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PICTURED ABOVE // Firefighter/Paramedic Cameron Karstaedt cares for "Molly" after she was rescued from the Rotary Park Jetty in December.



April 1, 2024

Police and Fire Commissioners Mavor Neitzke **Common Council Members**

On behalf of the Port Washington Fire Department, I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report. 2023 marked the department's 171st year of distinguished service to the citizens of Port Washington. Our legacy is built on the skills and dedication of our members, who responded to a record 1,887 calls for fire and emergency medical services.

Within our coverage area, the department responded to five fires in 2023. These consisted of one barn fire on Green Bay Road in the Town of Port Washington, a garage fire on High Street, a second-floor balcony fire on Wisconsin Street, and two separate apartment fires at the senior living facility on Oak Court. These fires resulted in \$83,400 of estimated property and content loss.

2023 was undoubtedly an exciting year for the Port Washington Fire Department. Thanks in part to Ozaukee County ARPA funding, the department added three additional full-time Firefighter/Paramedics and a full-time Deputy Chief. These positions have been vital to providing around-the-clock fire and EMS coverage. The department also began efforts to solidify its long-term staffing by proposing a referendum that, if successful, would add six additional full-time Firefighter/Paramedic positions. After years of discussion, the City finally took the preliminary steps needed to replace the 56-year-old fire station with a new joint Public Safety Center on the west side.

With 549 years of combined service, the members of the Port Washington Fire Department look forward to making our City a better and safer place to live. After an eventful 2023, we look forward to serving the citizens through 2024 and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deputy Fire Chief/EMS Service Director

MISSION STATEMENT



The Port Washington Fire Department is committed to protecting the lives and property of our citizens and visitors from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, or the exposure to dangerous conditions. The Port Washington Fire Department strives to be a department where genuine commitment to quality is clearly shown in our product, our work environment, and our customer. Since 1852, our values of honesty, integrity, and trust have been the cornerstone of our department that we extend to our community, and our personnel.

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Port Washington Fire Department was established in 1852 by a handful of volunteers following a series of disastrous fires throughout the City. Although the equipment, methodology, and training has changed over the last 171 years, the one thing that remains constant is the dedication of the department's membership. Through their pride, courage, honor, and civic involvement, the members of the Fire Department continue to offer the very best in emergency services to those who live in and visit the community.

The current Fire Department consists of 49 members, five of whom are full-time employees. Two full-time chief officers provide administrative and operational direction. Three full-time Firefighter/Paramedics work a 24-hour rotating shift, providing half the needed personnel to keep an ALS ambulance fully staffed. Additional EMS responders traditionally work either in a paid-on-call (receive variable compensation when responding from home) or paid-on-premise (receive fixed compensation when staffed in the station) capacity.

The Fire Department is truly an "all-hazards" organization. It responds to more than 1,800 calls for service per year, including medical emergencies, fires, technical rescues, water rescues, and hazardous material responses within the city and surrounding communities. In addition to emergency response services, the department provides fire prevention education, inspections, and emergency management services.

Over the years, the Fire Department has developed many specialized response teams to handle the unpredictable nature of emergency services. The Dive and Surface Water Rescue teams respond to aquatic emergencies in Lake Michigan and other local waterways. The Rope Rescue team is specially equipped to manage technical rescue incidents. The department's Rescue Task Force was formed to operate in active-threat environments. All of these programs require additional training beyond the initial Firefighter certification program.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

FIRE DEPUTY CHIEF

Tom Sharbuno

FIRE CAPTAIN

Rick Kultgen

FIRE LIEUTENANT

Mike Grittner

ENGINEER

2 Personnel

FIREFIGHTER

4 Personnel



FIRE CHIEF Mark Mitchell



ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

Steve Schmidt



SAFETY DEPUTY CHIEF

Jim Langford



EMS DEPUTY CHIEF Joe DeBoer



EMS CAPTAIN

- Vacant -



EMS LIEUTENANT

Sam Lorge



FULL-TIME FF/MEDIC

3 Personnel



PARAMEDIC

3 Personnel



ADVANCED EMT/EMT

12 Personnel



AMBULANCE DRIVER

1 Personnel





TRAINING DEPUTY CHIEF Scott Ziegler

FIRE CAPTAIN - Vacant -

<u>fire lieutenant</u> Charlie Leasum

> **ENGINEER** 3 Personnel

FIREFIGHTER 6 Personnel



DIVE TEAM LEADER Mike Jaitner



RESCUE DIVER 3 Personnel



Note the above personnel count differs from department staff level as multiple personnel are cross-trained to fill numerous positions.



PICTURED ABOVE // Members of the department bid farewell to City Administrator Tony Brown in November.

FIRE RESPONSES

The Fire Department participates in the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). This system is a uniform reporting system that categorizes fire responses into the categories listed. To aid in the gathering of data, the Department utilizes *FIREHOUSE Software*. Fire reports are sent monthly electronically to the National Fire Administration.

TOTAL FIRE CALLS



334

With 334 calls, 2023 ranked as the **3**rd busiest year for fire responses in the department's 171-year history. Over the last decade, the Fire Department has seen an almost **64%** increase in fire calls for service.



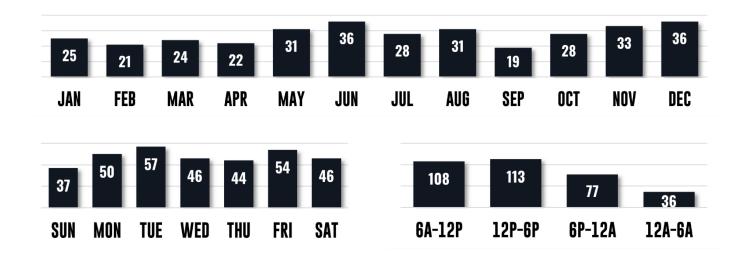
FIRE CALLS BY MUNICIPALITY

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON	266
TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON	45
GRAFTON	7
BELGIUM	3
SAUKVILLE	3
WAUBEKA	3
NEWBURG	2
SLINGER	2
MEQUON	1
FREDONIA	1
CEDARBURG	1



PICTURED ABOVE // Engine 465 serving as a change-of-quarters unit for a fire in the City of Cedarburg.

