

INTEGRITY RESPECT EXPERIENCE



**Platteville-Gilcrest
Fire Protection District**



Annual Report 2025

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MISSION STATEMENT

Through integrity,
respect, and
experience, the
Platteville Gilcrest
Fire Protection
District is committed
to serving the needs
of the community.



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF

We are pleased to present Platteville Gilcrest Fire Protection District's 2025 Annual Report. My name is Dan Durkee, and it is my honor to serve the residents, businesses, members, and Board of Directors of Platteville Gilcrest Fire Protection District as your District Chief. I am privileged to work alongside a dedicated team of highly trained professional firefighters, paramedics, engineers, specialists, fire officers, chief officers, and administrative staff.



Together, we provide high-quality, all-hazards emergency response services to our community across a 144-square-mile fire district. These services include Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance transport, which is provided to district residents at no cost.

A Year of Progress and Community Engagement

2025 was both exciting and memorable for Platteville Gilcrest Fire Protection District. As our community continued to return to normalcy following the challenges of recent years, our organization achieved significant milestones and further strengthened the level of service we provide to those we serve.

In 2025, PGFPD responded to 1,136 total emergency calls, representing a decrease of 18 calls compared to 2024. This modest reduction is attributed in part to expanded community outreach efforts and the positive impact these initiatives continue to have. Our strong relationship with district residents was further enhanced through the launch of a Citizen's Academy, which focused on disaster preparedness and emergency awareness. Participation was excellent, and the program delivered valuable education and hands-on training to community members.

Another major highlight of the year occurred on October 18, when PGFPD hosted its third Community Safety Day in Platteville. The event was an outstanding success, drawing approximately 600 attendees. It provided a meaningful opportunity for our members to engage directly with the community and share important safety information.

Personnel and Organizational Growth

In 2025, PGFPD welcomed four new firefighters: Noah Bowman, Samuel Ritter, Lorenzo Soliz, and Tanner Whaley. Each successfully completed a 13-week academy and has already proven to be a valuable addition to the organization. Additionally, Paramedics Kate Stalter and Laura Roberts were added to our ranks to bolster our wonderful EMS division. We are excited about their future contributions and look forward to supporting their continued professional development throughout their careers.

The year also marked important promotions within the organization. Dave Sutton was promoted to Fire Marshal, while Kim Wheelock and Justin Loera were promoted to Field Training Officers. These leadership roles are critical to the continued success and development of our personnel, and we are confident these individuals will excel in guiding our members into the future.

Regional Leadership and Service

Throughout 2025, PGFPD continued to step forward in leadership roles that benefit the broader Weld County region. Chief Dan Bass served on the Weld County Efficiency Committee and was a founding member of the Regional Operations Committee, both of which play a vital role in interagency coordination and communication with Weld County Dispatch.

I continued to serve on the Weld County Fire Chiefs' Executive Board, as well as on multiple committees and task forces for the Colorado Police and Fire Pension Association. Additionally, Chief Andy Wazny became an instructor for the regional Fire Officer Consortium, teaching finance and budgeting courses to help prepare future officers for the fiscal responsibilities of leadership. We are proud to represent PGFPD through these important regional and statewide commitments.

In Memoriam

On a solemn note, PGFPD experienced a profound loss in 2025 with the passing of Paramedic Nate Klimek on April 28. Nate served the district for more than six years and played a critical role in delivering exceptional medical care and supporting community outreach efforts. He taught dozens of CPR classes to community members and was honored with the Chief's Merit Award at PGFPD's 2024 Annual Banquet.

Nate leaves behind his wife and three children. He will be deeply missed by our organization and our community, and his dedication and service will always remain a part of PGFPD's legacy.

Looking Ahead

2025 was a year marked by both challenges and accomplishments. Despite facing circumstances unlike any we had encountered before, our members remained resilient, supported one another, achieved major goals, and continued to provide outstanding service to the community. I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Platteville Gilcrest Fire Protection District, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in 2026.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Durkee". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

District Chief Dan Durkee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Gary Homyak
President



Wayne Kawata
Secretary



Michele Blum
Vice President
2016-2025



Micki Giardino
Director



Taylor Houghton
Director



Jeff Cogburn
Director

The Platteville Gilcrest Fire Protection District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected by our citizens to provide dedicated oversight of our organization. We are pleased to officially welcome our newest board member, Taylor Houghton, who joins us in guiding the District's mission and future growth. This transition follows the retirement of Michele Blum, whose extraordinary tenure from 2016 to 2025 leaves a lasting legacy of service and leadership. The Board remains committed to assuring our citizens and those we serve that the District is well-managed and prepared for any challenge. These changes reflect our ongoing dedication to providing the highest level of accountability and care to our community.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

