

CATHEDRAL CITY FIRE & EMS

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2025



January Re-Cap

Monthly Summary

January 2025 was a particularly productive month for Cathedral City Fire & EMS, reflecting both our dedication to continuous improvement and our commitment to community safety. One of the most significant milestones was hosting the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) accreditation peer team, whose on-site evaluation marked a crucial step toward achieving national accreditation. During their visit, they held interviews with department personnel and city officials, thoroughly reviewing our operational readiness, administrative processes, and strategic goals—all of which underscore our promise of delivering the highest standard of fire and emergency medical services.

Simultaneously, our recruitment efforts saw meaningful progress as we expanded our team to meet growing demands. In addition, we maintained robust mutual aid partnerships, deploying resources to neighboring communities when needed and ensuring that Cathedral City, in turn, receives timely support for large-scale incidents. Our citywide planning initiatives advanced significantly as well, including ongoing work on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), both designed to strengthen regional disaster preparedness and risk reduction strategies.

Overall, we responded to 745 total calls for service this month, of which 580 were EMS-related, highlighting the essential role of emergency medical services in our daily operations. Throughout these calls, our teams continued to refine training protocols, engage in community risk reduction activities, and evaluate our EMS programs, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of effective public safety services. This multi-pronged approach—accreditation, recruitment, mutual aid, and strategic planning—sets a strong foundation for continued success in the months and years ahead.

Key Achievements

CPSE ACCREDITATION PROGRESS:

HOSTED PEER ASSESSORS WHO CONDUCTED MULTIPLE INTERVIEWS WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT AND CITY STAFF. THEIR UNANIMOUS RECOMMENDATION MOVES US FORWARD TO THE FINAL PHASE OF THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS.

FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES:

HELD MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT, EMS, COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION, AND SAFETY & WELLNESS. FINALIZED A 2025–2026 TRAINING ROADMAP, EXPANDED THE CAR SEAT SAFETY PROGRAM, REVIEWED COUNTY EMS MANDATES, AND COMPLETED AN RFP FOR PHYSICALS UNDER THE AFG GRANT.

RECRUITMENT & STAFFING:

CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS FOR AMBULANCE OPERATOR AND FIREFIGHTER POSITIONS. SIX NEW HIRES (THREE AMBULANCE OPERATORS, THREE FIREFIGHTERS) ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN EARLY FEBRUARY, BOOSTING OUR OPERATIONAL CAPACITY.

COMMUNITY PLANS & GRANTS:

CONTINUED WORK ON THE LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (LHMP) AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP) WITH JACOB GREEN & ASSOCIATES, GATHERING INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY VIA TEAMS. RECEIVED A \$6,500 GRANT FROM THE KEVIN WOYJECK EXPLORERS FOR LIFE ASSOCIATION TO PURCHASE HELMETS FOR OUR CADET PROGRAM.

TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT:

ATTENDED THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CHIEFS FIRE OPERATIONS TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT. PLANS TO DEPLOY TABLET COMMAND FOR REAL-TIME UNIT TRACKING ACROSS THE COACHELLA VALLEY ARE UNDERWAY.

Operational Stats

WEEKLY BREAKDOWNS (BY REPORTING PERIOD)

- JAN 2: 174 TOTAL CALLS (134 EMS, 99 TRANSPORTS), 6 FIRES.
- JAN 9: 131 TOTAL CALLS (103 EMS, 87 TRANSPORTS), 4 FIRES.
- JAN 16: 141 TOTAL CALLS (103 EMS, 80 TRANSPORTS), 1 VEGETATION FIRE.
- JAN 23: 145 TOTAL CALLS (114 EMS, 91 TRANSPORTS), 6 FIRES.
- JAN 30: 154 TOTAL CALLS (126 EMS, 104 TRANSPORTS), 4 FIRES.

