

# Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

## June 2022



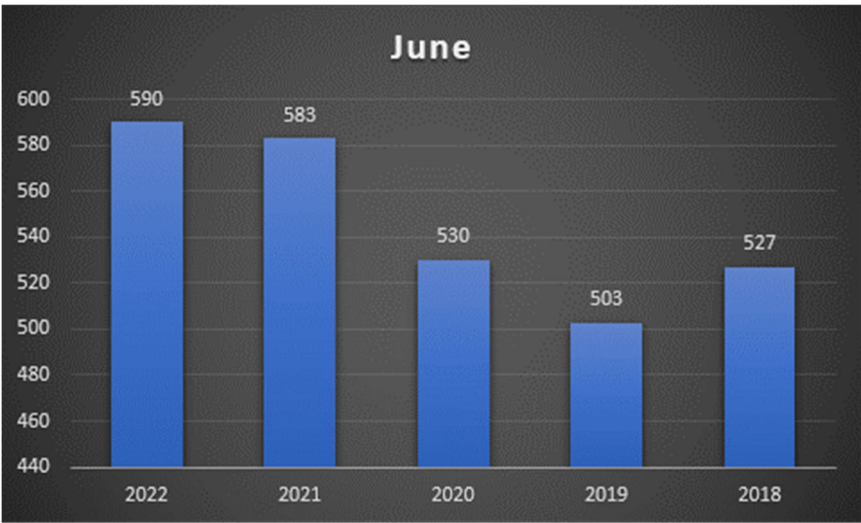
(Splash Pad at Brockmeyer Park on 6/23/22)

# Fire Chief Report by Chief Robert Barteck

June marked a historic moment in the Wausau Fire Department’s 152-year history! On June 14, the Wausau Common Council approved a plan to hire an additional three firefighter/paramedics. This is the first operational staffing increase since 1970. The additional firefighter/paramedics are the first 3 of the additional 12 positions passed by the Human Resources Committee in December of 2021. In January, I submitted a Staffing for Effective Fire and Emergency Response grant-seeking three years of funding for the remaining nine fire/medic positions. FEMA expects to make award announcements this summer. As of today (June 30), we have not received any word on the grant.

## Demand for Services:

June also marked another historic moment. June of 2022 is the busiest month in Wausau Fire Department history. At a recent North-Central Fire Chief’s meeting, Fire Chiefs from our region all shared they are seeing an increase in demand for emergency response services. We are also experiencing an increase in demand and responded to 590 calls for service in June. The chart below highlights a 5-year trend. It also appears that the acuity level of the calls we are responding to is increasing, which means we need to commit more resources per call.



## Recruitment and Retention:

Our summer recruitment had 13 applicants. We have invited six candidates for interviews and expect to complete those and make conditional offers in July. Successful candidates will likely start employment in August. We have one candidate from the spring recruitment that will be starting on July 18. Unfortunately, we received two resignations in June, so we currently have five positions open, counting the three new positions created by the common council.

At the recent Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association conference, recruitment and retention were the lead topics, with several educational opportunities offered. In my conversation with Fire Chief from around the state, the trend will be to reduce qualifications and provide on-the-job training rather than the current practices of hiring fully trained and qualified applicants. Wauwatosa has seen an increase in applicants since reducing the pre-employment qualifications. In July, I will be working with HR to change our hiring qualification to a similar model in hopes of increasing applicant numbers.

## Fire Station One Long-Term Planning:

In June, Five Bugles design completed a full assessment of Fire Station One (AKA Central). We have attached the full assessment to this report. As was found in the 2015 studies of the WFD infrastructure, Station One no longer meets the organizational demands of the community. Planning for the eventual replacement is overdue

and needs to begin now. The long-identified location for this replacement is at 815 Grand Ave on the corner of Floral Lane and Grand Avenue. We submitted a 2023 CIP request to purchase this property to start the long-term planning process. During the CIP presentation, the CIP Committee had some excellent questions about the location. To answer those questions about the best location, we need to complete another site study that would first identify likely locations and then explore the feasibility of the locations. I am currently seeking guidance on how best to complete this site study. Likely we will ask Five Bugles Design to help with this because they have all the data generated in the 2015 studies. Please contact me if you have questions about the station or the assessment report.

In closing, I would like to thank all our elected officials and Police and Fire Commissioners for the continued support of our department. We are working on planning a Council & Commission night with the fire department, where we will provide tours of the three stations and a firehouse meal. We are currently working on selecting a date. In the meantime, please stop down and visit us at the fire station for a cup of coffee and a tour.

