

Appleton Fire Department 2025 Annual Report



Phone

Emergency 9-1-1
Non Emergency (920) 832-5810

Address

Fire Station #1
700 North Drew Street
Appleton, WI 54911

Online

AppletonWI.gov/fire

MISSION

With our partners, the Appleton Fire Department protects the community with exceptional service.

VISION

Pursuing excellence and enhancing the quality of life in Appleton and our regional community.

VALUES

Partnership

Respect

Integrity

Diversity

Excellence

TABLE OF CONTENTS



1. Message from the Fire Chief
2. Serving Appleton with Pride
3. Department Overview
4. Awards & Recognition
5. AFD by the Numbers
7. Prepared for Response
11. Emergency Medical Services

12. BLS to ALS Transition
13. Prevention
14. Public Education
17. New Employees
18. Promotions
19. Retirements & In Memoriam



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



It is my pleasure to present the 2025 Appleton Fire Department Annual Report. This report highlights our history, activities, and the data that guide how we serve the community. This information is reviewed throughout the year and used to strengthen our service delivery. We are privileged to serve everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Appleton, and we are proud to provide the highest level of fire, emergency medical, hazardous materials, water rescue, and technical rescue response. Together with our fire inspection, prevention, and public education programming, we strive each day to fulfill our mission of protecting the community with exceptional service.

In 2025, the Appleton Fire Department upgraded our medical response capability from Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic to Paramedic, the highest level of emergency medical care provided before reaching a hospital. This upgrade will ensure the community receives life saving medical care effectively.

We placed an order for a 100-foot aerial platform to replace our aging ladder truck. Delivery is scheduled for 2029. Automatic aid agreements with our partner communities were updated and finalized, ensuring each community will benefit from having an additional staffed fire truck respond to confirmed structure fires. This strengthens regional response capabilities and enhances safety for firefighters and community members.

Through collaboration with the City of Appleton's Human Resources Department, we successfully negotiated a three-year contract with our firefighter's union, Local 257. These agreements reflect the shared commitment of our personnel, city leadership, and community partners to maintain a strong and resilient department.

Appleton Fire Department personnel responded to 7,469 calls for service. Of these, a total of 5,669 were for medical emergencies. Emergency medical services response accounts for 76% of the fire department's calls for service. Over the past five years, call volume has grown steadily, reflecting the needs of a growing and vibrant city. Our department will continue to adapt and improve to meet the needs of our community with professionalism, compassion, and innovation.

Jeremy J. Hansen
Fire Chief



Serving Appleton

The Appleton Fire Department provides 24-hour emergency services to the City of Appleton residents, along with regional partnerships for automatic aid for fire response with Fox Crossing Fire Department, Freedom Fire Department, Grand Chute Fire Department, Kimberly Fire Department, Little Chute Fire Department, and Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue. Additionally, we provide mutual aid support to agencies in Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet Counties. All emergency calls are dispatched through the Outagamie County Sheriff's Department.

We operate out of six strategically located fire stations throughout the city. Each of these stations has a designated fire district. The department is organized into five engine companies, one ladder company, one quint company, and one command vehicle.

Personnel cross-staff a technical rescue unit, two water rescue boats, a rapid response light rescue unit, and a regional hazardous materials unit. The Appleton Fire Department also utilizes management staff to serve additional command roles during emergency incidents.

