

Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

December 2023



(All 7 of our EMT-Basic to EMT-Paramedic Students passed their National Registry Exam)

Fire Chief Report by Chief Jeremy Kopp

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a great holiday season!

Significant calls:

Wausau Fire responded to 5 significant calls in the month of December that were fire and rescue related. Two of them were structure fires in the city and one was a semi-trailer fire. Two ice/water rescues by mutual aid request in Mosinee and in the SAFER district.

Recruitment and Retention:

Our transitional year has completed with the addition of our EMT basic students becoming Paramedics and starting the academy in January. These 8 Medics will start riding counting towards staffing in March after the 10 days riding with an FTO. Three more paramedic students were interviewed by the PFC and are in the process of getting a conditional offer. They will all complete their paramedic course in May and will start their academy in June. This leaves us two short of our goal of 74 personnel and a job posting ending January 14th. We would like to increase our minimum staffing levels after the 1st quarter of 2024 to save on overtime costs and get closer to our new staffing levels.

Fleet:

E-3 needs to go to Custom Fire and is scheduled for January 29th to get the water tank leak fixed under warranty. E-1 will be going to Cummins as soon as possible for a small oil leak under warranty as well. E-2 has been having some pump issues and pump heater issues that DPW is working on. Ladder 2 is getting some warranty work done on the generator that has been troublesome and should be completed in January.

Buildings and Grounds:

The apparatus bay floor was completed in December and is awaiting the purchase of new lockers and gear washer/dryer to be purchased in January. The entire living quarters also received a fresh coat of paint, thank you to our building maintenance crew.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or stop by my office. 715-261-7901.

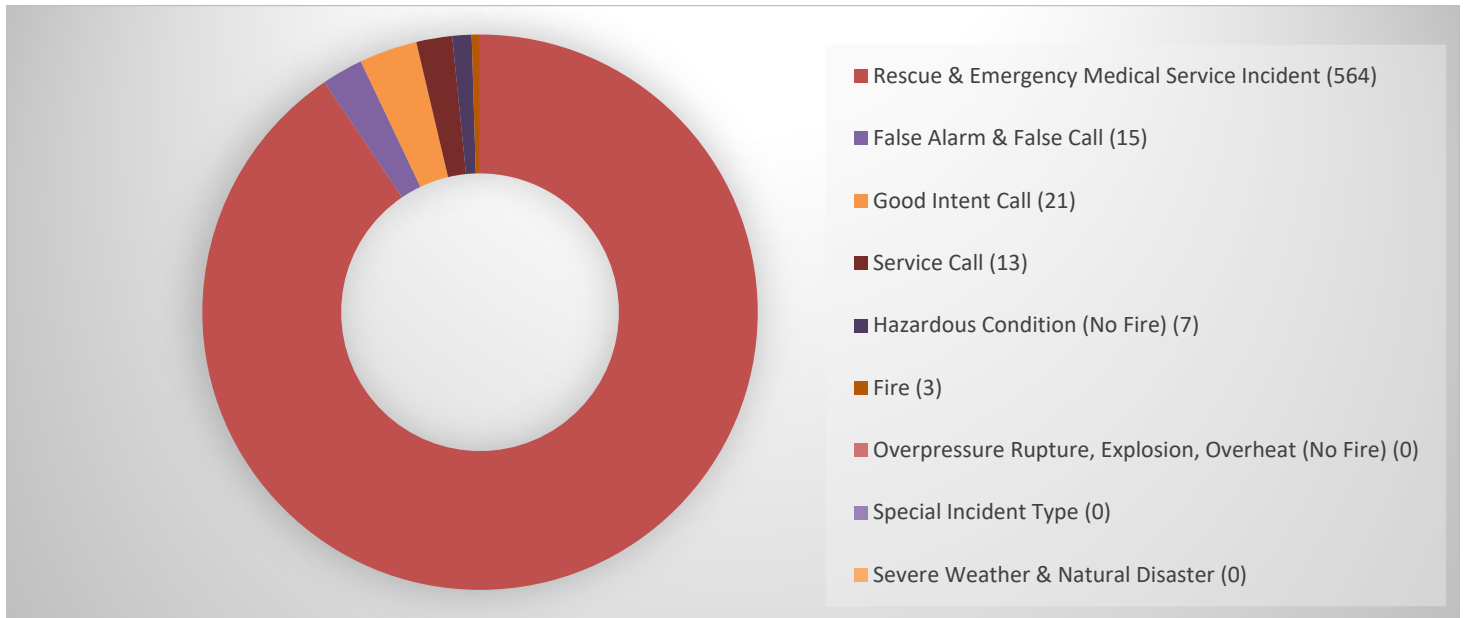
Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
12/9/2023	256 Wyatt Street	City of Wausau	F23002154	Building fire
12/14/2023	7500 Stewart Avenue	City of Wausau	F23002184	Road freight or transport vehicle fire
12/27/2023	815 North 27th Avenue	City of Wausau	F23002257	Building fire

