

Westchester Fire Department

ANNUAL REPORT

Michael Mavrogeorge
Fire Chief



2023

DEAR VILLAGE BOARD & CITIZENS OF WESTCHESTER,

It's with great honor and privilege that we continue to serve the Westchester community.

Throughout 2023, Westchester firefighters remained tirelessly committed to our duties. We handled a total of 3,482 calls for service, marking a slight decrease of 3.7% compared to the previous year. Notably, responses to building fires also saw a decline of 19%, dropping from 42 to 34 incidents since 2022. Over the years, our call volume has generally trended upwards, with intermittent decreases in 2020 and 2023: 2018 - 2,890; 2019 - 3,238; 2020 - 3,135; 2021 - 3,292; 2022 - 3,615; and 2023 - 3,482.

Our operations are centralized across 2 fire stations situated at 10240 Roosevelt Road (Station 25) and 10760 Cermak Road (Station 26). Each shift is staffed with 9 authorized personnel, ensuring a minimum of 6 Firefighter/Paramedics remain on duty around the clock. At Station 25, 2 staff members man the ambulance, 2 operate a Rescue Squad/Ladder Truck, while Station 26 is manned by 2 staff members operating the Engine. At full capacity, our department boasts 28 firefighters and 1 non-commissioned employee.

As of the beginning of 2023, we started with a staffing level of 25 commissioned personnel and 1 non-commissioned employee, including 1 Fire Chief, 3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 18 Firefighter/Paramedics, and 1 Part-Time Administrative Assistant, with 3 vacancies.

Throughout the year, several members left the department for various reasons: Firefighter/Paramedic Mitch Zable on March 2nd, Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Rouleau on March 31st, Firefighter/Paramedic Dan Honea on June 26th, Firefighter/Paramedic Zach Heiderman on August 26th, and Captain Scot Stauber on December 15th. On a positive note,

Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Carlos Ward joined us on September 18th, followed by Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Reilly Curran on September 25th.

By the end of 2023, our staffing level decreased to 22 commissioned personnel and 1 non-commissioned employee, with 1 Fire Chief, 2 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 16 Firefighter/Paramedics, and 1 Part-Time Administrative Assistant, leaving 6 vacancies.

Looking ahead, the next eligibility test is scheduled for February 11, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Mavrogeorge", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Mavrogeorge
Fire Chief

MISSION & VISION



MISSION

COMMUNITY FIRST

The mission of the Westchester Fire Department is to protect life and property, promote public safety, and foster economic growth through a commitment to preparedness, prevention, response, recovery and mitigation as an all-hazards provider of emergency medical services, fire and rescue response, community risk reduction, and emergency management. We are dedicated to placing the needs of our community first.

VISION

Our vision is to be the **best** provider in the country of emergency medical services, fire and rescue response, community risk reduction, and emergency management for an organization and community of our size.



CORE VALUES

DO YOUR JOB ✓

GIVE ALL-OUT EFFORT ✓

TREAT PEOPLE RIGHT ✓

HAVE AN ALL-IN ATTITUDE ✓

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

We are committed to providing the highest standards of professionalism for our internal and external customers through our dedicated members. Our members are expected to remain on the cutting edge of our profession through continuous training and professional development in all aspects of our mission.

INTEGRITY

We serve with integrity. We value the public's trust and are committed to honest and ethical behavior. We hold ourselves accountable to this value. We believe in a personal commitment to our organization and our community.

COMMUNICATION

We share a common interest and commitment but may see things from a variety of perspectives. We believe communication is essential to the cohesiveness and performance of our organization.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

We embrace, respect, and value the diversity of our community. We are devoted to treating everyone with the highest degree of compassion, respect, and dignity to ensure our community receives the best possible service. Diversity and inclusion make our organization and our community better.

MAINTAINING HEALTH & SAFETY

We understand as public safety professionals that we may be called upon to place ourselves between harm and those endangered. To fulfill our mission our organization all of our members are expected to commit themselves to the overall health and safety of the organization and their own personal health and safety.

TEAMWORK & LEADERSHIP

Everyone in our organization is a leader. We seek out and value the input and opinions of members at all levels of our organization. The department is only as strong as our teamwork and that drives our organization. We will work together locally and regionally to improve service to the public and to maintain a safe and effective work environment. We believe that all members have a duty to mentor others.

COMMUNITY

Everyone in our organization can change lives. We are committed to our community by exceeding expectations and strengthening our community involvement at all levels. We place the needs of our community first.

INNOVATION

We embrace innovation and change. We recognize the value of new ideas, technology, and methods to meet the evolving needs of our community and members of the organization. We are committed to advancing change through innovative and progressive thinking that will benefit our community.

