



Evans Fire Protection District 2024 Annual Report



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mary Achziger, President
Seated through 2027

As President of the Fire District Board, I am profoundly grateful for the privilege of serving this community and am incredibly proud of the outstanding service provided by our firefighters. Over the past year, our firefighters have not only safeguarded lives and property but have also exemplified the essence of true public service. Their unwavering dedication goes beyond responding to emergencies; it includes educating the public, supporting local events, and embodying the spirit of solidarity that defines our community. Together, we've strengthened the bond between the fire district and the people we serve, ensuring that every individual feels protected, valued, and supported.

I am continually impressed by the intelligence and innovative spirit of our firefighters. They are proactive thinkers who embrace new ideas to better serve our community and persistently improve their knowledge in administrative areas – learning more about the governing of a special district and legislation that may impact us; suggesting improvements to employee benefits that allow us to retain knowledgeable and experienced firefighters; and taking charge of special projects to guide our District as we grow alongside our community. It is truly an honor to lead this outstanding organization and the citizens of Evans.

Mary Achziger



David James, Vice-President
Seated through 2029



Tricia Watson, Treasurer
Seated through 2029



Steve Bernardo, Secretary
Seated through 2027



Marty Schanwolf, Director
Seated through 2029

OUR COMMUNITY

The District serves approximately 22,000 citizens in Evans, Colorado in an area of 10 square miles. Located in the southern portion of the Greeley-Evans metro area the District is completely contained within the municipal boundaries of the City of Evans.

The District provides 24/7 fire and emergency services from one fully staffed fire station on 37th Street. Our updated apparatus fleet includes a 2013 Rosenbauer Quint, 2014 & 2019 Rosenbauer Pumpers, and a 2016 Ford F-550 outfitted for wildland and medical responses.

In addition to the normal range of fire suppression, emergency medical response, rescue, wildland fire, fire prevention, and training services common to suburban fire departments, EFPD maintains agreements with other area agencies to allow for:

