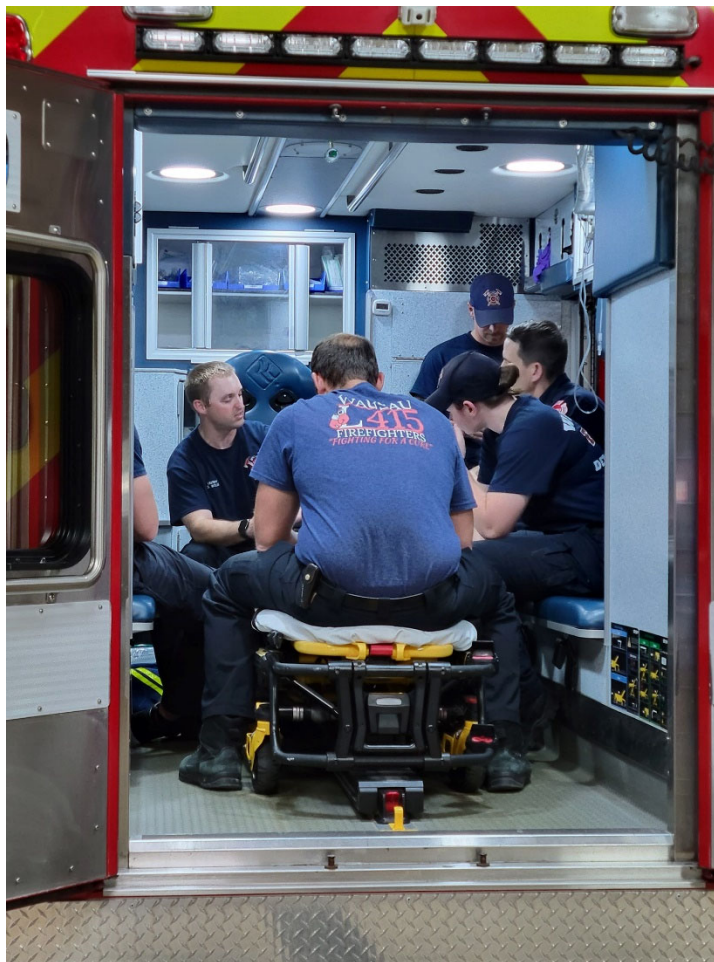


Wausau Fire Department Monthly Report

October 2022



(Crew gathers in Med 1 for impromptu EMS Training)

Fire Chief Report by Chief Robert Barteck

The staffing expansion recruitment is well underway! The Human Resources Department has done an excellent job recruiting. In October, we brought five candidates to the Police and Fire Commission for confirmation. In November, we have interviews set for 27 candidates. We remain optimistic that we can fill the remaining open positions from the candidate pool entering into the interview process. Deputy Chief Kopp has a few more details in his portion of this report.

The City budget is heading for finalization in November. In October, the Finance Committee reviewed supplemental requests, and in September, they reviewed and ranked Capital Improvements Projects. One of our supplemental requests is to add annual mental health check-ins with a public safety-specific mental health professional. The Wausau Police Department instituted this program two years ago and has seen excellent results and positive reviews by the staff. Providing our firefighter/paramedics with a robust and comprehensive mental health support program is essential, and this added program will fill a current gap in resources.

We are keeping a close eye on Wisconsin ACT 228's funding progress. In April, Governor Evers signed the bill into law and is now waiting for the funding conduit to become established. ACT 228 Creates an ambulance service provider assessment on private ambulance service providers for supplemental reimbursements under the Medicaid program and a supplemental reimbursement under the Medicaid program to public ambulance service providers through certified public expenditures. Once the funding conduit is implemented, it will allow our EMS Division to increase Medicaid reimbursements. Currently, 17% of our ambulance transports are for Medicaid patients. Medicaid reimbursements for EMS transports do not cover the costs of performing the call when wages, benefits, ambulance, fuel, medical supplies, etc. Supplemental reimbursements under this program could have a significant impact on EMS revenues.

