

Wausau Fire Department Quarterly Report

Quarter 4 –2024



(Chief Kopp with members of Wausau City Council during tours of the Fire Stations)

Fire Chief Report by Chief Jeremy Kopp

Introduction

This report covers the period from October to December 2024 for the Wausau Fire Department. Working long shifts and mandatory overtime can be difficult for our firefighters' families, and we do all we can to acknowledge the sacrifices they make. We truly cannot express enough how much our firefighters' loved ones mean to us and how much we appreciate our community's cards, notes, and treats expressing gratitude for our work.

Operational Challenges

The quarter began with unusually warm weather, with brief bursts of cold but only a trace of snow for Christmas. Despite this, we continue to train hard for cold-weather emergencies and water-related incidents, as the increase in people on the ice often leads to emergencies. A primary focus has been educating the public about ice conditions and cold-weather strategies. Falls remain a leading cause of 911 calls, and these increase significantly during this season due to ice hazards.

In addition to operational challenges, recruitment is an ongoing focus, and we are optimistic about moving forward with an apprenticeship program aimed at boosting staffing numbers and producing highly skilled firefighter-paramedics.

Leadership Reflections

Our commitment to leadership is evident at all levels within the department. As we approach the end of the year and prepare for the year ahead, we have ensured that middle management will be attending important training and conferences focusing on succession planning. Staffing levels have, in the past, delayed this initiative, but we are now prioritizing it as we look toward future retirements and opportunities for advancement.

A key goal for 2025 is to move forward with developing a new strategic plan that will guide the department's growth and service improvements.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Our partnership with Northcentral Technical College (NTC) continues to grow and provide valuable training opportunities for our personnel. We are currently working on creative ways to partner with NTC to create a much-needed training center in the Wausau area, with further updates to come in the new year.

Community Care Paramedic Position

We are thrilled to announce that Matthew Kozloski, our Community Care Paramedic, has achieved numerous milestones and patient contacts. His work has already made a significant impact on the delivery of healthcare to those in need of in-home care, beyond the traditional 911 response system. Matthew's enthusiasm for the position shows great promise for the future of this program in our community.

Facilities and Infrastructure

Our central station has several updates and repairs identified in the facility assessment report, highlighting critical infrastructure needs. We are actively seeking funding to secure \$700,000 for the architectural planning process of a new fire station on Grand Avenue. This project remains a priority as we look to better serve the community.

Conclusion

The fourth quarter of 2024 has presented both challenges and successes for the Wausau Fire Department. We continue to focus on enhancing our operational readiness, building strong community partnerships, and improving our facilities to ensure we can serve our residents to the best of our ability. As always, if you have any questions or would like to discuss this report further, please feel free to reach out to us.

Wausau Fire Department

Thank you for your continued support.

Fire Operations Report by Deputy Chief Justin Pluess

I am pleased to provide an update on operational activities, fleet maintenance challenges, and notable incidents that occurred from October to December 2024. This quarter has been defined by our commitment to maintaining operational readiness despite persistent challenges with critical apparatus, including Ladder 2. Our team has demonstrated exceptional dedication in responding to significant incidents promptly and effectively. We remain focused on prioritizing safety and efficiency, adhering to NFPA standards, and delivering the highest level of service to our community.

Community Care Paramedic Program

We are thrilled to announce that the Wausau Fire Department's groundbreaking Community Care Paramedic Program is now officially operational. This innovative initiative is designed to enhance our service delivery by providing targeted, proactive care to individuals in our community, with a focus on improving health outcomes and reducing the strain on emergency services.

Leading this effort is Matt Koloski, WFD's very first Community Care Paramedic. Matt is actively engaging with residents to deliver primary health care, preventive services, and educational outreach, ensuring that the Wausau Fire Department is not only prepared to respond to emergencies but also dedicated to fostering a healthier and more resilient community.



What is Community Paramedicine? Community Paramedicine is a forward-thinking healthcare delivery model that leverages specially trained EMS personnel to fill gaps in the healthcare system. Under the supervision of physicians, Community Paramedics provide care in non-urgent settings such as patients' homes. This approach allows for expanded access to primary care and public health services while focusing on patient assessments, education, and coordinated care.

Why is this Important? Across the nation and internationally, Community Paramedic programs have successfully addressed healthcare challenges by providing round-the-clock management of non-acute illnesses, mental health needs, and chronic care follow-ups. By doing so, these programs reduce unnecessary emergency department visits, decrease hospital readmissions, and ultimately lower overall healthcare costs. In Wausau, the Community Care Paramedic Program aims to:

- Provide better care through non-emergency interactions.
- Integrate and coordinate with various community services.
- Improve patient navigation and access to essential resources.
- Enhance the quality of life for individuals in our community.

The Wausau Fire Department is proud to lead this innovative program, demonstrating our commitment to both emergency response and proactive community health. Together, we can build a healthier, stronger Wausau.

Apprenticeship Program



In a historic development for the Wausau Fire Department, we are proud to announce the approval of our Apprenticeship Program, the first of its kind in our department's history. This program is designed to provide aspiring firefighter/paramedics with hands-on training and mentorship, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary for a successful career in the fire service. The program will be posted at the end of December, and we are eager to welcome new recruits who are passionate about serving our community and advancing their careers in firefighting.

