



DIAMOND VALLEY FIRE RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Prepared By :

DEPUTY CHIEF TREVOR DOUBLET
ADMINISTRATION & FIRE PREVENTION



TOWN OF
**DIAMOND
VALLEY**



Our Mission

Protecting the lives, property, and environment of Diamond Valley through prevention, education, and proactive fire protection and rescue operations.

Our Vision

To set the standard for excellence in fire prevention and emergency response by embracing best practices and building strong community partnerships. We aspire to be a leader in the fire service industry, recognized for our commitment to safety, professionalism and continuous improvement.

Our Values

Accountability

Take responsibility for our actions and decision, ensuring transparency and trust.

Safety

Prioritize the safety of our team and community in all actions.

Professionalism

Maintain the highest standards for conduct and expertise.

Integrity

Act with honesty and uphold strong moral principles.

Respect

Treat everyone with dignity and consideration.

Excellence

Strive for continuous improvement and high performance.

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Message from the Fire Chief

The past year reinforced an important truth about fire and emergency services: progress is not only measured by growth, but by how well a department adapts, stabilizes, and delivers under increasing demand.

Demand for our services continued to rise, with the department responding to 531 calls for service, representing a 6.6% increase over the previous year. This continued growth reinforces the importance of disciplined training, sound governance, and sustainable service models to ensure that our firefighters are prepared to meet community needs safely and effectively.

A significant focus in 2025 was the advancement of our operational and administrative foundations. The department initiated the fire service accreditation process, a major milestone that reflects our commitment to nationally recognized best practices, accountability, and continuous improvement. Accreditation provides a structured framework to evaluate risk, service delivery, training, and governance, and will guide future decision-making as the department evolves.

Intermunicipal and regional cooperation also remained a priority. Updated shared service and mutual aid agreements were formalized with Foothills County, alongside continued partnerships with Kananaskis Improvement District, Alberta Forestry, and neighbouring municipalities. These agreements strengthen regional response capacity and ensure Diamond Valley Fire Rescue remains an effective and reliable partner during large-scale or complex incidents.

Training continued to underpin all operational success. In 2025, members dedicated 3,385.25 hours to training and professional development, reinforcing core firefighting, rescue, leadership, and incident command competencies. This investment directly supports firefighter safety, operational effectiveness, and long-term department sustainability.

Fire prevention, public education, and emergency management remained essential components of our service delivery. From inspections and investigations to community outreach and emergency preparedness initiatives, these efforts play a critical role in reducing risk and building community resilience before emergencies occur.

