

La Crosse Fire Department 2014 Annual Report





Office of the Fire Chief Gregg A. Cleveland La Crosse Fire Department

726 5th Ave South, La Crosse, WI 54601 ■ (608) 789-7260 Fax (608) 789-7276
<http://www.cityoflacrosse.org> ClevelandG@cityoflacrosse.org

Serving La Crosse and Southwestern Wisconsin Quality Emergency Services Since 1896



July 2015

Mayor Tim Kabat
Members of the Common Council
Members of the Police and Fire Commission
Citizens of the City of La Crosse

The fire department has had a historic year; for the first time the La Crosse Fire Department is an internationally accredited fire department through the Commission of Fire Accreditation International. We have proved to the citizens and the world that we are indeed a cost effective, efficient, and quality organization dedicated to providing emergency fire, building, and life safety services. I am extremely proud to display our accreditation logo on our stationary and apparatus. We are committed to remaining an accredited agency in the years to come.

The year 2014 saw the fire department integrate the building department into the fire prevention division and create the Division of Fire Prevention and Building Safety. We are committed to improving our building safety standards and improving our neighborhoods through this merger. As we progress into 2015 we will be pursuing changes to strengthen our building and maintenance programs to address some of the problematic areas in our city.

Some highlights of our accomplishments in 2014 include but are not limited to: 27% decrease in fire loss as compared to our 20 year average; implemented a narcan drug administration program for patients that overdose on heroin; conducted initial training on response to crude oil spills and fires; responded to an 8% increase in total call volume; responded to 88% of all calls in six minutes and twenty seconds.

It is important to note the change in measurement in our response time from 2013 to 2014. In accordance with International Accreditation requirement we now measure total response time. Our response time now includes the time from when the La Crosse County Emergency Dispatch Center receives the call until the fire department arrives on

scene. The Accreditation benchmark is to respond to emergency calls in six minutes and twenty seconds or less 90% of the time.

Concerning our budgetary performance the fire department completed 2014 with a surplus of \$59,489.00. We exceeded our revenue estimate by \$26,754.00. The fire department was financially solid in 2014.

Looking ahead to 2015, we are looking to replace our Quint 3 located at Station 3 on Losey Boulevard to maintain our service to the southern area of the city.

We will continue to evaluate and make changes in our Division of Fire Prevention and Building Safety to improve our code clearance rate and address blighted properties in the city. Another initiative will be to address the different data bases that we maintain concerning building and fire records on properties.

Maintaining our accredited status will be another goal with the submission of our annual compliance report to continue to maintain the high standards we have established.

Overall I am very pleased with the progress the fire department achieved in 2014. I am looking forward to reporting our progress to you in my next address concerning the progress we have made in 2015.

Respectfully,



Gregg A. Cleveland, Fire Chief
La Crosse Fire Department



Office of the Fire Chief Gregg A. Cleveland

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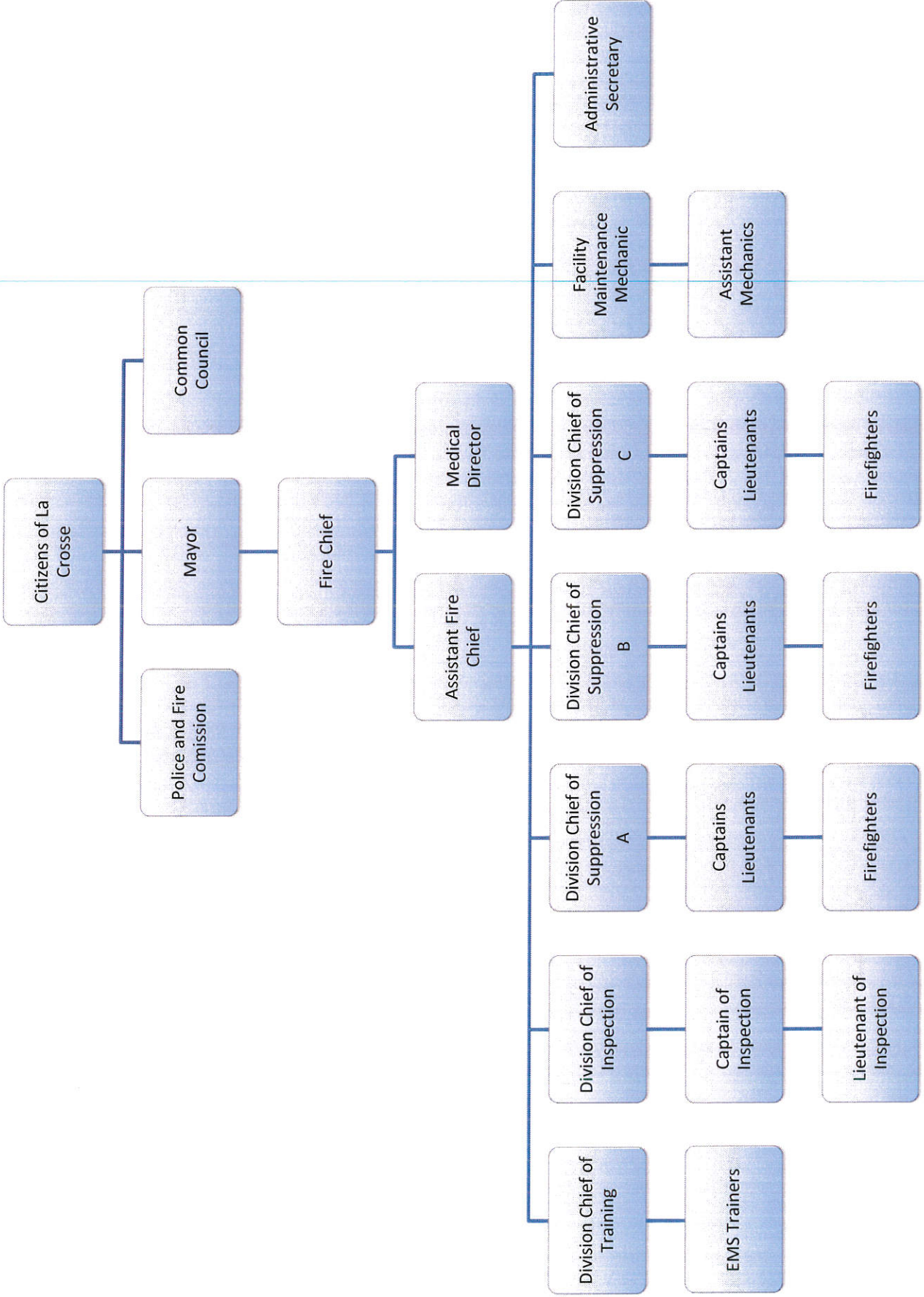


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“It is the mission of the La Crosse Fire Department to provide progressive emergency services in the City of La Crosse in the most expeditious, safe and reliable manner. These services include but are not limited to fire suppression and rescue, water rescue, ice rescue, high angle response, hazardous materials response, emergency medical services, fire prevention / public education and incident investigation.

These services are provided to all citizens and visitors to the City of La Crosse regardless of race, gender, color, creed, social or financial status. These services will be provided in the most cost efficient manner, to maintain economic viability within the community.”

La Crosse Fire Department Organizational Chart



<u>Rank & Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
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Fire Chief

Gregg Cleveland	5/1/06
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Assistant Chief

Warren Thomas	9/9/86
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Division Chief of Suppression

Mark Amann	6/27/88
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Thomas Wallerich	8/14/88
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Jeffrey Murphy	8/11/96
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Division Chief of Inspections

Craig Snyder	7/20/98
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Lieutenant of Inspections

Lance Tryggestad	10/6/02
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Kyle Soden	5/21/99
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Division Chief of Training

Gregory Temp	6/22/93
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Computer Trainer/Clerk

Adam Markert	7/23/07
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Kyle Dumez	1/18/08
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Andrew Formanek	12/28/10
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EMS Trainer

James Hillcoat	1/22/07
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Frank Garritano	5/9/08
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Steven Cash	4/5/04
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Facility Maintenance Mechanic

Billy Treanor	4/5/04
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Assistant Mechanic

Brian Green	4/13/98
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Blake Hundt	8/29/11
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Jon Kochie	3/23/12
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<u>Rank & Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
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Captain

Todd Worman	4/25/84
Ronald Walker	4/18/82
Thomas Juan	2/13/89
Todd Adams	2/25/94
Daniel Skiles	1/8/85
David Schneider	7/16/93
Anthony Nickelatti	4/3/95
Kevin Kappauf	2/17/93
Matt Buley	4/13/98
David Snow	3/8/97
Jeffrey Schott	11/13/00
Travis George	4/24/00
Francis Devine	11/13/00
Timothy Knudsen	12/7/96
Thomas Griffith	3/23/01

Lieutenant

Aaron Bolstad	4/24/00
Keith Fillinger	3/23/01
Jason Holfelder	11/13/00
Blane Neher	4/28/01
Richard Placek Jr.	11/13/00
Bee Xiong	10/7/02
Jason Herbold	3/8/96
Brian Elsen	4/5/04

Heavy Rescue Drivers

Wade Flisram	4/13/98
Michael Larson	4/24/00
Todd Beyer	7/20/98

Administrative Secretary

Barbara Glomstad	6/6/95
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House Security