Fleet Report – Wausau Fire Department

Fleet maintenance has been a significant challenge this quarter, particularly with Ladder 2 remaining out of service. The ongoing mechanical issues have made it difficult to keep up with our maintenance schedule, impacting our operational readiness. We are committed to addressing these challenges and have been working closely with our maintenance team at DPW to ensure that our remaining apparatus are in optimal condition. Despite these struggles, we continue to prioritize the safety and reliability of our fleet to ensure effective responses to emergencies.

Additionally, the need to replace Truck-1 remains a pressing concern for the Wausau Fire Department. As Truck-1 approaches 12 years of service, it has experienced increasing mechanical issues and operational deficiencies, including significant rust on its frame and a recent power steering pump failure that could have resulted in serious accidents. These challenges have raised concerns about its long-term durability and reliability as a front-line response vehicle. We are still awaiting confirmation that funding for its replacement is included in the 2025 budget. Given that it takes approximately three-four years to build a new aerial apparatus, timely approval is crucial to ensure that Truck-1 does not remain in service until it is 17 years old, which is extremely old for a primary life-saving apparatus.

Wausau City Council Tours WFD Fire Stations

The Wausau Fire Department would like to extend a sincere thank you to the City of Wausau City Council members for taking the time to tour our three fire stations and their crews. Your visit provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the day-to-day operations, equipment, and facilities that enable us to serve the Wausau community effectively.

We truly appreciate your interest and support in understanding the essential spaces where our team works to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents. Your engagement demonstrates a shared commitment to maintaining the highest standards of public safety in our city.

For council members who were unable to attend, we'd be happy to arrange a personalized tour at your convenience. Please don't hesitate to reach out—we would love to share more about what we do!

WFD's Tactical Emergency Medical Services

In April 2024, the Wausau Fire Department submitted a grant request through the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin to secure funding for essential equipment for our Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) team. This specialized group includes eight paramedics—seven from Wausau Fire Department and one from SAFER (South



Area Fire and Emergency Response District)—who serve alongside the Marathon County Sheriff's multi-agency SWAT team. These paramedics face high-risk situations, often in extreme conditions, as they provide critical medical care in unpredictable and dangerous environments.

Thanks to a generous grant and additional community support, we are proud to announce that all eight TEMS paramedics are now fully equipped with state-of-the-art gear. This includes:

- Winter clothing for year-round operations,
- Armor plate carriers for enhanced protection,
- Tactical footwear and clothing for mobility and durability, and
- Night vision units to improve safety and efficiency during low-light operations.

This life-saving equipment has already proven invaluable during several high-stakes incidents throughout the year, enabling the TEMS team to perform their duties safely and effectively.

We are deeply grateful for the support from the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin and our community donors. Your generosity ensures that our team has the resources needed to serve and protect in even the most challenging circumstances. Thank you for helping us continue our mission to keep Wausau safe

We appreciate your ongoing support and attention to these important matters as we continue to serve and protect our community with dedication and professionalism.

Summary of Significant Incidents - Wausau Fire Department (WFD) Forth Quarterly Report 2024

October 2, 2024, Wausau Fire Department responded emergently to a mobile home structure fire. Upon arrival, no smoke or flames were visible from the exterior, and the sole occupant had evacuated. The resident reported smoke near an electrical outlet and unsuccessful attempts to extinguish the fire. Inside, light smoke and small flames were present in the hallway wall. The crew suppressed the fire, shut off the fuse-type electrical panel, and used a thermal imaging camera to check for fire extension. A PPV fan was used for ventilation, and the WFD Inspection/ Investigation Bureau was contacted to investigate the cause.

On October 7th, 2024, Wausau Fire Department's Truck-1 responded a mutual aid structure fire for the Riverside Fire District. Upon arrival, flames were visible from the roof of an apartment building on Side C. Truck-1's crew was immediately assigned to search and rescue, conducting a primary search of all apartments starting near the fire origin and progressing outward. The entire building, including the second story, was searched, but initial searches of apartments near the fire origin were delayed due to fire intensity. After fire was suppressed WFD Truck-1's crew was continued the search of the apartments, where one victim was located and command was notified. No additional victims were found.

On October 8th 2024, Wausau Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire involving smoke in the basement and audible alarms, with all occupants safely evacuated. Upon arrival, Battalion 1 confirmed a working basement fire and instructed Engine 3 to secure a hydrant at 7th and Jefferson Street before advancing to the scene. A 1 3/4" pre-connect line was deployed to the rear (Side C) of the home, where smoldering materials behind an elevated concrete staircase were extinguished before entry. Inside, a light haze of white smoke was present on the first floor, becoming heavier in the basement. Using a thermal imaging camera (TIC), heat was located near the rim joist in the northeast corner. Positive pressure ventilation (PPV) was employed to clear smoke and aid in extinguishing smoldering materials. The fire appeared to originate on the exterior of the building, smoldering until breaching into structural components. During overhaul, exterior siding and particle board were removed, revealing long-term burning on the building's exterior. The WFD Inspection/Investigation Bureau arrived to investigate and interview witnesses as overhaul was completed.

On October 8, 2024, Wausau Fire Department's Battalion 1, Truck 1, and Engine 1 responded to a mutual aid request for a building fire in the SAFER district. Battalion 1 assumed operations command, assisting with scene coordination. Truck 1 was assigned to deploy an elevated master stream, while Engine 1 personnel established and maintained the water supply. Wausau crews remained on scene in defensive mode until the fire was fully extinguished. For detailed information, refer to SAFER's report.

