

Prescribed burn at Tanglewood Golf Course



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## Menomonie Fire Department

Station #1 - 116 W. Main Street  
Station #2 - 2417 Wilson Street  
Menomonie, WI 54751

Telephone:  
715-232-2414  
Non-Emergency



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Chief's Desk.....	3
Fire Department Administration.....	4
A Shift.....	5
B Shift.....	6
C Shift.....	7
Personnel Data.....	8
EMS Call Volume.....	9
Fire Call Volume.....	10
Inspections.....	11-12
Emergency Operations.....	13
Fleet Resources.....	14-16
Facilities Management.....	17-18
Community Risk Reduction & Public Education.....	19-21
Rescue Task Force.....	22
Paid on Call Firefighters.....	23
Hazardous Materials.....	24
Training.....	25-31
Firemans Prayer.....	32

## FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

On behalf of the men and women of the Menomonie Fire Department I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report. The dedication and commitment our members provide the community, area departments and visitors are second to none. I am extremely proud to be a member of this team and provide support to the extraordinary work they do on a daily basis. The department responded to a record 3,904 calls for service in 2023. Those included 3,038 EMS and 866 fire/rescue responses which is an increase of 5.1% over 2022 and 33.6% since 2020. Along with answering calls for service we continued to provide public education, fire prevention inspections, station and vehicle maintenance, training, and many other areas of service to the community.

Outside of our regular duties we have several members that participate in local and state teams. Two of our members work with the MPD in support of Operation Hope. Five members are part of the Wisconsin Task Force. The task force is under Wisconsin Emergency Management and is an all-hazards rescue team. All members are trained to the technician level in trench, confined space, rope, high-angle, and swift water rescue. The team is based out of Fort McCoy and is a deployable asset both in-state and nationwide.

We again want to thank our citizens and local governments for their continued support in providing the very best in emergency services. In the very near future, department growth will be needed to sustain the level of service currently provided to the community. We are confident the community will meet those needs and continue the expectation of high-value emergency services.

The following pages show many of the day-to-day tasks members of your fire department perform. What isn't shown is the unmatched, individual dedication and sacrifice these members make to meet our mission statement. We hope you enjoy the following information which was compiled and prepared by our Administrative Assistant, Teri Riek.