Aubrey Wesely	7/30/11
Dustin Zander	10/27/11
Beau Liebman	5/1/12

<u>Rank & Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
------------------------	----------------------------

Engineer

Samuel Polhamus	5/25/84
Dale Butterfield	4/14/85
David French	2/12/90
Kevin Dohlby	2/11/90
Ralph Hauser	4/10/90
Michael Suchla	5/1/90
Bret Kummer	3/2/92
Thomas Stange	3/9/93
Joseph Jablonski	3/12/94
Bryon Stein	4/2/95
Todd English	11/3/96
Todd Bina	10/4/02
Jesse Walters	10/5/02
John Bayer	8/15/05
Nathan Janney	3/20/06
David Duchrow	3/21/06
Phillip Kotlowski	4/9/06
Nicholas Meinertz	1/22/07
Mark Hanson	10/15/07
Steve Kramer	3/10/09
Shane Trussoni	12/2/10
Adam Foley	2/1/11
Timothy Welke	9/26/97

Fire Fighters

Cory Westpfahl	5/23/11
Aubrey Wesely	7/30/11
Matt Miller	7/30/11
Brandon Gritt	3/8/12
Travis Check	8/28/12
Jordan Shackleton	9/7/12
Xiong Yang	9/10/12
Richard Brunoni	10/10/12
Matt Hoeft	1/7/13
Josh De Florian	3/15/13
Jay Lindahl	6/28/13

<u>Rank & Name</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>
Brad Alexander	7/19/13
Robert Miller	8/30/13
Tyrel Mittelstaedt	12/4/13
Isaac Zurawski	1/3/14
Steven Annen	1/20/14
Adam Finseth	8/4/14
Adam Hutson	9/15/14
Troy Glasel	10/6/14
Andrew Servais	11/7/14
Jon Ghinazzi	12/2/14

Promotions

Engineer Steven Cash assigned to EMS Trainer
House Security Shane Trussoni promoted to Engineer
Firefighter Blake Hundt assigned to House Security
House Security Adam Foley promoted to Engineer
Firefighter Dustin Zander assigned to House Security
Assistant Mechanic Billy Treanor assigned to Facility Maintenance Mechanic
Lieutenant Tim Knudsen promoted to Captain
Assistant Mechanic Brian Elsen promoted to Lieutenant
House Security Blake Hundt assigned to Assistant Mechanic
Firefighter Jon Kochie assigned to Assistant Mechanic
Firefighter Tim Welke promoted to Engineer
Firefighter Beau Liebman assigned to House Security
Lieutenant Tom Griffith promoted to Captain

Appointments

Isaac Zurawski
Steven Annen
Adam Finseth
Adam Hutson
Troy Glasel
Andrew Servais
Jon Ghinazzi

Retirements

Joe Formanek
David Stetzer
Todd Koch
Tracy Johnston
Mark Smith



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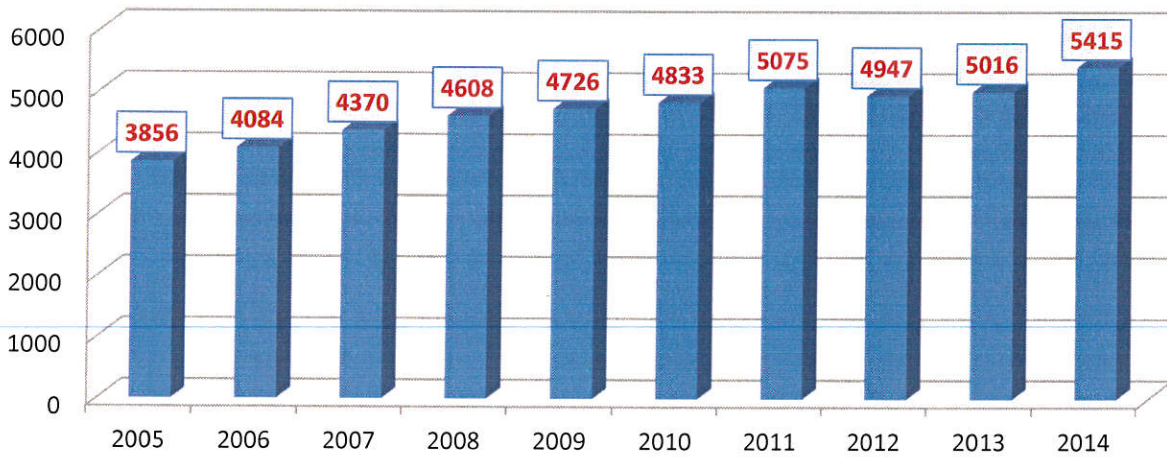
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2014 Station Baseline Performance

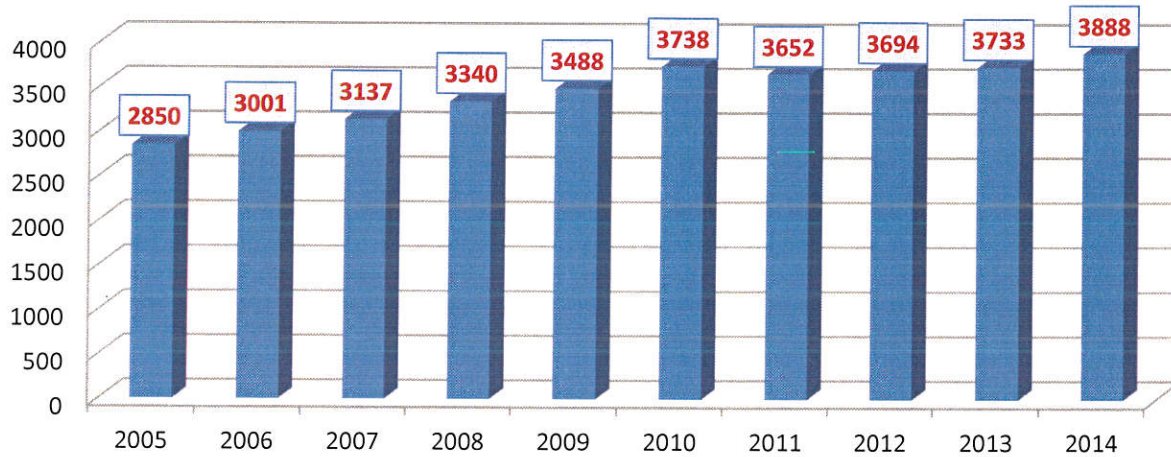
90th Percent Fractile

Station	Total Call Volume	Call Processing	Turnout	Travel	Total Response	Incident Count by Priority Response
1	2,196	0:01:31	0:01:44	0:03:34	0:05:47	1,662
2	1,087	0:01:36	0:01:38	0:04:05	0:06:21	830
3	1,429	0:01:25	0:01:43	0:05:25	0:07:34	1,121
4	745	0:01:28	0:01:19	0:05:37	0:07:26	606