On October 26, 2024, Wausau Fire Department responded to a basement fire with reports of a possible occupant. Upon arrival, heavy smoke was visible from the first and second floors. Engine 1 made entry through the C-side basement door, encountering heavy smoke and reduced visibility. A thermal imaging camera (TIC) was used to locate heat but no active flames. Searches confirmed the basement occupant was not home, and fire was extinguished near a charred bed and rabbit enclosure, where a deceased rabbit was found. The main electrical disconnect and water supply were shut off, and ventilation was initiated. Overhaul included removing HVAC ducts, extinguishing light embers, and applying water to joists and rim boards. A TIC confirmed no remaining hotspots, and a mattress and box spring were removed. The scene was stabilized, with no further hazards identified.

On November 12, 2024, Wausau Fire Department's Truck 1 responded to an automatic aid request in SAFER territory with a crew of three. Upon arrival, the crew was assigned to conduct a primary search of the second floor. Heavy smoke conditions were encountered, and while searching the first apartment, the crew located the fire in the kitchen. After retrieving SAFER's hose line, the crew extinguished the fire and performed overhaul, gaining access to a smoke-filled attic with no fire present. Positive pressure ventilation (PPV) was initiated, and once smoke cleared, the crew exited to allow SAFER personnel to complete the operation. Truck 1 then cleared the scene and returned to service.

On December 8, 2024, Wausau Fire Department's Rescue 1, Med 1, and Battalion 1 responded to Memorial Park for a report of a dog that had fallen through the ice. Upon arrival, Wausau Police Department directed the crew to a point east of the boat landing where the dog (Jamie) was in open water, unable to climb back onto the ice. Rescue 1 crew members, wearing ice rescue suits, entered the water and successfully lifted Jamie onto the ice. Jamie and two other dogs were safely escorted to a vehicle at the boat landing. No further assistance was needed, and all units cleared the scene.

On December 12, 2024, Wausau Fire Department responded to a residential structure fire at a single-story, wood-framed home with flames visible from the Alpha and Delta corner windows. Engine 1 initiated a transitional attack, flowing water through a front window to cool and knock down the fire. The homeowner, found outside with police, reported that his dog was still inside the house. Once additional staffing arrived, a crew entered the structure, conducted a search, and located the dog, which was brought outside but could not be revived despite life-saving efforts. The homeowner, who had been asleep at the time of the fire, escaped through the back door after his dog alerted him to the fire but required transport by SAFER ambulance for smoke inhalation treatment. Crews conducted overhaul and confirmed full extinguishment. WFD Investigators were called to determine the fire's cause, which did not appear suspicious. No functional smoke alarms were detected in the home.

December 18, 2024, Wausau Fire Department responded to a garage fire at 913 S. 14th Avenue, where heavy smoke was reported from the Alpha side of a detached single-car garage. Crews stretched a 1.75" handline, entered through the Charlie/Delta service door, and extinguished the fire located in the Alpha/Delta corner under heavy smoke and poor visibility. Reports suggested the garage was being used as a living space, and searches revealed furniture, beds, and electric heaters but no occupants. Ventilation was initiated using PPV, and fire investigators conducted an on-site examination. After completing overhaul and confirming the fire was extinguished, all units cleared the scene.

December 26, 2024, Wausau Fire’s Car 2, Utility 1 and Truck 1 responded with lights and sirens to assist Mosinee Fire with a structure fire. Upon arrival, Truck 1 staged at the main roadway entry, and Utility 1 assisted with scene control and Car-2’s Deputy Chief assisted Command. Later, WFD members enter the fire building and assess the fire conditions. The crew conducted a 360-degree assessment, identifying a large pile of cut rubber as the primary material involved. Using a thermal imaging camera (TIC), the crew monitored the pile and reported conditions to command. Following additional progress updates and recommendations, command authorized the use of a front-end loader to remove an estimated 2,000 yards of affected rubber material. All units provided support until the situation was stabilized several hours later.

On December 30, 2024, Wausau Fire Department responded to a house fire with reports that all occupants were out of the home. Upon arrival, gray smoke was visible from the A-side eaves, soffits, and an open second-story window, with no active fire visible outside. Engine 1 deployed a 1 3/4" line and entered through the A-side door, finding heavy fire at the top of the stairwell leading to the upper bedrooms. The fire was extinguished, and PPV ventilation was initiated at the front door. Overhaul was performed near the suspected point of origin, using a TIC to address hotspots. Engine 1 re-entered to extinguish smoldering insulation beneath ventilation tubing in the attic. Once all hotspots were addressed, command directed crews to begin scene breakdown and cleanup.

