

# La Crosse Fire Department



## 2017 Community Report



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



# Our Mission

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 education services at the highest professional standard in a compassionate, ethical and cost effective manner.

## Our Core Values

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

## Organizational Strategies

- 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 & efficient equipment (apparatus & stations)
- Goal 5: A highly skilled workforce
- Goal 6: An accountable & transparent agency with strong leadership
- Goal 7: A safe & healthy work environment

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# Letter from the Chief...

To the Citizens and Community Leaders of the City of La Crosse,

One could expect that a change in leadership would cause an organization to slow down just a little to adjust to the change. Quite the opposite occurred at the La Crosse Fire Department this summer with me taking over the reins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. I feel as if I have been moving at a full sprint, as I work to catch up with such a great organization and so many projects and goals already underway.

I appreciate the time that City Leaders afforded me to work with retiring Fire Chief Gregg Cleveland for the two weeks prior to his departure, and I appreciate Chief Cleveland's graciousness as he spent time during his final weeks to ensure that I had critical information to allow me to hit the ground running in my new position. Additionally, I want to thank Assistant Chief Mark Amann and Assistant Chief Craig Snyder for setting me up for success while I worked through my organization learning curve. Also, I want to thank the LCFD organization and the City for their patience during this transition.

Many say that the Fire Service is staunchly resistant to change, but the La Crosse Fire Department certainly experienced a year of significant changes in 2017 and we took it in stride. In addition to the leadership transition, a **summary of key highlights for 2017** are as follows:

- No civilian casualties
- Met increasing annual call volume (over 6400 incidents) while staying within established budget.
- Strengthened relationships with Mutual-Aid Agencies and EMS partner Tri-State Ambulance.
- Maintained our status as an Internationally Accredited Agency through the CFAI, and maintained our ISO-2 Rating through the Insurance Service Office assessment.
- Completed a Fire Station Task Force analysis process to move us closer to a final strategic plan on placement of future fire stations and our response matrix for the next 50-100 years.
- Completed construction of a new storage building at Fire Station 3 to better protect reserve apparatus and other supplies and mobile equipment.
- Completed firefighter Health and Safety Upgrades to include the installation of exhaust removal systems at all four stations, the addition of cold-weather personal protective equipment for all personnel, improvements to work uniforms, and a number of significant safety upgrades to facilities and personnel working conditions.
- Members voluntarily participated in a new "Firefighter's Oath" Ceremony to re-affirm their dedication to the department and the community that we serve.

Our **Fire and Rescue Operations Division** excelled under the management of Assistant Chief Amann. While tutoring the new fire chief on all things “LCFD”, he also led the charge on accreditation renewal, kept the operations budgets in line, oversaw fleet and facility management improvements, coordinated on hiring and promotional processes, and kept us all on track with our goals. Other highlights include:

- The Operations Division took delivery of the new “Rescue 1” apparatus to replace the old “Heavy Rescue” at Fire Station 1. We also completed the refurbishment of two new chassis on the “Rescue 2” and “Rescue 3” apparatus at a significant cost savings to the city.
- The new “Hazmat” response apparatus and new “Hazmat Trailer” were put into service.
- Shift Commanders Snow, Murphy and Wallerich transitioned titles from “Division Chief” to “Battalion Chief” to better align with the national fire service and their responsibilities.
- The operations crews balanced the demands of emergency incidents, building inspections, community service engagements, public education, and a challenging training regimen.

Our **Division of Fire Prevention and Building Safety** continues to strengthen under the management of Assistant Chief Snyder. Chief Snyder was enjoying the conclusion of a two-year department merger when the new Chief showed up with plenty of new questions, and I thank him for his guidance and patience. While prevention is not the most glamorous part of our job, this division provides a tremendous service **towards life safety inspections and community risk reduction**. Highlights include:

- Fire Prevention Programs were coordinated at all public and private elementary schools.
- Commercial and multi-family building inspections were completed within established goals.
- The division issued over 5,300 permits. They issued over 3,700 orders for correction, with the success of an 89% compliance rate on those safety improvements throughout the city.
- Division revenues exceeded operational costs, making life safety goals a cost effective reality.
- Our uniformed Fire/Arson Investigators continued their training towards National Certification goals, and our civilian Building Inspectors attained a number of additional job Certifications.

Our **Division of Training and Special Operations** had a big year under the management of Division Chief Devine. Full reports follow for each of the Special Operations “Core Teams” and highlights include:

- Completion of two “New Firefighter Academies” across the summer and fall of 2017, bringing eight new personnel on board to fill positions vacated by a significant number of retirements.
- Implementation of our new Training Management and Occupational Compliance platform.
- Coordination of over 27,000 hours of scheduled training for 100% of department personnel.
- Coordination of Special Operations personnel deployments to the Cambria Mill Explosion, to Florida in support of Hurricane Irma rescue efforts, as well as many other high-risk/low-frequency water rescue, ems rescue, and hazardous materials incidents.



This organization continues to impress me with its collective passion and drive towards **continuous quality improvement**. With much of my career dedicated to increasing training and education goals for other organizations, the training culture at the LCFD is challenging me to up my game. The men and women of this department have **competence and integrity** above all else, and I hope the community realizes what an amazing group of public servants they have working tirelessly to keep everyone safe.

**Thank you** for taking the time to review this 2017 Annual Report for the La Crosse Fire Department. I look forward to meeting new challenges in 2018, knowing that your continued support of the LCFD and its members will assist us in continuing to be the best fire service agency in the region and the state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Gilliam", enclosed in a simple rectangular border.

Ken Gilliam, Fire Chief





**Ryan Rushton**



**Andrew Servais**



**Kyle Soden**

MN National Guard  
434th Chemical  
Company

WI Air National Guard  
115th Fighter Wing

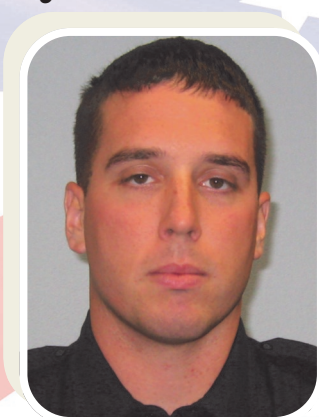
U.S. Army Reserves  
469th Engineer  
Company

