



ANNUAL REPORT



2023

CONTENTS



- 3** Introduction
- 4** Department Overview
- 5** Goals & Objectives
- 6** Leadership & Organizational Chart
- 7** Department Personnel
- 8** Department Training
- 9** Service Demand
- 10** Fire & Service-oriented Incidents
- 11** Fire Inspections
- 12** EMS Incidents
- 14** Mutual Aid
- 15** Community Outreach & Highlights

INTRODUCTION



Dear Readers,

It is with great pride that we present to you the 2023 Annual Report of the Wheaton Fire Department. This report reflects our commitment to protecting and serving our City with excellence, integrity, and dedication.

The past year has been one of significant achievements and challenges. Our team has responded to thousands of

emergencies and participated in hundreds of hours of preparedness, training, and community outreach. Each of these activities underscores our mission to protect lives, property, and the well-being of our community.

The Fire Department's greatest asset is our people. Over the past year, the department has seen numerous personnel changes, including retirements, promotions, and new hires. These changes allow us to celebrate the longstanding members who spent a significant portion of their lives serving this community, as well as to provide growth opportunities for our personnel who were promoted into new roles.

Finally, we welcomed the addition of new firefighters and paramedics who earned the privilege of beginning a career of service in Wheaton.

Aligned with the City's Strategic Plan, we continue to appraise and adjust our services and programs to address the priorities of Financial Stability, Responsive and Efficient Services, and Community Safety. Our goals and objectives, developed from these overarching priorities, have driven improvements in fire prevention through an enhanced life safety inspection program, data collection and analysis, and improvements to our public education initiatives. Emergency response continues to be our highest priority, and our strong partnerships within the West Suburban Fire Rescue Alliance (WSFRA), Central DuPage EMS System (CDHEMSS), and the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) ensure we can manage any emergency incident that affects our City.

**Respectfully,
Robert Brill, Fire Chief**

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Mission: The City of Wheaton Fire Department is dedicated to safely providing the highest level of fire, rescue, emergency medical services, fire prevention services and public education to those who we are called to serve. These services will be provided by trained professional personnel striving for excellence while maintaining the resources entrusted to us in the highest level of readiness.

The Wheaton Fire Department provides comprehensive protection to the community through delivery of the following services and activities:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Suppression
- Disaster Preparedness and Management
- Fire Prevention and Risk Reduction
- Public Education
- Rescue
- Technical Rescue
- Hazardous Materials

To provide an all-hazards response to our community, personnel operate out of three fire stations strategically located in the City.

- **Fire Station 37** (1700 N. Main St.) provides primary response coverage to the north side of the City, including the central business district and Wheaton College.
- **Fire Station 38** (1 Fapp Circle) is the headquarters facility and has a primary responsibility covering the west side of the City, including the DuPage County Complex.
- **Fire Station 39** (1590 S. President St.) has a primary response area covering the south side of the community, which includes the southern commercial areas.

All stations are staffed 24/7 by full-time, highly trained Firefighter/EMT-B personnel and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Paramedic personnel. The cross-trained personnel provide rescue services involving vehicle extrication,

water, trench collapse, structural collapse, confined space, and rope.

Daily staffing is a minimum of five personnel per satellite station and six personnel at the headquarters station, including an Assistant Chief - Shift Commander (maximum total daily staffing of 18 personnel). Multi-purpose vehicles are housed and maintained at each station, ready for an immediate response. All ambulance units are equipped to deliver advanced life support care. Firefighting apparatus are equipped to provide fire suppression and deliver emergency medical services.

Personnel perform daily maintenance on department vehicles, equipment, and facilities. Additionally, on-duty members complete daily training and activities that support service delivery. All fire department personnel participate in a comprehensive training program that ensures the fire department is ready for any hazard or request for service.

Training ensures readiness, but prevention, public education, and preparedness aid in the reduction of risk in the community. Personnel engage in risk reduction efforts through regular safety inspections of occupancies and the delivery of on-going public education to a variety of community audiences. The Wheaton Fire Department members have a duty to serve our community, taking pride in our facilities, equipment, and training all while honoring the traditions of the fire service and the firefighters that came before us.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT SERVICES

Goal: Improve service delivery through process improvements and data analysis

- Implemented a modern records management system to enhance data collection and analysis.
- Reviewed the existing life safety inspection program, categorizing inspectable occupancies by risk, vulnerability, and identified hazards. The frequency in which an occupancy was inspected was determined based on the assigned risk category. By using this methodology, it allowed on-duty firefighters to focus on higher risk areas within the City.

