

# Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

## June 2023



(Eleven new firefighters sworn in at Wausau Fire on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023)

## **Fire Chief Report by Chief Robert Barteck**

June was a busy and historic month for the Wausau Fire Department. We collected a prestigious award, hosted Governor Evers for the signing of Act 12, and swore in the largest number of new Wausau Firefighters in our organization's modern history. The month seemed to fly by, and I am hoping to slow down in July to catch up on our normal day-to-day activities.

On June 2, we held the largest swear-in event in Wausau Fire Department's modern history. City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde swore in eleven new firefighters. Five firefighters who completed their paramedic schooling were assigned to their perspective battalions and began working 24-hour shifts. The remaining six returned to their Paramedic studies and will begin performing their clinical ride time on our city ambulances.

On June 19 I presented the Public Health and Safety Committee information we have gathered about developing the Community Care Paramedic position. Following the presentation, the committee directed me to develop a proposal for the position that can be acted upon to create the position. I expect to have that proposal ready for the August PHS Committee meeting.

On June 20, we were incredibly honored to host Governor Tony Evers and elected officials from across Wisconsin at Fire Station Two for the historic signing of the ACT 12 Shared Revenue Reform Bill. This bill will help the City of Wausau better equip our department to meet the growing demand for fire, EMS, technical rescue, HazMat, and prevention services.

June 22-24, Deputy Chief Kopp and I attended the Wisconsin State Fire Chief's Conference in the Wisconsin Dells. As usual, it was an excellent conference widely attended by chief officers from Wisconsin. Conference classes ranged from officer development to mental health programs for firefighters and paramedics. The conference culminated with the President's Dinner on Saturday night, where we were awarded the prestigious Safety Leadership Award. We were recognized for our programs developed by Traci Tauferner, Athletic Trainer from Advanced Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine, to decrease injuries and increase the functional strength of firefighter/paramedics. For example, over the last year, Traci has documented an 82% increase in functional strength in 18 newly hired firefighters within the first three months of joining the department through participation in her program. She also works with staff through strains and pains for more rapid recovery and reduction of further injury. The programs that Traci offers to our staff have profoundly positively impacted the lives and well-being of our firefighters. We are excited that her work and the participation of our staff are being recognized at a state level. Wausau is again leading the way in pioneering new and inventive programs, and this program will now be a model for others to follow.

On June 26, I publicly announced that I am retiring. My last day at Wausau Fire will be December 15. Serving as the Fire Chief of the City of Wausau Fire Department has been the pinnacle of my fire service career. My passion for the job and serving others is greater than ever, which made my decision to retire extremely difficult. However, after 30 years of working professionally in this trade, the time has come to hang up my helmet and start the next chapter of my life.

I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to work for the City of Wausau as Deputy Chief and Fire Chief. The men and women of the Wausau Fire Department make a fantastic team. The department is comprised of unique individuals who lock arms in their shared desire to serve others in their time of need. Multiple times a day, they demonstrate self-sacrifice and courageous service to the community they have sworn to serve. I am proud to have been a small part of this amazing organization's work.

The Police and Fire Commission quickly began work to seek and select my successor. I look forward to handing the baton of leadership to the next Fire Chief prior to my departure.

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

Our CAAS onsite review dates were July 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. One reviewer is from Idaho and the other is from Alabama. Much of the latter part of June spent making sure our ambulances were up to CAAS standards. One standard that CAAS places a lot of focus on is ambulance security. In the back of the ambulances, we needed to install devices that allowed us to seal every cabinet and compartment. This is to detect any tampering of supplies if any unauthorized person were to enter the ambulance without being accompanied by a Wausau Fire crew member.



## EMS Patient Experience Report

The EMS Division is excited to share our patient care experience report for May. Our overall score was 92.71%. I want to highlight our 5 highest scores from this report. As you will see, we scored above the national data base. In this area, you will notice that under that category of “Skill of the medics” we scored 96.55%. This is very encouraging because we have a very young department when it comes to overall experience.

