

La Crosse Fire Department

2022 Annual Community Report



Serving the La Crosse Region
with Quality Services Since 1896



Our Mission

We promote safety, reduce risks, and respond to calls for fire suppression, emergency medical services, and all-hazards rescue. We earn the community's trust through preparedness, professionalism, and dedication to service.



Our Values

Respect reflects our belief that all persons have equal value and deserve our due attention.

Integrity leads us to honor our commitments and to do what is right.

Service drives us to put the needs of the community first.

Excellence encompasses our professionalism and dedication to continuous improvement of knowledge, skills, and abilities.



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Letter from Fire Chief Jeff Schott

To the Citizens of the Communities We Serve,

The Annual Community report is designed to demonstrate a summary look at our department in a varied medium with quality and easily understood information. The year 2022 was unique time for the department both with organizational leadership transitions and increasing call volumes. This document serves not only as a look back, but what we plan to do in the future.

With the departure of Fire Chief Ken Gilliam in early 2022, the City Of La Crosse Police and Fire Commission engaged the process of selecting new leadership. After completing that process, I was honored to have been selected to lead this organization in August. A special thank you to Assistant Chief Jeff Murphy who was the Acting Fire Chief for nearly six months. Chief Murphy was and continues to be the best mentor and everyday collaborator one could have. As a native to this organization for 22+ years, it is a privilege to serve this community and work with the finest firefighting professionals in the country.

In addition to changes in leadership and several retirements, eight new firefighters were hired. Much of training activity centers on the fundamentals they need to master and the growth of new leadership to replace the people that retire. As you will see throughout the report, training is the life blood of how we prepare. An unbelievable amount of effort is exerted daily to make sure a standard of excellence is maintained in the wide range of services our department provides. Below are some of the highlights and future goals that carry into 2023. Based on what you read below, you might correctly deduce that the health and wellness of our personal are paramount to the level of service and the highest of our department priorities.

As we move into 2023, we have many things we would like to accomplish. The strategic plan for 2023-2028 will be revised and rebuilt based on stakeholder input and the progression from our last five years. Without them, we would not be able to sustain the level of excellence they have come to expect. Establishing and maintaining quality relationships with the various city departments and mutual aid response partners will be an additional focus of our strategic planning for the future.

The many notable moments of 2022 will be highlighted through out this report from the perspective of the various divisions and bureaus. I am most proud of the people that comprise this agency with the work they do daily being well documented throughout. My favorites are always the pictures, which I believe tell the best story of who we are and how we serve. For their tremendous support and guidance, I would like to extend a special thanks to our community and elected officials.

Thank You for taking the time to review our Annual Community Report,



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Schott". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeff Schott, Fire Chief

Chief Highlights from 2022

- Construction of the new fire station began in early spring of 2022; expected completion in April of 2023.
- Plans for new Station 4 on La Crosse's northside finalized in late 2022; expected construction to begin summer of 2023.
- Crews began mandatory duty day physical fitness training and signed an agreement with Mayo Health to assist with development of functional workouts and evaluations.
- Voluntary NFPA physicals were completed in late 2022 with 96% of the suppression staff participating.
- The first LCPD Peer Support Team was established in late 2022, after over a year of special training for peers within our ranks that can assist firefighters in maintaining and promoting positive mental health.
- Completion of Station 1 remodel with gender equitable bathrooms and sleeping quarters in early 2022.
- Over \$500,000 in Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant and \$55,000 in State EMS Equipment Grants were awarded.
- Two new fire engines were ordered with expected delivery dates of early 2025.
- Over 7,000 calls for service answered with continued collaborative efforts with other public safety response professionals including Tri-State Ambulance, La Crosse County Emergency Dispatch, Xcel Energy, La Crosse Police Department, and many other mutual aid partners from surrounding communities.



**La Crosse Fire Department
Organizational Chart
June 24, 2022**

Emergency M

**Assistant Fire Chief
Fire and Rescue Operations**

Administrative Assistant

**Battalion Chiefs (A/B/C Shifts)
Fire and Rescue Operations
Shift Commanders x 3**

**Captain - Fleet, Facilities,
and Logistics Officer**

Assistant Mechanics (x3)

**Station 1 - E1, Q1, R1
13 Per Shift = 1Cpt, 2Lt, 4Eng, 6FF**

**Station 2 - Q2, R2
6 Per Shift = 1Cpt, 1Lt, 2Eng, 1FF**

**Station 3 - Q3, R3
6 Per Shift = 1Cpt, 1Lt, 2Eng, 2FF**

**Station 4 - E4
4 Per Shift = 1Cpt, 1Eng, 2FF**

F/F Technology assist. (x3)

**Division Chief /Fire Marshall
Community Risk Management
Accreditation Management**

**Captain: Investigations,
Inspections, Prevention**

**Captain: Investigations,
Inspections, Prevention**

**FF: Investigations,
Inspections, Prevention**

**Tactical EMS (TEMS)
Team Coordinator
(6) Team members**

**Technical Rescue/USAR
Team Coordinator
(18) Team Members**

**Hazardous Materials
Team Coordinator
(25) Team Members**

**Water Rescue Team
Coordinator
(18) Team Members**

**Fire Chief
Management Director**

Community Risk
Reduction Specialist

Technical Services and
Admin Support Specialist

**Chief Building Inspector, Code
Compliance**

Administrative Assistant

Building Inspectors (x4)
Districts 1-4

Electrical Inspector

Plumbing Inspector

Code Enforcement
Technician

Code Enforcement
Technician – CN

**Division Chief – Training and
Professional Standards
Health and Safety Officer**

Captain - Training Officer

Captain – EMS
Coordinator

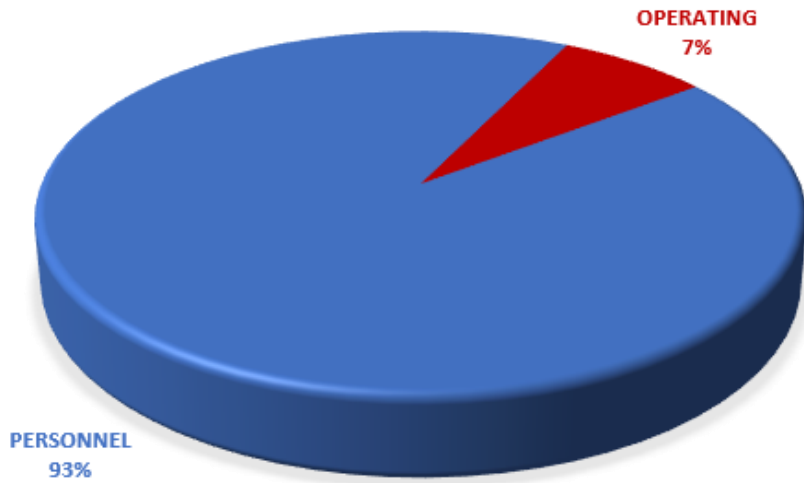
EMS Shift Trainers (x3)



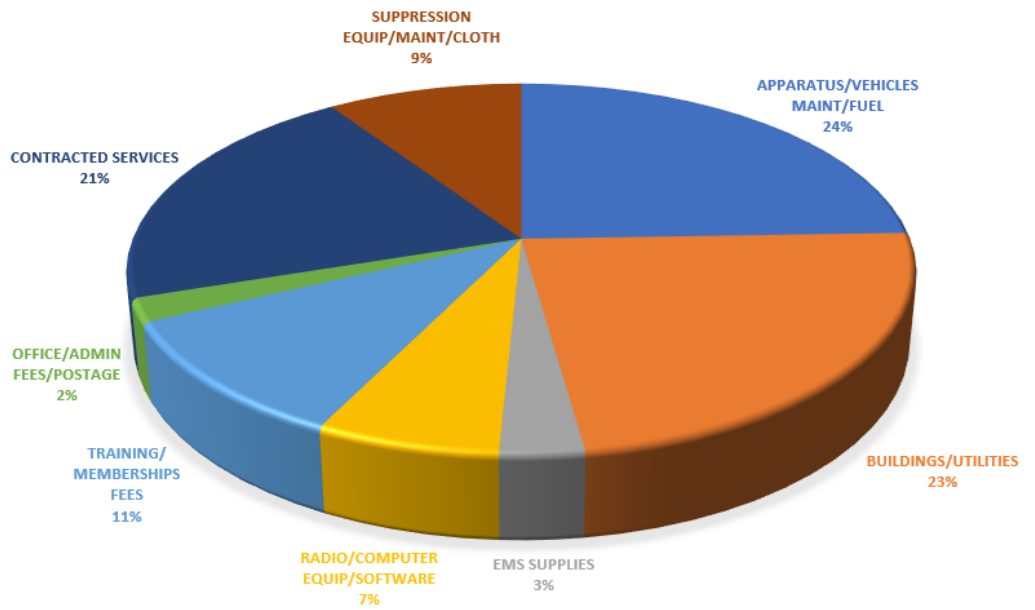
Color Coding
Dual-Staffed Positions = NO FTE.
Sworn Uniformed Staff
Civilian Staff

