

# *Annual Report*



*Celebrating 125 Years*

# *Table of Contents*



<b>Message from the Fire Chief</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Organizational Chart</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Personnel Changes</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Shift Personnel</b>	<b>6-8</b>
<b>Stations and Apparatus</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Budget and Allocation of Funds</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Project Grant Funding</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Annual Statistics and Response Breakdown</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Emergency Dispatch and Station Alerting</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Accreditation and Insurance Services Office (ISO)</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Fire and EMS Training</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Special Operations Teams</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Underwater Rescue</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Technical Rescue</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Fire Investigation</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Emergency Medical Services (EMS)</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Community Risk Reduction</b>	<b>22-23</b>
<b>Open House</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Frequently Asked Questions</b>	<b>25-26</b>



# Message from the Fire Chief



July 1, 2019

Dear Mr. Frenzer,

It is my pleasure to present the Wilmette Fire Department's 2018 Annual Report. As the Fire Chief, I am privileged to lead a fire service organization comprised of a committed staff whose goal is to provide the highest level of service available while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Over the past several years, the Fire Department has secured over 1.35 million dollars in Federal, State and Local Grants to purchase state of the art equipment. This equipment allows the men and women of the Wilmette Fire Department to fulfil their commitment to protect the lives and properties of the citizens and visitors of Wilmette.

Our staff is encouraged to advance their education throughout their carrier and have achieved advanced degrees in numerous fields of study. Each Firefighter holds a Paramedic License from the State of Illinois and an Advanced Firefighter designation from the Office of the State Fire Marshall. The required continuing education for these programs is over 300 hours per year.

The Fire Department is a four time Accredited Agency through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. We also maintain a rating of 2 from the Insurance Service Office, placing our Fire Department in the top 3% nationwide.

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 with the purchase of a new Peirce Fire Engine. This new engine is equipped with a larger water tank and longer ladders. It also provides better visibility and an independent suspension system. All these features allows us to respond in a faster, safer manner to all emergency responses.

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



# Our Mission

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.