# Serving Our Country & Community

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

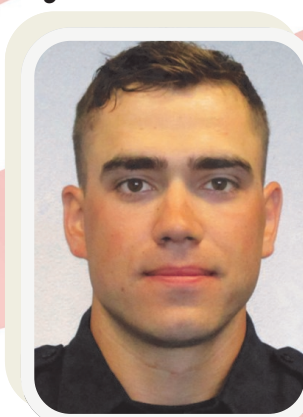
U.S. Army  
173rd Engineer  
Battalion

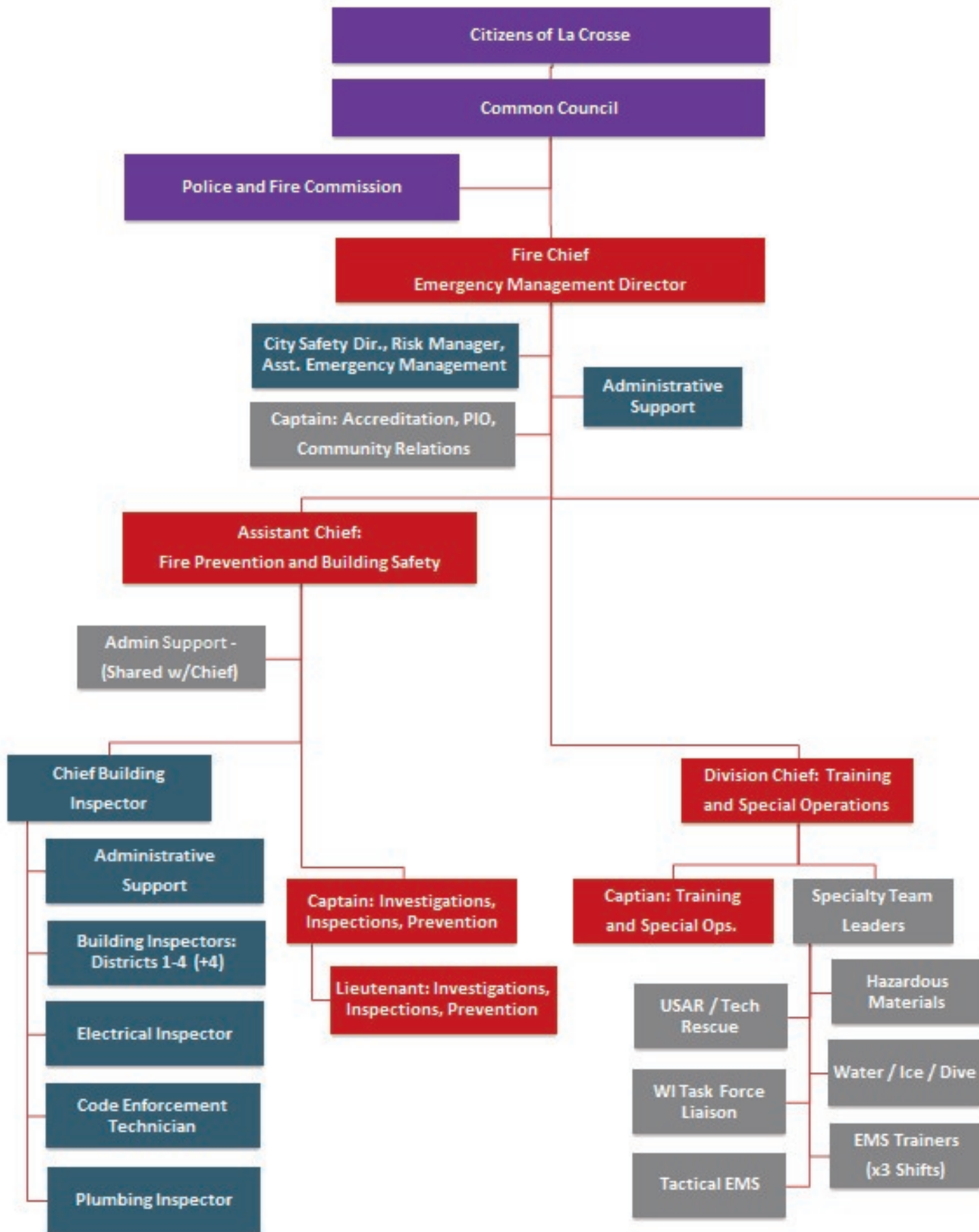
**Tyler Hoerres**



U.S. Army Reserves  
102nd Military  
Police Company

