

CHANNAHON

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

www.channahonfire.com

CHANNAHON

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Mission Statement

The Channahon Fire Protection District and its members provide a unique service in the areas of emergency response, education, and community support with professionalism, dedication, and pride to the community and those in need.

Protect

The Channahon Fire Protection District will protect the firefighters who serve this community by furnishing them with state-of-the-art equipment, offering exceptional capability and safety. The Channahon Fire Protection District will protect the citizens of this community through the established service levels including fire suppression, pre-hospital care, fire prevention, community education, fire investigations, technical rescue, and water rescue operations.

Serve

The Channahon Fire Protection District shall foster a cohesive environment that promotes organizational ownership through opportunity and leadership, resulting in professional development. The Channahon Fire Protection District shall supply the citizens of this community with the expectation of upholding the highest professional conduct and delivery of service each time we may be called to assist a citizen in need.

Educate

The Channahon Fire Protection District shall prepare the firefighters of this community to operate as competent Firefighters, Paramedics, and Officers on the fire ground, in the fire station, and within the Channahon Fire Protection District at all times. The Channahon Fire Protection District will safeguard the citizens of this community through aggressive fire prevention and public education programs that instill the value of emergency preparedness.



@Channahon Fire
Protection District



Channahonfire.com



Message from the Chief

It is my honor to present the annual report for the Channahon Fire Protection District. This past year has been defined by our continued commitment to service, our dedication to professional excellence, and our unwavering focus on protecting the lives and property of those we are privileged to serve.

Our members have demonstrated exceptional courage, discipline, and compassion in every call for service—whether responding to emergencies, engaging in community risk reduction, or investing in ongoing training and development. Their professionalism reflects the strong values that define our organization and the trust our community places in us.

As we look back on the year, we recognize both the challenges we have faced and the progress we have made. Through strategic planning, enhanced training, and a focus on readiness, we have strengthened our ability to meet the evolving needs of our district. None of this would be possible without the support of our Board of Trustees, our community partners, and the residents we proudly serve.

This report highlights our accomplishments, outlines our priorities, and reinforces our commitment to continuous improvement. We remain focused on building a future that is grounded in duty, driven by discipline, and led with purpose.

On behalf of the men and women of the Channahon Fire Protection District, thank you for your continued trust and support.

With Respect and Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Petrakis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

