE AND SUPPRESSION

The Fire Rescue and Suppression Service offers emergency response and mitigation strategies for residential, commercial, and industrial fires and explosions. The distinct characteristics of Saint John's residential areas, including its balloon frame construction, alongside its commercial properties and heavy industries, present challenges for our firefighters. Challenges our personnel are trained to address.



59

**TECHNICAL RESCUE
CALLS IN 2025**

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Technical Rescue provides emergency rescue operations for individuals in challenging environments or complex situations. These commonly involve water, ice, motor vehicle accidents, structural collapses, confined spaces, or high-angle scenarios. The Technical Rescue Team utilizes specialized equipment and training to deliver this service to our community and our neighbours.

FIRE PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION

The Fire Prevention Division advocates for a proactive approach to fire and life safety through initiatives such as public education, training, inspections, and code compliance. The Fire Investigation Service is responsible for determining the cause and origin of fire which is a requirement of the Office of the Fire Marshal for the Province.



MEDICAL FIRST RESPONSE

Emergency medical care is delivered through a coordinated effort among multiple agencies to ensure timely access to lifesaving interventions. Firefighters play a vital role in this tiered response system, providing critical support to emergency medical services (EMS). To meet evolving community needs firefighters provide advanced care including AED, CPR, and Narcan administration.



2028

**MEDICAL FIRST
RESPONSE CALLS IN
2025**

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZMAT) EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A HAZMAT team is one of three provincially designated Heavy HazMat Teams trained to handle dangerous substances like chemicals, biological agents, or radioactive materials. They respond to spills, leaks, and other hazardous incidents, working to contain threats, decontaminate areas, and protect public safety.



81

**HAZMAT RELATED
CALLS IN 2025**

OUR EMPLOYEES

We are committed to our employees and the service, dedication and expertise they bring to the Saint John Fire Department and Community



PROMOTIONS

ACTING PLATOON CHIEF

DEREK ROSS

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RICHARD EVANS

CAPTAIN

PAT CURRIE

QUALIFIED CAPTAIN

JOE SHELLEY
SCOTT GOGUEN
PETER CHRISTIAN

RETIREES

LT. MARK HIGGINS
LT. GEOFF FERGUSON
CPT. PETER WOODHOUSE

LIEUTENANT

ERIN LYDON
CURT PALMER
MATT SMITH

LIEUTENANT OF TRAINING

ADAM FLEWELLING

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER

ERIC SOHI

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTOR

SERGE VAUTOUR
BRANDON SMITH

FIREFIGHTER

BRADLEY YOWART
SHAUN SENYK
JAKOB TEEHAN
DANIEL INGLESTON
ERIK DOUCET
MATTHEW CLIFFORD

WELCOME TO SAINT JOHN FIRE THE RECRUIT CLASS OF 2025!

2025 RECRUITS:

Kaleb Downs	Bradley Gallant
Eric Foote	Noah McCormick
Mark Waidson	Ryan Hale
Catherine Bougie	Aiden Villareal
Peter Boudreau	Niels Vincent
Jeffrey Bartlett	Megan Fleming



Back Row (Left to Right):

Peter Boudreau, Jeffrey Bartlett, Niels Vincent, Kaleb Downs, Eric Foote, Megan Fleming

Front Row (Left to Right):

Ryan Hale, Aiden Villareal, Catherine Bougie, Bradley Gallant, Mark Waidson, Noah McCormick

FIRE STATIONS & APPARATUS



Station 1 - 45 Leinster Street



Staffed Units

- Engine 1 - 1,000 Gallon Engine
- Ladder Tower 1 - 114ft Aerial

Support Units

- Unit 85 - Wildland Fire, Technical Rescue, & Argo
- Unit 88 with RT1 (Regional Hazardous Materials)
- Quint 5 - Spare 75ft Aerial

Station Specialty

- Chainsaw and Rotary Saw Repair
- Department Central Storage
- Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

