



Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department

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

"Commitment to Excellence"



To: Mayor Blaser, Wisconsin Rapids Police and Fire Commission, Wisconsin Rapids Common Council
From: Todd Eckes, WRFD Interim Fire Chief
Date: January 4, 2022
RE: Monthly Summary for December 2021

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

- Attended the Police and Fire Commission meeting
- Attended the Common Council meeting
- Attended North Central Fire Chiefs meeting
- Attended the Finance & Property meeting
- Attended the HR Meeting
- Hosted monthly emergency first responder training
- Department Officer's Meeting
- Training: All department Drill
- December was a catch up month for training missed by members on each crew throughout the year
- Department Chief Officers attended the annual Safety & Professional Services (SPS) training given by the State Office.
- 8 members attended a Grant funded Hazardous Materials Technician training at MSTC.
- EMS Contracts signed with Town of Biron, Cranmoor, and Ho Chunk Nation in the Town of Port Edwards.
- Held a Chief Officer Assessment center to develop an internal list for promotions.
- Held a Teen Leadership day at Station II in conjunction with other local Emergency services.
- Progress continues on the addition/remodel of Station I.
- Submitted our Assistance to Firefighters Grant (Replace failing Exhaust capture systems at both Stations)
- Responded to 4 separate calls for Fire
 - Oven Fire
 - Dryer fire in a Laundromat
 - Dumpster Fire
 - Fully engulfed unattached garage
- Responded to 6 Motor Vehicle Crashes
 - 2 No Transports
 - 4 Minor injuries transported
- December 15th responded to numerous wind related events through the night.



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WRFD Notes:

As we wind down the year of 2021, I reflect back to the year's highlights. None bigger than the addition/renovation of Station I. Progress continues with enclosure completed by the end of the month of December. As per our Project Manager, we are on schedule. There have been a few challenges throughout the process, but nothing that we cannot overcome considering the result will be operationally more functional from a deployment perspective, Gender Neutral, and our members will be safe from carcinogens with the Decontamination suite for gear when returning from fire calls.

We received a Grant to hold Hazardous Materials Technician training for eight of our members, which will bring the entire department up to that level except for our newest member that started early December. That training, held at MSTC, was a partnership with WRFD and Mid State Technical College and well attended by members of other Haz-Mat teams from the State. Instructors for this class came from the REACT center and are considered some of the most knowledgeable in this industry.

With projected change in our organization, we needed to ensure we had proper members in place for any future promotions. The department conducted a Chief Officer Assessment center in house, with help from Chief Officers from Merrill, Wausau, Marshfield and Ryan Hartman our Human Resource director. Six Candidates from our ranks tested for positions of Battalion Chief, Division Chief of EMS, or Division Chief of Fire. The candidates were ranked by their performance and that list will be used for two years to fill any open positions in those areas.

Lastly, a project that we have worked on for a few months now has come to completion. A lot of time was spent researching and negotiating new EMS contracts with the areas affected by the Nekoosa Ambulance closure. The department looked at what we could reasonably cover without affecting the care and service to the citizens that we already respond to currently. About that area, research was completed to determine a Per Capita charge that would cover those additional areas and cover the operational changes that would be needed for this addition to service. With all information, considered proposals were submitted to City of Nekoosa, Town of Port, Town of Cranmoor, and the Ho Chunk Casino. All four agreed to the terms of those contracts and signed. Beginning January 1, 2022, we became their EMS service. It would have been easy to say we are good and do not need to add area for coverage. Instead we look at this as an opportunity to enhance the EMS service in South wood county, while be financially responsible to the citizens that we serve. These contracts pay for those operational changes plus some extra to the general fund.

Anniversaries in December: Rodger Erdman 16 Years,



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WRFD October 2021 MONTHLY RESPONSE REPORT

Type of Emergency	December 2021 Responses	Total # of 2021 Responses	December 2020 Responses	Total # of 2020 Responses
EMS/Rescue 911	366	4135	263	3375
EMS IFT	3	165	14	279
COMMUNITYPARAMEDICINE	1	12	8	22
FIRE	4	49	6	47
HAZARDOUS CONDITION	9	52	3	52
SERVICE CALLS	10	89	7	84
FALSE ALARMS	10	98	2	117
TOTALS	403	4600	303	3976

Notes:

- Fire 100 Series: Fire (*structure, vehicle, wildland*)
- Fire 400 Series: *Hazardous Condition (spills, leaks with no fire)*
- Fire 500 Series: Service Calls (water & smoke problems, burning complaints)
- Fire 700 Series: False Alarms

Runs by District	December 2021	2021 Totals	December 2020	2020 Totals
Wisconsin Rapids	305	3640	259	3469
Saratoga	37	298	18	230
Village Port Edwards	14	142	17	135
Village Biron	7	111	6	91
Other Communities	24*	24*	*	*
Mutual Aid Given	14	91	2	39
Mutual Aid Received	2	294	1	12
TOTALS	403	4600	362	2907

*** = New Category = (Big Flats/Monroe Center, Nekoosa, Rome, Arkdale, Cranmoor)**

Confined Space Stand-by	October 2021	Total # 2021	October 2020	Total # 2020
TOTALS	11	343	55	615