With Pride

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW



Fire Chief
Jeremy Hansen



Deputy Chief
Ryan Weyers



Assistant to the Fire Chief
Sharon Brochtrup

Operations

Emergency
Medical Services

Training & Resource
Development

Prevention &
Public Education



Battalion Chief
Joe Scott



Division Chief
Ryan Homman



Division Chief
Steven Jahr



Division Chief
Derek Henson



Battalion Chief
Doug Vrechek



Battalion Chief
Rick James

Awards & Recognition



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
Division Chief Ryan Homman



**WI 52ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR**
Captain Jake Kirchner

RECOGNITION AWARD

Adam Hansen
Derek Henson
Bryan Knauer
Adam Paiser
Eric Winger

AWARD OF MERIT

Ryan Lee

MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

Todd Hendricks
Casey Kostechka
Jack Merrill



EMS LIFE SAVING AWARD

Luis Acosta	Jack Merrill
Elliot Chier	Tyler Mickelson
Matt Gerrits	Ryan Monaghan
Corby Henkel	Cole Nelson
Steven Hoepfner	Aiden Olmsted
Doug Jacobs	Scott Pelkin
Kraig Kasten	Dave Reigles
Jake Kirchner	Eric Winger
Casey Kostechka	Tyler Zunker
Kelly Lynch	



**WI STATE FIRE INSPECTOR ASSOCIATION
FIRE INSPECTOR OF THE YEAR**
Division Chief Derek Henson

2025 Incidents by the Numbers

7,469

Total Incident in 2025

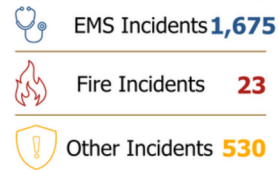
76% of all calls were **Rescue & EMS**



5,669 Rescue & EMS Calls

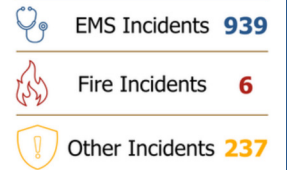


Fire Station #1



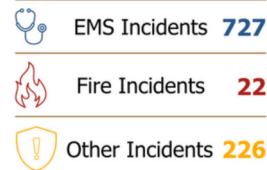
2,228 Total Incidents
Ran **30%** of citywide calls

Fire Station #2



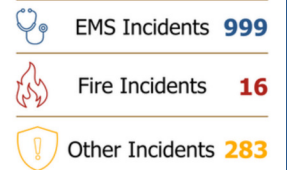
1,182 Total Incidents
Ran **16%** of citywide calls

Fire Station #3



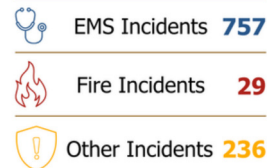
975 Total Incidents
Ran **13%** of citywide calls

Fire Station #4



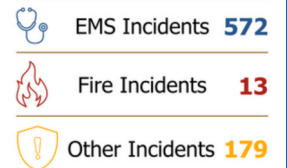
1,298 Total Incidents
Ran **17%** of citywide calls

Fire Station #5



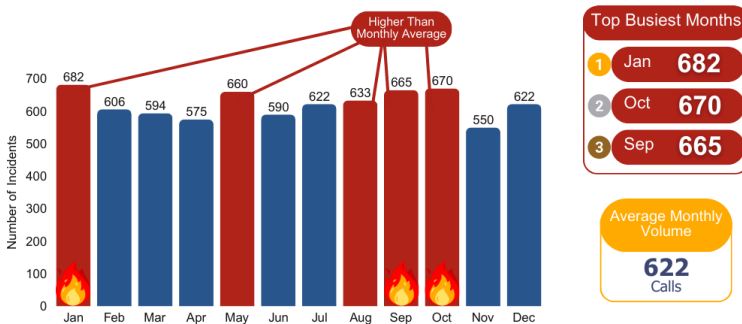
1,022 Total Incidents
Ran **14%** of citywide calls

Fire Station #6

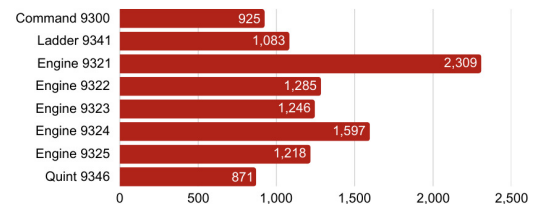


764 Total Incidents
Ran **10%** of citywide calls

Monthly Incident Response



Responses Per Unit



*Total incidents will differ from total responses because multiple emergency vehicles may respond to one incident.