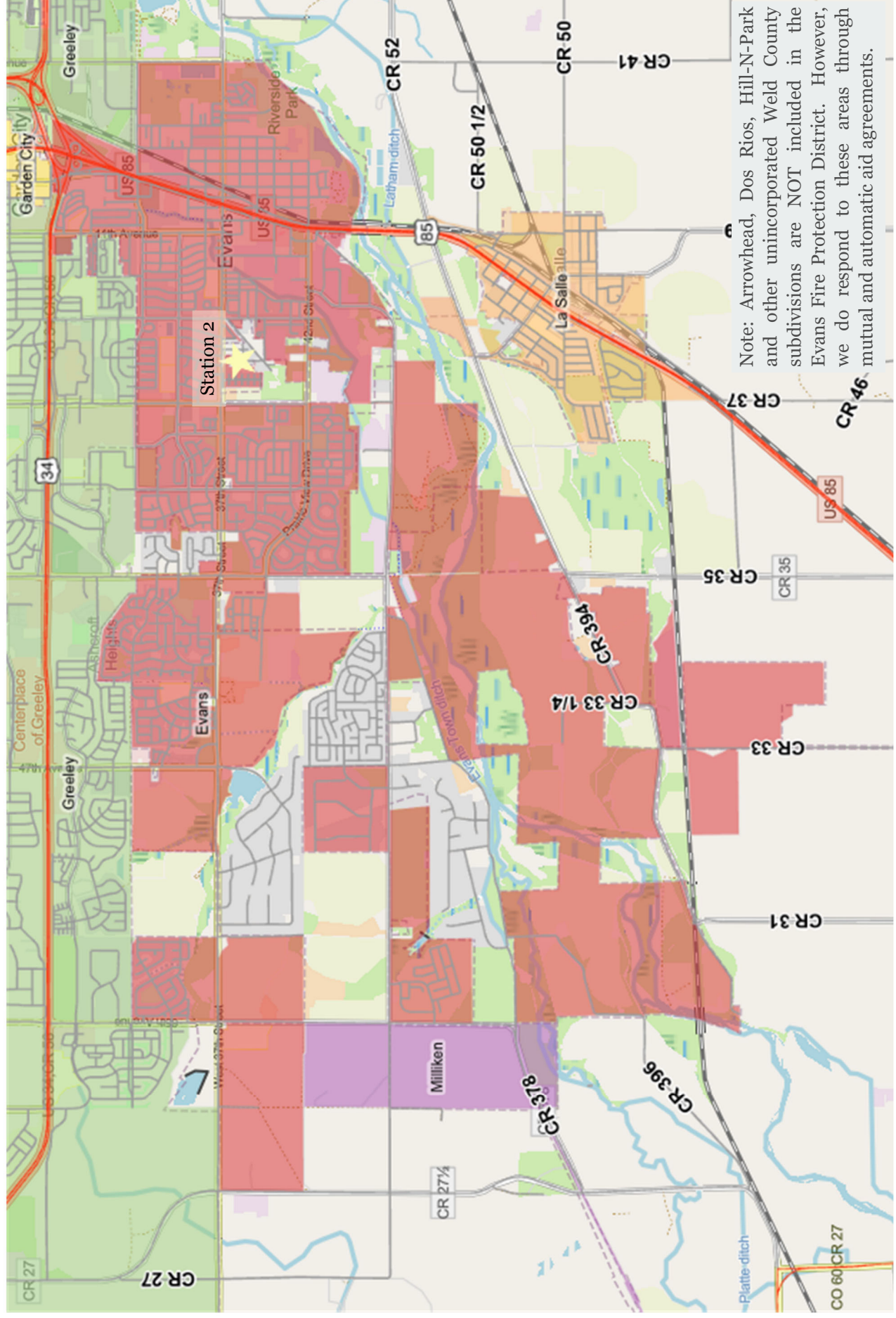
- ⇒ Special Operations teams such as Dive/Ice/Swiftwater rescue, Hazardous Materials response., and Wildland Firefighting.
- ⇒ Dispatch and communications services provided by the Weld County Communications Center which serves all of the fire, law enforcement, and ambulance agencies in the County.
- ⇒ Paramedic ambulance service is provided under contract by UC Health.

The District participates in automatic-aid agreements with Front Range Fire Rescue, Platte Valley Fire Protection District, and LaSalle Fire Protection District. We also participate in the Weld County master mutual-aid system, which includes the City of Greeley Fire Department. With on-duty staffing and automatic and mutual-aid, the District is generally able to deploy 10-12 firefighters to structure fires within 10 minutes.

Evans is a quickly growing community. In 2024, the City of Evans issued a total of 229 Residential building permits and 8 Commercial building permits. Additionally, the City issued 34 new business licenses, including two for Child Day Care Services.



BOUNDARIES OF THE EVANS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



FIRE CHIEF DESALVO

Greetings,

The following is the Evans Fire Protection District's Annual Report for 2024. This document contains a summary of the Fire District's activities, performance, and accomplishments for the year.

Before I continue, I would like to acknowledge the staff of the Fire District. We continue to be successful because of our supportive Board of Directors, as well as our dedicated line and administrative staff and, of course, the citizens within our District. I recently completed my 3rd year as the Fire Chief and 22nd year overall with Evans and during this time, the District has seen a lot of change and growth within the area we serve and within the organization itself. In my time with Evans, through all the changes, one thing has remained constant, the commitment we have to providing the best service we can to the citizens and visitors of Evans. We will continue to work hard to maintain this, and more, for the community that we serve.

