

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

Message from the Chief

It is with a mix of emotions that I am, announcing my retirement from the position of Fire Chief of the City of Waukesha Fire Department, effective May 1, 2024. After over 35 years of service, it has been a profound honor and privilege to contribute to the safety and well-being of our community.

Reflecting on my tenure as Fire Chief, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities, support, and camaraderie that have defined my career. I want to express my deepest appreciation to the members of the fire department, elected officials, other city department members, as well as the entire community for the unwavering support of the mission of the Fire Department.

I am immensely proud of the accomplishments we have achieved together during my

time as Fire Chief. The dedication and professionalism of the department's personnel have been the driving force behind our success. The collaboration between our department, the city's leadership, and other municipal entities has been crucial in our ability to effectively address the diverse challenges inherent in ensuring public safety. The commitment of elected officials and the understanding of the community needs have created an environment where the Fire Department could thrive and fulfill its mission. I am confident that the City of Waukesha Fire Department will continue to flourish with the continued support of the city.

As I step into retirement, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment and nostalgia. The memories and experiences shared during these 35 years will forever hold a special place

in my heart. While I will miss the daily challenges and camaraderie of the fire service, I look forward to witnessing the continued success and growth of the Waukesha Fire Department under new leadership in the years to come.

Respectfully,
Steve Howard

A Journey to Discover

Retirement is a journey of self-discovery,

Unveiling passions, embracing novelty.

Explore new avenues, let curiosity ignite,

For within retirement, the world is in sight.

If you see something, say something.

**OUR MISSION:
TO SAFELY PROTECT
THE LIVES AND
PROPERTY OF OUR
COMMUNITY.**



FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

ASSISTANT CHIEF HOFFMAN

City of Waukesha Fire Department - 2023 Summary

APPROVED PERSONNEL

117 Total Personnel (109.5 FTE) 104 Sworn / 5.5 Civilian / 6 Interns (Vol) 99 Personnel Assigned to 24 hr Shifts

OPERATING BUDGET

Approved FY-2024 \$16,530,251 FY-2023 \$15,809,656 FY-2022 \$15,182,695

2023 Activity		Total Incidents		Fire Dollar Loss		Civilian Fire Victims	
Fire Calls	1,296	2023	9,234	2023	\$697,370	2023	1 fatality 1 injured
EMS Calls	7,780	2022	9,108	2022	\$1,842,000	2022	2 fatality 7 injured
Special Services	46	2021	8,361	2021	\$795,300	2021	0 fatalities 1 injured
All Other Calls	112	Apparatus on Duty Everyday				4- Cross Staffed Support Vehicles	
# of Pts. Transported	5,667	3- Engines		5- Ambulance / Medics		5- Reserve Apparatus	
Mutual Aid Given/Received	77 / 11	2- Trucks		1- Battalion Chief / Shift Commander		6- Staff Vehicles	

2023 Apparatus Responses				Total Calls By Station Area		Total Calls by Shift	
Unit Description (Fleet Number)	Resp.	Unit Description (Fleet Number)	Resp.				
Engine 1 (204)	1,965	Amb/ Medic - 1 (224)	2,737	Fire Station 1	2,802	Shift 1	3,149
Truck 2 (164)	1,965	Amb/ Medic - 2 (181)	1,987	Fire Station 2	1,814	Shift 2	3,038
Engine 3 (191)	1,200	Amb/ Medic - 3 (201)	1,779	Fire Station 3	1,713	Shift 3	3,075
Engine 4 (183)	1,333	Amb/ Medic - 4 (212)	1,918	Fire Station 4	1,785		
Truck 5 (211)	1,005	Amb/ Medic - 5 (161)	1,299	Fire Station 5	1,043		
Battalion 1 (222)	881			Fire Prevention Bureau Activities			
				Commercial/Residential Inspections		5,880	
				Community Outreach-school programs (# ch)		6,293	
				FPB Time to Complete Fire Plans Review		1.17 days	

2023 Accomplishments

- 1) We maintained efficient, effective and equitable delivery of emergency response services to the community, responding to 9,234 calls for service (slight increase (1.38%) overall, from previous year). Our call volume showed significantly less fire related loss and injury this last year combined with less property loss. We attribute this to fire incidents where the fire department was notified early and property damage could be limited.
- 2) We continued our commitment to engaging our community to be fire safe and make life safety focused decisions. We continue to seek out ways to stay connected with the public with innovative programs and reminders of the importance of community safety. We are planning for, and looking forward to, being able to promote and provide opportunities for the community to be more participative in safety initiatives.
- 3) We maintained our department's staffing and operational workforce readiness, with modifications to existing, established recruitment and hiring processes. These modifications allowed us to hire and promote the best individuals to ensure workforce readiness. We had 2 members retire, and 1 member leave for other opportunities. The retirements lead to the Promotion of 1 member
- 4) We continued our vehicle/apparatus replacement schedule with the purchase of a new Emergency Management Command Post, a re-mount of an ambulance for Fire Station 1, and the placing into service of the new Battalion Chief/ Shift Commander vehicle.

