

# Annual Report



FIRE | EMS | HAZMAT | TECHNICAL RESCUE | UNDERWATER RESCUE  
FIRE PREVENTION | COMMUNITY-RISK REDUCTION | PUBLIC EDUCATION

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# Message from the Fire Chief



June 25, 2018

Mr. Timothy Frenzer, Village Manager  
Village of Wilmette  
1200 Wilmette Avenue  
Wilmette, IL 60091

Dear Mr. Frenzer,

It is with great pride that I present the Wilmette Fire Department's 2017 Annual Report. In 2017, the Fire Department went through an extensive transition in leadership. Both Deputy Chief Robertson and Fire Chief McGreal retired after 30 years with the department. Lieutenant Jim Bentz was promoted to Duty Chief, and Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Scheetz was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Duty Chief Rob Brill was promoted to Deputy Chief, and I was promoted to Fire Chief. We welcomed firefighter candidates Jose Aguirre-Garcia and Robert Richards to our department. As part of this transition, the position of Management Assistant was eliminated, and the position of Part-Time Fire Inspector was added. With such growth, there are increasing opportunities for new ideas, partnerships, and innovations. We strive to provide a working environment that fosters growth and provides an increased level of service to our community.

In May 2017, the department went through its Insurance Service Office (ISO) audit in addition to recently obtaining accredited status for the fourth time. The Wilmette Fire Department received high praise from both ISO and the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). The details on each of these processes are listed in the annual report.

Our participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) continues to address our needs on a regional level and reduce costs through joint training and equipment purchasing. We also continue our partnership with 14 other departments in utilizing the Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) Center's dispatch services. This partnership allows us to be cost-effective and enhance service levels as it relates to dispatching. New and emerging technology will provide our community with faster response times and lifesaving pre-arrival instruction through RED Center. Utilizing State and Federal grants remains a top priority in our efforts to provide our community with the most up to date emergency response equipment at a fraction of the cost. The department recently identified an opportunity to reduce our fleet size. The removal of an aging tower ladder and fire engine allowed for the purchase of a new state of the art fire engine that will allow for safer response and enhanced firefighting capabilities. This initiative was only possible through a collaborative effort between the Fire Department, Public Works, and Village Administration.

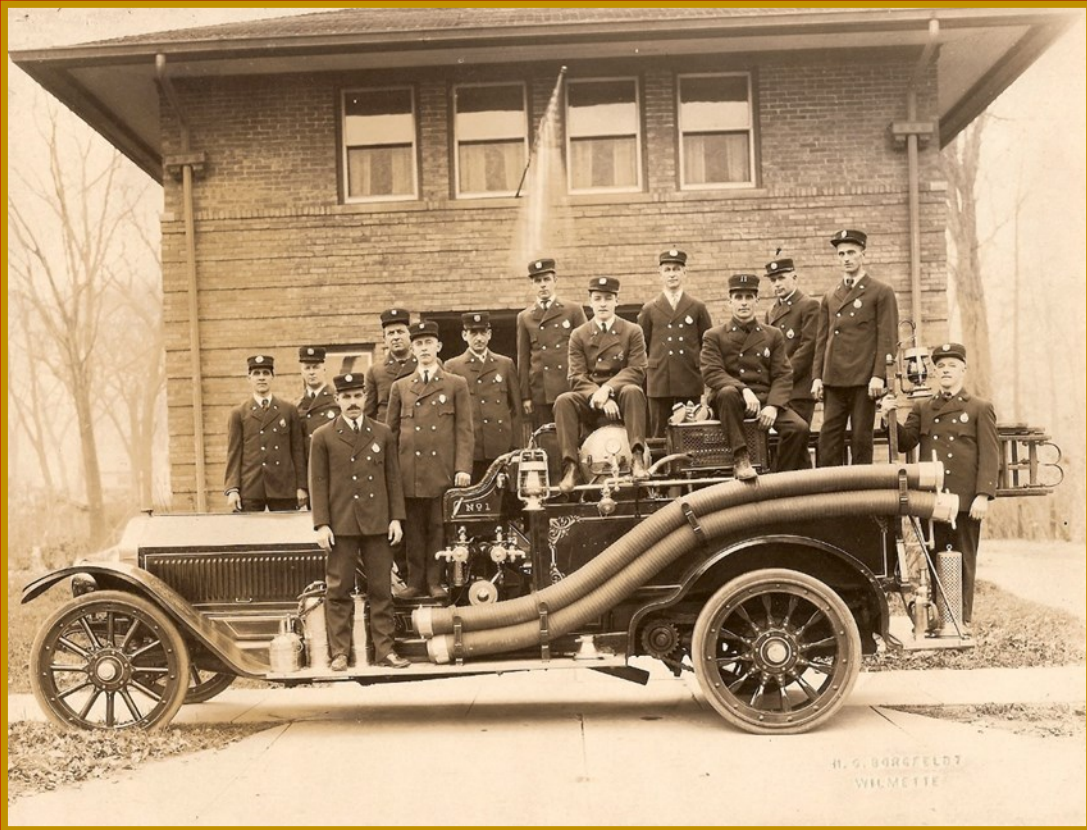
We will continue to maintain the highest standards of public service to the residents of Wilmette. By leveraging technology, implementation of innovative programming, and investment in education and training we will continue to build on our accomplishments. The men and women of the Wilmette Fire Department are committed to providing a level of service to a community that strives for excellence. I want to thank you, your staff, and our elected officials for the continued confidence and support of the Fire Department.

*Benjamin M. Wozney*  
Benjamin M. Wozney  
Fire Chief



# The Mission of the WFD

Since 1893, The Wilmette Fire Department has prided itself on providing a selfless group of highly trained professionals who are committed to honorably serving the community. Today, our mission continues to adhere to the principals and values established by those who came before us.



“The members of the Wilmette Fire Department are dedicated to the preservation of life, while displaying the utmost pride in our profession through an unwavering commitment to our community and each other.”

We accomplish this by providing advanced emergency medical care, modern fire suppression tactics, and effective fire prevention programs.