Thank you,  
Robert Barteck – Fire Chief

## EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

It is with tremendous excitement to announce in this report that in June the City of Wausau Fire Department received the 2022 Mission Lifeline Silver Plus Award from the American Heart Association.

The city of Wausau Fire Department is a part of an elite group of prehospital providers recognized by the American Heart Association for our commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care, by ensuring that every STEMI patient receives treatment according to nationally accepted evidence-based guidelines recommendations and standards.

All our department's paramedics deserve credit for their strong work in the field as they rapidly assess and render advanced life support care to patients who are suffering a cardiac event.

Mindy Walker was instrumental in importing our data into our Mission Lifeline application. Through our EMS reporting platform, she was able to build data reports that captured information such as 12 Lead ECG performance and Aspirin Administration from all patients that had a chief complaint of chest pain. Mindy was then able to import data from Aspirus Wausau Hospital's cardiac catheterization lab which is required as well to complete the application.



## Grant

With the assistance of Chief Barteck, the EMS Division will be applying for the EMS Flex Grant. Thanks to Wisconsin EMS Association (WEMSA) Advocacy efforts in 2021 and 2022, **\$12 million** was secured as additional funding for EMS departments as a one-time EMS Flex Grant. This funding can be used for all sorts of department needs including ambulances, equipment, supplies, emergency response vehicles, training, and enhancing recruitment and retention. This grant application will be closing on July 11 at 4 pm. We will be applying for grant funding in all the offered categories to help offset the rising cost of EMS operations.

## **Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):**

<b>City</b>	<b># of Runs</b>	<b>% of Runs</b>	<b># of Runs – YTD</b>
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	1
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City of Schofield	1	0.20%	1
City of Wausau	476	92.97%	2,803
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Berlin	2	0.39%	11
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	1
Town of Cassel	1	0.20%	2
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	1
Town of Hamburg	1	0.20%	2
Town of Hewitt	3	0.59%	13
Town of Marathon	1	0.20%	2
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	2
Town of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	6
Town of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	0
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	0
Town of Texas	9	1.76%	38
Town of Wausau	9	1.76%	49
Town of Wien	2	0.39%	2
Village of Athens	0	0.00%	1
Village of Edgar	0	0.00%	0
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	5	0.98%	41
Village of Marathon City	1	0.20%	1
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	1
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village of Weston	1	0.20%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>2,980</b>

## **Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs**

Our job is about serving others. We train to prepare for any type of call for service. At times, these calls are emergent, and others are non-emergent. Either way, we must be prepared through mental and physical preparation. June was host to “routine” and non-routine training events to serve the community.

### **Forcible and Respectful Entry Training**

A significant part of the June training included forcible and “respectful” entry techniques. As the terms sound, one is intended to break into a structure when time is of the essence, and the other method is to be used when we have the time to use finesse and minimize property damage.

Forcible entry is used when a structure is on fire or there is an imminent threat to life or property. In this case, we use hand tools and possibly hydraulic tools to enter a structure to perform the required mitigation tasks. Respectful entry is used when we are called for an alarm, smell of smoke, or even an EMS call when the patient cannot make it to the door. In this instance, we can take our time and use other means to gain access that pose little to no damage to the property.



While we would love to show our members performing these techniques, they are a legal and legitimate means of breaking and entering. As such, we are protective of teaching others the methods used.



Training props borrowed to showcase various entry techniques.

### Search and Rescue / Rapid Intervention Techniques

You will see a reoccurring theme in this type of training. As firefighters, we must be highly skilled and proficient in searching structures for downed victims and even firefighters. We try to utilize unknown and unfamiliar structures to smoke-up with theater smoke and create life-like situations for our members. Below, you will see firefighters searching in various conditions including moderate smoke to completely obscure conditions. Fire, smoke conditions, and building layout all impact how we search, and how quickly we can move.





Firefighters performing search and rescue techniques in various acquired structures.

### Wings Over Wausau

While Wings Over Wausau does not sound like a training event, it involved a great deal of learning. Since this was the first airshow hosted by Wausau in approximately 20 years, the FAA regulations have changed dramatically. We learned what the FAA requires for response times, apparatus and personnel requirements, aircraft emergency procedures, and how to write an emergency response plan that meets all requirements beyond what we would normally expect for other community events.



Wausau Fire Department presence at the Wings Over Wausau airshow.

### Wisconsin State Committees

The Wisconsin Technical College committee on fire officer training met in June and began revising the fire officer curriculum. The first two concepts collaborated on included: the "Fire Officer as a Company Supervisor" and "Understanding Leadership and Management Theories." Each of these concepts are essential to creating a strong foundation of effective communication and the character required to lead.



Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	755.25	82.93%	4,164.57
Officer Training	28.5	3.13%	552.8
Driver/Operator Training	5	0.55%	187.75
Hazardous Materials Training	16	1.76%	443.25
Specialty Training	104.5	11.47%	957.75
Facilities Training	1.5	0.16%	48.5
Misc Training	0	0.00%	52.33
Total	910.75	100.00%	6,406.95

*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	4.5	1.79%	87.5
Fire Instructor Training	23.5	9.33%	411.5
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	0
Investigation Training	20	7.94%	95
EMS Training	204	80.95%	1363
Total	252	100.00%	1,957

## Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

**Inspections:** Within the City of Wausau for the month of June, we performed 330 total inspections. Of those 67 were re-inspections. We had 58 properties that had Fire Code Violations. These properties will require follow up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 3 consultation inspections for the month of June that were either remodel projects or new construction.

**Investigations:** The prevention Division conducted no Fire Investigations for the month of June. Although, we did respond to two recreational fire complaints. These usually entail a complaint about either location of the fire pit or materials being burnt.

**Public Outreach:** Our Public outreach programs for June consisted of two Public Education presentations. When we are asked, we provide a Fire Safety presentation to community groups, nursing homes and elderly living facilities. The Prevention Division is also responsible for conducting the “Youth Fire Setting Intervention and Prevention” program. We have received an “intake” notification from the Marathon Co Social Services and we have scheduled a program for one child. This program is scheduled for the beginning of July.

**Education:** Firefighter/Inspector Brad Ludwig attended a two week “Fire Investigation: Essentials” class at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland. This class was held from May 9<sup>th</sup> until May 20<sup>th</sup>. FireFighter/Inspector Ludwig did successfully pass this class and has received his IAAI FIT designation. The Prevention Division is currently looking at attending the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) National Conference which is to be held early next year. This conference would replace the two State Conferences that we attend for the year.





## **Prevention Division Activities:**

<b>Inspections Completed</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Routine Fire Inspections	260	1,773
Re-inspections	67	172
All other Inspections	5	24
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>1,969</b>
Fire Investigations	0	5
<b>Inspection Department Activities</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Public Engagement Activities	6	54

## **Fire Operations Division by Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp**

### **Significant calls:**

Wausau Fire responded to 9 different fire calls in June, these varied from structure fires, vehicle fires, a brush fire, and a chimney fire. Two water rescues both required the use of the airboat.

### **Recruitment and Retention:**

New Firefighters: On June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Police and Fire Commission approved firefighter/paramedic Matthew Hieronimus; he is scheduled to start his academy on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Incoming candidates: Five candidates were interviewed by the command staff on June 29<sup>th</sup> and four of them were passed on to the next interview with the Chief and Deputy Chief for a second interview on June 30<sup>th</sup> with one having to reschedule because of a subpoena for work.

Losses of personnel: We have unfortunately received two resignations in June.

Deputy Chief Kopp is conducting one on one tours and discussions almost daily. Reaching out to area schools and meeting with NTC regularly is generating interest as well as using social media outlets.

## Fleet:

I am pleased to announce that the final inspection I conducted on the new ladder with the city fleet manager went very well! We found a few minor things in the inspection that were remedied right away, and the truck was driven to Wausau from Ohio on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and spent the night at Central Fire before leaving for Green Bay on the 24<sup>th</sup> to be shown off at the Chief's Conference. It is now at Custom Fire in Osceola for shelving and compartment configuration. Looking forward to the new Ladder 2 being put in service the second week of July after all three crews have been trained in its use.

## Buildings and Grounds:

Spring cleaning has started although a little late. We will be selling some old equipment and furniture soon as well as getting the mezzanine at station two cleaned up.

