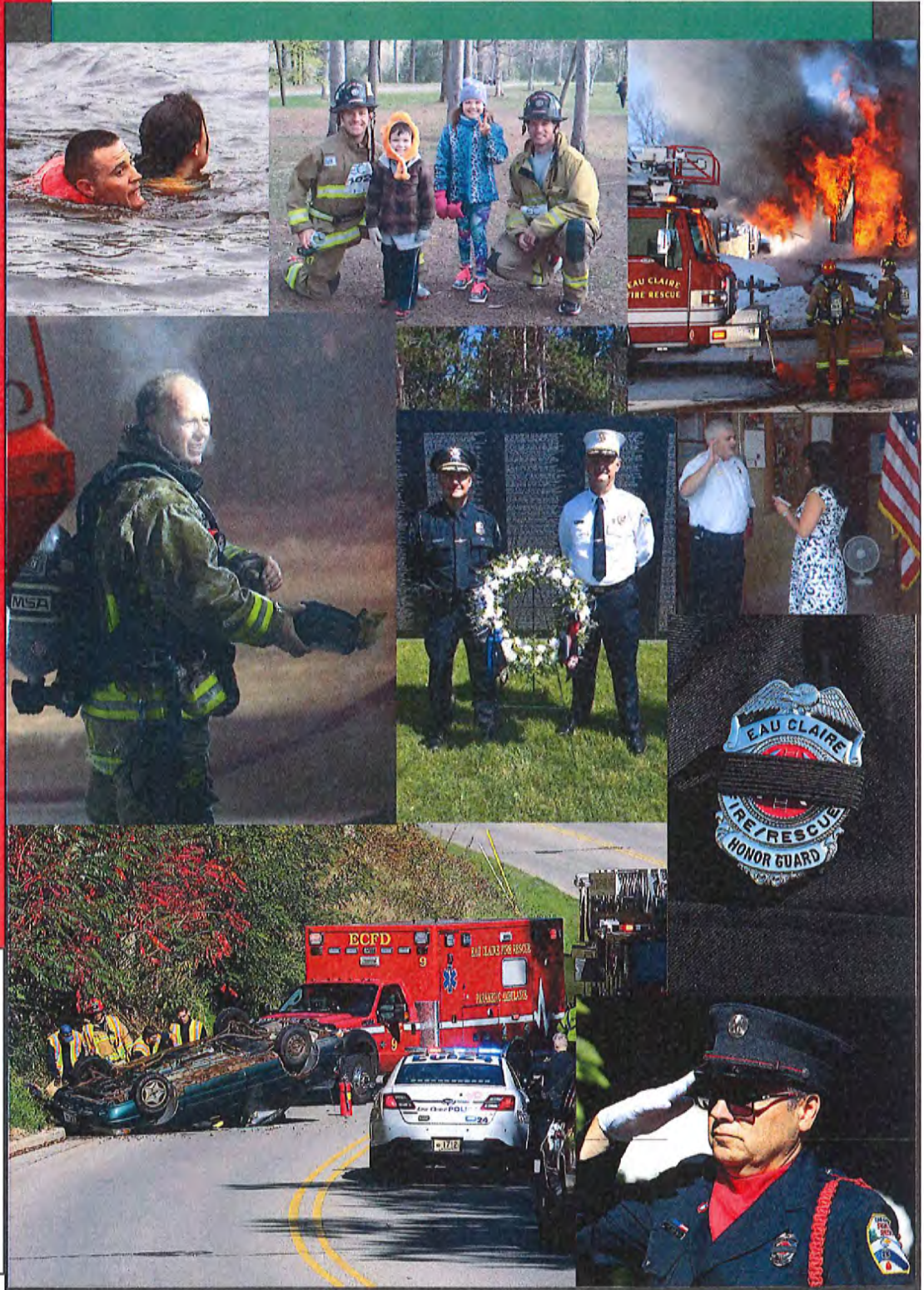


# *Eau Claire Fire & Rescue*

## *2016 Annual Report*



Fire Administration  
216 S Dewey Street  
Eau Claire WI  
715.839.5012

[www.eauclairewi.gov](http://www.eauclairewi.gov)  
[ecfire@eauclairewi.gov](mailto:ecfire@eauclairewi.gov)

 @ECfirerescue

 @eauclairefire  
twitter

\*Some photos courtesy of Eau Claire Leader Telegram

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction Letter from Fire Chief.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mission and Vision Statements.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Organizational Chart .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Administrative and Prevention Personnel .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Fire Fighters Local 487 Elected Positions .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Personnel / Stations .....</b>	<b>7-21</b>
<b>Response Statistics .....</b>	<b>23-30</b>
<b>Accomplishment Highlights.....</b>	<b>32-36</b>
<b>Specialty Captains' Report .....</b>	<b>38-46</b>
<b>Budgetary Information .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>2017 Adopted Program of Services .....</b>	<b>50-57</b>



**CITY OF EAU CLAIRE**  
*"Proudly Meeting the Needs of our Community"*

**FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT**  
 Christian M. Bell, Chief

---

Emergency Calls .....	911
Administration .....	715/839-5012
Inspections/Investigation .....	715/839-4825
After Hours .....	715/839-5013
E-mail .....	ecfire@eauclairewi.gov
City Website .....	www.eauclairewi.gov

March 1, 2017

TO: Police and Fire Commission Members  
 City Manager Dale Peters

As fire chief of an organization that takes immense pride in the duties it performs, I present to you the 2016 annual report. I assure you the information contained within is a direct reflection of that pride and our members' continuous efforts to meet a variety of community needs. We continue to serve with extreme honor to ensure the citizens of the city of Eau Claire, our regional partners, and the visitors to our wonderful community receive an excellent service. The department has consistently shown the ability to deliver the highest quality service on a daily basis.

In 2015, the department secured funding for a new fire station 10 while maintaining the current six fire station footprint. As a continuation of that vision, throughout 2016 fire department staff worked with other City departments to select suitable site locations for the proposed relocation of station 10. One of the three recommended locations required extensive soil and contamination tests to determine suitability for building and the extent of needed soil remediation. In addition to site selection, fire department and City staff selected and formalized contracts with local private firms to provide engineering and design services for the new fire station and hired a project manager to assist in the bidding and awarding of contracts. We envision this new fire station as a community gathering location rather than simply a building to house a fire truck and an ambulance.

I am sincerely grateful to have been selected as Chief Lyle Koerner's successor upon his retirement in August. I also am greatly appreciative of the effort put forth by the department's administrative staff and chief officers in making my transition to fire chief as seamless as possible. Eau Claire Fire and Rescue has very capable leaders to move this organization forward. Knowing that fiscal challenges remain, I assure you this organization will continue to provide quality emergency services to its citizens, visitors, and surrounding municipalities.

I appreciate your strong support of our organization, as well as that of the City Council and fellow department directors as we all strive to improve the quality of services for our citizens. I am confident that together we will build on past successes and provide for a bright future.

Sincerely,

Christian M. Bell  
 Fire Chief

---

## MISSION STATEMENT

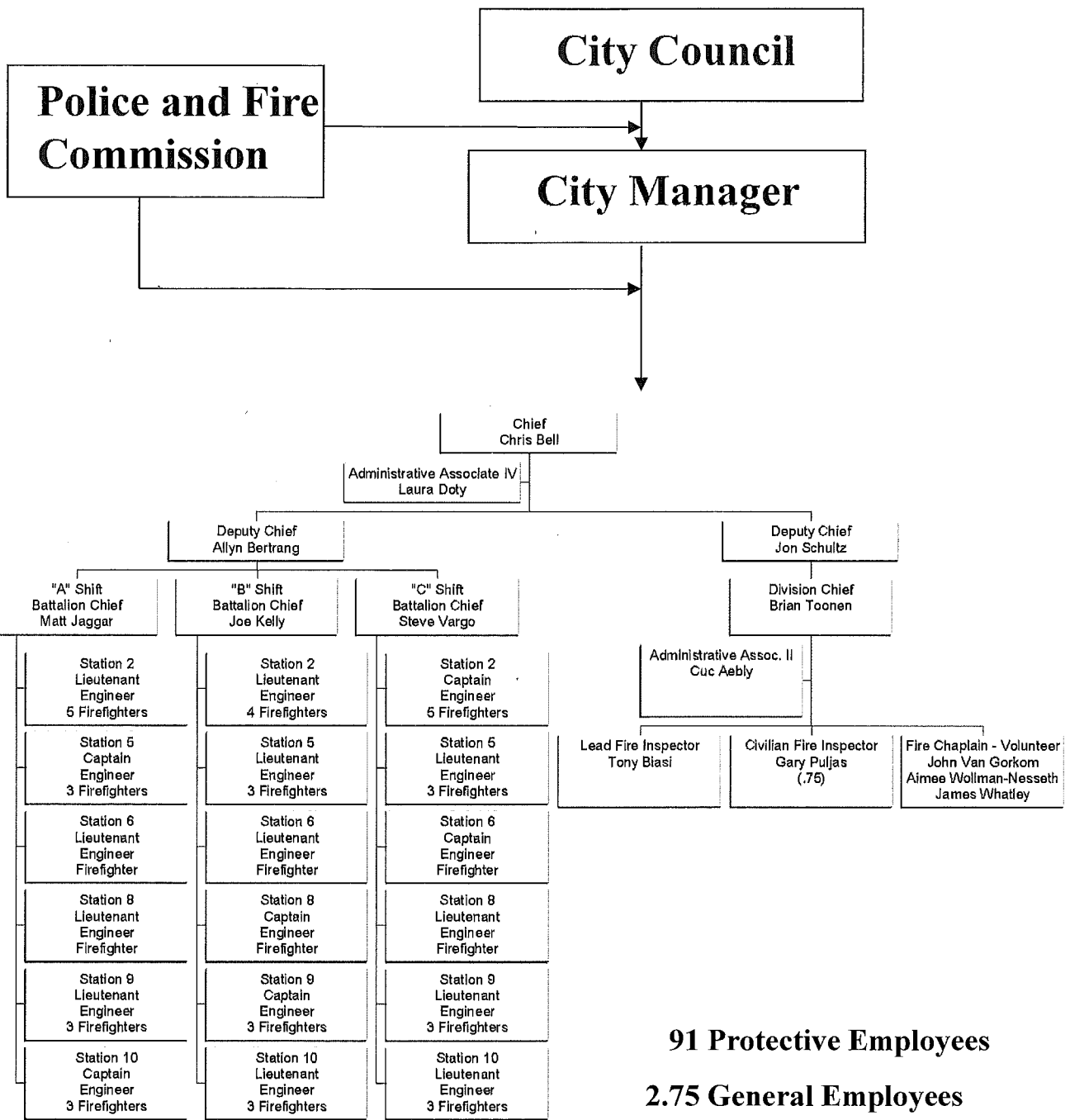
*Eau Claire Fire and Rescue's mission is to public health and safety achieved through developing, promoting, and maintaining a comprehensive network of emergency medical services, fire prevention and suppression, technical rescue, and hazard mitigation.*

*Through progressive education, diligent training, and integrated communication, our team will collectively provide sustainable, high quality services focused on customer satisfaction and the prudent utilization of public funds.*

## VISION STATEMENT

*Eau Claire Fire and Rescue will be a leading regional public health and safety partner by continually and actively promoting excellence in the performance of our duties.*

*We will support a dedicated membership of honest, accountable professionals who exemplify honor and integrity to build and retain public trust.*



**91 Protective Employees**

**2.75 General Employees**

**3 Volunteers**

**96.75 Total**

**Stations 5, 9 and 10 are staffed for Paramedic Response**



## ADMINISTRATIVE AND PREVENTION PERSONNEL

Chris Bell ..... Fire Chief

Allyn Bertrang ..... Deputy Chief of Operations

Jon Schultz ..... Deputy Chief of EMS/Community Risk Reduction

Brian Toonen..... Division Chief of Prevention/Training

Laura Doty ..... Administrative Associate IV

Tony Biasi ..... Lead Fire Inspector

Gary Puljas ..... Fire Inspector

Cuc Aebly ..... Administrative Associate II

Matt Jaggar ..... Battalion Chief, "A" Shift

Joe Kelly ..... Battalion Chief, "B" Shift

Steve Vargo ..... Battalion Chief, "C" Shift



## EAU CLAIRE FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 487 ELECTED POSITIONS

PRESIDENT:	Karl Johnson
VICE PRESIDENT:	Bob Haller
SECRETARY:	Tom Rebeschke
TREASURER:	Bill Drath
GUIDE:	Isaac Hahn
SGT-AT-ARMS:	Dave Strassman
STEWARDS:	Dave Pekol (A-Shift) Scott Mohr (B-Shift) Steve Secker (C-Shift)
TRUSTEES:	Kevin Blaine Jeff Dahl Tim McCaughey
WORKING RELATIONS:	Karl Johnson Isaac Hahn Tim McCaughey Tom Wallin



