

**City of Stevens Point
Fire Department
2019 Annual Report**



STEVENS POINT1701 FRANKLIN STREET
715-344-1833

FIRE DEPARTMENTSTEVENS POINT, WI 54481
FAX: 715-346-1599**Chief's Welcome:**

March 2, 2020

Citizens of Stevens Point
Mayor Wiza
City Council Members
Police and Fire Commission Members

On behalf of all the members of the Stevens Point Fire Department (SPFD) I proudly present our 2019 Annual Report. The value of this report cannot be overstated as it continues to represent the many accomplishments throughout the year of our dedicated staff. These accomplishments would not have been possible if not for the members of this department, the direction of the Fire and Police Commission, the investment and support of the Common Council and elected or appointed officials, and ultimately the support from the public we proudly serve.

Operational Review:

In 2019 SPFD experienced an overall decreased of 341 calls as compared to 2018, due to the newly formed Plover Ambulance. Over all Portage County Ambulance call volume has stayed consistent. Continuing to provide reliable, professional, and quality paramedics remains high on our priority list. The number of fire responses (medical assist, fires, false alarms, accidental alarms, CO responses, etc.) was 1000, a decrease in 54 calls compared to 2018. Even though our call volume has decreased, the complexity of the calls we have responded to have not! In 2019, the total number of EMS calls was 3,345 and the number of fire calls was 1000, for an overall total of 4,345 calls for service. One of our biggest challenges is trying to meet the fire service standards for the number of personnel required for an initial incident response. Putting more fire personnel on scene in eight minutes or less is the proven way to limit the loss of life and property and reduce injuries.

Summary:

Overall, I am very pleased with the progress the department has made in 2019. In 2020, we will continue to evaluate and improve the services we provide, and look forward to the challenges of the future. We have planned another ambitious year and we will continue to seek improvements to serve our citizens in the most cost-effective and equitable manner as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S. Finn, FIRE CHIEF".

Robert Finn
Fire Chief

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Mission Statement

Stevens Point Fire Department exists to Serve in a Professional and Friendly manner with a Dedicated and Dependable team.

Vision Statement

The Stevens Point Fire Department will strive to be role models in the community and leaders in our profession.

We will be accountable to the community, each other and any emergency organizations we interact with.

We are committed to providing the best public service through innovative training, education, safety, equipment, and care for the resources entrusted to us.

We will take the department into the future through productive, dedicated teamwork and by focusing on the professional development and training of all personnel.

We are committed to our values and mission, and dedicated to our profession.

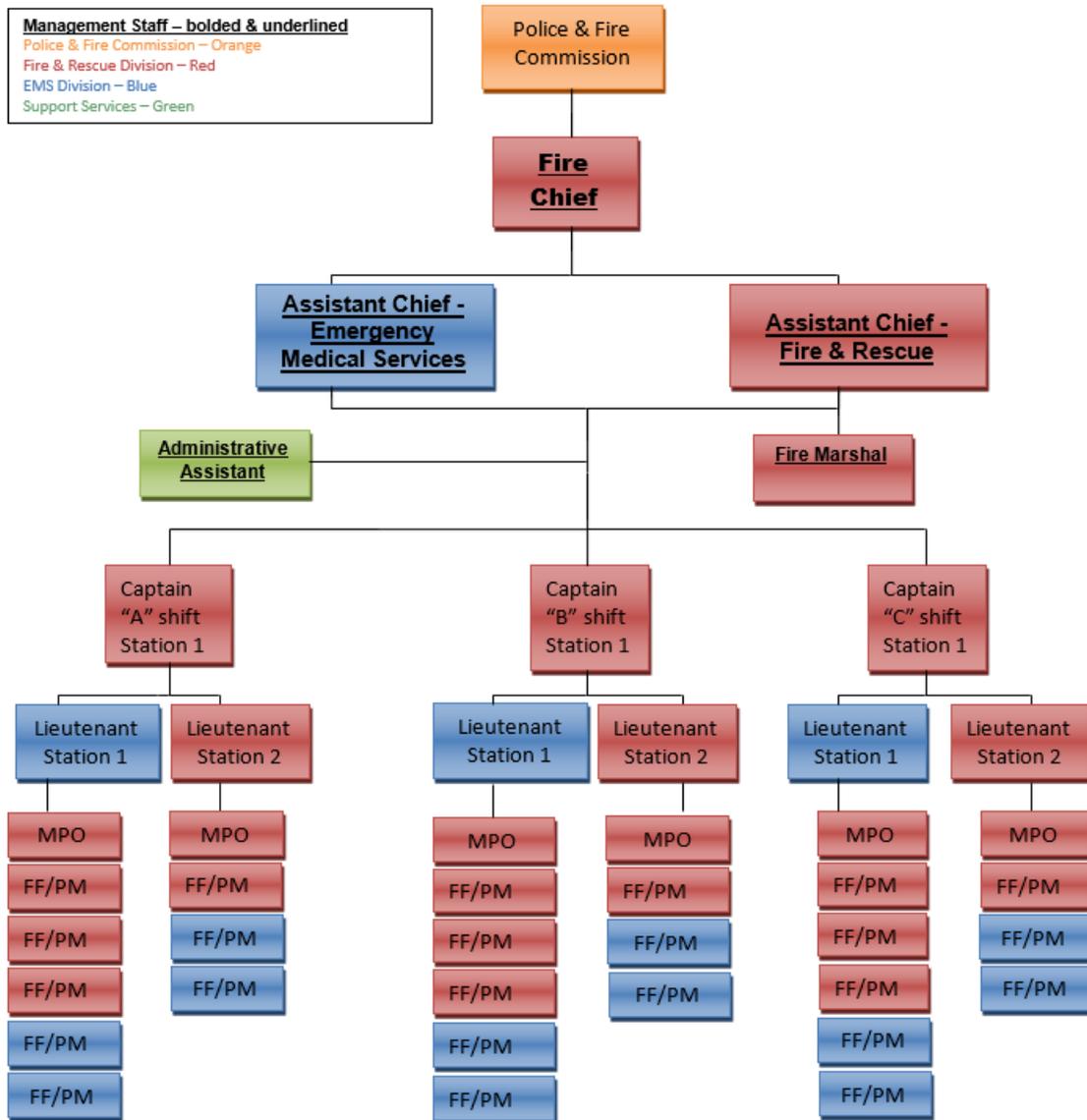
Core Values

Professionalism	We maintain the highest standards while seeking to improve.
Respect	We always treat others as they desire to be treated.
Integrity	We preserve the trust of those we serve and each other.
Compassion	We believe in caring for our community members who are suffering from tragic events in their lives and do all that is within our power to assist in stabilizing the situation with a merciful attitude.
Excellence	We strive for excellence in every action we take.

