

Cumberland Road Fire Department

2025 Annual Report

Serving the Cumberland Road Fire District

Celebrating 70 Years of Service (1955-2025)



Message from the Fire Chief

As Fire Chief of the Cumberland Road Fire Department, I am proud to present our 2025 Annual Report and reflect on another year of service, progress, and dedication to the community we are honored to protect.

The past year was especially meaningful as we **celebrated 70 years of service** to the citizens of our community. Since our founding, generations of dedicated volunteers and career firefighters have answered the call, building a proud legacy of service, sacrifice, and professionalism. This milestone offered an opportunity to honor those who came before us while reaffirming our commitment to those we serve today.

The year was also marked by significant accomplishments that speak to the dedication of our firefighters, officers, board members, and support staff. Most notably, the Cumberland Road Fire Department achieved an **ISO Class 1 rating**, placing us among an elite group of fire departments nationwide. This achievement reflects years of planning, training, investment, and teamwork, and it directly benefits our community through improved fire protection and reduced insurance ratings for many residents and businesses.

Beyond this milestone, 2025 was a year of continued growth and reinvestment in our department. We made strategic **capital purchases and improvements** to ensure our members have the equipment, apparatus, and facilities necessary to operate safely and effectively. These included replacing aging equipment, enhancing our response capabilities, and adding resources that support both emergency operations and community risk reduction efforts. We also took important steps toward future expansion, including the purchase of adjacent property to support long-term department needs.

Training and preparedness remained a priority throughout the year. Our personnel continued to dedicate countless hours to training, certification, and skill development to meet the evolving demands of the fire service. Their professionalism and readiness are evident in every response, whether answering emergency calls, conducting inspections, or engaging with the public through education and outreach.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the unwavering support of our **Board of Directors, county leadership, mutual aid partners, and the citizens we serve**. Your trust and support allow us to continue advancing our mission of protecting life, property, and community.

As we look ahead, the Cumberland Road Fire Department remains committed to excellence, accountability, and continuous improvement. This annual report highlights just a portion of the work accomplished in 2025, and I am confident that our best days are still ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of the Cumberland Road Fire Department.

Respectfully,

Steven Parrish, Fire Chief

Introduction

Chartered in 1955, Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to delivering fire protection, emergency services, and fire and life safety education to the citizens of the Cumberland Road Fire District in Cumberland County, North Carolina.

Formed by the residents of the Faymont Community, the department emerged from a growing need for localized fire protection. As the City of Fayetteville expanded, it became clear that its fire department could no longer adequately serve both city and county residents. In response, the community came together to establish its own fire service, rooted in the mission to provide the highest level of protection possible.

Today, that same spirit of dedication continues to guide us. We remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering exceptional fire, rescue, and emergency services in a professional, proficient, and compassionate manner. Through prevention, planning, education, and training, we actively promote life safety throughout our community.

Our People, Our Pride

Our department is staffed by a dedicated combination of volunteer members and 24-hour paid personnel. Each member takes great pride in their work, upholding a shared commitment to excellence and community service. We function as more than a team — we are a family, always striving to support one another and our neighbors.

Though we serve the smallest fire district in Cumberland County, we are proud to be among the busiest departments. The challenges are great, but so are the rewards. At Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department, we continue to raise the bar — because our community deserves nothing less than the very best.

Equipment and Capabilities

We operate with some of the most advanced fire and rescue equipment available. Our fleet includes:

One pumper/tanker (1,000-gallon capacity, 1,500 GPM pump)

Two engines (750-gallon capacity, 1,500 GPM pump)