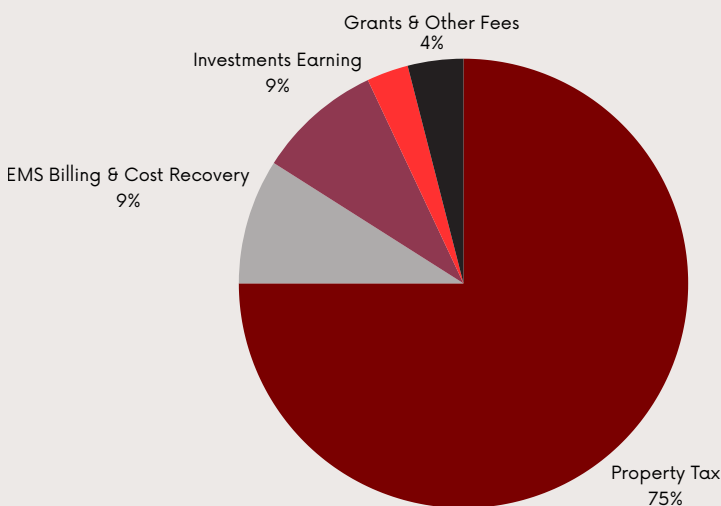


ADMINISTRATION

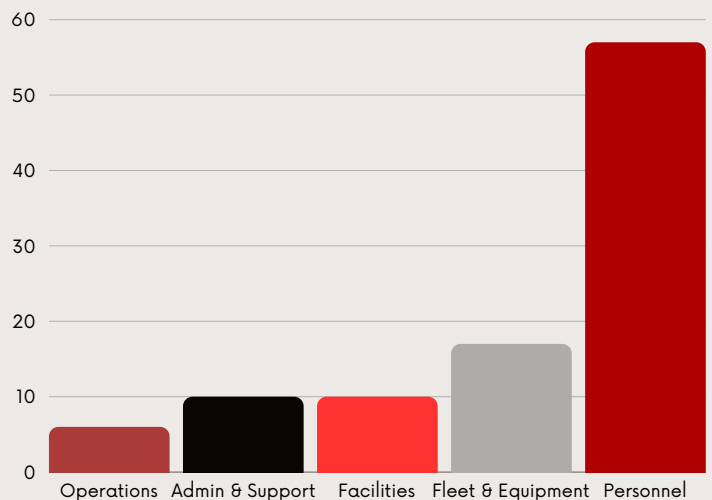
In 2025, the Administrative Division focused on modernizing systems that support employees and ensure the District operates efficiently and responsibly. One of the most significant improvements was the transition to a new payroll and human resources platform, which dramatically reduced payroll processing time and gave employees easy, secure access to their pay, benefits, and employment information. The District also adjusted its work cycle to better support fair and timely compensation, allowing earned overtime to be paid more quickly. On the financial side, accounting systems were simplified to improve how budgets and spending are tracked, making financial information clearer and more useful for both District leadership and the Board of Directors.

These improvements were driven by a commitment to reduce administrative complexity while strengthening trust, transparency, and professionalism throughout the organization. Internal purchasing, invoice processing, and hiring practices were redesigned to save time and reduce delays for employees and program managers. The District also partnered with an external human resources consulting firm to support fair, consistent personnel processes, provide leadership training, and assist with sensitive workplace matters. In addition, the Administrative Division supported multiple hiring and promotional processes and secured grant funding from regional partners and firefighter safety programs, helping enhance safety initiatives while ensuring responsible use of public resources.

Where Funding Comes From



District Funds Spending



OPERATIONS

In 2025, the Operational Division demonstrated sustained professionalism, adaptability, and operational excellence across a wide range of emergency responses. Crews responded to 20 structure fires, 14 vehicle fires, and 28 significant wildland fires, highlighting the diverse and challenging nature of incidents managed by our personnel. A significant operational milestone was the increase in minimum staffing levels, which directly enhanced response effectiveness, improved scene safety, and provided greater operational depth during fire incidents.



