Mount Prospect Fire Department



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

MOUNT PROSPECT
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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
AFL-CIO CLC
FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 4119

Chief's Message



The Mount Prospect Fire Department and all its members would like to thank you for your interest in our 2024 annual report. The administration creates and provides an annual review of the department and its accomplishments of the previous year. This annual report is just one of the ways we can not only look back at our successes, but plan for the future. A great deal has changed since the department began on September 29, 1913. The mission, however, has not. Protecting citizens from structure fires remains a top priority and although fire protection is still a significant part of the services we provide, over 73% of calls today are requests for Emergency Medical Service (EMS). With the shift in service demands has come a shift in the role of our personnel and allocation of our resources. Today, all of our Firefighters are licensed Paramedics and all 10 frontline apparatus are licensed by the IDPH as Advanced Life Support (ALS) vehicles.

In addition to running a record number of calls, the fire department was busy on many other fronts. Public Education efforts have increased with the number of citizens reached through schools, businesses, and community events at an all-time high. With a great deal of new development in the Village, the Fire Prevention Bureau was busy with plan reviews, inspections, and pre-planning. Our Emergency Management team hosted their annual Emergency Preparedness Expo and helped the Village prepare for an ever-increasing number of community events. Despite responding to over 7,800 calls, shift personnel still managed to log a record number of training hours and community engagement events.

Improving emergency services to South Mount Prospect has been a top priority of our Village Board, and in 2024, we opened a fourth fire station at 1415 Algonquin Road. This station not only serves the residents of South Mount Prospect, but it also provides emergency services to the 3.5 square miles formally known as the Elk Grove Rural Fire Protection District. We are excited to expand services to the residents and businesses of the unincorporated area along Interstate 90. This fourth station has given us the ability to distribute fire and EMS resources evenly north and south of the UP/Metra train tracks. For the first time in the department's history, we have two stations north and two stations south of the railroad tracks, with a fully staffed fire and medical transport vehicle at each of the four stations.

I am honored to be part of this organization and excited to address the needs of our growing community. We will continue taking steps toward providing the highest quality emergency services to not only South Mount Prospect, but all the Village. I would like to thank Mayor Hoefert, the Village Trustees, Village Manager Michael Cassady, and the Mount Prospect community for their continued support. I would especially like to thank the entire fire department for their hard work and dedication in providing the best service to our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns, questions, comments, or thoughts. Our Administrative Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., and we can be reached at 847/870-5660.

John Dolan
Fire Chief

In Memorium



Lt. Timothy Evans



Lt. Michael Ghawaly

Mission

To protect people, property, and the environment by reducing and controlling fire loss, providing emergency medical service, maintaining adequate emergency preparedness and engaging in fire prevention and public education activities.

2024 Accomplishments:

- Opened a 4th station adding more resources to south Mount Prospect
- Hosted a citizens Emergency Management Open House as a community outreach for disaster preparedness
- Conducted New Hire and Lieutenant Promotional Exams
- Replaced aging extrication equipment
- Restructured the Knox Box program making it more affordable for residents
- We appointed a Fire Department Chaplain



Station 11 Dedication



Pastor Mark Bechtold

2025 Goals:

- Hire an additional three firefighter/paramedics
- Successfully execute our Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Purchase a second set of extrication equipment and struts for south side of Village
- Start Station 12 renovations
- Replace all cardiac monitors
- Purchase IV pumps for all ambulances
- Replace Hose Wagon apparatus
- Purchase and implement new incident command software
- Take delivery of new mobile and portable radios

Core Values:

Professionalism

We do all we can to ensure we deliver the best possible service to our internal and external customers/communities through smart, well trained, humble, dedicated, competent, hard- working and safe members. We are active participants in the communities where we live and work.

Integrity and Honesty

We value the public's trust and are committed to honest and ethical behavior. We hold ourselves accountable to these values. We believe in a personal commitment to the organization and the community.
Self-discipline is the foundation for managing behavior.

Honor and Respect

We are a Fire Department family. We are committed and accountable to each other because our lives depend on it. We value the role each member plays in our organization. We respect those that came before us and will strive to make the organization better for those who follow.

