



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT



NEWSLETTER

CUPERTINO

JANUARY 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I would like to personally invite you to review our new Public Safety Report for our Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs), including our cities, towns, and unincorporated areas. This report highlights the ongoing efforts across nearly every division as we continue refining our processes to meet operational goals and better serve the public.

Our priority remains helping our community by strengthening our capabilities, embracing innovation, and uphold the trust placed in us by the community. We hope these monthly reports provide a valuable opportunity to showcase our work, evaluate our operations through data and self-assessment, and offer you a meaningful tool to share with your community.

Respectfully,

Suwanna Kerdkaew
Fire Chief



THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Toy Drive

On December 17, members of our department delivered toys to children at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Joined by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, firefighters helped deliver toys generously donated by the community to children spending the holiday season in the hospital.



Growth and Expansion

With the support of the Board of Directors, the Santa Clara County Fire Department has acquired the former Camping World site in San Martin. This 10-acre property will support fleet maintenance, logistics, and training for our all-risk, all-hazards operations.



This long-term investment will serve the department and community for the next 30 to 50 years, strengthening current operations, supporting future growth, and reinforcing our commitment to safety and operational excellence.

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

County Fire has been committed to reducing harmful chemical exposure to our line personnel. Starting October 2025, all line safety personnel will be issued fully PFAS-free turnouts.

These custom-fit, next-generation turnouts will be delivered in the coming months.

Prioritizing the health and safety of our team is just as important as protecting the communities we serve.

PFAS-Free Turnouts



WWW.SCCFD.ORG

408.378.4010

@sccfiredept

DECEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday, December 2

Our Vasona Crew joined Santa Clara County Parks staff for a collaborative fuels-reduction project along Stuart Ridge off Bohlman Road. Together, they cleared 100 feet from the roadway supporting the shaded fuel break designed with long-term forest and environmental health in mind. This includes supporting healthy levels of native plants, removing non-native vegetation, and addressing decades of accumulated dead and down material while preserving important habitat for nesting birds and local raptors.

Reintroducing low-intensity fire to the landscape is a natural and healthy step toward restoring balance in our forest ecosystems. This partnership highlights our shared commitment to wildfire resilience, ecosystem health, and the protection of our communities.



Monday, December 15



Firefighters responded to a fire at the San Martin transfer station at 7:22am. Initial reports indicated a recycling load caught fire. Workers separated the burning refuse and began dousing it with water while a 9-1-1 call was made. Once on scene, Engine 67 from our Vineyard fire station reported fire had spread to parts of the nearby structure. Engine 67, Engine and Water Tender 68 (Masten), Battalion 68, Water Tender 69 (Treehaven), Engine and Hazmat 72 (Seven Springs), and Morgan Hill 58 responded. A Shelter in Place warning was issued in the immediate area (Zone SCC-159).

Monday, December 19



Ten recruits successfully completed an intensive, week-long live fire training course. Throughout the week, they studied fire behavior and performed fire attack and search evolutions under live fire conditions. In addition to this hands-on training, the recruits, many of whom are already EMTs or paramedics, learned the protocols for operating within Santa Clara County. The academy also includes additional modules covering high-rise and low-angle rescues, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials, and fires in high-rise buildings, residential homes, and the wildland-urban interface. Upon completion of the 20-week academy, recruits begin an 18-month probationary period, rotating through a variety of response areas to gain real-world, on-duty experience as new firefighters.

Off-Duty Rescue



Fire Chief Suwanna Kerdkaew recently presented Fire Captain Eric Hafemann the Santa Clara County Fire Department Medal of Valor, our highest honor for acts of extraordinary heroism performed at great personal risk. While off-duty and vacationing in Hawaii, Captain Hafemann encountered a swimmer drowning offshore. Without hesitation, he put his own safety aside and performed a challenging rescue that saved the individual's life. This extraordinary act of courage, performed thousands of miles from home, truly reflects the fire service oath and the unwavering dedication our firefighters carry with them every day, on duty or off.

RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

Santa Clara County Fire is switching from NFIRS (*National Fire Incident Recording System*) to NERIS (*National Emergency Response Information System*).