2023 Emergency Response Time Data**

For All Calls for Service				Emergency Calls Only	
Average Call Processing Time	55 sec	Average Drive Time	3 min 36 sec	Average Response Time	5 min 25 sec
% of Calls Meeting 60 sec	69.12%	% of Calls Meeting 5 min Drive Time	84.44%	% of Calls w/in 6 min	69.72%
Avg. Station Alerting & Turn Out Time	1 min 11 sec.	Average Total Response Time	5 min 40 sec	% of Calls w/in 7 min	86.21%
% of Calls Meeting 60 sec	40.82%	% of Calls Meeting 7 min	81.07%	% of Calls w/in 7 min 30 sec	90.46%

** Calls were excluded from Analysis due to being cancelled, utilized for Test Tones, data was incomplete, or was outlying

SPECIAL EVENTS

BATTALION CHIEF FLEMING

Happy New Year! 2023 was a great year for Special Events, from Friday Night Live, to Tribute Tuesday. From parades, and fireworks, our department has a wonderful time interacting and assisting the thousands of attendees of these great events. I'd like to thank our partners at City Hall, I.T. Department, Public Works, and of course the Police Department. Once again collaboration is the key to all safe events.

As we continue to strive to provide great customer service, we continue to add equipment to do so. This past quarter we have added a UTV ambulance to our fleet! This tool allows us to navigate and access inside the secure footprint of each event without delay. Hopefully you had a chance to see it at the Christmas Parade or any of the other Christmas Events, if not we have included a few pictures below. Some of the features include an enclosed patient compartment for patient privacy, air conditioning for patient comfort, additional patient movement devices, and large quantity treatment inventory for large scale incidents.



As we move into the new year, we encourage you to stop by and say hi to our folks while enjoying our fine city events. Enjoy, stay safe, and know we are available if you need us! On to 2024!

FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING OPERATIONS

DIVISION CHIEF PAT RETTLER

The fourth quarter of the year closed out a fantastic training year for WFD! In 2023, we documented nearly 13,000 hours of fire training and over 1,500 hours of recruit firefighter training.

October's training topics included collaborating with our partners at First Responder Psychological Services who presented on mental health wellness topics for our employees. Our crews also spent many hours doing fire prevention activities during fire prevention month.

November brought forth an introduction and training on new hose and nozzles purchased in 2023. To replace the aging equipment, the department utilized a committee to select the equipment and test the best practices and make a recommendation for deployment. In November, the committee then provided training to all members on the new equipment and deployment model. The committee's work was able to provide us with tools and training to improve our fireground efficiency.



To end the year, we reviewed several significant incident responses from 2023 to share knowledge across the shifts. We also utilized our simulation software to perform size-ups and discuss tactics on simulated emergencies.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING OPS CONT'D

This quarter the Special Services Team trained on new equipment for vehicle, building, and trench stabilization.



In 2024, we look forward to training in our new training facility. We anticipate construction completion by the end of the month, weather permitting. The containers have begun to arrive, and assembly is anticipated to start soon.



FIRE DEPARTMENT EVENTS



Open House
Station 5
October 14, 2023



Waukesha Christmas
Parade
December 3, 2023

FIRE PREVENTION

During the winter months, residents of the City of Waukesha may find it necessary to use space heaters for supplemental heat due to the cold temperatures. Space heaters can be used safely for supplemental heat, but there are steps that need to be taken to ensure there are not any issues with their use.

Space heaters should always be placed on a flat level surface at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Space heaters should also be plugged directly into a wall receptacle. You should never use extension cords or power strips when plugging in a space heater. It is also a good idea to use a space heater that does not contain an open metal heating element that could come in contact with flammable materials. Modern space heaters can also have automatic shutoffs that will turn the unit off in the event it is accidentally tipped over. Electric space heaters are the only type that should be used indoors. Space heaters that use combustible gases will produce carbon monoxide and create issues with carbon monoxide build up inside your home. It should also be noted that cooking appliances should never be used for supplemental heat in the home due to the risk of fire and carbon monoxide exposure to the residence.

If you have any questions regarding space heaters in your home, please feel free to contact the city of Waukesha Fire Prevention Bureau at 262-524-3648.

Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.

DO: Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.

