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MISSOULA POLICE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





Photo by Michael Rosling

Our Mission Statement

We are a community-oriented agency committed to delivering professional police service to Missoula. We strive to improve the quality of life of our citizens and the livability of our community.

Message from the Chief



Thank you for your interest in the Missoula Police Department's 2025 Annual Report. I am proud of this report and anxious to use it to further connect with our community. This report was created internally by members of our support staff and is just one example of the many important tasks they complete for the department.

In 2025, the MPD handled 57,039 incidents, up from 55,033 incidents in 2024. Crime rates are mixed across a wide variety of categories. For example, Robbery, Sexual Intercourse Without Consent, Theft and injury/fatal crashes are down. While homicide is unchanged, Aggravated Assault, Disorderly Conduct, Misdemeanor Assault and Partner/Family Member Assault are up.

The MPD participates in the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) Task Force. These federal, state and local investigators continue to make significant seizures to combat illicit drugs. After a steady decline in methamphetamine seizures from 2022-2024, in 2025 the RMHIDTA task force showed a 111% increase in methamphetamine seizures and 112% increase in cocaine seizures. Interestingly, this year showed a decrease of 85% in fentanyl pill seizures, yet an increase of 37% in fentanyl powder.

As we continue to evaluate new technologies, the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drone) program is proving to be invaluable. In 2025, we flew 171 missions, a record number of flights for this young program. The most common use is for active pursuits, perimeter and containments, and search and rescue missions. Also, we have found it to be an excellent force avoidance tool by using it for building searches to reduce high-risk face-to-face encounters between officers and suspects.

Although we are constantly looking for ways to avoid force, like the drone program above, force is an unfortunate reality of law enforcement. We've continued our pattern of restraint and excellent decision-making in 2025 where we used force in less than one percent of total incidents and we captured 100% of these force incidents on video. We understand the great responsibility this special authority bestows upon us, and we are committed to maintaining our high standards by reviewing every force incident.

This past spring, the City of Missoula finalized a compensation package with the Missoula Police Officers Association. After this wage increase, we enjoyed the most successful recruitment cycle in many years. This hiring cycle has filled eight vacant officer positions so far in 2026 and we anticipate it may fill future vacancies. The financial support from Mayor Davis' Office and the City Council indicates a direct impact both on recruiting new applicants into the profession and attracting current officers from other agencies.

Soon I will introduce our 2026-2029 Strategic Plan, aimed at maintaining public safety, supporting our employees and raising efficiencies of our department and I look forward to highlighting it in our next annual report.

It continues to be my honor to lead the Missoula Police Department. I hope you enjoy this report and find it informative regarding the incredible work of our sworn and non-sworn employees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Colyer".

Michael J. Colyer
Chief of Police



Social Media Links:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter/X](#)

[Instagram](#)

ETHICAL EXCELLENCE

Ethical Excellence

Our employees work in a profession that is often complex and fast paced. Although we provide thorough policies and procedures, we believe having a top-of-mind guiding principle to guide one's conduct is important. We call this "Ethical Excellence."

Ethical Conduct

We believe ethical conduct is the most important aspect of our work. The practice of ethical behavior is to have integrity in what we say and do, so that our honesty and veracity is beyond reproach.

Holding ourselves to the highest level of ethical standard means, amongst other examples, we are honest in written or spoken word, we treat everyone with respect and dignity and we never use our position for personal gain.

Policing Excellence

We believe excellence in policing is to be an approachable and respectful community partner, while being a proficient professional.

To possess these qualities and balance their use is the art of police excellence. An employee who has all of one trait and none of the other, does not fulfil this level of excellence. For example, the most kind and likeable employee who cannot carry out the technical aspects of the job will fall short of expectations. Conversely, an employee with the most advanced training, and who operates at an extremely high level but treats community members inappropriately, will also fall short of this standard.

This is a high bar we set for our people. But we are confident in who we hire, how they are trained, and our culture of conducting ourselves with integrity, treating others right and being competent professionals who can "take care of business."

Having "Ethical Excellence" as a guiding principle reminds our staff of the high expectations placed upon them as they are working in real time, where sorting through volumes of regulations, policy, and law is impractical.

*Left to right: Police Chief
Mike Colyer and Public
Information Officer
Whitney Bennett.*

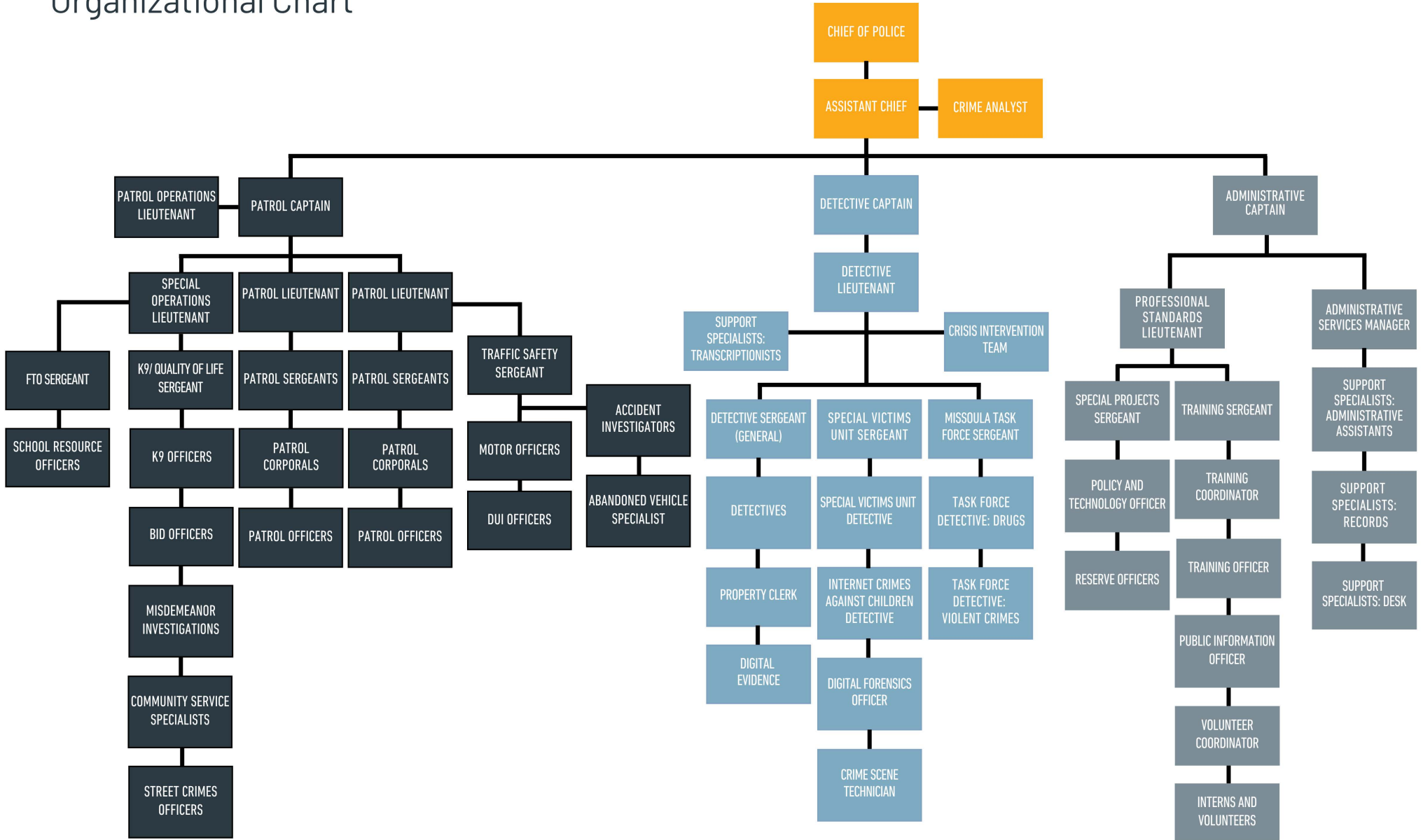


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MISSOULA POLICE

Organizational Chart



Administrative Division



Photo by Michael Rosling

Office of Professional Standards

Records Unit

Recruitment

Training Unit

Community Engagement & Participation

Volunteer/Internship Program

Communication Center

Media Relations & Strategic Communications

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards is responsible for processing all complaints and investigations regarding the conduct of Missoula Police Department employees. All complaints received by the MPD are taken seriously, and are investigated thoroughly in an effort to uphold and maintain the integrity of the MPD, its employees, and the community's trust.

Citizen Complaints Summary

During 2025, a total of 42 citizen complaints were submitted. These complaints generated 88 individual allegations, as a single complaint may include multiple allegations. In addition, investigators may identify additional potential violations by employee(s) during the course of the investigation—issues not originally raised by the complainant—which are then included in the final findings report.

Type of Complaint	
Procedure	42
Conduct	26
Use of Force	9
Harassment	5
Traffic/Driving	4
Criminal	1
Bias	1
Total	88

Complaint Findings	
No Finding	12
Exonerated	27
Not Sustained	2
Sustained	16
Unfounded	20
Inquiry	11
Total	88

Missoula Police Commission

The City of Missoula Police Commission holds quarterly meetings to review complaints brought against Missoula Police Department employees and reports its findings to the Mayor. On behalf of the Mayor, the Missoula Police Commission holds hearings at the request of complainants who are not satisfied with the Missoula Police Department's resolution of their complaints.



Officer Randy Talksabout meets with a member of the community to discuss her concerns.

	Definition of various findings:
Exonerated	The acts that formed the basis of the complaint or allegation did occur, but were justified, lawful, and proper according to departmental policy or standard operating procedures.
Unfounded	The investigation conclusively proved that the act or act complained of did not occur.
Not Sustained	The investigation failed to discover sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegations made.
No Finding	The investigation cannot proceed because the complaint failed to disclose promised information to further the investigation; or the complainant wishes to withdraw the complaint; or the complainant is no longer available for clarification. This finding may also be used when the information provided is not sufficient to determine the identity of the officer(s) or employee(s) involved.
Sustained	The investigation disclosed a preponderance of evidence to prove the allegation(s) made.
Inquiry	If during the investigation it is determined that a citizen is merely requesting clarification of a policy or procedure, that complaint, with the concurrence of the investigation supervisor's commanding officer, may be considered an inquiry.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Use of Force Summary

In 2025, the Missoula Police Department reported 449 incidents in which at least one use-of-force (UOF) action was applied to a subject, totaling 1,863 UOF actions. A single incident may involve multiple UOF actions by one or more officers. During the same year, MPD responded to 57,039 total incidents, and less than one percent of those incidents involved any use of force.

Use of Force Key Findings

Out of 449 total use-of-force incidents:

- **98.7%** included body-worn camera footage
- **100%** had video documentation of some kind (body-worn or dash camera)
- There were **1,853 total officer use-of-force actions**
- There were **2 total injuries to subjects**
- There were **30 total injuries to officers**

Out of 57,039 incidents, less than one percent resulted in a Use of Force action.

Below: Officer Sheff Halsey (top) speaks with the Mobile Support Team while Officer Nash O'Hara (bottom) checks the suspect for weapons or other harmful items.



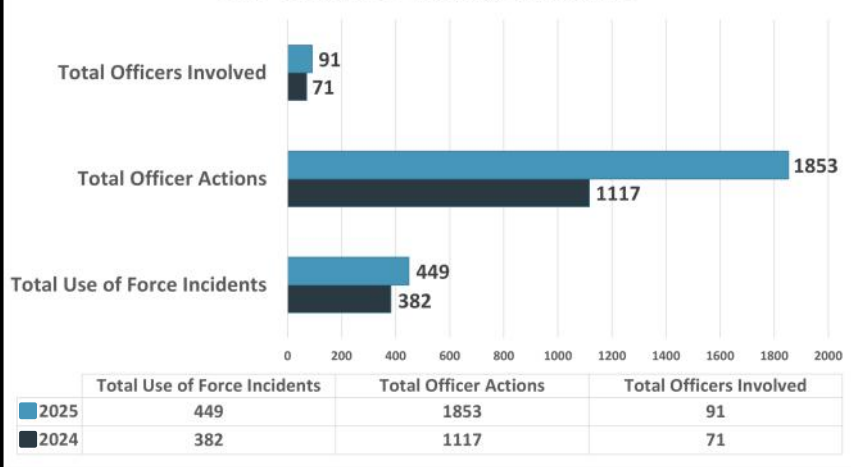
Use of Force Types

Officer's Action/Response	Number of Actions in 2025	% of Total Incidents
Firearm Displayed*	1044	56.34%
Personal Weapons**	518	27.95%
Taser Displayed	138	7.45%
Wrap Restraint Device	44	2.37%
Taser Deployed	31	1.67%
K-9 Deployed	31	1.67%
Flash Sound Diversionary Device	16	0.86%
Less Lethal Impact Deployed	14	0.76%
Less Lethal Impact Displayed	11	0.59%
Hobble Restraint	3	0.16%
Chemical Munitions Deployed	2	0.11%
Department Vehicles	1	0.05%
Peacekeeper Baton	0	0.00%
Firearm Fired	0	0.00%
Total Officer Actions Taken	1,853	100%

***Firearm Displayed** is defined as any display of a duty weapon which was used to effect or alter behavior of a subject, regardless of whether it was pointed at the subject or not.