## Duty, Pride, Tradition



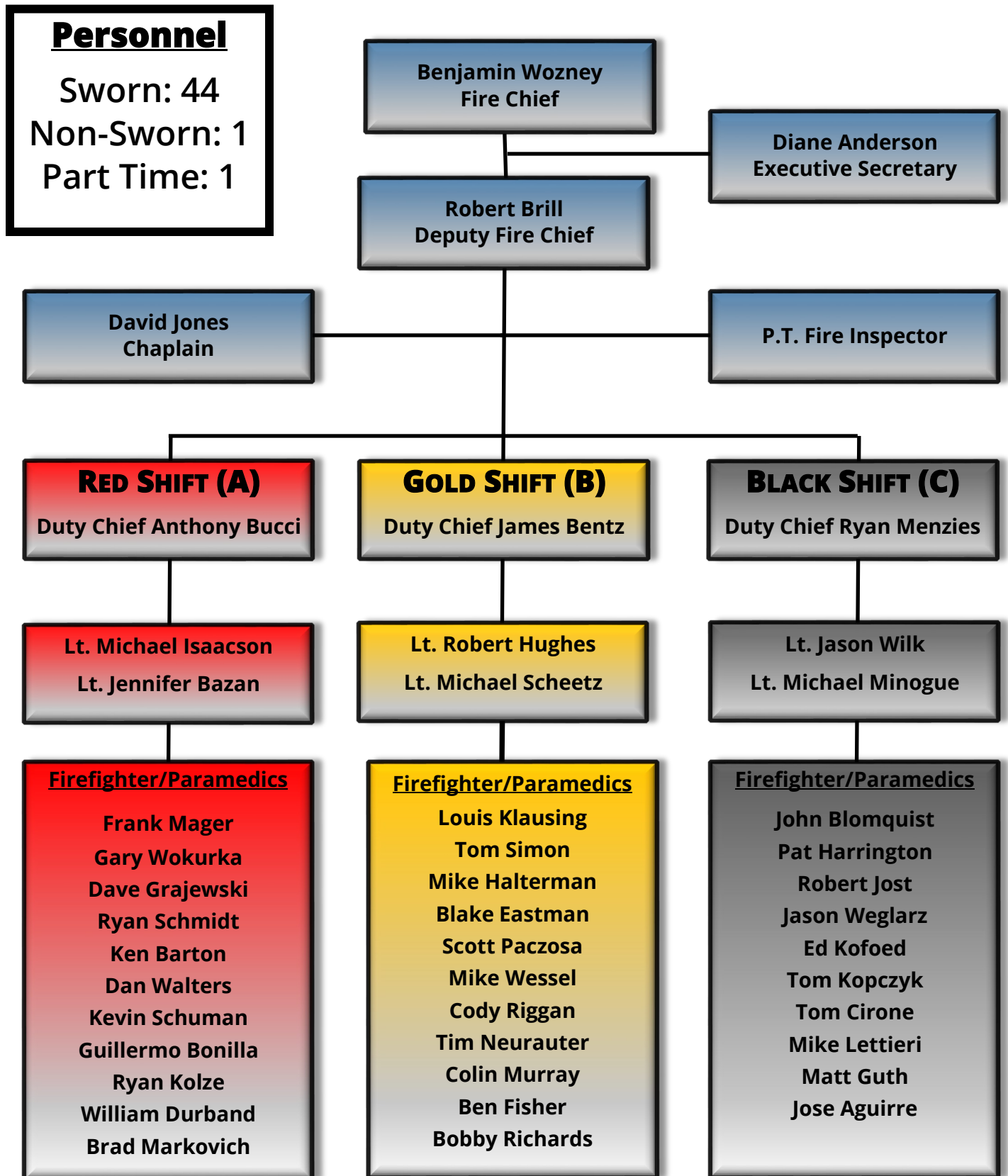
# 2017 Quick Facts



## Fire Department Information

<b>Fire Protection Service Area</b>	<b>5.45 Miles</b>
<b>Population Served</b>	<b>27,435</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>3,278</b>
<b>Property Saved (Value)</b>	<b>\$3,913,870</b>
<b>Property Lost (Value)</b>	<b>\$1,735,370</b>
<b>Sworn Members</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Non-Sworn Members</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part-Time Members</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Daily Staffing</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ISO Rating</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Training Hours—All Personnel</b>	<b>19,599</b>
<b>Combined Years of Firefighting/EMS Experience</b>	<b>552</b>

# Organization Chart



# Personnel Changes



**Fire Chief**  
**Michael McGreal**



**Retired**



**Deputy Chief**  
**Thomas Robertson**



**Fire Chief**  
**Benjamin Wozney**



**Deputy Chief**  
**Robert Brill**



**Promoted**



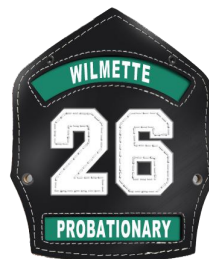
**Duty Chief**  
**James Bentz**



**Lieutenant**  
**Michael Scheetz**



**Firefighter / Paramedic**  
**Robert Richards**



**Hired**



**Firefighter / Paramedic**  
**Jose Aguirre-Garcia**



# Strategic Plan

The Wilmette Fire Department is dedicated to its mission, vision and values. These statements illustrate the core values of the department and act as a guide to evaluate our organization. The current strategic plan is a management tool for the organization to help address any needs identified during an annual SWOT analysis. This document serves as a planning tool to direct the current and future activities of the Wilmette Fire Department in an effort to provide the best possible service to the community.

The Strategic Plan is comprised of nine sections and covers the following areas:

- **Training:** Proper training of personnel is necessary to provide the highest quality service.
- **Personnel:** This area identifies the people needed to meet the organizational objectives.
- **Capital Improvements:** Items necessary to address long-term goals and future needs.
- **Equipment and Vehicles:** The resources needed to deliver the services to the community.
- **Computer Equipment:** Information necessary to manage and evaluate the organization and its service delivery.
- **Diversity:** The organization feels that a diversified workforce is beneficial to the community.
- **Response Time Analysis:** Essential to effectively deliver Fire and EMS services to the community.
- **Risk Analysis:** Evaluation of the hazards to the community for pre-emergency planning.
- **Codes and Ordinances:** Legal guidance to minimize risk of life and property loss.

# Stations and Apparatus



## Fire Station #26

Fire Department Headquarters  
1304 Lake Avenue  
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

## Fire Station #27

747 Illinois Road  
Wilmette, IL 60091

The Wilmette Fire Department currently maintains 19 vehicles in its fleet. The department staffs the following apparatus daily:

One aerial ladder truck, one rescue pumper, one light-duty rescue squad, two advanced life support (ALS) ambulances, and one shift commander vehicle.

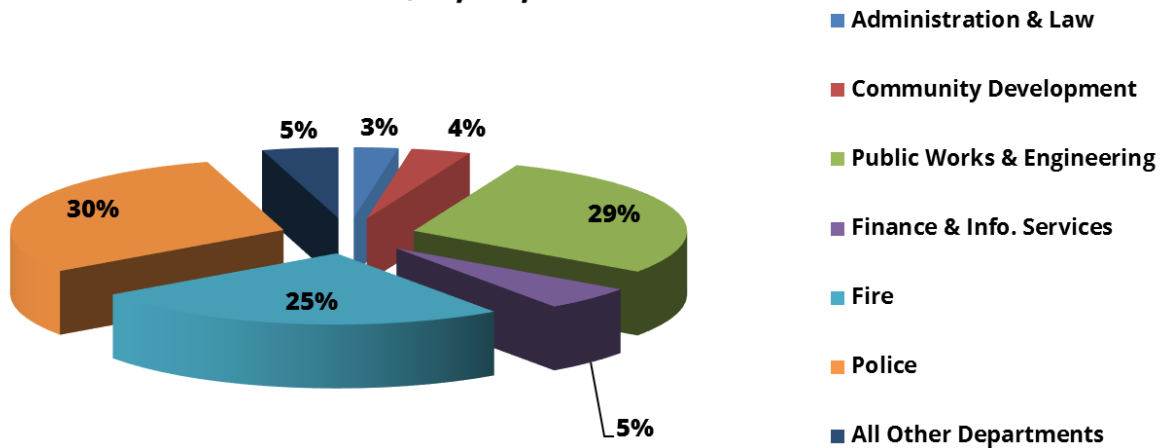
Fleet	Company	Year / Make / Model	Location	Status
200	Rescue 26	2013 Ford F-550 Rescue Truck	Station #26	Frontline
201	Squad 26	1999 Marion/Navistar Heavy Rescue	Station #26	Stand By
202	Tower 26R	1992 Pierce 1500 GPM Tower Ladder	Station #26	Stand By
203	Staff Car	1997 Ford E-150 Van	Station #26	Stand By
204	Tower 26	2009 E-ONE 1500 GPM Tower Ladder	Station #26	Frontline
205	Engine 27R	1996 E-ONE 1500 GPM Pumper	Station #27	Stand By
206	Engine 26	1989 E-ONE 1500 GPM Pumper	Station #26	Stand By
207	Utility 26	2001 F-250 Pickup Truck	Station #26	Stand By
208	Chief Car (2601)	2015 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor	Station #26	Frontline
209	Ambulance 26R	2009 Ford F-450 Road Rescue Ambulance	Station #27	Stand By
210	Chief Car (2600)	2015 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor	Station #26	Frontline
211	Ambulance 27	2015 Ford F-550 AEV Ambulance	Station #27	Frontline
212	Ambulance 26	2017 Ford F-550 AEV Ambulance	Station #26	Frontline
213	Battalion 26R	2006 Ford E-250 Van	Station #26	Stand By
214	Boat 26	Avon Inflatable / Rigid Boat	Station #26	Frontline
215	Safety Trailer	Scotty Safety Trailer	Station #27	Stand By
216	Staff Car	2005 Ford Crown Victoria	Station #26	Stand By
217	Engine 27	2013 E-ONE 1500 GPM Pumper	Station #27	Frontline
218	Battalion 26	2017 Chevrolet Tahoe	Station #26	Frontline

