

Appleton Fire Department 2023 Annual Report



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Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

Partnership | Respect | Integrity | Diversity | Excellence

Message From The Fire Chief

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Appleton Fire Department Annual Report. This report provides history, activities, and the resulting statistical data for the year. This data is continuously examined throughout the year and is utilized to enhance our service delivery to the community. We are privileged to serve each citizen and visitor in our community, and we are exceptionally proud to provide the highest level of fire, emergency medical, hazardous materials, water rescue, and technical rescue emergency response. In conjunction with our fire inspection, prevention, and public education programming, we strive each day to meet our mission of protecting the community with exceptional service.

The men and women of the Fire Department responded to 6,993 calls for service. In 2023, a total of 5,322 were for medical emergencies. Emergency medical services response accounts for 76.9% of the fire department's calls for service. Since 2018, there was a 28.1% increase in total call volume, which includes a 37.1% increase in medical emergencies. As our community continues to grow and our environment changes, our responsibility to provide the highest level of service is unyielding. The Appleton Fire Department, and the services we provide, will continue to adapt and improve to effectively meet the challenges found within our community.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hansen'.

Jeremy J. Hansen
Fire Chief



Department Information

The Appleton Fire Department provides 24/7/365 emergency services to the City of Appleton residents, along with regional partnerships for automatic aid for fire response with Grand Chute Fire Department and Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue, and mutual aid with agencies in Outagamie, Winnebago, and Calumet Counties. We utilize Outagamie County Sheriff's Department for dispatching of all calls.

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.

Trained 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.