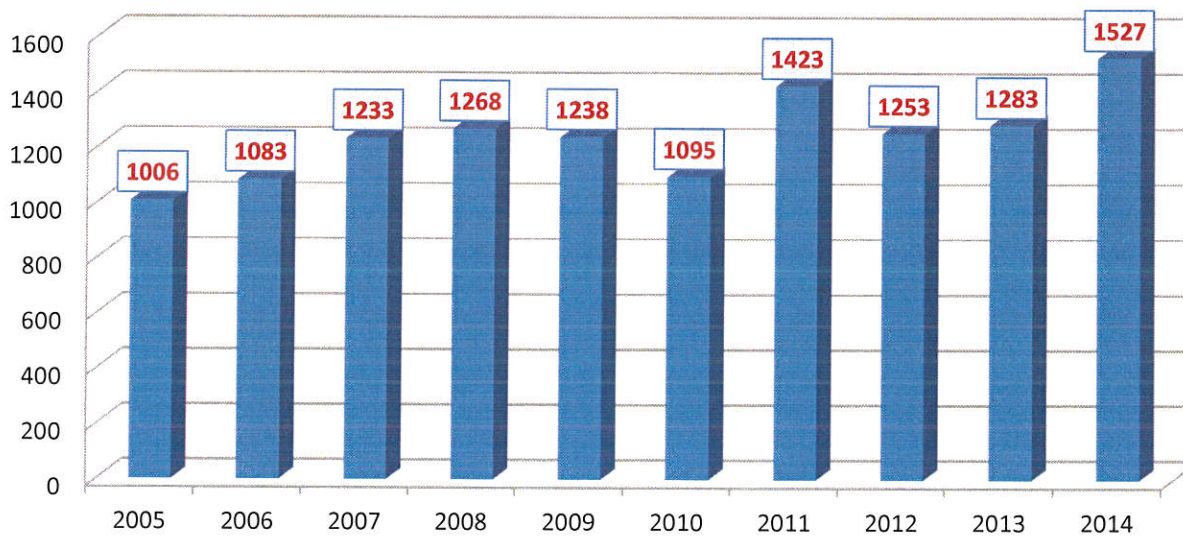
Total Calls - 10 Year Comparison



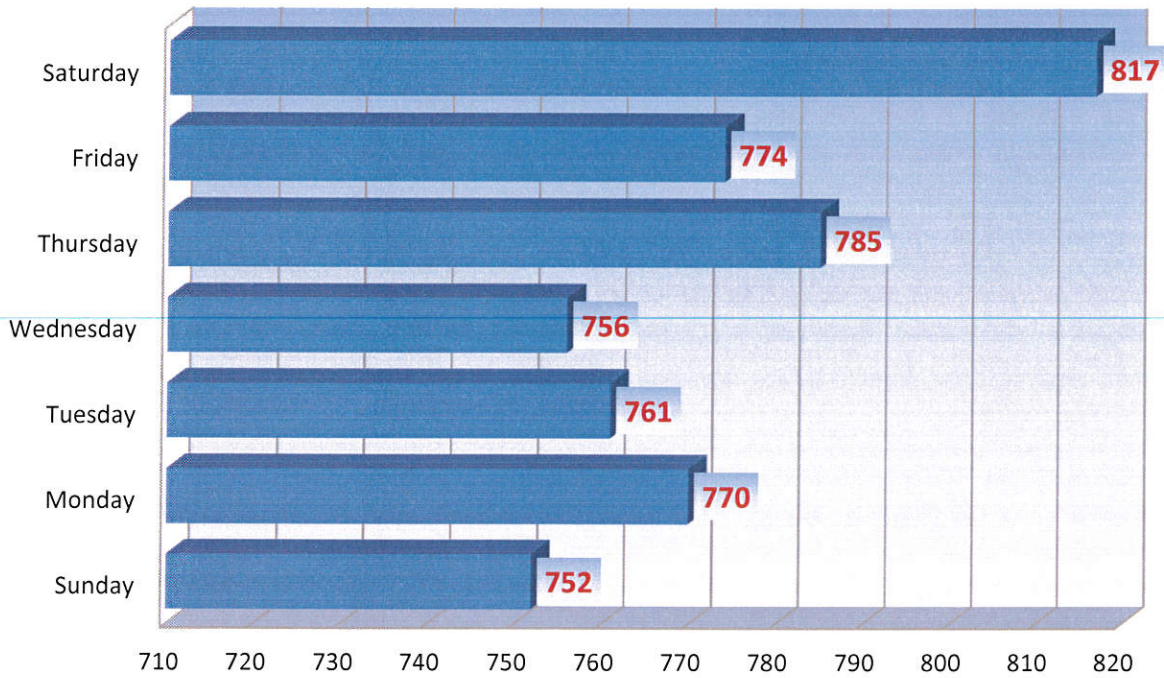
Medical Calls - 10 Year Comparison



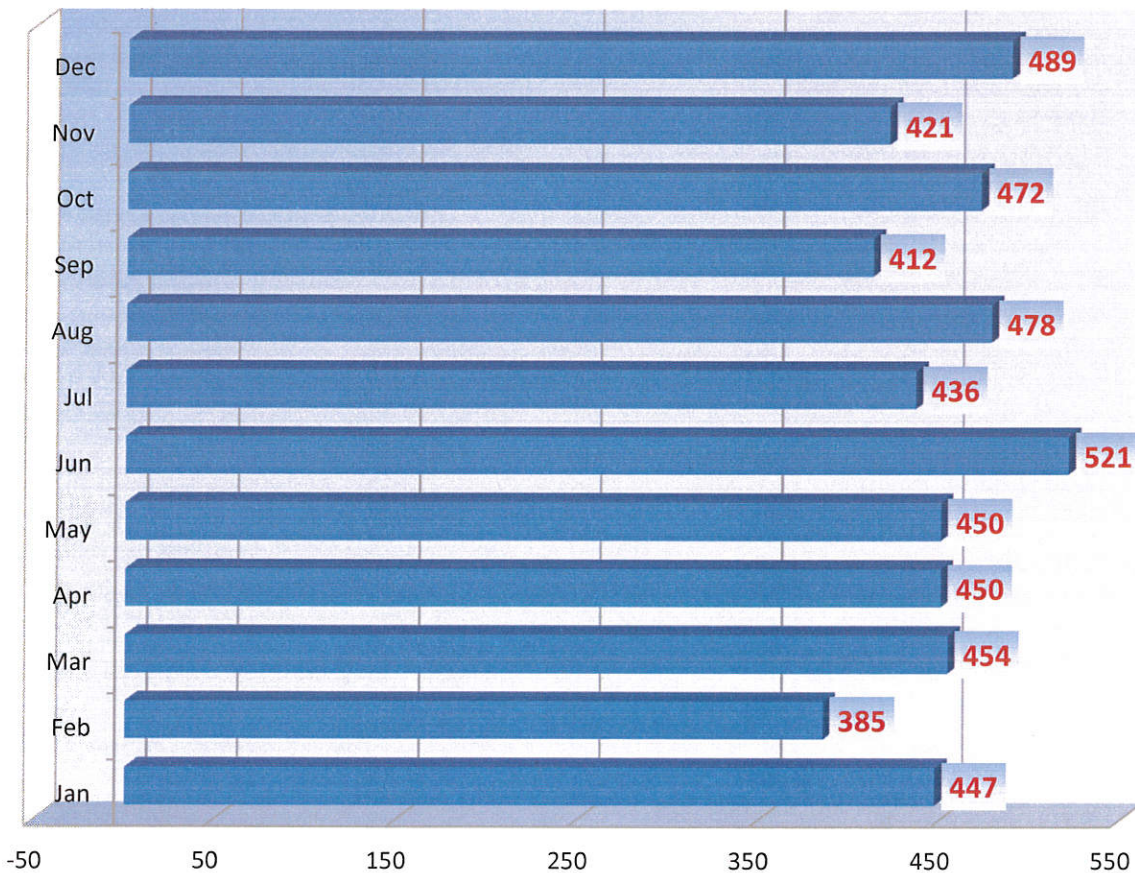
Fire Calls - 10 Year Comparison



Emergency Calls - Daily Comparison 2014

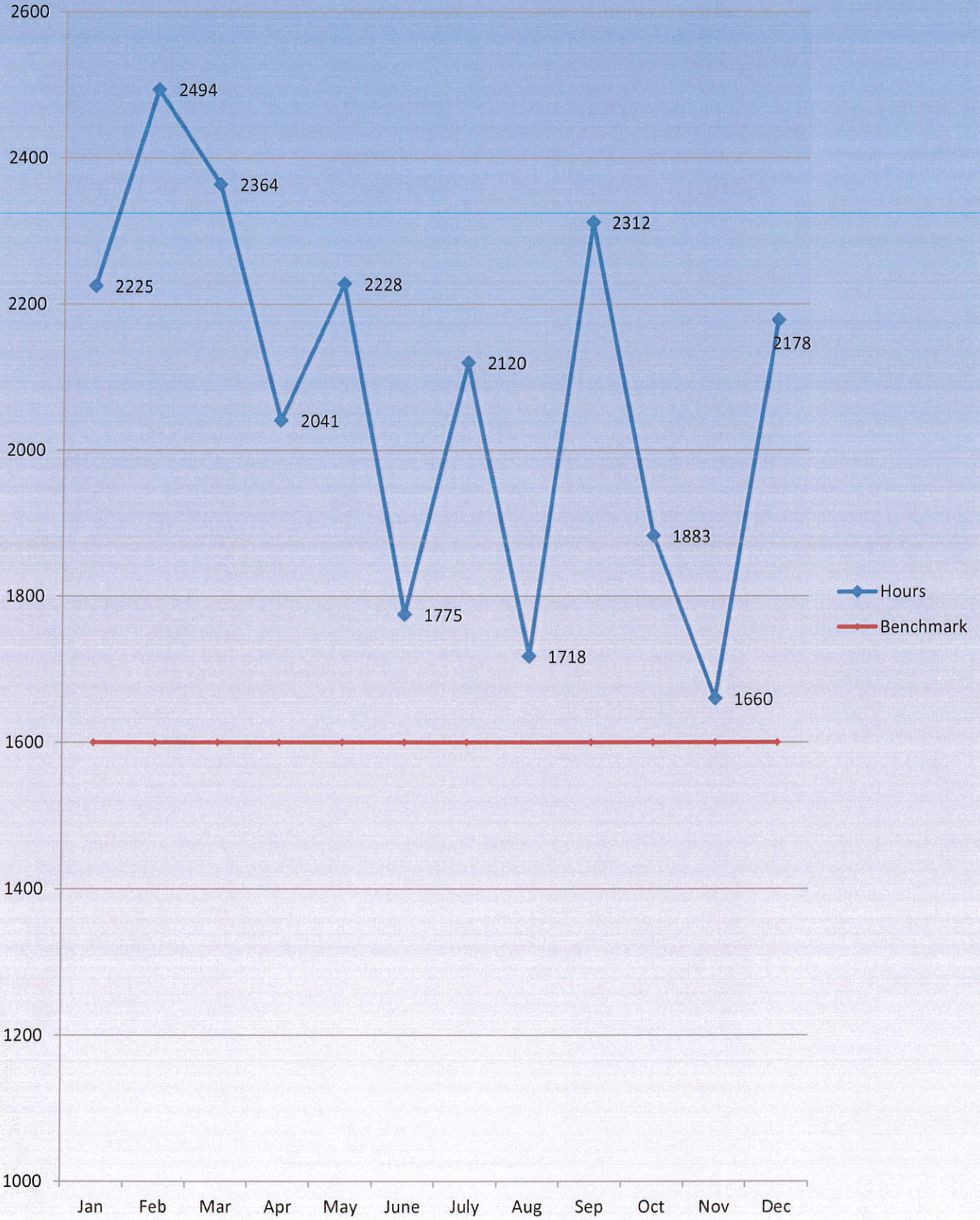


Emergency Calls - Monthly Comparison 2014



2014 Training Hours La Crosse Fire Department

Source: Metrics





Office of the Fire Chief Gregg A. Cleveland

La Crosse Fire Department

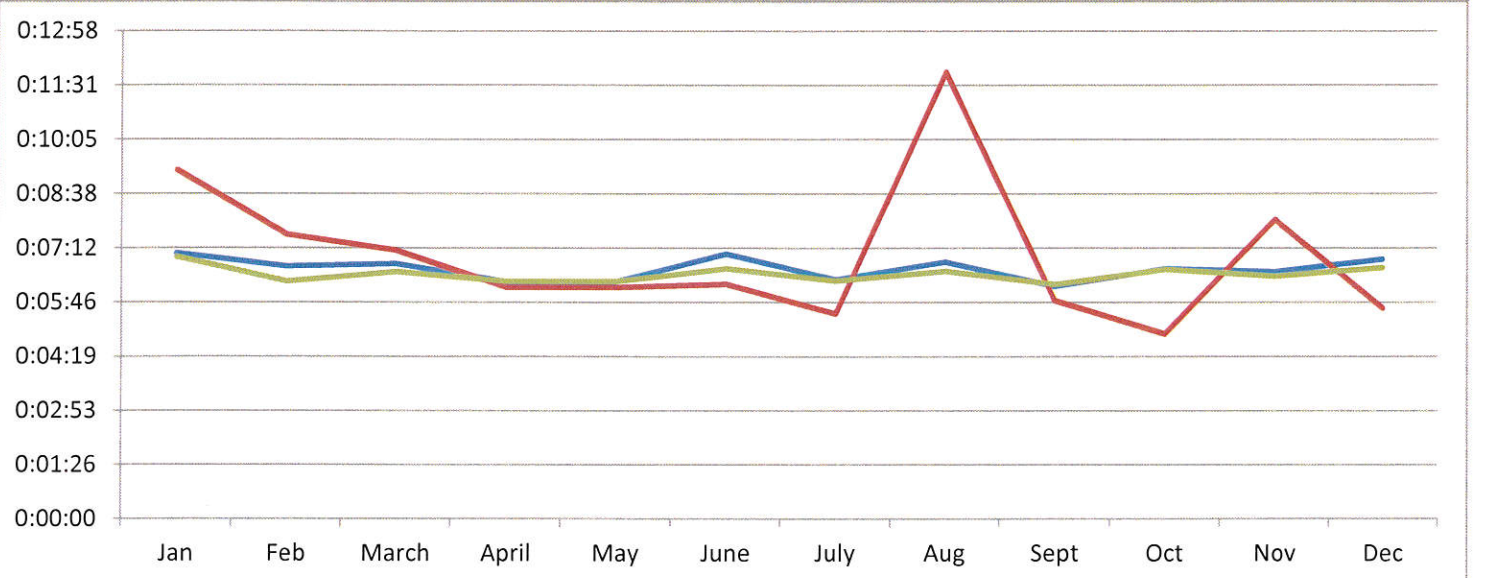
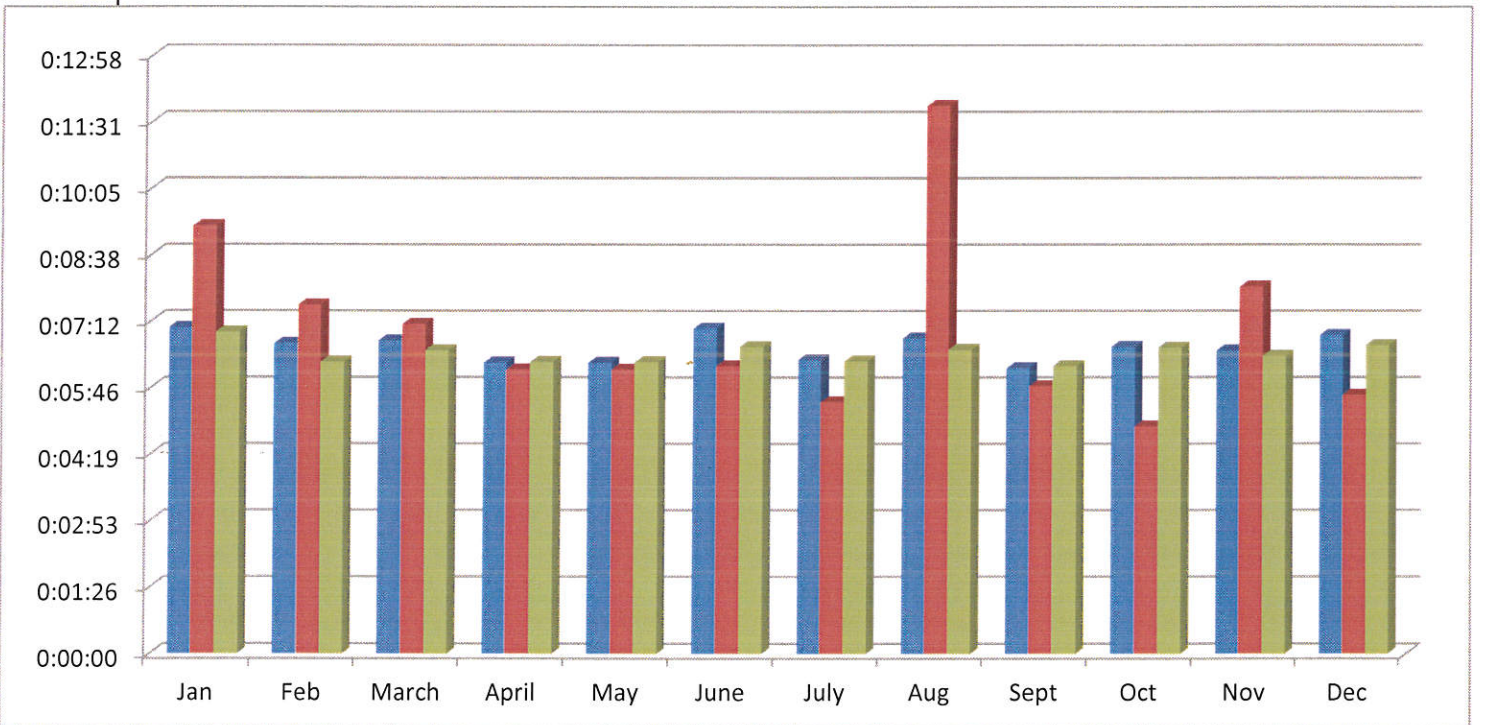
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90th PERCENT FRACTILE TOTAL RESPONSE TIMES 2014

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fire/EMS	0:07:04	0:06:43	0:06:47	0:06:18	0:06:18	0:07:03	0:06:22	0:06:50	0:06:11	0:06:39	0:06:34	0:06:54
Fire	0:09:16	0:07:33	0:07:08	0:06:09	0:06:09	0:06:14	0:05:27	0:11:52	0:05:48	0:04:55	0:07:57	0:05:36
EMS	0:06:58	0:06:19	0:06:34	0:06:19	0:06:19	0:06:39	0:06:20	0:06:35	0:06:14	0:06:38	0:06:27	0:06:41



LA CROSSE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FIRE LOSS - 20 YEAR AVERAGE

YEAR	CALLS	FIRE LOSS	FIRE LOSS IN 2014 DOLLARS
1995	1,014	\$ 923,140.00	\$ 1,433,992.59
1996	1,125	\$ 1,986,454.00	\$ 2,997,228.64
1997	1,294	\$ 1,107,490.00	\$ 1,633,537.40
1998	1,260	\$ 862,896.00	\$ 1,253,242.62
1999	1,194	\$ 575,927.00	\$ 818,383.28
2000	1,193	\$ 1,323,564.00	\$ 1,819,600.74
2001	1,119	\$ 890,215.00	\$ 1,189,982.71
2002	1,198	\$ 851,714.00	\$ 1,120,796.92
2003	1,081	\$ 1,053,335.00	\$ 1,355,229.97
2004	1,088	\$ 1,778,031.00	\$ 2,228,289.82
2005	1,006	\$ 727,950.00	\$ 882,396.17
2006	1,083	\$ 979,825.00	\$ 1,150,594.50
2007	1,233	\$ 2,494,246.00	\$ 2,847,844.73
2008	1,268	\$ 443,001.00	\$ 487,100.90
2009	1,255	\$ 3,123,634.00	\$ 3,446,848.88
2010	1,290	\$ 789,574.00	\$ 857,213.70
2011	1,423	\$ 1,451,187.00	\$ 1,527,294.98
2012	1,246	\$ 530,435.00	\$ 546,935.29
2013	1,279	\$ 508,601.00	\$ 516,851.46
2014	1,527	\$ 371,984.00	\$ -