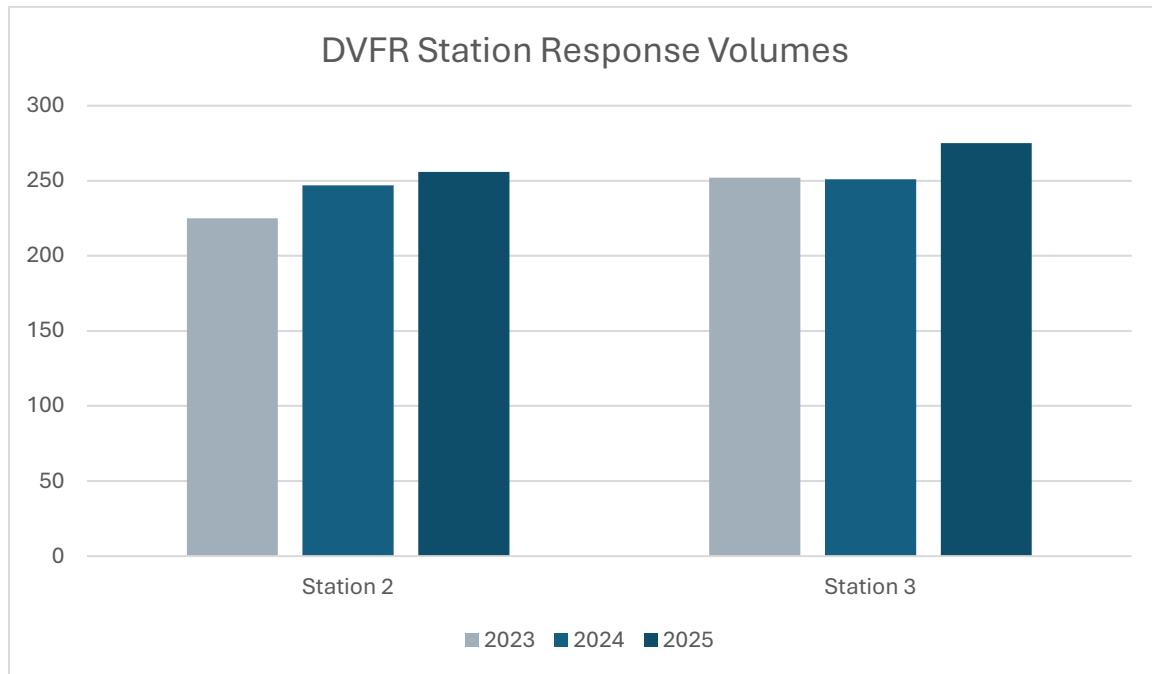
None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our firefighters and the continued support of their families, whose sacrifices allow members to respond at a moment's notice. I also extend sincere appreciation to Mayor Kelly, Town Council, and Administration for their leadership and ongoing support of the fire service.

As we enter 2026, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue remains focused on sustainability, firefighter safety, and data-driven service delivery. We are proud to serve this community and remain committed to protecting lives, property, and the environment with professionalism, integrity, and care.



Fire Department – Statistics and Call Volume Data

2025 was another year of growth and increased demand for Diamond Valley Fire Rescue. In total, Diamond Valley had 531 responses, with station 2 (Turner Valley) attending 256 events and Station 3 (Black Diamond) attending 275 events. Emergency events within the Town of Diamond Valley increased 10.8%, while calls in Foothills County and other surrounding areas rose by 2.4%, reflecting an ongoing demand across the service area. Overall, the department saw a 6.6% rise in the total call volume.



Response performance remained strong, with the first arriving apparatus arriving to in town emergencies in 10 minutes and 20 seconds and arriving in the county and other areas in 21 minutes and 46 seconds on average. These response times demonstrate the department's ability to provide timely, effective service through the dedication of our paid-per-call members.

10:20 / 21:46

The average response time in minutes to respond to an emergency scene in Diamond Valley and in Foothills County.