Strategic Plan

The department is continuing to update our Strategic Plan and anticipate its completion in 2020.

Organizational Chart



City Administration and Alderpersons

Mayor

Mike Wiza

Alderpersons

1st District Tori Jennings
2nd District David Shorr
3rd District Cindy Nebel
4th District Mykeerah Zarazua
5th District Meleesa Johnson – President
6th District Jeremy Slowinski
7th District Mary Kneebone
8th District Cathy Dugan
9th District Polly Dalton
10th District Keely Fishler
11th District Shaun Morrow

Fire and Police Commission

Gary Wescott – President
Joseph Kirschling
Jerry Moore
Robert Ostrowski
Ron Carlson
Ald. Mary Kneebone
Lee Ann Spoon – Administrative Assistant

2019 Stevens Point Firefighters IAFF Local 484 Officers

President Matt Zander

Vice President Tom Wastart

Treasurer Jason Pettis

Secretary Jason Karpinski

Bargaining Team Frank Minervini – Chair
Jason Karpinski
Glynn Novak
Jeremiah Parker
Jason Pettis

Matt Zander

Grievance Team Tom Wastart – Chair
Ross Oestreich
Jeremiah Parker



Fire Department Personnel

Administration Staff



Robert J. Finn
Fire Chief
Date of Hire: October 15, 2007



Joseph A. Gemza Jr.
Assistant Chief of EMS/
Paramedic
Date of Hire: June 3, 1996



Jb D. Moody
Assistant Chief of Fire /
Paramedic
Date of Hire: August 16, 2004



Andrew M. Egan
Fire Marshal/ Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 13, 2015



Pastor David E. Ficken
Chaplin
June 2016



Amanda F. Simons
Administrative Assistant
Date of Hire: April 24, 2017

A Platoon



Captain Ronald J. Heibler
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: June 6, 1996



Lieutenant Mark D. Schoeberle
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 14, 1998



Lieutenant Victor G. Kedrowski
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: May, 29 2002



MPO Mark D. Kitowski
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: January 11, 2005



MPO Benjamin J. Schultz
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: August 27, 2007



Firefighter Thomas M. Wastart
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: Sept. 10, 2007



Firefighter Casey J. Bielen
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: May 25, 2009



Firefighter Jason C. Pettis
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: Sept. 21, 2009



Firefighter Jason R. Karpinski
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: June 29, 2012



Firefighter Quinn C. Warner
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 7, 2016



Firefighter Ryan J. Monaghan
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 25, 2016



Firefighter Cody J. Volm
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: March 4, 2019



Firefighter Alexander J. Knight
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 8, 2019

B Platoon



Captain Dennis B. Zvara
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: January 24, 2000



Lieutenant Armando F. Ramon
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: May 28, 2002



Lieutenant Travis J. Koch
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: February 6, 2003



MPO Arthur J. Dahms
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: August 27, 1990



MPO Justin W. Thomson
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: April 25, 2005



Firefighter Peter T. Ostrowski
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 28, 2008



Firefighter Trevor J. Howard
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: April 7, 2010



Firefighter Shane G. Westphal
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: June 27, 2011



Firefighter Benjamin A. Molnar
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: June 28, 2012



Firefighter Dustin J. Fleisner
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 6, 2015



Firefighter Kraig C. Arndt
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: January 30, 2017



Firefighter Westin J. Larson
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: November 26,
2018



Firefighter Joseph A. Gemza III
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 30, 2019

C Platoon



Captain Paul D. Mattlin
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 16, 2002



Lieutenant Tracy A. Aldrich
Date of Hire: March 14, 1990



Lieutenant David F. Briggs
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: January 4, 2006



MPO Larry M. Pingel
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: May 6, 1996



MPO Glynn C. Novak
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: May 7, 2007



Firefighter J. Duston E. Holton
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: February 11, 2008



Firefighter Matthew A. Zander
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: October 4, 2010



Firefighter Ross C. Oestreich
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: January 3, 2012



Firefighter Dayton R. Budsberg
Paramedic
Date of Hire: March, 19, 2012



Firefighter Jeremiah S. Parker
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 6, 2015



Firefighter Jake A. Laack
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: August 3, 2015



Firefighter Ethan J. Przybylski
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 5, 2016



Firefighter Devin J. Nikodem
National Registry Paramedic
Date of Hire: July 16, 2018

Personnel Data

Average Years of Service: 13.4 years

Average Personnel Age: 40.4 years old

Deaths Active Firefighters: 0

Retirements: No Retirements

Resignations: Firefighter Paramedic Frank Minervini

Promotions: No Promotions

Years of Service:

Jb Moody 15 years

Casey Bielen 10 years

Jason Pettis 10 years

New Employees:

Cody Volm March 4, 2019

Alex Knight July 8, 2019

Joseph Gemza III July 30, 2019

General Awards

Salvation Army Service Providers Annual Bell Ringing Award



State of Wisconsin Citation of Commendation

Firefighter Paramedic Jason Karpinski was awarded the Citation for his work with the Citizen Academy.



