

Wausau Fire Department Quarterly Report

Quarter 2 –2024



(Wausau Fire Personnel conducted Live Fire Training in May)

Fire Chief Report by Chief Jeremy Kopp

Introduction

This report covers the period from April to June 2024 for the Wausau Fire Department. Despite facing significant challenges, we have achieved notable milestones and made progress towards our goals.

Operational Challenges

The weather during this quarter has presented unique challenges, particularly with heavy rainfall leading to high water levels and swift river currents. These conditions have required heightened readiness for water rescues, utilizing our specialized equipment and training to navigate extreme environments effectively.

Leadership Reflections

As I approach my 6-month mark as Chief, I reflect on the lessons learned and the accomplishments of our department. I am immensely proud of our team and their daily contributions to our community.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Our partnership with NTC continues to strengthen, with ongoing valuable training opportunities. Collaboration with Marathon County departments has also provided significant benefits, enhancing our operational capabilities.

Community Care Paramedic Position

The Community Care Paramedic position has been posted, and we anticipate onboarding in August. This role will showcase the importance of community healthcare partnerships and the positive impact on our community.

Recruitment and Retention

While making progress in recruitment strategies, retention remains a challenge. We've experienced 3 resignations this quarter, including 2 from last year's paramedic class cohort with NTC. We are actively hiring, and new recruits are expected to start in late August. We await news on the Congressional Spending Request, which is crucial for recruitment efforts in Wausau.

Facilities and Infrastructure

The conceptual design phase of the Central Fire Station is nearing completion, with 5 Bugles providing valuable input for an optimal layout. Mayor Diny and Alders Rasmussen and Martins have contributed significantly to this process. Next steps include the architectural design phase, supported by a Capitol Improvement request. The current station requires updates and repairs identified in the facility assessment report, highlighting critical infrastructure needs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the second quarter of 2024 has been marked by both challenges and achievements for the Wausau Fire Department. We continue to prioritize readiness, community partnerships, and infrastructure improvements to better serve our community. As always if you have any questions feel free to call or stop in.

Fire Operations Report by Deputy Chief Justin Pluess

As Deputy Chief of the Wausau Fire Department, I am pleased to present the second quarterly report for 2024. This report covers a range of activities and updates from April to June, highlighting our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. Throughout this period, we have focused on addressing critical operational needs, enhancing our training programs, and maintaining our equipment to the highest standards. We continue to work diligently on recruitment and promotion processes to ensure our department is staffed with the most capable and dedicated personnel. Our efforts extend to community engagement and public safety initiatives that foster a safer environment for all residents. Below are detailed updates on our fleet, facilities, staffing, training, and significant incidents that underscore the importance of our department's role in public safety.

Fleet:

The full investigation into the Ladder 2 incident continues. A comprehensive review was prefomed June 24th, involving representatives from CIVMIC, the apparatus manufacturer (Stupehn), the hydraulic manufacturer (Kraft Fluid), and legal counsel for the injured firefighter. We are committed to transparency and ensuring the highest safety and operational standards. Additionally, Command Ladder Testing has successfully undergone the NFPA 5-year inspection, and we have scheduled another test with Great Lakes Testing to further verify its condition. Engine 3's water tank, which is under warranty, is leaking water and has to be refilled daily. Engine 3 is scheduled for repair.



Committees

To help us achieve our departmental goals and objectives, we have established several new committees:

- Fire Operations Committee
- EMS Operations Committee
- Uniform Committee
- Social Media Committee

In addition to these new committees, our existing PEER Focus and Health and Safety committees continue to play a vital role in our continuous improvement efforts. These committees will be instrumental in driving progress and ensuring that we meet our strategic objectives.

Buildings and Grounds:

Station 3 has recently installed a turnout gear washer and dryer, enabling firefighters to clean their gear after fires and reduce carcinogen exposure. This is part of our ongoing efforts to reduce the risk of cancer among our firefighters.



Chief Kopp, Deputy Chief Pluess, Mayor Diny, Alder Rasmussen, Alder Martins, and representatives from Fire Bugles have been meeting to identify the needs and demands for a new Station 1. A needs assessment has been conducted to help Fire Bugles create a conceptual design. A station building committee will likely be formed in the near future.

Fire Department Staffing

We are pleased to report that we recently graduated three new firefighters from our recruit academy, adding much-needed personnel to our crews. While we remain several firefighters below our ideal staffing level, we are encouraged by our current hiring process and anticipate recruiting again soon. Additionally, two promising candidates are currently undergoing testing and assessments, with a potential hiring date in July.



Our staffing situation has been challenging, with more individuals leaving the WFD than new applicants joining, increasing workloads for everyone. Getting WFD to full staffing is management's top priority. We are exploring various options, including visiting Northcentral Technical College's paramedic class for face-to-face recruiting. Job postings have been expanded to multiple platforms, including Indeed, Governmentjobs.com, Handshake (WI tech colleges), the Wisconsin Chiefs' website, Glassdoor, the League of Municipalities, Firejobs.com, LinkedIn, the WI Job Center, and Facebook. We are committed to finding effective solutions to our staffing challenges.



Fire Lieutenant Promotion Process

The promotion process for Lieutenant positions is well underway. On June 26th, we will be hosting an assessment center featuring four tactical exercises and an oral interview. This rigorous process ensures we select the most qualified individuals for leadership roles within the department.