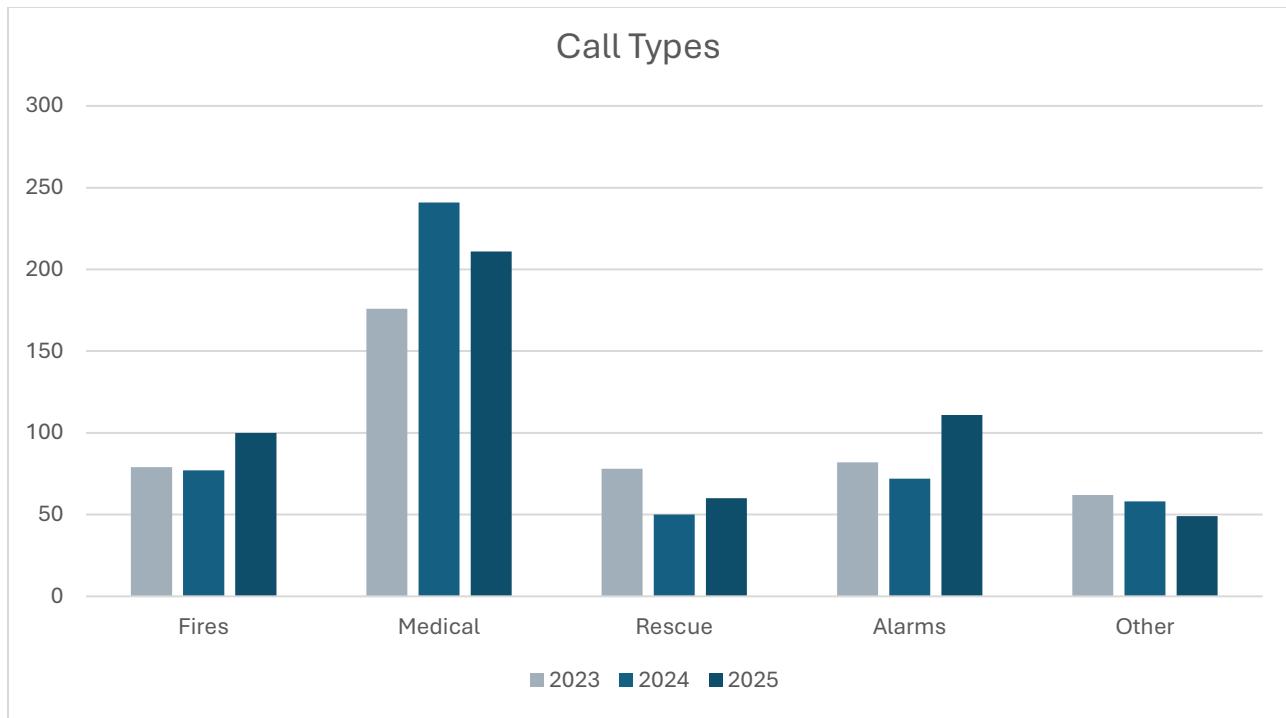
This represents the time from the 911 call is answered to a fire truck arriving on scene.

531

Responses in 2025, which is a 6.6% year over year increase.

18.8%

of calls were responses to fire related emergencies.



The department responded to a diverse range of incidents in 2025. Medical calls decreased slightly following a review of our Medical First Response (MFR) response criteria, while fire-related events, motor vehicle collisions and wildfire related incidents increased. Fire suppression related calls represented 18.8% of our total responses in 2025.



Safety Codes - Fire

In 2025, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue's Safety Codes and Fire Prevention function was delivered by four qualified Safety Code Officers who are also certified fire investigators. This staffing level ensured that Diamond Valley Fire Rescue continued to meet the requirements of the Town of Diamond Valley's Quality Management Plan, as an accredited municipality with the Alberta Safety Code Council, providing consistent inspection, investigations, and code compliance services within the municipal boundaries of Diamond Valley and partner jurisdictions.

Throughout the year, this team conducted a total of 251 fire and life safety inspections across, residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and assembly occupancies. These inspections ensure continued compliance with the National Fire Code and various NFPA standards, supporting the Diamond Valley Fire Rescue's broader community risk reduction efforts. In addition, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue Safety Codes Officers issued 7 burn permits and 2 fireworks event permits, reviewing compliance with application regulations and bylaws.

Safety Codes Officers also completed seven fire investigations, including five within the Town of Diamond Valley and two in Eden Valley. The estimated dollar loss associated with the in-town fire investigations was approximately \$130,000. Through timely and effective fire suppression efforts, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue is estimated to have prevented an additional \$12.5 million in damage to critical infrastructure and private property within municipal boundaries, highlighting the impact of coordinated prevention, investigation and emergency response activities.

The department remained actively involved with the Southern Alberta Fire Safety Codes Officer Group, participating in regular meetings and collaborative discussions with Safety Code Officers from regional municipalities and provincial partners. This regional engagement supports consistent interpretation and application of the Fire Code, promote professional development, and enhances information sharing related to inspections, investigations, and emerging issues. In 2025, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue was given the opportunity to present an in-depth case study as a result of code application and legal proceedings as they related to the application of the Fire Code.

