



2023

PORT WASHINGTON FIRE/RESCUE
ANNUAL REPORT

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PICTURED ABOVE // Firefighter/Paramedic Cameron Karstaedt cares for “Molly” after she was rescued from the Rotary Park Jetty in December.



April 1, 2024

Police and Fire Commissioners
Mayor Neitzke
Common Council Members

On behalf of the Port Washington Fire Department, I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report. 2023 marked the department's 171st year of distinguished service to the citizens of Port Washington. Our legacy is built on the skills and dedication of our members, who responded to a record 1,887 calls for fire and emergency medical services.

Within our coverage area, the department responded to five fires in 2023. These consisted of one barn fire on Green Bay Road in the Town of Port Washington, a garage fire on High Street, a second-floor balcony fire on Wisconsin Street, and two separate apartment fires at the senior living facility on Oak Court. These fires resulted in \$83,400 of estimated property and content loss.

2023 was undoubtedly an exciting year for the Port Washington Fire Department. Thanks in part to Ozaukee County ARPA funding, the department added three additional full-time Firefighter/Paramedics and a full-time Deputy Chief. These positions have been vital to providing around-the-clock fire and EMS coverage. The department also began efforts to solidify its long-term staffing by proposing a referendum that, if successful, would add six additional full-time Firefighter/Paramedic positions. After years of discussion, the City finally took the preliminary steps needed to replace the 56-year-old fire station with a new joint Public Safety Center on the west side.

With 549 years of combined service, the members of the Port Washington Fire Department look forward to making our City a better and safer place to live. After an eventful 2023, we look forward to serving the citizens through 2024 and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Deputy Fire Chief/EMS Service Director

MISSION STATEMENT



The Port Washington Fire Department is committed to protecting the lives and property of our citizens and visitors from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, or the exposure to dangerous conditions. The Port Washington Fire Department strives to be a department where genuine commitment to quality is clearly shown in our product, our work environment, and our customer. Since 1852, our values of honesty, integrity, and trust have been the cornerstone of our department that we extend to our community, and our personnel.

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Port Washington Fire Department was established in 1852 by a handful of volunteers following a series of disastrous fires throughout the City. Although the equipment, methodology, and training has changed over the last 171 years, the one thing that remains constant is the dedication of the department's membership. Through their pride, courage, honor, and civic involvement, the members of the Fire Department continue to offer the very best in emergency services to those who live in and visit the community.

The current Fire Department consists of 49 members, five of whom are full-time employees. Two full-time chief officers provide administrative and operational direction. Three full-time Firefighter/Paramedics work a 24-hour rotating shift, providing half the needed personnel to keep an ALS ambulance fully staffed. Additional EMS responders traditionally work either in a paid-on-call (receive variable compensation when responding from home) or paid-on-premise (receive fixed compensation when staffed in the station) capacity.

The Fire Department is truly an "all-hazards" organization. It responds to more than 1,800 calls for service per year, including medical emergencies, fires, technical rescues, water rescues, and hazardous material responses within the city and surrounding communities. In addition to emergency response services, the department provides fire prevention education, inspections, and emergency management services.

Over the years, the Fire Department has developed many specialized response teams to handle the unpredictable nature of emergency services. The Dive and Surface Water Rescue teams respond to aquatic emergencies in Lake Michigan and other local waterways. The Rope Rescue team is specially equipped to manage technical rescue incidents. The department's Rescue Task Force was formed to operate in active-threat environments. All of these programs require additional training beyond the initial Firefighter certification program.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

	 FIRE CHIEF Mark Mitchell	
	 ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF Steve Schmidt	 SAFETY DEPUTY CHIEF Jim Langford
 FIRE DEPUTY CHIEF Tom Sharbuno	 TRAINING DEPUTY CHIEF Scott Ziegler	 EMS DEPUTY CHIEF Joe DeBoer
 FIRE CAPTAIN Rick Kultgen	 FIRE CAPTAIN - Vacant -	 EMS CAPTAIN - Vacant -
 FIRE LIEUTENANT Mike Grittner	 FIRE LIEUTENANT Charlie Leasum	 EMS LIEUTENANT Sam Lorge
 ENGINEER 2 Personnel	 ENGINEER 3 Personnel	 FULL-TIME FF/MEDIC 3 Personnel
 FIREFIGHTER 4 Personnel	 FIREFIGHTER 6 Personnel	 PARAMEDIC 3 Personnel
	 DIVE TEAM LEADER Mike Jajtner	 ADVANCED EMT/EMT 12 Personnel
	 RESCUE DIVER 3 Personnel	 AMBULANCE DRIVER 1 Personnel

Note the above personnel count differs from department staff level as multiple personnel are cross-trained to fill numerous positions.

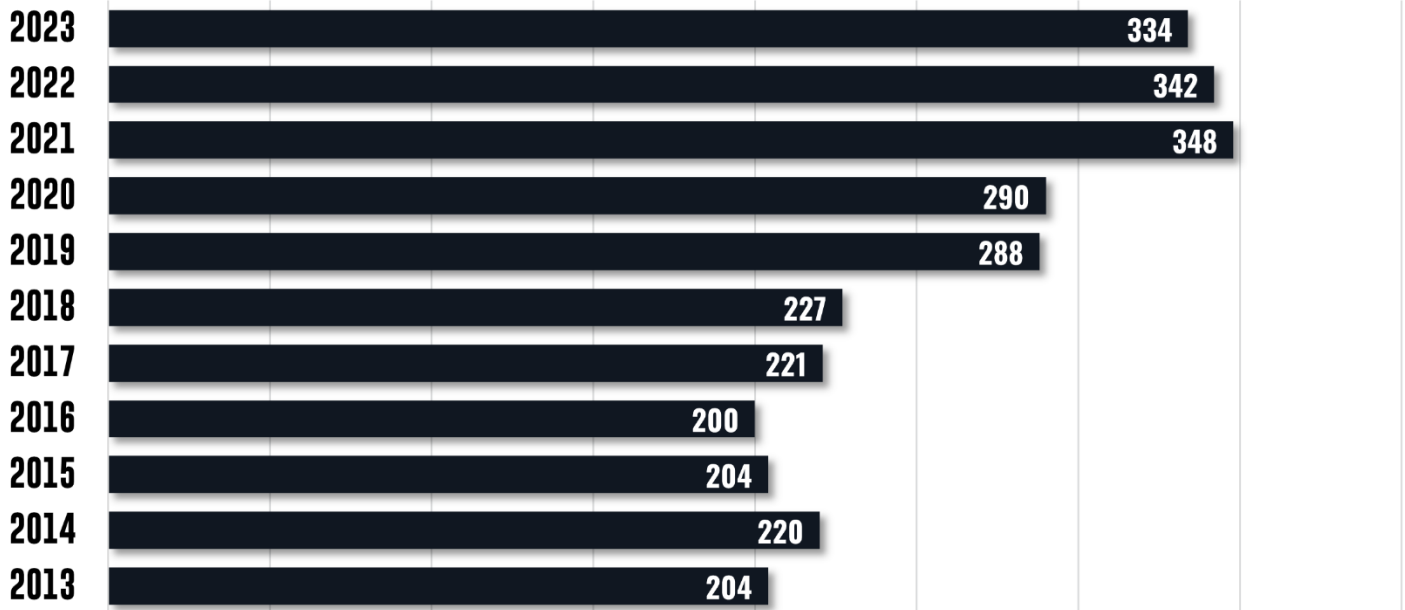


PICTURED ABOVE // Members of the department bid farewell to City Administrator Tony Brown in November.