2022 Budget Snapshot

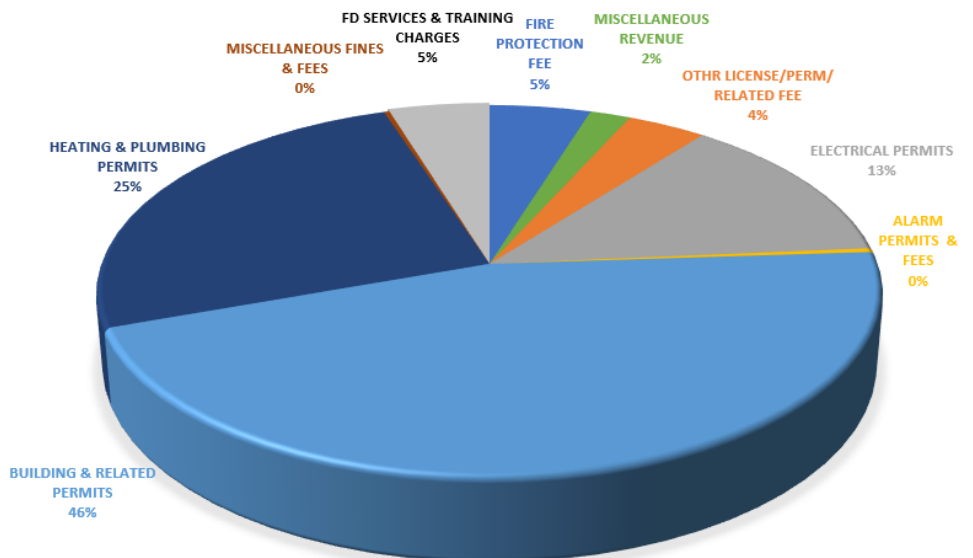
Total 2022 Expenses:
\$12,820,420.42



Total 2022 Operating Expenses:
\$952,902.58



Total 2022 Revenues:
\$1,874,656.81



2022 Personnel Changes

Promotions and Appointments		
Jeff Schott	Fire Chief	August 17th, 2022
Greg Temp	Battalion Chief	February 18th, 2022
Cory Westpfahl	Captain	March 4th, 2022
Brandon Gritt	Lieutenant	March 7th, 2022
Bradley Alexander	Rescue One Operator	May 1st, 2022
Tom Bagniefski	Engineer	March 17th, 2022
Steven McCauley	Assistant Mechanic	April 15th, 2022
New Hires		
Adam Clements	Firefighter	March 21st, 2022
Paul McGettigan	Firefighter	March 21st, 2022
Shane Ives	Firefighter	March 21st, 2022
Kyle Dahmen	Firefighter	March 21st, 2022
Collin Webster	Firefighter	March 21st, 2022
Brett Kenner	Firefighter	March 21st, 2022
Daniel Mannigel	Firefighter	March 21st, 2022
Ryan Lange	Firefighter	March 21st, 2022
James Woychik	Electrical Inspector	April 11th, 2022
Angela Berget	Administrative Assistant	September 7th, 2022
Molly McCormick	Community Risk Educator	October 17th, 2022
Jeff Kepler	Building Inspector	November 7th, 2022
Retirements		
Barb Bruring	27+ years of service	July 25th, 2022
Brian Green	24+ years of service	April 26th, 2022
Pete Van Havermaet	5 years of service	February 17th, 2022
Ken Gilliam	5 years of service	April 15th, 2022

Division of Community Risk Management Community Risk Educator Molly McCormick



The Division is proud of what it accomplished over this past year, increasing performance in several metrics compared to pre-pandemic years and expanded to new areas of focus as outlined in our Community Risk Reduction Plan released in the spring of 2021.

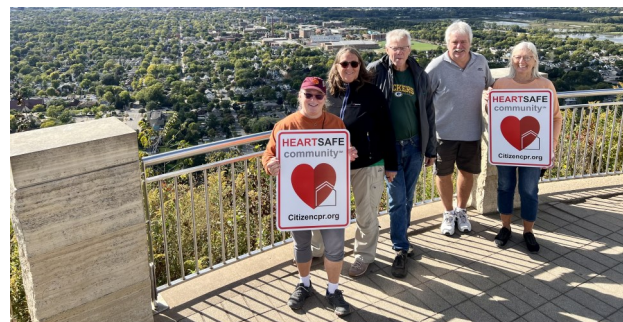
In October, we worked closely with local public and parochial schools to enter every La Crosse and Holmen elementary school classroom for Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme was **"fire won't wait, plan your escape"**. Over the week, we discussed the importance of having working fire and carbon monoxide alarms in the home and other vital home fire safety measures like having an escape plan and sleeping with the bedroom door closed. Thanks to Smith's Bikes the fire department raffled off a gift certificate redeemable for a bike. Third graders that returned their family safety plan received entry to win.

Annually, the La Crosse Fire Department **reaches over 8,000 children and adults in La Crosse** and the surrounding communities regarding risk reduction education and information. The Division of CRM continued to expand into new Community Risk Reduction programming in 2022, including increased collaboration with other community organizations on the following:

- **Teen Driving Safety**
- **Falls prevention and mitigation in older adults**
- **La Crosse's university-aged population on fire and life safety education**
- **Reducing opioid-related deaths in the Coulee Region**
- **Organizing two Drug Take Back Days where several hundred pounds of prescription medications were disposed of safely**



Highlights of 2022 would include being named a "Heart Safe Community" thanks to our partnership with 7 Rivers Cardiac Arrest Preparedness and Education and Tri-State Ambulance. Through a collaborative effort, the groups were able to provide free Hands-Only CPR and AED Training across the community. The CRM division has also initiated a Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention program designed to address the concern of youth fire setting in the Coulee Region and to reduce the risk of fire-related loss of life, personal injury, and property destruction.



Community Risk Education Notable 2022 Events

Date	Event	Topic Covered
March 7th	In-home daycare fire safety	Fire safety
March 11th	Viterbo VOICE Summit	Opioids, needles and risk reduction
April 3rd	MMOC CPR/AED	CPR and AED education
April 7th	Holmen Rotary AED Press Conference	CPR and AED education
April 7th	Downtown Mainstreet Event	Fire safety
April 8th	Aquinas Staff Training	Narcan training
April 20th	PPH NA Meeting	Smoke alarm program, take back day, YFPI
April 25th	Logan HS Distracted/Reckless driving presentation	What Do You Consider Lethal—presentation
April 29th	Central HS Distracted/Reckless driving presentation	What Do You Consider Lethal—presentation
April 30th	Drug Take Back	Medication safety and risk red
May 5th	Schuh Mullen Family Fun Night	Fire safety
May 7th	Camp Decorah Boy Scouts Centennial Camporee	Fire safety and community outreach
May 9th	Cathedral fire safety talks with K-2 grades	Fire safety
May 14th	Red Cross Sound the Alarm Install Day	Home smoke alarm installation day
May 16th	WTC Career Fair Day	Fire and EMS career day for 8th grade students
May 18th	Aquinas Senior Fire Safety Talk	Fire safety
May 18th	Southern Bluffs Family Fun Night	Fire safety
May 19th	MSC Touch a Truck	Fire safety
June 12th	Mary, Mother of the Church CPR/AED Training	CPR and AED education
June 13th	Hixon House Fire Extinguisher training	Fire safety
June 20th	Camp Send A Kid, Camp Decorah	Fire safety simulator
July 1st-4th	Riverfest	Fire safety simulator
Oct 1st-14th	Fire Prevention Week La Crosse Area Schools	Fire safety
Oct 20th	Torrance Casting	Fire safety/kitchen trailer demo
Dec 6th	Viterbo Safety Team	Narcan Training
Dec 20th	WTC 8th grade career day	LCFD overview, a career in firefighting