Denny Klass  
Fire Chief

# ADMINISTRATION



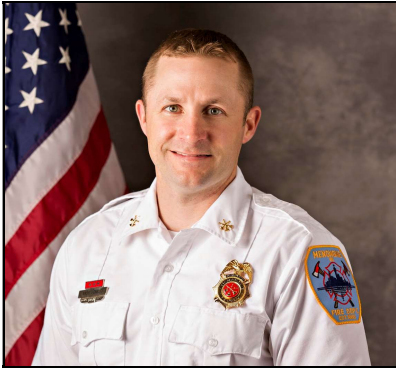
Fire Chief  
Denny Klass



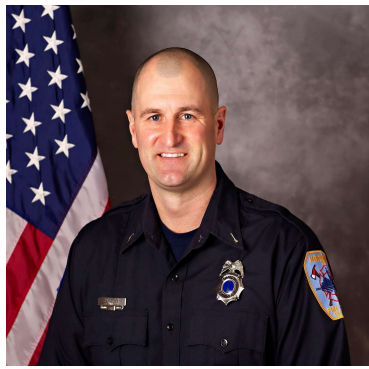
Administrative Assistant  
Teri Riek



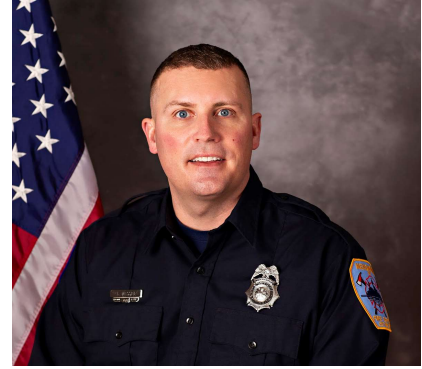
# A SHIFT



Battalion Chief Andy Benrud



Captain Josh Romsos



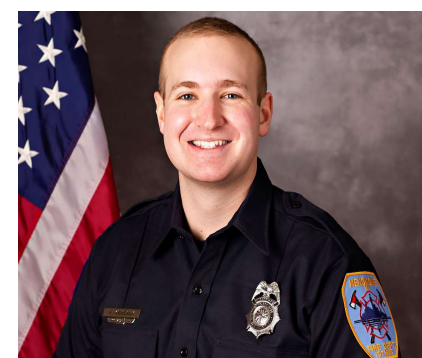
Lieutenant Travis Nessel



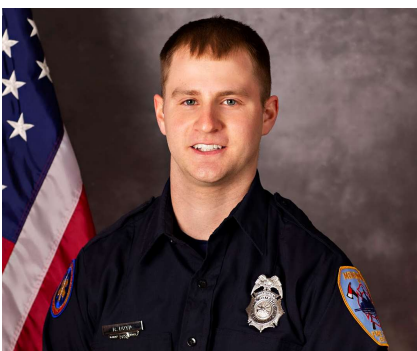
MPO Jon Peterson



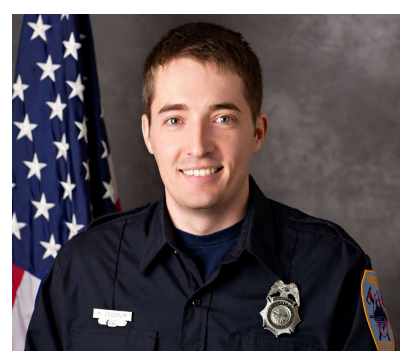
MPO Dan Williams



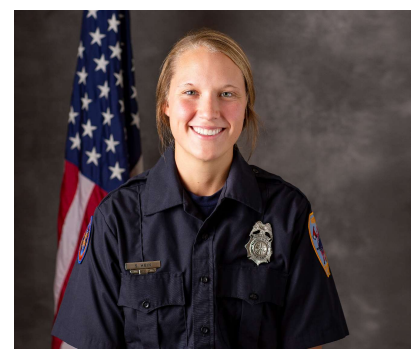
Firefighter/Paramedic Brad Kenealy



Firefighter/Paramedic Ross Boyd



Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Goodrum

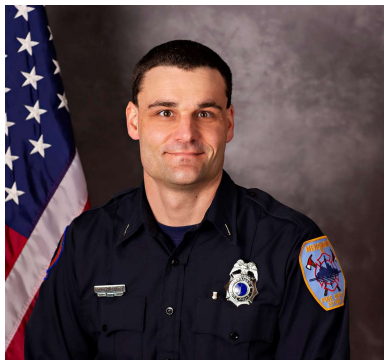


Firefighter/EMT Sydney Hein

# B SHIFT



Battalion Chief Adam Mucks



Captain Brady Bleskacek



Lieutenant Michael Christian



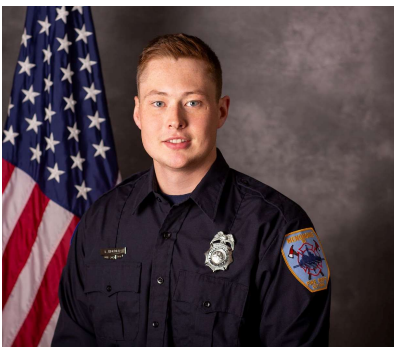
MPO Juan Gamez



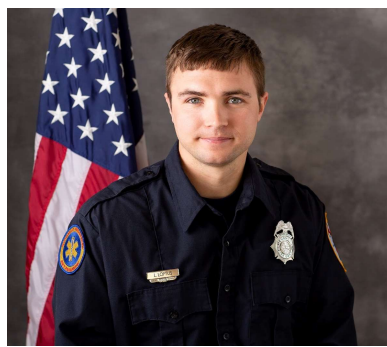
MPO Adam McCulloch



Firefighter/Paramedic Stuart Wallace



Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Holden



Firefighter/Paramedic Lance Loftus



Firefighter/Paramedic Zack Hartung



# C SHIFT



Battalion Chief Larry Zais



Captain Matt Poliak



Lieutenant Andy Kissh



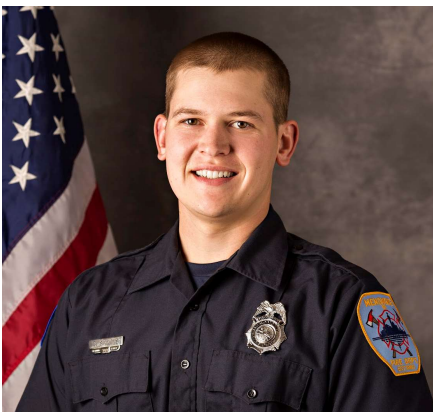
MPO Chad Bock



MPO Brent Monfort



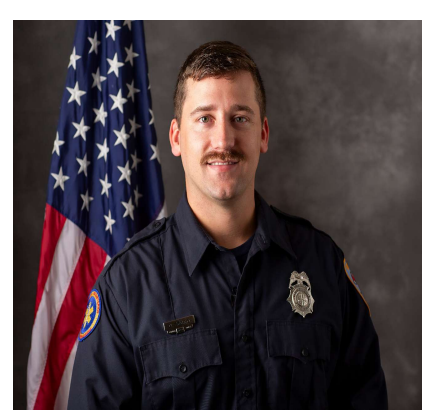
Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Simmons



Firefighter/Paramedic Kaeden Thom



Firefighter/Paramedic Seth Loberg



Firefighter/EMT Dexter Zebro

# PERSONNEL DATA

## PROMOTIONS

July 1, 2023	Lieutenant Josh Romsos to Captain
July 1, 2023	Firefighter/Paramedic Travis Nessel to Lieutenant

## HIRED

March 16, 2023	Firefighter/Paramedic Lance Loftus
June 1, 2023	Firefighter/Paramedic Zack Hartung
July 1, 2023	Firefighter/Medic Sydney Hein
July 1, 2023	Firefighter/Medic Dexter Zebro

## RESIGNED

January 22, 2023	Firefighter/Paramedic Katlyn Wettberg
March 27, 2023	Firefighter/Paramedic Josh Monk

## RETIREMENTS

June 30, 2023	Captain Chuck Mensing
June 30, 2023	MPO Rich Brackett



# EMS CALL VOLUME

## Yearly Runs by Zone-EMS

Scene Incident Zone	Number of Runs	Percent of Total Runs
City Ward-11	623	20.51%
City Ward 1	370	12.18%
City Ward 2	400	13.17%
Menomonie Township	199	6.55%
City Ward-10	177	5.83%
City Ward 9	123	4.05%
Red Cedar Township	135	4.44%
Out of Jurisdiction	80	2.63%
City Ward 8	107	3.52%
City Ward 4	111	3.65%
City Ward 7	115	3.79%
Tainter Township	93	3.06%
City Ward 6	112	3.69%
City Ward 3	92	3.03%
City Ward 5	68	2.24%
Dunn Township	81	2.67%
Lucas Township	66	2.17%
Village of Knapp	43	1.42%
Spring Brook Township	25	0.82%
Sherman Township	17	0.56%
CMNM	1	0.03%
Total: 3,038		Total: 100.00%



# FIRE CALL VOLUME

## Yearly Runs by Zone-Fire

Basic Incident Zone/District Number (FD1.32)	Number of Runs	Percent of Total Runs
City Ward 1	109	12.59%
City Ward 2	144	16.63%
City Ward 3	49	5.66%
City Ward-10	57	6.58%
City Ward-11	74	8.55%
Menomonie Township	78	9.01%
City Ward 9	34	3.93%
City Ward 4	30	3.46%
Tainter Township	26	3.00%
City Ward 6	36	4.16%
City Ward 8	37	4.27%
Out of Jurisdiction	29	3.35%
City Ward 5	17	1.96%
Red Cedar Township	48	5.54%
City Ward 7	30	3.46%
Lucas Township	24	2.77%
Dunn Township	21	2.42%
Spring Brook Township	8	0.92%
Village of Knapp	7	0.81%
Sherman Township	5	0.58%
Weston Township	3	0.35%
Total: 866		Total: 100.00%

# INSPECTIONS

Brady Bleskacek, Captain

The Menomonie Fire Department performs fire prevention inspections on all educational, commercial, industrial, manufacturing and multi-unit apartment buildings in our response area. This includes the City of Menomonie, Villages of Knapp and Downsville and Towns of Tainter, Spring Brook, Red Cedar, Lucas, Dunn, Sherman and Weston. All structures mentioned above are inspected at least once per year some are done twice. The fire department also assisted any business that was in need or wanted their inspections more often.

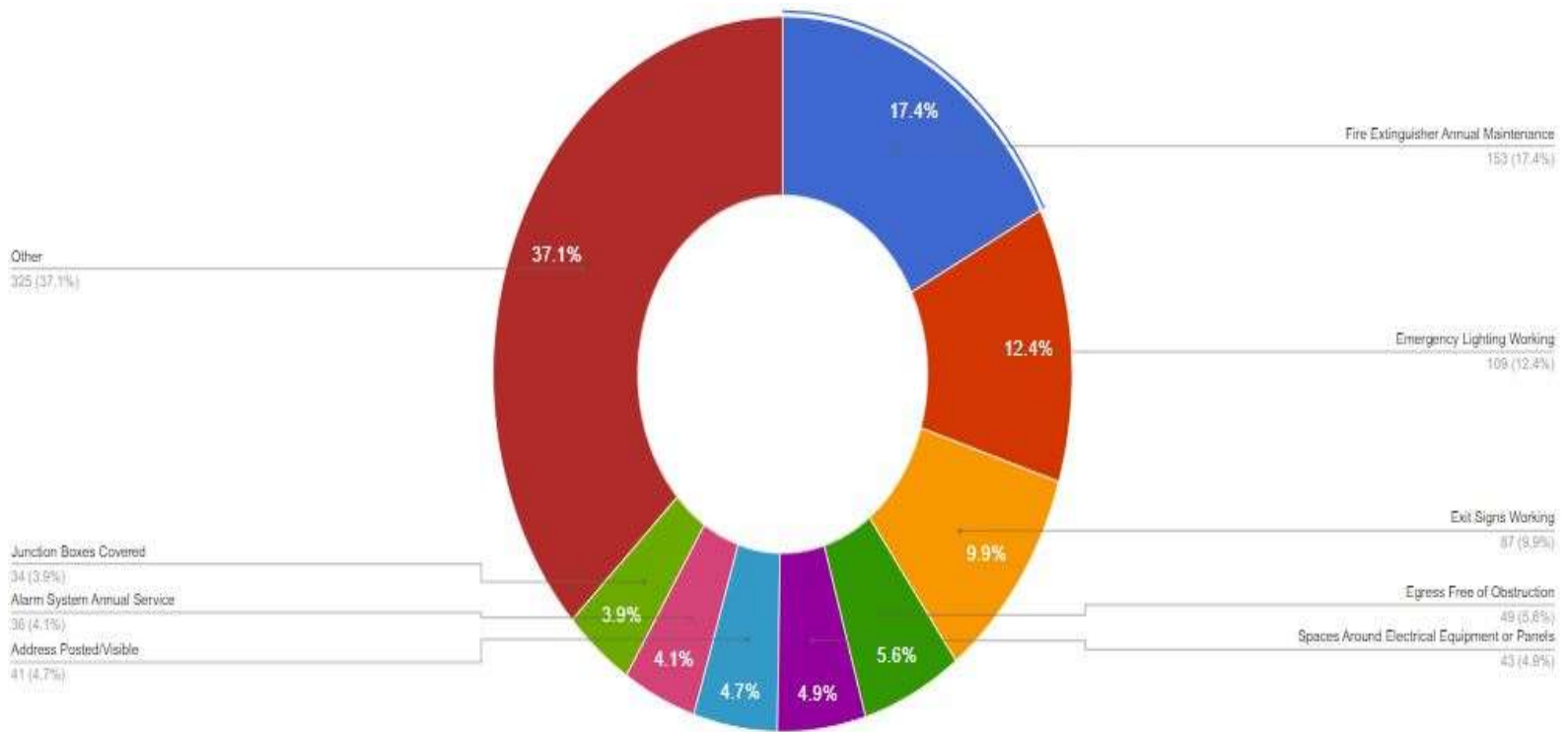
## Inspection Numbers:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total Inspections performed -----	2314	1712
Total violations found -----	1076	454
Total re-inspections performed -----	0	3
Total notices issued -----	547	454