**Clayton Anderson**





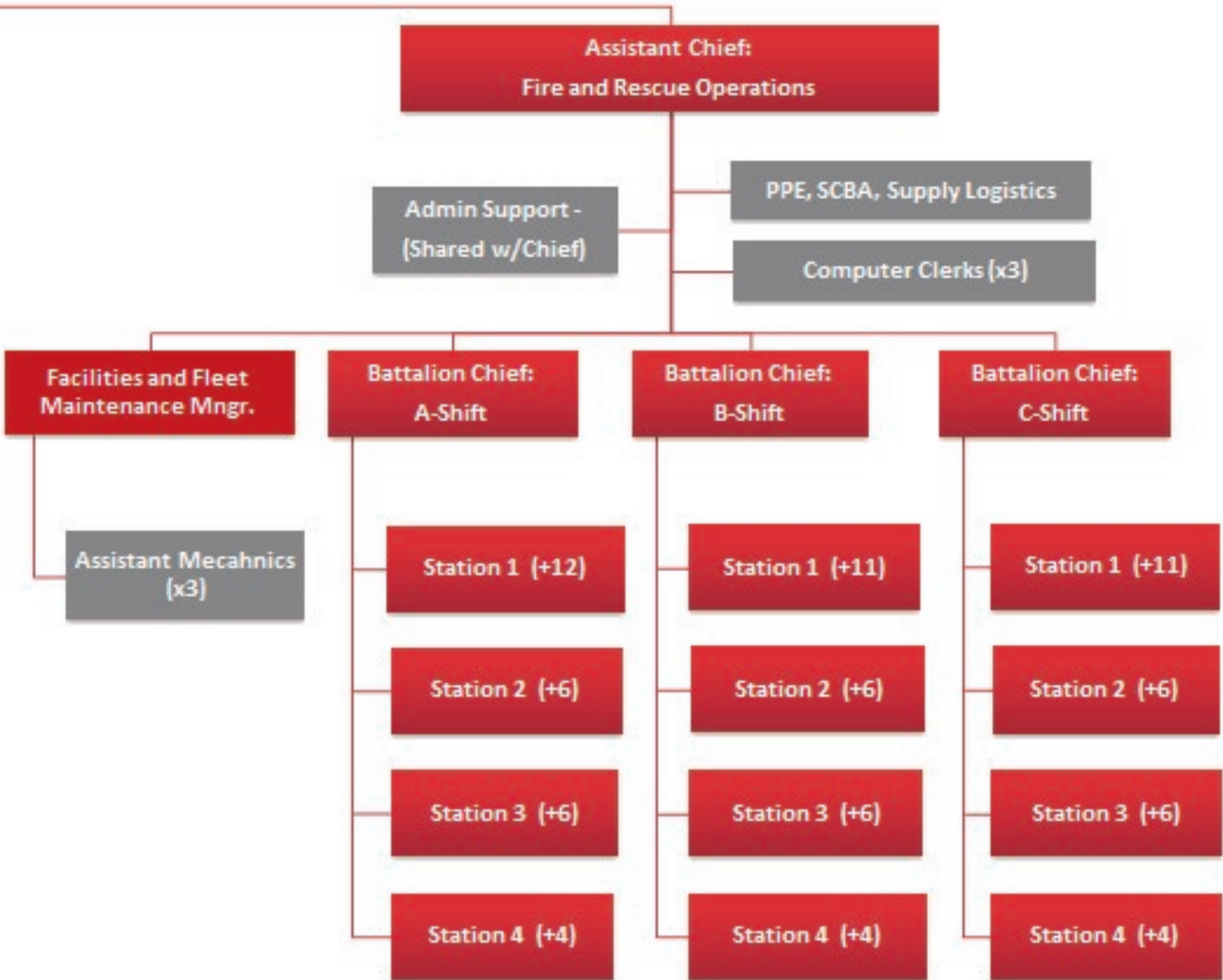


# LA CROSSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Fire, Rescue, and Community Risk Reduction

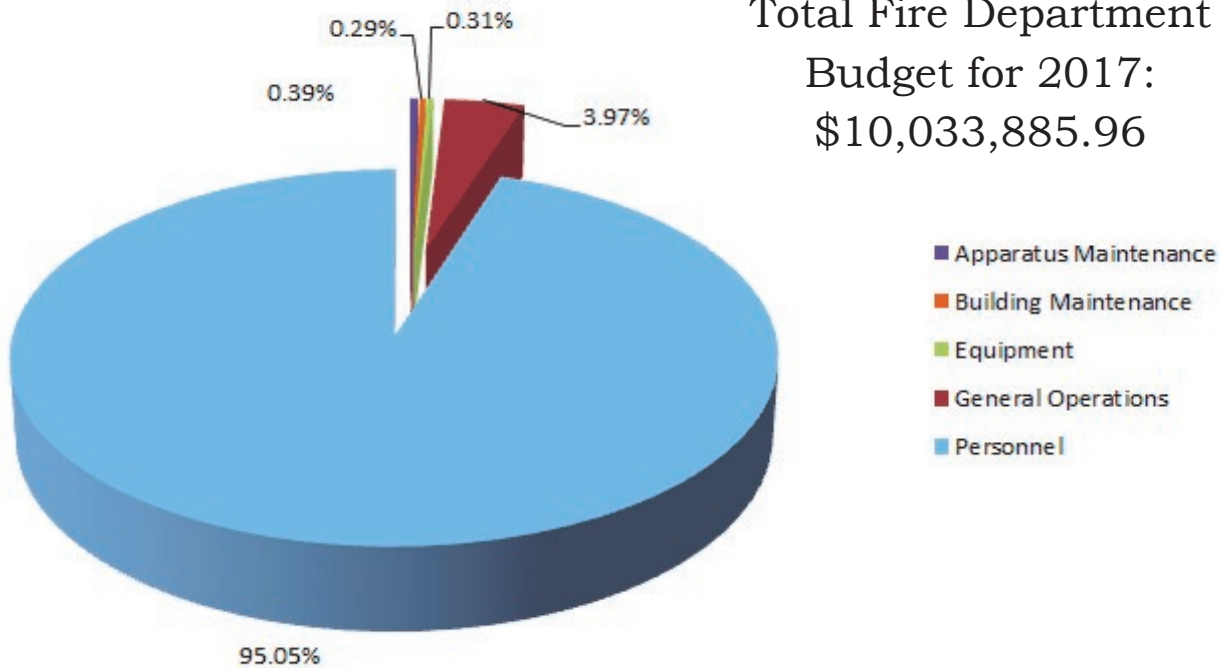
Blue highlighted positions are civilian staff.

Gray highlighted positions are dual-staffed, NO FTE.





