

# 2015 Community Report

For the  
CITY OF LA CROSSE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Photo credits: La Crosse Tribune



*Serving La Crosse and Southwestern Wisconsin  
Quality Emergency Services Since 1896*





Some photo credits: La Crosse Tribune





Some photo credits: La Crosse Tribune



# From the desk of Fire Chief Gregg Cleveland...



July 1, 2016

Mayor Kabat

Members of the Common Council

Members of the Fire and Police Commission

Citizens of La Crosse

On the following page you will find the highlights of the La Crosse Fire Department 2015 year in review. We have accomplished a great deal, much of would be invisible to the general public until they need critical services such as an medical, fire, hazardous materials, or an auto accident. While most people would readily identify with those services, they may realize the expertise the fire department provides in building and fire code enforcement, plan review of buildings and fire prevention and suppression systems, emergency planning for community events, public fire and injury education, to build resiliency into our community to recovery more quickly from community wide emergencies such as tornadoes or floods.

In 2015 we continued our commitment to the neighborhoods by further enhancing the merging of the building department into the fire department. It is a challenging task; however, we made great strides in making two departments into one. These efforts will continue in 2016 as we set performance measures for our newly formed Division of Fire Prevention and Building Safety. We will be incorporating performance standards in order to continue as an Internationally Accredited organization in 2016 and beyond.

Another milestone was the development and implementation of a dive team to supplement our water rescue capabilities. The department received federal grant of \$92,300.00 that allowed us to train and equip 12 fire department divers through Dive Rescue International. All divers hold national certification in a multiple disciplines such as diving in current and diving through ice. The divers will complement our surface water rescue capabilities by providing immediate dive rescue services.




Some of accomplishments include but are not limited to:

- Contained structure fires to the room of origin after arrival of the Department was 100%;
- The department rescued six individuals lives in 2015<sup>1</sup>;
- The survival rate for individuals who had heart attacks in 2015 was 25% as compared to the national survival rate of 10.6%<sup>2</sup>;
- We responded to 86% of all incident in 2015 six minutes and twenty seconds<sup>3</sup>;
- 89% of all building, garbage, and storage orders were complied with in 2015 as compared to 85% in 2014

I am looking forward to 2016 with anticipation as we have a number of projects planned that include the purchase of a replacement Quint, Heavy Rescue apparatus, continued integration and improvements in the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Division, and reorganization of the fire department to improve training, fire and building safety. I am also looking forward to working with our neighborhoods to continue to address community concerns. Finally I am looking to start the planning and development of a new fire station to address response times on the Southside of La Crosse.

I look forward to working with my staff and other departments to continually improve the quality of life in La Crosse.

Sincerely,



Gregg A. Cleveland, Fire Chief  
La Crosse Fire Department

<sup>1</sup> Does not include emergency medical calls such as cardiac arrests; definition of rescue persons based on the National Fire Incident Reporting System

<sup>2</sup> Statistical information supplied by the La Crosse Fire Department and Tri-State Ambulance

<sup>3</sup> Total response time includes the time from the time La Crosse County Emergency Dispatch Center receives the call and the La Crosse Department arrives on scene





**The La Crosse Fire Department serves all who live in and visit the City of La Crosse through excellence in fire protection, safety, emergency medical services, rescue and educational services at the highest professional standard in a compassionate, ethical and cost effective manner.**



Photo credit: "Blue Bridges" YouTube



# Our Core Values

- High Quality Services
  - Cost Effectiveness
- High Ethical Standards
  - Competence
  - Communication
- Commitment
  - Responsiveness
  - Excellence
  - Leadership
  - Integrity



Goal 1: Improve internal & external communications

Goal 2: Engage in “community firefighting” with our citizens

Goal 3: An innovative work place focused on service excellence

Goal 4: Strategically placed and efficient equipment  
(apparatus and stations)