In 2024, the Fire District was able to accomplish quite a bit. The following is a list of achievements that I would like to highlight:

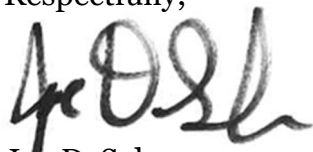
- ⇒ In January, we hired a Fire Marshal jointly with Platte Valley and LaSalle Fire Protection Districts.
- ⇒ Our Peer Support Program Manager continued to develop our peer support program to better support the members and families of the District.
- ⇒ Our apparatus committee began the refurbishment process for our brush truck. This saved the tax payers approximately \$150,000 by not purchasing a completely new apparatus.
- ⇒ The automatic aid agreement with the Greeley Fire Department became operational.
- ⇒ We continued our partnership with Front Line Mobile Health to conduct our annual physicals, ensuring all employees receive comprehensive medical screening.
- ⇒ Conducted training with our mutual/automatic aid partners which included live fire, technical rescue, hazardous materials response, and fire investigation.
- ⇒ We implemented a parental leave policy as an added benefit for those wishing to expand their families.
- ⇒ We participated in several community events such as the EFPD Open House, City of Evans Heritage Days, career fairs and field days at the local elementary schools.
- ⇒ We began work with a consultant on a strategic plan to help identify areas of improvement and guide the future growth of the District.
- ⇒ Our line captains and firefighters had several outside training opportunities which allowed them to share new techniques with the rest of the organization to enhance their skills to provide a better service to our community.

The Fire District is a strong advocate of professional development and lifelong learning. In 2024, our members completed a wide variety of classes and obtained various certifications and professional designations. Included in these are attending the National Fire Academy, obtaining State certifications such as Driver/Operator, Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor I, Incident Safety Officer, and International Certified Fire Investigator designation. Several of our members are also continuing to work towards completing their associate or bachelor's degrees from accredited colleges.

None of what we have accomplished would be possible without the exceptional members of this organization. They are all committed professionals who embody our mission of "Providing professional fire and emergency services with *Dedication, Compassion & Excellence.*" More detailed information concerning the Fire District's performance is contained in the pages that follow.

If you have any questions about the annual report, or how the Fire District operates, please feel free to reach out to me directly at jdesalvo@evansfiredistrict.org.

Respectfully,



Joe DeSalvo
Fire Chief
970-339-3920 x.201



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The Evans Fire Protection District's Fire Prevention Bureau actively partners with residents and businesses to build a safer community. Managed by the Fire Marshal, the duties of the bureau include:

- ⇒ Conducting fire inspections of local businesses and occupancies.
- ⇒ Reviewing plans for commercial development and residential subdivisions.
- ⇒ Reviewing plans for fire protection systems.
- ⇒ Performing construction and acceptance inspections of fire protection systems.
- ⇒ Investigating complaints about fire safety hazards in the community.
- ⇒ Performing fire investigations to determine the origin, cause, and circumstances surrounding a fire.
- ⇒ Provide training to the operations personnel on fire investigations, fire protection systems, and target hazards in our fire district.



125 Fire Inspections

annual, construction, re-inspections, and fire code consultations

105 Plan Reviews

site plans, plats, businesses, buildings, and fire protection systems

10 Fire Investigations

ADDITION OF FIRE MARSHAL POSITION

In January 2024, the District realized the need to increase our fire prevention staffing. In conjunction with our neighboring agencies, LaSalle and Platte Valley Fire Protection Districts, we were able to hire a Fire Marshal to oversee a multi-district Fire Prevention Bureau. Fire Marshal Becker is training staff at all three agencies to increase the availability of knowledgeable staff involved in fire prevention activities, thereby increasing the safety of all our residents.

DISTRICT FACILITIES



Station 2 is our primary facility. In 2017, this building underwent a major renovation and expansion. While this does allow all District personnel to work in one location, the building is at capacity for living and working space. Staff is currently exploring options to develop facilities in the western part of our service area.

Historic **Station 1** was built by volunteer firefighters in 1975 with the support of Evans City Council, who purchased the materials. Currently, Station 1 is not staffed but serves houses our reserve engine and equipment.