### Wausau Fire Department

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Client 3002



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## Patient Experience Report

June 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

Your Score

**92.71**

Your Patients in this Report

**33**

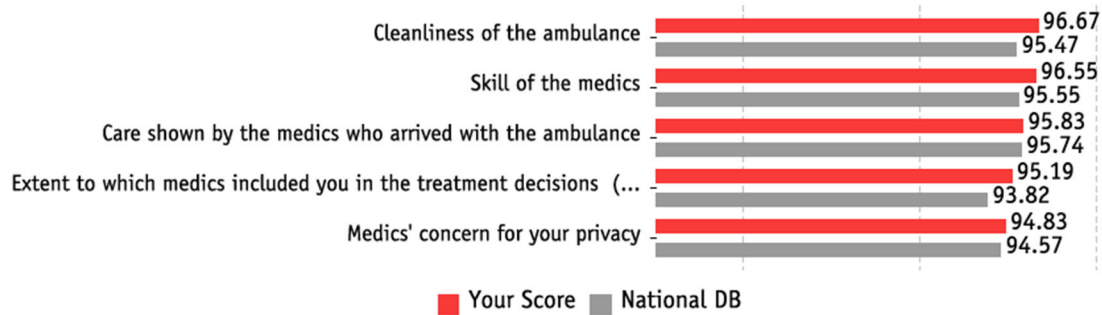
Total Patients in this Report

**4,712**

Total EMS Organizations

**225**

## 5 Highest Scores



### Training:

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, all EMTs and Paramedics were required to by the WI Department of Health Services (DHS) to renew their EMS licenses. We were able to get approval for DHS to become our own WI State approved EMS refresher site and complete all our continuing education internally. For paramedics, 60 hours are required and for EMTs, 30 hours of continuing education are required every three years. This continuing education needs to be delivered by WI State EMS Level II certified instructors. Here at Wausau Fire, we have three of certified instructors. With the amount of focus we place on training here at Wausau Fire, all EMTs and paramedics surpassed their state requirements.

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

City	# of Reports	% of Reports	# of Reports – YTD
City of Abbotsford	1	0.20%	1
City of Antigo	1	0.20%	1
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	1
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	0
City of Wausau	457	89.61%	2,747
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	1
Town of Berlin	4	0.78%	23
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Cassel	1	0.20%	1
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	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	0	0.00%	13
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	1
Town of Marathon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Mosinee	1	0.20%	1
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	1
Town of Rib Falls	2	0.39%	4
Town of Rib Mountain	1	0.20%	3

Town of Rietbrock	1	0.20%	1
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	1
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	1
Town of Texas	6	1.18%	26
Town of Wausau	14	2.75%	75
Town of Wien	0	0.00%	1
Village of Athens	1	0.20%	4
Village of Edgar	0	0.00%	2
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	1
Village of Maine	18	3.53%	78
Village of Marathon City	0	0.00%	3
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	1
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village of Weston	2	0.39%	22
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>	510	100.00%	3,017

## Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

### June Scheduled Training:

A brief breakdown of our scheduled activities follows:

- Aerial Operations
- Rope Rescue – Slopes
- Vent Enter Search
- Fireground Strategies and Tactics
- Fast Attack

#### Aerial Operations

When we arrive on a fireground, it is imperative that we position our apparatus in the best places for suppression, rescue, aerial reach, etc. Part of June's training was a drill that required our members to get in the mindset to "position apparatus, don't park." This process needs to become habitual. Specifically, we need to position so our aerial apparatus can reach their objectives with the 75' ladder or the 100' platform. We can always add length to a hoseline if we must, but our goal is to position optimally the first time we pull the parking brake on apparatus. This drill included video review of the emergency controls on Truck 1 and learning the emergency controls on Ladder 2.

#### Rope Rescue – Slopes

Specialty rescues are infrequent; however, they come with high risk. We ensure we train on our primary responsibilities such as fire suppression and EMS calls but also technical rescue. In June, we trained on slope rescues on the 35-degree slope to the South of Marathon County Employees Credit Union. This scenario-based drill required members to perform a size-up, create rigging with ropes, harnesses, and other equipment, and perform a rescue of a mannequin over the edge. Each crew performed the drill slightly different, as there are many ways to perform the same task. Each crew also was given an overview of the most widely used practices in current rope-rescue curriculum.