In 2023 we responded to nine fires in inspected structures.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Business Type</u>	<u>Damage</u>	<u>Cause</u>
3-9-23	405 19 <sup>th</sup> Ave W	Apartment Building	\$160,000.00	Human Factors
4-14-23	615 28 <sup>th</sup> Ave W	Apartment Building	\$350,000.00	Undetermined
5-29-25	702 Terrill Rd	Apartment Building	\$1,000,000.00	Undetermined

Inspections are conducted to assist the business/building owners in the elimination of hazards which could lead to a devastating fire loss.



Other.....325 (37.1%)  
 Junction Boxes Covered.....34 (3.9%)  
 Alarm System Annual Service..36 (4.1%)  
 Address Posted Visible.....41 (4.7%)

Fire Extinguisher Annual Maint....153 (17.4%)  
 Emergency Lighting Working.....109 (12.4%)  
 Exit Signs Working.....87 (9.9%)  
 Egress Free of Obstruction.....49 (5.6%)

Spaces Around Electrical Equipment or Panels.....43 (4.9%)

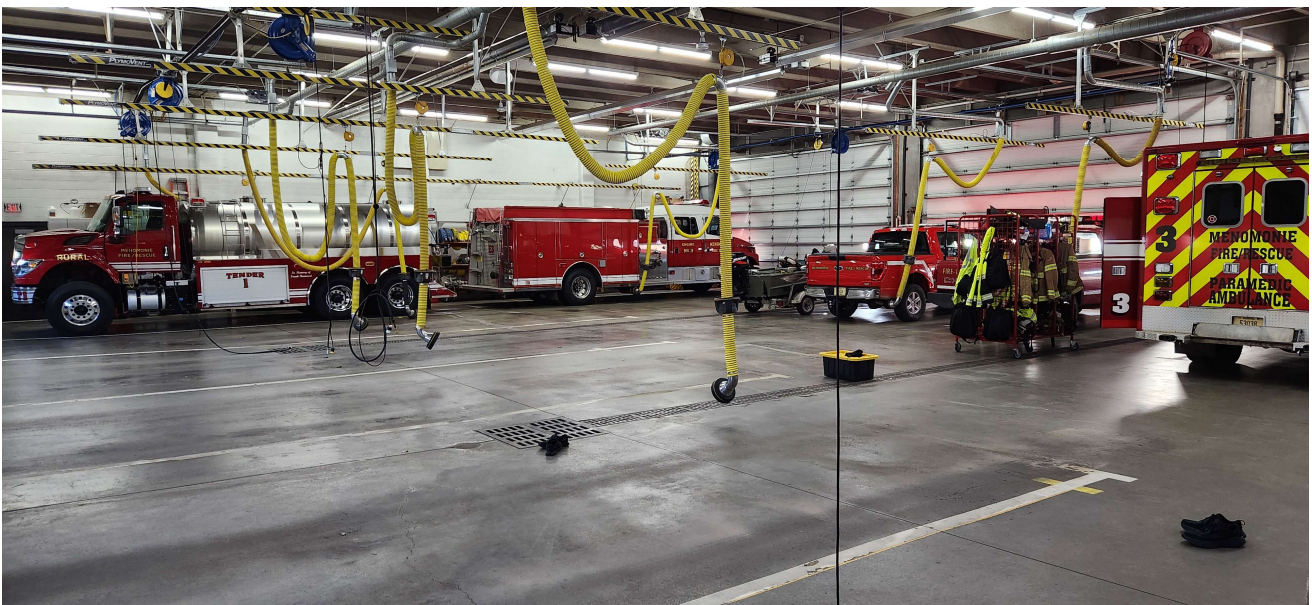
# EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Andy Benrud, Battalion Chief

Each year our emergency responses trend in an upward trajectory. In 2022 MFD responded to 3714 emergency calls for service. During 2023 MFD responded to 3944 emergency calls for service which was a 6% increase from the previous year. This yearly increase is proving to be a common trend from year to year. Many days the staffs are stretched thin and we depend on off-duty personnel to respond to emergency calls.

At MFD we are attempting to increase staffing levels that have not increased since 2001. Since 2001, the emergency responses have over doubled with no increase in staffing levels. In addition to increasing staffing, we are waiting to receive our 4<sup>th</sup> ambulance to help with the ability to be able to respond to the increase of emergency ambulance calls for service.

We are continually in the process of assessing our emergency response operations to remain effective and efficient for the increased demand for our services with the current resources. This year Ladder 4 was moved to the North Station to become the frontline fire response truck for city fire responses.



Busy day with multiple pieces of apparatus out of the station

# FLEET RESOURCES

Larry Zais, Battalion Chief

The Menomonie Fire Department took delivery of a new tender in September. Tender 1 was built by S&R Truck of Marshfield, WI. Prior to the tender being placed into service, the members of the department took the next couple of weeks to do training on the truck and to place equipment on the truck.



This new tender features a 3500 gallon water tank, an electric porta tank lift, and electric rear water dumps. The department also had wireless headsets installed on this truck. They are identical to the headsets that were installed on Engine 1 and Engine 2. They have proven to be beneficial when backing this truck in on tight driveways, allowing the driver and spotter to have direct communication with each other.

