

Palmyra Public Safety Department

Village Board Report

Operational Impact Report – January Incident Summary

The Palmyra Public Safety Department has maintained steady call volume with sustained activity across Police, Fire, and EMS services, reflecting continued service demands and the department's commitment to community safety.

Approximately two weeks ago, the Anich Lumber fire required full deployment of departmental resources. This large-scale incident, involving approximately 30 regional departments, placed significant operational and logistical demands on the department. In the weeks following the fire, crews have continued cleanup operations, equipment rehabilitation, maintenance, and repairs under extreme cold weather conditions, contributing to multiple equipment and mechanical failures.

On the day of the fire, the department experienced a critical apparatus bay door failure as a fire engine was exiting the station, causing significant damage to both the bay door system and the responding apparatus. Later that same afternoon, the department's primary ambulance was involved in a motor vehicle accident while transporting a patient due to hazardous icy road conditions. The accident caused significant damage to the department's frontline ambulance, requiring emergency body shop repairs and temporary removal from service. As a result, the department has been operating with its backup ambulance for the past week. At this time, there have been no additional reported injuries related to these incidents. One firefighter sustained minor injuries during fire operations, resulting in the loss of two work shifts. Given the conditions and scope of the incident, operations proceeded as effectively as could reasonably be expected.

In the coming weeks, the department will provide additional damage assessments, including potential pump repair or replacement on the primary engine, damage to hoses, and loss of other firefighting equipment. Insurance has been notified, and the department is working with the carrier on two to three related claims. The department anticipates the frontline ambulance will be returned to service, fully repaired, within the next few days.

The department extends sincere appreciation to Palmyra Public Safety personnel, the many regional departments that responded to assist, and the Palmyra Department of Public Works for their coordinated response and support. Without this unified effort, the outcome of the fire could have been significantly worse. Special thanks are extended to DPW leadership—particularly Scott—for middle-of-the-night response and support with water system management and road safety. The department also thanks Village leadership and the Village Board for their continued support and encouragement.

The investigation into the cause of the Anich Lumber fire is closed at this time, pending any new information that may come forward.

Thank you,

Public Safety Director

Paul Blount