Live Fire Training Success

In May, we conducted a highly successful three-day live fire training burn. This extensive training session provided invaluable hands-on experience for our firefighters, allowing them to practice handling real-world fire conditions in a controlled and safe environment. This type of practical training is crucial for honing the skills necessary for effective and safe fire suppression and rescue operations.



Additionally, the training session fostered valuable collaboration with our investigative partners, including the Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and the State Fire Marshal's office. Our firefighters had the unique opportunity to observe DCI's highly trained arson dogs and cadaver dogs in action, which provided insights into the investigative processes that follow fire incidents. The presence of these specialized units enhanced the realism of the training and underscored the importance of inter-agency cooperation during emergency responses. Overall, this training not only improved our operational readiness but also strengthened our partnerships with key investigative agencies, ensuring a more coordinated and effective approach to fire and emergency management in the future.



Community Care Paramedic

We are thrilled to announce that the Community Care Paramedic (CCP) position has been approved and funded, thanks to the generous support from both the Community Foundation and the Aspirus Foundation. The Wausau Fire Department's Community Care Paramedic Program is dedicated to addressing the evolving healthcare needs of our community. Leveraging the skills and expertise of paramedics, this proactive initiative aims to enhance the well-being and safety of residents through advanced care, preventive services, and community outreach.

The Community Care Paramedic Program will have an initial focus on fall prevention and overall health improvement. Community care paramedics will conduct home visits to assess fall risks, evaluate living environments, and develop personalized fall prevention strategies tailored to each individual's needs. They will also organize educational sessions on fall prevention techniques, medication management, and home safety modifications to empower residents with the knowledge and skills to reduce their risk of falls. Through partnerships with local healthcare providers, pharmacies, and community organizations, the program will facilitate access to healthcare services, medication assistance programs, and other resources to support individuals in maintaining their health and independence. Guided by the motto "Empowering Health, Embracing Humanity," the program places a strong emphasis on serving underserved populations and addressing critical issues such as fall prevention among vulnerable individuals.

Summary of Significant Incidents - Wausau Fire Department (WFD) Second Quarterly Report 2024

April 2, 2024: WFD responded to a vehicle fire incident involving a Dodge pickup powered by compress liquid propane. Upon arrival, there was very light smoke coming from under the hood, but no active fire. The owner had successfully extinguished the fire using his own extinguisher and had shut off an LP tank in the truck bed prior to our arrival. After ensuring the fire was out no further issues or problems were encountered.

April 4, 2024: The Wausau Fire Department responded to a structure fire at Lazy Acres Mobile Home Park. Dispatch informed WFD that no residents were home, but there were multiple animals inside. A neighbor noticed a smoke detector was sounding and called 911. Upon arrival, there was no visible smoke or fire from the exterior, but inside crews found light smoke and cardboard ashes on the stovetop. Crews ventilated the building and ensured all animals were safe. This incident highlights the importance of smoke detectors and community vigilance in preventing potential disasters.

April 16, 2024: WFD's Engine 1 (E1) was dispatched for a Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) call to assist SAFER with a grass fire. Upon arrival, E1 contacted SAFER command and was assigned to address a grass fire in the median of Highway 29. E1 maneuvered to an upwind position, pulled a cross lay, and used 700 gallons of water to extinguish the fire. Additionally, E1 filled SAFER's small UTV before being cleared by SAFER command. The crew returned to service without incident or injuries.

April 16, 2024 (Second Significant Incident): WFD crews responded to a possible structure fire at Wausau West High School, where smoke was reported in the metal shop. Upon arrival, found a large amount of smoke emanating from the school. The entire high school was filled with smoke. WFD identified the source of smoke and mitigated the fire hazard, ensuring the safety of students and staff. The smoke was contributed to a fire in the dust collector system filters due to a student burning wooden handles for a project. WFD provided guidance to maintenance for system inspection and maintenance, highlighting proactive measures for fire prevention.

April 27, 2024: FD responded to a structure fire at 709 McIntosh St. following reports of a stove explosion. Upon arrival, there were no visible flames or smoke. The tenants had already evacuated and reported the stove fire was out. Inside, the crew found the stove with burn marks and shattered glass, and a haze of smoke throughout the first floor. They unplugged and removed the stove, ventilated the house, and ensured it was safe to occupy. The tenants reported ongoing issues with the stove, which had led to the fire.

April 28, 2024: WFD responded to a structure fire at a 1 1/2 story residential home located at 500 block of E Wausau Ave. Upon arrival, heavy smoke was visible, but no flames were immediately seen. A car was in the driveway, but no one was outside. Crews went into rescue mode and pulled a 1 3/4-inch line to the front door and requested a water supply. A walk-around revealed fire in the soffit areas on the B and C sides of the roof. Entry was made through the front door for a primary search, encountering heavy hot smoke but finding no occupants. Command confirmed all residents were out of the building. As conditions worsened, the crew exited, and additional lines were deployed to the rear. The operation switched to a defensive mode, using two lines and Truck 1's aerial for water application. Overhaul was performed until the fire was extinguished, and all units returned to service. The fire is under investigation by the inspection bureau. This incident highlights the fire department's critical role in protecting public safety through swift and effective response.

