



SSAFPD
c/o Pinnacle Consulting Group, Inc.
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Loveland, CO 80537

GREETINGS NEIGHBORS!

I am pleased to share several updates on staffing, equipment, operations, and long-term planning at SSFR.

We recently welcomed three new firefighters, each of whom are currently completing their six-month probationary training period. Two of our new hires, **Michael Lackey** and **Chris Kelly**, join us with prior experience from West Routt Fire Protection District. **Jay Howard** comes to us from a local ski shop.

These additions are important to maintaining our minimum daily staffing level of ten personnel - two on an ambulance and three on an engine at each station. Adequate staffing reduces reliance on overtime, prevents overworking our current firefighters, helps to ensure that both stations remain fully staffed, and minimizes the need of first responders to travel across town to respond to emergencies.

These new additions to our team are in the midst of completing three months of EMS training followed by three months of fire academy. They will be formally recognized at a pinning ceremony later this summer. Please help us welcome them to SSFR!

In late fall, all department vehicles were equipped with rescue equipment. We are also expecting delivery of a new Type 1 structural fire engine in March. Once in service, one of our older engines (originally built in 2009) will be sent for refurbishment, extending its service life by approximately ten years. It is worth noting that the cost of new fire apparatus has increased dramatically over the past decade, making this lifecycle approach essential.

We recently completed testing our 36 “dry” hydrants, which are ponds or tanks outside the city water system from which we can draft water in a fire emergency. In addition, SSFR has made significant progress on fuels reduction through pile burning. We have burned all piles on Emerald Mountain under a full state burn permit, led by a federally certified “burn

boss,” and only when weather conditions allow smoke to disperse. Our record dry winter has provided ideal conditions for this important mitigation work.

Call volumes in November and December were lower than usual, largely due to reduced vehicle traffic and fewer skier visits resulting from a general lack of snow. While holiday visitors still come to Steamboat Springs, fewer ski-only trips result in fewer overall calls. Emergency demand often closely tracks with community activity, from traffic incidents to medical calls.

We are preparing to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for schematic design and cost estimates to rebuild the Mountain Fire Station, located at 2600 Pine Grove Road (across from the tennis

center). This station, originally built in 1982 with an addition in 2002, no longer meets current building and safety codes. Rebuilding it has been part of our strategic plan for several years, particularly after the downtown station footprint was reduced in 2021. The forthcoming cost information will help guide future planning and funding discussions.

On the reverse side of this newsletter, you will find additional information about the Wildfire Resiliency Code. Our department has been working closely with the Routt County Building Department, City of Steamboat Springs Planning Department, and the Wildfire Resiliency Council to educate the community and support the intent of this code – building safer, more resilient neighborhoods. These new codes will strengthen our ability to protect lives, homes, and property. Look for more information in future communication from SSFR and SSAFPD.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue!



Weather conditions have allowed SSFR personnel to complete burning all piles on Emerald Mountain.