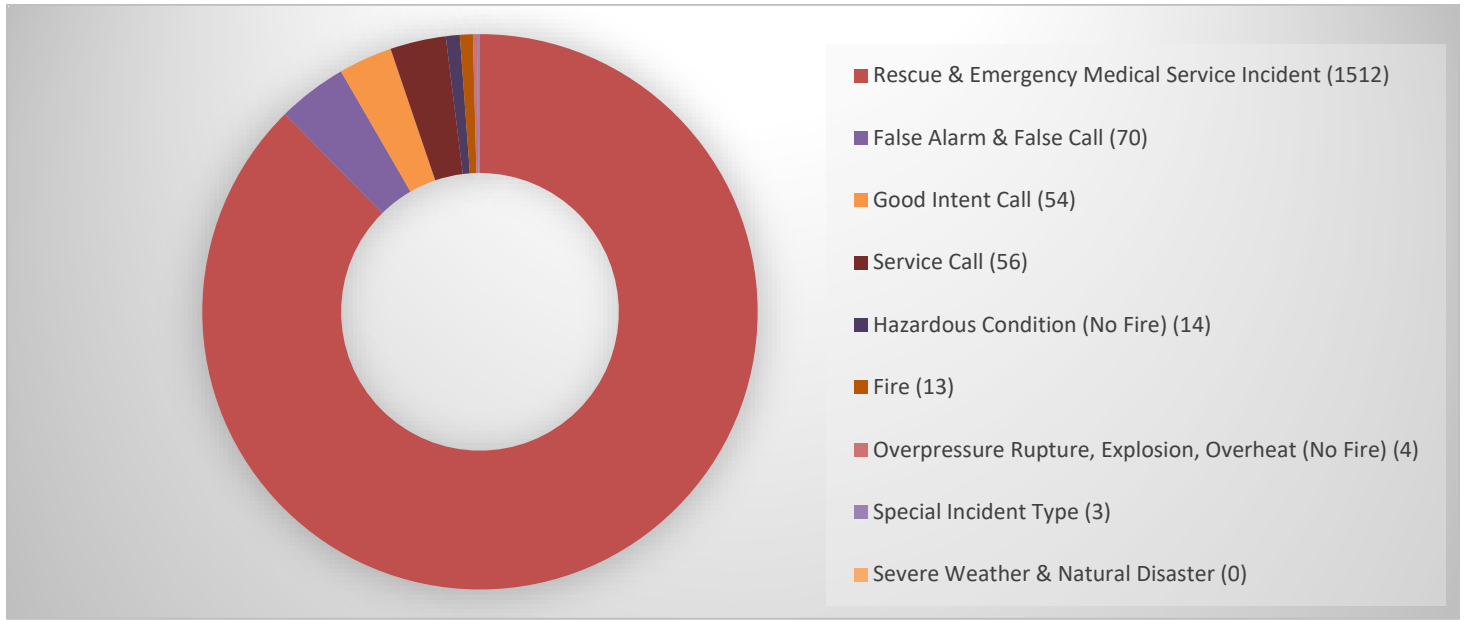
Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
10/2/2024	413 Lazy Way	City of Wausau	F24001699	Building fire
10/7/2024	628 Grand Avenue	City of Schofield	F24001731	Building fire
10/8/2024	307 North 7th Street	City of Wausau	F24001737	Building fire
10/8/2024	223114 Bluebonnet Road	Rib Mountain	F24001740	Building fire
10/26/2024	1022 South 8th Avenue	City of Wausau	F24001855	Building fire
11/2/2024	122 Kent Street	City of Wausau	F24001894	Cooking fire, confined to container
11/12/2024	3612 Sternberg Avenue	Village of Weston	F24001952	Building fire
11/27/2024	North 3rd Street & Mcindoe St	City of Wausau	F24002039	Passenger vehicle fire
12/5/2024	Highland Drive & S 80th Av	City of Wausau	F24002093	Passenger vehicle fire
12/14/2024	119 Adolph Street	City of Wausau	F24002156	Building fire
12/18/2024	913 South 14th Avenue	City of Wausau	F24002178	Building fire
12/26/2024	1050 Indianhead Drive	Mosinee	F24002236	Building fire
12/30/2024	1007 South 3rd Avenue	City of Wausau	F24002259	Building fire

Monthly NFIRS Incident Comparison:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	% Of Change from 2023 to 2024
January	646	579	591	502	11.57%
February	597	506	507	456	17.98%
March	555	551	540	497	0.73%
April	541	527	498	503	2.66%
May	605	574	574	556	5.40%

June	578	553	590	583	4.52%
July	585	679	531	587	-13.84%
August	581	571	600	577	1.75%
September	547	548	524	525	-0.18%
October	564	616	545	552	-8.44%
November	556	624	574	562	-10.90%
December	606	623	612	590	-2.73%
TOTAL	6961	6951	6686	6490	0.14%



Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	3
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	0
City of Colby	0	0.00%	0
City of Merrill	1	0.06%	2
City of Mosinee	1	0.06%	2
City of Schofield	3	0.17%	5
City of Wausau	1,625	94.15%	6,552
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Lincoln County	1	0.06%	1
Oneida County	0	0.00%	1
Rosholt	0	0.00%	0
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Berlin	3	0.17%	29
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	1
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town of Cassel	1	0.06%	8
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	0

Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Halsey	1	0.06%	1
Town of Hamburg	1	0.06%	6
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	1
Town of Hewitt	2	0.12%	13
Town of Hull	0	0.00%	1
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	1
Town of Knowlton	1	0.06%	1
Town of Marathon	2	0.12%	4
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	0
Town of Plover	0	0.00%	1
Town of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	1
Town of Rietbrock	2	0.12%	3
Town of Ringle	1	0.06%	1
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	1
Town of Texas	15	0.87%	71
Town of Wausau	28	1.62%	94
Town of Weston	0	0.00%	1
Town of Wien	1	0.06%	6
Village of Athens	0	0.00%	1
Village of Brokaw	0	0.00%	0
Village of Edgar	1	0.06%	4
Village of Hatley	0	0.00%	0
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	23	1.33%	104
Village of Marathon City	1	0.06%	8
Village of Rib Mountain	3	0.17%	11
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	0
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	1
Village of Weston	9	0.52%	21
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	1,726	100.00%	6,961

Activity/Incident Hours Committed:

Category	Time Committed
NFIRS Incidents	418:01:55 Hours
EMS Incidents	2,379:28:16 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	2,365.85 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	2,273.91 Hours

Aid Responses:

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	14
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	3
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	43
Automatic Aid Given – Fire	2
Mutual Aid Received – EMS	3
Mutual Aid Received – Fire	0
Automatic Aid Received – EMS	0
Automatic Aid Received – Fire	3
Other Aid Given – EMS	0
Request for EMS from Other Agencies to the City of Wausau (not Aid)	13
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)	39

EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

EMS Patient Experience

The EMS Division would like to share our Q4 Patient Experience Report.