Sudden Cardiac Arrest Save Awards in 2019

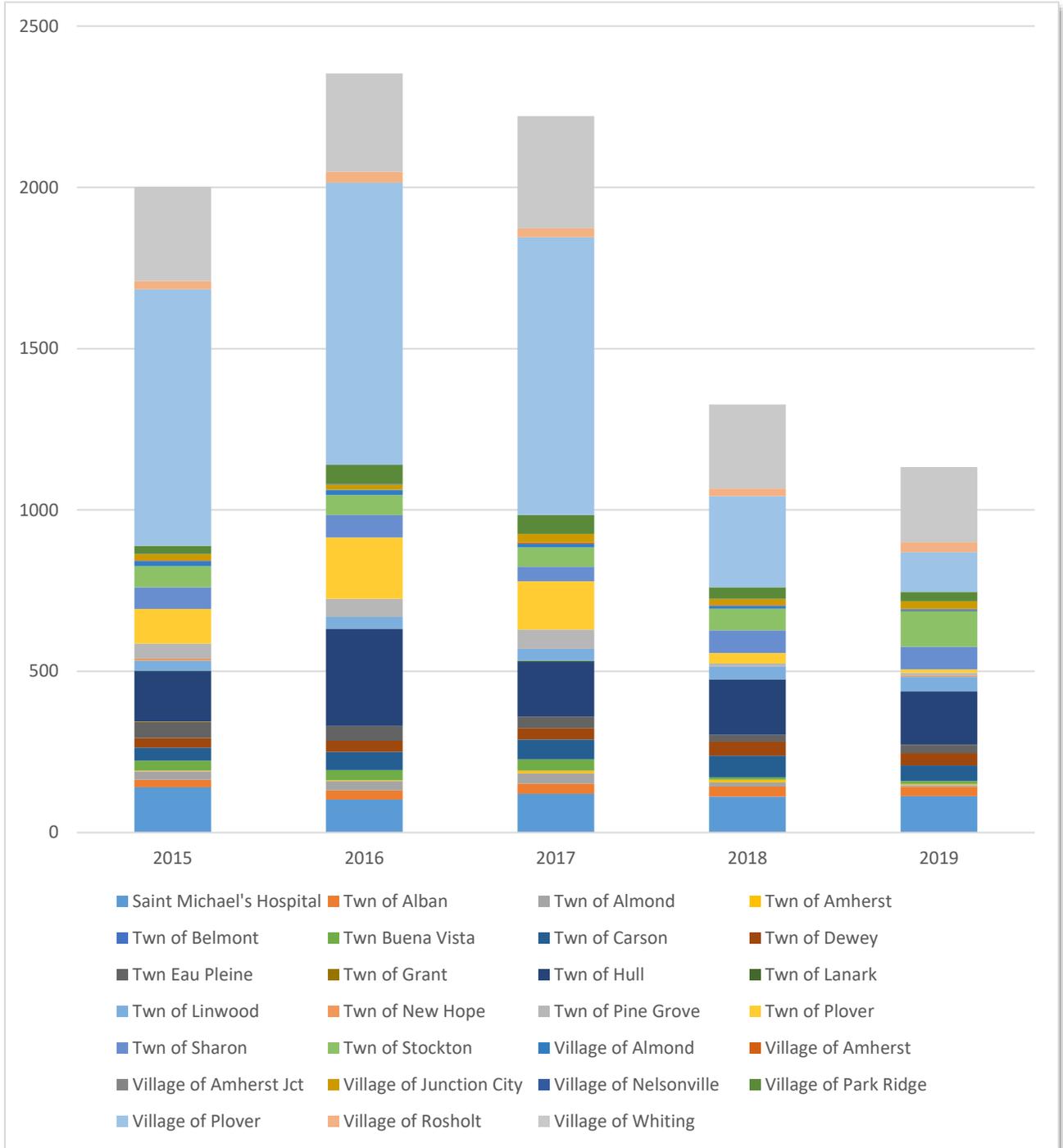
Casey Bielen
Jake Laack
Westin Larson
Frank Minervini
Ben Molnar
Ryan Monaghan
Pete Ostrowski
Ethan Przybylski
Justin Thomson
Matt Zander