The department is still anticipating the arrival of one new ambulance in 2024 and one remounted ambulance. We have been waiting on Ford Chassis' to be delivered to LifeLine Ambulance in Iowa. Late fall of 2023 we received notice that two Ford Chassis have arrived



in Iowa. However, due to the back log of builds, our trucks are scheduled out for late 2024 or early 2025.

The department has been adding battery powered tools to the apparatus over the last few years and this year we added a battery powered vent fan.



This fan along with the other battery tools have allowed the department to get tasks done without running extension cords or finding other power sources to run the equipment. The battery tools are a trend in the fire service right now that allow fire departments to run several different tools on a single battery platform. Our department plans to continue to add more battery tools in 2024.

Annually, our entire fleet gets a DOT inspection, has preventative maintenance done, and has pumps and ladders tested and recertified. Most of this is done by companies like Northtown Ford, Semi Correct Truck Repair, Emergency Apparatus, and American Test Center. The department also uses these same companies for any repairs that cannot be done by our own personnel.

The average age of the City's Fire Apparatus is 6 years old.

The average age of the City's Ambulances is 7.6 years old.

The average age of the Rural's Fire Apparatus is 17 years old.

During annual hose testing that is conducted in May, the department replaced 1000 feet of 5" hose. This hose is used to supply our fire engines from city fire hydrants or we can use them in the rural to supply water from one fire engine to another.



# FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Andy Benrud, Battalion Chief

In 2023, MFD personnel completed numerous building projects and general building maintenance. Most building maintenance is completed by on-duty personnel to help reduce costs. Many repairs were made to the Station #1 facilities are due to the building being constructed in the 1970's. Numerous items at the downtown station are in need of repair or replacement due to the age of the facility. The City of Menomonie is in the process of a study to identify the facility needs for the future. This potentially includes adding additional locations or renovating the downtown station.



Repairing concrete

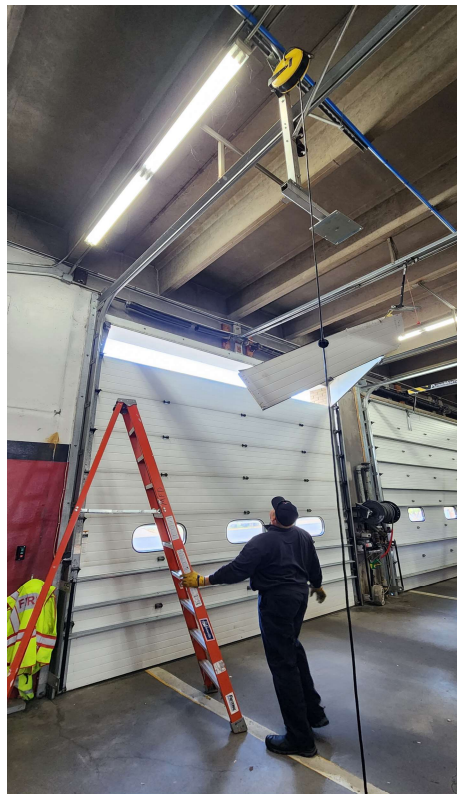


Installing a decorative original hydrant





Ash trees removed at Station #1.



Broken garage door

# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION

Matt Poliak, Captain

The community risk reduction division is responsible for identifying threats and safety issues within our community and preventing them from occurring. It is comprised of two parts: Public Education and Prevention. First, data is collected and examined for trends. For example, EMS and Fire data are looked at for patterns of concern (i.e. falls in the home, cooking fires, etc.) Once a list of safety concerns is established, we can then prioritize the list and can go about trying to reduce the number of each item's occurrences. The main tool we have at our disposal in accomplishing this task is through public education.

Public education contains a variety of methods to get information regarding fire and life safety disseminated out to our citizens. One such method is with social media. MFD has an online presence on Facebook, and seeks to interact with the community by sharing safety messages on a weekly basis. We share special weather and climate news, product recalls, and general safety tips. By sharing this information, the public can be informed and can avoid detrimental safety situations involving fire or EMS. We also share our department happenings on our profile, so that our community can see what we do and the training we take part in. We can also answer specific questions citizens may have about our job.





Another part of public education comes with school visits and station tours/events. Fire Safety Week is usually within the first two weeks in October and is a busy time at MFD. We make it around to all our local elementary schools and many of the daycares to speak with kids about fire safety. Each year has a different theme; this year's was cooking fire safety. We also have an open house where the public can come by our station to look around and meet with our staff. This year's open house was another hit and was well attended by the community. These types of interactions are important to maintain and as it creates stronger relationships between our community and our members.



2023 was also a special year for Public Education and Community Risk Reduction as it saw



the implementation of the **“Stop the Bleed”** program on a grand scale. As interest for the classes grew, a project was started to outfit all the schools in our district with Stop the Bleed and Mass Casualty supplies. Crucial donations were given by local corporate community partners to ensure this project was funded adequately. To go along with these supplies, training was given to all the faculty and staff at the schools. It was also taught to all incoming freshman during their health units. The project was a big success and will continue to create public education training opportunities for years to come.

Another part of the Community Risk Reduction is our **QRT or Quick Response Team**. This team partners with local law enforcement to work with community members who have suffered a recent narcotic or opioid overdose. The team goes out to meet with individuals with substance use disorders to provide educational and support materials so that a more effective transition can be made to receiving treatment. This kind of outreach is the latest approach to reducing the number of overdoses an individual may experience and has also expanded to include methamphetamine use, alcohol use, and mental health issues.

