

# 2023 CEDARBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT





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Mayor Thome, Members of the Common Council and Administrator Hilvo:

I would like to present the 2023 year-in-review for the Cedarburg Fire Department. On the following pages you will see many charts and graphs of our activities over the past year. I am proud of the volunteer members of our department, along with our paid staff, for their hard work and dedication to our community. Without them, there would not be much of a report to give.

2023 was a very busy year for the department. Our dedicated members ran a total of 1,542 calls, an increase of 4.18% for our total call volume. EMS calls make up 83.4% of our total calls. Of the EMS calls, 72% of our patients were 60 years and older. For statistics on types of calls and frequency, see pages 6-10. In 2023, our members put in 988 hours of stand-by for all the special events held in our community. With the roads being closed around the fire station during festivals, staff needs to be at the station to respond. During Strawberry Fest 2023, we had 17 rescue calls within 5.5 hours. This pushed our department past our capacity, requiring us to call in 4 mutual aid ambulances.

Our department also continued to hold Maxwell Street Days and other fund-raising events at Firemen's Park. This fundraising is on top of our rising call volume and decline in membership.

After many meetings, our leadership team at CFD put a plan together to establish a Paramedic program, and a full-time staffing plan for the next eight years. These full-time members will be used to support our paid-on call members. I would like to thank all the committees, City and Town, and the Common Council and the Town Board for supporting the "Cedarburg Plan" as it has been called.

Our front cover this year shows our first two Firefighter/Paramedics hired by the Cedarburg Fire Department. We are excited to build a Paramedic program for our community and raise the bar again in providing the best care possible. **All of this work does not go unnoticed.**

First and foremost, a BIG THANK YOU to all the great men and women, and our Explorers, that make up the team that are donating their time and talent to protect and serve our community. Also, a big thank you to the Mayor, Common Council and the Police and Fire Commission for your continued support of our members and our department. As we continue to work together, it will only make Cedarburg a better place for our residents and all our visitors. It is an honor to be the Chief of such a great department in a great community.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Vahsholtz  
Chief





# CFD 2023 Active Membership Roster

## Under 1 year (Probationary):

Caitlin Steinberg  
Michael Klimkosky  
Andy Schottler  
Will Didier  
Rob Henry  
Chris Brunette  
Emily Cleveland  
Octavio Arreaga-Chavez  
Kelly Scott  
Melissa Demczak  
Denisa Demczak  
Glenn Lindberg  
Jamie Wilhelme  
Caleb Wardenburg

## 1 to 10 years:

Abigail J. DeGuelle  
Daniel W. Dowty  
Katrina Schoen  
David B. Lee  
Shelby J. Mayer  
Katie A. Matusewic  
Kate L. Hettenbach  
Stephanie M. Van Pietersom  
Klark A. Pennings  
Christopher J. Naas  
Daniel M. Wolf  
Nicholas J. Lesselyoung  
Nicole A. Naas  
Karissa J. Mathias  
Shaun M. Smith  
Jordon J. Abts  
Edward T. Lanser  
Denver C. Dalley  
Michael R. Kranz  
Nicholas L. Janous  
Jacob R. Hurlburt  
Tanya N. Zarling  
Melanie L. Clausing-Miles  
Lindsay L. Lanser \*Lt. Rescue  
Robert D. Mathias  
Andrew J. Hester  
Dennis W. Grulkowski  
Jeffrey L. Nelson  
Randy A. Tews  
Dustin J. Halyburton \*Pub Ed / Dive Leader

## 11 to 15 years:

Kelly A. LaPorta  
William A. Esselmann  
Norine C. Nelson  
Robert F. Jung  
John E. Zarling

## 16 to 24 years:

Andrew W. Heidtke \*Deputy Chief/Training  
David M. Schwantes  
Edward M. Petrarca  
Nichole J. Zarling \* Captain Rescue Company  
Christopher C. Hoerz  
Peter J. Pautz \*Lt. Engineers  
Nathan M. Matter  
Craig A. Boerner \* Captain Engineers  
Joseph E. Grube \*Lt. Engine Company  
Grant D. Witte \*Safety Officer  
Joel L. Bublitz  
James G. Bougie

## 25 to 34 years (Honorary Active):

Lisa M. Boerner  
Kara J. Racine  
Scott E. Matusewic  
Suzanne V. Ernst  
Carly A. Giuliani

## 35 to 39 years (Honorary Active):

William H. Hintz \* Assistant Chief  
Gregory G. Boerner

## 40 years and over: (Honorary Active):

Raymond R. Jung  
Jeffrey J. Vahsholtz \* Chief  
Edward A. Bublitz

## Promoted to Full-Time Employees in 2021 - 2022:

Blake R. Karnitz Fire Inspector /\* Lt. Rescue (12 years)  
Joseph W. Hintz \*Deputy Chief (14 years)  
Jason Peterson MPO/FF/AEMT (6 years)  
Ethan LeGault MPO/FF/AEMT (1 year)

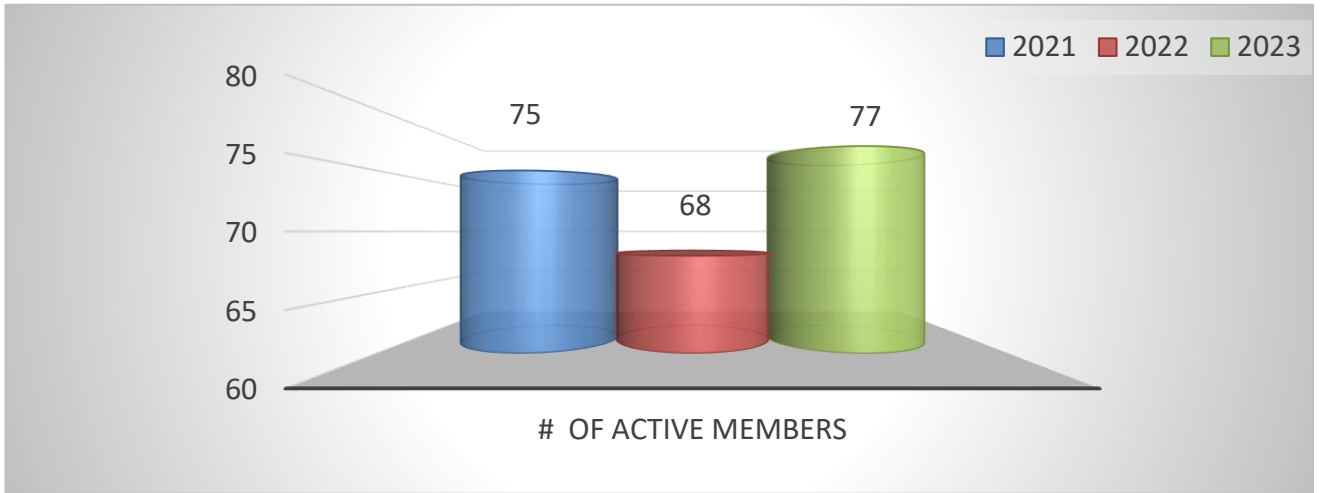
## Hired Full-Time Employees in 2023:

Chris Wunsch FF/Paramedic  
Nick Hepner FF/Paramedic

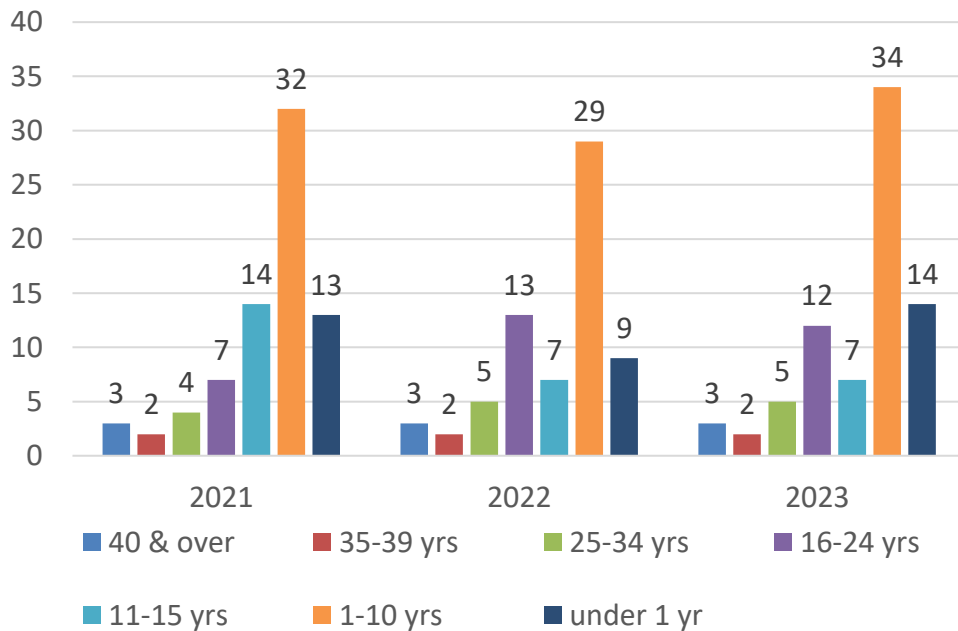
\*Denotes Officers/Chiefs

Total Active Members: 77

71 Volunteer Members plus 6 Full-Time Employed



### Members' Years of Experience





**In 2023, the bell tolled one last time for the following CFD members:**

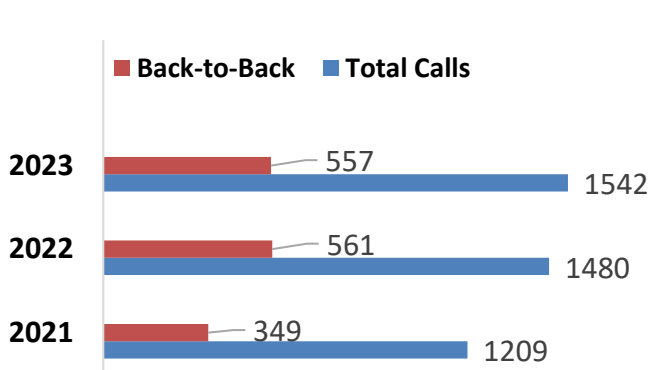
**Kim Esselmann  
Harold "Teno" Mueller  
Robert Adlai Schroeder Sr.**

# 2023

The Cedarburg Fire Department responded to a total of **1,542** incidents

	City	Town	Mutual Aid Given to other departments	Total
Rescue	1,033	231	22	1,286
Fire	173	53	29	255
Dive	1			1
Totals	1,207	284	51	1,542

For Mutual Aid Given and Mutual Aid Received information and statistics, see Page 7 for Rescue Incidents and Page 8 for Fire Incidents.



### Back-to-Back Calls

Defined as when two or more incidents occur simultaneously, such as when one crew is out on a Rescue or Fire call and another incident is dispatched.

### Percentage of back-to-back calls:

**2023: 36.1%**  
**2022: 37.9%**  
**2021: 28.9%**

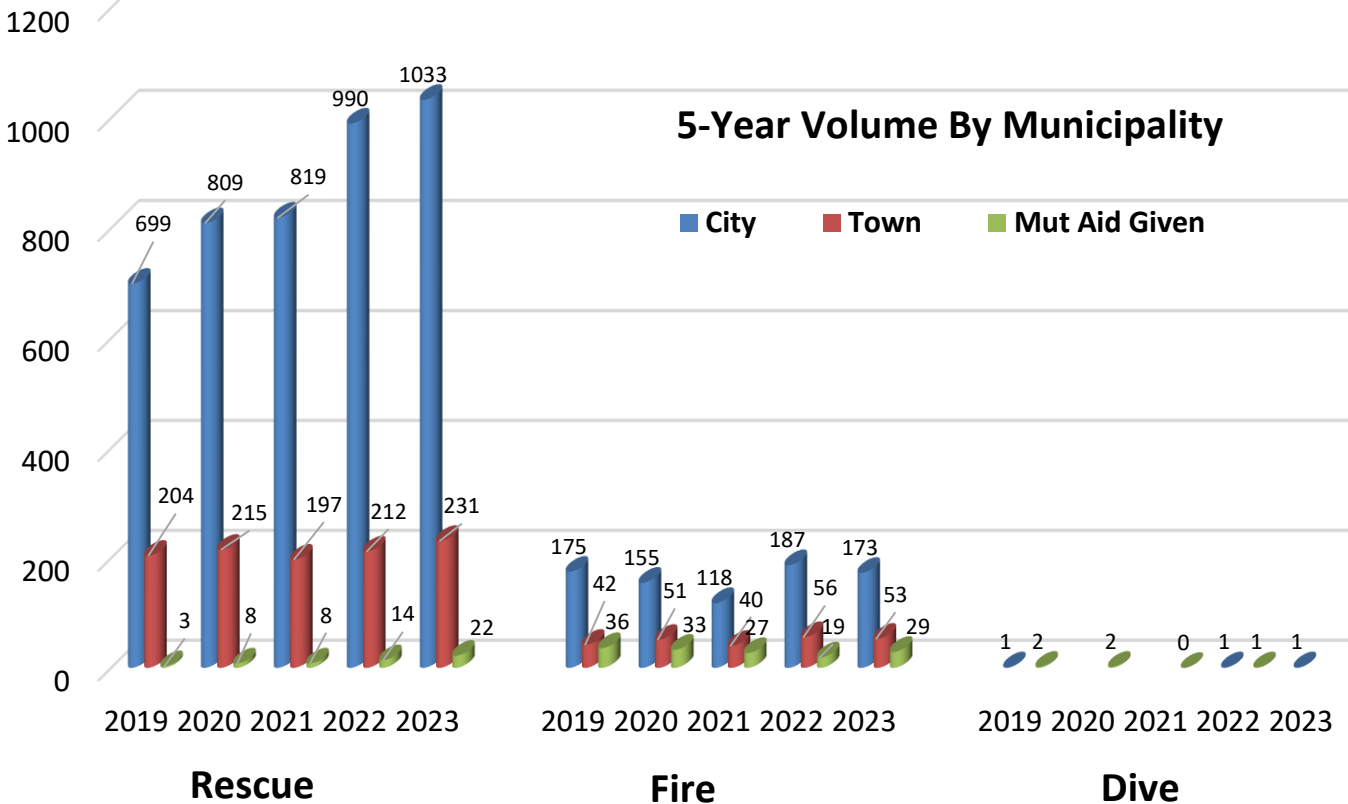
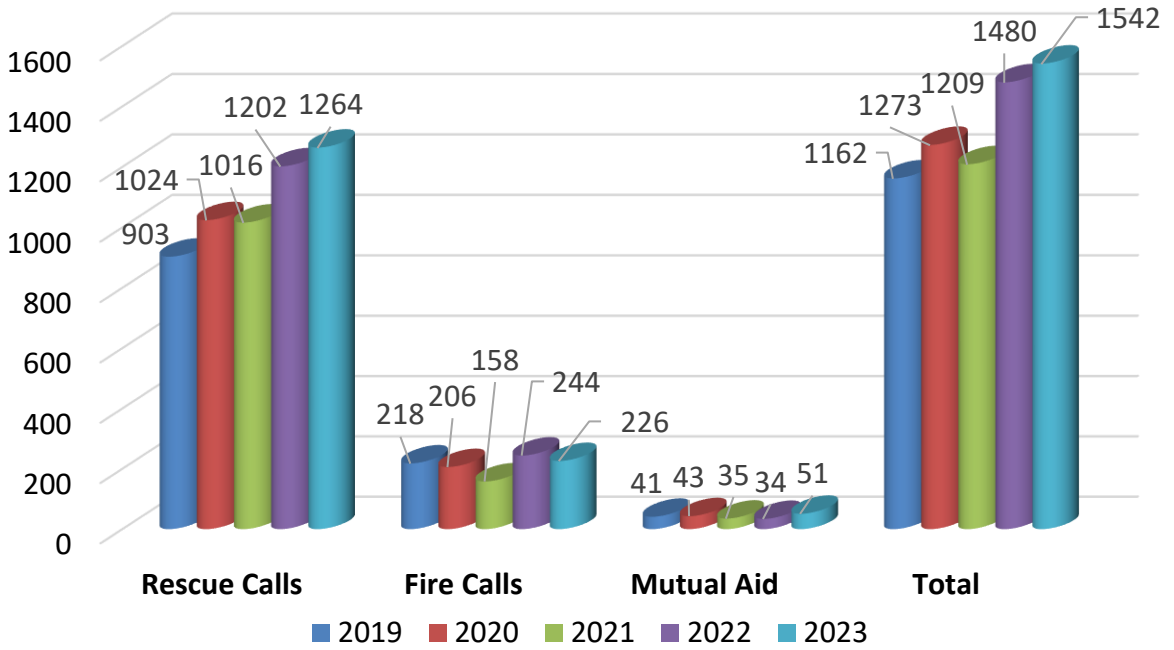
### Average Response Time

Min:Sec



Incident response time is defined as the amount of time between being dispatched and the first unit arriving on scene.