John Petrakis, Fire Chief

Board of Fire Trustees

Board of Fire Commissioners

Legal

Fire Chief

Deputy Chief

Executive Fire Support Manager

Fire Inspector

Life Safety Educator

IT Management

Community Support Services

Black Shift Captain

Red Shift Captain

Gold Shift Captain

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Lieutenant

Lieutenant

Lieutenant

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic

Firefighter Paramedic



Channahon Fire Protection District
Organizational Chart

2025 District Highlights:

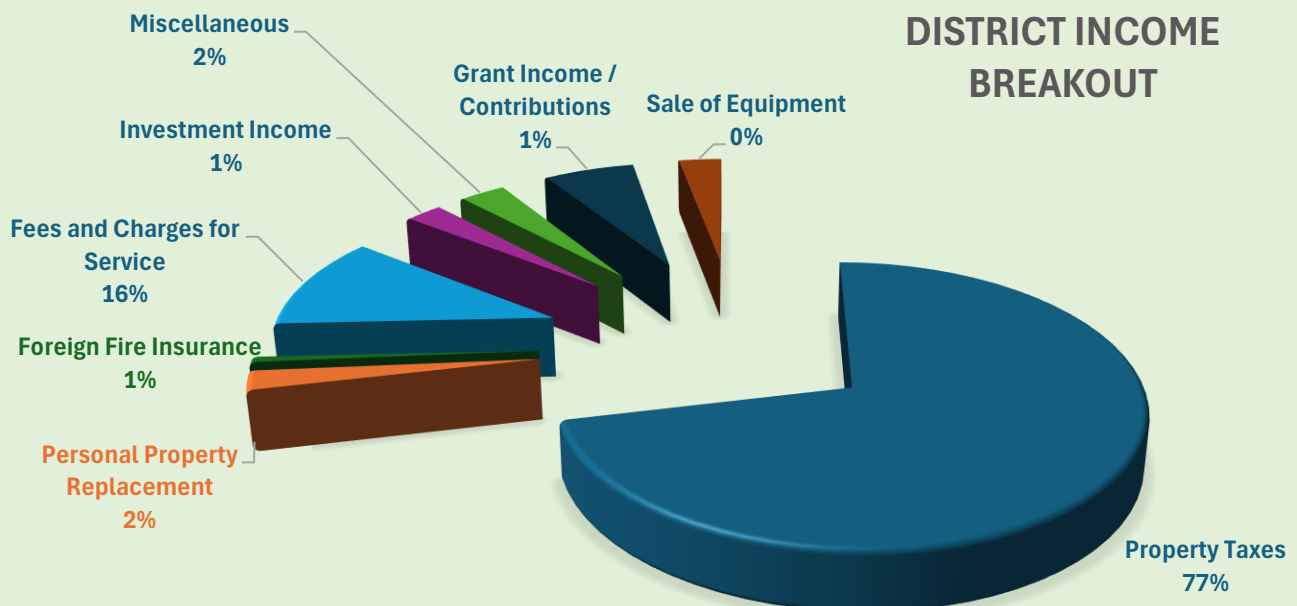
- ❖ Celebrated long standing Fire Trustees Donald Montgomery's and Stephen Rittof's retirement from the Board of Trustees. Don had 59 years of combined service as a volunteer firefighter, Chief Engineer, Fire Chief, and District Trustee. Steve had 53 years of combined service as a volunteer firefighter and District Trustee.
- ❖ Celebrated 13 years of service for Deputy Chief Toepper following his retirement.
- ❖ Welcomed Michael McMillin as our new Deputy Chief.
- ❖ Commissioned Casey Caldwell, Donald (Doc) Gregory, and Andrew Fitzgerald as Fire District Trustees.
- ❖ Hired two firefighter/paramedics, Patrick Hardin and Joseph Owen.
- ❖ Welcomed K9 Rigs and began his journey as a service K9.
- ❖ Celebrated 75 years of service to the Channahon Community.
- ❖ Implemented a candidate program for aspiring firefighters, targeting graduated high school seniors or individuals seeking experience to pursue certified firefighter training.
- ❖ Earned an ISO Class 2 fire protection class rating with the Insurance Services Office (ISO) following our field grading.
- ❖ Implemented a new fire incident software program, First Due.
- ❖ Installed a new emergency power generator at Fire Station #1; replaced the 29 year old emergency generator and switch gear.
- ❖ Completed a "green" lighting upgrade through a ComEd grant.
- ❖ Replaced two automated cardiopulmonary resuscitation devices with better efficiency and set-up times.

District Finances



The Channahon Fire Protection District continues to maintain a balanced budget while providing the best possible service to our community. Our budget process emphasizes fiscal responsibility and complete transparency.

REVENUE	Audited 2024	Audited 2025
Property Taxes	\$ 4,244,167	\$ 4,511,753
Personal Property Replacement	\$ 133,727	\$ 107,601
Foreign Fire Insurance	\$ 37,184	\$ 36,500
Fees and Charges for Service	\$ 667,739	\$ 948,520
Investment Income	\$ 145,689	\$ 97,969
Miscellaneous	\$ 181,428	\$ 136,518
Grant Income / Contributions	\$ 362,782	\$ 1,000
Sale of Equipment	\$ 171,950	\$ -
Total Revenues	\$ 5,944,666	\$ 5,839,861
EXPENDITURES		
Public Safety	\$ 4,793,584	\$ 5,104,387
Debt Service	\$ 550,961	\$ 374,627
Capital Outlay	\$ 2,177,367	\$ 458,280
Total Expenditures	\$ 7,521,912	\$ 5,937,294



1,986

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE



77
FIRES



214
SERVICE
CALLS



1,136
EMS/RESCUE



219
FALSE
ALARM

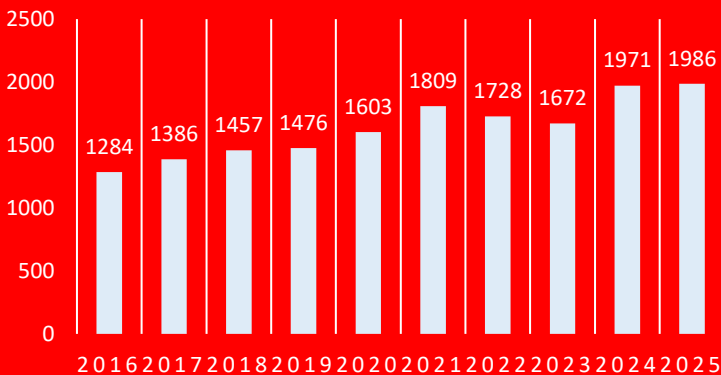


38
HAZARDOUS
CONDITIONS



302
GOOD
INTENTS

10 YEARS CALL VOLUME



- ❖ Service Call : Public service assistance
- ❖ Good Intent: Dispatched & canceled; controlled burn; no emergency found
- ❖ Hazardous Condition: Gas leaks, fuel spills, overheated mechanical equipment, carbon monoxide

Incidents



Fires

- 02-19-2025 Squire Lane
- 02-27-2025 S Bradley Street
- 03-03-2025 I-55 NB MM246
- 03-07-2025 W Riverside Drive
- 04-22-2025 S Frontage Road W
- 06-07-2025 San Carlos Road
- 10-16-2025 St Paul Avenue
- 10-23-2025 Northern Illinois Drive
- 12-05-2025 W Bluff Road





Jeff Kazak,
EMS Coordinator

Emergency Medical Services



EMS Statistics 2025

Total EMS Runs: 1097

Most Common EMS Calls:

- Medical 64%
- Trauma 25%
- Lift Assist 11%

Top 3 Dispatch Reported Complaints:

- Sick Person
- Fall
- Lift Assist



Why does the fire engine accompany the ambulance on medical calls?

