

2023

La Crosse Fire Department Community Report



La Crosse Fire Department
1400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601





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.



Table of Contents

Division of Administration	4-9
Letter from Chief Jeff Schott.....	4-5
Organizational Chart.....	6-7
Budget.....	8
Personnel Changes.....	9
Division of Community Risk Management.....	10-13
Community Risk Education	10-11
Building Inspections and Code Enforcement	12
Fire Investigations	13
A Look Back at 2023.....	14-15
Division of Training & Professional Standards.....	16-17
Division of Fire and Rescue Operations.....	18-25
Emergency Medical Services.....	20-21
Hazardous Materials.....	22
Urban Search & Rescue.....	23
Water/Ice/Dive Rescue.....	24
Tactical EMS.....	25
Honoring Firefighters.....	26
Fire Prevention Week 2023.....	27

Letter from Fire Chief Jeff Schott

To the Citizens of the Communities We Serve,

The annual report will once again serve as a primary platform for reporting on all things La Crosse Fire in 2023. The various reports and illustrations of the work we do are a source of pride in not only the service we provide, but community partnerships that are essential for success. As we reflect on last year and the challenges we faced, it is important to recognize how the information contained in the report will shape future progress to maintain and improve our efforts to provide the best service possible.

Our staff responded to over 7,000 incidents, inspected nearly 3,000 buildings, investigated 36 fire scenes, issued hundreds of permits, and engaged with thousands of school age children through prevention activities. We are a youthful agency that thrives on solving challenges with harnessed energy and relentless preparedness. The services we provide and incidents we respond to are illustrated throughout the document.

As our agency moves forward into 2024, we have many things we would like to accomplish. The strategic plan for 2024-2028 has been reconstructed based on stakeholder input and the progression from the prior five years. Some of our future goals and objectives will center on employee wellness, enhancement of risk reduction programs, alternative community response strategies, and improved internal communication practices.

One of the highlights of 2023 was the July opening of the new Station 2 on La Crosse Street, directly adjacent to the University of La Crosse Campus. In addition, the groundbreaking and construction of the new Station 4 on La Crosse's Northside is set to open in July of 2024. These new stations are the most important improvements to our department in the last 50 years. The new stations will allow us to provide the quality space and amenities to perform our duties at the highest and most efficient level. We sincerely appreciate the support of the community on the incredible investment it has made for our staff.

The many notable moments and data from 2023 are presented from the perspective of the various bureaus and individual leaders of our department. As with most publications of this nature, the pictures tell a great story of who we are. It is my privilege to serve, lead, and present an organization that is proud and prepared to take on any challenge.

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



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Schott".

Jeff Schott, Fire Chief

Highlights from 2023



- Construction of the new Station 2 completed in July of 2023. Houses Battalion 1, Quint 2, and Rescue 2 and their crews along with our administrative offices.
- 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.
- Over 29,000 training hours completed; averaging 30.27 hours a month per person.
- Breaking ground of the new Station 4 in the Summer of 2023. The new station will have four drive-through vehicle bays, a space for rescue watercrafts, an indoor training space as well as a small police substation and a community room.
- Took delivery of new Urban Search and Rescue apparatus and a new breathing air trailer.





**Assistant Fire Chief
Fire and Rescue Operations**

**Battalion Chiefs (A/B/C Shifts)
Fire and Rescue Operations**

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

Assistant Mechanic (x3)

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

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

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

**Station 4 – Q4, E4
7 Per Shift = 1Cpt, 1Lt, 2Eng, 3FF**

Technology Assistant (x3)

**Division Chief of Training and
Professional Standards**

**Captain – Suppression Training
Coordinator**

Captain – EMS Coordinator

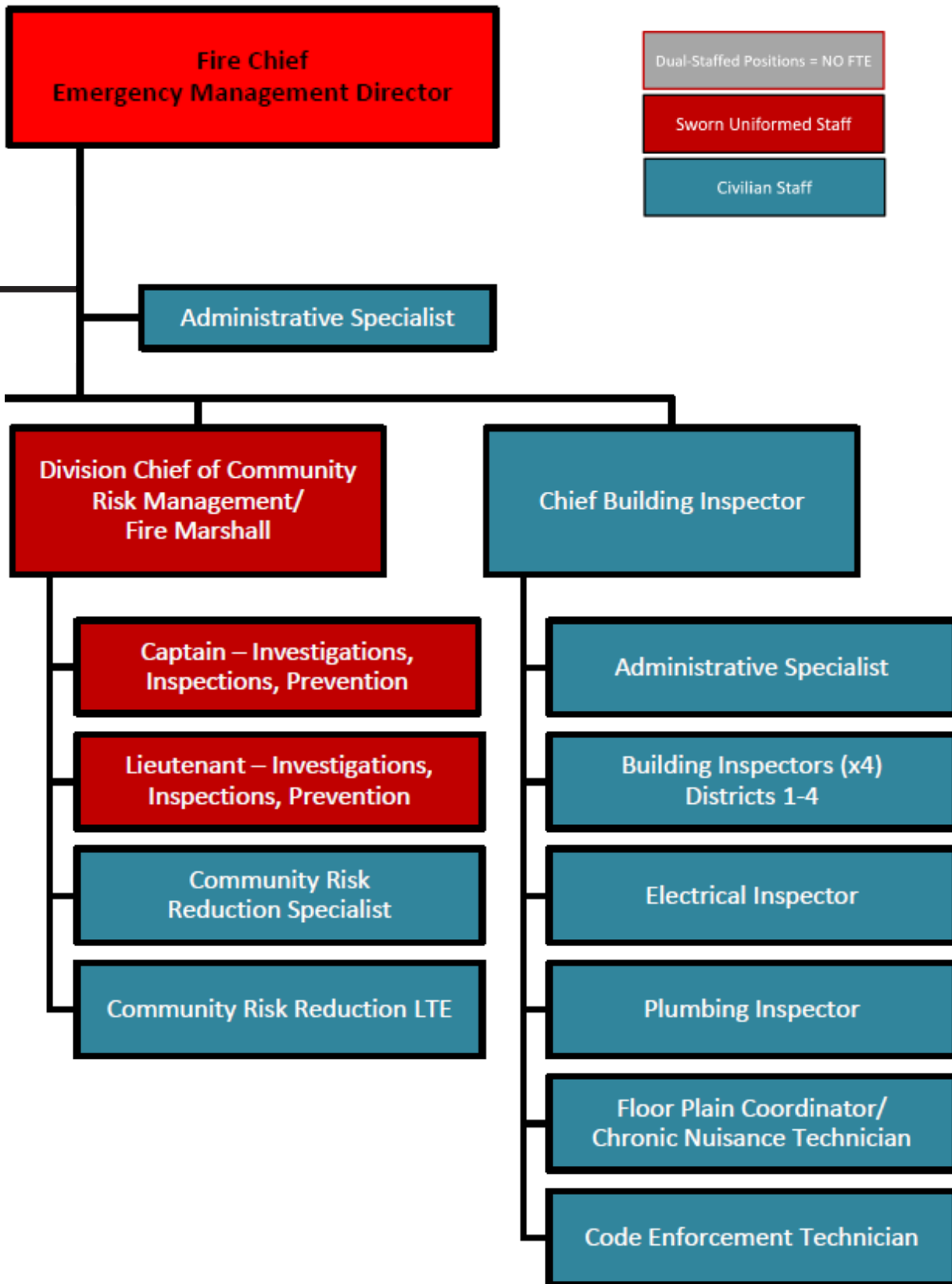
EMS Trainer (x3)