Station 2 - 842 Loch Lomond Road



Staffed Units

- Engine 2 - 1,000 Gallon Engine
- Tank 2 - 1,250 Gallon Tanker

Station Specialty

- Fire Extinguishers

FIRE STATIONS & APPARATUS

Station 4 - 36 Courtenay Avenue



Staffed Units

- Rescue 4 - Heavy Rescue
- Fire Prevention & Investigation

Station Specialty

- Wildland Fire Equipment, Service, & Repair
- Fire Prevention & Investigation

Station 5 - 35 Adelaide Street



Staffed Units

- Ladder 5 - 100ft Aerial
- Fire 3 - Command Unit

Support Units

- Fire 4 - On-Call Command Unit
- Engine 8 - Spare Engine

Station Specialty

- Spare Bunker Gear Storage
- Laundry Facility

Station 6 - 286 King Street West



Staffed Units

- Engine 6 - 1,000 Gallon Engine

Support Units

- Unit 87 - Air supply

Station Specialty

- Fire Hose Service & Repair

Station 7 - 41 Manchester Avenue



Staffed Units

- Engine 7 - 1,000 Gallon Engine
- Tank 7 - 1,250 Gallon Tanker

Support Units

- Marine 7 - Boston Whaler Guardian
- Jon Boat - 16ft Watercraft
- Unit 84 - Ice Rescue

Station Specialty

- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Service & Repair
- Hand Tool Service & Repair

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key considerations include:

- Personnel Costs: Salaries, benefits, overtime, and training.
- Equipment and Maintenance: Fire apparatus, protective gear, and maintenance expenses.
- Facilities: Upkeep, utilities, and potential station upgrades.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Supplies, medications, and support equipment.
- Grants and Revenue: Identifying funding sources to offset costs.

Effective budgeting ensures readiness, safety, and sustainability while aligning with community needs and fiscal constraints. Equipment and apparatus costs have increased significantly in recent years making forecasting difficult.