Goal 5: A highly skilled workforce

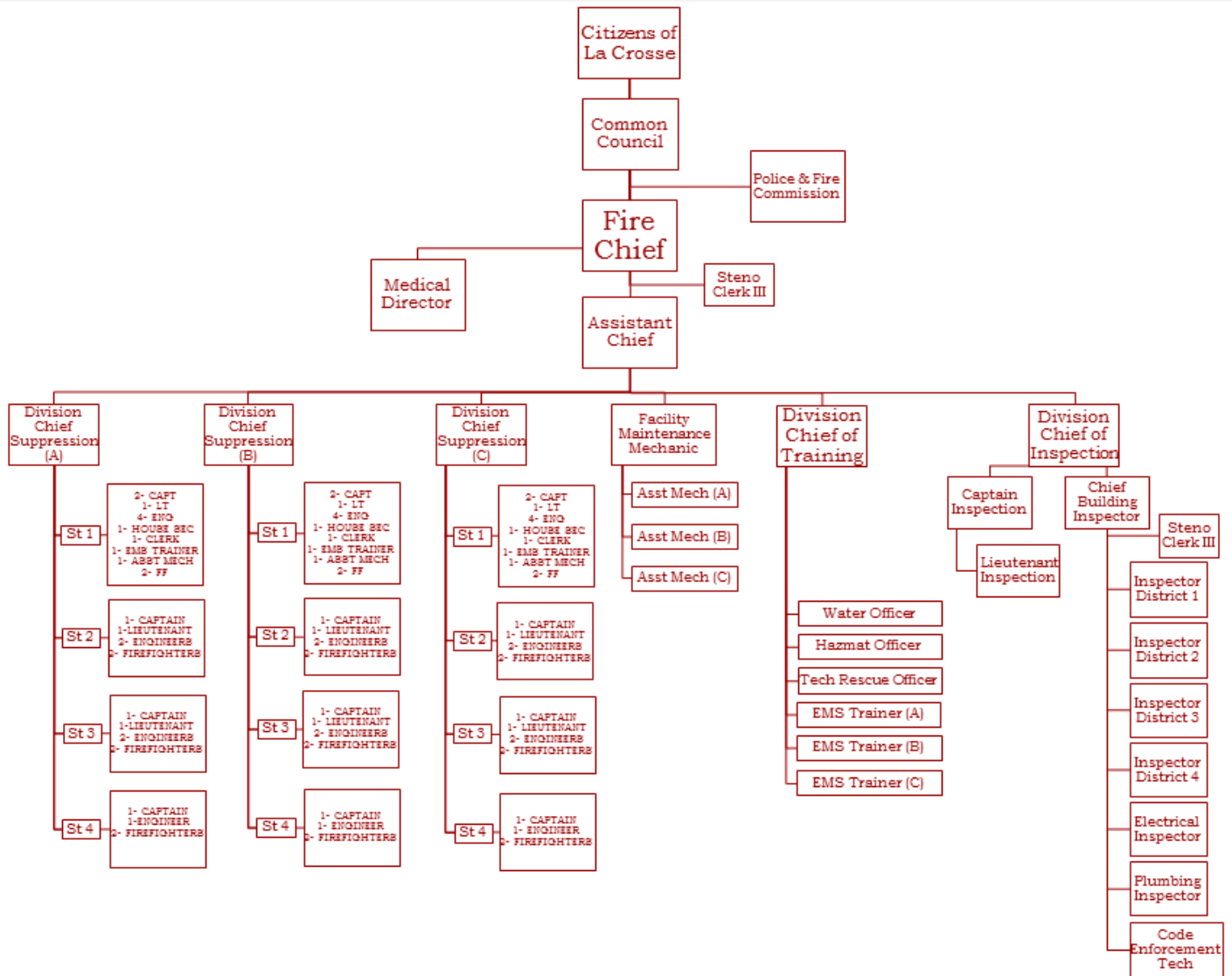
Goal 6: An accountable & transparent agency with strong leadership

Goal 7: A safe & healthy work environment

## Organizational Strategies



# About us. Who we are.



As you can see above, we have two main groups within the Fire Department. LCFD has 84 full-time firefighters that rotate three shifts. They work out of four stations strategically located throughout La Crosse. The Department of Fire Prevention & Building Safety also provides a full range of services. Read on for additional details!