****Personal Weapons** means officers utilized physical hand/foot actions and control techniques against the subject.

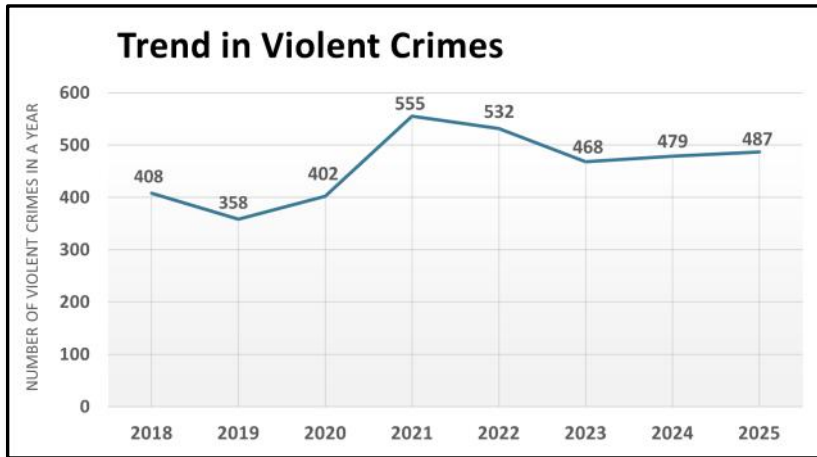
Use of Force Activity Summary



RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit plays a crucial role within the Missoula Police Department, ensuring the accurate and efficient management of all reports, to include initial review and upload, document attachment, and dissemination. Their responsibilities extend from processing and verifying reports generated by all members of the department to maintaining the integrity of criminal records in accordance with state and federal laws. The unit ensures the timely dissemination of reports to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the public, while also handling record sealing and expungement procedures.

Additionally, the Records Unit is responsible for compiling and submitting crime statistics to the Montana Board of Crime Control, adhering to the FBI's regulations. The unit's diligence is evident in its substantial workload showcasing their dedication to supporting law enforcement and maintaining transparency in criminal justice processes.



SOURCE: Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

Chart Note:

- **Violent Crimes include** Robbery, Rape, Aggravated Assault, and Homicide.
- **Homicide excludes** Negligent Manslaughter and Justifiable Homicide because these offenses are classified separately based on circumstances such as negligence or lawful justification.

Reports Disseminated			
Type of Report	2023	2024	2025
Crash Reports	1,325	1,374	1,157
Case Reports	2,848	2,789	2,449



Violent Offense Cases			
Type of Case	2023	2024	2025
Robbery	37	36	34
Rape & SIWOC*	60	84	78
Aggravated Assault	370	357	375
Homicide**	3	2	2
Total Cases	470	479	489

*Rape and SIWOC (Sexual Intercourse Without Consent) is interchangeable.
 ** Homicide includes all homicide offenses, including Negligent Manslaughter and Justifiable Homicide, for a comprehensive total of homicide-related incidents.
 Source: Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

Volume of Incidents, Cases, and Vehicle Accidents			
	2023	2024	2025
Incidents	56,406	55,033	57,039
Cases—All	10,448	10,554	9,575
Cases—Criminal	6,720	6,908	6,353
Vehicle Accidents*	1,835	1,886	1,947

*Represents completed state accident forms.

SOURCE: Law Enforcement Records Management Systems (LERMS), Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

RECRUITMENT

The Missoula Police Department implemented several strategies to enhance advertising and marketing efforts aimed at attracting highly qualified candidates from across the country and increasing interest in careers in law enforcement.

These efforts resulted in the largest applicant pool the department has seen in several years. During a recent hiring process, 163 candidates registered to participate in two days of testing. This figure does not include significant interest from POST-Certified applicants—police officers currently working at other agencies around the country—who also expressed interest in joining the department.

Recruitment outreach engaged individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and professions. Interest has remained strong in the months following the testing process, demonstrating continued momentum in recruitment.

The department will continue exploring new technologies and outreach strategies to further expand participation and attract high-quality candidates.



Left to right: Police Commissioner Suzanne Peterson; Administrative Captain Matt Kazinsky; Training Sergeant Ryan Kamura; Lieutenant Kasey Williams, Office of Professional Standards; and Officer Brandon O'Dell, Training Coordinator. These individuals served as the interview panel for the 2025 winter hiring cycle.



"As a Native American from the Blackfeet Tribe, I take pride in working for the Missoula Police Department. This position allows me to help break down barriers within the community and provides valuable opportunities and training to advance both within the department and in life. In my relatively short time with the Missoula Police Department, I have gained significant knowledge and experience. I plan to continue my education, not only in my profession but also beyond."

- Officer Randy Talksabout

WHY CANDIDATES CHOSE MPD!

- Competitive wage, benefits, and incentive pay (**Starting \$45.83 hourly/ \$95K annually effective July 2026**)
- Work schedule that promotes a healthy work-home life balance
- Opportunities to serve on Special Teams and within specialty assignments
- Focus on training, mentorship, and career growth
- Latest technology, equipment, and updated vehicle fleet
- Officer wellness and support programs

HIRING PROCESS SNAPSHOT

- Written and physical testing
- Application submission
- Preliminary remote interview
- Oral board interview
- Background investigation
- Montana Law Enforcement Academy
- MPD Advanced Academy
- Field Training and Evaluation



TRAINING UNIT

In 2025, the Missoula Police Department Training Unit ensured that all MPD officers had access to meaningful professional development, completing thousands of hours of training collectively. This included time at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy, our in-house Advanced Academy, mandatory bi-monthly trainings, as well as recommended and discretionary opportunities tailored to individual roles. In addition, the department hired and trained 13 new full-time officers, preparing them to serve the community with skill, professionalism, and dedication.



Photo Top: LT Kasey Williams (middle) mentors a new officer during a scenario exercise, practicing techniques to gather critical information from a victim when the suspect is not present. The person playing the victim (left) is an MPD volunteer acting the part of the victim.

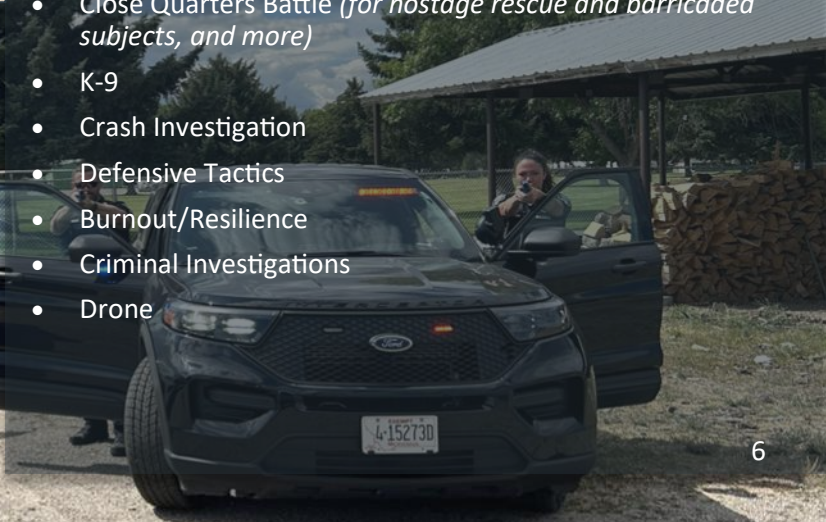
Middle: Officers and first responders take part in annual Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) training across the Missoula area. The exercise includes a rescue task force, with police escorting medical personnel during an active attack scenario.

Bottom: New officers, using training sidearms, participate in a scenario exercise focused on handling known high-risk traffic stops, building skills and confidence in controlled, realistic settings.



Selected Training Highlights for MPD Officers

- Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)
- Death Investigations
- Taser
- Interview/Interrogation
- Police Vehicle Operation Course PVOC (driving)
- Low light shooting
- Close Quarters Battle (for hostage rescue and barricaded subjects, and more)
- K-9
- Crash Investigation
- Defensive Tactics
- Burnout/Resilience
- Criminal Investigations
- Drone



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION

Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training/ Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (ALERRT-CRASE)

For over a decade Missoula police officers have been actively training on the topic of Active Shooter (Active Attack) Events. In 2020, we adopted the ALERRT model and established trainers within MPD. In 2023, we started the CRASE working group to provide citizens, businesses, and other community partners the opportunity to become educated on Active Attack Events and how they can prepare and be ready to survive such a traumatic event.

2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Delivered **25 classes** (2.5 hours each)

Engaged **463 community participants**

Provided **all programming at no cost**, ensuring accessibility for all

- We engaged a diverse range of businesses and organizations, including medical providers, hospitality, real estate, public education, churches, elections offices, and more.
- We have begun receiving requests to offer classes outside of Missoula city limits, indicating growing regional interest.
- We continued our partnership with the Lifelong Learning Center while also expanding our reach by conducting more onsite trainings than in previous years.
- We were invited to present brief overviews of the training at several local clubs, which led to additional requests for full training sessions.
- One of the most significant areas of demand is adapting the training to be appropriate for middle and high school-aged students.
- We refined our content to be more concise and tailored specifically to Missoula, incorporating a stronger focus on situational awareness—an addition that has received highly positive feedback.

Much of our work as police officers involves responding to calls and ensuring community safety. Teaching CRASE classes and opening them to the public allows our department to fulfill another essential role: community education. By engaging with local groups and businesses, we can share trends we're seeing, discuss proactive steps to take during a critical incident or active attack, and build stronger connections with our community members. For me, it's a privilege to meet people and help them better understand the work of the Missoula Police Department. One of the most rewarding parts is watching a topic that often feels intimidating transform into a sense of empowerment. These classes equip individuals to feel prepared and confident as they go about their daily activities in an ever-changing world—helping keep Missoula the town we love, where we live, work, and play.

- Officer Lydia Arnold, Program Manager & Instructor



AVOID/DENY/DEFEND

Since 2002, the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)™ program at Texas State University has been used to train law enforcement officers across the nation in how to rapidly respond to dangerous active threat situations.

Over the years we've seen response times shorten and the capabilities of law enforcement increase. As a result of increased public awareness, many citizens have asked what they can do to protect themselves and reduce the dangers faced during one of these events. As we've seen that hiding and hoping isn't a very effective strategy, Avoid Deny Defend® has been developed as an easy to remember method for civilians of all ages and abilities to follow.

Instructors

CPT Matt Kazinsky
LT Mike Kamerer
SGT Mark Puddy
SGT Charles Burton
SGT Ryan Kamura
Officer Lydia Arnold
Officer Kayla Chezick
Officer Nate Griesse
Officer Kooper Guay
Officer Paul Mandilian
Officer Kali Matt



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION

Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA)

CLEA offers insight about MPD operations, challenges and successes and is an opportunity to interact with a variety of officers and support staff. It is a combination of classroom presentations and field demonstrations. We hold a session one evening per week for nine weeks. Each session focuses on one or more specific functions within the department such as the Detective Division, Special Teams, and Training. Additionally, each attendee is invited to participate in a ride-along with an on-duty officer and share that experience with the other class attendees.

- **Duration:** January - March 2025 (8 weeks/2 hours per day)
- **Applications:** Open late November each year
- **Capacity:** Limited to 30 participants
- **Accessibility:** All programming provided free of charge
- **More information:** [Citizens' Law Enforcement Academy \(CLEA\) | Missoula, MT - Official Website](#)



Left: Officer Joel Diaz instructs a CLEA participant on drone operation. Right: Officer Mike Hoffman conducts a Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) on Volunteer Coordinator Christine Bryant Roseboom.



Left: CLEA participants use Axon virtual reality technology to simulate use-of-force scenarios involving a Taser. Right: Officer Jerry Rodney is assisting with demonstrating a K-9 bite.

Ride-along Program

In 2025, **128 ride-alongs** were conducted, giving community members a unique, firsthand perspective on the work of the Missoula Police Department. These experiences included riding with patrol officers and observing other key functions within the department.

CLEA Course Outline

Class 1 – Introduction to the MPD

- Welcome – Opening Remarks
- Department overview
- Patrol Division overview

Class 2 – Patrol Division

- Field Training Officer Program
- Traffic, DUI/DRE
- Firearms Simulator

Class 3 – Specialized Patrol Functions

- Quality of Life/Community Service Specialists/BID
- UAS (Drone) Program
- School Resource Officers

Class 4 – Detectives Division

- Detective Division overview
- Special Victims Unit
- General Investigations

Class 5 – Specialized Detective Functions

- VCAC + Crimes Against Children
- Digital Forensics
- Narcotics Investigations/HIDTA

Class 6 – Special Teams

- SWAT & Negotiations
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Class 7 – Administrative Division, Training & Firearms

- Administrative Division Overview
- Office of Professional Standards/Police Commission
- Recruiting/Training
- CRASE/Active Shooter

Class 8 – Crime Prevention, CIT, Volunteer Services, & Chaplain Services

- Crime Prevention/PIO
- Crisis Intervention Team
- Volunteer Services
- Chaplain Services

Class 9 – CLEA Wrap-Up Session (Saturday) Catlin Station

- Crime Scene Investigations
- Taser 10 Demo
- Drone Demo
- Axon 3D
- K9 Presentation

VOLUNTEER/INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Missoula Police Department offers internship and volunteer opportunities for individuals from all walks of life, supporting the department's mission to serve the Missoula community. Our volunteers include a diverse mix of retired citizens, students, and working professionals who dedicate two to nine hours each week. Many participate to gain meaningful experience while exploring an interest in public service or a future career in law enforcement.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

What Volunteers Do...