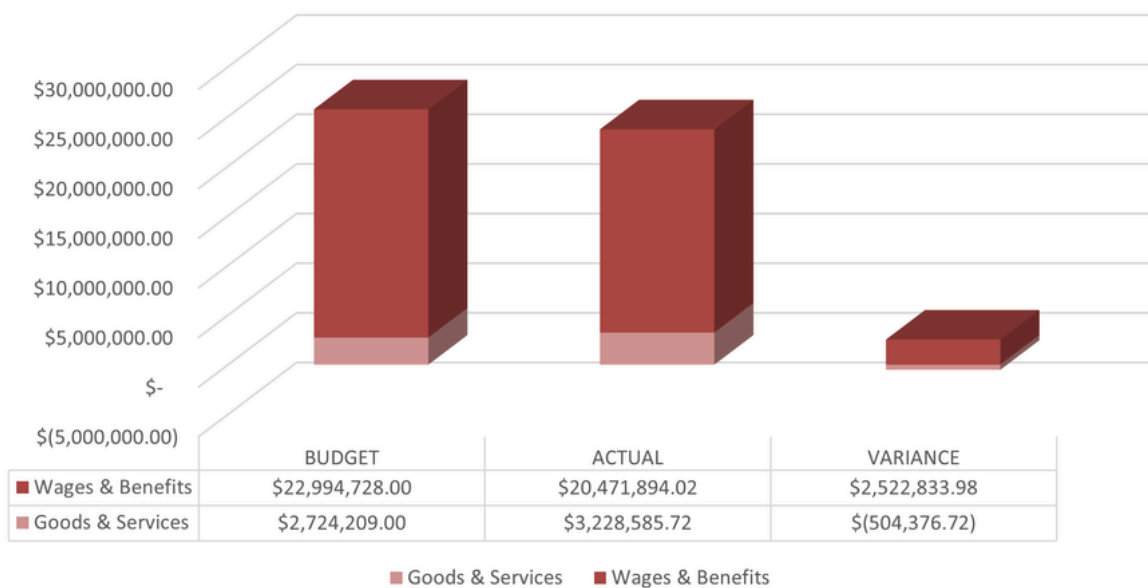


\$4,348

COST OF 1 SET OF BUNKER GEAR

EXPIRES EVERY 10 YEARS

2025 Operations Budget



\$82,487

SPENT ON WILDLAND GEAR AND EQUIPMENT



\$23,003

UPGRADED KNOX BOX UNITS ON ALL APPARATUS



\$1,342

COST OF 1 HELMET EXPIRES EVERY 10 YEARS

PURCHASE OF OFF ROAD RESCUE EQUIPMENT



The Saint John Fire Department applied for a grant through the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation of Canada to purchase a new side-by-side unit to replace the aging Argo. We were fortunate to receive the grant award, so we proceeded with the purchase of a new Yamaha YX10 side-by-side. Our City shops did the work to install lights, sirens, decals, and built a box to store the rescue stokes and other rescue supplies. This is anticipated to be in service in the second quarter of 2026 once training has been completed.

We also purchased an off-road water tank to be towed behind the side-by-side and an accompanying trailer to haul the side-by-side.

This new unit will significantly improve off-road response capability and operational readiness.

PURCHASE AND DEPLOYMENT OF DRONE

The Saint John Fire Department purchased a drone at the end of 2024 and deployed in April of 2025. The drone could not be in service until we had licensed pilots. Four members of our command team obtained the advanced RPAS Pilot Certificate needed to operate the drone. The remaining will obtain their licenses in 2026.

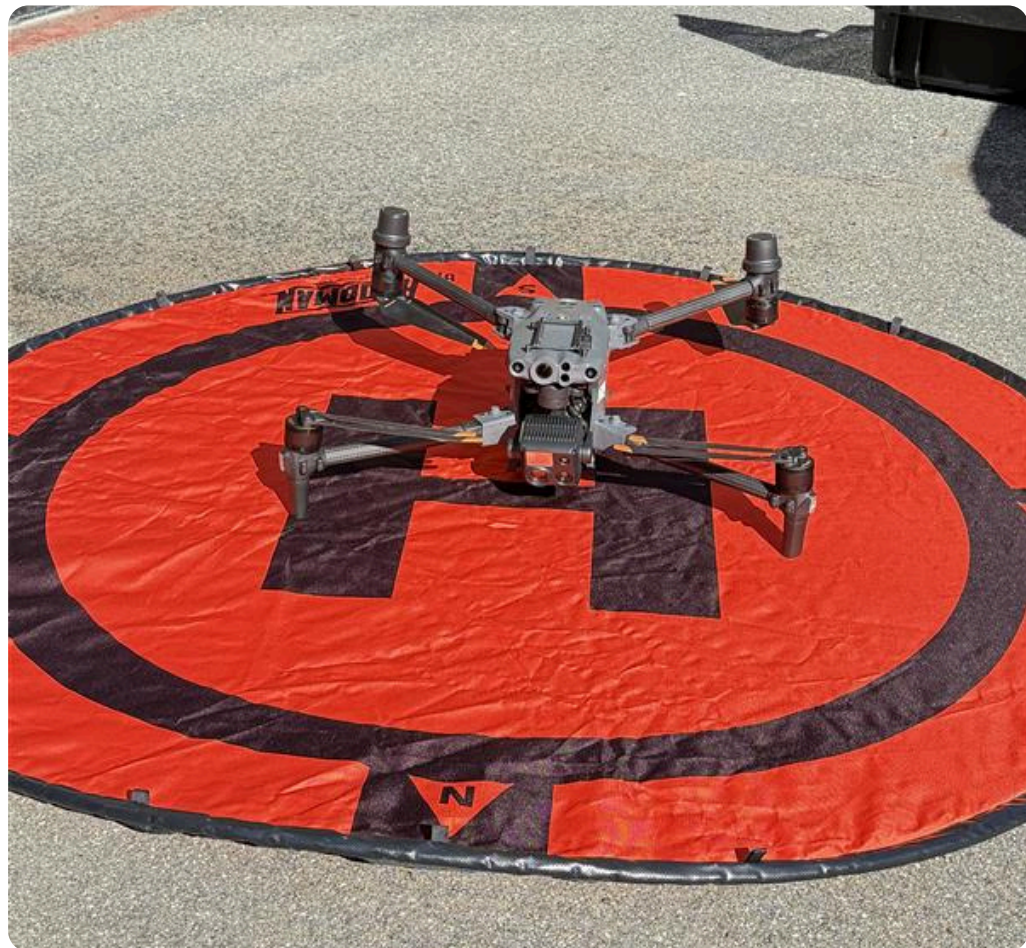
The drone has been used for calls such as water rescue, technical rescue, MVA, and missing person type calls. The drone has also been requested by other service areas in the City such as Growth and Community Development, Public Works, and Police.