# About us.

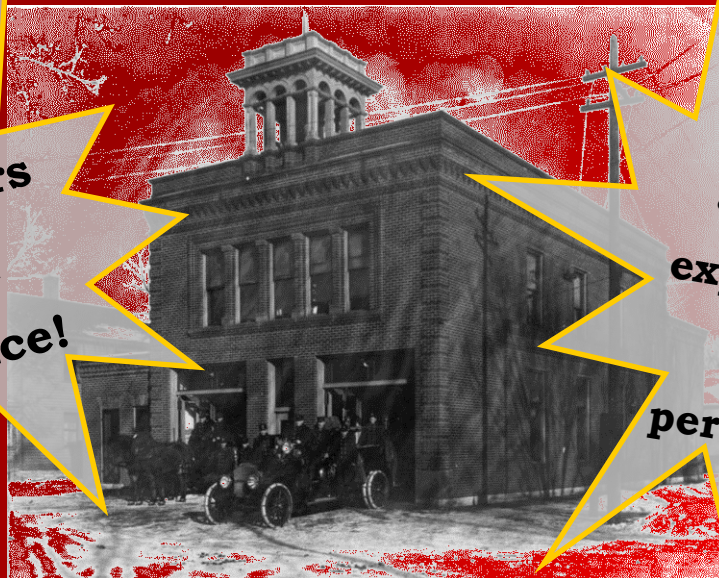
## Who we are.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Occupied Positions</u>
Fire Chief	1
Assistant Chief	1
Division Chief	5
Chief Building Inspector	1
Facilities Maintenance Manager	1
Captain	15
Lieutenant	9
Apparatus Engineer	27
Firefighter	30
Inspector	7
Administrative Assistant	2

**93 of 99  
(94%) are  
“boots  
on the  
ground”  
personnel  
providing  
direct  
services to  
the public!**



**1,143 years  
of total  
experience!**



**12 years  
average  
experience  
per  
personnel!**



# About us.

## What we do.

### La Crosse Fire Department

- **84** full-time firefighters that rotate three shifts.
- The firefighters work out of the **4** fire stations strategically located throughout the city of La Crosse.
- Stations are staffed with a minimum of **24** personnel each day.
- The La Crosse Fire Department responded to **5,730** emergency calls in 2015.
- The agency operates **9** front line apparatus
  - Squad
  - Engines 1 & 4 (and one reserved)
  - Quints 1, 2 & 3
  - Heavy Rescue 1, 2 & 3
- The La Crosse Fire Department provides Fire, Rescue and EMS (Emergency Medical Services) as EMTs.
- The agency also provides specialized services for hazardous materials, water rescue, dive rescue, high-angle rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, structural collapse, and vehicle extrication.





# Serving Our Country and Community

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



Ryan Rushton  
US Army  
367th  
Engineer  
Battalion

Bradley Alexander  
Marine Air  
Wing Support  
Squadron  
Unit 471



Kyle Soden  
US Army Reserve  
397th Engineer  
Battalion  
Headquarters



Tyrel Middlestaedt  
WI Air National Guard  
128th Refueling Headquarters



Andrew Servais  
WI Air National Guard  
115 Fighter Wing

# Demographics.

Where and who we serve.