2022 Fire Prevention Week - “Fire won’t wait, plan your escape”

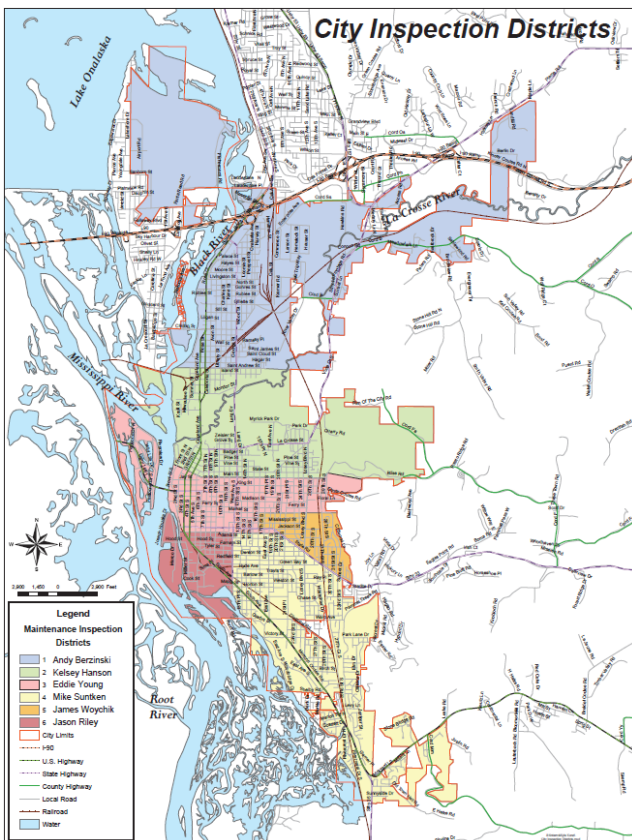


Division of Community Risk Management

Chief Building Inspector David Reinhart



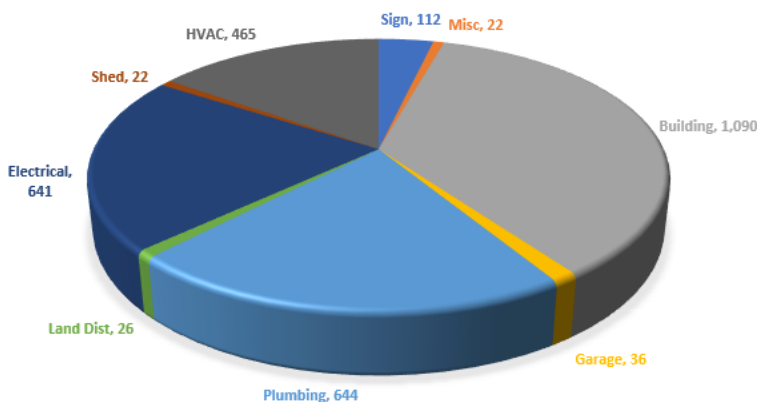
The Division of Community Risk Management also provides a **full range of inspection services** that includes: plan review, construction review, and property maintenance inspection field operations; full electrical, erosion control, HVAC, and plumbing inspection operations; investigation of code violations on private property; floodplain management; tavern and rooming house inspections; sign inspections; electrical and gas licenses; and assignment of property addresses. **Our division takes great pride in ensuring** that La Crosse continues to be a safe place to live, work, and visit.



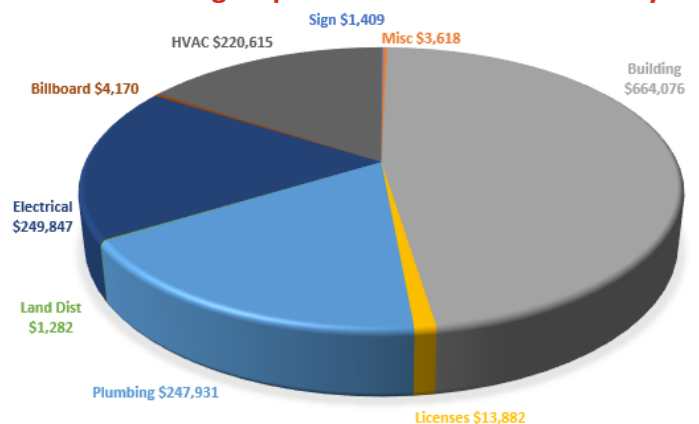
In 2022, the Division's Building Inspectors and Code Enforcement Technicians managed:

- **14** registered vacant buildings
- **Maintenance enforcement** activities decreasing by 185 incidents in 2021 to **2,052** in 2022
- **33** newly constructed residential buildings
- **12** newly constructed commercial, industrial, and institutional structures
- **19** construction **additions** to single-family dwellings
- **56** construction **alterations** to commercial buildings
- **55** decks constructed
- **30** garage/utility buildings razed
- **12** commercial structures razed
- **11** residential buildings razed

2022 Building Inspection Permits Issued



2022 Building Inspection Annual Fee Summary

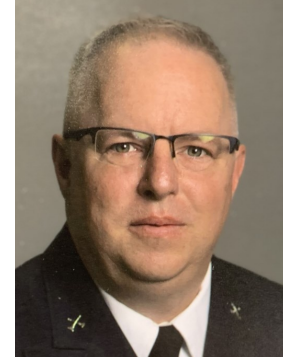




Division of Community Risk Management

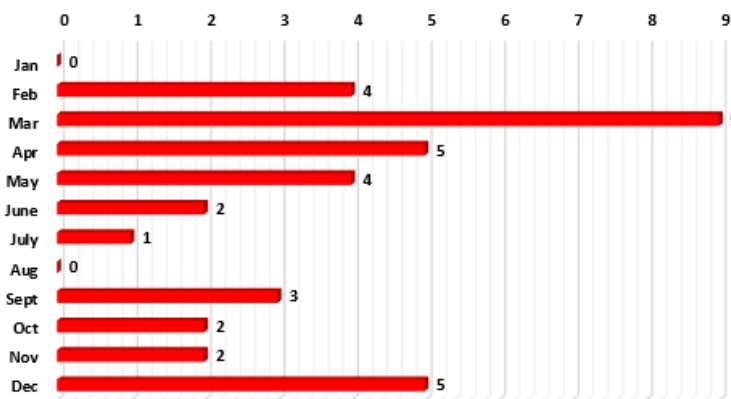
Fire Investigations

Captains Tim Knudsen & Kyle Soden

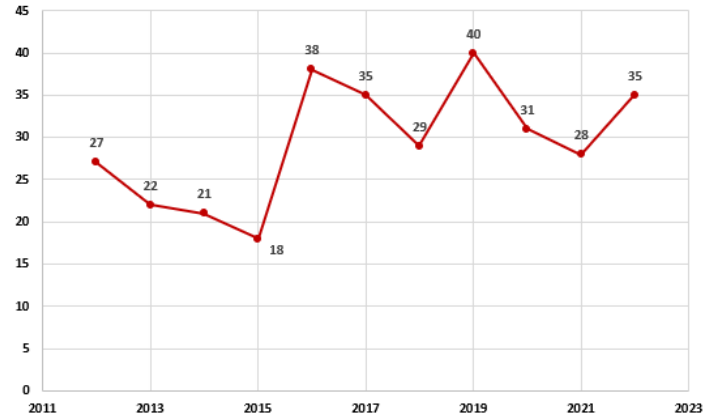


The Division of Community Risk Management’s Fire Investigators were challenged with investigating **35 fire scenes in 2022** to perform cause and origin investigations. The La Crosse Fire Department has two Fire Investigators who are certified to the levels of **“Fire Investigation Technician”** and/or **“Certified Fire Investigator”** by the International Association of Fire Investigators (IAAI). The designation of Certified Fire Investigator takes approximately **five years** to obtain. The La Crosse Fire Investigators work with the La Crosse Police Detectives when a fire is determined to be incendiary. This year, there were two incendiary fires that resulted in one arrest and conviction for arson.