All our staff are trained at the paramedic level and operate on the ambulance. While the ambulance crew attends to the patient, the engine crew is doing all of the background work. This all depends on the type of medical incident and the severity of the situation. The following are calls in which the engine will automatically respond with the ambulance: chest pain, cardiac arrest, stroke, seizure, burns, trouble breathing.

Tasks the engine accomplishes while medics attend to the patient.

- Prepare the stretcher at the front door.
- Grab a stair chair to assist patient downstairs.
- Set up medical equipment in the ambulance.
- Obtain information from the family
- Provide lighting for dark areas.
- Offer additional help during transport to hospital.

Dispatch / Response Areas

Dispatch



What's your emergency?

9-1-1 dispatch processes calls and dispatches the appropriate units. Emergency call notifications are handled by our central dispatch center, Western Will County Emergency Communications Center (WESCOM). WESCOM is a state-of-the-art communications center, staffed with professional call takers and dispatchers who answer emergency and service calls for 12 fire districts and 9 police departments. WESCOM's coverage area is approximately 452 square miles with a resident population of approximately 305,000.

Response Areas

Number of Calls per District

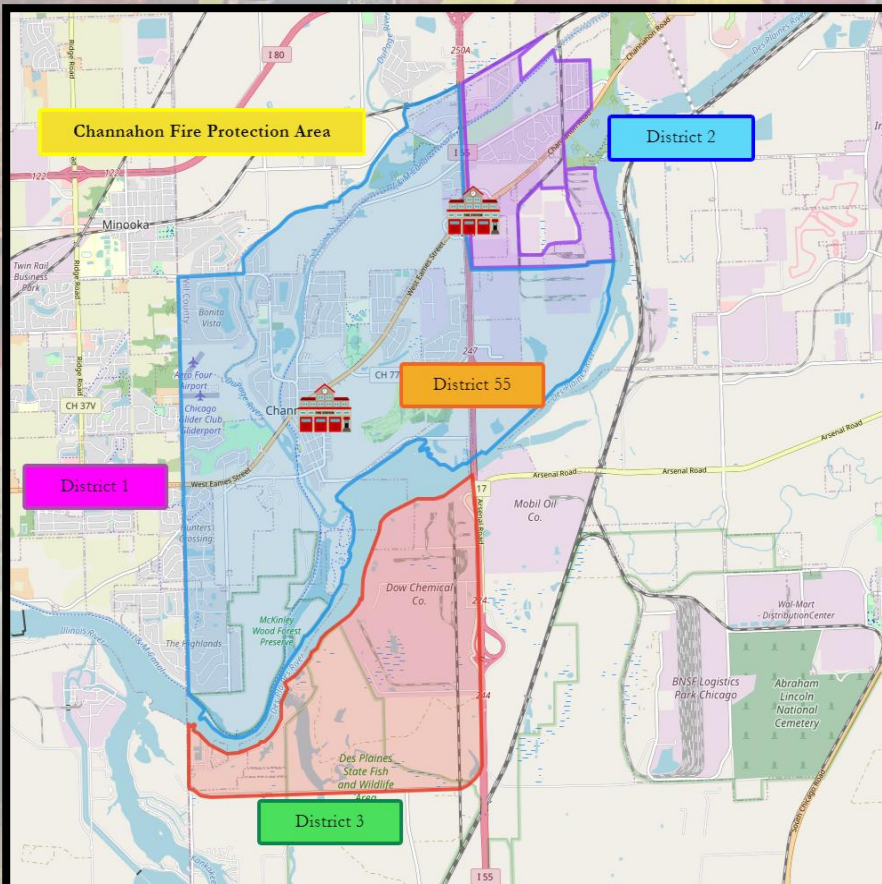
District 1 = 956

District 2 = 463

District 3 = 46

I55 = 71

Automatic/Mutual Aid = 450



Channahon Fire Protection District Service Area Information

Total Square Miles: 20.6832

Total District Population: 11,018

Station 1

Still Responses Area: District 1

Total Area Covered: 9.6725 Square Miles
Population: 7,816

Station 2

Still Responses Area: District 2

Total Area Covered: 6.0232 Square Miles
Population: 3,105

Still Responses Area: District 3

Total Area Covered: 4.9785 Square Miles
Population: 97

District Fleet

Vehicle #	Maint. #	Description
448	ADM-2	2013 Ford Explorer
402	ADM-4	2023 Ford Explorer
401	ADM-5	2023 Ford Explorer
412	ENG-2	2004 Pierce Quantum Pumper
421	ENG-3	2012 Pierce Quantum Pumper
411	ENG-4	2021 Pierce Enforcer Pumper
417	TEND-1	2014 Kenworth T800
415	AM-3	2016 Ford 550/Horton
414	AM-4	2020 Ford 550/Horton
424	AM-5	2024 Ford 550/Alexis
416	UT-1	1989 Ford/Marion
418	UT-2	2001 Ford Brush Truck
458	UT-3	2014 Ford 350 Pick-up
488	UT-5	2007 Kubota RTV 900
	UT-7	Tracker 1542LW Jon Boat
496	UT-8	2023 Ford F59 Step Van
498	UT-9	Manitou Tri-toon Pontoon Boat
Kubota Trailer	TR-4	2008 Aluma LTD Trailer
CART Trailer	TR-5	2012 CargoMate
Jon Boat Trailer	TR-6	2014 Basstracker 1542
Pontoon Trailer	TR-7	2023 Genesis
180		1946 Ford Antique



Preventative Maintenance and Repair Cost

Twice a year the fire apparatus, ambulance, and administrative vehicles have regularly scheduled maintenance to help prevent unexpected failures in the future. This is to help keep the repair costs down. The repair cost on an vehicle includes labor, equipment, and material costs. In 2025 the Fire District spent \$46,877.00 on vehicle maintenance. That was 41% lower than the 2024 maintenance cost.