At the last Police and Fire Commission meeting, a commissioner requested that we add a historical monthly call volume so readers can interpret our reported call volumes with more background data. Please look for the new data table that has been added to the operations report. We appreciate this feedback. Please let us know if you want to learn more about anything in this report or see added in the future.

Thank you!
Robert Barteck – Fire Chief

EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

As the EMS Division Chief, one of the best perks is being able to follow up on the condition of patients that are department cared for.

One EMS run that I have the privilege to speak to is an incident that happened on October 7th on Bridge Street around 1100.

An elderly man who was driving his car suddenly when into cardiac arrest. By-standers on the scene had removed that patient from his car and started CPR. Engine 3 was first on the scene and applied their AED to the patient. The AED delivered one defibrillation. Engine 3's crew noted that the patient started breathing and had a pulse. Med 3 arrived on the scene and took over care of the patient. A 12-lead ECG was performed and sent electronically to the emergency department (ED). The patient had suffered a myocardial infarction that led to his sudden cardiac arrest.

By the time Med 3 arrived at the ED, the patient was able to talk and was stable. The hospital staff rushed him to the cath lab and opened his blocked artery.

Currently, the patient is back home with his wife.

I am in the process of reuniting everyone involved with this patient's positive outcome.

Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

| City | # of Runs | % of Runs | # of Runs – YTD |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| City of Merrill | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| City of Mosinee | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| City of Schofield | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| City of Wausau | 450 | 90.00% | 4,656 |
| Clark County | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Other | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Town of Berlin | 4 | 0.80% | 24 |
| Town of Bevent | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town of Bern | 0 | 0.00% | 2 |
| Town of Cassel | 0 | 0.00% | 3 |
| Town of Elderon | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town of Emmet | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Town of Franzen | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town of Hamburg | 1 | 0.20% | 4 |
| Town of Halsey | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town of Harrison | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town of Hewitt | 2 | 0.40% | 18 |
| Town of Johnson | 1 | 0.20% | 1 |
| Town of Marathon | 0 | 0.00% | 2 |
| Town of Mosinee | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Town of Rib Falls | 0 | 0.00% | 4 |
| Town of Rib Mountain | 0 | 0.00% | 6 |
| Town of Rietbrock | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town of Stettin | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town of Texas | 6 | 1.20% | 55 |
| Town of Wausau | 20 | 4.00% | 91 |
| Town of Wien | 0 | 0.00% | 3 |
| Village of Athens | 0 | 0.00% | 3 |
| Village of Edgar | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Village of Kronenwetter | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Village of Maine | 12 | 2.40% | 78 |
| Village of Marathon City | 0 | 0.00% | 2 |
| Village of Rothschild | 0 | 0.00% | 2 |
| Village of Stratford | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Village of Weston | 3 | 0.60% | 10 |
| Wittenberg | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Wood County | 1 | 0.20% | 1 |
| Total | 500 | 100.00% | 4,978 |

Fire Training Division by Training Division Chief David Briggs

October Scheduled Training: (not all photographed)

- Fire Prevention
- PPE Inspections
- Relay Pumping
- Haz-Mat Scenario
- Chimney Fires

A brief breakdown of our scheduled activities follows:

Fire Prevention:

Fire Prevention training consists of firefighters preparing for public education to prevent fire or minimize the impact of fire on the community. Our member training includes learning how to educate children in fire safe practices, stop drop and roll, exit drills in the home, as well as how to conduct safe and informative station tours.

PPE Inspections:

Personal Protective Equipment inspections are not only important, but they are also required by national standards. Each year, we refresh on the proper procedure and methods of inspecting our PPE to ensure it is safe for us to wear for responding to emergencies. Every member on the department is refreshed on this practice and the deficiencies are written up. If PPE requires repair, it is sent to a certified company for the corrections.



(Above: PPE Pants with holes worn through the fabric.)