Fire Station 1

700 N Drew St.

Staffing: 2 Apparatus,
8 Firefighters



Fire Station 4

724 E Greenfield St.

Staffing: 1 Apparatus,
3 Firefighters



Fire Station 2

1801 S Matthias St.

Staffing: 1 Apparatus,
3 Firefighters



Fire Station 5

1701 W Brewster St.

Staffing: 1 Apparatus,
3 Firefighters



Fire Station 3

801 W Grove St.

Staffing: 1 Apparatus,
3 Firefighters



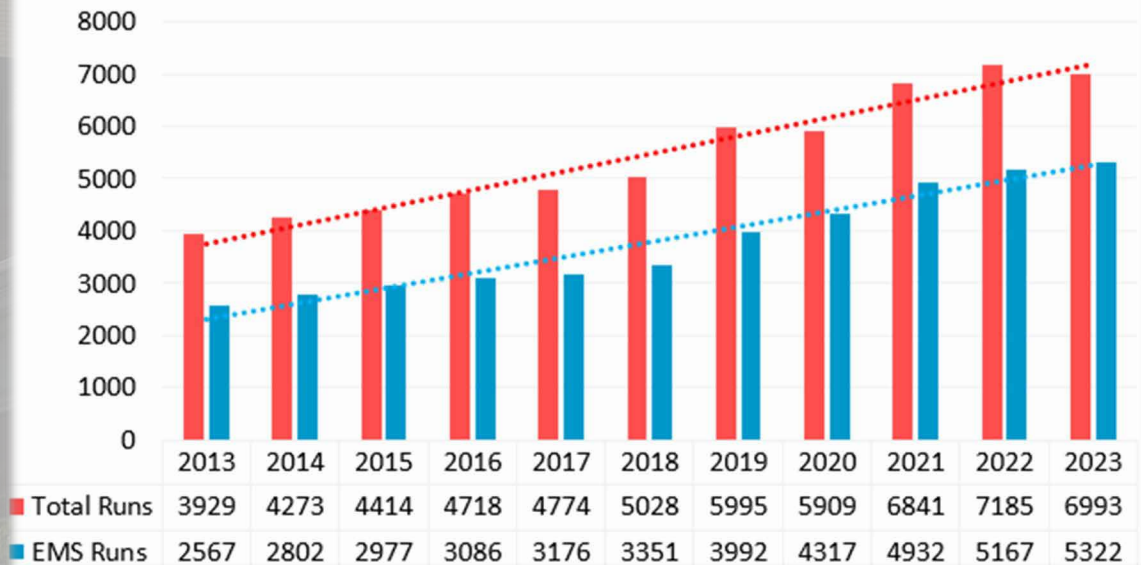
Fire Station 6

4930 N Lightning Dr.

Staffing: 1 Apparatus,
4 Firefighters

Call Volume

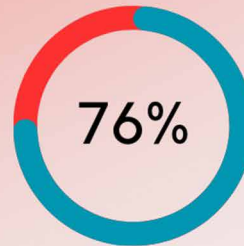
10 Year Call Volume



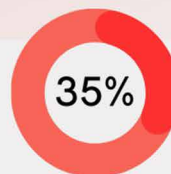
Total Fires	123
Overpressure/Overheat	35
Total EMS and Rescue Calls	5,322
Hazardous Conditions	242
Service Calls	326
Good Intent Calls	361
Total False Alarms	581
Special Incident Type	3
Total Calls	6,993

6,993 CALLS TO SERVICE

192 call decrease from 2022



Of the 6,993 calls, 76% were medical calls.



The primary type of fire call reported was building fires.



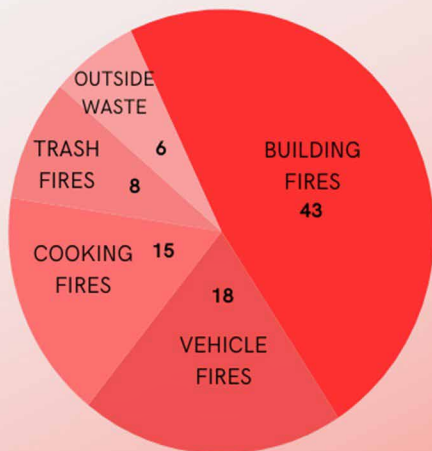
The primary type of medical call reported was falls.



False alarm responses were our second highest reason for calls.

Significant Events

TOP 5 FIRE RESPONSES



2220 East Downs Ridge (June)

Estimated \$1,000,000 loss of property and contents.

1121 West Elsie Street (December)

Estimated \$600,000 loss of property and contents.

One patient treated for minor injuries.

3209 & 3211 East Canary Street (December)

Estimated \$275,000 loss of property and contents.

Three pets rescued.

108 Northbreeze Drive (July)

Estimated \$250,000 of property and contents.

2704 East Theodore Lane (June)

Estimated \$190,000 loss of property and contents.

206 South Fidelis Street (July)

Estimated \$175,000 loss of property and contents.

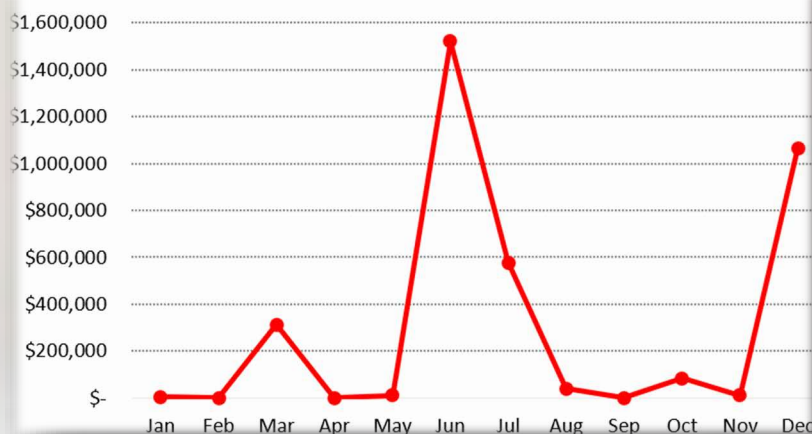
801 West Hawes Avenue (March)

Estimated \$150,000 loss of property and contents.

1513 North Charlotte Street (March)

Estimated \$150,000 loss of property and contents.