This critical enhancement allowed for faster task completion, bolstered incident command support, and offered greater flexibility during extended operations. Concurrently, the district expanded its specialized capabilities in Technical Rescue, Wildland Firefighting, and Hazardous Materials Response through active participation in the regional HazMat team, reinforcing our dedication to specialty response and regional interoperability.

Each year presents defining challenges that rigorously test the district's training, coordination, and resilience. In 2025, this challenge manifested as a complex building collapse incident, which demanded advanced technical skills, a disciplined command structure, and seamless coordination across multiple operational disciplines. The successful management of this major incident is a testament to the high level of preparedness and dedication of our members.

The strategic future of the Operational Division centers on the continued expansion of Special Operations (Spec Ops) capabilities. The District plans to achieve this through:

- Increased participation within regional Spec Ops teams
- Expand cross-training opportunities for operational personnel
- Invest in specialized equipment and certifications
- Strengthen mutual aid and regional response integration

These initiatives will substantially enhance the District’s capacity to effectively respond to low-frequency, high-risk incidents, thereby providing greater resilience and depth to regional emergency response systems.

The notable accomplishments of the Operational Division in 2025 are a direct reflection of a dedicated workforce, strong leadership, and an unwavering commitment to continuous improvement. Through increased staffing, strategic specialized team growth, and the successful management of complex, high-risk incidents, the Fire District is exceptionally well-positioned to protect lives, property, and the environment—both today and for the long term.



STATISTICS



Total EMS Calls
1,018



Public Events
61



Fires
79



Traffic Accidents
250



Total Transports
447



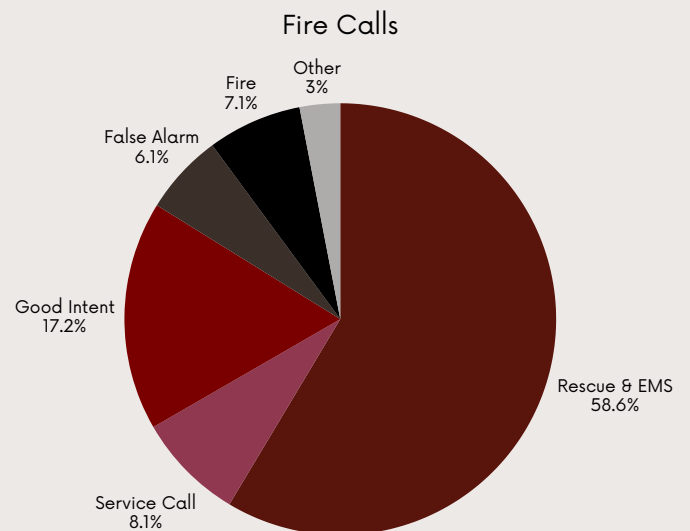
Good Intent
192



TOTAL CALLS: 1,136

The Numbers

Average Travel Time	8:10
In Town Reponse	3:36
Average Turnout Time	0:59
Busiest Month	June
Station 1	840
Station 2	296



**DISTRICT RESIDENTS
TRANSPORTED: 68%**

Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid Given	97
Mutual Aid Recieved	75

PERSONNEL

PGFPD significantly bolstered its frontline operations in 2025 by officially welcoming Paramedics Kate Stalter and Laura Roberts to our professional staff. These additions coincided with the arrival of four new firefighters—Noah Bowman, Samuel Ritter, Lorenzo Soliz, and Tanner Whaley—who all successfully completed a rigorous 13-week academy. Each of these individuals has already proven to be a valuable asset, bringing fresh energy and dedication to our emergency response efforts. We are excited about their future contributions and look forward to supporting their continued professional development throughout their careers.



Laura Roberts
Paramedic



Kate Stalter
Paramedic



Tanner Whaley
FireFighter



Lorenzo Soliz
FireFighter



Noah Bowman
FireFighter



Sam Ritter
FireFighter

PERSONNEL

The year also marked a period of significant growth and gratitude as we celebrated several key promotions and milestones within the organization. Dave Sutton was promoted to Fire Marshal, while Kim Wheelock and Justin Loera stepped into their new roles as Field Training Officers. These leadership positions are critical to the success of our personnel, and we are confident these individuals will excel in guiding our members into the future. Additionally, we are proud to acknowledge the unwavering dedication of our four members celebrating years of service milestones, whose steady commitment remains the backbone of our department.