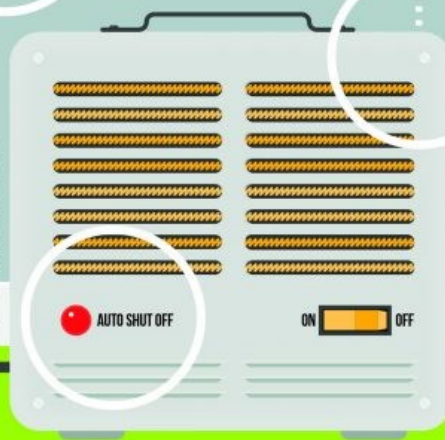


DO: Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

DO: Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.



DO: Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.



DO: Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.



DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to over-heat, and can be a tripping hazard.

DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



DON'T: Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.



DON'T: Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.



FIRE PREVENTION

**City of Waukesha
Fire Hydrant Notice**



**HELP KEEP THE WAUKESHA COMMUNITY SAFE
BY KEEPING FIRE HYDRANTS CLEAR!**



**EVERY SECOND COUNTS
IN AN EMERGENCY!**

A fire hydrant that is blocked or difficult to access due to snow and/or ice accumulation delays our response.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

CODE 21.10(4) FIRE HYDRANTS

All hydrants shall be accessible for fire department use. No public or private hydrant shall have any obstruction within five feet. Public and private hydrants shall be cleared of snow as required under section 6.12(6) of this Municipal Code:

6.12(6) SNOW SURROUNDING FIRE HYDRANTS

The owner, occupant, or person in charge of each building, dwelling, or unoccupied lot fronting upon or adjoining a fire hydrant shall clear the snow surrounding the fire hydrant to allow full access from the street.

If such snow is not removed within the time designated for snow removal in sub. (1) of this section, the City may clear the snow in accordance with sub. (2)(b) of this section and assess the applicable charge in the Cost Schedule for removal.

For more information, go to www.waukesha-wi.gov/government/departments/code-book.php or call the Fire Prevention Office at (262) 524-3648.



10 Tips *Get Ahead of the Winter Freeze*
It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Check these 10 tips off your list and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- Our **furnace has been inspected and serviced** by a qualified professional during the last 12 months. (A furnace should be serviced at least once a year.)
- Our **chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected** by a qualified professional. I have checked for creosote built-up. (Not cleaning your chimney is the leading cause of chimney fires from built up creosote. This service needs to be done at least once a year.)
- Our wood for our fireplace or wood stove is **dry, seasoned wood**.
- Our **fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass**, in good condition and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- We have a **covered metal container** ready to use to dispose cooled ashes. (The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings.)
- Our children know to stay at least **3 feet away** from the fireplace, wood/pellet stove, oil stove or other space heaters.
- Our portable space heaters have an **automatic shut-off**.
- Our portable space heaters will be **plugged directly into an outlet** (not an extension cord) and placed at least three feet from anything that can burn; like bedding, paper, walls, and even people. (Place notes throughout your home to remind you to turn off portable heaters when you leave a room or go to bed.)
- We have **tested our smoke alarms** and made sure they are working. (You need smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside each sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, the smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.)
- We have **tested our carbon monoxide alarms** and made sure they are working. (Carbon monoxide alarms should be located outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.)



Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

FIRE DEPARTMENT ARCHIVES

*Adashek's & Knapke's Badger Paint*

On November 6, 1952, one of the biggest fires in years caused more than \$100,000 in damage and threatened to sweep the downtown business district. Adashek's Fruit Store at 373 W. Main Street, and Knapke's Badger Paint at 369 W. Main Street were struck. The alarm was called in at 11:00 am when an Adashek employee noticed wind-whipped flames coming out of one of the apartments in the back of the building. The buildings were joined and contained apartments on the second floor. "Quick and effective work by the firemen prevented the blaze from spreading to other buildings in the highly congested area". All city fire fighting units, along with all off-duty men responded. More than 500 spectators watched the blaze.

From the book, *Spring City Saviors* by Daniel Carstens

January is

Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month

Fire fighter occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty death in the fire service.

At the 2023 [IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial](#), 63% of the names added to the wall were members who had died from occupational cancer.

In partnership with the [Firefighter Cancer Support Network \(FCSN\)](#), the IAFF has designated January as **Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month** to provide fire fighters the necessary tools and guidance to develop life-saving protocols for cancer prevention and to support those with a cancer diagnosis within their departments.

Bringing increased public awareness to occupational cancer in the fire service will help generate greater legislative support for states and provinces to establish presumptive disabilities for all cancers affecting fire fighters.



February is

American Heart Month

The American Heart Association has information on how you can start, or continue to live a happier & healthier life,

[Healthy for Good | American Heart Association](#)



NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY®

Friday, February 2, 2024

This February, let's Go Red for each other.

Show your support for women across the nation, for the special women in your life, and for YOU. On Friday, February 2, share your heart and **WEAR RED.**



[WearRedDay.org](#)
[#WearRedDay](#)



City of Waukesha Fire Department

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