Monthly NFIRS Incident Comparison:

	2023	2022	2021	% Of Change from 2022 to 2023
January	579	591	502	-2.03%
February	506	507	456	-0.20%
March	551	540	497	2.04%
April	527	498	503	5.82%
May	574	574	556	0.00%
June	553	590	583	-6.27%
July	679	531	587	27.87%
August	571	600	577	-4.83%
September	548	524	525	4.58%
October	616	545	552	13.03%

November	624	574	562	8.71%
December	623	612	590	1.80%
TOTAL	6951	6686	6490	3.96%



Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	3
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	1
City of Colby	0	0.00%	0
City of Merrill	2	0.32%	6
City Of Mosinee	1	0.16%	1
City Of Schofield	0	0.00%	1
City Of Wausau	580	93.10%	6,447
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Rosholt	0	0.00%	1
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Berlin	2	0.32%	36
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Cassel	0	0.00%	5
Town Of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	1
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Hamburg	0	0.00%	1
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Hewitt	1	0.16%	24
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	3
Town of Knowlton	0	0.00%	1

Town Of Marathon	0	0.00%	2
Town Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	2
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	5
Town Of Rietbrock	1	0.16%	3
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Stettin	0	0.00%	2
Town Of Texas	4	0.64%	50
Town Of Wausau	16	2.57%	132
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Wien	0	0.00%	3
Village Of Athens	0	0.00%	6
Village Of Brokaw	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Edgar	1	0.16%	6
Village of Hatley	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	2
Village Of Maine	9	1.44%	148
Village Of Marathon City	2	0.32%	12
Village Of Rib Mountain	2	0.32%	10
Village Of Rothschild	0	0.00%	2
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Weston	2	0.32%	29
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	623	100.00%	6,951

Activity/Incident Hours Committed:

Category	Time Committed
NFIRS Incidents	117:38:26 Hours
EMS Incidents	829:47:33 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	855.5 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	1,838 Hours

Aid Responses:

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	3
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	4
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	23
Automatic Aid Given – Fire	1
Mutual Aid Received – EMS	1
Mutual Aid Received – Fire	0
Automatic Aid Received – EMS	0
Automatic Aid Received – Fire	0
Other Aid Given – EMS	0

Request for EMS from Other Agencies to the City of Wausau (not Aid)	1
Request for Fire from Other Agencies to the City of Wausau (not Aid)	0
Total Non-Aid Incidents (outside City with no other agency response)	11

EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

EMS Patient Experience

The EMS Division would like to share our patient care experience report for November. Our overall score was **93.38%**. I would like to highlight our top five highest scores.



Your Score

93.38

Your Patients in this Report

25

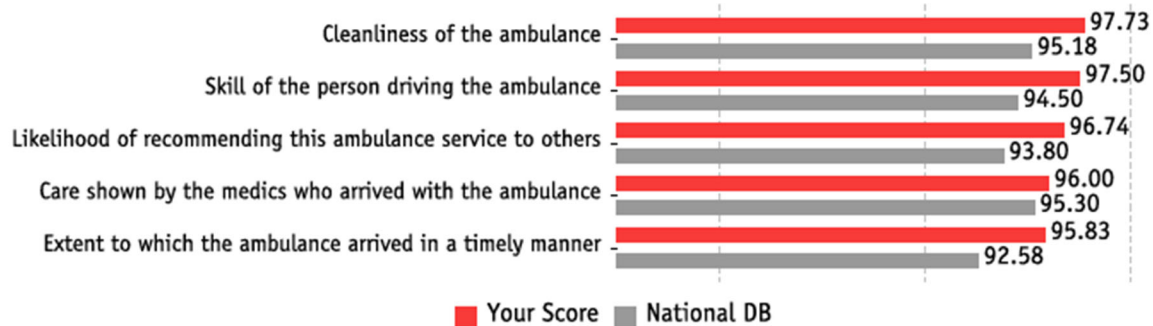
Total Patients in this Report

4,240

Total EMS Organizations

228

5 Highest Scores



Current Initiative

As mentioned in last month's report, since completing our CAAS accreditation, the EMS Division has been moving towards its new initiative to become a **HEARTSafe Community!** We have teamed up with the Marathon County Parks department to implement the first phase of our initiative which is to place public access AEDs outside our fire stations, in some parks, pools, and the 400 Block. We are meeting with the Community Foundation to seek their assistance in funding some of these first stations. These units are called "Save Stations."

