

# WILMETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Center for  
Public Safety  
Excellence

ACCREDITED SINCE 2001

# WILMETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

### Message from the Chief

The members of the Wilmette Fire Department are pleased to offer you this annual report for the fiscal year, of 2014. This is a working document that addresses your fire departments daily activities and accomplishments. It is our goal to offer the highest level of service possible for the citizens and business community of Wilmette, while honoring the established budget set forth by the Village Board of Commissioners and the City Manager.

As the Fire Chief, I am privileged to lead a fire service organization comprised of such committed and skilled staff. The men and women of Wilmette are unwavering in their commitment to protect the lives and properties of the citizens and visitors of Wilmette.

The #1 priority of this agency's management team is to ensure that the members of our department are equipped with the skills, tools, and training to provide this service in a safe and effective manner.

Our organization values trustworthiness, resourcefulness, compassion, diversity, respect, and the commitment to excellence. I am very proud to be a part of a 47 member team that exudes these values every day, on every call for service.

I would also like to thank the Wilmette Village Board for their support. Without their dedication to the fire department and its mission goals, we would not be able to continue to provide the quality of service to the citizens that they expect from us.

Finally, I would like to thank you for allowing me to be your Fire Chief. I am blessed to be able to serve in this capacity and lead such a dedicated organization. I value the people I work with and witness their commitment daily. I am honored to be a member of this organization and of this community. I do not take this responsibility or the safety of our residents lightly.

Our doors are always open, so feel free to stop by or contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Michael A. McGreal Jr.*

Michael A. McGreal Jr.  
Fire Chief  
Wilmette Fire Department  
847 852-7692  
mcgrealm@wilmette.com



## MISSION STATEMENT

The members of the Wilmette Fire Department are devoted to providing professional service that places the interests, safety and well-being of our community as its highest priority. We accomplish this by providing advanced emergency medical care, modern fire suppression tactics and effective fire prevention programs. These principles drive our department's enduring mission of saving lives, protecting property and educating our community.

## OUR VALUES

**Honesty** ...in both our leadership and our employees, leading to the highest level of trustworthiness.

**Integrity** ...in our dealings with each other and those we serve, always adhering to a sound code of moral and ethical conduct.

**Teamwork** ...as we believe that availing ourselves of each person's talent enhances the services we deliver and that cooperation improves our relationships.

**Commitment to Excellence** ...demonstrating itself through consistent professionalism, pride, and a positive attitude.

**Knowledge** ...as it forms the foundation for effective decisions, actions, and increased safety.

**Respect** ...for each person as an individual, an attitude that recognizes the worth of others and exhibits compassion for those in need.

## OUR VISION

The Members of the Wilmette Fire Department...

- strive to be role models in the community and leaders in our profession.
- will be accountable to those we serve, each other and any fire service organizations we interact with.
- are committed to providing the best public service through innovative training, education and equipment.
- will take the fire department into the future through productive teamwork, open and honest communications and participative decision-making throughout the organization.
- are committed to our values, mission, and dedicated to our fire service profession.

Our organization is driven to provide a cost effective and efficient fire department while honoring our values, accomplishing our mission and achieving our goals.

## 2014 PERSONNEL

### **FIRE CHIEF**

James W. Dominik

### **DEPUTY CHIEF**

Michael A. McGreal Jr.

### **ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF**

Richard W. Ciccione

### **DUTY CHIEF**

Jeffrey S. Gorr

Thomas C. Robertson

Paul E. Bergquist

### **LIEUTENANT**

James R. Bentz

Anthony D. Bucci

Benjamin M. Wozney

Robert C. Brill

Mark A. Cacchione

Jason B. Wilk

### **FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC**

Kenneth J. Barton

Michael J. Isaacson

John J. Okonek

Jennifer L. Bazan

Robert J. Jost

John S. Ramaker

James R. Bentz

Edward R. Kofoed

Richard C. Riggan II

John A. Blomquist

Louis J. Klausling

Michael J. Scheetz

Guillermo Bonilla

Thomas J. Kopczyk

Ryan D. Schmidt

Thomas J. Cirone

Timothy M. Ludford

Kevin D. Schuman

Blake E. Eastman

Frank J. Mager

Thomas E. Simon

Joseph N. Falkovitz

Ryan R. Menzies

Sean Stezinger

David P. Grajewski

Michael M. Minoque

Daniel J. Walters

Michael S. Halterman

Timothy Neurauter

Jason N. Weglarz

Patrick T. Harrington

Scott M. Paczosa

Michael D. Wessel

Robert C. Hughes

Gary A. Wokurka

### **SECRETARY**

Diane K. Anderson

### **MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT**

Joe Bass

## PERSONNEL CHANGES

### Retired



Chief James Dominik



Lt. John Storm



Deputy Chief to Chief  
Michael A. McGreal



Duty Chief to Deputy Chief  
Thomas C. Robertson

### Promoted

### Promoted



Lt. to Duty Chief  
Anthony D. Bucci



Lt. to Duty Chief  
Benjamin M. Wozney



FF/PM to Lt. Michael J. Isaacson  
also **15 Years**



FF/PM to Lt. Ryan R. Menzies  
also **10 Years**

### 25 Years



FF/PM Louis J. Klausing

### 20 Years



FF/PM John A. Blomquist

### 15 Years



Lt. Robert C. Brill

### 10 Years



FF/PM David P. Grajewski

### New Employees



FF/PM Sean Stezinger



FF/PM Guillermo Bonilla



FF/PM Thomas J. Cirone

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The Wilmette Fire Department's strategic plan was recently updated after an in-depth Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis of the organization and its activities. Throughout this analysis the organization stays focused on its mission, vision and values statements. These statements provide the core values of the organization and act as a guide to evaluate our organization. The current strategic plan is a management plan for the organization to help address the needs identified during the SWOT analysis. This document serves as a planning tool to direct the current and future activities of the Fire Department in an effort to provide the best possible service to the community for the next five years.