The deployment of the drone has enhanced the SJFD by allowing incident command to improve situational awareness by providing real-time aerial intelligence; reduce the risk to firefighters as there is less need to send them into hazardous areas; and increases the ability to locate victims in rescue situations.

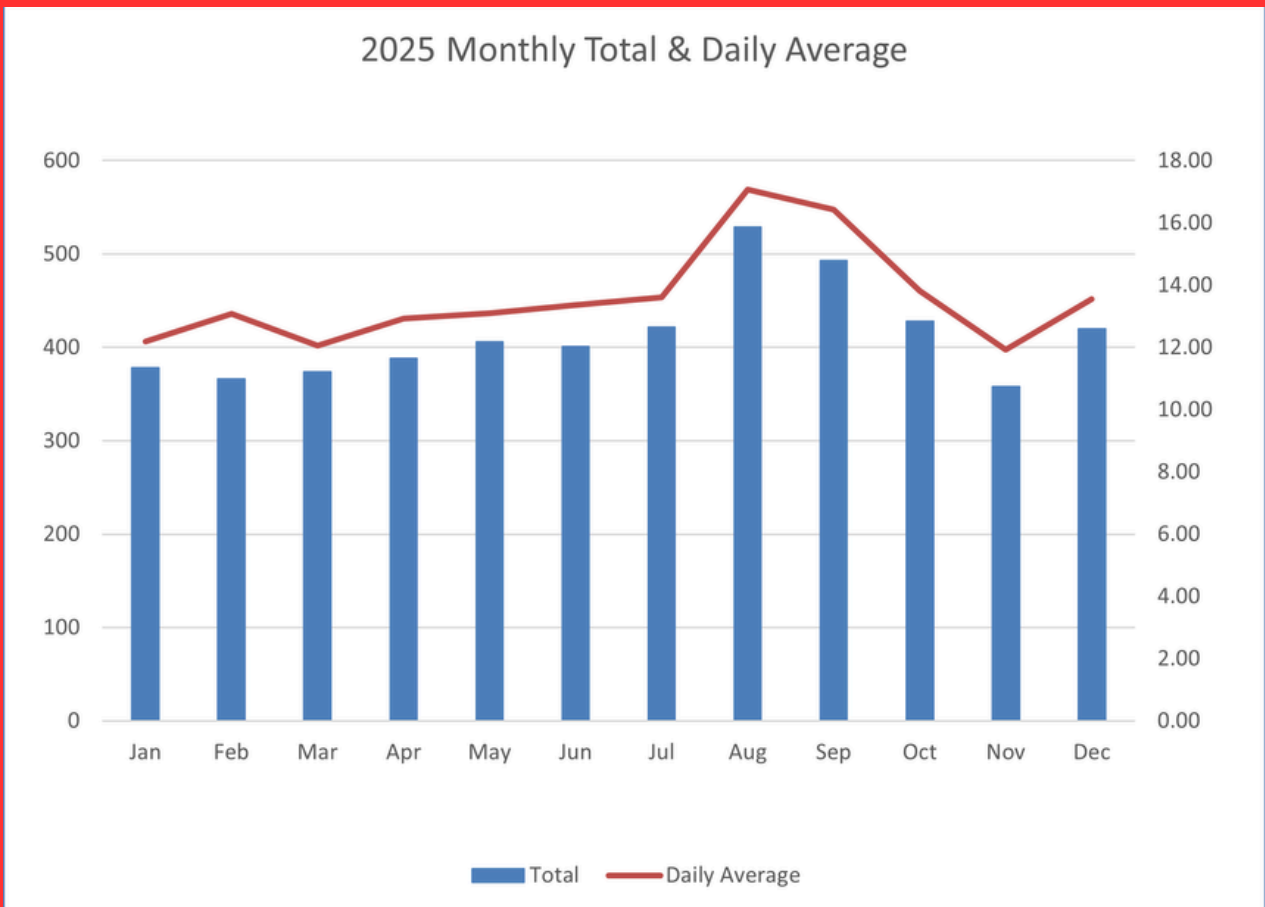
