



# Prospect Heights Fire District HOSELINE

## A Quick Look at 2025

### SPRING 2025

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### Call Stats

2,877 total responses  
1,861 EMS

88 reported fires  
28 structure fires  
14 vehicle crashes with  
people trapped  
30 cardiac arrests  
211 people who fell  
564 mutual aid given  
220 mutual aid received  
348 times with multiple calls  
in progress simultaneously  
225 second ambulance calls  
187 used both PH ambulances  
38 used mutual aid  
ambulances

### Training Stats

	Events	Hours
Totals	9227	9430
Per Member	288	295

### Public Engagement

Event	54
citizens engaged	10,646

### Assisted Living Center Calls

Year	Calls	% of Total
2020	268	12
2021	182	8
2022	272	10
2023	238	9
2024	157	6
2025	280	11

### Looking Back Total

Calls the Past  
Five-Years

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2415	2722	2718	2603	2677

### Notable Goals Achieved

- Deputy Chief promotion as succession management strategy
- Implementation of Gov Accounting LLC (James Howard) to handle bookkeeping and financial reporting

### Training Highlights

- Annual ARFF live fires sponsored by Chicago Executive Airport
- Use of search prop at Station 39
- Host interns from High School District 214

### Calls per Vehicle

A9 Truck Tanker	STA. 9
1218	748
A39 Squad	STA.39
712	597
	1309
	2014

### Budget

- Balanced: Expenses did not exceed revenue
- Operational reserve at \$1.5 million
- Capital reserve at \$2.5m
- Ambulance billing collected \$908,348 (reduces tax levy by about 10%)

### Staffing & Promotions

- Conducted full-time and part-time hiring processes to fill vacancies
- Conducted promotional process to develop eligibility lists for lieutenant and battalion chief
- Operated at minimum staffing 243 of 365 days(67%)

### Our Mission:

"Delivering exceptional services for everyone with Courtesy, Respect, and Empathy."

## Message From the Fire Chief Drew Smith



Welcome to spring. I had hoped to have a different story to tell you. We are about 12 months behind schedule in our plans for the firehouse renovation and expansion. Here's why:

In order to carry out the firehouse renovation and expansion we need to construct a parking lot on the grass area between the firehouse and police station. The city was most agreeable to this request, and we reached a formal agreement with them early last year. Then the planning work began. Starting in mid-2025 we (the city and the fire district) met a series of setbacks when plans developed by the fire district's civil engineering (CE) firm were not accepted at first by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). Through a series of several back-and-forths between the CEs and MWRD, significant modifications to the plan, and additional testing of the soil, we were finally granted approval of the final storm water management plan in February. That permit now allows the rest of the work to proceed. The city could then issue our building permits with confidence that plans will not have to change to accommodate the MWRD requirements. With those permits we can be confident that bids for the construction work will not increase due to added work being needed to accommodate the storm water management plan.

In this newsletter you will find the architect's renderings of what the renovated firehouse will look like.

### New Ambulances

We ordered our two new ambulances in mid-2024. We were originally told it would take about 24 months to receive them due to industry-wide delays. Then we were told we might not receive them until the end of 2026 or even early 2027. Now we are told the Ford truck chassis for each ambulance has been delivered to the factory and we may see delivery this summer. That the manufacturer has the chassis is a great assurance that this project is moving forward. Our two primary ambulances were purchased in 2006 and 2007 and were rebuilt in 2017 and 2018. They have served us well but are at the end of their usable life. We are fortunate that they are well maintained and that we purchased these quality vehicles years ago.

### New Hires

We have two apprentices who graduated from the fire academy in December of last year. These young men have completed all the requirements to be a paid firefighter and are now working for us part time. They are on a path to making being a firefighter-paramedic their career. It is exciting to see people so enthusiastic about realizing their dream. Our apprentice program is a pathway to part-time employment with the PHFD. Currently, we have more than three dozen apprentice applicants who will compete for up to three available positions this coming fall.