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

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

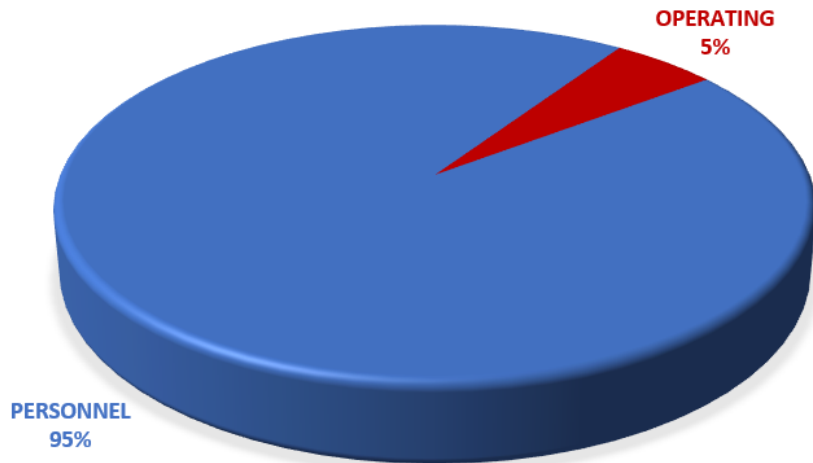
**Technical Rescue/USAR
Team Coordinator
(18) Team Members**

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

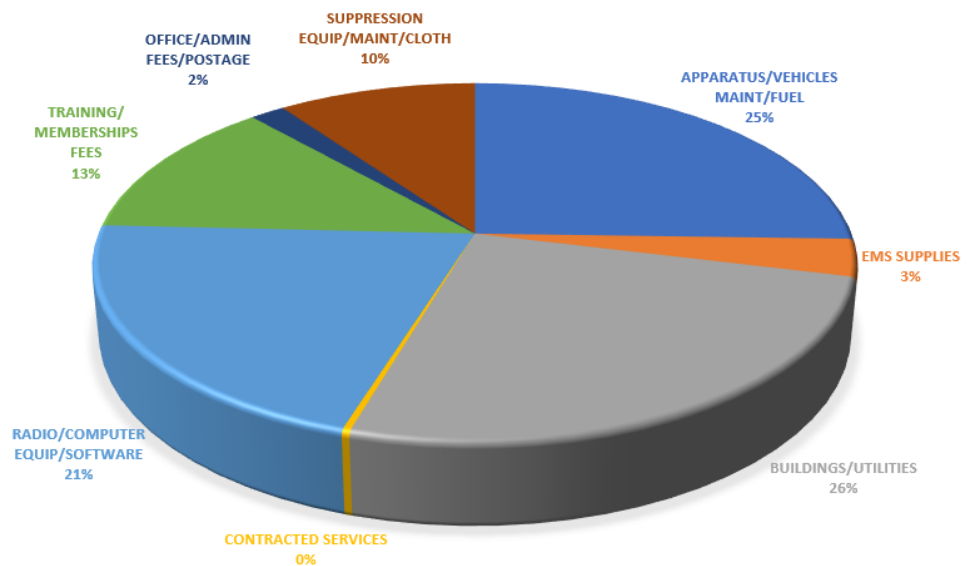


2023 Budget Snapshot

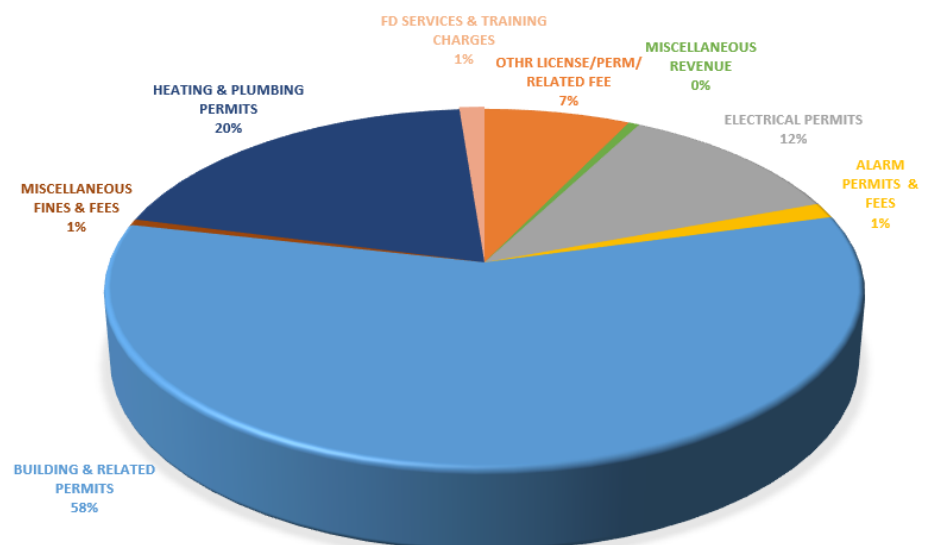
**Total 2023
Expenses:
\$13,323,064.98**



**Total 2023
Operating Expenses:
\$701,266.99**



**Total 2023
Revenues:
\$985,058.83**



2023 Personnel Changes

Promotions and Appointments		
Blane Neher	Battalion Chief	May 19th, 2023
Lance Tryggestad	Battalion Chief	May 21st, 2023
Brandon Gritt	Captain	May 1st, 2023
Bradley Alexander	Lieutenant	April 28th, 2023
Adam Hutson	Lieutenant	May 27th, 2023
Cody Allen	Lieutenant	June 4th, 2023
Renee Christensen	Lieutenant	September 8th, 2023
Jon Ghinazzi	Lieutenant	September 30th, 2023
Tony Hilton	Engineer	May 26th, 2023
Dominick Mellick	Engineer	May 27th, 2023
Scott Delong	Engineer	May 31st, 2023
Jameson Rau	Engineer	September 30th, 2023
Cole Doblal	Engineer	November 17th, 2023
Craig Scheel	Engineer	November 21st, 2023
New Hires		
Kristie Haller	Administrative Specialist - CRM	July 24th, 2023
Grace Babb	Program Specialist	August 29th, 2023
Brett Holden	Firefighter	September 5th, 2023
Retirements		
Todd Adams	29+ years	February 24th, 2023
Greg Temp	30+ years	April 5th, 2023
Wade Flisram	25+ years	July 24th, 2023
Kyle Soden	24+ years	October 2nd, 2023

