



**Roaring Fork
Fire Rescue**

2025 Annual Report

970-340-7040

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info@roaringforkfire.org

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Letter From Chief Thompson

On behalf of Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority, I am proud to present the 2025 Annual Report. This report highlights key data, notable accomplishments, and significant milestones achieved by the Authority throughout the year.

In 2025, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) surveyed the Authority regarding our insurance fire ratings. Our current ISO rating is Class 3, except for our remote Thomasville Station, which remains Class 9.

During the 2025 drought, we experienced severe, notable wildfires. With a great initial response, our talented staff, with our partners, were able to control all wildland fires to a few acres and save homes. We are proud to be part of a regional partnership that uses AI cameras to dispatch multiple agencies with strong automatic mutual aid. This includes all agencies in the mountain region and our federal partners. Locally all fires in the valley during 2025 were both contained and controlled with the assistance of our neighboring agencies Aspen Fire, Aspen Ambulance, Carbondale Fire, Glenwood Fire, Colorado River Fire, and the Federal Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire (UCR). The UCR is also our avenue for receiving air support, including airplanes and helicopters as needed, under mutual aid with no cost to our Authority. I cannot stress enough how these relationships strengthen our abilities to keep wildland fires from destroying our communities.

At the core of everything we do is a steadfast commitment to the safety of our responders, our residents, and our visitors. We work hard every day to meet and exceed the expectations of the communities we proudly serve. We are so fortunate that we have always had community support as we grow with our communities, and I thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Scott Thompson, Fire Chief

Board Comments

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority Board of Directors continued to advance several significant initiatives in 2025, particularly the bond-funded improvements approved in 2023. In partnership with the Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District, the Authority has made substantial progress on the facility enhancements at Station 42, located at 1089 JW Drive in El Jebel. These improvements include the construction of a dedicated vehicle maintenance facility, a new fire training facility with a burn tower, and the expansion and modernization of Station 42.

As part of the 2025 bond improvements, we also finalized an agreement with Pitkin County to accommodate the Pitkin County Regional Emergency Dispatch Center at 1089 JW Drive. Pitkin County committed funding for its portion of the addition, scheduled for completion in 2026. This partnership strengthens our ability to deliver efficient, coordinated service to the community while further supporting regional collaboration.

In addition, we received delivery of our first ITURRI Wildland Mini Pumper—engineered for compactness, efficiency, and versatility. This unit is the first of two ITURRI engines that will enhance our capabilities in responding to the region’s most challenging wildfire incidents.

These achievements reflect our unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of the communities we serve. The Authority Board remains dedicated to ensuring that each milestone supports the long-term success and resilience of the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our community for their continued support and confidence, and to our staff for their exceptional dedication and hard work on behalf of those we serve.

Ed Van Walraven - President

Scott Arthur - Vice President

Elizabeth Striegler - Treasurer

Leroy Duroux - Board Member

Dave Heivly - Board Member

John Young - Board Member

Facilities

The RFFRA Facilities division consists of six firehouses and nineteen employee rental units. Three of our six fire houses are staffed twenty-four hours a day by full-time responders. Fire Station 42 is currently under a large construction project. We have completed a brand-new vehicle maintenance building, and the remaining construction is expected to be completed in late 2026. Three of our firehouses have employee housing attached, totaling thirteen units – some two-bedroom, one-bedroom, and studio apartments. The district also owns four two-bedroom apartments: two in Willits and two in Basalt.

The nineteen employee housing units enable RFFRA to provide housing to existing employees at a reduced rate from the market rates and to use these rental units to attract new hires.



