

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

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DEPARTMENT MESSAGE

In the spring individuals clean their homes and property for the summer season. This is commonly referred to as spring cleaning. There are some things the Waukesha Fire Prevention Bureau would like to remind everyone about when this spring cleaning takes place. Cleaning supplies and chemicals may need to be disposed of before they are fully used. If you have chemicals that have expired, they should not be disposed of in the garbage.



Certain cleaning chemicals and items used for routine maintenance of the home do not mix well in the garbage. These chemicals can create a fire hazard, or significant health hazards if they are inappropriately or accidentally mixed. We would encourage everybody to

refer to the Waukesha County website for disposal of household hazardous waste. Waukesha County operates a household hazardous waste disposal site at 1500 N. University Drive. Directions to this site can be found on the website link,

[Waukesha County - Household Hazardous Waste](#)

Spring cleaning is a suitable time to make sure that all the items are stored properly in closets, basements, and attics. These items should be kept clear of any household appliances that could pose a fire hazard. These appliances would include furnaces, water heaters and any other fuel burning appliances or devices. A three-foot separation from any combustible materials to these appliances is recommended.

The outdoor clean up around your yard and property has also begun. The City of Waukesha

started its annual branch pickup during the first week of April. There was a sizable number of branches and limbs that fell due to the heavy winter snowstorms. The City of Waukesha Fire Department encourages everyone to use the city branch pickup services. City of Waukesha residents can also use the drop off center located at 750 Sentry Drive.

[Drop-Off Center \(waukesha-wi.gov\)](#)

It should be noted that Chapter 21 of the Municipal Code does not allow for burning of yard waste in outdoor fire pits. This creates a significant amount of nuisance smoke. *If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the city of Waukesha Fire Prevention Bureau at (262) 524-3648.*

Yours in Safety,

Brian Charlesworth
Fire Marshal

**Smoke
alarms
saves lives.**

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



FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

ASSISTANT CHIEF HOFFMAN



FIREFIGHTER / PARAMEDIC

#JoinWaukeshaFire



Waukesha Fire Department 2024 By the Numbers

1st Quarter Numbers	Total Incident Count	AVG 1st Unit Turnout Time	90th % 1st Unit Turnout Time	AVG 1st Unit Drive Time	90th % 1st Unit Drive Time
Jan to April 2024	2,369	1 min 14 sec	2 min 3 sec	3 min 51 sec	5 min 58 sec
Jan to April 2023	2157	1 min 15 sec	2 min 1 sec	3 min 50 sec	6 min 6 sec
Jan to April 2022	2086	1 min 22 sec	2 min 11 sec	3 min 32 sec	5 min 37 sec
Jan to April 2021	1753	1 min 25 sec	2 min 18 sec	3 min 24 sec	5 min 26 sec
Jan to April 2020	1871	1 min 18 sec	2 min 10 sec	3 min 29 sec	5 min 36 sec

Response Numbers 1st Qtr	2024	2023	2023	January 2024 to March 2024 Response Numbers	
Fire Responses	285	239	280	Busiest 24 Hour Period	January 12th
EMS Responses	1975	1857	1713		67 Calls
SST Responses	39	26	33	Slowest 24 Hour Period	January 7th
Other Calls	70	35	60		12 Calls
Total 1st Quarter	2,369	2,157	2,086	Average Calls per Day	26.03 calls per day

FIRE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENTS

BATTALION CHIEF TIM FLEMING

Spring is almost here, and the fire department has begun the planning process for our summer events throughout the city. I'd like to take a moment to explain some of the details and operations that ensure a safe event in our community.

The process starts with a planning meeting to discuss date, time, location, and most important, the estimated attendance. Once those details are finalized, we create the operational documents and staffing assignments, keeping safety, security, and financial implications in mind. Last quarter our department placed a UTV into service. The police department has a UTV for use during special events as well. These vehicles ensure a quick response to our larger events, if needed. Our July fireworks and parade events attract over 10,000 people each year!

The next step involves the creation of a state EMS Plan that is sent to the state and local hospitals for approval and awareness of the event. We create a formal Incident Action Plan with our police department, coordinate with our streets department to design the layout of the mobile vehicle barriers, and work with our IT and GIS teams to create event maps. An Incident Radio Communication Plan is designed with all listed departments to assure communication with our incident commanders is flawless during the event. Lastly, an Assignment List is finalized with the appointed personnel and their work assignments and any special instructions (see images below). Dispatchers are assigned to the command post and briefings are held for all assigned personnel the day of the event.