# Allocation of Funds

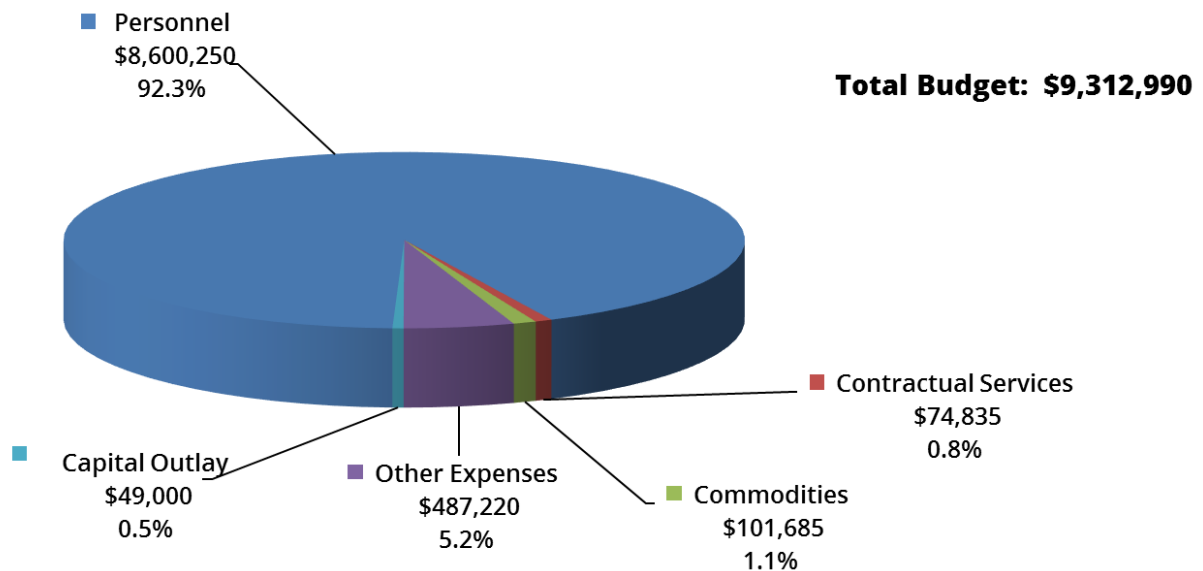


## Village of Wilmette 2017 Program Budget

**\$37,588,855**



## 2017 Fire Department Budget





# Project Grant Funding



The Wilmette Fire Department has utilized grants from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and insurance companies to reduce costs to tax payers. In 2017, the department was awarded an FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$48,000 to purchase a new SCBA air compressor. The department also applied for and received training reimbursement from the State Fire Marshal's Office in the amount of \$11,590.98, which went back into the general fund.

## Capitalization on Available Grants

Fire Department Ballistic Vests	Insurance Grant	\$1,400
Accreditation	Insurance Grant	\$2,250
Computer Equipment	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$4,050
Generator	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$36,650
SCBA Air Compressor	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$48,000
Fire House Safety Trailer	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$60,000
3 EKG Zoll EMS Monitors	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$72,000
Vehicle Exhaust System	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$118,800
Fire Marshal Training Reimbursement 2002- 2017	OSFM	\$119,000
E-One Fire Truck	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$750,000

**Total to Date: Over \$1.2 Million**

## Future Grants

The Wilmette Fire Department has identified a need for additional equipment and has already started the process of researching and applying for grants for the following equipment:

- New Portable Radios and Accountability System
- Firefighting Gear Washers and Gear Dryers
- Automated Chest Compression Devices



# Annual Statistics

## Response Types Defined

### Medical / EMS Incident / Patient Assist

- Ambulance and an assist company

### Hazardous Conditions and Service Calls

- A single engine, truck or rescue company

### Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA)

- Battalion chief and one engine or truck company

### Reported Smoke and/or Fire

- Battalion chief, two engine companies, two truck companies, and one ambulance

### Confirmed Fire (includes automatic aid)

- Battalion chief, four engine companies, three truck companies, one ambulance, and five chief officers

### Box Alarm

- Additional response beyond the confirmed fire level. Each box alarm level normally adds at least 3-5 additional fire suppression or EMS companies.

### Mutual Aid Given

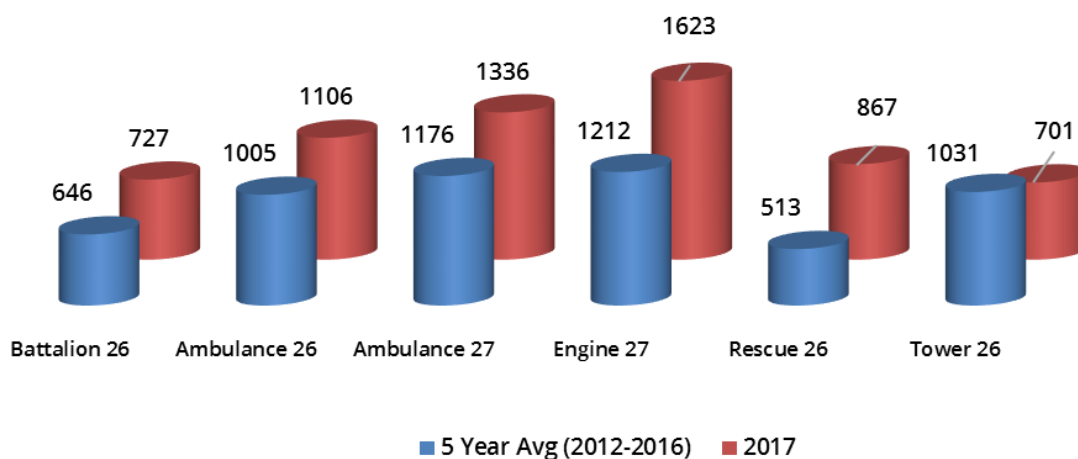
- Aid given to other jurisdictions for structure fires, EMS, or other incidents beyond normal response

## Incident Responses (2017)

Type	Count
Medical / EMS / Assist	2,152
Hazardous / Service Calls	321
Automatic Fire Alarms	471
Reported Smoke / Fire	139
Confirmed Fire	50
Box Alarm	3
Mutual Aid Given	269

NOTE: Incident responses denoted above do not equal 2017 incident count.