Division of Community Risk Management

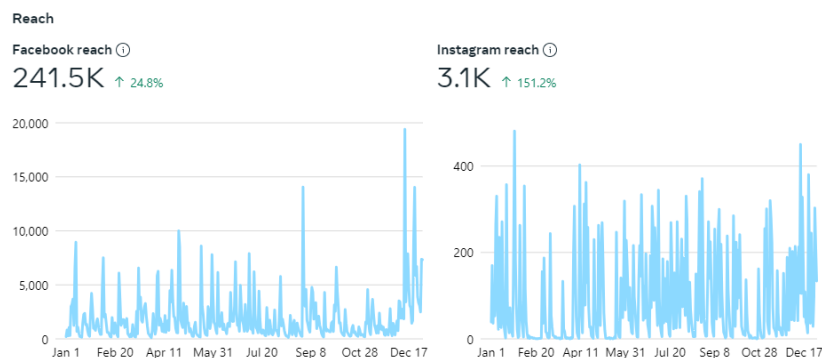
Community Risk Educator

Molly McCormick



Community Risk Reduction (CRR) enables the department to expand beyond fire service to an all-hazard emergency service; taking a previously reactionary role to one of prevention and mitigation. By identifying and prioritizing specific risks and impacts to our community, the department aims to provide education that results in fewer fires, fewer emergency medical calls, and more lives saved. The holistic approach uses internal resources partnered with other local agencies to collaborate in community health, safety, and resiliency.

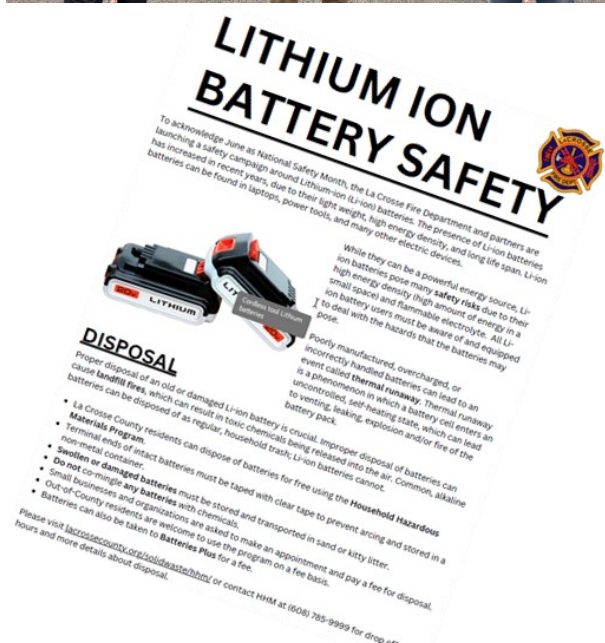
Over the course of 2023, we've increased our outreach efforts 50% over 2022. We were present at over 66 events; including visits to every K-5 classroom in the City of La Crosse for Fire Prevention Week with a newly designed curriculum based on nationally recognized programming and inquiry-based learning models.



We've also increased the use of social media as a tool for Community Risk Reduction, community members are encouraged to check out our Facebook and Instagram pages weekly.

LCFD worked in collaboration with several other local agencies for targeted campaigns. Examples of those include:

- Lithium-Ion Battery Safety
- Keep the Wreath Green
- Overdose Awareness/Drug Take Back Days
- Falls Prevention & Mitigation older adults
- Development of the Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.)
- Hydro Helpers



Community Risk Education Notable 2023 Events

Event	Topics Covered
La Crosse Promise Career Fair- Logan HS	Fire Extinguisher & Career Opportunities
Prepare with Pedro- Emerson Elementary	Home Fire Preparedness
Solid Waste Management- Internal training	Fire Extinguisher
UWL Kids College	The Science of Fire (fire safety)
Central HS- Senior Fire Safety	Fire Safety
Logan HS- Senior Fire Safety	Fire Safety
Family Fire Safety Day- Children's Museum	Fire Safety
Junior Achievement	Science of Fire
Slide Into Safety	Fire Safety
Party in the Park- Salvation Army	Fire Safety
Community, Careers, and Connections	Fire Safety
Touch a Truck (Public Works)	Fire Safety
Moon Tunes	CPR, AED +Safety Simulator, Li-on
Camp Send A Kid	Fire Safety, calling 911
Gundersen Pre K Station Tour	Fire Safety
Riverfest	Fire Safety and Hands Only CPR/AED
Station 2 Open House	Tours of the New Station
National Night Out	Fire Safety and Hands Only CPR/AED
Medary Days	Fire Safety
Trinity Lutheran Block Party	Fire Safety and Hands Only CPR/AED
Blessed Sacrament Teacher Orientation	Hands Only CPR/AED/Basic First Aid
Viterbo RA Training	Fire Extinguisher Training
UWL Eagle Fest	Fire Extinguisher/Hands Only/AED/
Stepping out in Pink/Pride/Moon Tunes	Fire Simulator/Hands Only and AED
UWL Public Health Class	CRR- Fire Safety
Hintgen Family Night	Safety Simulator/ Hands Only CPR
Falls Prevention Awareness Day	Falls Mitigation and Fire Safety
AARP Home Fit Resource Fair	Falls Mitigation and Fire Safety
Wellness on Wheels- City Resource Fair	Hands Only CPR/AED/Basic First Aid/STB
Gundersen Pre K visit	Fire Safety- Hot or Not
Emerson K Station Tour	Fire Safety
Montessori Pre-K Station Tour	Fire Safety
Emerson 2nd grade station 2 tour	Fire Safety
ELL students from WTC Station Tour	Fire Safety- Cultural Exchange
Northwoods K Station Tour	Fire Safety
Head Start Fire Prevention Visit	Fire Safety- Hot or Not
Forest Park Tenant Meeting	Fire Safety- Fire Extinguisher Training
Cooking Fire Safety- Longfellow Middle	Science of Fire- Cooking Safety
Cub Scout Station Tour	Fire Safety
8th grade Career Day	Fire Extinguisher & Career Opportunities,
4/5th grade Hamilton- Station 1 Tour	Hazardous Materials, EMS, and Rescue