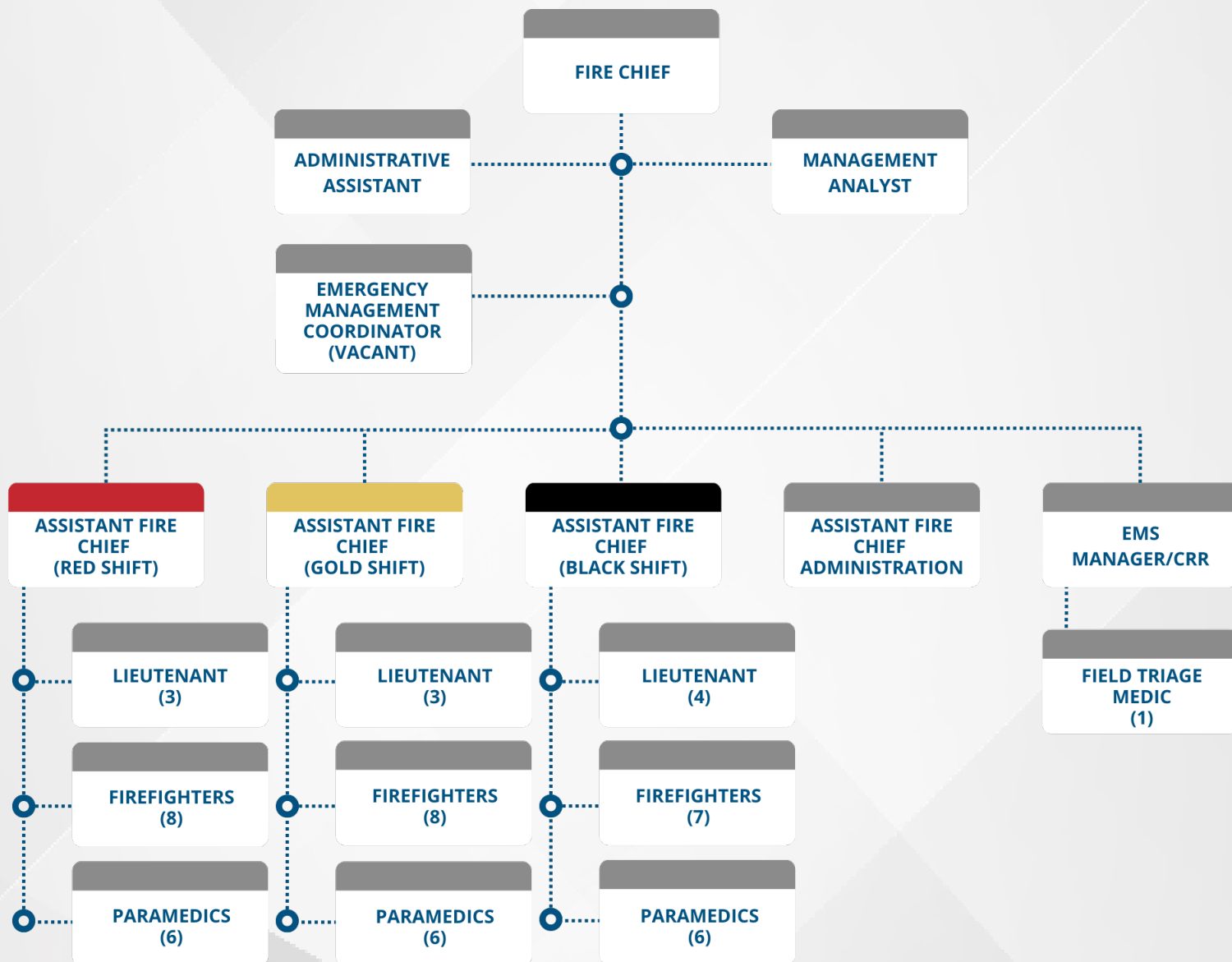
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: COMMUNITY SAFETY