2022 Investigated Fire Scenes By Month



Total Investigated Fire Scenes Annual Comparison



2022 Investigated Fire Incidents



Division of Training and Professional Standards

Division Chief Aaron Bolstad



The La Crosse Fire Department Training and Professional Standards Division is responsible for training the men and women of the La Crosse Fire Department to be confident, competent and professional Emergency Service Providers for our community. Within the greater La Crosse area we strive to prove the service we provide to our citizens, businesses, and visitors, through the high standards we place on our training, the actions of our personnel, and the professionalism we display.

The success of the training department is not measured by the amount of classes given, it is measured by the consistent and professional outcomes that are seen every day, out in the field, by the dedicated personnel of the La Crosse Fire Department.

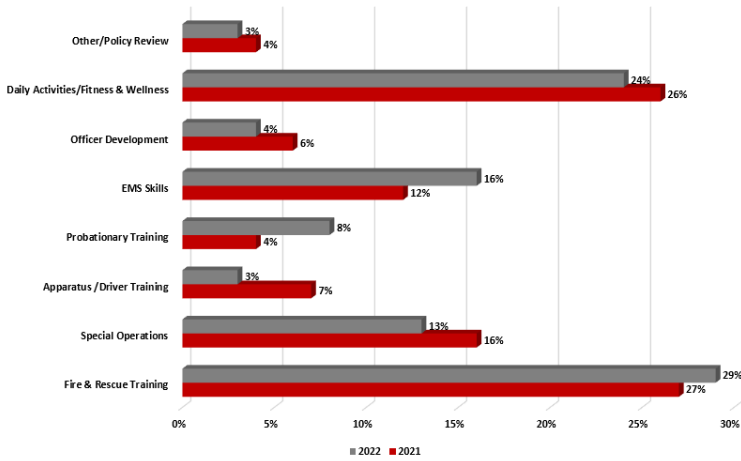
Training will always be the focus of the La Crosse Fire Department. While fire in and of itself has been around since the beginning of time, the changing dynamics of the fire service to provide more than just fire coverage can be a daunting task. Even 30 years ago, who could have predicted battery powered cars that are near impossible to put out once they are lit. The fires inside of houses and businesses that are fueled by plastics and other dangerous carcinogens that burn with an intensity not seen before. Train derailments that force the evacuation of entire communities. These are just a few topics that the Training Department covers while preparing the members of the La Crosse Fire Department to be able to effectively respond to, to protect citizens, community, and the property of the City of La Crosse.

Throughout 2022, the **department completed more than 33,000 total hours** of occupationally related training. These hours of training included topics on firefighting skills, vehicle extrication, emergency medical services, emergency rescue, mental health awareness, administrative and leadership development, fire prevention, fire inspection and community risk reduction strategies. The cumulative hours also include specialized training within the disciplines of technical rescue, hazardous materials, water and dive rescue, and tactical emergency medicine.

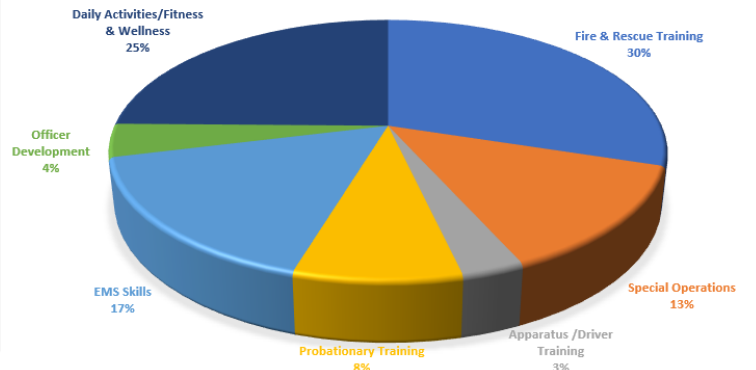
Our personnel were granted training access to many unique locations throughout the city and region. These training opportunities are invaluable for our personnel, as it allows us to create realistic training scenarios. These opportunities would not be possible if it were not for the support of other city departments and many external stakeholders. I would like to say “**thank you**” to the personnel at the city shops for helping with vehicle movement and assistance with maintaining our drill site; to all of the city departments that allow us access to their facilities; to the city Building Rehab Program; and to our external stakeholders at Gundersen, Mayo, Western Technical College, University of Wisconsin, Don’s Towing, Mathy Construction, Dairyland Power, Three Sixty Real Estate, Hess Excavating, J.F. Brennan/Brennan Marine, BNSF Railroad, Excel Energy, and all other community partners for providing us with unique training opportunities. Your **continued support** is greatly appreciated. **2022 Training Highlights:**

- 345** Total number of training topics delivered in 2022.
- 54** Total number of La Crosse Fire Department personnel used as Instructors in 2022.
- 17** Total number of outside instructors brought in to teach specialty topics.
- 33,749** Total training hours for La Crosse Fire personnel.
- 31.25** Average hours a La Crosse firefighter trained per month in 2022.

