

THIENSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Thiensville Fire Department

250 Elm Street
Thiensville, Wisconsin 53092
Phone 262.242.3393 Fax 262.242.238.4448

Honorable Village Board Members,

It is my pleasure to provide the annual report for 2019. While there are many achievements to celebrate, there are still significant challenges to overcome! One thing that has remained constant in our 163 year history, is the dedication and professionalism of the men and women whom serve this great department and Village along with our department's focus on community outreach.

As you review the report, you will see the Thiensville Fire Department continues to follow national trends where emergency medical responses far outnumber fire suppression calls for service. That being said, we continue to offer robust educational opportunities for both Fire and EMS training to ensure department members are able to respond to all hazard responses efficiently and professionally.

The men and women of the Thiensville Fire Department wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the Village Board's support of the department. Without that support, we would not be able to provide the high quality response to the Village and Ozaukee County.

Regards,

Brian J. Reiels

Brian J. Reiels
Fire Chief



Executive Summary

The Thiensville Fire Department kept busy responding to calls for service and with its long-standing commitment to community outreach programming, fire prevention and continuous recruitment efforts throughout the year. Deputy Chief Deutsch's full-time position enabled the paramedic program to provide consistent coverage throughout the year with little need for mutual aid requests to cover the Village. Although recruitment of new members is a non-stop endeavor, we continue to see a decrease in the number of department members. Even though we have provided consistent coverage, and continue to provide outstanding call response times, these staffing challenges may result in a greater dependency on mutual aid for major incidents.

Training continues to be a primary focus for the department. High quality EMS training is provided by both in house subject experts and from resources outside of the department. Our fire suppression training continues to provide an all hazards approach. Our robust training offerings ensure active members skills are maintained at a high level!

Despite our best efforts, the Dive team will not continue beyond 2nd quarter of 2020. Although significant time and effort was dedicated to building the team both from in house staff and from community recruitment, it can no longer be sustained. We will be keeping some of the most serviceable equipment in storage for now and most of the swift and cold water rescue equipment will be moved to the fire apparatus.

Our fire prevention bureau continues to keep working with business and multi-family building owners to keep the fire incidents extremely low. As a result of proactive efforts, the Village has an extremely low commercial fire incident rate.

We had several large incidents throughout the year but two of the largest happened late in the year and both in the Village and Town of Grafton. The first fire was an auto body shop in downtown Grafton and the later was a large house fire in the Town. In both cases, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) worked exactly as designed bringing a large amount of resources from not only Ozaukee County but surrounding counties as well!

Incident Type Summary

| Basic Incident Type Code (FD1.21) | Basic Incident Type (FD1.21) | Count |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 1 - Fire | | |
| 111 | Building fire | 5 |
| 112 | Fires in structure other than in a building | 1 |
| 113 | Cooking fire, confined to container | 2 |
| | | Total: 8 |
| Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident | | |
| 320 | Emergency medical service, other | 1 |
| 321 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 612 |
| 322 | Motor vehicle accident with injuries | 12 |
| 323 | Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped) | 1 |
| | | Total: 626 |
| Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire) | | |
| 412 | Gas leak (natural gas or LPG) | 5 |
| 424 | Carbon monoxide incident | 1 |
| 444 | Power line down | 1 |
| 445 | Arcing, shorted electrical equipment | 1 |
| 451 | Biological hazard, confirmed or suspected | 1 |
| 463 | Vehicle accident, general cleanup | 1 |
| | | Total: 10 |
| Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 5 - Service Call | | |
| 510 | Person in distress, other | 2 |
| 522 | Water or steam leak | 2 |
| 531 | Smoke or odor removal | 3 |
| 550 | Public service assistance, other | 5 |
| 551 | Assist police or other governmental agency | 1 |
| 552 | Police matter | 1 |
| 553 | Public service | 1 |
| 554 | Assist invalid | 5 |
| 571 | Cover assignment, standby, moveup | 25 |
| | | Total: 45 |
| Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 6 - Good Intent Call | | |
| 611 | Dispatched and cancelled en route | 55 |
| | | Total: 55 |
| Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 7 - False Alarm & False Call | | |
| 700 | False alarm or false call, other | 1 |
| 733 | Smoke detector activation due to malfunction | 2 |
| 735 | Alarm system sounded due to malfunction | 13 |
| 736 | CO detector activation due to malfunction | 1 |
| 743 | Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional | 1 |
| 745 | Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional | 11 |
| 746 | Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO | 3 |
| | | Total: 32 |
| Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21): 8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster | | |
| 813 | Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment | 1 |
| | | Total: 1 |
| | | Total: 777 |