Promotions



Dave Sutton
Fire Marshal



Justin Loera
Field Training Officer



Kim Wheelock
Field Training Officer

Years of Service



Dr. Kristen Knowles
5 Years



Cameron Duran
5 Years



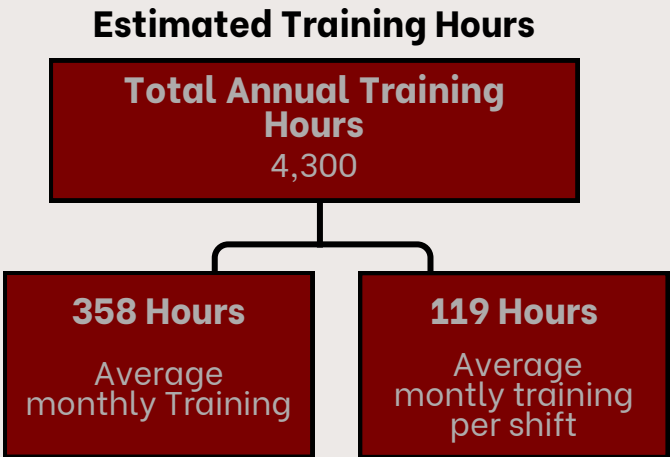
Chuck Parras
5 Years



Randy Greenbaum
10 Years

TRAINING DIVISION

In 2025, the Training Division led the management and coordination of a growing and increasingly complex portfolio of programs aimed at developing and sustaining the specialized knowledge and skills required of professional firefighters. Through a combination of structured classroom instruction, supervised live-fire exercises, realistic scenario based training, and comprehensive performance evaluations, the division ensured all personnel maintained a high level of competency and operational readiness. These efforts reinforced the department’s commitment to safety, preparedness, and operational excellence, equipping firefighters to meet the wide range of challenges inherent to the profession.



Throughout the year, the division implemented consistent monthly training focused on reinforcing core competencies, enhancing operational readiness, and integrating evolving best practices. Emphasis was also placed on leadership development, with targeted training for our Firefighters, Engineers, Lieutenants, and Battalion Chiefs to strengthen decision making, command presence, and overall effectiveness. These efforts support strong leadership across the organization and contribute to a high level of service delivery to the community.

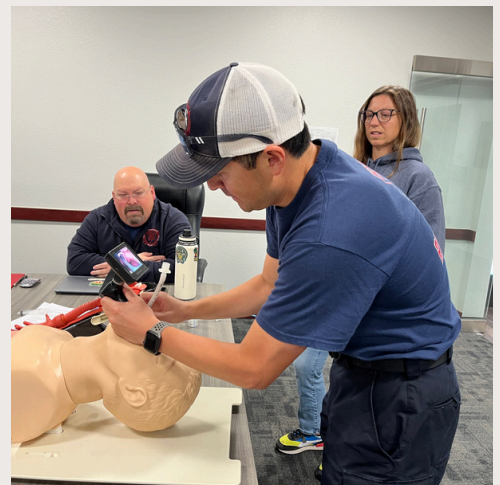
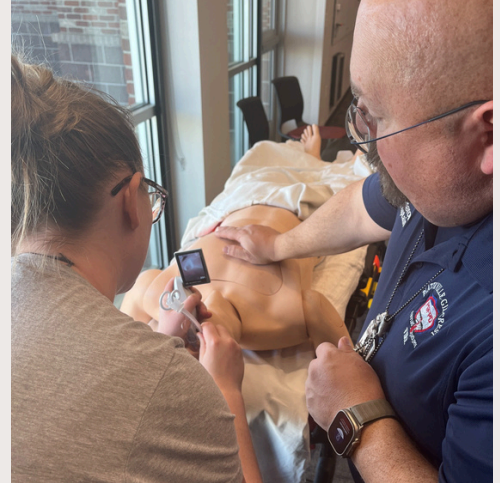


EMS DIVISION

The EMS Division consists of 14 Paramedics, 11 of whom are on line. 31 Firefighter/EMTs, 26 of whom are on line. All of whom are Colorado Certified and Nationally Registered. Additionally, we have one Medical Director. PGFPD has a long history of providing exceptional service to the citizens of our community and to travelers passing through it. Our dedication to our residents was the cornerstone of our ALS transport philosophy, and this service is provided to them at no charge. However, PGFPD would not be able to provide this service to residents without highlighting two key components of the EMS Division that work behind the scenes.