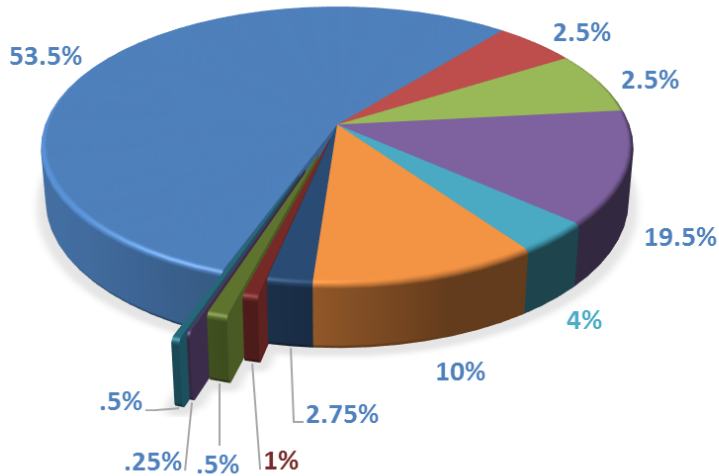
## Individual Company Response Count



# Annual Statistics

## 2017 Total Incidents

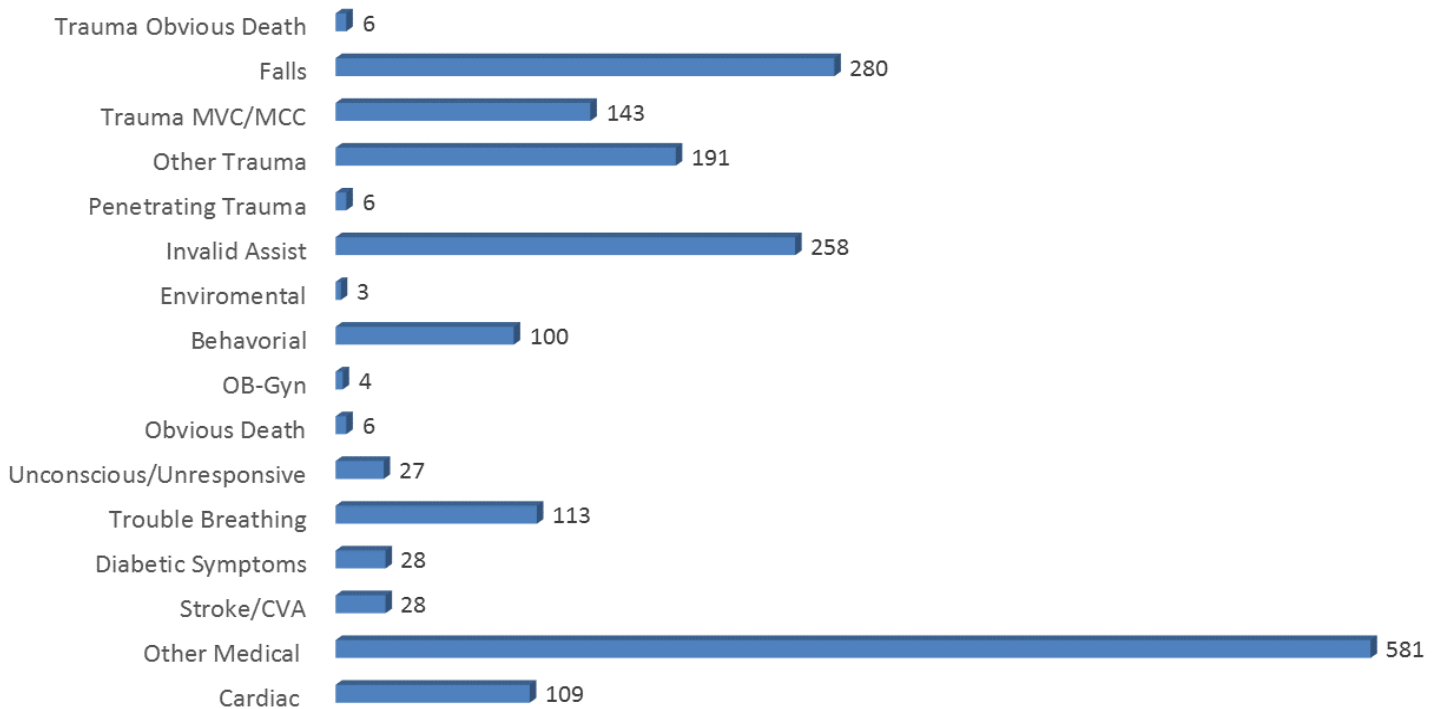
3,278 Incidents



- Rescues/EMS Incidents
- Hazardous Conditions (gas leak, down lines, etc)
- Good Intent Calls (smoke scare, dispatched & cancelled en route)
- Service Calls (smoke scares lock outs, etc)
- Aid Given Incidents
- False Fire Alarms - No Charge
- False Fire Alarms - Violation
- False Fire Alarms - Charged
- Fires in Structures
- Vehicle Fires
- Other Fires (brush, garbage, etc)

## EMS Incidents

1,257 Medical and 626 Trauma





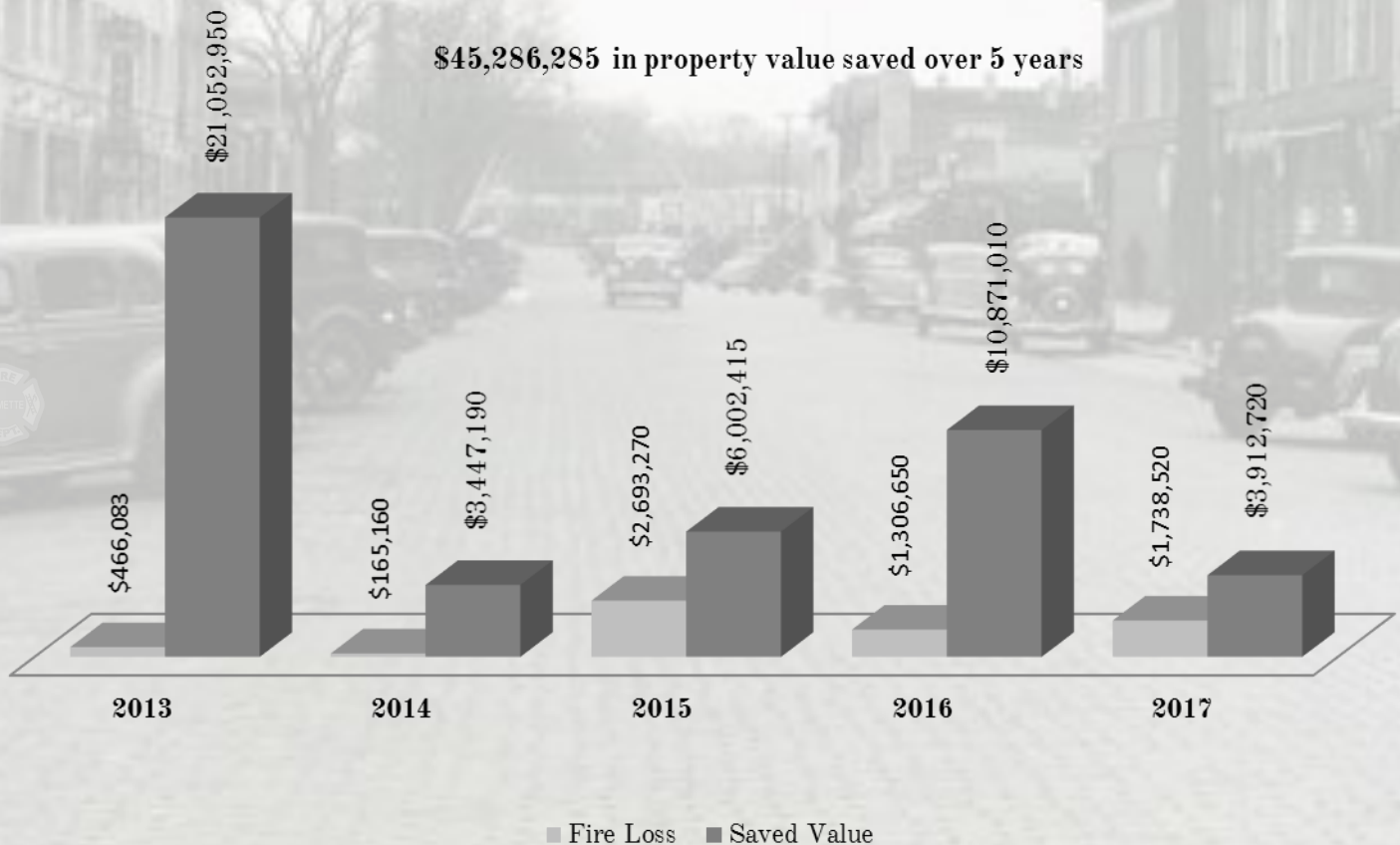
# Historical Data

## Five-Year Incident Type Review

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fires	42	42	47	50	53
EMS/Rescue	1,597	1,650	1,600	1,769	1,883
Hazardous Conditions	150	180	153	168	148
Service	429	497	446	518	451
Good Intent	421	228	209	223	245
False Alarm	442	456	420	438	471
Severe Weather	59	10	0	15	27
Other	2	1	1	0	0
Total	3,142	3,064	2,876	3,181	3,278