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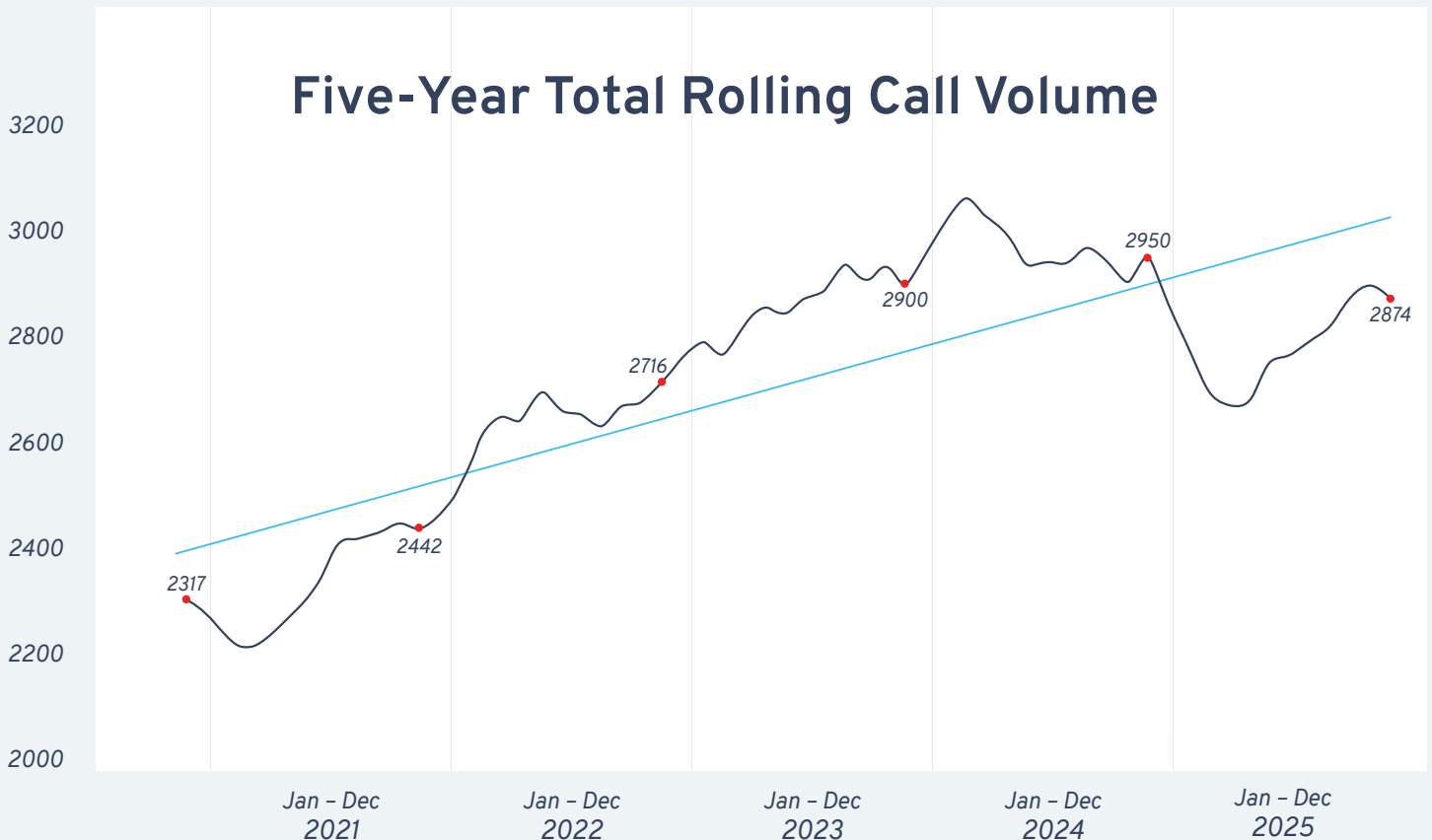
New Building Codes Coming Soon

Colorado adopted a Wildfire Resiliency Code in 2025 requiring communities with Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas to adopt minimum wildfire-mitigation standards by April 1, 2026, with enforcement starting July 1, 2026. The City of Steamboat Springs will take the code up for first and second reading in March, and Routt County will also adopt it.

The most important point for homeowners is this: The code is not retroactive. It applies only to new construction, additions, and remodels. Unless you are building or replacing a significant portion of your home's exterior, most of the code will not affect you. If more than 25% of a roof or siding is replaced, the full roof or siding must meet the new standards.

The code reflects common wildfire-resiliency practices already used in much new construction, such as non-combustible roofs and siding, ember-resistant vents, and modest defensible-space rules within five feet of the home.

Although the state code varies by wildfire-risk level, Routt County plans to apply the higher standards countywide due to widespread moderate-to-high risk.



To learn more about SSAFPD, see answers to frequently asked questions at: ssafpd.org/ssafpd-website-faq