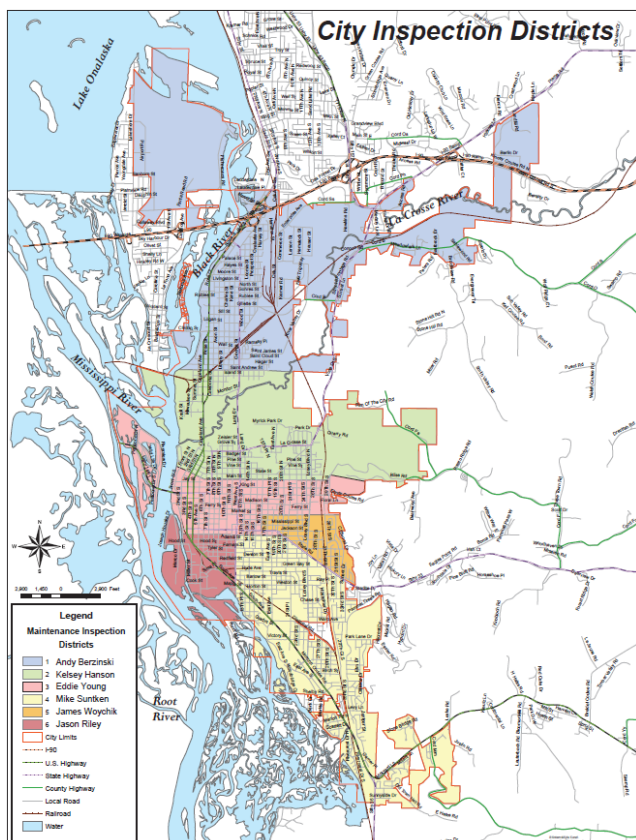
Division of Community Risk Management

Chief Building Inspector David Reinhart

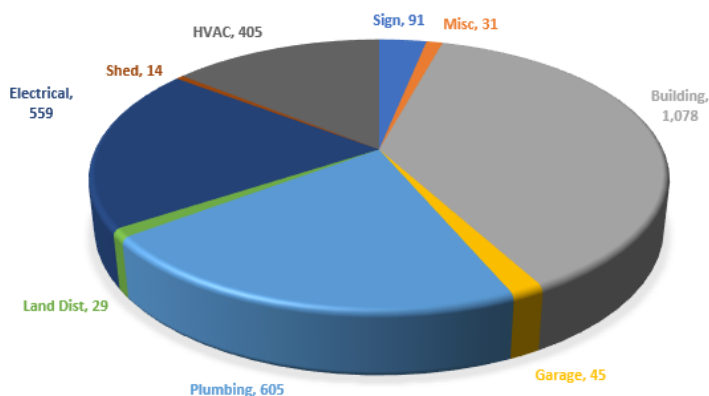


The Division of Community Risk Management also provides a **full range of inspection services** that includes: plan review, construction review, and property maintenance inspection field operations; full electrical, erosion control, HVAC, and plumbing inspection operations; investigation of code violations 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.



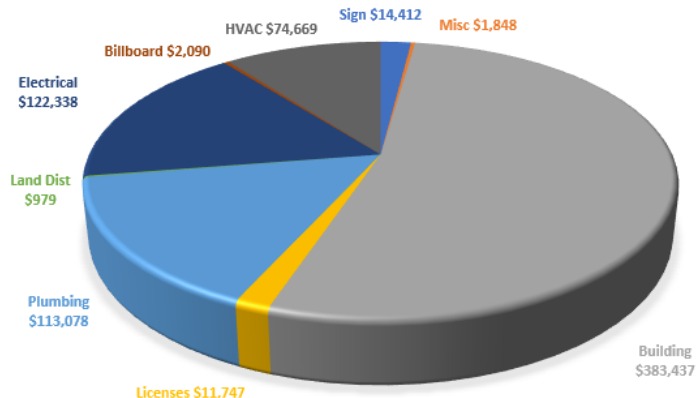
2023 Building Inspection Permits Issued



In 2023, the Division's Building Inspectors and Code Enforcement Technicians managed:

- **17 registered** vacant buildings
- **Maintenance enforcement** activities increased by 1,438 incidents in 2022 to **3,490** in 2023
- **32 newly** constructed residential buildings
- **7 newly** constructed commercial, industrial, and institutional structures
- **23 construction additions** to single-family dwellings
- **59 construction alterations** to commercial buildings
- **51 decks** constructed
- **36 garage/utility buildings razed**
- **19 commercial structures razed**
- **20 residential buildings razed**

2023 Building Inspection Annual Fee Summary



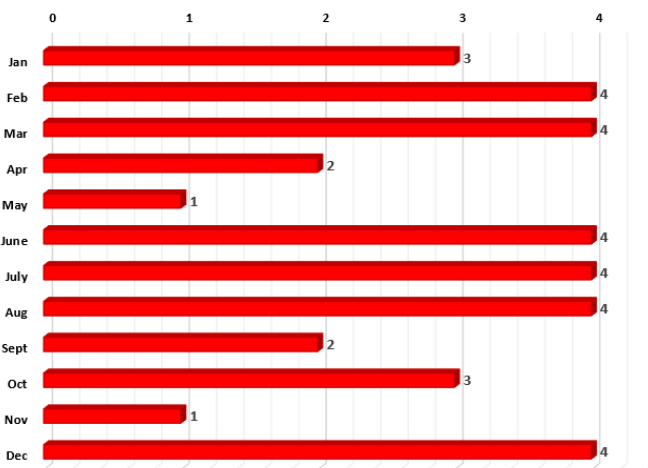
Division of Community Risk Management

Division Chief Bee Xiong

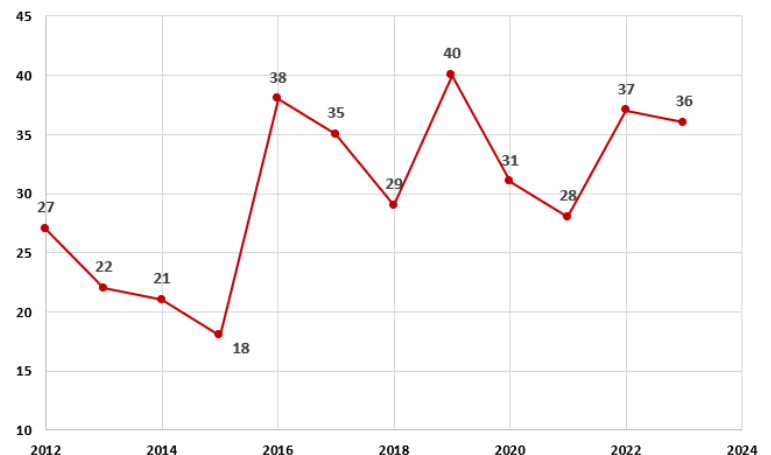


The La Crosse Fire Department Division of Community Risk Management Division provides cause and origin investigations for the City of La Crosse and Town of Medary for all fires in excess of \$500 in damages, suspicious in nature, have an unknown origin, have caused a fire-related injury or death, or deemed necessary by the investigation unit. The CRM Fire Investigation Division is staffed with two trained fire investigators and one new member in training; one Division Chief, one Captain, and one Lieutenant. Engineer Renee Christensen was appointed as the Lieutenant of Community Risk Management with the retirement of Captain Kyle Soden. The LCFD has one Fire Investigator who is certified to the level of "Fire Investigator Technician" by the International Association Arson Investigators and another who is a Wisconsin Technical College System certified "Fire Investigator". LCFD Fire Investigators work closely with the La Crosse Police Department with suspicious or incendiary fires. This year there were five incendiary fires that resulted in three arrests.