## Fire and Rescue Incident Totals 5-Year Comparison

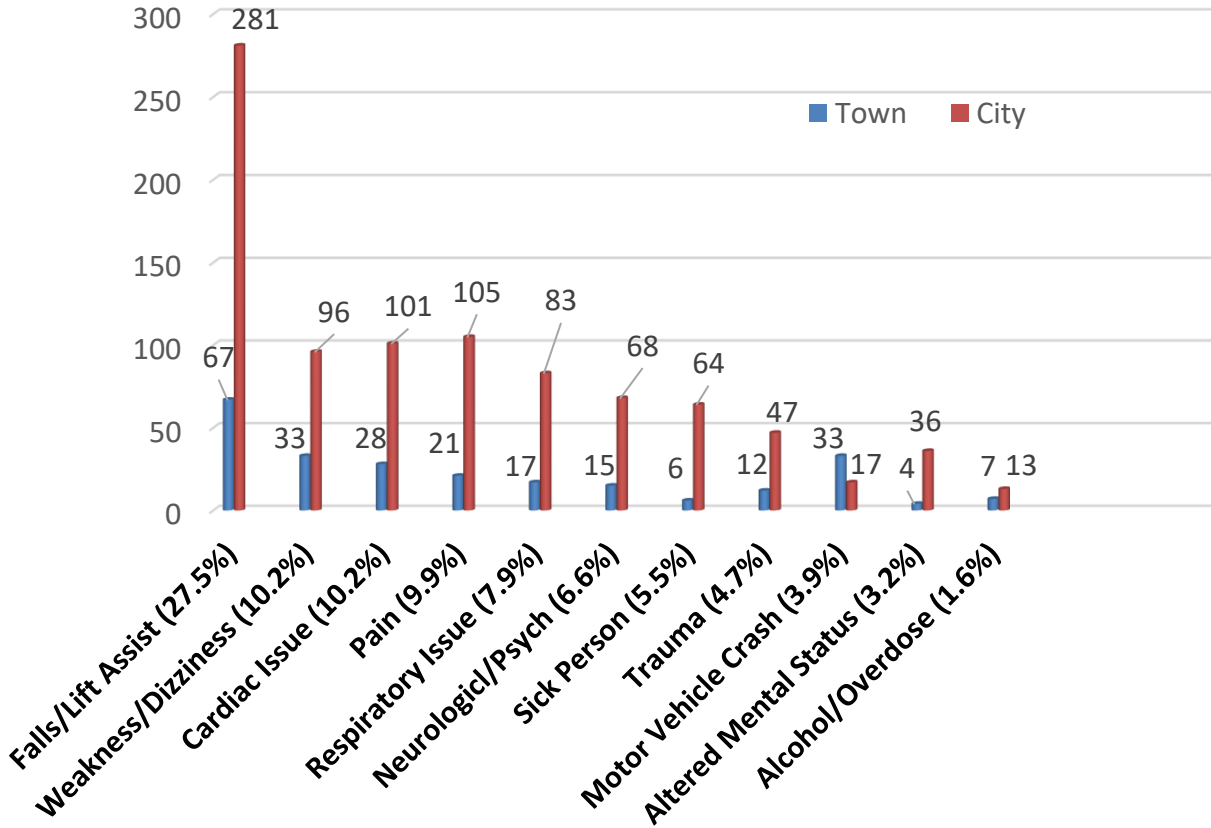


## Rescue Incidents Summary

**Total EMS: 1286**

City: 1,033    Town: 231    Mutual Aid Given: 22

### EMS Incident Categories for Town and City



### Paramedic Intercept Breakdown

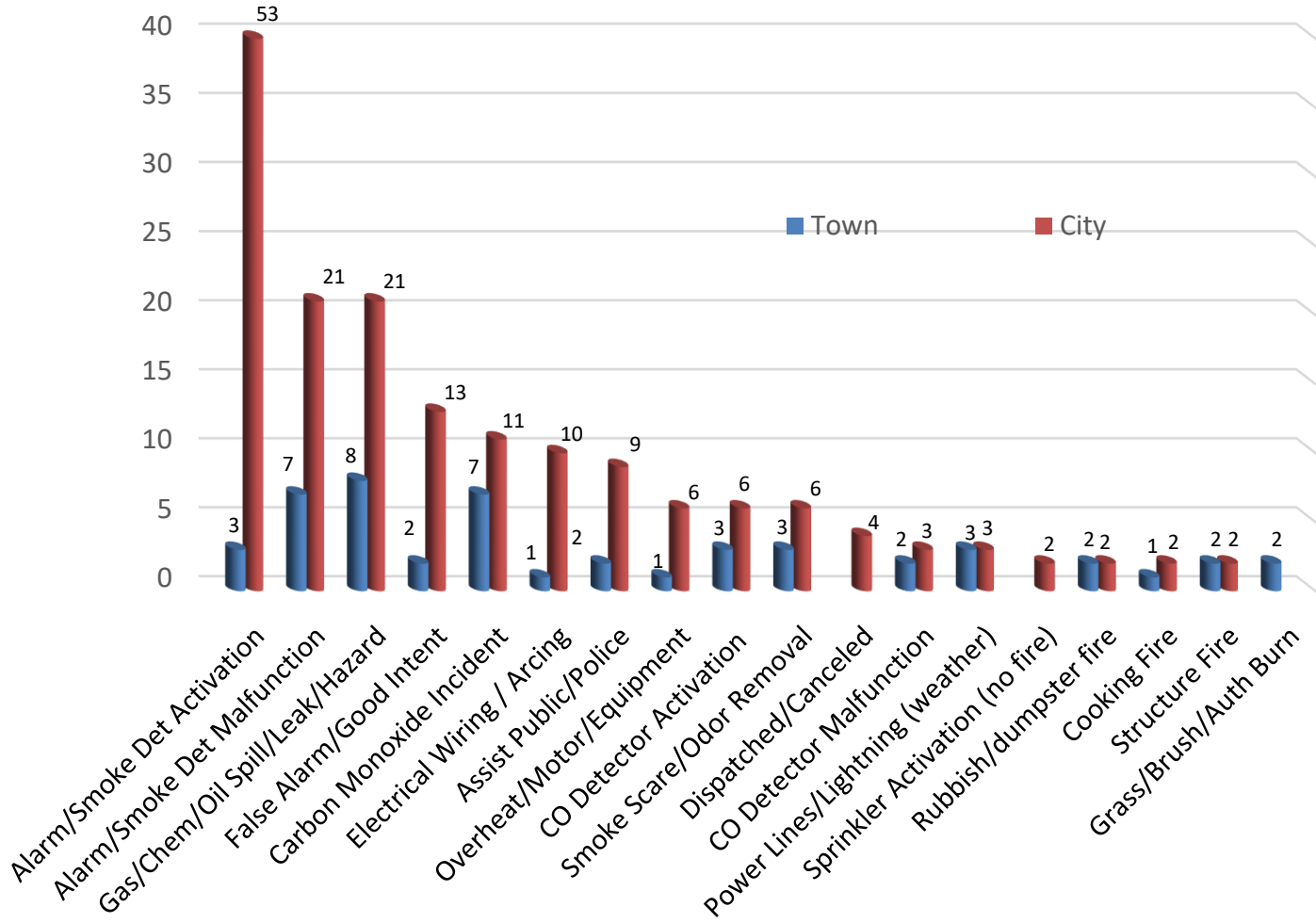
Paramedic Intercept Breakdown		
Total EMS calls	1,286	83.4% of all calls
Total Intercept Requests	455	35.4% of all EMS calls
Paramedic Transport	123	27% of all EMS calls

A majority of the intercept requests are computer generated. The county uses a program called ProQA. Based on questions asked by dispatch and answers given, the software determines if a paramedic is sent or not. The crew can and will call for a paramedic if needed, when one has not been automatically sent.



