

Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

May 2023



(Members of Local 415 along with Mayor Rosenberg, Alder Diny,
and Chief Barteck at Fire Ops 101 in Madison, WI)

Fire Chief Report by Chief Robert Barteck

May was another busy month with a spike in fire calls that was ahead of normal. Deputy Chief Kopp discusses the higher-profile events in his report. May 21-27 was EMS week, and our organization celebrated our team members. Jared Thompson discusses this year's theme in his monthly report.

May 8 Firefighter/Paramedics John Lauer and Nolan Bouffler began their careers with Wausau Fire. On May 9, they joined James Brockman, Ashley Sakis, and Ethan Cordova to begin their four-week entry-level academy. They will complete the academy on June 2 with a swear-in event before they are assigned to their crews and begin working 24-hour shifts.

On May 24, the Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin hosted a stellar Fire Ops 101 event. The event is designed to help educate Wisconsin's local leaders about the daily challenges Firefighters and Paramedics face. Mayor Katie Rosenberg and Alderman Doug Diny represented the City of Wausau at the event. The 65 participants were fitted with turn-out gear, completed a medical check, and began rotating through the five stations. Participants completed an EMS scenario where they had to perform CPR and resuscitate a pulseless nonbreathing patient. They dove headfirst through a window to search a smoke-filled building for a missing infant. They advanced a charged hose line into a smoke-filled second-floor room to extinguish a fire and completed the day by using hydraulic rescue tools to cut apart cars. Mayor Rosenberg and Alder Diny demonstrated their leadership and willingness to learn by fully engaging in all the scenarios. Members of Wausau Firefighters Local 415 served as instructors and wranglers for the participants. It was an excellent experience for all involved.

The research on a potential Community Care Paramedic position is going well. Conversations are continuing with Wausau healthcare leaders and key leaders. This potential program already has a large amount of support, and we are prepared to make an initial presentation to the Public Health and Safety Committee in June.

May is Capital Improvements season. We began with ten deserving project ideas and whittled them down to the top three priorities for the department's 2024 CIP requests. Station maintenance and long-term planning is at the top of the list for our requests.

- For the second year in a row, we are requesting \$815,000 to purchase the empty lots at 811 and 815 Floral Lane to secure a location for the eventual replacement of the Central Fire Station. The 61-year-old station no longer fits our modern operations and needs major repairs for much longer. The most cost-effective option is constructing a new modern station that meets the community's needs today and in the future.
- Fire Stations One and Three were not designed with proper bathroom facilities or sleeping privacy for male and female firefighters. In 1962 when station one was completed, female firefighters did not exist. In 1981 when station three was completed, female firefighters started joining departments, but none existed in Wausau. Both station one and three bunk rooms were only designed with male firefighters in mind. They are wide open rooms with beds tightly arranged. The layout lacks privacy or sound barriers between firefighters working in those stations. Currently, Wausau Fire has five working female firefighters, and hopefully, more in the future. We must meet the needs of ALL our firefighters, regardless of gender. To increase the privacy of the two bunk rooms, we requested \$115,000 to install a cubicle-style divider system with tall walls and sliding doors on each cubicle. Because of electrical and HVAC requirements, cubicle dividers are cheaper than building separate rooms. The cubicle walls provide privacy but have an open top allowing the current HVAC system to heat and cool the room properly. The walls would be cloth covered and help reduce sound.
- Station Three is the only station without a turn-out washer/extractor and dryer. A department policy is that firefighters must wash turn-out gear after each fire to remove carcinogens and toxins from the gear. Proper washing of turn-out gear must be performed in an extractor-style washer specifically built for firefighting turn-out gear. The firefighters assigned to station three must transport their dirty turn-out gear to station one to be washed. This slows the washing process because the washer/extractor at station

one can only wash a single set of turn-out gear at a time. In 2022 we had written a grant to purchase the washer/extractor and dryer but were unsuccessful. CIP 2023 began repairing and updating the apparatus floor at station three by repairing the heaving drains and applying epoxy to the concrete floor. We requested \$48,000 to complete the project with the purchase and installation of the washer/extractor and dryer, install new gear-gris turn-out gear lockers and paint the walls and ceiling This would make the apparatus floor at Station Three, essentially brand new with a complete update from two years of CIP projects.

I hope you find this monthly report informative. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or want additional information added to this report.