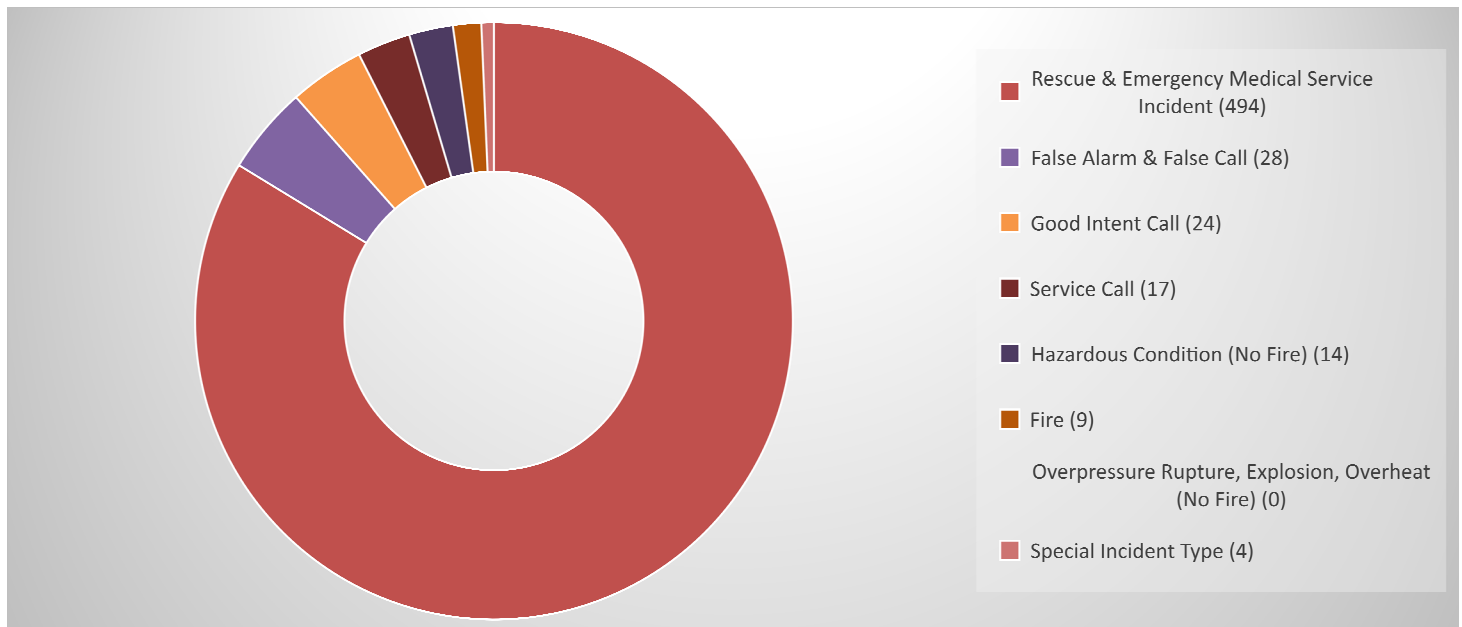
## Overtime and Scheduling:

The line crew are still working exorbitant overtime although there is light at the end of the tunnel. We have had two members return from injury and some members will be returning from FMLA soon which should help with some of the mandated shifts.

If you have any questions about operations, do not hesitate to contact me or stop in at central for a visit.

## Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
6/1/2022	330 Grand Avenue	City of Wausau	F22000924	Passenger vehicle fire
6/14/2022	119 Erdman Street	Schofield	F22001014	Building fire
6/15/2022	163 East Chellis Street	City of Wausau	F22001026	Outside equipment fire
6/15/2022	1513 Cleveland Avenue	City of Wausau	F22001019	Outside equipment fire
6/17/2022	119 Erdman Street	City of Schofield	F22001046	Building fire
6/21/2022	2609 County Road U	Wausau	F22001071	Building fire
6/22/2022	800 North 1st Street	City of Wausau	F22001075	Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire
6/26/2022	1610 Woodland Ridge Road	City of Wausau	F22001104	Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue
6/27/2022	3521 North 6th Street	City of Wausau	F22001110	Passenger vehicle fire



## **Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):**

<b>City</b>	<b># of Runs</b>	<b>% of Runs</b>	<b># of Runs - YTD</b>
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	2
City Of Mosinee	1	0.17%	1
City Of Schofield	3	0.51%	4
City Of Wausau	551	93.39%	3,116
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Berlin	2	0.34%	11
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Cassel	1	0.17%	2
Town Of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
<b>Town of Franzen</b>	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Hamburg	1	0.17%	2
Town Of Hewitt	3	0.51%	13
Town Of Marathon	1	0.17%	2
Town Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	2
Town Of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	8
Town Of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Stettin	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Texas	9	1.53%	38
Town Of Wausau	8	1.36%	48
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Wien	2	0.34%	2
Village Of Athens	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Brokaw	2	0.34%	4
Village Of Edgar	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Maine	4	0.68%	38
Village Of Marathon City	1	0.17%	1
Village Of Rothschild	0	0.00%	1
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Weston	1	0.17%	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,300</b>

## **Activity/Incident Hours Committed**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Time Committed</b>
NFIRS Incidents	154:26:13 Hours
EMS Incidents	831:45:49 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	735.25 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	1162.75 Hours

## **Aid Responses:**

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	6
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	4
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	21
Automatic Aid Given – Fire	0
Mutual Aid Received – EMS	0
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
Total Non-Aid Incidents (outside City with no other agency response)	8