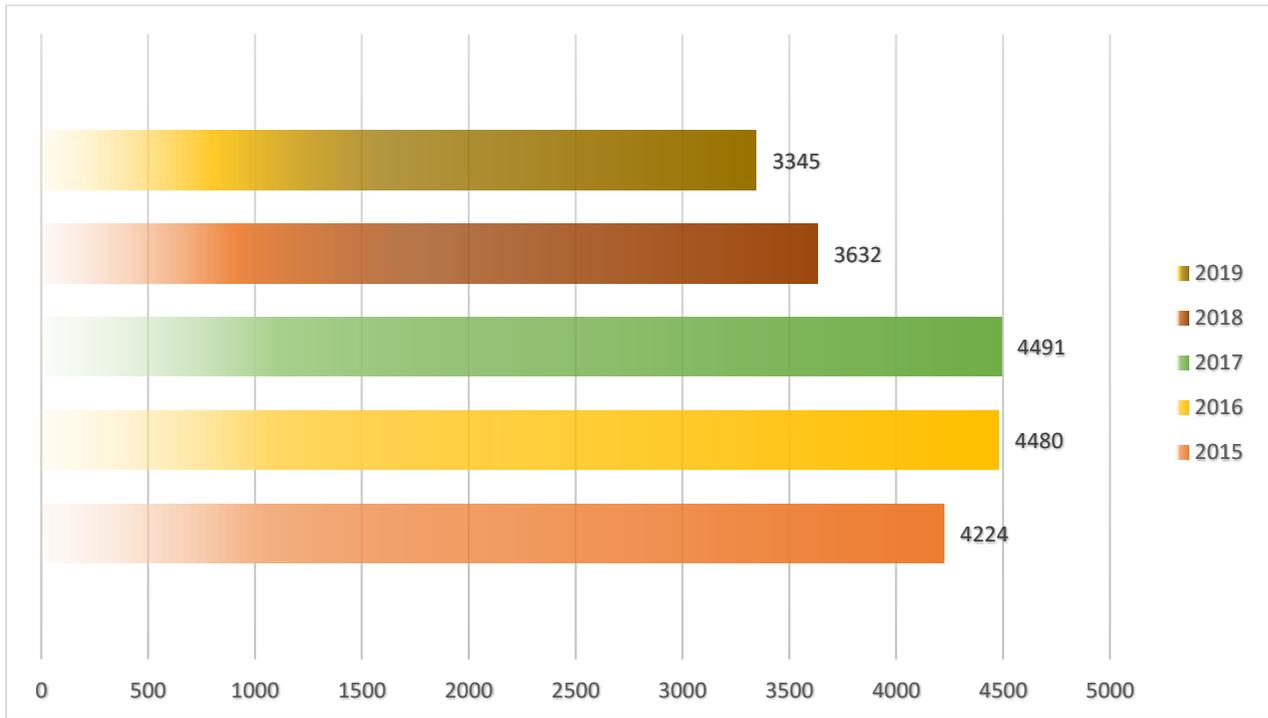
EMS Service

Distribution of Ambulance Requests in Portage County

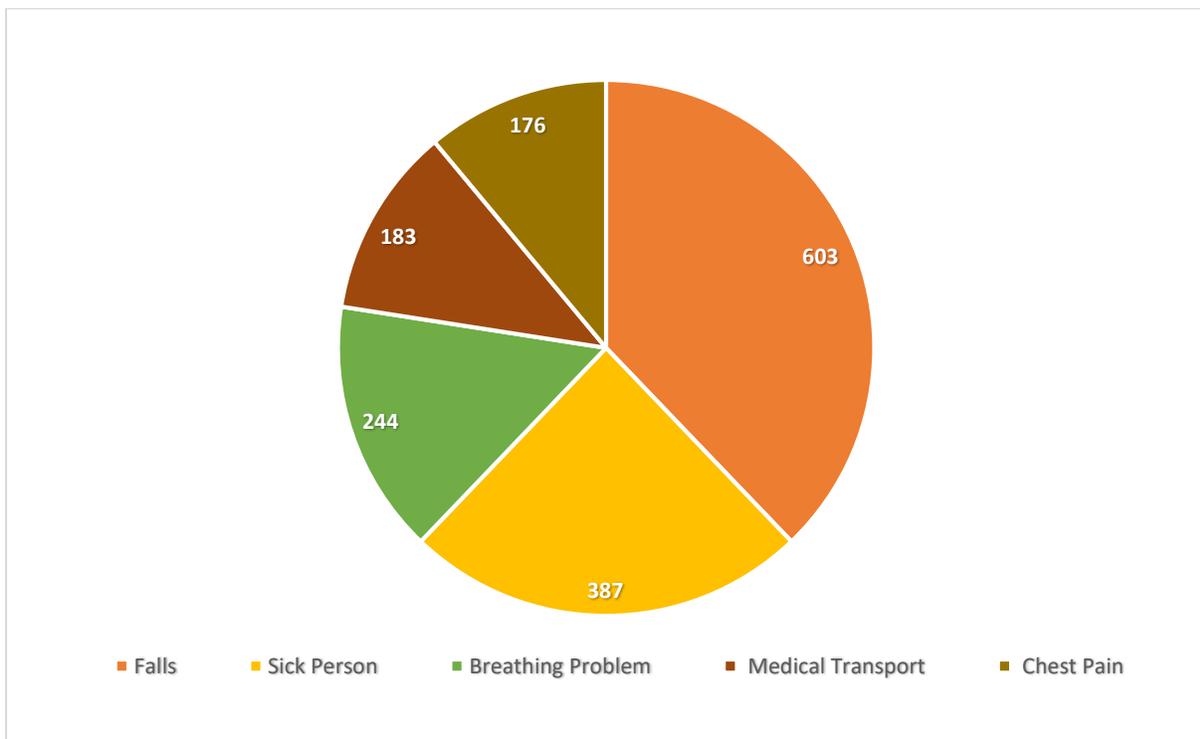
(Excluding City of Stevens Point and "Other")



Total EMS Runs by Year



Top 5 Reasons for Ambulance Dispatch in 2019



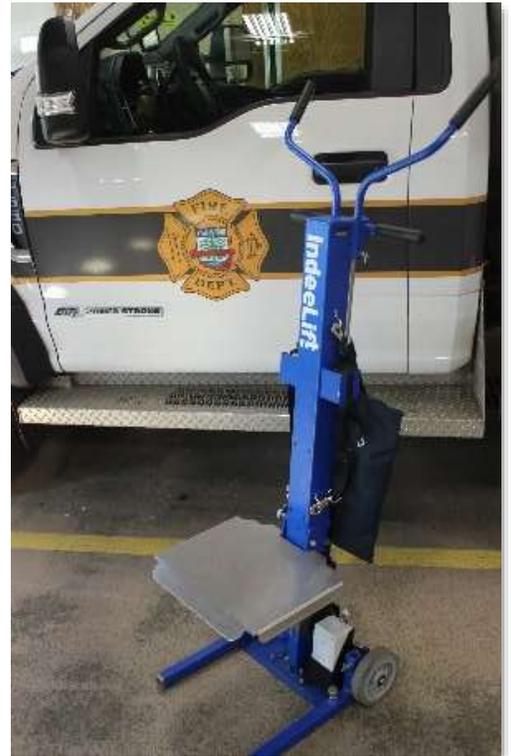
EMS Equipment Purchasing

The Stevens Point Fire Department is proud to continue our aggressive approach in cardiac emergencies within Portage County. Lieutenant Armando Ramon is taking the lead and heading up a cardiac monitor committee to review and evaluate the purchase of new cardiac monitors in 2020. The new cardiac monitors will phase out the old monitors that are currently used by all the ambulance services within the Portage County. This committee also includes members from the Amherst Fire District and Plover Fire Department.

The Stevens Point Fire Department EMS section is currently in a transition phase to switch to the Portage County, Munis Financial Management system. This will help the department ensure accountability, make informed decisions and increase financial transparency on future EMS purchasing.

Over the last two years, the department has added a new piece of equipment to our EMS capabilities, the LUCAS CPR device. This automatic CPR device provides consistent, effective compressions for cardiac arrest patients, freeing paramedics to focus on other advanced life support treatments and medications. Placed on every frontline unit, this device has already proven to be a critical life saver.

- Captain Ron Heibler



Medication Purchasing

Stevens Point Fire Department/ Portage County Ambulance collaborates with Ascension Saint Michael's pharmacy, the medical director, and Assistant Chief of EMS, ensuring 51 specific drugs are matched to a patient care protocol.

The department is currently looking at a possible purchase of a medical supply inventory management system for EMS. Having a reliable, effective and efficient inventory management system can help to reduce cost and limit waste.

Inventory control and management software benefits:

- Preventing medical inventory from expiring or being overstocked
- Logging the movement or usage of medical inventory
- Ensuring that every ambulance is fully equipped with life-saving medications and devices
- Inventory control to prevent narcotics diversion
- Electronic medication dispensing system

- Lieutenant Armando Ramon

Rescue Task Force (RTF)

2019 found us in our 5th year of RTF (Rescue Task Force) training/collaboration between the Stevens Point Fire Department, Amherst Fire Department, and the law enforcement agencies of Portage County. Thanks to UWSP we had 4 full days of training on their campus. The allowed all agencies in attendance were able to get hands on experience practicing team movements and patient treatment. We all have worked hard to come together and grow as a cohesive team with 1 goal in mind, to save lives.

This year, I feel was our best years with some of the quickest times to get to patients and render care and evacuate to definitive care. The communications issues are better than they have been and the law enforcement agencies have grasped the concept of incident command (5th Man) and have soared. I am confident that if there is ever an active shooter incident, we will save lives and make a difference but I pray that we never has to use this training.