May 5, 2024: WFD responded to a structure fire at a two-story wood-frame residence in the 1,000 block of S. 3rd Ave. Upon arrival, heavy smoke was visible from the front door, and significant fire activity was noted inside. Occupants outside reported the fire originated in a living room, and while all humans were safely out, a cat was possibly still inside on the second floor.

The crew deployed a 1.75-inch pre-connect hose to the front door and initiated an attack, applying water from the front porch into the living room, successfully knocking down the main body of the fire. Concurrently, a primary search was conducted on the first floor. The crew advanced to the second floor, encountering heavy smoke. A split search led to the discovery of a deceased cat near the kitchen and a pet snake was found alive on the second floor. Both pets were returned to the occupants. The scene was handed over to the Fire Marshal and law enforcement for further investigation.

June 1, 2024: WFD responded to a fire alarm at a hotel, with dispatch indicating a possible fire in the laundry room. The response was upgraded to a full structure fire call. Upon arrival, hotel evacuation was underway, but no smoke or flames were visible from the exterior.

WFD crews located a fire in the laundry/storage area behind the main desk. The fire was quickly extinguished, and investigation indicated that the fire originated from a ceiling light fixture, which had burned and melted plastic that fell onto a utility cart of paper products below. Using a thermal imaging camera (TIC), no fire extension was detected. Positive pressure ventilation (PPV) was performed, and power to the room was shut down by the General Manager. Air monitoring showed safe levels outside the room. The room was secured, and staff were instructed to keep the electrical power off and monitor the area until maintenance arrived. This incident underscores the fire department's vital role in public safety, quickly managing potential hazards and ensuring the safety of both occupants and property.

June 02, 2024: WFD crews were dispatched to a residential structure fire at a two-story home in the 300 block of N 5th Ave. Upon arrival, light smoke was visible, and residents were standing outside. A 1 3/4-inch line was deployed to the front of the house. During the walk-around, heavy smoke was observed inside the second-story windows and coming from the roof's gable ends.

Entry was made through the front door, where light smoke was present on the first floor. Ascending the stairs, the crew encountered heavy smoke and heat on the second floor. Using a thermal imaging camera (TIC) with limited success, they located the fire in a back room and began battling the fire. An additional fire was in an adjacent bathroom wall and floor area. Overhaul operations commenced to ensure all fire was extinguished.

June 18, 2024: WFD responded to a vehicle fire at the intersection of N12th St/E Wausau Ave. Upon arrival, the vehicle was not initially located, prompting a thorough search by all responding units. After approximately 10 minutes of searching, BA1 and R1 cleared the call. Dispatch then provided the correct location, across from Wausau Crane, about nine blocks further east. E3 and M3 arrived to find a bystander who had attempted to extinguish the fire. WFD crews ensured the fire was fully extinguished.

June 25, 2024: WFD provided mutual aid to SAFER for a structure fire. Upon arrival, Truck 1 (T1) was directed to assist with manpower. The SAFER crew had extinguished a fire in a cupola atop the building and indicated that the fire was out. WFD crews accessed the roof via a ground ladder and used a thermal imaging camera to verify the fire was completely extinguished and that there was no penetration to the apartments below. After confirming the area was secure and free of additional fire hazards, the crew reported the conditions to command. Subsequently, we were released to return to service. This incident underscores the fire department's commitment to public safety through effective collaboration of mutual aid agreements.

June 25, 2024 (Second Significant Event):: WFD responded to a structure fire at a 1 1/2 story residence in the 700 block of Stark St. Upon arrival, light smoke was visible from the rear door. The crew made entry through the side C door and encountered medium smoke on the first floor. The fire had damaged a TV and the cabinet above. Ventilation was initiated, and the TV and cabinet were removed to the deck. After approximately 20 minutes of ventilation, the atmosphere was verified clear using the QRAE gas meter.

June 30, 2024: WFD responded to a structure fire with possible occupants inside a 1 1/2 story wood-frame residence located in the 800 block of Plumer St. Upon arrival, smoke was visible from all sides of the structure. A 360-degree survey revealed heavy smoke from the windows on both floors and fire in the Alpha/Delta corner room. Law enforcement on scene indicated a potential occupant inside.

WFD crews initiated fire suppression and search operations on the first floor, continuing to the basement. Despite heavy smoke and intense heat, they applied water and conducted a search. The basement search was partially hindered by limited access. Hydraulic ventilation was performed on the Charlie side, and positive pressure ventilation (PPV) was initiated, improving conditions slightly.

A primary search of the first and second floors was completed. After exiting due to air supply limits, the crew reported to Engine 3. A second entry ensured extinguished in the basement. The scene was secured and handed over to law enforcement to secure the scene till fire investigators could begin the investigation.