# Types of Fire Incidents

**Total: 255** City: 173 Town: 53  
 Mutual Aid Given/MABAS: 29 (see next page)



**CITY Fires (2):**

**January:** Hot water heater contained. **March:** Basement sump pump (ventilation)

**TOWN Fires (2):**

**February:** MABAS 1<sup>st</sup> Box Level, Garage entry doors house and outside, flames showing/smoke damage inside.  
**October:** Working still MABAS. Basement fire, no extension. (Rags with oil-based wood finish ignited)

## Types of Fire Incidents

**Total: 255** City: 173 Town: 53

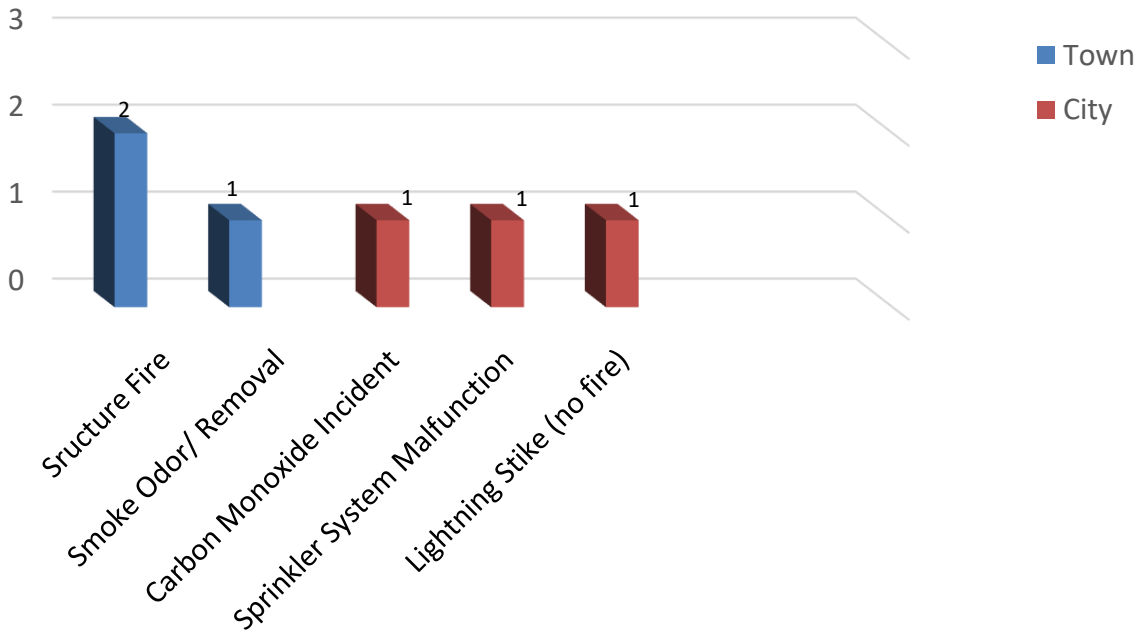
Mutual Aid Given/MABAS: 29

The chart below depicts 15 Mutual Aid/MABAS calls where Cedarburg went to assist other departments for building/structure fires:

Mutual Aid (MABAS) Given	Department	Requested
4 calls	Grafton FD	2 Engine & Chief (Full Still overhaul) 2 Engine & Chief (Barn fires knockdown, overhaul)
3 calls	Southern Ozaukee (SOFD)	1 Engine & Chief (Full Still extinguish, overhaul) 1 Assist extinguish and overhaul 1 Working still extinguish/overhaul, pump operations
2 calls	Jackson FD	1 Backfill (2.5 hours); 1 standby @ Station
2 calls	Newburg FD	2 Tender and 159 Ladder (Barn Fire & House Fire)
1 call	Saukville FD	1 Engine & Chief (1 <sup>st</sup> alarm extinguish/overhaul)
1 call	Richfield FD	1 Tender staging/released
1 call	Waubeka FD	1 Tender (released 12,000 gal) Barn Fire
1 call	Belgium FD	1 Ladder 159 manpower/suppression

14 additional calls, where Cedarburg provided Mutual Aid to other departments, included cover assignments, dispatched/canceled, carbon monoxide, grass or brush fires, outside storage, passenger vehicle fire, and explosion (no fire).

Cedarburg received Mutual Aid from other departments 6 times; 2 in Town of Cedarburg and 3 in the City of Cedarburg



# 2023 New Hires

The department hired our first full-time **Firefighter/Paramedic, Chris Wunsch**, on May 26, 2023. Having been on the Thiensville Fire Department since 2015, Chris was no stranger to us, as he was often running with our crews when we needed a paramedic intercept. In addition to his Paramedic license, Chris hold certifications for the following: Fire I and Fire II, Fire Officer I and Driver/Operator Pumper and Aerial, Fire Inspector, and Emergency Services Instructor.

Chris' interests and work experience includes Martial Arts, teaching Tae Kwon Do and Karate. That provided great leadership tools that translate well to the fire service: Integrity, respect, humility and fortitude. He also enjoys cooking and spent many years working as a chef and was promoted to both Head Chef and Kitchen Operations Manager.

Chris was looking for a full-time Fire/EMS squad to build a career and immerse himself with helping people. We are very glad to have him at CFD! And we will never turn down his offer to cook for our crews!



**Chris Wunsch and Nick Hepner**

On June 1, 2023, the department hired a second full-time **Firefighter/Paramedic, Nick Hepner**. Nick studied Fire Sciences at Waukesha County Technical College. In addition to his Paramedic license, Nick is certified in Fire I and Fire II, and Driver/Operator Pumper and Aerial.

He was a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic with the Village of Menomonee Falls Fire Department, while working a second job as a heavy machinery mechanic. In 2014, he was awarded Firefighter of the Year there. He also briefly worked for the City of Brookfield Fire Department before applying at Cedarburg. He was also an Occupational Health Technician for a private company.

Nick was seeking a fire department with potential of growth, where he could bring his professionalism and experience from working at a career department. We are happy to have him join our team and he has quickly become part of the CFD family!



Chris and Nick run separate 48/96 shifts, which is the same shift rotation as our full-time FF/AEMTs. Shown above is their swearing in ceremony at City Hall.

# 2023 Training Summary

At the start of 2023, our monthly training kicked off with a WisDOT Traffic Incident Management training session for both Fire and EMS members and invited members of the Cedarburg Auxiliary Police. This training teaches first responders what to expect when interacting with traffic, which is critical for the safety of our crews when operating on roadways during motor vehicle accidents.

Other outside organizations who contributed to our trainings included:

- Cedarburg Light and Water to review and discuss updates that had been made to our local water system, which affects water supply capabilities when utilizing fire hydrants.
- The Wisconsin DNR also visited CFD to present a training called Introduction to Wildland Fires, which was well attended by our firefighters.

As we progressed into the spring, several of our members were training in the basics of Rescue Task Force (RTF) to help respond to active shooter incidents. This training provides fire department staff with the knowledge and skills to assess, treat, and evacuate multiple patients in the event of an active threat. It includes a close working relationship with our law enforcement partners to ensure a coordinated and effective response in a less than safe environment.