FIRE RESPONSES

The Fire Department participates in the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). This system is a uniform reporting system that categorizes fire responses into the categories listed. To aid in the gathering of data, the Department utilizes *FIREHOUSE Software*. Fire reports are sent monthly electronically to the National Fire Administration.

TOTAL FIRE CALLS



334

With 334 calls, 2023 ranked as the 3rd busiest year for fire responses in the department's 171-year history. Over the last decade, the Fire Department has seen an almost 64% increase in fire calls for service.



**FIRE OR
EXPLOSION**

47

CALLS FOR SERVICE



**RESCUE OR
EMS ASSIST**

96

CALLS FOR SERVICE



**HAZARDOUS
CONDITION**

27

CALLS FOR SERVICE



**SERVICE OR
GOOD INTENT**

52

CALLS FOR SERVICE



**FALSE ALARM
ACTIVATION**

112

CALLS FOR SERVICE

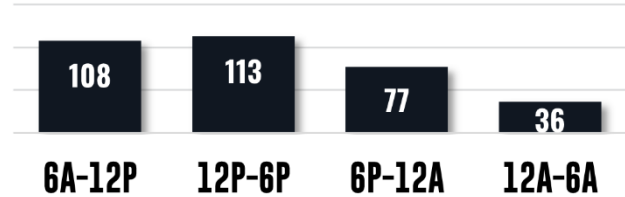
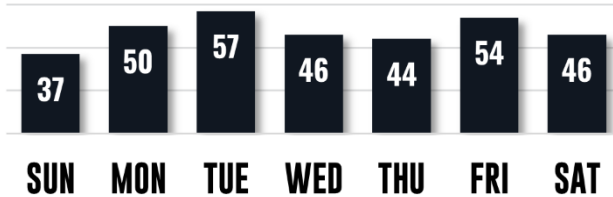
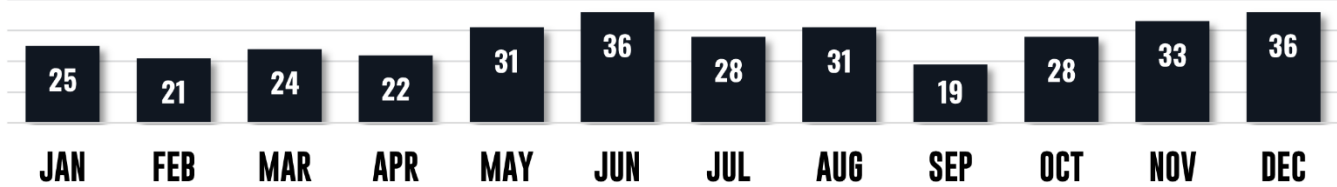
FIRE CALLS BY MUNICIPALITY

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON	266
TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON	45
GRAFTON	7
BELGIUM	3
SAUKVILLE	3
WAUBEKA	3
NEWBURG	2
SLINGER	2
MEQUON	1
FREDONIA	1
CEDARBURG	1



PICTURED ABOVE // Engine 465 serving as a change-of-quarters unit for a fire in the City of Cedarburg.

FIRE CALLS BY DATE/TIME



FIRE CALLS BY PROPERTY USE



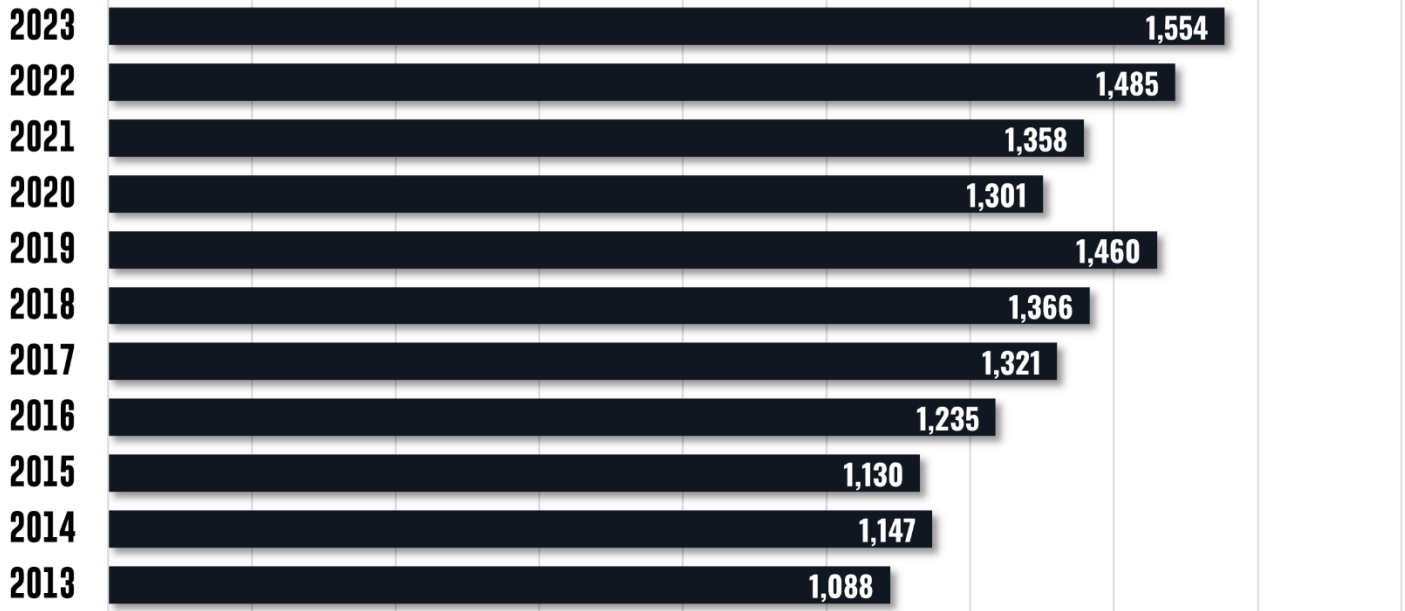
PICTURED ABOVE // Tanker 467 on scene of a grass fire in the Town of Port Washington.

RESIDENTIAL	164
ROAD/STREET	50
HEALTHCARE FACILITY	44
STORAGE	18
RECREATIONAL	16
INDUSTRIAL	13
MERCANTILE	13
ASSEMBLY	8
EDUCATIONAL	5
CORRECTIONAL	3

EMS RESPONSES

The Fire Department contracts with *Andres Medical Billing Associates LLC*, a billing and data management service. To further aid in the gathering of data, the department also utilizes *ImageTrend* and *FIREHOUSE Software*. The data listed below is a compilation of data from all sources. The department transmits patient data to the Wisconsin Department of Health, through the Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System.

TOTAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALLS



1,554

With 1,554 calls, 2023 ranked as the busiest year for emergency medical responses in the department's 171-year history. Over the last decade, the Fire Department has seen an almost **43%** increase in EMS calls.



**CARDIAC OR
RESPIRATORY**

289

CALLS FOR SERVICE



**MEDICAL
RELATED**

572

CALLS FOR SERVICE



**ACCIDENTS OR
TRAUMA**

490

CALLS FOR SERVICE



**OVERDOSE OR
POISONING**

23

CALLS FOR SERVICE



**MED ALARM OR
OTHER**

180

CALLS FOR SERVICE

RESPONSE TIMES

In 2023, the average response from time of call to arrival on scene was 6:42. Improved response times are correlated to better patient outcomes. With the introduction of full-time paramedics and a paid-on-premise staffing model, response times have decreased by **46%** in just 5 years.

6:42

PRIMARY CALLS VS PARAMEDIC INTERCEPTS

**1,252
PRIMARY CALLS**

**103
2ND CALLS**

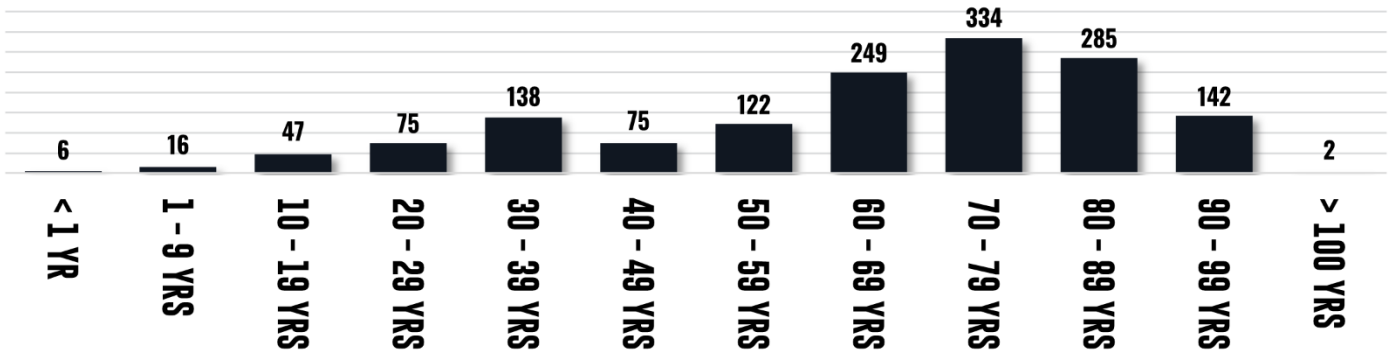
**199
INTERCEPTS**

TRANSPORTS VS NON-TRANSPORTS

**1,073
TRANSPORTS**

**481
NON-TRANSPORTS**

PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



EMS CALLS BY TRANSPORT LOCATION

AURORA MEDICAL CENTER - GRAFTON	873
ASCENSION COLUMBIA ST. MARY'S - OZAUKEE	166
FROEDTERT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL - MEQUON	11
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - MILWAUKEE	7
FROEDTERT HOSPITAL - WEST BEND	6
FROEDTERT HOSPITAL - MILWAUKEE	3
AURORA MEDICAL CENTER - SHEBOYGAN	3
HSHS ST. NICHOLAS HOSPITAL - SHEBOYGAN	2
AURORA ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER	2



PICTURED ABOVE // Ambulance 451 and 452 getting ready for the Fire Prevention Open House.

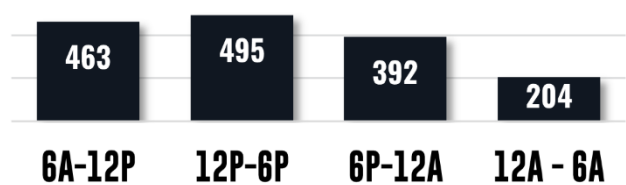
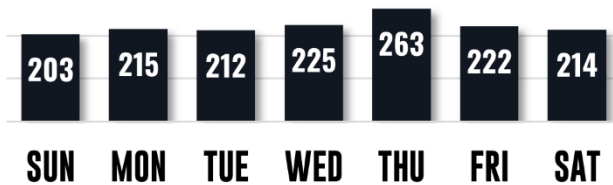
EMS CALLS BY MUNICIPALITY

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON	1,197
TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON	90
BELGIUM	131
FREDONIA	122
SAUKVILLE	6
GRAFTON	3
NEWBURG	2
RANDOM LAKE	2
CEDARBURG	1



PICTURED ABOVE // Fire and EMS crews work to extricate a victim from a car accident on Northwoods Road.

EMS CALLS BY DATE/TIME



EMS CALLS BY PROPERTY USE



PICTURED ABOVE // Elementary school students are given a tour of the ambulance by EMT Michael Eibs during Fire Prevention Week.

RESIDENTIAL	964
SKILLED NURSING/ASSISTED LIVING	329
ROAD/STREET	122
MERCANTILE	40
CORRECTIONAL	31
INDUSTRIAL	19
MEDICAL CLINIC	16
RECREATIONAL	15
ASSEMBLY	12
EDUCATIONAL	6

MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

Often, the scale of a fire or other emergency is beyond the scope of what a single fire department can handle. Wisconsin utilizes an organized, statewide mutual system aid system to provide a framework for resource deployment. The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, or MABAS, is activated through a set of "box" cards tailored to meet the needs of both the incident type and geographic location. By pre-designating these resources, it ensures that communities can assist without completely depleting their available staff. It also allocates change-of-quarters apparatus to cover additional calls while the home agency is committed to the large-scale incident. MABAS also provides legal protection for mutual aid agencies in the event of equipment/apparatus damage or work-related injuries. All Ozaukee County Fire Departments are members of MABAS Division 119.

23

In 2023, the Fire Department provided assistance to other agencies through the MABAS system 23 times.