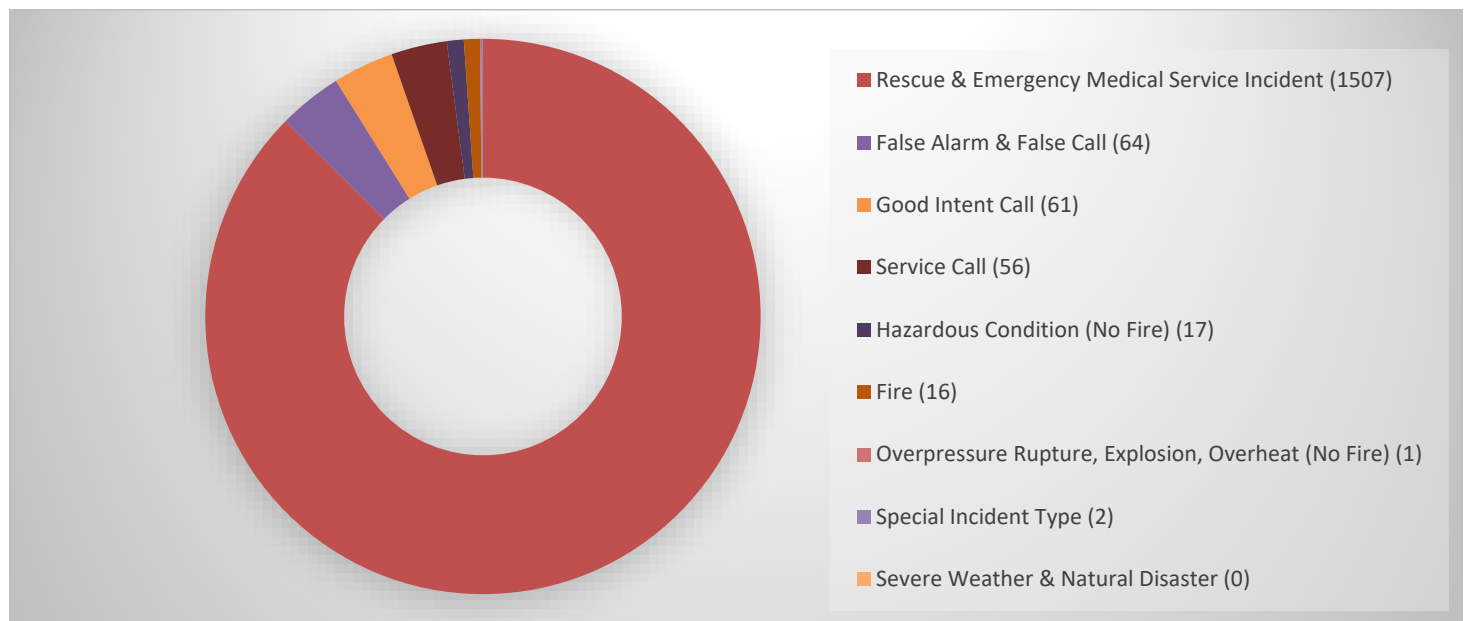
Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
4/2/2024	2801 Stewart Avenue	City of Wausau	F24000549	Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other
4/6/2024	5513 Lazy Acre Road	Wausau	F24000586	Cooking fire, confined to container
4/16/2024	State Highway 29 And Camp Phillips Rd	Village of Weston	F24000635	Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire
4/16/2024	540 East Thomas Street	City of Wausau	F24000638	Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire
4/18/2024	921 Humboldt Avenue	City of Wausau	F24000643	Building fire
4/26/2024	River Drive and Washington St	City of Wausau	F24000676	Grass fire
4/27/2024	709 McIntosh Street	City of Wausau	F24000680	Cooking fire, confined to container
4/28/2024	508 East Wausau Avenue	City of Wausau	F24000696	Building fire
5/9/2024	1026 South 3rd Avenue	City of Wausau	F24000766	Building fire
5/17/2024	801 South 24th Avenue	City of Wausau	F24000808	Passenger vehicle fire
6/1/2024	615 South 24th Avenue	City of Wausau	F24000920	Building fire
6/2/2024	322 North 5th Avenue	City of Wausau	F24000921	Building fire
6/18/2024	156376 East Wausau Avenue	Wausau	F24001028	Passenger vehicle fire
6/25/2024	5006 Camp Phillips Road	Village of Weston	F24001067	Building fire
6/25/2024	723 Stark Street	City of Wausau	F24001069	Building fire
6/30/2024	809 Plumer Street	City of Wausau	F24001098	Building fire

Monthly NFIRS Incident Comparison:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	% Of Change from 2023 to 2024
January	646	579	591	502	11.57%
February	597	506	507	456	17.98%
March	555	551	540	497	0.73%
April	541	527	498	503	2.66%
May	605	574	574	556	5.40%
June	578	553	590	583	4.52%
July		679	531	587	
August		571	600	577	
September		548	524	525	
October		616	545	552	
November		624	574	562	
December		623	612	590	

TOTAL		6951	6686	6490	
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Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Abbotsford	2	0.12%	3
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	0
City of Colby	0	0.00%	0
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	0
City Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City Of Schofield	0	0.00%	0
City Of Wausau	1,618	93.85%	3,312
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Oneida County	0	0.00%	1
Rosholt	0	0.00%	0
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Berlin	11	0.64%	19
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Cassel	3	0.17%	5
Town Of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Hamburg	1	0.06%	2
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Hewitt	2	0.12%	8
Town of Hull	0	0.00%	1
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	0
Town of Knowlton	0	0.00%	0

Town Of Marathon	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	0
Town of Plover	1	0.06%	1
Town Of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Rietbrock	1	0.06%	1
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Stettin	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Texas	26	1.51%	38
Town Of Wausau	21	1.22%	47
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Wien	2	0.12%	3
Village Of Athens	1	0.06%	1
Village Of Brokaw	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Edgar	0	0.00%	1
Village of Hatley	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Maine	28	1.62%	59
Village Of Marathon City	0	0.00%	3
Village Of Rib Mountain	1	0.06%	5
Village Of Rothschild	0	0.00%	0
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Weston	6	0.35%	9
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	1,724	100.00%	3,522