- Lost and Found Property Assistance
- Pawn Program Support
- Anti-Graffiti Task Force
- Administrative Support
- Abandoned Vehicle Marking
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Upkeep
- Training Scenario Role Players
- Ceremony Setup and Community Outreach Events
- Chaplain Program

The Volunteer of the Year award is presented to the individual who records the highest number of service hours within the calendar year, while consistently demonstrating a high level of civic leadership and engagement.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Tony Rollin

In 2025, the Missoula Police Department was proud to honor Tony Rollin for his exceptional contribution of 151.25 hours. Tony's impact extends well beyond his direct service to the MPD; he remains a vital link within the Missoula community through his active roles on the 911 Advisory Board, Neighborhood Watch, and various other local organizations.



His multifaceted dedication to public safety and community well-being makes him an invaluable asset to our agency. We extend our deepest gratitude to Tony for his tireless service and his commitment to making Missoula a safer place for everyone.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

What Interns Do...

- Abandoned Bike Program
- Patrol Car Stocking
- Training Scenario Role Players
- Public Information Officer Assistant
- Business License Background Checks
- History Exhibit Project
- Detective Support
- Administrative Assistant
- Assistant to Abandoned Vehicles Specialist
- Assistant to Digital Forensics Officer
- Assistant to Detectives
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Grad Students

INTERNSHIP PARTNERS

The University of Montana

Athletic Academic Advisors	Flexible summer internships
UM College of Business School	For students pursuing a Cybersecurity Certificate or a related field
Department of Sociology & Criminology	Hands-on experience in law enforcement and social research
Department of History	Opportunities in records, archives, and research

Local Missoula County Public High Schools

Big Sky High School Hellgate High School Sentinel High School	Students gain real-world law enforcement experience while earning high school credit.
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VOLUNTEER/INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Over the past year, the internship program has expanded to offer twelve unique opportunities for students from the University of Montana seeking meaningful, hands-on experience. Placements are available across a wide range of interest areas—from Administrative Division support and collaboration with the Patrol and Detective Divisions to historic preservation of department artifacts and community engagement initiatives.

The program provides students with practical exposure to law enforcement operations and public service, offering firsthand insight into the many roles that support a modern police department. Many interns have gone on to serve with the Missoula Police Department as both sworn officers and civilian staff, while others have continued their careers with Missoula County or pursued opportunities across Montana and beyond.



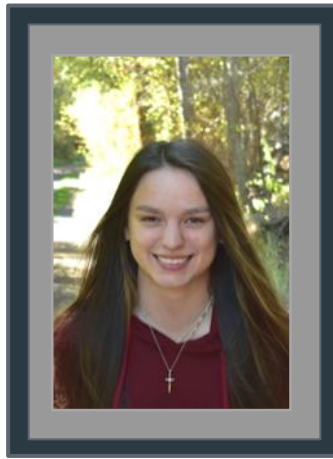
Mason Swenson

B.S. History—University of Montana

Mason earned his Bachelor of Science in History from the University of Montana. During his internship with the Missoula Police Department, he assisted with archiving and preserving historical department documents, helping organize and protect materials that reflect the history of the agency and its service to the community.

Through this work, Mason gained practical experience in archival organization and historical preservation. He has since expanded his professional experience through additional internships, including work with a U.S. Senator's office in North Dakota, and recently interviewed in New York for a nationally ranked museum.

"The internship opened a lot of doors for me. It gave me the opportunity to apply my history degree in a real-world setting and helped prepare me for future opportunities in museums and public history."



Trista White

Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience with a Forensic Certificate and Cybersecurity Certificate—University of Montana

Trista serves as the assistant to the Digital Forensic Officer at the Missoula Police Department, where she gains hands-on experience in digital investigations and cybersecurity protocols. Her internship provides valuable exposure to forensic processes and the role technology plays in modern law enforcement.

Trista plans to attend medical school with the goal of becoming a medical examiner, applying her internship experience to a future career at the intersection of medicine and forensic science.

"This internship has given me insight into forensic work I never would have experienced in the classroom, and it's helping me prepare for my future career as a medical examiner."



Kaley Gordon

B.S. Forensic Anthropology & Forensics Certificate – University of Montana

Kaley graduated in May 2025 and completed an internship with the Missoula Police Department, where she conducted business license background checks and assisted with departmental training exercises. These tasks allowed her to develop professional skills such as attention to detail, organization, and understanding departmental procedures, providing a strong foundation for her current role.

In January 2026, Kaley was hired by the Missoula Police Department as a Crime Scene Technician, and the department is proud to be part of her journey.

"This internship helped me develop professional skills and gave me valuable experience working within the department."

VOLUNTEER/INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Scenario-Based Officer Training

Volunteers play an important role in a variety of training sessions, including SWAT exercises, active shooter response, building searches, confrontation simulations, and tactical medical scenarios. We are committed to providing our volunteers and interns with opportunities to participate in realistic, scenario-based training environments. These experiences not only enhance their learning but also support our officers in refining the critical skills needed to effectively respond to challenging and potentially dangerous situations within the Missoula community.



Above: Officer undergoing evaluation by Instructor Officer Brandon Hansen on medical assessment and care of volunteer role player following an active attack scenario.



Above: Probationary Officer Derik Ryan conducting an arrest of volunteer Tony Rollins, who is role-playing a suspect during a domestic disturbance scenario.

Left: Instructor SGT Mark Puddy demonstrates effective communication and command techniques to a volunteer suspect role player during a training scenario.

Anti-Graffiti Task Force

Volunteers respond promptly to citizen reports of graffiti by documenting incidents for detectives and assisting with removal efforts, including painting over affected areas or power washing using volunteer-donated equipment. The task force is composed of retired residents, working professionals, and students who share a strong commitment to keeping Missoula clean and vibrant. Over the past year, volunteers have supported detectives in several gang-related graffiti investigations, many of which are ongoing or have been successfully resolved.



In 2025, volunteers and interns contributed 2,452 hours of service to MPD departments—equivalent to one full-time employee.

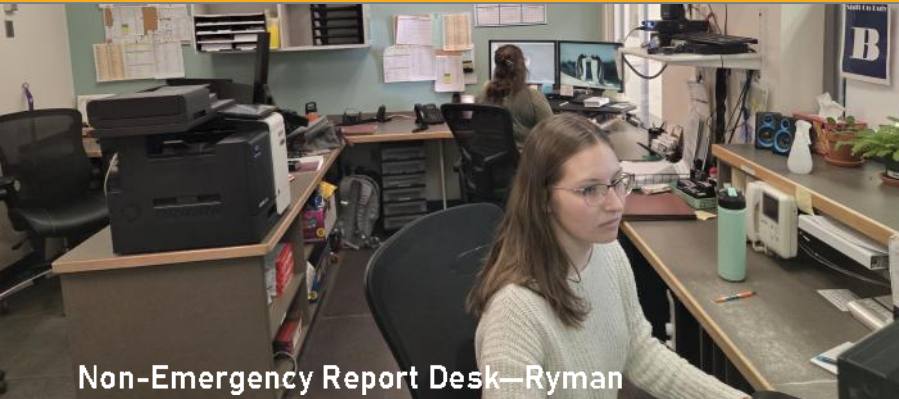
Interested in volunteering or an internship?
[Visit our web page](#) or call, (406) 552-6300

Volunteer Hours Donated

2025	43 Volunteers worked 2,452 hours
2024	23 Volunteers worked 1,628 hours
2023	29 Volunteers worked 2,566 hours

COMMUNICATION CENTER

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC (Non-emergency)



Non-Emergency Report Desk—Ryman

“The Desk” is the 24/7 hub of the Missoula Police Department, staffed by civilian Police Support Specialists. As the first point of contact for the public, they provide professional, efficient support to officers, staff, and City departments, balancing community needs with operational demands. In 2025, they handled nearly 35,000 telephone calls and completed over 2,500 reports, freeing officers to focus on emergency responses. They also manage Criminal Justice Information system (CJIN/NCIC), coordinate assistance with local and outside agencies, and monitor surveillance systems.

- Taking non-emergency reports
- Handling non-emergency phone calls
- Assisting walk-in citizens
- Found property

406-552-6300

HOURS OF OPERATION

24 HOURS A DAY/ 7 DAYS A WEEK

435 Ryman St. (south entrance)



Non-Emergency Report Desk— Catlin

Catlin Station support staff manage key administrative tasks, including transcribing statements for prosecution, coordinating department activities and fundraisers (e.g., Ani-Meals, Meals on Wheels), and communicating with retired officers.

- Taking non-emergency reports
- Property/evidence returns
- Assisting walk-in citizens
- Detective, Officer & County Attorney Support

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY—FRIDAY, 8:00 AM—5:00 PM

PROPERTY RETURN (appointment required)

109 N. Catlin St.



Administrative Support—Ryman

The Administrative Support Unit ensures the department’s operational and financial stability by managing payroll, grants, budgeting, recruitment support, alarm permits, and essential administrative functions.

- Assist walk-in citizens
- Fingerprinting
- Report requests
- Special permit processing (*catering, beer/wine for non-profits, street use, alarm, bonfire*)
- Crime Victim Compensation applications
- Handling non-emergency phone calls

406-552-6303

HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY — FRIDAY, 8:00 AM — 4:30 PM

435 Ryman St. (City Hall entrance)

MEDIA RELATIONS & STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Information Officer (PIO) supports transparency, public trust, and crime prevention through proactive communication, community engagement, and strategic public safety messaging. In 2025, this role encompassed media relations, social media management, event coordination, recruitment marketing support, crime prevention initiatives, and inter-agency collaboration.

Media Relations & Strategic Communications

The PIO ensures timely, accurate communication between the department, media, and community.

Core responsibilities include:

- Responding to media inquiries and coordinating interviews
- Preparing and distributing news releases and public advisories
- Monitoring online engagement and routing tips to appropriate units
- Attending daily command/operational briefings to maintain situational awareness
- Coordinating messaging during critical incidents and major investigations
- Collaborating with City Communications to ensure unified messaging

By The Numbers

- News releases issued: **50+**
- Social Media posts (all platforms): **169**
- Community events attended/organized: **9**

Crime Prevention & Public Education

Responsibilities included:

- Development and delivery of public safety messaging
- Oversight of MPD Drug Take Back events
- Business Security Assessments
- Support and engagement with Neighborhood Watch groups
- Providing educational presentations upon request
- Conducting police station tours for community groups
- Assisting with new hire onboarding and training when requested
- Board & Committee Participation
- Crime Stoppers Board Member
- Boys & Girls Club Board Member
- Neighborhood Watch Board Member
- International Rescue Committee engagement
- City Communications coordination

The PIO **manages all official MPD social media** platforms, ensuring accurate and timely public information distribution. Platforms are used to increase transparency, provide important public safety information, and offer direct communication pathways for community members.



Community Engagement & Signature Events

National Night Out (Annual Event)

Organize and coordinate MPD's National Night Out event to promote neighborhood engagement and crime prevention awareness.

Shop with a Cop (New in 2025)

Launched and organized MPD's participation in Shop with a Cop, expanding positive youth engagement opportunities during the holiday season.

Missoula Law Enforcement Memorial (Odd-Year)

Organize and coordinate the Missoula Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony at the Rose Garden honoring fallen officers and supporting regional law enforcement partners every other year.

Additional Community Event Participation:

- Fairytales & Superheroes
- Refugee Day
- Missoula Under Construction



A vehicle crash on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, led to the death of an adult male pedestrian in Missoula. The incident occurred just after 12:00 p.m. on the 1100 block of West Broadway.

Above: Public Information Officer Whitney Bennett
Photo courtesy of Isaiah Ruiz with Non Stop Local, ABC

Patrol Division



Photo by Michael Rosling

Police Incident Report / Juvenile Crime

Police Incidents by Patrol Zone

Traffic Unit

Traffic Accident Map

Business Improvement District (BID)

School Resource Officers (SRO)

K-9 Unit

Drone Program

Abandoned Vehicle Program

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

POLICE INCIDENT REPORT

Police Incidents by Type (Not All Types Shown)			
Incident Type	2023	2024	2025
Traffic Stops	10,145	7,616	8,245
Suspicious Activity	3,284	3,283	3,111
Traffic Crashes	2,742	2,861	2,860
Welfare Check	2,607	2,624	2,405
Person to be Removed	2,203	1,947	1,707
Disturbance	1,840	1,776	1,682
Disorderly Conduct	1,503	1,517	1,679
Theft	1,787	1,823	1,538
Burglary Alarm	1,298	1,238	1,244
Vandalism	772	711	668
Suicidal	666	626	655
Drugs	505	484	447
Misdemeanor Assault	506	386	441
DUI	462	454	421
Partner/Family Member Assault	298	275	285

Narcan Doses Administered by MPD Officers	
2025	55 doses of Narcan to 43 individuals
2024	32 doses of Narcan to 23 individuals



(above) Officer Caylin Gardner on night patrol.