FIRE CALLS BY DATE/TIME



FIRE CALLS BY PROPERTY USE



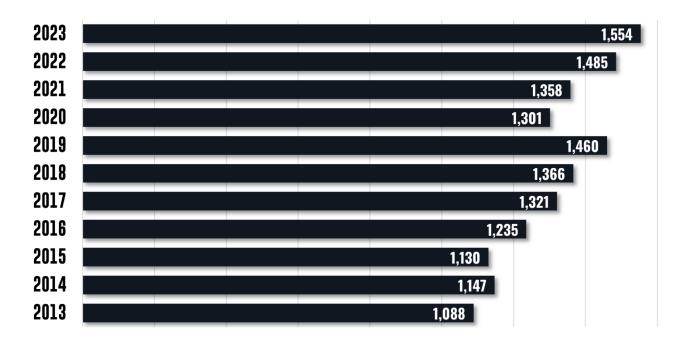
PICTURED ABOVE // Tanker 467 on scene of a grass fire in the Town of Port Washington.

RESIDENTIAL	164
ROAD/STREET	50
HEALTHCARE FACILITY	44
STORAGE	18
RECREATIONAL	16
INDUSTRIAL	13
MERCANTILE	13
ASSEMBLY	8
EDUCATIONAL	5
CORRECTIONAL	3

EMS RESPONSES

The Fire Department contracts with *Andres Medical Billing Associates LLC*, a billing and data management service. To further aid in the gathering of data, the department also utilizes *ImageTrend* and *FIREHOUSE Software*. The data listed below is a compilation of data from all sources. The department transmits patient data to the Wisconsin Department of Health, through the Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System.

TOTAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL CALLS



1,554

With 1,554 calls, 2023 ranked as the busiest year for emergency medical responses in the department's 171-year history. Over the last decade, the Fire Department has seen an almost **43%** increase in EMS calls.



RESPONSE TIMES

In 2023, the average response from time of call to arrival on scene was 6:42. Improved response times are correlated to better patient outcomes. With the introduction of full-time paramedics and a paid-on-premise staffing model, response times have decreased by 46% in just 5 years.

PRIMARY CALLS VS PARAMEDIC INTERCEPTS

1,252 PRIMARY CALLS

103 2ND CALLS

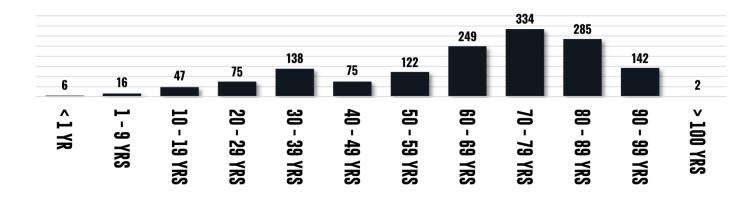
199 **INTERCEPTS**

TRANSPORTS VS NON-TRANSPORTS

1,073 TRANSPORTS

481 **NON-TRANSPORTS**

PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



EMS CALLS BY TRANSPORT LOCATION

AURORA MEDICAL CENTER - GRAFTON	873
ASCENSION COLUMBIA ST. MARY'S - OZAUKEE	166
FROEDTERT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL - MEQUON	11
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - MILWAUKEE	7
FROEDTERT HOSPITAL - WEST BEND	6
FROEDTERT HOSPITAL - MILWAUKEE	3
AURORA MEDICAL CENTER - SHEBOYGAN	3
HSHS ST. NICHOLAS HOSPITAL - SHEBOYGAN	2
AURORA ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER	2



PICTURED ABOVE // Ambulance 451 and 452 getting ready for the Fire Prevention Open House.

EMS CALLS BY MUNICIPALITY

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON	1,197
TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON	90
BELGIUM	131
FREDONIA	122
SAUKVILLE	6
GRAFTON	3
NEWBURG	2
RANDOM LAKE	2
CEDARBURG	1



PICTURED ABOVE // Fire and EMS crews work to extricate a victim from a car accident on Northwoods Road.

EMS CALLS BY DATE/TIME



EMS CALLS BY PROPERTY USE



PICTURED ABOVE // Elementary school students are given a tour of the ambulance by EMT Michael Eibs during Fire Prevention Week.

RESIDENTIAL	964
SKILLED NURSING/ASSISTED LIVING	329
ROAD/STREET	122
MERCANTILE	40
CORRECTIONAL	31
INDUSTRIAL	19
MEDICAL CLINIC	16
RECREATIONAL	15
ASSEMBLY	12
EDUCATIONAL	6

MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

Often, the scale of a fire or other emergency is beyond the scope of what a single fire department can handle. Wisconsin utilizes an organized, statewide mutual system aid system to provide a framework for resource deployment. The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, or MABAS, is activated through a set of "box" cards tailored to meet the needs of both the incident type and geographic location. By predesignating these resources, it ensures that communities can assist without completely depleting their available staff. It also allocates change-of-quarters apparatus to cover additional calls while the home agency is committed to the large-scale incident. MABAS also provides legal protection for mutual aid agencies in the event of equipment/apparatus damage or work-related injuries. All Ozaukee County Fire Departments are members of MABAS Division 119.

In 2023, the Fire Department provided assistance to other agencies through the MABAS system 23 times.