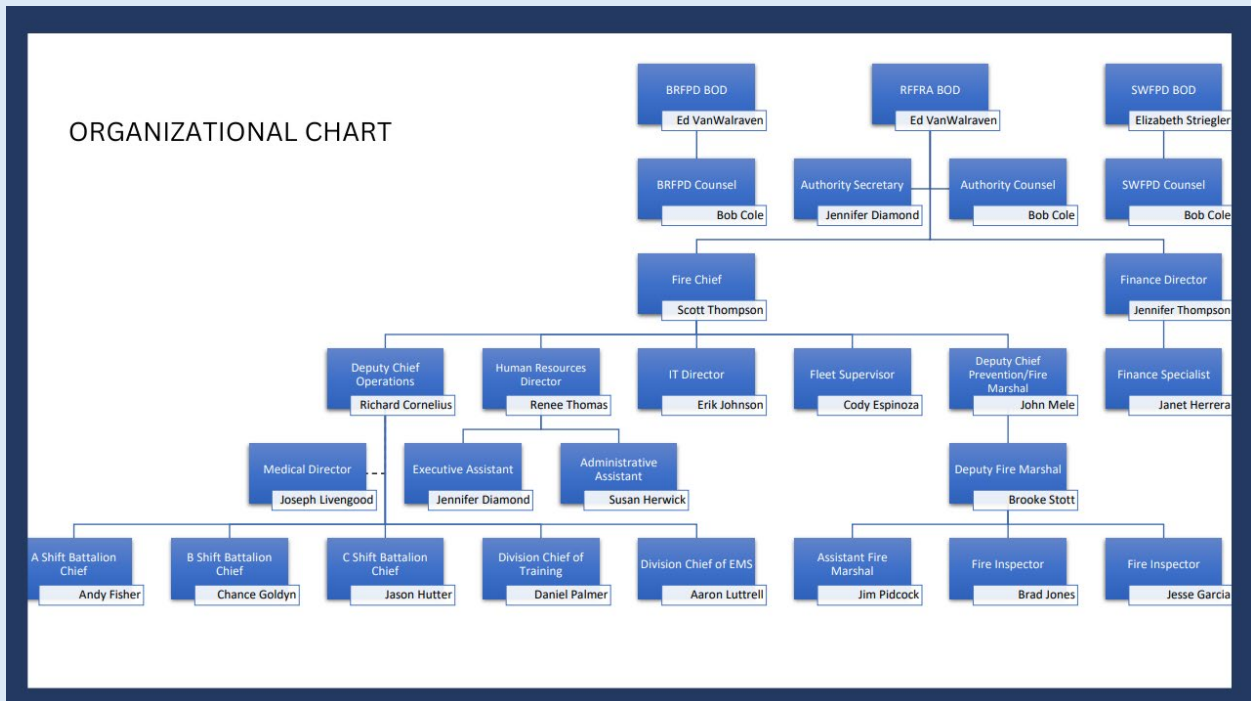
Department Profile

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority is an all-hazards emergency services provider operating six fire stations with a combination of volunteer, part-time, and full-time staff. Three of our six stations are staffed. Station 41 is near the Middle and Elementary Schools in Basalt. Station 42 is in El Jebel, and Station 45 is in Snowmass Village. All three staffed stations were placed in these locations based on available property and proximity to local business districts. RFFRA also has three unstaffed stations. Station 43 is twenty-six miles up the Frying Pan River in Thomasville; Station 44 is two miles from Highway 82 on Snowmass Creek Road; Station 46 is near Sopris Mountain Ranch, near mile four on West Sopris Creek Road.

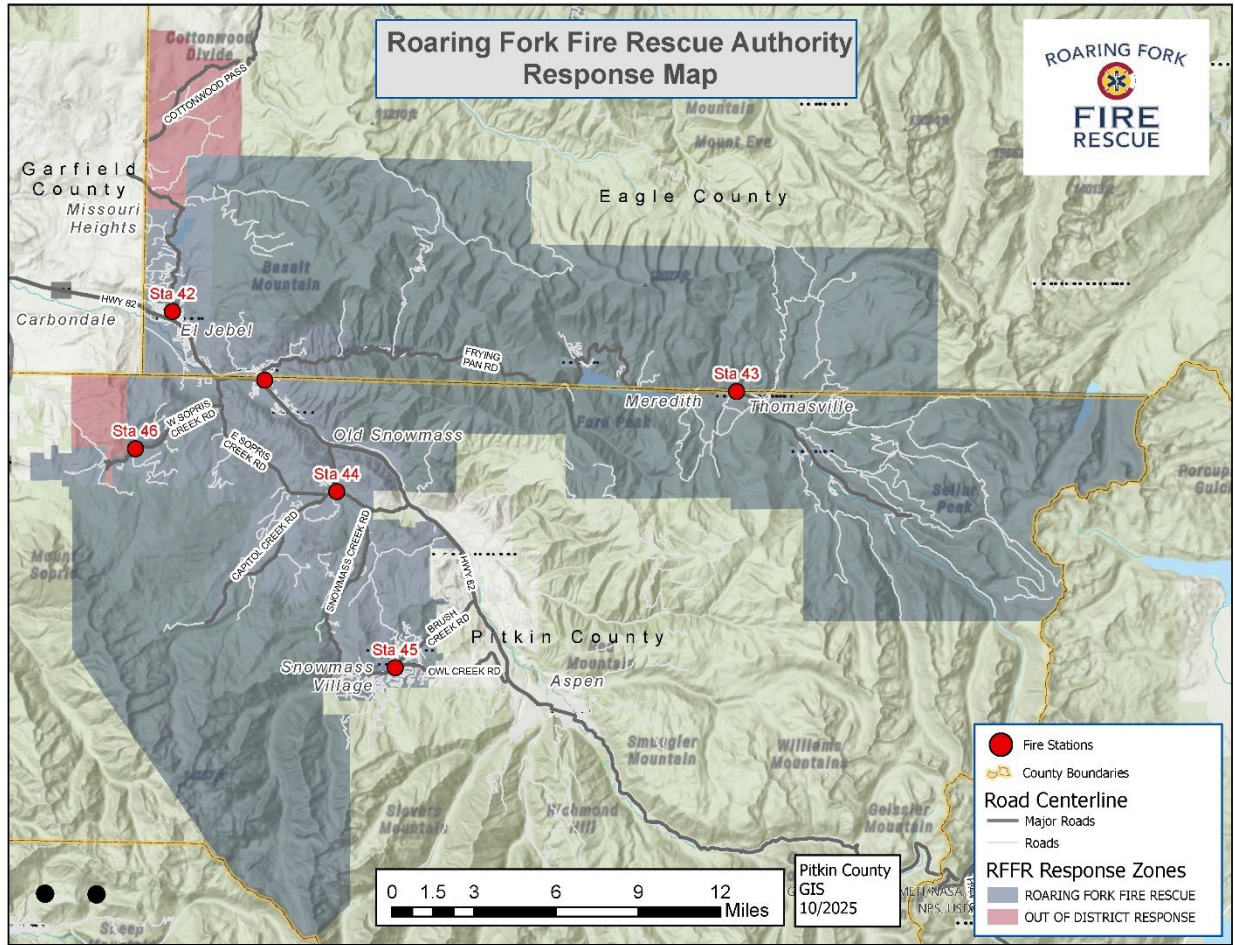
The Authority is supported by a Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, two Division Chiefs, Finance Director, Finance Specialist, Human Resources Director, Fleet Supervisor, Facilities Director, Information Technology Director, and two Administrative Assistants, all working collaboratively to ensure the organization operates efficiently and effectively in support of its mission. The Fire Marshal, along with a team of four full-time fire prevention professionals, leads community risk reduction efforts through fire prevention education, plan review, inspections, and fire cause-and-origin investigations. Operationally, three Battalion Chiefs oversee the duty crews, consisting of nine Lieutenants and twenty-eight full-time Firefighter/EMTs and Paramedics, who operate on a 48-hour on/96-hour off schedule, with thirteen personnel assigned per shift. This staffing model is further strengthened by dedicated volunteers and part-time firefighters who play a critical role in service delivery and community support. Together, all positions function in alignment to advance the Authority's mission and service objectives.