Goal: Promote and preserve Wheaton as a safe city

- The Wheaton Fire Department continued to expand its Community Risk Reduction Program, reaching more than 4,200 adults and children through in-person public education opportunities. In addition to the numerous block parties, community events, station tours, and targeted education classes, the Fire Department leveraged the many capabilities of the City's Communication Department to continue promoting safety and well-being through the City's website, various social media platforms, and live video and photography.
- Continued to host the Citizens Fire Academy, providing a hands-on experience of being a Wheaton Firefighter, while educating residents and promoting safety.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

2023 Organizational Chart



DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP & PERSONNEL

2023 Command Staff



ROBERT BRILL
FIRE
CHIEF



PETER VASSIOS
ASSISTANT
FIRE CHIEF



DAVE DICLEMENTI
EMS MANAGER/CRR



JOHN COCHRAN
ASSISTANT
FIRE CHIEF



MIKE FRANZONE
ASSISTANT
FIRE CHIEF



JEFF BENDA
ASSISTANT
FIRE CHIEF

New Hires

The Fire Department hired three new firefighter candidates in 2023. These hires were necessary to fill open positions created by retirements.

- FF Robert Lewis IV, 8/14/2023
- FF James Marcinkowski, 8/14/2023
- FF Luke Solatka, 8/14/2023

Promotions

In addition to the new hires, several members were promoted.

- FF Aaron Gerdes to the rank of Lieutenant, 1/1/2023
- Lieutenant Tim Sellers to the rank of Assistant Chief, 11/5/2023

Anniversaries

Several of our members achieved milestone anniversaries during 2023.

- FF Jeffrey Naumann, 35 years
- Assistant Chief Jeff Benda, 30 years

- LT David Felker, 30 years
- FF Scott Mensing, 30 years
- LT Jared Pierce, 15 years
- FF Craig Williams, 15 years
- FF William Cox, 15 years
- FF Dan Evoy, 5 years

Retirements

The Fire Department had three of its members retire from service in 2023. These members provided exemplary service to the Fire Department and to our community. They will be missed for many years to come. On behalf of the entire City, we extend our gratitude for their longstanding service and contribution to the success of our department.

- Assistant Chief Jeff Benda, 11/1/2023
- Firefighter Scott Mensing, 9/8/2023
- Lieutenant Robert Deno, 1/3/2023

DEPARTMENT TRAINING



Over **14,000 hours of training** completed by Fire Department personnel.

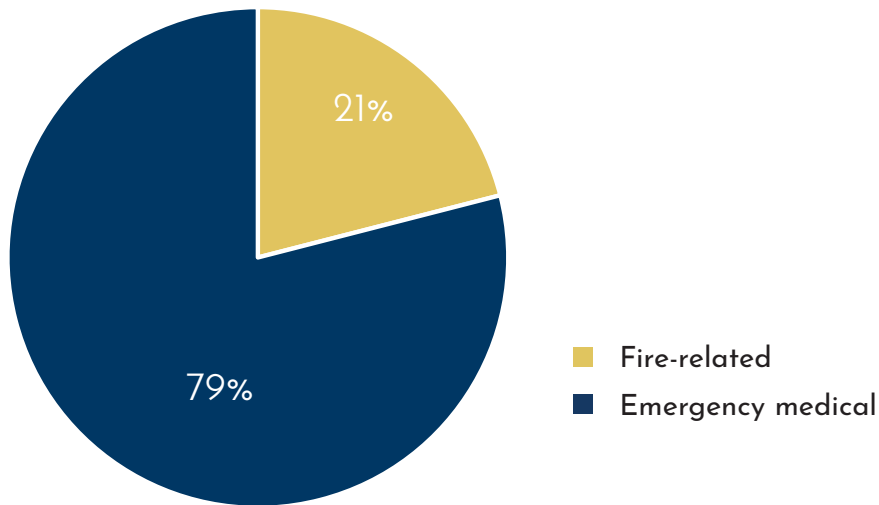
Training Program Accomplishments:

- The Fire Department training policy was updated to provide personnel with more funded training opportunities. Experience-based training plans were created as a framework to assist members in their career goals and specialty tract education.
- Hosted a multi-company commercial structure fire operations drill for alliance members and our regular training partners. This training was held at the former Acme Screw Company.
- Chief Brill became the training committee liaison for the WSFRA.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICE DEMAND

SERVICE DEMAND BREAKDOWN

The chart below shows the percentage of fire-related and emergency medical calls for service in 2023.