Training Grounds are located at the City of Evans maintenance facilities. In 2024, we completed construction of a new three-story training tower. This new training building will allow for better simulation of the multi-family, multi-story buildings in the District.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The largest contributor to District revenue is Property Tax, specifically Residential Property Taxes. After steadily increasing for several years, the District has recognized a stunted growth in this revenue. The change is due to the changes in how the State of Colorado assesses property values.

	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUES:		
Property taxes		
Residential	2,245,368	1,974,456
Oil & Gas	681,936	595,267
Other Property Types	1,132,276	1,001,672
State of Colorado Property Tax Backfill*	500,439	
Specific ownership taxes	147,153	151,629
Intergovernmental Agreements†	290,895	208,779
Grants	9,992	5,298
Fire Prevention Fees	12,324	8,200
Other/Sale of Surplus Items	38,883	181,155
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	5,061,001	4,126,455
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Personnel Wages & Benefits (inc Volunteer pension)	3,382,255	2,944,575
Administration	361,848	301,948
Operations	143,499	90,933
Repairs and Maintenance	81,109	82,043
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	3,968,712	3,419,500

* In 2024, due to statutory changes to property assessed value calculations, the State of Colorado backfilled the lost revenues to special districts. This was a one-time only payment from the State.

† An arrangement was made with LaSalle FPD and Platte Valley FPD to share the services of the newly hired Evans FPD Fire Marshal. This accounts for the increase in IGA revenue. In 2026, this number will decrease significantly when the City of Evans stops contributing to emergency services.

^ All Fire Impact Fees on new construction are deposited to the District Capital Improvement Plan. Per State statute, impact fees may only be used for capital purchases directly related to growth of the District; therefore those funds are not included in Operating Revenues.



2024 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Evans firefighters remain actively involved in the community by participating in events to connect with our citizens while raising awareness of fire & public safety issues. Throughout the year, we enjoy giving station tours, visiting our local schools, and attending City of Evans events such as Easter Eggstravaganza, Heritage Days, Halloween Trick or Treating, and City Glow and Explore.

We are also honored to be invited to special celebrations such as the 100th birthday of a local World War II veteran and the Honor Flight sending veterans for a day of recognition in Washington, D.C.



Career Day



WWII Veteran 100th
birthday celebration



Fire Safety Education



Field Day

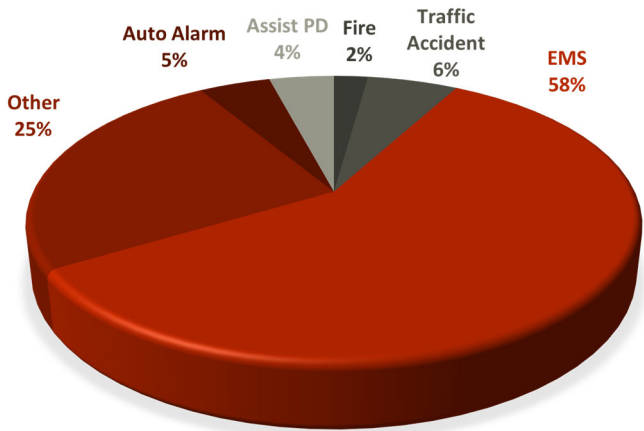
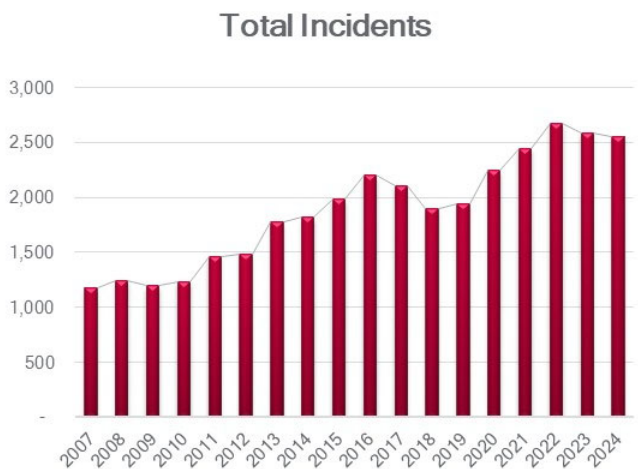