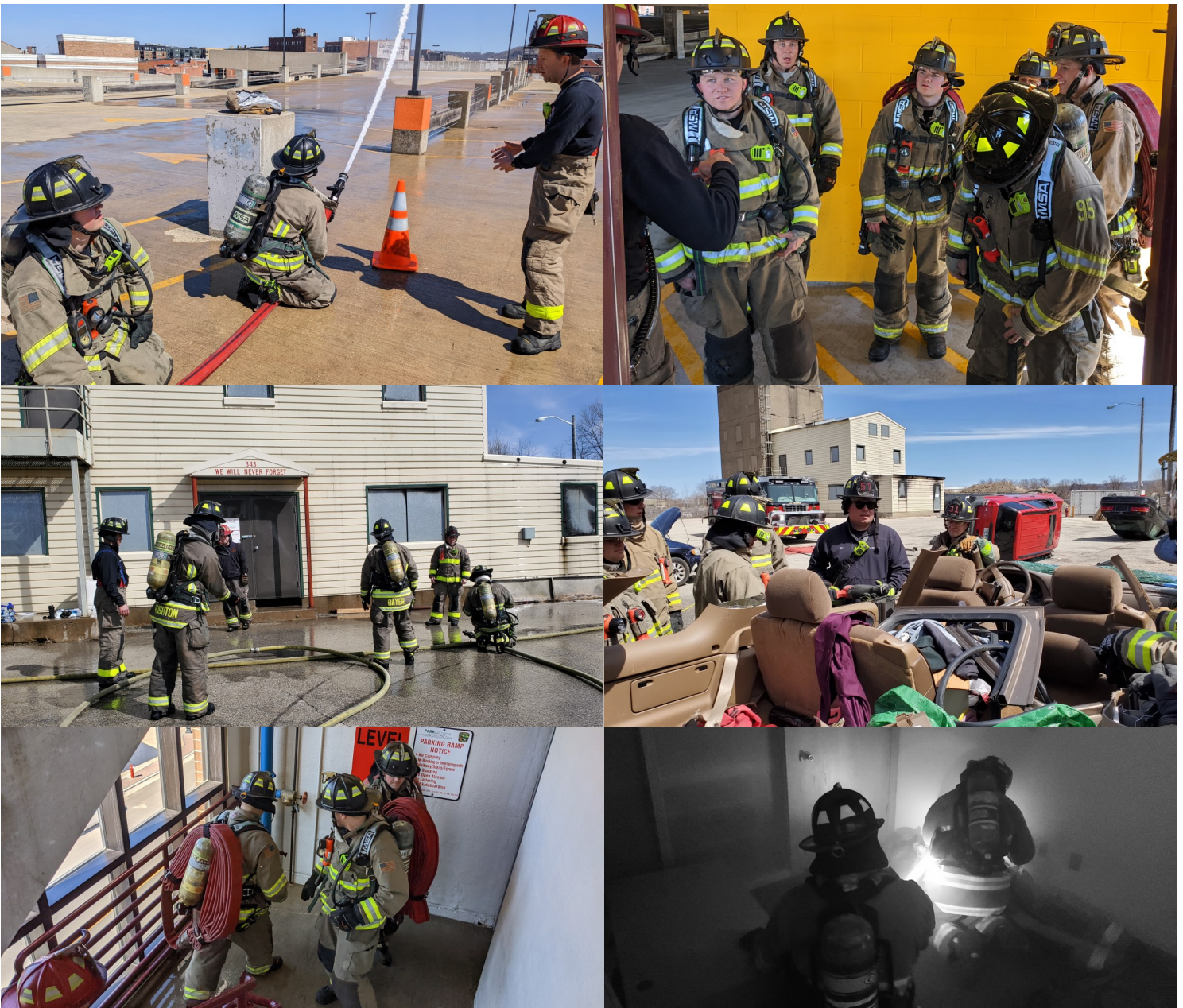
2021 vs. 2022 Training Hours



2022 Training Hours by Category



2022 Fire Probationary Academy







Division of Operations

All-Hazards Fire, EMS, & Rescue

Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Murphy



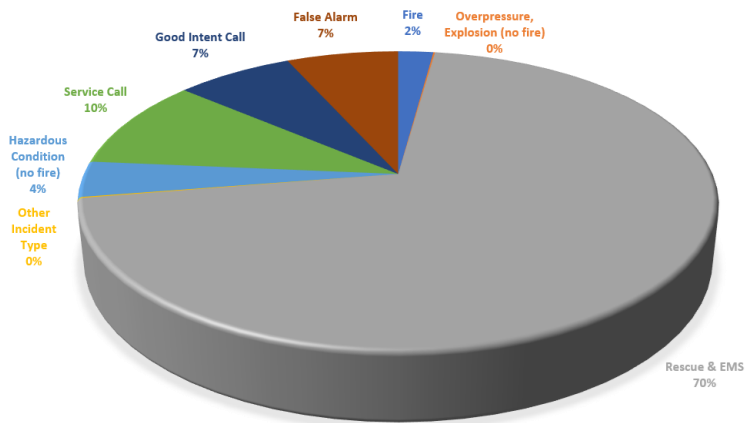
The La Crosse Fire Department has continued to provide excellent service to the community that we serve in 2022. These are exciting times at the LCFD as we plan the transition to our new stations. Both Station 2 and Station 4 are being replaced over the next two years and construction started at Station 2, earlier in 2022. The new station is scheduled to be occupied in the spring of 2023 and the old station will remain partially open until Station 4 is complete. Station 4 is being replaced with a new building that will be located on the same block as the current station. That project will begin in the summer of 2023. We have planned adjustments to our response matrix that will occur throughout this transitional period. The fire department has been approved to order two new Engines that will be delivered in 2025 and the new USAR vehicle will be delivered in the spring of 2023. These investments in the fire department increase the safety of the public and the staff at the LCFD. The most important investment we make, is in our people. We hired eight new firefighters last year and the entire organization has come together to train and prepare the newest team members for emergency response.

Response numbers continue to grow each year and 2022 was no exception with almost 400 more calls than 2021. The total number of **calls for service were 7,285**. We confined fires to the **room of origin 98% of the time** after our arrival. We have been able to achieve this success by responding with the right amount of well- trained firefighters within minutes of the call for help.

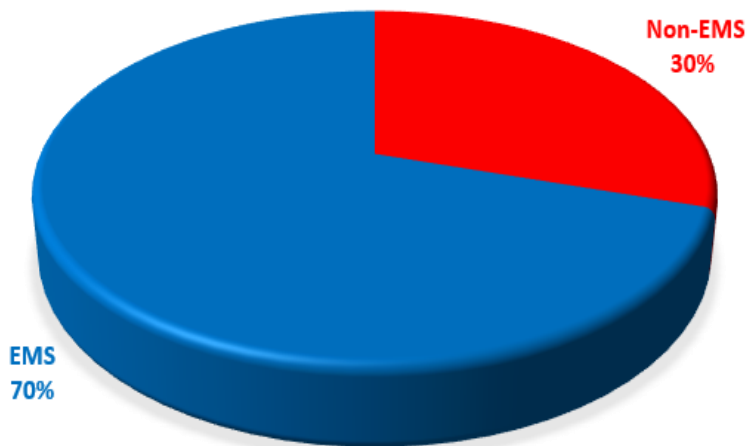
It was a pleasure to be appointed the Interim Fire Chief in the wake of the former Chiefs departure. We were able to assist the Holmen Fire Department through a brief transitional period and build on our relationship with Tri-State Ambulance during that time. Emphasis was placed on transparency and long-term success. These relationships were supported by the city leadership and the rest of the administrative team, which made them even more successful. The decision to promote Jeff Schott to Fire Chief, brought additional comfort to our community partners. Chief Schott is respected by the members of the LCFD and in this community. I have never been prouder to be a member of the La Crosse Fire Department.



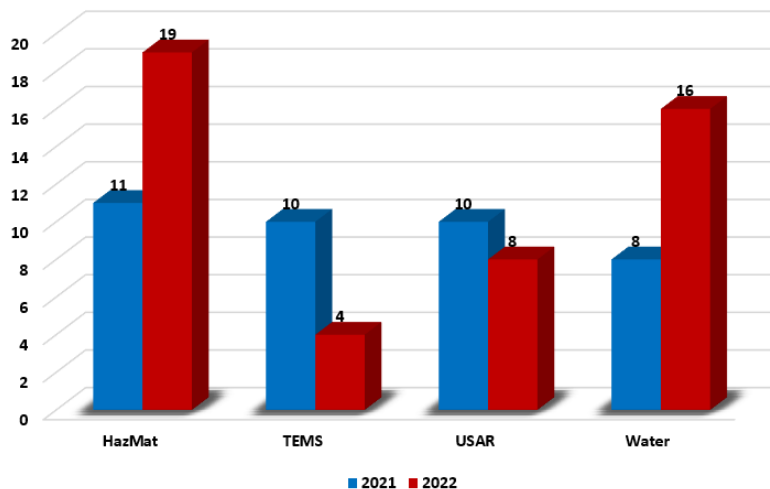
2022 Total Incidents by Type



2022 Total Calls - Non EMS vs. EMS



Special Operations Teams Calls - 2021 vs. 2022



Division of Operations

Emergency Medical Services

Captain/EMS Coordinator Jim Hillcoat



The La Crosse Fire Department provides emergency medical services (EMS) to the City of La Crosse and Town of Medary. LCFD Firefight/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics **responded to 5,155 medical related calls** in 2022. Notable calls responded to were **49 cardiac arrests**, **126 overdose** related calls, and multiple specialized rescue calls where LCFD Paramedics provided Advanced care to stabilize patients during rescue and extrication. LCFD operates under Medical Direction provided by Gundersen Health System.

An EMS Coordinator and three EMS Assistants work closely with the LCFD Division of Training and Professional Standards to provide monthly EMS Training for LCFD EMTs and Paramedics. The department participates in PACE (pre-hospital care education) provided by Gundersen Health System in effort to better align EMS training with GTSA (Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance). Thanks to capital funding for EMS equipment, in 2022 the department was able to invest in more advanced training simulation equipment to provide effective skills training and simulation. **4,803 hours of EMS training** were conducted in 2022. LCFD was also awarded more than fifty-seven thousand dollars from the state DHS Flex grant. The grant funds EMS equipment, training, and supplies.

A Leased Employee Agreement between LCFD and GTSA continued through 2022. This arrangement gives LCFD Paramedics more clinical opportunity and helps to fill staffing needs within GTSA during a persistent EMS worker shortage being felt across the country. **A major operational change** occurred on August 16th when LCFD Firefighter/Paramedics began intermittently operating a GTSA ambulance out of Fire Station #1 as part of a pilot program. The pilot program is continuing into 2023 and is being evaluated on a monthly basis. LCFD and GTSA leadership will continue to work toward a long-term agreement and plan for partnering on the delivery of EMS and ambulance services to the community. LCFD was awarded an AFG grant in 2022 for training more Firefighter/EMTs to the Paramedic level in 2023.