Total Incidents Responded To

2022	2023	2024	2025
52,125	56,406	55,033	57,039

Definition of a *Police Incident*:

Any event or situation that comes to the attention of police and requires assessment, response, or documentation, whether or not it results in further action.



(above) Officer handcuffing a suspect.

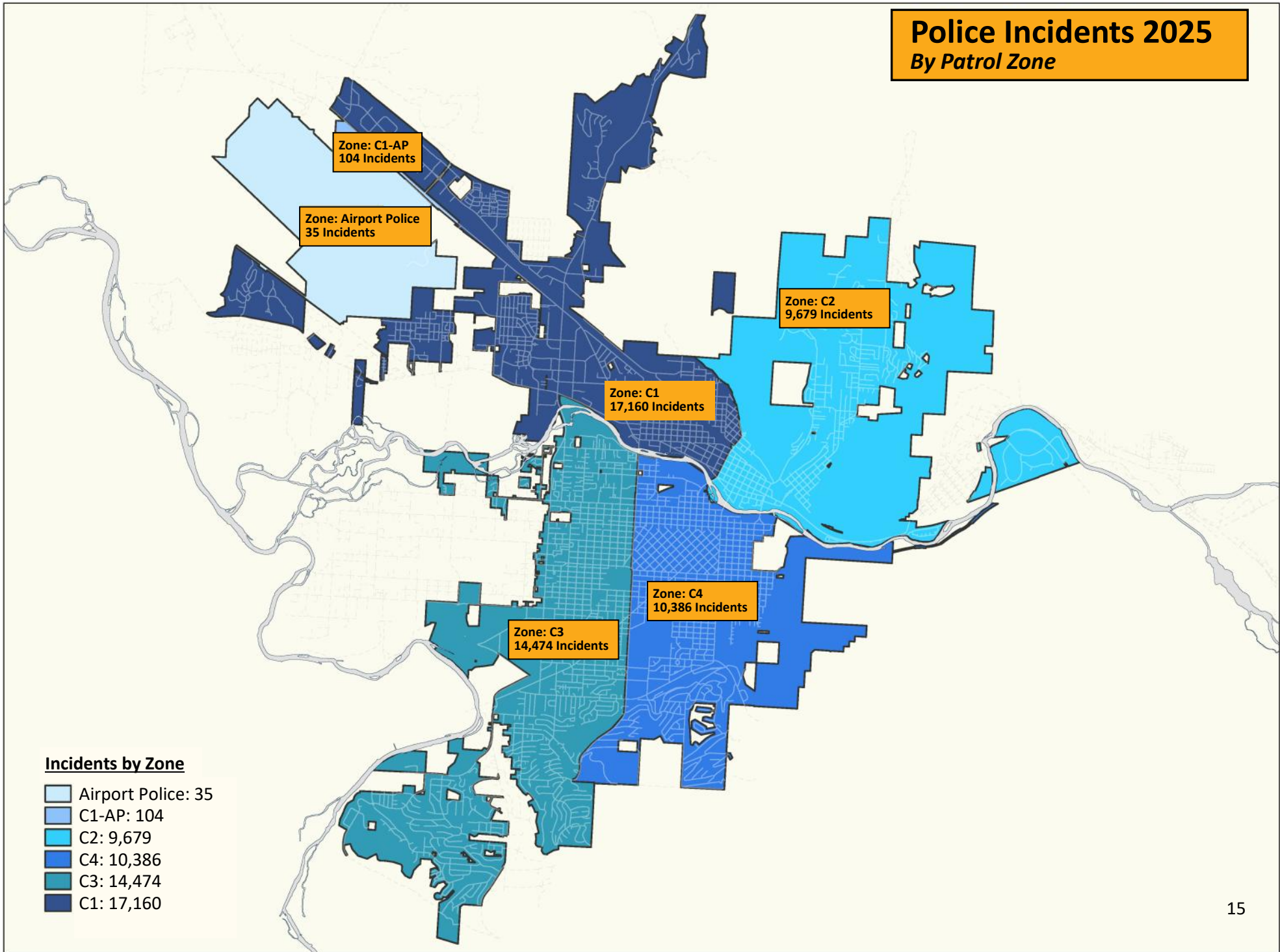
Top 10 Juvenile Incidents Responded to by Patrol

Theft
Possession of Intoxicating Substance
Runaway
Disorderly Conduct
Assault-Misdemeanor
MIP Tobacco
Criminal Mischief/Vandalism
Obstructing a Peace Officer
Probation Violation
Trespassing

128.6% ↑ in incidents involving Possession of Intoxicating Substances compared to 2024

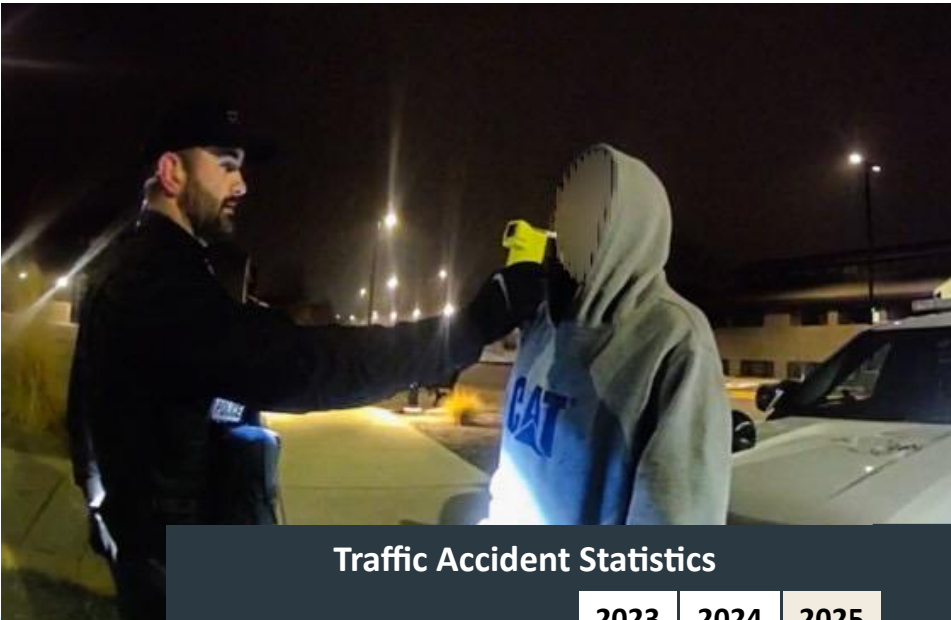
Police Incidents 2025

By Patrol Zone



TRAFFIC UNIT

The primary focus of MPD Traffic Officers is to promote roadway safety and prevent crashes through education and enforcement. This is accomplished by utilizing both motorcycles and patrol cars. RADAR and LIDAR are used to enforce speed regulations.



High Risk Intersections

Intersection Location	Number of Accidents
N Reserve St / Mullan Rd	40
Brooks St / Reserve St	26
N Reserve St / England Blvd	24
South Ave W / Reserve St	23
Reserve St / S 3rd St W	20
S 3rd St W / Russell St	19
W Broadway / N Reserve St Ramp	18
W Broadway / N Orange St	16
W Broadway / N Russell St	16
Brooks St / Stephens Ave	15

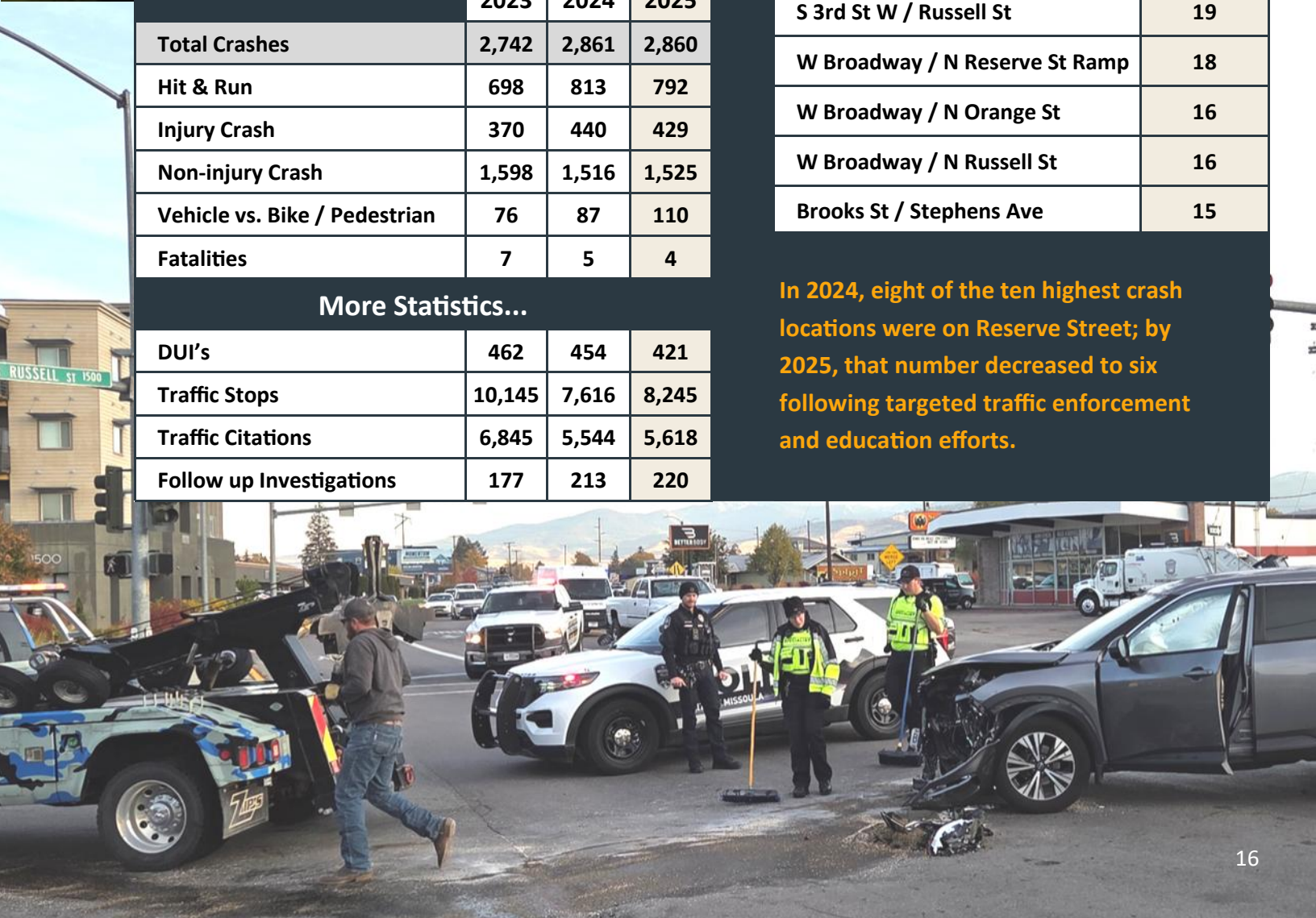
Traffic Accident Statistics

	2023	2024	2025
Total Crashes	2,742	2,861	2,860
Hit & Run	698	813	792
Injury Crash	370	440	429
Non-injury Crash	1,598	1,516	1,525
Vehicle vs. Bike / Pedestrian	76	87	110
Fatalities	7	5	4

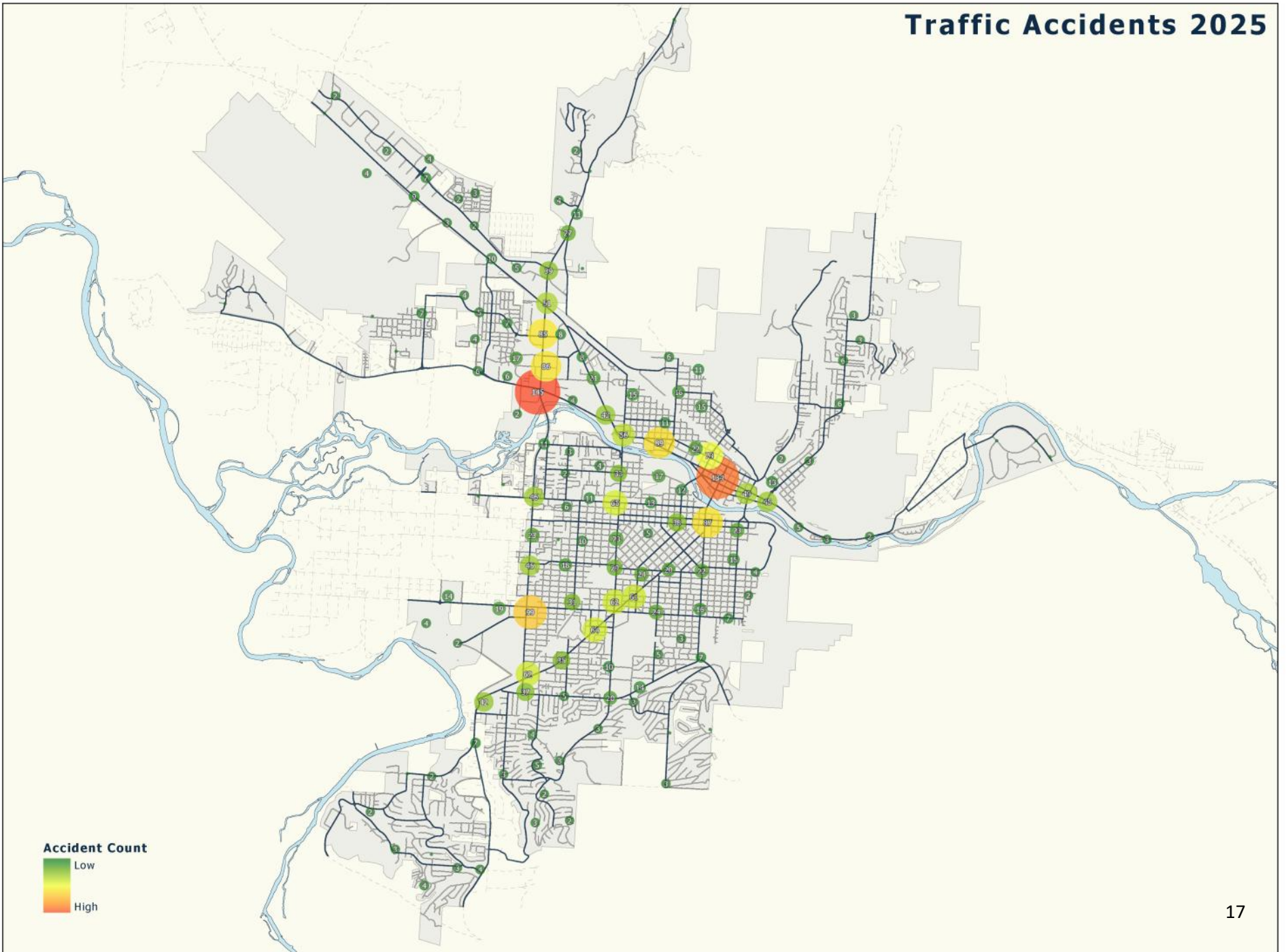
More Statistics...