*Personnel / Stations*





**Chris Bell**  
**Fire Chief**



**Allyn Bertrang**  
**Deputy Chief**



**Jon Schultz**  
**Deputy Chief**



**Brian Toonen**  
**Division Chief**



**Joe Kelly**  
**Battalion Chief**



**Steve Vargo**  
**Battalion Chief**



**Matt Jaggard**  
**Battalion Chief**



**Laura Doty**  
**Admin. Associate IV 7**



**Cuc Aeby**  
**Admin. Associate II**



**Tony Biasi**  
Inspector/Captain



**Gary Puljas**  
Inspector



**Bruce Buchholz**  
Captain-Reserve Medic



**Greg Stegge**  
Captain



**Dave Whitehouse**  
Captain



**Jeff Dykes**  
Capt.-Reserve Medic



**Bob Haller**  
Capt.-Reserve Medic



**(Vacant)**  
Captain



**Lance Hanson**  
Lieutenant



**Bob Pratt**  
Lieutenant



**Brian Kranz**  
Lieutenant



**Chris Dolen**  
Lt.-Reserve Medic



**Shawn Abrahamson**  
Lieutenant



**Drew Dorn**  
Lieutenant



**Jamie Burkhardt**  
Lt.-Reserve Medic



**Stephen Secker**  
Lieutenant



**Jeremy Stary**  
**Lieutenant**



**Bill Drath**  
**Lt.-Reserve Medic**



**Brian Phillips**  
**Lieutenant**



**(Vacant)**  
**Lieutenant**



**Dave Lombardo**  
**Engineer**



**BouaChao Xiong**  
**Engineer**



**Mike Miller**  
**Engineer-Medic**



**Jeff Patrow**  
**Engineer**



**Kevin McClellan**  
**Engineer**



**Tom Rebischke**  
**Engineer**



**Scott Mohr**  
**Engineer**



**Todd Frank**  
**Engineer-Medic**



**Bill Jensen**  
**Engineer**



**Pat Hamler**  
**Engineer**



**Dave Pekol**  
**Engineer**



**Tim Brantner**  
**Engineer**



**Mark Humphrey**  
Engineer



**Stephen Friederichs**  
Engineer



**Dave Strassman**  
Engineer



**Matt Gunderson**  
Engineer-Medic



**Ryan Hebert**  
Engineer-Medic



**(Vacant)**  
Engineer



**Frank Leffelman**  
FF-Reserve Medic



**Greg Johnson**  
Firefighter



**Tom Wallin**  
Firefighter



**Nils Bergquist**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Jeff Dahl**  
Firefighter



**Tony Hennings**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Brian Mero**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Natasha Myre**  
Firefighter-Medic



**10 Levi Vleck**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Steve Rindt**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Benji Norberg**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Dan Schroeder**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Isaac Hahn**  
FF-Reserve Medic



**Ryan Lesperance**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Josh Olson**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Brian Dorn**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Brad Beuscher**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Tim McCaughey**  
FF-Reserve Medic



**Todd Nutter**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Stephen Weyers**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Chris Meyer**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Steve Patten**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Nicolas Ledin**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Korey Maves**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Karl Johnson**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Kevin Blaine**  
Firefighter-Medic



**Taylor Quinnell  
Firefighter-Medic**



**Schuyler Townsend  
Firefighter-Medic**



**Jordan Watson  
Firefighter-Medic**



**Andrew Robinson  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Kurt Trunkel  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Steve Merkel  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Heather Harsh  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Paul Monroe  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Nathan Much  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Peter Spencer  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Christopher Nyhus  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Shawn Willi  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Lukas Syrjamaki  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Michael Linstedt  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Andrew Elbert  
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Aaron Crane  
Firefighter**



**Dustin Quilling**  
**Firefighter**



**Brett Klonecki**  
**Firefighter**



**Tate Roselius**  
**Firefighter**



**Jonathan Beck**  
**Firefighter**



**David Molitor**  
**Firefighter**



**(Vacant)**  
**Firefighter**



**Stephanie Wagner**  
**Medical Director**



**John Van Gorkom**  
**Chaplain**



**James Whatley**  
**Chaplain**



**Aimee Wollman Nesseth**  
**Chaplain**



## PERSONNEL MOVEMENT

### **New Hires:**

Jonathan Beck  
Aaron Crane  
Andrew Elbert  
Adam Finn  
Brett Klonecki  
Michael Linstedt  
David Molitor  
Dustin Quilling  
Tate Roselius

### **Promotions:**

Chris Bell to Chief  
Jon Schultz to Deputy Chief  
Brian Toonen to Division Chief  
Matt Jaggar to Battalion Chief  
Joe Kelly to Battalion Chief  
Steve Vargo to Battalion Chief  
Tony Biasi to Captain  
Jeff Dykes to Captain  
Bob Haller to Captain  
Dave Whitehouse to Captain  
Jamie Burkhardt to Lieutenant  
Brian Phillips to Lieutenant  
Tony Biasi to Engineer



---

---

Steve Friederichs to Engineer  
Matt Gunderson to Engineer  
Ryan Hebert to Engineer  
Dave Strassman to Engineer

**Separations:**

Adam Finn  
Christopher Thorne

**Retirements:**



Bryon Bensen (Battalion Chief)  
John Biegel (Engineer)  
Tim Deziel (Battalion Chief)  
Dennis Duncan (Engineer)  
Rob Goodland (Lieutenant)  
Lyle Koerner (Chief)  
Mike Laska (Inspector)

**Step Increases:**



Brad Beuscher to First Class Firefighter  
Tim McCaughey to First Class Firefighter  
Todd Nutter to First Class Firefighter  
Steve Weyers to First Class Firefighter  
Chris Meyer to Second Class Firefighter  
Karl Johnson to Third Class Firefighter

---

---



Nicolas Ledin to Third Class Firefighter  
Korey Maves to Third Class Firefighter  
Steve Merkel to Third Class Firefighter  
Steve Patten to Third Class Firefighter  
Taylor Quinnell to Third Class Firefighter  
Andrew Robinson to Third Class Firefighter  
Kurt Trunkel to Third Class Firefighter  
Jordan Watson to Third Class Firefighter  
Heather Harsh to Fourth Class Firefighter  
Paul Monroe to Fourth Class Firefighter  
Nathan Much to Fourth Class Firefighter  
Peter Spencer to Fourth Class Firefighter



## SENIORITY RECORD

<u>NAME</u>		<u>RANK</u>	<u>DOH</u>
Lombardo	David	Engineer	03-04-85
Hanson	Lance	Lieutenant	06-13-88
Aebly	Cuc	Administrative Associate II	05-08-89
Buchholz	Bruce	Captain	10-01-90
Xiong	BouaChao	Engineer	05-13-91
Miller	Michael	Engineer	04-06-92
Kelly	Joe	Battalion Chief	11-02-92
Pratt	Robert	Lieutenant	11-02-92
Patrow	Jeffrey	Engineer	10-04-93
Stegge	Gregory	Captain	10-04-93
Kranz	Brian	Lieutenant	06-05-95
Schultz	Jon	Deputy Chief	06-05-95
Bertrang	Allyn	Deputy Chief	09-16-96
McClellan	Kevin	Engineer	09-16-96
Dolen	Christopher	Lieutenant	09-16-96
Abrahamson	Shawn	Lieutenant	04-21-97
Bell	Christian	Chief	04-21-97
Vargo	Steven	Battalion Chief	04-21-97
Rebischke	Thomas	Engineer	04-21-97
Mohr	Scott	Engineer	10-20-97
Dorn	Andrew	Lieutenant	04-20-98
Frank	Todd	Engineer	04-20-98
Jaggar	Matthew	Battalion Chief	08-24-98
Whitehouse	David	Captain	08-24-98
Burkhardt	Jamie	Lieutenant	08-24-98
Secker	Stephen	Lieutenant	02-15-99
Leffelman	Frank	Firefighter	02-15-99
Doty	Laura	Administrative Associate IV	06-28-99

<u>NAME</u>		<u>RANK</u>	<u>DOH</u>
Dykes	Jeffrey	Captain	11-01-99
Jensen	William	Engineer	11-01-99
Hamler	Patrick	Engineer	11-01-99
Pekol	David	Engineer	05-08-00
Johnson	Gregory	Firefighter	05-08-00
Stary	Jeremy	Lieutenant	05-08-00
Drath	William	Lieutenant	04-09-01
Toonen	Brian	Division Chief	04-09-01
Brantner	Timothy	Engineer	04-09-01
Phillips	Brian	Lieutenant	04-09-01
Humphrey	Mark	Engineer	10-22-01
Haller	Robert	Captain	08-19-02
Friederichs	Stephen	Engineer	08-19-02
Strassman	David	Engineer	08-19-02
Biasi	Tony	Captain	12-09-02
Gunderson	Matthew	Engineer	11-29-04
Hebert	Ryan	Engineer	11-29-04
Puljas	Gary	Inspector	01-27-06
Wallin	Thomas	Firefighter	01-30-06
Bergquist	Nils	Firefighter	08-07-06
Dahl	Jeffrey	Firefighter	08-07-06
Hennings	Anthony	Firefighter	01-08-07
Mero	Brian	Firefighter	07-09-07
Myre	Natasha	Firefighter	07-07-08
Vlcek	Levi	Firefighter	07-07-08
Rindt	Steven	Firefighter	07-07-08
Norberg	Benjamin	Firefighter	07-07-08

<u>NAME</u>		<u>RANK</u>	<u>DOH</u>
Schroeder	Daniel	Firefighter	11-03-08
Hahn	Isaac	Firefighter	07-13-09
Lesperance	Ryan	Firefighter	07-12-10
Olson	Joshua	Firefighter	07-12-10
Dorn	Brian	Firefighter	06-20-11
Beuscher	Brad	Firefighter	01-09-12
McCaughey	Timothy	Firefighter	01-09-12
Nutter	Todd	Firefighter	01-09-12
Weyers	Stephen	Firefighter	03-12-12
Meyer	Christian	Firefighter	08-27-12
Patten	Steven	Firefighter	07-15-13
Ledin	Nicolas	Firefighter	07-15-13
Maves	Korey	Firefighter	07-15-13
Johnson	Karl	Firefighter	07-15-13
Blaine	Kevin	Firefighter	09-30-13
Quinnell	Taylor	Firefighter	02-10-14
Townsend	Schuyler	Firefighter	02-10-14
Watson	Jordan	Firefighter	02-10-14
Robinson	Andrew	Firefighter	02-10-14
Trunkel	Kurt	Firefighter	02-10-14
Merkel	Steve	Firefighter	02-10-14
Harsh	Heather	Firefighter	07-14-14
Monroe	Paul	Firefighter	07-14-14
Much	Nathan	Firefighter	07-14-14
Spencer	Peter	Firefighter	03-09-15
Nyhus	Christopher	Prob. Firefighter	07-20-15
Willi	Shawn	Prob. Firefighter	07-20-15
Syrjamaki	Lukas	Prob. Firefighter	07-20-15

<u>NAME</u>		<u>RANK</u>	<u>DOH</u>
Linstedt	Michael	Prob. Firefighter	01-18-16
Elbert	Andrew	Prob. Firefighter	01-18-16
Crane	Aaron	Prob. Firefighter	07-11-16
Quilling	Dustin	Prob. Firefighter	07-11-16
Klonecki	Brett	Prob. Firefighter	07-11-16
Roselius	Tate	Prob. Firefighter	07-11-16
Beck	Jonathan	Prob. Firefighter	11-10-16
Molitor	David	Prob. Firefighter	11-10-16

AVERAGE AGE – 39.5

AVERAGE YEARS OF SERVICE – 11.75

---

## STATION LOCATIONS / STAFFING

### **Station 2—216 S. Dewey Street**

- ◆ 4 Personnel per day
- ◆ Fire Engine and Reserve Ambulance
- ◆ Heavy Rescue Unit
- ◆ Hazardous Materials Assessment Vehicle
- ◆ Hazardous Materials Equipment Trailer
- ◆ Battalion Chief Command Car
- ◆ Collapse Rescue Vehicle
- ◆ Administrative and Prevention Offices

### **Station 5—2500 Patton Street**

- ◆ 5 Personnel per day
- ◆ Fire Engine
- ◆ Paramedic Ambulance and Reserve Ambulance

### **Station 6—3020 Golf Road**

- ◆ 3 Personnel per day
- ◆ Ladder Truck and Reserve Engine

### **Station 8—3510 Starr Avenue**

- ◆ 3 Personnel per day
- ◆ Fire Engine and Reserve Engine

### **Station 9—3611 Campus Road**

- ◆ 5 Personnel per day
- ◆ Ladder Truck
- ◆ Paramedic Ambulance and Reserve Ambulance

### **Station 10—559 North Hastings Way**

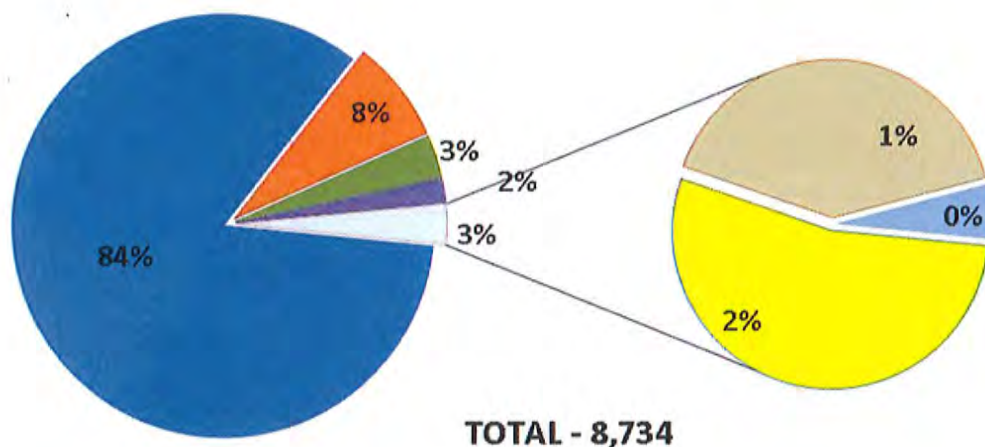
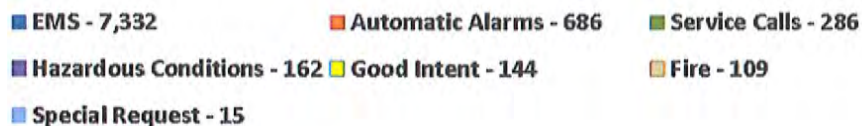
- ◆ 5 Personnel per day
- ◆ Fire Engine
- ◆ Paramedic Ambulance and Reserve Ambulance
- ◆ Brush Vehicle
- ◆ Special Rescue All-Terrain Vehicle
- ◆ Special Rescue Trailers
- ◆ MCI Trailer



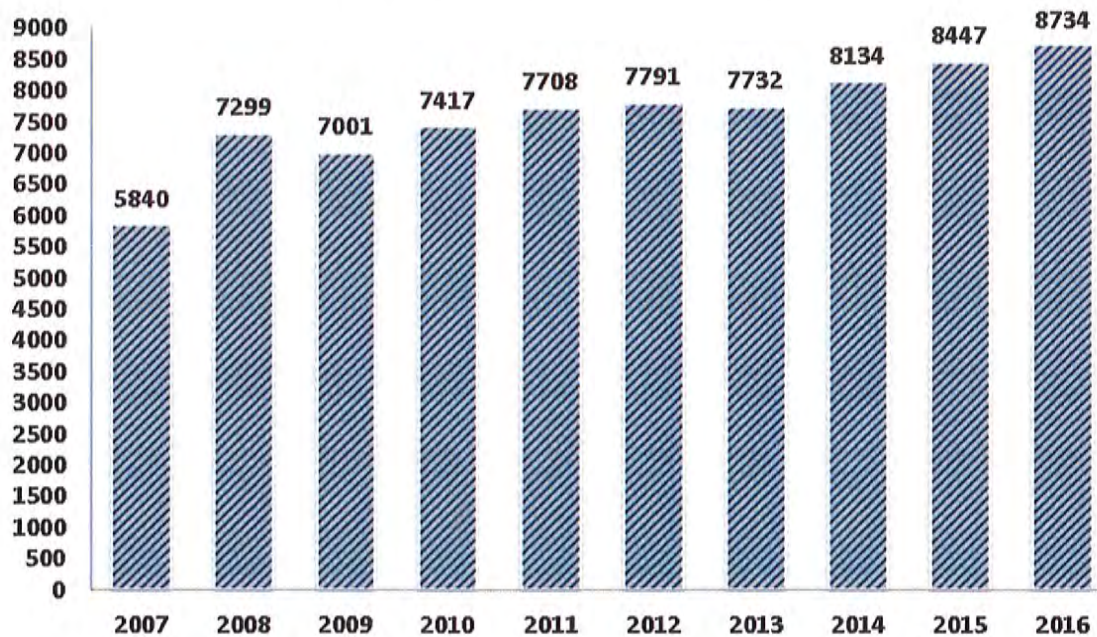
# *Response Statistics*



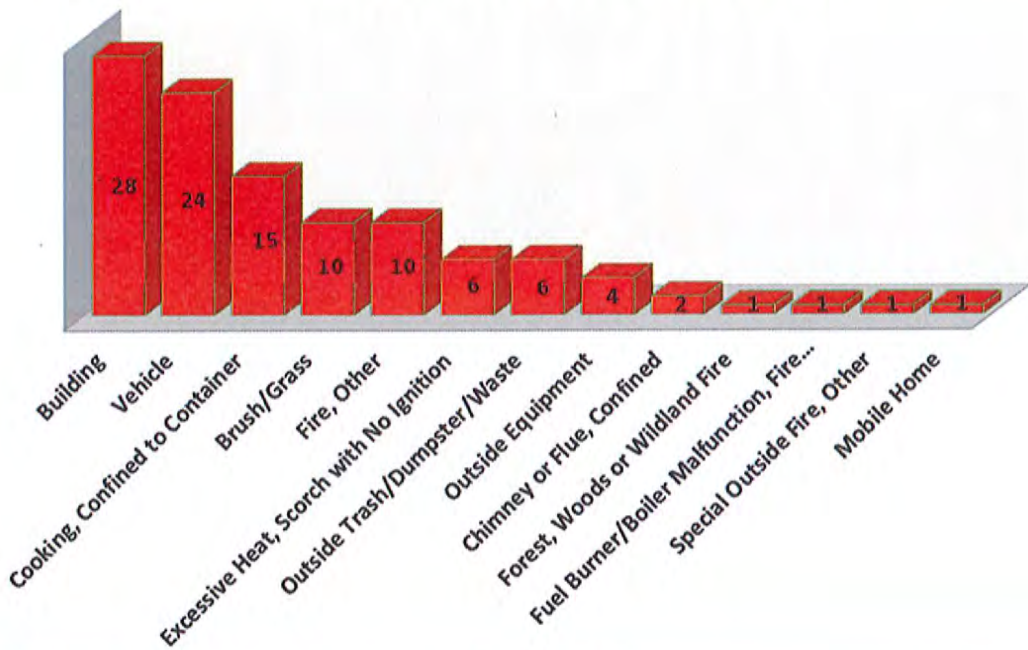
## Response Breakdown



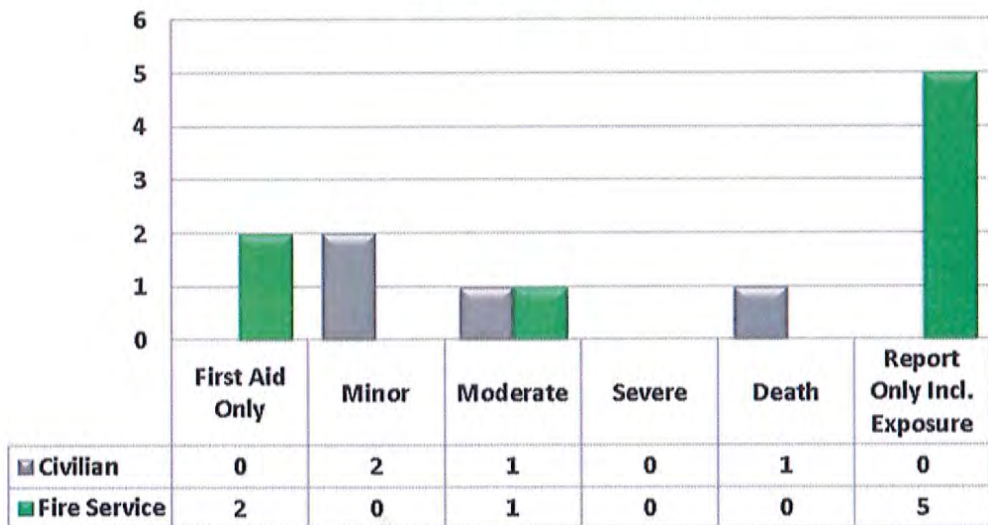
## 10-Year Total Responses



## Fire Responses by Type



## Fire Casualties





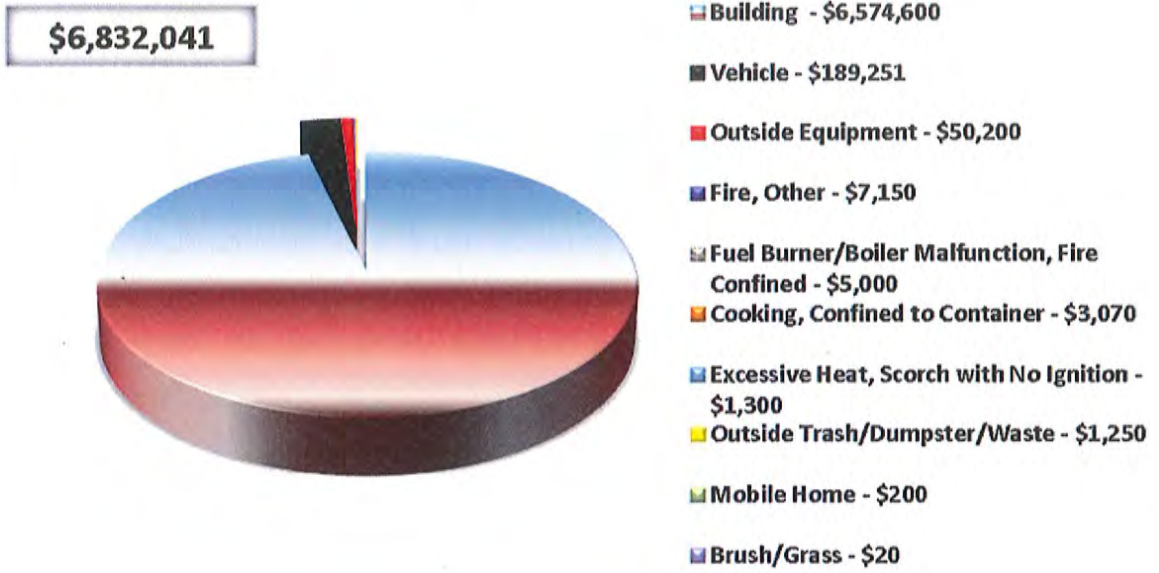
## TOP 20 FIRES BY CAUSE AND DOLLAR LOSS

---

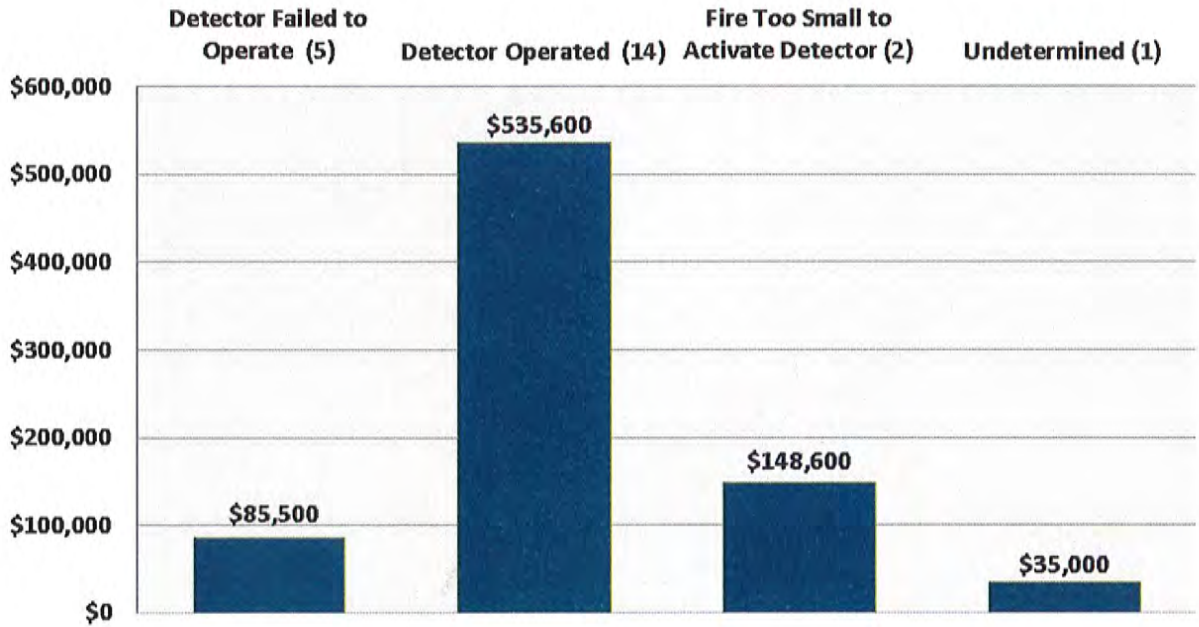
<u>DATE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>DOLLAR LOSS</u>
08-14-16	3925 N. Hastings Way	Diaper Machine Malfunction	\$5,005,000
09-22-16	2010 Moholt Dr.	Accidental / Possibly Lightning Strike	\$575,000
04-26-16	918 1st Ave.	Possible Careless Discard of Smoking Materials	\$203,600
01-14-16	1108 Meridian Heights Dr.	Accidental / Possibly Electrical	\$120,000
08-18-16	2222 Gooder St.	Cooking	\$110,000
07-01-16	723 Kimberly Dr.	Undetermined	\$100,000
07-12-16	Interstate 94	Asphalt Paver on Dump Truck Trailer	\$100,000
03-03-16	4134 Clay St.	Careless Discard of Smoking Materials	\$ 55,000
02-08-16	1200 Forest St.	Napkin Machine Malfunction	\$ 50,000
05-20-16	2652 Trindal St.	Careless Discard of Smoking Materials	\$ 50,000
09-23-16	1812.5 Kendall St.	Electrical	\$ 35,000
12-20-16	1804 8th St.	Lit Cigarette w-Medical Oxygen	\$ 35,000
01-08-16	1814 Sunny La.	Cooking	\$ 30,000
01-15-16	624 Deyo Ave.	Accidental / Possibly Electrical	\$ 30,000
02-10-16	2203 Seymour Rd.	Accidental / Possibly Electrical	\$ 30,000
06-03-16	4400 LaSalle St.	Accidental / Possibly Electrical	\$ 30,000
07-19-16	Interstate 94	Vehicle	\$ 25,000
12-17-16	1611 Western Ave.	Undetermined	\$ 25,000
07-04-16	1612 19th St.	Careless Discard of Spent Fireworks	\$ 15,000

**TOTAL FIRE LOSS FOR 2016 = \$6,832,041**

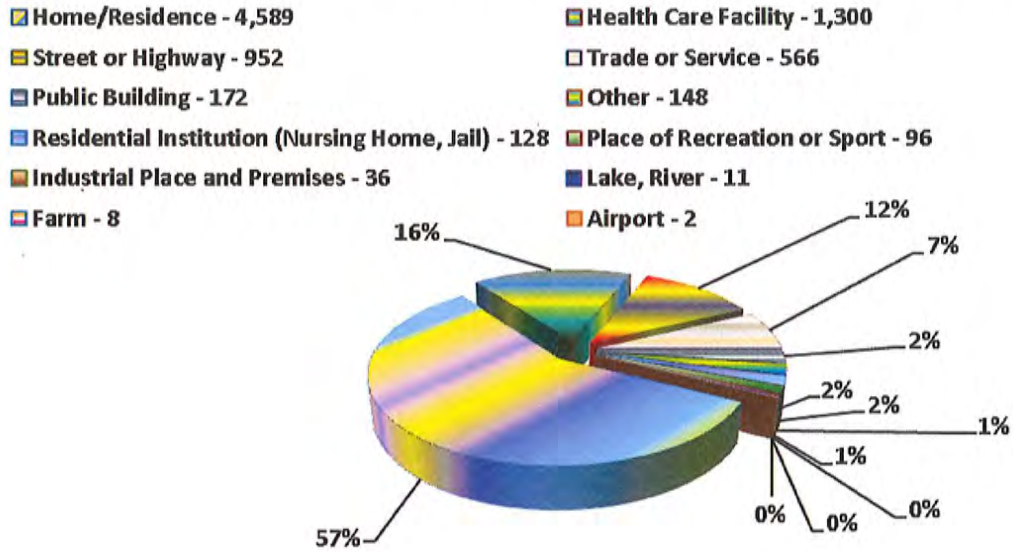
# Fire Loss by Type



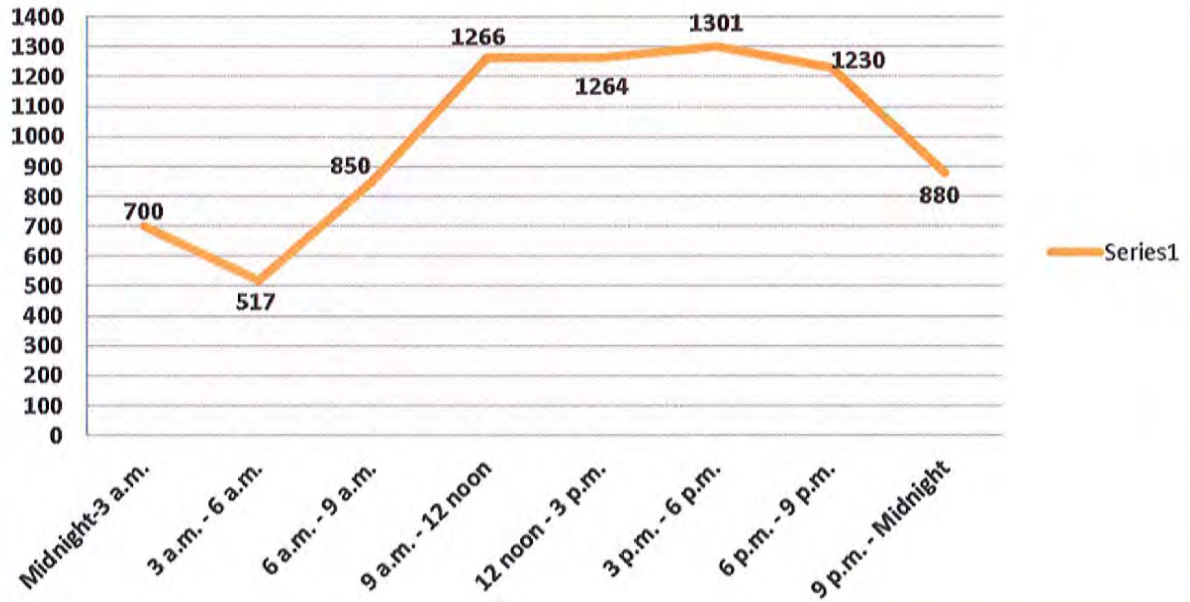
# Fire Loss by Detector Status



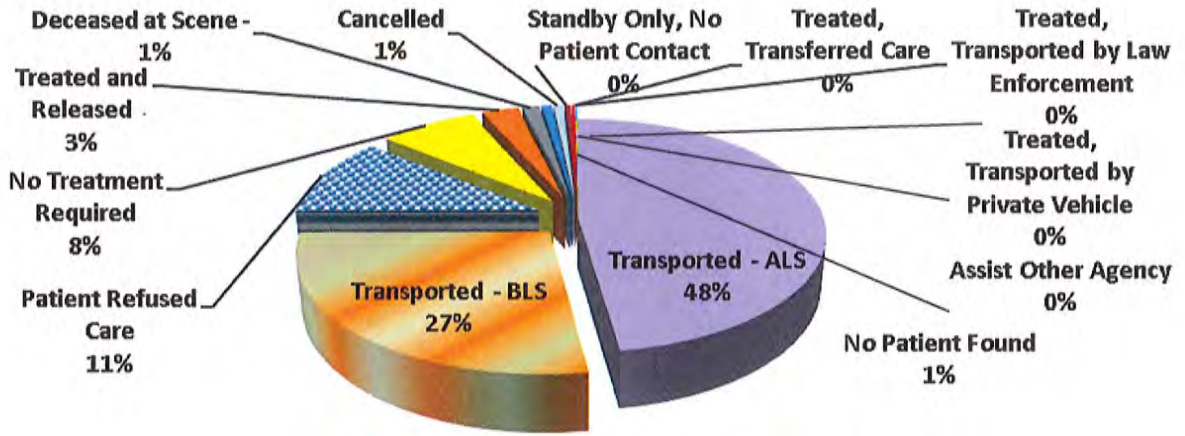
## Fire/Medic Unit EMS Responses by Location



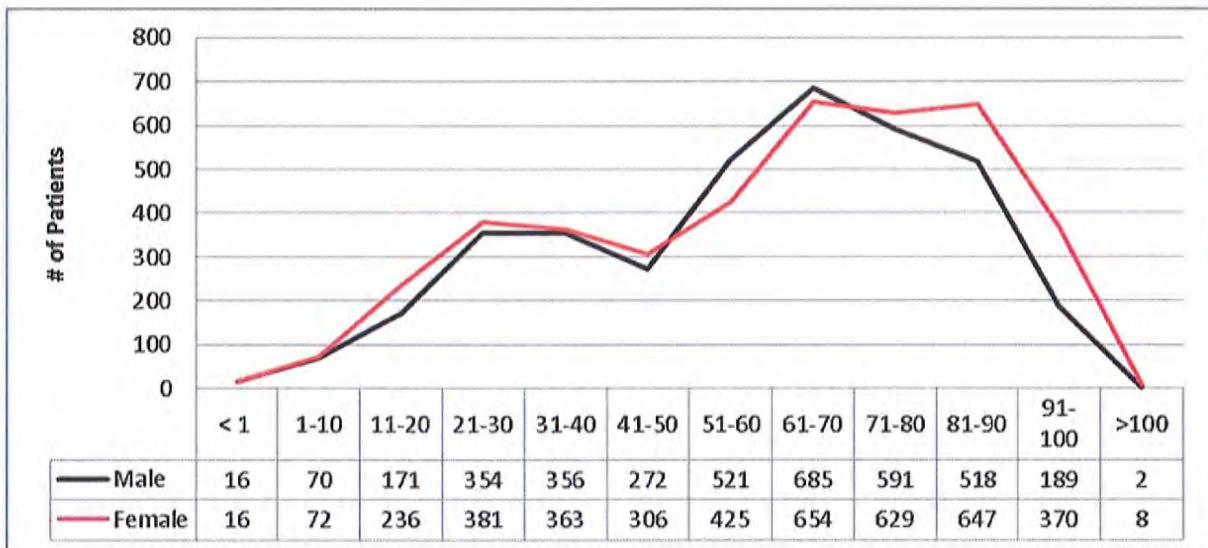
## Fire-Medic Units EMS Responses by Hour of Day



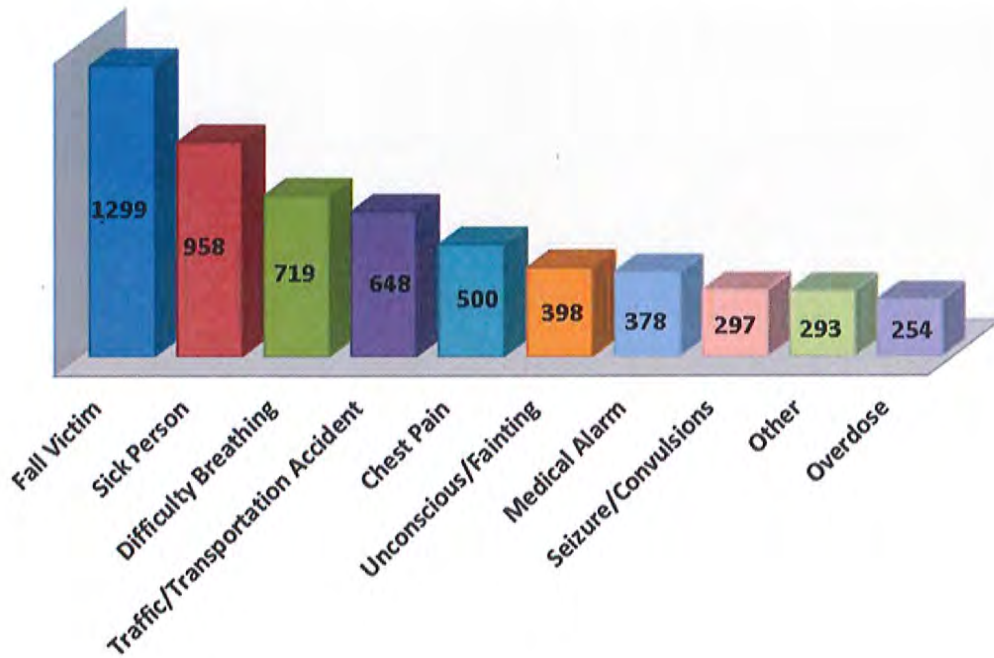
# EMS Response Disposition



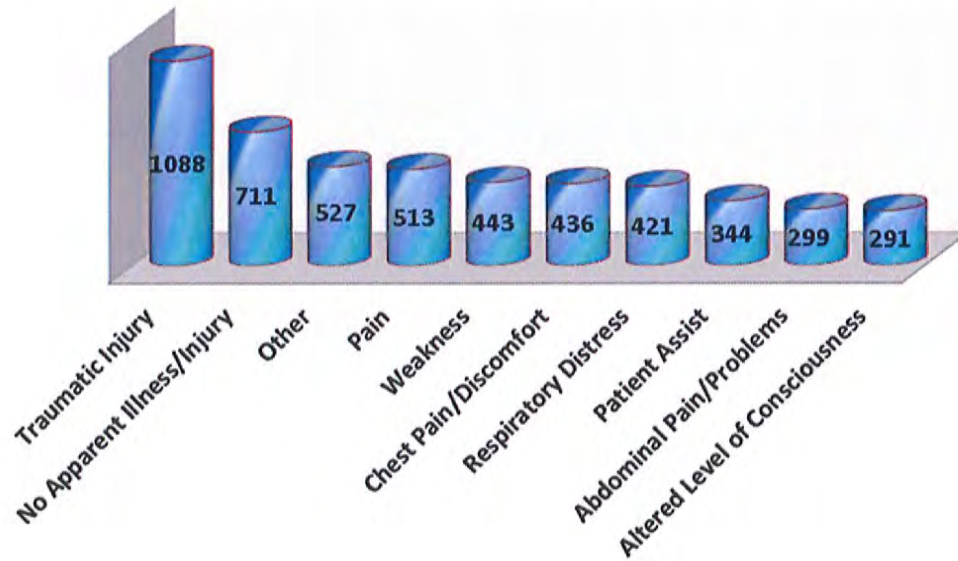
# Patient by Age and Gender



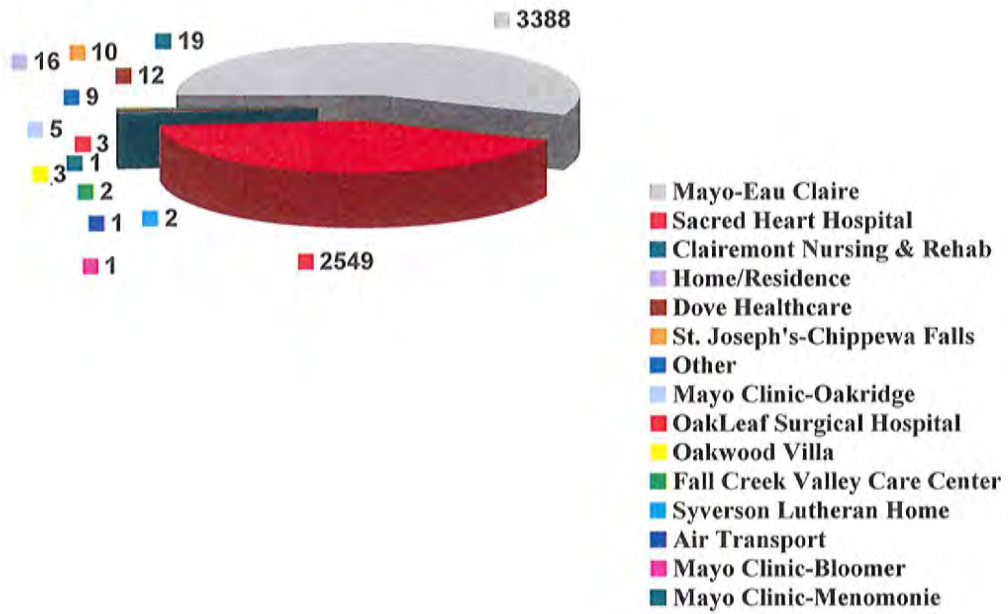
## Top 10 EMS Responses by Dispatch Reason



