




City Manager's Office

May 1, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager   
Re: Berkeley Fire Open Data Portal & Incident Information Tools

The Berkeley Fire Department has built a public **Open Data Portal** (“SeeBFD”) where users can explore emergency response activity across the city. These tools help users understand **when and where incidents occur, how the department responds, and how activity changes over time.**

Visit: [SeeBFD.org](https://seebfd.org) (or [SeeBFD.com](https://seebfd.com))

*Improving transparency, operational awareness, and community understanding through GIS*

### **Start Here: Open Data Portal**

The **Open Data Portal** is the main entry point for all tools and information.

- View summary charts and key statistics
- Explore data through interactive dashboards and maps
- Download data through available tools

### **Explore the Tools**

#### **LIVE Incident Activity Dashboard (Near Real-Time)**

View active fire and EMS calls and unit status.

- Active incidents only - incidents are removed when cleared
- Updates every minute
- May take a few seconds to load and refresh as data updates

#### **Incident Explorer Dashboard (Historical Data)**

Explore past incidents and response trends.

- Filter by date, location, or type
- View response times and patterns
- Data updated daily
- Applying filters updates all maps, charts, and tables and may take a moment to refresh

### **Understand the Data**

- Data comes from the City's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system
- Incident types reflect **initial 911 call information** and may change as details are updated
- Data reflects real-time dispatch activity and may differ from finalized incident reports
- Locations are shown at the **block or intersection level** to protect privacy

### **Important to Know**

- This system is for informational purposes only
- It does not replace official reports or emergency communication
- For emergencies, call 911

Each tool includes additional help and definitions – review the Splash Screens, About, and FAQs tabs for more information.

cc: David White, Deputy City Manager  
David Sprague, Fire Chief  
Jenny Wong, City Auditor  
Farimah Brown, City Attorney  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager