



Fire Department

**City Council Annual Workshop Report
2024 Accomplishments**

Prepared by: Mike Warner, Fire Chief

The Red Wing Fire Department is committed to helping anyone in need, providing exceptional fire suppression, advanced medical care, technical rescue, disaster management, fire prevention, and public education. We are focused on operational readiness, department unity, professionalism, and community engagement.

Red Wing Fire Department Organizational Structure and Collaboration

The Red Wing Fire Department is composed of 62 dedicated firefighters, who collectively serve the community with professionalism and commitment. This includes 27 career firefighter/paramedics who operate on a rotating shift schedule to ensure 24/7 emergency response coverage.

Staffing and Leadership

The department's daytime operations are staffed by key leadership personnel, including:

- **1 Fire Chief**
- **2 Assistant Chiefs**
- **1 Fire Marshal**
- **1 Fire Inspector**
- **1 Administrative Assistant**

These individuals oversee daily operations, emergency management, fire prevention efforts, and administrative tasks during regular business hours.

Paid-on-Call Personnel

In addition to our career staff, the department also includes 30 Paid-on-Call firefighters, who are organized into three companies, with 10 firefighters per company. This flexible staffing model ensures that the Red Wing Fire Department is well-equipped to respond to emergencies at any given time.

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the department's capabilities, we currently have four new Paid-on-Call firefighters enrolled in the fire academy, which begin in early January. This expansion strengthens our team and ensures that we continue to provide high-quality service to the community.

Collaboration with City Departments

The Red Wing Fire Department works closely with all city departments to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. Our collaboration with city leadership, public safety agencies, and other municipal services is essential to maintaining a coordinated, effective response to emergencies, as well as implementing proactive safety measures and community outreach initiatives.

2024 Red Wing Fire Department Accomplishments

The Red Wing Fire Department remains steadfast in its mission to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. In 2024, we continued to demonstrate our unwavering commitment through swift and effective emergency response, proactive fire safety inspections, and impactful public education programs.

Throughout the year, our firefighter/paramedics responded to a diverse range of emergencies, including fires, medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, technical rescues, and hazardous materials incidents. In each case, our primary focus was the protection of lives, property, and the environment. The team worked diligently to ensure that each emergency response was swift, coordinated, and professional, minimizing damage and delivering essential care to those in need.

In addition to our emergency response efforts, we made significant strides in fire prevention. Regular fire safety inspections of local businesses, schools, and residential properties allowed us to identify potential hazards and ensure compliance with fire safety codes. These proactive measures played a critical role in reducing fire risks and safeguarding the community.

Our public education initiatives reached thousands of residents through school visits, community events, and safety seminars. These programs provided valuable knowledge on fire safety, emergency preparedness, and life-saving techniques, empowering individuals to take proactive steps to protect their homes and workplaces.

Together, these efforts highlight our department's comprehensive approach to community safety—responding to emergencies while also fostering a safer, more informed population through education and prevention.

Strengthening Community Engagement and Building Future Leaders

In 2024, the Red Wing Fire Department also made significant progress in strengthening community engagement and developing the next generation of first responders. One notable achievement was the successful expansion of the High School Flight Paths program. This initiative provided local students with hands-on experience in firefighting and emergency medical services, helping them develop essential skills while gaining insight into the operational dynamics of our fire department. This program not only offered students invaluable real-world knowledge but also strengthened our bonds with the community.

We also focused on fostering greater integration between our paid-on-call and full-time personnel. By creating a collaborative work environment, we ensured that paid-on-call staff were fully engaged in daily operations, training, and emergency response efforts. This integration enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations, ensuring quick and seamless responses during every shift. Ultimately, this initiative contributed to the development of a well-rounded, dynamic team, better preparing both our current staff and future leaders for the challenges ahead.

Emergency Management Transition

The transition of emergency management responsibilities from the Police Department to the Fire Department, which officially took place in June of 2024, marks a significant shift in how incidents are handled within the community, while also building upon the solid foundation previously established by law enforcement. For years, the police have been integral in crisis response, laying the groundwork for public safety coordination, securing scenes, and managing initial responses to emergencies. Their role in establishing security perimeters, controlling crowds, and providing quick responses in critical situations has been foundational to the community's overall preparedness.

With this groundwork in place, the shift to the Fire Department leverages their specialized training and experience in disaster response, hazardous materials handling, and large-scale rescue operations. The Fire Department is now positioned to take a leading role in managing complex emergencies, with their established protocols and resource management systems enhancing coordination and efficiency. Furthermore, the Fire Department's deep relationships with other emergency agencies allow for a more unified and effective crisis response. While the transition required ongoing adjustments in training, communication, and coordination, the collaboration between police and fire agencies ensures that the community can continue to rely on a well-organized and comprehensive emergency management system, optimizing safety and operational effectiveness.