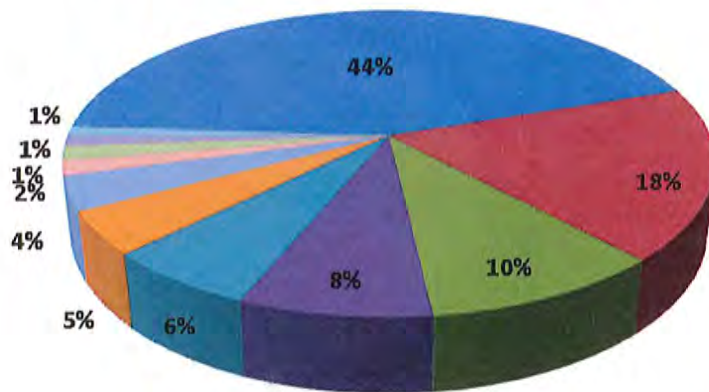
## Top 10 EMS Responses by Provider Impression



# Patient Transport Destinations



# Regional EMS Responses



**Total 1,724**





*Accomplishment  
Highlights*

### **Response Statistics**

In 2016, the department responded to 8,734 calls for service, an increase of 3.4 percent from 2015.

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
EMS/Rescue	7,332	7,265
Fire/Rescue	109	137
Automatic Alarms	686	615
Hazardous Conditions	162	176
Service Calls	286	131
Good Intent Calls	144	115
Special Requests	15	8
Total Fire Loss	\$6,830,741	\$2,344,020
<b>RUN TOTAL:</b>	<b>8,734</b>	<b>8,447</b>

Incidents with loss of at least \$50,000 were:

- 3925 N. Hastings Way – Manufacturing Plant (\$5,005,000)
- 2010 Moholt Dr. – Church (\$575,000)
- 918 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. – 1- or 2-Family Dwelling (\$203,600)
- 1108 Meridian Heights Dr. – Multi-Family Dwelling (\$120,000)
- 2222 Gooder St. – 1- or 2-Family Dwelling (\$110,000)
- 723 Kimberly Dr. – Multi-Family Dwelling (\$100,000)
- Interstate 94 – Asphalt Paver on Dump Truck Trailer (\$100,000)
- 4134 Clay St. – 1- or 2-Family Dwelling (\$55,000)
- 1200 Forest St. – Manufacturing Plant (\$50,000)
- 2652 Trindal St. – 1- or 2-Family Dwelling (\$55,000)

### **Administration**

- Worked with other City staff to appropriate the resources necessary for several CIP projects involving renovation and maintenance of several fire stations within the city.
- Worked with numerous regional music festivals to provide emergency medical services throughout all phases of their events.
- Actively recruited and filled numerous vacancies within the organization due to retirements to include: Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Division Chief, Battalion Chief, Fire Inspector, Captain, Lieutenant, Engineer, and Firefighter. With departures due to retirements and resignations, nine firefighters were hired in 2016 and an additional three began employment in early 2017.
- Openly discussed fire station relocation and worked with staff from other City departments to select suitable site locations for a new fire station. Selected and

formalized contracts with local private firms to provide engineering and design for the fire station and hired a project manager to assist in the bidding and awarding of contracts.

- Distributed department medals of honor to both current and former members of the fire department to recognize their bravery on the job that went above the call of duty at great risk to their own safety for the sole benefit of saving the lives of those in need.
- Maintained a relationship of continuous communication with the labor group to discuss operational issues and successfully worked through several difficult concerns; continued to openly discuss challenges and issues as they occurred within the department; and temporarily filled a vacant fire inspector position to meet the service demands of the Fire Inspection Division.
- Improved our knowledge and emergency preparedness in all areas of the services the department provides with administrative staff and chief officers attending various conferences and training events throughout the state and the nation.

### **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

- Received a new frontline ambulance (Lifeline/Ford F550 4x4) that was placed in service at fire station 10. This vehicle replaced a 2004 Lifeline International reserve ambulance.
- Continued to refine the EMS side of the pilot program concerning patient tracking through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. This program was practiced at the annual airport Mass Casualty Incident drill, as well as with Mayo-Eau Claire at an in-house MCI.
- Continued to work with Sacred Heart and Mayo- Eau Claire hospitals on improving the ST – Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) protocol to decrease the amount of time it takes for a patient suffering a heart attack to receive definitive care.
- Continued to work with our health care partners, as well as with our regional Health Department personnel, to evaluate our capabilities for transporting a patient potentially infected with the Ebola virus or other communicable diseases. Written policies and an evaluation of the appropriate equipment are being developed for these situations.
- Demo'd the Zoll X series monitor defibrillator for a period of six weeks in preparation for new monitor purchase in 2017.

- Began preparation for transition to the Elite platform for the department's incident reporting software program, Image Trend.
- Completed trauma training (tourniquets, Israeli dressing, combat gauze, and needle chest decompression) with all personnel during annual Human Patient Simulator lab in preparation for Active Shooter training.
- Acquired ballistic personnel protective equipment including plate carriers with ballistic plates and ballistic helmets.
- Reviewed and revised the EMS protocols.
- Conducted annual training with our local first responders to include driving the ambulance, IM Epinephrine, Glucagon, Albuterol, and non-visualized airway.

### **Operations**

- Successfully applied for and was awarded grant monies from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to aid in updating the department's wildland firefighting equipment. The new equipment includes an All-Terrain Vehicle with a slide-in unit in the back to be used for wildland firefighting and/or transport of patients from remote locations. This purchase will sustain our wildland fire capabilities for many years and enhance the ability to reach wild fires and medical patients in remote areas.
- Continued to maintain a modern and effective fleet of fire department apparatus, as members from the City's fire department and fleet management divisions worked together diligently to maintain and repair apparatus as needed to keep all vehicles in a state of constant readiness.
- Maintained strong working relationships with regional partners including Emergicare, Township Fire Department, Chippewa Fire District, Chippewa Falls Fire and Emergency Services, Chippewa Valley Regional Airport, and Altoona Public Safety through mutual aid agreements and the continued growth of the MABAS system within the Chippewa Valley region.
- Received a donation of six additional hazardous materials monitors from WRR through a federal program. The acquisition of the additional monitors allows for a broader and standardized approach to monitoring for chemicals that potentially have been released.
- Acquired three SONAR units from the Eau Claire Police Department for installation on rescue boats. This will add a second boat with side-scanning SONAR technology to assist with drowning victim rescue and recovery.

- Testing and evaluation of the Cleveland hose load was conducted by the Strategies and Tactics Committee. Traditionally, the department has used either a Flat load or a Triple lay load on its apparatus, but due to the different hose bed configurations it was difficult to standardize one hose load that worked on all apparatus. The Cleveland hose load is a solution that provides a standardized hose lay that works on all fire apparatus. It allows for a faster deployment when compared to traditional flat and triple lay loads and offers less “out of service” time for apparatus. The result is a faster, more efficient delivery of service.

### **Prevention**

- Continued updating contracts with outside agencies wishing to advertise on the fire safety trailer. The hope is to increase the number of sponsors so funding of a new trailer will be available in ten years.
- Resumed transferring the property information from HTE software to Image Trend software as it relates to fire inspections.
- Carried on the process of updating existing pre-plans identifying target hazards within the city. Updated information, including diagrams and photos, were entered into Image Trend for accessibility during emergency incidents.
- Provided fire inspection training on the use of the Surface Pro tablets to all personnel. This was in conjunction with the implementation of electronic fire inspections.
- Continued to review and update fire inspection routes within the city. Business properties were cross-referenced and compared with Assessing Department records to verify all properties are accounted for.
- Maintained partnerships with other City departments and agencies to aid in the success of the special events held within the city. This included our involvement with the Water Safety Task Force.
- Maintained our partnership with the American Red Cross and the Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin to conduct programs for the installation of smoke detectors in homes without them throughout the community. These programs allow for the distribution of smoke detectors in households that may not be able to afford such lifesaving devices.
- Participated in car seat safety inspections training. Several fire prevention personnel are now certified and trained to install car seats for citizens who may need assistance.

- Increased our efforts in our department marketing via the use of Facebook and Twitter. We also increased visibility of our services by inviting the media to training and special events.
- Facilitated fire extinguisher training throughout the community focusing on business and industry.
- Installed the first WI-Max hot spot on one of our engines to streamline our inspection process and allow access to critical documents electronically while on-scene of emergencies.
- Appointed Captain Tony Biasi to Lead Fire Inspector with the retirement of Mike Laska.



# *Specialty Captains' Updates*

**Submitted by:**

**Bruce Buchholz, Captain of Technical Rescue  
Tony Biasi, Captain of Emergency Medical Services  
Greg Stegge and Dave Whitehouse, Captains of Special Rescue  
Bob Haller and Brian Toonen, Captains of Suppression  
Jeff Dykes, Captain of Hazardous Materials**

---

## **Technical Rescue**

In January, the new recruit class had vehicle extrication training with Lt. Bob Pratt. They covered the use of all the tools and were able to use them on vehicles donated by local salvage yards. Safety for the firefighters and vehicle occupants was the emphasis. Lt. Pratt covered the safe operation and maintenance of the tools prior to the recruits using them. The new recruits had a chance to hone their skills in April after they were assigned to a crew. This allowed the opportunity to mesh with their crews for a more rapid and smooth extrication. It also allowed the officers a chance to evaluate their skill levels.

The remainder of the department had extrication training in April. This training covered the proper method of extrication for hybrid vehicles. The techniques are very similar, but the safety precautions and areas to cut are very different and dangerous if not handled correctly. Lt. Pratt was assisted in instructing the training by Lt. Drew Dorn and Lt. Brian Phillips.

Confined Space training focused on vertical entry and rescue. The Water Department employees were invited to the training to assist them with their annual requirements and also to work with fire department personnel as fire personnel would respond to assist if the Water Department personnel encounter a situation in the field. This joint training builds interdepartmental relationships, cohesiveness, and confidence for all involved. The training was conducted by Capt. Buchholz, Lt. Shawn Abrahamson, and Lt. Dorn.

In June, training focused on lightweight structural collapse. Using the Para Tech struts, crews practiced shoring up walls, windows, and doorways. Buildings may be constructed in similar ways, but collapses have many different causes such as fire, tornados, dilapidation, and overload. Instructors for the training were Lt. Steve Secker, Lt. Jeremy Sary, and Lt. Dave Whitehouse.

High angle rescue training occurred in August and October. The focus of the training was to increase crews' proficiency in performing a pick-off rope rescue since this is the most likely scenario we may encounter in a real event. The training took place at Chippewa Valley Technical College using its burn tower to simulate a high rise structure with an injured worker who is unable to self-rescue.

Division Chief Brian Toonen was able to secure a house scheduled to be demolished for Rapid Intervention Training (RIT). This training is vital as it represents scenarios as close to reality as possible. If a firefighter is lost, trapped, or entangled, it is the responsibility of the Rapid Intervention Team to rescue the distressed firefighter. The department does a very good job of avoiding these situations for its members, but personnel need to be prepared for when things go wrong. With this house, we were able to run through self-rescues by bailing out windows both at ground level and from the second floor. Attendees worked on down firefighter movement and extrication from the structure. We also used ropes and fire hose to assist firefighters who had fallen through the floor. Captains Buchholz, Haller, and Whitehouse were the instructors for this valuable training.