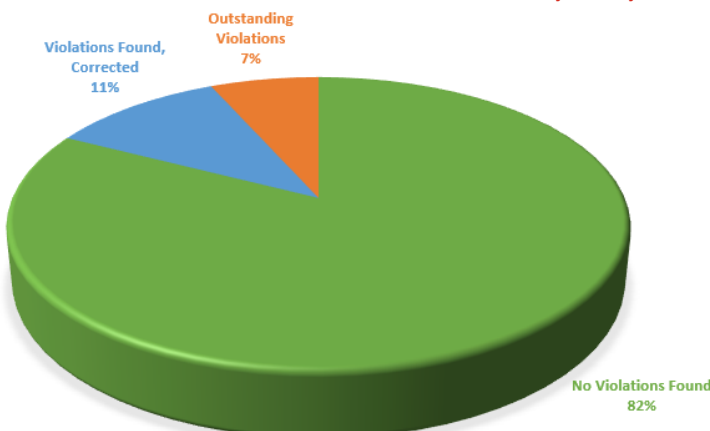
**2023 Investigated Fire Scenes
By Month**



**Total Investigated Fire Scenes
Annual Comparison**



2023 Fire, Life, & Safety Inspection Data



TOTAL # OF BUILDINGS INSPECTED: 2,869

TOTAL # OF INSPECTIONS: 5,925

TOTAL # OF RE-INSPECTIONS: 783

TOTAL # OF REMAINING: 226





Division of Training and Professional Standards

Division Chief Aaron Bolstad



The Training and Professional Standards Division of the La Crosse Fire Department is tasked with ensuring that every member of our team is thoroughly prepared to serve our community with confidence, competence, and professionalism. Our aim is to uphold the highest standards of training and conduct, ensuring that the services we provide to the people, businesses, and visitors of the greater La Crosse area are of the utmost quality.

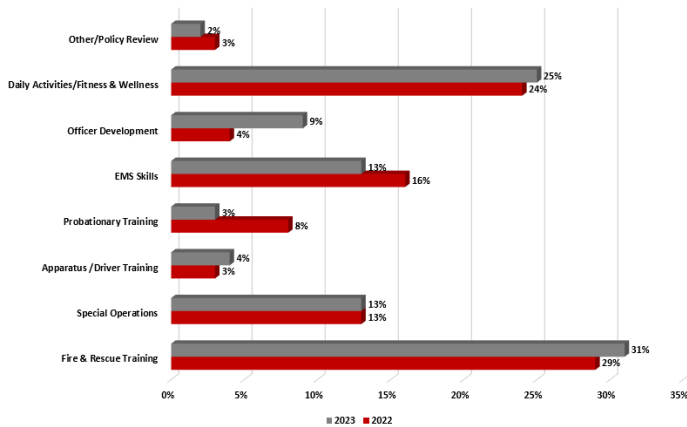
Our department's effectiveness is not solely judged by the number of training sessions conducted but rather by the consistent, professional results delivered by our dedicated firefighters and emergency service personnel in real-world situations. At the heart of the La Crosse Fire Department's mission is an unwavering commitment to training. The nature of fire and emergency services is constantly evolving, presenting new challenges that were unimaginable decades ago—from electric vehicle fires that defy traditional extinguishing methods to the complex and hazardous fires fueled by modern materials, and even the management of large-scale emergency evacuations due to train derailments; just to name a few. These challenges underscore the critical importance of our comprehensive training program.

In 2023 alone, our team completed over **29,000 hours** of training across a wide range of topics, including firefighting techniques, vehicle extrication, emergency medical response, mental health awareness, leadership, fire prevention, inspection techniques, and community risk reduction, among others. This extensive training also encompasses specialized areas such as technical rescue, hazardous materials handling, swiftwater rescue, and tactical emergency medical support.

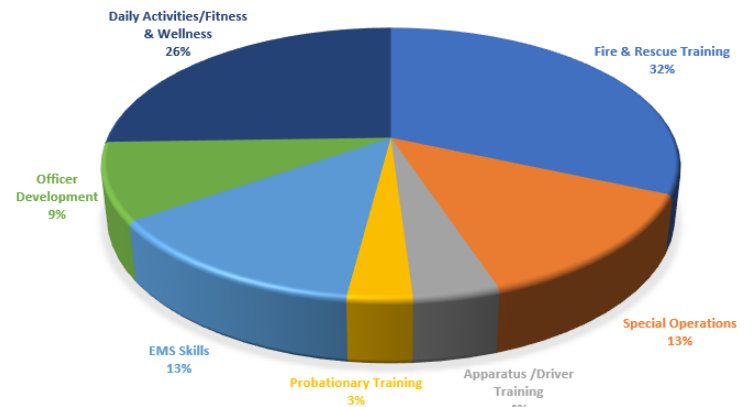
Thanks to the generosity of various city departments and external partners, our personnel had the opportunity to train in numerous unique locations, allowing us to simulate realistic scenarios that are invaluable to our preparedness efforts. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the city's departments, and external stakeholders including Gundersen, Mayo, Western Technical College, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Don's Towing, Mathy Construction, Dairyland Power, Three Sixty Real Estate, Hess Excavating, J.F. Brennan/Brennan Marine, BNSF Railroad, Excel Energy, and all our community partners. These collaborations have been essential to our training success, and we deeply appreciate your ongoing support.



2022 vs. 2023 Training Hours



2023 Training Hours by Category



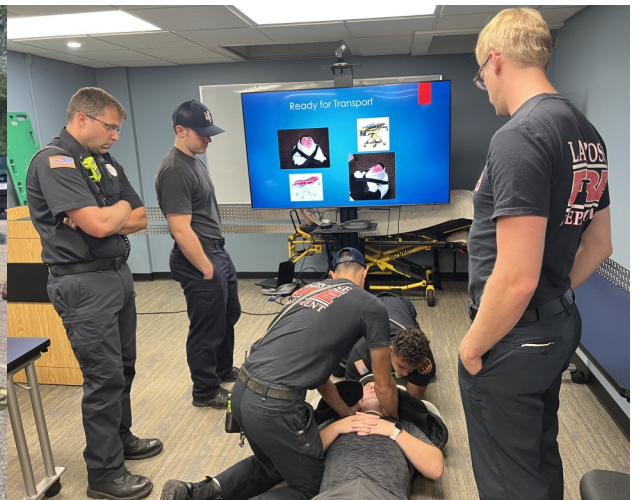
220 Total number of training topics delivered in 2023.

65 Total number of La Crosse Fire Department personnel used as Instructors in 2023.

14 Total number of outside instructors brought in to teach specialty topics.

29,419 Total training hours for La Crosse Fire personnel.

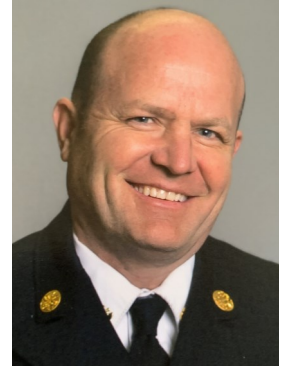
30.27 Average hours a La Crosse firefighter trained per month in 2023.



Division of Operations

All-Hazards Fire, EMS, & Rescue

Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Murphy



The La Crosse Fire Department Operations division is responsible for all hazards in our community. We respond to fires and EMS calls on a daily basis, but we are also responding to the less frequent emergencies. The rivers and bluffs around La Crosse are one of our greatest attributes, but they can be the focalized location for emergencies each year. Our USAR and Water Rescue teams are always prepared to respond in any weather to those unique emergencies. The Hazardous Materials Team also responds in and around La Crosse, with a highly-skilled regional team. This group of professionals, work as a state-funded resource, is available to La Crosse citizens within a moment's notice.