BOX CARDS

DEPAI	DEPARTMENT NAME: BOX ALARM TYPE:					EFFECTIVE DATE	E: MABAS DIVISION
Port Washington Structure Fire (Hydrant)					April 1, 2024 11		
BC	X ALARM #			OR AREA: Washington		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:	
OCAL DE	SPATCH AREA:		City of Fort	vvasinigion		mai	K MINCHES
ALARM	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
Still	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington		
Full Still	Saukville	Grafton		Saukville	Grafton	WE Energies	Belgium Engine Belgium Chief Jackson Ambulance
MABAS BO	OX ALARM:			•			•
ALARM	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
вох	Belgium Cedarburg	Fredonia		Jackson	Belgium Cedandurg	Ozaukee EM	Southern Ozaukee Engine Southern Ozaukee Chief Fredonia Ambulance
2ND	Southern Ozaukee Waubeka	Jackson	Cedar Grove	Fredonia	Southern Ozaukee Waubeka	Miwaukee Fire Bell	West Bend Engine West Bend Chief North Shore Ambulance
3RD	West Bend Germantown	North Shore		North Shore	West Bend Germantown		Newburg Engine Newburg Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulanc
4TH	Newburg Richfield	Menomonee Falls	Slinger	Menomonee Falls	Newburg Richfield		Random Lake Engine Random Lake Chief Sheboygan Ambulance
5TH	Random Lake Milwaukee	Sheboygan		Sheboygan	Random Lake Milwaukee		Ootsburg Engine Oostburg Chief Plymouth Ambulance
TERDIVISI EQUEST	ONAL	1st Choice 106	2nd Choice 107	3rd Choice 120			
Milwaukee Fi	ton Fire Station Addres	s: 104 W Washington S					

DEDIO	TMENT NAME:			BOX ALARM TYPE:			EFFECTIVE DATE	MARAS DIVISION	
Port 1	Washington			Life Safety			April 1, 2024	119	
BO	X ALARM#							ED SIGNATURE:	
	4-13		E	ntire Response An	ea		Mark	Mitchell	
	SPATCH AREA:								
ALARM	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	Ambulances EMS (ALS) EMS (BL		CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
Still	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington Port Washington		Port Washington			
Full Still	Saukville	Grafton	Cedarburg	Saukville	Fredonia	Grafton Cedarburg			
MABAS B	OX ALARM:								
ALARM	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	Ambu EMS (ALS)	Ambulances EMS (ALS) EMS (BLS)		SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS	
вох	Fredonia (w/ Ex)			Southern Ozaukee Jackson	West Bend Random Lake Newburg	Southern Ozaukee Jackson	Ozaukee EM	Belgium Engine Belgium Chief Germantoan Ambulance	
2ND	Belgium		Newburg	North Shore Germantown	Kewaskum Plymouth Richfield	Waubeka North Shore	Milwaukee Fire Bell Milwaukee Co Rescue 9	Oostburg Engine (w/ Ex) Oostburg Chief Menomoree Falls Ambulance	
3RD	Ootsburg (w/ Ex)			Menomonee Falls Sheboygan	Hartford Keil Film Grove	Oostburg Sheboygan	Notify Badger Red	Sheboygan Falls Engine Sheboygan Falls Chief Warragtosa Ambalance	
4TH	Sheboygan Falls		Cedar Grove	Wauwatosa Milwaukee	Greenfield Allenton Lisbon	Shebogan Falls Milwaukee		Slinger Engine (w/ Ex) Slinger Chief St. Francis Ambulance	
5TH	Slinger (w/ Ex)			St. Francis West Allis	Butler Campbellsport Sussex	Slinger West Allis		Filmore Engine Filmore Chief Brookfield Ambulance	
INTERDIVISI	IONAL	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice					
REQUEST		107	111	106					
NEORMATE	DAY.		extrication equipme						
	on ston Fire Station Addr			nt needed					
	pton Fire Station Addr re Bell: (414) 286-895		ton Street						
	re Beit (414) 286-895 Wisconsin Emergenci		043 0003 Press #3						
ladger reear	ivisconsin Emergenc	y management. (000)	343-0003 - F1688 #3	1					

BOX CARD 4-13 // Life Safety/Mass Casualty

	RTMENT NAME: Washington			RM TYPE: al Rescue	April 1, 2024	E: MABAS DIVISION		
	0X ALARM # 4-17	High-Angle,	LOCATION	OR AREA: d Space - Entire Re	sponse Area	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Mark Mitchell		
LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS/TRT	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
Still	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington			
Full Still	Saukville	Grafton	Cedarburg	Saukville	Grafton			
MABAS B	OX ALARM:							
ALARM	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS/TRT	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
вох	Belgium	Fredonia	Milwaukee	Jackson	Cedarburg Milwaukee	Ozaukee EM	Southern Ozaukee Engine Southern Ozaukee Chief Fredonia Ambulance	
2ND	Southern Ozaukee		Sheboygan	Fredonia	Southern Ozaukee Sheboygan	Mitwaukee Fire Bell		
3RD	West Bend	North Shore	Cedar Grove	Waubeka	West Bend North Shore	Notify Badger Red	Random Lake Engine Random Lake Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance	
4TH	Random Lake		Newburg	Menomonee Falls	Random Lake Newburg			
5TH	Richfield	Germantown	Slinger	Richfield	Germantown Slinger		Oostburg Engine Oostburg Chief Plymouth Ambulance	
NTERDIVIS REQUEST	IONAL	1st Choice 106	2nd Choice 107	3rd Choice 120				
Milwaukee F	ON gton Fire Station Addres ire Belt: (414) 286-8999 Wisconsin Emergency N							

BOX CARD 4-17 // Technical Rescue

	RTMENT NAME:		BOX ALA			April 1, 2024	
	Washington		Structure Fire (Non-Hydrant)				119
BOX ALARM # LOCATION OR AREA: 4-12 Town of Port Washington				AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Mark Mitchell			
	4-12		Town of Port	Washington		Mar	k Mitchell
LOCAL DI	SPATCH AREA:						
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	TENDERS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
Still	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington		
Full Still	Grafton	Fredonia	Saukville	Saukville	Grafton	WE Energies	Belgium Engine Belgium Chief Jackson Ambulance
MABAS B	OX ALARM:						
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	TENDERS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
вох	Belgum Cedarburg	Jackson	Waubeka Newburg Cedar Grove	Jackson	Belgium Cedarburg	Ozaukee EM	Southern Ozaukee Engine Southern Ozaukee Chief Fredonia Ambulance
2ND	Southern Ozaukee Waubeka	Random Lake	Filmore Random Lake Ootsburg	Fredonia	Southern Ozaukee Cedar Grove	Milwaukee Fire Bell	West Bend Engine West Bend Chief North Shore Ambulance
3RD	West Bend Germantown	North Shore	Slinger Boltonville Silver Creek	North Shore	West Bend Germantown	Notify Badger Red Slinger Squad	Richfield Engine Richfield Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulance
4TH	Richfield Milwaukee	Menomonee Falls	Saukville Southern Ozaukee Fredonia	Menomonee Falls	Richfield Milwaukee		Sheboygan Falls Engine Sheboygan Falls Chief Hartford Ambulance
5TH	Sheboygan Falls Hartford	Sheboygan	Belgium Cedarburg Jackson	Hartford	Sheboygan Falls Sheboygan		Kewaskum Engine Kewaskum Chief Plymouth Ambulance
INTERDIVIS REQUEST	ONAL	1st Choice 106	2nd Choice 107	3rd Choice 120			
Milwaukee Fi	DN gton Fire Station Addres re Bell: (414) 286-8999 Wisconsin Emergency I						

BOX CARD 4-12 // Structure Fire in a Non-Hydranted Area

DEPAI	RTMENT NAME:				EFFECTIVE DATE	: MABAS DIVISION		
Port Washington			Wa		April 1, 2024	119		
BOX ALARM #				AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:				
	4-15			Lake Michigan			Mari	Mitchell
LOCAL DI	SPATCH AREA:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	SQUADS	WATER RESCUE	BOATS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station II)
Still	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington		
Full Still		Cedarburg	Cedarburg (Dive) Grafton	Ozaukee Rescue US Coast Guard	Saukville	Grafton	Ozaukee EM	
MABAS BO	OX ALARM:							
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	SQUADS	WATER RESCUE	BOATS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
вох			Southern Oz (Dive) Waubeka	Sheboygan Sheriff Saukville		Southern Ozaukee		Belgium Engine Belgium Chief Jackson Ambulance
2ND	Belgium	Cedar Grove	Sheboygan Co (Dive)	Miwaukee Cedar Grove	Jackson	Belgium	Miwaukee Fire Bell	Data Antique Co
3RD			Washington Co (Dive) Sheboygan	Milwaukee Sheriff Wisconsin DNR		Sheboygan	Notify Badger Red	West Bend Engine West Bend Chief Fredonia Ambulance
4TH	West Bend	Newburg	Milwaukee (Dive)	South Milwaukee Filmore	Fredonia	West Bend		
5TH			South Shore (Dive) North Shore	Racine Manitowoc		Miwaukee		Random Lake Engine Random Lake Chief Ptymouth Ambulance
INTERDIVISI REQUEST	ONAL	1st Choice 107	2nd Choice 111	3rd Choice 105				
US Coast Gu Miwaukee Fi	DN gton Fire Station Addres lard: (414) 747-7100 ire Bell: (414) 286-8999 Wisconsin Emergency I							

BOX CARD 4-15 // Lake Michigan Water Rescue

	TMENT NAME:	BOX ALARM TYPE:				EFFECTIVE DATE	MABAS DIVISION
Port Washington BOX ALARM # 4-19			Disaster	April 1, 2024	119		
			LOCATION		AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:		
		City of Port Washington				Mark Mitchell	
LOCAL DISI	PATCH AREA:						
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
Still	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington	Port Washington Port Washington	Port Washington		
Full Still							
MABAS BO	X ALARM:						
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)
вох	Belgium Saukville	Fredonia	Cedarburg	Saukville Fredonia Newburg	Belgium Cedarburg	Ozaukee EM WE Energies	Southern Ozaukee Engine Southern Ozaukee Chief Jackson Ambulance
2ND	Southern Ozaukee Waubeka	Jackson	Cedar Grove	Jackson Random Lake Richfield	Southern Ozaukee Waubeka	Milwaukee Fire Bell	West Bend Engine West Bend Chief Germantown Ambulance
3RD	West Bend Sheboygan	North Shore	Newburg	Germantown North Shore Hartford	West Bend Sheboygan	Notify Badger Red	Sheboygan Falls Engine Sheboygan Falls Chief Menomonee Falls Ambulan
4TH	Sheboygan Falls Ootsburg	Milwaukee	Slinger	Menomonee Falls Kiel Greenfied	Sheboygan Falls Milwaukee		Filmore Engine Filmore Chief St. Francis Ambulance
STH	Filmore Wauwatosa	West Allis	Richfield	St. Francis Kewaskum Plymouth	Filmore Wauwatosa		Elkhart Lake Engine Elkhart Lake Chief Bulter Ambulance
INTERDIVISIO REQUEST	NAL	1st Choice 106	2nd Choice 107	3rd Choice 120			

BOX CARD 4-19 // Natural Disaster

MAJOR CALLS FOR SERVICE

LAKE CHURCH INN FIRE

May 16th. The Fire Department responded to assist the Belgium Fire Department with a multi-alarm fire at the historic Lake Church Inn. The Lake Church Inn, initially built in 1870, was the longest continually operating business in Lake Church. While fighting the fire, the roof collapsed onto the second floor, forcing firefighters to stay outside the building. More than 20 fire departments responded from as far as Jackson and Plymouth.



HIGH STREET FIRE

May 17th. The Fire Department responded to a working fire in a detached garage on High Street. The towering flames and smoke column were visible from Grand Avenue as the first-arriving units approached the scene. The intensity of the fire caused damage to adjacent parked vehicles and a neighboring garage. Due to the instability of the structure after overhaul was completed, the garage was eventually raised.