## Emergency Medical Services

The department kicked off the year by participating in the Pinhurst Winter Safety Day. An engine, an ambulance, and Deputy Chief Al Bertrang attended this event to discuss sledding safety with the community. Also in January Div. Chief Jon Schultz and Lt. Rob Goodland attended the Working Together in EMS conference in Milwaukee. Station 10 personnel gave a Cub Scouts tour and CPR demonstration. Paramedics completed Paramedic Refresher training.

In February and March, department members conducted ride-alongs for numerous Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) Fire Medic students and University of Eau Claire athletic trainers. The paramedics aggressively educated and trained the ride-alongs on patient care and specialized EMS skills. Paramedics attended Audit and Review training that incorporated case studies of department EMS incidents. One-half of the department's paramedics successfully completed recertification in the American Heart Association's Pediatric Advancement Life Support (PALS) at CVTC. All Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) completed a Basic Refresher course.

In April, Capt. Buchholz and FF Nathan Much attended the Wisconsin Paramedic Seminar in Oshkosh. Dr. Michael Dawson completed a ride-along with Medic 10.

In May, the department gave numerous EMS presentations to hundreds of 4th grade students within the Eau Claire School District. Prom programs were conducted at Memorial, North, and Regis high schools. These programs are a collaborative effort by ECFD, the Eau Claire Police Department, and Mayo One. Prom programs provide a realistic reenactment of a motor vehicle collision with fatalities involving high school students returning home after prom. The reenactment focuses on the risks, hazards, and possible consequences associated when one makes the decision to operate a motor vehicle while impaired by drugs or alcohol. Ambulance cot maintenance was completed on all ECFD cots.

In June, new pediatric EMS bags were purchased and placed into service. Medic 5 crews completed patient decontamination training at Sacred Heart Hospital. ECFD received and placed into service a new Lifeline ambulance, which was designated Medic 10 and is housed at station 10. All personnel participated in EMS training at the CVTC Human Patient Simulator (HPS) Lab. The department's medical director, Dr. Stephanie Wagner, utilized personal emergency room experiences to create scenarios to evaluate and educate participants. Paramedic Refresher for 2016 re-licensure was finished, and the State of Wisconsin EMT-Basic and Paramedic license renewals were completed.

Department-wide EMS training included Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) renewal, Paramedic and EMT-Basic refresher sessions, Audit and Review Quality Assurance, and Bloodborne Pathogens classes. Members also participated in training at Sacred Heart Hospital for patient decontamination procedures. In addition, an airport disaster drill was held at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport. Many of our personnel participated in this large Mass Casual Incident simulation.

---

Department members also participated in a health fair at Eau Claire Ford where crews presented educational materials on the importance of healthy eating habits and exercise as a means of emergency medical incident prevention. Personnel continued their EMS training by completing American Heart Association's CPR for Healthcare Providers. This life-saving training focused on the utilization of chest compressions, rescue breaths, and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). All ambulance cots received scheduled maintenance and repair.

Throughout 2016, personnel received new equipment for trial demonstrations related to potential equipment purchases in 2017. Members were trained on new Zoll cardiac monitors. Three units were placed in service – one on each front-line ambulance. This allowed all paramedics the opportunity to work with the equipment and examine its pros/cons for a six-week trial period. Personnel evaluated the monitors by completing a survey to assist with any purchasing decisions. Also demo'd were the Pulmodyne O2-Max CPAP system and multiple backpack-style Advanced Life Support equipment bags. Following each demonstration period, the products were evaluated for fitness in our current and future EMS system. Additionally, the use of the I-gel airway as a backup airway for pediatric patients was approved by the State and distributed to all ambulances for full implementation.

EMS educational opportunities were made available to EMT and paramedic students. These students are given the opportunity to treat patients in controlled and supervised real-life settings with our personnel. Students complete shifts alongside department EMTs and paramedics, and their experiences in the ALS ambulances enhance their education and provide each with patient treatment hours toward certification and State licensure. In addition to EMT and paramedic students, CVTC Fire/Medic interns and many UWEC kinesiology/sports medicine students spend time in our stations and in our ambulances getting first-hand knowledge and experience of acute patient care in an emergency medical service setting.

### **Special Rescue**

In February, the department conducted its quarterly scuba training at McPhee Hall on the UWEC campus. Dive team members were required to demonstrate proficiency in a variety of skills including equipment assembly, neutral buoyancy, switching air bottles, the removal and donning of equipment underwater, and a variety of task to be completed wearing a blackout mask.

In March, the department sent three divers to the Wazee Sports Center in Black River Falls to become certified as ice divers. The divers spent two days learning the skills and techniques necessary to conduct dive operations under ice.

Also in March the department conducted ice rescue training on Half Moon Lake, the objectives of which were to review ice rescue equipment and utilize this equipment on real ice simulating a variety of potential ice rescues. Attendees reviewed the different types of ice conditions found throughout the winter and the associated dangers. Using Stearn's cold water immersion suits and two inflatable boats, they performed a variety of mock rescues.

---

In May, the department conducted its annual boat training and operational review. Individual companies with their respective boats conducted company level training on the Chippewa River. Companies scouted and familiarized themselves with the different boat landings available to them in their individual response areas. Participants navigated their areas of the river, familiarizing themselves to the channels and hazards. Companies also reviewed boat maneuvering skills learned in previous training sessions.

Also in May divers conducted a real time mock rescue at Riverside Park in an attempt to reflect real world conditions. The exercise involved three engines with their boats, Squad 2, one medic unit, and the battalion chief. The scenario was a missing swimmer at Riverside Park.

Ice rescue ropes and utility ropes were updated and rotated, and periodic maintenance was performed on the ice and swift water rescue suits.

In July and August, the department held boat-based SCUBA rescue operations training on the Chippewa River under the direction of Lt. Whitehouse. The training was designed to perform rescue scenarios using a floating boat as a dive rescue platform as opposed to a shore-based rescue operation. Boat-based rescue operations bring unique challenges to a dive team. Team members must learn to deal with limited space, river currents, communication challenges, and time/distance from shore-based help and tools. During this training, a manikin was sunk under water to simulate a missing swimmer. Dive team members utilized a variety of skills. They practiced boat anchoring techniques for dive operations and a variety of search pattern techniques used when diving in river currents. Team members also reviewed emergency procedures related to their own welfare and safety.

In July and November, the department's new recruits received training in water and boat rescue operations. Recruits were introduced to the department's swift water and ice rescue equipment. Recruits then performed a variety of rescue maneuvers. Rescue techniques included the shore-based methods of reach-throw-go and shore-based throw-lines. Recruits also completed cold water rescue maneuvers using the department's swift water rescue suits and the Sterns cold water rescue suits. Lt. Steve Secker coordinated boat rescue training for the new recruits at which they were shown the types of boats used by our department and the equipment carried on the boats. They practiced a variety of boat handling techniques and maneuvering skills. Those operations included the tow-boat ferry, eddy turns, bridge butt and the swift water peel out.

In October, the department conducted shore-based SCBA training. Dive team members participated in dive rescue operations from shore. This training also was a review for non-divers to become familiar with the dive equipment and operate the dive communication systems during real dive rescue scenarios. Non-divers practiced communicating with divers while directing the divers' search patterns. Dive team members performed shore-based search patterns under conditions of limited visibility.

Due to the unusually warm December, ice rescue training was rescheduled for January.

---

The department sent several members to Wazee Sports Center in Black River Falls for several types of classes to be certified as open water, advanced and rescue divers. The department now has 20 active divers.

Boat 2 was evaluated as the primary dive rescue boat. This was necessary due to limited carrying capabilities of other ECFD boats. It was found to be capable as a dive rescue platform and has the capacity to hold five people with required SCUBA equipment.

Maintenance and purchases for the second half of 2016 included a new anchor for boat 8 and updating the wet and dry suit repair inventory. Two wet suits and two cold water rescue suits were repaired. The department purchased a new XL DUI dry suit – bringing the total number of suits to eight. Also purchased was a new Interspiro Divator SCUBA facepiece – bringing the total number of masks to five.

The department received three SONAR units from the Eau Claire Police Department for installation on rescue boats. This will add a second boat with side-scanning SONAR technology to assist with drowning victim rescue and recovery.

Two subjects were rescued from the Chippewa River using a rescue swimmer. The department continues to work closely with the Eau Claire Water Safety Task Force. A meeting was held with UWEC administrative staff to develop and expand water safety education and programs to assist in the reduction of drownings involving students. They also are exploring options for sustainable student participation in these efforts.

### **Suppression**

The department has new SCBAs (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) purchased with grant monies awarded through the Assistance to Firefighters grant. Forty-eight MSA G1 SCBA, 112 air cylinders, and 92 masks arrived in January. Firefighter Tim McCaughey assisted in labeling, inventorying and recording all serial numbers. As part of the purchase, 5 Alarm Fire & Safety agreed to provide training and fit testing for the department. 5 Alarm's employees spent three days going over the operation of the new SCBAs with all three shifts. Service technicians fit tested all department members to the new G1 mask. In addition to the orientation training, ECFD facilitated SCBA confidence training at the CVTC Fire Safety Center. A SCBA confidence courses was designed to make members feel more comfortable breathing air and wearing the G1 SCBA while navigating tight quarters in limited visibility. Members were issued their own mask and mask bag as part of their personal protective equipment. Central Maintenance personnel assisted with the installation of new brackets that hold the SCBAs in the apparatus jump seats. The new equipment was put into service on January 26.

As part of the SCBA purchase, the department had the opportunity to host a MSA C.A.R.E. certification class. C.A.R.E. is an acronym for Certified Airmask Repair Education. The SCBA maintenance course is specially designed and developed to address the MSA air mask repair and

---

maintenance requirements of the G1. Eng. Tom Rebischke and Eng. Tim Brantner were certified, thus increasing to five personnel the maintenance team responsible for maintaining all SCBAs and related equipment. A systematic approach was implemented to provide consistency and accountability of all maintenance procedures. With five team members, the team is on target to meet our goal for flow testing all air packs and testing every mask by the end of the year. This annual maintenance has been distributed among the five members – making it a more manageable task.

The department also upgraded its fit tester to the Quantifit by Occupational Health Dynamics. OHD staff assisted with the set-up and provided in-house training to SCBA maintenance team members in February. The OHD Quantifit provides the ECFD with confidence that its masks fit properly and will aid in protecting personnel in the line of duty. We now are able to efficiently and quickly fit test our personnel with the most accurate fit test available.

The SCBA team spent hours inventorying the old equipment for trade-in value. All equipment deemed no longer useful was traded in to 5 Alarm for credit to be used for future maintenance repairs and equipment purchases. The SCBA team also acquired the proper tools to maintain the new G1 air packs. Additionally, R.I.T. (Rapid Intervention Team) packs and outdated line supplied air systems were replaced and upgraded. All SCBA related equipment has been upgraded to be compatible with the G1 masks, making the changeover complete. Upon the delivery of two replacement fire engines, the department received an additional eight SCBAs that were put into service with the trucks. The department now uses and maintains a total of 56 air packs, 6 RIT packs, 4 line supplied air units, and 108 masks.

Fire service training and advancements in modern firefighting techniques are at the forefront of changes that are being made nationwide. Newer, lightweight building construction methods have created a hotter burning, faster collapsing, and ultra-hazardous toxic environment in which firefighters are required to work. This has created a demand to rethink how fire departments fight fire – not only to be effective in mitigation but also in keeping firefighters safe. As new methods of training and modern firefighting techniques are tested and improved, they are being implemented into department-wide training via tabletop and practical application exercises.

In January, training with new recruits began with the introduction, use, and deployment of ground ladders. This focused on utilizing the proper raising techniques and fire ground considerations in determining placement on a fire scene. This fire-based suppression training continued into February when the recruits completed their live fire burn scenario at Chippewa Valley Technical College's training tower. Live fire training introduces the recruit to the strategies and tactics the department deploys on the fire scene and also helps identify areas where additional suppression training needs to be focused.

Part of this recruit training introduced new, science-backed, fire ground strategies and tactics called S.L.I.C.E-R.S. (Size-up, Location of fire, Isolate flow path, Cool, Extinguish - Rescue & Salvage). This concept was presented as part of a train-the-trainer course presented by the International Society of Fire Service Instructors that Capt. Haller, Capt. Toonen, FF Nick Ledin,

---

and FF Korey Maves attended last year at Mid-State Technical College. This method of fire attack is becoming the national standard in firefighting and uses NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) and UL (Underwriters Laboratories) studies – making fighting fire and victim tenability safer and more effective.

In March, department-wide training was given on portions of the SLICE-RS theory including VEIS (Vent, Enter, Isolate, Search) and improved fire attack methods designed to make firefighting safer. Fire crews – acting as first arriving units at the CVTC training tower – learned how to recognize vent-limited fire, assign incoming crews, and perform multi-functional tasks related to fire attack and search and rescue. Future training will continue to build from the national standard model of modern fire behavior and fire attack.

The Strategies and Tactics Committee tested and evaluated the use of the Cleveland hose load on Engine 8. Traditionally, the department has used either a Flat load or a Triple lay load on its apparatus, but due to the different hose bed configurations it is difficult to standardize one hose load that worked on all the trucks. The Cleveland hose load is a solution that provides a standardized hose lay that works on all fire apparatus. It allows quicker deployment time when compared to traditional flat and triple lay loads and offers less “out of service” time for apparatus. The result is a faster, more efficient delivery of service. In August, department-wide training on the Cleveland load was conducted, and 1 ¾” pre-connect hose lays were converted to the Cleveland load on all fire apparatus.