Aid Given & Received



2025 Training by the Numbers



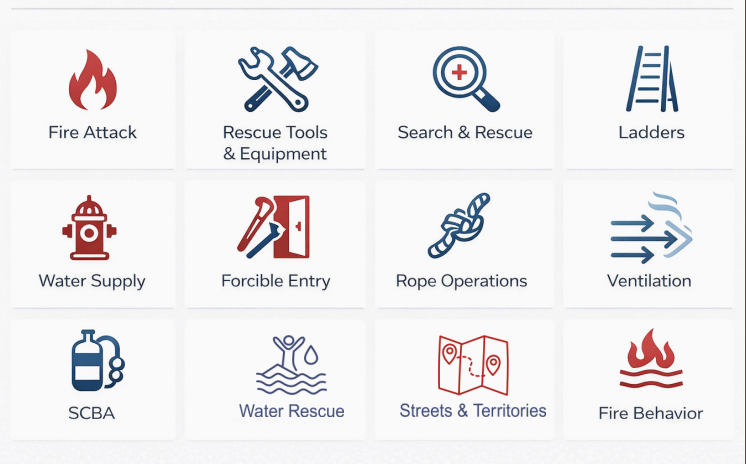
Appleton Fire Department personnel completed thousands of hours of training in 2025. Training hours reflect the department's commitment to continuous learning, safety, and professional growth. Ongoing training ensures firefighters are prepared to meet evolving community risks, advances in technology, and changes in service delivery.

25,356
Total Training Hours in 2025

66% of training was on **Firefighting Skills**



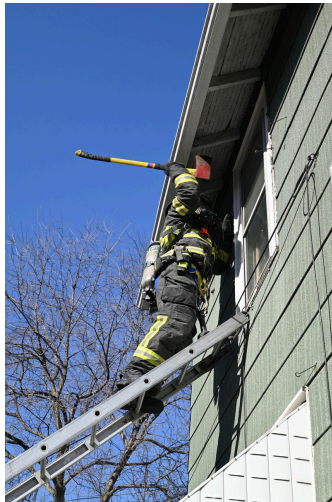
Top Training Focus Areas



Prepared for Every Response



Division Chief
Steven Jahr



Resource Development Division

The Resource Development Division ensures that Appleton Fire Department personnel remain prepared for the demands of modern emergency response. Through structured training programs and ongoing professional development, the division supports operational readiness across all shifts.



Driver Operator Training

In 2025, four members completed the two-week Driver Academy. This program strengthens apparatus operation proficiency and prepares personnel to safely serve in both engine and truck company roles. Maintaining a strong driver cadre enhances fireground coordination, improves safety, and supports effective emergency response throughout the city.

The division remains focused on maintaining consistent standards, supporting professional growth, and ensuring the department is equipped to respond to the evolving needs of the community.

Response Through Partnership

Swift Water Rescue Training

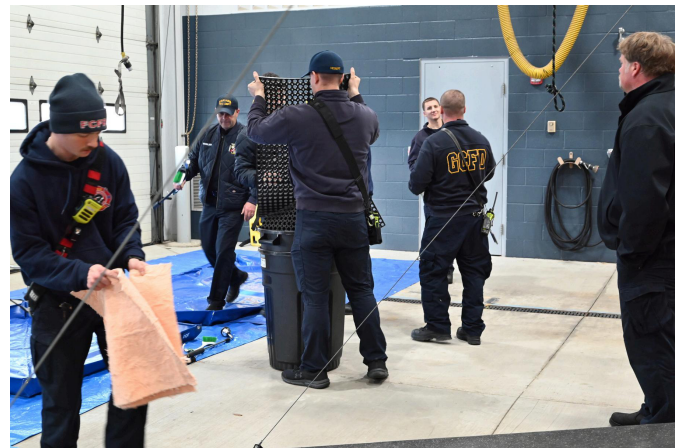
In 2025, we hosted a four-day multijurisdictional Swift Water Rescue Swimmer course, graduating 10 AFD personnel.