BOX CARDS

DEPARTMENT NAME: Port Washington		BOX ALARM TYPE: Structure Fire (Hydrant)		EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2024		MABAS DIVISION: 119	
BOX ALARM #: 4-11		LOCATION OR AREA: City of Port Washington		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Mark Mitchell			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
5th	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington		
Full 5th	Saukville	Grafton		Saukville	Grafton	WE Energies	Belgium Engine Belgium Chief Jackson Ambulance
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
BOX	Belgium	Fredonia		Jackson	Belgium	Ozaukee EM	Southern Ozaukee Engine Southern Ozaukee Chief Fredonia Ambulance
2ND	Southern Ozaukee		Cedar Grove	Fredonia	Southern Ozaukee	Milwaukee Fire Bell	West Bend Engine West Bend Chief North Shore Ambulance
3RD	West Bend	North Shore		North Shore	West Bend		North Shore Ambulance North Shore Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance
4TH	Newburg	Menomonee Falls	Slinger	Menomonee Falls	Newburg		Menomonee Falls Ambulance Menomonee Falls Chief Random Lake Engine Random Lake Chief
5TH	Random Lake	Shelbygan		Shelbygan	Random Lake		Shelbygan Ambulance Shelbygan Chief Plymouth Ambulance
INTERDISCIPLINARY REQUEST		1st Choice 106	2nd Choice 107	3rd Choice 120			
INFORMATION: Port Washington Fire Station Address: 104 W Washington Street Milwaukee Fire Bell: (414) 286-8999 Badger Red/Wisconsin Emergency Management: (800) 943-0003 - Press #3							

DEPARTMENT NAME: Port Washington		BOX ALARM TYPE: Structure Fire (Non-Hydrant)		EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2024		MABAS DIVISION: 119	
BOX ALARM #: 4-12		LOCATION OR AREA: Town of Port Washington		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Mark Mitchell			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	TENDERS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
5th	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington		
Full 5th	Grafton	Fredonia	Saukville	Saukville	Grafton	WE Energies	Belgium Engine Belgium Chief Jackson Ambulance
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	TENDERS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
BOX	Belgium	Jackson	Waukega	Jackson	Belgium	Ozaukee EM	Southern Ozaukee Engine Southern Ozaukee Chief Fredonia Ambulance
2ND	Southern Ozaukee	Random Lake	Random Lake	Fredonia	Southern Ozaukee	Milwaukee Fire Bell	West Bend Engine West Bend Chief North Shore Ambulance
3RD	West Bend	North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	West Bend		North Shore Ambulance North Shore Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance
4TH	Newburg	Menomonee Falls	Menomonee Falls	Menomonee Falls	Newburg		Menomonee Falls Ambulance Menomonee Falls Chief Shelbygan Fire Engine Shelbygan Falls Chief
5TH	Shelbygan Falls	Shelbygan	Shelbygan	Shelbygan	Shelbygan Falls		Shelbygan Ambulance Shelbygan Chief Kewaunee Engine Kewaunee Chief Plymouth Ambulance
INTERDISCIPLINARY REQUEST		1st Choice 106	2nd Choice 107	3rd Choice 120			
INFORMATION: Port Washington Fire Station Address: 104 W Washington Street Milwaukee Fire Bell: (414) 286-8999 Badger Red/Wisconsin Emergency Management: (800) 943-0003 - Press #3							

BOX CARD 4-11 // Structure Fire in a Hydranted Area

DEPARTMENT NAME: Port Washington		BOX ALARM TYPE: Life Safety		EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2024		MABAS DIVISION: 119	
BOX ALARM #: 4-13		LOCATION OR AREA: Entire Response Area		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Mark Mitchell			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
5th	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington		
Full 5th	Saukville	Grafton	Cedarburg	Saukville	Fredonia	Grafton	Ozaukee EM
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
BOX	Fredonia (w/EX)			Southern Ozaukee	West Bend	Southern Ozaukee	Ozaukee EM
2ND	Belgium	Newburg		North Shore	North Shore	North Shore	Belgium Engine Belgium Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance
3RD	Ozaukee (w/EX)			Menomonee Falls	Harford	Ozaukee	Menomonee Falls Ambulance Menomonee Falls Chief Notly Badger Red
4TH	Shelbygan Falls	Cedar Grove		Waukega	Alton	Shelbygan Falls	Shelbygan Ambulance Shelbygan Chief Singer Chief St. Francis Ambulance
5TH	Slinger (w/EX)			St. Francis	Butler	Slinger	St. Francis Ambulance St. Francis Chief Brookfield Ambulance
INTERDISCIPLINARY REQUEST		1st Choice 107	2nd Choice 111	3rd Choice 106			
INFORMATION: Port Washington Fire Station Address: 104 W Washington Street Milwaukee Fire Bell: (414) 286-8999 Badger Red/Wisconsin Emergency Management: (800) 943-0003 - Press #3							

BOX CARD 4-12 // Structure Fire in a Non-Hydranted Area

DEPARTMENT NAME: Port Washington		BOX ALARM TYPE: Water Search/Rescue		EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2024		MABAS DIVISION: 119	
BOX ALARM #: 4-15		LOCATION OR AREA: Lake Michigan		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Mark Mitchell			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	SQUADS	WATER RESCUE	BOATS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT
5th	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	
Full 5th	Cedarburg	Cedarburg	Grafton	US Coast Guard	Saukville	Grafton	Ozaukee EM
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	SQUADS	WATER RESCUE	BOATS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT
BOX	Belgium	Cedar Grove	Southern Ozaukee	Shelbygan	Southern Ozaukee	Belgium	Ozaukee EM
2ND	Belgium	Cedar Grove	Shelbygan	Shelbygan	Belgium	Belgium	Belgium Engine Belgium Chief Jackson Ambulance
3RD	Ozaukee (w/EX)		Washington Co (Dive)	Washington Co (Dive)	Shelbygan	Shelbygan	Notly Badger Red West Bend Chief Random Ambulance
4TH	West Bend	Newburg	Milwaukee	South Shore	Fredonia	West Bend	West Bend Engine West Bend Chief Random Ambulance
5TH	Slinger (w/EX)		South Shore	South Shore	Milwaukee	Milwaukee	Random Lake Engine Random Lake Chief Plymouth Ambulance
INTERDISCIPLINARY REQUEST		1st Choice 107	2nd Choice 111	3rd Choice 106			
INFORMATION: Port Washington Fire Station Address: 104 W Washington Street US Coast Guard: (414) 287-7100 Milwaukee Fire Bell: (414) 286-8999 Badger Red/Wisconsin Emergency Management: (800) 943-0003 - Press #3							

BOX CARD 4-13 // Life Safety/Mass Casualty

DEPARTMENT NAME: Port Washington		BOX ALARM TYPE: Technical Rescue		EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2024		MABAS DIVISION: 119	
BOX ALARM #: 4-17		LOCATION OR AREA: High-Angle, Trench, or Confined Space - Entire Response Area		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Mark Mitchell			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUAD/TIT	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
5th	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington		
Full 5th	Saukville	Grafton	Cedarburg	Saukville	Grafton		
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUAD/TIT	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
BOX	Belgium	Fredonia	Milwaukee	Jackson	Cedarburg	Ozaukee EM	Southern Ozaukee Engine Southern Ozaukee Chief Fredonia Ambulance
2ND	Southern Ozaukee		Shelbygan	Fredonia	Southern Ozaukee	Milwaukee Fire Bell	West Bend Engine West Bend Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance
3RD	West Bend	North Shore	Cedar Grove	Waukega	West Bend		West Bend Engine West Bend Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance
4TH	Random Lake	Newburg	Menomonee Falls	Random Lake	Newburg		Random Lake Engine Random Lake Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance
5TH	Richfield	Germanman	Slinger	Richfield	Germanman		Ozaukee Engine Ozaukee Chief Plymouth Ambulance
INTERDISCIPLINARY REQUEST		1st Choice 106	2nd Choice 107	3rd Choice 120			
INFORMATION: Port Washington Fire Station Address: 104 W Washington Street Milwaukee Fire Bell: (414) 286-8999 Badger Red/Wisconsin Emergency Management: (800) 943-0003 - Press #3							