**2015 La Crosse's estimated population 52,306**

**2 major health care campuses (over 10,000 employed)**

**3 major college campuses (over 15,000 students)**

**Approximately 20 other schools including elementary, middle and high schools; public and private**



**La Crosse**  
**WI**

**LCFD covers a 22 square miles**

**Dive Rescue covers approximately 17 miles of river**

**Urban Search and Rescue services covers approximately 4,800 acres of bluff land**

**Hazardous Materials response covers all or parts of 9 counties  
90 miles of the Mississippi River**

by TownMapsUSA.com

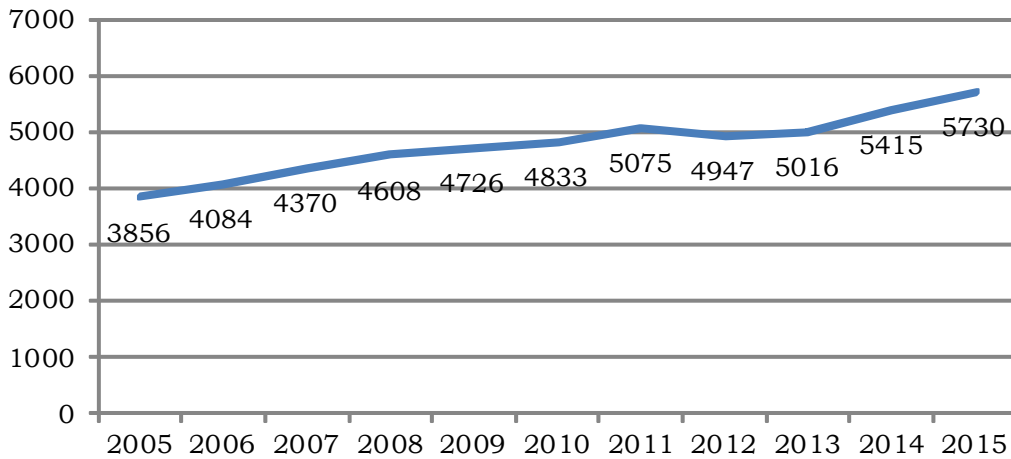


# About us. What we do.

The La Crosse Fire Department responded to **5,730** emergency calls in 2015.

Photo credits: La Crosse Tribune

## Total Calls

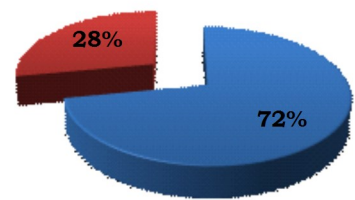


## FIRE LOSS IN NUMBERS....

- \* Estimated Value of Building & Contents \$3,472,650
- \* Fire Loss on Building & Contents \$448,298
- \* **Estimated Property & Contents Saved \$3,024,352**



## Fire vs. Medical calls

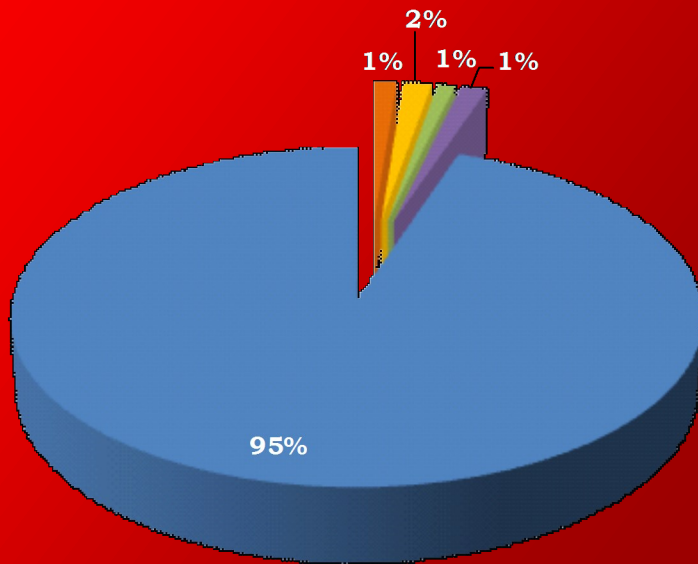


## 2015 Station Baseline Performance - 90th Percentile

Station	Total Call Volume	Call Processing	Turnout	Travel	Total Response	Incident Count by Priority Response
1	2,368	0:01:44	0:01:57	0:03:52	0:06:01	1,882
2	1,115	0:01:44	0:01:59	0:04:11	0:06:26	915
3	1,506	0:01:33	0:01:46	0:05:50	0:07:51	1,245
4	742	0:01:49	0:01:33	0:05:43	0:07:28	615



# 2015 Budget



Total LCFD Budget  
for 2015: \$10,109,694

- Apparatus
- Buildings
- Equipment
- Personnel - Operating
- Personnel - Wages

## Grants:

**Hazardous Materials Response Grant**      \$105,469.41

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Sub-Grant. Training and Planning grant funded by US DOT (EPCRA administers the planning portion). The purpose is to improve the delivery of EPCRA and enhance planning efforts with a focus on transportation. Training grants are to be used by HMEP subgrantees for the funding of training activities that enhance the capabilities of states, territories, and Native American governments. Training should be developed and delivered in accordance with requirements for emergency responders under National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard 472. Training grants are to be used by HMEP subgrantees for training public sector employees to respond safely and efficiently to accidents and incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials.