Relay Pumping:

Fire pump operations are an essential aspect of putting water on fire. The methods we use to get water from a source to the pumper, to the fire vary depending on the location and distance. Relay pumping operations are refreshed annually to move high volumes of water over a greater distance. For example, Lazy Acres has only

two hydrants available in the entire complex. Depending on the location of the fire, we need to connect pumpers to each other to boost the pressure in our supply hoses to have an effective amount of water available. This type of training combines communications, pump operations, fire hose operations, and the utilization of attack hoses for suppression activities.

Haz-Mat Scenario:

Lt. Ambrosius created and coordinated a Level “A” hazardous materials scenario for each crew to work through as if they were called to it in the city. After a brief lecture by Lt. Ambrosius, the crews were sent in motion on their “call” to assess, size-up, and mitigate a leaking 150 lb Anhydrous Ammonia tank. This chemical poses inhalation hazards, corrosivity hazards, flammability hazards, and skin contact irritation (burning). Each of the three crews worked through the scenario and mitigated the incident.



Above: The crews worked through their Haz-Mat scenario on the three days.

Chimney Fires:

Chimney fires are a fact of living in Wisconsin. In the city, we still have a good number of homes that either heat with wood or supplement their heat with wood. As such, we need to ensure our members are prepared to respond to chimney fires. This drill involved a brief video explaining chimney construction, fire behavior in a chimney, and how to safely suppress a chimney fire and not create excess damage. Following the video-based lesson, the crews went to the apparatus and reviewed our tools and equipment available at each station for chimney fire suppression.

Other October Training:

As usual, the crews will train on what they need regardless of what is scheduled. Below, firefighters work with our newest member as a group to ensure everyone is utterly familiar with their PPE and the escape/Rapid Intervention capabilities of our Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).



Below, four of our members are working on certifying as Pump Operators through NorthCentral Technical College. This 60-hour course trains our members in safe driving operations, pump operations, and the decision-making abilities as it relates to the fireground. The course is attended by five departments around the area: City of Wausau, Town of Wausau, Riverside Fire District, SAFER, and the City of Merrill.



**National Farm Medicine Center
Agriculture Rescue Train-the-Trainer**

Training Division Chief Briggs attended the National Farm Medicine Center's Train-the-Trainer event in Marshfield. While we do not have any farms in the City of Wausau, we do have a fair amount of farm machinery traffic on some of our borders, in our partnering communities, and the city uses some farm machinery in leaf pickup and other specialized uses.

This training provided a perspective that many urban fire departments do not even think of. Concepts from this event will be integrated into our annual training as the schedule allows.



(Above: Images from the National Farm Medicine Center Training)



(Above: The City of Wausau's "farm" machinery used for leaf collection.)

Wisconsin State Committees (WFD is represented on)

Fire Officer Committee:

The Wisconsin Technical College committee on fire officer training continued to meet. The meeting on October 19th was held in Madison at the WTCS fire training office. In this meeting, the WTCS Education Director of fire training, two fire chiefs, and the Wausau Training Division Chief met to finalize the last components of the Fire Officer curriculum. This material will be put into effect January 1st, 2023 for all new fire officer training.

The beauty of working on this committee is that it will have a direct impact on developing each fire officer we promote as well as those who certify near us and throughout the State of Wisconsin. While committee work is

an extra task, the value it provides is worth every moment.

Technical Rescue Committee:

This committee has not met since the last monthly report. However, while at the Fire Officer Committee meeting, the Training Division Chief was issued eight textbooks to review in an effort to select the best books for each technical rescue discipline. Once selected, the supporting materials from each book will be utilized to form the state curriculums Wisconsin will use to certify technical rescuers. The committee is scheduled to meet on November 2nd to discuss the books and curriculums moving forward.