BOX CARD 4-15 // Lake Michigan Water Rescue

DEPARTMENT NAME: Port Washington		BOX ALARM TYPE: Disaster (Hydrant)		EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2024		MABAS DIVISION: 119	
BOX ALARM #: 4-19		LOCATION OR AREA: City of Port Washington		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Mark Mitchell			
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
5th	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington		
Full 5th							
MABAS BOX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
BOX	Belgium	Saukville	Fredonia	Cedarburg	Belgium	Ozaukee EM	Southern Ozaukee Engine Southern Ozaukee Chief Jackson Ambulance
2ND	Southern Ozaukee	Waukega	Jackson	Cedar Grove	Southern Ozaukee	Milwaukee Fire Bell	West Bend Engine West Bend Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance
3RD	West Bend	North Shore	Newburg	North Shore	West Bend		West Bend Engine West Bend Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance
4TH	Shelbygan Falls	Ozaukee	Slinger	Menomonee Falls	Shelbygan Falls		Shelbygan Ambulance Shelbygan Chief St. Francis Ambulance
5TH	Illwaco	West Allis	Richfield	St. Francis	Illwaco		Illwaco Engine Illwaco Chief Butler Ambulance
INTERDISCIPLINARY REQUEST		1st Choice 106	2nd Choice 107	3rd Choice 120			
INFORMATION: Port Washington Fire Station Address: 104 W Washington Street Milwaukee Fire Bell: (414) 286-8999 Badger Red/Wisconsin Emergency Management: (800) 943-0003 - Press #3							

BOX CARD 4-17 // Technical Rescue

BOX CARD 4-19 // Natural Disaster

MAJOR CALLS FOR SERVICE

LAKE CHURCH INN FIRE

May 16th. The Fire Department responded to assist the Belgium Fire Department with a multi-alarm fire at the historic Lake Church Inn. The Lake Church Inn, initially built in 1870, was the longest continually operating business in Lake Church. While fighting the fire, the roof collapsed onto the second floor, forcing firefighters to stay outside the building. More than 20 fire departments responded from as far as Jackson and Plymouth.



HIGH STREET FIRE

May 17th. The Fire Department responded to a working fire in a detached garage on High Street. The towering flames and smoke column were visible from Grand Avenue as the first-arriving units approached the scene. The intensity of the fire caused damage to adjacent parked vehicles and a neighboring garage. Due to the instability of the structure after overhaul was completed, the garage was eventually raised.



SLINGER PALLET/MULCH FIRE

May 21st. The Fire Department responded to assist the Slinger Fire Department with a multi-alarm fire at a rural wood manufacturing company in the Town of Polk. Through MABAS, multiple Ozaukee County departments formed a “tanker task force” and provided support both the evening of the fire and the next afternoon. Due to the lack of hydrants and a large fuel load, the fire burned for almost two days and required more than 1.5 million gallons of water to be transported to the scene.



CPR SAVE

July 10th. The Fire Department and Ambulance responded to the report of an unresponsive victim at the offices of the Ozaukee Press. Upon arrival, the patient was found to be pulseless and not breathing. After extensive resuscitation efforts, the patient regained consciousness and was transported to Aurora Medical Center. A few weeks later, the patient was able to attend the Police and Fire Commission meeting to thank the crew for their heroic efforts.



WISCONSIN STREET FIRE

July 10th. The Fire Department responded to a fire on the second-floor patio of the historic funeral home building. The first arriving engine quickly extinguished the fire. However, because of the complex architecture of the building and the void spaces created by the pull-through canopy, the fire required extensive overhaul operations to ensure that it would not reignite.



GRANITE LANE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

July 24th. Both the Fire Department and Ambulance responded to a complex vehicle accident near Granite Lane. The driver of the vehicle experienced a medical event, causing her to drive into the side of the assisted living facility building. The car then traveled through multiple backyards before coming to rest in a retention pond. After being extricated, the patient was transported to Aurora Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries.



GREEN BAY ROAD FIRE

September 10th. The Fire Department responded to a barn fire on Green Bay Road. Upon arrival, flames were coming from a riding lawn tractor that had been used briefly before the fire. As secondary units began to establish rural water supply operations, the first arriving engine extinguished the fire. Because of the quick actions of the Fire Department, damage was contained to the lawn implements and the overhead garage door.



LAKE MICHIGAN SEARCH

August 2nd. In conjunction with multiple other agencies, the Fire Department and Dive Team participated in an extensive search for a paddleboarder that went missing from Harrington Beach State Park. Resources searched the lakeshore from northern Sheboygan County all the way south to the Port Washington Marina. Unfortunately, the victim was recovered approximately a week later after being located by a local fisherman.



ROTARY PARK PET RESCUE

December 29th. The Fire Department was requested to rescue a dog trapped in the rock jetty off Rotary Park. Molly had been missing for three days. By all accounts, she was cold, hungry, and scared. The owners attempted to coerce the dog back to them, but instead, she went farther out on the jetty. Molly then fell between massive boulders and crawled into a small cave between the rocks. Using ropes and mechanical advantage, the crews were eventually able to get access to Molly. She was transported to a local emergency vet for evaluation.



PICTURED ABOVE // Members of the department send off Town of Port Washington resident Mason Thill as he began a 100-mile charity ride to raise funds for the Port Washington Fire/EMS Association.

DEPARTMENT MILESTONES

ADDITION OF FULL TIME STAFF

In January, the Fire Department welcomed three full-time Firefighter/Paramedics. The positions, funded in part through Ozaukee County ARPA Grants, provided much-needed stability to an EMS service that had previously struggled to reliably fill full-time positions. In addition to the Firefighter/Paramedic positions, a new full-time Deputy Chief position was created to help provide EMS leadership and oversight.



DEPT OF HEALTH SERVICES FLEX GRANT

In late 2022, the Fire Department was awarded more than \$52,645.00 in grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The grant funding was used to purchase equipment that maximized the Fire Department's EMS capabilities. New technology included a: LUCAS Chest Compression Device, Butterfly Portable Ultrasound, and Sapphire Intravenous Medication Pumps. Since its arrival, the equipment has been used in two successful resuscitations.



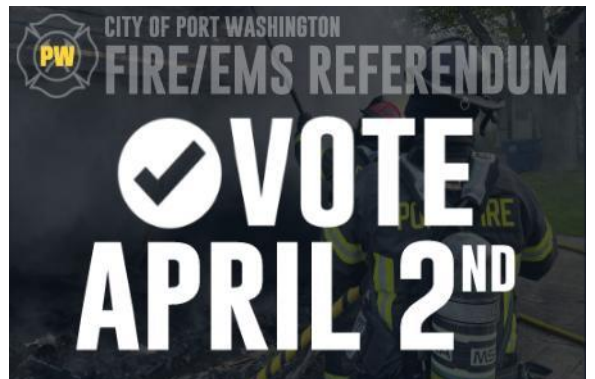
FACILITY LIFT ASSIST ORDINANCE

To combat the increasing number of EMS calls for non-emergency lift assists at residential care facilities, the Fire Department, Police and Fire Commission, Common Council, and City Attorney worked together to develop a non-emergency lift assistance ordinance. The ordinance assesses a graduated fee to facilities that utilize emergency services to lift an uninjured patient who has fallen despite having their own care staff available. After implementing the lift assist ordinance, the Fire Department has seen a precipitous decrease in these calls.