- Zero-cost access for fire departments, EMS agencies, and State Fire Marshal Offices ensuring that public safety agencies can adopt the system without financial barriers.
- Local data ownership guarantees departments retain full control of how their fire information is managed and shared.
- Built on a GIS foundation, geocoding incident data for location-based reporting and strategic planning.
- Actionable intelligence to enhance coordination and improve outcomes for fire-related incidents.

These improvements will enhance a data driven methodology to pursue the best way to help the community.



CITY OF CUPERTINO

Public Safety Reports • December 2025

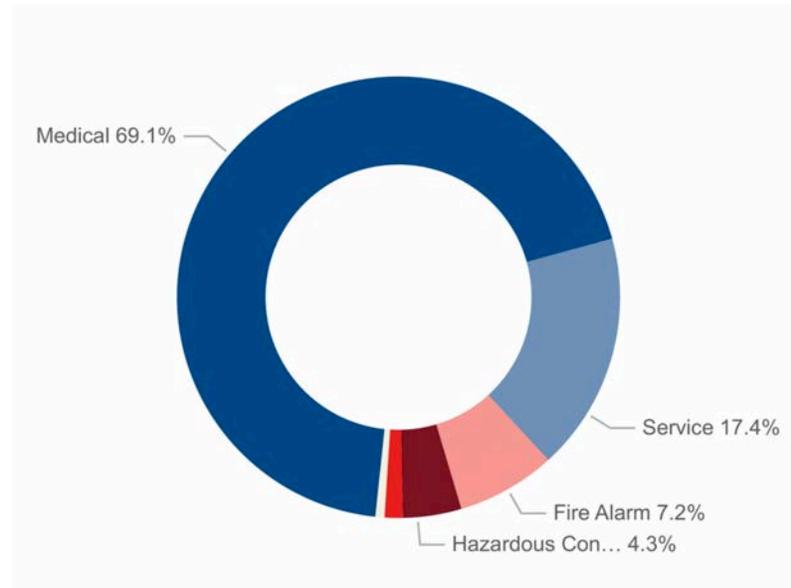


CUPERTINO

EMERGENCY AND SERVICE CALLS

Dispatched Incident Type	Incidents	Percentage (%)
Fire - Structure, Veg., Other	4	1.3%
Fire Alarm	22	7.2%
Hazardous Cond./Hazmat	13	4.3%
Medical	210	69.1%
Other	2	0.7%
Service	53	17.4%
Total	304	100.0%

CALL BREAK DOWN



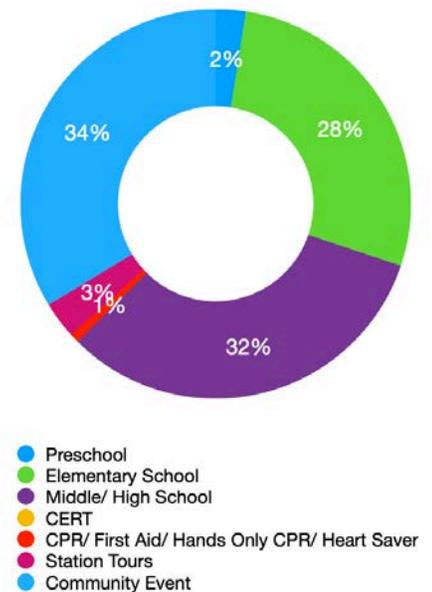
SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

C253580071 Structure Fire: This event was a residential structure fire involving a single family home. Fire extinguishment was accomplished by first arriving units. No injuries were reported.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION (11/1/25-12/31/25)

CERRS Classes/ Events/Presentations- Cupertino community	
Preschool	60
Elementary School	670
Middle/ High School	803
CERT	0
CPR/ First Aid/ Hands Only CPR/ Heart Saver	18
Station Tours	75
Community Event	725
Total Attendees	2,351