SaveStation was founded by a group of likeminded individuals who saw the need to work together to create an easy to identify AED housing station so that the PUBLIC could quickly find any AED.



Please stay tuned as this initiative moves forward!

New Initiative

Another initiative is called the **Project ADAM**. I am very excited about this initiative! Project ADAM began in 1999 in Wisconsin after the death of Adam Lemel, who was just 17-years-old when he collapsed and died while playing basketball. Adam suffered a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), in which ventricular fibrillation occurred, a condition in which the ventricles cannot pump blood into the body. Defibrillation, or an AED, could have saved his life. Adam’s parents, Patty and Joe, teamed up with Children’s Wisconsin to create Project ADAM.

While sudden cardiac arrest is uncommon in young people, it sadly does happen. And it’s exactly that — sudden and unexpected. But, immediate CPR and the availability of an AED can double or triple a person’s chance of survival. So while you can’t predict when one might strike, you can plan your response. That’s where Project ADAM is making a difference.

Project ADAM is a nationwide initiative that has saved the lives of more than 200 children, adolescents and adults who went into sudden cardiac arrest. Today, there are 38 Project ADAM affiliated sites in 29 states. I will be reaching out to the Wausau School District Superintendent to see how the fire department can assist them in becoming a Heart Safe School.



CNN Photo by Jiu Stock
Adam Lemel helped Whitefish Bay cop the WIAA Division 2 state team tennis championship over the weekend.



Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Reports	% of Reports	# of Reports – YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	3
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	1
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	1
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	1
City of Wausau	539	93.41%	5,809
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	1
Town of Berlin	2	0.35%	37
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Cassel	0	0.00%	5
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	1
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hamburg	0	0.00%	1
Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	1
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hewitt	1	0.17%	27
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	3
Town of Knowlton	0	0.00%	1
Town of Marathon	0	0.00%	2
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	1
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	1
Town of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	5
Town of Rietbrock	1	0.17%	3
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	1
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	2
Town of Texas	4	0.69%	54
Town of Wausau	16	2.77%	136
Town of Wien	0	0.00%	3
Village of Athens	0	0.00%	7
Village of Edgar	1	0.17%	4
Village of Hatley	0	0.00%	1
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	1
Village of Maine	9	1.56%	151
Village of Marathon City	2	0.35%	12
Village of Rib Mountain	1	0.17%	8
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	1
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village of Weston	1	0.17%	27
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	577	100.00%	6,313

Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

December Scheduled Training:

A brief breakdown of our scheduled activities follows:

- Protecting Fire Scene Evidence
- Standard Operating Guideline Review
- Technical Rescue Equipment Inventory, Maintenance, and Familiarization
- Haz-Mat, Unknown Substance Mitigation

Protecting Fire Scene Evidence

One of the not-so-glamorous trainings we perform annually or semi-annually is on protecting scene evidence. During response, on arrival, and once on scene and initiating mitigation steps, we must be aware that the fire may be involved in civil or criminal litigation. Our incident priorities are always Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, and Property Conservation, but how we perform these impacts the aftermath for others. Our members are trained to preserve the scene and potential evidence as best as possible while still quickly engaging the fire and performing extinguishment and overhaul. By preserving the scene, our investigators are more likely to determine an origin and cause of the fire to bring closure to the owners, tenants, and even the community at times. Through this drill, each member of the organization is taught and reminded of the methods we can take to ensure the scene is treated respectfully while still addressing our incident priorities.

Standard Operating Guideline Review

With hundreds of policies and procedures throughout the organization and various levels of knowledge and proficiency with them, we schedule time for members to review what they need. Company officers are encouraged to select a few documents that they have seen need refreshing and then present them to the company or crew to improve knowledge and in some cases, compliance. During the training each member is then encouraged to view our Lexipol management system and select a few in which they identify a personal need to review. These steps and this training is above and beyond the minimum requirement of each member signing off on new items when issued.