This program strengthens regional response capacity and supports coordinated operations during flood and water emergencies.



Wisconsin Task Force 1 (WITF1) Deployment

Three of our firefighters deployed with Wisconsin Task Force 1 in response to flooding in Texas, providing swift water specialists for thirteen days. This deployment reflects our commitment to supporting national disaster response efforts while maintaining local readiness.



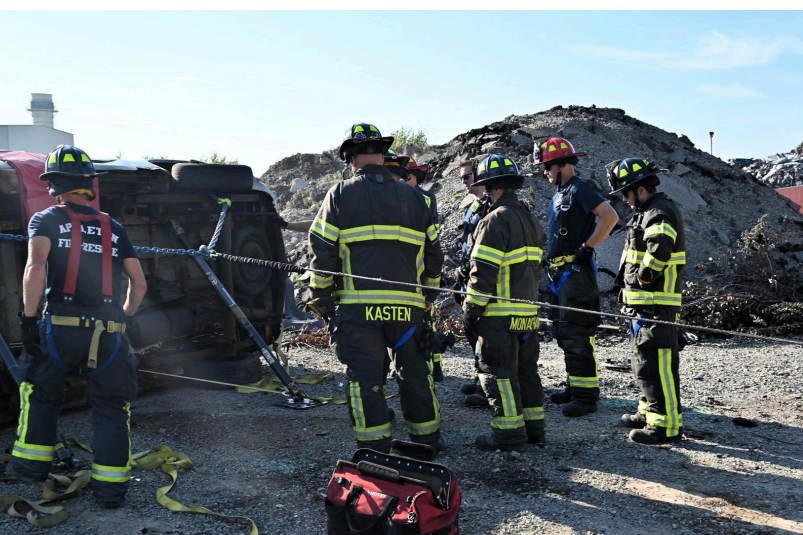
Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Paramedic

We support the Appleton Police Department with a Tactical EMS unit with four specially trained paramedics. In 2025, the team deployed 68 times in support of law enforcement operations and completed more than 640 hours of training, ensuring immediate medical care is available during high-risk incidents.



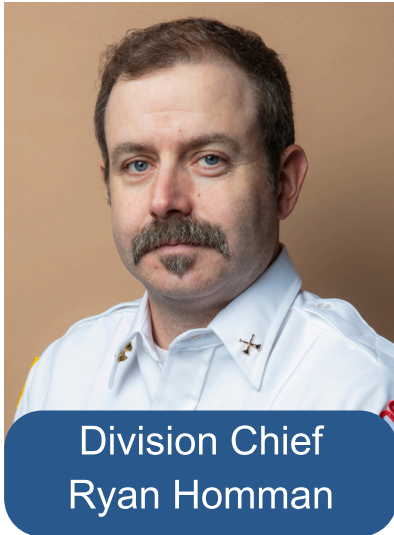
Hazardous Materials Response

We serve as the primary hazardous materials response team for Outagamie, Calumet, and Manitowoc counties. In 2025, the department secured grant funded equipment upgrades, enhanced technician onboarding, and partnered with neighboring agencies to train 133 regional responders, strengthening coordinated response across jurisdictions.





Emergency Medical Services



Appleton Fire Department's emergency medical services integrate clinical expertise, regional coordination, and community engagement to support patient care from the moment responders arrive. In 2025, EMS operations focused on preparedness, collaboration, and strengthening the continuity of care throughout the emergency response system.

Preparedness and Community Coverage

Beyond daily emergency response, the department participated in regional mass casualty training exercises to strengthen coordination and readiness for large-scale incidents. These exercises enhance interoperability and ensure effective response during complex events. EMS personnel also provided medical coverage for major community gatherings, including Oktoberfest, the Fox Cities Marathon, Fourth of July fireworks, and other events. This presence supports public safety and ensures rapid medical care where residents and visitors come together.