Embrace Diversity

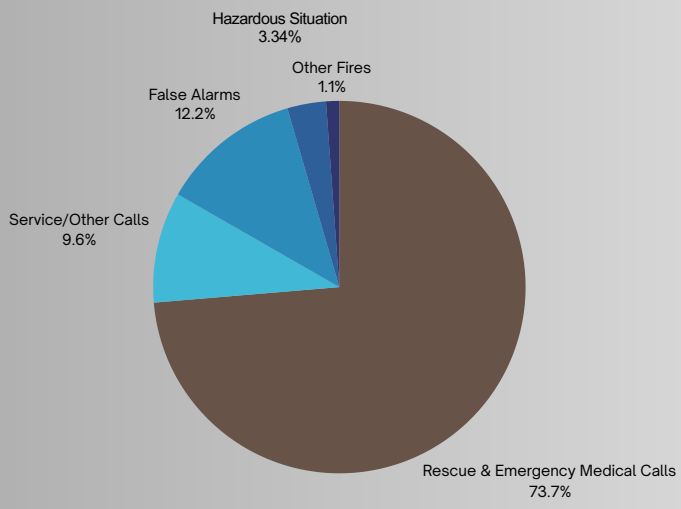
Recognizing the value of diversity helps us to work together as a team to serve our community. We are dedicated to reflecting and respecting diversity throughout our organization.

Calls for Service

Calls for Service by Call Type

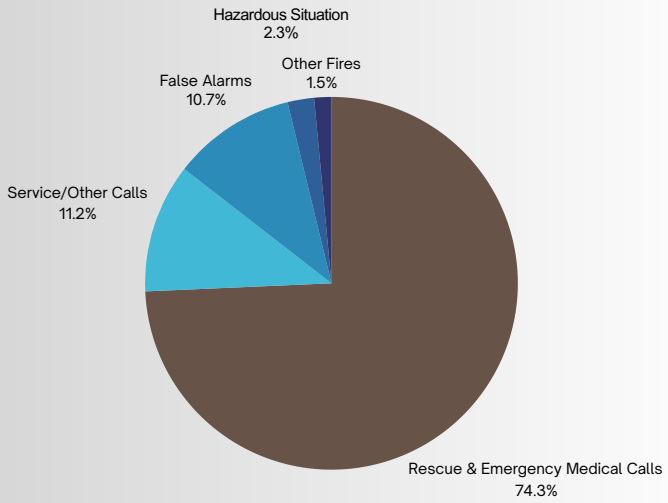
2024

Total Incident Repsonses - 7,888
Rescue & Emergency Medical Calls - 73.7%
False Alarms - 12.14%
Service/Other Calls - 9.58%
Hazardous Situation Calls - 3.34%
Other Fires - 1.14%
Structure Fires - 0.0038% (30)



2023

Total Incident Repsonses - 7,296
Rescue & Emergency Medical Calls - 74.3%
Service/Other Calls - 11.2%
False Alarms - 10.7%
Hazardous Situation Calls - 2.3%
Other Fires - 1.49%
Structure Fires - 0.0015% (11)



Calls for Service by Station & Vehicle

2024 Total Vehicle Responses
16,357

Station 11 (Opened 7/11/2024)
Ambulance 11 - 1,921
Engine 11 - 1,062 (July 11-Dec 31)
Tender 11 - 35

Station 12
Ambulance 12 - 2,053
Engine 12 - 2,912

Station 13
Ambulance 13 - 1,888
Engine 13 - 1,435 (Jan 1-July 10)
Tower 13 - 1,731
Battalion 3 - 889
Chiefs - 41

Station 14
Ambulance 14 - 1,577
Engine 14 - 1,706

2023 Total Vehicle Responses
15,625

Station 12
Ambulance 12 - 1,949
Reserve Ambulance 12/Ambulance 11 - 1,418
Engine 12 - 2,940

Station 13
Ambulance 13 - 1,757
Engine 13 - 2,633
Tower 13 - 1,050
Battalion 3 - 819
Chiefs - 35

Station 14
Ambulance 14 - 1,544
Engine 14 - 1,517

Officer Firefighter/Paramedic Minimum Daily Staffing 20

Station 11

Ambulance

Engine





Station 12

Ambulance

Engine





Station 13

Ambulance

Tower

Battalion





Station 14

Ambulance

Engine





Training/Operations

In addition to ongoing mandatory training in 2024, Mount Prospect Firefighters were able to onboard and mentor five new firefighters!