The three shifts, that protect our City everyday, are strategically located through La Crosse. The firefighters respond from four station locations on Engines, Quints (ladder/engine combination) and Rescues. These crews train and prepare daily for any emergency that may arise in our community. The 'new' Station 2 opened this past year at 1400 La Crosse Street, which also houses our Administrative team. Since the grand opening on Station 2, our organization has been operating from five station locations. Upon completion of the 'new' Station 4, we will revert back to the four station model.

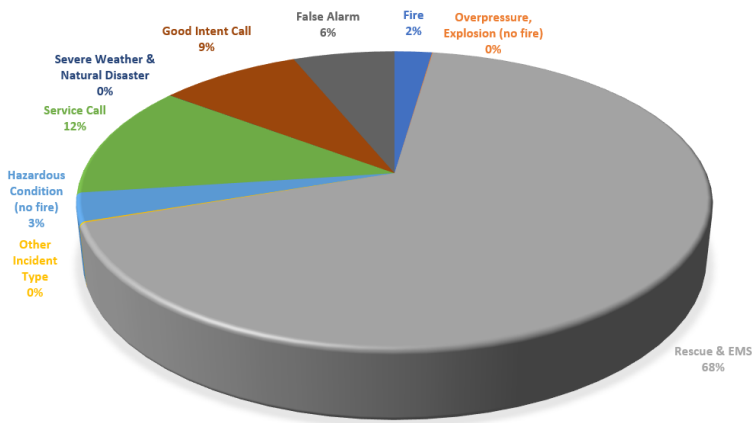
La Crosse firefighters were called to help members of our community 7,178 times in 2023. Over 4,800 of those calls were for medical emergencies that come at all hours of the day and 539 calls were fire related. We had 21 firefighter injuries in 2023, which is one less than the previous year. We expect that our health and wellness initiatives will help to decrease this statistic in future years.

This past year, we also took delivery of a new Pierce USAR truck along with a new breathing Air Trailer. USAR 1 is the newest apparatus in our fleet and it is used for a variety responses to special operations calls. Those calls can include: building collapse, high-angle rescue, confined space, and trench rescue. The Air Trailer is an important resource that allows us to fill breathing air tanks on a fire scene. This saves precious time and helps to keep our firefighters safe when every minute counts.

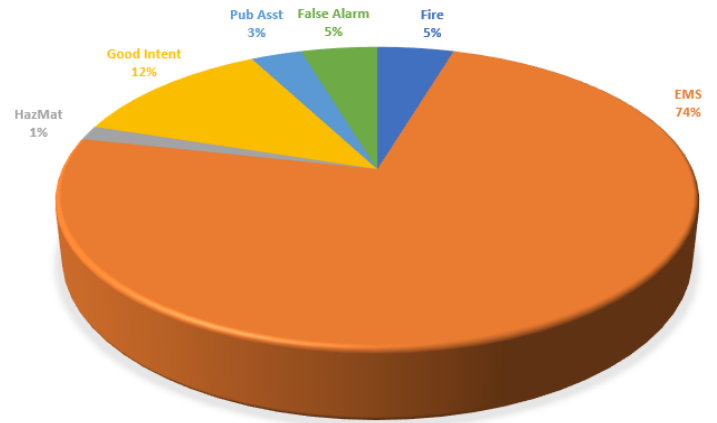
This will be my last report for the City of La Crosse and the LCFD. I would like to take a moment to thank the Mayor, City Council, and members of this community for all the support that has been given to me and the LCFD throughout my career.



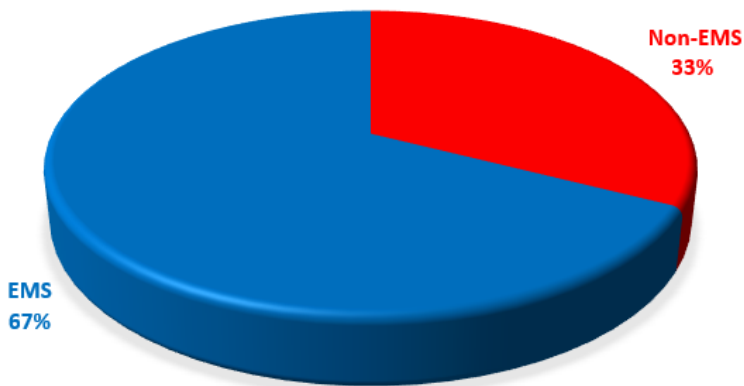
2023 Total Incidents by Type - City of La Crosse



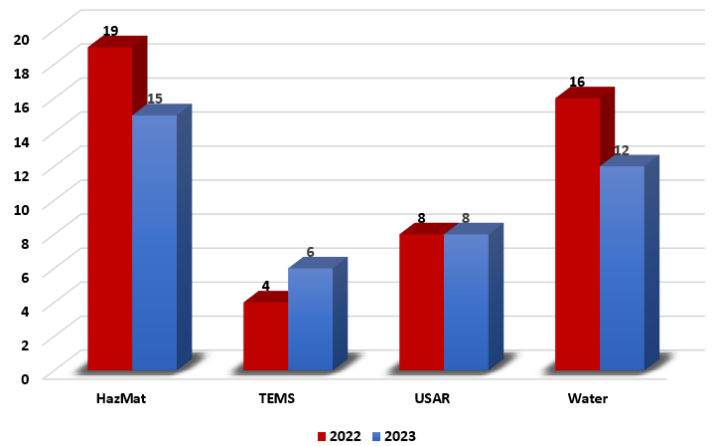
2023 Total Incidents by Type - Town of Medary