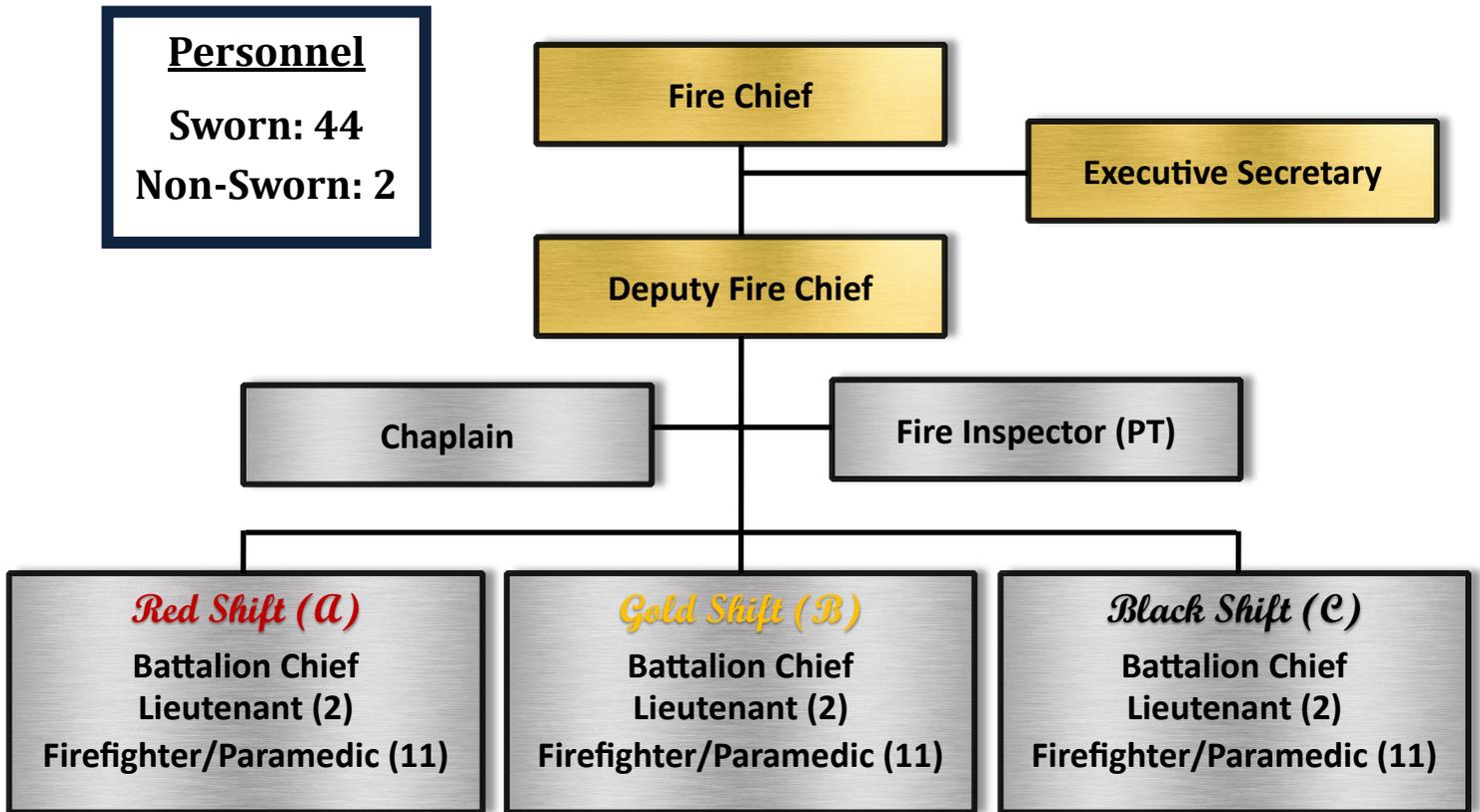


**“The members of the Wilmette Fire Department are dedicated to the preservation of life, while displaying the utmost pride in our profession through an unwavering commitment to our community and each other.”**

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

## *125 Years of Dedicated Service*

# The Organization



## Personnel Changes



**Ben Fisher**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Tim Ludford**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*  
23 Years of Service



**Brad Markovich**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*

# *Red Shift (A)*



**Michael Isaacson**  
*Lieutenant/Paramedic*



**Anthony Bucci**  
*Battalion Chief*



**Jennifer Rodgers**  
*Lieutenant/Paramedic*



**Frank Mager**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Gary Wokurka**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Dave Grajewski**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Ryan Schmidt**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Ken Barton**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Dan Walters**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Kevin Schuman**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Guillermo Bonilla**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Ryan Kolze**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Bill Durband**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Brad Markovich**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*

# *Gold Shift (B)*



**Rob Hughes**  
*Lieutenant/Paramedic*



**James Bentz**  
*Battalion Chief*



**Michael Scheetz**  
*Lieutenant/Paramedic*



**Lou Klausing**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Tom Simon**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Mike Halterman**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Blake Eastman**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Scott Paczosa**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Mike Wessel**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Cody Riggan**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Tim Neurauter**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Colin Murray**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Ben Fisher**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Bobby Richards**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*

# ***Black Shift (C)***



**Jason Wilk**  
*Lieutenant/Paramedic*



**Ryan Menzies**  
*Battalion Chief*



**Mike Minogue**  
*Lieutenant/Paramedic*



**John Blomquist**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Pat Harrington**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Robert Jost**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Jason Weglarz**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Ed Kofoed**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Tom Koczyk**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Tom Cirone**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Mike Lettieri**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



**Matt Guth**  
*Firefighter/Paramedic*



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

"C" Shift had a vacancy for 6 months due to the retirement of Tim Ludford in May 2018.

# Stations and Apparatus



The Wilmette Fire Department maintains 19 vehicles in two fire stations:

- **Fire Station #26 — 1304 Lake Avenue**
- **Fire Station #27— 747 Illinois Road**

The department staffs the following apparatus daily:

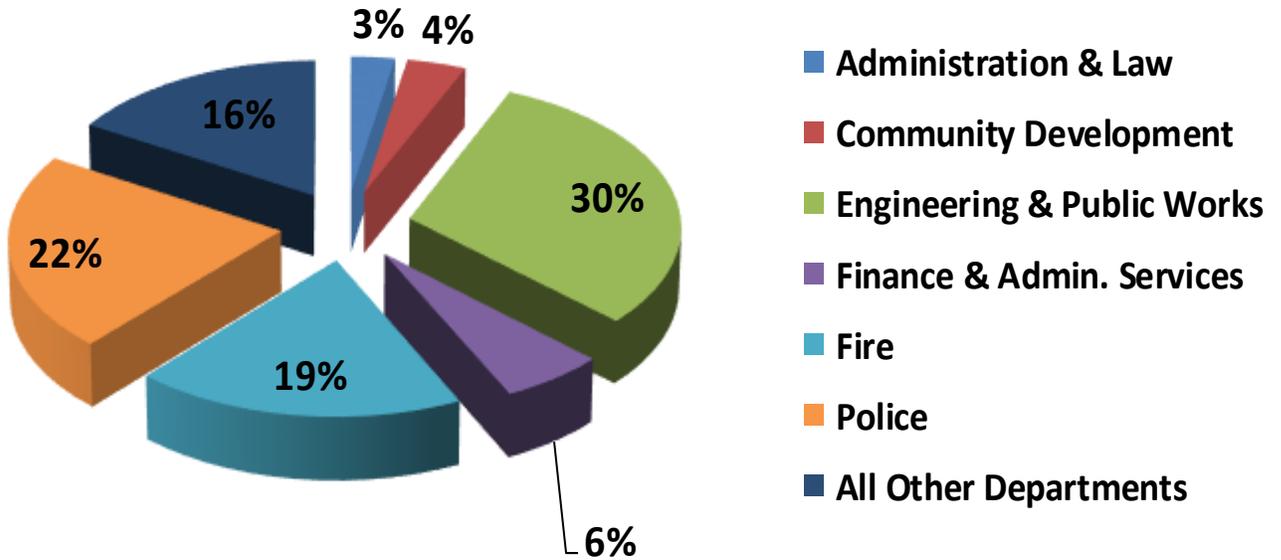
One aerial ladder truck, one rescue pumper, one light-duty rescue squad, two advanced life support (ALS) ambulances, and one shift commander vehicle.

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

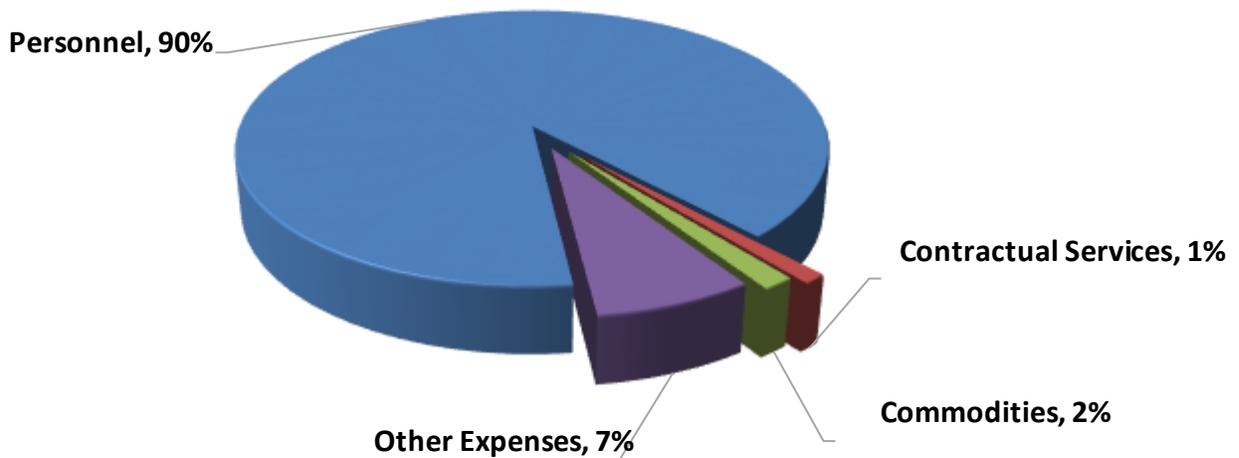
# Allocation of Funds

## Village of Wilmette 2018 Program Budget

\$37,588,855



## 2018 Fire Department Budget



# New Projects and Grant Funding

The Wilmette Fire Department regularly applies for grant funding for planned projects and new initiatives. In the past, the WFD was awarded grant funding from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Village's risk management/insurance provider to help reduce the burden on taxpayers.

In 2018, the department was awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) that provided the WFD with state-of-the-art portable radios including an integrated personnel accountability system. The department also applied for and received training reimbursement from the State Fire Marshal's Office in the amount of \$3,085.27, which went back into the general fund.