Implementation of the 2023 Fire Code has resulted in changes to occupant load calculations and special event permit requirements. Throughout 2025, Diamond valley Fire Rescue worked proactively with facility operators, event organizers and municipal partners to apply these updated requirements ensuring events and facilities remained compliant and maintaining public safety.

Fire Department - Training

Training and professional development remained a priority for Diamond Valley Fire Rescue in 2025, with members dedicating a total of 3,385.25 hours to training and skills development throughout the year. This investment ensures that members remain qualified, capable, and prepared to safely respond to emergency incidents occurring in the Town of Diamond Valley, surrounding Foothills County, and Kananaskis Country.

Throughout the year, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue hosted and participated in training aligned with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Firefighters completed core operational certifications, including Firefighter Level 1 and Level 2, Driver/Operator Pump training, vehicle extrication training, and rope rescue training at the awareness, operations, and technician levels. These programs strengthened the department's ability to manage structure fires, technical rescues, and complex emergency events.



Leadership development was also a key focus in 2025. Members completed Fire Officer and Fire Instructor training, supporting effective incident leadership and expanding the department's internal training capacity. In addition, Officer development workshops hosted by Les Karpluk, along with Blue Card Incident Command training, reinforced standardized incident command practices and sound decision-making during high-risk incidents.

Emergency management training continued to be emphasized, with members participating in various Incident Command System (ICS) courses and certification programs. Diamond Valley Fire Rescue Safety Codes Officers also maintained ongoing education and continued to earn continuing education credits through attendance at seminars.



Lastly, three members completed the Red Cross First Aid and CPR Instructor program, with one also completing the Professional Responder Instructor program. This training expanded the department's ability to maintain internal medical qualifications and supported first aid and CPR compliance for Town staff in alignment with Occupational Health and Safety requirements.

Fire Department - Operations



In 2025, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue maintained a strong focus on operational readiness and reliable emergency response. Building on planning and organizational work completed in previous years, the department concentrated on implementing established practices, maintaining consistent service delivery, and supporting frontline operations across the response area.

The department initiated the fire service accreditation process in 2025, marking an important step toward formally assessing service delivery, training, risk management, and governance. While accreditation is an ongoing process, early work in 2025 focused on aligning operational practices with recognized fire service standards and identifying areas for improvement that directly support emergency response and firefighter safety.

Interagency response coordination remained a key operational priority throughout the year. Updated shared service and mutual aid agreements with Foothills County were finalized following municipal amalgamation, ensuring continued response coverage to surrounding areas and clear expectations for cross-jurisdictional operations. Existing agreements with Kananaskis Improvement District and Alberta Forestry were updated, and a new mutual aid agreement was completed with the Town of High River. Development of a new mutual aid agreement with the Town of Okotoks was also initiated.

Emergency response continued to be delivered from two fire stations located in our communities of Black Diamond and Turner Valley. Staffing levels remained stable throughout 2025, and no additional firefighter recruitment campaign was during the fall. As of year end, Diamond Valley

Fire Rescue maintained a roster of 42 paid-per-call firefighters and 3 full-time chief staff, supporting consistent operational coverage across the service area.

Fleet and equipment readiness remained an operational focus in 2025. Ongoing maintenance demands associated with an aging apparatus fleet were managed with an emphasis on reliability and fiscal responsibility. The vehicle maintenance team addressed outstanding issues throughout the year, resulting in all frontline apparatus remaining operational. While no major apparatus purchases were undertaken, work continued to standardize equipment layouts between stations to improve operational efficiency and reduce on-scene task loading.

The wildland and technical rescue gear outfitting project was completed in 2025. All active members were sized and issued appropriate turnout gear in compliance with NFPA 1951 and 1977, enhancing safety and operational capability during wildland, interface, and technical rescue incidents.

Overall, 2025 represented a year of stable operations and continued refinement for Diamond Valley Fire Rescue. The department-maintained staffing, fleet readiness, and interagency response capability while implementing improvements that support effective emergency response and ongoing service reliability.