The Strategic plan is currently comprised of nine sections. These nine sections highlight the following:

- **Training:** Proper training of personnel is necessary to provide the highest quality service.
- **Personnel:** Provides the people needed to meet the organizational objectives.
- **Capital Improvements:** Items necessary for long term 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.

A copy of the Wilmette Fire Department Strategic Plan is available on the Village's web site.

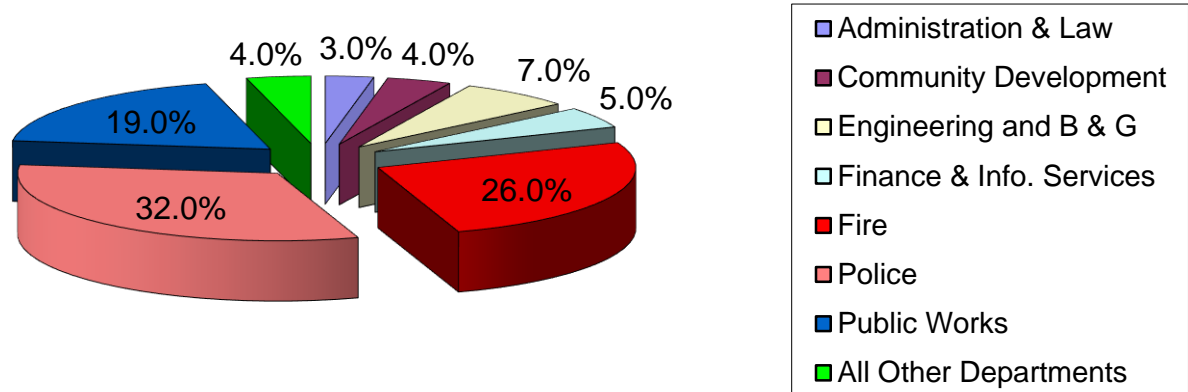
Please note that this plan is a dynamic document that serves as a guide, which can and should change as the community, department and environment change. What does not change is our core mission, which is protecting lives and property of the community we serve.



## ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

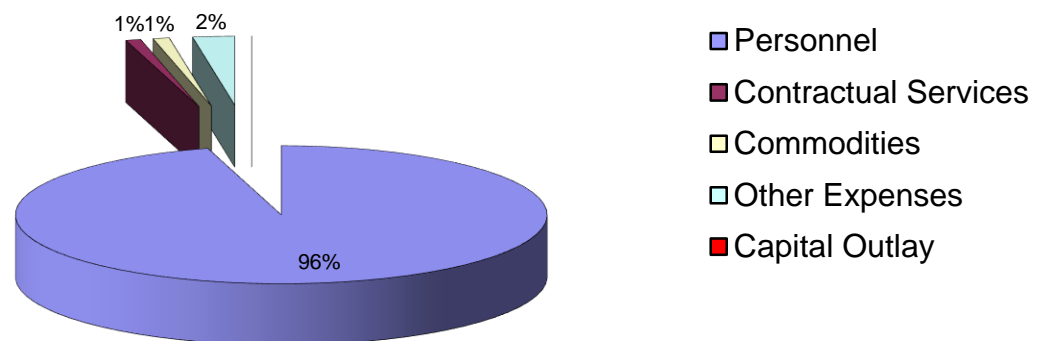
### Village of Wilmette 2014 Budget

\$76,579,025



### 2014 Fire Department Budget

\$8,544,590



### 2014 WILMETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Personnel	\$8,164,170
Contractual Services	\$78,755
Commodities	\$84,450
Other Expenses	\$217,215
Capital Outlay	\$0



## FIRE STATIONS AND APPARATUS



### **STATION 26**

#### **Fire Department Headquarters**

1304 Lake Avenue  
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

847-251-1101 (phone)  
847-853-7704 (fax)  
Emergency 911

Ambulance 26	FD-209	2009 Ford 450 Ambulance
Tower 26	FD-204	2009 E-One 1500 GPM Tower Ladder
Engine 26	FD-206	1989 E-One 1500 GPM Pumper
Battalion 26	FD-213	2006 Ford E250 Command Van
Boat 26	FD-214	2000 Avon Inflatable Boat
Utility 26	FD-207	2000 Ford F250 Utility Vehicle
Chief Vehicle	FD-208	2002 Ford Crown Victoria
Deputy Chief Vehicle	FD-210	2001 Ford Explorer
Battalion 26R	FD-203	1997 Ford E150 Van
Staff Vehicle-FP	FD-216	2005 Ford Crown Victoria