**Structural Collapse Grant**      \$85,038.75

In 2009, the state legislature established a statewide structural collapse rescue team in Wisconsin. The capability has helped to equip and train fire departments across the state to search for and rescue victims in a large-scale structural collapse. The Statewide Structural Collapse team is made up of more than 250 responders from fire departments across the state, all trained to search and rescue victims trapped in large-scale structural collapses. When an emergency occurs, trained team members can be assembled and respond anywhere in the state within eight hours, while operating continuously for up to seventy-two hours. Buildings can become unstable for a variety of reasons including: fire, flood, or tornado damage; ongoing construction; or gas explosions. The ability to send specially trained firefighters to assist with unusual circumstances improves the response to the crisis and safety for fire department personnel.

**Assistance to Firefighters Grant**      \$121,210.00

The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) organizations, and State Fire Training Academies (SFTA) for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. LCFD used these funds to implement the Dive Rescue Team.



# Training

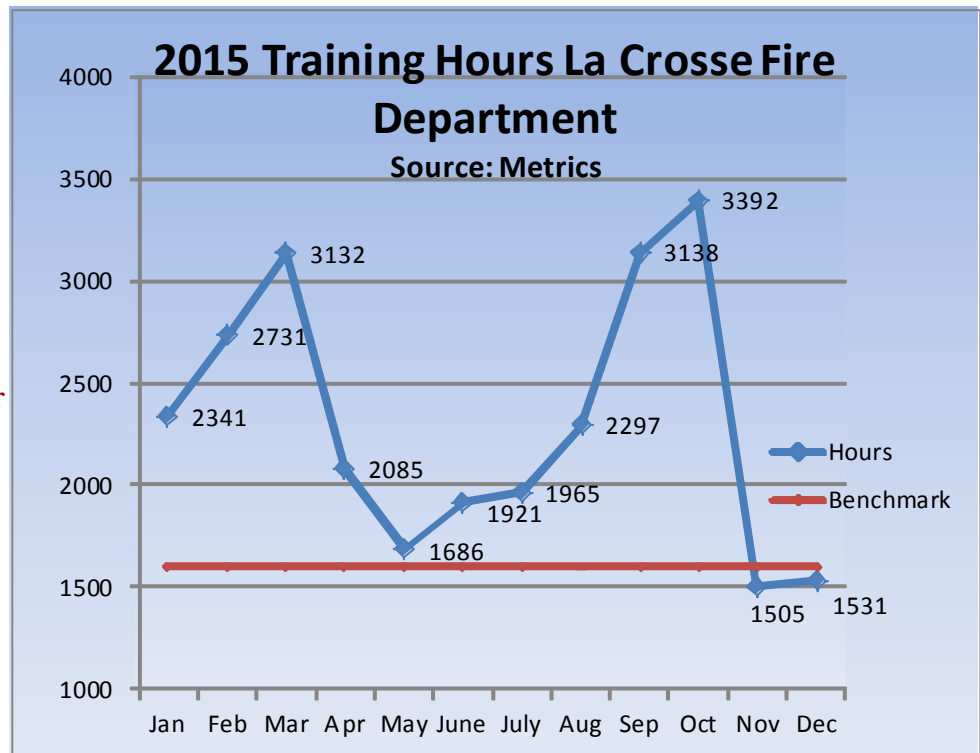


Division Chief  
of Training  
Frank Devine

In 2015 the total hours of training completed by La Crosse Fire Department members totaled **25,885** 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 and dive 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 2015 with each personnel averaging over **25** hours of training per month. 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.

## 2015 Training Highlights

- Dive Rescue Training
- Blue Card Incident Management
- New Radio Procedures
- Fire & Police Cross Training
- Tactical EMS (TEMS)
- Probationary Firefighter Program
  - Company Officer
  - Flammable Liquids
  - Vehicle Extrication
  - Water Rescue
- Urban Search & Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
- CPR—Health Care Provider
  - EMT-B
- Fire Ground Operations





**Division Chief  
of Inspection  
Craig Snyder**

# Fire Prevention

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 21, 2015 and concluded on October 16, 2015. Over 5500 children and adults were shown that they could make a difference by preventing fires and thus save lives.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention and Building Safety 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.