Activity/Incident Hours Committed:

Category	Time Committed
NFIRS Incidents	513:13:05 Hours
EMS Incidents	2403:58:03 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	2,755.65 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	3,766.75 Hours

Aid Responses:

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	11
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	1
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	52
Automatic Aid Given – Fire	2
Mutual Aid Received – EMS	5
Mutual Aid Received – Fire	0
Automatic Aid Received – EMS	0
Automatic Aid Received – Fire	2

Other Aid Given – EMS	0
Request for EMS from Other Agencies to the City of Wausau (not Aid)	2
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)	33

EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

EMS Patient Experience

The EMS Division would like to share our patient care experience report from April 1 to June 30, 2024.

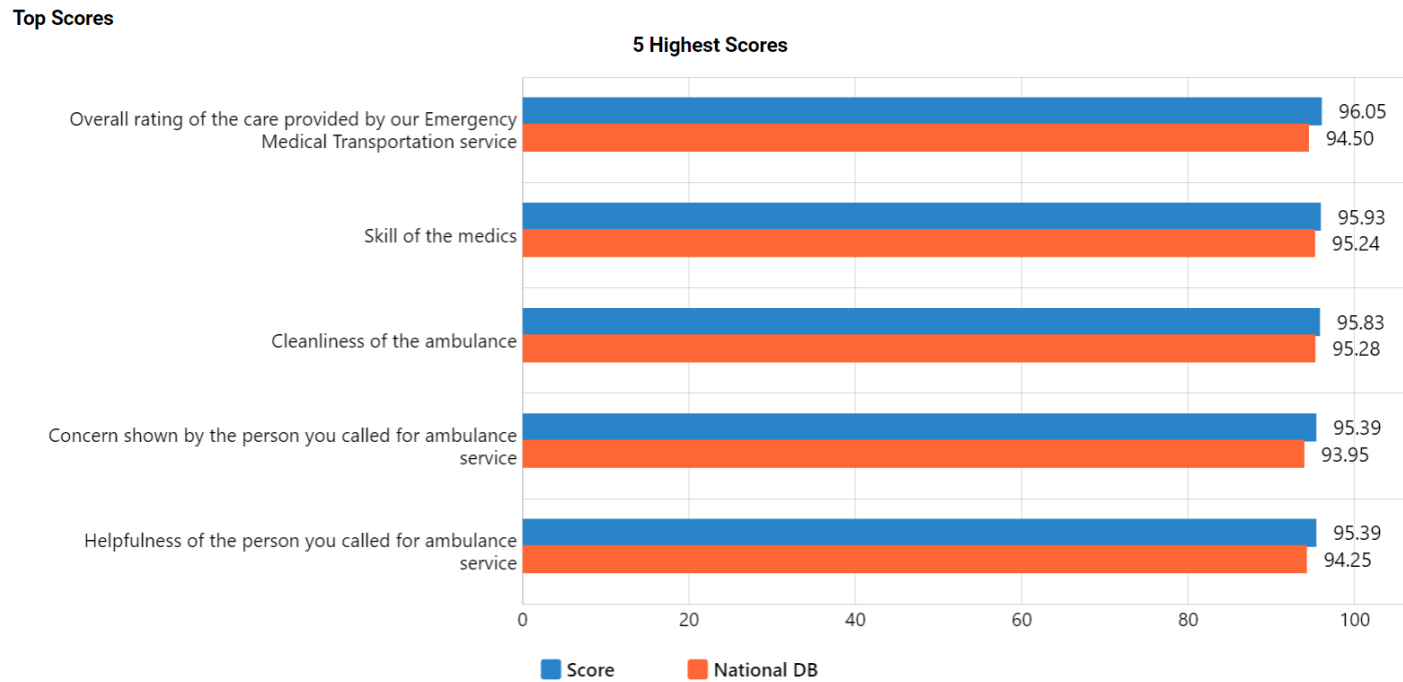
Wausau Fire Department
April 01, 2024 to June 30, 2024

Patient Experience Report

April 01, 2024 to June 30, 2024
Division:

Your Score
92.98

Your Patients in this Report
47



Here are some specific comments made by patients that we transported.

Comments



Comments (describe positive or negative experiences):

06/17/2024 Run # : E24001991

"I was totally satisfied with the service that I received."

06/17/2024 Run # : E24002101

"The roads were bad!"

04/26/2024 Run # : E24001082

"Ride was smooth & comfortable"

04/22/2024 Run # : E24000811

"Had terrible back problem--couldn't move in bed at all."