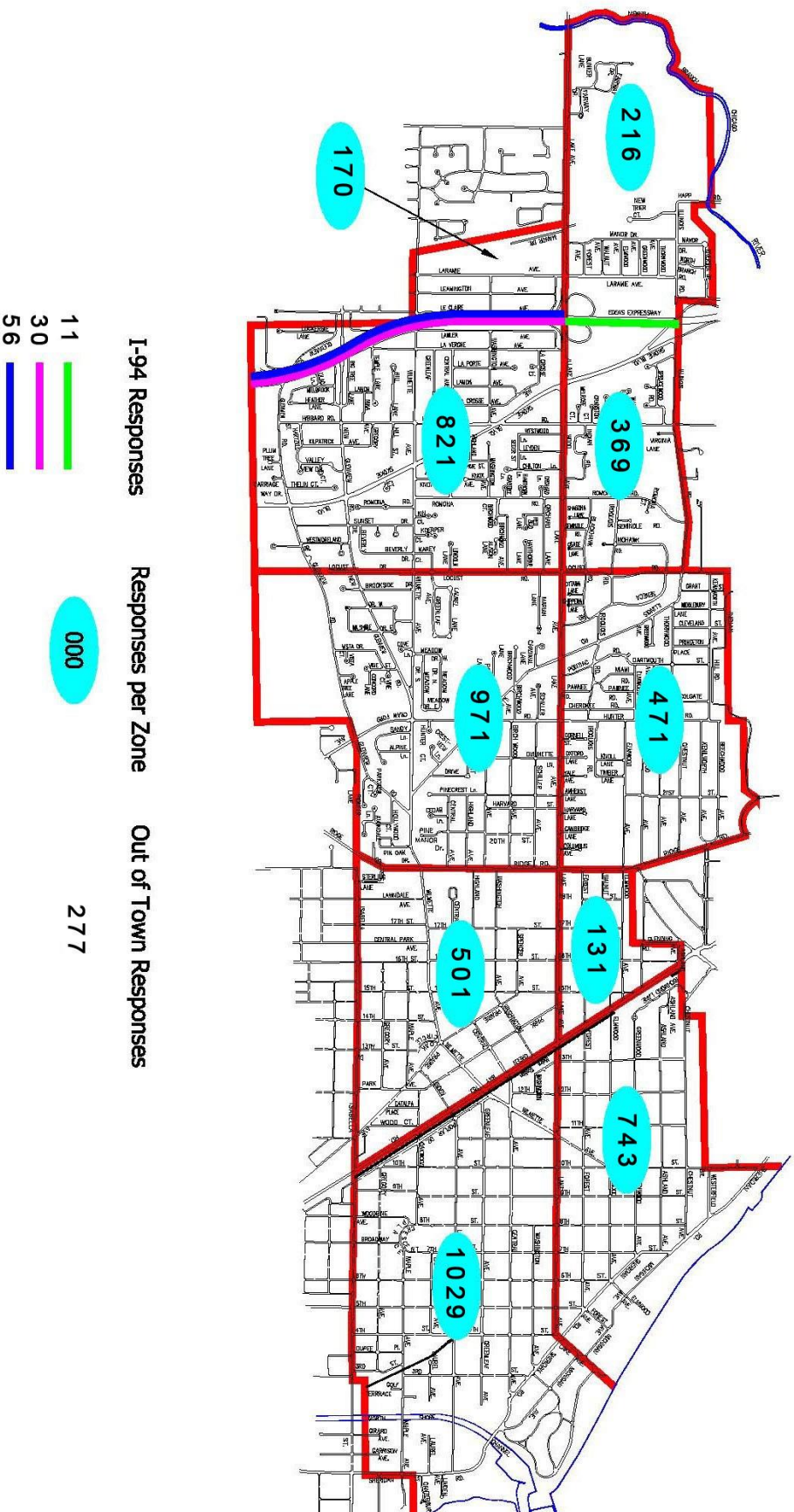
### **STATION 27**

747 Illinois Road  
Wilmette, IL 60091

847-853-7659 (phone)  
847-853-7707 (fax)  
Emergency 911

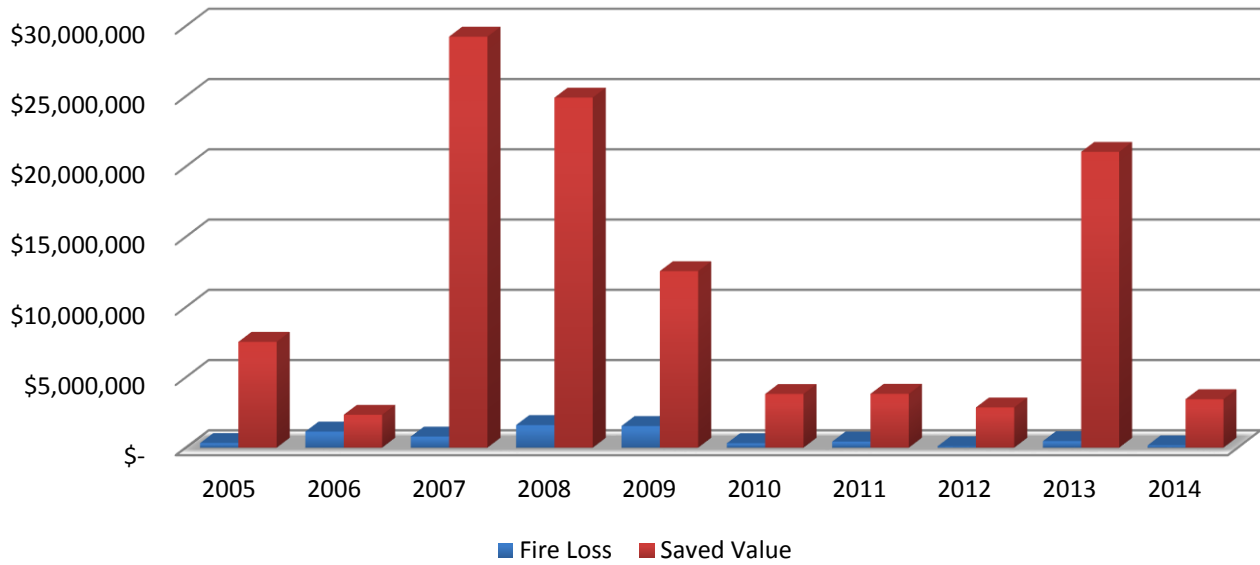
Engine 27	FD-205	1996 E-One 1250 GPM Pumper
Ambulance 27	FD-212	2006 Ford 450 Ambulance
Tower 27	FD-202	1992 Pierce 1500 GPM Tower Ladder
Squad 27	FD-201	1999 Navistar Heavy Rescue Squad
Ambulance 26R	FD-211	2001 Ford 350 Ambulance
Engine 27	FD-217	2013 E-One 1500 GPM Pumper
Rescue 27	FD-200	2013 Ford F550 Rescue