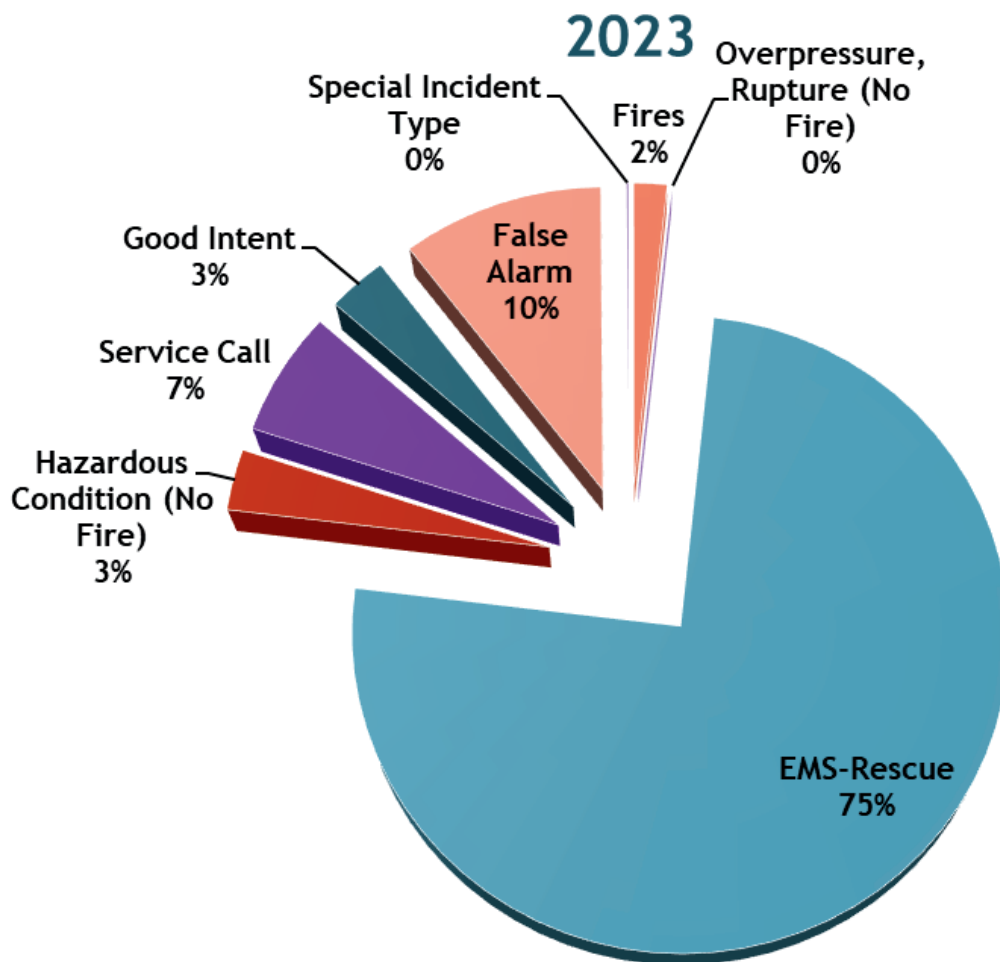
NEW EQUIPMENT

In 2023, with the support of the Village Board, the Fire Department was able to continue replacing outdated equipment and purchase new equipment to enhance the quality of services we provide to our residents.

- **A NEW AMBULANCE WAS ORDERED AND WILL ARRIVE IN FALL OF 2026 WHICH WILL REPLACE THE 2014 RESERVE AMBULANCE.**
- **4 MORE AED'S WERE PLACED INTO SERVICE FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL VEHICLES WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING CARDIAC SURVIVAL OF RESIDENTS.**
- **2 AED'S AND CABINETS WERE INSTALLED AT VILLAGE HALL WITH THE GOAL OF IMPROVING CARDIAC SURVIVAL OF RESIDENTS.**
- **BLEEDING CONTROL STATIONS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN DISTRICT 92 ½ SCHOOLS AND VILLAGE HALL AS PART OF OUR ACTIVE SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM.**
- **THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) THAT WILL PROVIDE INTEROPERABLE MOBILE AND PORTABLE RADIOS.**



RESPONSES



Fires: 59 (34 Building/ 14 Vehicle/ 5 Vegetation/5 Outside Rubbish/1 Other)

Overpressure/Rupture (No Fire): 1

EMS-Rescue: 2,618

Hazardous Conditions (No Fire): 109

Service Call: 225

Good Intent: 106

False Alarm: 359

Special Incident Type: 5

TOTAL CALLS 2023: 3,482 (2022: 3,615)

**THE INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE
STIPULATES A RESPONSE TIME
STANDARD OF 5 MINUTES AND 20
SECONDS FROM DISPATCH TO
ARRIVAL (4 MINUTES OF TRAVEL
TIME AND 1 MINUTE AND 20
SECONDS TO PUT ON GEAR).
DURING 2023, OUR AVERAGE
RESPONSE TIME WAS 4 MINUTES
AND 51 SECONDS.**

Property losses due to fire amounted to approximately \$383,355.00 in 2023. The Fire Department saved approximately \$415,000 of property in 2023.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

All fire personnel assigned to shifts are licensed as paramedics by the State of Illinois.

The Westchester Fire Department staffs 1 paramedic, advanced life support ambulance 24 hours per day. Medic 25 is based at 10240 Roosevelt Road (Station 25).

