

2015

Appleton Fire Department Annual Report



Protecting Appleton's Quality of Life for 121 Years

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A Message from Fire Chief Len Vander Wyst



The members of the Appleton Fire Department continue to provide a quality and cost effective service to our community. I am very privileged to lead this organization which strives every day to make a difference in the lives of the citizens we serve.

This annual report will provide our citizens with the information needed to understand the many services available through your fire department and at what cost. I hope you will find comfort in knowing that your support is appreciated and the funding you provide is used in a cost-effective manner to keep our community safe.

I would like to thank the members of the Appleton Fire Department and the citizens of Appleton for entrusting me to lead this great organization and to serve this wonderful community. The department will always be ready to respond to your needs each and every day of the year. We are always there and we always care!

Len Vander Wyst



Appleton Fire Department History

The origins of the Appleton Fire Department can be traced back to an ordinance passed in 1854, which was intended to regulate and prevent fires. At that time, Appleton was divided into two fire districts and Fire Wardens were appointed to summon volunteers to extinguish fires.

The Appleton Fire Department was formally chartered in 1894 with a staff of ten. Under the reorganization of volunteer firefighters to full-time personnel, the department was led by John Ryan. Throughout its history, the Appleton Fire Department has had eleven Fire Chiefs.

During its long and proud history, the Appleton Fire Department's duty to the citizens of Appleton can be best summarized by its core values: Partnership, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, and Excellence.

This year marked the 121st year of service by the Appleton Fire Department to the residents, workers, and the many annual visitors to Appleton and the Fox Cities. From its origins, the department has grown to 96 members operating out of six fire stations.

Since our inception, tragically three Appleton Fire Department members have been killed in the line of duty, making the ultimate sacrifice while in service of helping others.



Chief Elmer Anderson
February 13, 1901



Asst. Chief Michael Calnin
August 7, 1929



Firefighter Louis McGillan
March 28, 1933



Appleton Fire Department Mission

In partnership with the community, the Appleton Fire Department protects and preserves lives and property from the adverse effects of fires and dangerous conditions through prevention, education, rescue, and response.

Appleton Fire Department Vision

Through strong partnerships, the Appleton Fire Department enhances the safety and quality of life in our regional community. We pursue excellence and embrace diversity in thought, strategy, and staff in order to meet the changing needs of those we serve.

Appleton Fire Department Core Values

Our core values include enhancing P.R.I.D.E. in our organization and work.

- Partnership:** We are a partner in a changing, regional community.
- Respect:** We respect ourselves, each other, the department, the community, the fire service, our traditions, and our vision.
- Integrity:** We are true to our values at all times.
- Diversity:** We embrace diversity in thought, strategy, and staff.
- Excellence:** We strive for excellence in everything we do.



**Appleton Fire Department
Table of Organization
2015**

**Fire Chief
Len Vander Wyst**

Administrative Staff
Sharon Brochtrup
Sally Dickinson
Nancy Wilcox

**Deputy Fire Chief
Eugene Reece, Jr.**

Resource Development

Battalion Chief of Special Operations
Ethan Kroll

Battalion Chief of Training
Ryan Lee

Technical Services
CEA Assigned Mechanic
Paul Rynish

Fire Suppression

Battalion Chief
Darrel Baker
Ron Hockett
Shannon Young

Captain (8.0)

Lieutenant (13.0)

Driver/Engineer (21.0)

Firefighter (36.0)
Firefighter/Inspector (6.0)

Fire Prevention and Public Education

Battalion Chief
Joe Strauss

Fire Protection Engineer
Steve Patterson

Fire Inspector
Dave Kempen



Appleton Fire Department Staff

Management Staff

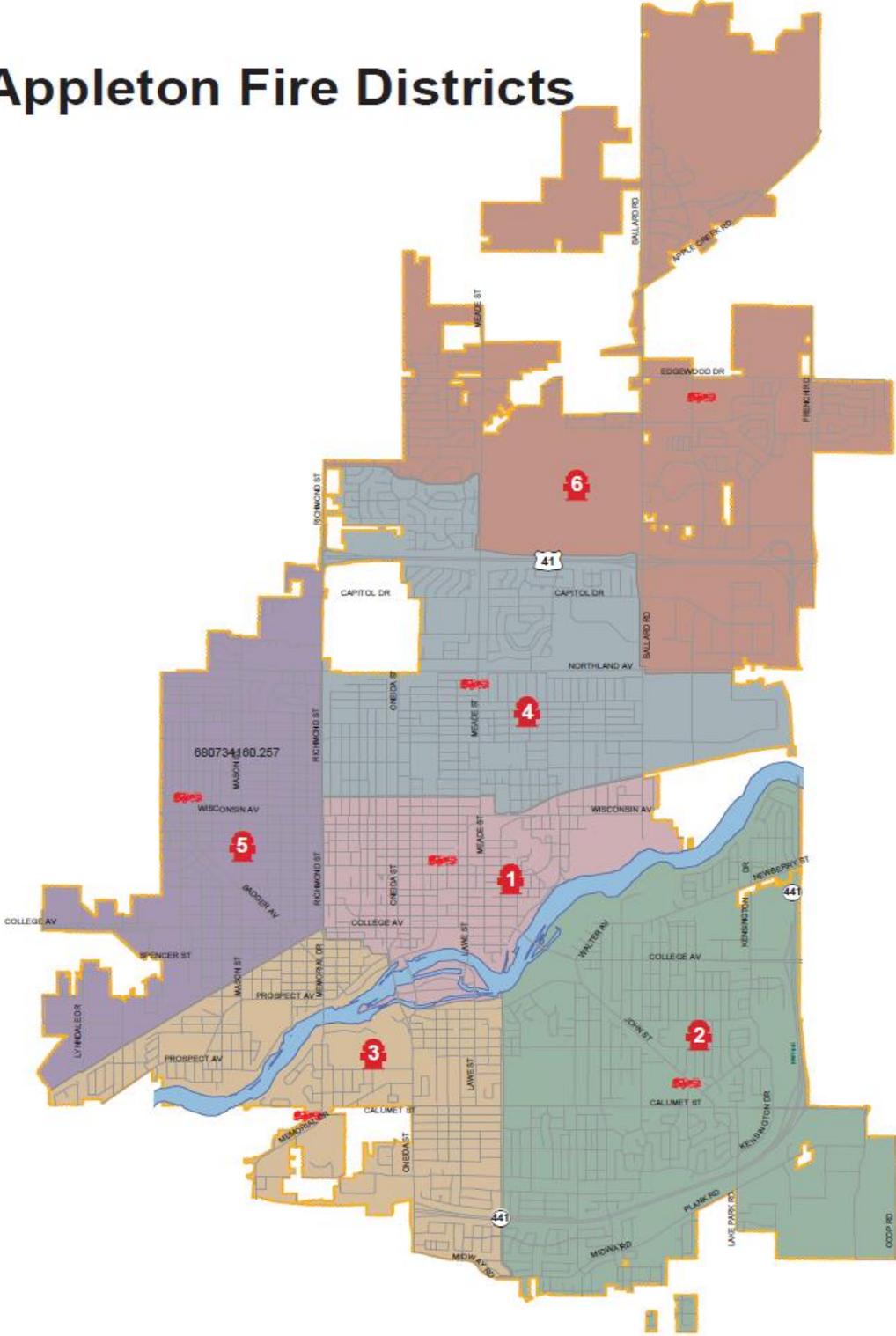
Fire Chief:	Len Vander Wyst	
Deputy Fire Chief:	Eugene Reece, Jr.	
Battalion Chiefs of Operations:	Darrel Baker	Shannon Young
	Ron Hockett	
Battalion Chief of Training:	Ryan Lee	
Battalion Chief of Special Operations:	Ethan Kroll	
Battalion Chief of Prevention & Public Education:	Joe Strauss	
Fire Protection Engineer:	Steve Patterson	
Fire Inspector:	Dave Kempen	
Support Personnel:	Sharon Brochtrup	Paul Rynish
	Sally Dickinson	Nancy Wilcox

Suppression Staff

Fire Captains:	Jeff Felauer	Jordan Steel
	Rick James	Jay Thomas
	Mike Mueller	Paul Thomson
	Joe Scott	Mike Woodzicka
Fire Lieutenants:	Jerry Borski	Jason Lee
	Greg Cullen	Jeff Nelessen
	Brian Hartfiel	Larry O'Rourke
	Corby Henkel	Scott Rehrauer
	Jeremy Hotynski	Chad Rucynski
	Lee Kasten	Doug Vrechek
	John Kaziak	
Driver/Engineers:	Gary Awe	Jay Kjorlien
	Todd Bean	Bryan Knauer
	Michelle Bialas	Steve Kulas
	Jim Biersteker	Ben Lee
	Darrin Butry	Pat Lewis
	Bill Calaway	Jeff Maloney
	Brian Cook	Tim Meyer
	Todd Daanen	Michelle Neeck-Lappen
	Scott Karpinski	Scott Pelkin
	Kraig Kasten	Paul Williams
	Jake Kirchner	
Firefighter/Inspectors:	Justin Brown	Brian Horst
	Jeremiah Detert	Chad Johnson
	Adam Hansen	Mitch Lundgaard
Firefighters:	Mike Becker	Andy Lane
	Tim Blob	Tim Lutz
	Brad Brautigam	Kelly Lynch
	Chris Britzke	Tyler Mickelson
	Tim Damrow	Nate Milhans
	Matt Dercks	Keegan Murphy
	Mark Deslauriers	Adam Paiser
	Andy Dobbe	Andy Patz
	Chad Donnay	Bart Rakun
	Adam Galica	Dave Reigles
	Matt Gerrits	Jordan Ross
	David Hammer	Steve Unruh
	Todd Hendricks	Andy Webb
	Mike Hietpas	Ryan Weyers
	Steve Jahr	Mike Wiese
	Troy Kinley	Eric Winger
	Casey Kostechka	Michael Wirtz
	Joe Kozikowski	Tyler Zunker
	Riley Kubisiak	



Appleton Fire Districts



Appleton Fire Department Stations



Fire Station #1

Department Headquarters
Hazardous Materials Specialty Station
Special Operations Specialty Station
Minimum Daily Staffing: 8

Units

9300 – Incident Command
9321 – Rescue Engine Company (Extrication Tools)
9335 – Firefighter/Inspector
9341 – 100' Aerial Ladder Platform Company
9371 – Light Rescue
9381 – Hazardous Materials Lab and Chemical Analysis Response Team
9388 – Watercraft – Raft
9389 – Watercraft – Boat

Station #1 – 700 N. Drew Street



Fire Station #2

Minimum Daily Staffing: 3

Units

9322 – Engine Company (Extrication Tools)
9328 – Reserve Engine

Station #2 – 1801 S. Matthias Street



Fire Station #3

Swift Water Specialty Station
Minimum Daily Staffing: 3

Units

9323 – Engine Company
9373 – Command Post

Station #3 – 1801 W. Grove Street





Fire Station #4

Minimum Daily Staffing: 3

Units

9324 – Engine Company

9327 – Reserve Engine

Station #4 – 724 E. Greenfield Street



Fire Station #5

Minimum Daily Staffing: 3

Units

9325 – Engine Company

9385 – Hazardous Materials Equipment

Station #5 – 1701 W. Brewster Street



Fire Station #6

Department Training Station and Tower

Special Operations Specialty Station

Minimum Daily Staffing: 4

Units

9333 – Shift Inspector

9346 – 75' Aerial Ladder Quint Company

9376 – Heavy Rescue

9387 – All-Terrain Vehicle (Countywide Asset)