# Wilmette Fire Department 2014 Emergency Responses

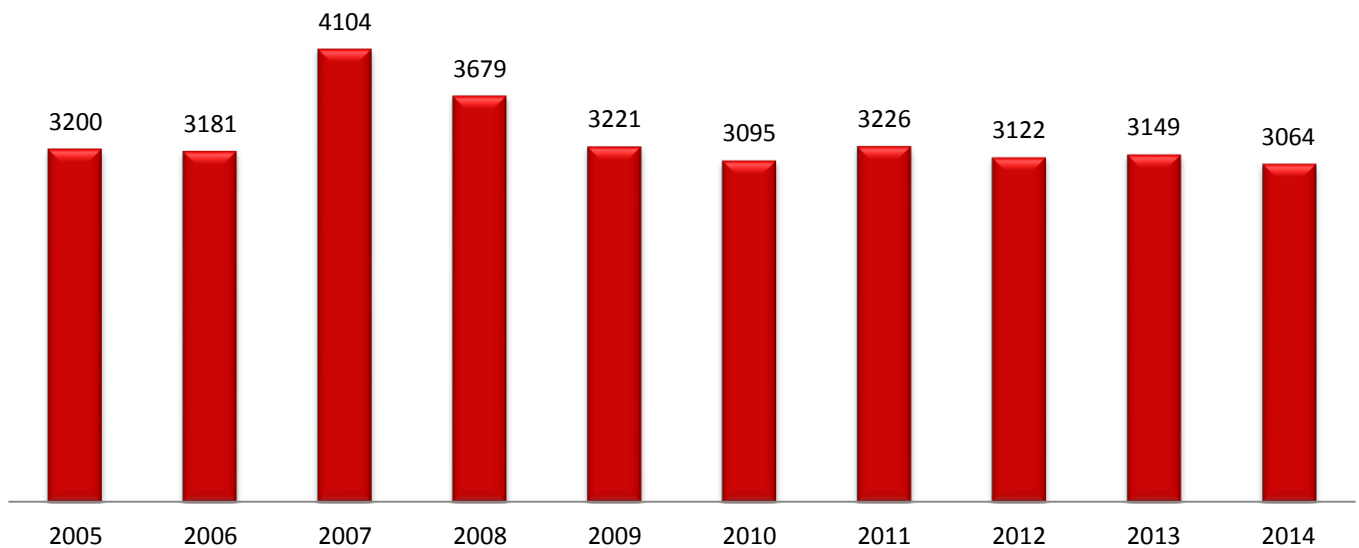


## 10 Year Fire Loss / Save Comparison

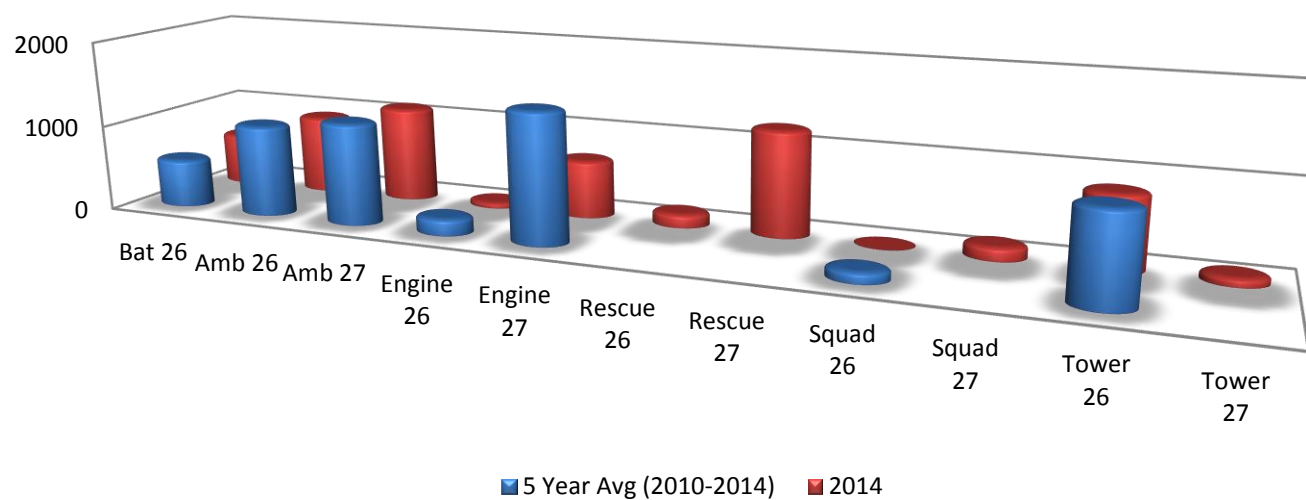
\$111,612,516 in property value saved over 10 years