By summer, we were training in an acquired structure on Hamilton Road provided by the City. The structure will eventually be burned down; but until then, it will provide a “real scenario” training experience for our fire and rescue responders and the Cedarburg Police Department with a real structure to train in.

Department Trainings were conducted at this structure for the remainder of the year, which included a countywide Rapid Intervention Team that taught firefighters how to rescue each other.



In 2023, the Cedarburg Fire Department sent 24 individuals to various certification courses offered through the local technical colleges. Our members attending those classes put in many hours of class time and practical training; up to 3 nights a week spent away from their families and personal time. This equates to approximately 1/3 of our active membership being committed to expanding their skills and knowledge purely for the benefit of the community. See chart on the next page for the hours spent in courses, and overall trainings and meetings.



## 2023 Training Summary

Training Categories	5,291 Hours	Details
<b>Fire Suppression</b>	672 Hours 200 Hours 240 Hours 80 Hours 759 Hours 56 Hours 266 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firefighter I Course (7 members)</li> <li>• Fire Officer Course (5 members)</li> <li>• Instructor I Course (6 members)</li> <li>• Fire Investigator Course (1 member)</li> <li>• Monthly Fire Trainings (includes Auto Extrication) Controlled Burn Brush Fire #1 (April)</li> <li>• Other training (Online, Outside seminar/Classes)</li> </ul>
<b>EMS Rescue</b>	960 Hours 167 Hours 675 Hours 170 Hours 59 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMT Basic Course (5 members)</li> <li>• RTF Ops/Active Shooter Training</li> <li>• Monthly EMS Trainings (includes Other training (Online, outside seminar/classes)</li> <li>• Instructed CPR classes to outside groups/businesses</li> </ul>
<b>Engineers</b>	36 Hours 607 Hours  150 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerial Operator Course (1 member)</li> <li>• Monthly Trainings (includes Jump Seat, Road Test/Miles and CEVO online)</li> <li>• Controlled Burn Brush Fire #2 (April)</li> </ul>
<b>Incident Command</b>	59 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Online (Fire and EMS)</li> </ul>
<b>Dive Team</b>	6 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New dive members training</li> </ul>
<b>Truck Maintenance</b>	129 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly maintenance on apparatus/equipment</li> </ul>
Meetings	805 Hours	Details
<b>Meetings</b>	344 Hours 114 Hours 56 Hours 37 Hours 184 Hours 70 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Meetings</li> <li>• Executive Board</li> <li>• Officers Meetings</li> <li>• Committee Meetings</li> <li>• Mentorship and New Member Orientation</li> <li>• Additional Meetings</li> </ul>
Explorers Program	273 Hours	Details
<b>Explorers (Age 14-18)</b>	243 Hours 30 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly Trainings and Meetings</li> <li>• Service Work</li> </ul>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,369 Hours</b>	

## 2023 Engine Company

Engine Company had a great year focusing on Fire planning and Safety prevention of our personnel and equipment. We were able to provide a few additions to our Festival and Fairground equipment boxes, by adding couplings and straps to assist with laying hose out from a hydrant where pedestrian traffic occurs, which can delay us from getting water to a fire, or supplying an Engine that cannot get close enough to a hydrant. This preparation came in handy during the demo derby at the County fair, to supply 250 ft of hose to an engine when we were fighting a vehicle fire.

We were also able to get 14,505 feet of hose tested, keeping water supply and hose up to NFPA standards, making sure there was no breakage or damage to the hose.

Many fire calls we respond to are for natural gas or carbon monoxide concern. Trying to pinpoint the source of a gas leak, or if a homeowner's detector is faulty or outdated is very important. With the help of the WE energies grant program, we were able to add another 4-gas meter, which is used to check levels of combustible gas, carbon monoxide, oxygen and hydrogen sulfide. This meter is one of the most important tools we use on a day-to-day basis.

Our department members were a big help in keeping safety a key factor for every call we run. We were able to get our members mask fit tested. Hours of SCBA pack checks, ladder testing, meter testing and daily checks of our equipment are so important. Flow testing on all our SCBA equipment was completed and equipment checks were performed as usual to keep us and the community safer.



## 2023 Engineers

In 2023, CFD Engineer's continued with training on pumping, aerial operations and apparatus driving. Operators also spent several hours conducting vehicle maintenance and making minor repairs.

Members also performed proficiency testing with Tender 164 to make sure the apparatus performs accurately and effectively while on the fire ground.

One member advanced to become Aerial Operators in 2023. Caleb Wardenburg completed the state certified course and will be promoted to Heavy Equipment Operators in 2024 after completing the necessary in-house trainings.

# 2023 Rescue Company

The CFD Rescue Company continued with its upward trend in 2023 as compared to previous years. In addition to a growing call volume, the department grew in many other ways as well. A new state-of-the-art ambulance was ordered through American Emergency Vehicles (AEV) and is expected to be delivered in April 2024. This ambulance was designed with the comfort and safety of our patients and staff as a priority, with improved functionality.

In May 2023, the Department hired two full-time Firefighter/Paramedics in preparation to increase the department's level of service from Advanced EMT to Paramedic. With this, we are continuing to work closely with the Southern Ozaukee Fire Department, formerly Mequon and Thiensville Fire Departments, on ensuring 24/7 paramedic coverage and oversight. An increase in service level such as this, will help us in improving the outcomes of our patients, such as the survival rate of out-of-hospital-cardiac-arrest patients. We currently boast a return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) rate of 36%, nearly double the national average!

The EMS Flex Grant awarded to our department by the State EMS office in late 2022 provided us with approximately \$120,000 in funding for a variety of equipment. With this generous funding, we were able to outfit our new ambulance with expensive and required equipment and improve our department's training equipment to better train our staff. We were also able to use this funding to equip our department for the increase to a paramedic level service by purchasing equipment critical to that level of care. Lastly, we were able to use a portion of the funds to give back to our volunteers for their continued countless hours of dedication.

The CFD Rescue Company continues to work diligently to ensure that we are ready to answer the call at any moment, with professionalism, compassion, and the highest quality of care to any who need it. Our members, this department's most valuable component, continue to work through sleepless nights sacrificing family and free time for the betterment of the community.



In August 2023, we launched a social media series on Facebook called "Behind the Scenes: Fire and Rescue" The series highlights the men and women of CFD, giving a little insight into their personalities. A common thread was evident ... that they all joined to help people in our community.

Our first post featured FF/AEMT Ethan LeGault and EMT Jamie Wilhelme, shown on the left.

## 2023 Explorers Post 9610 Program

The Cedarburg Fire Department Explorer Post is proud to remain one of the last active posts in Ozaukee County. Now more than ever, it is important for us to inspire the next generation of Fire & EMS Services.

The CFD Explorer Post roster in 2023 consisted of 10 members, both male and female, who participated in the Fire & EMS exploration program. This program provides the participants with an understanding of a career in the fire service and prepares them with the skills required to become certified firefighters & EMT's if they choose. To be an explorer you must be between the ages of 14-18, maintain good grades in school, and actively participate in the program. While the Explorers have their own monthly training, they are also encouraged but not required to attend weekly training for active Fire & EMS personnel. These trainings include fire suppression, EMS, search & rescue, extrication, engineer/driver operator, and many other topics that prepare them with the knowledge to excel in school if they choose a career in these fields. Explorers start off as probationary members. Once they have gained the knowledge necessary, they are able to test out and come off of probationary status. At that time, they will receive a pager, and they may begin to ride along on fire calls and experience what the fire service is all about.

Throughout 2023, members participated in 12 Explorer trainings, and attended numerous other department trainings. Explorer Post 9610 gained 4 new members from area schools and throughout the community. Each member brings something unique to the program, along with great enthusiasm, and a passion for learning and helping those in need. One of the four new members was able to test out, came off probation, and is now able to ride along on fire calls.

In 2023, CFD Explorers volunteered at 4 Maxwell Street Days, helping to raise funds for the department. They also worked at 2 electronic recycling events where they collected donations that help to fund the program. In June, the fire department hosted Safety Town for approximately 90 students. The Explorers volunteered their time to help with safety talks, teach kids about the fire apparatus, and ran the Survive Alive house, which teaches children about fire safety in their home. CFD Explorers were also responsible for producing and posting the safety quotes that were displayed on the CFD sign in front of Olsen's Cedarburg Piggly Wiggly on Washington Avenue.