## Fire Safety & Education Programs

Educational Fire Safety Programs	63
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	2
Fire Safety House	24
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations	12



Type of Order to Correct	Orders Issued	Compliance Achieved	Rate of Compliance
Repair Building	780	625	80.13%
+ Rental	622	519	83.44%
Garbage & Refuse	53	47	88.68%
+ Rental	78	77	98.72%
Open Storage	661	616	93.19%
+ Rental	797	786	98.62%
Miscellaneous- Sign Repair/Remove	8	8	100.00%
Fire Inspection	2161	1647	76.21%
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5160</b>	<b>4325</b>	<b>83.82%</b>
Service Requests (called in by public)	409	366	89.49%
+ Rental	351	304	86.61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5920</b>	<b>4995</b>	<b>84.38%</b>

*Division Chief of Inspection - Craig Snyder - [snyderc@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:snyderc@cityoflacrosse.org)*

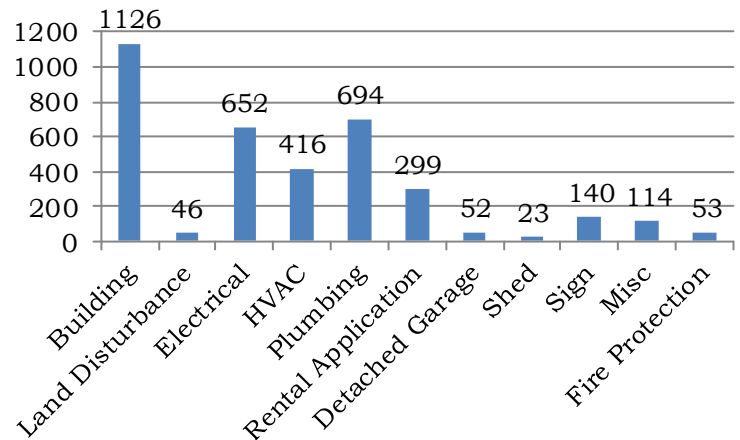


# and Building Safety

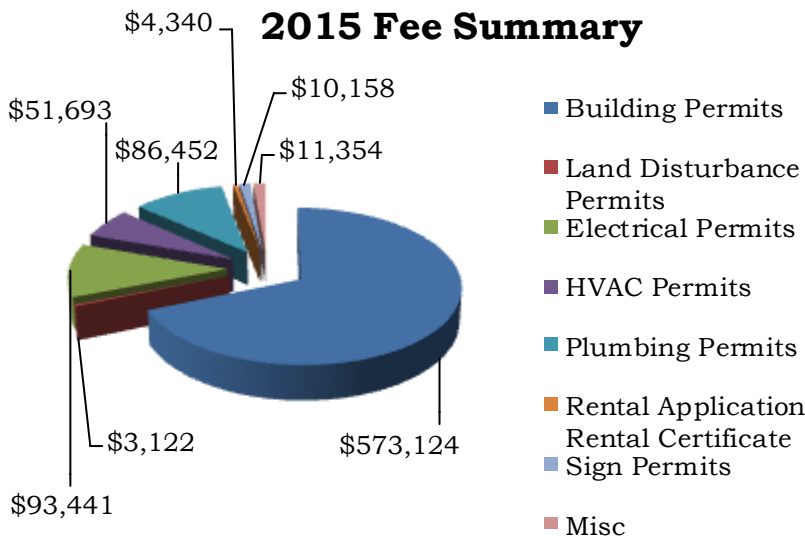


The Department of Fire Prevention & Building Safety provides a full range of services including: plan review; construction and property maintenance inspection field operations; full electrical, erosion control, HVAC, and plumbing inspection operations; abandoned and junk vehicles on private property, and residential rental inspection operations; tavern and rooming house inspections Sign inspections; electrical and gas licenses; and assignment of property addresses.