Fire Loss



Fire Suppression



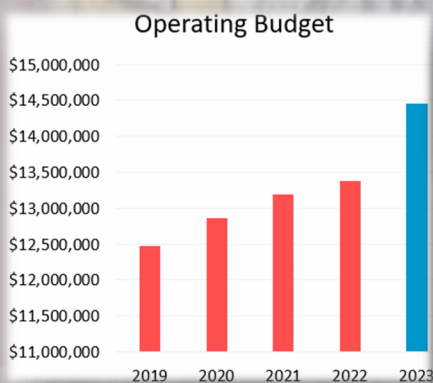
Ryan Weyers
Deputy Chief

The Operations Division of the Appleton Fire Department is the largest division of the department and is under the direct supervision of Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Weyers. This division is charged with enhancing the quality of life to our community by providing a safe and healthy environment through our response. We responded to 6,993 calls in 2023.

In 2023, we received four new support vehicles that will be utilized for command staff, maintenance, and water rescue response. The new vehicles will be located at Station 1 and Station 6 and will provide support response throughout the community.

We also prepared to add additional automatic aid for fire responses in the City of Appleton to include Fox Crossings Fire Department, Little Chute Fire Department, and Kimberly Fire Department. The addition of this automatic aid in 2024 will help provide much needed staffing to provide a more robust fire response in the City of Appleton.

The Appleton Fire Department takes pride in our state-of-the-art apparatus. A new pumper was ordered, and we prepared specifications for a new ladder truck to maintain all front-line apparatus within a 15-year replacement schedule. The fire department fleet is maintained by the City's Central Equipment Agency (CEA) Mechanic.



Resource Development



Joe Kozikowski
Battalion Chief

Battalion Chief Joe Kozikowski oversees training, special operations, and resource development. Newly promoted to this position in 2023, BC Kozikowski brings with him nineteen years of fire service experience, fifteen of those with the Appleton Fire Department. During his time with AFD, he has been heavily involved with training and is also an experienced member of the HazMat Team, Technical Rescue Team, Swift Water Rescue Team, and is a Rescue Specialist with Wisconsin Task Force One.

In the heat of the summer, the largest recruit class we have seen in fourteen years was conducted. For six weeks, recruits honed their skills in firefighting techniques, emergency response, and life-saving procedures. The training emphasized teamwork, discipline, and physical fitness, molding recruits into a cohesive unit ready to face any challenge. These recruits demonstrated exceptional aptitude and a passion for public service. At the end of June, we proudly welcomed six outstanding individuals to our firefighting family.



Special Operations

Water Rescue: The need was identified to bolster our Swift Water Rescue Team participants. Many of the members promoted to Officer positions; making them more likely to be in a command role than that of a swimmer. To address this, we contracted with the Regional All Climate Training Center (REACT) to provide training for new members. Thirteen firefighters completed a pre-course swim test and spent forty hours of physically demanding training in the Fox River during peak flows, where they learned to identify hazards, navigate obstacles, conduct rope-based rescues, and make rescue swims through rough waters during the week. All members successfully passed the course. The fire department was able to provide each of these members with individually issued swift water rescue suits that they carry with them daily.

Technical Rescue: Training for trench rescue was conducted on land provided by the city's Department of Community and Economic Development in a trench that was dug by the Department of Public Works and utilizing an equipment cache provided by Fox Valley Technical College. Thanks to this collaboration, our firefighters along with firefighters of Kaukauna Fire & Rescue were able to refresh on this highly technical skill set. Trench rescues are a low frequency/high risk type of rescue that requires coordination of multiple departments to provide the necessary equipment and personnel to affect a safe rescue.

Hazardous Materials: Our Hazardous Materials Team continues to be active with both responses and training. Thanks to grant funding, team members were able to learn about emerging threats from one of the country's foremost experts in hazardous materials response. Members of the team's Radiological Emergency Group participated in a FEMA evaluated exercise related to response to a nuclear power plant disaster. With a collaboration of grant funding the department's HazMat Team was able to add a Red Wave Meter to its equipment cache. This meter was the state's first field deployable gas capable mass spectrometer and is used when identifying unknown substances.

Wisconsin Task Force One (WI-TF1): Twelve firefighters are also members of WI-TF1, a team of highly capable technical rescue personnel that are willing to respond across the state and country to large disasters. Members travel quarterly to the Regional All Climate Training Center (REACT) located at Volk Field Air National Guard Base. Here members of various fire departments come together as one team and take part in some of the most intensive training available to firefighters in the country. Several of our firefighters have become so well versed in the skill sets needed that they hold instructing, managing, or squad boss positions on the task force.

