



STORM LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chief's Welcome_____ 3

Organizational Chart_____ 4

Calls for Service_____ 5

Fire Prevention Bureau_____ 6,7,8

Training Report_____ 9

Thank you_____ 10

Chief's Welcome:
Citizens of Storm Lake
Mayor McKeon
City Council Members

December 31th, 2025

In 2025, the Storm Lake Fire Department remained committed to providing outstanding fire protection and emergency services to the residents of Storm Lake, its surrounding communities, and our mutual aid partners. The achievements detailed in this report are the result of the hard work of your Storm Lake firefighters, the leadership of City Staff, and the essential resources provided by the City Council. We are immensely grateful for the support we receive day in and day out.

Storm Lake Fire actively served the community by participating in numerous city and community partner events throughout 2025 like Octobers Fire Prevention Week, The Miracle on Lake Avenue, Chills and Thrills, the Annual Iowa Firefighters Association Convention, National Night Out, Star Spangled Spectacular, and Kids Fest. We look forward to participating and expanding upon our community interaction and outreach moving into 2026.

This year SLFD responded to 440 calls for service. Of those, 28 were fires that had reported property or dollar loss. Our Fire Prevention personnel completed 410 fire inspections and identified 51 fire safety deficiencies in violation of state and local adopted fire code. Of those 51 identified violations, 51 were corrected within their allotted timeframe assigned by our fire prevention bureau for a 100 percent compliance rate.

SLFD firefighters trained for over 1,792 hours this year covering topics such as CPR, Fire Officer, and Technical Rescue Operations. 2025 also saw several personnel changes with Chief Schlessler leaving, the retirements of Firefighters Nebitt, Ripke, and Ortman and the welcoming of Firefighters Ehlers, Kutz, and Zamora.

I am incredibly grateful and proud of the drive, passion, and determination of our staff. The sacrifices they make to respond to a neighbor in need show character, commitment, and credit upon themselves and the community to which they serve and call home. I look forward to improving the services we provide and fostering growth and teamwork within the department and its personnel.

Sincerely,



Terence Sinner, CFO, FM
Fire Chief



Storm Lake Fire Department



Fire Chief
Terence Sinner

Deputy Fire Chief
Jeffery Goodman

Assistant Fire Chief
Adam Kutz

Battalion Chief
Scott Mack



Captain
Joshua Fevold

Inspector/Investigator
Blake Severson

Captain
Troy Hogrefe

Lieutenant
Jason Hoffman

Lieutenant
Derek Hogrefe

Lieutenant
Nathan Beal

Lieutenant
Francisco Vazquez

Storm Lake Fire Department

Firefighter
Austin Stille

Firefighter
Laurena Wells

Firefighter
Alan Coleman

Firefighter
Josh Lundberg

Firefighter
Kody Kutz

Firefighter
Brady Engelke

Firefighter
Andres Espana

Firefighter
Cesar Jacuinde

Firefighter
Daniel Ramirez-Sanchez

Firefighter
Tyler Crum

Firefighter
Luke Ehlers

Firefighter
Andrew Kutz

Firefighter
Anderson Zamora

Firefighter

Firefighter

Firefighter



CALLS FOR SERVICE

Operations Division



Storm Lake Fire Department Call Responses per Month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	15	25	168	24	26	38	17	20	28	32	17

Storm Lake Fire Department is a combination fire department of 3 full-time city staff, and 21 paid on call fire service professionals. We are responsible for 93 square miles of coverage area that includes the rural townships of Hayes, Washington, and much of Grant. The operations division provides fire suppression, hazardous materials, and technical rescue response services. SLFD operates and responds out of one fire station located at 820 Oneida St. and has an ISO rating of 4. The department operates three engines, one heavy rescue, one tower ladder, one brush rig, and one command vehicle.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Captain Blake Severson



INSPECTIONS

The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for all fire inspections, investigations, and Community Risk Reduction (CRR) programs offered by the Storm Lake Fire Department. The Captain of Inspections & Investigations ensures that all inspections and investigations are conducted in a complete, accurate, and uniform manner throughout the community. SLFD conducts fire inspections of commercial properties, schools, and municipal buildings within the City of Storm Lake and is an active participant in the rental inspection program. Fire inspections are a key focus, as they identify hazards, ensure code compliance, protect lives, reduce property loss, and create safer conditions for residents and visitors.

Fire Prevention Bureau Data

- Initial Fire Inspections – 59
- Initial Pre Plans – 48
- Rental Units Inspected – 263
- Follow Up Inspections – 77
- Daycare & School Inspections – 11
- Fire Code Violations – 51

INVESTIGATIONS

The Fire Prevention Bureau is tasked with conducting fire investigations for the City of Storm Lake and the surrounding rural fire district. Our objective is to determine the origin and cause of fires. Fires are classified as natural, accidental, incendiary (intentional), or undetermined following a thorough investigation utilizing the scientific method and NFPA 921 and 1033 best practices. When a fire is determined to be incendiary or when criminal activity may have contributed to the cause, we work jointly with law enforcement. Fire investigations can also help identify areas where Community Risk Reduction practices are needed.

The Storm Lake Fire Department investigated 13 fires in 2025.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public education is a cornerstone of our fire safety mission. This is accomplished by in person learning and demonstrations, a strong media presence, and periodic internal self-assessment to determine areas that are effectively being reached or may need further public education.

From events like Kids Fest and Fire Prevention Week to Chills & Thrills, we believe educating our youth about the dangers of fire and how to stay fire safe is a top priority. This year, we had the opportunity to positively promote fire safety to more than 1,500 youth in our community.

The risks and dangers of fire are constantly evolving as new technologies, building materials, and lifestyles change how we live and work. The Fire Prevention Bureau places a high priority on staying informed about emerging fire risks and trends, while proactively identifying potential hazards before they result in an emergency. Through inspections, investigations, and community outreach, the Bureau works to ensure that our residents, businesses, and visitors are aware of these risks and are provided with the knowledge and resources needed to reduce them and stay safe.

The Storm Lake Fire Department conducted 134 public education activities, including presentations, drills, tours, educational messages, and public relations events.



TRAINING DIVISION

Captain Joshua Fevold



The Storm Lake Fire Department continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to professional development through comprehensive fire service training opportunities. Recently, the department hosted Fire Fighter 1, Fire Fighter 2, and Fire Officer 1 classes in partnership with the Fire Service Training Bureau, made possible through state funding. These efforts resulted in tangible outcomes for the department, including the addition of one new firefighter, one member earning Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations certification, and two members achieving Fire Fighter 2 certification. These accomplishments strengthen the department's operational readiness and overall response capability.

Training efforts extended well beyond initial certification programs. In 2025 alone, members of the Storm Lake Fire Department completed a total of 1,792 hours of training across a wide range of disciplines. These included fire suppression, CPR, Driver Operator, Fire Investigator, Fire Officer development, and Technical Rescue Operations. Specialized training such as high-angle rescue, ice rescue, livestock rollover response, and Traffic Incident Management (TIM) ensured members are prepared to handle both routine emergencies and complex, high-risk incidents within the community.

Looking ahead, the Training Division remains focused on continuous improvement and expanding opportunities for skill development. By building on the progress made this year and seeking advanced and specialized training, the Storm Lake Fire Department is committed to maintaining a high standard of safety, professionalism, and service. These ongoing efforts ensure that department members are well-equipped to protect lives, property, and the community they serve throughout the coming year and beyond.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING 2025 A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