## Permits Issued in 2015



## 2015 Fee Summary



## 2015 Demolition:

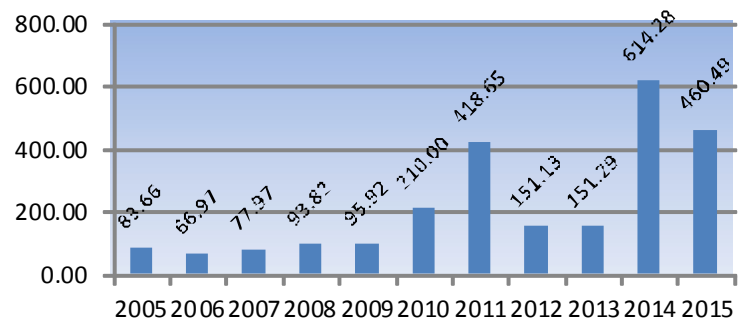
- 50** Residential buildings (75 dwelling units)
- 63** Garage Utility buildings
- 14** Commercial structures

There were **15** new commercial & industrial structures built in 2015:

- 10** Commercial
- 2** Industrial
- 3** Institutional

Other 2015 construction projects include: **39** additions to single family dwellings, **76** alterations to Commercial buildings and **72** decks.

## CONSTRUCTION VALUES IN MILLIONS



# We're not *just* firefighters...

**Urban Search  
& Rescue**



**HazMat**



**TEMS**



*Read on for  
additional  
information!*

**Dive  
Rescue**

**EMS**





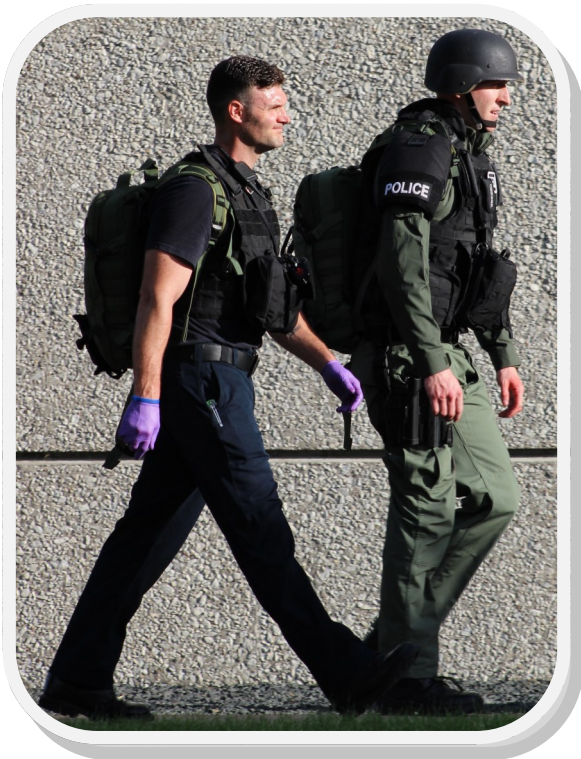


**TEMS Team  
Leader  
Frank Garritano**

# (T)EMS

In 2015, 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 solid year of training in tactics, maintaining our various medical skills, and responding to callouts.

Being that this is still a relatively new team, we continue to build on the foundation that has been established over the last few years. This year we focused heavily on tactical training to make sure that the TEMS Medics could integrate seamlessly into the ERT, should the need arise. To make sure that the TEMS Team was trained to the same capable level as the members of the ERT, they were sent through a Basic SWAT course that the LCPD put on. It was well received by the members of the team and they performed exceedingly well.



*In 2015, we had a total of **6** responses and **460** hours of training.*

Some of the topics covered were:

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





**Regional Hazmat  
Team Leader  
Captain  
Jeff Schott**

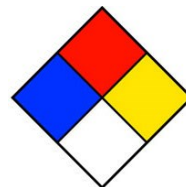
# Hazmat

The La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Team is a 25 member unit that specializes in responses to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive related incidents.



***Established in July of 2000  
under the direction of  
Wisconsin Emergency  
Management (WEM)***

- \* Designated by WEM as a NIMS Type II asset
- \* Provides service for all or parts of **9** counties
- \* Covers:
  - 90** miles of the Mississippi River
  - 287** miles of railroad tracks
  - 121** miles of interstate highway
- \* Members required to attend at least **48** hours of core team drills per year