CERRS Classes, Events and Presentations





CITY OF CUPERTINO

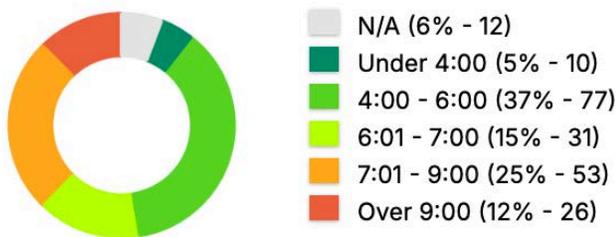


Monthly Detailed Response Breakdown- EMS / Rescue Incidents

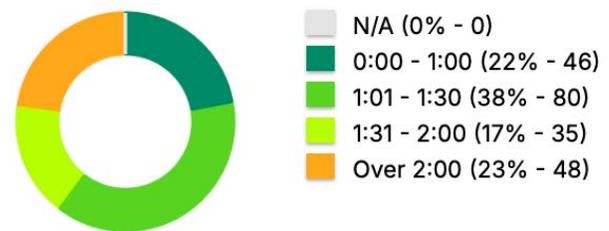
1 Dec 2025 - 31 Dec 2025

TOTAL RECORDS: **209**

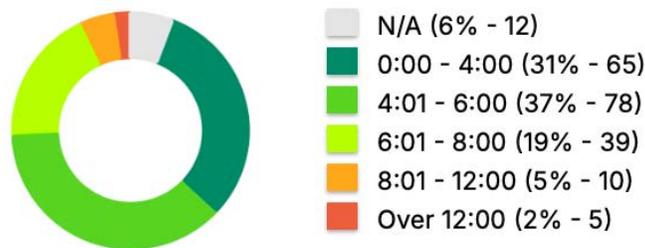
Total Response - Alarm to Arrived



Alarm Processing - Alarm to Dispatch



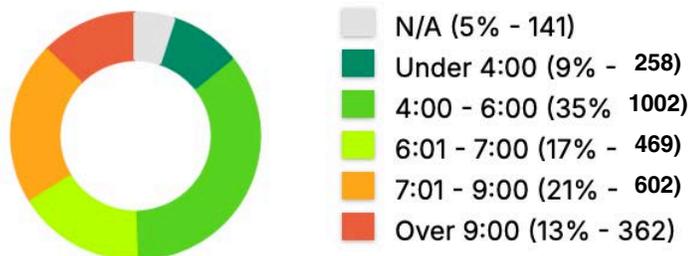
First Arrived Unit - Dispatch to Arrived



