

Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

December 2022



(Remember to keep hydrants shoveled)

Fire Chief Report by Chief Robert Barteck

Working 24-hour shifts on the holidays is always difficult for our firefighter's families. The crews cooked some excellent meals together and received a steady stream of cookies and treats from our grateful community. The pile of notes and Christmas goodies covered one of the big tables in the kitchen at Central! Thank you to everyone who wrote us a note or dropped some sweet treats at one of our fire stations. We are genuinely thankful for serving such a grateful community.

In December, we saw an increase in call volume and answered 612 calls for service. The increase is not to be blamed on one thing but rather was an overall increase in various call natures. As Jeremy Kopp highlights in the Operations report, we had a few high-acuity calls, including two structure fires.

Falls in our 65+ age group continues to be our most significant call type. We are now referring patients who have experienced a fall to the ARDC for education and prevention help to reduce this number. Falls are the number one reason for dispatch across the country.

Here is an update on a few of the things we are working on in December:

Recruitment:

Our recruitment effort closed in December as we offered candidates employment with our department to fill the remaining positions. All our recommended candidates were confirmed by the Police and Fire Commission and are now moving through the onboarding process. We are excited to report that we have filled all but one of our additional positions.

We will be starting these new firefighters in three groups. The Seven EMT-Basic candidates will be first in early February and immediately begin Paramedic training provided by Northcentral Technical College. Later in February, we will start one fully qualified firefighter/paramedic and five paramedic students that will complete their training in May.

To ensure success in training all of these new Paramedics, we have posted a temporary duty position for one of our seasoned Paramedics to be moved off an assignment on the ambulance to the classroom to help guide, mentor, coordinate, schedule, tutor, etc. This person will be the key link between the department and NTC to ensure a successful educational journey.

2023 Strategic Planning:

Once all these new firefighters are hired on their educational journey, it is time that I turn my attention back to the department's long-term planning. In March, we will begin the strategic planning process to develop a five-year strategic plan. I took a Strategic Planning course in December at the CVMIC training center in Wauwatosa. The excellent class gave a solid outline to kick off our process. Our last five-year plan closed in 2020 so we are overdue to get our next plan developed.

I hope you find this monthly report informative. If you have any further questions or want additional information added to this report, please contact me.

Robert Barteck – Fire Chief

EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

The EMS Division finally completed our Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) accreditation application. 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.

CAAS was established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation system. Based initially on the efforts of the American Ambulance Association, the independent Commission launched a comprehensive series of standards for the ambulance service industry.

Accreditation signifies that your service has met the **"gold standard"** determined by the ambulance industry to be essential in a modern emergency medical services provider. These standards often exceed those established by state or local regulations. The CAAS standards are designed to help increase operational efficiency and decrease risk and liability across the entire spectrum of the organization.

We are eagerly awaiting their off-site evaluation of our application. During this phase, four different CAAS evaluators review our application and provide correspondence with us if they have any questions or need further information or clarification. This will help us further prepare for the on-site evaluation



Training

In December, there was quite a bit of EMS training as we held another recruit academy for our three newest firefighter /paramedics. Every recruit academy is different, as we need to take into consideration the past experience of the recruits. This academy consisted of some very young paramedics. There were a lot of steep learning curves for them to overcome to prepare them to operate as Wausau Fire Department Paramedics. We covered everything from advanced airway management to the 12 lead ECG interpretation, along with how to write a professional patient care report.

We also spent time with how to initial therapeutic conversation techniques to help communicate with our patients. Attention focused on modulation, eye contact, and facial expressions. These methods have proven to help patients feel at ease while in the care of health care professionals.

Below are pictures of different training topics our recruits participated in during their three-week academy.



Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs – YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	2
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	1
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	2
City of Wausau	499	90.56%	5,655
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Other	0	0.00%	0

Town of Berlin	4	0.73%	28
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%	1
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	1
Town of Hamburg	0	0.00%	6
Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	1
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	1
Town of Hewitt	4	0.73%	25
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	1
Town of Marathon	1	0.18%	3
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Rib Falls	1	0.18%	5
Town of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	6
Town of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	1
Town of Stettin	1	0.18%	2
Town of Texas	5	0.91%	62
Town of Wausau	15	2.72%	113
Town of Wien	0	0.00%	3
Village of Athens	2	0.36%	5
Village of Edgar	0	0.00%	1
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	17	3.09%	102
Village of Marathon City	0	0.00%	2
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	2
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	1
Village of Weston	2	0.36%	12
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	1
Wood County	0	0.00%	1
Total	551	100.00%	6,053

Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

December Scheduled Training:

- Technical Rescue Equipment Inventory, Maintenance, and Familiarization
- NFIRS Reporting
- Standard Operating Procedure Review

A brief breakdown of our scheduled activities follows:

Technical Rescue Equipment Inventory

Every year, we wrap up the training plan with a few housekeeping issues. We complete equipment inventories and inspections on our technical rescue cache to meet a national requirement and plan for any replacements needed in the new budget cycle. This also serves the dual-purpose of being a great opportunity to teach

newer members how to thoroughly inspect equipment that is less-often used than fire or EMS equipment.

NFIRS Reporting

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is a national system that our fire/rescue/EMS reports upload into for general data tracking and trending. This system is very specific in its criteria to ensure that good data in equals good data out. This data is used to support national safety initiatives, product recalls, and even implement new training for firefighters and public education for citizens. Throughout each year, we work to improve the data we provide. In December, we address it more specifically among all members of the organization to ensure we haven't missed anything throughout.

Standard Operating Procedures

Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) are just that, a standardized approach to how we operate. While we review new policies and updated policies throughout the year, we utilize December to select policies we use less frequently to review and even revise them if needed.

Recruit Training

Our newest hires continued their recruit training throughout December. Over three weeks, they performed foundational tasks such as pulling hoselines from the apparatus, placing ground ladders, search and rescue, and other tasks. On December 16th, our three newest members were sworn in symbolizing the end of the recruit academy and the start of their month with a Field-Training-Officer and additional partner. During the FTO period, they will be mentored and guided very specifically in fire, rescue, and EMS knowledge, skills, and abilities. Upon successful completion of the FTO period, these members will begin to "count" as staffing and will operate as probationary firefighters for the next year.



Recruit Oertel forces entry on a door prop.



Recruits Stoinski and Nelson work on Hoselays and deployment.

Wisconsin State Committees (WFD is represented on)

Technical Rescue Committee

The committee is progressing very rapidly with three major disciplines. Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Trench Rescue are all at the point when the committee can come-together and assess the progress. We may be able to move on to new disciplines within the next month. Again, these curriculums will be the first State of Wisconsin certifications in technical rescue ever.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	443.25	69.34%	7,424.37
Driver/Operator Training	2	0.31%	930.25
Facilities Training	0	0.00%	139.25
Hazardous Materials Training	4	0.63%	667.00
Misc Training	0	0.00%	79.83
Officer Training	50.75	7.94%	1,033.55
Specialty Training	139.25	21.78%	1584.50
Total	639.25	100.00%	11,858.75

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	36	9.56%	136.75
EMS Training	307.25	81.55%	2,528.15
Fire Instructor Training	33.5	8.89%	601.00
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	0
Investigation Training	0	0.00%	115
Total	376.75	100.00%	3,380.40

Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

Inspections: Within the City of Wausau for the month of December, we performed 215 total inspections. Of those, 57 were re-inspections. We had 28 properties that had Fire Code Violations with only 15.8% being Fire Extinguisher Annual Maintenance and 15.8% being for the cleaning of Hood Systems in restaurants. These properties will require follow up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 11 consultation inspections for the month of that were either remodel projects or new construction, including- Knox box installation, fire protection and fire alarm systems.

Investigations: The Prevention Division happily reports no fires needed investigating for the month of December.

Public Outreach: We performed a Fire Safety presentation in conjunction with the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) to help acclimate our community's newest refugee population to hazards associated with fire. This presentation was comprised of common hazards found within the home and how they can precipitate house fires. This presentation went well, considering the use of a translator through the ECDC's phone system.