# 2017 Budget Analysis Fire Department



Total Fire Department Budget for 2017: \$10,033,885.96

## Hazardous Materials Response Grant \$94,549.88

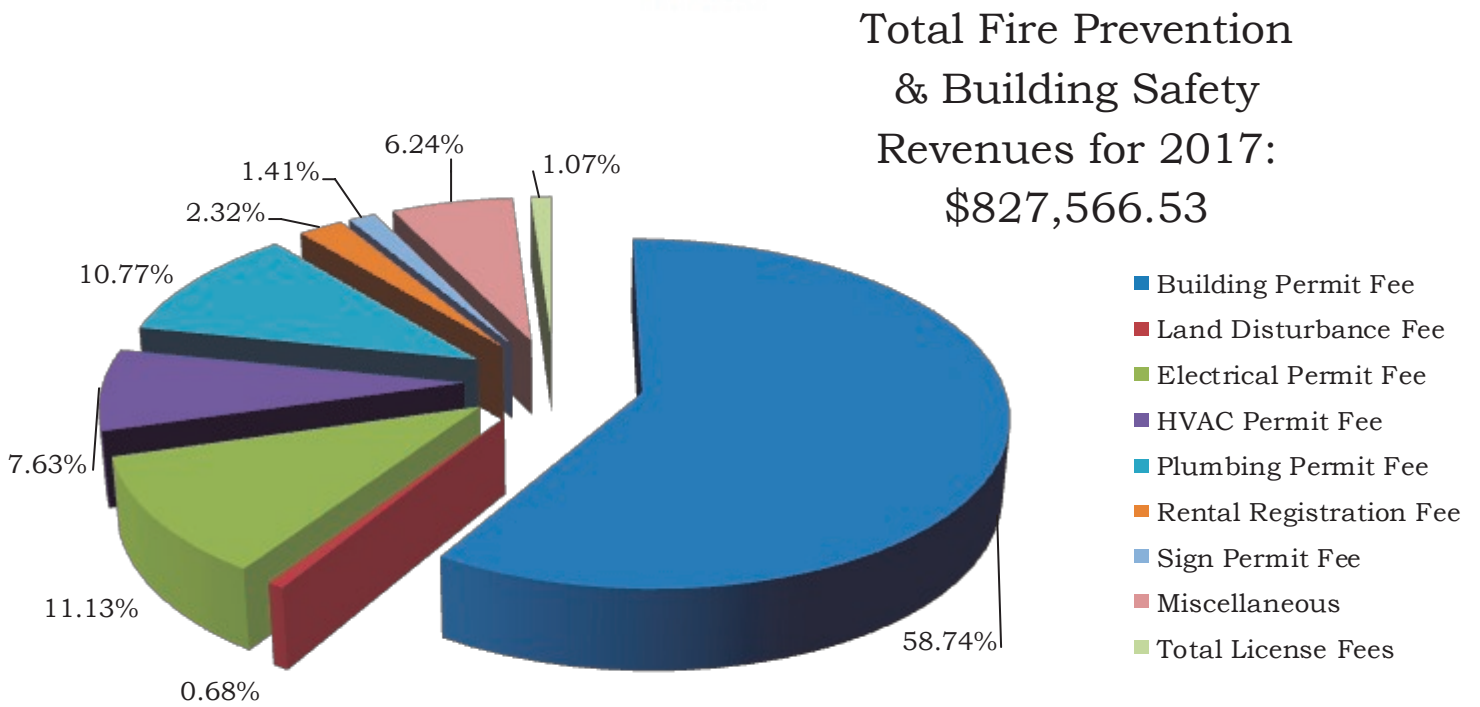
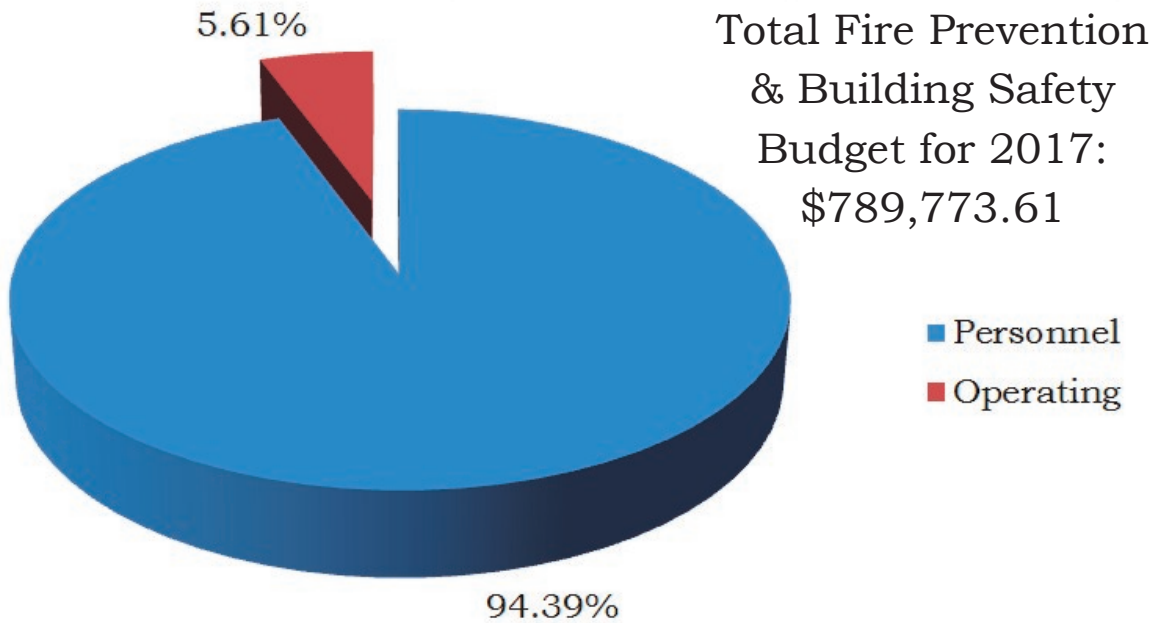
Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Sub-Grant. Training and Planning grant funded by US DOT (EPCRA administers the planning portion). The purpose is to improve the delivery of EPCRA and enhance planning efforts with a focus on transportation. Training grants are to be used by HMEP sub-grantees 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 sub-grantees for training public sector employees to respond safely and efficiently to accidents and incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials.

## Radiological Field Team Grant \$81,824.70

The Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program is responsible for developing and maintaining Wisconsin's emergency plans to a nuclear incident and exercising those response plans with affected local communities and the utilities. The nuclear power plants located in Wisconsin are Kewaunee and Point Beach, and the Prairie Island plant is located across the Mississippi River near Red Wing, Minnesota. In addition, spent nuclear fuel rods are kept in a cooling pool at the Dairyland Power Cooperative in Genoa and at the Zion Nuclear Generating Plant located on Lake Michigan near the Wisconsin/Illinois border. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requires each utility operating a nuclear power plant to demonstrate its ability, once every two years, to respond to a radiological emergency.

# 2017 Budget Analysis

## Fire Prevention & Building Safety





# 2017 Personnel Changes

<b>Promotions and Appointments</b>		
Mark Amann	Assistant Chief	January 9th, 2017
David Snow	Battalion Chief	January 29th, 2017
Lance Tryggestad	Captain	January 27th, 2017
James Hillcoat	Captain	February 17, 2017
Jesse Walters	Lieutenant	May 14th, 2017
Shane Trussoni	Lieutenant	May 13th, 2017
David Duchrow	Lieutenant	May 17th, 2017
Richard Brunoni	Engineer	February 16th, 2017
Isaac Zurawski	Engineer	August 24th, 2017
<b>New Hires</b>		
Ken Gilliam	Fire Chief	June 26th, 2017
Clayton Anderson	Firefighter	July 30th, 2017
Joshua Bluhm	Firefighter	July 30th, 2017
Brandon Scharmer	Firefighter	July 30th, 2017
Erin Statz	Firefighter	July 30th, 2017
Thomas Bagniefski	Firefighter	September 29th, 2017
Ernest Lee	Firefighter	September 29th, 2017
Corey Mathison	Firefighter	September 29th, 2017
Cole Wiggert	Firefighter	September 29th, 2017
<b>Retirements</b>		
Warren Thomas	30+ years of service	January 23rd, 2017
Tom Juan	28+ years of service	February 13th, 2017
David French	27+ years of service	February 15th, 2017
Philip Kotlowski	11+ years of service	April 27th, 2017
Gregg Cleveland	11+ years of service	June 30th, 2017
Ralph Hauser	27+ years of service	July 20th, 2017

# Know Your Station Location

**STATION 4:  
906 GILLETTE ST**

**STATION 2:  
626 MONITOR ST**

**FIRE PREVENTION &  
BUILDING SAFETY:  
CITY HALL  
400 LA CROSSE ST**

**STATION 1:  
726 5TH AVE S**

**TRAINING CENTER:  
ISLE LA PLUME**

**STATION 3:  
1710 LOSEY BLVD S**



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, Increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community







# Division of Fire Prevention & Building Safety

Assistant Chief

Craig Snyder

The Division of Fire Prevention and Building Safety, along with the Fire Suppression Division, began our Fire Prevention Week Programs for all public and parochial elementary schools in the La Crosse School District on September 18, 2017 and concluded on October 13, 2017. The theme this year was “Every second counts, plan 2 ways out”. Over 8,100

children and adults were shown that they could make a difference by preventing fires and creating a home fire