The Authority, a full-service Class-3 fire and emergency medical service agency, is equipped to handle a wide range of emergencies. We deliver suppression services, EMS (advanced life support), and various rescue services to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. The Authority also provides comprehensive emergency management, fire prevention inspections, post-fire investigations, pre-plan review, and public fire and life safety education, demonstrating our commitment to proactive safety measures and community engagement.

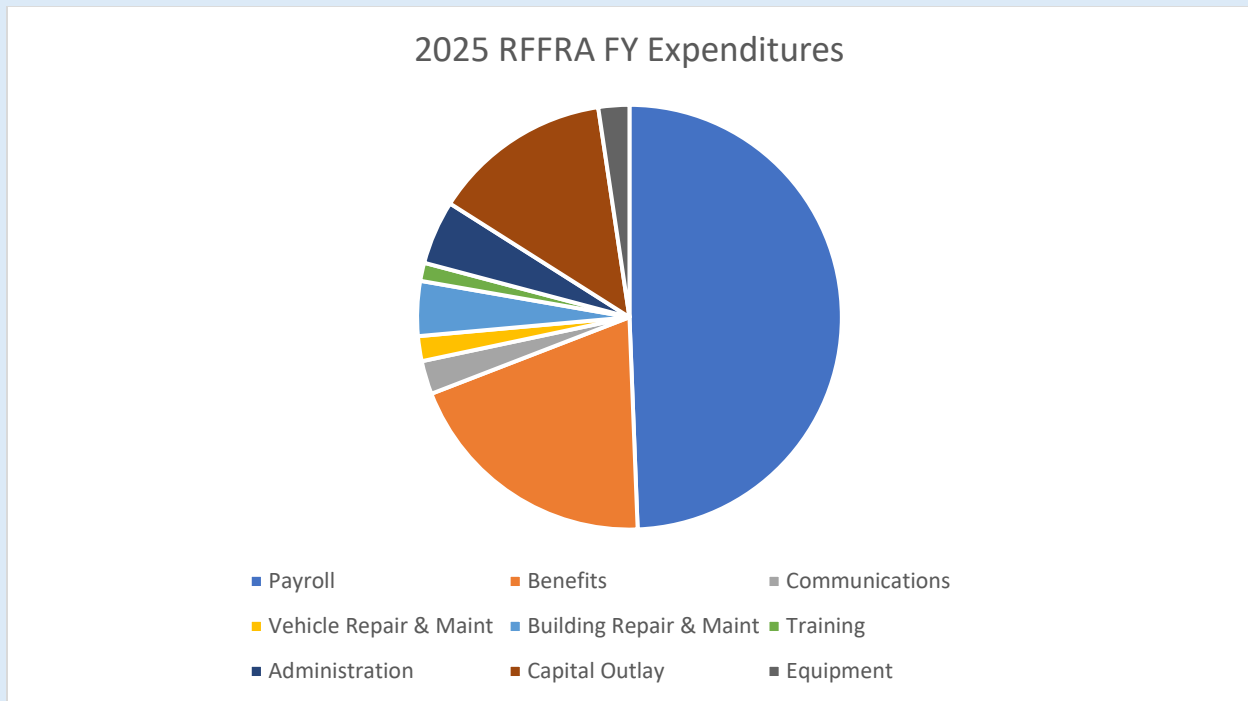
Organizational Chart



District Map



Finance



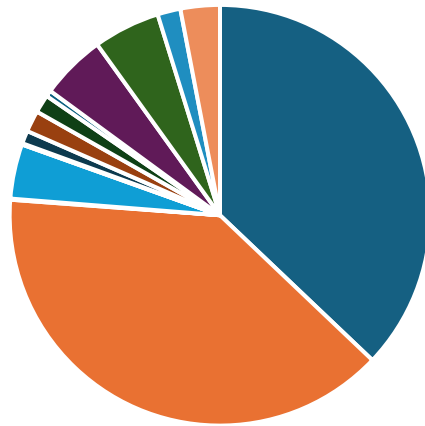
Approximately 70% of the Authority's 2025 budget is allocated to employee salaries and benefits. This does not include the budget dedicated to continuous staff training and retention benefits. The highest non-personnel cost is associated with the ongoing maintenance of our growing infrastructure. At the end of 2025, the Authority had six fire stations. The station locations are El Jebel, Basalt, Thomasville, Old Snowmass, Snowmass Village and West Sopris Creek. The Authority operates nineteen employee housing units: seven in Snowmass Village, one in Old Snowmass, six in the Town of Basalt, two in Willits and finally three in our newest station located on West Sopris Creek Road.

The authority continues to send our staff for continuing education and provides access to the Paramedic Education for qualified staff, funded by the Authority, as well as generous support from our community donations to our Paramedic Education Fund.

In 2024 the voters also passed a \$26 million bond in the Basalt Fire District for the remodel of Station 42, a vehicle maintenance building, and a training tower. The vehicle maintenance building will be finished in early 2026. The anticipated completion of both Station 42 and the training tower is the fall of 2026.

Following our Capital Replacement schedule, the Authority purchased two Type 3 Wildland Apparatus, a Type 1 Mini Pumper, an ambulance and pre-paid on an engine and a Type 3 Wildland Apparatus with delivery dates in 2026.

2025 RFFRA FY Revenues



- Property Tax Basalt
- Property Tax SWFPD
- Donations
- Capital Reserve
- Impact Fees
- Misc Income
- Permits & Fees
- Rent
- Grant
- Public EMS CPESUP
- Wildfire Revenue
- Ambulance Revenue
- Sale of Assets
- Interest earned

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority is funded by Basalt & Rural Fire Protection District and the Snowmass Wildcat Fire Protection District property taxes. This accounts for a total of \$12,301,766 in property tax revenue, which the Authority receives from both Districts.

