

Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

August 2022



(Governor Evers and Secretary Timberlake participated in a patient care demonstration with Wausau Fire Paramedics)

Fire Chief Report by Chief Robert Barteck

In August, we were excited to invite Northcentral Technical College EMT-Basic and Paramedic Students back for Clinical Ride-Time with our Paramedics. This relationship with these students is essential to provide them with real-world experience and provide us with an opportunity to meet and work with students that are interested in becoming Wausau Firefighter/Paramedics. These on-the-job learning experiences had been paused during the pandemic. These experiences are essential and formative in a candidate's career path. Thirty years ago, when I was an aspiring firefighter, I had the privilege to serve as an Intern on Oshkosh Fire Department for 9-months. I still reflect upon the lessons learned there and am grateful for the experience.

Governor Evers Visit: On August 1st Governor Tony Evers and DHS Secretary visited our department. Governor Evers held a press conference at Station Two announcing a series of EMS Grants being made around Wisconsin. This included a \$30,000 grant for our EMS Division. After the press conference, the governor and secretary participated in an EMS scenario in the back of one of our ambulances and met with several Wausau Paramedics. The on-duty crew prepared a delicious meal for them at Station One. Both the Governor and Secretary expressed their gratitude for hosting the event.

Recruitment: In August, we collaborated with the Human Resources Department to alter our hiring requirements. The application requirements have been lowered to EMT-Basic and State of Wisconsin Certified Firefighter I. These revised requirements will allow us to hire firefighters that are currently pursuing careers in the fire service but have not yet completed all the requirements. We will then provide on-the-job training to complete their certifications. A priority for hiring will be fully qualified Paramedics and students nearing the completion of Paramedic training. The remainder of the applicants will be ranked and placed on an eligibility list. This eligibility list will be utilized if/when we receive the SAFER Grant for the additional nine firefighter positions that were created by the Human Resources Committee in December of 2021.

SAFER Grant: On August 26, FEMA made the first round of SAFER Grant Awards announcements. The 19 awards amounted to \$10 million of the \$300 million allocated for this grant. FEMA expects to complete the remainder of the awards by September 30. We have not received a denial, so our grant request is still in the running. I will notify the PFC Commission and Common Council as soon as we have news. If awarded, we have a short 180 recruitment window to complete the hiring of all firefighters. Having the established eligibility list of candidates the Human Resources Department is creating will greatly aid in the timeliness of this process.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this report.

Thank you,

Robert Barteck – Fire Chief

EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

The EMS Division continues to work on our Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) accreditation. Since our last monthly report, we found that we needed to develop and reword several policies and existing policies to meet the CAAS standards. This whole process has shown to be beneficial as it has made us comb through many department-wide policies. We had hoped to have our application completed and sent to CASS by mid-August but we have extended that goal into September.



Training

September's EMS training subject was Neonatal (newborn) Resuscitation. During this training session, the crews were presented with a scenario of a newborn that required aggressive resuscitation including CPR, airway management, and cardiac medication administration.



Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS)

In August, the Marathon County SWAT team held tryouts and interviews for the TEMS portion of their team. The Sheriff's Department utilizes Wausau Fire Department Paramedics to fill those positions. Wausau Fire has two paramedics who volunteered, applied, tested, and tried out for these positions. This is very a rigorous and taxing testing process. Firefighter/Paramedic Cody Volm and Brooke Johnson successfully passed all testing and interview components and were accepted by the Sheriff's Departments as TEMS Paramedics.

Brooke Johnson is being evaluated during a testing scenario.



Cody Volm is being evaluated during a testing scenario.



Governor Evers and DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake visit to Wausau Fire

Wausau Fire Department received \$30,000.00 from Governor Evers's latest \$8 million investment to EMS agencies across the state. The Governor chose Wausau Fire Department as one of his press release locations. The EMS Division has the opportunity to demonstrate an interactive EMS scenario with the Governor and DHS Secretary. The Governor was able to actively participate in the simulated patient scenario to get an idea of the care our paramedics deliver to our residents.

Governor Evers, DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake, Firefighter/Paramedic Austin Karimer, Firefighter Paramedic Tannor Bemke, and EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson.



Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs – YTD
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	1
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	1
City of Wausau	513	95.18%	3,760
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Berlin	2	0.37%	14
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	1
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	2
Town of Cassel	0	0.00%	3
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	1
Town of Hamburg	0	0.00%	3
Town of Harrison	1	0.19%	1
Town of Hewitt	1	0.19%	14
Town of Marathon	0	0.00%	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%	1
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	1
Town of Texas	4	0.74%	48
Town of Wausau	6	1.11%	65
Town of Wien	0	0.00%	3

Village of Athens	0	0.00%	2
Village of Edgar	0	0.00%	1
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	9	1.67%	54
Village of Marathon City	1	0.19%	2
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	2
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	1
Village of Weston	1	0.19%	7
Wittenberg	1	0.19%	1
Total	539	100.00%	4,000

Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

August Scheduled Training: (not all photographed)

- Community Walk-Through
- Ground Ladders
- NFPA 1410 #7
- Vehicle Extrication Operations

Community Walk-Through

Our monthly training started out with a drill called “Community Walk-Through.” This drill consisted of the fire companies/crews choosing buildings in the city to become familiar with their layouts, building construction, location, and needs. The below photos were from a walk-through completed by C-Crew of a historic building that is under renovation and renewal.

The crucial things we aim to identify while performing walk-throughs are building modifications to doors, windows, and/or structure, as well as fire suppression concerns. Most changes are often permitted and approved by engineers. However, some owners or occupants modify buildings in a manner that is not approved and can put residents and rescuers at risk. This specific case is approved, but if someone was used to an exit being there, and now it is gone, it may pose an issue.



Permitted blocked in door and window of a downtown occupancy.

Large Handlines

Firefighters are constantly training on various disciplines. We must always ensure we cover the basics. Here, a fire company is training on deploying a 2 ½" hoseline in a commercial structure. While this task appears easy, it is physically taxing to drag a charged hoseline from the engine, into a building, with will PPE.



2 ½" hose deployment in a commercial structure.

Rope and Confined Space Rigging

Throughout the year, our training plan provides structure to ensure we cover required and specialty training. The crew officers and members often pose challenges to each other to assess readiness or build critical thinking ability before it is faced on a scene. The below scenario was posed by a Lieutenant to his rescue crew to create a "mono-pod" or "gin-pole" as a high point anchor for confined space. While this is not a frequent occurrence, it tested the crew's knowledge of rope rescue, confined space rescue, physics, and geometry. Although the members on the rescue had not trained on this type of anchor, they were able to construct the anchor in an efficient means that displayed a working knowledge of the concepts while being monitored for safe practices.



"Gin-pole" created with a leg of our TerrAdaptor tri-pod kit.

Passenger Vehicle Extrication

Each year we acquire vehicles from Yaeger Auto Salvage and have them transported by Joe Rader towing to a city-leased snow melt area off of Curling Way. Wausau DPW then brings heavy equipment to crash the vehicles together or place them in precarious, yet realistic, positions for training. This training always starts out with a safety briefing and a brief discussion on safe approach, vehicle positioning, scene size-up, and vehicle safety factors.

Since we have many new members each time this training is conducted, we cover the basics with vehicles on their wheels. Two other crash types were also present this month to allow more experienced members to apply their greater experience and work through more difficult scenarios such as a vehicle on it's side and one on a soft embankment. As always, our members did not dissappoint and skillfully performed extrication functions on each vehicle.



Multiple vehicle extrication scenarios.

Wisconsin State Committees

On August 13th, Training Division Chief Briggs joined other members of the completed Entry-Level Technical Rescue committee in Rhinelander at Nicolet Technical College to offer a free class on the safe size-up and initial actions for technical rescue scenes. Approximately 25 firefighters from Northern and North-Central Wisconsin were present to gain new information with the intent to share it with their departments. The Wisconsin Technical College committee on fire officer training continued to meet. Since the Fire Officer 1 curriculum was completed, we began work on revising the Fire Officer 2 curriculum. The intent is to roll out both certification curriculums to aid in consistency in training delivery. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22nd.