Specialty Teams

Fire departments often have specialized teams to handle unique or hazardous situations. These teams include Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Fire Investigations, and Water Rescue. These specialty teams are essential for addressing a wide range of emergency situations that require specialized knowledge, equipment, and training beyond the standard firefighting tasks.

TECHNICAL RESCUE

Technical rescue involves using specialized tools, skills, and training to address complex rescue situations that go beyond standard emergency response. This includes areas like rope rescue, high angle rescue, grain bin rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, and structural collapse rescue. Essentially, it's about deploying specialized resources to handle challenging rescue scenarios where standard procedures are insufficient.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

A hazmat team, short for hazardous materials team, is a specially trained group of professionals responsible for handling and mitigating incidents involving hazardous substances. These materials pose significant risks to health, property, and the environment. Hazmat teams are deployed to manage spills, leaks, and other accidental releases of hazardous materials.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Fire investigation is the process of determining the origin and cause of a fire, including whether it was accidental or intentionally set. It involves examining the scene, collecting evidence, and applying scientific methods to identify the fire's starting point, factors that contributed to its spread, and potential causes. Members of the team are trained to State and National standards for fire investigation.

WATER RESCUE

A water rescue team is a specialized group of trained personnel equipped to respond to incidents involving various bodies of water, with a primary focus on rescuing individuals from these environments. Team members are qualified in the following disciplines of water rescue: under water rescue and recovery, boat operations, sonar imaging, surface ice, and swift water rescue.



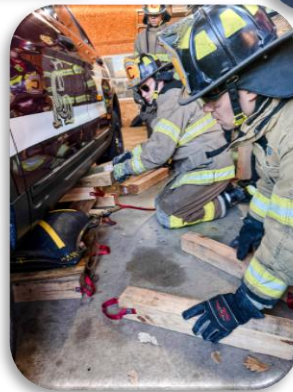
District Training



Brian McMillin, Captain

A "training division" refers to a department within an organization that is responsible for providing training and development programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of its members. This can include initial entry training for new recruits, ongoing professional development for experienced personnel, specialized training for specific roles, and support of outside departments' trainings.

In 2025, the fire district's training program supported a total of 33 members, a roster that included 12 candidates and two new full-time employees. Throughout the year, the department logged a significant 10,221 total training hours, demonstrating a strong commitment to professional development. This workload averaged out to approximately 310 hours per member for the year, or roughly 26 hours of training per member each month.