Foam Trailer (Countywide Asset)

Station #6 – 4930 N. Lightning Drive



Key Performance Indicators

RESPONSE TIME (*Citywide Average, Minutes:Seconds*)

04:38	All Incidents by Fire – Emergency
04:43	All Incidents by Fire – Non-Emergency and Emergency Response Combined
04:25	Structure Fires
04:37	All Incidents by EMS

CALL VOLUME

4,414	Total Calls
2,977	Total EMS and Rescue Incidents
476	False Alarms
305	Hazardous Condition Incidents
274	Good Intent
242	Service
132	Fires
4	Severe Weather and Natural Disaster
4	Special Incident

PUBLIC SAFETY

4,431	Fire Prevention Inspections
191	Fire Safety Education Events
10,654	Fire Education Participants
73	Persons Trained in Fire Extinguisher Usage
22	Fire Investigations
31,142	Dehumidifier Recall Information

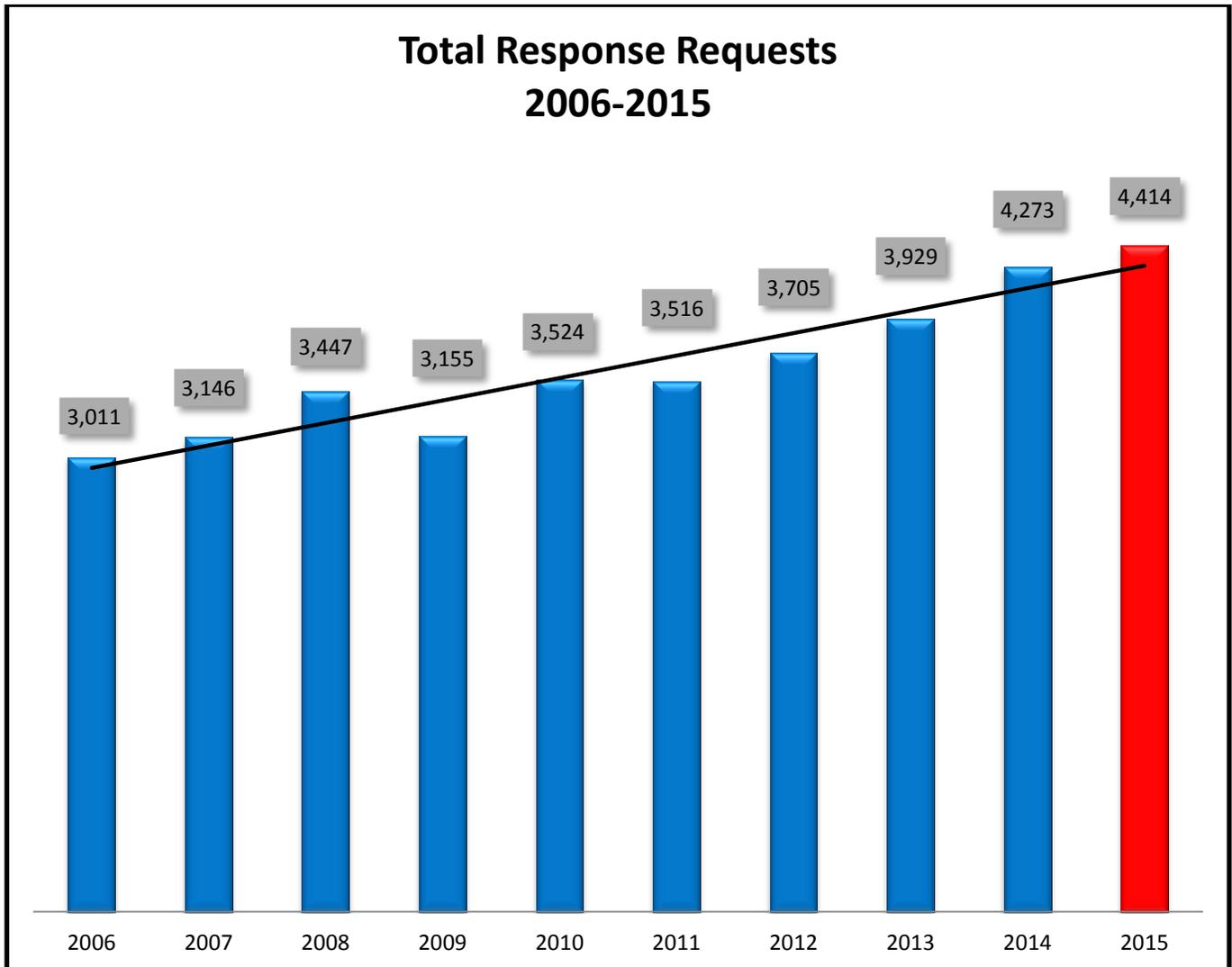
Agency Highlights

- ◆ During 2015, the Appleton Fire Department, in conjunction with Gold Cross Ambulance, assisted in the successful resuscitations of nine individuals who were pulseless and non-breathing upon arrival. These individuals were eventually released from the hospital.
- ◆ Members of the Appleton Fire Department participated in 12,413 hours of combined training in a wide variety of training categories.
- ◆ The Appleton Fire Department responded to 4,414 calls during the year. That number is the greatest number of calls in any given year in the history of the Appleton Fire Department.



Response Requests

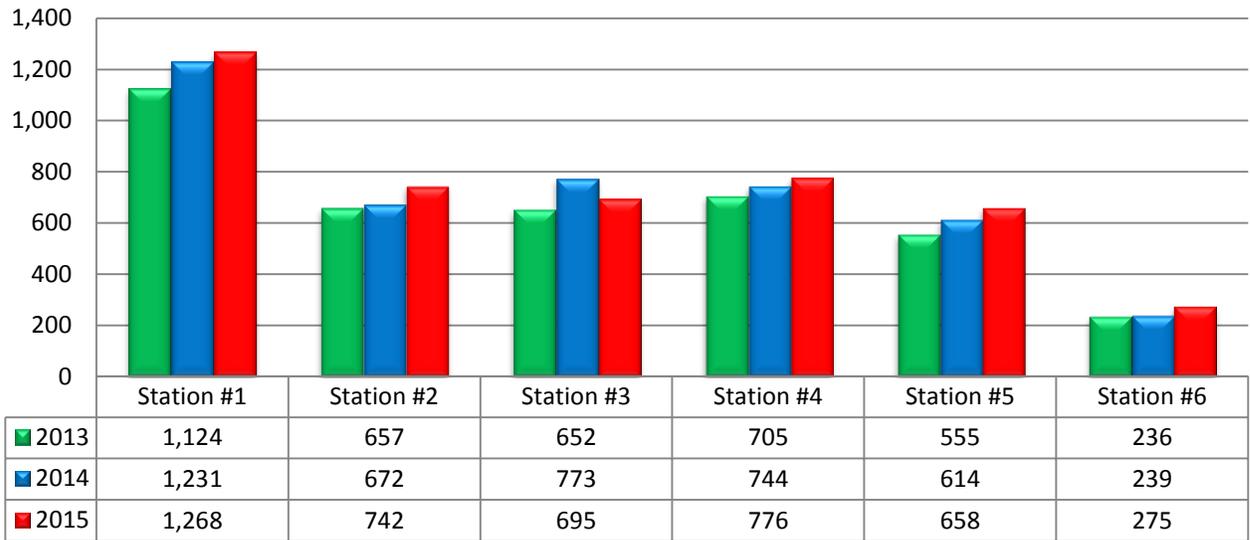
In 2015, the Appleton Fire Department responded to 4,414 calls for assistance. The 4,414 calls represent the greatest number of calls in any given year in the history of the Appleton Fire Department. Emergency medical calls (including rescues) were the largest portion of our call volume, accounting for 2,977, nearly 67% of the total calls. The Appleton Fire Department had 132 confirmed fires in 2015, including 35 structure fires and 19 vehicle fires. The Appleton Fire Department run volume increased nearly 3.3% in 2015 from the prior year. The increase in run volume is consistent with the trend seen over the last decade, with an overall increase of nearly 36.6% in calls from 2006 to 2015.



Fire Station #1, was the busiest station in 2015 with 1,268 first-in runs. Fire Station #6 saw an increase of nearly 15% in calls. Five of the six stations saw an increase in calls from the previous year. The lone exception was Station #3, which saw a slight decrease due to construction on S. Memorial Drive, which limited the number of automatic aid calls into the City of Menasha for several months.

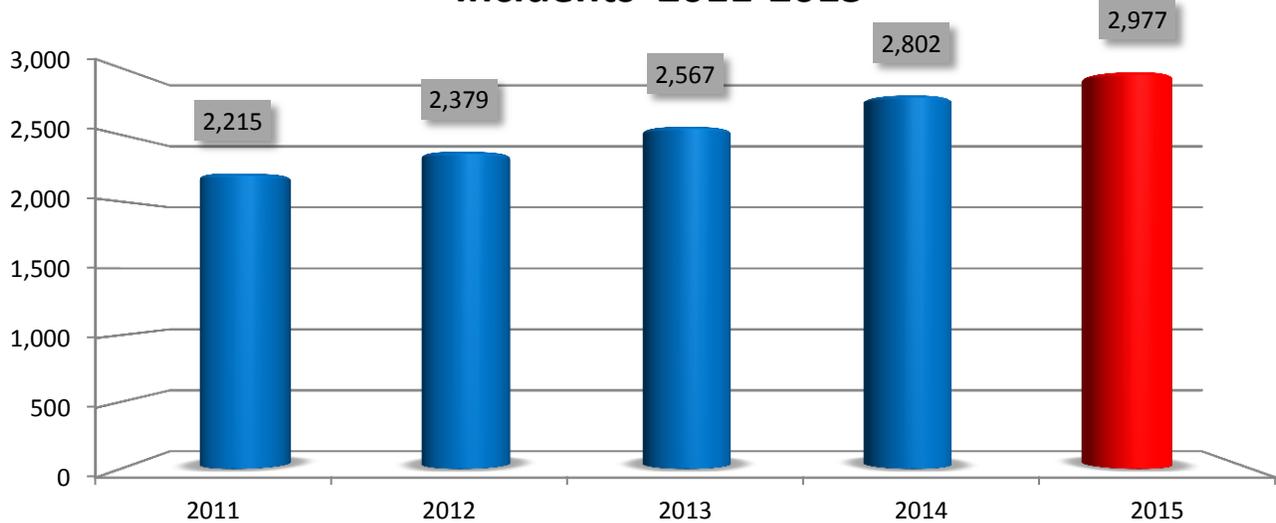


First-In Response Requests by Station 2013-2015



The most common call for assistance in 2015 was for Emergency Medical Service (EMS). The department saw an increase of 6.2% from 2014. EMS calls have increased nearly 34.5% since 2011.