We have also hired two additional part-time firefighter-paramedics. These men were already trained and experienced as firefighter-paramedics and to our talent pool. We are excited to have them join our team and shore up our staff. We rely on part-time members to supplement our daily staffing that provides 24-hour coverage to the community.

We have also hired one full-time firefighter-paramedic, Marco Pahos. Marco has worked part-time for us for the past 18 months. He is in the process of completing paramedic school and becoming licensed early this summer. Marco's part-time experience is excellent preparation for his now full-time roll. We know who we are getting, we know what we are getting, and we don't need to orient him to our processes and procedures; he knows them already.

### Our 2022 Comprehensive Plan

In 2022 the Board of Trustees adopted the Comprehensive Plan I proposed. In 2023 voters approved a \$10 million bond through referendum that funds many of the plan's goals. We are in Year Four of the Comprehensive Plan and besides the challenges mentioned above, we have made great progress. The new fire chief will inherit this plan and has time to begin developing the next plan before we reach the end of the current plan at the end of 2027.

### Succession Management

I will retire in October. After 45 years of service to the community, the last ten as fire chief, my last day in the office is Friday, October 23. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our community, helping those in need no matter what the situation may have been. With my retirement there will be a new fire chief and other promotions to fill the vacancies created. I have been preparing our members for promotions through training, education and mentoring.

I have tried to foster communication with both our residents and the firefighters. Over the past ten years we have distributed community wide 15 of these newsletters (this is the 16th one) and participated in open houses. Additionally, I have authored nearly 500 internal newsletters, one of which is distributed internally nearly every Monday. If this is your first time reading the HOSELINE, welcome. If you have previously read them, I hope you have found the information provided beneficial. I hope to share my final remarks as fire chief in our fall edition. Until then,

*Drew Smith*

## Firehouse Rennovation Update

We have been in the planning mode for over 24 months and are ready to break ground. Our construction manager estimates the project will take nine months to complete. We hope to start early June of this year. Here are renderings of what the work will produce. Once completed, we will host an open house to show off the final design and its new features.



# Community Connect Safety Program

As you may have heard, we have been working with technology partner First Due to release a new public safety program for Prospect Heights. The program is called Community Connect and it allows the residents and businesses in Prospect Heights to share valuable life safety information with our department. Residents/Businesses can provide details about their home, family, children, pets, medical/functional needs and more, so that when First Responders are dispatched to an emergency at that residence, they have the most information possible before arriving on scene.

This is an incredible program for our community and will allow us to keep Prospect Heights much safer, but in order to run a successful program we need the involvement and engagement of all residents, families, businesses and homeowners.

You can find more information about Prospect Heights Community Connect here: [www.phfire.com](http://www.phfire.com) and click on the Community Connect button.

The program is called Community Connect and it allows you to share life safety information about your home, family, pets, and more with Prospect Heights Fire Protection District so that if First Responders are ever dispatched to an emergency at your home or business, they have the most information as possible before arriving on scene. To register your household, go to our website, [www.phfire.com](http://www.phfire.com) and click the button Community Connect.

Sharing information such as the below can be incredibly helpful for First Responders to know if they are dispatched to your home. Having this information inputted beforehand will allow them to customize their approach before they arrive on scene so they can best meet the specific needs of your home, business and family:

- Occupant & Contact Info
- Home Access/Details and Utilities
- Gate Code
- Pool/Basement
- Gas/Water Shut Off
- Medical & Functional Needs
- Where medicine is located
- How a person in the home reacts in a stressful situation
- If someone has mobility needs and will need assistance evacuating
- Pets
- Name of pet

- If the pet(s) have a hiding place
- If the pet(s) are dangerous or will attack strangers

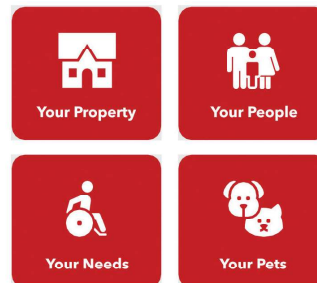
**Prospect Heights Community Connect**

- 1 Create an Account**  
Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email, phone number and address.
- 2 Enter the Info that Matters Most**  
Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.
- 3 Help your First Responders When Seconds Count**  
That's it. Just keep us updated when things change overtime so we can always be prepared.