The Community Risk Reduction Division is overseen by Captain Matt Poliak. FF/MPO Dan Williams, FF/MPO Adam McCulloch, and FF/P Stuart Wallace all contribute to the Facebook page. FF/P Wallace also assists in the maintenance of MFD’s portion of the City of Menomonie Website. The Stop the Bleed program training is led by Captain Poliak, and is assisted by Lt. Andy Kissh, Lt. Travis Nessel, FF/P Kyle Holden, and FF/P Ben Simmons. The QRT team consists of Captain Poliak and Lieutenant Kissh.

# RESCUE TASK FORCE

Matt Poliak, Captain

The Rescue Task Force is MFD's tool for Active Threat and Mass Casualty situations. We can make entry into "warm zones" to allow for more expedient extrication of the critically wounded. 2023 saw more training scenarios with our local law enforcement agencies and we look forward to 2024 when a large-scale mock incident will be conducted, putting all the training and skills together.

RTF is headed by Captain Matt Poliak and includes Lt. Andy Kissh, Lt. Travis Nessel, and FF/P Kyle Holden.

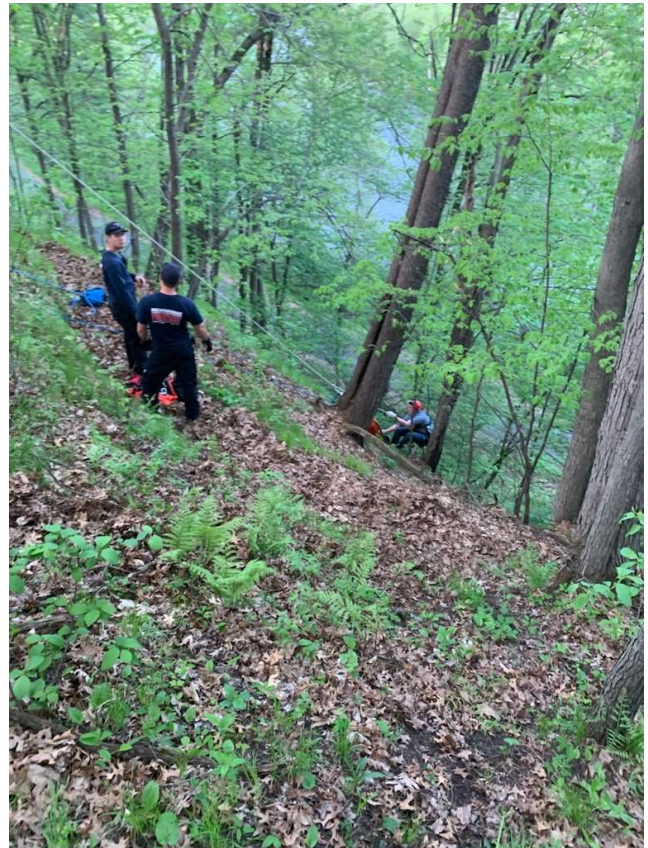
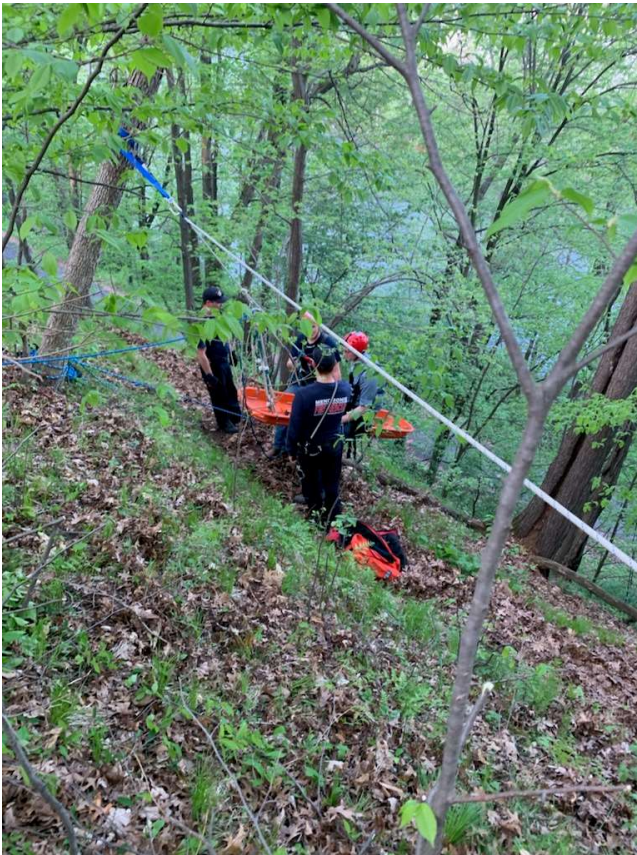




## PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTERS

Larry Zais, Battalion Chief

In 2023 the POC Platoon Leaders were tasked with leading the 2<sup>nd</sup> monthly training of each month. Due to the full-time call volume increase, it was felt that the quality of trainings that were being presented were not quite adequate. When brought to the platoon leaders about this situation, they quickly stepped up, researched, and led trainings. Our platoon leaders are a valuable asset to the paid-on call along with the entire department. Currently our Paid-on-call is staffed with 18 personnel and we look to add two more in 2024. Their service and dedication to our department is greatly appreciated.



Rope Rescue training with POC above Stokke Trail

# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Matt Poliak, Captain

The Hazardous Materials Division had a busier year than usual in 2023. Our team saw action in both Dunn and Pepin/Buffalo Counties. We responded to a suspicious death inside a vehicle where an unknown white powder was present. Our members donned Level A suits and assisted in collecting samples to be identified and were subsequently decontaminated. Other notable incidents included an overturned tanker truck carrying diesel fuel and a large diesel spill on Highway 25 North crossing over Interstate 94.

A significant and successful training exercise was also put together by MFD and the 54<sup>th</sup> CST out of Madison this past summer. Our mock scenario involved a clandestine weapon manufacturing lab that needed to be secured and have samples of chemicals collected. It was a great opportunity for MFD members to interact with industry experts and their cutting-edge technology and tactics. The 54<sup>th</sup> CST is a massive asset that we can call upon when extra HazMat support is needed.



The hazardous materials division is overseen by Captain Matt Poliak. Our hazmat equipment, particularly our meters, are maintained and calibrated by Lieutenant Mike Christian. FF/P Brad Kenealy is also part of the HazMat Division.



# TRAINING

Adam Mucks, Battalion Chief

Practical training evolutions provide a significant benefit for our membership and our community. At Menomonie Fire Department we also make an effort to work with local industry to preplan for possible incidents. In 2023 two of our training highlights included and practical scenario simulating an ammonia leak and ConAgra Foods was well as a high angle rescue scenario at Covia Sand Mine. Members also make an effort to squeeze in practical training between calls, although with increases in call volume this can be a challenge. Please enjoy some photos from our 2023 training evolutions.



FF/Paramedic Stuart Wallace and Capt. Matt Poliak assist MPO Juan Gamez into a Level A Hazmat Suit during a simulated Ammonia leak at ConAgra Foods.



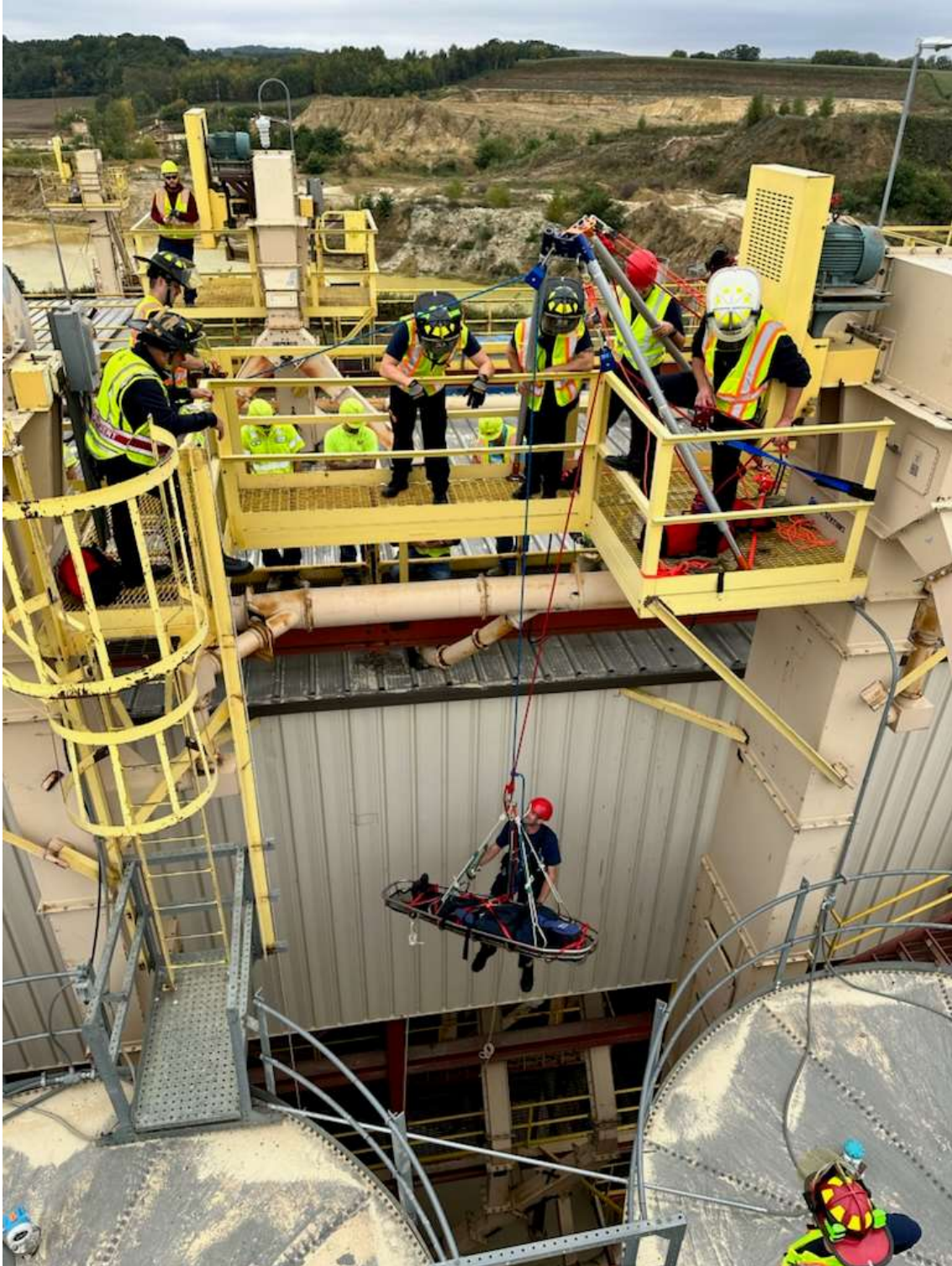
FF/Paramedic Kyle Holden dons a level A suit while discussing a plan with Capt. Brady Bleskacek.