Fire & Life Safety Education



Sarah Fellows,
Fire and Life Safety Educator

A note from Firefighter Sarah:

2025 was packed to the brim. Every month I taught 1st and 2nd grades at Galloway. Lessons included: Vehicle Safety, Poison Safety, Weather Safety, Bike & Water Safety, Fire Drills, Charging Safety, Stay Away from Hot Things, and Holiday Safety. For the Kindergarten classes, I visited every other month, teaching Stop, Drop & Roll, Fire Drills, Firefighters are Our Friends, and Stay Away from Hot Things. I taught in the preschool classrooms at Galloway, United Methodist Church, and the Park District. Safety topics included Smoke Alarms, Hot or Not, and Firefighters are Our Friends. We celebrated the end of the school year by bringing our crew and Engine 411 for a visit and distributed helmets to the children. These Fire & Life Safety lessons reached 452 total students through the year. Additionally, we had two homeschool visits (23 students) at the station, which included an educational lesson in the training room and a station tour. I visited Families of Faith, and brought a lesson for each grade. For the sixth-twelfth graders, I taught Hands Only CPR (133 students).



Trainings I participated in included: SRM I Love You Guys, CPR Instructor Course, Weather Seminar, Special Needs Car Seats for Everyone, and thirteen weeks of IFSAP training. I also attended the Fire and Life Safety Conference and the IL Child Passenger Safety Conference. Also, I was awarded the IFCA scholarship, which paid for the IFSAP class.

Events we hosted or participated in: Grundy County Hero's & Helpers brought their Easter Bunny event to our station in March. In April, we attended Channahon Baseball's Opening Day celebration. In June, Open House, Night at the Station was a remarkable success. Approximately five hundred attended. Three Rivers was an exciting event. We had a Safety Trivia game and a couple of games for small children, educating in a fun manner. And to wrap up the year, we participated in 3 Trunk or Treat events.



Fire & Life Safety Education

Luanne Cantrell, Community Risk Reduction Officer, and I taught our first Matter of Balance class to a group at St. Elizabeth. The program was a hit. We hope to run this program or another similar one in 2026 (10 participants).



My goals for next year include updating programs as needed and adding hands-on learning to each program for our young students. I spoke with Dr. Henkle, the school Superintendent, and we plan to teach CPR to the eighth grade class starting Spring 2026. Additionally, I hope to enhance my knowledge and increase my skills so I can continue educating to the best of my abilities.

2025 has been an incredible year. I enjoyed teaching very much, connecting with new individuals, expanding our program, and most importantly I look forward to doing this again in 2026.

Thank you for your support.

Sarah Fellows
Fire and Life Safety Educator

EDITH Winners



Congratulations to the 2025 EDITH Contest Winners. The winners along with their families were invited to join the firefighters for a pancake breakfast at the fire house.

Following the breakfast the winners were given a tour of the fire station and received a ride to school in the fire engine. We are very proud of all the students that participated in the EDITH Contest.

Congratulations again to Lincoln, 1st Grade winner, and Ruby, 2nd Grade winner.

Fire & Life Safety Education

School

Galloway
Preschool
40 Children

Fire

Galloway
Kindergarten
105 Children

Safety

Galloway
1st and 2nd Grade
218 Children

Education

Galloway
6th Grade
145 Children

Channahon Park District
Preschool
96 Children

United Methodist Church
48 Children

Home School
23 Children

Families of Faith
133 Children

Senior Education

St. Elizabeth & Channahon Park
District - 187 Adults



CHILD SAFETY SEATS
FOUR STAGES OF PROTECTION FOR YOUR CHILD IN A CAR

1. REAR-FACING
0-2+ YRS OLD → 2. FORWARD-FACING
2-7 YRS OLD → 3. BOOSTER SEAT
4-12 YRS OLD → 4. SEAT BELT
8-ADULT →

Every time you move to the next stage, less protection is provided.
So, don't be in a hurry to move them!
Always follow BOTH the safety seat instructions and the vehicle's owners manual for proper installation.

9 Car Seat Installs in 2025



SafeSitter Class
34 Students

CPR – 20 Classes
261 Adults



Fire & Life Safety Education



Open House

Wednesday
May 29th
5p - 7:30p

Fun
activities
for all!

- Touch-a-Truck
- Kids Obstacle Course
- Food
- Displays

A NIGHT at the
STATION



Community Support Services



The Channahon Fire Protection District Community Support Services Program's mission is: "To Show Compassion and demonstrate caring by connecting the community with local resources to assist in difficult life crises and continued support to recovery."

Since the program began on June 1st, 2024, we have received 102 referrals from the crews, the police, and other concerned citizens within the community. Of those 102 referrals, we have been able to assist 76 residents.

The evolution of the program continues as we experience and learn more. Please check out our website under "Community Support" and see what we have to offer.

Our motto is, "**Connecting community with compassion and care.**"

Fire Investigations

The Channahon Fire Protection District conducts fire investigations to determine the origin and cause of fires that occur within the district. These investigations help identify potential hazards, improve community safety, and provide information that may assist in preventing future incidents.