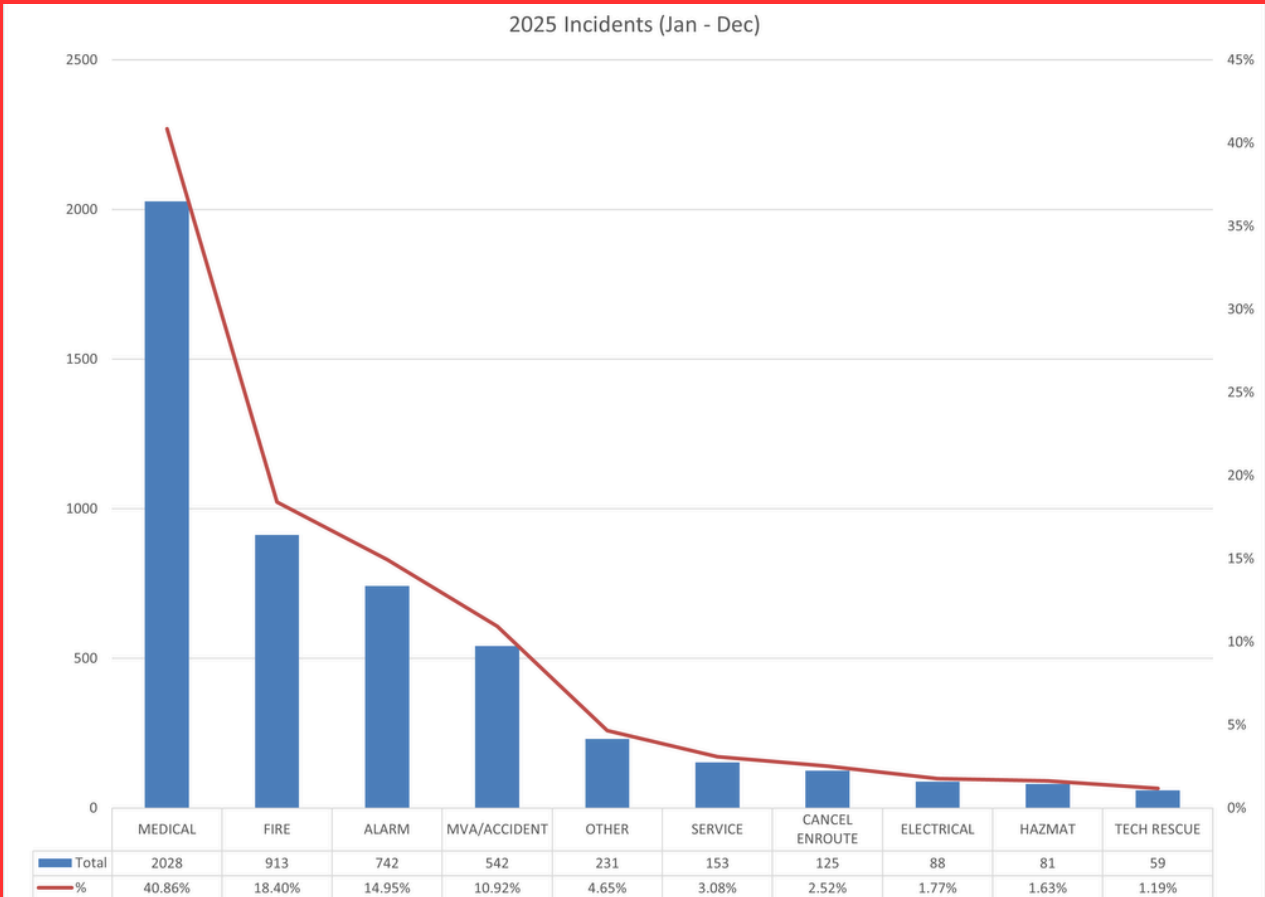


8 Calls

The SJFD deployed the drone to 8 calls in 2025



2025 STATISTICS



2025 STATISTICS



4964 CALLS

The SJFD responded to 4964 calls in 2025

As the population of Saint John continues to grow, the fire department must adapt to new challenges, and increasing demand for services.