A fully equipped rescue/service vehicle with extrication tools

A smaller squad unit for emergency medical calls

A Nationally Recognized Standard of Excellence

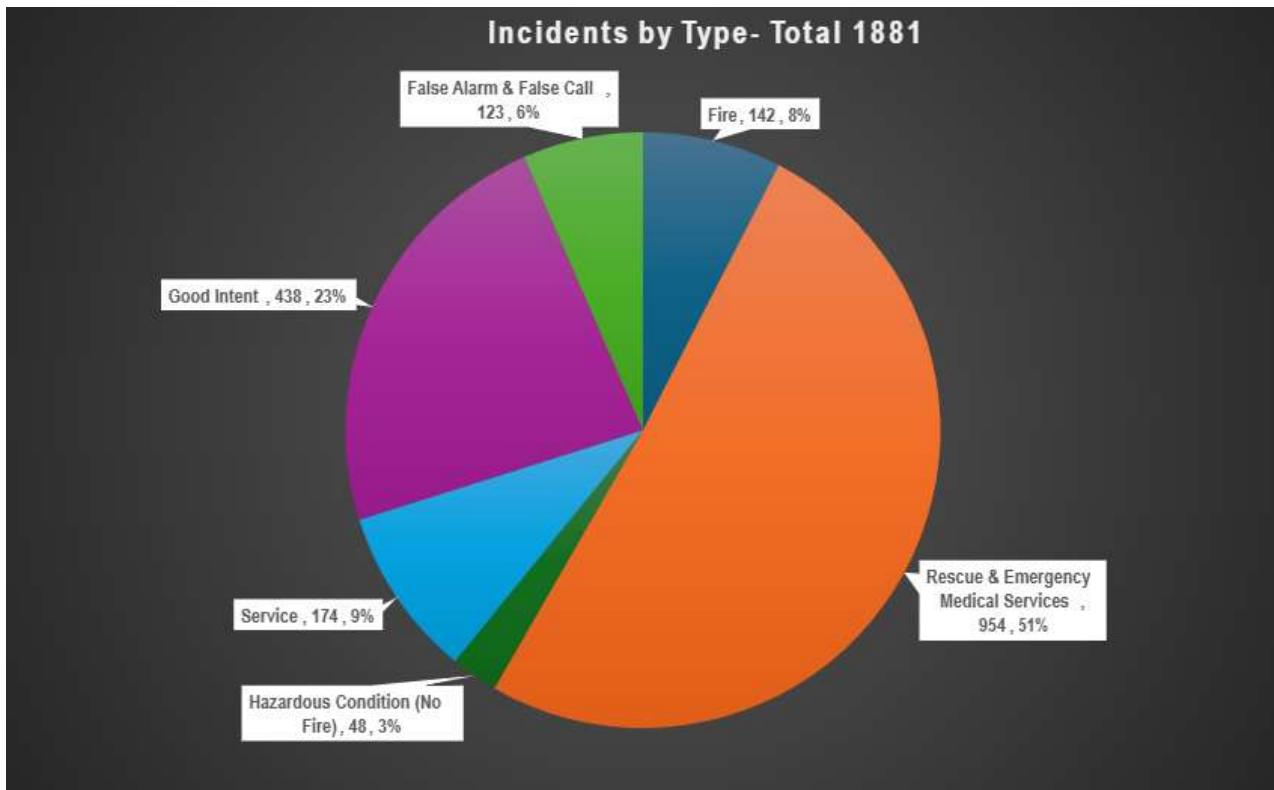
Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department is proud to hold an **ISO Class 1 fire protection rating** — the **highest possible rating** awarded by the Insurance Services Office. This prestigious designation not only reflects our department's strong commitment to preparedness, rapid response capabilities, and comprehensive community risk reduction, but it also places us among the **top 1% of fire departments nationwide**.

We are especially proud to note that Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department is the **first county fire department in Cumberland County to achieve a Class 1 rating** — a milestone that underscores our unwavering pursuit of excellence and the exceptional service we provide to the citizens we serve.