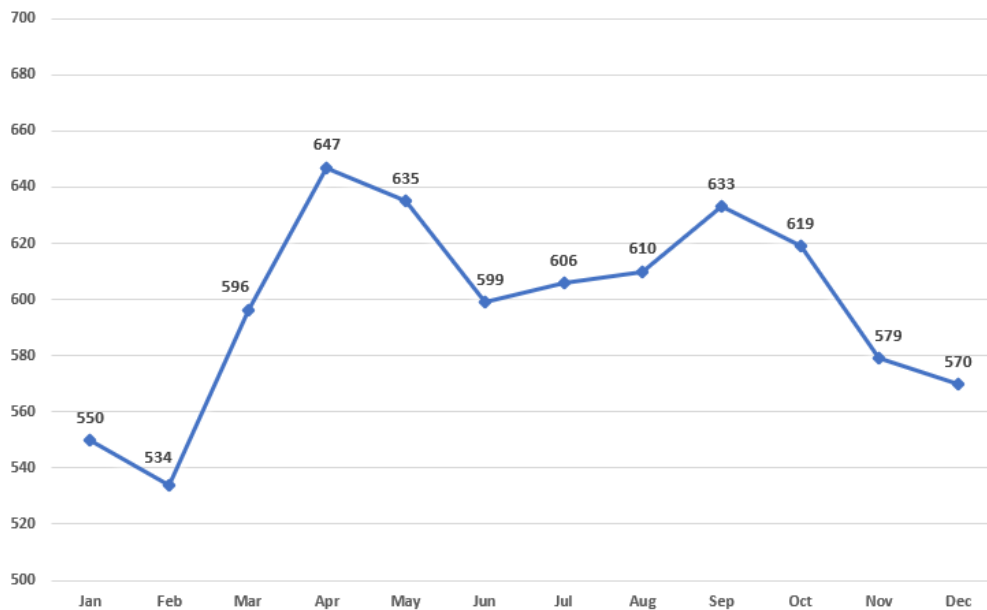
2023 Total Calls - Non EMS vs. EMS



Special Operations Teams Calls - 2022 vs. 2023



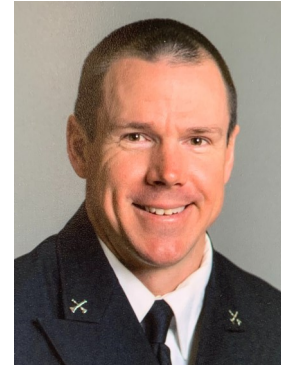
2023 Incident Count by Month



Division of Operations

Emergency Medical Services

Captain/EMS Coordinator Jim Hillcoat



The La Crosse Fire Department operates an EMS program aimed at delivering top-tier pre-hospital emergency medical services at the Paramedic level to the community. The program's mission is to ensure exceptional pre-hospital emergency medical care, enhance patient outcomes, and elevate quality of life. This is accomplished through robust staffing, advanced training protocols, utilization of modern medical equipment, and community education initiatives. Collaborating closely with Gundersen Health Systems, the agency strives to sustain and enhance the high standard of EMS delivery within the community. The EMS Coordinator and Community Risk Educator work in tandem to manage a patient referral program and conduct public education initiatives focused on community preparedness. The department also partners with the La Crosse Police Department during Tactical EMS (TEMS) operations.

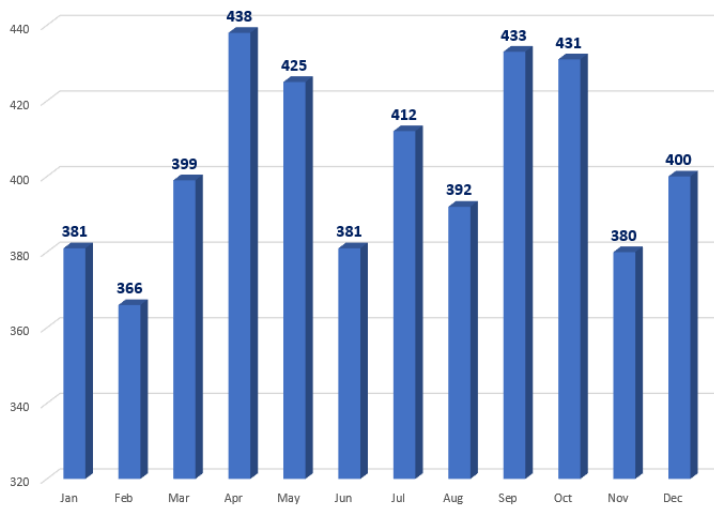
The agency managed its EMS program with a team of 79 FF/EMTs and 16 FF/Paramedics assigned to three platoon shifts. Throughout 2023, they promptly responded to 4,838 EMS-related calls, constituting 67% of the agency's total call volume. Notably, they responded to 66 cases of cardiac arrest and 136 suspected opioid overdose incidents during this period.

The deployment of Paramedics significantly bolstered efficiency and resource utilization within the EMS system. Firefighters/Paramedics were empowered to provide sustained care during transport for patients necessitating advanced life support (ALS). The agency continued its partnership with Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance (GTSA), facilitating the operation of a GTSA-owned ambulance stationed at Fire Station 1. This ambulance, staffed by LCFD Paramedics, promptly responded to 967 calls in 2023.

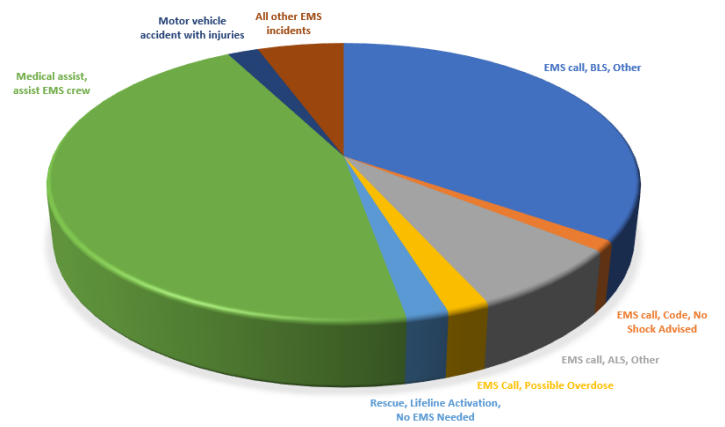
The agency along with its partners continued to achieve a cardiac arrest survival rate above national average. The overall save rate was 12%. The save rate for witnessed cardiac arrest was 33% and an impressive 75% for witnessed/shockable arrests. The agency's public training programs have prepared and equipped hundreds of community members to help achieve positive outcomes. Bystander CPR was performed prior to EMS arrival at a rate of 57% and Public AEDs were used on 11% of the cardiac arrests.



EMS Incident Count by Month for 2023



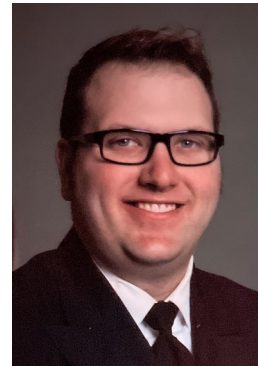
Most Common EMS Incident Types for 2023



Division of Operations

Hazardous Materials Team

Lieutenant Andrew Formanek



The La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT) is a **23-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 highway. The team conducts monthly drills that reflect the standard competency-based exercises designed to maintain technician level skills.

The La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Team also operates as a **Radiological Field Team** for the Wisconsin 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 2023, the team responded to **15 calls** for service and participated in numerous training opportunities. In addition to monthly core training, the team continues to develop relationship with private industry and outside response agencies. Team members facilitated Hazmat Technician level training for City Brewery as well training with the 54th Chemical Support Team from Madison, Canadian Pacific Rail, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroads. These opportunities continue to strengthen overall response capability and tactical knowledge.