25-30%

Initial analysis shows a decrease in encampment related fire calls by 25-30%. This could be due in part to the City's Housing for All Strategy

6.7%

In 2025, the Saint John Fire Department experienced a 6.3% increase in fire related calls compared to the previous year.

594 CALLS

The peak period for the Saint John Fire Department in 2025 occurred between the hours of 4 PM and 5 PM, during which we received an average of 594 calls.

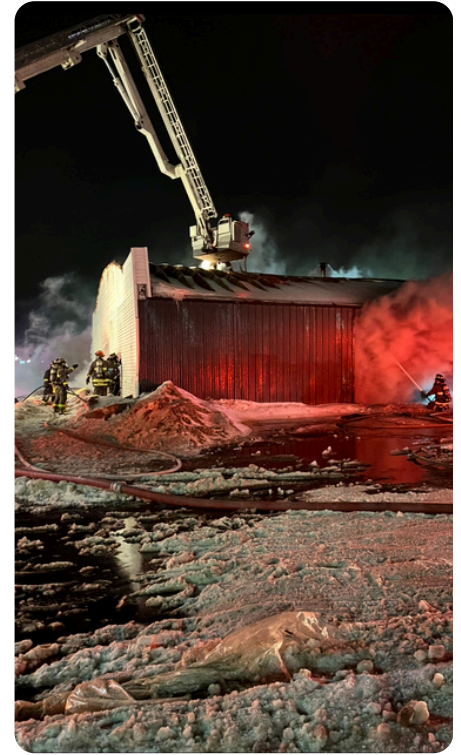
2025 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS



Feb 18

STRUCTURE FIRE
ROTHESAY AVENUE

SJFD responded to a report of a structure fire shortly after midnight. Initial attack was offensive but conditions deteriorated, which led to command switching to a defensive strategy.



Aerial ventilation and exterior attack succeeded in knocking down the fire in a timely manner.

The Salvage Corps and investigators were requested to attend the scene.



June 18

STRUCTURE FIRE
REBECCA AVENUE



The initial call came in for a garage fire, Fire 2 arrived on scene to find the garage fully involved along with a sailboat and the home as well. Mutual aid was called for GBW Fire tankers to support with water supply. Crews fought the house fire externally before making an internal push to fully extinguish the fire. The crews were not able to fully extinguish the sailboat until SJ Energy cut the power due to close live wires.

All occupants escaped the fire, with one citizen treated for burns on their hands.

2025 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

FIRE BAN - AUGUST 2025

A province-wide burn ban was in effect across New Brunswick for a significant portion of August 2025 due to high wildfire risks, with stricter Crown land closures lifting around August 25. For the City of Saint John, this meant closures all of all city biking and walking trails as well as a ban on fires and BBQs. This made for a very busy month of August for the Saint John Fire Department, with a total of 529 calls for the month, 185 of which were fire related calls.

Important Notice:
City of Saint John update
related to provincial burn ban



Although Saint John did not experience any major forest fires this year, the overall risk continues to increase. Changing environmental conditions, including extended periods of dry weather and increased vegetation fuel, are contributing to a heightened wildfire threat. This underscores the importance of ongoing preparedness, mitigation efforts, and public awareness to reduce risk and ensure readiness for potential future events.

To address this risk, SJFD partnered with a consultant to develop a Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan, with completion anticipated in the first quarter of 2026.



Crews were called to a structure fire, and learned en route that the fire was on the back deck. The

arriving crew went fast attack and were able to knock the fire down quickly. Checks for extension were done on the exterior and interior of the home. This is an example of our crews acting quickly to mitigate what could have been a fully involved structure fire.

TRAINING DIVISION

In 2025, the Training Division delivered more than 500 total training sessions, achieving strong participation across all operational areas.