Emergency Medical Services



Ryan Homman
Battalion Chief

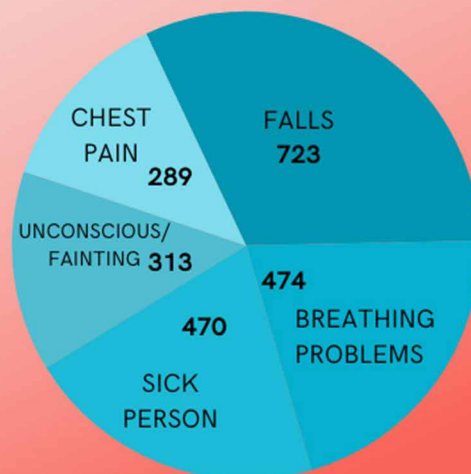
This year we welcomed Ryan Homman as our Battalion Chief of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He manages all aspects of emergency medical services. He oversees protocol development, implements performance improvement initiatives, and provides data-driven education. He also supports the needs of our firefighters as our department focuses on upgrading our medical care to the level of paramedic.

He comes to AFD with invaluable experiences at the City of Oshkosh Fire Department, City of Antigo Fire Department, Flight for Life, and the Village of Kimberly Fire Department. These roles have equipped him with the perspective, knowledge, and passion essential for success in this new position.

Following a nationwide trend, our largest call volume is attributed to EMS, making it a central and demanding aspect of our operations. In 2023, 76% of our calls were medical related. Through ongoing collaboration with community resources and healthcare partners, we are dedicated to finding ways to enhance the health, safety, and resilience of our community. The data outlined in this report underscores the significant opportunities we have to make a positive impact.



TOP 5 EMS RESPONSES



Prevention & Public Education

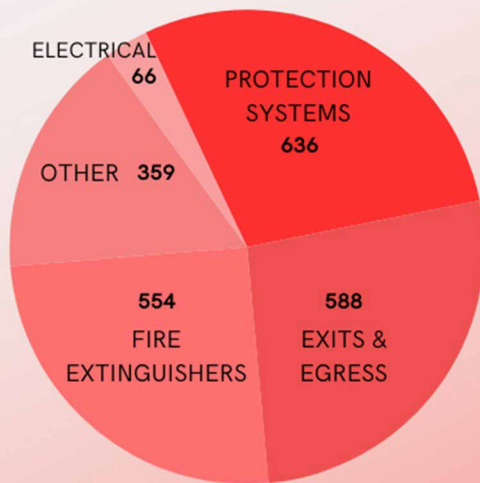
This was another excellent year for the Fire Prevention and Public Education Division. We were able to interact with over 29,000 people during public education and relations events. Another year of high-quality inspections was completed. Inspectors found 3,124 violations this year while completing 4,605 total inspections. A total of 68 fire protection plan reviews were completed with a 90% completion rate within 14 days. Design was completed on a new reporting system for fire investigations. Investigators will now use ImageTrend as their records management and reporting platform.



Derek Henson
Battalion Chief



TOP 5 VIOLATIONS



Awards, Recognition and Promotions

Department Awards

EMS Life Saving

Matt Gerrits (x2)

Andy Lane

Eric Winger

Cody Walesh

Darrin Butry

Andy Patz

Doug Vrechek

Todd Bean (x2)

Chad Johnson (x2)

Jeremiah Detert

Chad Donnay

Nate Milhans

Steve Jahr

Cody Peabody

Michelle Neeck-Lappen

Jordan Augsburg

Brian Cook

Troy Carpenter

Mike Becker

Distinguished Service

Cory Asimus

Life Saving Award

Matt Gloudemans

Meritorious Unit

Matt Gerrits

Kelly Lynch

Matt Gloudemans

Citizen Awards

Citizen Award of Merit

Adam Vervoort

Good Samaritan Award

Robert Golla

Sam Lorge

Tina Vosters

Amy Zimmerman

Amy Rappert



2023 Interns

Luis Acosta

Chad Perrizo

Josh Sasman

Anthony Wegner

Aiden Olmsted

Promotions

Battalion Chief

Joe Scott

Rick James

Doug Vrechek

Joe Kozikowski

Captain

Steve Unruh

Justin Brown

Lieutenant

Brad Brautigam

Ben Lee

Adam Hansen

Ryan Lee

Driver/Engineer

Matt Dercks

Adam Paiser

Chris Britzke

Casey Kostechka

Michael Wirtz

Firefighter/Inspector

Travis Nate

Cody Peabody

Tyler Linehan

New Employees



Battalion Chief
Ryan Homman



Firefighter
Leighton Myers



Firefighter
Jack Merrill



Firefighter
Griffin Kintopf



Firefighter
Doug Jacobs



Firefighter
Luis Acosta



Firefighter
Ty Davis



Retirements



Battalion Chief
Shannon Young
1989-2023



Battalion Chief
Ethan Kroll
1991-2023



Battalion Chief
Jeffrey Felauer
1993-2023



Lieutenant
Michelle Bialas
1996-2023



Lieutenant
Brad Brautigam
2003-2023



Firefighter
Timothy Lutz
2001-2023



Firefighter
Keegan Murphy
2013-2023

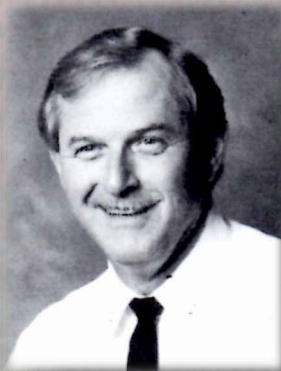


Training/
Resource
Specialist
Ed King
2017-2023

In Memoriam



Capt. Everett Steele
1958-1983



Capt. Bruce Sim
1973-2000



B/C John Wicinske
1973-2001

Fire Department Staff

Fire Chief Jeremy Hansen

Deputy Chief Ryan Weyers

Assistant to the Fire Chief Sharon Brochtrup

Support Staff:

Fire Inspector Jose Saldivar

Public Education Specialist/Fire Inspector Alex Quintana

Administrative Assistant Nancy Wilcox

Clerical Assistant Natasha Eversen

Central Equipment Agency Mechanic Jeremy Rycerz

Battalion Chiefs

Joe Scott

Rick James

Doug Vrechek

Joe Kozikowski

Derek Henson

Ryan Homman

Captains

Jeff Nelessen

Jason Lee

Scott Pelkin

Jake Kirchner

Steve Unruh

Justin Brown

Lieutenants

Chad Rucynski

Jeremy Hotynski

Bill Calaway

Todd Bean

Greg Cullen

Jerry Borski

Corby Henkel

Ben Lee

Tim Meyer

Michael Becker

Adam Galica

Matt Gerrits

Michael Hietpas

Adam Hansen

Ryan Lee

Driver Engineers

Darrin Butry

Bryan Knauer

Brian Cook

Scott Karpinski

Michelle Neeck-

Lappen

Kraig Kasten

Gary Awe

Dave Reigles

Andy Patz

Chad Johnson

Mark Deslauriers

Tyler Zunker

Andrew Dobbe

Andrew Lane

Andrew Webb

Troy Kinley

Matt Dercks

Adam Paiser

Chris Britzke

Casey Kostechka

Michael Wirtz

Firefighter/ Inspectors

Jeremiah Detert

Nate Milhans

Eric Winger

Travis Nate

Cody Peabody

Tyler Linehan

Firefighters

Todd Hendricks

Kelly Lynch

Mike Wiese

Tyler Mickelson

Riley Kubisiak

Tim Damrow

Steve Jahr

Bart Rakun

Jordan Ross

David Hammer

Chad Donnay

Matt Gloudemans

Cody Walesh

Bryce Sternhagen

Kyle Zuleger

Alex Smith

Tim Verstegen

Cole Nelson

Tyler Rusch

Lukas Syrjamaki

Jake Laack

Ryan Monaghan

Devin Halbach

Troy Carpenter

Cory Asimus

Jordan Augsburger

Lucas Vanden Heuvel

Jason Karpinski

Leighton Myers

Jack Merrill

Griffin Kintopf

Doug Jacobs

Luis Acosta

Ty Davis