In 2022, the Authority initiated a Wildfire Severity program consisting of four seasonal firefighters. This program has been increasingly successful, enabling the Authority to outsource a wildland team to fires across the country while keeping enough staff to cover our community. The program generated additional revenue of \$766,492 in 2024/2025. With this additional revenue, the Authority was able to fund the purchases of a Type 3 Wildland Apparatus and a Tender.

Fire Prevention’s permit fees have become a staple in our revenue budget, this year bringing in \$152,361 in revenue with the completion of some large projects within the Town of Snowmass Village. Another large source of the Authority’s revenue is ambulance transports. After a complete and extensive analysis of our ambulance transport and treatment costs in 2022, ambulance revenue continues to cover the cost of our EMS service.

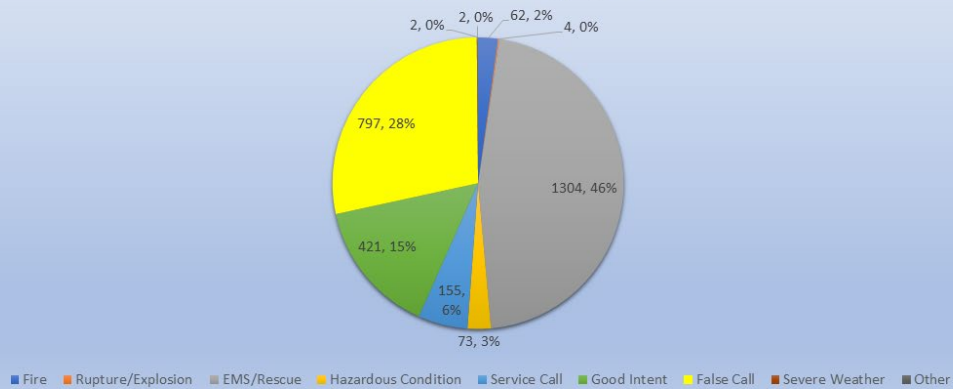
The Authority received a significant grant of \$539,000 from the NDME (Natural Disaster Mitigation Grant Program) an enterprise under the State of Colorado and Division of Homeland Security. The grant allowed the Authority to complete an extensive mitigation project, the Sopris Mountain Creek Project, reducing the amount of fuel.

Department Responses

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

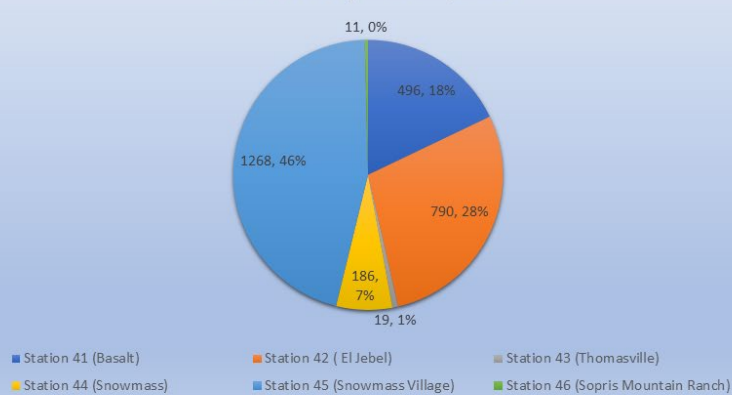
Incidents by Incident Type, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

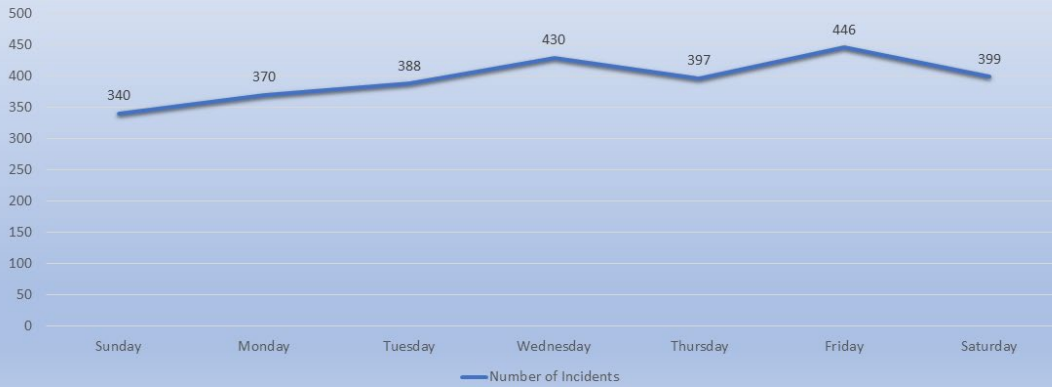
Incidents by Station, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Incidents by Day of Week, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Incidents by Month, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Incidents by Time of Day, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Ambulance Responses by Apparatus, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Battalion/Engine Responses by Apparatus, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

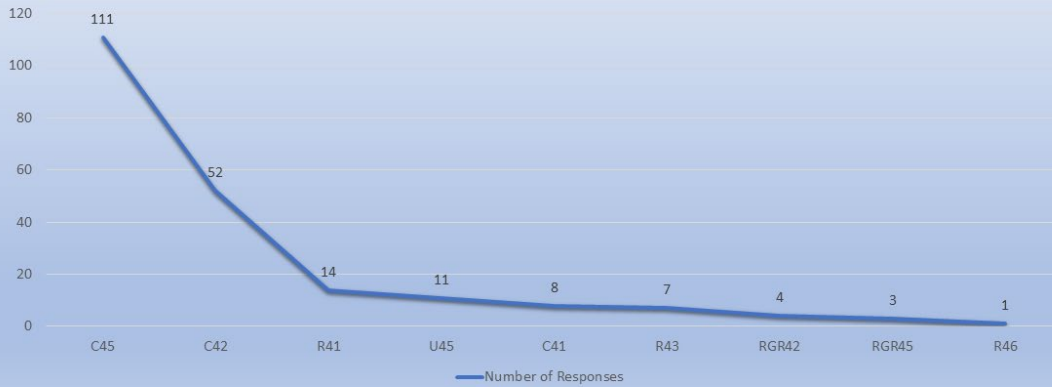
Brush/Ladder/Tender Responses by Apparatus, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