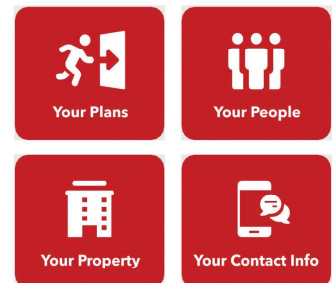
Go to: [WWW.PHFIRE.COM](http://WWW.PHFIRE.COM) Click on the Community Connect Button

## Register for Community Connect Program

Protects Your Home:



Protects Your Business:



Community Connect is a secure platform and the information you provide will only be used by the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District at the time of dispatch for the purpose of better serving you during emergency situations. All logins and passwords are protected with bank-level encryption and security. If you're comfortable logging into your online bank, you'll be comfortable logging into Community Connect.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns or need further information. We are confident we will see a large increase in sign-ups and the word about the program will continue to spread throughout Prospect Heights, which will continue to engage our entire community and help us improve the safety in our community. Thank you for your involvement and engagement in this program.



# PROSPECT HEIGHTS 2026



## COMMUNITY DAY

**June 6, 2026 | 9am - 12noon**  
*and Lions Club Pancake Breakfast*

NEW LOCATION

**Prospect Heights Public Works  
 401 Piper Lane, Prospect Heights, IL 60070**

- ✓ Explore the Police and Fire displays and meet the people who help keep our community safe!
- ✓ Public Works Equipment Display
- ✓ Children Activities & Clown
- ✓ Lions Club Breakfast \$5/person
- ✓ Raffle

Learn more about the agencies in your community that serves you!













For more information, please contact  
 Lloyd Austin, Assistant to the City Administrator, City of Prospect Heights  
[Laustin@prospect-heights.org](mailto:Laustin@prospect-heights.org) | 847-398-6070 ext 202

## What Does An Ambulance Cost?

Ambulance vehicle itself	\$390,000
Stretcher	\$80,000
Stair chair	\$5,500
Backboard and scoop stretcher	\$2,000
Mechanical CPR device	\$20,000
Cardiac monitor/defibrillator	\$50,000
IV pump	\$2,500
iPad	\$1,500
Supplies (medications, bandages, airways, oxygen, etc.)	\$12,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$563,500.00</b>

### PLUS

- Fuel
- Maintenance
- Insurance
- Two trained and licensed paramedics 24/7/365





## Prospect Heights Fire District

10 East Camp McDonald Road  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Non-Emergency Phone: 847-253-8060  
Fax 847-253-4759  
Email: phfd@phfire.com

ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Visit Our Website:  
[WWW.PHFIRE.COM](http://WWW.PHFIRE.COM)

### PROSPECT HEIGHTS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

# KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY ESSENTIAL TIPS

**STAY SAFE. STAY PREPARED.**

**847-253-8060 • PHFIRE.COM**

#### While Cooking

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Keep cooking area clear of flammables
- Keep children and pets 3 feet away

#### Kitchen Safety

- Clean grease buildup regularly
- Turn pot handles inward
- Keep oven mitts nearby
- Never cook while impaired

#### In Case of Fire

- Use lid to smother grease fires, never water
- Have fire extinguisher accessible
- If fire spreads, get out and call 911



## PROSPECT HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**James Rebecca**  
*President*



**Shawn Clisham**  
*Treasurer*



**Joseph Vertone**  
*Secretary*



**Charles Ferguson**  
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**William McDonald**  
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