Station Visits

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Requests for service have been steadily increasing since the District was formed. As the budget permits, we have added resources, however, we are also dependent on our mutual aid partners when we experience staffing shortages or concurrent calls.

To ease the burden on our partners, and to help curtail the escalating volume of calls, in 2017 the District sought opportunities to eliminate duplicate or unnecessary responses to make more efficient use of our resources. We were able to stem the increase (and reduce the number of calls) by changing our deployment model to not respond to incidents at medical clinics unless specifically requested by the ambulance crew or on serious medical emergencies. However, even with this strategic change, our call volume has steadily increased. The District saw another dip in calls in 2023 when the Cold Weather Shelter was moved out of our jurisdiction.

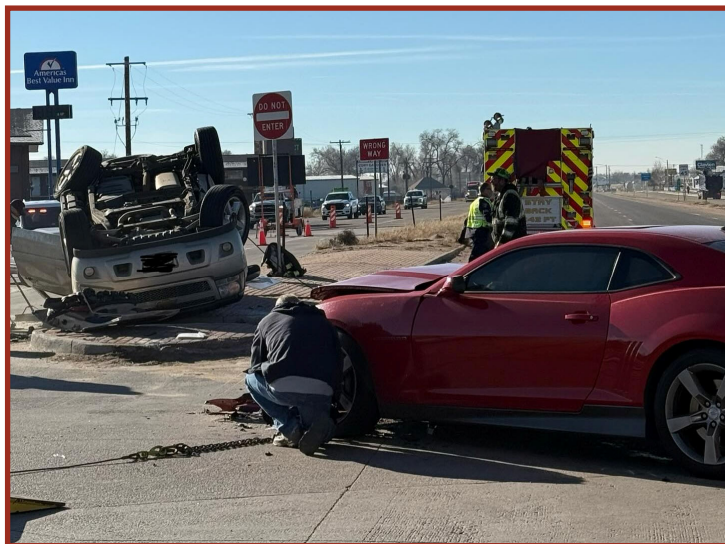


The busiest month of 2024 was August with 253 calls over 31 days—that's an average of 8 calls per day. Over the course of the year, we respond to an average of 7 calls per day. This makes Evans Fire Station 2 the busiest single-station department in Weld County.

This call volume, coupled with our limited resources, is the reason we work so closely with our mutual aid partners at neighboring agencies: LaSalle Fire Protection District, Platte Valley Fire Protection District, Greeley Fire Department, and Front Range Fire Protection District. Training together ensures a coordinated effort when responding together to structure fires, brush fires, and traffic accidents.