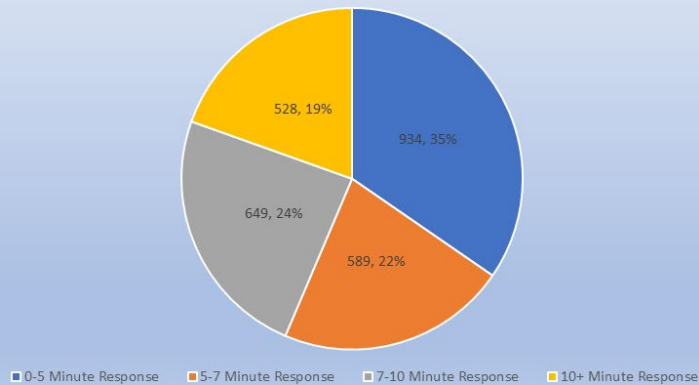
Ranger/Rescue/Utility Responses by Apparatus, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

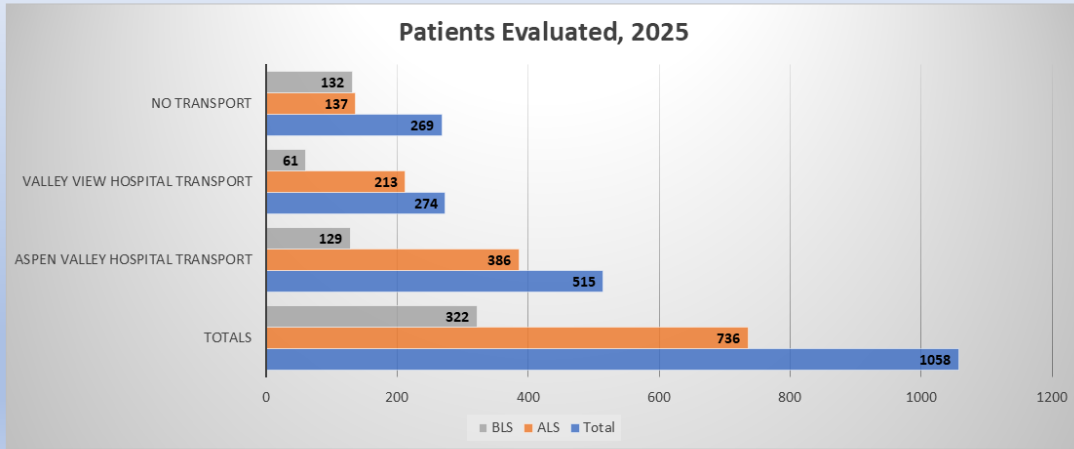
January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Response Times, 2025



Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority

January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025



Training Division

This year, the Training Division continued to prioritize professional development, operational readiness, and compliance with national standards. Through a combination of structured programs and internal training efforts, the division made significant progress in strengthening both individual competencies and overall departmental capability.

A major accomplishment this year was successfully sponsoring four full-time personnel through paramedic education programs. This investment reflects the department's ongoing commitment to advancing medical response capabilities and ensuring a higher level of prehospital care for the community.

In addition to external education efforts, the division delivered a total of 7,882 hours of in-house training. These hours represent a broad range of topics, including fire suppression, EMS, technical rescue, hazardous materials, and company-level drills. The consistent delivery of training ensured that members maintained proficiency across all core disciplines while supporting both new and tenured personnel.

The department also worked to meet the training requirements necessary to move from an ISO Class 3 to Class 2 rating. This effort underscores the effectiveness of the training program and its alignment with nationally recognized benchmarks. Improving the rating remains a priority due to its direct impact on operational excellence and community insurance benefits.

To support long-term sustainability and accuracy, improvements were made to the process of documenting training hours. These changes have increased efficiency, reduced administrative burden, and enhanced data tracking capabilities. Moving forward, the division is well-positioned to maintain compliance and streamline reporting processes.

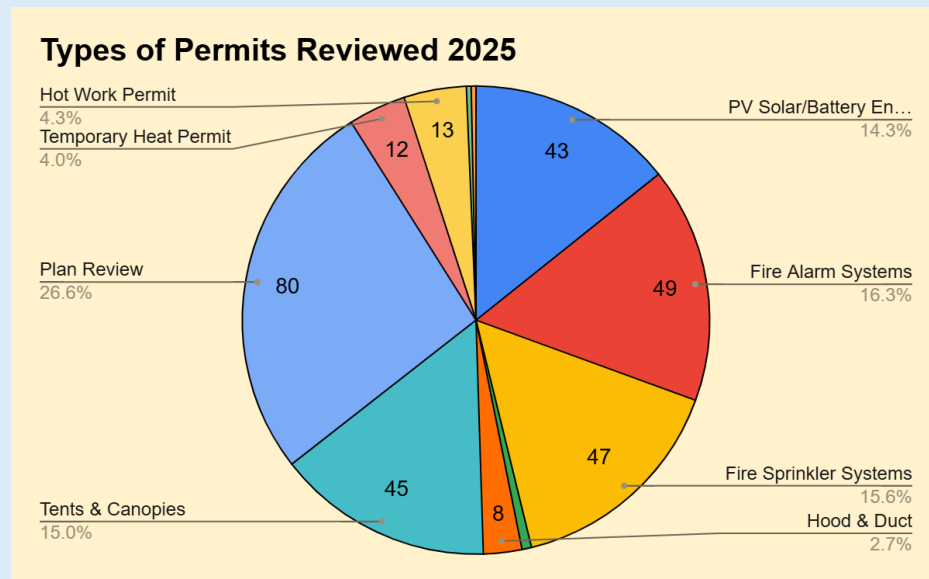
Overall, the Training Division has demonstrated a strong commitment to continuous improvement, accountability, and high standards. The progress made this year provides a solid foundation for continued growth and operational success in the coming year.