With the influx of so many new hires, this drill was a great opportunity to broaden their horizons as to what they may face outside of the "normal" responses. Specialty rescues often combine knowledge, skills, and abilities from basic firefighter training, EMS care, and other disciplines.





Above: FF/ P Pries and FF/P Blomberg are tending the victim in the stokes basket while being hauled back up to the rigging area.

### Vent Enter Search

During a structure fire, the best path to perform a rescue is not always through the front door. Through study and changes in tactics, it has become a national initiative to utilize a Vent, Enter, Search (VES) technique more frequently to close off and search areas of buildings to increase the survivability of occupants and victims. In June, each crew performed VES or Vent, Enter, Isolate, Search (VEIS) to refresh on our ability to gain entry and perform rapid searches for victims.



Above: Lt. Ambrosius and Engineer Gehring perform a VES rescue on an elevated floor.

### Fireground Strategies and Tactics

Not every drill we perform is in full bunker gear or on a training site. Each crew member participated in table-top exercises in working through incidents. Each incident we face requires calculation to perform the tasks safely, quickly, and efficiently. Hence, we train on strategies and tactics on fires, specialty rescues, and other incidents. This drill revolved around fire-ground size-up, and the creation of an incident action plan based on the strategic and tactical objectives we develop to mitigate a hazard.

### Fast Attack

Most of our fires are controlled by what we call a "handline." This is a 1 ¾" or 2 ½" hoseline that is maneuvered by hand, by firefighters. Some fires are larger when we arrive, and we can consider an option that is commonly referred to as a "fast attack." A fast attack is when a fire engine arrives on scene and decides

the fire needs a lot of water very quickly. The Engineer and another crew member set-up to use the large, mounted nozzle on the top of the engine. This nozzle, paired with an effective firefighter, can deploy up to 1250 gallons of water per minute (GPM) vs a standard handline which is around 150 GPM. Once the fire is “darkened down,” the crew then takes handlines in and finishes up the rest of the fire. This drill is difficult to train on as we have no facility to perform the drill. Luckily, NTC allowed us to use their splash tower on this occasion.

## Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Technical Rescue Committee

The committee for Wisconsin’s first Technical Rescue certifications had planned on taking our courses to certification in June. However, the state WTCS office had a death of an employee, and the curriculum was unable to make it to accreditation. This allowed us to slow down, review the content, and provide some additional work to ensure the curriculums are ready for accreditation. The committee members met via Zoom and finalized what they could collectively. Each member is now finalizing some edits before an in-person meeting which will likely occur later in July.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	411.25	61.94%	3,333.15
Driver/Operator Training	31.25	4.71%	658.05
Facilities Training	0	0.00%	39
Hazardous Materials Training	16	2.41%	208.25
Misc Training	0	0.00%	55.25
Officer Training	58	8.73%	311.45
Specialty Training	147.5	22.21%	906.25
Total	664	100.00%	5,511.40

### 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	39	14.90%	84.5
EMS Training	195.5	74.69%	1,751
Fire Instructor Training	27.25	10.41%	332
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	0
Investigation Training	0	0.00%	111
Total	261.75	100.00%	2,278.5

## Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

**Inspections:** Within the City of Wausau for the month of June, we performed 434 total inspections. We had 45 properties that had Fire Code Violations with 27.6% 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 Knox Box, and one Fire Alarm system. We also received and recorded 141 reports through the Compliance Engine for services rendered for fire suppression systems at varying businesses.

**Investigations:** The Prevention Division investigated one fire the month of June. This property included a five-story multi-family residence. This fire was all classified as undetermined. The classification “undetermined” is

utilized when two or more competent ignition sources are found around the area of origin, and none can be disqualified.

**Public Outreach:** Throughout June we performed outreach three different times. Two of these were Special event consult inspections. One was a follow up to a citizen’s complaint for improper use of a recreational fire pit.