“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile” Albert Einstein

- Captain Ron Heibler



Paramedic Internship Program

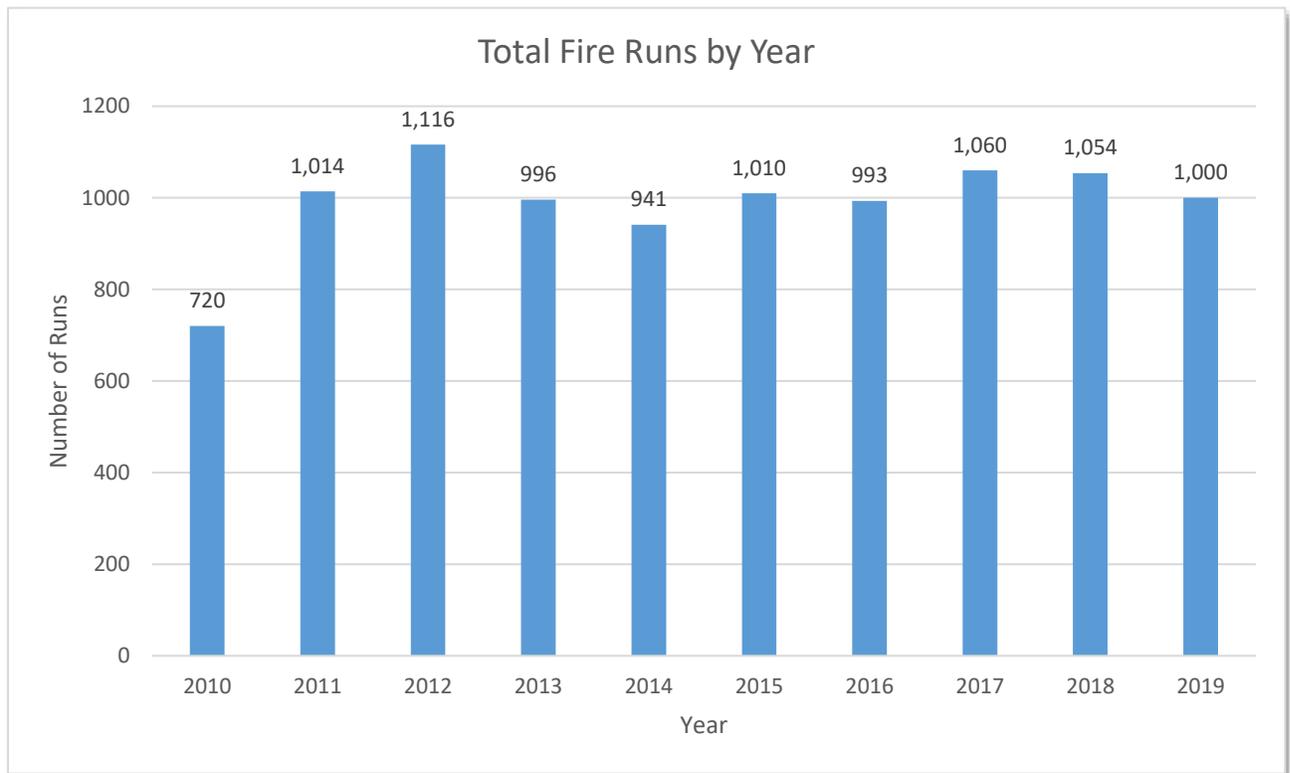
It has been a priority to ensure Candidates are welcomed as part of our SPFD team. A representative from the Internship Committee is present on each crew, should issues arise. Goals of the Internship Program are to provide the highest quality experience in all the aspects of the job and also follow the Department's vision of recruitment and retention.

In 2019, Stevens Point Fire Department interviewed 8 candidates for the Paramedic Internship program. Of those, 3 were selected. All three Paramedic interns were hired by career departments after successfully completing our internship program.

- Lieutenant Travis Koch

Fire Service

Fire Incidents Data



**Total property costs saved in 2019 was:
\$2,769,600**

City Of Stevens Point Fire Response by Incident Type

Incident	Number of Calls
Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	28
Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	16
Animal rescue	10
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	7
Assist police or other governmental agency	2
Attempt to burn	1
Authorized controlled burning	6
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	3
Building fire	22
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	3
Carbon monoxide incident	11
Central station, malicious false alarm	3
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	1
Chemical spill or leak	1
Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	2
Citizen complaint	3
CO detector activation due to malfunction	1
Cooking fire, confined to container	7
Cultivated grain or crop fire	1
Detector activation, no fire – unintentional	5
Dispatched and cancelled en route	44
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	1
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	6
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	1
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	55
Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure	1
Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	4
False alarm or false call, other	50
Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence	1
Fires in structure other than in a building	2
Forest, woods or wildland fire	1
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	10
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	5
HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	28
Heat detector activation due to malfunction	3
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	2
High-angle rescue	1
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	3
Malicious, mischievous false call, other	2
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	534
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	9
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	5
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	3
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	15
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1
Outside storage fire	1

Overheated motor	3
Passenger vehicle fire	6
Person in distress, other	1
Power line down	11
Public service	1
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	5
Rescue or EMS standby	3
Ring or jewelry removal	4
Service call, other	1
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	25
Smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional	5
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	13
Total: 1000	

Radio Communications

The mobile vehicle and portable radios with the department were programmed by Northway Communication for the final completion of the County wide Simulcast system. This has allowed the County Fire Departments to finally be compliant with the policy set forth by the State of Wisconsin Mutual Aid Box Alarm System by allowing Departments to utilize the Fire Ground Red Tactical Channel. Prior to the implementation of simulcast this frequency was nonoperational due to frequency issues.

- Captain Dennis Zvara

Fire Equipment Purchasing

2019 SPFD purchased a new fire engine. The majority of the purchasing was aimed at getting Engine 1 stocked and in service. Some of the bigger purchases made were for ventilation fan and hand tools including chain saws and rotary saws as well as flashlights and hose appliances and nozzles. Some great connections with vendors were made through the last year and the best pricing on equipment was found as well as the ability to look at and trial new equipment. Throughout the year the majority of the other equipment purchases were to replace any outdated or broken equipment. A system was set in place to assist me and assure that needed equipment will be purchased and placed into service in a timely manner.

- Captain Ron Heibler

Meters

The Stevens Point Police Department replaced a MSA meter in 2019 as one of the two originals had failed and was more costly to repair than replace in the long term. With regards to our two Sensit meters, the department is working on a system to address the bump test procedure. Earlier in the year we had WPS conduct training on our Sensit meters as they use the same meter. This training offered our members additional knowledge and understanding and was valuable training and well received by all members.

- Lieutenant Tracy Aldrich

Hose Purchasing

March and April was a busy time in the station as our order of new fire hose arrived and was inventoried, labeled, and put into service. Sixty-nine pieces of fire hose replaced the oldest fire hose in inventory dating back to more than 30 years of usage. The 66 pieces of hose that were removed from service were not destined for the landfill. They were given to several agencies within Portage County that use fire hoses at a much lower water pressure to move water or clean up equipment. Hose went to the Portage County Highway Department, as well as the Stevens Point Streets, Parks, Water, and Wastewater Departments. The Partners with Nicaragua Project also received several pieces of hose for the fire department in our sister-city in Nicaragua. Incidentally, this hose will continue to ride on 51 Engine 3 as it was also donated to the project as well, and now responds to fires in a much warmer climate than Wisconsin.