Robert Barteck – Fire Chief

EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

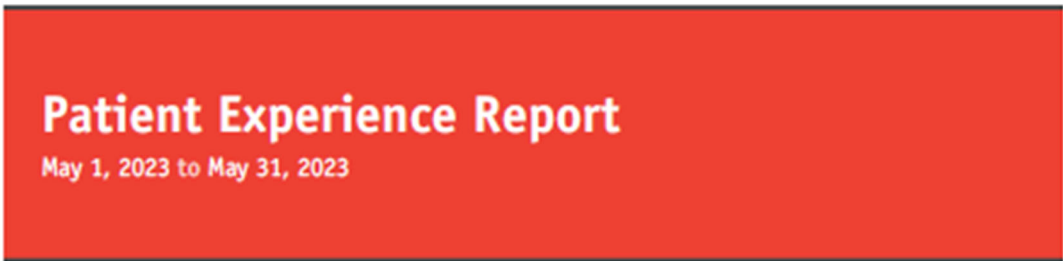
CAAS Accreditation

We have sent CAAS to sets of dates for them to come perform our onsite review. The dates are June 26 and 27 or July 10 and 11. They are in the process of forming a review team.



EMS Patient Experience Report

The EMS Division is excited to share our patient care experience report for May. Our overall score was 92.00%. I want to highlight our 5 highest scores from this report. As you will see, we scored above the national data base.



Your Score

92.00

Your Patients in this Report

31

Total Patients in this Report

7,099

Total EMS Organizations

224

5 Highest Scores



Training

During the month of May, all paramedics renewed their Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certifications through the American Heart Association. The PALS Provider Course aims to improve outcomes for pediatric patients by preparing healthcare providers to effectively recognize and intervene in patients with respiratory emergencies, shock, and cardiopulmonary arrest by using high-performance team dynamics and high-quality

individual skills. The course includes a series of case scenario practices with simulations that reinforce important concepts.



New Recruits

A full recruit academy was held in May as well. On the EMS side, our recruits were introduced to Wausau Fire EMS. During the academy, the recruits were trained on all our state-of-the-art equipment and how to utilize them during high-acuity calls.





Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Reports	% of Reports	# of Reports – YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	0
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	1
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	0
City of Wausau	500	93.11%	2,290
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	1
Town of Berlin	4	0.74%	19
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Cassel	0	0.00%	0
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0

Town of Frankfort	1	0.19%	1
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hamburg	0	0.00%	0
Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	1
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hewitt	3	0.56%	13
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	1
Town of Marathon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	1
Town of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	2
Town of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	2
Town of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	0
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	1
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	1
Town of Texas	3	0.56%	20
Town of Wausau	10	1.86%	61
Town of Wien	0	0.00%	1
Village of Athens	0	0.00%	3
Village of Edgar	1	0.19%	2
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	1
Village of Maine	11	2.05%	60
Village of Marathon City	1	0.19%	3
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	1
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village of Weston	3	0.56%	20
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	537	100.00%	2,507

Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

May Scheduled Training:

A brief breakdown of our scheduled activities follows:

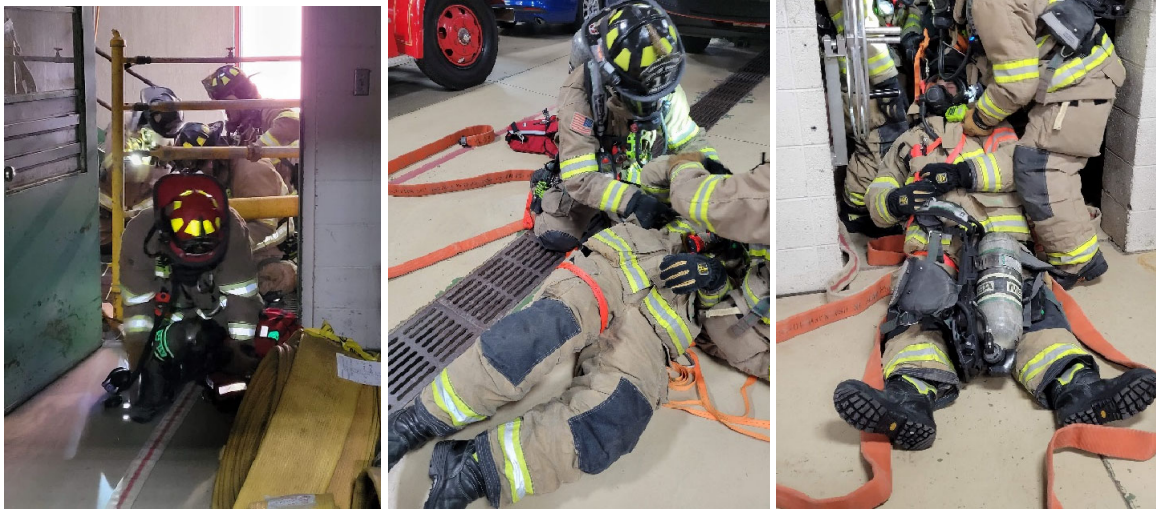
- Health and Wellness (Chaplain Chat)
- Mayday Activation
- Haz-Mat – Initial Engine Company Response to Haz-Mat Incidents
- Ground Ladder Victim Rescue