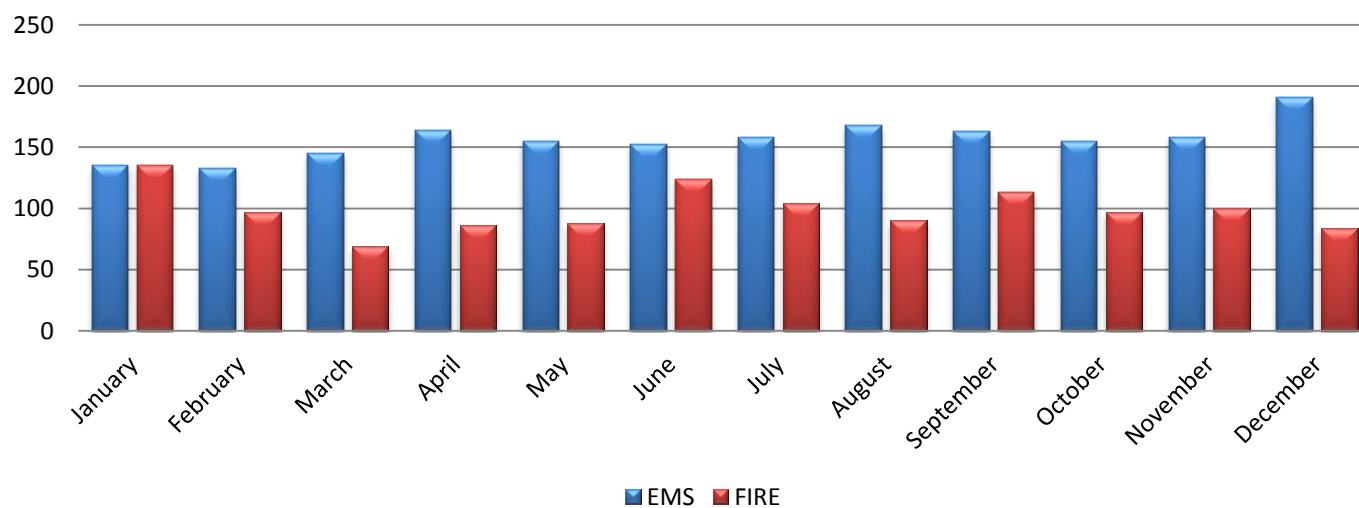
## 10 Year Incident Comparison

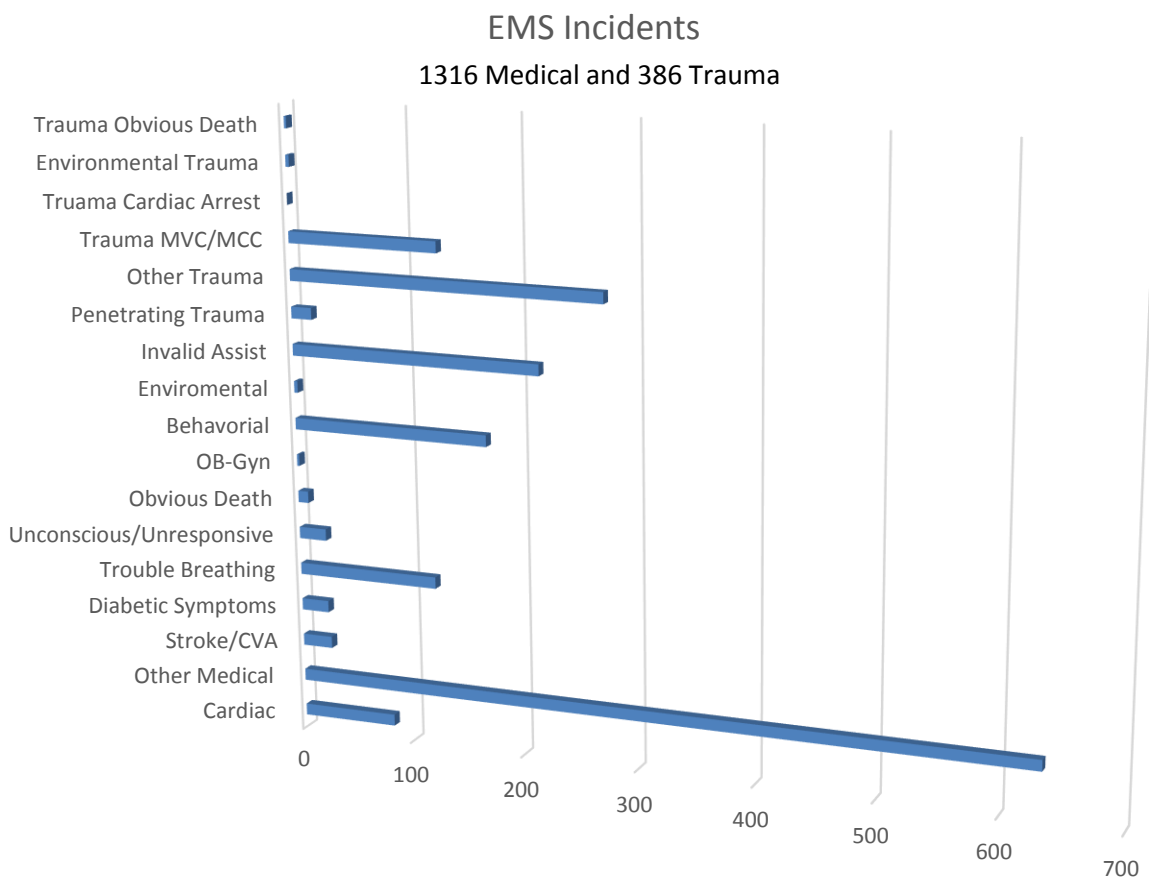
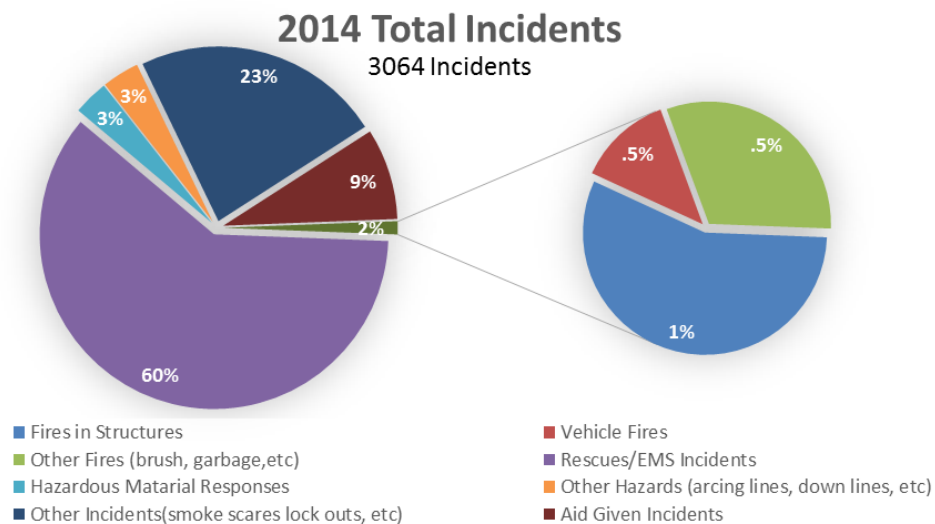


## Vehicle Responses



## 2014 INCIDENTS





## **ACCREDITATION**

The Wilmette Fire Department achieved Accreditation in 2001 through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and received re-accreditation in 2006 and 2011. Today the department is one of 196 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 6 communities in the state of Illinois that has both CPSE and Law Enforcement (CALEA) accredited fire and police agencies.

The Wilmette Fire Department recently completed its re-accreditation on-site evaluation in the spring of 2011. The purpose of this evaluation was to investigate and validate that the Wilmette Fire Department is meeting and is in compliance with over 230 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 reaccreditation was conferred at the August 25, 2011 meeting of the commission.

The overriding principle involved when establishing an accreditation program is that of validating performance. With the development of an international fire service accreditation process, a method has been created that focuses on the evaluation of the activities and services an entity provides to protect life and property. For each topic or subject area in the self-assessment process, a description of what the department is doing to address various issues is required. The Department is required to analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of the activity as it currently exists and then plan for the future. The self-assessment process focuses on collecting and organizing the necessary references and exhibits to complement and demonstrate the services listed within the accreditation model.

The accreditation process takes into account how fire services have broadened in scope over the years. While Insurances Services Office/Commercial Risk Services (ISO/CRS) measures the ability to put out fires, accreditation looks at the effectiveness in providing emergency medical services, fire prevention and education activities, as well as emergency planning and other issues. In short, the process allows the Fire Department to benchmark against best practice standards and provides a framework for continuous improvement. Currently the department is an ISO Class 2 department. There are only 62 ISO Class 2 departments in Illinois and 750 nationwide. There are currently over 49,000 ISO rated fire departments.

## **DIVE RESCUE**

The goal of the Dive Team is to provide trained certified divers for the hazards within Wilmette's borders and to the Mutual aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division III Underwater Rescue and Recovery team.

### **2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Completed all mandatory training requirements of the MABAS Division III Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team.
- Hosted an annual MABAS Division III training dive at the lakefront.
- Assisted the water department in exercising valves in intake vaults located in Lake Michigan
- Conducted search operation in the Glencoe section of the Skokie Lagoons for a missing person
- Completed annual department classroom ice rescue training.
- Deputy Chief Mike McGreal was asked to continue as Dive Team Chief Liaison.
- 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 new equipment for new dive team members.