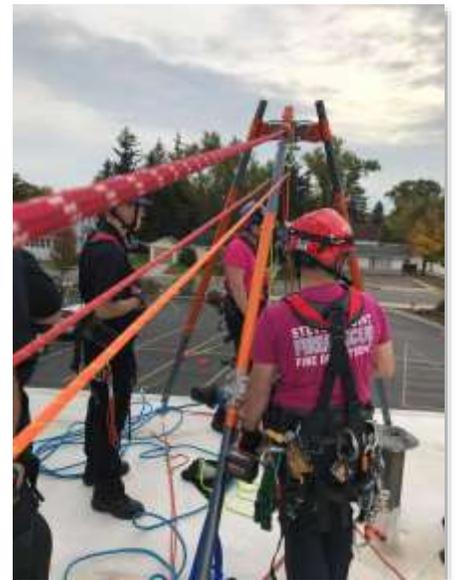
These hoses were tested prior to leaving to ensure their safety for use. These departments use these hoses under 50-80 PSI of water pressure, instead of the higher 150-200 PSI that we may need to use on emergency scenes.

- Lieutenant Mark Schoeberle

Rope Rescue & Confined Space Entry/Rescue

In 2019, SPFD personnel initiated and completed Rope and Confined Space Rescue training compliant with the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 1006 standard (Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications) to the Operations and Technician levels. While SPFD has been trained in various technical rescue disciplines in the past, the curriculum once used had become dated, the equipment we had in our cache was becoming obsolete, and the number of newer personnel without this specialized training became significant. Due to known and unknown risks within our community, an emphasis was placed on renewing our efforts in this area of expertise.

First, our outdated and unserviceable equipment needed to be replaced and brought to current industry safety standards. A capital budget line item was utilized to purchase new equipment that would not only allow for the training, but also to serve as a current and modern cache of rescue equipment.



Second, with the new equipment, on-duty training was conducted by all three crews lead by qualified SPFD instructors who also teach the discipline for Mid-State Technical College. Training was conducted at Station 1, Station 2, Iverson Park, and on top of the UWSP Suites on Reserve Street.

Nearly 100% of the department meets the NFPA 1006 standard of Operations or Technician for Rope and Confined Space Rescue personnel. This allows

SPFD personnel to perform rescues such as from trees, buildings, slopes, towers, tunnels, pits, tanks, and other spaces. While our department is an “all hazards” response agency serving the community, we also provide confined space standby for various city agencies.

While 2019 was a tremendous year in improving our response to rope and confined space incidents, we must commit to ongoing training to take what we learned to the next level of preparedness. Within the NFPA are subsets of specific disciplines that have not yet been covered. To ensure community risks are addressed and prepared for, there is a great need for organized and consistent training in these disciplines.

Trench Rescue

Since technical rescue is such a unique concept with numerous subsets of disciplines and tasks, trench rescue was not a major focus of SPFD in 2019. However, a great deal of research and planning has taken place to outline a process to improve in this discipline.

In 2005, SPFD began to send personnel to Wisconsin OJA (Office of Justice Assistance) training in trench rescue. Since then, a great deal of change has occurred in this field in terms of research, scientific testing, and even curriculum changes. The driving force of change in this discipline is being led in Michigan through the MUSAR Training Foundation (Michigan Urban Search and Rescue). It is a goal of SPFD to send technical rescue personnel to the MUSAR TF training and become qualified to return to Stevens Point and re-train our personnel in the current standards.

This discipline is essential to improve upon due to the numerous trench and excavation entries in our community daily. Entries are performed by private businesses but also by our city employees during road and utility work. In 2018, CVMIC hired a contracted company to provide an “awareness” training for city employees. In that training, CVMIC, along with the contractor identified our soil type as some of the worst when assessed following OSHA standards.

Vehicle Extrication



In 2019, the Stevens Point Fire Department returned to performing our own vehicle extrications instead of relying on our METRO partner’s response. Through the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Assistance to Firefighter’s Grant award, we were able to purchase two new sets of extrication tools. This purchase allowed us to place a set of equipment in service at each SPFD station to provide timely response to auto and machinery accidents. Along with the purchase, the equipment manufacturer also provided initial training to the NFPA 1006 Operations level for Vehicle Extrication.

Following initial training, SPFD performed numerous other sessions training on the equipment to ensure proficiency and readiness. As part of the purchase agreement, SPFD also has 4 qualified service

technicians trained by the manufacturer to service our equipment for the next ten years until a more extensive service is required.

Since the equipment was put in service, it has been utilized on numerous auto crashes, vehicle fires, and even forcible entry. The expected service life of the equipment is 20-25 years.

Grant Program

Each year we compile a list of department and community needs in which we can seek local and federal grant funding. As grants are posted, we focus our efforts to seek out and write for those of the highest priorities.

Trans Canada Grant

At the end of 2018, SPFD received a \$1000.00 grant through TransCanada Pipeline. This grant allowed the purchase of some of our first Rope Rescue equipment upgrades that were put into service in 2019.

Extrication Grant

The FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Assistance to Firefighter's Grant award of \$78,790.00 allowed us to acquire heavy extrication equipment that was placed in service in 2019. Grant closeouts will be performed in the near future, as FEMA just made them available.

SAFER Grant

Our 2018 FEMA AFG process (submitted in 2019) to increase staffing to closer comply with NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) and ISO (Insurance Services Office) improvement recommendations was unsuccessful. This initiative will be renewed in 2020 (the 2019 FEMA cycle) in an effort to improve our service capabilities, improve ISO ratings, and increase the safety of our staff.

- Lieutenant David Briggs

Training Burn

On November 4, 2019, the Stevens Point Fire Department conducted Live Burn training following the NFPA 1403 standard. This burn was facilitated by multiple SPFD instructors presenting concepts of fire behavior, fire growth, ventilation flow paths, suppression techniques, water supply, and hose stream application. Basic and advanced firefighting skills each firefighter already possessed were honed and practiced. Initial fire training



generally occurs in metal and steel structures in which control measures hinder actual fire behavior. Burning an acquired structure provides for the most realistic atmosphere for firefighters to prepare for fires that may occur in homes throughout the community. Dozens of SPFD firefighters, SPFD/SPPD Chaplain Ficken, MSTC Firefighting interns Alex Klonowski and Nathan Lowrey, and two citizen's fire academy members were taken through all aspects of the training. Lessons learned were shared among each crew and will continue with the cooperation of John Quirk and Sara Theroux through the photos and videos they took of the training. Training like this is invaluable to protecting our community.

- Lieutenant David Briggs



Personal Protective Equipment

In 2019, the department was busy updating personal protective equipment. We use an annual inspection process tracked in Aladtec software to determine what worn or out of service equipment should be replaced without causing budget constraints. We updated firefighting apparel to newest and modern technology. Old gear was replaced and/or repaired to maintain high safety standard.