2013 FIRE LOSS \$ 508,601.00
2014 FIRE LOSS \$ 371,984.00
FIRE LOSS DECREASE \$ 136,617.00

20 YEAR FIRE LOSS AVERAGE \$ 1,138,660.15

EST. VALUE OF BUILDING AND CONTENTS = \$ 64,493,101.00
FIRE LOSS ON BUILDING AND CONTENTS = \$ 371,984.00
EST. PROPERTY AND CONTENTS SAVED = \$ 64,121,117.00

ALARMS ANSWERED PER RIG

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
SQUAD, STAFF VEHICLE	566	551	610
HEAVY RESCUE	1,334	1,288	1,479
ENGINE 1	1,062	994	1,100
ENGINE 4	801	814	854
QUINT 1	1,039	1,133	1,126
QUINT 2	564	579	649
QUINT 3	568	560	589
RESCUE 2	1,040	1,109	1,347
RESCUE 3	1,209	1,246	1,332
ENGINE 10	5	5	6
BOAT 1	14	12	11
BOAT 2	6	8	8
HAZ MAT	8	23	20
TECHNICAL RESCUE	7	7	13
TOTAL	8,223	8,329	9,144

MILES BY RIG & FUEL USED

	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>FUEL</u>
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	
SQUAD, STAFF VEHICLE	5,909	6,430	642
HEAVY RESCUE	4,317	4,676	1,020
ENGINE 1	4,380	5,000	1,337
ENGINE 4	6,353	7,028	1,486
QUINT 1	4,885	4,890	1,306
QUINT 2	2,602	4,527	1,862
QUINT 3	3,297	3,681	1,288
RESCUE 2	6,412	6,182	966
RESCUE 3	6,495	7,367	1,071
WATER WAGON	68	90	34
ENGINE 10	2,856	2,177	408
ENGINE 11	1,140	191	60
HAZ MAT	357	304	115
TECHNICAL RESCUE	158	262	73
CAR 56	4,902	5,203	436
CAR 57	4,633	4,136	486
CAR 58	890	509	70
CAR 62	7,996	7,424	330
CAR 63	708	524	70
CAR 66	18,358	8,403	645
MISC SMALL ENG	-	-	205
TOTAL	86,716	79,004	13,910

DUTY RELATED INJURIES 2014

	2013 EMERGENCY CALLS	2013 TRAINING/ IN STATION	2014 EMERGENCY CALLS	2014 TRAINING/ IN STATION
BURNS	0	1	0	0
SMOKE OR GAS INHALATION	1	0	0	0
OTHER RESPIRATORY DISTRESS	0	0	0	0
EXPOSURES TO BODILY FLUIDS	1	0	5	0
BURNS OR SMOKE	0	0	1	1
CUTS OR BLEEDING	2	3	0	0
DISLOCATION OR FRACTURE	2	0	0	0
HEART ATTACK OR STROKE	0	0	0	0
STRAIN, SPRAIN, MUSCULAR PAIN	7	8	8	5
FROST BITE OR HEAT EXHAUSTION	0	1	0	0
OTHERS	0	0	1	3
TOTAL	13	13	15	9

LEAVE TIME USED 2014

	2012	2013	2014
SICK LEAVE HOURS USED	3,437	4,011	4,111
WORKER'S COMP HOURS USED	1,082	563	680
MEDICAL OR FAMILY LEAVE	4,225	6,098	5,146
PERSONAL LEAVE TIME USED	1,476	1,297	1,288
MILITARY LEAVE	-	193	2,192
LEAVE WITHOUT PAY	96	1,162	160
FUNERAL LEAVE HOURS USED	328	328	360
TOTALS	10,644	13,652	13,937



Office of the Fire Inspections Bureau
La Crosse Fire Department

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FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING SAFETY
ANNUAL REPORT 2014

In 2014 the Fire Prevention Bureau combined with the City Building Inspection Bureau to become the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Building Safety. The transition has been ongoing since August of 2014 and will continue to develop throughout 2015 and beyond. The combining of departments is a great opportunity for the two bureau's to work closer together to provide the City of La Crosse both high quality and safe buildings.

REGULAR INSPECTION FOR 2014

The Fire Prevention Bureau and Fire Suppression Division performed the required number of fire inspections per Wisconsin Administrative Code. These inspections were done on a quarterly or semi-annually basis and fulfilled the requirement for the 2% dues reimbursement to the city.

TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS

Inspections.....6,022
Violations.....2,069
Corrections.....1,447
Referrals.....20
Complaints.....72
Citations.....2

FIRES INVESTIGATED

- 1-07-14 - 3160 Elm Drive #2 – Cooking appliance
- 2-08-14 - 309 9th Street North – Multi-family - Undetermined
- 2-22-14 - 1516 Avon Street #102 – Multi-family – Cooking appliance
- 3-24-14 - 325-31 Grove Street – Multi-family – Smoking materials
- 5-13-14 - 1014-18 5th Avenue South – Garage – Arson – Conviction obtained
- 6-11-14 - 1116 South 6th Street – Garbage/Refuse – Arson - Conviction Obtained
- 6-28-14 - 307 Caledonia Street – Single Family - Electrical

La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Fire Prevention and Building Safety

FIRES INVESTIGATED (cont.)

- 7-14-14 - 1935 Miller Street – Multi Family – Heating Appliance
- 7-24-14 - 727 West Avenue South – Single Family Rental - Heating
- 7-24-14 - 1001 Copeland Avenue – Boat Dock - Incendiary
- 7-24-14 - 804 Cass Street – Garbage Dumpster - Incendiary

- 7-27-14 - 1709 Jackson Street – Duplex - Electrical
- 8-11-14 - 1637 St. James Street – Warehouse - Undetermined
- 8-16-14 - 905 Joseph Houska Drive – Storage Building - Undetermined
- 8-26-14 - 2232 George Street – Single Family - Electrical
- 10-20-14 - 1352 Liberty Street – Single Family - Electrical
- 10-27-14 - 223 Pearl Street #4 – Multifamily Rental – Smoking Materials
- 11-19-14 - 701 Sumner Street – Industrial – Explosion – Heating Tool
- 12-04-14 - 1421 Ferry Street – Duplex Rental – Unattended Candle
- 12-07-14 - 917 Island Street – Garage – Heating Appliance
- 12-24-14 - 717 Wall Street – Single Family - Undetermined

SPECIAL MEETINGS AND INSPECTIONS

The Inspection Bureau was involved in the following number of special meetings and inspections.

Special Meetings.....	260
Special Inspections.....	212
Sprinkler System Tests.....	38
Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF) Inspections.....	21
Alarm System Tests.....	42
Fire Department Staff Meetings.....	12
Fire Prevention/Building Staff Meetings.....	4
Special Liquor License Inspections.....	38
Interviews with the News Media.....	24
Special Complaints.....	62
Testifying in Court.....	0

FIRE SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Inspection Bureau was involved in the following number of Fire Safety and Educational Programs.

Educational Fire Safety Programs.....	63
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews.....	4
Fire Safety House.....	21
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations.....	18

UST/AST ACTIVITIES

Total number of plans reviewed and approved.....	6
Total number of installation inspections.....	15
Total number of tank closure inspections.....	10
Total number of orders written.....	3
Total number of permit inspections.....	85
Total number of hours spent on administrative and inspection duties.....	190

OTHER DAILY ACTIVITIES

Training outside of the department.....	14
Training at the La Crosse Fire Department.....	12
Riding a rig.....	24
Night inspection downtown.....	6
Sat on hiring panels.....	1
Job shadows.....	6
Classes given by the Inspection Bureau.....	28

FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR THE SCHOOLS – 2014

The Inspection/Arson Bureau, along with the Fire Suppression Division, started our Fire Prevention Programs for all public and parochial elementary schools in the La Crosse School District on September 22, 2014 and concluded on October 17, 2014. Over 5000 children and adults were shown that they could make a difference by preventing fires and thus save lives.

Each year four firefighters from each of the three platoons were selected to teach a specific grade level program on fire safety. These 12 educators were trained on what fire safety measures to speak on and also on how to get the messages out so that the younger children would better understand them. Barb Glomstad, Administrative Assistant, assisted with teaching responsibilities at the schools.

The six programs that were presented at each school required eight staff to present the materials to the grade school students. These programs are consistent with the National Fire Protection Association's Risk Watch program. The following is a description of each program that was presented.

Group 1: Included pre-school and kindergarten children. All public and parochial schools received very basic fire safety information. Emphasis was placed on not touching "Matches and Lighters", "Stop Drop and Roll", "Smoke Detectors" and "Get Low and Get Out". Two suppression staff presented this program. A fire fighter also dressed up in his turnout gear in front of the children. The children then went out to look at a real fire engine.

Group 2: Included the 1st grade children. Emphasis was placed on not touching "Matches and Lighters", "Stop Drop and Roll", "Smoke Detectors", and "Get Low and Get Out". Captain John Helfrich and a suppression staff presented this program. The children were shown the video "Sparky's ABCs of Fire Safety" which covers basic fire safety lessons using the ABCs. Concluding the program Patches and Pumper, our robot fire truck, talked with the children about the four topics listed above. This was done with Patches singing a song about each topic.