## Five-Year Fire Loss / Save Comparison

\$45,286,285 in property value saved over 5 years





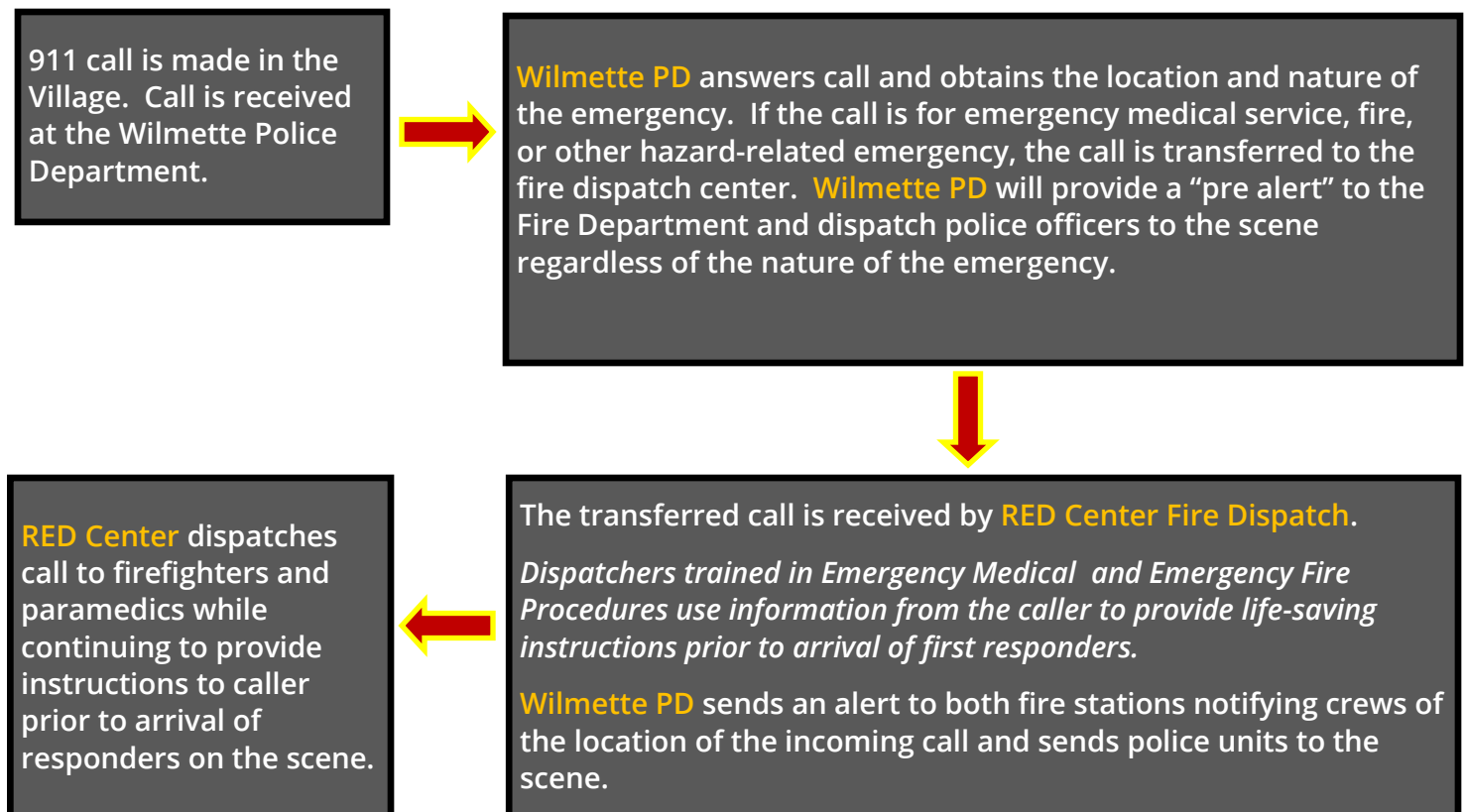
# Emergency Dispatch

Wilmette Police Department  
Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) Center

All 911 calls placed in the Village of Wilmette go directly to the Wilmette Police Department. A trained, professional telecommunicator will answer the line and ask the caller for the location and the nature of the emergency. If the nature of the problem requires police services, the dispatcher will send the appropriate police response. If the nature of the problem is a fire, an auto accident with injuries, or a request for emergency medical service (EMS), the call is immediately transferred to the Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) Center. RED Center receives the call, dispatches the appropriate fire and EMS personnel, and provides life-saving instructions to the caller until the emergency responders arrive on the scene.

Through the accreditation self-assessment process, the fire department analyzed its response time data to improve the speed and efficiency in its response to emergencies. In 2017, the fire department began using a "pre-alert" to provide earlier notification of emergency calls to fire department personnel. Fire and police developed a procedure using existing radios and public address systems to provide incident notifications prior to RED Center dispatching the call.

## 911 Call for Service Flow of Events



# Accreditation

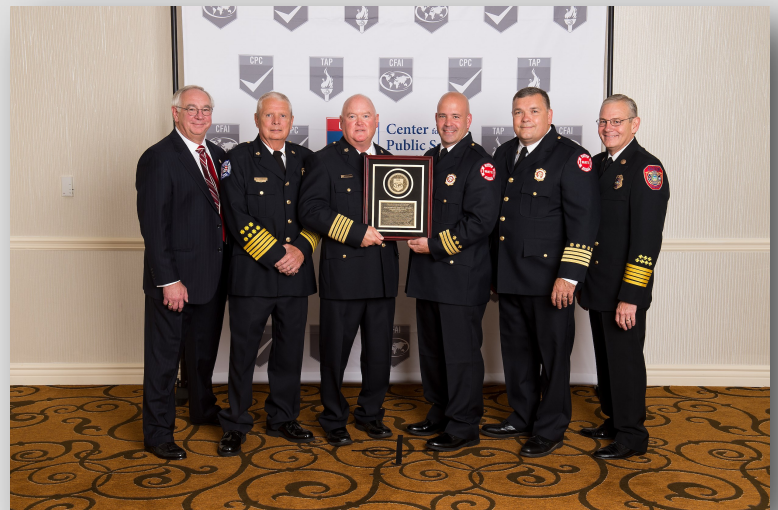
The Wilmette Fire Department achieved Accreditation in 2001 through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and received re-accreditation in 2006, 2011, and 2016. Today the department is one of 234 accredited agencies world-wide, only 12 of which are in Illinois. The accredited agency status is valid for five years, at which point the agency must re-apply and complete the formal process again. Of note is that Wilmette is one of only six communities in the state of Illinois that has both CFAI and Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accredited fire and police agencies.

The Wilmette Fire Department completed its re-accreditation on-site evaluation in the spring of 2016. The purpose of this evaluation was to investigate and validate that the Wilmette Fire Department is meeting and is in compliance with over 250 individual performance indicators. The team of assessors representing the Center for Public Safety (CPSE) and is comprised of four volunteer fire service executives from around the country. After the four day evaluation, the team indicated they were very impressed with the Fire Department's operations and level of compliance with the standards. The official re-accreditation was conferred at the August 2016 meeting of the commission. The department is presently working on developing a revised Strategic Plan, a revised Standards of Cover, and re-assessing itself under the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the accreditation standards.