### Fire Safety & Education Programs

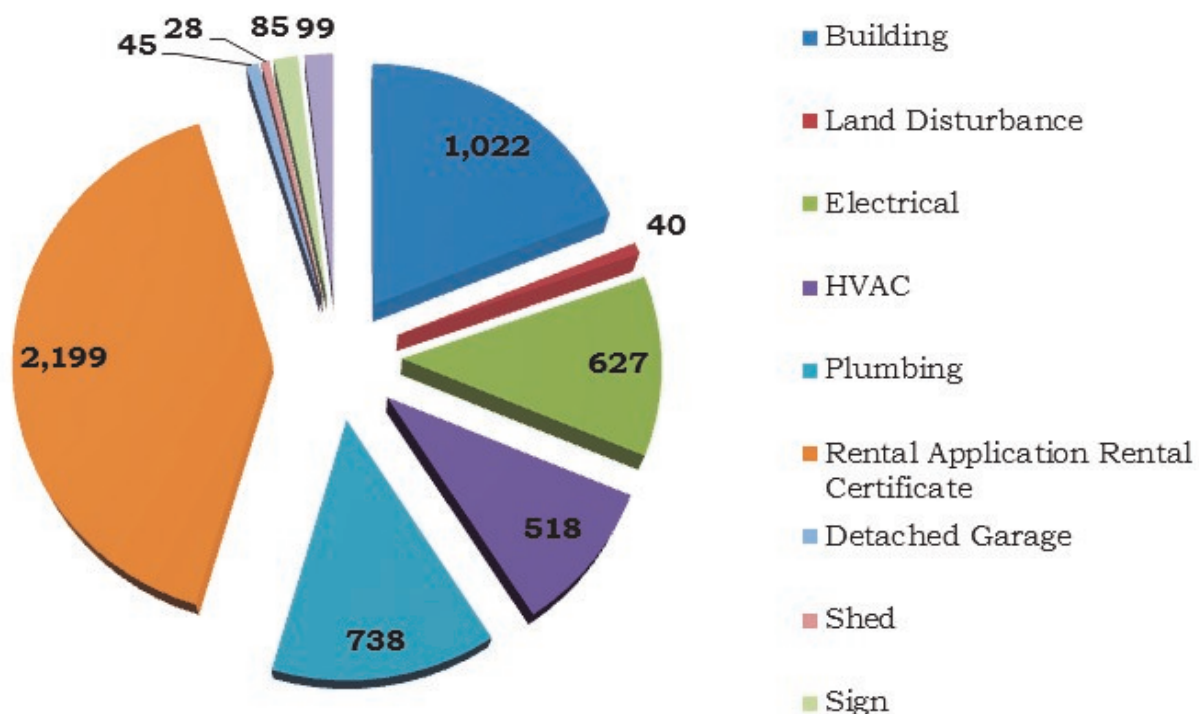
Educational Fire Safety Programs	68
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	2
Fire Safety House	21
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations	6
School Programs	27



TYPE OF ORDER TO CORRECT	ORDERS ISSUED	COMPLIANCE ACHIEVED	RATE OF COMPLIANCE
	YTD	YTD	YTD
REPAIR BUILDING	1,192	961	80.62%
OPEN STORAGE	888	848	95.50%
MISC.- SIGN REPAIR/REMOVE	24	21	87.50%
Service Requests (called in by public)	379		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,759</b>	<b>3,348</b>	<b><u>89.07%</u></b>

Vacant Building Registration Program had 46 registrations, 40 new residential buildings (175 units) were constructed, 17 new commercial & industrial structures built, 37 garage/utility buildings & 7 commercial structures razed, 27 additions to single-family dwellings, 83 alterations to commercial buildings, & 73 decks built

### Total Permits Issued in 2017 = 5,381



Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention & Building Safety  
 Craig Snyder - [snyderc@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:snyderc@cityoflacrosse.org)



# Division of Training & Special Operations

## Division Chief Frank Devine

The La Crosse Fire Department Training Division presents this review of the training accomplished by fire department members.

The La Crosse Fire Department believes that the success of the training year will be determined by our successful outcomes at emergency scenes. Through our actions on the many emergencies we respond to, the La Crosse Fire Department continues to prove itself a competent and professional service for the citizens of La Crosse, its visitors, and the surrounding region.

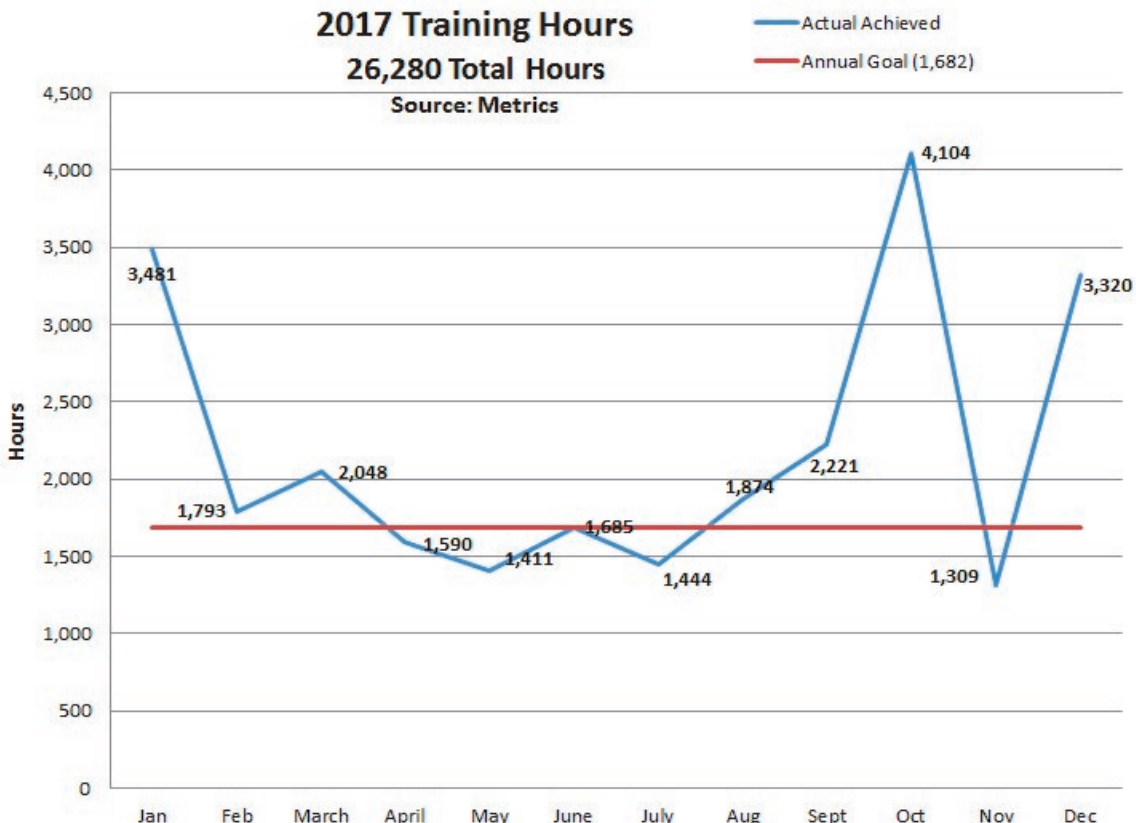
Training will always be a focus for the La Crosse Fire Department. It builds the confidence and the competence that our firefighters need to operate at any emergency scene.