	2023	2024	2025
DUI's	462	454	421
Traffic Stops	10,145	7,616	8,245
Traffic Citations	6,845	5,544	5,618
Follow up Investigations	177	213	220

In 2024, eight of the ten highest crash locations were on Reserve Street; by 2025, that number decreased to six following targeted traffic enforcement and education efforts.



Traffic Accidents 2025



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

The Missoula Police Department, in partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID), funds the department's two BID Officers. Officers Amanda Hardin and Rob Castro continued to work as our two BID officers assigned to the downtown area. Both officers focused on community policing, which allows them to form relationships with the public and businesses. Both work on building rapport with the unhoused population, downtown business owners, and employees, and on taking proactive enforcement action if they see any issues in the downtown area. Both officers continue to work with the Mobile Support Team and the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) to assist with removing individuals from the business and finding a suitable solution.



Downtown Business Improvement District Ten Highest Volume Incidents

Type of Incident	2024	2025
Theft	212	232
Assault	99	116
Found Property	120	109
Disorderly Conduct	79	94
Trespassing	42	84
Driving Under the Influence—DUI	104	71
Disturbance	72	69
Criminal Mischief	70	62
Accident—Hit and Run	92	57
Drugs	28	39

Notable Casework

Elderly Man Arrested After Escalating Confrontation With Officer

On March 14, 2025, Officer Amanda Hardin responded to 200 W. Pine St. for a person-removal call. An employee reported that an elderly male had been asked to leave multiple times but refused on each occasion.

Officer Hardin made contact with the male and requested his name. The male became verbally aggressive, directing insulting language at Officer Hardin and shouting incoherent statements. Officer Hardin attempted to de-escalate the situation and again requested identification. The male continued to refuse, repeatedly yelling profanities while aggressively thrusting his fist toward Officer Hardin's face and advancing toward her.

The male was arrested for Obstructing a Peace Officer and Assault after refusing to leave the premises.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Man Held on Probation Violation After Disrupting Church Property

On August 10th, Officer Amanda Hardin was dispatched to the 300 block of East Main Street regarding the removal of a person. The pastor of the church advised Officer Hardin of ongoing issues with a local male transient trespassing on church property and disrupting services. On this date, the male was seen on the property throwing shattered glass at the church. Dispatch advised that this male had been previously trespassed. Officer Hardin recognized the male suspect as the person causing ongoing issues within the BID and knew he was on felony probation. Officer Hardin contacted his probation officer, who requested that he be arrested and held on probation violation. The male was located at the Missoula Public Library, arrested for Criminal Trespass to Property and Disorderly Conduct, and held on a probation violation.

Officer Arrests Female Suspect Following Reported Assault at Store

On August 12th, Officer Rob Castro responded to 800 block of West Broadway for an assault in progress. A female suspect had spat on staff and was refusing to leave the store. Upon Officer Castro's arrival on scene, the female was trying to leave the area. Officer Castro attempted to stop the female who disobeyed commands and attempted to run. Officer Castro was able to stop the suspect and take her into custody after a short struggle.

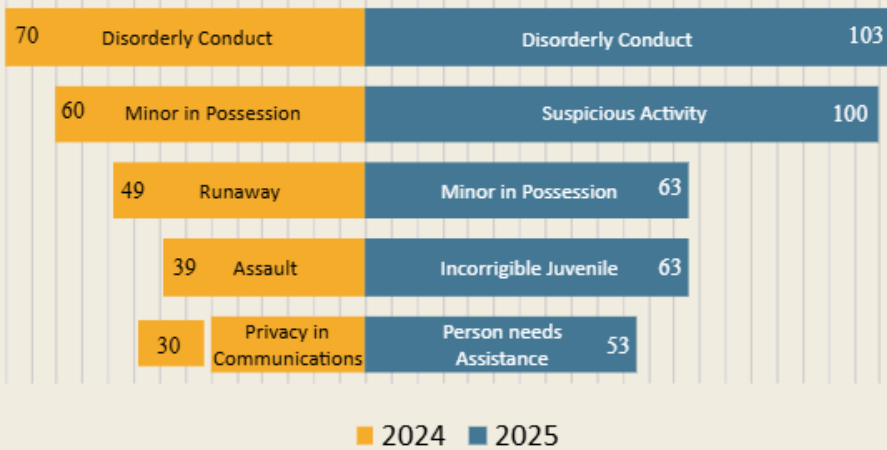
Lockbox Tampering Leads to Arrest on Warrant, Drug Charge

On November 26th, Officer Castro responded to the alley behind 424 N Higgins for a report of suspicious activity. Dispatch reported a male was trying to break into a money lockbox in the alley. Officer Castro made contact with the male, who was holding something resembling a screwdriver or a pipe. The male admitted he was messing with the lockbox because of a TikTok challenge in which people hide money in the boxes. Dispatch advised this male had an appearance warrant. Officer Castro placed the male under arrest and searched his pockets. The male had a small amount of methamphetamine and was charged with possession of a dangerous drug.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

School Resource Officers (SROs) are sworn law enforcement officers responsible for the safety and crime prevention in schools. They work closely with school administrators in an effort to create a safer environment for both students and staff. The six MPD SROs cover 17 schools, ranging from Kindergarten to 12th Grade. Funding for these officers is a shared cost between the City of Missoula, Missoula County Public Schools, and Hellgate Elementary.

Top 5 Calls For Service on School Grounds



School Bus Safety Rules for the Road

MCA 61-8-351 Meeting or passing school bus - vehicle operator liability for violation

- (1) (a) When a school bus that has stopped on the roadway, paved shoulder, or street to receive or discharge school children has actuated flashing red lights as specified in 61-9-402, a driver of a motor vehicle that is approaching the school bus from either direction:
 - (i) shall stop the motor vehicle not less than approximately 30 feet from the school bus; and
 - (ii) may not proceed past the school bus until the school bus ceases operation of its flashing red lights.
- (b) A driver of a motor vehicle may not overtake a stopped school bus on the right side of the school bus.
- (2) When a school bus that is preparing to stop on the highway or street to receive or discharge school children has **actuated flashing amber lights** as specified in 61-9-402, a driver of a motor vehicle that is approaching the school bus from either direction shall slow to a rate of speed that is reasonable under the conditions existing at the point of operation **and must be prepared to stop** on the actuation of flashing red lights when the school bus has stopped.



K-9 UNIT

Patrol and Special Team operations have been supplemented by our K-9 Unit that has a proud history over its 30 plus years of existence. The Department is authorized two K-9 officers, who have dogs trained for apprehension, article searches, and drug detection. The dogs increase officer and public safety and make searching for items and contraband more effective.

The Missoula Police Department uses police dogs on a variety of calls to include locating wanted persons, locating drugs, and other articles needed in ongoing investigations.

Training

K-9 officers attend an intensive initial training with their dog. Once in service, the officers and their dogs train every week. Their ongoing training include all of their initial training topics as well as new skills such as working with special teams. Many MPD officers help in the training by being quarry and local businesses volunteer to allow the dog training in their facilities.

If you have an available facility and would like to assist our K-9 program with it, we would love to discuss it with you. For more information or questions, contact the K-9 Unit Sergeant James Caton.



Officer Nathan Champa conducting an article search with K-9 Zip.

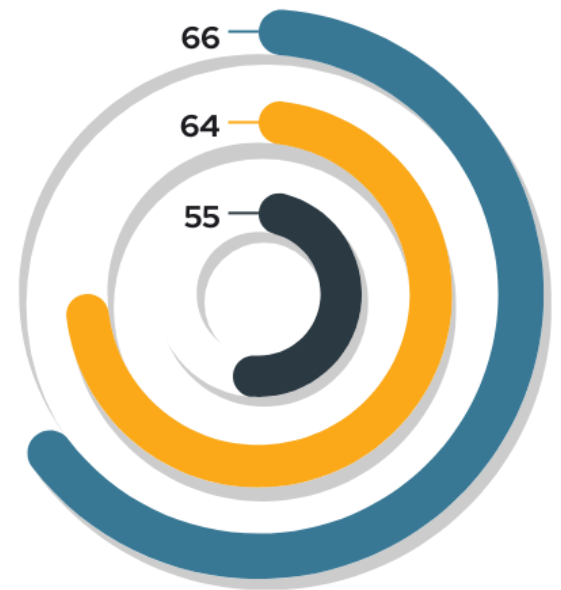
CASE HIGHLIGHTS

K-9 Unit Tracks and Recovers Stolen Credit Card

On February 27, 2025, at approximately 2100 hours, Officer Nate Champa and K-9 Zip responded to a report of a person using a stolen credit card, which had just been used in the area of N. Reserve Street. Sergeant Pat Malone located the vehicle and made contact with the suspect. The suspect was on probation, and Probation and Parole were contacted and authorized a search of the vehicle.

Officer Champa assisted in the vehicle search and located drug paraphernalia along with numerous gift cards. During the investigation, it was determined that the suspect had thrown the stolen credit card outside the vehicle. Officer Champa then deployed Zip to conduct an article search of the area.

They searched from the credit union towards Taco Bell without finding anything. On their return, while continuing to work with Zip, Officer Champa noticed a change in the dog's behavior near the roadway towards Panera Bread. Zip froze, alerting to the presence of the missing stolen credit card.



Total K-9 Deployments: 130

- Patrol Deployments
- Detection Search
- Total Finds

K-9 UNIT

CASE HIGHLIGHTS cont'd...



K-9 Lux with contraband seizure

K-9 Team Sniffs Out Hidden Contraband

On April 12, 2025, Officer Peyton Holmgren observed a vehicle repeatedly failing to use its turn signal while driving. Holmgren initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of W. Broadway St. and Pattee St., making contact with a 51-year-old male driver.

Holmgren recalled information from a source indicating that the male had sold methamphetamine multiple times and stored the drugs in a tackle box-style container in the back of his van. K-9 Lux alerted to the vehicle, and Holmgren then observed a tackle box inside.

The vehicle was seized, and Holmgren applied for a search warrant. The search resulted in the recovery of approximately 363.18 grams of methamphetamine, about \$1,040 in cash, a firearm, and \$10,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills.

This case was referred to the Missoula Drug Task Force. Officers obtained information from the male's phone calls made from the Missoula County Detention Center, which led to the seizure of an additional \$3,595 in cash.



Officer Holmgren in training with K-9 Lux

K-9 Search and Seizures (2025)

2.95 kilograms	Methamphetamine
599 pills	Fentanyl Pills
14.16 grams	Fentanyl Powder
613.851 grams	Cocaine
4	Firearms

K-9 Zip Takes Control of High-Speed Threat

On April 28, 2025, at approximately 2049 hours, Officer Nate Champa responded to assist another officer at the intersection of Van Buren and Broadway regarding a reckless driving incident. The suspect failed to yield and drove at speeds between 53 mph and 68 mph before stopping on I-90, nearly colliding with a semi-truck. The driver's actions posed an immediate threat to the safety of other motorists.

The driver exited the vehicle and was initially compliant but then began screaming at officers to shoot him and aggressively advanced toward them. It is unknown whether the driver was armed with a deadly weapon. Officers issued commands for the suspect to stop advancing.

Without hesitation, Officer Champa deployed K-9 Zip, who bit the suspect on the right hip. The suspect was taken into custody and transported to the hospital, where doctors reported he sustained non-life-threatening injuries. After being cleared, the suspect was transported to jail and booked on traffic and criminal violations.