SLINGER PALLET/MULCH FIRE

May 21st. The Fire Department responded to assist the Slinger Fire Department with a multi-alarm fire at a rural wood manufacturing company in the Town of Polk. Through MABAS, multiple Ozaukee County departments formed a "tanker task force" and provided support both the evening of the fire and the next afternoon. Due to the lack of hydrants and a large fuel load, the fire burned for almost two days and required more than 1.5 million gallons of water to be transported to the scene.



CPR SAVE

July 10th. The Fire Department and Ambulance responded to the report of an unresponsive victim at the offices of the Ozaukee Press. Upon arrival, the patient was found to be pulseless and not breathing. After extensive resuscitation efforts, the patient regained consciousness and was transported to Aurora Medical Center. A few weeks later, the patient was able to attend the Police and Fire Commission meeting to thank the crew for their heroic efforts.



WISCONSIN STREET FIRE

July 10th. The Fire Department responded to a fire on the second-floor patio of the historic funeral home building. The first arriving engine quickly extinguished the fire. However, because of the complex architecture of the building and the void spaces created by the pull-through canopy, the fire required extensive overhaul operations to ensure that it would not reignite.



GRANITE LANE MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

July 24th. Both the Fire Department and Ambulance responded to a complex vehicle accident near Granite Lane. The driver of the vehicle experienced a medical event, causing her to drive into the side of the assisted living facility building. The car then traveled through multiple backyards before coming to rest in a retention pond. After being extricated, the patient was transported to Aurora Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries.



GREEN BAY ROAD FIRE

September 10th. The Fire Department responded to a barn fire on Green Bay Road. Upon arrival, flames were coming from a riding lawn tractor that had been used briefly before the fire. As secondary units began to establish rural water supply operations, the first arriving engine extinguished the fire. Because of the quick actions of the Fire Department, damage was contained to the lawn implements and the overhead garage door.



LAKE MICHIGAN SEARCH

August 2nd. In conjunction with multiple other agencies, the Fire Department and Dive Team participated in an extensive search for a paddleboarder that went missing from Harrington Beach State Park. Resources searched the lakeshore from northern Sheboygan County all the way south to the Port Washington Marina. Unfortunately, the victim was recovered approximately a week later after being located by a local fisherman.



ROTARY PARK PET RESCUE

December 29th. The Fire Department was requested to rescue a dog trapped in the rock jetty off Rotary Park. Molly had been missing for three days. By all accounts, she was cold, hungry, and scared. The owners attempted to coerce the dog back to them, but instead, she went farther out on the jetty. Molly then fell between massive boulders and crawled into a small cave between the rocks. Using ropes and mechanical advantage, the crews were eventually able to get access to Molly. She was transported to a local emergency vet for evaluation.





PICTURED ABOVE // Members of the department send off Town of Port Washington resident Mason Thill as he began a 100-mile charity ride to raise funds for the Port Washington Fire/EMS Association.

DEPARTMENT MILESTONES

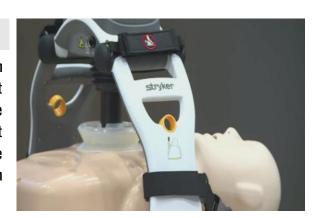
ADDITION OF FULL TIME STAFF

the Fire Department welcomed three full-time In January, Firefighter/Paramedics. The positions, funded in part through Ozaukee County ARPA Grants, provided much-needed stability to an EMS service that had previously struggled to reliably fill full-time positions. In addition to the Firefighter/Paramedic positions, a new full-time Deputy Chief position was created to help provide EMS leadership and oversight.



DEPT OF HEALTH SERVICES FLEX GRANT

In late 2022, the Fire Department was awarded more than \$52,645.00 in grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The grant funding was used to purchase equipment that maximized the Fire Department's EMS capabilities. New technology included a: LUCAS Chest Compression Device, Butterfly Portable Ultrasound, and Sapphire Intravenous Medication Pumps. Since its arrival, the equipment has been used in two successful resuscitations.



FACILITY LIFT ASSIST ORDINANCE

To combat the increasing number of EMS calls for non-emergency lift assists at residential care facilities, the Fire Department, Police and Fire Commission, Common Council, and City Attorney worked together to develop a non-emergency lift assistance ordinance. The ordinance assesses a graduated fee to facilities that utilize emergency services to lift an uninjured patient who has fallen despite having their own care staff available. After implementing the lift assist ordinance, the Fire Department has seen a precipitous decrease in these calls.



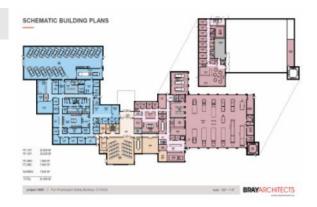
STAFFING REFERENDUM

As calls for service continue to increase, the Fire Department was tasked by City leadership to develop a long-term sustainability plan. This resulted in a referendum that will put the department's future in the voters' hands on April 2nd. The Fire Department is asking for six additional full-time Firefighter/Paramedic positions and to retain the ARPA-funded positions to supplement its dedicated part-time staff.



PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

After years of discussion, the Fire Department was able to take the first step toward a new station. The current facility was built in the 1960s and is not equipped to accommodate full-time personnel or the demands of the modern fire service. Working with Bray Architects, planning is underway for a new public safety facility and training center that would sit on the corner of County Highway LL and State Hwy 33 near the Eernisse Funeral Home.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU



The Port Washington Fire/EMS Association is a non-profit, charitable organization comprised of current and retired fire department personnel. Through fundraising and public service, its members actively promote public safety and community well-being. In 2024 alone, the Fire/EMS Association donated nearly \$20,000 of firefighting and EMS equipment to the Fire Department.