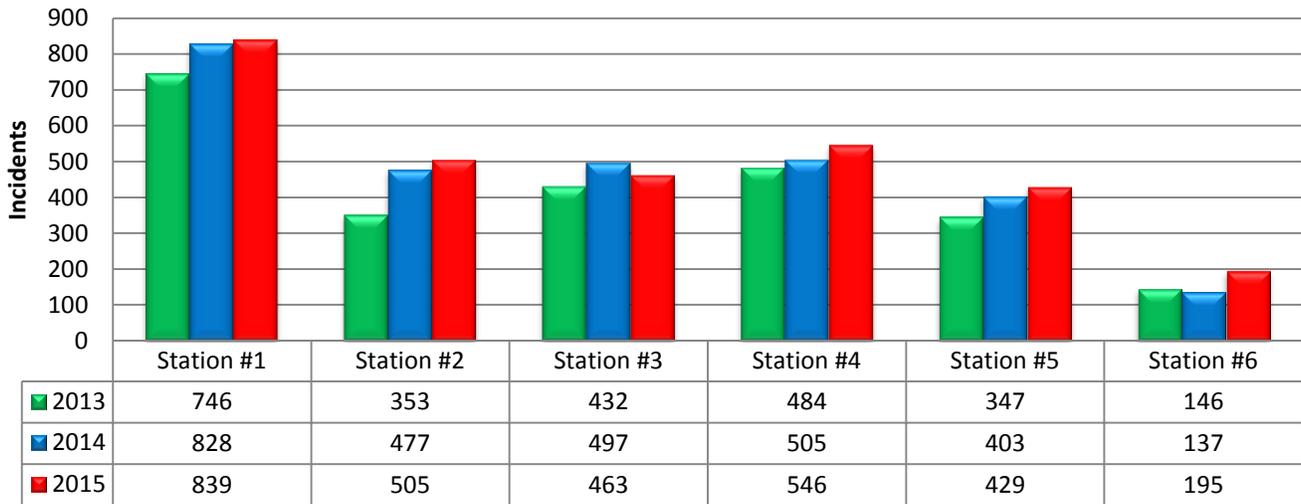
Total Emergency Medical Service & Rescue Incidents 2011-2015



Fire Station #1 was the busiest station in 2015 with 839 EMS/Rescue runs. Fire Station #6 saw an increase of nearly 42% in calls. Fire Station #2 has seen its call volume increase by 152 calls over a two-year period, an overall increase of nearly 43%.



Emergency Medical Service & Rescue Incidents by Fire District 2013-2015





Administration Division

Chief Len Vander Wyst

The Administration Division of the Appleton Fire Department is charged with setting communitywide fire protection goals and establishes the necessary direction, policies, and procedures for the benefit of the Appleton community and the employees of the fire department. The Administration Division is under the direct supervision of Fire Chief Len Vander Wyst.

◆ Objectives

From the programs and initiatives the department undertakes as part of its strategic planning processes, the Administration Division of the Appleton Fire Department outlined many objectives for the benefit of the department and for our community. Through the tireless efforts of our personnel, we continue to meet our objectives and identified additional objectives to pursue that will make us an even stronger organization in 2016.

◆ Identify currently provided service levels and evaluate their effectiveness and customer value

The Appleton Fire Department follows the philosophy of continuous quality improvement. The department uses the statistical data generated by call volumes and our other requests for service to improve our customer value in the service levels we provide; while at the same time being cost-conscious and effective in providing the highest quality of service in our efforts. In 2015, we continued to review all of our programs and services to make improvements to ensure the best in quality. We have a highly motivated and engaged organization to assist in this mission. For example, enhanced skills for our emergency medical responders have increased our ability to provide better patient care. Also, our response times have remained consistent, despite our ever expanding boundaries.

◆ Address service needs created by continued growth north of US HWY 41 and south of CTH KK

In 2015, the department appointed a committee to look at department response as a whole. The committee was charged with the task of properly planning for vehicle purchases to align with our response strategies, in both the short-term and the long-range strategic plan. The committee also reviewed department protocols and operations and provided recommendations to directly address service needs.

To meet objectives surrounding the growth of our city, the department included in the capital five-year plan a request for additional staffing and a vehicle for the north side of the city by 2018. In addition, automatic aid agreements in place since 2011 have helped to address service needs in the southern part of the city. Staffing was altered with a Firefighter/Inspector position moved to Station #6, in an effort to place more firefighters on scene more quickly. Ladder truck



9346 was also moved to Station #6 to help address response issues on the extreme north side of the city.

◆ Plan and prepare operational and capital budgets

As part of the five-year plan for the city, the department evaluated the equipment and the services we provide. It has been determined that crucial pieces of equipment are nearing the end of their service life and will be falling out of the scope of recognized standards. The department has submitted capital budget requests for replacing these pieces of equipment. Annual operation budgets are created by forecasting service needs in the city and are prepared accordingly.

◆ Maintain staffing levels as detailed in the table of organization and approved by the Common Council

The Appleton Fire Department is staffed 24/7/365 by 84 firefighters that are on a 24-hour shift assignment. Of the 84 firefighters, there are 28 on each of three shifts to staff our six strategically located fire stations throughout the city. The remainder of our staffing total of 96 includes chief officers and support staff. Our staffing continues to be one of the lowest per capita staffing levels in the State of Wisconsin.



◆ Continue the development of joint service opportunities and regional relationships with neighboring fire departments

The department has been operating under mutual aid response by implementing the State of Wisconsin Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). MABAS is a systematic method for coordinating response from multiple agencies. Not only does this allow the department to better utilize and manage mutual aid response, it also provides a wealth of additional resources as the mutual aid extends beyond our previous, individual department mutual aid agreements. To date, it has proven to be an effective means of coordinating resources. Efforts in this area also include automatic aid agreements with neighboring communities and regional efforts to enhance communication and resource allocation. In 2015, we conducted joint training sessions with our automatic aid and regional partners to streamline the differences between the organizations. These efforts have proven very effective in working towards our goals under this objective.



◆ Enhance internal and external communications and working relationships

The International Association of Fire Fighters - Local 257 Executive Board and Management Staff meet quarterly and on an as needed basis in an effort to continue our very successful, cooperative, and productive relationship. Open and honest communication has addressed many issues in an ongoing, positive, and open dialog. Fire Chief Vander Wyst continued 'Chief Chats' with all of the stations and fire crews on a routine basis. Technology upgrades throughout the city have assisted in the enhancement of both internal and external communications. Our Public Education Team has once again assisted our department in getting both safety and education messages, along with information on incidents, out to the public in a timely fashion using social media and partnering with television, radio, and newspaper outlets.

◆ Continue to implement the records management system for improved reporting capabilities

Fire department personnel continue to expand the records management system through the use of the 'Premise Module' of the software and the mobile data computers (MDC) in the fire apparatus. Pertinent premise information (i.e. hazards, contacts, water supply, response notes, etc.) are updated daily and are readily available on the MDC at an incident, providing critical information to fire suppression personnel in real-time, while on-scene. As more data is collected, our department has the ability to 'data-mine' the information for inclusion in our strategic planning processes and decision making. Late in 2015, Outagamie County in cooperation with the Mayor's office, shifted the cost of licensing the MDC software to local agencies. It is expected that this trend will continue in 2016.

◆ Budget and Personnel

Like all municipalities across the state and country, the economic downturn has driven the point home of 'doing more with less' within the Appleton Fire Department. We have reviewed programs to reduce waste in our processes and services. This review has resulted in cost savings and has reduced the impact on our department budget. As a result, in the last five years, the budget has increased minimally. In the same time frame, the number of incidents we have responded to has increased while the department has seen a reduction in overall staff. Our existing staff has stepped up to meet these challenges. We are still able to meet our obligations to our community with fewer resources. We are vigilant and cognizant of our current environment and plan accordingly.



◆ Engagement

This past year has mirrored previous years in terms of employee engagement. We have a very dedicated staff who follows the mantra of: 'Do the Right Thing.' Our employees are engaged in numerous different committees, classifications, leadership roles, organizational advancement opportunities, and programs – both internally and externally. In some manner, all 96 members of the Appleton Fire Department are involved. Fire Department staff work extremely hard to bring the best quality service to those we have contact with both in the community and throughout the region. The following is a list of the 50 specialized disciplines in which department members participate, above and beyond their specific job descriptions:

Positions	Committees and Activities
Acting Battalion Chief Acting Officer Relief Driver	Annual Report Apparatus Committee Awards Committee Chaplain
Technical Specialties Advanced Metering Team Boat Operator Confined Space Team Haz-Mat Team Rescue Technician Radiological Survey Team Swift Water Team	Critical Incident Stress Management Fire Camp Fire Investigations Fit Testing Grants Honor Guard Hose Testing Coordinator House Fund Intern Program LEAN Facilitator
Trainers CPR Instructor EMS Instructor Fire Instructor Fire Officer Mentor FVTC Curriculum Development Haz-Mat Shift Coordinator Relief Driver Mentor Structural Collapse Shift Coordinator Swift Water Instructor	MDC Liaison Safety Committee SCBA Committee Smoke Detector Committee Supply Ordering SWAT Paramedic Technology Committee Thermal Imaging Committee Union Executive Board Union Liaison Wellness Committee Wellness Coordinators
Public Education Firewise Education Program Friends of the AFD Foundation Board Public Education Executive Committee Public Education Team Public Information Officer	





Fire Suppression Division

Deputy Chief Eugene Reece, Jr.

The Fire Suppression Division of the Appleton Fire Department is the largest division of the department and is under the direct supervision of Deputy Chief Eugene Reece, Jr. This division is charged with enhancing the quality of life to our community by providing a safe and healthy environment through our response.

◆ Appleton Fire Department Staffing and Coverage

The Appleton Fire Department operates out of six strategically located fire stations throughout the city. Each of these stations has a designated fire district. With a maximum daily staffing of 29 personnel, the department is organized into five Engine companies, one Ladder company, one Quint company, and one Command vehicle. Trained personnel also cross-staff a Heavy/Technical Rescue, two Water Rescue Craft, a Rapid Response Light Rescue/Hazardous Materials Unit, and a Regional Hazardous Materials Unit. The Appleton Fire Department also utilizes management staff to serve additional command roles in fire suppression efforts.

The eighty-seven Fire Suppression personnel are divided into three shifts and each shift works a 56-hour work week, with all suppression personnel working 24-hour shifts on a rotating schedule. Each shift is led by a shift commander (formally identified as a Battalion Chief) and each company consists of a fire officer (either a Captain or a Lieutenant), an apparatus Driver/Engineer, and one or two Firefighters, depending on the company.

◆ Call Response

The Appleton Fire Department has standardized responses in place for the different classifications of calls. The department has further defined buildings in the city where, based upon building construction, size, height, use, and occupancy that have the potential for increased hazards for the occupants and firefighters. These structures are called 'target hazards.' For a structure fire in the city, the standard 'still' alarm response consists of three engine



companies, one truck company, and an incident commander. A response to a target hazard occupancy adds another engine company. Two engine companies are dispatched for a vehicle fire and one engine is dispatched for a dumpster fire. Calls for extrication dispatches engine companies 9321 and 9322, as those units each contain specialized extrication equipment. Calls for general service and medical emergencies, result in one vehicle being dispatched. For



specialized rescue calls, equipment and personnel are dispatched in accordance to the nature of the call. Calls for service in Appleton are dispatched through the Outagamie County Communications Center and for response into Neenah-Menasha by the Winnebago County Communications Center.