The La Crosse Fire Department Training Division works to provide a variety of training opportunities for its staff. Various instructors help deliver this training throughout the year. The Training Division counts on La Crosse Fire Department staff as well as outside instructors to help provide specialized training to our firefighters on many different subjects. In 2017 the total hours of training completed by La Crosse Fire Department members totaled **26,280** 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 Division has a benchmark of providing **20** hours of training each month per staff member. This average was met and exceeded in 2017 with each personnel averaging over **27** hours of training per month.



**Listed below is some of the 2017 data on the training provided:**

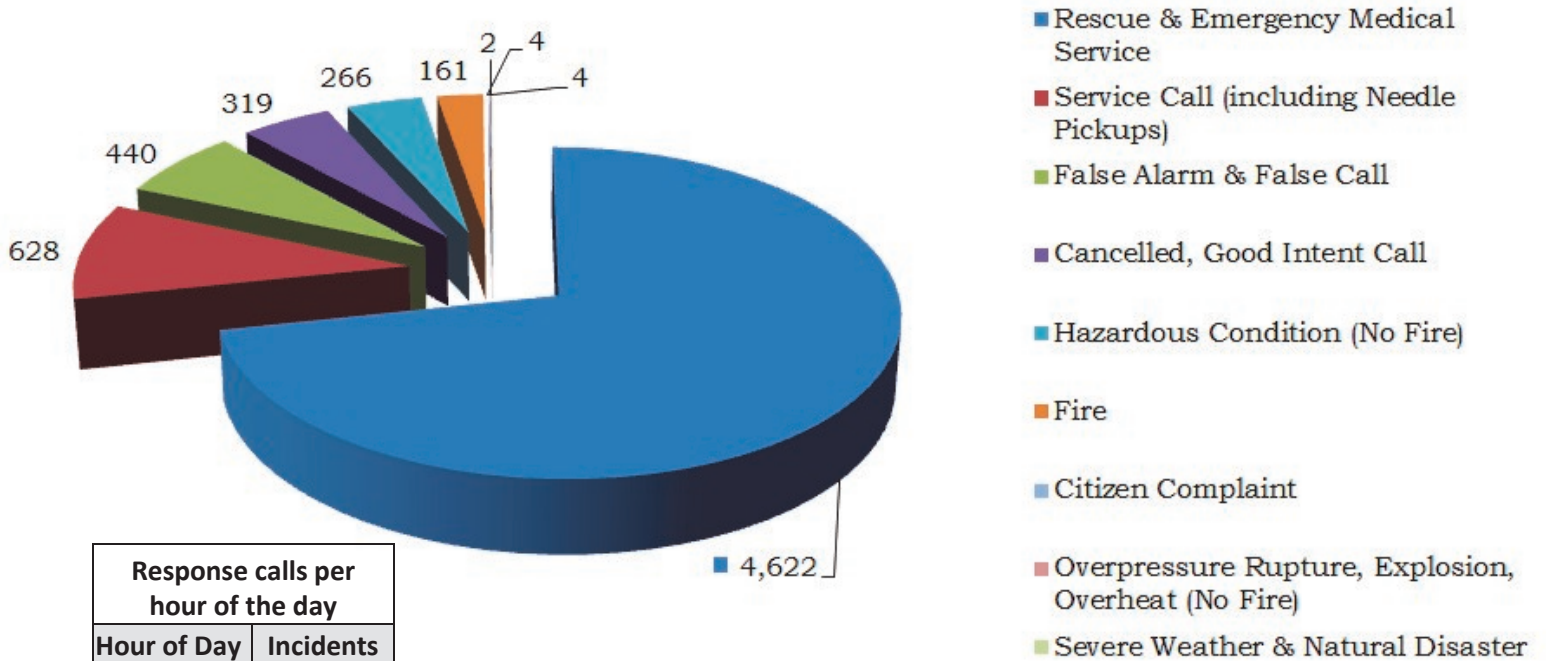
- 380** The total number of specific classes delivered in 2017 can be broken down by categories. Most of these trainings were presented on multiple days/shifts.
  
- 2,519** The Overall number of trainings/classes presented in 2017. These classes ranged from 1 to 30 students per class. Many trainings are repetitive in nature so La Crosse Fire Department staff can stay effective and efficient in their knowledge, skills and abilities when performing in the field.
  
- 10,216** The total number of student counts that participated in the classes delivered in 2017. This figure represents how the La Crosse Fire Department provides training daily to its personnel on a variety of topics.
  
- 60** The total number of La Crosse Fire Department instructors utilized in 2017. This number reflects how the Training Division utilizes many of La Crosse Fire Department staff to help perform various trainings and classes.
  
- 12** Total number of outside instructors utilized by the Training Division in 2017. These instructors presented various classes throughout 2017 to La Crosse Fire Department staff including specialty trainings, administrative classes and EMS related topics.
  
- 4,445** The total number of instructor hours generated in 2017 by La Crosse Fire Department staff and outside instructors while involved in presenting training.