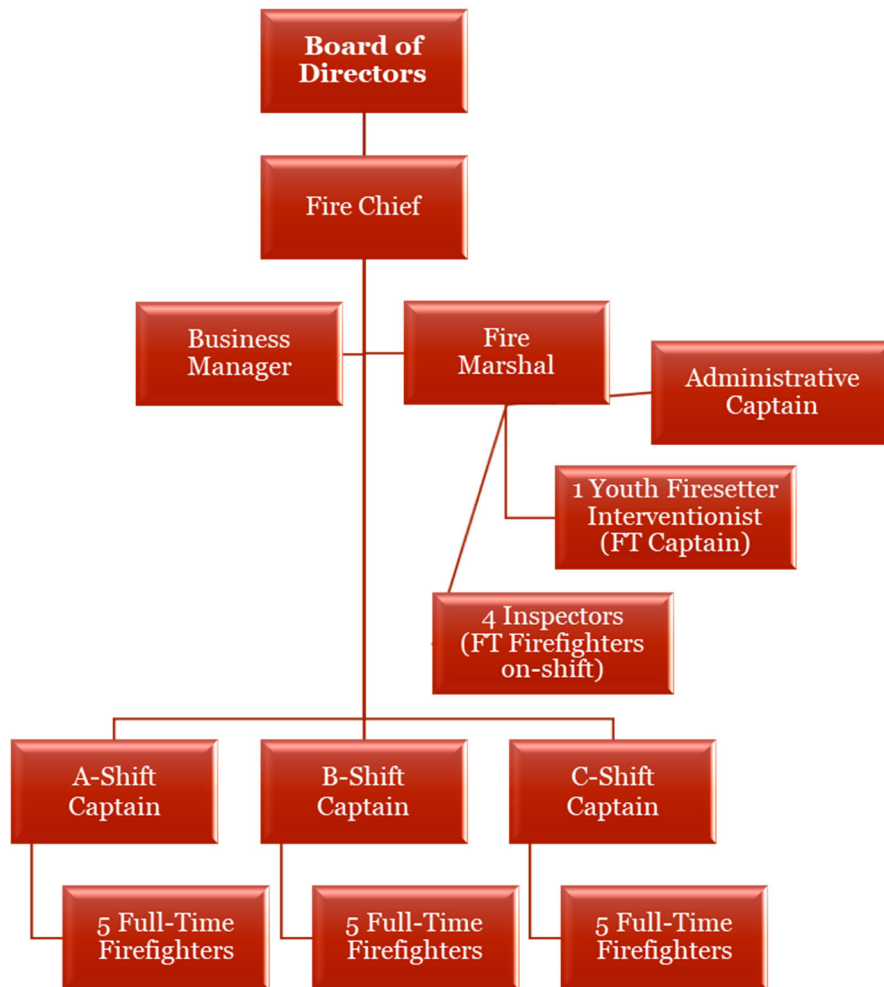
By working together, we enhance our ability to serve the community, ensuring that incidents requiring more personnel or equipment than Evans FPD has available receive the necessary support. This mutual sharing of resources maximizes efficiency and strengthens emergency responses. However, as each agency is managing increasing demands, this sharing of resources can become more complex and harder to accomplish. Historically, Evans has received more aid than it gives. Moving forward, we will be exploring options to ease our reliance on our aid partners.



"Being a firefighter isn't just a job—it's about being there for my community. Every day, I get to make a difference by helping people in their toughest moments. I try to bring compassion to every call. There's nothing more rewarding than knowing you've saved a life or brought comfort when it was needed most."

Captain John Udick

STAFFING



Front line staffing is comprised of 15 full-time firefighters and 3 company officers. The administrative staff includes the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Administrative Captain, and Business Manager.

We aim to have two companies on-duty at all times. This means a minimum of five firefighters must be on-duty every day.



TRAINING

In our effort to continually improve service to our citizens, Evans firefighters regularly train to maintain their skills and stay focused and prepared for the demands of the job.

Because the majority of our calls are for medical needs, all firefighters participate in Continuing Medical Education. These monthly trainings cover topics such as Pediatric Trauma, Overdose Treatment, Cardiac Events, Head and Spinal Injuries.

Once again, Firefighter Desonier organized the Weld County Women in the Fire Service training day—an opportunity for firefighters of all experience levels to train together and meet firefighters from across the state.

Some of the topics firefighters training on throughout the year were:

Assessing Major Trauma

Burn Management

Femur Fractures

Gunshot Wound Treatment

Fire and Arson
Investigation

Leadership

Ice Rescue

Peer Support

Forcible Entry

Vehicle Extrication



Weld County Women's Skills Day



Victim Rescue



*Fire Department Training Network
Live-Fire Training Camp*



Embankment/High-Angle Rescue