One stipulation of the process requires an accredited agency provide at least one person to act as a peer assessor for other applicant agencies. This year, Deputy Chief Rob Brill traveled to the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base — New Orleans to assess the Fire and Emergency Services on the installation. In addition to the fulfilling the requirements of the CFAI accreditation model, peer assessment site visits provide valuable sharing of best practices, exemplary processes, and service-delivery models that are applicable to the Village of Wilmette and the Fire Department.



Commission on  
Fire Accreditation  
International





# Insurance Services Office (ISO)

"ISO" stands for the Insurance Services Office, a private corporation that evaluates industries for insurance rating purposes.

For the fire service, the ISO uses the Public Protection Classification (PPC™) program, in which the ISO conducts periodic audits of every fire department in the United States on a constantly rotating basis, usually about every 10 years. Every audit results in a rating from 1 to 10 for the audited department; this is known as the department's PPC number.



A rating of 1 is the best; 10 is the worst. Insurance companies use this rating to determine proper insurance rates for structures in the fire district. Residents living in a fire district with a rating of 3 should have lower fire insurance rates than residents living in a district with a rating of 8. The ISO rating is directly correlated to the insurance company's level of risk to insure property. During the 2017 audit process from ISO, we were able to maintain our rating of 2. Under the "Fire Department" category, The Wilmette Fire Department scored 48.11 points out of 50 possible points. Over 46,000 fire department participate in this process. With our current score, the Wilmette Fire Department ranks in the **top 3% nationwide**.



# Fire and EMS Training

The goal of the WFD training program is to provide realistic training to all personnel. Training curricula meets the standards set by the National Fire Protection Association and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. Annually, the department assesses the job performance requirements (JPRs) that are applicable to our community and mutual-aid communities, so that the fire and EMS training conducted meets those needs.

The Wilmette Fire Department actively seeks out venues in the community and surrounding areas to conduct training. In recent years, a number of properties under construction have been used as training sites prior to their demolition. This offers a more realistic approach to fire ground training that can not be obtained in a classroom. Annually, each member of the WFD is sent to at least one multi-company, mutual-aid drill conducted by MABAS Division3 and held at the NIPSTA training facility in Glenview. These drills provide realistic training in a live fire environment, as well as the opportunity to work with firefighters from our mutual-aid partner-communities.

## **2017 Activities**

- ◆ All personnel participated and completed required annual competency training courses.
- ◆ Performed night-time auto extrication, live fire, and ladder drills across all three shifts.
- ◆ All personnel participated in annual MABAS Division 3 Multi-Company and Live Fire drills.
- ◆ Over 19,500 hours of documented training among all fire department members. This included outside courses/ seminars, certification classes, in-house training, and multi-company exercises.





# Special Operations Teams

The Wilmette Fire Department is a member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 3, a group of local communities that provide resources and personnel in the event that an incident exceeds the normal capabilities of any one member department. Additionally, MABAS Division 3 provides Fire Investigation, Technical Rescue, Dive Rescue, and Hazardous Materials teams comprised of trained individuals from all of the division's departments. The Wilmette Fire Department contributes to these teams by supplying multiple members to each team. Each member undergoes additional training to become certified in advanced rescue techniques and specialized technical skill areas.



MABAS Division 3 Underwater Rescue Team members perform search and rescue training in a local waterway.



MABAS Division 3 Technical Rescue Team members conduct a monthly drill in Evanston, Illinois. Team members are training on shoring 'L'-type trenches.

## **Fire Investigators**

Jim Bentz, Mike Scheetz, Frank Mager, Pat Harrington, Ken Barton, Ed Kofoed, Mike Wessel



## **Technical Rescue**

Rob Brill, Mike Scheetz, Jason Weglarz, Scott Paczosa

## **Underwater Rescue (Divers & Sonar)**

Ryan Menzies, Rob Hughes, Jennifer Bazan, Dave Grajewski, Ed Kofoed, Dan Walters, Cody Riggan, Tom Kopczyk, Blake Eastman, Ken Barton

## **Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)**

Mike Isaacson, John Blomquist, Robert Jost, Guillermo Bonilla





# Underwater Rescue



The goal of the Underwater Rescue Team is to provide trained certified divers, boat operators, and sonar technicians to be able to respond to incidents and other hazards in the Village of Wilmette and surrounding communities. Members of the WFD Underwater Rescue Team are also part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 3 Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team, a joint response force that serves the seventeen North Shore and near north communities of MABAS Division 3.

## **2017 Accomplishments**

- ♦ Completed all mandatory training requirements of the MABAS Division 3 Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team.
- ♦ Hosted an annual MABAS Division 3 training dive at the lakefront requiring the use of GPS and lift bags for recovery.
- ♦ Provided on-scene protection for Triathlon athletes in lake front swim with boat and divers.
- ♦ Cody Riggan has completed training and was placed on the MABAS deployable swiftwater team.
- ♦ All divers passed annual training requirements to included endurance swim testing.
- ♦ Attended training for a tow behind sonar unit furnished at no cost from MABAS Illinois and the Department of Homeland Security.
- ♦ Fire Chief Ben Wozney was asked to continue as Dive Team Chief Liaison.
- ♦ David Grajewski has started the Emergency Response Diving International (ERDI) supervisor training to obtain the highest level of dive scene management.
- ♦ All active members completed their required training, which included ice dives, night dives, swift water and a dive hosted by the Wilmette Fire Department.
- ♦ Purchased replacements for 20 year old equipment. All divers are fully outfitted with equipment.
- ♦ Performed annual required inspection and service of all dive equipment.
- ♦ Dan Walters and Ed Kofoed completed all probation requirements and are full division dive members.
- ♦ Boat and sonar operators completed required training for each discipline.
- ♦ With MABAS funds, the team outfitted its sonar vehicle with new computer.

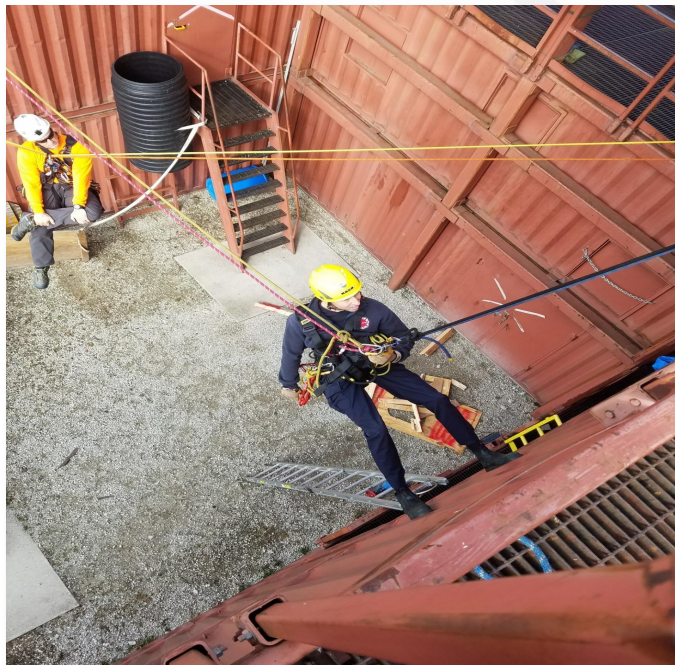
## **2018 Goals**

- Complete initial training for two new dive members including Open Water, Advanced Open Water, ERDI 1, ERDI 2, and Rescue Diver courses.
- Have Boat/Sonar Techs complete annual training on all division boats and sonar units.
- Have all boat and sonar tech complete training on divisional Lowrance Sonar Unit.