Key outcomes:

- Improved operational readiness and safety
- Expanded technical rescue and multi-company response
- Maintained compliance (Red Cross) and strengthened medical response proficiency
- Increased depth of internal instructional capacity (Training Division)
- Certified 13 personnel to hazardous materials technician IFSAC/ProBoard standard

The division continues to align training with modern fire service standards, emerging risks, and community needs, ensuring the Saint John Fire Department remains prepared for a wide range of emergency incidents.



The Training Division delivered a broad and structured program in 2025 focused on operational readiness, technical rescue capability, marine response, and medical proficiency. These initiatives ensured personnel remained aligned with evolving standards, emerging risks, and equipment modernization.

Training was delivered through:

- Recruit Training Program - 12 Holiday Relief Firefighters trained
- Hazardous Materials Training - 45 Firefighters trained
- Marine & Rescue Boat Operations - 20 Firefighters trained

- Ice Rescue Training - 20 Firefighters trained
- Technical Rope Rescue Program - 64 Firefighters trained
- Medical First Responder - 150 Firefighters trained
- Pump Operator Certification - 6 Firefighters trained
- Aerial Operator Certification - 13 Firefighters trained
- Fire Service Instructor II - 4 Personnel trained
- Ring Rescue Training - 16 Personnel trained
- Multi-Company Fireground Evolutions - 142 Personnel
- Wildland Firefighting - 50 Firefighters



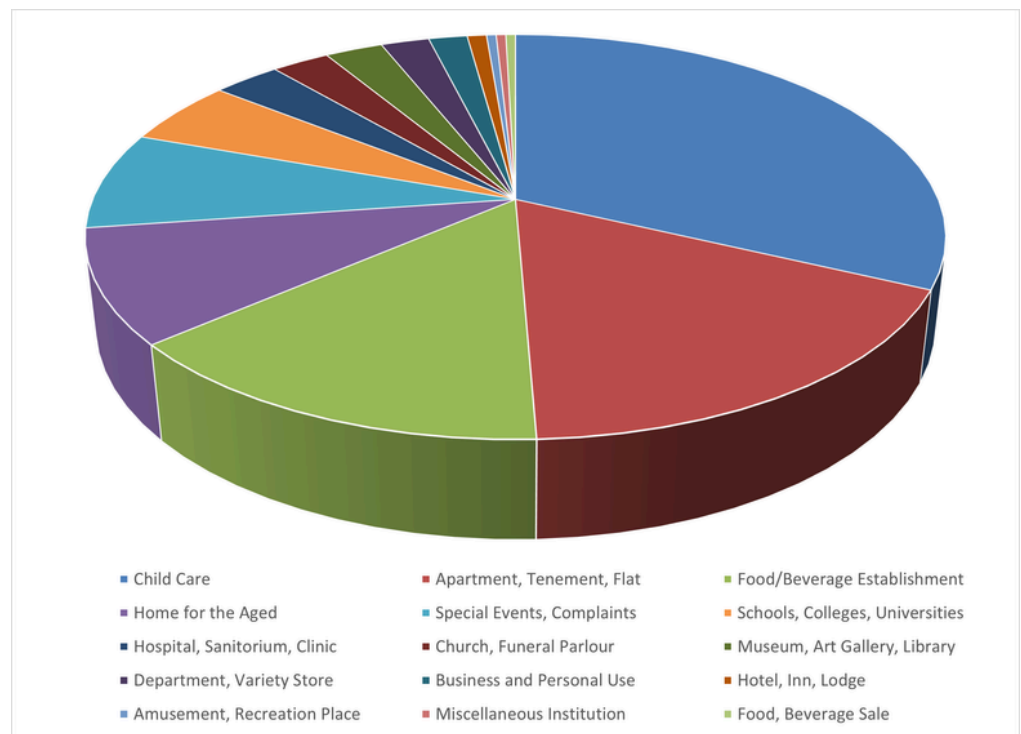
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

In 2025, the Fire Prevention and Investigation Division operated with reduced staffing levels, presenting additional challenges in meeting an already demanding workload. Despite these pressures, division members continued to deliver a high standard of service to the community. Through strong prioritization, teamwork, and dedication, key responsibilities—including inspections, public education, and fire investigations—were carried out effectively. The division’s ability to maintain service levels under these conditions reflects the professionalism and commitment of its personnel.