CALL VOLUME

Station 37
1,681 calls

Station 38
2,675 calls

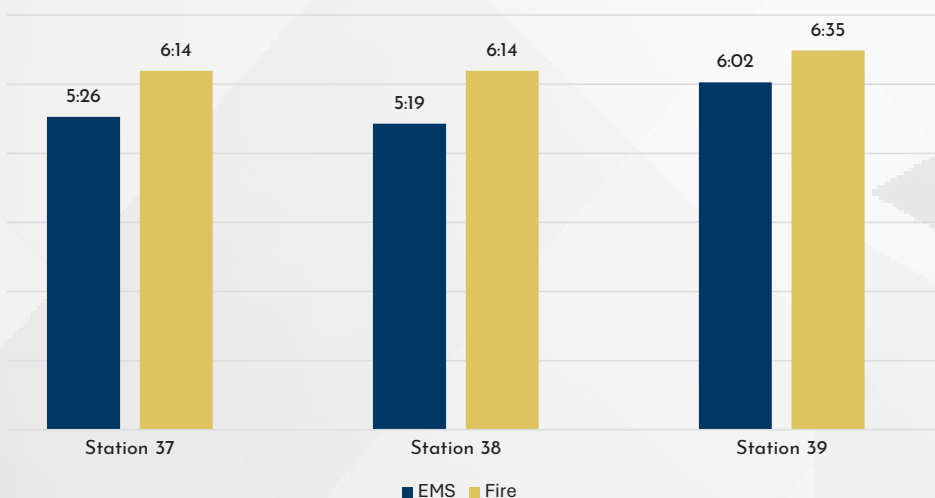
Station 39
2,294 calls

Total Calls:
6,650

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME

The response time interval is from the time the Fire Department is dispatched until the first unit arrives on scene. The chart below shows the average number of minutes per fire station for personnel to respond to emergency calls for service in 2023.

Average Response Time



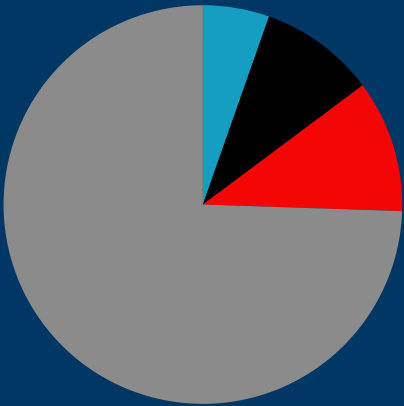
**Turnout time is the time interval from when the dispatch alert is received at the station until the fire or EMS unit goes enroute to the scene.*

FIRE AND SERVICE-ORIENTED INCIDENTS

Summary of Incident Types

An overview of the fire and service-oriented call types in 2023.

- Rescue (EMS) Calls:** 4,980
- False Alarms:** 718
- Service Calls:** 629
- Fire and Fire-Related:** 360



Fire and Fire-Related Breakdown

| | |
|--|-----|
| Hazard Condition Calls | 253 |
| Building Fires | 74 |
| Other Fires | 23 |
| Pressure Ruptures, Explosion, Overheat | 8 |
| Vehicle Fires | 2 |

Service Calls Breakdown

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Good Intent Calls | 459 |
| Service Calls | 157 |
| Special Incident Calls | 9 |
| Severe Weather or Disaster | 4 |

False Alarms Breakdown

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Other False Calls | 706 |
| Malicious Calls | 12 |

Rescue (EMS) Calls Breakdown

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Emergency Medical Treatment | 4,980 |
| All Other Rescues | 35 |

FIRE INSPECTIONS

The Wheaton Fire Department conducts life safety inspections of all business occupancies, public buildings and schools, and multi-family residential buildings. Additionally, Fire Department staff participate in the pre-construction plan review process that occurs prior to the issuance of a permit for new construction or remodeling of existing structures. For existing occupancies, the inspection program classifies these into low-, moderate-, and high-risk. The program is structured this way to ensure that resources are allocated effectively based on the potential fire hazards and safety concerns associated with different types of buildings and their uses.

Low-Risk Occupancies:

- These include buildings with minimal fire hazards, such as small office buildings and non-industrial facilities.
- Inspections are less frequent, often focused on basic fire code compliance and general safety checks.
- Inspections may be conducted annually or every few years.