In July and November, recruit training for new firefighters occurred. This training introduced strategies and tactics used by the department, as well as assessing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of new personnel.

In August, department-wide training on high angle rescue occurred at the training tower with a review on lowering and haul systems as well as suspended victim pick-offs from elevation.

In September, the Eau Claire Police Department was introduced to the fire department’s rope rescue capabilities after several incidents involving the city’s area bridges indicated the potential need for a joint rescue operation. The officers in this training learned how to wear a harness and descend off an elevated platform. It also identified future joint training needs for both departments.

Rapid Intervention Training (RIT) was performed in October in a home donated to CVTC. This training included ladder bails, window bails, and firefighter rescue through a collapsed floor.

### **Hazardous Materials**

In February, Capt. Dykes and Capt. Buchholz attended the annual Wisconsin Association of Hazardous Materials Responders (WAHMR) conference in Stevens Point. Both attended numerous break-out sessions covering a variety of topics from air monitoring to meth lab operations, as well as a State Hazmat team coordinators meeting preceding the conference.

---

In March, there was department-wide hazmat training on the multi-gas and Photo Ionization Detectors (PID). This training was led by Capt. Dykes, Lt. Dorn, and Lt. Chris Dolen.

In April, the Type I Hazmat team participated in a re-validation process with the State of Wisconsin. Both ECFD and CFFD members worked through a mock hazmat emergency involving a chlorine leak. The drill was concluded with a summary and critique by the testing agency. Additionally, the department offered hazmat training on Draeger tubes and test strips in April. This training was led by Capt. Dykes, Lt. Brian Kranz, and Lt. Dolen.

In May, department-wide hazmat training was conducted involving a 150 lb. chlorine cylinder. Videos were sent out to the crews for in-house viewing prior to the hands-on portion, which was done at the company level led by individual officers. Also in May, Capt. Dykes and his crew provided an outreach program to a UW-Eau Claire Waste Recovery class. Capt. Dykes reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Type I and Type II Hazmat teams and provided an overview of the equipment on the CAT vehicle, as well as facilitating a question-and-answer period.

In June, department-wide hazmat training was conducted on one ton chlorine cylinders. Videos were sent out to the crews for in-house viewing prior to the hands-on portion, which was done at the company level led by individual officers.

Training sessions are recorded and made available for future viewing on the department's computer network.

Two grants were acquired this spring. The EPCRA grant was used to purchase RAE meter equipment, spill/leak mitigation equipment, Draeger tubes, and Go Pro cameras. The grant award from the Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management was used to purchase new radiological equipment.

Lt. Stary finished testing, updating, and organizing the Level A hazmat suits. New suits were placed in service while older suits were tagged for use in future training.

In July, the department loaned several of its Level A haz mat suits to the Owen Withee Curtiss Explorer Post 521. The Explorers group was hosting a youth fire camp in an effort to expose youth to the fire service. Some ECFD personnel volunteered to work with the campers several days to enhance the learning opportunities in both haz mat and boat operations.

Also in July the 54th Civil Support Team (CST) conducted joint training with the department's Level A haz mat personnel. Their topics focused primarily on our new Identifier 2 and PRD RadEye Radiological meters and included a hands-on segment with live agents.

August's haz mat training was a department-wide training, the topic of which was drum leaks and mitigation. ECFD personnel reviewed leak patching and diking capabilities and participated in a live dress out exercise in which Level A personnel donned Level A training suits and used over-pack drums to seal a leaky drum.

---

In September, all personnel took part in haz mat sample collection training. Participants reviewed all of the equipment the department uses to acquire samples – both in the unknown bucket and the CAT vehicle. Personnel practiced acquiring both liquid and solid samples using a variety of instruments with both latex and structural firefighting gloves.

In October, all personnel participated in hazmat unknown substance training. Those present were trained in ECFD's turn back values and were required to watch a video prior to their hands-on training date. For the hands-on portion, personnel donned firefighting structural gear and took the "unknown sample collection bucket" down range to collect a true unknown substance. Crews videotaped the event with the department's GoPro video cameras that were acquired with 2016 EPCRA grant monies. The substance was then identified through the use of the TruDefender detector. This training was conducted in accordance with the State of Wisconsin Unknown Substance Protocol.

In November, all ECFD Level A team members were required to submit an unknown submission form to the WI State Lab. The State Lab distributed two unknown substances to the department (one solid and one liquid). Each member used a variety of hazmat equipment to survey the unknown material as if it was a real-life scenario. The proper paperwork was completed and submitted to the WI State Lab, along with the FTIR spectrums for further analysis. Each team member was given specific feedback by the State Lab on his submission for future incidents. This was the first time all team members were required to submit sample submissions to the State Lab.

Also in November, two members of the Level A team attended a one-week COBRA class at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. Study consisted of biological testing of the Raman & FTIR meters, PRD & Identifier radiological meters, and explosive agents. This course was focused on providing the students with hands-on drills that cover many real life scenarios involving live chemical warfare agents.

In December, Meshel Lange from the State Hazmat Laboratory led a hands-on training for all Level A personnel. In the morning session, she reviewed the role and responsibilities of the State Lab via PowerPoint and went over the capabilities of some of ECFD's chemical meters. The afternoon session consisted of different hands-on stations that allowed the Level A personnel to work with chemical agents in conjunction with some of the department meters (TruDefender, DropEx Kit), as well as some meters the department has not yet acquired. Ms. Lange is scheduled to return to Eau Claire in 2017 for follow-up Sample Collection training.

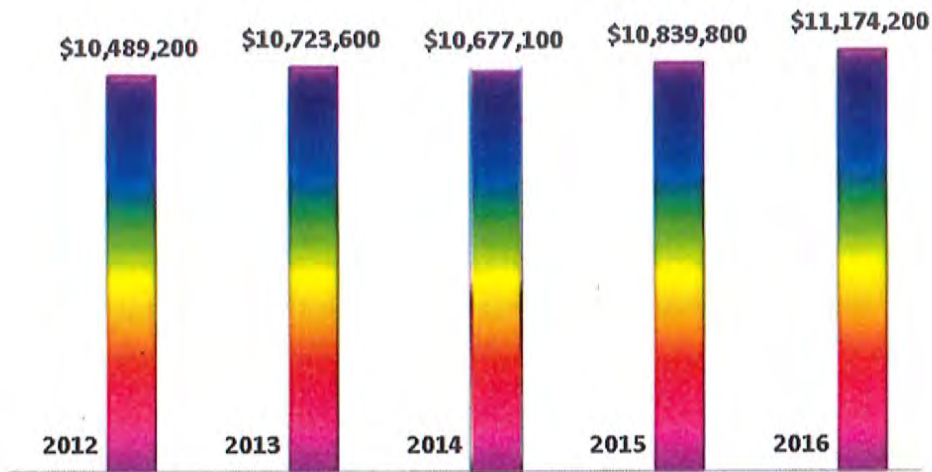
Lastly, Lt. Stary tested the remaining Level A haz mat suits – removing those that failed and placing them in training rotation to replace those suits to be retired.





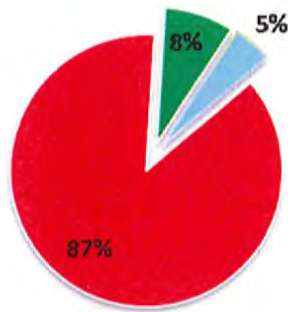
*Budgetary  
Information*

## 5-Year Budget Comparison

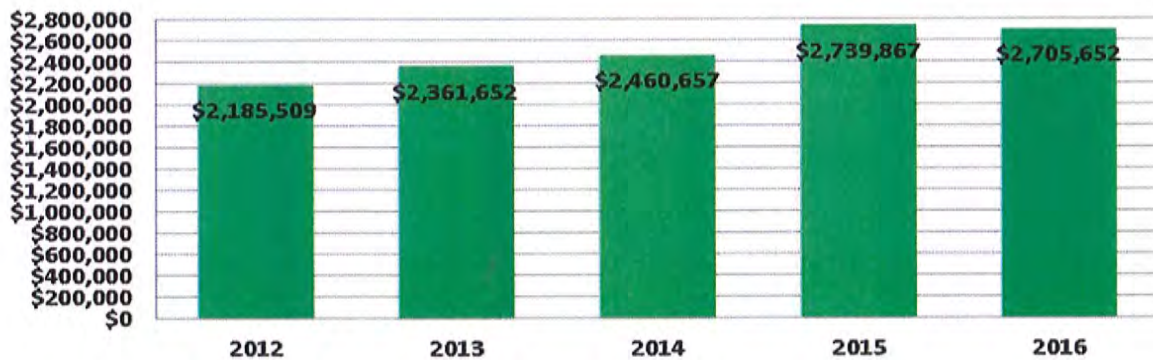


## Operating Budget by Division

■ Operations / EMS - \$9,732,800 
 ■ Administration - \$927,000 
 ■ Inspections - \$514,400



## Net Ambulance Revenue





*2017 Adopted  
Program of Services*



## Fire & Rescue Department: Overview

Eau Claire Fire & Rescue is responsible for rendering fire prevention, fire suppression, hazardous materials, special rescue services and emergency medical services for the City of Eau Claire. Its emergency medical services response area includes surrounding communities consisting of 11 townships, 1 village and 1 city. The department also manages the Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) Response program to provide statewide hazardous material spill response. The department is staffed by 94 employees—91 sworn and 3 civilian. Response is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from six stations.



### Fire & Rescue Department Expenditure Summary

	2015 Actual	2016 Adopted	2016 6 Month Actual	2016 Projection	2017 Adopted
<b>Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>					
Personnel Services	\$ 9,655,262	\$ 9,922,900	\$ 4,655,395	\$ 9,791,900	\$ 10,271,200
Contractual Services	887,434	847,100	444,342	875,200	885,900
Utilities	74,875	83,800	38,117	67,500	87,200
Fixed Charges	117,167	128,100	61,296	114,700	128,100
Materials & Supplies	172,702	192,300	100,222	194,900	192,500
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>	<b>\$ 10,907,440</b>	<b>\$ 11,174,200</b>	<b>\$ 5,299,372</b>	<b>\$ 11,044,200</b>	<b>\$ 11,564,900</b>



*Fire & Rescue - Administration  
Expenditure Summary*

	2015 Actual	2016 Adopted	2016 6 Month Actual	2016 Projection	2017 Adopted
<b>Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>					
Personnel Services	\$ 702,242	\$ 756,500	\$ 384,872	\$ 708,100	\$ 798,500
Contractual Services	60,821	71,100	41,861	64,500	71,300
Utilities	70,384	79,800	35,874	63,500	83,200
Fixed Charges	3,200	3,200	1,600	3,200	3,200
Materials & Supplies	15,258	16,400	4,148	11,700	16,100
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>	<b>\$ 851,904</b>	<b>\$ 927,000</b>	<b>\$ 468,354</b>	<b>\$ 851,000</b>	<b>\$ 972,300</b>

*Fire & Rescue - Operations / EMS  
Expenditure Summary*

	2015 Actual	2016 Adopted	2016 6 Month Actual	2016 Projection	2017 Adopted
<b>Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>					
Personnel Services	\$ 8,448,828	\$ 8,667,200	\$ 4,028,588	\$ 8,575,100	\$ 8,953,700
Contractual Services	822,251	770,200	399,082	804,500	808,800
Utilities	4,491	4,000	2,244	4,000	4,000
Fixed Charges	108,367	119,300	56,896	105,900	119,300
Materials & Supplies	154,566	172,100	95,539	181,400	172,900
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>	<b>\$ 9,538,504</b>	<b>\$ 9,732,800</b>	<b>\$ 4,582,348</b>	<b>\$ 9,670,900</b>	<b>\$ 10,058,700</b>

*Fire & Rescue - Inspections  
Expenditure Summary*

	2015 Actual	2016 Adopted	2016 6 Month Actual	2016 Projection	2017 Adopted
<b>Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>					
Personnel Services	\$ 504,192	\$ 499,200	\$ 241,936	\$ 508,700	\$ 519,000
Contractual Services	4,362	5,800	3,399	6,200	5,800
Fixed Charges	5,600	5,600	2,800	5,600	5,600
Materials & Supplies	2,877	3,800	535	1,800	3,500
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>	<b>\$ 517,032</b>	<b>\$ 514,400</b>	<b>\$ 248,670</b>	<b>\$ 522,300</b>	<b>\$ 533,900</b>



## Fire & Rescue Department: Administration

The Administrative division is located on the second floor of Station No. 2 at 216 South Dewey Street. In addition to the Fire Chief and Fire Secretary, both department deputy chiefs and its division chief maintain offices at this location.

### Objectives

- Assess cost reduction models and implementation criteria.
- Progress with deploying distance education options in our daily operations.
- Continue the advancement of our regional emergency medical services (EMS) providers' initiative.
- Increase public presentations on the mission and scope of the department while developing a viable feedback system to evaluate the community's needs.
- Build foundation for department sustainability.
- Evaluate and implement current and future technologies related to department operations.
- Assess and coordinate training demands of the department's personnel while meeting the organizational response demands.
- Sustain fire protection rating of Class 2 established by the Insurance Service Office (ISO).