Type of Situation Found

Type of Situation Found	2015	2014	2013
Total Fires	132	119	121
Structure Fires	35	47	52
Vehicle Fires	19	17	17
Brush/Grass Fires	13	8	2
Other Fires	65	47	50
Total EMS and Rescue Calls	2,977	2,802	2,567
EMS Call (Excluding Vehicle Accidents)	2,787	2,659	2,412
Vehicle Accidents with Injuries	119	85	85
Other Medical Incidents	71	58	70
Total Hazardous Conditions (No Fire)	305	312	302
Total Service Calls	242	213	167
Total Good Intent Calls	274	281	232
Total False Alarms	476	518	517
Malicious False Alarms	26	19	22
System Malfunction	109	142	167
Unintentional False Alarms	315	304	267
Other False Alarms	26	53	61
Total Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	4	1	7
Total Special Incident Type	4	27	16
Total Calls	4,414	4,273	3,929

◆ Response Times

The Appleton Fire Department uses National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1710, *Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments* as our guide for first due units responding to emergency calls. The recognized standard is a one engine response in four minutes, from time of unit notification to arrival - 90% of the time (NFPA 1710 5.2.4.1.1). Quicker response times have been shown to make firefighting efforts safer and minimize fire damage and loss. A quicker response time is also critical on medical calls where the patient is a pulseless, non-breather (PNB) or has the potential to become PNB. The first few



minutes literally may mean life or death. The Appleton Fire Department always strives to arrive on scene as quickly and safely as possible.

Statistically, the Appleton Fire Department met the four minute response goal nearly 63% of the time, with an average response time for the first-in unit of 4:38 (Minutes:Seconds). Over the past several years, the Appleton Fire Department has taken steps to improve response times. The use of global positioning, where the closest fire unit is dispatched; rather than dispatch by fire district; along with automatic aid agreements have helped. The Appleton Fire Department has evaluated its staffing and vehicle placement, with the hope of improving response times as well. With the growth of the City of Appleton on the extreme north side, as well as developments on the far south side; it may be necessary to evaluate the need for additional staffing, as well as the relocation or construction of new fire stations throughout the city to further improve response times.



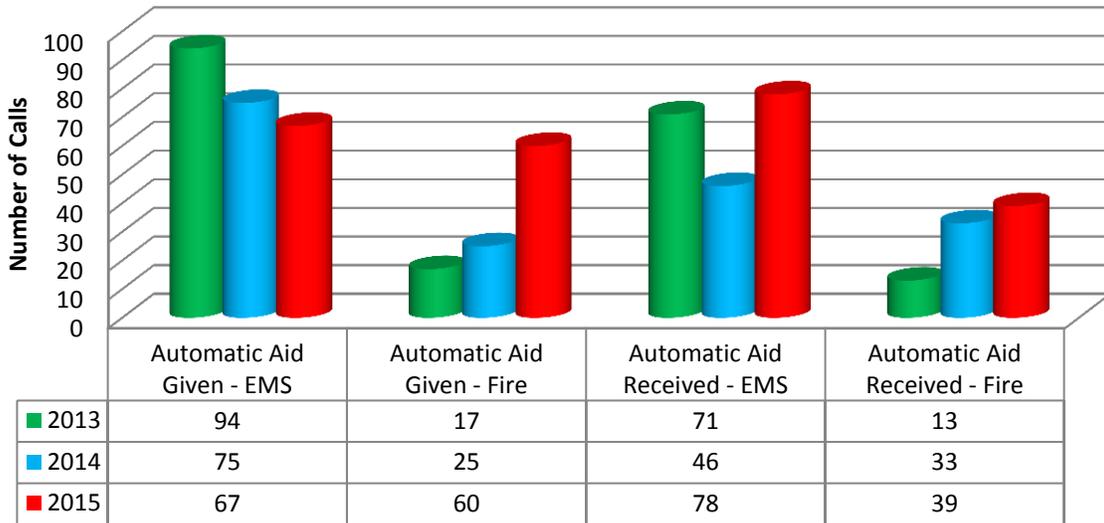
◆ Automatic Aid

In 2015, the department once again responded under automatic aid agreements to incidents in the Town of Grand Chute and within Neenah-Menasha Fire Department fire districts. Under these agreements, the Appleton Fire Department responds automatically into the Town of Grand Chute for structure fires and into Neenah-Menasha fire districts for structure fires and medical responses that are immediately dangerous to life and safety. Our automatic aid agreements work to send the closest unit by automatic vehicle location (AVL), a form of global positioning, instead of traditional jurisdictional boundaries.

Under our automatic aid agreements, the Appleton Fire Department responded into Grand Chute 38 times for structure fires and into Neenah-Menasha fire districts for 22 fire calls and 67 emergency medical calls. In total, the Appleton Fire Department responded to/into our automatic aid partners jurisdictions 127 times. Our automatic aid partners responded into the City of Appleton 39 times for fire calls and 78 times for emergency medical calls. The Appleton Fire Department routinely trains with our automatic aid partner departments to clarify vocabulary used in fire suppression and to gain familiarity with their equipment and department procedures.



Automatic Aid Requests 2013-2015



Note - Due to construction on S. Memorial Drive and STH 441, AFD automatic aid into the City of Menasha was limited for several months.

◆ Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

MABAS is a mutual aid measure that pre-plans the resources needed when an incident exhausts local resources. In addition to our automatic aid agreements, the department had eight MABAS related requests in 2015.





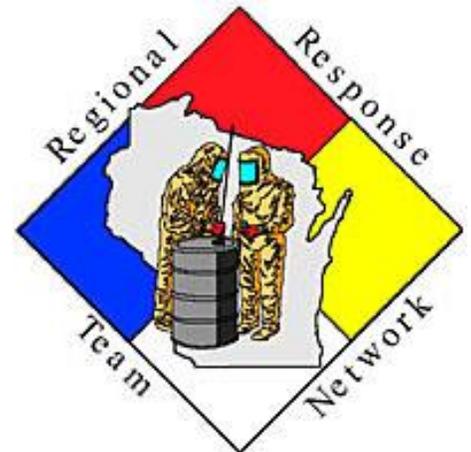
Special Operations Division

Battalion Chief Ethan Kroll

The Special Operations Division of the Appleton Fire Department is tasked with training for and responding to situations that require specialized skills and expertise beyond the normal scope of basic firefighting. The Special Operations Division oversees the Hazardous Materials Response Team for Calumet and Outagamie Counties, the Appleton Division of the Wisconsin (Northeast) Regional Type II Hazardous Materials Response Team, a Radiological Field Survey Team for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services, a Technical Rescue/Structural Collapse Team (including Trench Rescue, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue and Structural Collapse Rescue), and a Water/Ice Rescue Team. Along with response duties, these teams promote educational and preventative measures with programs to protect life, property, and the environment. Within the department, specific fire stations are designated to house advanced specialty rescue vehicles and equipment.

Hazardous Materials

The Appleton Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team is partnered with the Green Bay Fire Department and the Oshkosh Fire Department to form the Northeast Type II Hazardous Materials Response Team. The team is based upon the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) capabilities classifications. A Type III team is capable of dealing with known industrial chemicals that do not require protective suits for vapor/skin contact (Level A); a Type II team is capable of Type III responses plus dealing with chemicals requiring Level A PPE, and the ability to determine unknown substances. A Type I team is capable of Type II and III response plus responding to WMD/CBRN incidents. The Appleton Fire Department also serves Calumet and Outagamie Counties as the county response team, handling smaller incidents at the local level.



◆ Personnel

The department has 26 members who are trained to the highest recognized level of training, the Hazardous Materials Technician. All department personnel are trained to the Hazardous Materials Operations level. Across the three shifts, the team is coordinated by appointed personnel who assist in the development and delivery of training and annual team competency testing.



◆ Sub-Teams

The Hazardous Materials Team has personnel who have advanced training beyond the technician level. These members are further divided into teams that include advanced metering and radiological response. Advanced metering personnel undergo training to specialize in techniques and equipment to identify unknown hazards. Members of the department who specialize in radiological response have entered into an agreement with the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health and Human Services to assist state health technicians in radiological emergencies.

◆ Responses

Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) responses, Statewide and/or County, are not as common as other types of emergency responses. In 2015, the team had six incidents, with numerous other phone or on-site consultations. Incidents of note included:

- ◆ In March, Haz-Mat personnel responded to Menasha to help mitigate a chemical spill caused when one product was off-loaded into a container for a different product. The mixture caused a pressure build-up leading to a tank failure that damaged the building;
- ◆ In April, Haz-Mat personnel assisted law enforcement by conducting metering and monitoring at an apartment building on Appleton's south side. A tenant had a large variety of small quantities of different chemicals, which could have become very toxic. The 54th Civil Support Team (CST) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assisted at the scene;
- ◆ In May, Haz-Mat and fire department personnel responded for a battery fire. Haz-Mat personnel and Outagamie County Emergency Management provided information on extinguishing agents and the by-products of combustion;
- ◆ In October, Haz-Mat personnel responded to the Town of Center for a tractor fire and fuel spill.

Additionally, Haz-Mat personnel, assisted by the 54th CST, performed precautionary metering along the Flag Day Parade route and during Octoberfest.

Fire Stations #1 and #6 are designated as Hazardous Materials stations and contain specialized vehicles and equipment.

◆ Pre-Planning, Outreach, and Training

The hazardous materials team provided four formal outreach presentations and participated in two exercises in 2015. To assist in incident planning, our hazardous materials team is provided



information by the counties we serve about all facilities that have a reportable amount (as determined by the EPA) of hazardous materials located on site.

◆ Training

In 2015, members of the Hazardous Materials Team received 749 hours of specialty training in all aspects of hazardous materials response. Haz-Mat personnel taught proper donning, doffing, and decontamination to all Operations personnel, as it related to an EMS response to a patient with possible Ebola exposure.



◆ Local Emergency Planning Committee Representation

The department has representatives on the Calumet and Outagamie Counties, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC). These members represent the fire service for each of these counties in enforcing the provisions of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), Title III 'Community Right to Know.' This Act provides information on chemical transportation and facility impacts on all county residents.

Technical Rescue and Wisconsin Task Force 1 (WI-TF1)

The Appleton Fire Department is the designated rescue response agency for City of Appleton employees who make entry into permit-required confined spaces owned by the City of Appleton. The Appleton Fire Department has 23 line-personnel trained to the Technician level for Confined Space Rescue. The Appleton Fire Department provided 'stand-by' rescue services for seven City of Appleton permit-required confined space entries in 2015.

Wisconsin Emergency Management has given a one-year contract extension to municipalities that have personnel serving on Wisconsin Task Force 1 (WI-TF1). All members are trained to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) standard. Currently, the Appleton Fire Department has 16 members on WI-TF1.

The Appleton Fire Department has ten members on WI-TF1, with seven additional members in the process of training to join WI-TF1. The Appleton Fire Department has 19 members trained



as Rescue Technicians and several additional members trained as Confined Space Rescue Technicians.

