



Fire Department Police & Fire Commission Report

November 1st thru December 31, 2016

Report by Chief Wayne Chenier

The department responded to 422 incidents during this 61 day reporting period, which included; 9 fires (4 Structures), 175 Local EMS calls, 2 Motor-Vehicle accidents with injuries, 2 Motor-Vehicle Accidents without injuries, 65 Advanced-Life-Support intercepts, 52 Township EMS calls, 82 Interfacility transfers, 7 Hazardous Condition calls, 7 fire alarm activations, 3 dispatch and cancelled enroute, 9 service related requests, and an Ice Rescue incident. Despite this busy period, staff; completed 384 hours of training, removed the flags and hung the holiday decorations on Main Street, completed several occupancy fire inspections, gave fire station tours and educated hundreds of LSE and middle school students in fire prevention during Fire Prevention Month, managed another successful annual Toy Drive event.

The major event during this period was the ice rescue of ten stranded anglers on Lake Superior the day after Christmas. The department was notified at 8:29 a.m. that a group of ice fishermen were stranded on an ice floe. It was later determined that there was five other anglers stranded on another ice floe. All ten were rescued under one hour from time of notification.

The department responded to two major structure fires during this period. A house fire was reported at 7:00 p.m. 211 7th Ave. East on November 10th. Shift 2 responded and noted heavy fire conditions on the backside of the home. Flames were reaching heights of 20-30 feet above the roof line. Under the command of Lieutenant Matthias, the members of shift 2 quickly knocked down and extinguished the fire within a few minutes.

Smoke in a residence activated the smoke detectors, which alerted the residence at 618 17th Avenue West at 2:12 a.m. on December 12th. APD Officers arrived on-scene and reported heavy smoke showing and the family was out of the structure. Captain Thimm directed members of Shift 2 to make an interior attack. Crews were met with fire on the first and second floors of the structure. This fire was difficult to get to the seat of the fire and took several hours to extinguish; building construction, limited access concealed the fire, and windy weather conditions. The structure suffered heavy fire and water damage. It is undetermined at this time if the structure will be salvageable.

A one vehicle roll-over MVA on Junction Road required extensive extrication of two patients. A vehicle traveling east lost control and One patient died from her injuries. The accident was reported around noon on November 15, 2016.



2016 Department Overview

The department had several positive changes in 2016; operations were moved into a new modern facility, staffing levels was increased to meet the demands of the community, State of WI approved a wavier to operate as a one paramedic system, the department's Emergency Medical Services trained staff to the highest level of paramedic care (Critical Care Transport Paramedic), prepared for an Active Shooter event by successfully training with local and area law enforcement personnel and Northland College in an active shooter drill, collaborated with Memorial Medical Center in the development of a Community Paramedicine program.

The alternate staffing plan approved in 2016 has been a success. If you recall, the plan outlined a reduction in the number of paramedics from 20 to 18, and the hiring of 6 firefighter/EMT basics, for a total of 24 personnel. The plan was designed to increase the number of interfacility transfers, reduce the number of overtime hours, and allow staff time off between shifts. The plan resulted in a 50% reduction in overtime hours, eliminated 24 hour overtime shifts used to cover staff shortages for sick leave and vacations, increased the number of interfacility transfers by 251. The department transported a total of 545 patients to other medical facilities in 2016. The additional 251 transports and the reduction in OT cost supported the cost of hiring the additional four firefighters.

I'm honored to announce once again, that Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Marko raised \$4,000.00 this year by selling numerous ads to local area businesses, and the ads are then featured in an Ashland Fire Department calendar. The monies will fund two \$2,000.00 scholarships in 2017 for Ashland Area High School Seniors interested in pursuing a career in the medical or firefighting fields.

In closing, the department responded to 2,573 calls in 2016, which was a considerable increase over the 2,170 responses in 2015. Ambulance revenues are up considerably due to the increase in transfers. The estimated loss to property in 2016 was \$502,102. It is hard to believe that on January 8th, it will have been one year that the department moved operations into the new fire station. The new station has surpassed all expectations. Operations have been streamlined considerably, which has had a dramatic reduction in response times, increased efficiencies in daily operations, and increased the quality of living for staff has improved considerably.



2016 Incidents

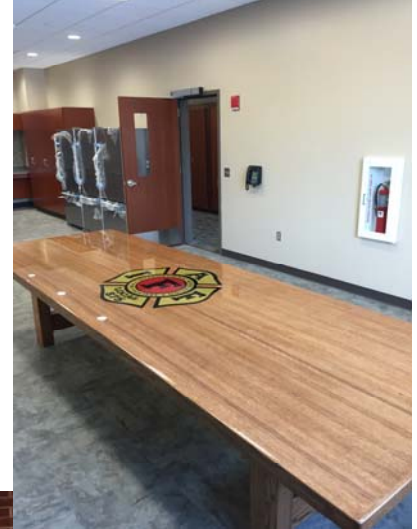


2016 Incidents Continued

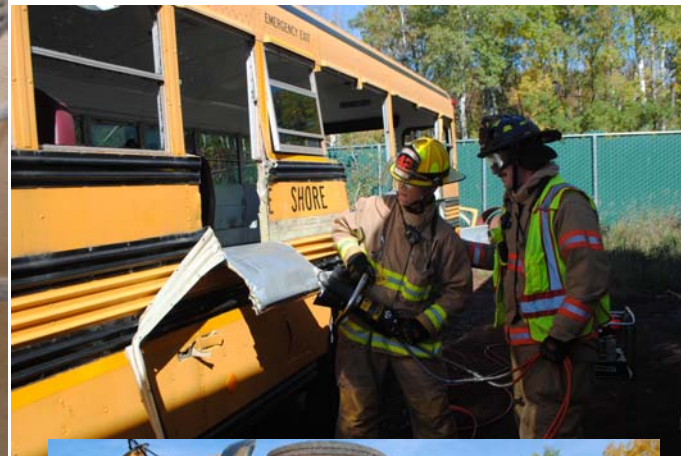


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Training Highlights



Public Education/Special Events