# Technical Rescue



Rope Rescue Technicians are trained to multiple disciplines including rescuing would-be workers from their own rope systems.

The fire department is routinely called upon to enact rescues in a multitude of situations and environments. The technical rescue specialist is trained and equipped to mitigate emergencies involving vertical rescue, trench, confined space, and structural collapse incidents.

The program is designed to provide training and equipment to ensure preparedness for any type of emergency. Team members are part of the MABAS Division 3 Technical Rescue Team (TRT), a specialized response team that when called upon will bring up to 90 technical rescue specialists to an incident scene. The MABAS Division 3 TRT responds within the division (17 local municipalities) and state-wide when requested.

Additionally, the technical rescue program provides continuing education to team members in the form of monthly drills and outside classes. Team members share their knowledge with other department members and routinely lead training classes to help prepare other firefighters and other initial responders.

## 2017 Accomplishments

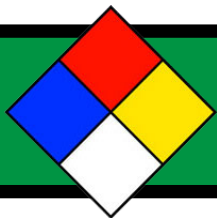
- ◆ No incident responses in the Village of Wilmette or in the MABAS Division 3 response area for 2017.
- ◆ FF/PM Paczosa completed Trench Technician, Rope Technician, Confined Space Technician, and Structural Collapse Technician courses and is currently working towards OSFM certification.
- ◆ FF/PM Weglarz completed the Rope Technician course and is currently working towards Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) certification.
- ◆ D/C Rob Brill resigned from the active team and assumed the role of Technical Rescue Team Chief Liaison.

## 2018 Goals

- ◆ Complete coursework and OSFM requirements to have all three team members certified to the technician level in all disciplines.
- ◆ Participate in all MABAS Division 3 TRT drills and training opportunities.
- ◆ Ensure all team members complete all team competencies and training requirements to maintain good-standing on team.







# Hazardous Materials



This program provides for regular training of department personnel in aspects of hazardous materials response and control, which includes testing and maintenance of equipment. All firefighters are certified to the Hazardous Materials First Responder—Operations level. Several firefighters are further trained to the technician level.

Wilmette has four hazardous materials technicians ready to deploy with the MABAS Division 3 Hazardous Materials Team to mitigate poison, radiological, and chemical emergencies within the division's borders. The department maintains and tests carbon monoxide and natural gas detection equipment for each front line apparatus.

## **2017 Activity**

- ♦ Team members attended a minimum of 80 hours additional training with the team.
- ♦ MABAS Division 3 HazMat team was called out to help mitigate two (2) large-scale incidents in 2017.
- ♦ Delivered a minimum of 8 hours of Hazardous Materials refresher training to all fire department personnel.

## **2018 Goals**

- ♦ Continue to deliver in-house training for all members of the department.
- ♦ Each team member will receive a minimum of 80 hours of training from MABAS Division 3 Hazardous Materials Team drills.
- ♦ FF/PM Blomquist shall complete the Hazardous Materials Incident Command course and certification process.
- ♦ Send additional team members to the Hazardous Materials Incident Command class.
- ♦ Be an active participant in the development of the MABAS Division 3 HazMat 30-year strategic





# Fire Investigation



The Illinois General Assembly enacted the Fire Investigation Act (425 ILCS 25) in 1909. This required all Fire Chiefs, or their designee, to investigate and report all fires in their legally organized municipal fire departments and fire protection districts within the state of Illinois. The goal of the Fire Investigation Program is to provide an adequate, effective, and efficient program directed toward identification of the cause and origin of fires and explosions, and to continue to train a sufficient number of members to serve the needs of the Wilmette Fire Department and the community effectively. Additionally, the Fire Investigation team works proactively to prevent the reoccurrence of fires with similar causes and origins; this is accomplished using public education and inter-agency cooperation with Underwriters Lab (UL) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

## **2017 Accomplishments**

- Lt. Scheetz directed the implementation of the ATF's Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATs) reporting program that links fire/arson cases throughout the United States.
- 16 fire investigations were completed for structure fires in the Village of Wilmette using the BATs program.
- Responded to multiple requests for outside assistance.
- Team attended over 250 hours of training through the Investigators Strike Force.
- Conducted cause and origin training for individual shifts.

## **2018 Goals**

- Provide professional investigations and reports that are presentable and "court-ready."
- Continue to work towards the recertification requirements sent forth by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- Work towards sending on duty investigators to surrounding departments more frequently.
- Add one new investigator to the department's team.





# Emergency Medical Services

The program is designed to provide trained and properly equipped paramedics in the event of a medical emergency. The goal of the EMS Program is to provide the highest level of Advanced Life Support emergency medical care to the Village of Wilmette in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Presence St. Francis Hospital EMS System.

The Illinois Department of Public Health mandates that each paramedic complete 25 hours of continuing education each year. The St. Francis EMS system has set up an in-house training program with an instructor from St. Francis hospital for 24 of the required hours. To attain the remaining training hours, the WFD provides training in-house on a variety of subjects including Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and trauma classes. At the end of each year, WFD paramedics will have received greater than 40 hours of continuing education.



## **2017 Accomplishments**

- ♦ The WFD transported 1,432 patients to local emergency departments. Over \$740,000 was billed out for this service.
- ♦ Paramedics also participated in active shooter drills at local schools to practice working with our police and using military style tourniquet and pressure bandage tools to quickly help victims.
- ♦ Paramedic educators instructed classes on AED use, basic first aid, and CPR refresher to Village employees and outside organizations (i.e. Boys, Girl Scouts and Arlyn School).
- ♦ Wilmette paramedics also performed wellness screenings at the French Market and the Wilmette Library, contacting over 200 people.
- ♦ 2 new FF/PMs successfully tested and transferred into the St. Francis EMS system.
- ♦ All Wilmette paramedics were taught Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) by Wilmette's American Heart Association certified instructors.
- ♦ Hands only CPR was taught at our Open House with over 60 attending to learn valuable lifesaving skills.
- ♦ Two WFD paramedics attended the State of Illinois Lead Instructor course to begin the process of becoming continuing education instructors.



In 2017, the Wilmette Fire Department purchased its second Ambulance in as many years. By doing this, the fire department is able to streamline its treatment process since both ambulances feature the latest technology and are identically equipped.

# Water Supply & Distribution

The water supply and distribution program guarantees that all the fire hydrants are located, inspected for damage or defects, and are accessible. All fire hydrants are then flushed and flow tested and records are kept on static and residual water flow on an annual basis.

In 2017, fire department shift personnel tested all hydrants and entered the test results into the fire department records management system. By comparing flow test data from year to year, water system problems can be identified and corrected. All data collected is disseminated to the Water Department and the Engineering/Public Works Department (E/PW). Any defects or mechanical problems found are documented and reported to E/PW for repairs. The data collected is also used to develop pre-fire plans, hydrant maps, and fire-flow calculations.

Target areas for water distribution improvements have also been developed through the information gathered from the hydrant program. The data collection aspect of the program has been instrumental in inter-department coordination and long-range planning of the water distribution system.

## **2017 Accomplishments**

In 2017, LT/PM Rob Hughes and FF/PM Tom Kopczyk oversaw the water supply and distribution program. In addition the WFD hired one part-time employee to perform the annual hydrant testing. Annual testing insures adequate operational pressures and addresses any defects that may affect the hydrant. If defects are found, they are reported to the Engineering/Public Works Department for timely repair.

- ♦ 1018 fire hydrants tested.
- ♦ 500 fire hydrants accurately located in the Village GIS.
- ♦ 100 fire hydrants sand blasted and repainted.

## **2018 Goals**

- ♦ Continue the annual maintenance, flushing, and inspection program.
- ♦ Reposition remaining hydrants within GIS.
- ♦ Continue to improve communications, turnaround times, and work-flows between the Fire Department and Engineering/Public Works.