### **Dive Team Members**

Deputy Chief Mike McGreal

Div. III Dive Team Liaison to MABAS Chiefs

Lt. Ben Wozney- Division Diver

MABAS Div. III Dive Team Director

Lieutenant/Paramedic Jason Wilk –Ice Diver	Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Schmidt-Provisional Diver
Firefighter/Paramedic John Okonek –Ice Diver	Firefighter/Paramedic Cody Riggan-Provisional Diver
Firefighter/Paramedic Jennifer Bazan- Ice Diver	Firefighter/Paramedic Dave Grajewski-Division Diver
Lieutenant/Paramedic Ryan Menzies-Division Diver	Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Falkovitz-Division Diver
Firefighter/Paramedic John Ramaker-Boat Operator	
Firefighter/Paramedic Rob Hughes –Sonar Technician	

### **2014 GOALS**

- Meet all MABAS Div III Dive Team training requirements
- Train 5 additional members to the Swift Water Technician level
- Train 2 additional members to the Ice Rescue Level



## **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 at least the Operations level of responder. Several firefighters are further trained to the Technician level. Wilmette has 3 Haz-Mat technicians ready to deploy with the M.A.B.A.S. Division III Haz-Mat team to mitigate poison, radiological, and chemical emergencies within our Divisional borders. The department maintains and tests Carbon Monoxide meters for each front line apparatus as well as 4 Natural Gas meters. The Natural Gas meters are a significant upgrade in equipment over the prior generation of meter.

### **2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Air monitoring equipment was maintained with no significant down time of equipment.
- Attended required training with MABAS Division III Hazardous Materials Team.
- The department responded to and mitigated 167 hazardous materials situations, which included: 48 natural gas leaks, 18 Carbon Monoxide incidents, and 101 "Other" haz-mat incidents, including false calls.

Hazardous Materials Team Members:

Duty Chief Paul Bergquist  
Firefighter/Paramedic John Blomquist  
Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Isaacson

## **TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM (TRT)**

The Fire Department is being called on to provide rescue services in many different specialties. The Technical Rescue Specialist is trained and equipped to mitigate emergencies involving above ground, below ground, confined space and structural collapse incidents.

The program is designed to provide trained and properly equipped Rescue Specialists in the event of an emergency. The members are part of the MABAS Division III Technical Rescue Team, this is a special response team, which when called will bring up to 90 trained and equipped Technical Rescue Specialists to any given location. The TRT member is also responsible for continued education in the form of monthly drills and outside classes. It is their responsibility to share this knowledge with other members of the department.

### **2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Attended and participated in required drills and annual skills review.
- FF/PM Scheetz attended the following courses:
  - Structural Collapse Technician
  - Trench Technician
  - Vertical II/High Angle Rescue
- Shared any knowledge or technical expertise with department members.

Technical Rescue Team Members:

Lieutenant Rob Brill, Team Leader  
Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Weglarz

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Scheetz

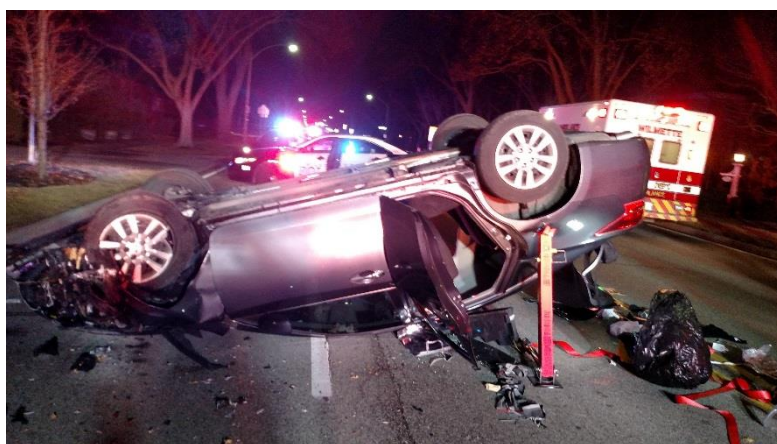
## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

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 increase the level of Advanced Life Support (ALS) and basic life support (BLS) 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 St. Francis Hospital EMS System. The Illinois Department of Public Health mandates that each paramedic complete 30 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 28 of the required hours. The remaining 2 hours of training are completed from a variety of subjects including Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and trauma classes. The Village charges a fee for ambulance transport, in 2014 \$643,226 was billed.

### 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Paramedic clinical requirements for 2014 were met by all Paramedics
- In 2014 6 paramedics completed the CPR instructor course allowing members to keep CPR training in house and look to conduct classes for the public in the future.
- Continuing education classes included: Ethics, SIDS, CISM, Critical thinking skills, Airway management, CPAP, Respiratory Disease, Medical Emergencies, Pharmacology, Airway equipment, Trauma, Elderly Trauma, CPR recertification, Pediatrics, Hands on skills with scenarios, SOP Exam, Cardiac, Stroke, and Ebola Training.
- Members of the fire department instructed classes on AED use, basic first aid, and CPR refresher to Village employees and outside organizations (i.e. Boys and Girl Scouts). Medics also perform wellness screening at the French Market seeing and the Wilmette Library seeing over XX people.
- 3 new FF/PM successfully tested and transferred into the St. Francis EMS system



## **FIRE INVESTIGATION**

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

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. Also, to be proactive in preventing fires from occurring again by the same cause through public education and cooperation with other agencies such as Underwriters Lab (UL) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

### **2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The fire investigation team performed a formal investigation of the cause and origin of 8 fires in Wilmette.
- The investigation team assisted Winnetka, Kenilworth, Northfield and Glencoe, Highland Park and Prospect Heights in their fire investigation efforts.
- Team members assisted the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division III Fire Investigation Task Force Team in several investigations, including Prospect Heights, Glencoe, and Lincolnwood
- Team members attended specialized fire investigation training in conjunction with ventilation testing programs at Underwriter's Laboratories (UL).
- One new member, Pat Harrington, completed certification and joined the team.
- Team members attended several seminars on fire investigation techniques.
- Team members completed many hours of required, specialized training taught through the Fire investigators Strike Force.
- Team members continue to remain current in investigation techniques to maintain certification with the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