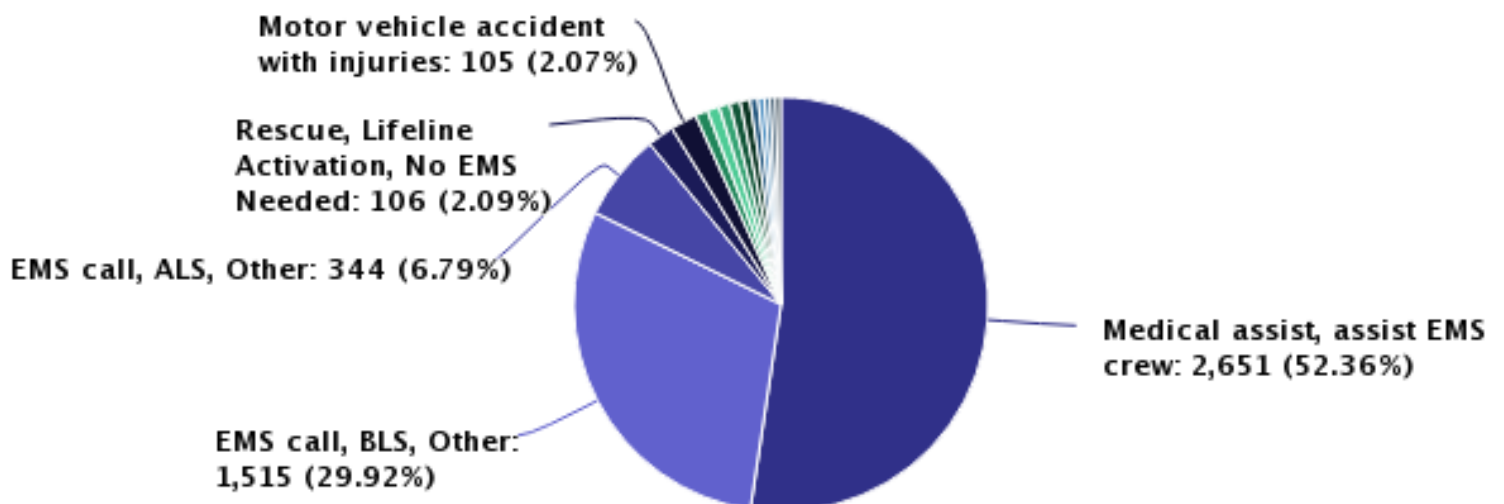
EMS Incident Count by Month for 2022



The LCFD once again partnered with the **La Crosse School District Health Science Academy (HSA)** and provided insight into emergency service careers for high school seniors through presentations and hands-on skills labs. New in 2022 was a mentorship opportunity provided by the EMS Coordinator to an HSA student. In addition, a contract was established with WTC to allow EMT students to gain clinical experience by riding along with LCFD to EMS incidents. These partnerships are critical for recruitment of future First Responders.

LCFD EMT's and Paramedics are highly trained and equipped to respond, treat, and give victims of medical emergencies the best chance for a positive outcome. However, when bystanders have knowledge on what to do before we arrive, the outcomes are undoubtedly better. The EMS Coordinator partnered with our Community Risk Educator to deliver training to hundreds of community members. This training included CPR/AED/First Aid, Stop the Bleed, and Narcan training. Survival from medical emergencies is truly a community effort! For example, our community **cardiac arrest survival rate of 17.8%** is well above national average and is proof of that. We anticipate that LCFD's role in EMS will continue to increase and evolve in 2023.

Most Common EMS Incident Types for 2022



Division of Operations Hazardous Materials Team

Captain Blane Neher



The La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT) is a **25-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 2000. The department has been designated by WEM as a National Incident Management System (NIMS) "Type 2" asset. Our team currently provides hazardous materials response for **nine counties** in West Central Wisconsin. Within this area, we protect **90-miles** of the Mississippi River, **287-miles** of rail lines, and **121-miles** of interstate. Every team member is required to attend at least 48-hours of Hazmat Team drills per year, along with standard competency-based exercises designed to maintain technician-level skills. Our team also operates as a **Radiological Field Team** for the WI Department of Health Radiation Protection Section. The team trains and prepares for response to radiological/nuclear incidents that could require rescue, reconnaissance, mitigation, and sampling operations. The state provides 100% of the funding for both the Radiological and HazMat teams. The funding includes worker's compensation and reimbursement for costs incurred during responses with no responsible party.

In 2022, members of our team responded to **218 calls for service**, where hazmat monitors and equipment were involved in the incident. The types of calls our Hazmat Members responded to this year involved biological incidents, chemical spills, Carbon Monoxide incidents, combustible gas and liquid spills, natural gas leaks, oil spills, and toxic chemical condition incidents. The La Crosse Regional Hazmat Team had **19 significant Hazmat incidents** in 2022 where Hazmat Operations played a major role in mitigating the incident.

2022 Significant HazMat Responses:



02/11	Bomb Scare
02/15	Gasoline Spill
03/24	Ammonia Leak
05/01	Natural Gas Leak
05/01	Gasoline Spill
05/06	Arson Investigation
05/11	Chemical Fumes from acid and base mixing
06/22	Natural Gas Leak / Gas Clamp involved
07/12	Chemical Odor Call / PD Investigation
08/07	Ammonia Leak
08/15	Natural Gas leak on a 2" Gas line clamped
08/19	Natural Gas leak on a half inch gas line clamped
08/22	Hazmat Release Investigation involving stolen vehicle
08/22	IED Investigation
09/03	Chemical Odor incident involving CO Issue
10/08	500 Gallon Chemical Spill incident
10/31	CO incident involving multiple units in building
12/12	Natural Gas leak on a 2" Gas line.

Division of Operations

Urban Search and Rescue

Engineer Wade Flisram



The La Crosse Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team is made up of **18 members** who are trained to respond to emergencies involving **structural collapse, rope rescue, trench rescue and confined spaces**. The USAR team is supported by one heavy rescue apparatus, a 32-foot 2004 Pierce Sabre which carries specialized equipment for rope rescue, confined space and structural collapse incidents as well as a 21-foot enclosed trailer which contains lumber and trench rescue equipment. USAR Team members train regularly on duty and meet once a month for a large-scale training which involves equipment review, call review and rescue scenarios. The La Crosse Fire Department participated in **over 1,375 hours** in 2022, including cross training non-team members on the department. Training also consists of team members attending outside training to learn new skills and obtain certifications in the specialized areas of USAR. In September, USAR members attended a two-day Tower Rescue Class to acquire the skills needed to support a rescue of a person on a radio or cellular tower. A replacement heavy rescue apparatus was designed and ordered by the new apparatus committee with input from team members. Expected arrival date is Late Spring 2023.

In 2022, LCFD's USAR Team responded to multiple incidents that required the use of specialized equipment to perform a rescue or recovery. In each of these events a person was rescued and treated, or a structure was assessed and stabilized providing the city with a valuable response and resource. These incidents included a vehicle off the roadway along Bliss Rd, a rescue of a person who had fallen off the bluff and an injured cyclist within Hixon Forrest. Along with responding to emergency technical rescue incidents, LCFD's USAR Team provides medical and rescue resources for special events like the EPIC Bike Race and the Hixon 25k and 50k runs. LCFD has also been working with the county's 911 center and other local organizations to improve patient locating procedures and mapping of trails and high-risk areas.

The La Crosse Fire Departments USAR Team will continue to train to keep our skills and knowledge of specialized rescue equipment at the highest level possible. The team will continue to replace old and outdated equipment to ensure our response capabilities are at the highest level possible. In 2022, the team added two new members to Wisconsin Task Force 1 (WITF-1). One of these members already had the required training. The second new member will need to attend classes to receive their certifications in all four USAR disciplines. LCFD hopes to build upon the steps already taken with improving our locating of and responding to persons of need in our local Blufflands.