Staffing levels have been strengthened for 2026 and we look forward to continued delivery and growth of these essential services.



BREAKDOWN OF FIRE INSPECTION TYPES



231

Fire Prevention performed 231 total inspections, 177 annual inspections and 54 re-inspections

SAINT JOHN EMO

Ensuring the safety of our citizens, property, and environment is crucial, especially during emergencies. The Saint John Emergency Management Organization (SJEMO) plays a vital role in this by coordinating emergency planning, response, and recovery for both natural and man-made disasters in Saint John.

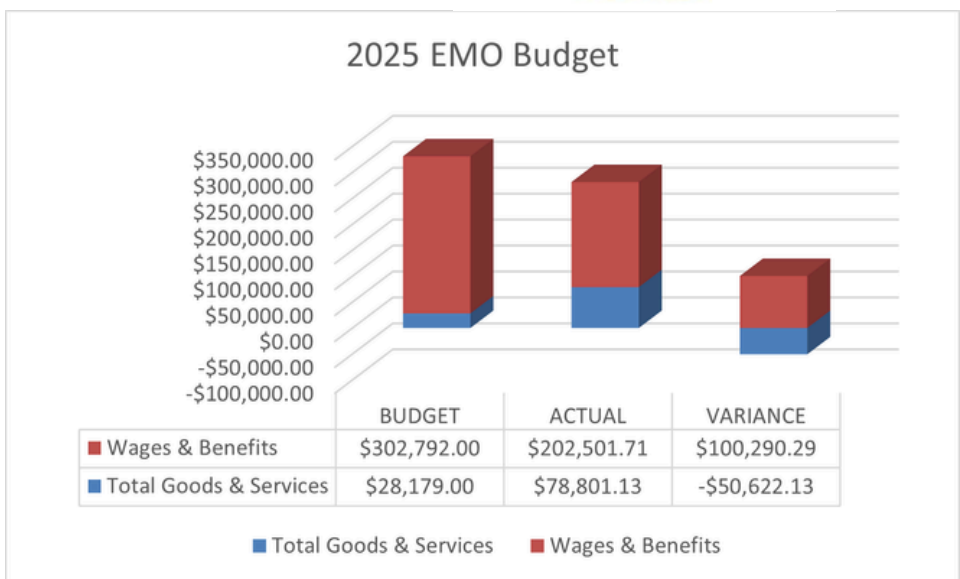


At SJEMO, we collaborate closely with our partners, especially the Saint John community, to build a resilient and sustainable future.

We focus on cultivating a culture of emergency preparedness through knowledge sharing, open communication, and proactive planning, enabling us to confidently address any challenges that arise.

2025 EMO ACTIVATIONS

SJEMO was activated to Level 2: Partial Activation from August 11 to September 8 due to the extreme Forest Fire Risk. During this time the City parks were closed and a full burn ban was in effect for the City and entire province. Smoke from fires in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick impacted the air quality in Saint John during this time.



EXERCISES & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN 2025

Participating and coordinating exercises demonstrates the commitment of the SJEMO Team to emergency preparedness. Exercises include table-top discussions, simulations, functional, and full-scale. In addition to exercising, networking, collaborating and developing relationships with external stakeholders pays huge dividends during actual emergencies. The following exercises and engagements occurred in 2025:

- Regional Public Safety Committee Meetings
- Regional Rail Safety Committee Meetings
- Royal Association of Firefighters' Meetings
- Zone 2 Fire Department Meetings
- Irving Oil Refinery familiarization tours
- Crane Mountain Water Supply familiarization tours
- East Saint John Terminal familiarization and contingency planning
- Point Lepreau Mutual Aid Annual Training
- IOR tabletop exercise – East Saint John Marine Terminal scenario
- Linde Canada – Industrial gas full scale exercise
- Hazmat Training (Tech) and exercises
- Wildfire training and consultation with Department of Natural Resources



CONNECT WITH US!

45 LEINSTER STREET
SAINT JOHN, NB
E2L 1H9

FIRE@SAINTJOHN.CA

(506) 658-2910

WWW.SAINTJOHN.CA/PUBLIC-SAFETY

