

Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

July 2023



(Wausau Fire was awarded the Mission Lifeline Gold Award)

Fire Chief Report by Chief Robert Barteck

July was an unusual month with a spike in structure fires. Our crews extinguished 15 structure fires in July. Deputy Chief Kopp's report gets into some of the details about those fires. In other highlights, Division Chief Thompson highlights EMS training and our latest EMS survey results. Division Chief Briggs discusses how the crews have taken advantage of several training opportunities.

Our six paramedic students wrapped up their first semester of studies at the end of July. The class has completed courses in EMS Ops/Fundamentals, Assessment, Pathophysiology, Respiratory, Pharmacology, and Cardiology, including Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support. They will now have a short break from paramedic studies. During that break, they are working a hybrid schedule getting a portion of their firefighting academy completed and will get to work some 24-hour shifts and get on some calls. When they return for the next semester, they will ramp up their clinical time by riding on the med units and spending time in the area emergency departments. It has been exciting to watch them reach such a high level of proficiency in such a short time.

At our monthly leadership meeting, we discussed the pros and cons of a proposal from SAFER for an auto-aid agreement between our departments for structure fire responses. We have a robust Mutual Aid Box Alarm System in Marathon County that each of our departments participates in. An auto-aid agreement would help both departments with increased safety for firefighters and quicker mitigation of structure fires. Our leadership team concluded that we should move forward with researching, developing, and completing an agreement.

On July 10 and 11, we hosted an evaluation team from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). During the site visit, the team confirmed that we met over 400 benchmark standards for accreditation. It was an intensive two days, and we enjoyed learning from the evaluators. We were thrilled to learn that we earned a perfect score on our application and site visit. The next step is that the CAAS Board will review and vote on our application on August 25. We expect to earn full accreditation status at that time. This is the first time the department has become accredited.

On July 28, we hosted an EMS Roundtable discussion with all the departments that we share mutual aid agreements or have ALS intercept agreements. The roundtable's purpose was to help Mark Lisher from the Badger Institute with a research article he is working on about rural EMS and potential solutions to problems facing Wisconsin. The meeting was well attended and shed light on many unique aspects of the EMS systems in our region.

The Police and Fire Commission and the Human Resources Director worked quickly after my retirement announcement to post the position. Applications are open until August 7, 2023. As of July 28, the Human Resources Director had received seven applications and expected that number to increase.

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 was this past July 10th and 11th. On July 25th, we received a call from CAAS congratulating us on a perfect score. The next CAAS Panel Commission meeting is August 25th when they will announce it officially from their website. With this CAAS Accreditation, Wausau Fire Department will be 1 of the 182 accredited agencies in the United States and the fourth in Wisconsin.



Awards:

On July 10th, our department was nationally recognized for its commitment to quality care of heart attack patients with the 2023 Mission: Life EMS Recognition. We achieved GOLD! We are committed to providing rapid and research-based care to people experiencing the most severe form of heart attacks, ultimately saving lives.

The Mission: Lifeline EMS achievement award focuses on agencies' on-scene care, bringing to the forefront the collaboration and contributions to patient care for prehospital providers.



EMS Patient Experience Report

The EMS Division is excited to share our patient care experience report for May. Our overall score was 95.12%. I want to highlight our five highest scores from this report. As you will see, we scored above the national database in all categories. In this area, you will notice that under the "Skill of the medics" category, we scored an all-time high of 99.00%. This is very encouraging because we have a very young department regarding overall experience.



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:

During July, our department paramedic students became certified in the American Heart Association's Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Course. The PALS 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 using high-performance team dynamics and high-quality individual skills. Our students did an outstanding job in learning and preparing for these critical emergencies!



Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Reports	% of Reports	# of Reports – YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	1
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	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	566	92.64%	3,313
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	1
Town of Berlin	1	0.16%	24
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Cassel	0	0.00%	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	7	1.15%	20
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%	4
Town of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	3
Town of Rietbrock	1	0.16%	2
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	1
Town of Stettin	1	0.16%	2
Town of Texas	5	0.82%	31
Town of Wausau	11	1.80%	86
Town of Wien	0	0.00%	1
Village of Athens	0	0.00%	4
Village of Edgar	0	0.00%	2
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	1
Village of Maine	17	2.78%	95
Village of Marathon City	1	0.16%	4
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	1
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village of Weston	1	0.16%	23
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	611	100.00%	3,628

Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

July Scheduled Training:

A brief breakdown of our scheduled activities follows:

- Community Walk-Through
- Forcible Entry
- Haz-Mat Field Survey Instruments

Community Walk-Through

A community “walk-through” does not sound very appealing to some. However, this drill is crucial to ensuring our members become familiar with the district of the city they primarily respond to. Each crew or company was tasked with contacting a local business or businesses to tour and become familiar with their occupancy, safety features, and then discuss how they would react if an incident occurred at the occupancy. Our members really enjoy this assignment as it gets them out in the public, connected with the community, and preparing for the event of a call.

Forcible Entry

Each crew spent time on our home-made forcible entry prop to ensure we can gain access to perform searches, rescues, and fire suppression if faced with a locked door. Some doors are far easier to enter than others, but we train for some of the most difficult circumstances. As we can, we will utilize other props to train on respectful entry or even entry with the use of power tools. This is an imperative skill that is also perishable.

Haz-Mat Field Survey Instruments

Every member of Wausau FD was trained on the use of our metering and monitoring equipment for Hazardous Materials Response in July. Over two thirds of our organization are trained to the Hazardous Materials Technician level and the remainder are at the Operations Level. Each person spent time learning our various devices, their application, and the order in which they should be used. For example, if we do not sample a product’s pH first, we could damage other monitors and meters in the process of sampling. We are lucky to have highly skilled Haz-Mat personnel to be able to teach our newer members the ropes in this discipline.



Lt. Quinn Warner trains members on the sampling methods required to remain safe while using our Gemini device.

Unassigned Training

Every month, the crews, and companies self-initiate training that they know they need. This flexible time allows them to address topics outside of the assigned schedule.



“B” crew members train on lifting and stabilizing using our mannequin as a victim. This mannequin was made by Lt. Tautges out of retired fire hose.



“A” crew members operate at a barn fire in Portage County after a Mutual Aid Box Alarm was requested for personnel and resources.

Not everyone thinks of an incident scene as a training opportunity. However, experiences are invaluable to gain from. The recent barn fire was an opportunity for members to learn how we integrate into a MABAS alarm, how to operate under a larger Incident Command System, water management, resource allocation, and

other concepts. Our members are ready to respond, regardless of the incident. However, when able, we must utilize the opportunity to learn and grow.

Recruit Academy

On July 31st, our cohort of Paramedic students began their fire training academy. During the paramedic program, the students have a three-week break from courses. So, to utilize this time effectively, we gave them a break from EMS and placed them into fire training. Our goal is to have them as prepared as possible to count as staff once they graduate from Paramedic and receive their state licensure. Performing the recruit academy now allows them to transition from paramedic school into our EMS field training sometime in November or December.



Recruits are getting more competent in the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and learning to self-rescue.

Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Technical Rescue Committee

The WTCS Technical Rescue Committee met in Madison at the state office on July 24th to review three different disciplines. This meeting fine-tuned our final steps to prepare for accreditation for the first Technical Rescue certification in Wisconsin. A goal was set to have all documents for each discipline ready by the end of the year to begin offering the classes after January 1st.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	462.25	73.20%	3,795.40
Driver/Operator Training	16	2.53%	674.05
Facilities Training	0	0.00%	39
Hazardous Materials Training	84.25	13.34%	292.50
Misc Training	0	0.00%	55.25
Officer Training	25.5	4.04%	336.95
Specialty Training	43.5	6.89%	949.75
Total	631.5	100.00%	6,142.90

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

Special 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	20.5	10.70%	105
EMS Training	151.25	78.98%	1902.25
Fire Instructor Training	18.25	9.53%	350.25
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	0
Investigation Training	1.5	0.78%	112.5
Total	191.5	100.00%	2,470.00

Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

Inspections: Within the City of Wausau for the month of July, we performed 53 total inspections. We had 12 properties that had Fire Code Violations with 12.5% being Fire Extinguisher Annual Maintenance and 12.5% for annual fire alarm service. 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 Site visit for new construction. We also received and recorded 93 reports through the Compliance Engine for services rendered for fire suppression systems at varying businesses.