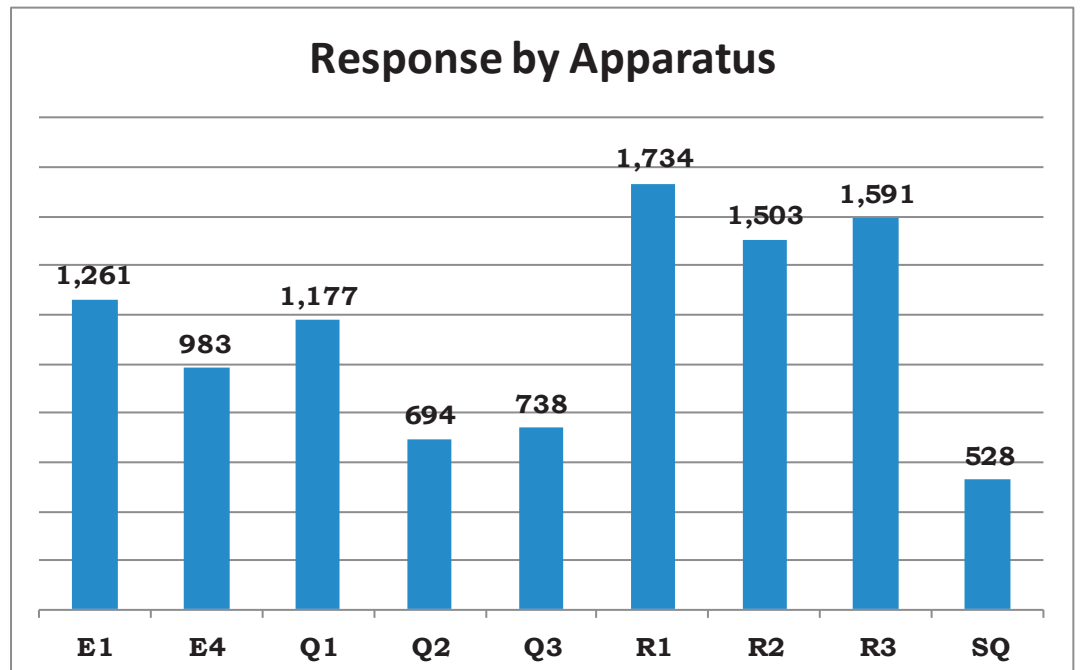


# Division of Fire & Rescue Operations

## 2017 Incident Count by NFIRS Description



Response calls per hour of the day	
Hour of Day	Incidents
0	191
1	194
2	147
3	151
4	129
5	158
6	161
7	223
8	273
9	297
10	316
11	325
12	354
13	343
14	351
15	341
16	337
17	363
18	327
19	369
20	309
21	319
22	261
23	207
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,446</b>



# Division of Fire & Rescue Operations

## Accredited Agency Through the Center for Public Safety Excellence



The La Crosse Fire Department **is one of 247 agencies around the world that is accredited** through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Your Fire Department has gone through continuous self assessment and risk analysis on a yearly basis in all aspects of operations to meet or exceed industry best practices through quality improvement.

Through this ongoing self assessment we are constantly adjusting our service delivery to meet the community adopted performance targets and provide consistent, reliable and resilient responses to all hazards.

The final step in the process the agency undergoes is a yearly peer review and we are extremely proud to continue our accredited status.

### La Crosse Fire Department is...

**1 of 247 agencies accredited around the world**

**1 of 235 agencies accredited throughout the United States**

**1 of 11 agencies accredited with the State of Wisconsin**



# FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



# JEFF SCHOTT

In front of family and firefighters, Jeff Schott was awarded the La Crosse 2017 Firefighter of the year. The award is given to a firefighter who is nominated by his or her peers and represents the fire department in a positive manner on and off duty and displays leadership qualities.

Schott says that he does not see the award as an individual accomplishment, but rather as a team one. "It's about the culture that we operate in. And I happened to come up with some very strong leadership, given wide latitude to explore and practice on a daily basis and that's what we do, we work hard and we expect a lot and I think that this achievement is a reflection of my team's success not my success," said Schott.

In addition to being named Firefighter of the year, Schott was also promoted from Captain to Battalion Chief.

-Zach Preiutsky



# **Emergency Medical Services**

**Frank Garritano**

The La Crosse Fire Department has been providing emergency medical services (EMS) to the City of La Crosse since 1975. The department is currently licensed with the State of Wisconsin as an EMT Non-Transport emergency medical service. The department's EMT's, Advanced EMT's, and Paramedics currently provide service up to the state of Wisconsin's EMT full scope of practice. The department currently has eight front-line apparatus and two reserve apparatus. All apparatus are identically outfitted with medical equipment and capable of responding to medical emergencies 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The department responded to 4,622 EMS calls in 2017.

In 2017, we also saw the continued support of our Special Event EMS. Thanks to a very generous and anonymous donation from the area, we were able to update the bikes for this branch of our EMS Operations. We worked hand-in-hand with Wyatt Bicycles to build a bike from the ground up that would fit our specific needs. It was an incredible opportunity not only for our department, but to also support a local business. With events like The Grandad Half Marathon, Hixon 50k, Riverfest, Oktoberfest, and the WORS Mountain Bike Race all being annual happenings that attract thousands of people to our city, we want to make sure all the athletes, spectators, and vendors are well cared for should something happen, and having the best equipment possible is what allows us to do that.

New this past year was our participation in the "Stop the Bleed" Campaign. The LCFD started a partnership with Tri-State Ambulance, Gundersen Health, and the WHEPP Western Healthcare Coalition, so that we could provide the citizens of the La Crosse area the best possible training for this program. We have done a number of trainings throughout the region, and they have all been very well received. The training itself focuses on the immediate needs of a person that might lose their life to uncontrolled bleeding, and what to do to help prevent that. Our goal is to get to all the schools in the area, and then to any other establishments that would be interested in hosting the training.

Through some amazingly generous donations from the WHEPP Western Healthcare Coalition, all of the involved entities have received small trauma kits that have some very essential equipment. The contents of the kits are all sealed in individual bags, and then the kits are all placed in large duffel bags. These various small kits and duffel bags are now strategically located throughout the city (hospitals, emergency vehicles, various city buildings) for quick and easy access to vital tools should the need arise. They can be handed out and used by not only emergency responders, but by citizens that we have trained. Between having a solid foundation of training, and these kits, we are well on our way to being prepared for a variety of traumatic situations.

*EMS Team Leader - Frank Garritano - [garritanof@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:garritanof@cityoflacrosse.org)*



# Hazardous Materials

## Captain Jeff Schott

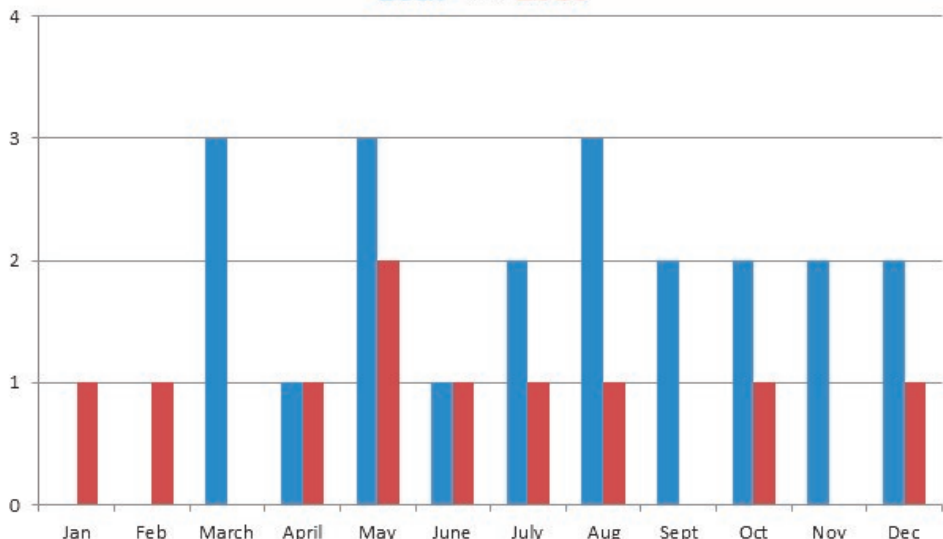
The La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Team is a twenty five member unit that specializes in responses to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive related incidents. The team was formally established under the direction of Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) in July of 2000. The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

The La Crosse Regional Hazardous Materials Team also operates as 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 of Wisconsin provides 100% of the funding for both Radiological and Hazmat Teams. The funding includes worker’s compensation and reimbursement for costs incurred during a response when there is no responsible party.