Provincial Wildfire Deployment and G7 Staffing

The 2025 wildfire season once again demonstrated the ongoing challenges faced across Alberta. Diamond Valley Fire Rescue was called upon to support provincial wildfire operations, providing fire suppression and structural protection assistance as needed.

Tender 3 was deployed to Red Earth Creek and Swan Hills for a total of 17 days, working alongside provincial crews to protect communities at risk. Throughout these deployments, our members demonstrated professionalism, skill, and dedication, contributing essential support and ensuring the safety of Albertans during a demanding wildfire season.

Diamond Valley Fire Rescue was also requested by Kananaskis Emergency Services to provide additional staffing for the G7 Summit held in Kananaskis. We provided 8 staff to augment their staffing and provide coverage for the multi-day event.

These deployments not only strengthened the department's operational experience but also reinforced collaboration with provincial agencies, preparing Diamond Valley Fire Rescue to respond effectively to both local and regional emergencies.



Bearspaw First Nation - Eden Valley partnership

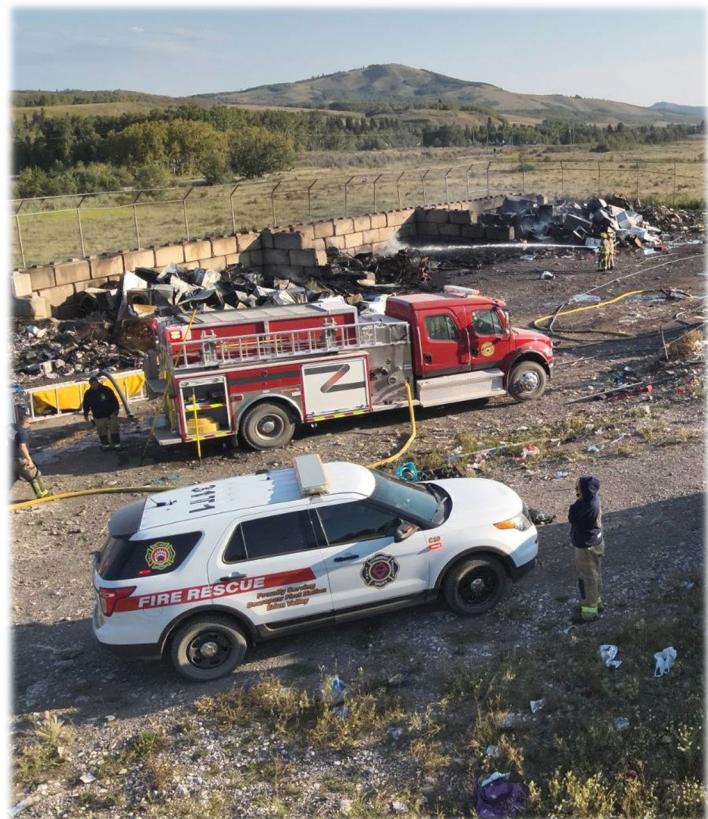
In July 2025, the Town of Diamond Valley entered into a formal service agreement with Bearspaw First Nation – Eden Valley to provide dedicated emergency management and fire service leadership in support of the Nation's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and broader emergency management program. As part of this agreement, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue Lieutenant Ethan Gardner was appointed as the Nation's full-time Emergency Management Coordinator.

Over the first six months of the agreement, the partnership produced significant operational and organizational progress. Under Lieutenant Gardner's leadership, Eden Valley CERT underwent meaningful reform focused on strengthening frontline response capability, improving medical and fire suppression practices, and building internal leadership capacity. Staffing models were refined to improve responder safety and workload distribution, and structured training programs were introduced to enhance medical, rescue, and wildfire response skills.

Operational improvements included the reintegration and reconfiguration of response apparatus, implementation of enhanced member alerting systems, and introduction of improved patient care documentation processes through the AHS MFR portal. These changes reduced reliance on external mutual aid resources and improved situational awareness, coordination, and response efficiency within the community.