ASSIGNMENT LIST (ICS 204)			
1. Incident Name:		2. Operational Period: Date From: _____ Date To: _____ Time From: _____ Time To: _____	
4. Operations Personnel: Name _____ Contact Number(s) _____ Operations Section Chief: _____ Branch Director: _____ Division/Group Supervisor: _____		3. Branch: _____ Division: _____ Group: _____ Staging Area: _____	
5. Resources Assigned:		Reporting Location, Special Equipment and Supplies, Remarks, Notes, Information	
Resource Identifier	Leader	# of Persons	Contact (e.g., phone, pager, radio frequency, etc.)
6. Work Assignments:			
7. Special Instructions:			
8. Communications (radio and/or phone contact numbers needed for this assignment): Name/Function _____ Primary Contact: indicate cell, pager, or radio (frequency/system/channel) _____ 			
9. Prepared by: Name _____ Position/Title _____ Signature _____ ICS 204 IAP Page _____ Date/Time: _____			

INCIDENT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PLAN (ICS 205)											
1. Incident Name:				2. Date/Time Prepared: Date: _____ Time: _____				3. Operational Period: Date From: _____ Date To: _____ Time From: _____ Time To: _____			
4. Basic Radio Channel Use:											
Zone Grp.	Ch #	Function	Channel Name/Trunked Radio System Talkgroup	Assignment	RX Freq N or W	RX Tone/NAC	TX Freq N or W	TX Tone/NAC	Mode (A, D, or M)	Remarks	
5. Special Instructions:											
6. Prepared by (Communications Unit Leader) Name: _____ Signature: _____ ICS 205 IAP Page _____ Date/Time: _____											

Thanks to great partnerships and collaboration, we can hold wonderful events all year long.

We look forward to seeing you this summer!

FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING OPERATIONS

DIVISION CHIEF PAT RETTLER

The first quarter of the year closed out with a new and exciting addition to train our firefighters. Our Class A Live Fire Training Facility is complete at last. This training facility will provide the fire department with an opportunity to train our firefighters in basic skills and advance to using those skills under controlled live fire conditions. The building is designed for training on victim search & rescue, fire attack, ventilation, ladder deployment, wall breaching, and firefighter rescue.

Building Features:

- 4 Stories
- 4,320 Square Feet
- 3 Burn Rooms
- Movable interior wall configurations
- 2 Wall breaching props
- 1 Through the floor prop
- 1 Vertical ventilation prop
- 1 Basement window egress prop
- Highrise standpipe on all 4 floors
- Various balcony configurations
- Remote burn room temperature monitoring



In January, we hosted the Wisconsin DNR to provide training with our personnel on wildland fire suppression. Although wildland fires are uncommon in the City of Waukesha, we have several small grass, brush, or marsh fires each year. The training is also important to our personnel in the instance that we are called to assist with a larger incident with our mutual aid partners. In addition, our members are completing WI DNR boat and ATV safety courses. Companies also reviewed cold water/ice rescue.

In February, we introduced our crews to new technology for our department. We have partnered with Ascent Integrated Technology as part of their early adopter program. This technology is worn by our members in the hazard zone to improve the Incident Commander's ability to track their location. Assistant Chief Hoffman presented on the importance of good data entry in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Every incident we respond to generates a report that must be completed by our personnel. The information is used locally, at the state level, and nationally. In addition to those department wide trainings, our crews completed their annual Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) review and chimney fire review. Our Truck Companies practiced advanced vehicle extrication.



Continued on next page

FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING OPS CONT'D

February also brought another training first to the department. The Chief Officers of the department and Conway Shield Training presented an Acting Battalion Chief Academy to mentor current Lieutenants about the role of the Battalion Chief – Shift Commander. The goal of this mentoring program is to prepare Lieutenants for future promotional opportunities and prepare them for acting in the role of Shift Commander in the absence of a promoted Battalion Chief.

March's department wide training topic was Alternate Fuel Vehicle Fires. The department trained for emergencies with vehicles fueled by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquefied Propane Gas (LPG), and Electric Vehicles (EVs). These vehicles each have unique hazards and require regular training to keep up with technological changes. Crews also reviewed the use of our gas monitoring equipment.

As March came to an end, we were able to complete the Train-the-Trainer for our new training facility. This training focused on preparing instructors in the department to use the building to its full potential while maintaining the facility for decades to come.



FIRE DEPARTMENT ARCHIVES



John "Skinny" Leverance holding all-purpose mask, George Anderson on his left and Engine 3 driver Jimmy Bredeck in the center with Kromer hat. Note WFD's light plant on the sidewalk.

On the afternoon of February 18, 1955 firemen battled thick smoke to extinguish a blaze in the basement shared by J.J. Smith Jewelry and Waukesha Optical Co. at the Anderson building at 274 W. Broadway. Authorities believed the smoke came from a barrel of pitch used to grind lenses. An employee of the store attempted to put out the blaze with a hand extinguisher. Failing in this he called the fire department. Firemen donned gas masks because of the thick smoke. About 150 persons lined the street across from the stores. A resuscitator squad from the sheriff's department stood by to aid any smoke victims.

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

ARCHIVES CONT'D



Chief Emery Downie with the sweater in the doorway. Asst. Chief Art Schley in white helmet. Geno Wiesner in center, Auggie Fuchs at far right.

Engine 3, Truck 1, Oldsmobile chief's buggy, and WPD motorcycle with sidecar.



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

KERRY HARRIS

The Fire Prevention Bureau has been awarded two grants this quarter. A special thank you to [PulsePoint](#) and to the [Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition](#) for the grants. We are grateful for the opportunity to share your messages with our community.