Patient Experience Report

October 01, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Your Score

93.41

Your Patients in this Report

95

Total Patients in this Report

15070

Total EMS Organizations

243

Executive Summary

Your overall score for the period selected is **93.41**, a difference of **+0.97**, compared to your score from the previous year, **92.44**.

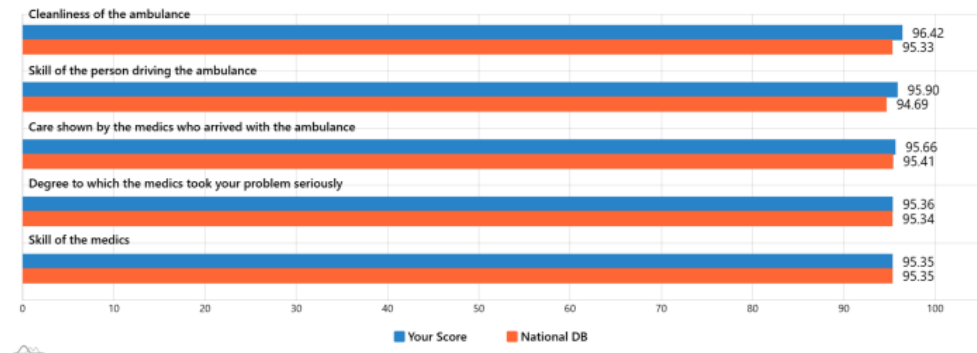
Your overall Top Box score, which represents the percentage of the highest possible rating Very Good, is **81%**.

In addition, your rolling **12-month** score of **95.63** is a difference of **+2.53** from the national database score of **93.10**.

When compared to all organizations in the national database, your score of **95.63** is ranked **24th**.

Highest and Lowest Scores

5 Highest Scores



Current Initiative

The EMS Division is proud to announce its continued efforts in the HEARTSafe Community initiative. In collaboration with the Marathon County Parks Department, we have unveiled the first Public Access SaveStation on September 19, located at the 400 Block. Since then, additional SaveStations have been installed at the River Walk near Wow Restaurant and the Marathon County Sports Complex, with more installations planned in the near future.

SaveStation was founded by a group of like-minded individuals dedicated to creating easy-to-identify AED housing stations, enabling the public to quickly find and access life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the event of a cardiac emergency.

This initiative is a crucial step towards our goal of becoming a HEARTSafe Community, and we look forward to expanding these lifesaving resources across the county.



New Piece of Equipment

Since our last report, we are excited to announce that we successfully ordered our new mechanical CPR devices, which were purchased with \$70,000 in grant funding from the Ba Esther Greenheck Foundation and the Community Foundation and \$25,000 from the City of Wausau. These generous contributions will allow us to purchase four state-of-the-art mechanical CPR devices representing the latest advancements in emergency medical care technology.

The addition of these cutting-edge devices to our fleet will enhance our ability to deliver high-quality CPR, ensuring better outcomes for patients experiencing cardiac emergencies. The grant funding reflects our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible care to the community and maintaining the highest standards of service.

We would like to extend our gratitude to both the Ba Esther Greenheck Foundation and the Community Foundation for their continued support of our mission. These devices will soon be operational, and we are eager to see the positive impact they will have in saving lives.



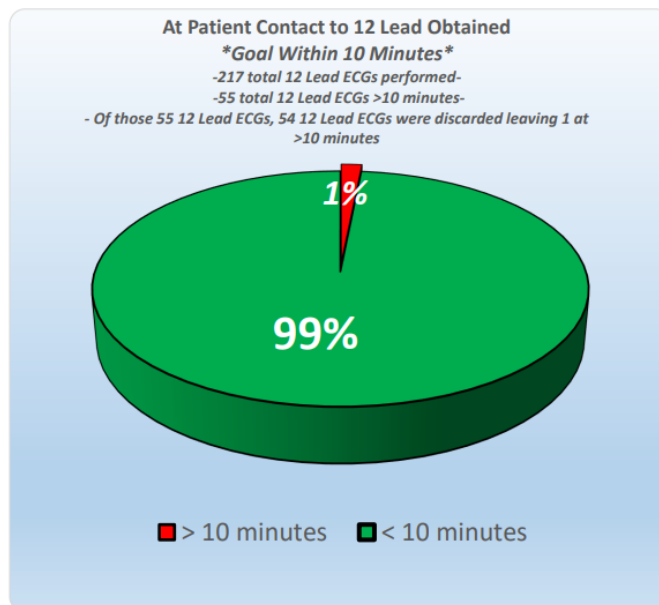
Quarterly Benchmarks

Here is our quarterly Benchmarks report that was sent out to our department.