Health and Wellness

On a quarterly basis, our members are provided with the opportunity to have a sit-down presentation and discussion with members of our Chaplain Team. Each session is focused at providing mental health and wellness support in a constructive manner to stave off fatigue and stress. Often, these quarterly “chats” provide little tips and tricks to cope with stressors that occur on the job and in life in general.

Mayday Activation

All crew members performed scenarios that lead to a firefighter MAYDAY (call for help) and then had to perform tasks to rescue the distressed firefighter. This scenario-based drill stresses the need for members to conserve air, pay attention to details, care for one of their own, and work under duress. Each company set-up their own scenarios within defined parameters and then progressed through from the MAYDAY to exit of the structure with the down firefighter.



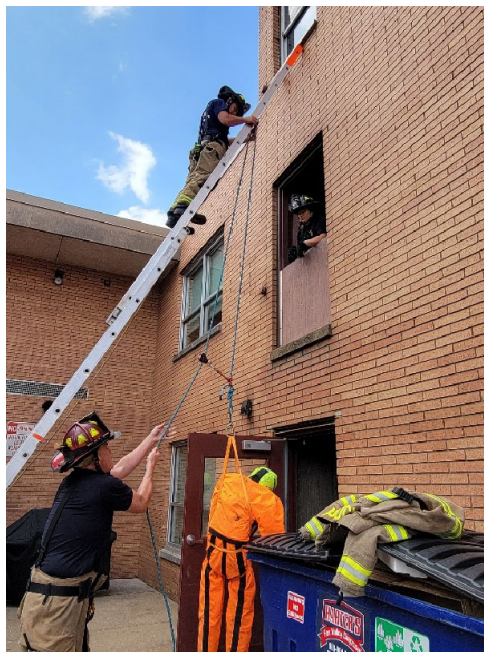
Above: The crew performed a rescue of a distressed firefighter who got separated from their partner and ran out of air.

Haz-Mat – Initial Company Response to HM Incidents

Haz-Mat incidents happen every day in one place or another. In our profession, many organizations view them with some anxiety as they are usually small in nature, but infrequent in smaller communities. However, WFD is a Wisconsin Tier 2 team that responds in the city, county, and region. Lt. Ambrosius worked with the Training Division Chief to record a lecture on simplifying the initial size-up and approach to these incidents and take some of the anxiety out. Fortunately, WFD members are well prepared to face these types of incidents.

Ground Ladder Victim Rescue

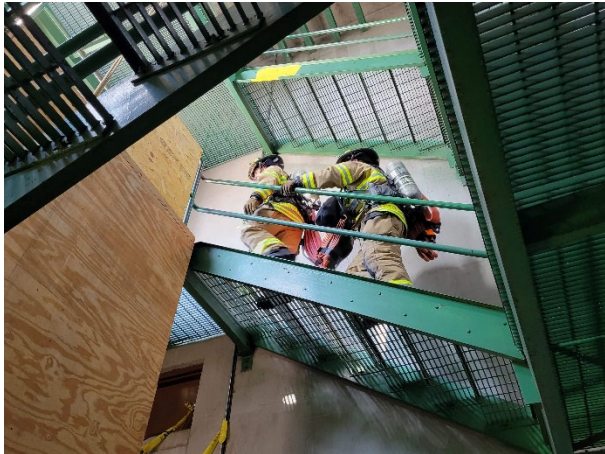
One of our essential job performance requirements as firefighters is to “throw” ladders quickly, safely, and efficiently. This month’s ladder drill took on a slightly different twist and included throwing ladders but also using them to perform different victim rescue scenarios. Each crew utilized ground ladders and various means to rescue a victim out of a window or off a roof and lower them to the ground. Methods included carrying a mannequin down the ladder, using a rope to lower the mannequin, or other creative means.