DRONE PROGRAM

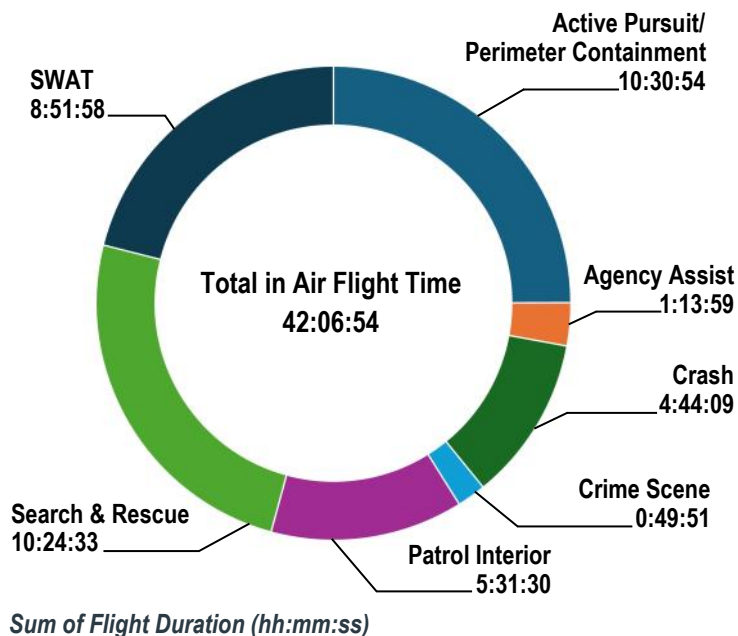
Established in late 2023, the Missoula Police Department's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program transitioned from foundational training to a critical life-saving resource in 2025. With a team of five FAA-certified pilots, the program was designed with a dual focus: enhancing public safety and ensuring strict operational transparency.

Throughout 2025, the program proved its value as a vital tool for peaceful resolution. By utilizing drones to remotely locate barricaded individuals, officers were repeatedly able to de-escalate volatile situations from a safe distance—protecting the lives of the public, the subjects, and the officers involved. On multiple occasions, drones were used to locate violent subjects fleeing through private and public properties within the community. These tools have successfully located missing people and helped responders recover lost individuals who may have otherwise gone unfound. Several crime and crash scenes were preserved with drone enabled 3D modelling, resulting in the best-preserved scenes to date.

Drone Deployments	
Active Pursuit/ Perimeter Containment	42
Search & Rescue	40
Patrol Interior	28
Crash	28
SWAT	26
Agency Assist	4
Crime Scene	3
Total Deployments	171



Drone Flight Time by Mission Type



Thermal Camera (left) vs. Visible Light Camera (right). Using a drone equipped with a thermal camera, officers were able to locate a subject hiding among trees. This side-by-side comparison highlights the difference between thermal imaging (left) and visible light imaging (right). Thermal cameras create images based on contrasts in surface temperatures within the environment, allowing subjects to stand out even when concealed.

Transparency and Safety in Action

To address community privacy and maintain the highest legal standards, every flight is managed through DroneSense. This provides a robust oversight platform that ensures all operations are documented, professional, and fully compliant with MPD policy and the law. As the program grows, our priority remains clear: utilize every available resource to protect human life, enhance public and officer safety, and maintain public trust through accountable policing.

ABANDONED VEHICLE PROGRAM

Across neighborhoods in Missoula, something as simple as a parked vehicle can become a larger community concern. What may begin as a single complaint—an unmoved car, a blocked street, or a growing concern—can quickly impact public safety, limit access for emergency services, and affect the overall well-being of a neighborhood.

MPD has worked alongside community members to address abandoned and junk vehicles, focusing not only on removal, but also on restoring access, strengthening neighborhood trust, and reinforcing shared responsibility.

Under Missoula City Ordinance 10.22.120, vehicles are in violation if they are parked for more than 120 hours or are stored on public streets for the primary purpose of sales, repair and/or storage.

Vehicle Complaints & Enforcement Overview (2025)

- **2004 complaints received**, an increase from 2024, reflecting heightened community awareness and reporting.
- **63 vehicles** referred to the Missoula County Junk Vehicle Program
 - 39 initiated by MPD
 - 22 requested by vehicle owners
 - 2 required immediate destruction
- **45 vehicles towed** to the MPD lot
 - 8 reclaimed by owners or finance companies
- **2 vehicles gone upon arrival**
- **29 vehicles sold** at the July 2025 Abandoned Vehicle Auction

Why It Matters

Every vehicle addressed represents more than enforcement, it represents:

- Clear access for emergency responders
- Safer streets for families and neighborhoods
- Reduced long-term disputes between neighbors
- A stronger, more responsive community partnership.

Community Impact

Over the past four years, the program has:

- Increased community reporting and engagement
- Improved response times and coordination
- Strengthened partnerships with Missoula County and local tow providers
- Delivered visible, lasting results in neighborhoods across the city



ABANDONED VEHICLE PROGRAM

Testimonials

Neighborhood Resident

"For years, our street had ongoing issues with abandoned vehicles that made it hard for emergency vehicles and even delivery drivers to get through. Within weeks, the situation was resolved, and our neighborhood finally feels safe and accessible again."

Local Homeowner

"I didn't realize how much one abandoned vehicle could impact a neighborhood until it was gone. MPD kept us informed every step of the way, and I truly felt like our concerns mattered."

Community Member & Small Business Owner

"As a business owner, accessibility is everything. The removal of abandoned vehicles near our location made a huge difference for our customers and deliveries. This program isn't just about vehicles, it's about improving the entire community."

2026 Auction - June 4, 2026

Vehicle list posted 10 days prior on the following:

- City of Missoula Website
- MPD Facebook Page
- City Hall
- Missoula County Courthouse
- Local tow companies
- *The Missoulian*

Want to be notified about the auction?

Submit your name, phone, and email to:
asbyb@ci.missoula.mt.us



A Shared Responsibility

The Abandoned Vehicle Program works because of you. Every report, every follow-up, every resolved case reflects a shared commitment to keeping Missoula safe, accessible, and thriving.

Together, we don't just remove vehicles, we restore communities.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT)

MPD's CIT Program advances community safety and wellbeing through cross-sector training, workforce development, technical assistance, and system coordination *before, during and after a behavioral health crisis.*



Theresa Williams (left front), LCSW, CMHPP, providing clinical supervision

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- Moved into new offices centrally located near Wyoming and Russell Streets.
- Developed and implemented two Crisis Intervention Partner (CIP) Training Sessions for nearly 40 social services and direct services professionals.
- Coordinated local emergency responders to develop and distribute Rapid Response Newsletters (1 per month) to keep local responders apprised of timely behavioral health crisis information. Rapid Response is distributed to about 300 contacts per month.
- Advanced our DOJ Connect & Protect Grant Initiative with All Nations Health Center and justice partners by moving from planning to implementation, including launching Critical Time Intervention and strengthening Care Traffic Control efforts.



Two-day Crisis Intervention Partner (CIP) training

- Coordinated and delivered a two-day Critical Time Intervention (CTI) training for more than 40 community professionals supporting individuals leaving psychiatric hospitalization, incarceration, homelessness, and other high-risk situations. CTI is an evidence-based model designed to reduce repeat crises and increase stabilization by strengthening connections to housing, treatment, and community support during critical transition periods. This training launched Missoula's CTI Pilot and enhanced collaboration between MPD and service providers.
- Hired MPD CIT's first full-time Behavioral Health Care Traffic Controller (CTC) staff member in December

this role works behind the scenes strengthening coordination between MPD and community providers and helping connect people in crisis to the most appropriate level of care. This position also lends expertise to Critical Time Intervention (CTI).

- Provided clinical supervision to seven University of Montana social work practicum students and two licensure candidates embedded across City and County partner agencies. Clinical supervision enhances community safety and wellbeing by building a skilled behavioral health workforce. This investment in the next generation of professionals helps with knowledge translation, skill-building, and best practices for addressing behavioral health crises before, during, and after a crisis. This early integration of skilled professionals into crisis and homelessness response systems helps support coordinated intervention, reduce calls for service, promotes alignment across professional expertise, reduces duplication of services, and eases system strain while saving public resources.

By The Numbers

Direct Service

- ◆ **247 Activities:** ~ 21 activities per month directing community members to behavioral health and social services supports.

Outreach Opportunities

- ◆ **31 Activities:** 458 interactions with community members through a wide variety of community outreach events.

Training

- ◆ **34 Trainings:** 463 trained community professionals through inclusive evidence-based trainings to be prepared and confident in the event of a behavioral health crisis.

Detective Division



Photo by Michael Rosling

Notable Cases

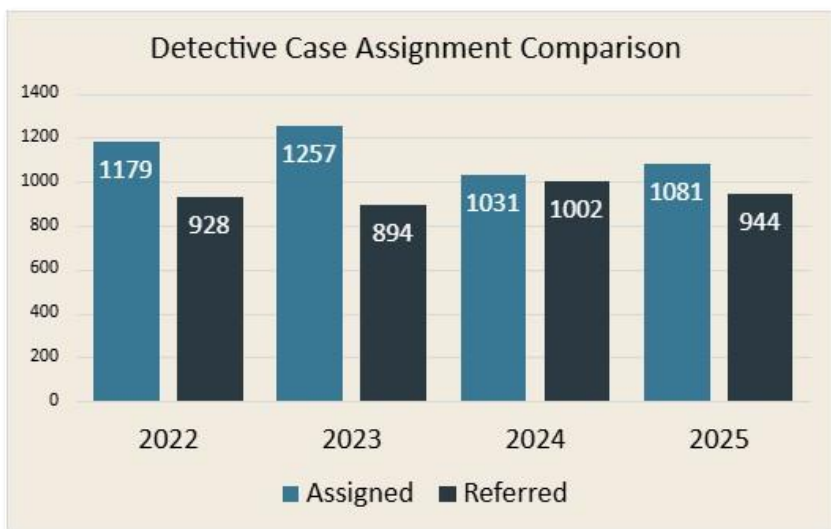
Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

Missoula Drug Task Force

Digital Forensics

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Missoula Police Department Detective Division is made up of 22 officers and 5 non-sworn staff, including one officer dedicated exclusively to digital forensics. The non-sworn staff consists of two transcriptionists, a digital evidence technician, a property technician, and a crime scene technician. The Division also benefits from the support of one University of Montana Police Department (UMPD) detective and one crime victim advocate (CVA) from the Community Justice Department. These co-located resources enhance victim-centered investigations and provide important coordination and communication between the University of Montana community and MPD. In 2025, detectives were assigned 1,081 investigations, with Felony Theft representing the most frequent type of investigation.



The graph illustrates the number of cases assigned to MPD Detectives for investigation, as well as those in which investigations established “probable cause” and were referred for prosecution. Beginning around 2022, MPD revised its procedure to allow certain cases to be referred directly from the Patrol Division to the County Attorney. These cases typically require no additional investigation and therefore do not need to be assigned to a detective. It is important to note that not every case is referred for prosecution. MPD must first establish “probable cause” or meet a stronger burden of proof showing that a suspect committed an offense. Cases that do not meet this standard are placed “Inactive” while awaiting further investigative information.

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Multi-State Identity Fraud Scheme Dismantled

Lead Detective Joe Burger

Detective Burger was assigned a case after **ALEXANDER RIOS** attempted to open a bank account under a false identity at a local financial institution. While this initially appeared to be an isolated incident, Detective Burger connected Rios to 13 additional cases investigated by the Missoula Police Department and the Missoula County Sheriff’s Office. Rios was subsequently arrested for passing over \$1,500 in fraudulent casino tickets. During the investigation, Detective Burger executed a search warrant on Rios’s vehicle and discovered a Bluetooth printer, numerous casino tickets likely printed by the device, and portions of temporary state identification cards. Rios was found to be creating identification cards using personal information such as mail, paystubs, Social Security cards, and birth or death certificates for at least 19 different individuals.

An arrest warrant was obtained, and Rios was taken into custody. At the time of arrest, he was in possession of \$550 in real cash, approximately \$10,000 in already printed casino tickets, \$3,200 in counterfeit money, dozens of blank stolen checks, numerous checks written for thousands of dollars, and altered or created identification cards for roughly 19 individuals. Based on reports from financial institutions, Rios was responsible for creating at least five fraudulent accounts, resulting in a total financial loss of \$16,910.46, in addition to multiple unsuccessful account attempts, a \$40,000 business loan application, a \$5,000 personal loan application, and another personal loan application for an unspecified amount.

Alexander Rios has pled guilty to Forgery by Common Scheme and Attempted Theft of Identity, both felonies. He is scheduled to be sentenced on April 21, 2026. Under the accepted plea, he will receive five years in prison followed by ten years of probation. Restitution will be ordered at sentencing, with the total amount yet to be determined. All other charges were dismissed as part of his plea agreement.