**Education:** The Prevention Division attended the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Spring Conference in Stevens point. This conference entails up to date, progressive classes dealing with fire investigations. This is a three-day conference that is tested at the end for the continuing education required to maintain our fire investigation certifications.

Lieutenant Shahn Kariger attended the Evidence Collection Technician class at the National Fire Academy back in April & May. The Prevention Division now has it’s very first IAAI-ECT. We have always relied upon the Wausau Police Department in the past for our evidence collection. This process will continue, but now we can assist with the collections.



**Prevention Division Activities:**

Inspections Completed	Monthly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	374	1,915
Re-inspections	57	196
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	7	33
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>2,144</b>
Fire Investigations	1	10
<b>Inspection Department Activities</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Public Engagement Activities	9	67

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

**Significant calls:**

June was another busy month for Wausau Fire along with many significant calls. We responded to 8 significant calls. One was a fire on a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor apartment in one of the city’s newer apartment buildings with attached restaurant. This fire was contained by the sprinkler system and extinguished by fire personnel. There was a lot of water damage with water removal being completed by staff and fire personnel after extinguishment. The building needed to be evacuated as well as the restaurant over the lunch hour presenting challenges for fire crews as well as staff. Considering the challenges, teamwork by everyone involved helped mitigate the



situation quickly. We are very appreciative to everyone's cooperation in evacuating the building. We also responded to one vehicle fire, two grass fires, three outside rubbish fires that were very small in nature, and one cooking fire. The cooking fire was also in an apartment building, fortunately the tenant was able to extinguish the fire before our arrival. Unfortunately, the tenant received some minor burns in the process.

#### **Recruitment and Retention:**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> was the biggest swear in ceremony (possibly) in Wausau Fire Department history. Ten new firefighters were sworn in at station 2 in the morning with friends, family, and many city leaders. The last application process closed in June; we were unable to move any candidates forward. Recruitment talks with the Deputy Chief are still in full force and if you know anyone who may be interested in a career with the Wausau Fire Department, please send them my way for a tour and a chat.

#### **Fleet:**

We were able to get one ambulance back in June leaving us working with four of the five ambulances for most of the month. We were able to get approval at the finance committee meeting to order the 2<sup>nd</sup> new ambulance and will just need the final approval from council in July to make that order. Ordering this ambulance in July will give us an arrival of late summer or early fall of 2024. The new Deputy Chief vehicle (Car 2) arrived in June with the return/trade of the Ford Expedition used by Fire Marshal Stahl. These are leased passenger vehicles and we are expecting three new inspector vehicles in the next few weeks.

#### **Buildings and Grounds:**

Final estimates have been done for station 3 apparatus bay remodel and going out to bid in July. DPW will be helping with some landscaping issues at station three in the next few weeks as well. 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.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or stop in my office. 715-261-7901.