This year the team responded to 21 calls for service and participated in numerous training opportunities. In addition to monthly core team training, the team continues to develop relationships with private industry and outside response agencies. Team members facilitated Hazmat Technician level training for City Brewery and provided specialized training classes at the annual Wisconsin Association of Hazmat Responders conference. Additional training opportunities and exercises with the 54<sup>th</sup> Chemical Support Team from Madison, Canadian Pacific Rail, and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroads continue to strengthen overall response capability and tactical knowledge. The team purchased a new pickup truck and 20 foot trailer to meet dynamic response needs and replace aging equipment. The trailer contains a custom chemical

HazMat Responses

2017 vs. 2016







# Urban Search and Rescue

## Captain of Training & Special Operations

### Todd Adams

The La Crosse Fire Department US&R Team is made up of 18 core team members and 7 additional department members who are trained above and beyond ordinary firefighting skills. The focus of the team is response to Technical Rescue related emergencies whether locally or regionally, that may involve structural collapse, major extrication, confined spaces, trench rescues, and high and low angle rope rescue incidents. Of the 25 trained members, 17 are members of Wisconsin Task Force 1 (WI-TF1) Urban Search & Rescue Team, working under Wisconsin Emergency Management. These members, along with other full time firefighters from throughout the state, are highly trained to respond and support overwhelmed communities after, or during large scale disasters. This team is logistically capable of being completely self-sufficient for a minimum of 72 hours, including food, fuel, and lodging. All costs related to WI-TF1 are covered by WEM through Homeland Security Grants.

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

#### **Responses in 2017 include:**

- 02/01/2017 – Assist Water Team with rope system and slope removal
- 02/02/2017 – Wide area search for missing person by Swift Creek area
- 02/19/2017 – Structural assessment from a vehicle crashing through the wall of the EconoLodge.
- 03/11/2017 – Wide Area search for missing person on the south side of Lacrosse
- 04/23/2017 – Multiple day large area search and slope evacuation of victim
- 04/24/2017 – Patient removal from 2<sup>nd</sup> story with aerial and rope system
- 04/24/2017 – Patient removal from Grandad Bluff Trails with UTV
- 05/06/2017 – Patient removal from basement using 3:1 system
- 05/14/2017 – Large Area Search for missing person on Grandad Bluff
- 05/15/2017 – Remove injured hiker from Hixon Forrest Trails
- 06/01/2017 – LCFD / WITF-1 team members deployed to Cambria “Didion Mill Explosion”
- 09/16/2017 – LCFD / WITF-1 Team Members deployed to Hurricane Irma
- 11/08/2017 – Structural assessment and shoring for vehicle through front of building
- 11/20/2017 – Structural assessment and shoring for vehicle through front of building
- 11/29/2017 – Locate, treat and remove a victim who fell from bluff



# Water/Ice/Dive Rescue

## Captain Tom Griffith

The mission of our Water/Dive Team is to provide the community with rescue and recovery capabilities in all water environments from underwater rescue/recovery, to surface and ice related emergencies. Our team is capable of searching for, and collecting evidence or other items when requested by other agencies or communities. The Water/Dive Rescue Team serves the City of La Crosse and the surrounding area with a 22 person team. The team consists of 12 divers that are certified in a variety of specialized diving operations which include Public Safety Diving, Dive Rescue 1, Ice Diving, Drysuit, Full Facemask and Current Diving. All divers have been certified through either Dive Rescue International or NAUI, and must pass an annual water fitness test, as well as an annual scuba skills requirement. Additionally, members of the Water/Dive Team are trained in sonar and boat operations, underwater camera work, ice rescue and water based EMS.

Goals for 2018 are to advance our training in swiftwater operations, flood response and underwater recovery operations. We also plan to take delivery of our replacement for Boat 2. Brennan Marine will be training our Team in boat operations this spring, and we look forward to bringing what we learn back to the rest of the Department. As always, we will also be training to improve in all disciplines we are responsible for as a Water/Dive Team for LCFD.

**Water/Ice/Dive Related Incidents for 2017** produced 10 water related calls for assistance. These calls include a Search for a Person in the Water, Water Rescue, Stranded Boat, and a mutual aid request for a Boat Fire. Here are the more high profile calls:

### 1/31/17 – 2/6/17 Search for Person in the Water

Individual's car was found in Swift Creek off Norplex Dr. Ice Dive Operations conducted and coordinated a recovery effort among area agencies. These agencies included La Crosse PD, Brennan Marine, La Crosse County Sherriff's Department, La Crosse County Dive Unit, Winona County Dive Team and Bruce's Legacy. La Crosse Boat 2 located the victim on 2/6/17.

### 5/9/17 – 5/19/17 Search for Person in the Water

LCFD and other agencies searched the immediate area of a witnessed drowning in the main channel of the Mississippi River. We coordinated a multi-day recovery effort and the victim was recovered on 5/19/17 by the Houston County Sherriff's Department.

### 7/9/17 Search for Person in the Water

High speed chase that resulted in a vehicle in the water. Driver got out of the vehicle, but went under. Thirteen minutes after dispatch, La Crosse Boat 1 rescued the victim under water and immediately started resuscitation efforts. Outstanding! Patient was transported to the hospital with a pulse, but succumbed from his injuries a few days later.

### 10/9/17 Water Rescue

La Crosse Boat 1 conducted a dramatic rescue of a critical patient that had jumped from the Cass St. bridge. La Crosse Boat 1 rescued the critical patient 9 minutes after dispatch and the patient was able to make a full recovery.



# **Tactical Emergency Medical Services Frank Garritano**

In 2017, 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.

In 2017, we had a total of **12** callouts and numerous of hours of training. Some of the topics covered were:

**Specialized Rescue Operations**

**Tactical Combat Casualty Care**

**Team Movement and Concepts**

**Injured/Downed Officer Situations**



In 2018, our schedule will again incorporate a high degree of specialized training that will allow the TEMS Team to provide our citizens and patients with the utmost level of care. The plan is to focus heavily on medical skills; honing current skills, learning new skills, and lastly, passing those skills on to the Police Officers on the ERT.

Also, we will be returning to work and train at UW-La Crosse with the Athletic Trainers this year. Since the types of injuries to knees and ankles are very similar between athletes and tactical operators, we felt this type of training to be very relevant. It also allowed us to work with staff and students within our community; something that we feel is very important. It was very well received and we will continue to go into the community to seek different types of training, especially training that allows us to interact with our citizens.

Thanks to the continued support of 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.



### Our Core Values

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



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