Report Filters

Basic Incident Date Time: is equal to 'Last Year'

Description

Count of incidents by type

2019 Mutual Aid Requests for Service

| Requesting Agency | Total Requests |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Belgium | 2 |
| Cedarburg | 132 |
| Fredonia | 1 |
| Germantown | 7 |
| Grafton | 6 |
| Menomonee Falls | 5 |
| Mequon | 9 |
| North Shore Fire Rescue | 1 |
| Port Washington | 6 |
| Saukville | 4 |
| Total Request for Service | 173 |

MABAS Response to a Grafton Auto Body Shop



MABAS Response to a Grafton House Fire



Fire Ground Training Update:

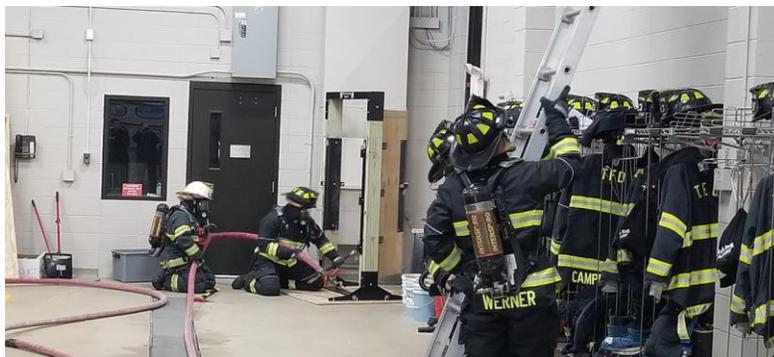
One of the biggest additions to the training bureau tool chest in 2019 was the delivery of the department's new forcible entry prop. This invaluable training tool was assembled by the membership to reduce the expense of this awesome training tool. The prop has been utilized during formal department practices on basic forcible entry, advanced forcible entry, 5-minute drills search and rescue, but also by membership to train with during down time while on duty.

Forcible Entry Training Prop



We continued our department focus on basic skills for new members joining but also to ensure veteran members kept their skills honed on gear donning, hose layouts and management, throwing ladders and search and rescue. These are often taken for granted skills that must be executed at a high degree when called upon. The 5-minute drill tests that readiness by taking members through hearing a page, donning their gear at a locker, mounting a vehicle, arriving on scene, laying out hose lines, forcing entry, placing ladders and the officer of the truck doing a 360-scene size-up. During the training, the average time of the truck getting on scene and crews having water and ready to enter the structure was 2 minutes 47 seconds.

5 Minute Drill Practice



In addition to basic skills review, members also trained on advanced skills including the proper use of the department's aerial ladder, vehicle extrication and firefighter rescue during a R.I.T. scenario. During the extrication training, members were taken through the entire process from a scene size-up, vehicle stabilization, tool set-up and various techniques for accessing a patient trapped after an accident. The aerial training involved proper staging, truck stabilization in a variety of ways to get the most out of the truck in different situations.

Members also trained on firefighter rescue which includes locating a downed firefighter, assessing and packaging them for removal, including ensuring they have an adequate air supply and finally, removal. This was done under the harshest of conditions involving zero-visibility, a tangled hose maze to follow as well as debris to navigate through before reaching the downed firefighter to start the assessment.

The department once again participated in Cedarburg Fire Department's grass fire training. This training introduces members to tactics for containing and fighting grass fires. This is a valuable training as these types of fires are common in the county but if not handled accordingly can escalate rapidly. The department has taken the skills learned in 2019 and is continuing to grow them in not only our new members but veteran members as well.

Skills Review



Emergency Medical Operations Summary:

2019 was quite the eventful year. We implemented numerous changes regarding our equipment and services. Unfortunately, our staffing remains a challenge.

With the generous donation of the Thiensville Fire Department Incorporated, we were able to purchase our new 2019 Chevrolet Tahoe paramedic intercept vehicle. We then repurposed the 2010 Tahoe paramedic vehicle to serve as a reserve paramedic response, fire inspection and school vehicle to replace the 2000 Ford van that was sold at a municipal auction.

We also standardized all of our EMS equipment in the ambulances and our other EMS vehicles. This allowed our staff to better know our equipment and where it was all located while responding to medical emergencies.