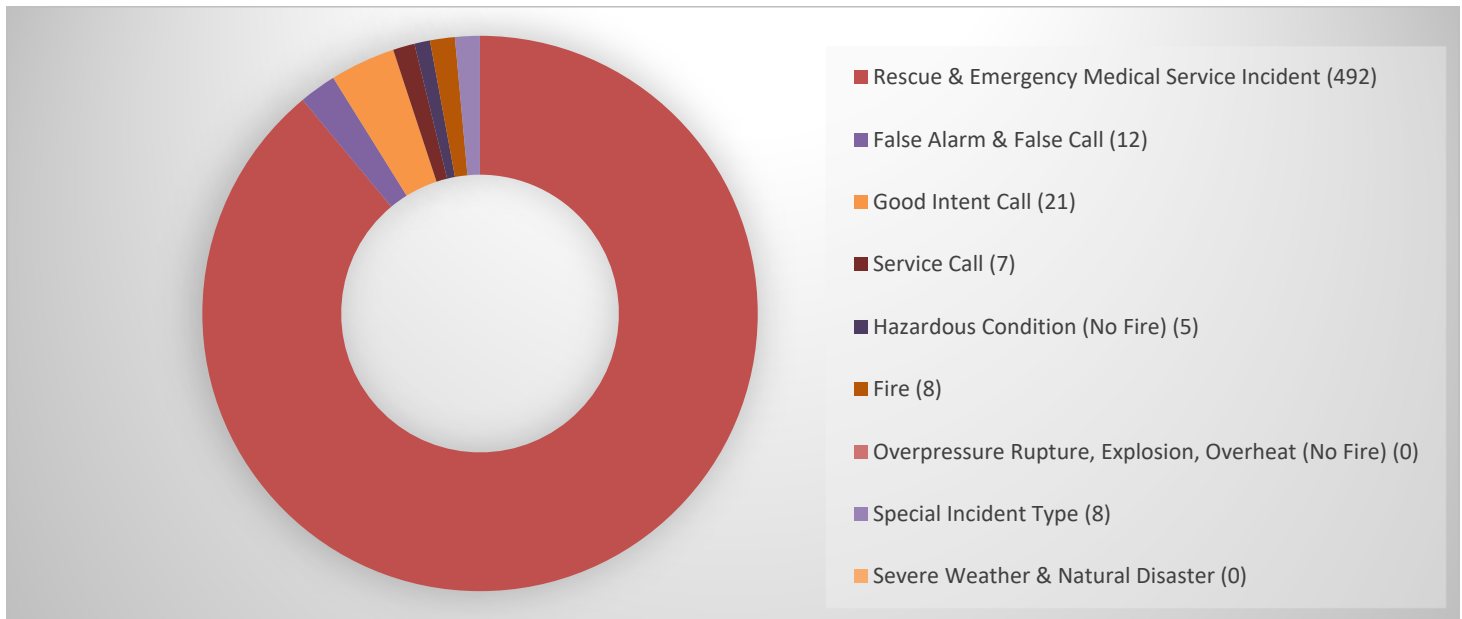
### **Significant Fire Events:**

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
6/6/2023	1520 Elm Street	City of Wausau	F23000933	Building fire
6/8/2023	914 Grand Avenue	City of Wausau	F23000953	Cooking fire, confined to container
6/9/2023	605 Jefferson Street	City of Wausau	F23000963	Outside rubbish fire, other
6/17/2023	East Bridge St & N 2Nd St	City of Wausau	F23001004	Grass fire
6/17/2023	South 17th Av & Stewart Av	City of Wausau	F23001003	Passenger vehicle fire
6/17/2023	725 Woods Place	City of Wausau	F23001006	Grass fire
6/22/2023	North 6th St & Riverview Dr	City of Wausau	F23001028	Outside rubbish fire, other
6/24/2023	1321 East Bridge Street	City of Wausau	F23001041	Outside equipment 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	553	590	583	-6.27%
July		531	587	
August		600	577	
September		524	525	

October		545	552	
November		574	562	
December		612	590	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6686</b>	<b>6490</b>	



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

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Abbotsford	1	0.18%	1
City of Antigo	1	0.18%	1
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	500	90.42%	3,020
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Berlin	4	0.72%	19
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Cassel	1	0.18%	1
Town Of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	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	0	0.00%	13
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Marathon	0	0.00%	0

Town Of Mosinee	1	0.18%	2
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Rib Falls	2	0.36%	4
Town Of Rib Mountain	1	0.18%	3
Town Of Rietbrock	1	0.18%	1
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Stettin	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Texas	6	1.08%	24
Town Of Wausau	14	2.53%	75
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Wien	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Athens	1	0.18%	4
Village Of Brokaw	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Edgar	0	0.00%	2
Village Of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	2
Village Of Maine	18	3.25%	78
Village Of Marathon City	0	0.00%	3
Village Of Rothschild	0	0.00%	2
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Weston	2	0.36%	21
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,286</b>

### **Activity/Incident Hours Committed:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Time Committed</b>
NFIRS Incidents	159:25:48 Hours
EMS Incidents	863:11:12 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	855.25 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	925.75 Hours

### **Aid Responses:**

<b>Type of Aid</b>	<b># of Runs</b>
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	5
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	0
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	30
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)	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)	18