◆ Personnel and Training

In 2015, the Appleton Fire Department had 19 personnel trained in the sub-specialties of Technical Rescue - Technician. Sub-specialties included in this training are collapse rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, and high/low angle rope rescue. In 2015, the Appleton Fire Department did not respond to a non-water, technical rescue call.



◆ Equipment

Technical Rescue is both labor and equipment intensive. The Appleton Fire Department has two dedicated rescue vehicles, including a light rescue at Station #1 and a heavy rescue with a standardized cache of equipment for technical rescue at Station #5. Fire Station #5 is designated as the heavy rescue station.

Water/Ice Rescue

With the Fox River flowing through the City of Appleton and a multitude of retention ponds, the Appleton Fire Department trains personnel in water and ice rescue techniques.

◆ Personnel and Training

In 2015, 25 department members maintained training at a higher level of water rescue and served as swift water rescue team members; this includes designated rescue boat operators. Seventeen department members are considered swift water technicians. The Department conducted a class to train five additional personnel as swift water technicians. Every member of the operations division receives hands-on, in-the-water refresher training for ice rescue.

◆ Responses

As with any technical rescue, swift water/ice responses are considered a high-risk situation. In 2015, the department responded to a rescue and a recovery. The rescue involved an individual who jumped off of the Oneida Skyline Bridge and was located downstream from the Neenah-Paper/Middle Dam. The department also assisted with a search and ultimate body recovery of a



missing person on the Fox River. Additionally, the department provided an escort to kayakers participating in two events on the Fox River.

◆ Equipment

The Appleton Fire Department has a cache of equipment for swift water/ice rescue that includes two boats located at Fire Station #1. All front line fire apparatus have personal flotation devices, water rescue suits, helmets, and ropes for water rescue. Fire Station #3 is designated as the water/ice rescue station.





Resource Development Division

Battalion Chief Ryan Lee

The Resource Development Division of the Appleton Fire Department is tasked with assuring the effectiveness of response to the community by providing a variety of training programs. The division is charged to enhance the safety of the organization and the performance of the Appleton Fire Department members. The division also oversees the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program.

Training

In 2015, the division oversaw the annual basic firefighter skills assessments in which every operations division member participated. A major accomplishment of the division was a six-week Recruit Firefighter Academy. The division also oversaw monthly Safety Committee facilitation and monthly firefighter, driver/engineer, and company officer training. In 2015, department members completed 12,413 hours of training in a wide variety of training categories.



In addition to the basic fire suppression training conducted in 2015, the division focused on developing procedures to prepare our firefighters for response to 'Active Shooter' events. This included working with other law enforcement, emergency medical service, and fire agencies across the state to develop guidelines, deliver hands-on training, and to equip our personnel so that they are able to respond to and have a positive impact in life-saving measures during these tragic incidents.

◆ Recruit Firefighter Academy

Beginning in June of 2015, the department ran a six-week recruit firefighter academy. This academy, held at the training facility at Fire Station #6, instructed our newest recruit firefighters; Chad Donnay, David Hammer, Jordan Ross, and Eric Winger; in the operations of the Appleton Fire Department. Instructors in the academy included fire operations personnel assigned to fire stations throughout the city. Academy curriculum included an orientation, lessons in fire behavior, the use of extinguishers, study of tools and equipment, discussions on communications and department



policy, instruction on fire department ropes and knots, extensive training on personal protective equipment (PPE), and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The academy utilized classroom and practical training in ladders, fire hose, water supply (hooking a fire hydrant), fire streams, forcible entry techniques, ventilation, search and rescue, salvage and overhaul, self-survival, and fire tactics.



Members of the Fire Prevention and Public Education Division taught classes on fire detection and alarm systems, pre-plans, the basics of fire prevention, and about the many fire prevention and safety programs the department offers. The Special Operations Division taught courses and practical evolutions in the areas of rope rescue and mechanical advantages, confined space rescue, hazardous materials response, and special equipment and techniques used in special operations.

During the academy, the recruits were exposed to department life, which included the daily activities assigned to the firefighters such as station cleaning and equipment maintenance. The recruits also exercised on a daily basis to build and maintain fitness for the profession. At the conclusion of the academy, the recruits were required to complete a final skills checkout and were assigned to one of the three shifts as a member of a fire suppression crew. The recruits are then continually evaluated during an 18-month probationary period.

◆ Personal Development

Many fire department members had the opportunity to attend training outside of the department in 2015 that focused on a variety of topics that are aimed at increasing their knowledge and skills. These training opportunities included, the National Fire Academy (NFA), the Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC), the EMS World Expo, the Fire Findings Lab, the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), the FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness, as well as, attending classes on company officer supervision, hybrid/electric vehicle



extrication, customer service, fire investigation, and command safety. Many of the techniques that were taught throughout the year for firefighter rescue were brought back to the department by members who were able to attend these additional sessions.



Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The Appleton Fire Department, in collaboration with Gold Cross Ambulance, provides Emergency Medical Responder (EMR/First Responder) services to residents in the City of Appleton. Dr. Mark Westfall is the medical director.

◆ Personnel & Training

All members of the Appleton Fire Department are trained and licensed as either Emergency Medical Responders/First Responders (EMR's with Advanced Skills) or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) by the State of Wisconsin. Members of the department have completed 30 hours of recertification training for the EMR level and 40 hours of recertification training for EMT level in 2015 and 2016 and will renew licenses for the 2016-2018 license years in May of 2016. In conjunction with Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC), the Appleton Fire Department does in-house refresher training every-other month during the license renewal cycle. The department has members who are Emergency Medical Responder Instructors for FVTC. One department member is assigned to the Appleton Police Department as a SWAT Paramedic.



In 2015, the department added the following additional EMR Advanced Skills: Albuteral (medication for difficulty breathing), blood sugar/glucose monitoring, administration of aspirin (for heart conditions), and the use of a pulse oximeter (to monitor blood oxygen saturation levels). All Appleton Fire Department Operations Division personnel are recertified annually in American Heart Association (AHA) CPR, as well as in the use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED).

◆ Responses

The Appleton Fire Department responded to 2,787 calls for EMS service in 2015. The department responded to 110 cardiac arrests, with 32 individuals being transported to the hospital. Of those, 9 individuals were successfully resuscitated with the patient ultimately being discharged from the hospital.



2015 New Equipment



Rescue Task Force Equipment

In response to the nationwide increase in acts of violence and what are being termed as 'Active Shooter' events, the Appleton Fire Department conducted training to better prepare our personnel to respond to such incidents. To best protect our members in this type of environment, the department has purchased ballistic personal protective equipment and medical supplies geared towards these types of incidents. Some of the funds used to purchase this equipment came from a generous grant provided by the Fox Valley Regional Trauma Advisory Council (RTAC).



Gemtor Personal Safety Harnesses

In 2015, the Appleton Fire Department purchased Class II personal safety harnesses for all operations personnel. These harnesses are designed to help firefighters with functions such as ladder locks, down firefighter drags, and as a bailout device to help the firefighter escape life threatening conditions when they are encountered on the above grade floors of a structure.



Future of the Fire Service - Fire Science Education

The Appleton Fire Department is an engaged partner in the fire science educational efforts of the Wisconsin Technical College System and the University of Wisconsin System. The department is an active participant in furthering educational opportunities for students by offering placement in internships, preceptorships, and our department ride-along and job shadow programs.

◆ Interns

The Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC), Regional Fire Training Center offers a Fire Protection Technician Associate Degree. As part of the degree curriculum, the program includes an internship for qualified students to work in a fire department for either a semester or school year, functioning as a firefighter. This program combines practical work experience and training together with classroom instruction to provide a comprehensive understanding of firefighting principles. In 2015, the Appleton Fire Department hosted five interns from FVTC.

◆ University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Fire Science Camps

The University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh Continuing Education and Extension Department oversees a fire science career exploration program. This program provides residential camp experiences to young men and women, ages 15-20, with opportunities to explore careers in fire and emergency response services. The Appleton Fire Department provides personnel and resources during the course of the camps.

Health, Wellness, and Safety

The Appleton Fire Department is committed to the health and wellness of its employees.

◆ Health

Firefighter health is driven by NFPA Publication 1582, *Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments*. In 2015, the department conducted pre-employment physical and psychological examinations for new hires and persons in promotional processes. All personnel directly involved in firefighting activities participated in the annual physical fitness testing.

◆ Wellness Committee

In 2015, the Wellness Committee worked to reinforce some of the newly adopted programs for fire ground wellness that we have built around the function-based concept and approach to fitness. This program utilizes both weighted slam balls and medicine balls to simulate physically strenuous fire ground activities. The committee was also able to replace some of our aging



fitness equipment with purchases such as new dumbbells, a reconditioned treadmill, and rowing machines at a number of the stations.

◆ Safety Committee

In a joint collaboration with the International Association of Fire Fighters - Local 257, the Appleton Fire Department conducts monthly Safety Committee meetings. Topics address safety concerns, injury prevention, equipment evaluation, and other projects to improve the safety of the fire department. This committee also completes bi-annual inspections of all firefighter personal protective equipment worn by department staff. In 2015, the committee continued to work on improving our process for fire ground rehabilitation, with a commitment to decrease stress and exhaustion related injuries on the fire ground.

Through these efforts, our fire department has strengthened a relationship with the Outagamie County Community Emergency Response Team (OCCERT) in an effort to establish a more formal rehabilitation system at our incidents. Their efforts include providing refuge from the environment, active rehydration, and nourishment. This partnership has led us to look for ways to improve fire ground rehabilitation countywide and look at opportunities for joint purchases and grants. Within this partnership, we were able to successfully apply for a federal grant that secured the department funds to purchase new equipment that will be shared with departments throughout the valley. This grant allowed us to purchase a tent with heater, misting fans, a non-contact thermometer, and a carboxyhemoglobin meter that allows us to monitor our Firefighter's carbon monoxide levels in the blood stream.



◆ Behavioral

The Appleton Fire Department has five individuals who are trained in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). Thankfully, utilization of this program was not needed in 2015.





Fire Prevention & Public Education Division

Battalion Chief Joe Strauss

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Division of the Appleton Fire Department supervises all State of Wisconsin mandated fire and life safety requirements; and plans, develops, and implements fire and life safety education programming in our community. The division is led by Battalion Chief Joe Strauss.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Division performs all plan reviews of new construction. In most Wisconsin fire departments, those plans are sent to the State of Wisconsin's Department of Safety and Professional Services for review and approval. By agreement with the State of Wisconsin, Appleton is designated as an agent municipality and can review their own plans for approval. Since 2001, the Division has handled all localized fire-related licensing, provided code enforcement, and has worked closely with other city departments in new project development, continuing education, and life safety plan review.

2015 TOP CAUSES OF FIRES IN APPLETON

- ✓ Unattended Equipment
- ✓ Exposure Fires
- ✓ Misuse of Materials
- ✓ Electrical
- ✓ Heat Source Too Close to Combustibles
- ✓ Undetermined Causes

◆ Fire Code Enforcement

In 2015, the Fire Prevention and Public Education Division, along with suppression crews, completed 4,431 routine fire inspections and issued 1,052 residential burn permits. Fire Prevention staff processed 136 plan reviews of fire sprinkler and fire alarm systems, and completed 24 underground fuel tank inspections as an agent for the State of Wisconsin. Fire Prevention staff also performed 23 new business occupancy inspections and firework safety checks in 2015. The Appleton Fire Department did not issue any citations for non-compliance in 2015.