Fire Prevention

Plan Review and Construction Permits

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Fire Marshal’s Office conducts plan reviews for new construction, permitted tenant improvements, changes of occupancy, and all permitted fire and life safety system plans. In 2025, staff reviewed a total of 301 permits, including 80 plan reviews and conducted final inspections to ensure compliance with the International Fire Code and applicable NFPA standards. Permits reviewed are summarized in the chart below (Figure 1).



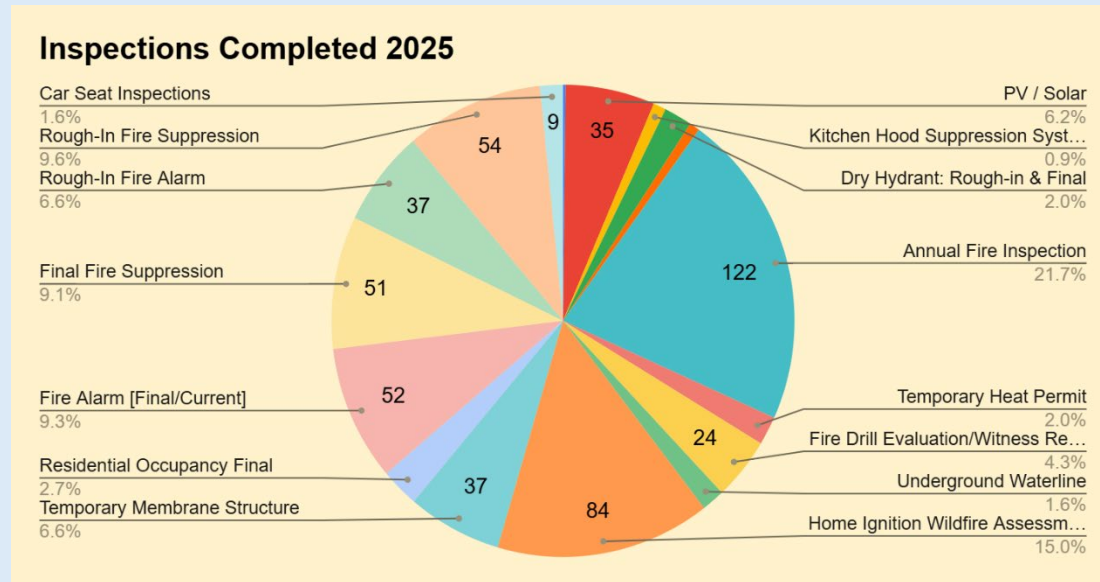
Fire Investigations

The Fire Marshal’s Office includes five personnel responsible for fire investigations, three of whom are certified Fire Investigation Technicians and members of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) and the Colorado Chapter of IAAI (CIAAI). In 2025, investigators responded to and investigated 10 fires within the District: four single-family residential fires, one commercial fire, four wildland fires, and one vehicle fire. Staff also identified a national school-related fire hazard trend involving school-issued laptops. Through collaboration with local school officials and the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, this information was shared statewide to support prevention and proper investigations.



Inspections

The Fire Marshal’s Office applies a comprehensive prevention approach that integrates education, engineering, and enforcement to reduce fire risk and improve community safety. In 2025, The Fire Marshal’s staff completed 122 annual fire and life safety inspections in high-hazard occupancies. These inspections were conducted in addition to other construction and routine inspections as summarized in the chart below (Figure 2).



Public Education, Outreach and Community Training

Education and outreach remain core functions of the Fire Marshal’s Office. In 2025, RFFRA staff delivered 51 public education and outreach events, including training events addressing fire extinguisher use, CPR and first aid, home and business fire safety, and wildfire preparedness, connecting with approximately 3,800 community members in person. Of these events, 30 were conducted in English, 7 in Spanish, and 14 were bilingual, with 8 events delivered outside the District to support regional partnerships. The Fire Marshal’s Office coordinated Stop the Bleed training for 3 Roaring Fork School District schools within the Authority, training more than 90 school faculty members, with plans to expand the program district-wide. Additional outreach included participation in the Town of Snowmass Village employee health fair, where RFFRA staff connected with more than 45 employees and administered blood glucose and blood pressure screenings. RFFRA staff also delivered a heart attack and chest pain awareness presentation in Spanish to more than 60 attendees at a local church in Basalt. Partnerships with the Basalt Chamber of Commerce and the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority resulted in bilingual ReachWell advertisements published in the Basalt Chamber magazine and displayed on RFTA buses, enabling more than 8,000 residents and visitors to receive multilingual emergency alert information.



Wildfire Preparedness

Wildfire mitigation and preparedness remained a priority. The Fire Marshal's Office partnered with the Town of Snowmass Village and the Roaring Fork Wildfire Collaborative to launch an advanced wildfire risk modeling program to better understand fire spread and guide mitigation strategies. In 2025, staff conducted more than 80 home wildfire risk assessments, engaged with multiple homeowner associations and local officials, and supported education on the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code adopted in 2025. The office also assisted with hazardous fuels mitigation efforts totaling about 55 acres of parcels located below subdivisions and areas near critical infrastructures within the Authority.