Collaboration and Community Education

Collaboration remained central to EMS operations in 2025. The department continued working with regional hospitals and public safety partners to align protocols and strengthen continuity of care from the scene to the hospital.

Community engagement expanded through CPR, Stop the Bleed, and fall prevention programs. These initiatives equip residents with lifesaving skills and reinforce the chain of survival before responders arrive.



Advanced Life Support Transition



Medical Director
Dr. Nels Rose

“On July 1, after years of planning and training, ALS services became available any time a fire apparatus responds. This advancement reflects the dedication of the department and strengthens evidence-based emergency care for the residents of Appleton.”

State of Wisconsin

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

License

Paramedic

911 Non-Transporting Service

The EMS Service Provider listed below has complied with the provisions of the Wisconsin statutes and is hereby authorized to engage in this activity.

Appleton Fire Department
700 N. Drew Street
Appleton, WI 54911

NOT TRANSFERABLE

The Change

On July 1st, paramedic staffed fire apparatus began responding to emergency calls at a higher level of care throughout the city, expanding Advanced Life Support capabilities and allowing critical interventions to begin earlier in time-sensitive emergencies.



Impact

Since implementation, paramedics have delivered Advanced Life Support care to more than 500 patients.

Why it Matters

Having a paramedic on the fire engine allows advanced lifesaving care to begin immediately upon arrival, improving early recognition and treatment of life-threatening conditions prior to transport.

The upgrade comes with a host of new equipment like intubation tools, heart monitors and airway management help.



A selection of medication the Appleton Fire Department can administer thanks to its new paramedic level care status. June 30, 2025. (WLUK/Lauren Piczynski)

Fire Prevention



The Fire Prevention and Public Education Division works proactively to reduce risk, support safe economic development, and investigate incidents that impact the community. Through inspections, plan review, and investigations, the department strengthens life safety across the city.



23

INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED

Inspections

Inspectors work with businesses, property owners, and event organizers to maintain safe environments. The majority of violations identified during inspections involved life safety systems, fire extinguishers, and exit access. These systems are critical to protecting occupants and ensuring safe evacuation.

MOST COMMON INSPECTION FINDINGS



Fire & Life
Safety Systems

464
Violations



Fire
Extinguishers

372
Violations



Exit &
Egress

350
Violations

Additional Violation Categories

Fire Dept Access

241

Electrical

127

Housekeeping

118

Other

14

Total Violations Identified: **1,686**

Fire Investigations

Fire investigations determine origin and cause, supporting prevention efforts and accountability. Findings contribute to education, enforcement, and improved safety practices.

PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITY



101

PLAN REVIEWS COMPLETED

90%

COMPLETED WITHIN 2 WEEKS
FROM DATE RECEIVED



Plan Review

Plan review ensures new construction and renovations meet fire and life safety standards before occupancy.

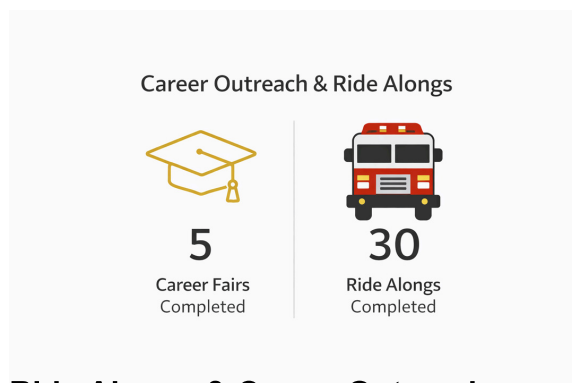
Public Education

The Public Education Division promotes fire and life safety through education, outreach, and community engagement. Programming is designed to reduce risk, strengthen preparedness, and ensure residents have access to accurate and timely safety information.