PICTURED ABOVE // EMS crews standing by on Fish Day during the fireworks.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Risk reduction is one of the most important non-emergency services the Fire Department provides to the community. Through fire inspections, public education/outreach, and fire investigation, the department helps identify potential safety concerns within the community and then coordinates resources to minimize the probability of those events happening or reduce their impact.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK





PICTURED ABOVE // Attendees learn the benefits of mechanical advantage during an activity that simulated a rope/technical rescue at the Open House.

Fire Prevention Week was first recognized by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925, making it the longest-running public health observance in the country. Throughout the first week of October, the department visits local elementary schools to meet with more than 500 3K -2nd-grade students to discuss various aspects of fire safety. Fire Prevention Week was bookended by our annual Open House. This year's Open House featured many activities, including fire/ladder truck rides, hands-only CPR training, dive simulations, turnout gear demonstrations, station tours, and a new mechanical advantage activity. The Fire Department Open House continues to be one of the county's most popular fire prevention activities.

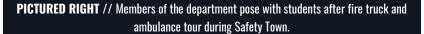




PICTURED ABOVE // Students at local elementary schools learn firsthand about fire and EMS equipment during Fire Prevention Week with FF/EMT Jacob Hodorff and EMT Diedre Humphreys.

SAFETY TOWN

Working with both the Police and Recreation Departments, the Fire Department continued to be an active participant in Safety Town at Dunwiddie Elementary School. This annual summer program is geared toward local students entering kindergarten in the fall. Throughout the week, participants learn a variety of age-appropriate safety topics including home address awareness, water safety, the use of 911, stop-drop-and-roll, and other important fire prevention topics.





SENIOR CENTER CPR TRAINING







In conjunction with the Senior Center, the fire department hosted a community-based CPR training course in mid-August. This class focused on the importance of bystander CPR and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Following a question-and-answer session about emergency services, EMS providers had the opportunity to demonstrate the common equipment first responders use during a cardiac arrest.

FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM

Geriatric falls continue to be one of the most common requests for emergency medical services. In a partnership with the Aging and Disability Resource Center, the Fire Department implemented a new program to help refer community members to the County's Fall Prevention Program. The evidence-based, voluntary program has been proven to reduce falls and incorporates strategies to implement positive lifestyle changes that keep patients independent, upright, and active. It focuses on home hazards, use of supportive devices, transportation safety, and medical problems/medications that may lead to falls.

HYDRANT HERO PROGRAM



When responding to a fire, being able to access the hydrant is of the utmost importance. This time-critical task is often difficult in the winter months, especially following large snow events. To encourage citizens to shovel their hydrant, the Fire Department and Fire/EMS Association joined forces to start the Hydrant Hero program. Residents utilize social media to post photos of their cleared hydrant, and a few families were rewarded with a free DO "Blizzard." Although not needed in late 2023, the program paid dividends following an early January snowstorm.

PICTURED LEFT // Local families posing next to their shoveled hydrants in early January.

FIRE INSPECTIONS

The Fire Department is responsible for inspecting more than 700 addresses within the City and Town of Port Washington. Inspections ensure that all required properties (those larger than two-family dwellings) comply with the existing fire code. The Fire Department also provides fire protection plan reviews and witnesses "acceptance testing" to ensure that newly installed suppression and alarm systems are functioning appropriately. In 2023, more than 1,234 fire inspections were completed, and 540 apparent code violations were noted.

FIRE INVESTIGATION

The Fire Department works directly with the Police Department to investigate the cause and origin of fires that occur within the community. By understanding the cause of these fires, these departments can identify common factors that may lead to fire incidents. This knowledge allows the Fire Department to implement preventative measures, educate the public, and better refine city ordinances. In 2023, 22 investigations were conducted. These fires resulted in approximately \$83,400 of property loss.



PERSONNEL

As a combination department, the Fire Department depends on both part-time and full-time staff to provide high-quality emergency services. As of December 31st, 2023, the department roster consisted of 49 total personnel. 2023 saw the resignation or retirement of the following personnel: EMT Daniel Cehanovich, Paramedic Todd Dicker, Advanced EMT Joanne Godersky, Firefighter Brandon Gregozeski, Rescue Diver Michael Kiener, EMT Jacob Krueger, EMT Jennifer Rutkowski, FF/EMT Andre Schmitt, EMT Garrit Taleck, Paramedic Paul Taleck, Captain Steve Ulm, and Captain Jason Weis.

5	44	20	17	6	1
TOTAL	TOTAL	FIRE-ONLY	EMS-ONLY	DUAL-ROLE	ADMIN
Full-time	Part-time	Part-time	Part-time	Part-time	Part-time

NAME	RANK	YRS	NAME	RANK	YRS
Jason Borchert	Firefighter	2.33	Deana Laabs	Advanced EMT	0.75
Andrew Borgenhagen	Engineer	2.58	Jordan Laboy	FT FF/Paramedic	1.58
Nicholas Castner	FF/EMT	3.00	James Langford	Deputy Chief	30.08
Rachelle Cehanovich	Advanced EMT	18.51	Adam Lanser	Firefighter	17.66
Roland Chaloupka	Rescue Diver	42.25	Richard Lathrop	Firefighter	13.33
Joseph DeBoer	Deputy Chief/Paramedic	19.58	Charles Leasum	Lieutenant/Diver	11.33
Michael Didier	Engineer	30.75	Samuel Lorge	EMS Lieutenant/Diver	3.00
Dylan Dodson	FT FF/Paramedic	2.33	David Luft	EMS Driver	1.75
Amanda Eibs	Admin Assistant	2.33	Timothy Lund	Advanced EMT	1.16
Eric Eibs	EMT	24.41	Steve McGaughey	Paramedic	0.25
Michael Eibs	EMT	11.25	Christopher Miotke	FF/Diver	3.00
Kurt Ellmauer	Engineer	4	Mark Mitchell	Chief	19.78
McKenna Ferry	Paramedic	0.58	Allsun Molenda	EMT	1.41
Cody Foote	EMT	7.58	Daniel Nelson	EMT	0.25
Nicholas Gilbank	Firefighter	0.41	Andrea Petersen	EMT	2.5
Michael Grittner	Lieutenant	10.91	Viktor Petrov	FF/EMT	7.41
Ben Hedrick	EMT	0.25	Eric Poggemann	Rescue Diver	11.25
Eric Hill	FF/Diver	21.00	Kevin Riley	FF/AEMT	9.08
Jacob Hodorff	FF/EMT	2.5	Steven Schmidt	Assistant Chief	43
Diedre Humphreys	EMT	1.0	Thomas Sharbuno	Deputy Chief	41.33
Michael Jajtner	Dive Team Leader	24.5	Preston Smith	EMT	0.75
Cameron Karstaedt	FT FF/Paramedic	2.08	Jeffery Tietyen	Engineer	37.41
Andrew Klopp	Engineer	15.08	Joshua Van Natta	Paramedic	8.33
Morgan Kropidlowski	EMT	4.41	Scott Ziegler	Deputy Chief/EMT	11.25
Richard Kultgen	Captain/Diver	17.41			