Books Titles Issued:

- Rope Rescue Principles and Practice
- Confined Space Rescue Technician Manual
- Trench Rescue Principles and Practice
- Water Rescue Principles and Practice
- Vehicle Rescue and Extrication Principles and Practice
- Fundamentals of Technical Rescue
- Principles of Vehicle Extrication
- Fire Service Technical Search and Rescue

| Type of Training | # of Hours | % of Hours | # of Hours -YTD |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Company Training | 585.20 | 65.94% | 6,541.37 |
| Driver/Operator Training | 116 | 13.07% | 625.25 |
| Facilities Training | 28 | 3.16% | 113.25 |
| Hazardous Materials Training | 109.75 | 12.37% | 658.50 |
| Misc Training | 2 | 0.23% | 54.33 |
| Officer Training | 12 | 1.35% | 844.30 |
| Specialty Training | 34.5 | 3.89% | 1,253.00 |
| Total | 887.45 | 100.00% | 10,090.00 |

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 | 8 | 5.18% | 97.75 |
| EMS Training | 133 | 86.08% | 2,070.90 |
| Fire Instructor Training | 13.5 | 8.74% | 509 |
| Fire Prevention Training | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Investigation Training | 0 | 0.00% | 115 |
| Total | 154.5 | 100.00% | 2,792.65 |

Fire Prevention Division by Fire Marshal Brian Stahl

Inspections: Within the City of Wausau for the month of August, we performed 424 total inspections. Of those, 32 were re-inspections. We had 34 properties that had Fire Code Violations with 30% being Fire Extinguisher Annual Maintenance. These properties will require follow up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 10 consultation inspections for the month of that were either remodel projects or new construction, including- Knox box installation, fire protection and fire alarm systems.

Investigations: The Prevention Division thankfully did not have to perform any Fire Investigations or recreational fire complaints for the month of October. That makes 2 months in a row!

Public Outreach: The Wausau Schools once again carried forward the virtual Fire Prevention Week for all schools in the district. This means the Prevention Division was not doing in-person safety demonstrations in the 1st-5th grades as implemented since Covid in 2020. Teaching materials, videos, a Power-point and web links were provided to the district for dissemination to the teachers of those age groups. We did, however, witness 2 separate fire drills at schools with recommendations made as needed to ensure an effective and efficient exit. The schools practice fire drills once a month and the fire department is required to witness a drill at least once per year.

Education: This was a busy month for inspections and consultations since we did not have in-person school visits for Fire Prevention Week.



Prevention Division Activities:

| Inspections Completed | Monthly | Year to Date |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| Routine Fire Inspections | 384 | 2,418 |
| Re-inspections | 32 | 264 |
| All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc) | 8 | 43 |
| Total Inspections | 424 | 2,721 |
| Fire Investigations | 0 | 7 |
| Inspection Department Activities | Number | YTD |
| Public Engagement Activities | 21 | 108 |

Fire Operations Division by Deputy Chief Jeremy Kopp

Significant calls:

Wausau Fire responded to 8 significant calls in October. Two fires in the city limits as well as one mutual aid fire to SAFER District with Truck 1, two cooking fires both contained to small area, one large dumpster fire, one vehicle fire, and a boiler fire contained to the boiler.

Recruitment and Retention:

We were able to move five candidates to the October 24th Police and Fire Commission meeting for their approval and received it. We will be determining a start date for these five when we receive the rest of the minimum requirements. These five additional hires will get us to our old minimum staffing numbers of 62

personnel and hopefully we will get the additional twelve in the November process. The November process is the first round of interviews with EMT Basic applicants.

On October 29th we were invited to the Hmong American Center Halloween Block Party where we were able to setup some recruitment info and talk with interested members of our community about becoming a firefighter/Paramedic. This was a good event for that as well as giving out candy to all the children. In the retention side of things, we have been working hard with making our department a destination department and not a steppingstone department. This includes working with county teams to give our personnel more opportunities to work in specialty fields as well as continuing to provide new equipment and apparatus.

Fleet:

Engine 2 has been fully repaired and back in service supporting our fleet as the backup engine. Engine 4 was taken out of service and is at DPW for auction. The new pickup truck that is to replace Car 2 has arrived in the city and I am working closely with Solomon King to have it outfitted over the next few weeks and hopefully put in service before the end of the year. Ladder 2 went back to Custom Fire on October 31st for the week to have some adjustments done to the outriggers and alarms as well as some other minor repairs, it will be back home on November 4th.