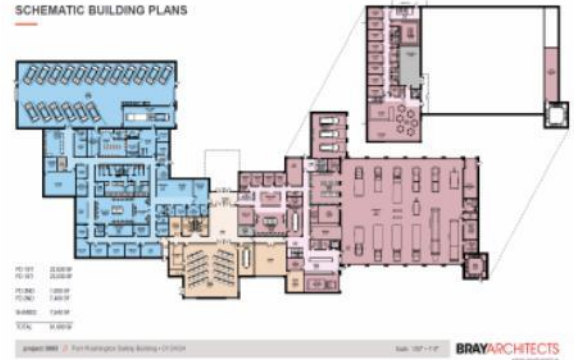
STAFFING REFERENDUM

As calls for service continue to increase, the Fire Department was tasked by City leadership to develop a long-term sustainability plan. This resulted in a referendum that will put the department's future in the voters' hands on April 2nd. The Fire Department is asking for six additional full-time Firefighter/Paramedic positions and to retain the ARPA-funded positions to supplement its dedicated part-time staff.



PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

After years of discussion, the Fire Department was able to take the first step toward a new station. The current facility was built in the 1960s and is not equipped to accommodate full-time personnel or the demands of the modern fire service. Working with Bray Architects, planning is underway for a new public safety facility and training center that would sit on the corner of County Highway LL and State Hwy 33 near the Eernisse Funeral Home.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU



The Port Washington Fire/EMS Association is a non-profit, charitable organization comprised of current and retired fire department personnel. Through fundraising and public service, its members actively promote public safety and community well-being. In 2024 alone, the Fire/EMS Association donated nearly \$20,000 of firefighting and EMS equipment to the Fire Department.



PICTURED ABOVE // EMS crews standing by on Fish Day during the fireworks.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Risk reduction is one of the most important non-emergency services the Fire Department provides to the community. Through fire inspections, public education/outreach, and fire investigation, the department helps identify potential safety concerns within the community and then coordinates resources to minimize the probability of those events happening or reduce their impact.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



PICTURED ABOVE // Attendees learn the benefits of mechanical advantage during an activity that simulated a rope/technical rescue at the Open House.

Fire Prevention Week was first recognized by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925, making it the longest-running public health observance in the country. Throughout the first week of October, the department visits local elementary schools to meet with more than 500 3K - 2nd-grade students to discuss various aspects of fire safety. Fire Prevention Week was bookended by our annual Open House. This year's Open House featured many activities, including fire/ladder truck rides, hands-only CPR training, dive simulations, turnout gear demonstrations, station tours, and a new mechanical advantage activity. The Fire Department Open House continues to be one of the county's most popular fire prevention activities.



PICTURED ABOVE // Students at local elementary schools learn firsthand about fire and EMS equipment during Fire Prevention Week with FF/EMT Jacob Hodorff and EMT Diedre Humphreys.

SAFETY TOWN

Working with both the Police and Recreation Departments, the Fire Department continued to be an active participant in Safety Town at Dunwiddie Elementary School. This annual summer program is geared toward local students entering kindergarten in the fall. Throughout the week, participants learn a variety of age-appropriate safety topics including home address awareness, water safety, the use of 911, stop-drop-and-roll, and other important fire prevention topics.



PICTURED RIGHT // Members of the department pose with students after fire truck and ambulance tour during Safety Town.

SENIOR CENTER CPR TRAINING



PICTURED ABOVE AND RIGHT // FF/Paramedic Dyan Dodson and FF/EMT Jacob Hodorff review CPR basics with senior community members.

In conjunction with the Senior Center, the fire department hosted a community-based CPR training course in mid-August. This class focused on the importance of bystander CPR and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Following a question-and-answer session about emergency services, EMS providers had the opportunity to demonstrate the common equipment first responders use during a cardiac arrest.

FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM

Geriatric falls continue to be one of the most common requests for emergency medical services. In a partnership with the Aging and Disability Resource Center, the Fire Department implemented a new program to help refer community members to the County's Fall Prevention Program. The evidence-based, voluntary program has been proven to reduce falls and incorporates strategies to implement positive lifestyle changes that keep patients independent, upright, and active. It focuses on home hazards, use of supportive devices, transportation safety, and medical problems/medications that may lead to falls.

HYDRANT HERO PROGRAM



When responding to a fire, being able to access the hydrant is of the utmost importance. This time-critical task is often difficult in the winter months, especially following large snow events. To encourage citizens to shovel their hydrant, the Fire Department and Fire/EMS Association joined forces to start the Hydrant Hero program. Residents utilize social media to post photos of their cleared hydrant, and a few families were rewarded with a free DQ “Blizzard.” Although not needed in late 2023, the program paid dividends following an early January snowstorm.

PICTURED LEFT // Local families posing next to their shoveled hydrants in early January.

FIRE INSPECTIONS

The Fire Department is responsible for inspecting more than 700 addresses within the City and Town of Port Washington. Inspections ensure that all required properties (those larger than two-family dwellings) comply with the existing fire code. The Fire Department also provides fire protection plan reviews and witnesses “acceptance testing” to ensure that newly installed suppression and alarm systems are functioning appropriately. In 2023, more than 1,234 fire inspections were completed, and 540 apparent code violations were noted.

FIRE INVESTIGATION

The Fire Department works directly with the Police Department to investigate the cause and origin of fires that occur within the community. By understanding the cause of these fires, these departments can identify common factors that may lead to fire incidents. This knowledge allows the Fire Department to implement preventative measures, educate the public, and better refine city ordinances. In 2023, 22 investigations were conducted. These fires resulted in approximately \$83,400 of property loss.



PERSONNEL

As a combination department, the Fire Department depends on both part-time and full-time staff to provide high-quality emergency services. As of December 31st, 2023, the department roster consisted of 49 total personnel. 2023 saw the resignation or retirement of the following personnel: EMT Daniel Cehanovich, Paramedic Todd Dicker, Advanced EMT Joanne Godersky, Firefighter Brandon Gregozeski, Rescue Diver Michael Kiener, EMT Jacob Krueger, EMT Jennifer Rutkowski, FF/EMT Andre Schmitt, EMT Garrit Taleck, Paramedic Paul Taleck, Captain Steve Ulm, and Captain Jason Weis.