To decrease the increasing rate of Cancer(s), we adopted NFPA 1851 that follows a timeline of lifespan of firefighting gear and safe cleaning practices. Our practices are not just for the current firefighter, but also to those that latter in their career and after. NFPA 1851 has changed and improved to the future health concerns of Cancer in firefighting. Breathing carcinogen particulates from fires have been a high concern, but wasn't realized of what was absorb by the skin through the gear or what is absorbed on it.

- Lieutenant Victor Kedrowski

Fire Internship Program

In 2019, Stevens Point Fire Department Conducted two Interviews at Midstate Technical College for the Fire Internship program. The two Candidates were selected. The Fire Internships go from September to December.

It has been a priority to ensure Candidates are welcomed as part of our SPFD team. A representative from the committee is present on each crew, should issues arise. Goals of the Internship Program(s) are to provide the highest quality experience in all the aspects of the job and also follow the Department's vision of recruitment and retention.

- Lieutenant Travis Koch

Fire Prevention Bureau

In 2019, The Stevens Point Fire Department revitalized the Fire Prevention Bureau with the creation of a Fire Marshal Position. Historically the bureau (required by City Ordinance 24.47) has been a shared responsibility of department members and has experienced increased expectations and duties due to Fire Codes updates and growth of Stevens Point.

The position of Fire Marshal has:

Increased the department's ability to inspect business occupancies with consistency, accuracy, and allows for more oversight with the goal of reaching 100% Fire Code compliance.

Increased the availability of trained fire investigators for incidents requiring response.

Increased the availability of public education offerings and scheduling for all Stevens Point residents and businesses and visitors.

Increased the availability of time for Stevens Point Firefighters and Paramedics to train on important skills such as tech rescue and firefighting tactics.

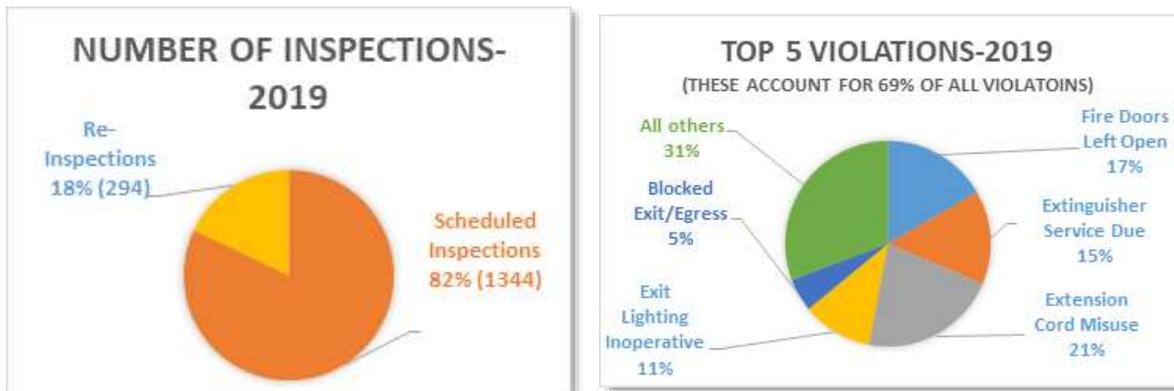
The Fire Prevention Bureau still relies on the participation of department members to provide full service but benefits from a dedicated position for contact, scheduling, and follow-up.

Inspection Division

Fire Marshal Andrew Egan

In 2019, 1,638 inspections were performed on 1,282 occupancies. The majority of the inspections were routine fire prevention inspections, but inspectors also conducted:

- Certificate of Occupancy Inspections
- Life Safety System Acceptance (Alarm & Sprinklers) Inspections
- Occupant Load Consultations
- Complaint Inspections



Investigation Division

Fire Marshal Andrew Egan & Captain Dennis Zvara

Members of the Stevens Point Fire Department Investigation Division and Stevens Point Police Investigation Bureau work together as a joint team to determine the cause of a fire: Undetermined, Natural, Accidental, or Incendiary (Intentional). Once the investigation is completed insurance companies may choose to investigate further, when the cause is found to be incendiary, additional criminal investigations may begin. The Stevens Point Fire Department maintained an excellent working relationship with all investigation players in 2019 including the city police department, multiple insurance companies and investigators, and State Division of Criminal Investigation Agents.

The Stevens Point Fire Department Investigation Division investigated 13 fires in 2019 with 1 fire resulting in a fatality.

Stevens Point Estimated Fire Loss for 2019: \$381,990

2019 Top 3 Fire Loss Investigations:

May 16th, 2019
Residential Structure Fire
1034 Francis Street
Estimated Loss: \$75,000
Cause: Electrical



July 18th, 2019
Apartment Complex Fire
2640 Bush Court
Estimated Loss: \$75,000
Cause: Natural



June 26th, 2019
Garage Fire (with fatality)
608 6th Avenue
Estimated Loss: \$50,000
Cause: Undetermined

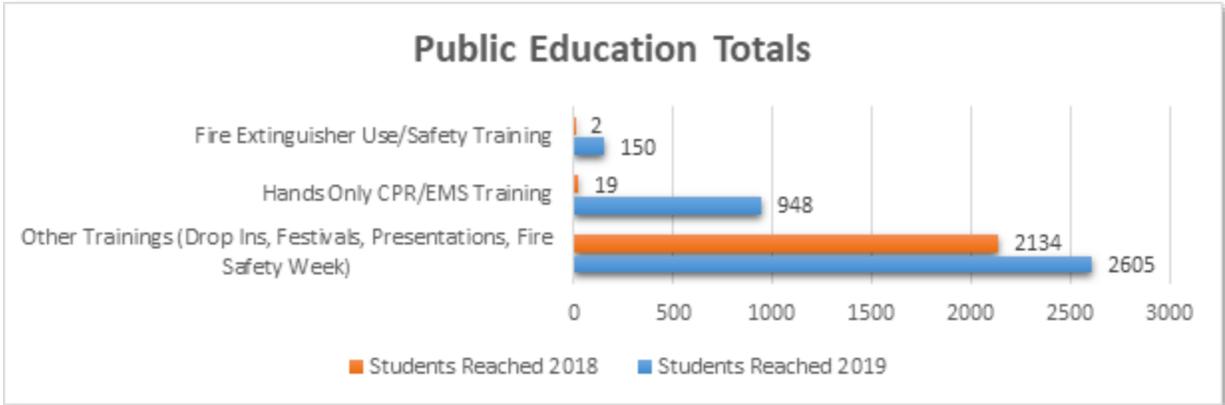
Public Education Division –

Fire Marshal Andrew Egan & Firefighter/Paramedic Shane Westphal

The Stevens Point Fire Department believes that prevention and life safety education is an integral part of our mission. We accomplish this through various education presentations and tools and keeping our own training fresh to ensure we are spreading an up to date and effective message.