Recruit Academy

Our first recruit academy began in May, spanned four weeks, and included five new firefighter/paramedics. This four-week academy is filled with lectures and skills to take our new members from what they knew and elevate it in every way possible to prepare them to serve the residents of, and visitors to, the City of Wausau. During the fire/rescue aspect of their training, we covered fire behavior, basic building construction, strategy

and tactics, deploying hoselines, throwing ladders, search and rescue, hi-rise fires, and many other topics. Our new members have performed extremely well over these busy weeks, and we couldn't be prouder of them.



Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	933	82.29%	2,921.90
Driver/Operator Training	66.25	5.84%	626.80
Facilities Training	0	0.00%	39
Hazardous Materials Training	47.5	4.19%	192.25
Misc Training	3	0.26%	55.25
Officer Training	32	2.82%	253.45
Specialty Training	52	4.59%	758.75
Total	1,133.75	100.00%	4,843.40

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	1	0.13%	45.5
EMS Training	663	87.09%	1,555.5
Fire Instructor Training	97.25	12.78%	304.75
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	0
Investigation Training	0	0.00%	111
Total	761.25	100.00%	2,016.75

Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

Inspections: Within the City of Wausau for the month of May, we performed 817 total inspections. We had 64 properties that had Fire Code Violations with 33.7% being Fire Extinguisher Annual Maintenance. These properties will require follow up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 3 consultation inspections for the month. One for Fire Suppression systems, one new construction Site review, and one Fire Alarm system. We also received and recorded 118 reports through the Compliance Engine for services rendered for fire suppression systems at varying businesses.

Investigations: The Prevention Division investigated three fires the month of May. These properties included a two-story multi-family residence, a single story multi family residence, and a two-story single-family residence. These fires were all classified as accidental. Although, one was due to careless use of smoking materials, and one was an unfortunate incident where the power to the residence was re-established, and the stovetop burner had been left on.

Public Outreach: Throughout May we performed outreach two different times. These were witnessing Fire drills at schools. These drills require time management, accountability, and organizational benchmarks for our staff to advise on.

Education: The Prevention Division inspectors completed all the EMS certification continuing education that is needed to continue our licensures in April. In May we received our applicable licensures from the State and are certified for the next three years.



Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Monthly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	758	1,541
Re-inspections	56	139
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	4	26
Total Inspections	818	1,706
Fire Investigations	3	9
Inspection Department Activities	Number	YTD
Public Engagement Activities	11	58

Fire Operations Division by Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp

Significant calls:

Wausau Fire responded to four structure fires in the month of May, in addition to one vehicle fire, one large dumpster fire, and a small vegetation fire. One of the structure fires was a MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) call to Kronenwetter with Truck 1 and four personnel. We are investigating the dumpster fire with Wausau P.D. because of some fireworks found near and in the dumpster.

Recruitment and Retention:

The recruit academy ran the entire month of May, the new firefighter/paramedics will be on their new crews the first week of June working 24-hour shifts. Swear in ceremony is scheduled for June 2nd at station 2. Another hiring process was launched in May with the deadline to apply set for Sunday June 11th when we will interview to fill three more positions. I have done five one on one tour/talks with perspective candidates interested in getting into the field of firefighting and paramedicine in the month of May. I have also been in communications with a couple chiefs around the state about employing a therapy dog for our department.

Fleet:

We were operating out of three ambulances for most of May with two of them being worked on and returned the first week of June by Brickners and DPW. We have been working with vendors to calculate final costs and asking permission to order a 2nd ambulance for delivery next year. The only other fleet issue was the Nissan Rogue being in the Nissan shop for a week getting A/C repaired, leaving our inspectors short one vehicle short for the week.

Buildings and Grounds:

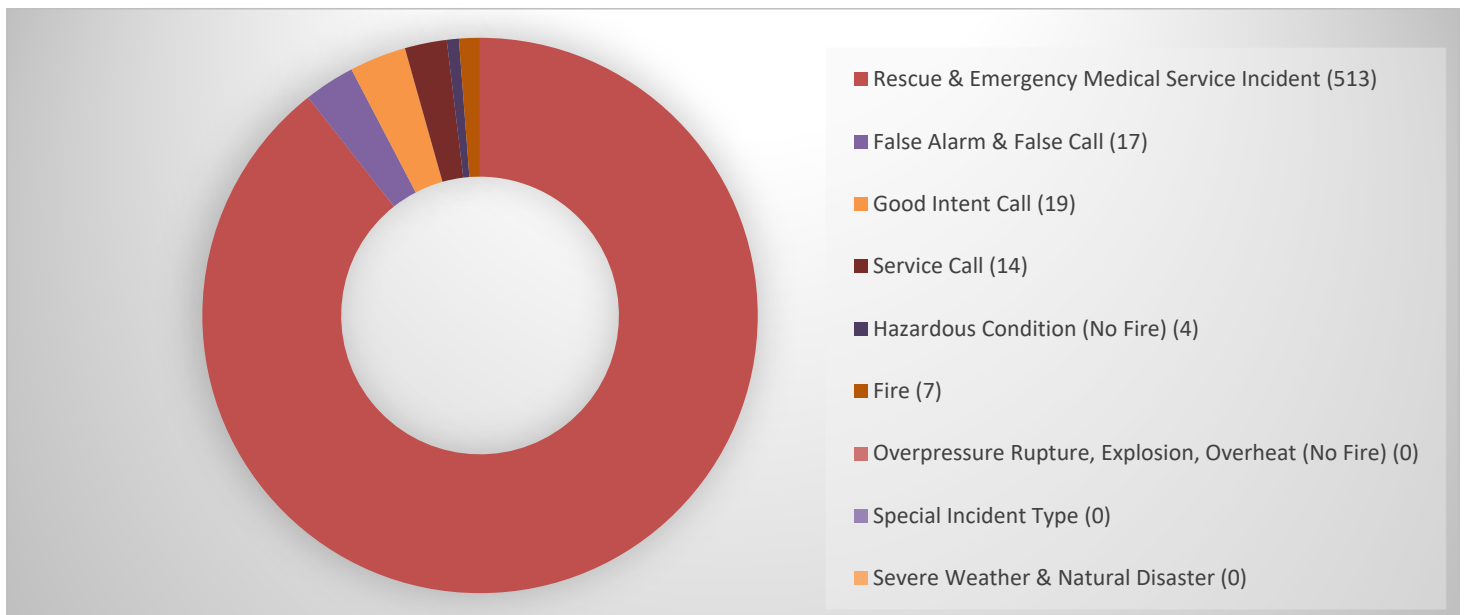
Final estimates have been done for station 3 apparatus bay remodel and going out to bid in June. We have been working with the water department for possible options of removing or relocating the fire hydrant on the east side of central fire to help with parking as well as practicality for training and refilling trucks.

Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
5/15/2023	3101 North 13th Street	City of Wausau	F23000795	Passenger vehicle fire
5/21/2023	214 North 7th Avenue	City of Wausau	F23000823	Building fire
5/22/2023	500 River Drive	City of Wausau	F23000833	Natural vegetation fire, other
5/26/2023	805 Flieth Street	City of Wausau	F23000861	Building fire
5/28/2023	4200 Stettin Drive	City of Wausau	F23000872	Trash or rubbish fire, contained
5/29/2023	801 South 48th Avenue	City of Wausau	F23000875	Building fire
5/31/2023	1985 Creciente Drive	Kronenwetter	F23000890	Building fire

Monthly NFIRS Incident Comparison:

	2023	2022	2021	% Of Change from 2022 to 2023
January	579	591	502	-2.03%
February	506	507	456	-0.20%
March	551	540	497	2.04%
April	527	498	503	5.82%
May	574	574	556	0.00%
June		590	583	
July		531	587	
August		600	577	
September		524	525	
October		545	552	
November		574	562	
December		612	590	
TOTAL		6686	6490	



Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	0
City of Colby	0	0.00%	0
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	1
City Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City Of Schofield	0	0.00%	0
City Of Wausau	537	93.55%	2,520
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Berlin	4	0.70%	15
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Cassel	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	1	0.17%	1
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Hamburg	0	0.00%	0
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Hewitt	3	0.52%	13
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Marathon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	1
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	2
Town Of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	2
Town Of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	0
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Stettin	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Texas	3	0.52%	18
Town Of Wausau	10	1.74%	61
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Wien	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Athens	0	0.00%	3
Village Of Brokaw	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Edgar	1	0.17%	2
Village Of Kronenwetter	1	0.17%	2
Village Of Maine	11	1.92%	60
Village Of Marathon City	1	0.17%	3
Village Of Rothschild	0	0.00%	2
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Weston	2	0.35%	19
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	574	100.00%	2,733

Activity/Incident Hours Committed:

Category	Time Committed
NFIRS Incidents	181:46:13 Hours
EMS Incidents	750:25:24 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	909.75 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	1,895.00 Hours

Aid Responses:

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	3
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	1
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	29
Automatic Aid Given – Fire	0
Mutual Aid Received – EMS	2
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)	3
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)	2