5	44	20	17	6	1
TOTAL FULL-TIME	TOTAL PART-TIME	FIRE-ONLY PART-TIME	EMS-ONLY PART-TIME	DUAL-ROLE PART-TIME	ADMIN PART-TIME

NAME	RANK	YRS	NAME	RANK	YRS
Jason Borchert	Firefighter	2.33	Deana Laabs	Advanced EMT	0.75
Andrew Borgenhagen	Engineer	2.58	Jordan Laboy	FT FF/Paramedic	1.58
Nicholas Castner	FF/EMT	3.00	James Langford	Deputy Chief	30.08
Rachelle Cehanovich	Advanced EMT	18.51	Adam Lanser	Firefighter	17.66
Roland Chaloupka	Rescue Diver	42.25	Richard Lathrop	Firefighter	13.33
Joseph DeBoer	Deputy Chief/Paramedic	19.58	Charles Leasum	Lieutenant/Diver	11.33
Michael Didier	Engineer	30.75	Samuel Lorge	EMS Lieutenant/Diver	3.00
Dylan Dodson	FT FF/Paramedic	2.33	David Luft	EMS Driver	1.75
Amanda Eibs	Admin Assistant	2.33	Timothy Lund	Advanced EMT	1.16
Eric Eibs	EMT	24.41	Steve McGaughey	Paramedic	0.25
Michael Eibs	EMT	11.25	Christopher Miotke	FF/Diver	3.00
Kurt Ellmauer	Engineer	4	Mark Mitchell	Chief	19.78
McKenna Ferry	Paramedic	0.58	Allsun Molenda	EMT	1.41
Cody Foote	EMT	7.58	Daniel Nelson	EMT	0.25
Nicholas Gilbank	Firefighter	0.41	Andrea Petersen	EMT	2.5
Michael Grittner	Lieutenant	10.91	Viktor Petrov	FF/EMT	7.41
Ben Hedrick	EMT	0.25	Eric Poggemann	Rescue Diver	11.25
Eric Hill	FF/Diver	21.00	Kevin Riley	FF/AEMT	9.08
Jacob Hodorff	FF/EMT	2.5	Steven Schmidt	Assistant Chief	43
Diedre Humphreys	EMT	1.0	Thomas Sharbuno	Deputy Chief	41.33
Michael Jajtner	Dive Team Leader	24.5	Preston Smith	EMT	0.75
Cameron Karstaedt	FT FF/Paramedic	2.08	Jeffery Tietyen	Engineer	37.41
Andrew Klopp	Engineer	15.08	Joshua Van Natta	Paramedic	8.33
Morgan Kropidlowski	EMT	4.41	Scott Ziegler	Deputy Chief/EMT	11.25
Richard Kultgen	Captain/Diver	17.41			

549

As of December 31st, 2023, current members of the Fire Department have collectively provided nearly **549** years of dedicated service to the community and its residents.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The modern fire service requires the department to be prepared for all types of emergency situations. Some calls for service present circumstances that require additional skills obtained outside of the basic firefighter education program. The Fire Department has five specialized teams that are trained to respond to these unique incidents.

DIVE RESCUE

Established in 1982, the Dive Rescue Team is the oldest established specialty team. There are two components to the Dive Rescue Team: surface support and rescue divers. Surface support personnel help divers manage equipment, review checklists, and control the diver's search patterns from the surface. They also serve as boat operators when functioning in open water or on Lake Michigan. Rescue divers hold various certifications and are specialists in deep diving, night diving, submerged auto rescue, and ice diving.



PICTURED RIGHT // Members of the Dive Rescue Team participating in an ice dive training at Harrington Beach State Park.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Dive Team Leader Mike Jajtner
FF Eric Hill

Lieutenant Rick Kultgen
FF Chris Miotke

Lieutenant Sam Lorge
Rescue Diver Roland Chaloupka

Lieutenant Charlie Leasum
Rescue Diver Eric Poggeman

ROPE RESCUE



In conjunction with the Grafton and Southern Ozaukee Fire Departments, the Rope Rescue Team was established in 2020. The Rope Rescue Team applies a wide range of specialized equipment to access, package, and evacuate victims in difficult-to-access places. The team is often required to establish complex haul systems utilizing mechanical advantage to rescue patients from steep grades, cliffs, and ravines.

PICTURED LEFT // Members of the Rope Rescue Team training along the bluff in Upper Lake Park.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Deputy Chief Joe DeBoer
Lieutenant Charlie Leasum
FF Kevin Riley

Deputy Chief Jim Langford
Lieutenant Sam Lorge

Captain Rick Kultgen
FF Rick Lathrop

Lieutenant Mike Grittner
FF Viktor Petrov

RESCUE TASK FORCE

Established in 2016, the Rescue Task Force Team was the first of its kind in Ozaukee County. After the events of Columbine, Aurora, and Sandy Hook, it was apparent EMS providers could no longer stand by until the “scene was completely secure.” Under law enforcement supervision, the Rescue Task Force Team enters the “warm” zone to provide rapid, point-of-wounding emergency medical care. The Rescue Task Force Team is outfitted with ballistic vests, ballistic helmets, and other protective gear, and is specifically trained and equipped to deal with violence-induced trauma.



PICTURED RIGHT // Members of the Rescue Task Force participating in a county-wide onboarding class at Kennedy Elementary School in Grafton.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Deputy Chief Joe DeBoer
FF/Medic Dylan Dodson
FF Rick Lathrop

Deputy Chief Scott Ziegler
FF/Medic Cameron Karstaedt
EMT Mike Eibs

Deputy Chief Jim Langford
FF/EMT Nick Castner
EMT Andrea Peterson

Lieutenant Sam Lorge
FF/EMT Jacob Hodorff
EMT Preston Smith

SURFACE WATER RESCUE



Established in 2023, the Surface Water Rescue Team is trained to respond to the unique challenges presented by living along the lakeshore. Despite having a well-equipped dive team, rescue divers are not typically trained to complete surface rescues in dangerous surf conditions. Water Rescue Technicians receive specialized training that might include rescuing victims pulled into open water by currents, searching for those who have fallen from the break wall, or rescuing victims trapped in swift water/flood conditions.

PICTURED LEFT // Members of the Surface Water Rescue Team completing their initial certification course at the TJMS Pool.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Captain Rick Kultgen
FF/Paramedic Dylan Dodson

Dive Team Leader Mike Jajtner
FF/Medic Cameron Karstaedt

Lieutenant Mike Grittner
FF/Paramedic Jordan Laboy

Engineer Andrew Klopp
Rescue Diver Eric Poggemann

DRONE RESPONSE

Established in 2023, the Drone Response Team utilizes unmanned aircraft technology to help provide situational awareness at emergency scenes. This tool has been shown to be extremely effective in search and rescue operations. The Drone Team can evaluate large areas in relatively short periods of time, often with limited manpower. Equipped with thermal imaging capabilities, the drone can detect heat signatures from hundreds of feet in the air. The drone can also be utilized at fire scenes to identify hot spots, extinguishing the fire more efficiently.

PICTURED RIGHT // A nighttime flight assisting Port Washington Police Department with a search for a missing subject.



ACTIVE MEMBERS

Deputy Chief Joe DeBoer

Lieutenant Sam Lorge



PICTURED ABOVE // Fire and EMS on scene of a single vehicle accident in mid-March.