### Outputs

- Established working initiatives with regional trauma and EMS transport agencies in the region.
- Worked to support regional fire prevention initiatives for the county departments.
- Continued to improve and upgrade vehicle fleet.
- Continued to develop employee life safety initiatives.
- Continued recognition of new firefighters and newly promoted members with badge ceremony.
- Maintained department's presence and accessibility with social media accounts.

**Fire & Rescue Department - Administration  
Authorized Full-Time**

	2015	2016	2017
Fire Chief	1.00	1.00	1.00
Administrative Associate IV	0.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Secretary	1.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total FTE Positions</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>





## City of Eau Claire 2017 Adopted Operating Budget

### Fire & Rescue Department: Operations

The Operations division assumes the overall planning and management responsibility for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, water/dive rescue, confined space rescue, high angle rescue and personnel training for the organization.

Responsibilities are carried out through the efforts of 1 Deputy Chief, 3 operational (shift) Battalion Chiefs, 6 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 18 Equipment Engineers and 47 Firefighters. Its employees are the department's most valuable assets. Without dedicated and cross-trained people, the department cannot accomplish its mission of protecting the lives and property of the citizens it serves.

#### Objectives

- Provide fire suppression methods in a safe and efficient manner for the citizens of the City of Eau Claire and surrounding areas.
- Provide response to hazardous materials incidents.
- Provide special rescue response such as water rescue, confined space, trench rescue, high angle rescue and vehicle extrication.
- Provide the foundation for response capabilities within the Homeland Security framework.
- Preserve and protect life, property, and the environment against injury and damage from other incidents occurring within the City of Eau Claire.
- Average a 5-minute or less response time from the time of the call within the City of Eau Claire and a 10-minute or less average response time within our regional EMS delivery area external to the city.
- Enhance communication within the organization using electronic methods and increase the citizens' knowledge of department services.
- Provide company level training through more efficient means by identifying mandated requirements through Wisconsin SPS 330 and applicable Occupational Safety and Health Act and National Fire Protection Association standards.
- Continue training within our organization and with our regional partners in emergency services.
- Provide employees with up-to-date protective equipment for a safer work environment.
- Develop Rapid Intervention Teams and integrate into fire suppression operations.
- Reduce fire loss in the community through aggressive public education and code enforcement.

8,447 Responses in 2015			
7,265	Medical Responses	131	Service Call Responses
137	Fire/Rescue Responses	115	Good Intent Responses
615	Automatic Alarm Responses	8	Special Request Responses
176	Hazardous Condition Responses		

#### Fire & Rescue Department - Operations Authorized Full-Time

	2015	2016	2017
Deputy Chief	1.00	0.00	0.00
Deputy Fire Chief	0.00	1.00	1.00
Battalion Chief	3.00	3.00	3.00
Fire Captain	6.00	6.00	6.00
Fire Lieutenant	12.00	12.00	12.00
Fire Equipment Operator	18.00	18.00	18.00
Firefighter	47.00	47.00	47.00

Total FTE Positions 87.00    87.00    87.00



## City of Eau Claire 2017 Adopted Operating Budget

### Fire & Rescue Dept: Emergency Medical Services

Comprising 86% of department responses, emergency medical services (EMS) remain a strong focus of department resources. The department is staffed with 56 certified paramedics and 33 certified emergency medical technicians. There are three front-line paramedic ambulances and three units available as reserves. Personnel are involved in constant training and also participate in community education and special events to increase citizen knowledge about EMS issues.

#### Objectives

- Work with hospitals to reduce time to definitive care of stroke and heart attack patients.
- Develop active threat response policy and begin training with ECPD.
- Research integrating paramedics into ECPD tactical team response.
- Research feasibility of Tele-health.
- Develop internal quality assurance program that is company-based.
- Evaluate different cardiac monitors and AEDs for replacement of current units.
- On-scene time of less than 20 minutes on all EMS incidents for ambulances and less than 10 minutes for stroke.
- Research the need for and feasibility of community paramedics.
- Train personnel and procure equipment to provide Category 2 transport of a suspected Ebola patient.
- Move current Image Trend reporting system to the Elite platform.



#### Outputs

- Implemented and continued to develop Image Trend reporting software. Preparing to move to Elite programming.
- Recertified First Responders in airway procedures, medication administration and blood glucose checks.
- Provided EMS presentations to all ECASD 4<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Placed a new ambulance in service at Station 10.
- Relicensed the service and all EMT's and Paramedics at the state level.
- Trained staff on use of the tourniquet and Israeli bandage and distributed trauma "go kits" to the high schools within the local RTAC (Regional Trauma Advisory Committee).
- Reviewed and updated the current protocols.

*Note – EMS staff are included in the Fire Operations staffing totals.*

Ambulance Revenue (Net of Collection Fees)						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
City	\$ 1,311,636	\$ 1,520,597	\$ 1,560,228	\$ 1,754,645	\$ 1,824,387	\$ 2,107,801
Regional	528,472	505,566	428,866	407,253	433,034	404,561
Hospital	154,193	155,827	161,437	164,182	167,043	190,553
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,994,301</b>	<b>\$ 2,181,990</b>	<b>\$ 2,150,531</b>	<b>\$ 2,326,080</b>	<b>\$ 2,424,464</b>	<b>\$ 2,702,915</b>





## Fire & Rescue Department: Inspections

The Inspection division is comprised of four staff members—One Division Chief, one Lead Fire Inspector, one Civilian Fire Inspector, and one Civilian Clerk. The main responsibility of this division is to oversee the inspection of commercial properties within the City of Eau Claire. Division personnel are responsible for compliance with follow-up inspections and codes, fire investigations, public education and underground/aboveground storage tank inspections. Personnel serve as informational contacts for other departments and citizens who have questions regarding National Fire Protection Association and Wisconsin Administrative codes.

### Objectives

- Work with property owners to ensure compliance with Wisconsin Act 78, which pertains to sprinkler systems for fraternity and sorority houses.
- Ensure sustainability of Eau Claire smoke detector ordinance with the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) per Wisconsin Act 270.
- Continue transition to a tablet-based fire safety inspection program.
- Conduct a community risk analysis focusing on all hazards and risks within the community.
- Partner with area fire departments in providing safety education utilizing the regional fire safety house.
- Provide fire prevention and life safety education for members of the community--targeting young children, young adults and the elderly.
- Increase outreach programs to college students residing in on-and-off campus housing.
- Conduct fire safety inspections and emphasize preplanning of target hazards.
- Maintain current inspection routes and place more emphasis on pre-planning of target hazards.
- Increase water safety awareness in the community—focusing on the target age groups most affected by water-related incidents.

### Outputs

- Approximately 4,500 inspections completed by the fire inspectors and fire/EMS crews.
- 196 specialty inspections and site permits completed including those for fireworks sales, tents and customer complaint inspections.
- 79 fire drills witnessed.
- 51 licensed inspections for remodel or change of ownership.
- 91 systems witnessed for operation of fire alarms, fire sprinklers and hood systems.
- 61 fire investigations conducted.
- Trained 1,439 individuals at 31 different businesses on fire extinguishers and fire safety.
- In spring, the ambulance companies and fire inspectors presented fire and water safety information to 1,500 4th and 5th graders. In fall, fire prevention activities were conducted for 3,300 students at 18 schools for all students grades K-3 and for 890 children at 19 sites for 4-year-old kindergarten.

<b>Fire &amp; Rescue Department - Inspections Authorized Full-Time</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Deputy Chief	1.00	0.00	0.00
Deputy Fire Chief	0.00	1.00	1.00
Division Chief	1.00	0.00	0.00
EMS Division Chief	0.00	1.00	1.00
Fire Inspector I	0.75	0.00	0.00
Fire Inspector-Civilian	0.00	0.75	0.75
Fire Inspector II	1.00	0.00	0.00
Administrative Associate II	0.00	1.00	1.00
Clerk III	1.00	1.00	1.00
<b>Total FTE Positions</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>4.75</b>



# City of Eau Claire 2017 Adopted Operating Budget

## Hazardous Materials Response

The Hazardous Materials Response Fund was established in 1996 to account for responses to hazardous materials spills. The West Central Regional Response Team is a joint venture between Eau Claire Fire and Rescue and Chippewa Falls Fire and Emergency Services. The team is contracted with the State of Wisconsin to deliver hazardous materials response to a statewide area – primarily northwestern Wisconsin. City of Eau Claire tax dollars are not used to operate the team; the State of Wisconsin provides grant funding.

The team is designated a Type 1 team (one of only two in the state) and thus capable of responding to incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

### Objectives

- Respond to hazardous materials (haz mat) incidents to provide mitigation.
- Provide consultation for emergency responders concerning haz mat situations they may encounter.
- Provide outreach presentations to law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire departments, civic groups and local government personnel throughout response area.
- Conduct training according to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. To reach this goal we send personnel to the Wisconsin Area Hazardous Materials Responders (WAHMR) conference to attend numerous classes and share the information upon their return.
- Participate in annual hazardous materials response drill.

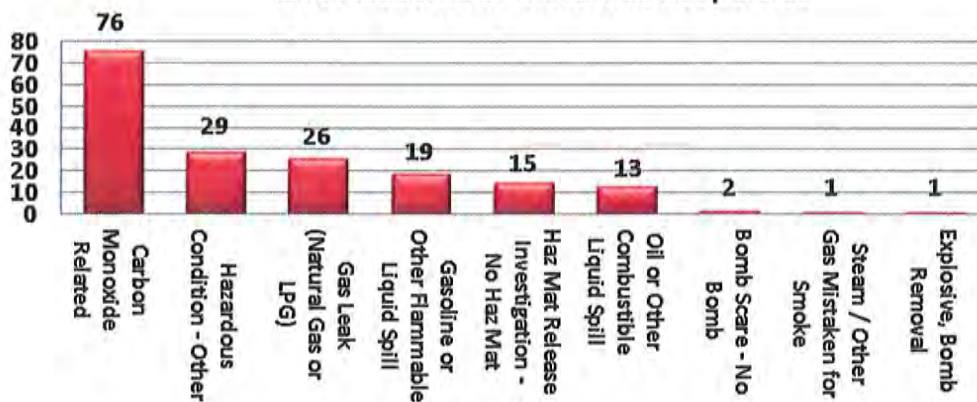
### Outputs

- Provided outreach presentations to various entities within the response area. These programs teach groups how to request a regional team, what equipment we carry and the types of incidents to which we are able to respond.
- Acquired grant funding for the purchase of RAE meter equipment, Draeger tubes, Go Pro cameras, and radiation detection systems.
- Participated in training with the 54<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST) out of Madison for two days at ESEC (Emergency Services Education Center). The 54<sup>th</sup> CST is a National Guard military unit that specializes in WMD and radiological events. Topics covered were decontamination lines, identifying unknown chemicals, and radiological equipment capabilities. The recently obtained radiological meters were introduced to team members.
- Captains Bruce Buchholz and Jeff Dykes attended the annual WAHMR conference including breakout sessions covering a variety of topics from air monitoring to meth lab operations. WAHMR is a professional organization for Hazardous Materials response personnel.
- Participated in a re-validation process with the State of Wisconsin. Both ECFD and CFFD members worked through a mock hazmat emergency involving a chlorine leak. The drill concluded with a summary and critique by the testing agency.

### 42 Personnel are assigned to the Hazardous Materials Response Team

- 29 Members from Eau Claire Fire Department.
- 13 Members from Chippewa Falls Fire Department.

2015 Hazardous Materials Responses





# City of Eau Claire 2017 Adopted Operating Budget

## Hazardous Materials Response Cont.

*HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
Budget Summary  
Revenues & Expenditures*

Operating Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Adopted	2016 6 Month Actual	2016 Projection	2017 Adopted
<b>Revenues &amp; Other Financing Sources:</b>					
Intergovernmental	\$ 147,510	\$ 116,000	\$ 28,989	\$ 129,000	\$ 116,000
Charges For Services	-	2,000	-	1,500	2,000
Miscellaneous	199	300	197	500	300
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Other Financing Sources:</b>	<b>147,710</b>	<b>118,300</b>	<b>29,185</b>	<b>131,000</b>	<b>118,300</b>
<b>Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>					
Personal Services	44,338	47,800	24,457	47,200	48,800
Contractual Services	16,276	24,200	3,180	8,600	24,400
Utilities	16	1,200	7	100	1,200
Fixed Charges	3,000	3,000	1,500	3,100	3,000
Materials & Supplies	14,370	17,800	64,600	66,700	9,600
Contributions & Other Payments	22,164	28,100	12,528	28,100	28,100
Capital Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses:</b>	<b>100,165</b>	<b>122,100</b>	<b>106,271</b>	<b>153,800</b>	<b>115,100</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Funding Sources over Uses</b>	<b>\$ 47,545</b>	<b>\$ (3,800)</b>	<b>\$ (77,086)</b>	<b>\$ (22,800)</b>	<b>\$ 3,200</b>
<b>Available Fund Balance:</b>					
Restricted					
Grant Proceeds	\$ 133,609			\$ 110,809	\$ 114,009
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 133,609</b>			<b>\$ 110,809</b>	<b>\$ 114,009</b>