Those five and many other department members worked to acquire a total of 61 new state certifications as recognized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The public expects us to have a high level of knowledge about any given situation we are called for. The goal continues to be a blend of fundamental skill sets and repetitions mixed with focus on specialized training to prepare members for the high risk, low frequency events.

Lt. Kevin Swat was presented with a Humanitarian Award for his deployment to North Carolina as a member of the MABAS Swift Water team in response to Hurricane Helene.



2024 was an exceptional year for speakers who joined us to share their expertise with our firefighters. Thank you to:

- Kevin O'Donnell with Insight Training for **Tactical Thermal Imaging and Fire Behavior Training**
- Chris Soda with Junkyard Dogs Training (ISFSI 2024 Instructor of the Year) on **Responding to Electric Vehicle Fires and Crashes**
- The professional Personal Trainers from Illinois Bone & Joint for **Strength and Mobility strategies**
- Lt. Mike Mason (Downers Grove Lieutenant Ret., Romeoville Fire Academy Instructor, FDIC Presenter, Author of Rapid Intervention Company Operations – RICO and of Large Area Rope Assisted Search Procedures, Survivor Our Lady of the Angels school fire) for **Rope Assisted Search drills in combination with Elk Grove Village firefighters**
- Dr. Dennis Onieal, Fire Chief, former Superintendent of the National Fire Academy and acting Deputy Director of the Unites States Fire Administration for his presentation on **Culture, Leadership and Organizational Sociology in the fire service**
- Corey Friedman, Electrical Inspector and Expert who presented important considerations when **responding to photovytolic power systems (involving solar panels and electrical transfer systems) at homes and businesses**

We are grateful to all of the speakers for their help keeping us safe and proficient in the near and long-term doing the job we love.

We continue working on providing staff practical experience for responding to complex industrial incidents to better prepare the department for incidents at the bulk fuel storage facilities within the department's response area. Five of our members traveled to attend the specialized training in 2024 and are sharing what they have learned with the department. The hope is to continue to build a cadre of subject matter experts on each shift for responses to this unique industrial property we have been protecting for decades.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mount Prospect is home to several major bulk fuel storage tank facilities? We have been protecting these storage facilities for decades which provide 80% of the jet fuel to O'Hare Airport.

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS

In Mount Prospect, as in many other communities across the nation, hiring firefighters is the responsibility of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners (BOFPC), not the Fire Department. Commissioners are residents of Mount Prospect who volunteer their time to oversee the testing process and interview potential candidates. In 2024, the BOFPC administered the Oath of Office to five new firefighters and two newly promoted firefighters to the rank of Lieutenant. Current Commission members are James Powers (Chairperson), Mark W. Busse, Rockne Bork, Jeanna Claussen and William Knee.

Emergency Medical Services

Local 4119

In 2024, Local 4119 remained committed to advocating for members and strengthening ties to the community. We expanded involvement with Project Fire Buddies, taking on our own Fire Buddy, Emmett, and raising funds at the Fire on Ice Tournament.

We pushed for Tier 2 pension reform in Springfield and invested in member education, sending members to seminars in Orlando, FL, and Springfield, IL.

Community efforts included a successful children's coat drive, multiple softball tournaments with neighboring Fire and Police Departments, and raising $8,082.26 for MDA in our annual Fill the Boot campaign.

We also honored two fallen brothers, Tim Evans and Mike Ghawaly, ensuring their legacy endures.