The Medical Director holds the most important role in the EMS Division. All EMS providers, Paramedics, and EMTs function under the Medical Director's medical license. Dr. Knowles works closely with our CQI team, overseeing medical protocols, education development, and clinical training. Without Dr. Knowles' unwavering support, PGFPD would not be where we are today, and for this, we are deeply grateful.

The talented individuals who comprise the CQI team are responsible for conducting a 100% audit of all EMS calls for the District. In 2025, they reviewed 1018 responses and 447 transports. This level of in-depth review assures our patients receive the highest level of care possible. They are also instrumental in developing continuing medical education (CME) and presenting it to their respective shifts to meet certification renewal requirements. This consists of 40 hours of CME every 2 years for EMTs and 60 hours of CME every 2 years for Paramedics. Additionally, they research best practices to stay current and to regularly update medical protocols and procedures. Collectively, the men and women of PGFPD provided outstanding medical care to all our patients in 2025, and we are excited to see the advances 2026 will bring.



FLEET

In 2025, the Fleet Division of the Platteville Gilcrest Fire Protection District continued to play a vital role in ensuring our emergency response vehicles remained safe, reliable, and ready to serve our community at all times.

Throughout the year, the Fleet Division resolved 160 apparatus-related issues across the district's fleet, ensuring minimal downtime and uninterrupted emergency response capability. In addition, 46 preventative maintenance services were completed, reinforcing our proactive approach to vehicle safety, performance, and longevity.



The division also supported regional partners by completing 34 vehicles through the district's outside repair and maintenance program, strengthening relationships and contributing technical expertise beyond our own organization.

Apparatus Development & Inspections

Fleet personnel played an instrumental role in apparatus planning and procurement. In 2025, the team:

- Assisted in the final inspection of a new Type I engine
- Participated in pre-construction meetings for a new tender
- Contributed to specifications and planning for new Type I ambulances

FLEET

Professional Development & Certifications

The Fleet Division remains committed to maintaining industry-leading expertise.

- Mechanic Heater completed specialized training in diesel emissions systems through Pierce Manufacturing and successfully earned his Ambulance EVT (Emergency Vehicle Technician) certification.
- Mechanic Heater and Mechanic Aparicio both completed recertification in their EVT and ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certifications, maintaining nationally recognized standards of competency.
- Head Fleet Mechanic David Aparicio has been honored as the 2025 Fleet Manager of the Year by the Fire Department Safety Officers Association (FDSOA). This prestigious national recognition highlights David's unwavering commitment to apparatus safety, maintenance excellence, and the operational readiness of our entire fleet.

In addition, division personnel attended the Colorado Fire Mechanics Association Academy, where they received advanced training in tire science and air brake systems. Demonstrating leadership within the fire service community, PGFPD provided two district apparatus for use in the academy's pump training class.

Leadership & Industry Engagement

In 2025, the Fleet Division further demonstrated its commitment to professional collaboration by hosting the Second Quarter Meeting of the Colorado Fire Mechanics Association, bringing together industry professionals to share knowledge, best practices, and technical advancements.

Commitment to Readiness

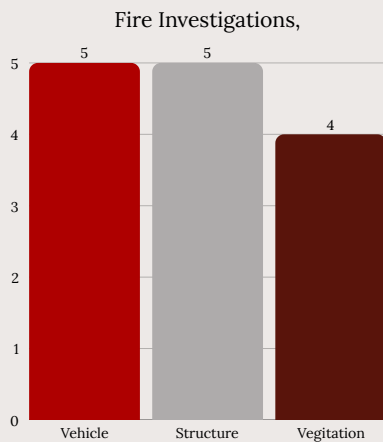
The Fleet Division's work often takes place behind the scenes, but it directly impacts the safety of our firefighters, EMS personnel, and the community we serve. Through diligent maintenance, professional development, and active engagement in statewide training initiatives, the division ensures that every vehicle is mission-ready when called upon. Their dedication supports the District's broader mission: providing dependable, high-quality emergency services to the Platteville and Gilcrest communities.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Bureau had an active 2025. The Bureau participated in numerous fire plan reviews, fire investigations and community outreach events throughout the district. The Fire Bureau experienced a particularly active and demanding year in 2025, significantly contributing to the safety and well-being of the entire district. The Bureau's efforts were multifaceted, spanning rigorous regulatory oversight, thorough incident analysis, and proactive public engagement.