As of December 31st, 2023, current members of the Fire Department have collectively provided nearly 549 years of dedicated service to the community and its residents.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The modern fire service requires the department to be prepared for all types of emergency situations. Some calls for service present circumstances that require additional skills obtained outside of the basic firefighter education program. The Fire Department has five specialized teams that are trained to respond to these unique incidents.

DIVE RESCUE

Established in 1982, the Dive Rescue Team is the oldest established specialty team. There are two components to the Dive Rescue Team: surface support and rescue divers. Surface support personnel help divers manage equipment, review checklists, and control the diver's search patterns from the surface. They also serve as boat operators when functioning in open water or on Lake Michigan. Rescue divers hold various certifications and are specialists in deep diving, night diving, submerged auto rescue, and ice diving.





ACTIVE MEMBERS

Dive Team Leader Mike Jajtner FF Eric Hill

Lieutenant Rick Kultgen FF Chris Miotke

Lieutenant Sam Lorge Rescue Diver Roland Chaloupka

Lieutenant Charlie Leasum Rescue Diver Eric Poggeman

ROPE RESCUE



In conjunction with the Grafton and Southern Ozaukee Fire Departments, the Rope Rescue Team was established in 2020. The Rope Rescue Team applies a wide range of specialized equipment to access, package, and evacuate victims in difficultto-access places. The team is often required to establish complex haul systems utilizing mechanical advantage to rescue patients from steep grades, cliffs, and ravines.

PICTURED LEFT // Members of the Rope Rescue Team training along the bluff in Upper Lake Park.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Deputy Chief Joe DeBoer Lieutenant Charlie Leasum FF Kevin Riley

Deputy Chief Jim Langford Lieutenant Sam Lorge

Captain Rick Kultgen FF Rick Lathrop

Lieutenant Mike Grittner FF Viktor Petrov

RESCUE TASK FORCE

Established in 2016, the Rescue Task Force Team was the first of its kind in Ozaukee County. After the events of Columbine, Aurora, and Sandy Hook, it was apparent EMS providers could no longer stand by until the "scene was completely secure." Under law enforcement supervision, the Rescue Task Force Team enters the "warm" zone to provide rapid, point-of-wounding emergency medical care. The Rescue Task Force Team is outfitted with ballistic vests, ballistic helmets, and other protective gear, and is specifically trained and equipped to deal with violence-induced trauma.





ACTIVE MEMBERS

Deputy Chief Joe DeBoer FF/Medic Dylan Dodson FF Rick Lathrop

Deputy Chief Scott Ziegler FF/Medic Cameron Karstaedt **EMT Mike Fibs**

Deputy Chief Jim Langford FF/EMT Nick Castner **EMT Andrea Peterson**

Lieutenant Sam Lorge FF/EMT Jacob Hodorff **EMT Preston Smith**

SURFACE WATER RESCUE



Established in 2023, the Surface Water Rescue Team is trained to respond to the unique challenges presented by living along the lakeshore. Despite having a well-equipped dive team, rescue divers are not typically trained to complete surface rescues in dangerous surf conditions. Water Rescue Technicians receive specialized training that might include rescuing victims pulled into open water by currents, searching for those who have fallen from the break wall, or rescuing victims trapped in swift water/flood conditions.

PICTURED LEFT // Members of the Surface Water Rescue Team completing their initial certification course at the TJMS Pool.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Captain Rick Kultgen FF/Paramedic Dylan Dodson Dive Team Leader Mike Jaitner FF/Medic Cameron Karstaedt

Lieutenant Mike Grittner FF/Paramedic Jordan Labov

Engineer Andrew Klopp Rescue Diver Eric Poggemann

DRONE RESPONSE

Established in 2023, the Drone Response Team utilizes unmanned aircraft technology to help provide situational awareness at emergency scenes. This tool has been shown to be extremely effective in search and rescue operations. The Drone Team can evaluate large areas in relatively short periods of time, often with limited manpower. Equipped with thermal imaging capabilities, the drone can detect heat signatures from hundreds of feet in the air. The drone can also be utilized at fire scenes to identify hot spots, extinguishing the fire more efficiently.

PICTURED RIGHT // A nighttime flight assisting Port Washington Police Department with a search for a missing subject.



ACTIVE MEMBERS

Deputy Chief Joe DeBoer

Lieutenant Sam Lorge



PICTURED ABOVE // Fire and EMS on scene of a single vehicle accident in mid-March.

TRAINING

Quality training is essential to the operations of a well-rounded Fire Department. Led by Deputy Chief Scott Ziegler, the department's training division organizes hundreds of hours of high-yield classroom and practical education throughout the year. Training is often discipline-specific but routinely emphasizes working with both fire and EMS resources. Firefighters must attend at least 60 hours of training throughout the year. EMTs and Paramedics complete at least 24 hours of in-person training in addition to license-level specific online education.