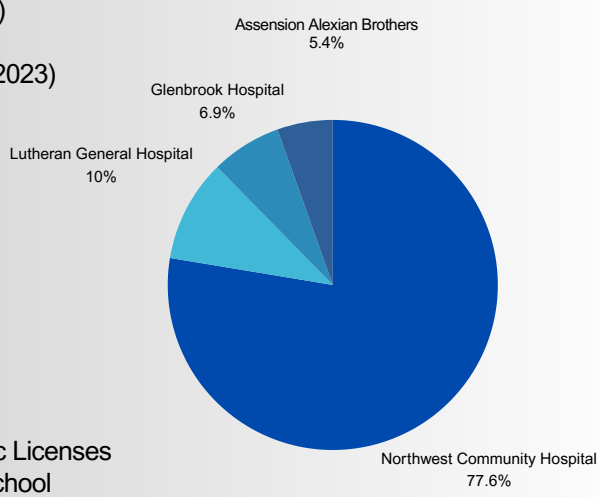
As we move forward, Local 4119 remains focused on strengthening our union, working with the Village, and ensuring the best for members and residents we serve.

2024 Statistics

- EMS Calls- 5585 (Nearly 75% of total calls)
- Total Transports- 4175
- Patient Care Reports- 5535 (Up 355 from 2023)
- Total calls for 2024- 7888

7%
Increase in EMS calls from 2023

2024 Hospital Transports



2024 Highlights

- 21 Paramedics Renewed their Paramedic Licenses
- Three members graduated Paramedic School
- One new member passed Northwest Community Healthcare System Entry and can now practice within our department
- Two new peer educators were added to mentor new paramedics
- Hours of Continuing Education completed- 2,819
- Hours of Continuing Education per member- 36.14
- Cardiac arrest overall sustained return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) rate 39.39%. Overall EMS System was at 32.46%.

6.93%
Higher success rate than system average for cardiac arrest





Congratulations!
Grant Reese, Joe Finnegan and Nathan Cook graduated from Paramedic School in June of 2024.

MOUNT PROSPECT FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 4119
IAFF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS AFL-CIO CLC



Fire Prevention Bureau

Fire Prevention Week

The Mount Prospect Fire Department partners annually with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week to educate everyone about the importance of fire safety. The theme for 2024 was, “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!” This campaign strived to educate everyone in our community about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. Smoke alarms are a lifesaving tool, only when they work properly. According to NFPA data, the majority of U.S. home fire deaths continue to occur in homes without smoke alarms or homes where smoke alarms are not working properly. It is important to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (for example a hallway), and on each level of the home, including the basement. Make sure that the smoke alarms installed meet the needs of all family members, including those who may have disabilities. Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button. If the smoke alarm does not respond to being tested, or is over 10 years old, they need to be replaced.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms are an important aspect of a home fire escape plan. Working smoke alarms serve as an early warning of a potential fire that allows you to get outside quickly. There are many different types of smoke alarms available. Smoke alarms that are interconnected are able to all sound at once, ensuring no matter where you are in the home, your alarms can be heard. There are also combination smoke alarms, that will warn you of carbon monoxide leaks in the home. Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet from the stove. People who are hard of hearing or deaf can use special smoke alarms with strobe lights or bed shakers. A continued set of three loud beeps means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1 and stay out. A single “chirp” every 30 to 60 seconds means that the battery is low and the battery or the entire alarm should be replaced.



Poster Contest

The Fire Prevention Week safety message, “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!” was presented at the annual Open House and was in conjunction with the Fire Department’s annual Poster Contest. The annual contest encouraged students in kindergarten through 5th grade to design a poster based on the fire safety message. Winners were recognized in front of the Village Board at the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 19, 2024.



Public Education Officer Monika, and Sparky the Fire Dog want to say Thank You for a great year in 2024.

We can't wait to see you in next year!!!



Community Supported Groups





The Community Emergency Response Team Celebrated 20 Years of Service!

Members of Mount Prospect's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) contributed over 3,100 hours of volunteer time to the community in both planned events and emergency calls. Some of the current volunteers are founding members. Over the 20-years of dedication to the community, CERT members provided roughly 70,000 hours of volunteer time. CERT volunteers residents trained to "aid and assist the Village of Mount Prospect's departments when professional emergency resources become overwhelmed." This year, the members of CERT participated in several types of training including a review of fire extinguishers, electric and utility safety, First Aid, and traffic control. Team members assisted with some of the larger incidents that occurred this year by helping the victims after the large apartment fire, multiple gas leaks in the community and aiding in traffic control.