Shortly after our HazMat training at ConAgra we applied some of our HazMat knowledge on incident with a deceased person covered in an unknown white powder. Two dogs were rescued during the incident.





## High Angle Rescue Training at the Covia Sand Mine



MPO Dan Williams is lowered down with a stoke basket for an approximate 90-foot descent.







## Training at the Station



MPO Juan Gamez takes FF/Paramedic Zack Hartung through pump operations.





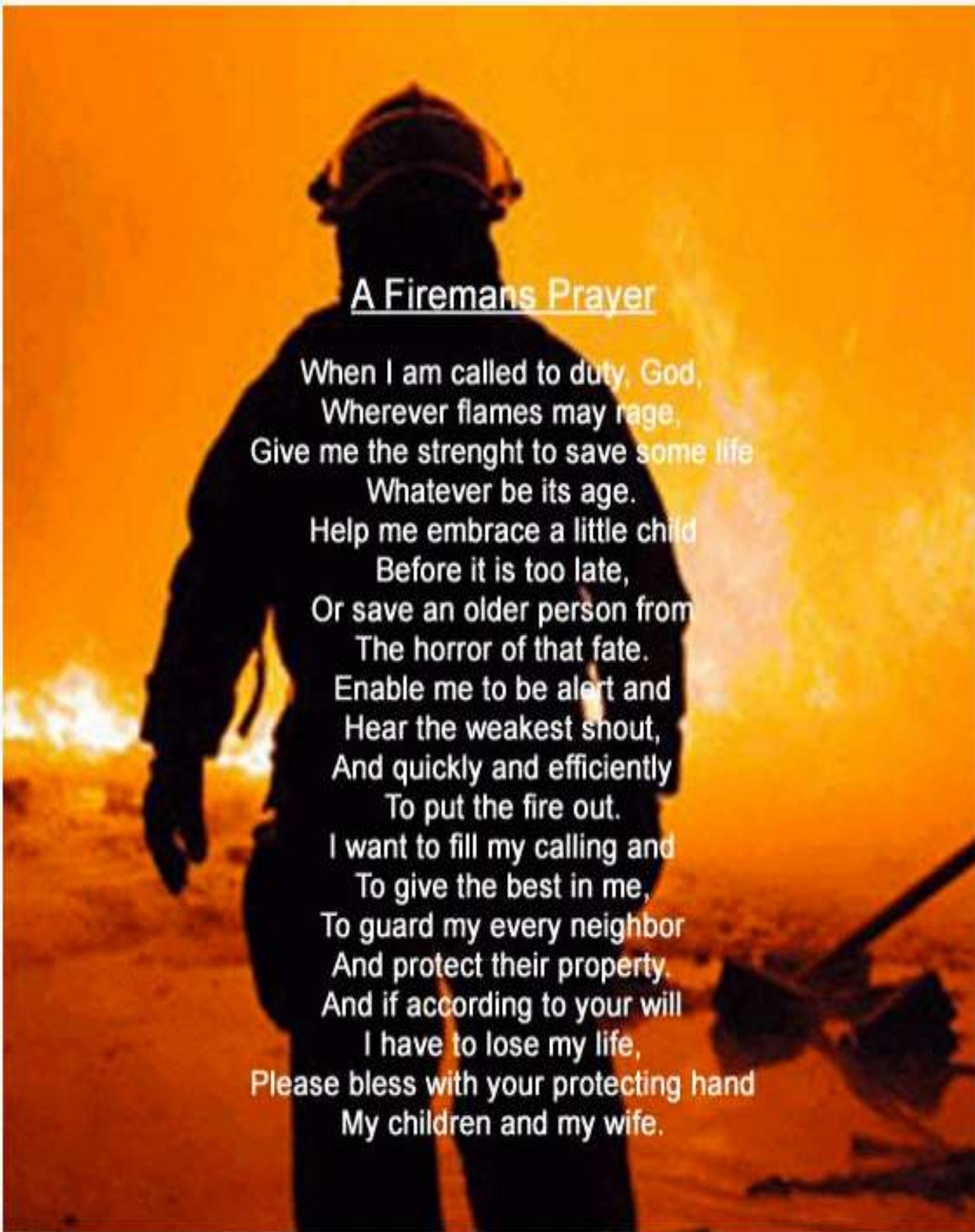
Paid on call members train with Ladder 4



## Wildland Fire Training at Menomin Park





A firefighter in silhouette, wearing a helmet and gear, stands with their back to the camera, facing a large, intense fire. The fire is a bright orange and yellow, filling the background. The firefighter's silhouette is dark against the bright light of the flames. The text of the prayer is overlaid on the firefighter's back.

## A Firemans Prayer

When I am called to duty, God,  
Wherever flames may rage,  
Give me the strenght to save some life  
Whatever be its age.  
Help me embrace a little child  
Before it is too late,  
Or save an older person from  
The horror of that fate.  
Enable me to be alert and  
Hear the weakest shout,  
And quickly and efficiently  
To put the fire out.  
I want to fill my calling and  
To give the best in me,  
To guard my every neighbor  
And protect their property.  
And if according to your will  
I have to lose my life,  
Please bless with your protecting hand  
My children and my wife.