TRAINING

Quality training is essential to the operations of a well-rounded Fire Department. Led by Deputy Chief Scott Ziegler, the department's training division organizes hundreds of hours of high-yield classroom and practical education throughout the year. Training is often discipline-specific but routinely emphasizes working with both fire and EMS resources. Firefighters must attend at least 60 hours of training throughout the year. EMTs and Paramedics complete at least 24 hours of in-person training in addition to license-level specific online education.

3,698

In 2023, members of the Fire Department participated in more than **3,698** hours of training and outside education to better serve the community.

					
FIRE OR ENGINEERING	EMERGENCY MEDICAL	DIVE RESCUE	RESCUE TASK FORCE	ROPE/TECHNICAL RESCUE	OFFICER DEVELOPMENT
1,910	850	600	155	45	138
TRAINING HOURS	TRAINING HOURS	TRAINING HOURS	TRAINING HOURS	TRAINING HOURS	TRAINING HOURS

COMPLETED CERTIFICATIONS

FIREFIGHTER I and HAZ-MAT OPS (112 Hours)

FIREFIGHTER II (42 Hours)

DRIVER/OPERATOR (66 Hours)

DRIVER/OPERATOR AERIAL (36 Hours)

FIRE INSPECTOR (60 Hours)

FF/EMT Nick Castner - FF/Paramedic Dylan Dodson - FF Nick Gilbank

EMS Lt Sam Lorge

FF/EMT Jacob Hodorff - FF Rick Lathrop

FF/EMT Jacob Hodorff - FF/Paramedic Cameron Karstaedt - FF Rick Lathrop

DC Joe DeBoer



PICTURED ABOVE // Members of the department participating in an extrication course (left), RTF onboarding (middle), and on-shift ladder training (right).

APPARATUS

A well-maintained apparatus fleet is imperative to the day-to-day operations of the Port Washington Fire Department. Under the direction of Assistant Chief Steve Schmidt, five Engineers routinely test and repair all department vehicles and small engines. Both boats are maintained by members of the Dive Rescue Team. In 2023, Ambulance 450 was retired from service. Boat 468 was decommissioned late in the year after experiencing a failure of one of the inflatable pontoons. A replacement RHIB (rigid-hull inflatable boat) is on order and expected to arrive in early 2024.

20,234

In 2023, Fire Department vehicles accumulated more than **20,234** miles responding to emergency calls for service, participating in training, or conducting day-to-day operations around the City.

AMBULANCE 451



YEAR	2018
MAKE/MODEL	Ford/Lifeline
MILEAGE	58,130
CONDITION	Good

RESPONSE ROLE

Ambulance 451 alternates monthly with Ambulance 452 as the primary response vehicle for medical calls for service.

AMBULANCE 452



YEAR	2018
MAKE/MODEL	Ford/Lifeline
MILEAGE	28,656
CONDITION	Good

RESPONSE ROLE

Ambulance 452 alternates monthly with Ambulance 451 as the primary response vehicle for medical calls for service.

HEAVY RESCUE 453



YEAR 2014
MAKE/MODEL Pierce Arrow XT
MILEAGE 4,235
CONDITION Good

**RESPONSE
ROLE**

Heavy Rescue 453 functions as the “special service” unit. It contains equipment for: technical rescue, vehicle extrication, and dive operations.

UTV 454



YEAR 2005
MAKE/MODEL Polaris Ranger
HOURS 199
CONDITION Fair

**RESPONSE
ROLE**

UTV 454 is utilized when normal apparatus are unable to reach the scene. It also provides support along the beach and during special events.

INTERCEPT 455



YEAR 2014
MAKE/MODEL Chevrolet Suburban
MILEAGE 67,621
CONDITION Fair

**RESPONSE
ROLE**

Intercept 455 serves as the primary response vehicle for paramedic intercepts. When staffing allows, it is also utilized as a first response vehicle.

COMMAND 456



YEAR	2013
MAKE/MODEL	Chevrolet Suburban
MILEAGE	90,771
CONDITION	Poor

RESPONSE ROLE Command 456 is the staff vehicle assigned to the Fire Chief.

BRUSH 457



YEAR	1992
MAKE/MODEL	GMC 3500 4x4
MILEAGE	14,402
CONDITION	Fair

RESPONSE ROLE Brush Truck 457 is the primary response vehicle for small brush or wildland fires.

UTILITY 458



YEAR	2020
MAKE/MODEL	Chevrolet 2500 4x4
MILEAGE	14,254
CONDITION	Excellent

RESPONSE ROLE Utility 458 serves as an all-purpose vehicle. It is utilized to tow both department boats and the UTV. In winter months, it can also be equipped with a snowplow.

TRUCK 460



YEAR	1997
MAKE/MODEL	Pierce Lance
MILEAGE	14,524
CONDITION	Fair

RESPONSE ROLE

Platform/Quint 460 provides a 100ft ladder as well as an elevated waterway for large-scale incidents.

ENGINE 463



YEAR	2008
MAKE/MODEL	Pierce Dash
MILEAGE	10,430
CONDITION	Good

RESPONSE ROLE

Engine 463 is the second-arriving fire apparatus and is responsible for continuous water supply in hydranted and non-hydranted areas.

ENGINE 464



YEAR	1999
MAKE/MODEL	Pierce Saber
MILEAGE	16,348
CONDITION	Fair

RESPONSE ROLE

Engine 464 serves as the reserve engine and may also be utilized to supply Truck 460's elevated waterway.

ENGINE 465



YEAR 2006
MAKE/MODEL Pierce Dash
MILEAGE 21,970
CONDITION Fair

RESPONSE ROLE

Engine 465 is the primary response vehicle for fire-related calls for service.

TANKER 467



YEAR 2019
MAKE/MODEL Kenworth/US Tank
MILEAGE 4,544
CONDITION Excellent

RESPONSE ROLE

Tanker 467 is utilized to transport water to scenes in which there is no hydrant or water source available.

MARINE 468



YEAR 2013
MAKE/MODEL JP Marine 17' Inflatable
ENGINE HOURS N/A
CONDITION Decommissioned

RESPONSE ROLE

Marine 468 provides near-shore and dive rescue support. It is capable of operating in both shallow and rough water conditions.

MARINE 469



YEAR	2010
MAKE/MODEL	Boston Whaler 25'
ENGINE HOURS	335
CONDITION	Fair
RESPONSE ROLE	Marine 469 provides a rapid response to all emergencies on Lake Michigan. It is further equipped with a fire pump for marina operations.

RETIRED ENGINE 462

In late 2022, Engine 462 was retired from service at the direction of the Fire Chief and Police and Fire Commission. The 1993 Pierce Dash served as the department's attack engine until being moved to reserve status with the arrival of Engine 465 in 2006. Thanks to the tireless work of the Firefighters Crossing Borders organization, the retired engine and other surplus equipment found its way to a new home in late January. Engine 462 now serves as the frontline engine in Cuautepec de Hinojosa, a small community approximately 80 miles outside Mexico City.



PICTURED ABOVE // Engine 462 as it departs Port Washington (left) and its arrival in Cuautepec de Hinojosa (right).