Beyond emergency response, the partnership supported the development of community outreach, public safety education, and participation in regional disaster management working groups. Eden Valley also advanced its organizational identity, formalizing its structure and pursuing rebranding as Eden Valley Fire Rescue to align more closely with traditional fire service models.

This partnership represents a successful model of intergovernmental collaboration, strengthening emergency response capacity while supporting long-term community resilience. Diamond Valley Fire Rescue is proud to support Bearspaw First Nation – Eden Valley through this agreement and looks forward to continued progress in 2026.



Public Education and Community Outreach

In 2025, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue continued to prioritize public education and community engagement, participating in over 43 documented events. Participation in these community events helps residents learn about fire safety, emergency preparedness, and community resilience, while building stronger connections between Diamond Valley Fire Rescue and the public we serve.

Diamond Valley Fire Rescue engaged with residents across all ages and demographics through a wide range of events including:

School and Youth Programs

- Millarville Kindergarten Visits
- Operation Prevention
- Annual Bike Rodeo
- Grad Class Pop-up Spray Park
- Community Pop-up Spray Parks
- Community Day Home/Early Learning Centre Visits

Community Events and Celebrations

- Diamond Valley Days
- Canada Day Fireworks
- Longview Parade
- Diamond Valley Show and Shine
- Battle of Foothills
- Light up Diamond Valley
- Spruce Meadows Salute to First Responders
- New Years Eve Fireworks

Through these events, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue was able to directly engage with residents and community groups, strengthening trust, improving fire safety awareness, and helping to create a safer, more resilient community.

Public Safety Awareness Initiatives

- Emergency Preparedness Open House
- Library Home Safety Presentation
- Lunch and Learns at Griffith's Centre
- Halloween Open House and Safety Patrols
- Candy Cane Checkstop
- Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Legion Events
- Annual Fire Department Food Drive

Other Community Support and Standby Activities

- Hockey for Horizons Standby
- Fire Prevention Week Open House
- Dad Connexx
- Rolling Barrage
- Smile Cookie Day



Emergency Management

In 2025, Diamond Valley Emergency Management continued to strengthen its ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. Building on foundational improvements made in previous years, the focus shifted toward practical implementation, increased internal capacity, and stronger collaboration with regional partners. These efforts contributed to improved readiness and more consistent emergency management practices across the region.

A major accomplishment in 2025 was securing a \$200,000 Alberta Community Partnership grant in collaboration with the Town of Cochrane and the Municipal District of Bighorn. This funding is supporting the development of standardized emergency management planning tools aligned with provincial requirements. Diamond Valley is the lead agency responsible for coordinating this work, which supports consistent and effective emergency planning across multiple municipalities.

Operational readiness continued to improve throughout the year. Upgrades to the Emergency Coordination Centre were completed, modernizing the space to better support emergency coordination and communications. Supporting systems and infrastructure were updated to improve reliability and ensure continuity of operations during emergency activations.

Emergency Coordination Centre readiness was reinforced through regular updates to contact and notification lists and expanded engagement with regional partners, including Bearspaw First Nation - Eden Valley, school authorities, and local service providers. Critical equipment was tested prior to hazard season to confirm operational reliability. During the year, the Emergency Coordination Centre was activated in response to several weather-related events, including heavy rainfall, high streamflow conditions along the Sheep River, and severe weather warnings. These events provided opportunities to confirm procedures and strengthen coordination with partner agencies.

Training and professional development remained a priority. Regional training opportunities were supported, and Diamond Valley successfully delivered its first internally led Incident Command System course, reducing reliance on external training providers and strengthening long-term sustainability.

Community preparedness remained an important focus. During Emergency Preparedness Week, public workshops were delivered in partnership with Sheep River Library, providing residents with practical information to help them better prepare for emergencies at home.