### **Fire Investigation Team Members:**

Mark Cacchione, Lieutenant: Team Leader

Jeff Gorr, Duty Chief

James Bentz, Lieutenant/Paramedic

Lou Klausing, Firefighter/Paramedic

John Ramaker, Firefighter/Paramedic

Edward Kofoed, Firefighter/Paramedic

Pat Harrington, Firefighter/Paramedic



## **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

The Fire Prevention Bureau manages five important functions which include: fire inspections, plan reviews, public and private education, legislation, and data collection and analysis. The Bureau is overseen by Assistant to the Chief Rick Ciccione and supported by all shift personnel.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

The main objective of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to promote prevention and awareness through a proactive approach to fire and life-safety.

### **SPECIFIC DUTIES:**

- Provide public education and fire safety awareness programs.
- Enforce fire, building, and life-safety codes and ordinances.
- Conduct fire and life-safety inspections.
- Review plans for fire protection systems and life safety concerns.
- Witness the testing of fire protection and life safety equipment.
- Maintain public relations and respond to citizens' concerns regarding fire-safety.
- Evaluate and update codes to stay current with village needs.
- Installation of cars seats in vehicles.

### **NEW CONSTRUCTION AND SPRINKLER PLAN REVIEW:**

Plans for fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, and hood and duct suppression systems, are reviewed for compliance in relation to adopted codes and regulations.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION:**

The most effective method of fire prevention is public education. Through the Department's public education program, the Assistant to the Fire Chief and members of the Public Education team visit both private and public 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. In the past few years the Department has started visiting block parties to better educate our residents. The Public Education Team also participates in many of the Park Districts programs to promote fire safety. Participation in both parades held in town is another activity the Department does annually. The Fire Safety House, a mobile classroom regularly visits parks and other community events such as the Independence Day celebration held at Gillson Park, further promoting fire safety. The Department also provides public education to many senior organizations in Wilmette. However, 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, special team members demonstrate the tools and equipment used in rescue operations, children bring their teddy bear's for a checkup by the paramedics and they get to do a firefighter obstacle course, and the Fire Safety house is set up. Each year for the past few years this event has drawn over 2000 people.





## HYDRANTS / WATER SUPPLY

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

The 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. This past year department shift personnel tested all hydrants and entered the test results into our database. By comparing these numbers from year to year water system problems can be found and corrected. All data is collected and water flow numbers are submitted to the Water Department and the Public Works Department. Any defects or mechanical problems found are documented and reported to the Water/Sewer Department for repairs. The data collected is also used in preplan development and for fire water-flow calculations. Target areas for water distribution improvements have also been developed through the information gathered from the hydrant program. The inter-agency cooperation in developing long range goals for the water distribution system has also been a result of data collection and analysis of the entire water system.

### 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- All hydrants were manually geo-located and the hydrant program was conducted using iPads in the field.
- On duty fire crews inspected, flowed and tested 999 fire hydrants in the Village. All data was recorded, analyzed and entered into a database.
- The Public Works Department continued to repair all reported defects and damaged hydrants on a timely basis.
- Fire personnel continue to work with Public Works and Engineering Departments to improve the mapping of hydrant locations.
- In 2014, a total of 999 hydrants were tested, flowing 1,679,788 gallons of water.



# TRAINING

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the training program is to provide quality realistic training for the members of the Fire Department that meets both the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association and the State Fire Marshal's Office while filling the needs of the community. Each year the Department annually assesses the duties that are performed in the community, the needs of fire personnel and provides training that meets those requirements.

## 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Personnel participated in a joint training initiatives providing comprehensive training for all area fire departments.
- Six personnel achieved Fire Officer I certification and one officer achieved Fire Officer II
- All personnel received night drill training coordinated with the Winnetka Fire Department utilizing their live fire training tower.
- Personnel participated in area wide live fire training, including a simulated mass casualty train wreck. This involved multiple departments that we are in auto aid agreements of MABAS Division III.
- Participated in MABAS Division III live fire training which was overseen by Underwriters Laboratories
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training was held for all personnel.
- 5 additional personnel gained certification in Advanced Technician Firefighter and Vehicle Machinery Operations.
- The fire department submitted \$29,818 to the State Fire Marshal's Office for training reimbursement, of which the State reimbursed \$12,888.

The Department continues to have two Chief Officers (Duty Chief Wozney and Deputy Chief Robertson as members on the MABAS Division III and the NIPSTA Training Committees. In the spring and fall the shift commanders, and firefighter / paramedics received joint training covering the following areas: Mass Casualty, Active School Shooter.

The Duty Chiefs and Company Officers must coordinate the following activities into their daily training day: Company preplan inspections, hydrant testing, hose testing, driver / operator, Advanced Technician FF program taught in-house, paramedic continuing education, and department program management. We also conduct a number of public education activities by attending block parties, hosting birthday parties, and station tours. The Duty Chiefs are also responsible for overall quality control of all written reports including training audits to ensure all members are receiving the adequate training to maintain and improve the skills. A major change in recording inspections and EMS calls are now completed using I Pads. There were many training sessions completed to implement this progressive change.