2022 Technical (high-profile) Rescue Responses:

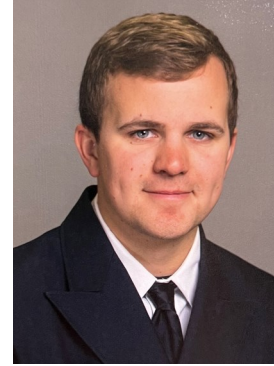
- 3/11 Slope evacuation on Bliss Rd.
- 5/7 Transport patient during Marathon
- 7/1 Rescue fallen person from Grandad's
- 10/25 Injured Mtn. Biker on Hixon Trail
- 12/28 Slope evacuation in Town of Medary



Division of Operations

Water/Ice/Dive Rescue

Lieutenant Jay Lindahl



The mission of our Water Rescue Team is to provide the community with rescue and recovery capabilities in **all water environments**. Our team consists of **18 people** who dedicate time specifically to Water Rescue. All members of the team are trained in ice rescue, sonar use, boat operations, underwater camera work, and water-based EMS.

2022 was our first full year with our new zodiac inflatable boat. The boat has been a great addition and was an integral part of a rescue on the La Crosse River this year saving multiple people.

The La Crosse Fire Department participated in **965 hours of water related training** in 2022, including cross training non-team members of the department. This cross training allows for rapid response to safely rescue and render aid to victims involved in any and all water related emergencies. Our team conducts full team trainings on a monthly basis. Our team had extensive training with our new zodiac boat this year. The large focus being the La Crosse river and possible strainer situations. Our team also trained with Excel and BNSF deploying boom for any possible spill situations that could arise.

The Water Rescue Team has committed team members who always strive to provide a better service to the community. Water rescue calls have only increased in recent years and the La Crosse Fire Department is always training to have the highest level of service. Thank you for the community support and all organizations that assist our water team. 2022 stayed consistent with the previous year and there were 16 calls for water rescue related responses.

2022 Water Team (high-profile) Responses:

- 2/23 Water Rescue - Body recovery of a drowning victim
- 3/1 Ice Rescue - Person in the water under the I90 bridge
- 3/8 Water Rescue - Body recovery of missing person
- 3/9 Ice Rescue - Assisted in removing a victim from the water
- 3/17 Ice Rescue - Shore based and RDC based ice rescue
- 5/22 Assist PD – Remove person from the marsh
- 6/14 Swiftwater Rescue - Rescued a group of six kayakers
- 6/14 Water Rescue - Jet ski accident
- 8/27 Water Rescue - Distressed Swimmer
- 9/5 Assist USAR - Vehicle hanging off levy



Division of Operations

Tactical EMS

Firefighter Frank Garritano



In 2022, 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. Once again, the pandemic played a part in the team's ability to train, however, the team adapted and did our best to maintain our various medical skills and readiness to respond to high threat situations.

In 2022, we had a total of **four callouts**, one having multiple locations, and over **100 hours of combined member team training**. A diverse set of skills is required for Tactical Operators to be effective; maintaining those skill sets and a state of readiness is a primary focus for this team. Some of the topics covered this year were:

- Specialized Rescue Operations
- Tactical Emergency Casualty Care
- Team Movement and Concepts
- Injured/Downed Officer Situations
- Self-Aid/Buddy Aid for ERT Officers
- "Stop the Bleed" Community Outreach Training



SAVE A LIFE

Due to some recent promotions and turn-over, we have started the process for the selection of two new members for the team. With the addition of these people, that will bring us back up to a full team roster of six Tactical Medics. Once selected, these members will then be trained in the various aspects of tactical medicine and tested by current team members until they are fully qualified LCFD TEMS Medics that are able to respond to the complex situations that the LCPD ERT responds to. It will also expand the resources available to regular shift crews should something happen that requires these more specialized skills.

Thanks to the continued support from all the parties involved with the TEMS Team, we look forward to another year of progress, advancing our skills, and serving the City of La Crosse.



Division of Operations

Fleet, Facilities, & Logistics Officer

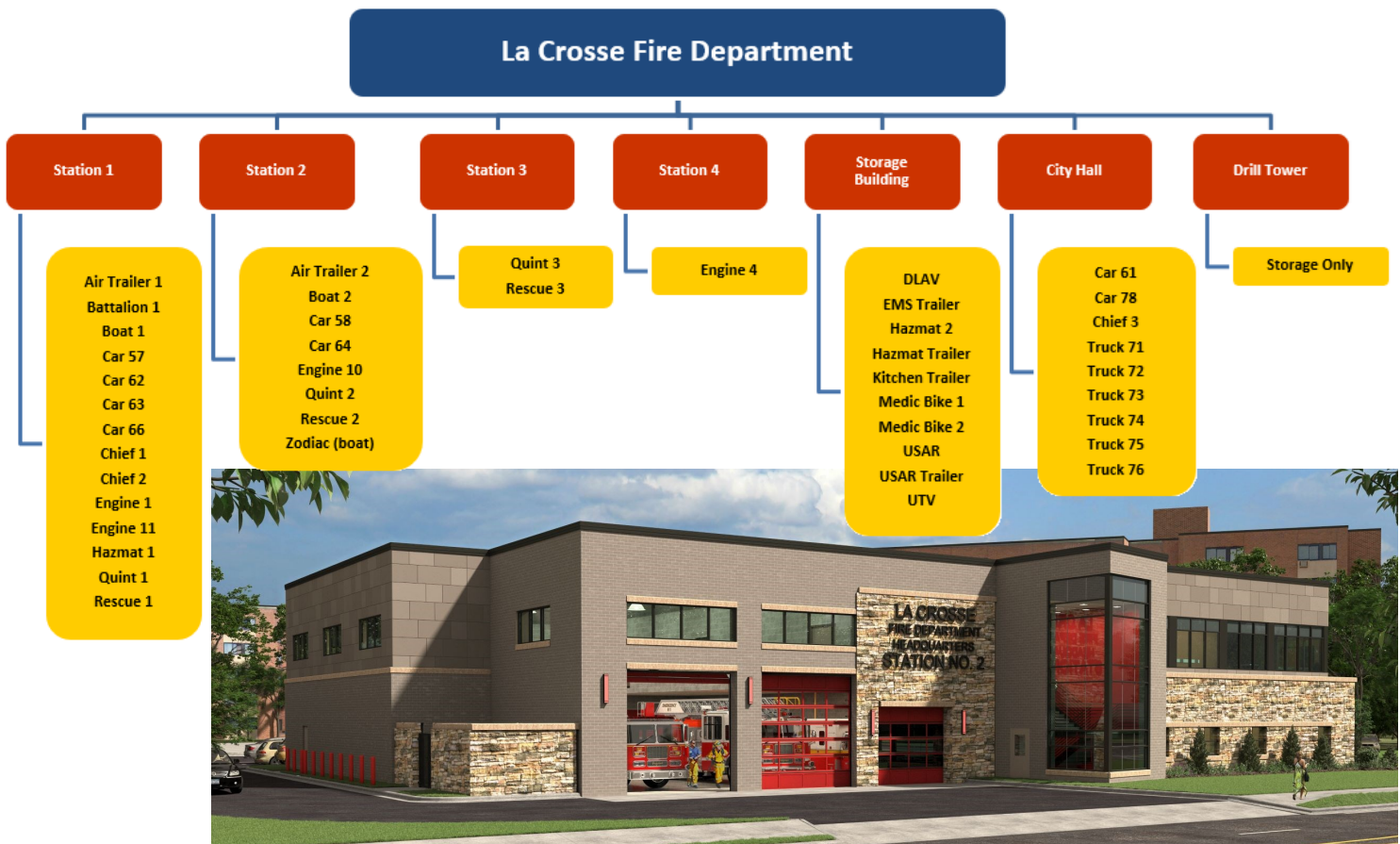
Captain Bill Treanor



Operating under the department's Division of Operations, the department's Fleet, Facilities, and Logistics (FFL Officer's responsibilities include coordination of repair and maintenance of fire apparatus and support vehicles, and all of the department facilities. This includes annual maintenance and testing of pumps and firefighting equipment. The FFL Officer is supported by three Firefighters who are assigned in dual-roles as Assistant Mechanics on each of the three operational shifts. These three assistants also participate and travel to apparatus trainings around the state and country. Collectively, the team coordinates with many other members of the department who are assigned to annual equipment testing and maintenance duties to ensure that all equipment, apparatus, and facilities are operationally ready, in compliance with state and federal laws, and ultimately safe for department personnel and those in the community, who we serve.