A core responsibility was the active participation in numerous fire plan reviews. These reviews ensured compliance with the latest fire and life safety codes, ultimately mitigating potential hazards before projects were completed and occupied.

Furthermore, the Bureau was instrumental in conducting several fire investigations. These investigations were critical in determining the origin, cause, and circumstances of fires that occurred throughout the year.



Plans Reviewed
20



Fire Code Inspections
150



Hydrant inspections
251

Finally, a significant commitment was dedicated to community outreach events. The Bureau organized and participated in numerous programs designed to educate residents and businesses on fire safety practices. These initiatives included school presentations, public safety demonstrations, distribution of educational materials, and free smoke alarm installation programs, all aimed at fostering a culture of preparedness and reducing the incidence of preventable fires within the district.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, PGFPD reached a significant milestone in professional development as 54% of our 46-person staff now hold advanced degrees. This commitment to higher learning ensures our team remains at the forefront of modern emergency services, directly enhancing our operational intelligence and ability to provide elite-level service to the community.

To further validate this technical expertise, our members participate in the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) credentialing program. This voluntary, peer-reviewed process recognizes career achievements across seven distinct professional designations—ranging from Fire Officer to Chief Fire Officer—fostering a culture of lifelong learning and leadership that defines our pursuit of excellence in public safety.



CTO Ben Krapes
Chief Training Officer

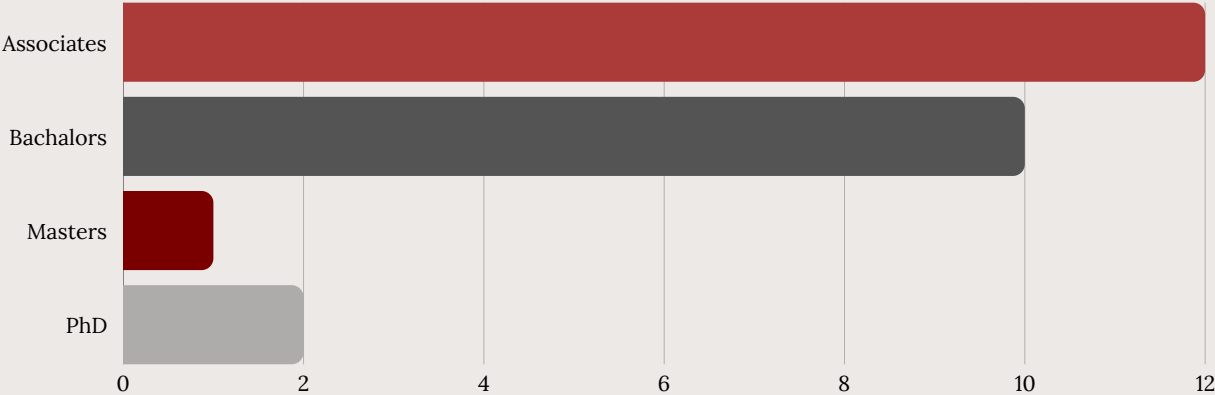


CFO Andy Wazny
Chief Fire Officer & Masters Degree



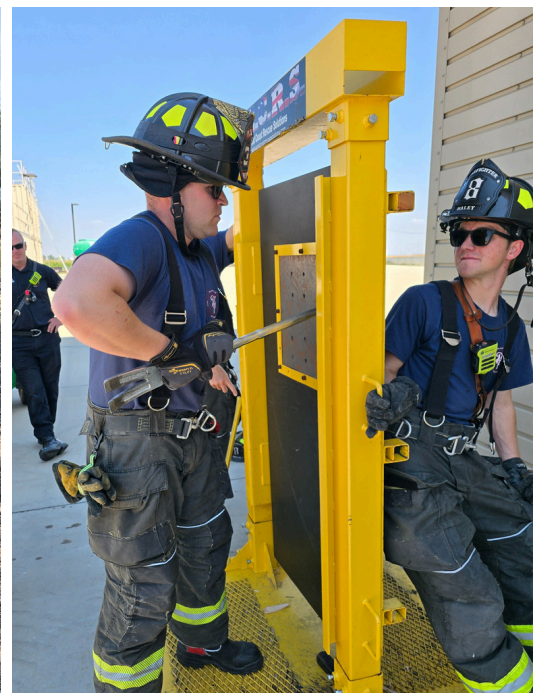
FM Dave Sutton
Fire Marshal

Educational Degrees











Platteville-Gilcrest Fire Protections District