◆ Firefighter/Inspectors

In 2015, the role of Firefighter/Inspector involvement with Fire Prevention and Public Education Division activities continued for a fifth consecutive year. During the day, up to two Firefighter/Inspectors conduct inspections and complete Division duties throughout the City; at night, these individuals return to their assigned apparatus and fire crews. In 2015, the Firefighter/Inspectors completed 713 premise inspections.



◆ New Building Construction

Of the many plans reviewed by the Fire Prevention and Public Education Division, most notable are the many new apartment buildings that are protected by automatic fire sprinklers. For example, Lake Park Crossing off of S. Lake Park Road added six additional buildings in 2015 for a total of 48 rental units. All of these new units were equipped with fire alarm notification and fire sprinklers.

◆ School Fire Drills

All 59 schools in the City of Appleton were 100% in compliance by having at least one fire drill witnessed by members of the Appleton Fire Department. These same schools were 90% in compliance with the State of Wisconsin requirement for the required ten, monthly fire drills. In 2016, the Appleton Fire Department will work closely with all Appleton schools to ensure 100% compliance with the required monthly fire drills.

◆ Education Collaboration

Again in 2015, the Fire Prevention and Public Education Division worked with Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) to meet curriculum needs of students by exposing them to the practical prevention activities involved with being a firefighter. The Division provides a day-long job shadow opportunity that allows young adults to get hands-on experience with inspections, plan review, and code enforcement. In 2015, the Division had 10 FVTC students participate and advance in their curriculum needs.

◆ Fire Investigations

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Division investigates all fires in the City of Appleton. Twenty-two fire investigations were conducted in 2015. There were no arson-related arrests in 2015.

◆ Youth Involvement

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Division offers a *Firewise* program that educates children, pre-teens, and teens of the dangers of playing with fire. The program involves meetings with the youths (ages 3-13) and a parent.

◆ Teamwork

In 2015, the Fire Prevention and Public Education Division teamed up with Department of Public Works (DPW) to flush and maintain 300 fire hydrants located on private properties in the City of Appleton, as well as to coordinate and confirm flushing of hydrants supplied by the neighboring municipalities of Town of Grand Chute, Town of Buchanan, and the Town of Menasha whose infrastructure serve City of Appleton businesses and residences. This collaboration served to



confirm that the water system is maintained properly for emergency fire ground operations. This past year was the fourth consecutive year of this inter-municipality partnership. The Division is involved with other City Departments/Committees, including Special Events (City Clerk), Technical Review Group (Community Development), Safety Committee (Human Resources), Inter-departmental Network (all City), new building inspections coordination, and the Department of Public Works-Inspections.

◆ Assembly Facility Liaison Program

In 2015, the Fire Prevention and Public Education Division continued their active involvement with buildings throughout the City used for high levels of assembly of people and special events. Specifically, Division involvement provided proactive oversight of life safety concerns and fire prevention in those facilities where large numbers of people gather indoors. Further, the Division provided education to the building managers of potential life safety concerns.

Public Education

The Public Education component of this Division, develops and implements fire and life safety education programming in our community. Five Fire Operations Division members volunteer to oversee the areas of public information, educational programming, grants, and our department museum. These five members form an executive board that reports directly to Battalion Chief Strauss.

◆ Educational Programming

In 2015, the department provided educational activities to 10,654 participants in 191 unique events. On-duty personnel provided 51 tours, with 77 engine/turnout show and tell programs in 2015. The fire department also reached 27,700 homes and businesses about a nationwide recall of dehumidifiers.

◆ Public Information and Marketing

Six Appleton Fire Department members serve as Public Information Officers (PIOs). These PIOs provide vital information, through interviews and press releases, to our media partners on events and incidents that affect the community, along with offering safety messages to media outlets. Our PIOs were interviewed and quoted in local newspapers, on television, and on the radio on numerous occasions.

In 2015, the Appleton Fire Department increased its use of Facebook and Twitter to reach more citizens with information regarding hazardous weather conditions, fire calls for service, large scale incidents and most importantly, providing safety tips and reminders.



◆ Gree Dehumidifier Recall

In an effort to keep our community safe, the Appleton Fire Department included an informational letter with quarterly water bills in the late-summer and early-fall of 2015 about a nationwide recall of dehumidifiers. Nearly 27,700 letters were sent out explaining the recall of dehumidifiers manufactured by Gree Electric Appliances. Nationwide, hundreds of structure fires have been attributed to the defective dehumidifiers, including fires in Appleton and the Fox Cities, with property damage in the millions of dollars. On September 12, 2013, Gree Electric Appliances, in cooperation with



the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, announced a recall of dehumidifiers manufactured by Gree Electric Appliances of China which were sold from January 2005 through August 2013. The dehumidifiers can overheat, smoke, and catch fire, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers. As a result of the letter campaign, over 100 people notified the Appleton Fire Department that they were still using one of the recalled dehumidifiers. To see if a dehumidifier was part of the recall, people were encouraged to go to <http://www.greedehumidifierrecall.com/ProductEntry.aspx> or call the Gree Recall Hotline at 1-866-853-2802 from 8 am to 6 pm EST, Monday through Friday, to see if their dehumidifier was included in the recall. Recall information was also available on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website at <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2014/Gree-Reannounces-Dehumidifier-Recall/>. If someone has one of the recalled dehumidifiers, they should immediately turn it off, unplug the dehumidifier, and contact Gree. In an effort to determine the extent of this problem in Appleton, people were encouraged to contact Fire Inspector David Kempen at (920) 832-5829.

◆ Keep the Wreath Green

Each year during the winter holiday season, fire stations around the city hang wreaths with green colored light bulbs. The green bulbs are replaced with red bulbs with every structure fire. The program is designed to remind the public about fire safety in the holiday season. Social interaction reaches its peak during this time on Facebook and Twitter, as our followers check in to see if we have added any new red bulbs. In 2015, we had four red bulbs, the same number as in 2014.



◆ Citizen's Academy

In September of 2015, the Appleton Fire Department, working in conjunction with the Appleton Police Department, once again offered the annual Citizen's Academy. The academy had nine citizen attendees this year. During the Fire Department's portion of the academy, participants were able to experience hands-on workstations simulating the various facets of what it is like to be a firefighter for the Appleton Fire Department.



The opening night began with an opportunity to observe a mock fire call. Firefighters explained and demonstrated what the various fire ground roles and responsibilities are for each crew member. The participants then took a ride in a fire apparatus with the lights and siren activated. The academy members then pulled a hose line and had the opportunity to flow water. Finally, they had the opportunity to take a ride in the aerial truck's bucket to experience what it is like to work 100' in the air.

During the second evening of the academy, the participants had an opportunity to use the 'Jaws of Life' to remove the doors of a vehicle that had experienced a simulated motor vehicle accident.



The remainder of the evening was spent rescuing a volunteer victim who was stuck on a rooftop. The participants assisted in setting up a rope system with the aerial truck and helped to package the patient to allow for the safe removal and rescue from the rooftop.



The third and final evening of the academy was dedicated to search and rescue, the donning and doffing of protective clothing, and specialty rescues. Firefighters explained the department's role in the State of Wisconsin's response to hazardous material spills, confined space rescues, and structural collapse incidents. The participants were given an opportunity to see what it is like to work in the low visibility of a simulated house fire. They also had the opportunity to experience the difficulty of rescuing a full-sized adult. The

remainder of the evening allowed the participants an opportunity to don all of a firefighter's protective clothing and equipment. This included the wearing of a self-contained breathing apparatus and breathing off the air tank.



Over 20 different firefighters helped in providing this fun, informative, and rewarding experience to our interested citizens. Their time, expertise, and caring were on display throughout and are what makes this program run so successfully.

Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest

Each year, the Appleton Fire Department works in conjunction with Appleton area schools in a program for students to submit an original poster relating to fire safety. The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2015 was, 'Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives. Test Yours Every Month.'

Each school which participated in the contest had a winner selected by the members of the department and from those winners, an overall winner was chosen. Each individual school winner received a ride home from school in a fire engine or truck.

♦ [2015 Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winning Entry](#)

The Appleton Fire Department had 77 entries from 8 Appleton elementary schools. The winner was **Silas Ihde**, a sixth grader from Classical School. Silas's winning entry was featured on billboards located on N. Bluemound Drive in Grand Chute and on W. Northland Avenue in Appleton. As an added bonus, Silas rode in the annual Appleton Holiday Parade on our ladder truck as our special guest.

[Silas's Winning Poster](#)





(234 W. Northland Avenue)

Other individual school winners included:

Emily Lachapell - Johnston ES
Adam Fabisch - Xavier MS
Elise Nolte - Riverview ES
Avery Johnson - McKinley ES

Madison Kneisler - Richmond ES
Madison Anderson - Columbus ES
Hannah Dewall - Franklin ES

Honor Guard

The Appleton Fire Department Honor Guard is a group of department members whose purpose is to render tribute and honor to fallen active duty firefighters and retirees. The Honor Guard was active in 2015, displaying department pageantry for parades and other public events. Department members, led by the Honor Guard, also marched in the annual Memorial Day parade. The Honor Guard continued to be available for retiree funerals, standing watch over our fallen firefighters.



Appleton Fire Department Museum



The Appleton Fire Department Museum is a non-profit, tax exempt, educational museum whose purpose is to preserve and exhibit the artifacts and history of the Appleton Fire Department, as well as to promote fire safety and prevention. The Museum serves as a memorial to those who have dedicated their lives to the fire service. Even though the Museum is located at Station #1, pieces of the Museum's collection are proudly displayed at the other fire stations throughout the city.

The Museum works to document our incidents, events involving our members, and our training; and has a growing database of content. The Museum has a working relationship with the Outagamie County Historical Society and the Appleton Public Library to share collections. In 2015, the Museum actively continued its outreach to the community to increase the size of the collection within the Museum and to return memorabilia to the fire department collection.

In 2015, the Museum continued to archive training photos and other types of department life, including classroom education, public education activities, and activities involving members outside of the workplace.

The Museum also continued to promote the 'Revive Old Engine 5' campaign, which successfully brought a retired 1925 Appleton Fire Department Pumper back to the department in August of 2012. The non-profit 'Friends of the Appleton Fire Department Foundation' officially took on the mission to buy back and restore the engine. Once restored, it will begin its second tour of duty as the centerpiece of many exciting and beneficial projects. It is our hope that Engine 5 will become a grand symbol of community service and it will be synonymous with charitable giving within the community. By far, the most exciting and beneficial projects slated for Engine 5 will be to collect donations of money, food, and clothing throughout the year for various local charities, with high visibility and a sense of community.



In July of 2014, Engine 5 was shipped to a professional restorer in Bristol, WI, where refurbishment of the motor is currently underway. As of December 31, 2015, the 'Friends of the Appleton Fire Department Foundation' had successfully, raised over one-half of the funds needed to complete the restoration. Tax deductible contributions may be donated to this project at <http://www.afdfriends.com>.