CERT members also assisted Village staff at community events such as the Fire Department Open House and Holiday Toy Drive program; Police Department's National Night Out and their 5K Run; Special Events Commission's Family Bike Ride; Memorial Day celebration, Fourth of July parade and fireworks and Human Service's Celebration of Cultures. The Preparedness Workshop was a successful program, and many CERT members assisted this year with the teaching of the class and getting more residents interested in becoming members of CERT. The CERT program is under the direction of Mount Prospect Emergency Management and a volunteer Leadership Team.

Paid-on-Call (POC)

- Completed 1035 hours of training
- Responded to 7 callbacks for emergency assistance
- Held 44 Thursday night training sessions
- Completed 249 hours of ride time
- Completed 403 hours of public education/community engagement, which included the following:
- Attended 24 block parties over 7 Saturdays
- Attended 10 school events
- Provided 6 fire truck rides to school
- Attended 6 Safety Socials in partnership with the Police Department and Crime Free Housing
- Assisted with 3 Fire Extinguisher training days
- Assisted with Station tours, Randhurst events, Park District events and village events
- Participated as instructors for the third annual First Responder Academy for Teens (FRAT)
- Planned and hosted a Kid's Combat Challenge at the Fire Department Open House
- Hired 1 new Paid-On-Call firefighter
- Participated in a large-scale combined drill with CERT
- Participated in live fire training at Elk Grove Village training tower
- 2 POCs graduated from the NIPSTA fire academy
- 1 POC became a licensed Emergency Medical Technician–Basic
- 1 POC received his Fire Apparatus Engineer certification
- 8 POC members attended training at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire College in Champaign, Illinois





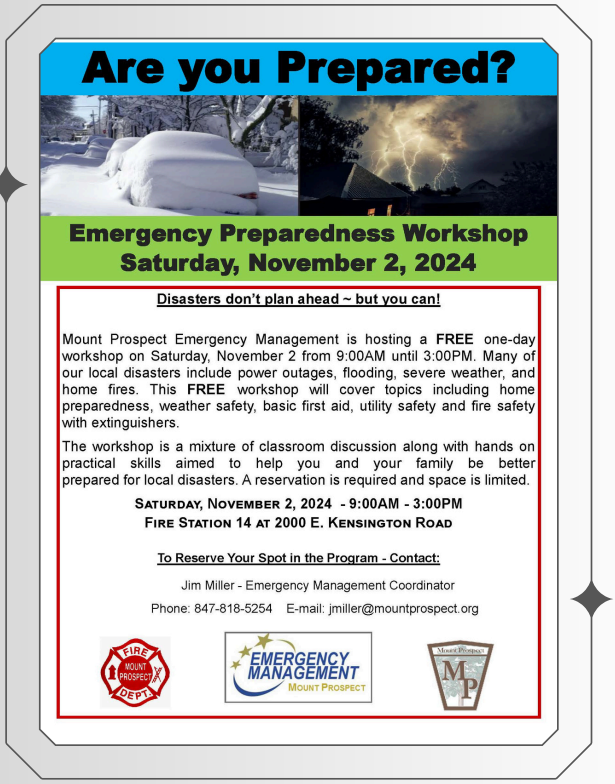
Emergency Management

Within the Fire Department is the division of Emergency Management. Before, during and after a disaster strikes, whether natural or man-made, emergency management has an active part working in conjunction with all other village departments and the Village Board to provide plans and procedures. Emergency Management also oversees the volunteer organization, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), made up of area residents who are trained to assist the Village during planned and unplanned events. Emergency Management had a very successful year and there were many accomplishments.