DETECTIVE DIVISION

Top 5 Investigated Case Assignments (Drug offenses not included)

Crimes Against Persons	Crimes Against Property
Felony Assault	Felony Theft
Felony Partner Family Member Assault (PFMA)/Strangulation	Burglary
Child Sex Crimes	Criminal Mischief (Vandalism)
Sexual Intercourse without Consent (SIWOC)/Adult Sex Crimes	Auto Theft
Child Abuse/Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)	Other (Internet Crimes & Fraud - Increased/Forgery & Counterfeit - Decreased)

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Woman Charged Following Missoula Restaurant Fire

Lead Detective Nathan Mattix

On March 19, 2025, officers were dispatched to a structure fire at 3521 Brooks Street, formerly the HuHot Mongolian Grill, which resulted in a total loss of the building. Following witness interviews and review of surveillance footage, a suspect description was obtained. Officer Tony Flor located a female matching the description and sent a picture to Detective Mattix, who responded with Detective Joe Burger to the location and identified the female as **AMY BIRK**. She was subsequently interviewed at the police department, and her clothing was seized. Detectives coordinated with the Missoula Fire Department during the investigation, and the County Attorney's Office ultimately charged Birk with Negligent Arson. Trial is currently pending.



Photo courtesy of the Missoula Fire Department

Photo: Firefighters respond to a structure fire at HuHot Mongolian Grill, battling flames and smoke

Man Arrested in Online Exploitation of Teen

Lead Detective Jesse Potter

In June of 2024, Child Protective Services reported to the police department a 15-year-old female was pregnant after meeting an unknown 27-year-old male online. Detective Potter executed search warrants and identified the suspect as **TYLER HULL**, ultimately obtaining an arrest warrant. Officers located Hull and took him into custody. Detective Potter subsequently located numerous images of Child Sexual Abuse Material on Hull's phone. In 2025, Hull was sentenced to 20 years all suspended for sexual encounters with a 15-year-old.

Swift Police Response Leads to Conviction in Assault Case

Lead Detective Nathan Griesse

Officers received a report of a female who had texted her mother a safe word indicating she was in trouble. A phone application and text messages permitted officers to locate the female victim and male suspect who were travelling in a vehicle. Officer Hansen Tarver conducted an exceptional interview and investigation, leading to the seizure of evidence and subsequent arrest of **NAQIBULLAH HUSSAINI**. Detective Griesse was assigned this investigation and conducted interviews and executed a search warrant. Hussaini was subsequently found Guilty in trial for Sexual Intercourse Without Consent, Assault with a Weapon, Strangulation, and Partner/Family Member Assault. An excellent job done by both the patrol and detective divisions, which was key for successful prosecution and conviction of Hussaini. Hussaini was sentenced to five years at Montana State Prison.

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Man Sentenced in Grocery Store Gun Threat Case

Lead Detective Ethan Smith

Corporal Kooper Guay responded with other officers for a report of a male brandishing a firearm towards another male within a grocery store. Upon arrival, Corporal Guay and patrol officers were able to conduct interviews and recover the firearm, which led to **SHAYDN MOSES** being arrested on scene for Assault with a Weapon.

The case was assigned to Detective Ethan Smith, who conducted additional interviews and obtained surveillance footage. Moses was subsequently charged in February with two counts of Assault with a Weapon, including a “gang enhancement” charge, after pointing a handgun at what he believed to be a rival gang member’s father and friend at a local grocery store.

Moses pled guilty in July and was sentenced to five years with the Department of Corrections, followed by 10 years’ probation.

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (ICAC)

Thousands of Illegal Files Lead to Child Exploitation Charges

Lead Detective Josh Harris

In March of 2023, Detective Harris received numerous Cybertips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Investigation into this ultimately led to search warrants being executed and an interview with **ELLIOT MILLER**. Miller was found to have thousands of files of child sexual abuse material on his phone. The County Attorney’s Office charged Miller with 10 counts of Sexual Abuse of Children. He was subsequently arrested on a warrant for those offenses and remains in custody pending trial.

Woman Pleads Guilty to Child Exploitation Charges

Lead Detective Josh Harris

In August of 2024, Detective Josh Harris received multiple Cybertips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children pertaining to the social media application KIK. Detective Harris obtained a search warrant for multiple KIK accounts and received the data in September of 2024. Detective Harris identified the user of the accounts as **KATELYN INGRAHAM**. Detective Harris discovered that the KIK accounts contained over 100 files of child sexual abuse material depicting children, as young as infants, being sexually abused by adults and 30 files of child sexual abuse material in which Ingraham had produced of two children under the age of five.

Detective Harris discovered that Ingraham had been receiving and distributing the files of child sexual abuse material, including the distribution of the produced files of child sexual abuse material and had engaged in sexual contact with a child. Detective Harris executed a search warrant at Ingraham's residence. Ingraham was subsequently charged with seven counts of Sexual Abuse of Children and pled guilty to all charges. Ingraham was sentenced to 40 years in prison.



DETECTIVE DIVISION

NOTABLE 2025 CONVICTIONS FOR PAST DETECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Case 2022-2950— Detective Jesse Potter

On February 9, 2026, TIMOTHY JAMES TELNAS was sentenced to 40 years with 20 suspended for prolonged sexual abuse of two children in 2010.

Case 2023-52340 - Detective Jesse Potter

On February 3, 2026, DE'ANGELO STEPHANE BELL plead guilty and received a sentence of 60 years in the Montana State Prison with 40 year parole restriction for Sexual Abuse of Children and Sexual Intercourse without Consent.

Case 2022-45758 - Detective Jesse Potter

On January 28, 2026 PATRICK HUGH CALFBOSSRIBS, JR. was sentenced to 20 years with 15 suspended for sexually abusing a 10-year old in a hotel room.

Missoula County Registered Offender Statistics

- Total Registered Offenders: 773

City of Missoula

560 offenders (72.4% of total)

- Sexual Offenders: 251
- Violent Offenders: 292
- Violent and Sexual: 17

Outside City (Missoula County)

213 offenders (27.6% of total)

- Sexual Offenders: 112
- Violent Offenders: 101

Source: Missoula County Detention Center

Case 2024-21022 Detective Ethan Smith

DALE ERIC HALE was found guilty of Sexual Intercourse Without Consent, three counts of Partner/Family Member Assault (PFMA), and unlawful restraint after a weeklong jury trial in May, 2025. On September 8, 2025, he was sentenced to 20 years in the MT state prison with 10 years suspended for the SIWOC charge; and credit for time served for two misdemeanor PFMA charges and unlawful restraint; and five years in prison with no time suspended for the third offense of PFMA, a felony.

DETECTIVE DIVISION

Missoula Drug Task Force



The Missoula Drug Task Force is a multijurisdictional team working under the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) consisting of federal, state, and local agencies working collaboratively to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations.

Missoula Drug Task Force—Drug Seizures

Type of Drug	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Marijuana	6603	4145	0	221	Grams
Butane Hash Oil	142	112	0	0	Grams
Meth	23,154	15,593	9,823	20,793	Grams
Cocaine	2,186	3,760	3,317	7,030	Grams
Heroin	1,170	294	164	0	Grams
Fentanyl (Powder)	0	13	302	414	Grams
Fentanyl (DU)	12,749	31,634	12,721	1,811	DU/Pills
Fentanyl (DU)	591	0	2,687	703	Grams
Prescriptions	237	213	328	41	DU/Pills

Dosage Units (DU) Explained

Due to safety concerns, whole bags of pills are being weighed and NOT counted, which gives us a third way of measuring fentanyl seizures. In an effort to convert the grams of DU to a pill count, we estimate that 1 gram = 10 pills. So 703 grams of DU is likely 7,030 DU or pills.

Fentanyl powder has mostly replaced the pills but opiate seizures are down while stimulant seizures have increased significantly. Drug seizures change year to year based on a variety of factors, including the drug supply and investigative opportunities.

Federal Conviction Secured in Major Drug Trafficking Case

Task Force Officer Brandon O’Dell and Detective Clark Nissley

The Missoula Drug Task Force, consisting of members from the DEA, ATF, Missoula Police, Missoula Sheriff’s Office, and Montana DCI, concluded a successful investigation that led to the federal conviction of **KEITH ANDRE GREEN** for multiple drug offenses. These offenses included multiple counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute controlled substances, as well as Possession of firearms and ammunition in furtherance of drug trafficking crimes.

During the investigation, the Missoula Drug Task Force seized a total of 4,205 fentanyl pills, approximately 4.8 pounds of methamphetamine, six firearms, and multiple rounds of ammunition.

Missoula Drug task Force Intercepts Major Meth and Fentanyl Operation

In June 2025, the Missoula Drug Task Force (MDTF)/HIDTA members initiated an investigation of three individuals in the greater Missoula, Montana region related to the distribution of dangerous drugs, specifically methamphetamine and fentanyl.

During a planned interdiction operation in July 2025, **DEVIN BOND**, **NATHANIAL SHOEN**, and **JOSEPH CIERLEY** were found in possession of approximately 2 lbs of methamphetamine, 2 oz of fentanyl powder, 1,700 fentanyl “M30” pills, and a handgun.

Subsequent operations in September 2025 led to the seizure of an additional approximate 1.25 lbs of methamphetamine and two more firearms.

All three individuals entered guilty pleas in the Federal District of Montana and are currently awaiting sentencing.

DETECTIVE DIVISION

Digital Forensics

Executive Overview

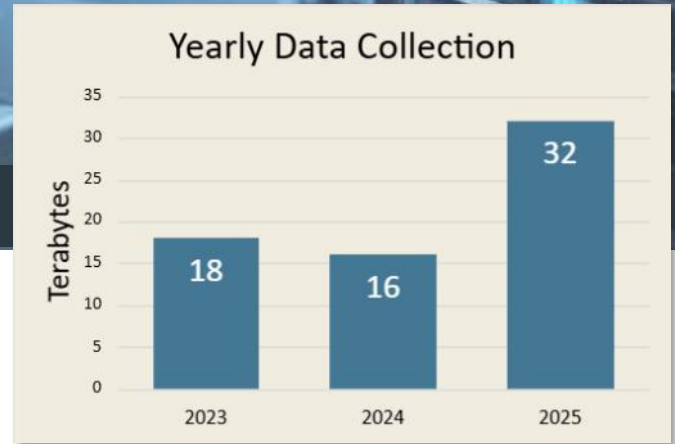
In 2025, the Digital Forensics Unit examined approximately **200 mobile and removable media devices**, including cellular phones, tablets, USB drives, and external hard drives.

While the number of devices examined has remained stable over the past three years, the volume of digital evidence has accelerated significantly. Total data collected measured 18 terabytes in 2023, 16 terabytes in 2024, and increased sharply to **32+ terabytes in 2025**—representing a 100% cumulative increase in the last two years. This pattern reflects accelerating device storage capacity and increased data density per examination, rather than an increase in device count.

Operational Impact

The accelerated growth in collected data directly impacts:

- Extraction and processing time per device
- Primary evidence storage capacity requirements
- Backup and redundancy infrastructure planning
- Long-term digital evidence retention strategy
- Case turnaround and workload sustainability

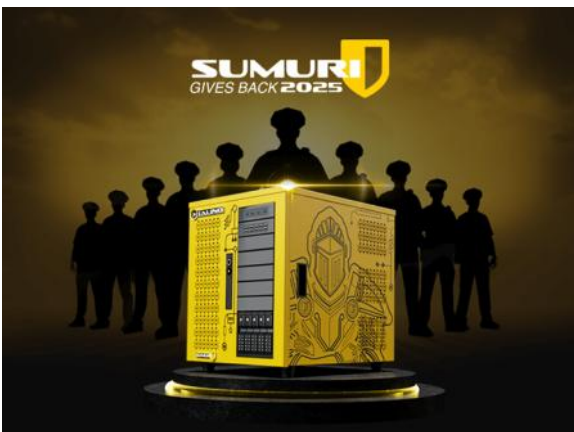


Program Development

The Digital Forensics Unit continues to support Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigations major felony cases, interagency assistance requests, and courtroom testimony. Since its establishment in 2020, the unit has matured into a high-capacity investigative resource supporting increasingly complex digital evidence analysis.

Infrastructure Outlook

If current acceleration trends continue, annual digital evidence accumulation is **projected to exceed 60 terabytes within two years**. Proactive planning for scalable storage architecture and redundancy is necessary to maintain operational effectiveness and prevent future backlog risk.



In December 2025, the Missoula Police Department (MPD) was nominated for and entered into Sumuri’s annual Talino Forensic Workstation giveaway. The workstation would have expanded the department’s capacity to upload large files to Axon and improved investigators’ ability to review digital evidence.

Following a competitive online vote, MPD finished just 683 votes behind the Lakeland Police Department. **We extend our congratulations to their team and thank Jessica Hyde of Hexordia for the nomination and support.**

Special Teams



Photo by Michael Rosling

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)

Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT)

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

SPECIAL TEAMS (SWAT)

Special Weapons and Tactics



Mission and Objective

The mission of the Missoula Police Department (MPD) Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) is to protect life.

The objective of MPD SWAT is to resolve higher risk police operations or crisis situations while minimizing the risk of injury or loss of life to parties involved, innocent bystanders, and residents of the Missoula Community.

This team is specifically designed to support and supplement the MPD's ability to respond to extraordinary events that carry a higher risk of injury and/or death.