Group 3: Included 2nd grade students. The children were shown a new video this year called "Sparky and the Runaway Robot". The video features animation and live actors working together to teach essential home fire safety tips. A home safety checklist was sent home with the children to make their homes more fire safe. Completing and returning the checklist to school earned them a Junior Firefighters Badge.

Group 4: Included all 3rd grade students. The program is based around the "Smoke Detectives" program and video. The program emphasizes home fire safety by doing safety checks in their home. The students were given a home safety checklist to complete at home with their parents. By doing the project with their parents it was hoped that the parents would in fact make their home safer, test their smoke alarms, and devise a fire escape plan. The checklist had to be signed by their parents and brought back to their teacher to receive a La Crosse Fire Department pencil.

La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Fire Prevention and Building Safety

Group 5: Included all 4th grade students. This program was tailored to these children's age group. Barb Glomstad educated the students on the use of the Fire Safety House. The students were shown a new video called "Fire's Fury". This video is a re-enactment of an actual house fire where a young girl was missing. This video details the dangers of fire and how a good escape plan with a meeting place can make all the difference in getting out safely. The young girl is found safe at a neighbor's house. All of the students then participated in a fire safety house demonstration. The fire safety house is a two story mobile training trailer, which is used to teach Exit Drills in the Home or EDITH. Staying low in smoke and having two ways out of every room is discussed along with fire survival skills.

Group 6: Included all 5th grade and some 6th grade students. This program is in its ninth year and was well received by the teachers and students. This program was developed to try and stop or at least decrease the number of juvenile set fires in the city. The "Look Hot, Stay Cool" program and video were presented to the students. This program was developed by the American Red Cross and the St. Paul Fire Department. The video explains what fires are, the consequences of playing with fire, and how to avoid being drawn into a fire setting situation by one's peers. Photographs were displayed to the children of actual fires set by children in the city. Burned articles were also displayed and explained.

With over 5000 students and faculty in public and parochial elementary schools, it is an impossible task for our division to present all of the Fire Prevention Programs to the schools by ourselves. The cooperation of the shift Fire Fighters and their respective Division Chiefs have made this task manageable. We would like to thank them for their professionalism and enthusiasm for the La Crosse school children and the community. A special thank you goes to the following fire fighters/educators who stepped forward to assist us with this most worthwhile project: Captain Dave Schneider, Captain Todd Adams, Captain Matt Buley, Lieutenant Bee Xiong, Lieutenant Jason Herbold and Firefighter's Steve Cash, Brian Elsen, Nick Meinertz, Jim Hillcoat, Jesse Walters, Adam Foley, David Duchrow, Travis Check, Jay Lindahl, Brandon Gritt and Administrative Assistant Barb Glomstad.

On October 4, 2014 the Fire Department held its 30th annual Open House at Fire Station #3. Over 1000 people visited the Fire Station. Tours of the Station were conducted and many questions were answered about the Fire Department and Fire Safety. The Fire Safety House along with the Kitchen Fire Safety Trailer was on display for fire safety demonstrations.

The Open House was a success. We would like to thank the people who helped us make this possible: Festival Foods for their donation of donuts, Pepsi-Cola Co. for donating their products, Kwik Trip for donating donuts and milk, Subway for donating a 6' sub to the Station, and Batteries Plus, and Wisconsin Safe Kids, and The American Red Cross for donating their time and materials.

Along with our annual Fire Prevention activities in 2014 the La Crosse Fire Prevention Bureau utilized their new Kitchen Fire Safety Trailer to our program. This trailer was made possible through grants from The Franke Foundation and the La Crosse Community Foundation. The purpose of the trailer is to provide viewers a "live" look at the dangers of a kitchen fire involving grease and water. Kitchen fires again topped the national list of all residential fires in 2014 and our demonstration trailer is an invaluable tool to teach both residents and visitors to La Crosse

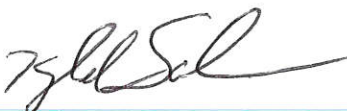
La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Fire Prevention and Building Safety

the dangers of leaving a stove unattended. The La Crosse Fire Department would like to thank the Franke Foundation and the La Crosse Community Foundation for their generous donation. The trailer has had great reviews and is becoming more in demand for public demonstrations.

Respectfully Submitted,



Craig W. Snyder
Division Chief of Inspection



Kyle Soden
Lieutenant of Inspection



James Hillcoat
Lieutenant of Inspection



Office of the Division Chief Greg M. Temp

La Crosse Fire Department

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TRAINING BUREAU ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The La Crosse Fire Department Training Bureau would like to present a review of the training accomplished by fire department members in 2014. As always, the success of the training year will be determined by our success at emergency scenes.

I would like to take a moment to thank all personnel who helped present training to staff throughout 2014 and to all personnel who attended our training sessions in 2014. Your hard work, dedication, and commitment are the reasons that we are successful as a fire department.

Training will continue to be a focus for the La Crosse Fire Department in 2015. It builds the confidence and the competence that our firefighters need to operate at any emergency scene.

TRAINING HOURS COMPLETED IN 2014

The La Crosse Fire Department Training Bureau works to provide a variety of training opportunities for its staff. Various instructors help deliver this training throughout the year. The Training Bureau counts on La Crosse Fire Department staff as well as outside instructors to help provide specialized training to our firefighters on many different subjects.

In 2014 the total hours of training completed by La Crosse Fire Department members totaled **26,008** hours. These hours of training include fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical services, administrative, prevention, and inspection. It also includes other specialized training such as hazardous materials, water rescue, technical rescue, auto extrication, tactical emergency medicine and others.

The Training Bureau has a benchmark of providing **20** hours of training each month per staff member. This average was met in 2014 with each personnel averaging over **25** hours of training per month.

The Training Bureau believes that good work is a function of human skill and that human skill emerges from training. Therefore, if we want our firefighters to do good work at the **5,800** calls they responded to in 2014, we must provide our firefighters with good training. La Crosse Fire Department staff is trained in a variety of subjects so that they can be relied upon to perform in the field when an emergency arises. An array of classes and trainings are taught by a number of instructors. This helps La Crosse Fire Department staff maintain a high degree of competence when responding.

La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Training Bureau

Listed below is some of the 2014 data on the classes presented.

- **402** - The total number of specific training/classes delivered in 2014 can be broken down by categories. Most of these trainings were presented on multiple days/shifts.
- **2,277** - This is the overall number of trainings/classes presented in 2014. These classes ranged from 1 to 30 students per class. Many classes/trainings are repetitive in nature so La Crosse Fire Department staff can stay effective and efficient in their knowledge, skills and abilities when performing in the field.
- **11,028** - This is the total number of students that participated in the classes/trainings delivered in 2014. This figure represents how the La Crosse Fire Department provides training almost daily to its personnel in a variety of topics.
- **92** - The total number of La Crosse Fire Department instructors used in 2014. This number reflects how the Training Bureau will utilize many of La Crosse Fire Department staff to help perform various trainings and classes.
- **7** - The total number of outside instructors utilized by the Training Bureau in 2014. These instructors presented various classes throughout 2014 to La Crosse Fire Department staff including specialty trainings, administrative classes and EMS related topics.
- **4,753** - This figure represents the total number of instructor hours generated in 2014 by La Crosse Fire Department staff and outside instructors while involved in presenting training.

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

At this time I would like to highlight some of the training that was accomplished during 2014 by La Crosse Fire Department members.

- **High-Rise Firefighting** – In 2013 training on high-rise firefighting operations was presented to LCFD staff by members of the Denver Fire Department. A high rise presents unique challenges to firefighters in the event of a fire. Tactics for high rise incidents were reviewed in 2014 and the students were given a chance to demonstrate these tactics at buildings operated by the La Crosse Fire Department, the La Crosse Housing Authority, and the City of La Crosse.
- **Ice Rescue** - La Crosse Fire Department personnel were certified in Ice Rescue during the winter of 2014. LCFD Engineer Nicholas Meinertz, a certified instructor for Dive Rescue International, instructed this valuable training.
- **Swift Water Technician** - Engineer Steve Kramer and Engineer Nicholas Meinertz were certified as Swift Water Technicians in 2013. Engineer Kramer and Meinertz delivered a Swift Water class to all of our Water Team members.