Investigations: The Prevention Division investigated two fires the month of July. These properties included two separate outbuildings at a residence and a van that was parked at a public property. The van was determined to be accidental forma leaking gas line. The fire at the outbuildings was classified as undetermined with Wausau Police Detectives following up with interviews. The classification “undetermined” is utilized when either two or more competent ignition sources are found or there was no competent ignition source found.

Public Outreach: Throughout July we performed outreach four different times. Two of these were Special event consults, one was for the annual fair safety meeting, and one was for the fairground setup and positioning. One was for a new business that requested an early inspection for future compliance with Fire Inspections. Lastly, we met with the new maintenance at a nursing home to go through disaster planning and explaining the fire departments expectations when dealing with emergencies and fire inspections.

Education: The Prevention Division continued to expand our fire investigation training with the free online portal CFITrainer.com. This website is fully financed through the ATF and supported by the National Fire Academy. These are online, tested classes that can be utilized as continuing education credit towards our Investigation certifications.

Lieutenant Shahn Kariger is again attending the National Fire Academy. Lt. Kariger left on July 29th for the “Community Risk Reduction Program Leader” class. This is a weeklong class starting on Sunday teaching data collection and interpretation standards at the national level. CRR has always been a concern and the Wausau Fire Department has committed to dealing with problem issues and concerns within Wausau. This class will give the Prevention Division the necessary tools to define, collect, analyze, and provide qualitative and quantitative data. This will become more important in the future where just taking our word for it won’t be acceptable.



Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Monthly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	32	1,947
Re-inspections	18	214
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	4	37
Total Inspections	53	2,197
Fire Investigations	2	12
Inspection Department Activities	Number	YTD
Public Engagement Activities	9	76

Fire Operations Division by Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp

Significant calls:

Wow! July was filled with significant calls ranging in nature. Wausau Fire responded to 15 fire calls ranging from cooking fires, vehicle fires, outdoor rubbish fires, an outdoor chair fire, a fire under a rock as well as two residential structure fires next door to each other that are still under investigation. We also sent a fire engine to Rosholt as part of a strike team for a large barn fire. July surely kept the line crews on their toes. The two structure fires seem to have started in one structure and spread to the second structure. The fire is suspicious and under investigation with our fire investigators and police department working together figuring out origin and cause.

Recruitment and Retention:

Researching new ways to recruit is always being looked at and discussed throughout the department, the chiefs and the peer focus group are working together with retention ideas and getting surveys completed to learn more about why people leave and why they stay so we can work on retention strategies. 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 approved for the order and purchase of a second new ambulance! The first one should arrive around October or November and the second one should arrive in July of 2024. Ladder 2 suffered a broken outrigger during training and was repaired under warranty work by Custom Fire. We also received news from Fleet supervisor that the 3 new Inspector trucks have landed at the dealership and will be delivered after they are inspected. These three leased vehicles will replace the leased vehicles the inspectors are currently utilizing.

Buildings and Grounds:

We are hopeful that work will be starting soon on the station 3 apparatus bay remodel and landscaping of entire building.