- Some tools we have at our disposal for training include:
 - Smoke House Simulator
 - Fire Extinguisher Training Simulator
 - Training AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)
- We cater education to all age groups starting from our youngest children and continue this education even into our senior communities.
- Highlights of this year's training curriculum include:
 - 2019 Citizens Academy
 - Holiday Parade Safety Message Initiative
 - Fire Safety Trainings in light of the 2019 summer power outage and training for senior citizens on how to be prepared for a power outage.
 - Expanded fire extinguisher training for UWSP culinary staff and Dorm RA's.
 - Fire Explorer Post 242 competed in the Governor's Fire Prevention Day competition at the Minnesota State Fair

Through these initiatives and our regular CPR and Fire Safety Week trainings, we were able to reach an estimated 3,703 people with fire prevention and life safety education.



Fleet Maintenance

2019 was a busy year for Fire and EMS Fleet Maintenance at the Stevens Point Fire Department.

In January 2019, 51 Engine 3, a 1991 Pierce fire engine saw its replacement after ten years as a reserve engine in our fleet. The replacement unit, 51 Engine 1, was delivered in January and training for all department personnel began immediately on the new unit. The new engine features brighter LED warning lights and scene illumination lighting, a more powerful onboard generator, lower easier deploying hand lines, onboard EMS equipment storage designed into the truck, and seating for 5 personnel. These features make the engine a very user friendly “tool box on wheels” for the firefighters responding to emergencies. This truck increased our stand alone available water supply from about 500 gallons to 950 gallons, when coupled with 51 Tower 2.

Setting up the new truck took several weeks, and wasn’t completed until well into February. The \$600,000+ truck was equipped per NFPA guidelines. This was an important goal to maintain our ISO 2 rating. This unit also saw the addition of auto extrication equipment (The “Jaws of Life”) responding to motor vehicle crashes in their newest form. The older underpowered combi-tool that ran off hydraulic hoses and a portable gas-powered engine and pump, was replaced with stronger, lighter, battery powered tools and struts that allow for a much faster set up time, as well as faster, easier cutting of the newer metals used in cars today.

- Lieutenant Mark Schoeberle

Fire Apparatus



Truck 1
2009 Pierce
Reserve



Engine 1
2019 Pierce
Front Line



Tower 2
2009 Pierce
Front Line



Squad 1
2006 International
Front Line



Truck 3
2000 LaFrance
Reserve



Ice Angel
1999 Windmark
Front Line



Car 1
Red 2015 Ford Explorer
Front Line



Car 4
Red 2014 Ford F-150
Front Line



Car 3
White 2009 Ford Crown Vic
Front Line



Brush 1
2001 GMC
Front Line

EMS Apparatus



Car 2
Red 2018 Ford Explorer
Front Line



Med 3
2010 IH 4300
Reserve



Med 1
2018 Ford F-550
Front Line



Med 4
2007 IH 4300
Reserve



Med 2
2015 Ford F-550
Front Line



Med 5
2007 IH 4300
Reserve



Car 5
2013 Chevy Tahoe
Front Line

Peer Support

In 2019, Stevens Point Fire Department focused on Peer Support as a way to ensure continued top notch care for the surrounding community. The department coordinated and Scheduled Speaker Greg Young to conduct training on Concepts and Practice in Peer Support and Fostering Resilience in Challenging Time. Training took place in Sept. at MSTC Stevens Point Campus. Attendees were first responders from all around the state. SPFD has representatives on the Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness Coalition of Portage County. The department coordinated Suicide Prevention/MH Awareness Video with an emphasis on combating the stigma associated with mental health issues. This message of "Strength, Courage, Support, Faith, and Hope" reached over 23,000 individuals on social media and was viewed over 11,000 times. SPFD is a member of the Portage County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team comprised of members from the SPFD, SPPD, UWSP Police, Spiritual Support, Plover PD and PCSD. Members of the department assisted in comprising standard materials placed in totes to be used by each department represented on CISM Team, in the event of a Critical Incident.



- Lieutenant Travis Koch

Building Maintenance

The department has had a service contract with Complete Control for the past several years. This includes spring and fall maintenance on all heating and cooling elements at both stations. Cummings Diesel contracts with the city for yearly maintenance as well on both of our station generators. City streets handles yearly issues we might have on the generators or general maintenance on them. A gravel pad was constructed at Station two for our safety smoke house and technical rescue trailer. A 2200 lb. electric cable hoist was purchased to replace a malfunctioning hoist in our training/hose tower, this allows us to raise and hang our used hose which needs to be dried for a few days. Dying bushes were removed from the north side of the building and replaced with wood mulch. Mulch was also dispersed at Station two in the department's flower and tree beds. A maple tree was planted as well at Station #2 as a donation from a retired fire fighters family whom passed this last year. Part of the rear of the classroom at station one was converted into the new Fire Marshal's office. This included constructing a wall, dry walling, painting and installation of office furniture. Dura last Roofing whom installed the northern part of the roof system at station one in 2010 needed to do a roof inspection this year, this will validate another 10 years on the warranty until 2030.

- Captain Paul Mattlin



IT Support

The Department moved to a new scheduling software allowing for live internet based staffing of Department personnel and vehicles. Aladtec Scheduling software allows the department to streamline payroll documentation, cutting down the use of paper and office supplies, as well as save time in scheduling staff. Because of the internet infrastructure Department members have access to scheduling rosters at anytime from anywhere via computer or cellphone.

Aladtec has proven to be well received as a benefit that is versatile and easily accessible. The daily schedules are viewable on any computer, smart phone, or tablet. Line staff can view where they are assigned prior to any updated changes. This eliminates confusion and delays of members showing up to the other station(s) that was changed prior. The most difficult was constructing the program that we

could gain the most benefit and the ability for us to use it. We have already eliminated a majority of paper forms and looking to adapt our process to eliminate all paper. Aladtec Support staff was readily available, knowledgeable to assist throughout.

- Captain Dennis Zvara and Lieutenant Victor Kedrowski

Radio Communications

In 2019 the department installed the Phoenix G2 paging system to improve firefighter health and improve response to the citizens we protect. The system has many different audio and visual peripherals including HDTV and LED Message Board Alerting, LED lighted Speakers, and LED Strobes in high noise areas. The system is equipped with a time of page countdown timer to assist with faster response times. The system is designed to increase mental preparedness with clear consistent alerts, while reducing cardiac stress known to exist in outdated systems. The state of the art system will be at is optimal performance when it is networked with the County's Computer Aided Dispatch software in the near future providing speed of paging with automated alerts allowing Communication Technicians the ability to spend more time with callers and manage the dispatch process more successfully.

- Captain Dennis Zvara