The Channahon Fire Protection District conducted twelve fire investigations in 2025. Three of the incidents required the assistance of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 15 Fire Investigations Team. Working with MABAS investigation resources allows the district to access additional specialized expertise when needed and helps ensure accurate fire origin and cause determinations.

Information gathered through fire investigations helps the district identify trends, address potential hazards, and support ongoing fire prevention efforts within the community.

2025 Fire Investigation Activity

Total Fire Investigations: 12
Investigations Completed by District Personnel: 9
Mutual Aid Received: 3

Fire Inspections

The Channahon Fire Protection District maintains a fire inspection program focused on annual fire and life safety inspections at commercial and industrial occupancies using the International Fire Code (IFC) 2021 Edition and applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) life safety standards.

These inspections are conducted by three members of the department who serve in the prevention role on a part-time basis while maintaining their primary responsibilities as shift personnel.

During 2025, the district completed approximately 100 fire and life safety inspections across a variety of occupancies, including commercial properties and light industrial facilities. When violations are identified during inspections, follow-up re-inspections are conducted to verify that corrective actions have been completed. After follow-up inspections, the majority of identified issues were brought into compliance.

Regular inspections help identify hazards before they become emergencies and support the district's ongoing commitment to protecting life and property within the community.

The district also transitioned to the First Due inspection software platform, which provides improved documentation and tracking of fire and life safety inspections. Prior to implementing this system, inspections were conducted using an internally developed process. The adoption of this platform will allow the district to maintain more consistent records and improve the efficiency of the inspection program moving forward.

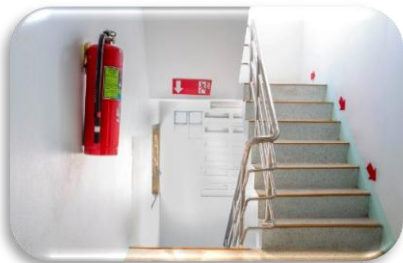
2025 Inspection Activity

Fire & Life Safety Inspections Completed: ~100

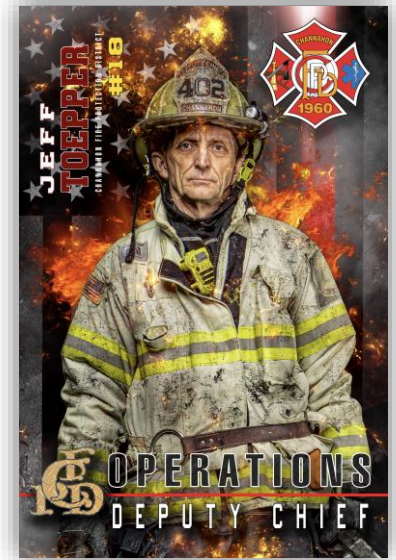
Inspection Personnel: 3 (Part-Time Assignment)

Primary Occupancies Inspected: Commercial and Light Industrial

Inspection Platform Implemented: First Due (2025)



Deputy Chief Toepper's Retirement



After Jeff Toepper's a long standing and reputable career with the Lisle-Woodridge Fire District, he retired as a Battalion Chief with over 25 years of service and a wealth of experience. His passion to serve the community never dwindled as he was selected to serve as the fire district's first career Deputy Fire Chief in April 2013. D/C Toepper settled into a position that was new to him and our organization. As the Fire Chief of the fire district, I can provide a first-hand account of the knowledge and expertise he brought to our organization's operations. Being new never intimidated D/C Toepper. As a matter of fact, it fueled his passion because he had the opportunity to establish the foundation of the role and define the expectations. I will credit D/C Toepper with many accomplishments within our organization. He led the charge on many operational projects and initiatives, including refined fireground operations practices, emergency communications interface with our automatic aid and mutual aid partner as well as Wescom. He labored very hard to help develop a culture that resonates the 8 elements of the Maltese Cross and continually shared this passion with everyone he interacted with. He was instrumental in design and oversight when we erected a new satellite station.

His personal character outside of the firehouse is nothing but service to his community. I can speak from personal experience, D/C Toepper is the man who if he is called to help, he will drop whatever he is doing and assist in whatever way he can. He is a devout and an active member of his church as Deacon of the Board. His persona and desire to serve the community are all encompassing. Whether he is wearing his uniform or jeans and t-shirt, he is a true example of a public servant.

With appreciation,

John Petrakis, Fire Chief

Trustee's Retirement



David Riddle, Ret. Chief, Trustee Michael McMillin, Trustee Michael J. McMillin, Trustee Donald Montgomery, Trustee Michael Rittof, Trustee Stephen Rittof, Chief John Petrakis, Deputy Chief Jeff Toepper

Donald Montgomery and Stephen Rittof, Jr. retired from the Channahon Fire Protection District on April 30, 2025.