Education: There was no formal education provided for the month of December. The prevention division's education during these times is reliant upon multiple online education portals. The predominant site is CFIttrainer.net. This site is run by the IAAI, FEMA and the ATF. The classes provided are tested and count towards the continuing education needed for our IAAI certifications.



Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Monthly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	158	2,971
Re-inspections	57	368
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	11	67
Total Inspections	226	3,406
Fire Investigations	0	8
Inspection Department Activities	Number	YTD
Public Engagement Activities	8	139

Fire Operations Division by Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp

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

Significant calls:

Wausau Fire responded to 6 significant calls in the month of December that were fire and rescue related. Five of them were fires of which one was a vehicle, and one was a snowmobile in a garage. Another fire was the Ladder Truck dispatched to The City of Merrill for help at a fire in which they were returned to service when they arrived on scene. The other two were small fires put out early on the exterior of a residence. The 6th significant call was an ice rescue call under Bridge St. bridge where a person was on the ice under the bridge significantly injured. The airboat was directed to be put in at Gilbert Park, but the rescue was made by firefighters in safety equipment from the bank where the patient was about 50 feet away from.

Recruitment and Retention:

Firefighter/Paramedics Oertel, Nelson, and Stoinski have completed the academy and are all working on their respective crews doing 24-hour shifts, congratulations! We are on track to start a dozen new firefighters in February in three different groups: a paramedic group that moves right into the academy, a group that is halfway done with paramedic class, and another group that will be starting paramedic class through the department and partnering with N.T.C. 2023 is going to be a very exciting year and will prove to be a transitional year that will change the way the department responds to emergencies to help our community. With all the recruitment that has been going on and mostly achieved, I have decided to investigate more ways of working on retention and letting our existing employees know they are appreciated. Some of the ideas behind this is to educate them on all the things our community has to offer as well as different organizations they can join.

Fleet:

Med 2 has been temporarily fixed until new parts arrive for it through Brickners. Med 1, Med 4, and Med 5 have all been taking their turns going into Brickners or are scheduled into January for repairs on heating systems and airbags for the lift system of the rigs.

Ladder 2 was sent to Custom fire for repairs and turned out to not be the fix they were hoping for, so Ladder 2 spent a good portion of December out of service. Sutphen will be flying in a mechanic in early January to troubleshoot the alarming and outrigger issues.

Battalion 1 has been wrapped with new colors and lettering and is currently waiting for new topper to arrive so it can be wired for lights and radios at Belco.

Buildings and Grounds:

We have been working with an environmental company throughout December that was subcontracted by the DNR for the removal of PFAS foam in the fire service. Wausau fire was designated as a drop off site for Marathon County and all foam will be picked up in early January. This has been a statewide effort and only a few counties have completed this task so far, it is expected to be completed throughout the state in 2023.

Significant Fire Events:

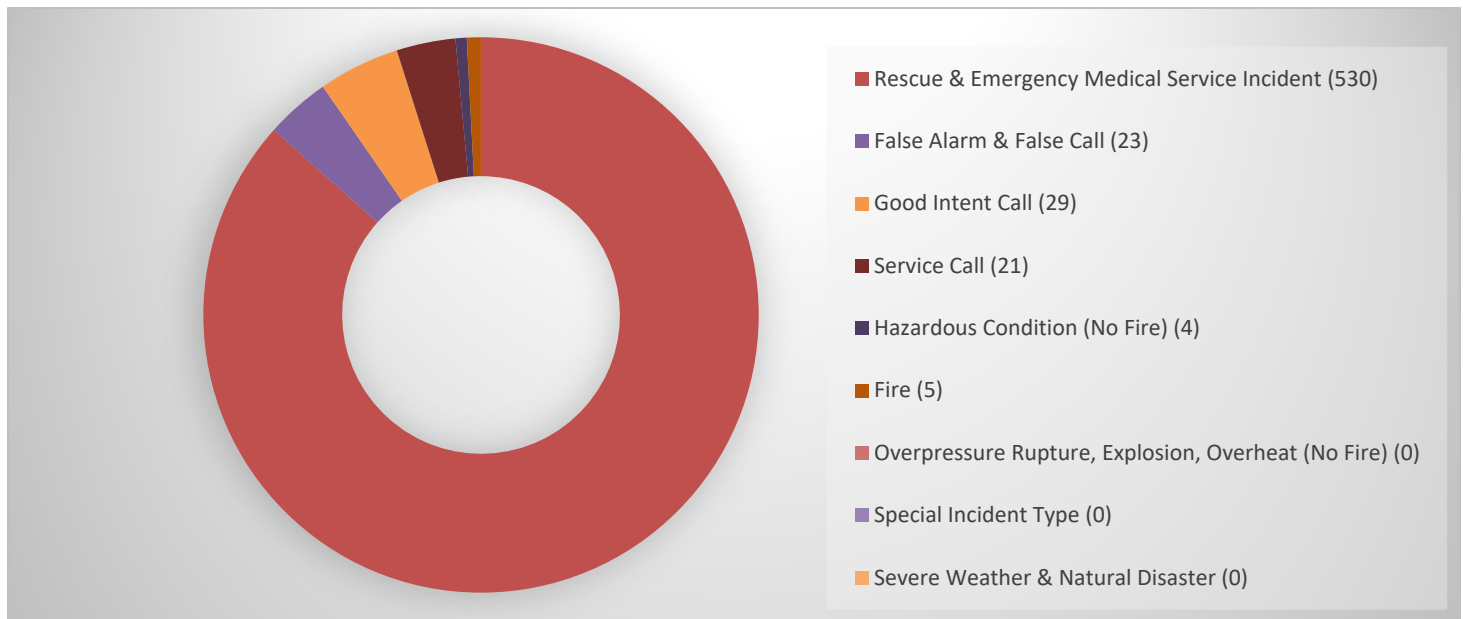
Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
12/4/2022	207 South 14th Avenue	City of Wausau	F22002133	Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire
12/4/2022	207 South 14th Avenue	City of Wausau	F22002134	Building fire
12/5/2022	1210 East 8th Street	City of Merrill	F22002146	Building fire

12/19/2022	5551 Sherman Street	City of Wausau	F22002227	Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire
12/22/2022	600 South 17th Avenue	City of Wausau	F22002250	Passenger vehicle fire

Monthly NFIRS Incident Comparison:**

	2022	2021	% of Change from 2021 to 2022
January	591	502	17.73%
February	507	456	11.18%
March	540	497	8.65%
April	498	503	-0.99%
May	574	556	3.24%
June	590	583	1.20%
July	531	587	-9.54%
August	600	577	3.99%
September	524	525	-0.19%
October	545	552	-1.27%
November	574	562	2.14%
December	612	590	3.73%
TOTAL	6686	6490	3.02%

**New data as requested by PFC Commission



Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	2
City of Colby	0	0.00%	1
City of Merrill	1	0.16%	6
City Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	1
City Of Schofield	0	0.00%	6
City Of Wausau	560	91.50%	6,279
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Berlin	4	0.65%	27

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%	1
Town Of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	1
Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Hamburg	0	0.00%	6
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Hewitt	4	0.65%	25
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Marathon	1	0.16%	3
Town Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Rib Falls	1	0.16%	5
Town Of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	9
Town Of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Stettin	1	0.16%	2
Town Of Texas	5	0.82%	61
Town Of Wausau	15	2.45%	110
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Wien	0	0.00%	3
Village Of Athens	2	0.33%	5
Village Of Brokaw	0	0.00%	8
Village Of Edgar	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Maine	16	2.61%	93
Village Of Marathon City	0	0.00%	2
Village Of Rothschild	0	0.00%	2
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Weston	2	0.33%	13
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	1
Wood County	0	0.00%	1
Total	612	100.00%	6,686

Activity/Incident Hours Committed:

Category	Time Committed
NFIRS Incidents	114:21:14 Hours
EMS Incidents	868:05:24 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	753.00 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	1,016.00 Hours

Aid Responses:

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	2
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	3

Automatic Aid Given – EMS	33
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 to the City of Wausau (not Aid)	7
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)	13