2023 Significant HazMat Responses:

01/10	Mixing of acid & base oxidizers
02/05	Pool chemical incident
02/20	Gas line strike
03/13	Jet fuel spill (40 gallons)
05/03	Mixture of household chemicals
05/09	35 gallon diesel spill/semi trailer
06/07	Air monitoring investigation

08/31	CO investigation
09/12	CO2 tank leak
09/13	Oil leak on river
10/04	Suspicious package
10/13	LP leak
10/19	Diesel fuel cleanup
10/26	Air monitoring investigation
12/16	Freon leak

Division of Operations

Urban Search and Rescue

Captain Cory Westpfahl



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, confined spaces, rope rescue, trench rescue, tower rescue, swift water, and major extrication or disentanglement. Ten of the members are also a part of Wisconsin Task Force 1, a state asset. The mission of the USAR team is to prepare for and respond to technical rescue emergencies both within the city and regionally in surrounding communities if called upon. The USAR team is supported by one heavy rescue apparatus, a 33-foot 2022 Pierce Sabre which carries specialized equipment for rope and tower rescue, confined space and structural collapse incidents. This apparatus is a new replacement for the team and was put into service in 2023. The team is further supported by a 21-foot enclosed trailer which contains lumber, additional structural collapse equipment and trench rescue equipment. Lastly, the team has a utility terrain vehicle or UTV that is used primarily for bluff response and has been used for various large community events such as Riverfest and Oktoberfest. USAR Team members train regularly on duty and meet every other month for a large-scale training which involves rescue skill development and scenarios. There were over 1500 hours of USAR training in 2023. This encompassed the USAR core team drills, WI-TF1 training as well as cross training non-team members on the department.

In 2023, the USAR team responded to **eight incidents** that required the use of specialized equipment to perform a rescue or recovery. Three of the incidents involved the rescue of injured bikers, all on the bluff trails where specialized rope rescue equipment had to be utilized. Another involved a search for a lost person on the bluffs. Unfortunately, three calls for service were for the recovery of bodies on the bluffs. Along with responding to emergency technical rescue incidents, the agency's USAR Team provides medical and rescue resources for special events like the EPIC Bike Race and the Hixon 25k and 50k runs.

In the USAR world, rescues, rescue techniques, and training are constantly evolving and so is the equipment used to safely perform those actions. This year, the team began replacing older and outdated equipment, in some cases over 20 years old, with newer and more modern equipment and will continue to do so in the first half of 2024. This will benefit the community not only financially in the long term with reducing and in some cases eliminating costly maintenance issues but will lead to safer, more timely and efficient rescues.

2023 USAR (high-profile) Responses:

7/2 Upper Hixon
Forest - UTV
rescue of injured
bicyclist

10/11 Miller Bluff
- Search and body
recovery

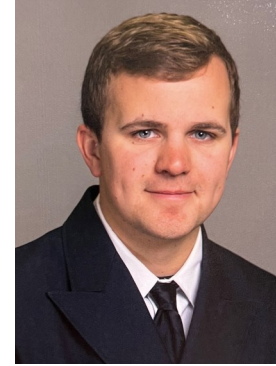
10/25 Grandad
Bluff - Search for
lost person



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.

In 2023, a highlight was having a joint drill to work on boom deployment with our HazMat Team. Xcel and BNSF were also apart of this drill. These events help create preplans and develop relations to ensure effective responses for possible spills in our waterways.

The La Crosse Fire Department participated in **1,506 hours of water related training** in 2023, 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. During the monthly training exercises, the teammates completed a 40-hour Swiftwater course and a 24-hour boat ops course which includes passing a written and practical test prior to receiving certification. This certification is valuable and will assist with the growing need for flood response in the area.

The Water Rescue Team has committed team members who strive to provide a better service to the community. Water rescue call 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 all the community support and to all the organizations that assist our Water Rescue Team.



2023 Water Rescue Team (high-profile) Responses:

- 4/17** Assist two people to safety from flooding
- 7/7** Assist with La Crosse County Dive Team to remove vehicle from water
- 8/3** Assist disabled boat to safety with people on board
- 11/21** Assist neighboring community recover body from water

Division of Operations

Tactical EMS

Firefighter Frank Garritano



In 2023, 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 did our best to maintain our various medical and tactical skills to respond to high threat situations. The team also welcomed two new members, bringing us back to a full roster of six members.

During this past year, we had a total of **six callouts**, one having multiple locations, and over **500 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
- Outreach training for La Crosse PD Explorers Program



In addition to the training listed above, TEMS medics were fortunate enough to help out the La Crosse Police Department’s yearly in-service training. During which, LCFD Trainers and TEMS medics brought together officers and firefighters that work the streets together for numerous, large-scale active threat response scenarios. The training allowed people from both agencies to work on an integrated response, understand one another’s approaches, and how to effectively work together so that the innocent people involved in these terrible events have the greatest outcome possible.

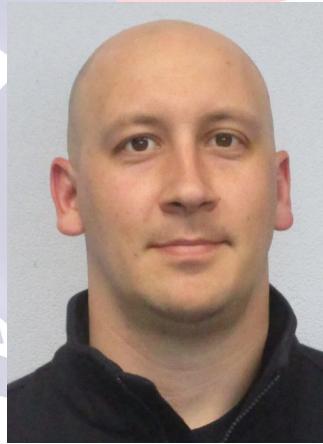
Thanks to the continued support from all the parties involved with the TEMS Team, we look forward to another year of progress, advancing our skills, and serving the City of La Crosse.





Brett Kenner

WI Army
National Guard
C Co 1-128th
Infantry



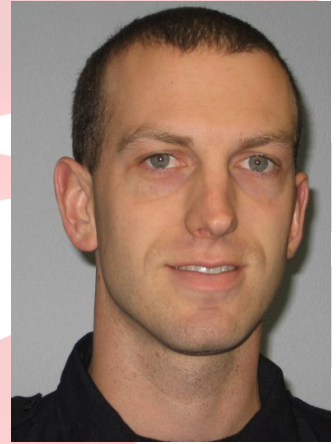
Adam Clements

WI Air
National Guard
115th Fighter Wing



Clayton Anderson

MN National Guard
C Co 2-211
Medevac



Andrew Servais

WI Air
National Guard
115th Fighter Wing

Serving Our Country & Community

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

Our Veterans:

Bradley Alexander

Richard Brunoni

Cole Doblar

Mark Hanson

Tyler Hoerres

Josh Kois

Michael Larson

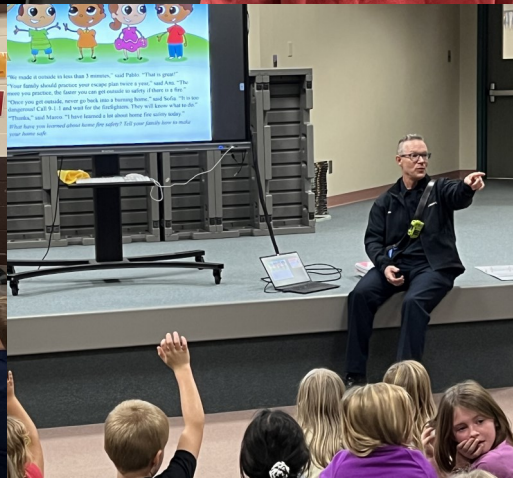
Richard Placek

Jeffrey Schott

Shane Trussoni

Cory Westpfahl

Fire Prevention Week 2023



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



La Crosse Fire Department
1400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

608-789-7260

FDinfo@cityoflacrosse.org