Moderate-Risk Occupancies:

- These include buildings with a moderate level of fire risk, such as restaurants, retail stores, and small industrial facilities.
- Inspections are conducted more frequently, with a focus on both compliance and specific risks associated with the occupancy type, such as kitchen fires in restaurants.
- Inspections are typically conducted annually or semi-annually.

High-Risk Occupancies:

- These include buildings with significant fire hazards, such as hospitals, schools, large industrial facilities, and high-rise buildings.
- Inspections are conducted regularly and in-depth, focusing on complex fire suppression systems, emergency preparedness, and evacuation plans.
- Inspections occur more frequently, such as biannually or annually, depending on the specific risks involved.

COMPLETED INSPECTIONS:

In 2023, there were **366 total** occupancies inspected.

MOST FREQUENT VIOLATIONS:



Emergency lighting and exit lighting were inoperative



Fire extinguishers were not properly charged or serviced



Improper use of extension cords



Blocked egress



General housekeeping

All occupancies are inspected for general fire code compliance, including clear exits, functional fire extinguishers, and properly marked evacuation routes. Inspection results are documented, with reports provided to the building owner or manager. Identified issues must be corrected within a specified time frame, with follow-up inspections scheduled as needed.

By classifying occupancies by risk, the fire department can focus its resources where they are most needed. Regular inspections help to prevent fires and ensure that buildings are equipped to handle emergencies. The program ensures that all buildings meet local and national fire safety standards, reducing the likelihood of fire-related incidents.

EMS INCIDENTS

MOST FREQUENT EMS RESPONSE COMPLAINTS

Wheaton Fire Department paramedics responded to 4,980 EMS requests in 2023.

| Complaint | Amount |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Sick Person | 930 |
| Fall | 901 |
| Breathing Problem | 399 |
| Psychiatric/Behavior Problem | 397 |
| Traffic/Transportation Incident | 305 |
| Chest Pain (Non-traumatic) | 226 |
| Unconscious/Fainting | 193 |
| Invalid Assist/Lifting Assist | 168 |
| Convulsions/Seizure | 143 |
| Stroke/CVA | 117 |

MOST FREQUENT EMS RESPONSE LOCATIONS



| Complaint | Amount |
|------------------------|--------|
| 7 Blanchard Circle | 173 |
| 200 Wyndemere Circle | 114 |
| 500 Wyndemere Circle | 87 |
| 501 N County Farm Road | 75 |
| 400 N County Farm Road | 62 |
| 2126 W Roosevelt Road | 60 |
| 115 N County Farm Road | 56 |
| 831 E Butterfield Road | 54 |
| 219 E Parkway Drive | 40 |

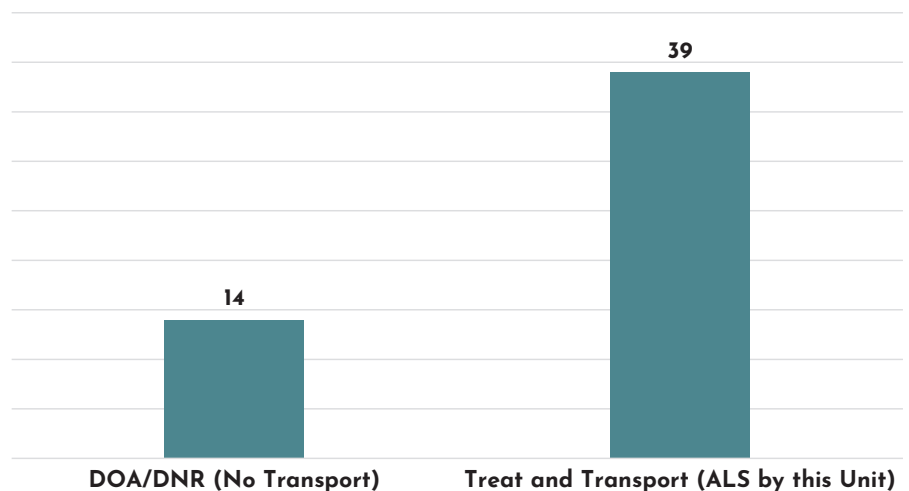
CARDIAC ARREST AND STROKE DATA

EMS data from the Wheaton Fire Department for 2023 indicates that out of 53 confirmed cardiac arrest cases, 37 met the resuscitation criteria. With a Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) achieved in 17 of these cases, the department had a ROSC rate of 45.95%.