## Capitalization on Available Grants

Fire Department Ballistic Vests (2018)	Insurance Grant	\$1,400
Accreditation (2006, 2011, 2016)	Insurance Grant	\$2,250
Computer Equipment (2011)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$4,050
Generator (2009)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$36,650
SCBA Air Compressor (2015)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$48,000
Fire House Safety Trailer (2013)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$60,000
3 EKG Zoll EMS Monitors (2011)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$72,000
Vehicle Exhaust System (2013)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$118,800
Fire Marshal Training Reimbursement (2002- 2018)	Office of the State Fire Marshal	\$130,000
Motorola Radios and Accountability System (2018)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$125,600
E-ONE 95' Tower Ladder Truck (2007)	Federal (AFG) Grant	\$750,000

**Total grant funds received: \$1.35 million dollars.**

In 2019, the fire department will continue to apply for grant funds and other alternative funding means as it looks to replace an advanced life support ambulance and outdated Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Together, these items carry an expense nearing \$550,000.



# *Incident Response Breakdown*

Incident Type	Count
Structure and Vehicle Fires	56
Emergency Medical Services	1,581
Motor Vehicle Accidents	148
Rescues	27
Hazardous Conditions	180
False Alarms	462
Service Calls / Other	876
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>	<b>3,330</b>

## Response Types Defined

### **Structure and Vehicle Fires:**

- Any confirmed fire in or adjacent to a structure, mobile property, roadway vehicle, or watercraft.

### **Emergency Medical Services:**

- This includes all EMS responses except for motor vehicle accidents and non-emergency lift assist-type incidents.

### **Motor Vehicle Accidents:**

- Any type of motor vehicle accident, including those incidents involving pedestrians and cyclists. This category also includes joint responses with Northfield FD and Skokie FD to the Edens Expressway.

### **Rescues:**

- Lock-ins, elevator rescues, water rescues, and other entrapments.

### **Hazardous Conditions:**

- Carbon monoxide incidents, natural gas odors and leaks, electrical hazards and downed power/utility lines, and material spills.

### **False Alarms:**

- This category contains all responses where an automated alarm system generated a fire department response, but no hazard or incident found on arrival.

### **Service Calls / Other:**

- All other responses, predominantly non-emergency, where public assistance was provided. This category also includes invalid assist incidents.

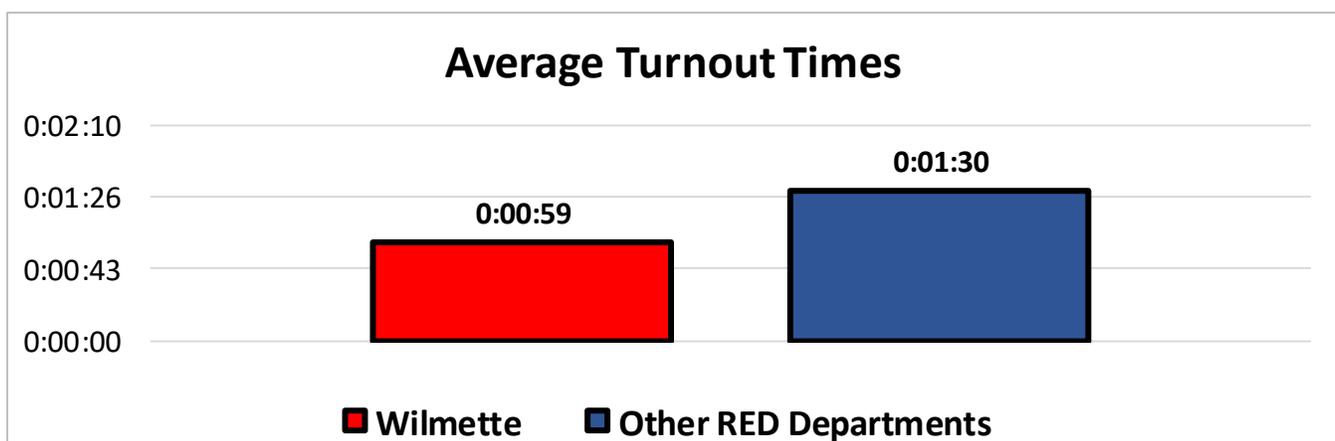


# Emergency Dispatch and Station Alerting



All 911 calls placed in the Village of Wilmette go directly to the Wilmette Police Department. A trained professional dispatcher will determine the location and the nature of the emergency. If the nature of the situation 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.

- 2017— The WFD began using a “pre-alert” from Wilmette Police to provide earlier notification of emergency calls to fire department personnel. This process utilized existing equipment with no additional expense to the Village, and reduced the department’s turnout time (the time interval from when a call is dispatched until the vehicle leaves the station).
- 2018— The WFD further improved its communication process by becoming the first RED Center agency to purchase and install a new, digital station alerting system from [U.S. Digital Designs](#). This state-of-the-art equipment generates an automated, computer voice alert at each fire station concurrently while a call taker is gathering information from the 911 caller. This upgrade allows the Village to eliminate the use of costly and unreliable telephone lines used by the previous alerting system, saving the Village over \$800 per month.



