



Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

Fire - EMS - Haz Mat - Rescue - Education - Prevention

"Commitment to Excellence"



To: Mayor Shane Blaser, Wisconsin Rapids Police and Fire Commission, Wisconsin Rapids Common Council
From: Todd Eckes, WRFDFire Chief
Date: May 1, 2023
RE: Monthly Summary for April 2023

WRFDFmeetings, events, training, and notable calls for the month of December:

- Police and Fire Commission meeting
- Common Council meeting
- Human Resources Meeting
- Mayors Monthly Touch Base Meeting
- EMS Committee Meeting
- Management meeting
- Labor/Management meeting
- Meeting with Dispatch
- Local emergency planning meeting
- ERCO Disaster drill planning meeting
- Fall Reduction meeting with ADRC
- Fire Marshal attended the District 9 Fire Inspectors meeting
- North Central Fire Chiefs meeting
- Wood County Fire Chiefs meeting
- Fire Safety Presentation (Boys & Girls Club)
- Chief helped Oshkosh Fire with Officer Assessment center
- Helped MSTC present to the Legacy foundation for a grant
- Testimony given to the State Joint Finance Committee on the Governor's proposed budget
- Job Fair at Fox Valley Technical College
- FD/PD training
- Car seat Clinic at Station I
- Four members attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC)

April Anniversaries: Ben Goodreau 17 Years, Josh Schoechert 4 Years, Jake Timm 4 Years, and Daniel Shay 3 Years

Notable Responses:

Structure Fire:

Mutual aid to Rudolph, fully involved Barn Fire.

Animal Rescue:

Duck caught in fishing line

Dog caught in recliner mechanism

Motor vehicle Crashes: 3

Fuel leaks: 2



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WRFD Notes:

April held a lot of Recruiting effort beginning with a Career fair at Fox Valley Technical College. I spent the day at the college talking to all the Firefighter Medic students' one on one. These students ranged from first semester students to graduating the end of May this year. This was a great opportunity to sell our department to these perspective employees. If successful with our SAFER grant, these candidates will be applying for those positions. This effort continued in partnership with Mid State Technical College presenting to the Legacy Foundation for \$250,000 to begin a program I have been pushing the college to implement that starts in the High School at the junior and senior level. As a junior, they will receive Firefighter I and II and in their senior year complete the EMT basic program. Collaboratively we presented the program to the board and answered any questions they had. If successful and the program takes off, our Cadet program would enhance the recruitment effort for all of South Wood county at the Volunteer and Career level. Average age of a Volunteer Firefighter in Wisconsin is 60, and a Career is 37. This compared to 50 and 29 respectively in 2006. In the recruitment effort and with the PFC's approval we also have changed our minimum qualifications to Firefighter I and EMT. This reflects the trend in our area and without this change recruitment would be even more difficult competing with the other departments in Wisconsin that have also made this change.

On April 12, myself and three other Chiefs from Wausau, Waupun, and Allenton spent the day in Wisconsin Dells giving testimony to the Joint Finance Committee on the proposed Governors budget. We talked on many subjects from allocation of funds to finish the PFAS collection, funding for Hazardous Material teams, and funding for the Task Force 1 team. I spoke to the proposed alternative to the shared revenue formula. The Budget proposes 1 cent of the 5-cent sales tax, which would generate 1.4 Billion dollars annually, be earmarked for communities in Wisconsin. 47% of that 1.4 billion (571 million) would be allocated for Public Safety, Fire, EMS, and Police. This would relieve a huge burden on communities in Wisconsin that struggle because of low or nonexistent growth within their city, thus not able to raise the tax levy. Meanwhile emergency services continue to spiral into crisis mode due to lack of funding. The best part of the proposed system is that it has a yearly adjustment already worked in. The money generated from the sales tax, increases annually on average 3.3% The continuing rise in cost of materials and cost of living could be mostly offset annually also with that built in 3.3% increase. In south wood county we have seen and have felt the effects of that crisis mode in emergency services with the closing of the Nekoosa Ambulance service 1 1/2 years ago. They were a vital piece of the system in south Wood County, and their closing put a strain on all the other services that exist today. Everyone can help with this cause by calling your Legislators and let them know you support the Alternative to the shared revenue formula.



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WRFD April 2023 MONTHLY RESPONSE REPORT

Type of Emergency	April 2023 Responses	Total # of 2023 Responses	April 2022 Responses	Total # of 2022 Responses
EMS 911	373	1429	332	1398
EMS IFT	1	4	6	20
COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE	0	0	0	8
FIRE	5	16	2	9
EXPLOSION (No Fire)	0	0	0	0
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	4	11	3	7
SERVICE CALLS	15	20	6	17
GOOD INTENT	6	15	6	18
FALSE ALARMS/WEATHER	4	16	5	20
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	408	1,511	360	1497

Notes:

- Fire 100 Series: Fire (s *structure, vehicle, wildland*)
- Fire 200 Series: Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (*No Fire*)
- Fire 300 Series: Rescue & Emergency Service Incident (*Motor vehicle accident, EMS Calls*)
- Fire 400 Series: *Hazardous Condition (spills, leaks with no fire)*
- Fire 500 Series: Service Calls (water & smoke problems, burning complaints)
- Fire 600 Series: Good Intent (*Dispatched and cancelled, Citizen needs help*)
- Fire 700/800 Series: (700) False Alarms (800) Severe Weather/Natural Disasters

Runs by District	April 2023	2023 Totals	April 2022	2022 Totals
Wisconsin Rapids	314	1155	270	1122
Saratoga	27	98	20	102
Village Port Edwards	7	37	11	44
Village Biron	14	73	10	45
Town of Port Edwards	10	33	7	31
Nekoosa	27	81	28	107
Granmoor	2	3	0	3
Mutual Aid Given	6	17	2	18
Mutual Aid Received	1	14	12	25
TOTALS	408	1,511	360	1497

Confined Space Stand-by	April 2023	Total # 2023	April 2022	Total # 2022
TOTALS	26	156	39	157



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WRFD Training Center for April

Category	Topic
Fire	Search & Rescue (Vent, Enter, Isolate, Search)
Officer	Servant Leadership Presentation
Motor Pump Operator	Fire-ground position engine & aerial
Technical rescue	Open Water Rescue and Drowning Resuscitation
Hazardous Materials	Leak & Spill Mitigation
EMS	Licensing of 96 Providers (Medics, & our EMR's)
EMR	Nekoosa Dept. - MCI Plan overview Rapids Dept. - Airway Management with Opioid overdose
Cadet	Stop the Bleed Class, & Vitals acquisition