Such events include but are not limited to:

- High-risk search/arrest warrant service
- Barricaded subjects
- Hostage situations and emergency hostage rescue
- In progress incidents of mass violence (Active Shooter)
- Riot/Civil Disturbance
- Terrorist Attacks

SWAT Incidents (2025)

8 Deployments / 2 Security Assists	
3	Homicide Suspects
2	Barricaded Subjects Armed with Weapons
1	Barricaded Subject with Potential Hostages
1	Pre-Planned High Risk Warrant Service (Narcotic Distribution)
1	Assist Mineral County Shots Fired/ Barricade Armed with a Weapon
2	Collaborative effort between multiple agencies to provide on site security at the Missoula International Airport while several hundred inmates from the Montana State Prison were transferred to various other prisons throughout the country.



Left: Drone image of the SWAT team safely apprehending a suspect

SPECIAL TEAMS (SWAT)

Special Weapons and Tactics cont'd...

The Missoula Police Department purchased a Lenco G3 BEARCAT armored rescue vehicle utilizing funds from a Department of Homeland Security grant obtained through Montana Disaster and Emergency Services in 2023. Acceptance of this grant was approved by the Chief of Police as well as the Mayor's Office and was subsequently approved unanimously by the Missoula City Council. No general fund dollars were used for this purchase.

RESCUE AND PROTECT

The primary purpose of this vehicle is rescue and protection, not enforcement. The BEARCAT provides a critical capability during natural disasters - including flooding, wildland-urban interface incidents, and other emergencies where debris, unstable environments, or potential threats make conventional vehicles unsafe. It is also used to protect officers, medical personnel, and civilians during high-risk warrant service and critical incidents, allowing responders to safely approach, evacuate, or render aid in situations where there is a credible risk of serious harm.

The Missoula Police Department has shared an armored vehicle with the Missoula County Sheriff's Office for nearly two decades (18 years). Shared use limits immediate access during concurrent incidents, which can delay response during time-critical events.

Additionally, the operational tempo for tactical and critical incident responses has increased significantly over the past several years. This reflects broader national and regional trends involving armed barricaded subjects, domestic violence incidents involving firearms, and other high-risk situations that require specialized equipment to resolve safely. Ensuring reliable access to modern protective equipment is a necessary component of responsible public safety planning.

The acquisition of this vehicle enhances the department's ability to respond to rare but high-consequence incidents while prioritizing the safety of officers and community members. Its use is governed by policy, training standards, and supervisory oversight, and it is deployed only when circumstances warrant its protective capabilities.



Lenco G3 BearCat



Bottom photo: Two officers riding on the outside of the BearCat

SPECIAL TEAMS (CNT)

Crisis Negotiations Team

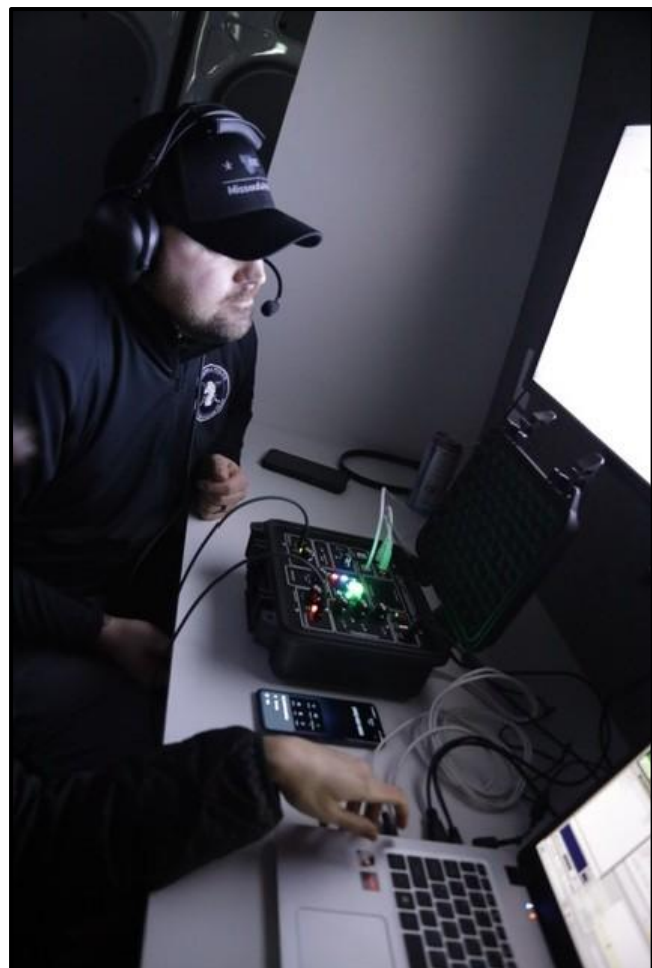


Mission and Objective

The mission of the Missoula Police Department Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) is to support the Missoula Police Department and SWAT team by safely and effectively mitigating crisis situations through communication and negotiation. CNT accomplishes this mission by maintaining a highly professional and disciplined negotiations team through additional training, equipment, and personnel. CNT members work in collaboration to de-escalate and effect safe surrender in critical situations to include but not limited to:

- **Barricaded Subjects**
- **Hostage Situations**
- **Violent and emotionally disturbed persons**
- **Persons in crisis**

The objective of the CNT is to peacefully resolve crisis situations while minimizing the risk of injury or loss of life to parties involved, innocent bystanders, and residents of the Missoula Community. The CNT accomplishes this by employing crisis intervention tactics, including de-escalation efforts, through communication while continually providing field and SWAT command elements with intelligence should tactical action be required.



- The Crisis Negotiations Team was called out in conjunction with SWAT to all eight deployments in 2025.
- All CNT members are Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained.

Photo: CNT members (left to right) Detective Kayla Chezick, Officer Brandon LaRocque, Detective Adam Bloomdahl, Officer Dylan Harris, Officer Kayla Smith, Sergeant Ryan Kamura, Detective Joe Burger, and Sergeant Meagan Bilbrey.

SPECIAL TEAMS (EOD)

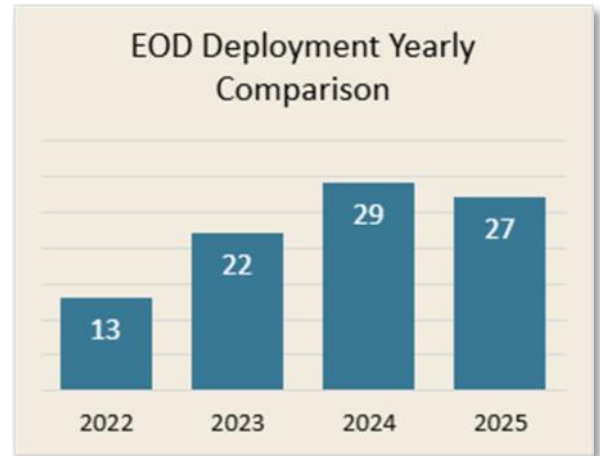


Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Mission and Objective

The mission of the Missoula Regional Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team (EOD) is to preserve life, limit destruction of property, and restore order during high-risk situations involving the use, or threatened use of explosives, nuclear, biological, chemical, or other hazardous elements.

EOD accomplishes this mission by maintaining a nationally accredited Bomb Squad staffed by members of the Missoula Police Department, Missoula County Sheriff's Office, and the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office; all of which are federally certified Bomb Technicians. Missoula EOD is a regional team which responds to explosive related calls throughout western Montana.



The Missoula Bomb Team **responded to 27 incidents in 2025**. These responses included incidents ranging all over western Montana.

The bomb team has also increased their training in CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives) oriented scenarios to mirror current national trends and needs.

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Troy - Multiple agencies responded to an old barn laden with nitroglycerin dynamite that had seeped into the wooden boards. The agencies coordinated together the safe destruction of the explosives, which necessitated the burning of the barn.

University of Montana - Picric Acid, an extremely volatile chemical, was located in a chemical lab on campus. The bomb team coordinated with U of M authorities and the Department of Emergency Services to safely remove the chemical from the lab where it was then taken off site and destroyed per protocol.

Kalispell - A vehicle was located by Kalispell Police Department after a suspect made statements about a possible destructive device in his car. A K9 was utilized and alerted on the vehicle, furthering suspicions that a device was present. The bomb team was called out where the vehicle was then assessed, searched, and the suspected explosives were removed.

Bonner - A property was burglarized where explosives were stolen. Investigators learned the location of the stolen explosives and coordinated with the bomb team to recover, and render the explosives safe.



*Top: Explosives
Right: Picric Acid
Bottom: Nitroglycerin dynamite*



Awards & Recognition



Photo by Michael Rosling

Awards and Recognition

Promotions and Retirements

In Memory

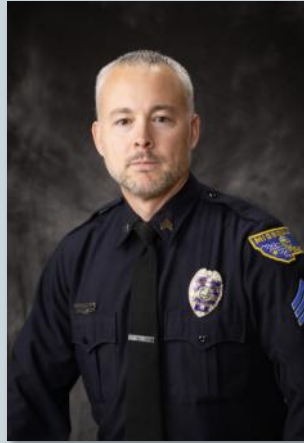
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Domestic Violence Awareness Officer of the Year



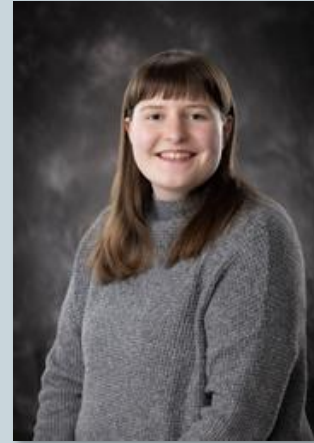
Officer Hansen Tarver

Exchange Club Officer of the Year



Sergeant Ryan Kamura

Civilian of the Year



Kathryn Paul

We recognize the members of the Missoula Police Department who, through various acts, have distinguished themselves as rising to the highest levels of service to our community and our organization.

Police Medal

Awarded for actions above and beyond the call of duty, but where the gallantry is of a lesser degree than for the Medal of Valor but performed with marked distinction.

Officer Paul Mandilian and Officer Nash O'Hara

For actions performed with marked distinction and above and beyond the call of duty during the response to a burglary in progress where the suspect was found to have self-inflicted, life-threatening wounds.

Lifesaving Medal

Awarded for the conspicuous actions of an officer leading to the saving of a human life.

Officer Kyle Ferris, Officer Dan Buchholtz, and Sergeant Canyon McKinstry

For their conspicuous actions resulting in the saving of a human life during their response to a burglary in progress where the suspect sustained self-inflicted, life-threatening injuries.

Officer AJ Bennett

For his conspicuous actions during response to a multiple person fentanyl overdose scene, leading to the saving of human life.

Meritorious Service Medal

Awarded for service that is distinguished by a succession of outstanding acts of achievement over a sustained period of time.

Officer Brian Vreeland

For a career that has been marked by unwavering professionalism, service, and dedication to the citizens of Missoula.

Judy Wang Lifetime Achievement Award

In recognition of a lifetime of extraordinary dedication, compassion, and leadership in the fight against domestic violence.



Detective Nate Griesse



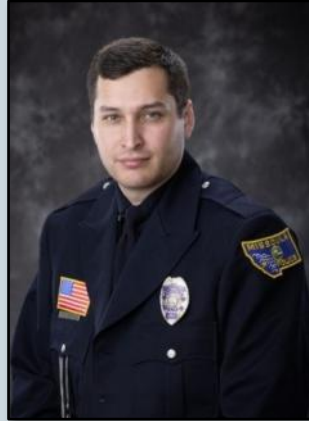
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Crisis Intervention Team Awards

For handling of specific crisis incidents and their implementation of crisis intervention principles into routine practice.



Sergeant Bryce Bare



Officer Randy Talksabout



Sergeant Charles Burton

Promotions

SERGEANT

- ◆ Casey Harvey
- ◆ Canyon McKinstry

CORPORAL

- ◆ Randy Long
- ◆ Kooper Guay
- ◆ Tyler Trowbridge



MISSOULA POLICE

Serving The Garden City

Retirements



Detective Guy Baker
35 years of service



Officer Brian Vreeland
20 years of service



Sergeant Mark Puddy
14 years of service



Sergeant Patrick Malone
20 years of service

In Remembrance

"A life well lived is a legacy - of joy and of pride, and of pleasure."

- Unknown



Chief Raymond Roehl
Hired: Apr - 55 Retired: Jan - 76

Chief Raymond Roehl

12/20/1930 - 4/9/2025

21 Years of Service

Ray was with the Missoula Police Department from April of 1955 through January of 1976. Ray retired as Chief of Police and was able to serve most of his career alongside his brother Herb Roehl.



Captain Clayton L. Gregory
Hired: Jun - 70 Retired: Jun - 90

Captain Clayton L. Gregory

9/17/1946 - 2/19/2025

20 Years of Service

Clay served with the Missoula Police Department from June of 1970 to June of 1990, retiring as the Captain of the Uniform Patrol Division.



Sergeant J.T. "Tom" Drinville
Hired: Nov - 59 Retired: Mar - 73

Sergeant James "Tom" Drinville

7/7/1937 - 2/10/2025

14 Years of Service

Tom served with the Missoula Police Department from November of 1959 to March of 1973, when an on-the-job injury forced him to leave police work. Tom retired from MPD as a Sergeant.

**We thank you for your service with the
Missoula Police Department.**