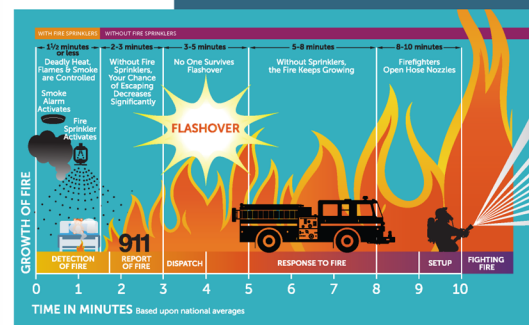


The City of Waukesha has been a PulsePoint community for over 2 years, and we have 1,439 active users of the [PulsePoint app](#). The fire department provides hands-only CPR and AED training at local businesses and at city events. We purchased mini backpack first aid kits that we will distribute at such events. Our goal is to see more members of the community sign up to be a PulsePoint member, and be one of the communities first responders.

The grant from the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition will allow us to educate the community about home fire sprinklers during Home Fire Sprinkler Week, May 12–18, 2024. The Fire Department will be at the Waukesha Farmers Market on Saturday, May 18th with information, props and a video for community members to watch and learn about home fire sprinklers. Be sure to stop by!

HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS

FIRE IS FAST
SPRINKLERS ARE FASTER



A home fire sprinkler can control a fire in 1.5 minutes or less.

Home fire sprinklers detect a fire and put water on it quickly, slowing the fire or even putting it out. That gives you and your family time to escape a fire safely.



With fire sprinklers

- Sprinkler closest to the fire activates.
- Water controls the fire, heat and smoke.
- Residents have time to safely escape.
- Damage is limited.

Without home fire sprinklers

- Flames keep growing.
- Flames, heat and gases spread.
- Flashover can occur. Everything catches fire.
- The fire becomes deadly.

LEARN MORE AT HomeFireSprinkler.org

IF YOU PLAN TO BUILD OR BUY A HOME, ASK FOR FIRE SPRINKLERS



April is

Earth Day, April 22nd



Plastic Detox Challenge Overview

Join the [EARTHDAY.ORG](https://www.earthday.org) #PlasticDetox challenge and reduce your plastic use! Take small steps to avoid single-use plastics like bags, straws, bottles, and packaging. Share your eco-friendly swaps and inspire others to join the movement on social media using #PlasticDetox.

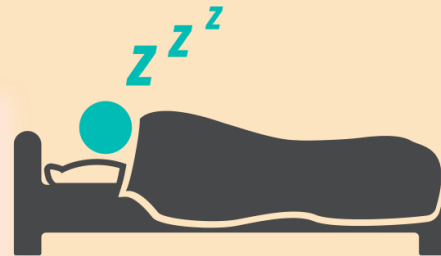
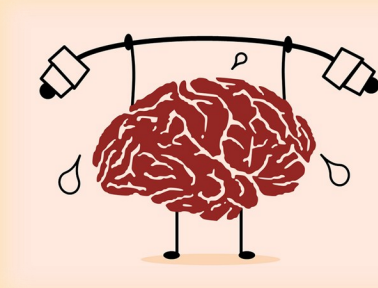
The challenge not only focuses on individual actions but also encourages participants to spread awareness and inspire others to join the movement. By collectively engaging in the [EARTHDAY.ORG](https://www.earthday.org) #PlasticDetox challenge, participants will create a ripple effect and encourage a wider shift towards a plastic-free lifestyle. Together, we can make a big impact for a plastic-free future!

Stress Awareness Month

Check out [Better Help](#) for support on stress management. Read about the causes of stress, how to recognize the signs of stress and techniques to help alleviate stress.

Some benefits of reducing stress include,

- ⇒ Lower blood pressure
- ⇒ Improved mental health
- ⇒ Reduced heart rate
- ⇒ Better sleep
- ⇒ Reduced tension
- ⇒ Improved focus & attention

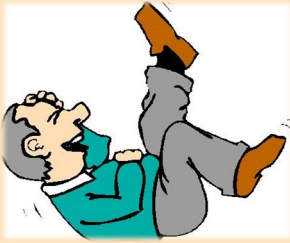


Relieve Stress Now



May is

World Laughter Day, May 5th



Many of us know that laughter is enjoyable but often underestimate the significant impact this simple tool can have on our wellness and overall satisfaction in life. While laughter may not heal or resolve everything, it possesses the power to aid and alleviate numerous concerns.

World Laughter Day is an annual event observed globally to highlight the notable healing benefits of laughter

National Emergency Medical Services Week



Let's show our gratitude toward EMTs and paramedics who provide lifesaving care across the city every day.

June is

World Caring Day, June 7th

Today is the day to show up for your loved ones. Spend time with your friends and family, listen to them, and care for them in whatever way you can. Just having a meaningful heart-to-heart conversation can do wonders.



Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

Worldwide, more than 55 million people are living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that affects memory, thinking and behavior. Symptoms eventually grow severe enough to interfere with daily tasks.



For more information and resources, check out [Alzheimer's Association](#)



City of Waukesha Fire Department

130 W. St. Paul Avenue

Waukesha, WI 53188

(262) 524-3651