CFD had a stand-by for Strawberry Fest, and Wine and Harvest Fest. During these events, Explorers helped with housekeeping and maintenance around the station, as well as talking with the public and giving tours of the station and apparatus.



## 2023 Explorers Continued

This year was a big year for CFD Explorers. **Explorer Captain Colt Cofta** was able to attend FF1, FF2, and EMT Basic. He attained those certifications and is now a Wisconsin State Certified FF2 and Nationally Registered EMT Basic. Due to his age, he is unable to practice currently, but will be able to use those certifications to their full potential upon turning 18 in early 2024. He also graduated early from high school. All of this was accomplished while he worked with CFD FF/AEMT Peterson to create a Cadet Program, of which he is the very first to experience. Colt continues to exhibit strong leadership skills and plans to pursue a full-time career in the fire service. He has a very bright future.

**Senior Explorer Nick Kelly** also attended EMT Basic and is a Nationally Registered EMT-B. He is already practicing as an EMT with the City of Port Washington FD, and just got hired by Orange Cross Ambulance of Sheboygan County. Nick plans to pursue a full-time career in the fire service and also has a bright future.

Other notable mentions are **Explorer Lieutenant Tyler Hoerz** who has decided to pursue a degree in history at Lawrence University; and plans to continue getting experience at CFD during his breaks. Explorer Tyler Bolser hopes to work for Oshkosh Defense in cyber security.



We are lucky to be involved with these young adults and watch them grow. They all have great work ethics, skills, and strive to do their very best each and every day. Each of them has been dedicated to the cause and put in a great deal of effort to mentor their peers and ensure that our program continues to be successful for years to come.

**2023 Explorers: Colt Cofta, Tyler Hoerz, Nick Kelley, Tyler Bolser, Addison Milam, Kennedy Gehweiler, Scarlett Wielebski, Angelina Seatz, Fergus Fidlin, and Benjamin Hoerz.**

**Captain Colt Cofta shown at left.**

# AWARDS

The Cedarburg Fire Department held our annual **Awards and Recognition program on Saturday, April 15, 2023**, to recognize the achievements of our Active, Passive and Honorary members. In September 2022, just seven months prior, an awards banquet was held to keep up with recognition for 2021, since scheduling had been altered by Covid in 2020-2021. So, to get back on schedule, the April 2023 banquet was held at the Cedarburg Cultural Center, with a catered sit-down dinner. Special thanks to the Lion's Club for providing bingo games to entertain members after the program.

Chief Vahsholtz and Deputy Chief Heidtke presented service awards to the following members:

**10 years: Jeffrey Klingler**

**25 years: Lisa Boerner** received her Honorary membership status and Honorary member, **Greg Boerner**, was recognized for **40 years of service**.



Chief Vahsholtz with Jeff Klingler



Lisa Boerner and husband Jeff



Greg Boerner and wife Sandy shown above with Chief Vahsholtz

The **50-year award** is presented to a member who gives continuous service to the department and our community. This year, there were two honorary members receiving this award, **Jerry Pautz and John Vollmar**. John and Jerry both joined the department on April 6, 1973. **John** completed EMT, firefighting and became an Engine Company Lieutenant. He was Secretary/Treasurer for the rescue squad and served on several committees. He can always be found at Firemen's Park during Maxwell St Days and the County Fair. **Jerry** completed firefighting, driver/operator pumper, heavy rescue and ladder operator. He was active with the station House committee. Jerry also helped for many years at Firemen's Park. Both men participated in water fighting, softball and the race events held at the park.

Ron Naab, from the Badger Firefighter's Association, brought awards for each, recognizing both John and Jerry's 50 years of service to our department with a wonderful speech. Waubeka Fire Department Chief Jason Caswell also attended bringing 50-year award plaques from the Ozaukee County Association of Fire Departments for both men. Unfortunately, both men were not able to attend the banquet.



John was presented his award at Maxwell Street Day in May.



Chief and other members went to Jerry's house to present him the award.

# AWARDS Continued

The highest award from the Cedarburg Fire Department, the **Meritorious Award**, was presented to **Suzanne Ernst**.

Sue joined the department in September 1991, and she quickly became a certified Firefighter in 1992, and a licensed EMT in 1993. Sue is a true caregiver; her accomplishments, dedication and participation in the department reflects that every year. In addition to her many certifications (included Advanced EMT and Fire Inspector 1), Sue can be found at many trainings and committee meetings. She also dedicates her time to our fundraising events, like Maxwell Street Day, the County Fair and serves as the Firemen's Park Board as Treasurer.



Chief Vahsholtz, Sue Ernst and Deputy Chief Andy Heidtke

**First Responder of the Year Awards:** The following members were recognized for responding to the most calls in 2022, for the following categories: **Fire Calls, Rescue Calls, and Total Overall (Both fire and rescue)**

**The following recipients of the First Responder of the Year award were:**

**Nick Janous** responded to 80 Fire calls

**Kris Mathias** responded to 172 Rescue calls

**Bill Hintz** responded to 228 total calls for both Rescue and Fire.



Chief Vahsholtz, EMT Kris Mathias, Assistant Chief Bill Hintz, and Deputy Chief Andy Heidtke shown at left. Nick Janous was unable to attend the banquet.

# Fire Apparatus 2023

All fire apparatus, shown here and on the next several pages, were donated to the residents of Cedarburg by Cedarburg Firemen's Park Inc. No tax payer dollars were spent to purchase apparatus.

CFD added to the apparatus fleet in **2023**. **Command 167**, was purchased primarily as a first response and an Incident Command vehicle for the on-duty Chief Officer. This will ensure a vehicle for the on-duty Chief Officer when responding to calls within the community as well as responses for mutual aid.



**Command 167** is a 2023 Chevy Silverado 1500 4X4 pick-up truck. 167 is utilized by the on-duty Chief Officer. It has the capabilities to be set up as a command post for any incident.

**Purchase price: \$85,000**

## ENGINE 163



**Engine 163 is the first due engine out of Station 1.**

**Purchase price: \$685,000**

**Specifications include:**

- 2016 Pierce Quantum 6-person chassis
- 500 hp DD13 Detroit Diesel engine
- Allison automatic transmission
- 1500 GPM Pierce PUC pump
- 1,000 gallon water tank
- 25 gallon Class A foam tank
- 20 kW Harrison hydraulic generator

# Fire Apparatus 2023(continued)

Engine 161 is the second due engine out of Station 1.

Purchase price: \$460,000

Specifications include:

- 2004 Pierce Quantum 6-person chassis
- 515 hp Detroit Diesel engine
- Allison automatic transmission
- 1500 GPM Waterous pump
- 1,000 gallon water tank
- 25 gallon Class A foam tank
- 15 kW PTO driven generator

## ENGINE 161



## TENDER 164



Tender 164 is third due out of Station 1 for rural fire calls.

Purchase Price: \$500,000

Specifications include:

- 2020 Kenworth T880, 2-person chassis
- 600 hp Cummins X15 engine
- Allison automatic transmission
- 1500 GPM Waterous pump
- 3,000 Gallon water tank
- (2) 3,000 Gallon portable water tanks

# Fire Apparatus 2023 (continued)

**Ladder Tower 159** was the first aerial platform in Ozaukee County. It has the ability to operate with up to 800lbs of weight at the tip and can operate at an elevation of 5 degrees below the level of the truck. The aerial platform also has a “pre-piped” waterway which allows the apparatus to be quickly placed into operation as an elevated master stream, which can flow up to 1000 GPM of water. The truck was rebuilt in 2000, with the biggest change being an interlock safety ladder system.