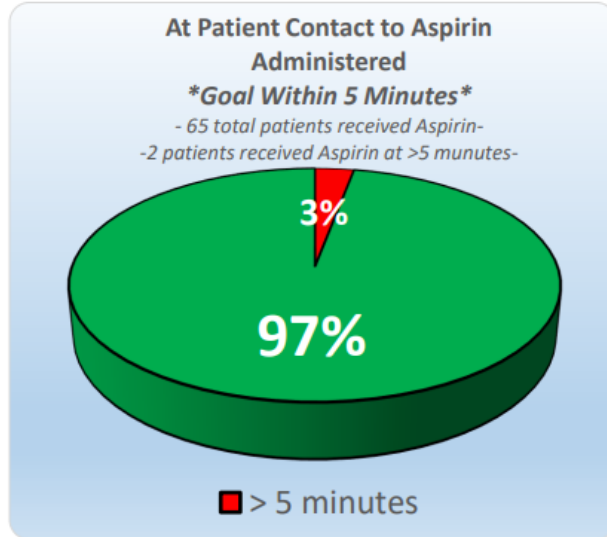
Wausau Fire 2024 Q4 12 Lead ECG Times

*** The 10-minute goal is based on the America Heart Association Mission: Life Line Measure***





Wausau Fire Department's 2024 Q4 Aspirin Administration Times



Q4: October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

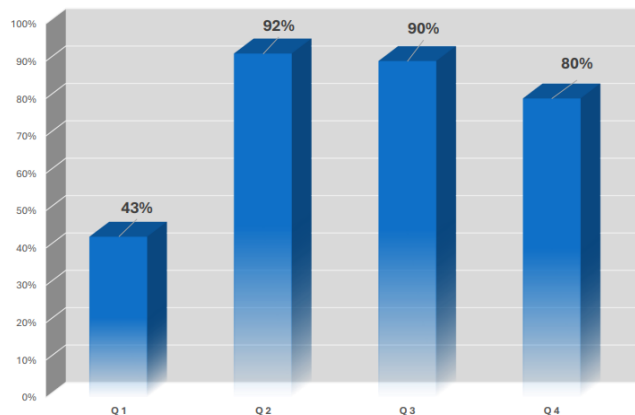
Analysis:

- With two (2) patients out of 65 receiving Aspirin beyond the 5-minute goal, we administer this medication within the desired timeframe **97%** of the time. This exceeds our 90% goal, showing a strong performance in timely Aspirin administration.

Since Aspirin has a Class I recommendation by the AHA for acute coronary syndrome (ACS), maintaining this standard is crucial for patient outcomes.



WAUSAU ETT FIRST PASS SUCCESS



- Q1- 7 ETT attempts resulting in 3 with first pass success.
- Q2- 12 ETT attempts resulting in 11 with first pass success.
- Q3- 10 ETT attempts resulting in 9 with first pass success.
- Q4- 10 ETT attempts resulting in 8 with first pass success.

Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Reports	% of Reports	# of Reports – YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	3
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	0
City of Merrill	1	0.06%	1
City of Mosinee	0	0.00%	1
City of Schofield	2	0.13%	3
City of Wausau	1,466	94.34%	5,852
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Oneida County	0	0.00%	1
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Berlin	3	0.19%	29
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	1
Town of Cassel	1	0.06%	9
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Halsey	1	0.06%	1
Town of Hamburg	1	0.06%	6
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	1
Town of Hewitt	2	0.13%	13
Town of Hull	0	0.00%	1
Town of Johnson	0	0.00%	1
Town of Knowlton	0	0.00%	0
Town of Marathon	2	0.13%	4
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	0
Town of Plover	0	0.00%	1
Town of Rib Falls	0	0.00%	1
Town of Rietbrock	2	0.13%	3
Town of Ringle	1	0.06%	1
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	1
Town of Texas	15	0.97%	71
Town of Wausau	28	1.80%	93
Town of Wien	0	0.00%	5
Village of Athens	0	0.00%	1
Village of Edgar	1	0.06%	4
Village of Hatley	0	0.00%	0
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	22	1.42%	101
Village of Marathon City	1	0.06%	8
Village of Rib Mountain	2	0.13%	6
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	0
Village of Stratford	0	0.00%	1
Village of Weston	3	0.19%	5
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	1,554	100.00%	6,229

Community Paramedicine Program by Community Paramedic Matthew Kozloski

Community Paramedic Matt Kozloski, “Koz,” completed his study at UW Milwaukee’s Community Paramedic Program in November of 2024, one full month ahead of schedule. He then obtained certification as a Community Paramedic by the State of Wisconsin and began seeing the programs first patients in early December of 2024. Initial patients were selected, in part, for frequent utilization of 911 and Emergency Department services.

As of January 20th, 2025:

- 9 patients were enrolled in the CP program.
- 22 patient visits have been completed, most of which took place in the patient’s homes.
- Telephone follow-ups were also conducted when appropriate.
- 7 medication reconciliations were completed – 5 of which yielded discrepancies.
- We documented 5, “caught it early” events; potentially preventing five 911 calls.

The program has connected multiple patients with community resources such as mobile meal programs, medical transportation services, fitness programs, in home care and home modification services. The program has been working very closely with primary care teams to identify and eliminate barriers to health and wellness for our patients.

The program will soon be accepting referrals from medical providers based upon:

- High risk diagnosis: CHF, COPD, Diabetes, Asthma, Fall Risk, and Others.
- Limited eligibility or access to other traditional healthcare programs.
- Low medical literacy as perceived by medical provider(s).
- Need for timely healthcare services, intervention or post discharge follow-up.

Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

2024 4th Quarter Scheduled Training:

First quarter scheduled Fire/Rescue training:

October

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Inspections
- Apparatus Cleaning and Maintenance
- Aerial Operations

November

- Fire Behavior V4
- Preparing to Move-Up
- RDC Ice and Water Rescue
- Ice Rescue Refresher

December

- Crew Choice
- Standard Operating Guideline Review
- Technical Rescue Equipment Inventory, Maintenance, and Familiarization
- Airboat Operations

Monthly training aims to create intelligent and skilled firefighters and rescuers who can adapt to the scenes we may be called to. This includes scheduled and non-scheduled learning opportunities for all members.

Firefighting

Throughout the fourth quarter of 2023, crews were finalizing initiatives from earlier in the year, inspecting their Personal Protective Equipment, and preparing for cold-weather operations. Within this quarter, crews

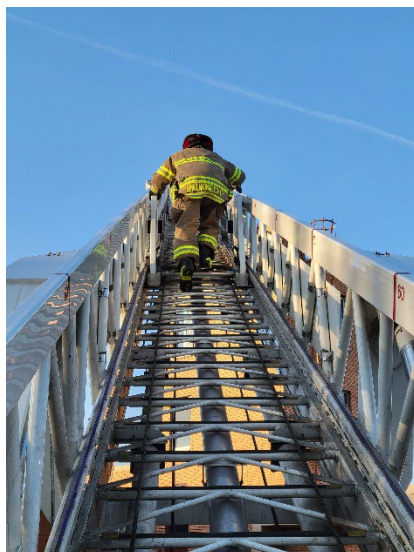
performed the listed training and had a drill listed as “Crew Choice.” Crew choice was used as a place holder for each individual fire company (station on each crew) to work on suppression-oriented knowledge, skills, and abilities that they identified as individuals.



Above: A “smoke showing” drill as selected in the “Crew Choice” assignment.

Fire Behavior is one of our foundational skills. In November, all line members reviewed an updated version of fire behavior concepts. This version specifically looked at our 2024 acquired structure burns and identified take-away points to use as a mental rolodex/slideshow/recognition-primed-decision-making tool. Thermal imaging, thermal videos, and optical imagery were used to illustrate aspects of fire growth, air currents, and fire/thermal movement through a structure.

Aerial Operations is a drill in which apparatus operators and firefighters hone their skills to position, stabilize, and deploy the aerial ladder or bucket to performed listed tasks. These tasks range from roof work to window rescue, to aerial water application. It is essential for our members to be capable when the need arises and not wait to be tested in the moment of an emergency.



Specialty Training

Hazardous Materials

As part of the state Haz-Mat response network, members periodically train to perform various tasks to identify and mitigate hazardous materials incidents. While most incidents are smaller in scale and relatively easy to contain, preparation for “the big one” is still something to work at. In the following image, crew members approach and contact a leaking valve on a “dome” from a railcar. While this dome is on the ground, the real ones are high up on top of a railcar. The different skills were discussed and the crew members performed very well.



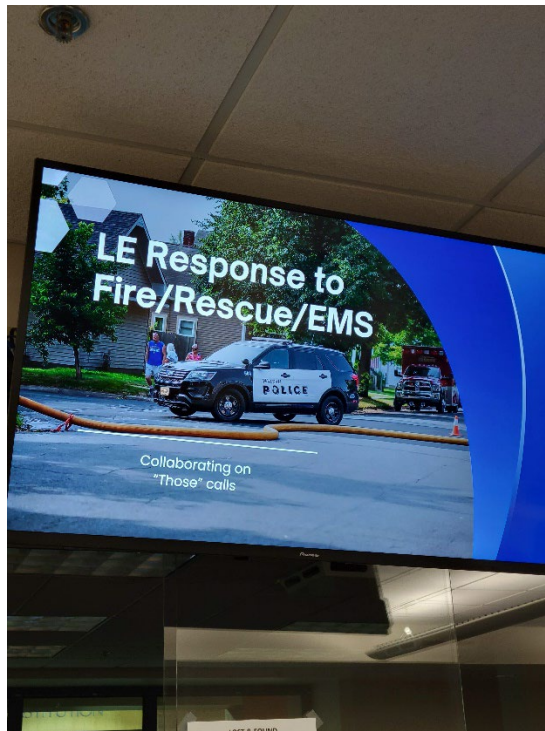
Above: Crewmembers contain a leak in a railcar “dome.”

Airboat and Ice Rescue Training

Every year, crews refresh on airboat and Ice Rescue techniques. With the influx of new members, we are also often tasked with teaching Ice Rescue for the first time to some members. This year, a handful of newer employees were trained by our experienced staff to perform ice rescue procedures. Yearly, WFD responds to multiple calls for emergencies on the waterways in and around the City of Wausau.

Law Enforcement Response to Fires

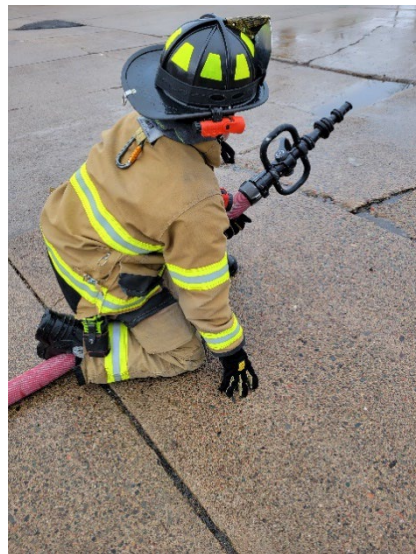
While not a new training, this version and type of delivery was updated. TDC Briggs created an updated presentation to provide WPD officers with safety and response considerations on fire scenes, vehicle crashes, and even EMS incidents. This training was attended by all WPD shifts and appeared to be very well received.