Technical Rescue Equipment Inventory, Maintenance, and Familiarization

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard, 2500, requires inspection and maintenance of our technical rescue equipment on a minimum of an annual basis. By assigning a training session to all members, they review the equipment, its location, and inspect it for any issues. This month, all members spent time assessing what we have and its readiness for the next incident. To date, no deficiencies have been found in our current cache.

Haz-Mat, Unknown Substance Mitigation

As a State Level-Two response team for hazardous materials, we take measures to maintain proficiency for a wide-range of possible incidents. This month, each crew was directed to identify an unknown substance as presented by the state team members. Haz-Mat Ops and Tech personnel then worked through our various identification methods to first determine what the substance was, and then begin to mitigate what it would cause if in a true incident.

Recruit Academy

Our final recruit academy of 2023 is winding down; however, the recruits are still hard at work. In the past month, they have been working through vast EMS, Fire, and Rescue concepts. Each of the drills we utilize in recruit school are intended to improve and assess proficiency in individual and team settings relating to essential job functions and job performance requirements.



Above Left: Recruits practice with their SCBA with low dexterity and no visibility.
Above Right: Recruits perform survival drills with limited visibility (whited out masks)



Above: Recruits perform ground ladder tasks and search and rescue drills to locate and rescue victims.



Above: Recruits train on hose deployment and advancement techniques. Who would think we could be without a coat in December?

Crew-Initiated Training

Following certain calls that present unique challenges or incidents with specific requirements, the crews often try to recreate the conditions and try to improve on the methods used. In this case, the images below were an attempt to replicate some of the circumstances around a recent ice rescue. What crews learned was that the methods used during the actual rescue were the best options possible. If the conditions would have been different, the approach could be changed. However, this is reassuring that our training in multiple options and allowing our members to critically think through complex rescue situations will often result in the best possible outcomes.



Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	823	74.67%	7,014.20
Driver/Operator Training	84.5	7.67%	1,126.25
Facilities Training	0	0.00%	48
Hazardous Materials Training	66.5	6.03%	537.5
Misc Training	0	0.00%	55.25
Officer Training	16.5	1.50%	765.95
Specialty Training	111.75	10.14%	1,370
Total	1102.25	100.00%	10,917.15

Training Categories:

Company Training – General firefighting training

Officer Training – Included leadership, management, supervision, and tactical considerations

Driver/Operator Training – Operation of fire apparatus

Hazardous Materials Training – How to mitigate the leak or spill of hazardous substances

Specialty Training – Rope, confined space, trench, collapse, ice, water, and other special rescues.

Facilities Training – Training at a live-burn facility (may include off-duty time)

Misc Training – Any other training category such as software, administrative, etc.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Admin Training	24	3.26%	133.5
EMS Training	651.5	88.55%	4,312.25
Fire Instructor Training	60.25	8.19%	596
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	28
Investigation Training	0	0.00%	128.5
Total	735.75	100.00%	5,198.25

Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

Inspections: Throughout the month of December, we inspected 308 public buildings and places of employment. We had 33 properties with Fire Code Violations, more specifically 34.1% being overdue fire extinguisher annual maintenance, and 13.6% being overdue vent hood cleaning service. These properties will require follow-up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted three consultation inspections for the

month. These entailed consulting for Fire Alarm Systems and Knox Box key updates. We also received and reviewed 81 reports through the Compliance Engine for services and maintenance of fire protection systems at various businesses.

Investigations: There were two fire investigations performed during the month. The first was a fire originating in a detached garage. This was determined to be the result of burning improper materials and a faultily vented wood stove. The second was an attached garage that appeared to be the result of the overloading of an outlet.

Public Outreach: Throughout December we had several outreach opportunities. We witnessed and advised on three fire drills at Elementary Schools. New smoke alarms and a CO detector were also installed in one private residence with a total of six smoke alarms and two CO detectors placed. The Prevention Division provided our “Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention” services for one child throughout this month. We hosted a thirteen-year-old from Weston who had been starting fires. He was referred to us by Social Services when his family’s mobile home was finally lit on fire. We were contacted by Social Services to see if we would be willing to provide our services simply because SAFER Fire Department does not provide this service.

Education: There were no formal educational classes attended by the Prevention Division during the month of December.



Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Monthly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	276	2,911
Re-inspections	26	329
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	6	61
Total Inspections	308	3,301
Fire Investigations	2	22
Inspection Department Activities	Number	YTD
Public Engagement Activities	5	114