Category	Totals
Total Calls	745
EMS Calls	580
Billable Transports	461
Calls for Fires	21
Fire Inspections Passed / Conducted	72 / 118

Mutual Aid & Major Incidents

HURST FIRE (PASADENA):

DEPLOYED 4 FIREFIGHTERS WHO ASSISTED FOR 5–7 DAYS. DESPITE THIS DEPLOYMENT, STATIONS REMAINED FULLY STAFFED, THANKS TO INTERNAL COVERAGE PLANS.

EATON FIRE (PASADENA/ALTADENA):

OES ENGINE AND CREWS DEPLOYED UNDER BATTALION CHIEF SANBORN. AFTER ADDRESSING HOTSPOTS, CREWS RETURNED SAFELY. SEVERAL STAFF COVERED SHIFTS IN THEIR ABSENCE, ENSURING UNINTERRUPTED LOCAL SERVICE.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PREPOSITIONING:

DURING MID-JANUARY, 5 TYPE 1 ENGINES (INCLUDING ONE FROM CATHEDRAL CITY) WERE PREPOSITIONED FOR 48 HOURS UNDER OES FUNDING TO ENHANCE OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL INCIDENTS:

- CHIMNEY FIRE ON AVENIDA JUAREZ (WEEK OF JAN 2).
- GAS LEAK AT THE OLD ELKS LODGE SITE ON JAN 17.
- STRUCTURE FIRE ON CONCEPCION ROAD ON JAN 27.



Chief Contreras on News Channel 3 regarding the crew deployment to the Hurst Fire.

OES DEPLOYMENT - EATON FIRE



Mutual Aid Summary

Throughout January 2025, Cathedral City Fire & EMS provided and received mutual aid for various incidents in neighboring areas. Notably, we deployed resources to the Hurst Fire (Los Angeles area) and the Eaton Fire (Pasadena/Altadena), while also maintaining full coverage within Cathedral City. Below is a snapshot of our mutual aid exchanges for the month.

Agency	Aid Received	Aid Denied	Aid Given	Auto Aid Received
AMR	11	7	7	N/A
Riverside County Fire (RIVCO)	3 (Mutual Aid)	–	1	8
Palm Springs Fire (PS Fire)	2	–	2	–

In addition, Riverside County Prepositioning measures were in place mid-month, funding five Type 1 engines (including one from Cathedral City) for 48 hours to bolster operational flexibility regionwide. These mutual aid engagements reflect our ongoing commitment to regional partnerships that enhance community safety both within Cathedral City and across neighboring jurisdictions.

Fire Prevention & CRR

INSPECTIONS:

72 FIRE INSPECTIONS PASSED OUT OF 118 CONDUCTED IN JANUARY; 44 ENGINE COMPANY INSPECTIONS COMPLETED.

PLAN REVIEWS:

MULTIPLE SPRINKLER, ALARM, AND TENANT IMPROVEMENT PLANS WERE REVIEWED AND APPROVED, INCLUDING RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS IN CAMPANILE AND COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENTS AT LOCAL BUSINESSES.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & EVENTS:

WORK CONTINUED ON THE 2025 SPRING CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND OUTREACH (E.G., CAR SEAT SAFETY PROGRAM).

PREPARATIONS FOR THE TASTE OF JALISCO EVENT ARE UNDERWAY, FOCUSING ON SAFETY INSPECTIONS.

Recruitment & Staffing

Ambulance Operator & Firefighter Hiring:

Interviews, skills evaluations, and background checks were completed. Six new hires are expected to start on February 10, further supporting Medic 4's planned service date in May.

Personnel Engagement:

Chief Contreras met one-on-one with 18 out of 54 personnel to address future goals and departmental improvements, fostering an engaged and motivated team.



Grants, Funding, & Training

Kevin Woyjeck Explorers for Life Association Grant:

\$6,500 secured to purchase helmets for the Cadet Program. This investment helps prepare the next generation of firefighters for safe, effective training.

AFG Grant – Physicals:

RFP finalized for annual firefighter physicals, intended to launch next month.

Training Roadmap:

Finalized a 2025–2026 training plan ensuring all personnel meet standardized competencies. Monthly training hours below.



Training & Professional Dev.

Monthly Total Training Hours

Over the course of January 2025, Cathedral City Fire & EMS personnel accumulated a combined **1,829.5** training hours. Through a wide variety of sessions and drills—spanning categories such as EMS, rescue, community risk reduction, and apparatus operations—these hours represent our dedication to maintaining the highest level of readiness.

Program	Monthly Total Hours
Administrative	308.5
Apparatus Ops	115.5
Clerical & Budget	7
Construction	1
EMS	247
Fire Investigation & Arson	1
Hazmat	6
Instructor Training	28
Physical Fitness	327
Portable & Small Equip	42
Prevention	495.5
Rescue	35.5
Suppression	194.5
Training, College	8
Vehicle Repair	13
Total	1,829.5

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention

Fire Hazard Severity Maps & Code Adoption

The Fire Marshal's office is working on adopting California's new Fire Hazard Severity Maps, with rollout planned at the end of January. This ensures the City's building and fire codes remain in compliance with the latest state standards, helping mitigate wildfire risks in higher-hazard areas.

Inspections & Plan Reviews

In January, our Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 118 fire inspections and reviewed numerous construction and tenant improvement plans, including fire sprinkler and alarm installations for residential and commercial properties. These reviews help ensure that homes and businesses throughout Cathedral City meet or exceed safety requirements.

Ongoing Development Projects

The Fire Marshal and Inspector continue to collaborate with Development Services on upcoming projects like the Ramon Convenience Store, Campanile Model Homes, and other new builds. Early plan review and site inspections help streamline approvals while maintaining strict safety standards.



Community Risk Reduction & Resident Safety

Car Seat Safety Program

As part of our CRR initiatives, we expanded our Car Seat Safety Program for 2025, scheduling three dedicated events this spring. These sessions will demonstrate proper car-seat installation and highlight best practices to ensure child passenger safety.

Mobile Home Park Water Supply Assessments

The Fire Inspector began evaluating fire flow within local mobile home parks to ensure adequate water supply for firefighting operations. This proactive measure helps identify any infrastructure gaps before an incident occurs.

Resident Safety Tips

- Brush & Yard Maintenance: Keep yards and roofs free of debris, especially in fire-prone areas.
- Smoke Alarms: Test alarms monthly; replace batteries twice a year.
- Heating & Chimneys: Have chimneys inspected/cleaned annually and space heaters placed away from flammable materials.
- Flammable Storage: Store gasoline, propane, and other flammables in approved, ventilated areas.

Collectively, these efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to proactive risk reduction. By implementing sound fire codes, partnering with residents on safety measures, and hosting community programs, Cathedral City Fire & EMS aims to minimize hazards and ensure a safer environment for all.

Upcoming Events

Canyon Shores (Hands-Only CPR & Stop the Bleed)

Date/Time: Monday, March 10, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: 35200 Cathedral Canyon Dr

Instructor: Christopher Dietz

Car Seat Safety Program

Date/Time: Saturday, March 22, 2025 | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Location: 32100 Desert Vista Rd

Contact: Jeff Smith

Description: This one-day event provides hands-on demonstrations and assistance with proper car-seat installation, ensuring every child passenger in our community is safe.

Touch-A-Truck Event / Career Day

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

(Presentation Window: 8:15 AM – 10:15 AM)

Location: Rio Vista Elementary

Contact: Sabrina (760) 912-1911; Booked by T. Lawrie

Details: Engine 3 will be on-site to showcase firefighting equipment and talk with students about careers in the fire service.

CATHEDRAL CITY FIRE & EMS



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OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



FIRE STATIONS

STATION 1

68950 BUDDY ROGERS AVE.

STATION 2

32100 DESERT VISTA RD

STATION 3

27610 LANDAU BLVD