Above: Training Division Chief Briggs presented on collaboration and safety of fire/rescue scenes with Law Enforcement.

December Recruit Academy

Our recruit academies have been a hallmark of new hire training for the past five years. Every new hire has received evidence-based educational updates to include skills refreshers and best-practice drills. Each of our new hires is taken from curriculum-based certification prior to hire and guided in concepts that have not been implemented yet by curriculum-based certification. In essence, our new hires are trained far better than those simply receiving certification through standards and curriculums that are dated by five to ten years. The recruit academy is also the perfect time to refine perspectives and build a strong, positive cultural mindset while early in their career. This academy went incredibly smooth, and we are grateful to have such a squared away new firefighter.



Above: Recruit Austin S. performs various firefighting functions during the new-hire recruit academy.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	935.11	51.01%	7,757.09
Driver/Operator Training	233.25	12.72%	523.75
Facilities Training	3	0.16%	25
Hazardous Materials Training	54.4	2.97%	713.40
Misc Training	10	0.55%	137.25
Officer Training	211.90	11.56%	678.15
Specialty Training	385.65	21.04%	955.40
Total	1833.31	100.00%	10,610.04

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	4	0.91%	124.25
EMS Training	368.10	83.55%	2,122.35
Fire Instructor Training	66.5	15.09%	873.50
Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	2
Investigation Training	2	0.45%	114
Total	440.60	100.00%	3,236.10

Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

Inspections: Throughout the fourth quarter of 2024, we completed inspections for 964 public buildings and places of employment. We performed 850 inspections that passed, and we had 114 properties with Fire Code Violations. 96 inspections were follow-up inspections from previous violations. The failed inspections were primarily comprised of overdue fire extinguisher annual maintenance, overdue vent hood cleaning service, and Fire alarm annual maintenance. These properties will require follow-up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 26 consultation inspections for the quarter. These entailed consulting for Fire Alarm Systems, Knox Box updates, and new construction. We also received and reviewed 341 reports through the Compliance Engine for services and maintenance of Fire Protection Systems at various businesses.

Investigations: There were 6 formal fire investigations performed during the fourth quarter of 2024. Electrical failure was found to be the cause of 3 of the fires due to an overloaded outlet, an overloaded extension cord, and an unattended space heater. Careless use of smoking materials was found in 2 cases, both being cigarette butts which were not fully extinguished. The last fire investigation of the year had an undetermined cause in a void/attic space as there was very little evidence to confirm the origin.

Lt. Kariger also worked on 5 case file reviews in conjunction with the Marathon County District Attorney’s Office and the Wausau Police Department. This collaboration is a result of arson charges brought forward to an individual after multiple fires which took place during the summer of 2024. Because Lt. Kariger is qualified as an expert in the field of fire investigation due to his knowledge, training and experience, he can review the cases and write reports to give his opinion based on the information and witness statements. There is a chance that the case may go to trial where Lt. Kariger would then provide expert witness testimony.

Public Outreach: Throughout the fourth quarter we had the opportunity to get into 9 elementary schools during the month of October. The Prevention Division provides fire safety education to 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades students through in-person demonstration and videos totaling approximately 1,935 students and 105 adults. New smoke and CO detectors were placed in 5 private residences impacting 17 occupants. We witnessed several fire drills throughout the school district which are common in the fall during fire safety month and

before the weather turns colder. The state of Wisconsin requires all schools to perform monthly fire drills with one of them witnessed by the fire department during the school year.

Education: The fourth quarter of 2024 saw FF Ludwig attend the WSFIA annual Fire Inspection conference in Wisconsin Dells. Multiple topics were discussed including code updates, prevention efforts, CRR, fall reduction, lithium-ion battery safety, and plan review.

Lt. Kariger participated in virtual training regarding compliance with the new NFPA 1321 Standard for Fire Investigation Units with two or more investigators. This new release for 2025 outlines the policies and procedures that shall be in place to protect any agency during preliminary hearings, trials, cross examination, and court testimony.

Keeping Your Home Safe
Fire Prevention

CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS

- 20% of homes have smoke detectors that **do not** work or are missing batteries.
- Working smoke alarms can **double** your chances of survival in a fire.
- Replace batteries **twice a year** and keep alarms free of dust.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on **every floor** of your home.

KNOW THE RISKS

- 10** There is a house fire **every ten seconds** in the U.S.
- 30** Home fires can spread in as little as **thirty seconds**.
- Make sure that your family has a **fire escape plan** for your home and practice it regularly.
- Cooking is the **leading cause** of house fires.
- More than **15,000** fires a year are started by clothes dryers. Clean the vents at least once a year.
- Remember:** If there's ever a fire, **GET OUT, STAY OUT and CALL** for help.

MAINTAIN YOUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

- Electrical fires can be caused by: broken wires, wire insulation drying out, loose switches or receptacles, and overheating caused by dirt and oil.
- Get your electrical system checked by a licensed electrician **every four years**.
- Faulty wiring is the number one cause of electrical fires. **The warning signs?** Flickering lights; breakers that always trip; fuses that blow; a burning smell when you plug in appliances; outlets and switches that spark; and discolored wall outlets.

Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Quarterly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	840	2,976
Re-inspections	96	390
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	38	99
Total Inspections	Quarterly	3,465
Fire Investigations	4	16
Inspection Department Activities	Quarterly	YTD
Public Engagement Activities	48	135