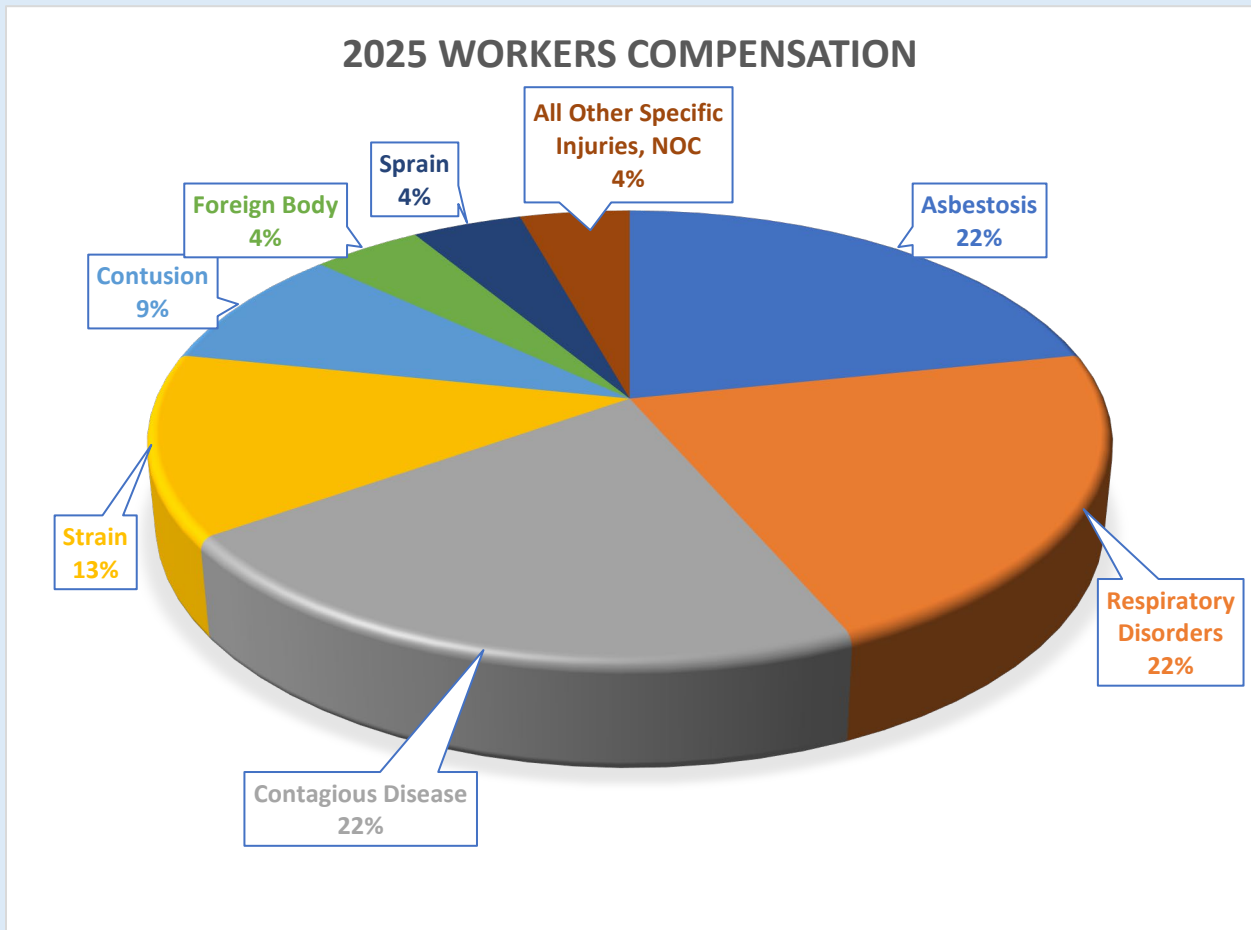
Acknowledgements

The Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Fire Marshal's Office thanks all partnering agencies whose collaboration made these initiatives possible, as well as the dedicated RFFRA staff who facilitated events throughout the District. We also extend our gratitude to community members who attended or participated in one or more programs, helping make 2025 a successful year in fire prevention, safety education, and preparedness. Through these combined efforts, the office remains committed to reducing risk, protecting lives and property, and strengthening our community's resilience.