In 2023, members of the Fire Department participated in more than **3,698** hours of training and outside education to better serve the community.



COMPLETED CERTIFICATIONS

FIREFIGHTER I and HAZ-MAT OPS (112 Hours) FIREFIGHTER II (42 Hours) DRIVER/OPERATOR (66 Hours) DRIVER/OPERATOR AERIAL (36 Hours) FIRE INSPECTOR (60 Hours)

FF/EMT Nick Castner - FF/Paramedic Dylan Dodson - FF Nick Gilbank **EMS Lt Sam Lorge** FF/EMT Jacob Hodorff - FF Rick Lathrop

FF/EMT Jacob Hodorff - FF/Paramedic Cameron Karstaedt - FF Rick Lathrop DC Joe DeBoer







PICTURED ABOVE // Members of the department participating in an extrication course (left), RTF onboarding (middle), and on-shift ladder training (right)

APPARATUS

A well-maintained apparatus fleet is imperative to the day-to-day operations of the Port Washington Fire Department. Under the direction of Assistant Chief Steve Schmidt, five Engineers routinely test and repair all department vehicles and small engines. Both boats are maintained by members of the Dive Rescue Team. In 2023, Ambulance 450 was retired from service. Boat 468 was decommissioned late in the year after experiencing a failure of one of the inflatable pontoons. A replacement RHIB (rigid-hull inflatable boat) is on order and expected to arrive in early 2024.

20,234

In 2023, Fire Department vehicles accumulated more than **20,234** miles responding to emergency calls for service, participating in training, or conducting day-to-day operations around the City.

AMBULANCE 451



YEAR MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

Ford/Lifeline 58.130

Good

2018

RESPONSE ROLE

Ambulance 451 alternates monthly with Ambulance 452 as the primary response vehicle for medical calls for service.

AMBULANCE 452



YEAR MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

Ford/Lifeline

28.656

2018

Good

RESPONSE ROLE

Ambulance 452 alternates monthly with Ambulance 451 as the primary response vehicle for medical calls for service.

HEAVY RESCUE 453



YEAR MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

2014

Pierce Arrow XT

4.235

Good

RESPONSE ROLE

Heavy Rescue 453 functions as the "special service" unit. It contains equipment for: technical rescue, vehicle extrication, and dive operations.

UTV 454



YEAR MAKE/MODEL HOURS CONDITION

Polaris Ranger 199

Fair

2005

RESPONSE ROLE

UTV 454 is utilized when normal apparatus are unable to reach the scene. It also provides support along the beach and during special events.

INTERCEPT 455



YEAR 2014 MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

Chevrolet Suburban

67.621

Fair

RESPONSE

Intercept 455 serves as the primary response vehicle for paramedic intercepts. When staffing allows, it is also utilized as a first response vehicle.

COMMAND 456



YEAR 2013 MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

Chevrolet Suburban

90.771

Poor

RESPONSE ROLE

Command 456 is the staff vehicle assigned to the Fire Chief.

BRUSH 457



YEAR 1992 MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

14,402 Fair

GMC 3500 4x4

RESPONSE ROLE

Brush Truck 457 is the primary response vehicle for small brush or wildland fires.

UTILITY 458



YEAR 2020 MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE **CONDITION**

Chevrolet 2500 4x4

14,254

Excellent

RESPONSE ROLE Utility 458 serves as an all-purpose vehicle. It is utilized to tow both department boats and the UTV. In winter months, it can also be equipped with a snowplow.

TRUCK 460



YEAR 1997 MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

Pierce Lance

14.524

Fair

RESPONSE

Platform/Quint 460 provides a 100ft ladder as well as an elevated waterway for large-scale incidents.

ENGINE 463



YEAR 2008 MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

Pierce Dash

10,430

Good

RESPONSE ROLE

Engine 463 is the second-arriving fire apparatus and is responsible for continuous water supply in hydranted and non-hydranted areas.

ENGINE 464



YEAR 1999 MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

Pierce Saber

16,348

Fair

RESPONSE ROLE

Engine 464 serves as the reserve engine and may also be utilized to supply Truck 460's elevated waterway.

ENGINE 465



YEAR 2006 MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

Pierce Dash

21,970

Fair

RESPONSE ROLE

Engine 465 is the primary response vehicle for fire-related calls for service.

TANKER 467



YEAR 2019 MAKE/MODEL MILEAGE CONDITION

Kenworth/US Tank

4,544

Excellent

RESPONSE ROLE

Tanker 467 is utilized to transport water to scenes in which there is no hydrant or water source available.

MARINE 468



YEAR 2013 MAKE/MODEL **ENGINE HOURS CONDITION**

JP Marine 17' Inflatable

N/A

Decommissioned

RESPONSE ROLE

Marine 468 provides near-shore and dive rescue support. It is capable of operating in both shallow and rough water conditions.

MARINE 469



YEAR MAKE/MODEL **ENGINE HOURS** CONDITION

2010

Boston Whaler 25'

335

Fair

RESPONSE ROLE

Marine 469 provides a rapid response to all emergencies on Lake Michigan. It is further equipped with a fire pump for marina operations.

RETIRED ENGINE 462

In late 2022, Engine 462 was retired from service at the direction of the Fire Chief and Police and Fire Commission. The 1993 Pierce Dash served as the department's attack engine until being moved to reserve status with the arrival of Engine 465 in 2006. Thanks to the tireless work of the Firefighters Crossing Borders organization, the retired engine and other surplus equipment found its way to a new home in late January. Engine 462 now serves as the frontline engine in Cuautepec de Hinojosa, a small community approximately 80 miles outside Mexico City.







PICTURED ABOVE // Engine 462 as it departs Port Washington (left) and its arrival in Cuautepec de Hinojosa (right).