2025 Annual Incident Response

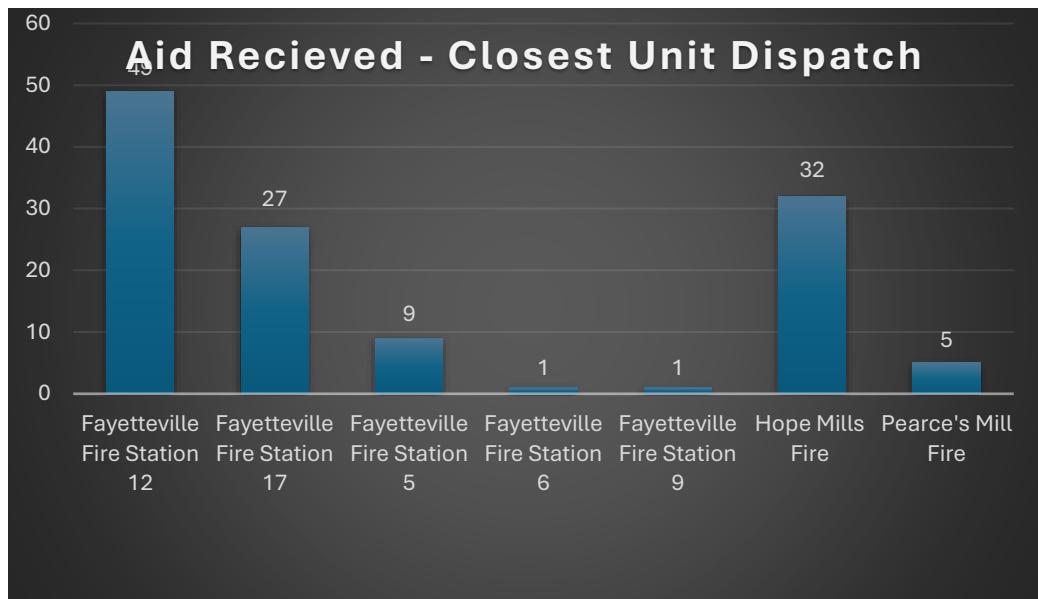
The Cumberland Road Fire Department provided emergency services response 1881 times. These totals include automatic and mutual aid responses to neighboring departments. Cumberland Road firefighters provided emergency services response 1017 times, within the fire district. Combined these incidents included fires, EMS/rescue responses, and non-emergency calls for service.



Aid Received based on Closest Unit Dispatch

Neighboring fire departments responded to **124 of the 1,141 calls for service** within the Cumberland Road Fire District under the **Closest Unit Dispatch** system, accounting for **approximately 11%** of all incidents within the district.

Assisting agencies included **Fayetteville Fire Department**—Station 12 (49 calls), Station 17 (27 calls), Station 5 (9 calls), Station 6 (1 call), and Station 9 (1 call)—as well as **Hope Mills Fire Department** (32 calls) and **Pearce's Mill Fire Department** (5 calls).



Automatic/Mutual Aid Given

Cumberland Road Fire Department personnel and apparatus assisted other fire agencies within Cumberland County and the City of Fayetteville a total of **788 times** during the reporting period. These responses were generated through **Closest Unit Dispatch** and established **Automatic Aid** agreements.

Assistance was provided to the following agencies:

Fayetteville Fire Department (585 responses),

Hope Mills Fire Department (127),

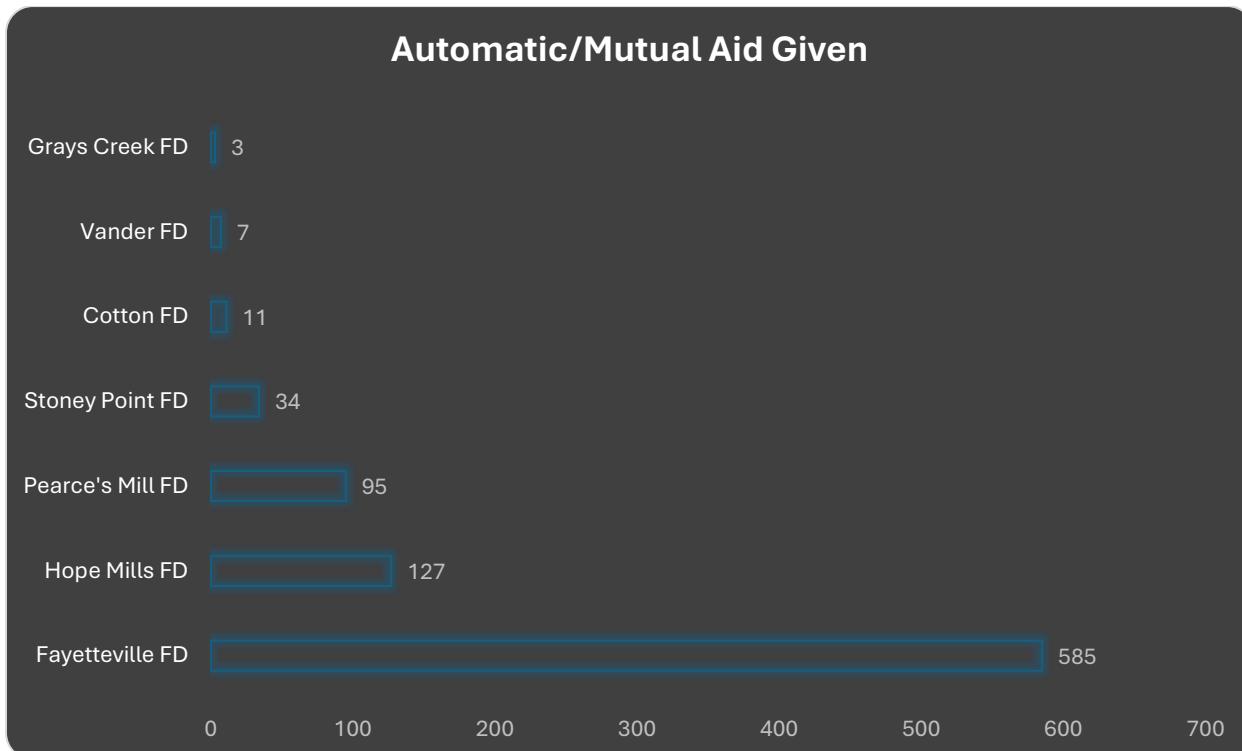
Pearce's Mill Fire Department (95),

Stoney Point Fire Department (34),

Cotton Fire Department (11),

Vander Fire Department (7),

Grays Creek Fire Department (3)



Automatic/Mutual Aid Received

Through the countywide automatic aid agreement, neighboring fire departments provided assistance to Cumberland Road Firefighters on **256 occasions**.

Assistance was provided from the following agencies:

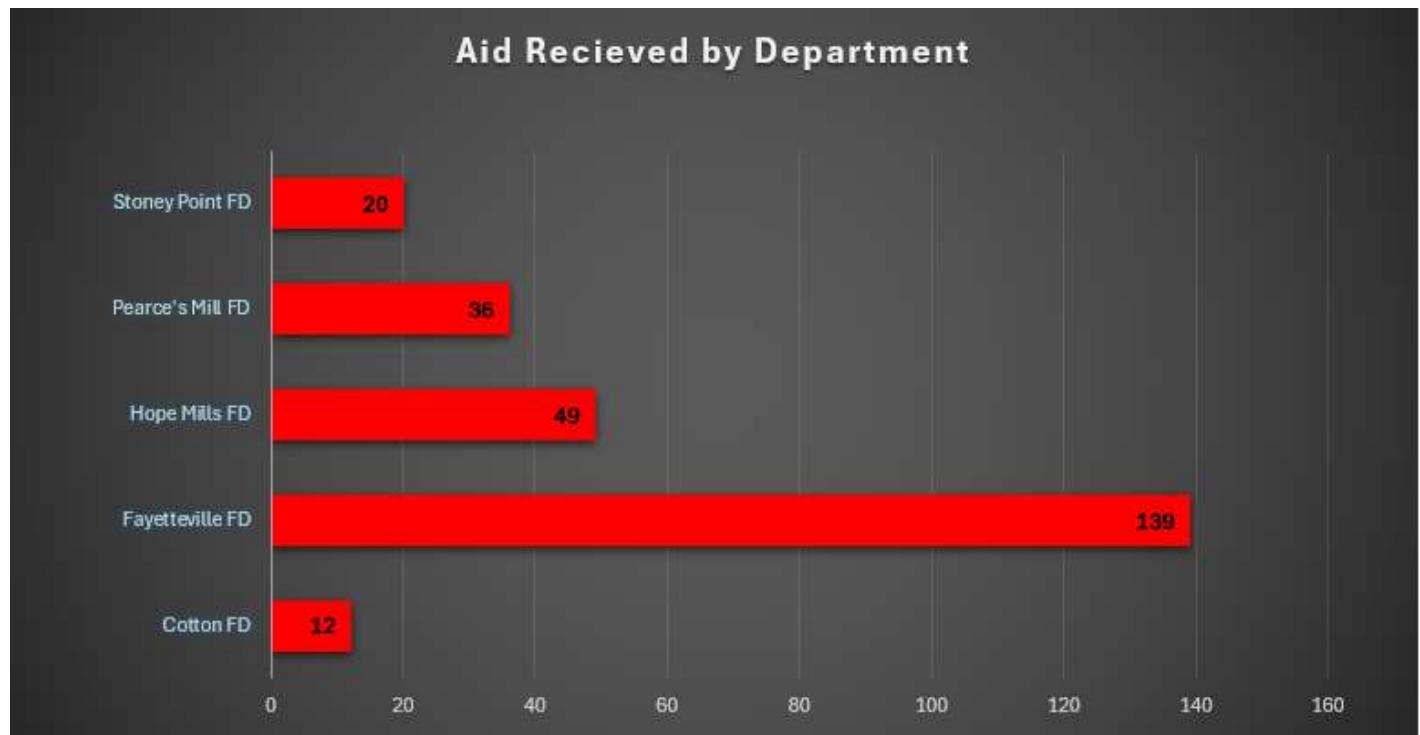
Fayetteville Fire – 139

Hope Mills Fire – 49

Pearce's Mill Fire – 36

Stoney Point Fire – 20

Cotton Fire – 12



Community Risk Reduction (CRR)

The Cumberland Road Fire Department remains committed to reducing risk and improving life safety through proactive Community Risk Reduction (CRR) initiatives. Serving a population of approximately **9,000 residents** in a **predominantly residential response area**, the department focuses its CRR efforts on preventing fires before they occur through education, outreach, and partnerships.

Fire Prevention & Life Safety Education

Fire prevention and fire safety education continue to be the foundation of the department's CRR strategy. In 2025, Cumberland Road firefighters conducted **27 Fire and Life Safety Education (FLSE) events**, reaching residents of all ages with critical safety messaging. These programs emphasized residential fire prevention, early detection, and safe behaviors within the home—where the majority of fire incidents occur.

Smoke Alarm Program

The department maintained an active smoke alarm installation and inspection program targeting at-risk and underserved residents. During the year, firefighters **installed 139 smoke alarms** and made **approximately 200 direct safety contacts** with community members. These efforts help ensure early warning in the event of a fire and directly support the department's mission to reduce fire-related injuries and fatalities.

Fire Extinguisher & Cooking Fire Safety Education

Fire extinguisher education was provided as part of community outreach and public education efforts, ensuring residents understand proper use and limitations of portable extinguishers. Additionally, the department conducted a **Cooking Fire Safety Campaign**, addressing one of the leading causes of residential fires. This campaign focused on safe cooking practices, kitchen fire prevention, and appropriate response to cooking-related incidents.

School & Community Partnerships

Community risk reduction efforts were strengthened through partnerships with the **County Fire Marshal's Office**, the **State Fire Marshal's Office**, and **local businesses**. These collaborations expanded the department's ability to deliver consistent safety messaging and reach a broader audience, particularly through school-based fire safety programs and community events.

Looking Ahead

As Cumberland Road Fire Department continues to serve the community, CRR efforts will remain data-informed and community-focused. Future initiatives will build upon existing programs, strengthen partnerships, and target residential fire risks to further enhance the safety and resilience of the community.



Department Members Honored with Merit Awards

Two members of the Cumberland Road Fire Department were recently recognized for their outstanding service during the **7th Annual Greater Fayetteville Chamber Public Safety Valor Awards**.

Firefighter Paul Dixon received a **Merit Award** for his exceptional dedication and leadership during the implementation of the department's new records management system. His commitment and technical expertise were instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition, resulting in improved accuracy, efficiency, and overall operational effectiveness.

Firefighter Ed Samuelian was also honored with a **Merit Award** for his proactive efforts and instrumental role in securing funding for the acquisition of new extrication equipment for the department's first-out engine. His initiative has significantly enhanced the department's rescue capabilities and its ability to effectively serve the community during critical incidents.

Fire Officer and Firefighter of the Year

Each year, the department also recognizes one firefighter and one officer who exceeds the expectations of their respective positions and demonstrates a consistent pattern of community service, leadership, and professional achievement. These individuals exemplify the character, commitment, and compassion that define the fire service.

2025 Recipients

Chief Steven Parrish

Firefighter James (Rick) Swann

Fire Commissioners Award of Excellence

In recognition of our ISO Class 1 achievement, the department was honored to



receive the first Fire Commission Award of Excellence, along with the County Crest, from the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners.

Annual Training

Department members, including both volunteer and paid staff, completed over **5,000 hours of firefighting-related training**. This report does **not** reflect any **specialty training** completed, nor does it include **EMS training or continuing education (con-ed)**.