Don retired with 59 years of dedicated service. He began his volunteer career in March of 1966 and came up through the ranks of the fire department, was Fire Chief from 1970 - 1975. Don became a District Trustee in January 1987 where he remained until he retired.

Steve retired with 53 years of dedicated service. He began his volunteer career in July of 1972 and came up through the ranks of the fire department. Steve became a District Trustee in May 1992 where he remained until he retired.

Their dedication and leadership are cornerstone values within the fire service. Don and Steve are perfect examples of that. They will both be missed.

30th Anniversary



Congratulations Executive Assistant Jacque Arnold on 30 years of service. She joined the fire district on February 27, 1995. Jacque remains a valuable member of the district.



Deputy Chief McMillin Swearing In

The position of Deputy Fire Chief is more than a title — it is a lifestyle, it is a responsibility to lead, to mentor, and to ensure the safety and success of our firefighters and the community we serve. It requires wisdom under pressure, vision for the future, and an unwavering devotion to service.

Deputy Fire Chief McMillin has consistently demonstrated those qualities throughout his career. He has have proven himself in many capacities including his fortitude to lead one of the most renowned fire service organizations, Oak Lawn Fire Department. His leadership, professionalism, and dedication over three decades make them not only deserving of this appointment, but the right person for this role at this important moment in our district's evolution. Deputy Chief McMillin started in 1995 as a volunteer candidate, became a contract Firefighter/Medic, and then a full-time Firefighter/Medic with the Channahon Fire Department. He began his career with Channahon and has circled back to take the reigns of the Deputy Chief role. To serve in fire service organization in a chief officer capacity is honorable. To serve in the fire service organization in which you began your fire service career is phenomenal privilege. The opportunity to return and share a career span of experience is an extraordinary milestone.



K9 Rigs – Handler FF/PM Fals



Rigs was born on 06/09/2025 and he is a lab/mix breed. He was adopted Paws Up 4 Rescue on 08/25/2025. FF Fals made the arrangements to pick Rigs up. The adoption fee was \$500. Rigs is currently up to date on all vaccinations needed for his age and is scheduled to be neutered on 05/06/2025 with his current vet, Dr. Joe, at Rusty Ridge Animal Center. Dr. Joe has been donating his services to help keep Rigs healthy. Forepaws in Minooka, owned by Megan, has agreed to donate the food and toys for Rigs.



The current handler of Rigs is Firefighter Fals. Additionally, each shift has an assigned leader for Rigs; Black Shift: Firefighter Fals, Red shift: Firefighter Grubisich, Gold shift: Firefighter Bowles.

Rigs is currently in comfort training at Muttz Gym with Tracy. He has attended 12 private trainings with FF Fals and Tracy to work towards his certificates of star puppy and comfort dog. Trainings mainly occur at Channahon Fire Protection district, Muttz gym, and retail stores nearby. Rigs also completed behavior training with Milo, located in Mazon, for roughly two weeks to work on manners.

Watch the Fire District Face Book page for important safety messages from Rigs.



New Firefighter/Medic Hires



Patrick Hardin



Joseph Owen

Patrick Hardin joined the ranks of Firefighter/Paramedic on May 5, 2025 and Joseph Owen joined the ranks of Firefighter/Paramedic on September 2, 2025. They took their oaths as sworn firefighters before their families and new firehouse family. These individuals were selected through the testing process managed by our Fire Commissioners. All of the FF/Medics come to us with unique skills already developed within the fire service, years of experience and a renewed perspective and energy. We wish them both healthy and prosperous careers.

End of Probation



Congratulations Firefighter/Medic Dale Tobolt on your completing your first year among the ranks of the men and women of the Channahon Fire Protection District.



District Trustees

Welcome New Trustee

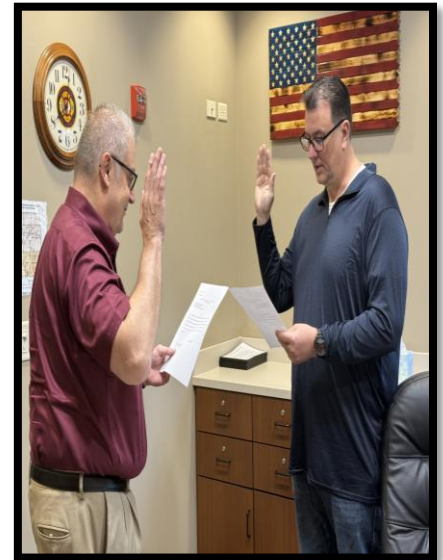
The Board of Trustees welcomed the newest Trustees Casey Caldwell and Donald Gregory on May 8, 2025. Both Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Gregory have been lifelong residents of the Village of Channahon and work in the community. Andrew Fitzgerald joined the Trustee ranks on September 11, 2025. Mr. Fitzgerald is a longtime resident of the Village of Channahon and is an employee of the Lockport Township Fire Protection District. They look forward to serving the community and helping the fire district continue to grow.