**Ladder Tower 159 is the third unit to respond out of Station 1 for city calls and the fourth unit out for rural calls.**

**Purchase price:  
\$500,000**



**Specifications include:**

- 1988 Pierce Arrow 7-person chassis
- 475 hp Detroit Diesel engine
- Allison automatic transmission
- 1500 GPM Waterous pump (no on-board water tank)
- 105 ft. aerial platform
- 12 kW generator

**TOWER 159**

**Engine 162 responds out of Station 2, located in the Town of Cedarburg.**

It's primary purpose at rural fire scenes is to draft from a portable folding tank or other static water source, and supply water to the incident.

## ENGINE 162



**Purchase price: \$560,000**

**Specifications include:**

- 2009 Pierce Quantum 6-person chassis
- 525 hp Detroit Diesel engine
- Allison automatic transmission
- 1500 GPM Pierce PUC Pump
- 1,000 gallon water tank
- 25 gallon Class A foam tank
- 20 kW PTO driven generator

# Rescue Apparatus 2023

## FIRST RESPONSE CAR 156



The 2021 Chevrolet Traverse was purchased in 2021, to be utilized as a First Response Car (156). This vehicle was purchased to help EMS crews provide faster patient care with a quick response from a first responder before the ambulance arrives. The vehicle has an AED, oxygen and a medical bag onboard. **Purchase price: \$70,000**

## AMBULANCES 151 and 152



### Specifications include:

- 2012 Kenworth T270 chassis
- PX6 Paccar Diesel engine
- Allison automatic transmission
- Medtec ambulance module

**Ambulance 151 and 152** both respond out of Station 1. Running roughly three quarters of CFD's calls annually, they provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and patient transport to area hospitals.

**Purchase price: \$204,000 each**

**Squad 153** is the first due apparatus out of Station 1 for motor vehicle crashes, industrial accidents and carbon monoxide (CO) incidents.

**Purchase price: \$500,000**

### Specifications include:

- 2006 Pierce Quantum 6-person chassis
- 425 hp Detroit Diesel engine
- Allison automatic transmission
- 19 ft. walk-through body with seating for 7
- 30 kW PTO driven generator
- (2) 20 ft. light towers (4.5 kW each)

## SQUAD 153



# Specialty Apparatus 2023

**Brush Truck 158** responds out of Station 2, located in the Town of Cedarburg. Aside from brush fires, 158 has the capabilities to run as a first responder vehicle for EMS related incidents and carries the needed equipment to respond to motor vehicle crashes. 158 is also utilized to pull the Dive/Water Rescue Trailer.

**Purchase price: \$110,000**

**Specifications include:**

- 2006 GMC 5500 4x4 5-person chassis
- Duramax Diesel engine
- 250 GPM Darley pump
- 240 gallon water tank
- 5 gallon Class A foam tank



**Brush Truck 157** is first to respond out of Station 1 for brush fires.

**Purchase price: \$28,000**

**Specifications include:**

- 1989 GMC 3500 1-ton 4x4 pickup truck
- 454 cubic inch fuel-injected V8 engine
- 135 GPM Darley pump
- 200 gallon water tank
- 5 gallon Class A foam tank

The **Dive Trailer (shown above with 157)** is a 1998 cargo trailer located at Station 2. It responds for all dive/water rescue incidents and any other situations deemed necessary by the Chief.

The trailer was donated in 2002 in memory of two first responder brothers who lost their lives on 9-11-2001.

Members of CFD designed and refurbished the trailer to meet the needs of the department.

**Cost to refurbish: \$20,000**

**Ambulance Cart and Kubota purchased in 2017**



**B.E.R.T. (Bicycle Emergency Response Team)** Used for EMT's to respond quickly and safely to rescue incidents in crowded areas of downtown.



## Specialty Apparatus (continued)



**Utility 155** (shown above) is a 2019 Chevy 2500HD 4x4 pick-up truck. 155 is primarily used for trainings. It can also be utilized for school transport, scene support, or as a first responder vehicle.

**Purchase price: \$60,000**

**Utility Truck 154** is a 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4. Utilized by the fire inspector, for training and for special events.

**Purchase price: \$51,000**



**Command Vehicle 169** is a 2013 Chevrolet Suburban 4x4. 156 is utilized by the on-duty Chief Officer. It has the capabilities to be set up as a command post for any incident.

**Purchase price: \$80,000**



**Command 168**, purchased primarily as a first response and Incident Command vehicle for the Fire Chief. This will ensure that the Chief has a vehicle when responding to calls both within our community and for Mutual Aid response to other communities in the county.

**Command 168** is a 2022 Chevy Tahoe utilized by the Fire Chief. It has the capabilities to be set up as a command post for any incident. **Purchase price: \$67,000**

# Antique Fire Equipment

The Cedarburg Fire Department has a collection of five pieces of antique apparatus housed in the Station 3 museum. Always a favorite at the parades and shows!

**1907 horse-drawn Howe pumper along with a 1907 man-drawn hose cart.**  
Picture shown below.



- **1956 FWD (now Seagrave Fire Apparatus) Geesink Ladder Truck.** The 85-foot unit was purchased in May 1957. In March 1976 it was empowered with a Detroit G-71 diesel engine. In the spring of 1978, the body and ladder was repainted and refurbished to include an enclosed cab. Original purchase price: \$35,000 In 2002, CFD purchased it back from Bristol FD for \$5,107



- **1928 Pirsch pumper.** Picture above left. Originally purchased new by CFD and then purchased back from other owners and restored.
- **1924 Graham/Dodge pumper.** Picture above right. The first motorized fire truck in the department. Both pumpers are still driveable.

# FIRE/EMS STANDBY

## Cedarburg Festivals and Other Events

In 2023, CFD members were ready to stand-by during a busy year of community events!

- Maxwell Street Day May 28<sup>th</sup> 163 Engine and Crew, Ambulance
- Strawberry Festival June 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
- Rotary Music Festival July 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Parade July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Maxwell Street Day July 9<sup>th</sup> 163 Engine and Crew, Ambulance
- Fish Day Port Washington July 15<sup>th</sup>
- County Fair August 2<sup>nd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>
- Varsity Football CHS August 18<sup>th</sup>
- Country in the Burg August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at City Park
- Maxwell Street Day September 3<sup>rd</sup> 163 Engine and Crew, Ambulance
- Varsity Football CHS September 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Wine & Harvest Festival September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>
- Tree Climbing Championship @ City Park September 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Maxwell Street Day October 1<sup>st</sup> 163 Engine and Crew, Ambulance

In 2023, our EMS and Fire personnel logged **988 hours** standing by for many events. Always ready to respond with our ambulance cart, Fire UTV and bicycle teams to quickly get through the festival crowds.



# Public Education and Community Outreach

The Cedarburg Fire Department is committed to providing a range of services to the community to promote safety and preparedness in the event of an emergency. The department offers public education services such as fire safety presentations, smoke detector installations, fire extinguisher training, and emergency response planning guidance for businesses and organizations. Additionally, the department provides CPR and first aid training to individuals and groups. These services equip community members with the knowledge and skills needed to respond to emergency situations.

## **Public Education Events in 2023:**

**January 9<sup>th</sup>** Tour of Fire Station with Thorson Elementary Brownies Troup (11 children / 3 adults)

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** First Aid Presentation for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Brownies Troup (17 children / 3 adults)

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** Tour of Fire Station with Parkview Elementary Cub Scouts (8 children / 6 adults)

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** Survive Alive House for Thorson 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders (89 children / 8 adults)

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** History Tour of Cedarburg at Station 3 (43 children)

Explained the history of CFD, its stations and how the fire service started in 1800s.

## **October 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> “Fire Safety in the Home” Classes:**

4K/5K Westlawn Elementary (100 children); Parkview (60 children);

4K Thorson Elementary (40 children); 5K Thorson (25 children / 6 adults)

4K Oriole Lane School (50 children)

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** First Aid Presentation for Thorson Girl Scouts to earn Badges (23 girls)

The department also offers **Community Outreach programs** such as ride homes in fire trucks for school auctions, station tours for local groups, open house events, and participation in community events like parades, block parties, and fairs. These activities allow community members to interact with firefighters, learn about fire safety equipment, and gain a better understanding of the department's operations. Through these outreach programs and public education services, the Cedarburg Fire Department demonstrates its commitment to the community's safety and well being.