Events

We participated in community events throughout the year to promote safety awareness and preparedness. Crews engaged directly with residents at neighborhood gatherings, seasonal celebrations, and public safety fairs, strengthening relationships and reinforcing fire and life safety messaging.



Ride Alongs & Career Outreach

We supported recruitment efforts through ride along opportunities and participation in career fairs. These engagements provided prospective applicants with firsthand exposure to our department and direct access to information about fire service careers, qualifications, and training pathways.



PRESS RELEASE
**Rep. Snodgrass Recognizes District 52
2025 First Responder of the Year**

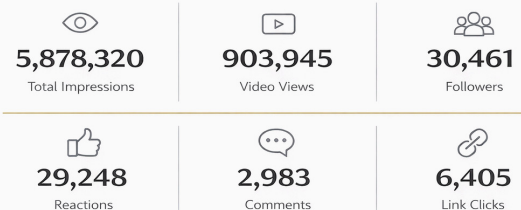
By State Rep. Lee Snodgrass - Oct 14th, 2025 12:02 pm

Traditional Media

We provided coordinated communication during significant incidents and public safety initiatives. Through collaboration with local media and public safety partners, we ensured accurate and consistent information was shared with the community.

Social Media & Public Information

Connecting residents with timely and accurate information.



Social Media

We continued delivering timely safety messaging and incident information through its social media platforms. In 2025, digital communications generated more than 5.8 million impressions and connected with more than 30,000 followers across platforms, supporting transparency and public awareness.



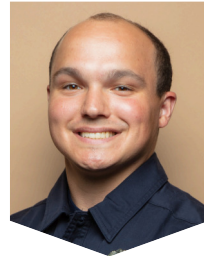


New Employees

In May 2025, the department conducted a ten-week Recruit Academy for six new firefighters. Class 01-25 completed intensive instruction in fire suppression, advanced life support skills, vehicle extrication, and live fire training. This academy reinforces the department's commitment to preparing firefighters for modern emergency response.



Firefighter
Elliot Chier



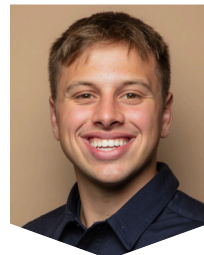
Firefighter
Neal Colling



Firefighter
Austin Cullen



Firefighter
Aiden Olmsted



Firefighter
Jacob Toeppler



Firefighter
Tanner Witmer



Promotions



Division Chief
Steven Jahr



Captain
Ryan Lee



Lieutenant
Tyler Zunker



Lieutenant
Kelly Lynch



Lieutenant
Andy Webb



Lieutenant
Troy Kinley



Lieutenant
Joe Kozikowski



Driver/Engineer
Tyler Mickelson



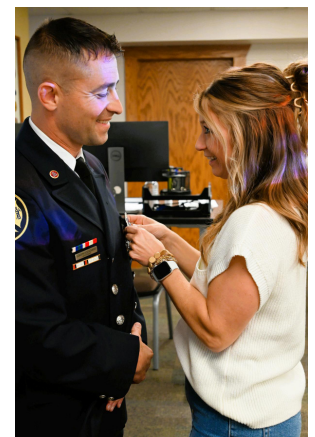
Driver/Engineer
Bart Rakun



Driver/Engineer
Jordan Ross



Driver/Engineer
Bryce Sternhagen



Retirements



Captain
Jeff Nelessen
30 Years of Service



Lieutenant
Greg Cullen
26 Years of Service



Lieutenant
Jeremy Hotynski
30 Years of Service



Lieutenant
Chad Rucynski
30 Years of Service



Driver/Engineer
Brian Cook
28 Years of Service

In Memoriam



Retired
Driver/Engineer
Richard Haase



Retired
Driver/Engineer
Dennis Krause



Retired
Driver/Engineer
Ronald Kulchyski



Retired
Captain
Michael Woodzicka



IS THERE
A FIRE
IN YOU?