Human Resources

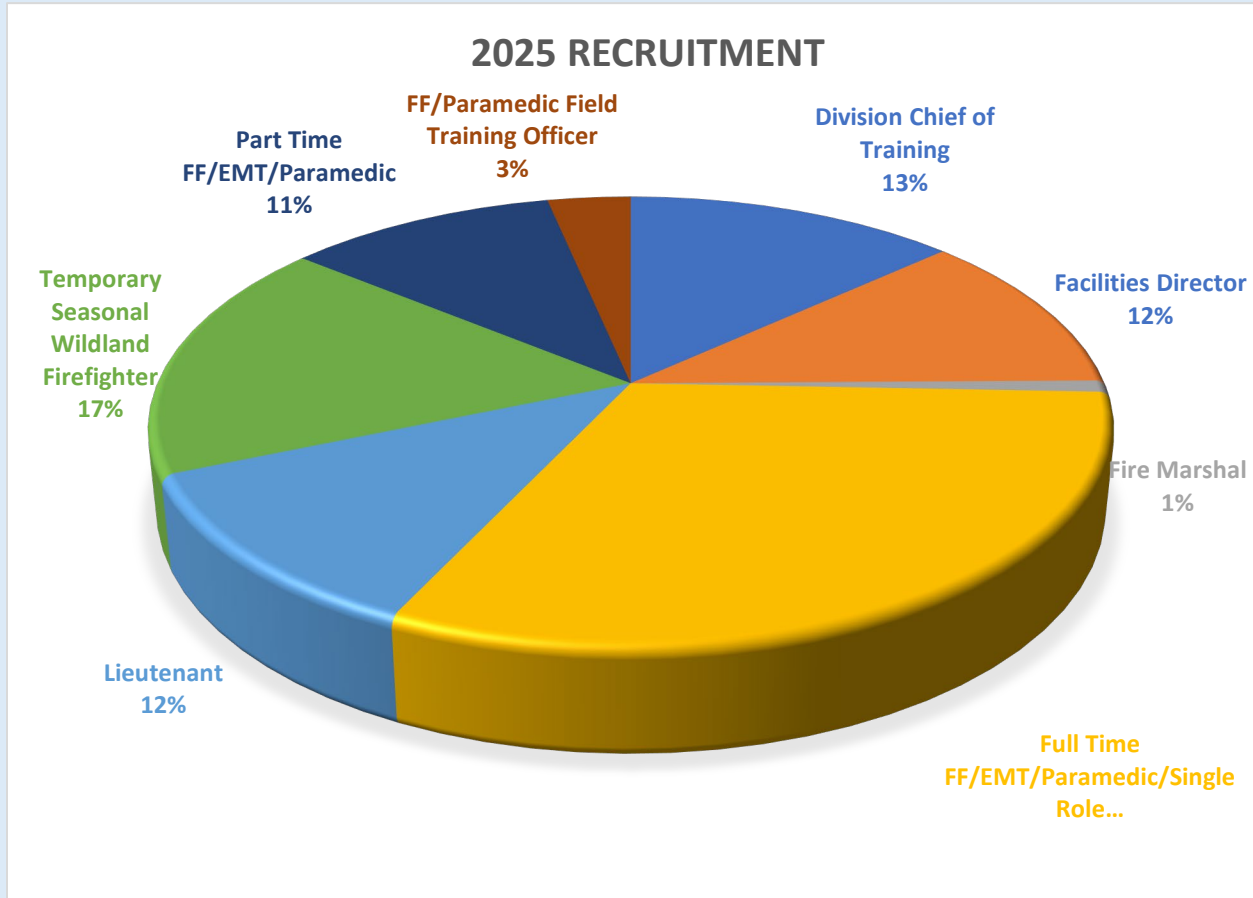
WORK-RELATED INJURIES

The graph below represents the overall causes of the Authority’s work-related injuries/illnesses in 2025. The Authority had 23 injuries/illnesses whose overall cost was \$57,640.00. Strains resulted in the largest cost totaling expenses of \$53,903.00. Asbestosis, Respiratory, and Contagious all tied for the highest number of claims, but they were reporting only claims and there was no medical attention needed.



Recruitment

The graph below represents the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority recruitment in 2025. The Authority held nine separate recruitments which included full-time, part-time, and temporary positions. processed 121 applications and hired a total of 9 people. We recruited internally/externally for these positions.



Information Technology

Technology continues to be more than a support function at Roaring Fork Fire Rescue (RFFRA); it is foundational to how we operate, collaborate, and serve our community. As we move into a new year, our focus remains on using technology thoughtfully and responsibly to advance our mission of Serving, Solving, and Saving. Against a backdrop of rapid technological advancement and increasing cybersecurity concerns, IT is committed to providing a secure, reliable, and forward-looking technology environment aligned with organizational priorities.

Key Highlights from the Past Year

2024 Annual Report Successfully edited and published the 2024 Annual Report, capturing organizational accomplishments, progress, and strategic direction.

Collaboration & Communication Supported 2,444 Lifesize meetings totaling 107,132 minutes, enabling seamless communication and collaboration across teams and locations.

Infrastructure Modernization Completed key hardware, software, and firmware upgrades to keep systems secure, supported, and within vendor lifecycles.

Cybersecurity Awareness & Readiness Continued regular reviews of security procedures and delivered tailored training to strengthen cybersecurity awareness and protect RFFRA's digital assets.

MS-ISAC Annual Meeting Represented RFFRA at the MS-ISAC Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, AZ, expanding cybersecurity knowledge and strengthening professional networks.

Strategic Alignment Actively contributed to the development of RFFRA's Master Plan and Strategic Plan to ensure IT initiatives directly support operational and organizational goals.

UAS Program Expansion Expanded the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program, enhancing capabilities for both planned operations and emergency response.

AI Governance Advanced the development of policies and governance around artificial intelligence to support innovation while protecting organizational data and staff.

Starlink Deployment Increased the deployment of Starlink across apparatus, improving communication and connectivity in remote and challenging environments.

Community Collaboration Strengthened partnerships with local organizations to promote shared goals and collaborative problem-solving.

Station 42 Planning Participated in weekly planning meetings for Station 42 to ensure technology needs are thoughtfully integrated into the facility design.

Digital Presence & Compliance Launched a new website to meet HB21-1110 compliance requirements and successfully migrated the web domain to .gov.

Records Management System Issued an RFP, reviewed vendor responses, served on the selection committee, and implemented a new Records Management System.

Ongoing Challenges While meaningful progress was made, the fast-changing technology landscape continues to present challenges. Balancing resource allocation, maintaining secure systems, and staying ahead of cybersecurity threats requires constant attention. At the same time, the rapid expansion of AI tools underscores the importance of clear guardrails to protect sensitive data while empowering employees to work effectively.

Looking Ahead As we begin a new year, IT is focused on building momentum and preparing for what's next:

Continued Modernization Investing in current and emerging technologies that support operational effectiveness and future growth.

Enhanced Cybersecurity Expanding cybersecurity capabilities through advanced tools, proactive threat detection, and ongoing staff training.

Improved Data Management Strengthening data governance to ensure information is secure, accessible, and well-maintained.

Cloud Exploration Evaluating cloud solutions to increase scalability, flexibility, and cost efficiency.

Stronger Partnerships Continuing to build relationships with vendors, community partners, and industry peers to share best practices and resources.

RFFRA IT remains dedicated to leveraging technology as a strategic asset for RFFRA. Through continued innovation, strong security practices, and a commitment to continuous improvement, we are well positioned to meet tomorrow's challenges while delivering dependable, high-quality service to our community.

Contact Information

Fire/EMS Emergency: 911

Fire Department: (970) 340-7040

Station 41

20 School Street

Basalt, CO 81621-8247

Station 42

1089 JW Drive

Carbondale, CO 81623-9587

Station 43

24265 Frying Pan Road

Meredith, CO 81642

Station 44

1909 Snowmass Creek Road

Snowmass, CO 81654

Station 45

5275 Owl Creek Road

Snowmass Village, CO 81615

Station 46

3705 W Sopris Creek Road

Basalt, CO 81621-9181

Chief Scott Thompson:

(970) 340-7031

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