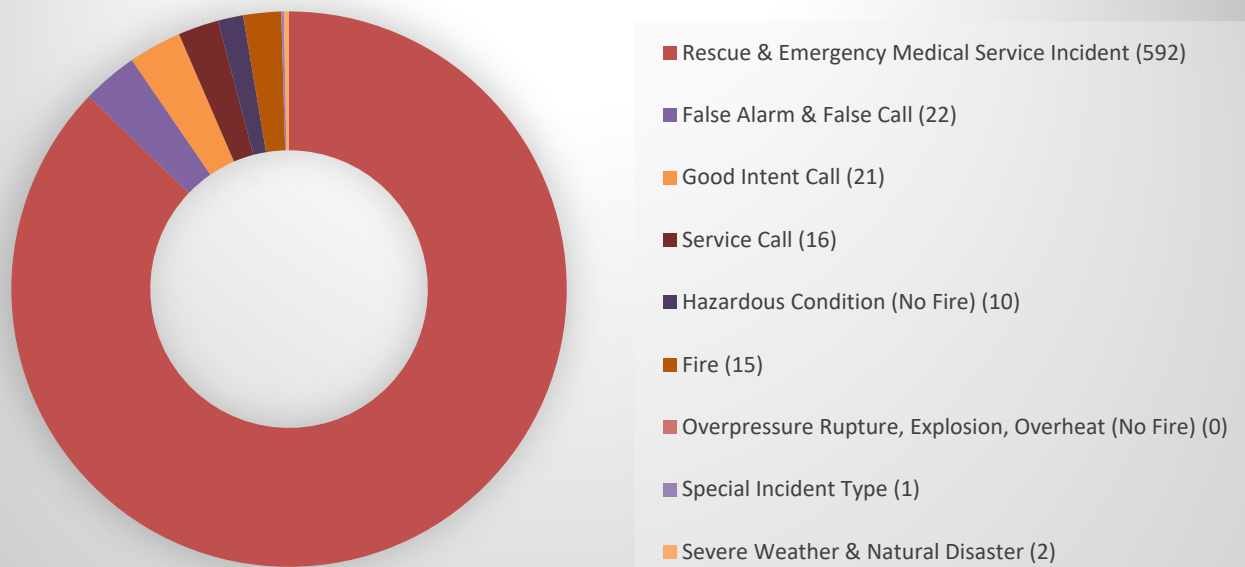
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or stop in my office. 715-261-7901.

Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
7/2/2023	703 Sumner Street	City of Wausau	F23001082	Passenger vehicle fire
7/4/2023	US 51 NB And US 51 NB To Bridge St	City of Wausau	F23001099	Grass fire
7/4/2023	120 Grand Avenue	City of Wausau	F23001100	Cooking fire, confined to container
7/4/2023	915 East Bridge Street	City of Wausau	F23001109	Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire
7/5/2023	2205 Stewart Avenue	City of Wausau	F23001110	Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire
7/6/2023	1401 Elm Street	City of Wausau	F23001120	Cooking fire, confined to container
7/6/2023	607 Prospect Avenue and Henrietta St	City of Wausau	F23001123	Outside rubbish fire, other
7/8/2023	500 Grand Avenue	City of Wausau	F23001136	Cooking fire, confined to container
7/9/2023	616 Chicago Avenue	City of Wausau	F23001140	Fire, other
7/10/2023	9034 Hemlock Road	Kronenwetter	F23001153	Cultivated vegetation, crop fire, other
7/17/2023	808 Turner Street	City of Wausau	F23001205	Cooking fire, confined to container
7/24/2023	315 North 6th Street	City of Wausau	F23001254	Self-propelled motor home or recreational vehicle
7/25/2023	215 South 8th Avenue	City of Wausau	F23001259	Passenger vehicle fire
7/25/2023	930 South 5th Avenue	City of Wausau	F23001258	Building fire
7/30/2023	200 River Drive	City of Wausau	F23001295	Brush or brush-and-grass mixture 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	679	531	587	27.87%
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%	1
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	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	641	94.40%	3,661
Clark County	0	0.00%	1
Rosholt	1	0.15%	1
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Berlin	1	0.15%	24
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Cassel	0	0.00%	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	4	0.59%	17
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Marathon	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Mosinee	0	0.00%	2
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	4
Town Of Rib Mountain	0	0.00%	3

Town Of Rietbrock	1	0.15%	2
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	1
Town Of Stettin	1	0.15%	2
Town Of Texas	5	0.74%	29
Town Of Wausau	8	1.18%	83
Town Of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town Of Wien	0	0.00%	1
Village Of Athens	0	0.00%	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	15	2.21%	93
Village Of Marathon City	1	0.15%	4
Village Of Rothschild	0	0.00%	2
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	0
Village Of Weston	1	0.15%	22
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	679	100.00%	3,969

Activity/Incident Hours Committed:

Category	Time Committed
NFIRS Incidents	232:48:52 Hours
EMS Incidents	891:46:51 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	791.00 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	823.00 Hours

Aid Responses:

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	3
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	1
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	28
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)	4
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)	5