Entry-Level Technical Rescue Training co-taught by state committee members.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	945.35	78.89%	5,514.17
Driver/Operator Training	1	0.08%	427
Facilities Training	0	0.00%	48.5
Hazardous Materials Training	66	5.51%	532.25
Misc Training	0	0.00%	52.33
Officer Training	124.25	10.37%	739.30
Specialty Training	61.75	5.15%	1,125.50
Total	1198.35	100.00%	8,439.05

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	0.75	0.56%	88.25
EMS Training	100.75	75.61%	1,596.25
Fire Instructor Training	31.75	23.83%	468.75
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	0
Investigation Training	0	0.00%	95
Total	133.25	100.00%	2,248.25

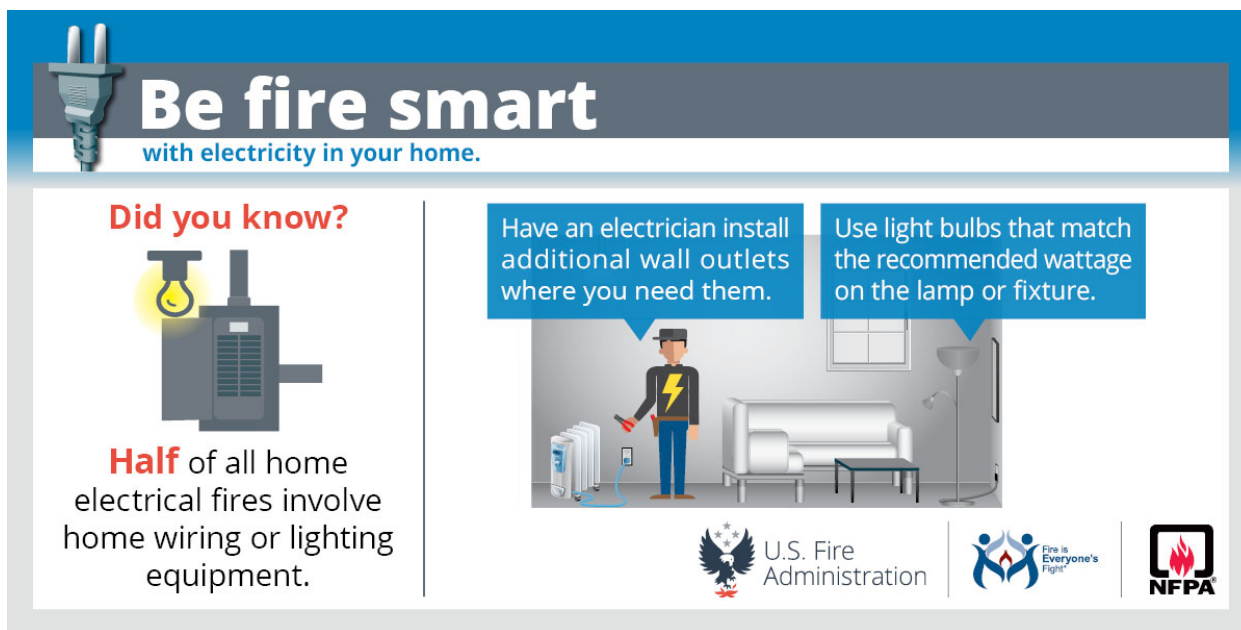
Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

Inspections: Within the City of Wausau for the month of August, we performed 116 total inspections. Of those 12 were re-inspections. We had 24 properties that had Fire Code Violations with 43% being Fire Extinguisher Annual Maintenance. These properties will require follow up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 4 consultation inspections for the month of that were either remodel projects or new construction.

Investigations: The Prevention Division conducted 2 Fire Investigations for the month of July. We also responded to 6 recreational fire complaints. These usually entail a complaint about either location of the fire pit, a neighbor's concern of smoke or materials being burnt. Inspectors take the opportunity to verify permit status, ordinance compliance, and provide education as appropriate.

Public Outreach: The Youth Fire Setting Intervention and Prevention program was well received by the participants. We are working on scheduling the final meeting and are hoping to make it a home visit. A strobe light smoke alarm was installed for a hearing-impaired individual at no cost to them.

Education: At this time, we have registered for the Fall IAAI Conference to be held on Sept 20-22 in Eau Claire. This will be a three-day conference that provides education in Fire and Arson Investigation. Lt. Inspector Kariger received notification of his acceptance to attend the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, for a 6-day course in Case Prep and Witness Testimony next January. This will give him additional experience in preparing for arson cases that have the potential to go to trial and testify as an expert witness.



Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Monthly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	103	1,909
Re-inspections	12	222
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	5	33
Total Inspections	116	2,160
Fire Investigations	2	7
Inspection Department Activities	Number	YTD
Public Engagement Activities	13	81

Fire Operations Division by Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp

Significant calls:

Wausau Fire responded to 4 building fires and one rubbish fire in the month of August. Two of the fires were cooking fires that were controlled and kept to the stove without extension. One fire was put out on the outside of the building before extending into the structure. Another fire was in an attic and did some major damage to the roof before extinguishment. The rubbish fire was a garbage truck who had a fire in the trash compartment and the driver was able to dump the garbage at station 2 in the parking lot where company 2 was able to extinguish the fire on the ground.