International Association of Fire Fighters - Local 257



Appleton Firefighters - Local 257 is made up of 84 members, consisting of personnel in the ranks of Captain, Lieutenant, Driver/Engineer, Firefighter/Inspector and Firefighter. There is a strong working relationship between the members of Local 257 and the Appleton Fire Department's Management Staff. This working relationship is one of mutual respect and understanding. While the primary focus is representing its members, Local 257 has also made a considerable effort in the community on several charitable initiatives through its Benevolence Fund.

Throughout the year, Local 257 sold red and pink fire department shirts to raise money for our military troops and for breast cancer research, awareness, and survivors. Proceeds from the sale of the red AFD 'Support the Troops' shirts were donated to help military veterans in the area. Proceeds from the sale of the pink AFD 'Breast Cancer Support' shirts were given to local breast cancer survivors.

In September, members of the department participated in the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association 'Fill-the-Boot' campaign. From two locations, the generosity shown by those who donated raised a total of **\$19,672.47** over three days of fundraising for this worthy cause. The money raised was donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Wisconsin to aid in the research for a cure.



Proceeds from Local 257's annual 'Octoberfest' chili booth went to supporting a variety of organizations. Local 257 routinely makes donations to City of Appleton residents who are the victims of fire loss. These monetary donations allow our citizens the means to immediately replace necessities in their time of need. Local 257 also supports Little League baseball teams and other community organizations with monetary donations.



Retirements

In February of 2015, Fire Inspector Brian Noel retired after serving the citizens of Appleton for nearly 25 years. In March of 2015, Driver/Engineer Dan Dibbs retired after serving the citizens of Appleton for nearly 25 years.



DE Dan Dibbs



FI Brian Noel

Promotions

In March of 2015, Firefighter Pat Lewis was promoted to Driver/Engineer.



DE Pat Lewis

In June of 2015, Firefighter Joe Strauss was promoted to Battalion Chief of Fire Prevention and Public Education.



BC Joe Strauss



New Hires

On June 8, 2015, the Appleton Fire Department added Chad Donnay, David Hammer, Jordan Ross, and Eric Winger as probationary Firefighters:



FF Chad Donnay



FF David Hammer



FF Jordan Ross



FF Eric Winger

Department Anniversaries

25 Years of Service



DE Jim Biersteker



DE Todd Daanen



LT Brian Hartfiel



CAPT Mike Mueller



DC Gene Reece



CAPT Jay Thomas



20 Years of Service



DE Darrin Butry



LT Jeremy Hotynski



LT Jeff Nelessen



LT Chad Rucynski

15 Years of Service



LT Corby Henkel



LT Lee Kasten



DE Ben Lee



LT Jason Lee



DE Scott Pelkin

10 Years of Service



FF Todd Hendricks



FF-INSP Mitch Lundgaard



FF Tyler Zunker



5 Years of Service



FF Casey Kostechka



FF Tyler Mickelson



FF Michael Wrtz



2015 Fire Department Awards

The department has a formalized Awards Committee that reviews award nominations and makes a determination if an award should be granted. The department has 13 possible awards it may bestow upon employees, citizens, and the media.

2015 Citizen Awards

Good Samaritan Award

The Good Samaritan Award is presented to a citizen for the performance of an act of human kindness which saved the life or prevented further injury to another person.

Awarded to Sylvia Petsinger

On January 2, 2015, the Appleton Fire Department was dispatched to a report of an individual who had collapsed and was not breathing. Mrs. Petsinger initiated the 'Chain of Survival' and then began CPR. Mrs. Petsinger's quick action was instrumental in the ability of the Appleton Fire Department and Gold Cross Ambulance to regain the patient's pulse and breathing. Had it not been for her quick response, the outcome could have been very different.

Awarded to Lexie Hein

On March 8, 2014, the Appleton Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a man trapped under a vehicle when a jack moved and the vehicle fell on the patient. Prior to the arrival of the fire department, Ms. Hein heard the call for help from the patient, repositioned the jack, raised the vehicle, and pulled the man to safety. Had it not been for her quick response, the patient could have been injured much worse and the outcome could have been very different.

2015 Fire Department Personnel Awards

EMS Lifesaving Award

This award is presented to department personnel for pulseless, non-breathing patients who are resuscitated through direct intervention of our personnel and the patient is discharged from the hospital.

During this past year, 12 department members received the EMS Lifesaving award covering incidents in which individuals were saved.



Crew of Unit 9324. Awarded for an EMS life save in January of 2015.



LT Gerald Borski



DE Bryan Knauer



FF Andrew Lane

Crew of Unit 9322. Awarded for an EMS life save in January of 2015.



LT Jeremy Hotynski



FF-RDE Justin Brown



FF Tyler Mickelson

Crew of Unit 9324. Awarded for an EMS life save in November of 2015.



LT Scott Rehrauer



DE Kraig Kasten



FF Kelly Lynch



Crew of Unit 9325. Awarded for an EMS life save in November of 2015.



CAPT Mike Woodzicka



DE Jake Kirchner



FF Tyler Zunker

Recognition Award

This Award is presented to department personnel for a highly creditable accomplishment, which brings public acclaim to the individual, the department, or the profession of firefighting.

Fire Inspector David Kempen received this award for his involvement in educating the public on a nationwide recall of dehumidifiers. Following a fire in the City of Appleton caused by one of the recalled dehumidifiers, FI Kempen began an initiative to reach our citizens through personal contact, as well as through a letter about the recall mailed along with the municipal water bills. FI Kempen made over 500 personal contacts about the recall and played a part in reaching nearly 28,000 more individuals through the letter campaign.



FI David Kempen



Award of Merit

This award is presented to department personnel for saving a life with no risk to his/her life.

DE Bryan Knauer and FF-INSP Steve Unruh received this award for a life save at a structure fire in July of 2015.



DE Bryan Knauer



FF-INSP Steve Unruh

Special Recognition

The Appleton Fire Department would like to recognize the service of Firefighter Steve Jahr. In March of 2015, Firefighter Jahr's US Army National Guard unit (C co. 2-135th Aviation Regiment) was activated for deployment. After several months of training, his unit was mobilized and sent to Kuwait, where he worked as a Flight Medic on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Firefighter Jahr was deployed until December of 2015 and returned to the Appleton Fire Department in January of 2016. Thank you Steve for your service!



Firefighter Steve Jahr



Appleton Common Council

2015

Tim Hanna, Mayor

- District 1 – William Siebers
- District 2 – Vered Meltzer
- District 3 – Curt Konetzke
- District 4 – Joe Martin
- District 5 – Edward Baranowski
- District 6 – Greg Dannecker
- District 7 – Kathleen Plank
- District 8 – Polly Dalton
- District 9 – Margret Mann
- District 10 – Christine Williams
- District 11 – Patti Coenen
- District 12 – Cathy Spears
- District 13 – Kyle Lobner
- District 14 – Christopher Croatt
- District 15 – Jeffrey Jirschele

Ald. Jirschele – Council President

Ald. Lobner – Council Vice-President



Appleton Police and Fire Commission

2015 Police and Fire Commission

Dale Schumaker - Chairman
Harvey Samson - Secretary
Pamela Rae De Leest
Ron Dunlap
Barbara Luedtke

The Appleton Police and Fire Commission is a group of citizens; who, by authorization of state statutes, have roles and responsibility in fire and police organizations found in the State of Wisconsin.

In Appleton, the commission has five members who are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Appleton Common Council. A commissioner's term of office is five years. Those appointed to the commission are representative of the

community as a whole and have a voice for the citizenry.

The members of the Police and Fire Commission are charged with appointing the chiefs of the fire and police departments. The Commission also approves or disapproves promotions and has supervision of the hiring process.

In Appleton, our Commission certifies an eligibility list of candidates as potential new hires and has approval of those who are eventually hired. The Police and Fire Commission also hold hearings on disciplinary matters brought to its attention, either directly or through appeal and imposes discipline, if appropriate.

In 2015, from recommendations by the Fire Chief, the Police and Fire Commission promoted Pat Lewis to Driver/Engineer and Joe Strauss to Battalion Chief. The Commission also appointed Chad Donnay, David Hammer, Jordan Ross, and Eric Winger as probationary firefighters.

The Appleton Fire Department would like to acknowledge the time and effort put forth by the members of the Police and Fire Commission in the selection of candidates that advance our mission and goals to the future.



Appleton Fire Department Per Capita Fire Protection Cost

Fire Protection is an expected service for the safety of residents and their property. Per Capita fire cost is an economic indicator used to demonstrate the cost per person for fire protection. **Of the 35 full-time, all-career fire departments in the State of Wisconsin, the Appleton Fire Department ranks 32 out of 35 in per capita fire protection cost.** The Appleton Fire Department's per capita average of 149.52 is significantly lower than the state average of 181.74. The City of Appleton is the 6th largest city in state.

	Fire Department	Fire Protected Population Served	Fire Budget (\$)	Fire Department Personnel	Per Capita Cost (\$)
1	Rhinelanders FD*	7,727	3,131,102	21.00	405.22
2	Wauwatosa FD	46,947	12,598,522	103.00	268.36
3	Merrill FD	9,573	2,399,287	23.00	250.63
4	Wisconsin Rapids FD	18,577	4,142,566	33.00	223.00
5	South Shore FD	33,347	7,318,810	58.50	219.47
6	North Shore FD	65,038	14,245,525	106.50	219.03
7	Brookfield FD	37,859	8,229,916	59.75	217.38
8	West Allis FD	60,329	12,971,894	107.00	215.02
9	Beloit FD	36,792	7,560,742	51.24	205.50
10	Madison FD	242,216	47,908,900	390.00	197.79
11	Marshfield FD	19,186	3,782,353	37.00	197.14
12	Racine FD	78,336	15,375,186	141.00	196.27
	Chippewa Falls FD	13,830	2,714,498	27.00	196.27
14	Oak Creek FD	34,791	6,800,000	52.50	195.45
15	La Crosse FD	51,992	9,923,620	93.00	190.87
16	Fond du Lac FD	43,461	8,269,404	67.00	190.27
17	Green Bay Metro FD	118,841	22,003,704	197.00	185.15
18	Sheboygan FD	48,806	9,009,175	73.50	184.59
19	Neenah-Menasha FD	43,504	7,876,330	68.00	181.05
20	Stevens Point FD	27,037	4,879,636	40.00	180.48
21	Greenfield FD	36,473	6,534,138	52.00	179.15
22	Oshkosh FD	66,451	11,684,800	108.00	175.84
23	Franklin FD	35,655	6,253,790	46.50	175.40
24	Waukesha FD	71,316	12,306,399	102.50	172.56
25	Milwaukee FD	595,787	101,020,306	1007.29	169.56
26	Manitowoc FD	33,703	5,712,651	55.00	169.50
27	Caledonia FD	24,918	4,207,456	41.00	168.85
28	Wausau FD	39,063	6,468,745	60.00	165.60
29	Janesville FD	63,510	10,486,886	94.00	165.12
30	Eau Claire FD	67,006	10,839,800	93.75	161.77
31	Marinette FD	10,907	1,730,246	17.00	158.64
32	Appleton FD	73,737	11,025,309	96.00	149.52
33	Superior FD	27,251	3,997,000	42.00	146.67
34	Cudahy FD	18,250	2,357,739	23.00	129.19
35	Kenosha FD	99,623	12,562,359	154.00	126.10
Totals		2,301,839	418,328,794	3,741.03	181.74

Projected Population Estimates from the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

Population of area of Fire Protection only.

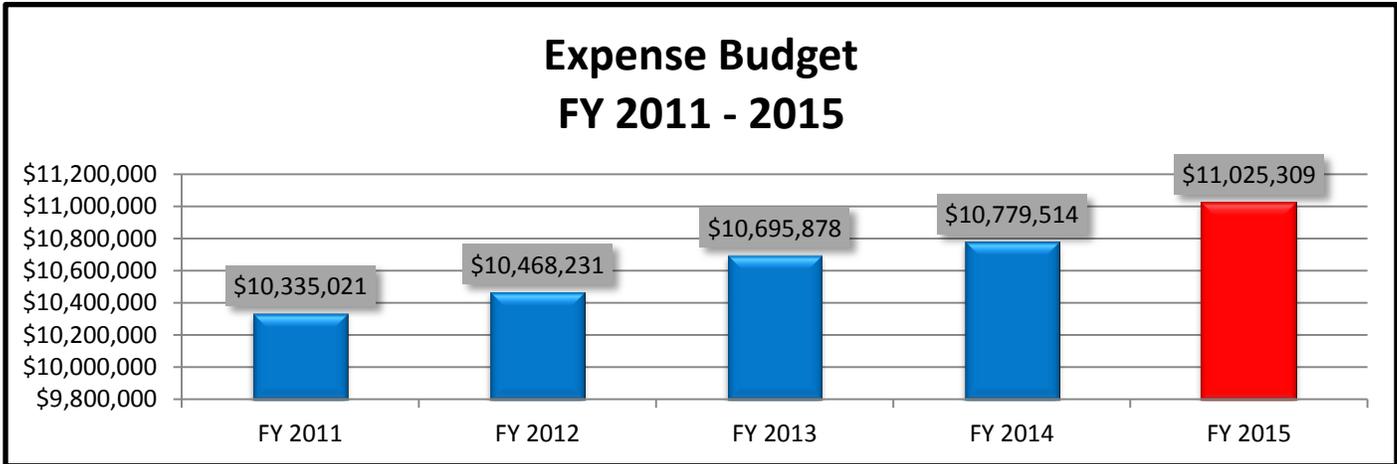
Budgets based upon municipal figures.

Fire Department Personnel includes both sworn and non-sworn individuals.

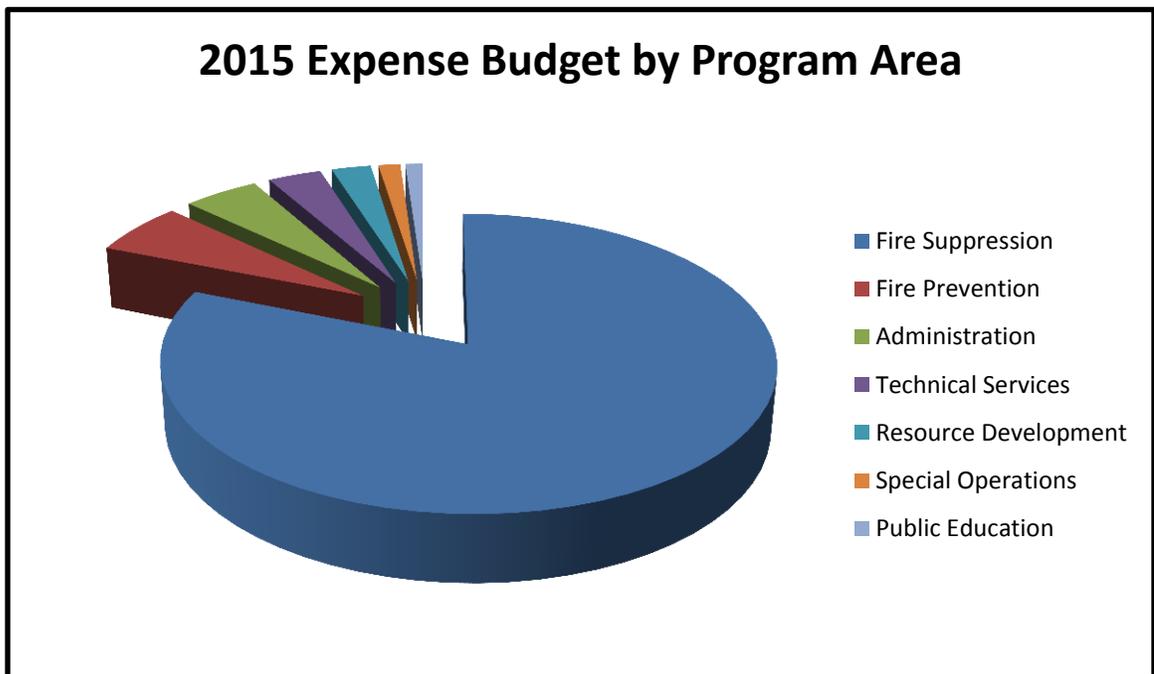
*Rhinelanders budget figures include the municipalities building inspectors.



Appleton Fire Department Financials



FY 2015		
Program Area	Cost (\$)	% of Budget
Fire Suppression	\$8,936,264	81.0%
Fire Prevention	\$656,574	6.0%
Administration	\$520,914	4.7%
Technical Services	\$368,168	3.3%
Resource Development	\$271,823	2.5%
Special Operations	\$150,698	1.4%
Public Education	\$120,868	1.1%
Total	\$11,025,309	100%



Appleton Fire Department Fire Personnel Per 1,000 People

According to the National Fire Protection Association, between the years of 1986 to 2013, the number of firefighters per one thousand people served in the United States was 1.71. In the State of Wisconsin during 2015, the average number of career firefighters per one thousand people served was 1.63. The number for the Appleton Fire Department is 1.30 per one thousand people served. **Of the 35 full-time, all-career fire departments in the State of Wisconsin, the Appleton Fire Department ranks 33 out of 35 in personnel per 1,000 people served.** Reductions in staff over the last ten years have decreased the total number of available fire staff for the city.

	Fire Department	Fire Protected Population Served	Fire Budget (\$)	Fire Department Personnel	Personnel per 1,000 People served
1	Rhinelanders FD*	7,727	3,131,102	21.00	2.71
2	Merrill FD	9,573	2,399,287	23.00	2.40
3	Wauwatosa FD	46,947	12,598,522	103.00	2.19
4	Chippewa Falls FD	13,830	2,714,498	27.00	1.95
5	Marshfield FD	19,186	3,782,353	37.00	1.93
6	Racine FD	78,336	15,375,186	141.00	1.80
7	La Crosse FD	51,992	9,923,620	93.00	1.79
8	West Allis FD	60,329	12,971,894	107.00	1.77
	Wisconsin Rapids FD	18,577	4,142,566	33.00	1.77
10	South Shore FD	33,347	7,318,810	58.50	1.75
11	Milwaukee FD	595,787	101,020,306	1007.29	1.69
12	Caledonia FD	24,918	4,207,456	41.00	1.65
	Green Bay Metro FD	118,841	22,003,704	197.00	1.65
14	North Shore FD	65,038	14,245,525	106.50	1.64
15	Oshkosh FD	66,451	11,684,800	108.00	1.63
	Manitowoc FD	33,703	5,712,651	55.00	1.63
17	Madison FD	242,216	47,908,900	390.00	1.61
18	Brookfield FD	37,859	8,229,916	59.75	1.59
19	Marinette FD	10,907	1,730,246	17.00	1.56
	Neenah-Menasha FD	43,504	7,876,330	68.00	1.56
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	Fond du Lac FD	43,461	8,269,404	67.00	1.54
	Superior FD	27,251	3,997,000	42.00	1.54
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30	Greenfield	36,473	6,534,138	52.00	1.43
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33	Appleton FD	73,737	11,025,309	96.00	1.30
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35	Cudahy FD	18,250	2,357,739	23.00	1.26
Totals		2,301,839	418,328,794	3,741.03	1.63

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Population of area of Fire Protection only.

Budgets based upon municipal figures.

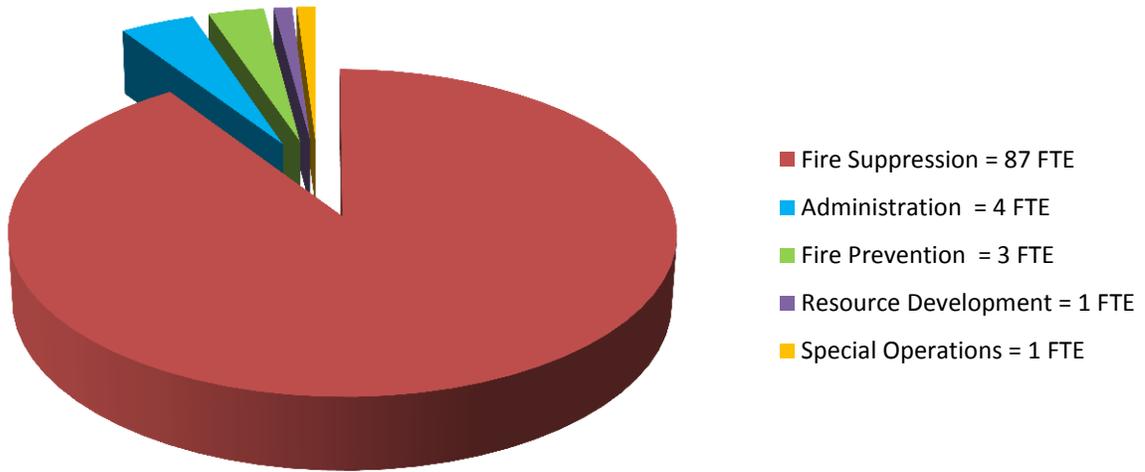
Fire Department Personnel includes both sworn and non-sworn individuals.

*Rhinelanders budget figures include the municipalities building inspectors.



Appleton Fire Department Staffing

2015 Staffing Levels 96 FTE



In Memoriam

We would like to respectfully recognize the passing of two retired members of our Appleton Fire Department family. Battalion Chief (Ret.) William P. Schultz passed away on April 1, 2015 and Captain Norman F. Rettler (Ret.) passed away on November 28, 2015.

BC Schultz faithfully served the citizens of Appleton in a variety of ranks from 1967 to 1996. During his long and distinguished career with the Appleton Fire Department, Battalion Chief Schultz worked as a Firefighter, a Lieutenant-Inspector, a Captain-Inspector, and a Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal of Fire Prevention.



Battalion Chief William Schultz

Appointed to Firefighter: September 11, 1967

Retired: January 2, 1996

Returned to Quarters: April 1, 2015



Captain Rettler faithfully served the citizens of Appleton in a variety of ranks from 1954 to 1982. During his long and distinguished career with the Appleton Fire Department, Captain Rettler worked as a Firefighter, Driver-Engineer, Lieutenant, and Captain.



Captain Norman Rettler

Appointed to Firefighter: August 1, 1954

Retired: January 10, 1982

Returned to Quarters: November 28, 2015



The Appleton Fire Department 2015 Annual Report

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All photographs and logos are courtesy of the Appleton Fire Museum Photo Archive.

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