Resilience During Staffing Challenges

In 2024, our department faced significant challenges due to multiple firefighter injuries, resulting in staffing shortages. Despite these setbacks, our team exhibited extraordinary resilience and dedication. All personnel came together to maintain high service levels and ensure that community safety was never compromised.

During this challenging period, firefighters worked extended shifts and took on additional responsibilities to ensure that response times remained swift and effective. Their unwavering commitment to the community never faltered, even with the increased strain. Teamwork and mutual support were critical as colleagues voluntarily covered extra duties and stood by each other both on and off the scene. Their determination underscored the strength of our team and their unyielding commitment to the safety of Red Wing.

Addressing Ambulance Fund Shortfall

The Red Wing Fire Department also faced a significant challenge in 2024 due to a shortfall in funding for our ambulance service, which is vital to both Red Wing and the surrounding rural communities. Despite this financial hurdle, we demonstrated remarkable resourcefulness and ingenuity in ensuring that emergency medical services remained available to those in need.

We worked collaboratively with local government officials, neighboring agencies, and community organizations to explore alternative funding sources, secure grants, and raise awareness of the importance of supporting rural emergency services. In addition, our firefighters and emergency medical personnel worked diligently to maximize the efficiency of every response, carefully managing resources to ensure that no call for help went unanswered.

While funding challenges persist, the Red Wing Fire Department's commitment to overcoming these obstacles has allowed us to continue providing essential ambulance services to our community. Our team's innovation and dedication ensure that, despite financial constraints, our ambulance service remains fully operational and effective.

2024 Summary

In 2024, we responded to a total of 4,482 calls, showcasing our commitment to public safety and quick response. Each of these calls represents a crucial moment where we acted decisively, often in high-stress situations, to protect and serve.

Among our many efforts this year, our most significant accomplishments are the lives saved through quick, compassionate intervention. Whether it is through emergency medical responses, rescue operations, or preventive safety measures, our team continuously strives to make a difference. These life-saving actions are a testament to the hard work, training, and determination of our personnel.

A comprehensive report detailing all activities and outcomes of 2024 will follow shortly. We look forward to sharing a thorough overview of our accomplishments, challenges, and ongoing initiatives with you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Warner | Fire Chief
Red Wing Fire Department
420 Plum Street | Red Wing, MN 55066
☎ 651.388.7141 | Fax 651.388.5951
mike.warner@ci.red-wing.mn.us
City of Red Wing | www.red-wing.org



420 Plum Street
Red Wing, MN 55066
Website: www.red-wing.org
Phone: 651.388.7141
Fax: 651.388.5951



Fire Department

Mike Warner
Fire Chief

Peter Hanlin
Assistant Fire
Chief-
Emergency
Mgmt/
Professional
Standards

Sandra
Gernentz
Fire Services
Office Clerk II

Andy
Speltz
Fire Marshal

Matt
Lenz
Assistant Fire
Chief -
Operations

Gabe
Kinney
Hook &
Ladder
Captain

Sam
Schammel
Engine 1 Co
Captain

Grady
Nelson
Engine 4 Co
Captain

Michael Babb
Fire Inspector

Joshua
Johnholtz
A Shift
Captain

Trent
Wentlandt
B Shift
Captain

Mike
Dopkins
C Shift
Captain

Alec Whipple
POC Engineer

Elliot Kann
POC

Austin Langer
POC

Joe Melson
POC

Bill Mason
POC

Emmanuel Morales
POC

Bill Redman
POC Engineer

Zach Will
POC

Daniel Knott
POC

Corey Ahern
Lieutenant

Chad Sirek
Lieutenant

Luke O'Reilly
Lieutenant

Eric Alms
POC

Gage Lastine
POC

Steve Anderson
POC

Scott Will
POC

Chris Zenner
POC

Alicia Doane
POC

Peter Kraabel
POC

Jason Chouinard
POC

Peyton Kohn
POC

Josh Willems
Engineer-Paramedic

Justin Dahl
Engineer-Paramedic

Ross Stachowitz
Engineer-Paramedic

Travis Goodman
Engineer-Paramedic

Quin Kehren
Engineer-Paramedic

Paul Kluesner
Engineer-Paramedic

Mark Traynor
Engineer-Paramedic

Jamey Ahlgrim
Engineer-Paramedic

Evan Olander
FF/Paramedic

Open POC

Open POC

Open POC

Jared Witte
POC

Open POC

Open POC

Matt Rodgers
POC

Alex Pass
POC

Open POC

Carter Czapiewski
FF/Paramedic

Dylan Evenson
FF/Paramedic

AJ Larson
FF/Paramedic

Open FF/Paramedic

Brad Parlier
FF/Paramedic

Justin Hasler
FF/Paramedic

Kelly Beyers
FF/Paramedic

Open FF/Paramedic

Colten Kruempel
FF/Paramedic

Nathan Achman
FF/Paramedic

Clayton Rutschow
FF/Paramedic

Reo Brand
FF/Paramedic

Paid On Call (POC)