La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Training Bureau

- **Airport Firefighting (ARFF)** - B-shift personnel participated in ARFF training with La Crosse Airport Fire personnel. This was an excellent drill for a low frequency/high risk event. All three shifts have now participated in this training. We will start the cycle over with C-shift in 2015.
- **Probationary Firefighter Program** - The La Crosse Fire Department Training Bureau developed and implemented a Probationary Firefighter Program in 2013. The program teaches the skills necessary to be a La Crosse firefighter and evaluates firefighter competence in each skill. A review of the program was started by the Training Bureau in 2015.
- **Engineer Program** - The La Crosse Fire Department Training Bureau developed an Engineer Program in 2014. The program teaches the skills necessary to drive and operate LCFD engines, quints, and rescues. The program also evaluates firefighter competence in each skill. A review of the program will start in 2015.
- **Company Officer** - The La Crosse Fire Department Training Bureau delivered training developed specifically for Company Officers. Training focused on incident management and emergency scene size-up.
- **Flammable Liquids** - The La Crosse Fire Department Training Bureau obtained funds from the State of Wisconsin for flammable liquids training for all firefighters. The material was presented by Captain Ron Gore, retired Jacksonville, FL and national expert on flammable liquid firefighting.
- **Narcan** - In 2014 the La Crosse Fire Department participated in a pilot program that allowed the Fire Department to carry and administer the drug Narcan. Training for the program was provided by our Emergency Medical Trainers under the direction of our Medical Director, Dr. Chris Eberlein. The program has been very successful in delivering a life-saving medication in a timely manner.
- **Vehicle Operations** - Safe and effective operation of our vehicles is a high priority for the La Crosse Fire Department. Training was conducted on pump operations, aerial operations, and driving in 2014.
- **Vehicle Extrication** - Vehicle accidents continue to rise every year. The La Crosse Fire Department continues to prepare for these accidents every year through training. Thank you to Alters Scrap for providing vehicles for this training and to Don's Towing and Repair Auto Service for moving the vehicles. We would not be able to deliver this training without the support of these two La Crosse businesses.
- **Railroad 101** - The La Crosse Fire Department completed training with BNSF Railway on railroad emergency operations and crude oil. This training will continue in 2015.

La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Training Bureau

- **Technical Rescue** - The Technical Rescue Team completed Level 1 and 2 certification in Confined Space Rescue. All shifts were evaluated on their ability to perform a high angle rescue.
- **Hazardous Materials** - All staff completed their annual Hazardous Materials Operations refresher. All shifts were evaluated on a simulated hazardous materials response.
- **CPR-Health Care Provider** - All staff participated and completed required CPR recertification in 2014. This class covered Adult, Child and Infant CPR as well as AED usage.
- **Air Management Program** – The La Crosse Fire Department started a SCBA air management program. Firefighters participated in numerous training sessions on the proper use of their SCBA.
- **Hoseline Advancement and Nozzle Use** – Computer Trainer Andy Formanek provided training on hoseline advancement and nozzle use to all firefighters.
- **Fire Ground Operations** - La Crosse Fire Department staff participated in numerous training sessions on fire ground operations in acquired structures. Thank you to Hydrite Chemical, Chart Industries, Gundersen Health System, and the La Crosse Housing Authority for providing buildings for training.

The La Crosse Fire Department Training Bureau also scheduled other trainings for staff that deal with a variety of fire department operations, safety, health/wellness and administrative classes as well. Some of these included:

- Fire Department Instructor's Conference
- Officer Leadership
- State Arson Conference
- State Inspection Conference
- EMS Leadership
- Bloodborne Pathogen
- Ebola
- Oil Response Symposium
- Health Risk Assessments
- Spirometry
- Risk Assessment
- Annual Hearing examinations
- WI Hazardous Materials Conference
- WI TEMS Conference

La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Training Bureau

The La Crosse Fire Department Specialty/Core teams continued to hold monthly training sessions for their members. Each team leader will be posting a letter to the annual report highlighting their training sessions and responses in 2014. These teams continue to stay current with associated training and sending members to additional training opportunities throughout the year.

2014 was a successful year for the La Crosse Fire Department Training Bureau. The Training Bureau works to ensure each member of the La Crosse Fire Department receives the necessary training to be a professional, successful firefighter that can be relied on at a moment's notice to rescue, protect or treat the citizens and visitors of the City of La Crosse.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gregory Temp
Division Chief of Training
La Crosse Fire Department



La Crosse Fire Department

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MAINTENANCE BUREAU ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The Maintenance Bureau is responsible for the repair and preventive maintenance of all apparatus, equipment, and buildings related to the fire department. The bureau is also responsible for assisting in the preparation of specifications for new Apparatus and equipment. The mechanics are responsible for annual testing of pumps, ground ladders; SCBA's, hoses, and face piece fit testing as well as recording all results from said testing.

IN-SERVICE FRONT LINE APPARATUS

Squad - 2004 Expedition
Heavy Rescue - 2001 Pierce
Rescue 2 - 2006 F-550
Rescue 3 - 2006 F-550
Tech Rescue - 2004 Pierce
Engine 1 - 2009 Pierce
Engine 4 - 2003 Pierce
Quint 1 - 2006 Pierce 75 foot ladder
Quint 2 - 2013 Pierce 100 foot platform
Quint 3 - 1999 Pierce 75 foot ladder
Water Tender - 1985 International
Boat 1 - 2007 Mirrocraft
Boat 2 - 2005 Kodiak jet boat
Hazmat 1 - 2002 Pierce
DLAV - 1993 Army 6x6

RESERVE VEHICLES


Engine 10 - 1995 Pierce
Engine 11 - 1980 Pierce 55 foot Telesquirt

The Maintenance Bureau was extremely busy all year with equipment, station, and apparatus repairs and preventive maintenance of the same. The department purchased a new Chevy Suburban for the Fire Inspectors as well as three new Dodge Ram pickups for the City Building Inspectors.

La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Maintenance Bureau

The department has three assistant mechanics on shift that spend about half of their time in fire training as well as EMS training and running calls. The rest of the time is devoted to the maintenance department. This year we added two new assistant mechanics, Jon Kochie and Blake Hundt. I would like to thank all personnel who aided in the many projects and repairs that were completed this year. Without the assistance of the division chiefs, officers, and shift personnel many of these projects would not have been completed in house, saving the department time and money.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Treanor
Facility Maintenance Mechanic



Blake Hundt
Asst. Mechanic



Brian Green
Asst. Mechanic



Jon Kochie
Asst. Mechanic



La Crosse Fire Department

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LA CROSSE REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Team is a twenty five member unit that specializes in responses to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive related incidents. The team was formally established under the direction of Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) in July of 2000. The La Crosse Fire Department has been designated by WEM to become a NIMS Type 2 asset. This new designation became effective in the fall of 2014. The Team currently provides hazardous materials response for all or parts of nine counties in West Central Wisconsin. Within this area the team covers 90 miles of the Mississippi River, 287 miles of railroad track, and 121 miles of interstate highway. Employing specialized training and the latest technologies, the team will deploy and perform a systematic risk based assessment regardless of incident scale. Each team member is required to attend least 48 hours of core team drill per year with standard competency based exercises designed to maintain technician level skills.

The La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Team also operates one of two Radiological Field Teams for the Wisconsin Department of Health. The team responds to radiological/nuclear incidents to perform rescue, reconnaissance, mitigation, and sampling operations. The State of Wisconsin provides 100% of the funding for both Radiological and Hazmat Teams. The funding includes worker's compensation and reimbursement for costs incurred during a response when there is no responsible party.

RESPONSES IN 2014

1/06/14	321 Front St.	La Crosse - Unknown powder sent by mail to medical processing center
1/26/14	1910 South Ave.	La Crosse - Ethylene Glycol spill of 30 gallons at a local hospital
4/19/14	27 th and Cass St.	La Crosse - Unknown liquid on the railroad tracks. Petroleum product
4/21/14	1710 Losey Blvd.	La Crosse - Meth lab gas generator left at Station 3. Strong acid
4/23/14	2501 Barlow St.	La Crosse - Air monitoring and investigation of suspected meth house
4/26/14	W990 Amborn Rd.	Mindoro - Tractor fire with ammonia gas release
6/28/14	307 Caledonia St.	La Crosse - Chemical odor/exposure after structure fire
7/02/14	2009 West Ave.	La Crosse - N-propyl Acetate spill inside commercial property
7/02/14	2134 Rose St.	La Crosse - Propane leak on recreational vehicle
7/22/14	Avon St.	La Crosse - Portable meth lab inside of car during traffic stops
8/28/14	1500 St. James St.	La Crosse - Large fuel leak from semi-truck
9/16/14	225 Main St.	La Crosse - Strong chemical odor in residential basement from floor drain
9/20/14	3320 Commerce St.	La Crosse - Possible meth lab in residential basement
10/04/14	2134 Rose St.	La Crosse - Leaking 30lb propane cylinder

La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Hazardous Materials Team

10/20/14	Green St.	Independence - Unknown chemical in storage locker
10/23/14	900 3 rd St. South	La Crosse - Sodium Hydroxide spill with injury at a commercial property
10/28/14	400 Car St.	La Crosse - Suspicious package found by law enforcement (bottle)
11/19/14	701 Sumner St.	La Crosse - Asphalt tank explosion with fire in an industrial area.
12/07/14	917 Island St.	La Crosse - Meth lab found after structure fire with fuming containers

PHONE ASSISTS 2014

07/30/14 Black River Falls Fire Department requested advice on carbon dioxide response

SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN 2014

- Wisconsin Association of Hazmat Responders annual two-day conference
- WEM and State Lab of Hygiene sponsored training of sample collection and submittal of unknowns
- BNSF Railroad crude oil presentation and discussion on tank incident response
- Table top exercise with numerous agencies for a simulated train derailment with Bakken crude
- Radiation training at CTOS in Nevada for 11 members of the Radiation Field Team
- Hostile action based incident response at Prairie Island Nuclear Facility (Radiation Field Team Members)
- Reception Center evaluated exercise in response to radiological event in Pierce County (Rad Field Team)
- Two simulated confined space/hazmat incidents at City Brewery (Tech Rescue and Hazmat joint training)
- Provided OSHA 8 hour and 24 HAZWOPER refresher training for City Brewery Employees
- Planning with Upper Mississippi Basin River Management for large crude oil spill incident
- Advanced Hazmat IQ Training hosted in La Crosse and sponsored through WEM grant
- Three day Oil Response Training symposium with simulated full scale oil spill on the Mississippi River
- Hazmat risk assessment training hosted by Appleton Fire Department with six team members attending
- Rail tank car incident training in Pueblo, CO sponsored by BNSF Railroad with three team members attending

My special thanks to all the members of the Hazmat Team. Their dedication to excellence and continual efforts to improve readiness through training has resulted in a safe and productive year.