Buildings and Grounds:

We are moving forward on updating the apparatus bay at station 3 and securing pricing.

Overtime and Scheduling:

We still have a few members on FMLA with new additions to their families as well as one member on light duty. With personnel returning from FMLA and the additional five new recruits we should see the OT start to decrease at the end of the year moving into the new year. As always if you have any questions about operations please do not hesitate to call or come in and see me. 715-261-7901.

Significant Fire Events:

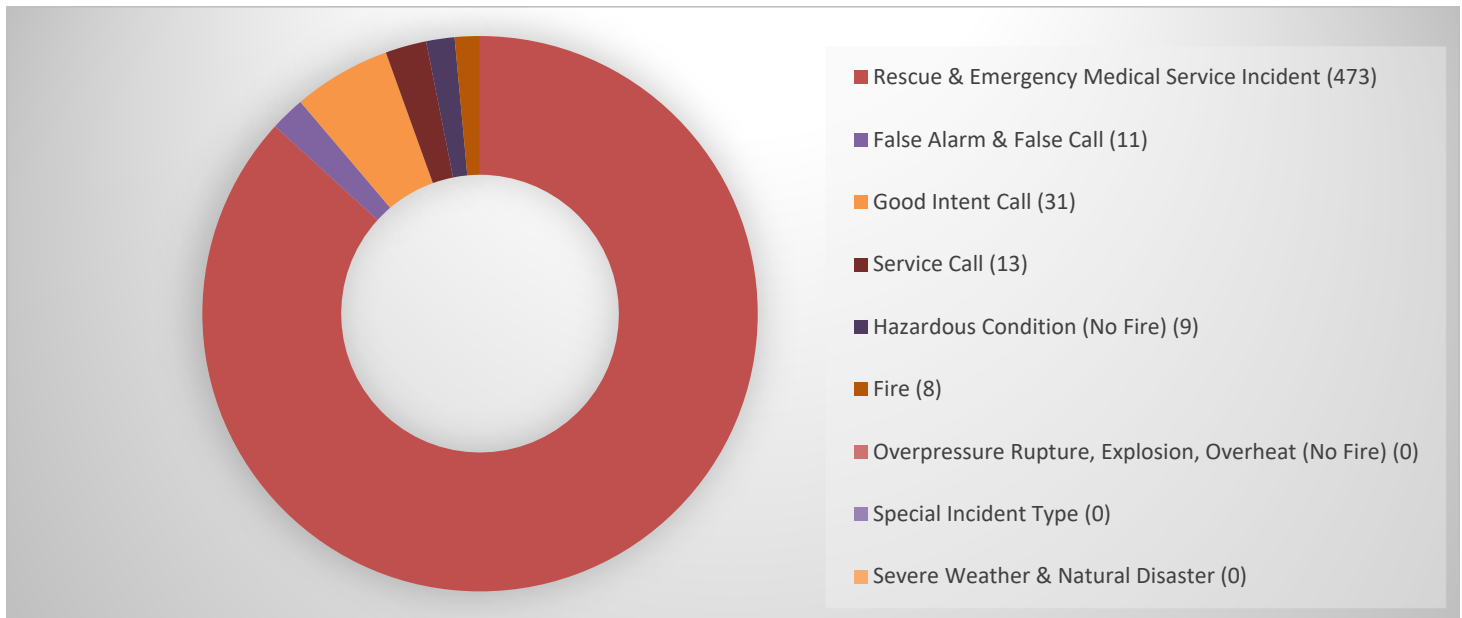
| Date | Address | City | Incident # | Type |
|------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------|---|
| 10/2/2022 | 936 South 3rd Avenue | City of Wausau | F22001723 | Passenger vehicle fire |
| 10/6/2022 | 500 Grand Avenue | City of Wausau | F22001742 | Cooking fire, confined to container |
| 10/7/2022 | 2625 North 20th Avenue | City of Wausau | F22001749 | Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire |
| 10/8/2022 | 410 Elm Street | City of Wausau | F22001751 | Building fire |
| 10/16/2022 | 2414 North 6th Street | City of Wausau | F22001807 | Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined |
| 10/19/2022 | 540 East Thomas Street | City of Wausau | F22001829 | Cooking fire, confined to container |
| 10/28/2022 | South 1st Avenue | City of Wausau | F22001873 | Fire, other |
| 10/29/2022 | 152707 South Mountain Road | Rib Mountain | F22001882 | Building fire |

