

Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

February 2022



(WFD Members that were able to attend the 1st Annual Firefighter's Banquet)

Fire Chief Report by Robert Barteck

Every month when I pause to write this brief synopsis of the last month, my first thoughts are always about the compassionate and professional work individuals do within our teams. We always speak of our collective efforts as a department to serve this community but inside our team are our individuals that lean forward and selflessly give of themselves to improve the lives of others. Every day we receive thank-you notes, baked goods, and words of praise from those we are privileged to serve. This close relationship and bond built between our members and this community motivate us to continue to live out our organizational mission each day.

This month's report is full of highlights. Deputy Chief Kopp provides information on the multiple car pile-up on Hwy 51 in the February 18th snowstorm. Fire Marshal Stahl breaks down Wisconsin Two-Percent Dues and how they are crucial to our community.

Here are a few things that occurred in February I want to highlight for the community:

Wausau Flood Plan Tabletop Exercise. On February 7th, I was privileged to participate in a tabletop exercise of the Wausau Flood Plan organized by Marathon County Emergency Management. The event was attended by key City and County leaders. The three-hour exercise was well conducted and accomplished the objective of better preparing us for such an event in our community. Another large-scale functional exercise is planned for April 14th.

First Annual Wausau Firefighters Banquet. On February 19th, the men and women of the Wausau Fire Department held our first ever Annual Firefighters Awards Banquet. The event planning was led by Lieutenant Brian Bauknecht and a handful of volunteers. It was a fantastic night spent celebrating our collective accomplishments in service to the Wausau community over the last year. The Grand Theater Wausau hosted the event in the Grand Hall with a delicious meal catered by the Mint Cafe.

We presented Valor and Core Values Awards to several department members and acknowledged years of service and military service. We were honored to have Mayor Katie Rosenberg give a personal and inspirational keynote address.

It was a wonderful evening where our firefighters with their spouses/significant others could join for a time of celebration in a beautiful venue, all paid for by the generosity of our community. As a special gift to the firefighter's spouses, the banquet committee commissioned custom bracelets made from used Wausau Fire Department turnout gear.

Of course, the night started with the entire on-duty crew having to leave to respond to a chimney fire. Fortunately, several of them could return after the fire wrapped up.

Recruitment: On February 20th, Human Resources closed applications for our most recent hiring process. The HR and fire departments advertised this process widely, and we rolled out the new recruitment video in January to attract qualified applicants. We currently have one opening and anticipate two more openings in March within the department. The HR department received nine applications, and seven were sent invitations for interviews in March. While we would like more qualified applicants, we are happy to see enough to cover current openings and possibly start hiring additional firefighters.

We hope that you find this report informative and educational. Please reach out to me with any questions.

Best Wishes,
Robert Barteck – Fire Chief

EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

During the month of February, our EMS training focus was on **Advanced Cardiac Arrest (ACR)** training. This is a very unique and synergistic approach to how paramedics respond and treat patients who are suffering an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest that was introduced in April of 2021. Since that time we continued to perfect and rehearse this choreographed treatment modality.

The Wausau Fire Department is the only EMS service in Wisconsin following this detailed approach that originated out of the Realto Fire Department in California and is gaining momentum throughout the United States. This treatment application has also been featured in industry-leading journals such as the Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS). This is truly a cutting-edge thought and treatment process that is proven to save the lives of people who suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac.

B-Crew



Highlighted EMS Call

In February our Station 1 crew consisting of Med-1 and Engine-1 responded to the report of a patient who had hung themselves in an attempt to end their life. Unfortunately, calls that involve suicidal ideation and suicide attempts are not uncommon calls that our crews respond to. Before the arrival of our crews, the patient was cut down by standards and was still breathing. Our crews noted a lot of swelling in the patient's neck that could affect the patency of the patient's airway. Our crews performed the most intricate of procedures, Rapid Sequence Intubation, to secure this patient's airway to allow for continued oxygenation. They had to establish an IV and administer a potent sedative and a paralytic medication to allow for the intubation to be successful. This very "low-frequency, high-risk" procedure was executed perfectly. The patient survived and hopefully received the further care and treatment they needed.

Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs – YTD
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	0
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	0
City of Wausau	441	95.25%	950
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Other	0	0.00%	0

Town of Berlin	2	0.43%	4
Town of Bevent	1	0.22%	1
Town of Cassel	0	0.00%	0
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hewitt	1	0.22%	3
Town of Marathon	0	0.00%	1
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	1
Town of Rib Mountain	1	0.22%	4
Town of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	0
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	0
Town of Texas	3	0.65%	12
Town of Wausau	6	1.30%	18
Town of Wien	0	0.00%	0
Village of Athens	0	0.00%	0
Village of Edgar	0	0.00%	0
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	7	1.51%	10
Village of Marathon City	0	0.00%	0
Village of Rothschild	1	0.22%	1
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village of Weston	0	0.00%	1
Total	463	100.00%	1,006

Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

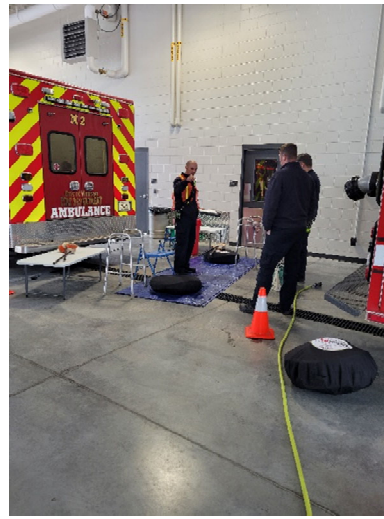
Training

Time does fly! February started out with the swearing in of five new firefighters who completed their recruit on-boarding training. These new members honed their knowledge and skill in various fire, rescue, and EMS topics throughout a four-week period. Following the swear in, each recruit began their Field Training time in which they joined other more seasoned members rotating on the ambulance and fire apparatus to continue training based more on mentoring and coaching on-the-job.

The WFD February training schedule built on the January plan and included Fire Behavior, MAYDAY activations, Hazardous Materials Mitigation, Basic Ropes and Knots, and other topics. The crews still self-initiate training that they see needing immediate attention. This month, the crew spent extra time covering SCBA (breathing apparatus), ladders, and hose deployment. These three topics are some of the foundational skills we must master in the fire service.



Our five recruits being sworn in signaling the end of the Recruit Academy.



Ladders and Vent-Enter-Search Decontamination during Hazardous Materials Mitigation

Incident Safety Officer Class

On February 4th, four of our members completed the Illinois Fire service Institute's Incident Safety Officer Course. This is a forty-hour course that teaches experienced firefighters and officers to take a proactive approach to scene and incident safety. Following the course, the members took a national certification exam, and the results are pending. We have the utmost faith that they all passed.

Virtual Reality Training

A virtual reality demonstration with a hands-on component through Gas Technologies Institute (GTI) took place in Merrill. This opportunity was offered to us via a partnership with Northcentral Technical College. The technology showed great merit to be a future asset to the fire service. Since the initial training, we have been in touch with GTI and are in the process with their research and development to augment their current offerings to be more conducive to the fire service in more roles than simply gas or utility mitigation.



(GTI Director of Education and Training showcasing the available technology)

Wisconsin Technical College System Committee Work

The Training Division Chief was afforded the opportunity to be a member of a Wisconsin Technical College committee to create a curriculum called *Entry Level Technical Rescue*. This curriculum is aimed at providing a foundational knowledge to responders to keep them safe and implement initial steps in mitigating complex technical rescue incidents. The first presentation of this curriculum was presented at the Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors 2022 annual conference.

Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors Annual Conference

At the 2022 WSESI conference, Training Division Chief Briggs and Sun Prairie Fire Department's Assistant Chief, John Austad, co-presented a collaborative session titled *Training for Success*. This session presented on new trends in fire service education, how to build a robust training program, how to recruit and retain members through involvement, and proper documentation of effective training. Following the brief presentation, the duo lead a collaborative brainstorming session with the participants.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	605.5	57.57%	1,458.5
Officer Training	226.75	21.56%	313.3
Driver/Operator Training	25.5	2.42%	62.5
Hazardous Materials Training	139.5	13.26%	152.75
Specialty Training	38.5	3.66%	138
Facilities Training	6	0.57%	12
Misc Training	10	0.95%	47.33
Total	1051.75	100.00%	2,184.38

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.

Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

One of the highlights for the Prevention Division is the continued effort made in keeping our Fire Department compliant with the Wisconsin State 2% dues. The effort put forth allows us to recuperate the 2% dues from the state. This would be in direct correlation with our Departments ISO rating and the functions of the Prevention Division. The 2% dues correlate to roughly \$140,000 annually.

Inspections: Within the City of Wausau for the month of February, we performed 156 total inspections. We had 8 properties that had Fire Code Violations. These properties will require follow up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 4 consultation inspections on a new construction sites or remodeling projects.

Investigations: The prevention Division conducted a total of three Fire Investigations throughout February. Two of these were single family dwellings and one was a duplex.

Public Outreach: Our Public outreach programs for February consisted of three Smoke Detector and CO detector installations. We installed a total of eight smoke detectors and three CO alarms. One of the installs also had one Strobe Light Smoke Detector install for a hearing-impaired resident.

Education: Fire Marshal Stahl and Lieutenant Shahn Kariger attended and completed a six hour online continuing education webinar for our UDC HVAC certification.



Storm Safety

- Shelter in a sturdy building away from windows on the lowest floor interior room or closet
- Cover your head with your hands, blanket, pillow, etc.
- Mobile home – find a safer building long before storm arrives
- In vehicle – Drive away; abandon to ditch as last resort



Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Monthly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	148	185
Re-inspections	4	29
All other Inspections	6	8
Total Inspections	156	220
Fire Investigations	3	4
Inspection Department Activities	Number	YTD
Public Engagement Activities	4	7

Fire Operations Division by Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp

February is a difficult month for weather related emergencies on the fire and EMS sides with extremely cold evenings and nights. Freezing water and keeping patients warm is challenging, not to mention keeping the rigs warm and operable.

Swearing in: On February 4th we had a swearing in ceremony for our five new hires at Station 2. Mark Punzenberger, John Williams, Tim Strege, Brooke Johnson, and Hunter Herold are all officially sworn in and ready to serve the public. They will be on a 14-day training regimen as a 3rd responder; working with an FTO and then will be counting towards staffing and running as a second on the ambulance.

Highway 51 crash: On February 18th we responded to a 40 car pile up on highway 51 north of K. Three ambulances were on scene and transported patients with one ambulance returning and transporting a fourth patient. B crew commander Kruzan asked for a bus to use as a safe shelter to keep people off the dangerous roads and out of the freezing temperatures. Visibility was very poor making for a very dangerous scene. Tow trucks were needed and used to help pull vehicles off other vehicles to extricate patients along with the jaws and cutters used on multiple vehicles. At nearly the same time was another accident involving 20 cars just south of U. Many patients from this crash had self-transported to the hospitals before mutual aid had shown up along with Wausau Engine 4.

Significant calls: We responded to six building fires in the city, two chimney fires, one vehicle fire, and one mutual aid fire in the month of February.

Fleet: We have ongoing repairs being done on the two new engines in which we are working very closely with

Custom Fire, Sutphen, and DPW to get proper repairs made. Sutphen sent a mechanic here from Ohio to work on repairs, Custom Fire also sent a mechanic for a day from Oseola, WI for related repairs. Med 3 was out of service for about a week and half while Brickners was waiting for parts to make repairs.