04/22/2024 Run # : E24000856

"Very good"

04/19/2024 Run # : E24000883

"It just seemed like a long ride when you're scared, in shock & hurt"

04/19/2024 Run # : E24000912

"Positive"

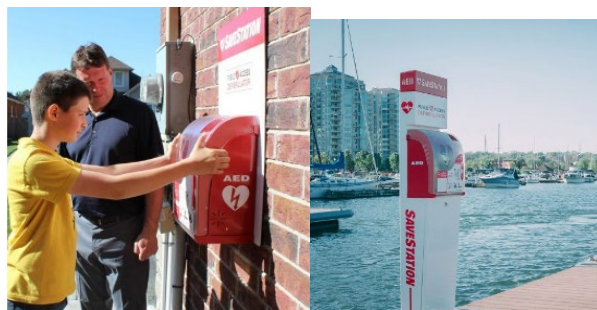
04/19/2024 Run # : E24000808

"Very nice drivers"

Current Initiative

EMS Division has been moving towards its new initiative to become a **HEARTSafe Community!** We have continued our collaboration with the Marathon County Parks Department. We were awarded funding by the Community Foundation to install two SaveStations, one by the 400 Block and one by the RiverLife Park.

SaveStation was founded by a group of like-minded 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.



New Initiative

Another initiative is called **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.



New Piece of Equipment

We are in the midst of updating our mechanical CPR devices with the newest, most cutting-edge device on the market today. Grants were submitted to BA Esther Greenheck and Community Foundations. We received a total of \$70,000.000 in grant money to be used towards the purchase of four of these devices.



Awards

We were notified in June that the American Heart Association is nationally recognizing our level of cardiac care. This performance-based award is driven by our commitment to offering rapid and research-based care to patients experiencing the most severe form of heart attacks, ultimately saving lives.

2024 Mission: Lifeline® EMS Recognition

The American Heart Association proudly recognizes

City of Wausau Fire Department Wausau, Wisconsin

Mission: Lifeline®-EMS - GOLD with Target: Heart Attack Honor Roll Achievement Award

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recognizes this prehospital provider organization for demonstrating continued success in using the **Mission Lifeline®** program.

Thank you for applying the most up-to-date evidence-based treatment guidelines to improve patient care and outcomes in the community you serve.*



Nancy Brown
Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association



Joseph C. Wu, MD, PhD, FAHA
President
American Heart Association

*For more information, please visit [Heart.org/MissionLifeline](https://heart.org/MissionLifeline)

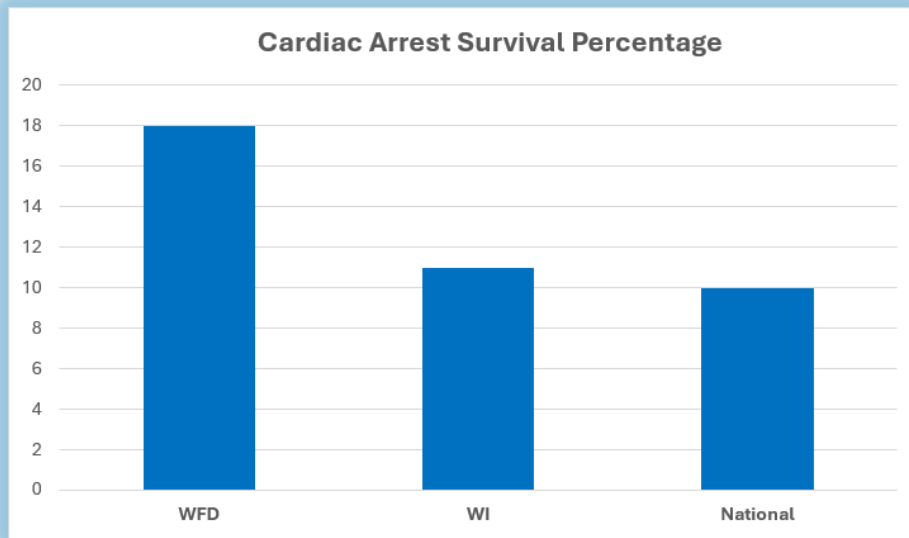


Cardiac Arrest Data

In April, we received our 2023 Cardiac Arrest data that we submitted to a national database called CARES, which stands for Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival. This registry published local, state, and national cardiac arrest statistics, which is used to improve overall response and care for those who suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

This report revealed that the City of Wausau Fire Department is far above the national and overall state percentages. This goes to show the dedication that this department has when treating and caring for those who suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. The amount of training and resources we dedicate to these types of incidents certainly pays off.





Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Reports	% of Reports	# of Reports – YTD
City of Abbotsford	2	0.13%	3
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	0
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	0
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	0
City of Wausau	1,448	93.54%	2,991
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Oneida County	0	0.00%	1
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Berlin	11	0.71%	19
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Cassel	3	0.19%	6
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hamburg	1	0.06%	2
Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	0
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hewitt	2	0.13%	8
Town of Hull	0	0.00%	1
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	0
Town of Knowlton	0	0.00%	0
Town of Marathon	0	0.00%	1
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	0
Town of Plover	1	0.06%	1
Town of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	1
Town of Rietbrock	1	0.06%	1
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	0

Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	0
Town of Texas	26	1.68%	38
Town of Wausau	20	1.29%	46
Town of Wien	2	0.13%	3
Village of Athens	1	0.06%	1
Village of Edgar	0	0.00%	1
Village of Hatley	0	0.00%	0
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	28	1.81%	56
Village of Marathon City	0	0.00%	3
Village of Rib Mountain	1	0.06%	3
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	0
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village of Weston	1	0.06%	1
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	1,548	100.00%	3,187

Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

First quarter scheduled Fire/Rescue training:

April

- Ground Ladders
- Hose Testing and Hose Loads
- Firefighter Scene Rehabilitation
- Workplace Response to Violence

May

- Advancing, Operating and Packing 1 ¾" hoselines
- Advancing, Operating and Packing 2 ½" hoselines
- NFIRS Reporting
- Acquired Structure Live-Fire Training

June

- Community Walk-Through
- Technical Rescue – Vertical Confined Space Entry w/Respiratory Protection
- UL FSRI Engine Company Operations (Instructor Lead)
- Vent, Enter, Search

Monthly training aims to create intelligent and well-rounded firefighters and rescuers who can adapt to the scenes we may be called to. This includes scheduled and non-scheduled learning opportunities for all members.