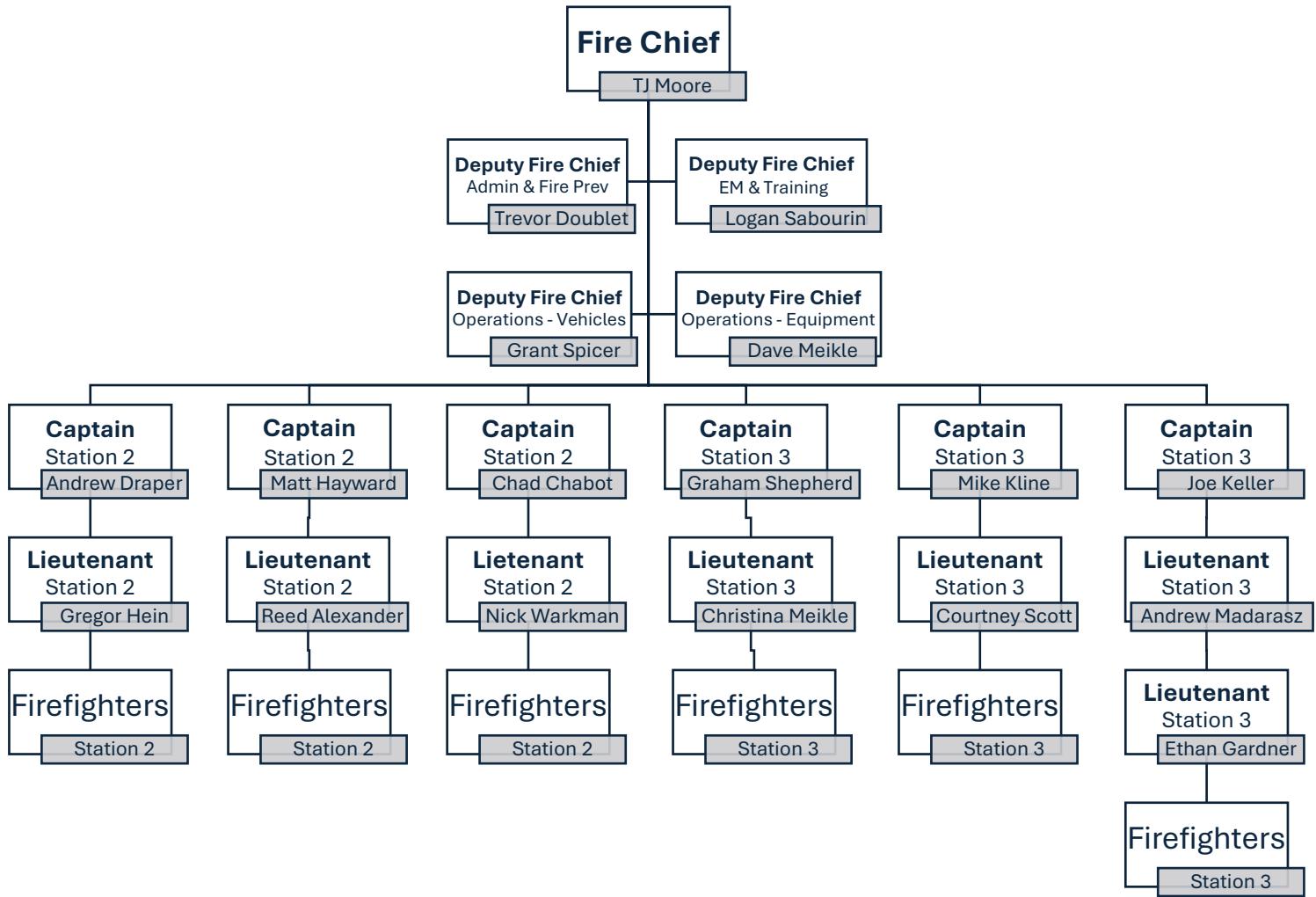
Overall, 2025 represented a year of steady progress and increased capability for Diamond Valley Emergency Management. The program entered 2026 with stronger internal capacity, improved regional coordination, and a solid foundation to continue enhancing community safety and resilience.