Monthly NFIRS Incident Comparison:

| | 2022 | 2021 | % of Change from 2021 to 2022 |
|----------|------|------|-------------------------------|
| January | 591 | 502 | 17.73% |
| February | 507 | 456 | 11.18% |
| March | 540 | 497 | 8.65% |
| April | 498 | 503 | -0.99% |
| May | 574 | 556 | 3.24% |
| June | 590 | 583 | 1.20% |
| July | 531 | 587 | -9.54% |
| August | 600 | 577 | 3.99% |

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| September | 524 | 525 | -0.19% |
| October | 545 | 552 | -1.27% |
| November | | 562 | |
| December | | 590 | |
| TOTAL | 5538 | 6490 | |

**New data as requested by PFC Commission



Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):

| City | # of Runs | % of Runs | # of Runs - YTD |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| City of Merrill | 0 | 0.00% | 3 |
| City Of Mosinee | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| City Of Schofield | 0 | 0.00% | 4 |
| City Of Wausau | 495 | 90.83% | 5,173 |
| Clark County | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Taylor County | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Town Of Berlin | 3 | 0.55% | 23 |
| Town of Bern | 0 | 0.00% | 2 |
| Town of Bevent | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town Of Cassel | 0 | 0.00% | 3 |
| Town Of Elderon | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town Of Emmet | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Town of Franzen | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town of Halsey | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town Of Hamburg | 1 | 0.18% | 4 |
| Town of Harrison | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town Of Hewitt | 2 | 0.37% | 18 |
| Town of Johnson | 1 | 0.18% | 1 |
| Town Of Marathon | 0 | 0.00% | 2 |
| Town Of Mosinee | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Town Of Rib Falls | 0 | 0.00% | 4 |
| Town Of Rib Mountain | 1 | 0.18% | 9 |
| Town Of Rietbrock | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Town Of Stettin | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Town Of Texas | 6 | 1.10% | 54 |
| Town Of Wausau | 20 | 3.67% | 88 |
| Town Of Weston | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Town Of Wien | 0 | 0.00% | 3 |
| Village Of Athens | 0 | 0.00% | 3 |
| Village Of Brokaw | 0 | 0.00% | 8 |
| Village Of Edgar | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Village Of Kronenwetter | 0 | 0.00% | 0 |
| Village Of Maine | 12 | 2.20% | 70 |
| Village Of Marathon City | 0 | 0.00% | 2 |
| Village Of Rothschild | 0 | 0.00% | 2 |
| Village of Stratford | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Village Of Weston | 3 | 0.55% | 11 |
| Wittenberg | 0 | 0.00% | 1 |
| Wood County | 1 | 0.18% | 1 |
| Total | 545 | 100.00% | 5,500 |

Activity/Incident Hours Committed:

| Category | Time Committed |
|--|-----------------------|
| NFIRS Incidents | 92:36:25 Hours |
| EMS Incidents | 789:21:44 Hours |
| Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings) | 1,108.00 Hours |
| Training (including Wellness) | 1,041.95 Hours |

Aid Responses:

| Type of Aid | # of Runs |
|--|------------------|
| Mutual Aid Given – EMS | 2 |
| Mutual Aid Given – Fire | 1 |
| Automatic Aid Given – EMS | 27 |
| 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) | 1 |
| Total Non-Aid Incidents (outside City with no other agency response) | 19 |