Bonus Lesson

An additional lesson this quarter came from off-duty efforts. In April, TDC Briggs attended a Train-the-Trainer on "Water Mapping" through the Wisconsin Technical College System. This opportunity was by invitation only and only provided to technical college instructors. Through Mid-State Technical College, our Training Division Chief was able to attend and become a trainer in updated water application methods to be more effective at suppressing fires. Following the training, TDC Briggs provided the entire curriculum to each crew. NTC's splash tower on the Wausau Campus was used as the best option to teach the skills. Although it was not ideal, talks are progressing to improve the structure to be more effective for these lessons in the future.

Health and Safety

In the second quarter, members were assigned two trainings related to health and safety. Scene Rahab and Workplace Response to Violence. Each of these have a very different focus; however, they both relate to the wellbeing of our employees.

Scene Rehabilitation training and knowledge directly impacts our ability to prepare physically, and then recuperate from the stressors of working on scenes. For example, we cover rehydration, hyperthermia, active cooling techniques, adequate rest, and other useful tools to recharge and prepare for the next call.

Workplace Response to Violence came about from a request by an active WFD member. In the matter of a couple of weeks, we had someone belligerent behind the Central Station and an active arrest with weapons drawn by WPD. This sparked a concern by a member as to how we can better prepare for violence in and around the workplace. Lt. Phillips of WPD presented to each of the three crews and all stations on things we can do to avoid, deter, or respond to active events.

Firefighting

Quarter two was very heavy on fire suppression training and preparation. Throughout the three months, we worked on deploying hoselines, hose testing for integrity, searching through windows (Vent, Enter, Search), and ground ladders. Each of these specific lessons can be employed as tasks and tactics on any fire scene. ISO (Insurance Service Office) only counts training towards and improved ISO score that is directly related to fire prevention and suppression. While we need to be proficient to respond throughout the community in many disciplines, suppression is what matters most to improve our score and potentially decrease insurance premiums to property owners in the City of Wausau.

Acquired Live-Fire Training

May 6th, 7th, and 8th were incredibly busy and exciting days for us. In cooperation with Tammy Stratz in Community Development, Wausau DPW, and the Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigations, we conducted seven burns each day to provide members with training that many have not had since their initial certification in the Wisconsin Technical College System.

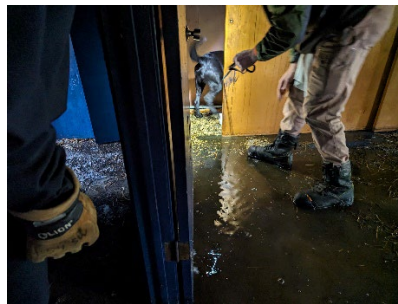
Initial training and certification of firefighters occurs in purpose-built steel and concrete buildings with a campfire of sorts in the room. This provides for an initial introduction to fire behavior, heat, and smoke. However, it does not act like the fire in most structures we face once on the job. Everything our members have learned, practiced, and honed has prepared them as best as possible to perform in a live-fire environment.

May 6th included seven different entries with entering the building, suppressing the fire, and overhauling the hot spots to ensure it would not re-ignite (rekindle). Checking for hotspots is another skill firefighters are unable to perform in purpose-built training structures. May 7th was planned as a day for our investigators and DCI investigators to view the burn patterns and assess where the fires were started and how they flowed throughout the building. Over a dozen agents took part in this training with seven of them being new to fire investigations. May 8th included seven more entries for a different group of firefighters to work through the process of fire suppression as they would on any citizen's home in our community. As you can see in the attached photos, it was hard work, but it brought out the best in our people and smile can be seen through the exhaustion.



Left: Example fire at a Technical College Facility.

Right: Inside the acquired structure.



Images from the live-fire training on May 6th, 7th, and 8th. Members were also assessing updated thermal imager technology.

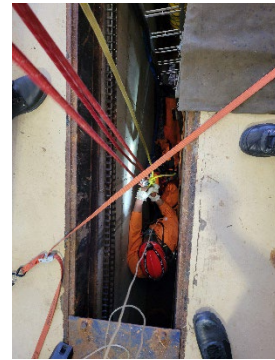
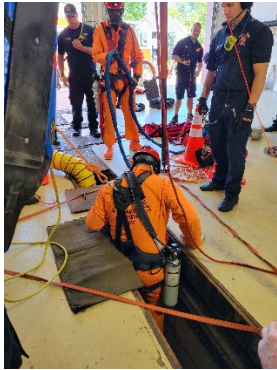
May 20-June14 Academy

Three new members began their careers with the Wausau Fire Department and started their recruit training on May 20th. The four-week academy includes refresher knowledge and skills from their certification and then takes things to a higher level beyond what the curriculum taught them. During this time, they are also guided in the operations of the Wausau Fire Department and familiarize themselves with our current personnel.