Additionally, the department provides apparatus and equipment maintenance support for vehicles and equipment at other area fire departments. These services are provided on a cost-recovery contractual basis and supports our regional partners with cost-effective maintenance and testing services. We believe that these services support good mutual-aid relations and provides an opportunity for regional interoperability advancements.

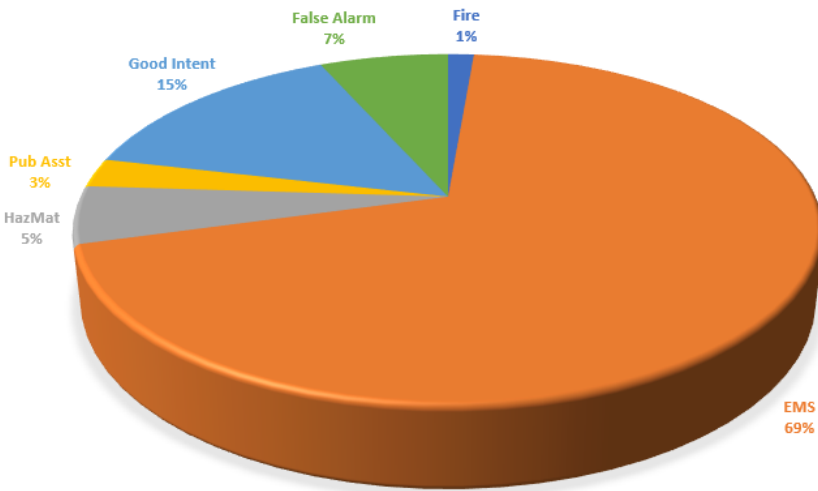
Below is a diagram of our facilities and each apparatus at the location to where it is assigned:



Town of Medary

Administration & Fire Operations

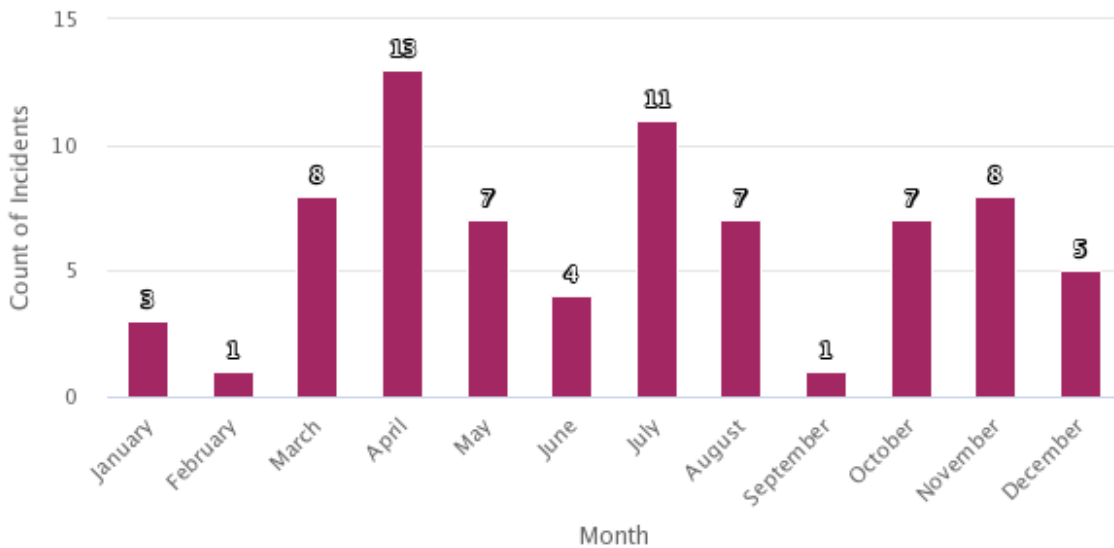
2022 Incidents by Type



Median Total Response Time

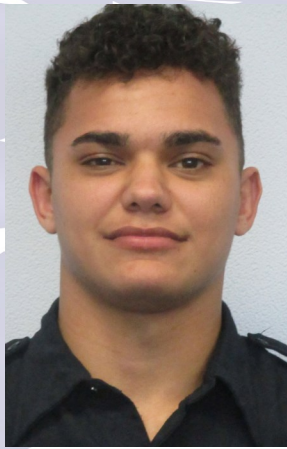


Incidents by Month



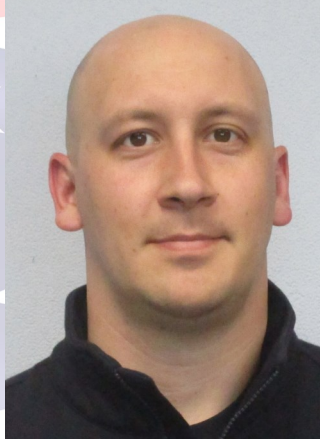
2022 Contract Revenue

DSPS 2% Revenue 2022:	\$ 8,407.81
Medary Contract Revenue 2022:	\$ 103,547.00
Fire Station Special Fund Total Balance:	\$ 194,940.46



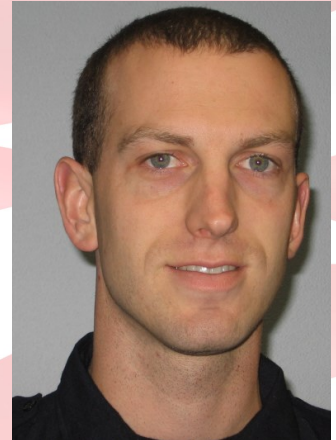
Brett Kenner

WI Army
National Guard
C Co 1-128th



Adam Clements

WI Air National
Guard
115th Fighter Wing



Andrew Servais

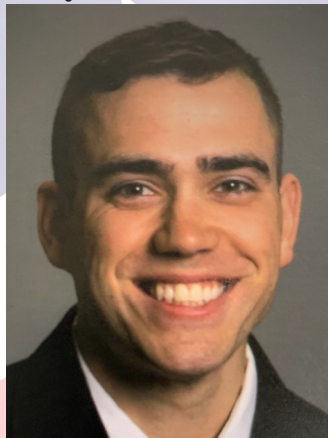
WI Air National
Guard
115th Fighter Wing

Serving Our Country & Community

Honoring our firefighters for protecting our nation and our local community.

MN National Guard
C Co 2-211
Medevac

Clayton Anderson



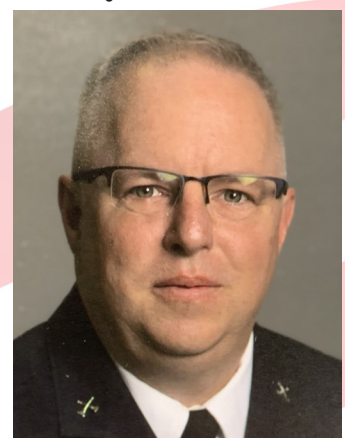
MN National Guard
C Co 2-211
Flight Medic

Ryan Rushton



U.S. Army Reserves
86th Training Division
Headquarters

Kyle Soden





Adam Markert

The Department awards a **“Firefighter of the Year”** award to an employee who is selected from a group of peer nominations.

This award is decided by a committee of peers and recognizes department personnel for their community service excellence, both on and off duty.

In 2022, the organization was pleased to present **Adam Markert** with this distinguished and well-deserved award.

Markert was chosen “not only because of his exceptional leadership in this department, but also the relentless dedication he had in starting our fitness and health program in partnership with Mayo Clinic.”

- AC Murphy





City of
La Crosse Fire
Department

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Crosse WI Fire
Department

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www.cityoflacrosse.org/your-government/departments/fire-department



Salvation Army's 2022 Kettle Design Champion!