Recruitment and retention:

Another application process is underway and closes on September 18th with new minimum requirements. We have seen significant rises in interest in working/applying for Wausau Fire and the EMT/Paramedic classes at NTC have also increased in size. These are exciting trends, and we are looking forward to seeing all these candidates.

Incoming candidate Jared Blomberg has received all his credentials needed to work in Wisconsin and will start with Wausau Fire on September 12th.

Fleet:

All is well with our new engines and ladder truck with some small details being worked out with the manufacturer of the ladder truck that was put in service last month. Old engine 2 just received a new head gasket and is waiting for parts to have front bumper and grill repaired. When that is done engine 2 will be placed as our reserve engine and engine 4 will be sent to DPW to be sold.

Buildings and Grounds:

I have been working closely with Leo (city facilities manager) to repair some concrete in central fires apparatus bay as well as getting the windows cleaned at all three stations before winter.

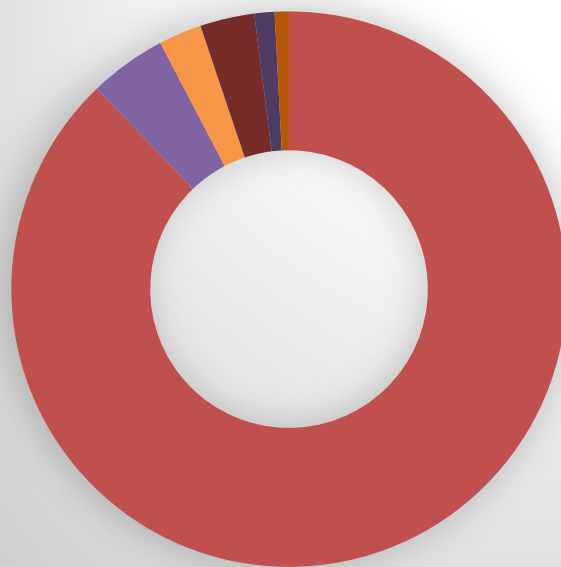
Overtime and Scheduling:

There was some relief in overtime in August with some members returning from FMLA. There may be another string of FMLA usage possibly starting up in September/October with multiple members expecting babies in these next couple months. One member remains on light duty with injury.

As always if you have any questions about operations please do not hesitate to call or come in and see me.
715-261-7901

Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
8/11/2022	416 Callon Street	City of Wausau	F22001398	Building fire
8/12/2022	267 Chellis Street	City of Wausau	F22001405	Building fire
8/16/2022	329 South 52nd Avenue	City of Wausau	F22001432	Building fire
8/20/2022	812 Plumer Street	City of Wausau	F22001459	Building fire
8/30/2022	3017 Seymour Lane	City of Wausau	F22001525	Trash or rubbish fire, contained



- Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident (527)
- False Alarm & False Call (27)
- Good Intent Call (15)
- Service Call (19)
- Hazardous Condition (No Fire) (7)
- Fire (5)
- Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire) (0)
- Special Incident Type (0)
- Severe Weather & Natural Disaster (0)

Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	2
City Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	1
City Of Schofield	0	0.00%	4
City Of Wausau	574	95.67%	4,185
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Berlin	2	0.33%	14
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	2
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Cassel	0	0.00%	3
Town Of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Hamburg	0	0.00%	3
Town of Harrison	1	0.17%	1
Town Of Hewitt	1	0.17%	14
Town Of Marathon	0	0.00%	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%	1
Town Of Stettin	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Texas	4	0.67%	47
Town Of Wausau	6	1.00%	64
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Wien	0	0.00%	3
Village Of Athens	0	0.00%	2
Village Of Brokaw	1	0.17%	6
Village Of Edgar	0	0.00%	1

Village Of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Maine	7	1.17%	48
Village Of Marathon City	1	0.17%	2
Village Of Rothschild	0	0.00%	2
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Weston	2	0.33%	8
Wittenberg	1	0.17%	1
Total	600	100.00%	4,431

Activity/Incident Hours Committed

Category	Time Committed
NFIRS Incidents	125:33:07 Hours
EMS Incidents	871:37:15 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	928.25 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	1,331.60 Hours

Aid Responses:

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	3
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	1
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	14
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