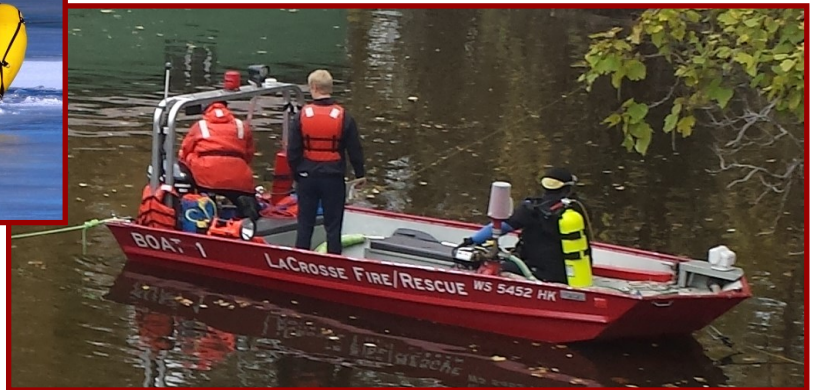
# Dive Rescue



Dive Rescue  
Team Leader  
Captain  
Thomas Griffith

In 2015 the Dive Rescue Team...

- Consisted of **18** members
- **734** dive training hours
- **405** water/ice training hours
  - **7** responses



Training and drill exercises:

Water Rescue Response

Ice Rescue/ Open Water Rescue/ Swift Water Rescue/ Dive Rescue

Underwater Search and Recovery (underwater camera)

Dry Land Access Vehicle Operations

River Familiarization and Navigation

Tug and Barge Response

Sonar Basics

Advanced Boat Operations

Public Safety Diving Certification

Drysuit/Full Facemask Certification

Dive Rescue I/Current Certifications

Underwater Search Patterns and Recovery Operations

*Captain - Thomas Griffith - [griffitht@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:griffitht@cityoflacrosse.org)*



**USAR Team  
Leader  
Captain  
Todd Adams**

# USAR

Our members are only required to complete 24 hours of training, but averaged anywhere from 50-100 hours in 2015.

Training included:

- Structural Collapse Rescue Technician
- Confined Space Rescue Technician
- High and Low Angle Rope Rescue Technician
  - Wide Area Search Training
  - Wilderness Search and Rescue
- Cross training of LCFD Shift personnel
- Other related topics including: US&R Leadership, Safety, Logistics, Planning, and a 72-hour WI-TF1 deployment exercise
  - Bridge Rescue
- Dive/Water Rescue, Rope systems for swift water search and rescue

In 2015, Urban Search & Rescue...

Had **26** trained members

**20** of which are also Wisconsin Task Force USAR members (under WI Emergency Management)

**8** responses



*Captain - Todd Adams - [adamst@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:adamst@cityoflacrosse.org)*





**EMS Team  
Leader  
Frank Garritano**

# EMS

In 2015....

- Responded to **4,153** calls
- Increased by **7%** since 2014
- Completed **4,819** training hours
- Expanded to include Rescue Task Force
- **8** front-line apparatus
- **2** reserve apparatus

## 2015 CODE DATA

- ◇ Pulseless Non Breathing Patients LCFD responded to: **31**
- ◇ PNB Patients who had Return Of Spontaneous Circulation: **8 (25%)**
- ◇ Patients discharged from hospital after being found PNB in the City of La Crosse: **6 (19%)**
- ◇ Witnessed cardiac arrest by EMS crews with shockable rhythm: **4**
- ◇ Patients discharged who were witnessed cardiac arrest & had a shockable rhythm: **2 (50%)**
- ◇ Patients LCFD found in cardiac arrest with a shockable rhythm: **4**
- ◇ Patients LCFD found in cardiac arrest with a shockable rhythm & ROSC prior to Tri-State Ambulance arrival: **1**

National Statistics: AHA Releases 2015 Heart & Stroke Statistics. New report suggests the incidence of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is 326,200. The average survival rate is 10.6% & survival with good neurologic function is 8.3%. Nearly one if three victims survives when the arrest is witnessed by a bystander.



2015 saw the addition of two bikes to our Special Event EMS. Not only are the bikes a great public relations tool, they more importantly allow us quicker access to patients during events when driving a vehicle isn't a feasible option. This benefits us for the many large outdoor events we have here in the city and for the many races that take place in the bluffs.

**LCFD has  
been providing  
Emergency  
Medical Services  
Since 1975.**



# LA CROSSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

726 5TH AVE S  
LA CROSSE WI 54601



@lacrossefire



La Crosse  
Firefighters  
IAFF Local  
127



City of  
La Crosse WI  
Fire  
Department

608.789.7260 ph

[www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org)