



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, WRFD Interim Fire Chief

Date: March 3, 2022

RE: Monthly Summary for February 2022

WRFD meetings, events, training, and notable calls for the month of January:

- Police and Fire Commission meeting
- Finance and Property meeting
- Common Council meeting
- Officers meeting
- 2 Members attended State Fire Chiefs Winter In Service Session
- Attended the MABAS 116 Regional Meeting
- EMS Quality Assurance meeting
- EMS Committee meeting
- Health & Safety Meeting
- Cadet Training (Personal Protective Equipment)
- North Central Fire Chiefs meeting
- All three crews completed Behavioral Health Training given by Department Chaplain Dan DeRoche
- Attended both Bi-weekly Building addition meetings
- DNR Wildland Training with all three crews
- EMS Training - Cardiac Pathophysiology
- Entire staff are in the middle of annual Haz-Mat Physicals
- A few members attended a Pediatric Instructors Course at MSTC
- Annual SCBA Testing
- State Ambulance Inspections
- Charitable Foundation Ice Golf Fund Raiser

February Anniversaries: Joel Fetterer 16 YRS, Ashlyn Wagner 4 YRS,

WRFD Notes:

February was very welcomed with a decrease in call volume. Although historically February tends to have a decrease in calls probably due to weather and people staying indoors through the typically cold months. February also saw the start of our required annual Haz-Mat Physicals as per State Statute. As the regional and County Haz-Mat team, we need to ensure that all members on the team are physically fit to perform their job as a Haz-Mat Technician.



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Annual State Inspections of all our ambulances was completed and given a pass. This is the State entity that inspects all ambulance ensuring that each are carrying the proper equipment, maintenance schedules are followed, they pass DOT inspections, and they are mechanically fit to be on the road.

At our request, Life Quest did an analysis or average Ambulance rates of similar services from across the State that matched our type of service, average run volume, and size of area served as well as level of service. That analysis was given to us with a recommended rate. It was reviewed by the Finance Director, and presented to Finance & Property for approval.

A couple of projects this month included our annual training with the DNR in the wildland firefighting category. This training is required because we are a Cooperative partner with them. The city historically does not have many wildland fires, but have incorporated the DNR in the past for fires on the fringes of wildland and residential areas. This year's training incorporated the use of their plat books, Safety, Chain saw safety, and some lessons learned in the past years. Due to light snow and rainfall, they are predicting a possible drought like year so this training is strategic to those predictions.

In the month of February, Governor Evers announced his plan to address the stabilization of EMS services across the State. With his Bill an additional \$8 million dollars will be available for the Funding Assistance Plan from \$2.2 million to \$10.2 Million. This plan would also subsidize the write offs of Medicaid every service deals with. His plan would help as outlined below.

- The Wisconsin Medicaid program reimburses private and municipal ambulance providers for emergency medical transportation. Despite recent rate increases, Medicaid rates are still below Medicare and commercial rates, contributing to an erosion of EMS provider stability as they also experience increased staffing and operating costs amid a global pandemic.
- This is in addition to the Jan. 1, 2022, rate increase that was included in the 2021-23 budget that provided nearly \$5.6 million in 2021-22 and more than \$11.1 million in 2022-23 to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for selected ambulance services to 80% of the 2021 Medicare urban rates applicable in Wisconsin

To close out, the Addition/Renovation project continues to move forward with a finalization of Phase I, move into the new portion, scheduled for early to mid-April. They will then enter the existing station to begin Phase II of the project, remodel that existing portion, with a completion date of Mid July.

I highly encourage all the Leaders of the City to visit the station and spend some time there so you can experience the day-to-day operations of your Fire Department, take a look at the new addition, and ask the Firefighters any questions you may have about our operations.



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WRFD FEBRUARY 2022 MONTHLY RESPONSE REPORT

Type of Emergency	February 2022 Responses	Total # of 2022 Responses	February 2021 Responses	Total # of 2021 Responses
EMS 911	295	706	275	268
EMS IFT	4	11	10	19
COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE	0	7	2	1
FIRE	3	5	9	2
EXPLOSION (No Fire)	0	0	NA	NA
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	2	4	3	3
SERVICE CALLS	2	6	8	6
GOOD INTENT	2	11	NA	NA
FALSE ALARMS/WEATHER	7	16	6	8
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	315	759	313	307

Notes:

- Fire 100 Series: Fire (s *tructure, 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	February 2022	2022 Totals	February 2021	2021 Totals
Wisconsin Rapids	237	572	270	271
Saratoga	22	51	18	19
Village Port Edwards	9	24	13	8
Village Biron	9	25	5	6
Town of Port Edwards	11	19	NA	NA
Nekoosa	22	52	NA	NA
Cranmoor	0	2	NA	NA
Mutual Aid Given	3	12	4	2
Mutual Aid Received	2	2	3	1
TOTALS	315	759	313	307

Confined Space Stand-by	February 2022	Total # 2022	February 2021	Total # 2021
TOTALS	50	87	39	39



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