Our call volume increase remains consistent with national trends. A portion of the volume increase was due to a rise in the number of paramedic intercepts for the north end of our county. The majority of our paramedic intercepts are with the Cedarburg Fire Department, but in 2019 we responded to a significant amount intercepts in Saukville, Port Washington, Fredonia, Belgium, and Waubeka which clearly demonstrated the staffing challenges that all county departments are experiencing. We were fortunately able to staff simultaneous requests for paramedic intercept calls throughout the year but we also experienced EMS staff shortages ourselves in which we requested help from our neighboring agencies. As was mentioned earlier we are not alone in our staffing challenges in the Ozaukee County, Wisconsin and across the United States.

EMS Practice Summary:

TFD continued its commitment to high quality delivery of Emergency Medical Service through continuing education both at practices and outside training opportunities. While the required training topics required for recertification are rather scripted, our talented staff went above and beyond to ensure our reputation of excellence is maintained. Whether it be basic life support practices or paramedic skills reviews, the men and women of the TFD receive monthly training at the highest level possible using in-house expertise and resources available through the strong relationships maintained with area hospitals' staff. Twice throughout the year, Aurora hospital staff comes to the TFD to certify that all members' critical skills are maintained at the highest level.

EMS Practice



Fire Inspection Update:

The fire protection services staff continues to work with commercial building owners and multi-family owners to ensure public safety and completed well over 300 inspections. Fire Inspector Christopher Wunsch continues to assist with fire inspections under the direction of Deputy Chief Deutsch. He also has helped with numerous projects such as updating business and property owner contact information.

Our partnership with the North Shore Fire Department and Fire Marshall Mathew Mertens for life safety and plan review remains a shining example of success shared services between agencies and is integral to our ability to meet the needs of a thriving business community. Fire Marshal Mertens has extensive experience and knowledge in plan reviews ensuring our new and remodeled occupancies meet the current codes and safeguard our residents and business owner's safety.

We look forward to continuing to provide these great proactive components to our department.

Fleet Summary

Ambulances 551 & 552 - 2004 GMC C4500 Med Tec

Fully-equipped for BLS, ALS, and Paramedic service.



Engine 563 - 2000 Pierce Rescue Pumper

1750 gallon per minute pump
500 gallon water tank
Scene light tower
PTO driven generator
Extrication equipment
Class A Foam System
Bullard Thermal Imaging Camera
MSA 4-gas detector
Equipped for Basic Life Support response



Quint 561- 2007 Pierce 105 Aerial Ladder

1,250 gallon per minute monitor
2,000 gallon per minute pump
500 gallon internal water tank
Class A foam tank
Compressed air foam system pump
Hydraulic generator
Argus thermal imaging camera
MSA 4-gas detector
Equipped for eight firefighters and basic life support EMS supplies



Pumper / Tanker 562 - 1997 Pierce Quantum Pumper/Tanker

2,000 gallon per minute pump
2,500 gallon internal water tank
40 gallons of Class A foam
Equipped for seven firefighters and basic life support EMS supplies



Car 554 - 2015 Ford Expedition

Equipped with state-of-the-art incident command cabinetry complete with radio systems that allows communication with different mutual aid radios. 554 also has basic life support supplies for EMS calls.



Car 556 - 2010 Custom-Designed Chevrolet Police Edition Tahoe

Functions as a back-up paramedic response vehicle, fire inspection car, back-up incident command vehicle



Car 555-2019 Custom-Designed Chevrolet Police Edition Tahoe

Primary Paramedic Intercept vehicle carrying Advance Life Support equipment and supplied. It can also function as an incident command vehicle.



Kubota 550 - RV9000 All-Terrain Vehicle

4x4 custom-designed vehicle for delivery of EMS and rescue services in all environments and for large crowd events when ambulance access is difficult or prohibited. Full-equipped with BLS, ALS, and Paramedic / RN supplies.



1935 Seagrave Pumper

This restored pumper is used for public relations activities and ceremonial duties. The Seagrave is on public display at the TFD Fire Museum.



Community Outreach

Thiensville Fire Department has always believed in a strong connection with the community we serve. The tradition continued this year as we conducted over 80 community outreach programs. Throughout the year, Deputy Chief Deutsch inspected and installed over 50 car seats. Our “Truck or Treat So Others Can Eat” collected a record 1200 pounds of food for Family Sharing of Ozaukee County!

Parades



Car Seat Inspections



Public Education



Truck or Treat So Others Can Eat