**DIAMOND VALLEY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Membership

Going into 2026 Diamond Valley Fire Rescue maintains a membership of 45 firefighters inclusive of chiefs and officers. Our fall 2024 recruitment campaign was successful in recruiting 8 new members to the department, which completed their training in June of 2025, becoming official members of the department. The organizational chart for the department is as follows:



Diamond Valley Fire Rescue would like to recognize the following members who achieved significant milestones in their emergency services careers:

Deputy Fire Chief Trevor Doublet
22 year Bronze Bar – Alberta Emergency Service Medal

Senior Firefighter Landon Ference
12 Year Medal – Alberta Emergency Service Medal

Deputy Chief Grant Spicer
30 Year Town of Diamond Valley Long Service Award

Captain Matt Hayward
10 Year Town of Diamond Valley Long Service Award

Captain Graham Shepherd
10 Year Town of Diamond Valley Long Service Award

Deputy Chief Logan Sabourin
5 Year Town of Diamond Valley Long Service Award

We would like to congratulate Nick Warkman, Gregor Hein, Reed Alexander, and Ethan Gardner who were the successful candidates in the 2025 Lieutenant promotions.

This year also came with the resignations of Jagger Thiessen, Sonya Levear, Grant Sinclair, Stetson Chrysler and Josh Norton. Diamond Valley Fire Rescue thanks you all for your service and dedication and wishes you all well on your future endeavours.



Looking Forward

As we reflect on 2025, Diamond Valley Fire Rescue continues to grow and adapt as a paid-per-call department serving our community. Our members have once again demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and teamwork, responding to a wide range of incidents while maintaining strong engagement in training and community initiatives.

Looking ahead to 2026, the department is excited to build on this momentum and focus on several key initiatives. We plan to release a Community Risk Assessment/Standards of Cover, providing a data-driven framework to ensure that resources are effectively aligned with community needs. In addition, we will be developing a Wildfire Mitigation Strategy that aligns with FireSmart principles, proactively reducing risk and enhancing community resilience in the face of growing wildfire threats.

The department will also undertake a strategic planning process to guide Diamond Valley Fire Rescue operations from 2027 through 2029, ensuring that long-term priorities, training, and resource management are aligned with both community expectations and operational realities.

With the continued growth of Diamond Valley and rising tourism, we anticipate that call volumes will continue to increase. Diamond Valley Fire Rescue remains committed to delivering timely, effective, and professional service to the Town of Diamond Valley, Foothills County, Kananaskis Country and the Province of Alberta.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to Mayor Kelly and Diamond Valley Town Council for their support and leadership, as well as to all members of our community who help make our work possible. We also acknowledge the families of our firefighters, whose understanding and encouragement allow our members to respond at a moment's notice. Your support remains a vital part of our success.



Diamond Valley Fire Rescue
102 Royal Avenue
Diamond Valley, AB

 Diamond Valley Fire Rescue





Public Safety Department

Fire/Rescue



Emergency
Management



DIAMOND VALLEY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Municipal
Enforcement



Municipal
Police Service
Agreement



Public Safety Department

Senior Leadership

Director of Public Safety & Fire Chief
(FTE x1)

Fire/Rescue

Management

Deputy Fire Chief
Administration and Fire Prevention
(FTE x1)

Deputy Fire Chief(s)
Operations
(POC x2)

Captain(s)
(POC x5)

Lieutenant(s)
(POC x6)

Firefighters
(POC x29)

Emergency Management

Director of Emergency Management & Deputy Fire Chief
(FTE x1)

Deputy Director(s) of Emergency Management

Municipal Enforcement

Sergeant
Community Peace Officer
(FTE x1)

Community Peace Officer
(FTE x2)

Bylaw Enforcement Officer
(FTE x1)

Municipal Police Service Agreement

FTE = Full-time equivalent
POC = Paid-on-call/Casual