- Updated the Village's Continuity of Operations Plan that outlines how the village will continue to function during a disaster or a large-scale emergency.
- Collaborated with surrounding communities on Active Threat Practical exercises.
- After a large apartment fire, emergency management worked with the Red Cross and U.S. Small Business Administration to get residents financial support and assisted with locating a place to stay.
- Participated in a multi-jurisdictional full-scale disaster exercise. This included twelve communities and two emergency operation centers and two local hospitals.
- Hosted a Disaster Preparedness Expo for residents to get informed on utility safety, home generators, home weather planning, and home disaster kits.
- Taught a Disaster Preparedness Workshop that was attended by nineteen area residents who received both classroom and hands-on training on how to prepare for and handle disasters.
- Coordinated the Annual First Responder Academy for Teens.
- Participated and used new Meridian Safety Barrier which are utilized for advanced Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) during community events.
- Event Action Plans and Weather Safety Plans were developed for Village events to provide a safety "playbook" for all departments to follow during the event. Emergency Management supported events include Memorial Day celebration, 4th of July activities, Downtown Block Party, Celebration of Cultures, Oktoberfest and other downtown area events.
- Emergency Management Assistant, Mitchell Winkelmann, received his Certification for completing the Illinois Professional Development Series in Emergency Management.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
MOUNT PROSPECT

DISASTER'S DON'T PLAN AHEAD ~ BUT YOU CAN

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the Fire Department offer CPR classes?

A: Yes! The Fire Department offers American Heart Association Healthcare Provider and Heartsaver CPR classes throughout the year. All classes cover recognition and emergency resuscitation techniques for heart attack, cardiac arrest, stroke and airway obstruction on adults, children and infants. Classes also demonstrate the use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED). For more information about CPR classes, visit mountprospect.org/cpr.

Q: What is a Knox Box?

A: A Knox Box is a small, wall-mounted safe that holds a building's keys so that the Fire Department can gain access in emergency situations. Knox Boxes allow firefighters immediate entry into homes and businesses without forced entry damage or delay. Knox Boxes are usually mounted at the front door/entrance to a building, where the Fire Department can open them with a master key specific to Mount Prospect.

Q: Why does a fire engine respond to a medical call with the ambulance?

A: There are several reasons a fire engine responds with the ambulance. Many medical calls require more than two individuals to treat and transport the patient. Advanced life support measures include cardiac monitoring, airway management, IV and drug administration, not to mention physically moving the individual from the residence to the ambulance. All firefighters are paramedic certified which means no matter what apparatus shows up first, they are equipped and trained to provide aid.

Q: What do inspectors typically look for during an annual fire inspection?

A: In general, inspectors are looking for any fire or life safety issues that may make the building unsafe for residents, occupants and/or employees. Inspectors look to make sure the building is properly addressed, that emergency lights and exit signage are working and that the correct number and type of fire extinguishers are present. Ensuring that all exits and utility rooms are clear and that a building's fire alarm and/or fire suppression system has been properly tested and maintained are also part of an annual fire inspection. For more information, visit mountprospect.org/fire or call the Fire Prevention Bureau at (847) 818-5253.



18 Babies were born in 2019
(Two not pictured)

Look who turned 5 in 2024!



(One not pictured)

Website: mountprospect.org/fire
X: @MountProspectFD
Facebook: facebook.com/mountprospectfd

Emergency Services: 9-1-1
- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Suppression
- Any situation that requires an emergency vehicle/personnel

Non-Emergency Services: 847-870-5660
- Community CPR and First Aid Training
- Disaster/Crisis Planning
- Incident Reports
- Premise Alert Program
- Paramedic Service Questions

Fire Prevention: 847-818-5253
- Building Evacuation Planning
- Citizen Emergency Response Training
- Fire Code Enforcement
- Fire Code and Fire Protection Systems Questions
- Fire Inspections
- Fire Investigations
- Fire and Life Safety Education Programs
- Fire Station Tours
- Juvenile Fire Setter Counseling
- Knox Box Program
- Smoke Detector Installation and Battery Replacement



Fire Station 11
1415 Algonquin Road



Fire Station 12
1601 W. Golf Road



Fire Station 13 (Headquarters)
111 E. Rand Road



Fire Station 14
2000 E. Kensington Road

Happy Retirement!



Firefighter/Paramedic
Paul Wojcik retired after
35 Years of Service



Firefighter/Paramedic
Jim Kuhar retired after
28 Years of Service



2025 Calendar of Events:

- September 13: Fire Department Open House
- October 5-11: Fire Prevention Week
- October TBD: Fire Prevention Poster Contest