**75% (2,618) OF THE
DEPARTMENT'S
RESPONSES IN 2023
WERE EMERGENCY
MEDICAL AND RESCUE
CALLS.**

**EMS Call, excluding vehicle
accident with injury: 2,556**

Medical Assist, assist EMS crew: 57

EMS, other: 1

**Extrication of victims from
vehicles: 1**

**Extrication of victims from
machinery: 1**

Rescue or EMS Stand-by: 2

Due to our ambulance being already committed on calls, mutual aid ambulances from nearby communities responded into Westchester 357 times in 2023 to care for Westchester residents. 285 times, Westchester residents were transported to the hospital by a mutual aid ambulance from another community.

Not counted in our EMS responses, during 2023, we assisted residents 336 times from their car to into the house; from the house to the car; or assisted them moving from one location in a residence to another location in the residence. This type of call is called a patient assist.



TRAINING

Part of the firefighter's creed is a dedication to training. At the Westchester Fire Department, we do not train to minimum performance standards, we train to be able to be at our best when our residents need us.

**FIREFIGHTERS
COMPLETED A
TOTAL OF 6,209
HOURS OF
TRAINING IN 2023.**

OUTSIDE COURSE COMPLETIONS AND STATE CERTIFICATION ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **ROPE OPERATIONS- WILSON, JOHNSON**
- **FIRE DEPT INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER- MIDDENDORF, BISKUP**
- **NOZZLE FORWARD- PERZYNA, HOMERDING**
- **FIRE SERVICE VEHICLE OPERATOR- TIERNEY**
- **PUBLIC FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR I- SNAVELY**
- **FIRE INSPECTOR II- SNAVELY**
- **FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTOR I- FRANCIK, PERZYNA**
- **WATERCRAFT TECHNICIAN- MIKA**
- **ADVANCED TECHNICIAN FIREFIGHTER- JOHNSON**
- **VEHICLE MACHINERY TECHNICIAN- HOMERDING**
- **COMPANY FIRE OFFICER- PERZYNA**
- **ENGINE COMPANY OPERATIONS- HIDALGO, TIERNEY**
- **TRUCK COMPANY OPERATIONS- MIDDENDORF, SNAVELY, BASEK, WILSON**



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

In 2022, the department re-joined the Be Alarmed Smoke Detector Program to provide and install free smoke detectors to residents. "Be Alarmed!" is a fire safety education and smoke alarm installation program administered cooperatively between the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The program distributes fire safety education materials and 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms to fire departments in the state of Illinois.



The fire departments then deliver the education while installing smoke alarms in at-risk homes within their communities. Both the educational materials and smoke alarms are provided at no cost as a result of funding from both the IFSA and OSFM.

The program was developed to educate Illinois residents on the dangers of fire in the home and how to prevent fires from occurring in the home, as well as to ensure there are working smoke alarms properly installed in homes. By providing 10-year concealed battery smoke alarms, it ensures that the power source cannot be removed from the unit and, if properly maintained, will last the life of the device.

DURING 2023, 70 SMOKE ALARMS WERE INSTALLED IN WESTCHESTER HOMES BY OUR FIREFIGHTERS AT NO COST, AND THE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED 3 SMOKE DETECTOR CANVASSES OF THE IMMEDIATE BLOCK NEAR RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FIRES THAT OCCURRED IN THE VILLAGE.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

In 2022, the department began training instructors to deliver Stop the Bleed training to our citizens. This training teaches citizens how to control life threatening bleeding as a result of accidents or violence. We plan to offer this training in 2024 as an add-on to our CPR/AED courses. The department will also be deploying more bleeding control stations in 2024.



SAVE A LIFE



It is the goal of the Westchester Fire Department to train as many residents as possible, at no cost, to perform CPR and use an AED. In 2023, we issued 48 CPR cards to residents and 5 to firefighters.

In 2022, 3 Westchester firefighters were trained as certified child passenger safety technicians and can provide education and assistance with car seat selection and installation. Our technicians installed 7 car seats in vehicles during 2023.

NATIONAL
CHILD
PASSENGER
SAFETY
CERTIFICATION

A Program of
Safe Kids Worldwide



In 2023, we continued to provide fire extinguisher training to businesses in the village. In 2024, our goal is to purchase a new live fire extinguisher training prop to expand this training to Westchester residents.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we turn the page to a new year, the Westchester Fire Department is filled with anticipation and gratitude for the privilege of serving our beloved community. In 2023, we witnessed strong achievements and unwavering support from residents like you. Your trust empowers us to embrace the challenges and opportunities that await us in 2024 with enthusiasm and dedication. At the heart of our mission lies a profound commitment to community-first values. We cherish the diversity and spirit of Westchester, knowing that together, we are stronger. From our proactive outreach initiatives to our relentless pursuit of excellence, every endeavor is guided by the goal of enhancing the safety and well-being of our neighbors.



(708) 345-0433



mmavrogeorge@westchester-il.gov



www.westchester-il.org



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DUTY ★ COURAGE ★ COMMITMENT ★ SERVICE