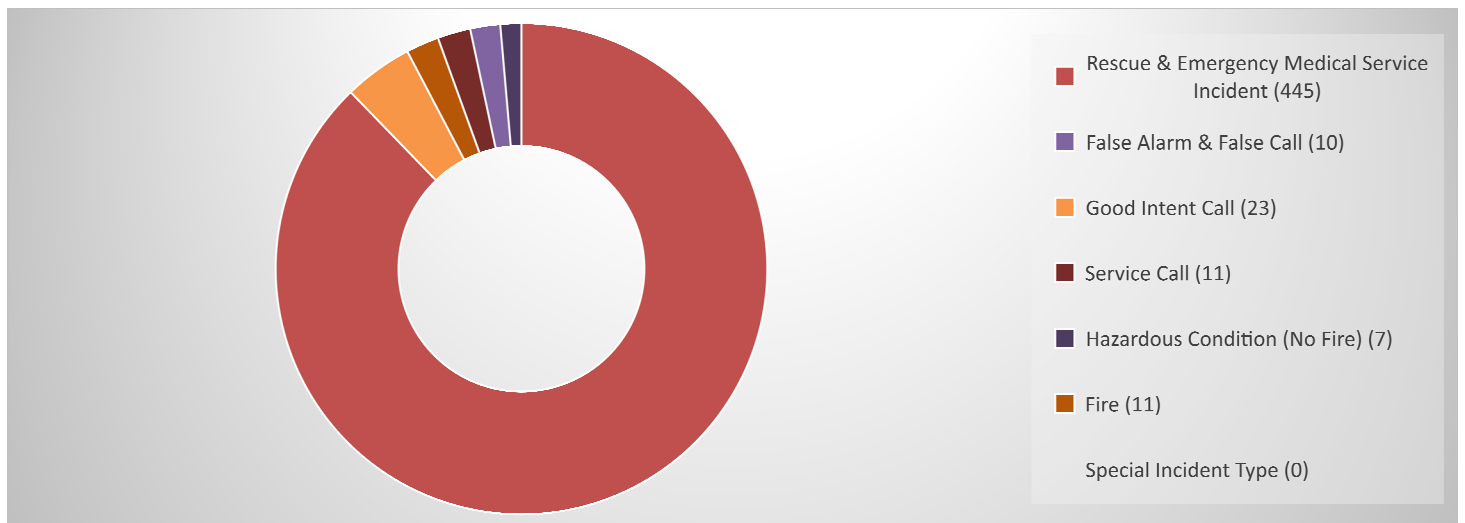
Guardian tracking: The original set up of the new software was put together by Mindy Walker and me and the first crew was trained at the end of February while the other two crews will be trained in the first week of March. It will track thank you letters, job well done documents and award nominations as well as discipline and follow up reminders. Reviews for the year will be easier with everything tracked in one spot and transparent with reminders sent up the chain of command for action to be taken. PD has been using this same software for the past two years.

Buildings and Grounds: New furnaces have been installed at station 3 to replace the broken furnaces. The city electrical department has been working with me to figure out ongoing electrical problems for outlets that Med 2 and Engine 2 plug into.

Charitable foundation: We've met twice in February to start planning changes for the next golf outing with Northstar Restoration on September 9th. We have also voted to cut a few checks for families affected by fire in the city as well as the fire in Kronenwetter.

Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
2/1/2022	822 Young Street	City of Wausau	F22000205	Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue
2/1/2022	2819 Hubbill Avenue	City of Wausau	F22000209	Building fire
2/5/2022	719 West Crocker Street	City of Wausau	F22000229	Building fire
2/7/2022	336 Imm Street	City of Wausau	F22000235	Building fire
2/12/2022	152586 Parrot Lane	Rib Mountain	F22000258	Building fire
2/15/2022	610 North 7th Street	City of Wausau	F22000277	Fire, other
2/19/2022	1126 Prospect Avenue	City of Wausau	F22000301	Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue
2/23/2022	1208 North 10th Avenue	City of Wausau	F22000323	Passenger vehicle fire
2/26/2022	1013 Stark Street	City of Wausau	F22000340	Building fire
2/28/2022	502 West Knox Street	City of Wausau	F22000348	Building fire
2/28/2022	522 South 2nd Avenue	City of Wausau	F22000350	Building fire



Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	0
City Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City Of Schofield	0	0.00%	1
City Of Wausau	483	95.27%	1,039
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Berlin	2	0.39%	4
Town of Bevent	1	0.20%	1
Town Of Cassel	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Hamburg	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Hewitt	1	0.20%	3
Town Of Marathon	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Rib Mountain	2	0.39%	5
Town Of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Stettin	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Texas	3	0.59%	12
Town Of Wausau	6	1.18%	18
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Wien	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Athens	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Brokaw	1	0.20%	1
Village Of Edgar	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Maine	7	1.38%	10
Village Of Marathon City	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Rothschild	1	0.20%	1
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Weston	0	0.00%	1
Total	507	100.00%	1,098

Activity/Incident Hours Committed

Category	Time Committed
NFIRS Incidents	164:01:18 Hours
EMS Incidents	704:20:01 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	748.25 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	1,382.75 Hours

Aid Responses:

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	1
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	1
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	15
Automatic Aid Given – Fire	0
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 (not Aid)	4
Total Non-Aid Incidents (outside City with no other agency response)	6