**CFD's Open House was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>.** 40 members of the department were available to talk with residents and visitors, and hand out Fire safety materials, recruitment information.

**Safety Town was held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.** 3 sessions (90 children) came through the station. 9 volunteer members (including 3 Explorers) spent 8.5 hours each guiding the kids thru fire safety. This event is organized by the Cedarburg Junior Women's Club and the Cedarburg Police Department every summer.

This year, Cedarburg hosted **National Night Out on August 1<sup>st</sup> at Cedar Creek Park.**

Residents of Ozaukee county brought their families to check out our trucks and meet members of the department. Organized by the Cedarburg Police Dept, several emergency organizations were in attendance including a visit from an Army National Guard UH60 Black Hawk helicopter that landed in Behling Field.



# 2023 Inspection Bureau

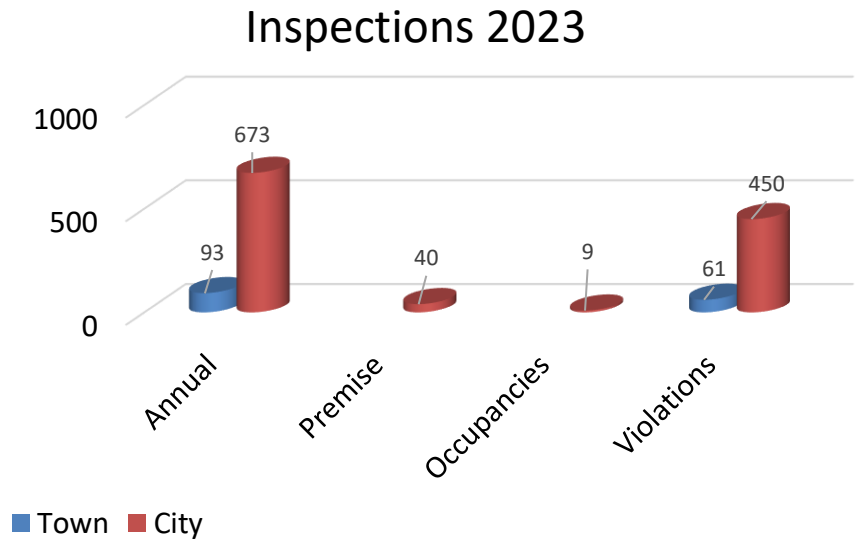
The Cedarburg Fire Department Inspection Bureau kept very busy in 2023. The year started out with an audit of our agency conducted by the WI Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). This audit is conducted about every five years and looks at a variety of areas such as inspections, meetings and trainings, public education, and incidents. It is done to ensure we are properly documenting each these areas and that we remain compliant with state regulations to continue receiving funding through the 2% dues program. We are happy to report that the audit confirmed that we are in substantial compliance with state regulations and should continue to receive the 2% dues program funding, which is paramount to meeting our community risk reduction goals. The inspection bureau continued to work through inspections, focusing on some occupancies with a documented history of violations to achieve compliance. With many new building projects and proposals, specifically the Fox Run Development and Brunch, there were a number of plan reviews and inspections completed on new construction in the community. To finish out the year, we completed an update to the City and Town fire codes to mirror each other, while also adopting a new edition of the fire code. Adopting the most recent edition of NFPA 1 will allow us to address new hazards and areas that were not included in the 2012 edition which was adopted by the State of Wisconsin. This will ensure a safer community for all of Cedarburg's residents and visitors in 2024 and beyond.

## **City Inspections:**

Annual: 673  
Premise inspections: 40  
New occupancies: 9  
Violations Noted: 450

## **Town Inspections:**

Annual: 93  
Violations Noted: 61





## Accomplishments in 2023

We are happy to report that the Cedarburg Fire Department fulfilled the following goals for 2023:

- Worked with the Common Council, City Staff and the Town Board to bring the referendum question to the Common Council and Town Board for approval.
- Hired our first two full-time Firefighter/Paramedics.
- Continued to recruit and retain department members, both active and passive.
- Continued to work with the Police Department and City staff on a new public safety building.

## Department Goals for 2024

- To promote the referendum through public presentations and a social media campaign partnered with Mueller Communications.
- If the referendum is successful, hire one full-time firefighter/paramedic in July 2024 and transition the Chief's position from part-time to full-time.
- Continue to work with staff on adding the fire department information and procedures into the City personnel manual and the Police & Fire Commission manual.
- Work with the Council and the Police Chief to hire an architect to start a space needs study for a possible new fire station.
- Continue to work creatively to recruit and retain new members of the department.
- Continue to work on implementation of a computer aided dispatch, (CAD) system in our vehicles.

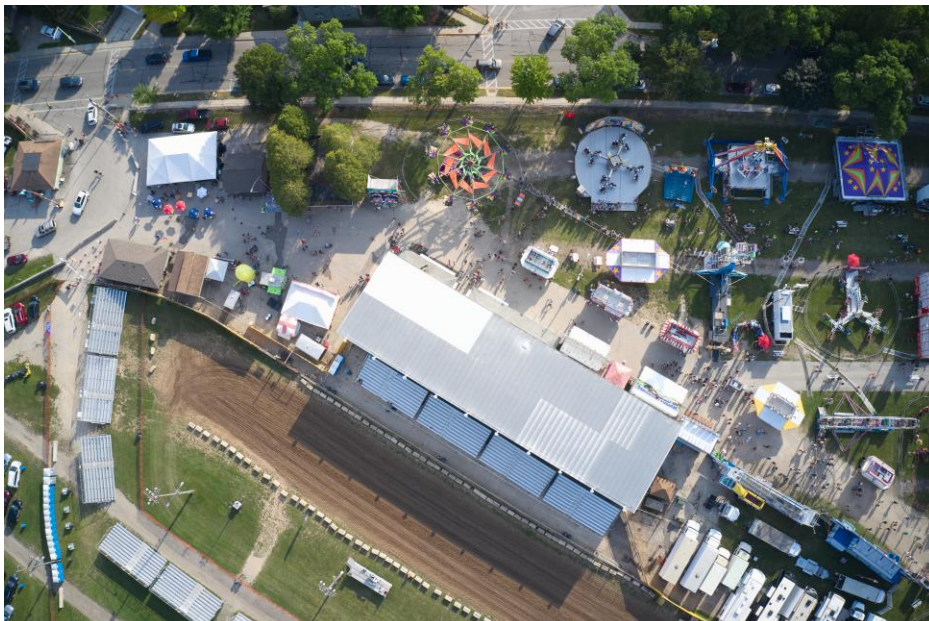
# FIREMEN’S PARK, INC

It is worthy to note that Firemen’s Park Inc. is a private non-profit corporation and separate from the Cedarburg Fire Department. However, it is the same group of dedicated volunteers and paid staff that you read about in our annual report. Not only do they volunteer thousands of hours every year for the fire department, but they also put in countless hours of volunteer time raising funds to purchase the vehicles that are then donated to the City. Legally, on paper, they are two separate groups. However in reality, they are one group of people with the same common goal: **Giving back to our community!**

## 2023 Fundraiser Events Held at Firemen’s Park:

- April 19 Light and Water Recycling Event
- April 15 and 22 Boat/RV/Camper Storage (Removal Spring)
- May 28 Maxwell Street Day
- June 17 “The Pull” Truck & Tractor Event
- July 9 Maxwell Street Day
- July 22 Lion’s Bagfest (Cornhole Tournament)
- July 24 - August 12 County Fair (has Park for set up and tear down)
- August 26 Golden Bulldogs
- September 3 Maxwell Street Day
- September 8-9 Ozaukee Radio Club Fall SwapFest
- October 1 Maxwell Street Day
- October 21 and 28 Boat/RV/Camper Storage (Store during winter)

In 2023, members volunteered more than 2,000 hours at fundraising events, which does not include the many hours of meetings, park maintenance and event planning that is too difficult to count. The Park Board is comprised of honorary, active and passive members, including retired Assistant Chief Bill Koeppen, who took on the role of President of the Park Board this year.



Ozaukee County Fair  
August 2023