Annual Response - EMS & Fire Incidents

EMS Response Totals

Total Response - Alarm to Arrived

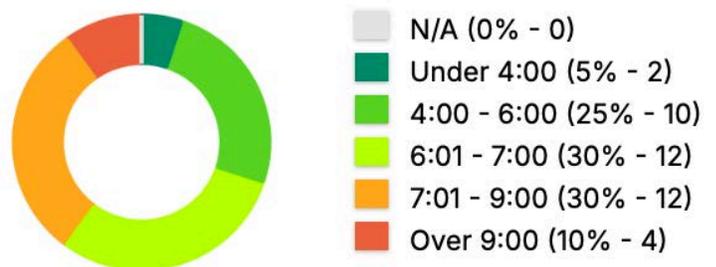


1 Jan 2025 - 31 Dec 2025

TOTAL RECORDS: **2834**

Fire Response Totals

Total Response - Alarm to Arrived



1 Jan 2025 - 31 Dec 2025

TOTAL RECORDS: **40**

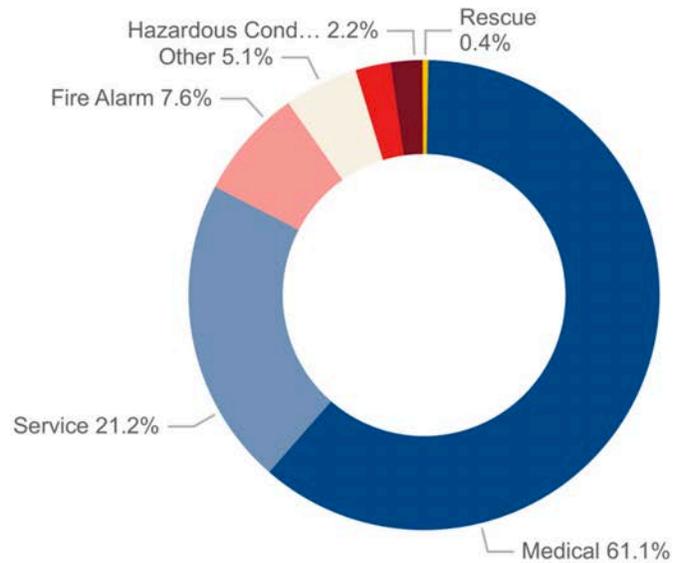


SCCFD RESPONSE STATISTICS

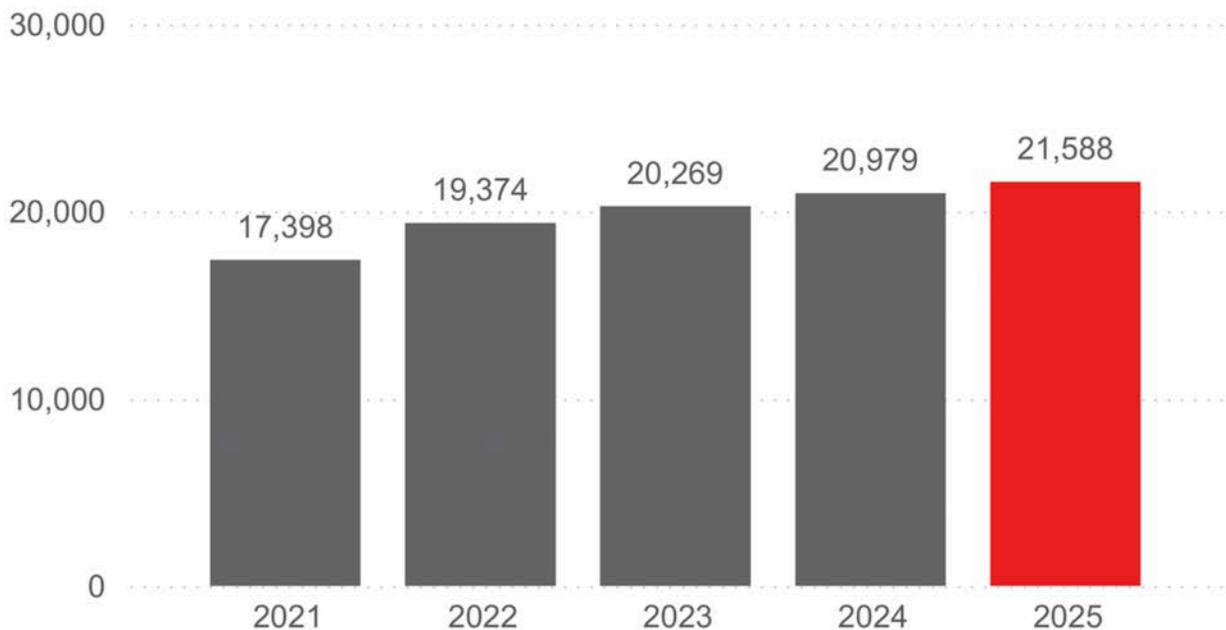
December 2025

Number of Incidents by Type
December 2025

Dispatched Incident Type	Incidents	Percentage (%)
Fire - Structure, Veg., Other	44	2.4%
Fire Alarm	139	7.6%
Hazardous Cond./Hazmat	40	2.2%
Medical	1,119	61.1%
Other	93	5.1%
Rescue	7	0.4%
Service	388	21.2%
Total	1,830	100.0%



Number of Incidents Year to Date
Year Over Year - January to December





Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The Problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Recycle Batteries Responsibly

Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire. Recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit call2recycle.org to find a recycling spot near you.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



SAFETY TIPS

New items from the holiday season bring a lot of joy into the new year. Make sure you follow manufactures directions and only use the proper charging device that came with the product. Products can fail and fires can start with improper charging devices.

For more resources check out:

[NFPA Hover Board Safety Sheet](#)
[NFPA E-Bike and E-Scooter Safety](#)



CHARGING AN E-BIKE:

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



INTERESTED IN A COMMUNITY SAFETY PROGRAM?

For information on education & preparedness, visit: www.sccfd.org

To request a community education program, visit:
www.sccfd.org/request-a-program

or contact Community Education Services at
(408) 378-4010 • communityoutreach@sccfd.org