Technical Rescue

All crews performed a Confined Space Entry and Rescue scenario to refresh on a task we rarely face. However, we are the designated rescue team for all City Employees entering confined spaces in the city. Nearly 1/2 of our department is currently trained in this discipline.

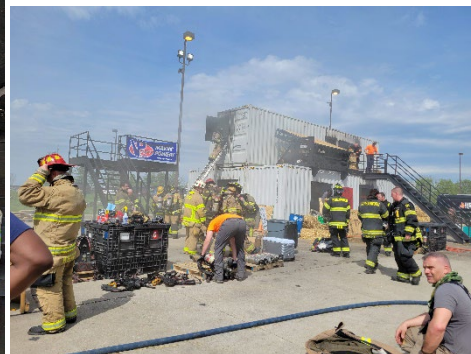


During the Wings Over Wausau Air Show, ten members were given lessons on aircraft crash rescue techniques in preparation for the event. Each day, the crews were given “tours” of the aircraft and briefed on the safety measures in place. This is another aspect of emergency services that we rarely face but would respond to and be required to mitigate in the event something happens.



FDIC 2024

In April, multiple members of the Chief staff participated in learning at the largest fire instructors conference in the world. This conference is host to 30,000 plus firefighters and officers learning from each other and trying to bring back the best information and methods for their organizations and communities. The final couple of days include a large vendor show in which leaders can assess new equipment and technology to improve our performance and effectiveness in suppressing fires and responding to emergencies. This conference is truly world class and provides lessons that are incredibly difficult to obtain elsewhere.



Hands-on training was attended by our Training Division Chief to bring back to our members.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	2,658.75	85.11%	4,960.05
Driver/Operator Training	76.75	2.46%	200.50
Facilities Training	0	0.00%	6
Hazardous Materials Training	8	0.26%	578
Misc Training	4	0.13%	117
Officer Training	131	4.19%	264.75
Specialty Training	245.50	7.86%	371
Total	3,124	100.00%	6,497.30

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	77	11.98%	110.50
EMS Training	343.25	53.40%	1,098.50
Fire Instructor Training	194.50	30.26	351.50
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	0
Investigation Training	28	4.36%	28
Total	642.75	100.00%	1,588.50

Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

Inspections: Throughout the second quarter of 2024, we finished up our first round of inspections completing 1073 public buildings and places of employment. We performed 968 inspections that passed, and we had 105 properties with Fire Code Violations. 85 of the 1073 inspections were follow-up inspections from previous violations. The failed inspections were primarily comprised of overdue fire extinguisher annual maintenance, overdue vent hood cleaning service, and Fire alarm annual maintenance. These properties will require follow-up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 14 consultation inspections for the quarter. These entailed consulting for Fire Alarm Systems, Knox Box updates, and new construction. We also received and reviewed 316 reports through the Compliance Engine for services and maintenance of Fire Protection Systems at various businesses.

Investigations: There were 6 fire investigations performed during the second quarter of 2024. One of these fires originated on the exterior of residential housing properties. This was determined to be started from careless use and disposal of smoking materials. Two originated in the kitchen of residential housing properties. These were potentially the result of a stovetop burner being accidentally turned on. One was the result of human intervention, with the person in question admitting to starting the fire. One property was deemed unsafe to enter so only the origin could be located, but no cause was found. Lastly, one was deemed undetermined due to not being able to distinguish if the electric chair or the power strip caused the fire.

Public Outreach: Throughout the second quarter we had several outreach opportunities. We performed 3 Fire Safety Outreach Programs for elderly adult living facilities. New smoke and CO detectors were placed 2 different times in private residences. We witnessed and advised on 5 different fire drills throughout the school district.

Education: The second quarter of 2024 presented more educational opportunities for the prevention division. We attended the conference for the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). This conference was historically held twice a year, June and September. The Wisconsin chapter of the IAAI has

now moved to expand this conference by a day, and it will be held once annually. This last conference presented a multitude of differing educational learning points including interviewing techniques, forensic investigation techniques for IT and social media, and fatal fire case studies. The tested hours for this conference help us maintain not only our current certification levels but gives us the education to maintain a high level of professional investigative skills.

This conference also offered an exam to obtain the highest certification available for fire investigators. This is the IAAI's Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) certification. During this conference Lieutenant Shahn Kariger challenged the test for the (CFI) Certification. Lt. Kariger passed the certification exam and is now one of 42 CFIs in the State of Wisconsin. By obtaining this certification Lt. Kariger has become the first member of the City of Wausau Fire Department to do so. Lt. Kariger did not stop at this level. The following week, Lt. Kariger attended a five-day National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) conference in Madison. At the end of the conference, Lt. Kariger challenged the NAFI certification for Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator (CFEI) certification test. Lt. Kariger again passed this certification standard, that is only held by a select few.

I'd like to give Lt. Kariger a huge congratulatory "shout out" for obtaining and maintaining the highest level of professionalism within our field in the Fire Industry.

Congratulations Shahn!



Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Quarterly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	971	1,748
Re-inspections	85	163
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	17	36
Total Inspections	1,073	1,947
Fire Investigations	3	6
Inspection Department Activities	Number	YTD
Public Engagement Activities	22	58