# Accreditation and ISO

The Wilmette Fire Department first achieved accredited status in 2001 through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). The department successfully re-accredited in 2006, 2011, and 2016. Today the department is one of 266 accredited agencies worldwide, only 14 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 department is presently working on developing a new strategic plan, a revised Standards of Cover/Community Risk Assessment, and revisions to its self-assessment manual to comply with the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the accreditation standards.



Commission on  
Fire Accreditation  
International

In 2017, the fire department underwent an evaluation by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to analyze the WFD's public fire protection capabilities. This assessment evaluates the Village's water distribution system, fire department resource deployment, response times, training compliance, and apparatus/equipment. 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 assessment, the department received an ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) 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 departments 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 skills and knowledge requirements that are applicable to our community and mutual-aid communities, so that the fire and EMS training conducted meet those needs.

The Wilmette Fire Department actively seeks out venues in the community and surrounding areas to conduct training, including buildings slated for demolition. These sites provide a 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 Division 3. These drills, often hosted at the NIPSTA training facility, provide realistic training in a live fire environment, as well as the opportunity to work with firefighters from our mutual-aid partner-communities.

## 2018 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 17,900 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 Technical Rescue Team members training on the roof of 1420 Sheridan Road in Wilmette. Team members are simulating the rescue of trapped workers.



MABAS Division 3 Underwater Rescue Team members from Wilmette FD prepare to dive during a monthly training session in Park Ridge.

## Fire Investigation

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



## Technical Rescue

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 16 North Shore and near north communities of MABAS Division 3.

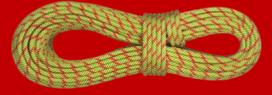
## **2018 Activity**

- ◆ Wilmette FD Dive Team responded to 13 water rescue or recovery incidents, of which five occurred in Wilmette, three in Winnetka, two in Highland Park, and one each in Evanston, Northfield, and Libertyville.
- ◆ 2018 responses included a boat explosion, an overturned boat, multiple water rescues, sonar and remote-operated vehicle (ROV) searches, and multiple body recoveries.
- ◆ Team members provided on-scene protection for Triathlon athletes during the lakefront swim portion of the event using a boat and multiple divers.
- ◆ FF/PM Cody Riggan continued training with the statewide-deployable MABAS Swiftwater Rescue Team.
- ◆ All divers passed annual training requirements to included endurance swim testing.
- ◆ Fire Chief Ben Wozney continued to serve as Dive Team Chief Liaison.
- ◆ Succession planning for the team continued as Battalion Chief Ryan Menzies and FF/PM Dave Grajewski became co-team leaders.
- ◆ All active members completed their required training, which included ice dives, night dives, swift water, and a dive hosted by the Wilmette Fire Department.
- ◆ Team members performed the annual required inspections and service of all dive equipment.
- ◆ Boat and sonar operators completed required training for each discipline.
- ◆ Completed all mandatory training requirements of the MABAS Division 3 Underwater Rescue





# 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.

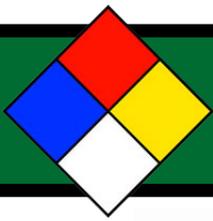
The program is designed to provide training and equipment to ensure preparedness for any type of emergency. Team members are part of the MABAS Division 3 Technical Rescue Team (TRT), a specialized response team, that when called upon will bring up to 70 technical rescue specialists to an incident scene. The MABAS Division 3 TRT responds within the division (16 local municipalities) and state-wide when requested.

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.

## 2018 Activity

- ◆ There were no incident responses in the Village of Wilmette or in the MABAS Division 3 response area for 2018.
- ◆ Deputy Chief Rob Brill continued to serve as the MABAS Division 3 TRT Chief Liaison.
- ◆ All three team members completed required training hours and skills to maintain good standing on the division team.
- ◆ Additional personal safety equipment was allocated to each TRT member including footwear, headlamps, fall arresting gear, work positioners, and individual pulley systems. All team members currently have the same cache of personal rescue equipment.





# 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.

## 2018 Activity

- ◆ Team members attended a minimum of 80 hours additional training with the team.
- ◆ The MABAS Division 3 Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) did not respond to any incidents during this calendar year.
- ◆ Team members delivered a minimum of 8 hours of Hazardous Materials refresher training to all fire department personnel.