Respectfully Submitted,



Captain Jeff Schott
Regional Hazardous Materials Team Leader



La Crosse Fire Department

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WATER RESCUE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The La Crosse Fire Department serves their community and the surrounding area with an 18 person unit that specializes in different techniques of water and ice rescue.

The waters that flow through the Coulee Region have dynamic features that produce dangerous situations. Some of these situations are swift water, flooding, and thin ice. The Water Rescue Team participated in over 400 hours training in 2014 to better serve our community.

TRAINING FOR 2014

- Ice Rescue/ Open Water Rescue/ Swift Water Rescue
- Water rescue response
- Underwater Search and Recovery (underwater camera)
- Dry Land Access Vehicle operations
- River familiarization and navigation
- Tug and Barge response
- Advanced Boat operations

The Water Rescue Team also assists with the training of other members of the La Crosse Fire Department. This cross training allows for rapid response to safely rescue and render aid to victims involved in water related emergencies.

2014 produced 14 water related calls. 2014 was a unique year as flood stage waters were present through the 4th of July. There was notably less pleasure craft use on the Mississippi and Black River due to the high water wake restrictions. Though the call volume was slightly less than previous years, the seriousness of the calls were more prevalent; we responded to 6 calls to search for a body or body recovery, 5 water rescue calls and 3 water craft assistance calls.

The Water Rescue Team continues to advance in both training and response. This would not be possible without the support of management and the cooperation of all fire department personnel.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis R. George".

Travis R. George, Captain
Water Rescue Team Leader



La Crosse Fire Department

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TACTICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2014

In 2014, the Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Team continued to grow and develop into a cohesive team, while serving and positively contributing to the City of La Crosse. We had a busy year of training in tactics, maintaining our various medical skill sets, and responding to callouts that required our help.

We had a total of **14** responses and provided both care and medical examinations for numerous patients. One patient was treated by us on location and did not need further medical care. Another was treated by one of the TEMS Medics but required further medical care, so the patient was transported by a TSA ambulance. Lastly, medical care was offered to all the citizens and suspects that were involved in the various situations that required an ERT response; any children that were involved were given a rapid medical exam.

In 2014, we had a total of **359** hours of training in various aspects of this type of specialized medicine. Some of the topics covered were:

- Specialized Rescue Operations
- Tactical Combat Casualty Care
- Team Movement and Concepts
- Injured/Downed Officer Situations
- Law Enforcement K9 Familiarization

The upcoming year's schedule will again incorporate a high degree of specialized training that will allow the TEMS Team to provide our citizens and patients with the highest level of care and services possible. Thanks to the continued support of all the parties involved with the TEMS Team. We look forward to another year of progress and advancing our skills.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Garritano".

Frank Garritano
TEMS Team Leader



La Crosse Fire Department

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The La Crosse Fire Department has been providing emergency medical services (EMS) to the City of La Crosse since 1975. The department is currently licensed with the State of Wisconsin as an EMT Non-Transport emergency medical service. The department's EMTs, Advanced EMTs, and Paramedics currently provide service up to the State of Wisconsin's EMT full scope of practice. The department currently has eight front-line apparatus and two reserve apparatus. All apparatus are identically outfitted with medical equipment and capable of responding to medical emergencies 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The department responded to 3,888 EMS calls in 2014.

Cardiac arrest survival rates within the City of La Crosse continue to prove we have one of the best EMS systems in the country. In 2014, the La Crosse Fire Department responded to 38 pre-hospital cardiac arrests. Ten (26%) of those cardiac arrest victims were discharged from the hospital with no deficits. This result is nearly triple the national average. Adequate staffing of the department results in excellent response times. Response times are directly related to the survivability of cardiac arrest victims. Adequate staffing, training, and the latest EMS equipment are the key components to achieving the best possible patient care for our customers.

The department accomplished 3,252 EMS training hours in 2014. This impressive amount of EMS training is a testament for the department's dedication to delivering the best possible service to our customers. In addition, two of the department's paramedics attended an 80 hour "Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents" course at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD in April. The two paramedics brought back valuable knowledge and skills that will be incorporated into our regional hazmat team capabilities, and general EMS responses.

The country's drug overdose epidemic continued to be a top story in 2014. In January of 2014, the department completed its training on the drug Narcan (Naloxone), which is a drug effective in reversing respiratory depression caused by narcotic overdoses. The department was required to complete training and have support of the Medical Director prior to carrying and administering Narcan. In February, the department began carrying and administering the drug. The drug was administered 29 times in 2014 by department EMS personnel. The addition of Narcan administration to our pre-hospital patient care protocol has been without a doubt a life-saving asset to our patient care.

The department's EMS program is looking forward to another year of progression in 2015. The department will be upgrading a large amount of its EMS equipment through capital improvement funding.

Keeping our equipment up-to-date is vital for insuring rescuer and patient safety and is necessary for maintaining our ability to provide the best patient care. The department will continue to investigate bringing advanced life support (ALS) capabilities into the department. More of our personnel now than ever are licensed Paramedics or Advanced EMTs. Giving these personnel the ability to practice their skill level is most importantly in the best interest of our customers and will also aid in recruitment and retention of employees. It is our mission to provide the best possible EMS to our customers and being progressive will move us forward.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jim Hillcoat
EMS Team Leader



La Crosse Fire Department

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URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The US&R Team of The La Crosse Fire Department is made up of 18 core team members and 8 additional department members who are trained above and beyond ordinary firefighting skills. The focus of the team is response to technical rescue related emergencies whether locally or regionally, that may involve structural collapse, major extrication, confined spaces, trench rescues, and high and low angle rope rescue incidents. Of the 26 trained members, 20 are also members of Wisconsin Task Force 1 (WI-TF1) Urban Search & Rescue Team, working under Wisconsin Emergency Management. These members, along with other full time firefighters from throughout the state, are highly trained to respond and support overwhelmed communities after, or during large scale disasters. This team is logistically capable of being completely self-sufficient for a minimum of 72 hours, including food, fuel, and lodging. All costs related to WI-TF1 are covered by WEM through Homeland Security Grants

The LCFD US&R Team has secured grant dollars in order to procure the majority of the specialized equipment and related training. Over the past few years, this equipment and training has proven extremely beneficial during Technical / Urban Search and Rescue emergencies.

RESPONSES IN 2014

- 2/10/2014 – Confined space entrapment
- 5/11/2014 – Ceiling collapse
- 5/29/2014 – Search for missing person in the conservancy
- 6/8/2014 – Shoring operations of unstable structure
- 7/8/2014 - Search and rescue of injured hiker
- 7/12/2014 – Person trapped under a fallen tree
- 7/22/2014 – Night search for lost hikers
- 7/28/2014 –Extrication of body from inside a house boat
- 7/30/2014 – Man possibly trapped between rail cars
- 7/30/2014 – Metering assistance at a gas main break
- 9/5/2014 – Stand by for a suicidal person on the bluff

Although each team member is only required to attend a minimum of 24 hours of training, they trained an average of 50 to 100 hours in 2014.

TRAINING IN 2014

- Structural Collapse Rescue Technician
- Confined Space Rescue Technician
- High and Low Angle Rope Rescue Technician

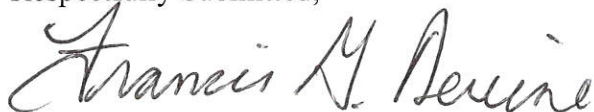
La Crosse Fire Department Annual Report
Urban Search and Rescue Team

- Wide Area Search Training
- Wilderness Search and Rescue
- Rope skills evaluation testing
- Cross training of LCFD Shift personnel
- Other related topics including: US&R Leadership, Safety, Logistics, Planning, and a 72 hour WI-TF1 deployment exercise.

Members of the La Crosse Fire Department USAR Team also provided an outreach presentation to the La Crosse County Fire Chiefs Association. The presentation covered the skills and equipment the team has available to other communities when they are faced with a Technical Rescue / USAR incident that has gone beyond their own local capabilities.

The La Crosse Fire Department US&R Team's mission to provide a highly trained and equipped response asset to the department, and to the citizens of La Crosse and surrounding region, during events that are considered technical rescue in nature.

Respectfully Submitted,



Captain Frank Devine
US&R Team Leader