# Community Risk Reduction

Through the Fire Department's community risk reduction program, the members of the Public Education team visit both public and private schools to promote fire safety to approximately 3000 children.

They also visit the local pre-schools on an annual basis to teach fire safety to another 550 kids.



## Public Education Program Facts

**Students Reached: 3550**

**Block Party and Pumper Demos: 35**

**Car Seat Installations: 83**

**Wellness / Blood Pressure Check Events: 11**



**The most effective  
method of fire  
prevention is through  
education.**

## Public Education Team

LT/PM Jennifer Bazan  
LT/PM Michael Minogue  
FF/PM Guillermo Bonilla  
FF/PM Thomas Cirone  
FF/PM William Durband  
FF/PM David Grajewski  
FF/PM Edward Kofoed  
FF/PM Scott Paczosa  
FF/PM Ryan Schmidt

# Open House 2017



The largest public education event of the year is the Fire Department's annual Open House. This event is held each October to kick off Fire Prevention week. At this event, all apparatus is on display and special team members demonstrate the tools and equipment used in rescue operations. Children can bring their teddy bears for a checkup by the paramedics, perform a firefighter obstacle course, and tour the Fire Safety House. In recent history, this event has drawn over 2000 people each year.

In 2017, the Fire Department used fidget spinners as an incentive for school children and their families to increase safety and fire awareness in the home. These were provided through a generous donation from the Optimist Club of Wilmette. For the 1st time this program was conducted on line through the Village of Wilmette's web page. During fire safety programs in the schools, students were directed to perform a home safety inspection with their parents and record it on an online form. Upon completion of the a survey, the students were given a fidget spinner at the annual open house event on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Over 600 households participated in this program.





# Frequently Asked Questions

## Are there different strategies firefighters use to extinguish a fire?

Yes. The type of structure, the amount of fire present, and life-safety risk all factor into the strategies used on the fire ground.

An **offensive fire attack** occurs when fire suppression personnel actively fight a fire within a structure utilizing water or another type of extinguishing agent. This strategy is used when the fire has not compromised the integrity of the structure and when there is a life-safety risk of occupants within the occupancy.

A **defensive fire attack** is a fire ground strategy based on firefighter safety and the protection of surrounding properties (exposures). This strategy is employed when a fire has advanced to the point where interior attack operations are too dangerous and there is no life-safety risk. The goal is to simply confine the fire to the building/area of origin. All fire streams are operated onto the fire from the outside.

## What is a backdraft and a flashover?

These terms describe specific, observable behaviors that occur when a fire grows unchecked.

A **backdraft** is an explosion caused by the sudden inward rush of oxygen when all of the super-heated gases, (heated above the ignition temperature) in a room or structure, ignite at the same time. If the gases are pressurized in a relatively closed room, an explosion is likely to be the result. While the likelihood of such an occurrence is low, a backdraft is often fatal to anyone caught in it.

A **flashover** is similar to a backdraft, with the exception that the room is not closed or pressurized to the point of explosion. All of the contents of the room have given off flammable gases that have been heated to their ignition point and a fire suddenly engulfs the room. From the outside you will often see the exiting smoke appear to instantly ignite.

## What is MABAS Division 3?

The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) is a conglomerate of fire service organizations that provide mutual aid response in the event of an emergency that exceeds the capabilities of the local fire department. MABAS organizations exist primarily in Illinois and Wisconsin, but also include members in Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. The Wilmette Fire Department is part of MABAS Division 3, an area spanning the entire North Shore and comprising 17 fire departments or fire protection districts.

## I called 911 for a medical problem and a fire truck showed up at my house. Why?

All Wilmette Fire Department firefighters are cross-trained as paramedics. The additional crew members on a fire engine often assist ambulance crews in providing critical, life-saving care. Other times, these firefighter/paramedics assist in carrying equipment and moving non-ambulatory patients.

## When I call for an ambulance, why do I sometimes see an ambulance from another town?

The Wilmette Fire Department has mutual aid agreements with our neighboring towns so that the continuous advanced life support (ALS) care is always available to our residents and guests. If all the Wilmette ambulances are busy on other calls, you may see a Winnetka or Northfield ambulance respond in place of a Wilmette vehicle. In these instances, a Wilmette fire suppression company will respond to the scene first and begin ALS care until the ambulance arrives.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the difference between a fire engine and a fire truck?

A **fire engine** is an apparatus designed for fire attack. It is the most common vehicle in fire departments. This apparatus is equipped with a fire pump, carries hose, and has a minimum 500 gallon capacity water tank. Modern fire engines can pump over 1500 GPM (gallons per minute). These apparatus usually carry 3-4 personnel in addition to a large cache of tools and equipment.

A **fire truck** is also known as a ladder truck, aerial ladder, tower ladder, or truck. Fire trucks are equipped with a hydraulically-powered ladder and articulating platform mounted on a vehicle; fire trucks also carry several different length extension ladders, extrication gear, ventilation equipment, and lighting.

Other types of fire apparatus common to this area are squad trucks, light rescue vehicles, and incident commander vehicles. A squad company responds to fires, auto accidents with entrapment, and other technical rescue incidents. Light rescue vehicles are built for a quick response to emergency medical and service-type calls. The shift commander, responsible for taking command of an incident scene, can usually be found in a van or SUV; a green, flashing light is a fire service standard designating a vehicle as the incident command post.

## Does the Wilmette Fire Department teach CPR classes for residents and other community members?

Yes. The Wilmette Fire Department offers American Heart Association **Heartsaver** CPR courses several times each year. Course dates and related information can be found on the [Wilmette Fire Department website](#) or you may contact the fire department at 847.251.1101.

## Can a firefighter explain how to properly install a child safety seat in my vehicle?

Yes. On most shift days, the department staffs trained personnel to teach residents and non-residents how to install child safety seats in their vehicles. To schedule an appointment with a car seat technician, please contact the fire department at 847.251.1101. There is a \$25 fee per vehicle for non-residents.

## What do firefighters do when they are not responding to fire or emergency medical calls?

Firefighters train daily in the various aspects of their jobs. They are required to train an average of 20 hours in fire-related training and three hours of emergency medical continuing education each month. Firefighters also perform building walk-throughs, pre-planning, and commercial fire inspections. Firefighters spend considerable time cleaning and maintaining equipment and the fire stations. Occasionally, during non-emergency periods, firefighters conduct driver training throughout the Village to maintain familiarity of Village streets, neighborhoods, and business districts. This saves valuable time when actually responding to emergencies. The remainder of their time is spent working administratively on fire department programs, preparing meals, reading, studying, physical fitness training. Firefighters remain on duty for a 24-hour period. Regardless of what they are doing, they are ready to respond at any moment to a call for service or emergency.



## **2018 Fire Department Calendar of Events**

May 28th - Memorial Day Parade

July 3rd - Gillson Park Festival and Fireworks

October 7-13 - Fire Prevention Week

October 13th - Fire Department Open House & 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## **Important Contact Information**

Fire/ Police Emergency: **911**

Fire Non-Emergency: **(847) 251-1101**

Police Non-Emergency: **(847) 256-1200**

Wilmette Village Hall: **(847) 251-2700**

Wilmette Public Works: **(847) 853-7500**

Poison Control Center: **(800) 222-1222**



## **Life Safety Tips**

- Have a smoke alarm outside every sleeping area, in every bedroom, and on every level of your home.
- Always check electrical cords for cracking and fraying.
- Create and practice a home fire escape plan for family members to use in the event of an emergency.
- Every home should have a working carbon monoxide detector.
- Do not hesitate to call 911. If something feels like an emergency, treat it like an emergency!
- When using candles in the home, keep them away from combustible materials and be