# Fire Investigation



The Illinois General Assembly enacted the Fire Investigation Act (425 ILSCS 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.

## 2018 Activity

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Sixteen (16) fire investigations were completed during 2018.. Eleven (11) investigations were for fire in the Village, while five (5) investigations were assisting other municipalities. The BATs program was used for each of these investigations that originated in the Village.
- ◆ Team members attended over 250 hours of training through the Investigators Strike Force.
- ◆ Team members conducted cause and origin training and evidence preservation awareness for individual shifts.
- ◆ The operational policy was adjusted to allow on-duty investigators to assist other agencies as requested to help members gain necessary experience and to meet continuing education requirements.



# Emergency Medical Services

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program is designed to provide highly-skilled and equipped paramedics to the scene of any medical emergency. The goal of the EMS program is to provide the highest level of Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical care to the residents and guests of the Village of Wilmette in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Amita St. Francis Hospital EMS System.

The Illinois Department of Public Health mandates that each paramedic completes a minimum of 25 hours of continuing education training annually. 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.

## 2018 Activity

- ◆ The WFD transported 1,330 patients to local emergency departments, with over \$514,000 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. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Arlyn School staff).
- ◆ Wilmette paramedics also performed wellness screenings at the French Market, contacting over 100 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 100 attending to learn valuable lifesaving skills.

# Community Risk Reduction

Community Risk Reduction (CRR) is a term relatively new to the fire service. CRR encompasses public education and fire prevention, but uses data-driven analyses to discover and manage all types of risks to the community.

The Wilmette Fire Department works diligently to improve the health and safety of the Village residents, their guests, and the community overall. In addition to delivering education programs to target audiences, the fire department works with other Village departments to ensure all building renovations and new construction meet current life safety codes through fire prevention plan reviews, occupancy inspections, and other initiatives.

Throughout the year you can find the fire department engaged in the community at the French Market, Wilmette Sidewalk Sale, Gillson Park July 3rd Festival, and many other events promoting

## 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

## Community Risk Reduction Activities

Students reached through education programs:	<b>3,034</b>
Block parties and fire vehicle demonstrations:	<b>37</b>
Station tours	<b>24</b>
Child-safety seat installations	<b>87</b>
Smoke alarm installations	<b>6</b>



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

# Community Risk Reduction

The fire department also provides the following services to the community:

## **Open House**

The fire department's annual open house showcases the personnel, equipment, and services provided to the Village residents and guests - a fun and educational event for the entire family!

## **CPR Classes**

Classes are held four times per year or as needed. The fee is \$25 per person.



## **Blood Pressure Screenings**

The fire department visits the French Market each Saturday to check blood pressures. Residents can also stop by Fire Station #26 for a blood pressure check Monday through Friday 8am-5pm.

## **School Fire and Life Safety Education**

The WFD Public Education Team conducts fire safety instruction to all elementary and middle school classrooms in Wilmette public and private schools on an annual basis.

## **Car Seat Installation and Education**

This service is available at no cost to residents by our state-certified technicians. Call (847) 251-1101 for an appointment.

## **File of Life Program**

This kit allows for first responders to quickly obtain vital information such as medical history, allergies, prescription medication, and emergency contact information.



## **Smoke Alarm Program**

The WFD Public Education Team conducts fire safety instruction to all elementary and middle school classrooms in Wilmette public and private schools on an annual basis.



## **Home Fire Safety Inspections**

Home safety inspections are available to help answer questions regarding smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, evacuation plans, and general safety.

## **Block Parties**

The WFD is available to visit block parties a provide a 25-minute fire engine demonstration program. Contact us to schedule your visit! Don't wait too long to call, as time slots are limited.

# Open House 2018

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 2018, the Wilmette Fire Department encouraged school children and their families to continue to increase safety and fire awareness in the home. Prior to the Open House event, members of the public education team visited schools in the Village presenting a fire safety education program to all grade levels. During these programs, students were asked to perform a home safety inspection with their parents and record it on an online form; the students were challenged to have 100% compliance in each of their classrooms.



# *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 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.

## 2019 Fire Department Calendar of Events

- May 27<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day Parade
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Gillson Park Festival  
and Fireworks
- October 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> - Fire Prevention Week
- October 12<sup>th</sup> - Fire Department Open House



## 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 sure to fully extinguish them before going to bed.

## Important Contacts

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**