Casey Caldwell



Donald Gregory



Andrew Fitzgerald

Channahon Fire Protection District Trustees:

President – Michael Rittof
Secretary – Michael McMillin
Treasurer – Donald Gregory
Trustee – Casey Caldwell
Trustee – Andrew Fitzgerald

The district board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Fire District Personnel Achievements

Congratulations to the following member of the Channahon Fire Protection District for their achievements.



Nathan Dikun, Firefighter/Medic

- Heavy Vehicle Rescue
- Company Fire Officer



Jeff Kazak, Firefighter/Paramedic

- Fire Service Instructor 1
- Watercraft Technician



Sarah Fellow, Fire and Life Safety Educator

- Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professional 2025 Fire Service Executive Support Personnel Certificate Program.



Brian McMillin, Captain

- Fire Administration, Bachelor of Science



Danial Grubisich, Firefighter/Paramedic

- Company Fire Officer



Terrence O'Hern, Lieutenant

- Emergency Management, Bachelor of Science



Patrick Hardin, Firefighter/Paramedic

- Rope Rescue Technician



Dale Tobolt, Firefighter/Paramedic

- Rope Rescue Operations



Andrew Highbaugh, Firefighter/Paramedic

- Confined Space Operations
- Structural Collapse Technician

Candidate Program



Matt Bowles,
Firefighter/Paramedic



In May 2025, Channahon Fire re-implemented a candidate program which allowed twelve individuals to pursue their dreams and aspirations of becoming Firefighters and EMS providers. After all candidates were chosen, their journey in the fire service began with an introductory orientation on what to expect going forward.

The training and preparation began to ensure each candidate had the mental and physical abilities to withstand everything that the Fire Academy and/or EMS school was going to throw at them. Candidates were taught basic firehouse etiquette, day-to-day operations, as well as the chain of command in the firehouse. Candidates were allowed to ride alongside career firefighters of the Channahon Fire Protection District on calls to help them gain a better understanding of how calls are handled and to teach them the different techniques needed in order to achieve a greater outcome for any specific emergency. Each candidate was given a task book as well as ride time requirements so that certain benchmarks throughout their probationary period could be managed and overseen by each shift. All candidates have been taught the importance of being physically fit and have endured countless trainings on firefighting tactics and disciplines. In December 2025, eleven of the twelve began the Chief Shabbona Fire Academy while one candidate continued in Paramedic school and will be a member of the 2026-2027 Fire academy.

All of our candidates have shown a great deal of dedication throughout the program thus far and have improved their techniques and cognitive abilities drastically from where they started about six months ago. Graduation is just around the corner for all of them. Candidates Brodie, McInerney, Phillips, Najera, Toso, Rhoades, Martinez, Monino, Osmani, Zasada, and Stiteley will all be graduating from the fire academy in the summer of '26 and candidate Valencia will be graduating Paramedic school also in the summer of '26. We are extremely proud of the progress they have all made during the program and are looking forward to rewarding them with their shields and badges once they graduate.

Candidate Program



2026 District Goals and Projects:

- ❖ Roll out the “Community Connect” program for residences and businesses. The platform will provide important information that will help our first responders in the event of an emergency.
- ❖ Prepare for the transition of Chief Petrakis’s retirement.
- ❖ Update and refine district administrative policies and guidelines.
- ❖ Update the succession planning document and the change management document.
- ❖ Seek potential grant funding opportunities for staffing, self-contained breathing apparatus replacement, and support services/public education.
- ❖ Continue to review and manage the implementation of suggested administrative and operational changes, birthed from the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency.
- ❖ Continue our focus on professional development of the various ranks of the organization and assist staff working towards their professional goals through coaching and mentoring.
- ❖ Continue review of operational and administrative capabilities; analyze opportunities for improvement or efficiency and implement necessary changes accordingly.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Channahon Fire Protection District
24929 S Center Street
Channahon, IL 60410
815-467-6767 Headquarters
815-467-5081 Fax

General Inquiries / Information:
contact@channahonfire.com

Website:
www.channahonfire.com
Facebook Messenger:
[@ChannahonFirePD](https://www.facebook.com/ChannahonFirePD)

Chief John Petrakis:
jpetrakis@channahonfire.com

Deputy Fire Chief Michael McMillin:
mmcmillin@channahonfire.com

Executive Assistant Jacque Arnold:
jarnold@channahonfire.com



CPR Classes & Public/Group Tours
Sarah Fellows, Fire & Life Safety
Education Coordinator
sfellows@channahonfire.com



Fire Inspections
815-467-2807
fireinspections@channahonfire.com