This ROSC rate is significantly higher than the general survival rate for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests reported by the American Heart Association (AHA), which is around 10%. The higher ROSC rate in Wheaton could be attributed to factors like quick response times, effective CPR, and possibly the involvement of trained bystanders. It's also a reminder of the importance of immediate CPR in improving survival chances during cardiac arrest situations.

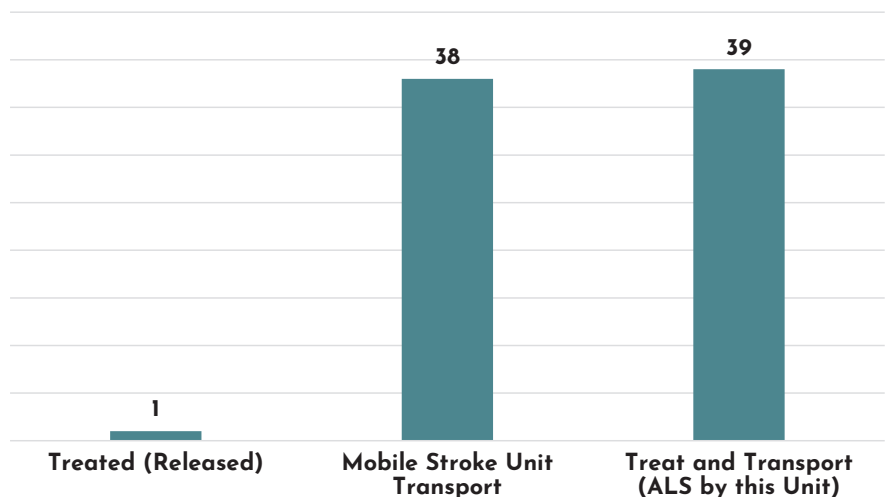
Cardiac Arrest Response Data

This chart shows the data related to cardiac arrest responses by the Wheaton Fire Department. There were a total of 53 cardiac arrest-related incidents in 2023.



Stroke Data

This chart shows the data related to emergency medical responses involving strokes in 2023. There were a total of 78 stroke-related incidents in 2023.



MUTUAL AID



In 2023, the Wheaton Fire Department provided mutual aid to other fire agencies 714 times. Additionally, they received assistance from other departments for 146 higher-risk incidents. This collaboration underscores the department's commitment to mutual aid agreements and the importance of resource-sharing among neighboring fire agencies.

The City of Wheaton Fire Department is well-equipped to handle routine requests for emergency medical services (EMS), rescue operations, and fire suppression. However, for higher-risk incidents that require more resources and personnel, the department relies on mutual assistance agreements with neighboring agencies. These agreements enable a greater number of first responders to collaborate, ensuring that complex or large-scale emergencies are managed more safely and efficiently.

In 2012, the City of Wheaton Fire Department entered into an agreement with the Bloomingdale Fire Protection District (FPD), Carol Stream FPD, Winfield FPD, Roselle Fire Department, and the West Chicago FPD to establish the West Suburban Fire Rescue Alliance. This alliance was formed with several key objectives: enhancing safety for emergency response personnel, improving emergency services for residents, reducing operational and administrative costs, standardizing communications and dispatch procedures, and sharing resources to cut costs.

The Alliance covers a 90-square-mile area, which accounts for 27% of DuPage County, and serves approximately 245,000 residents. While the Alliance departments are equipped to handle most small and medium-scale incidents, there are situations that demand even greater resources.

To address these larger incidents, the City of Wheaton Fire Department is also a member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 12. This group consists of 20 fire departments and districts in DuPage County and is part of MABAS-Illinois, a statewide mutual aid response system that provides additional and specialized resources for fire, EMS, and other specialized incident operations.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



In 2023, the Wheaton Fire Department participated in numerous community events, including block parties, public education classes, ladder truck and pumper truck demonstrations, station tours, and school visits. Fire Department members also attended the National Night Out event, supporting our Police Department and their efforts to keep Wheaton safe. Boy scout, cub scout, and girl scout troops learned about first aid and fire safety, with many of our young community leaders earning a merit badge in our fire stations. We are very proud of our prevention programs and work diligently in finding new opportunities to make this community safer and healthier.



COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

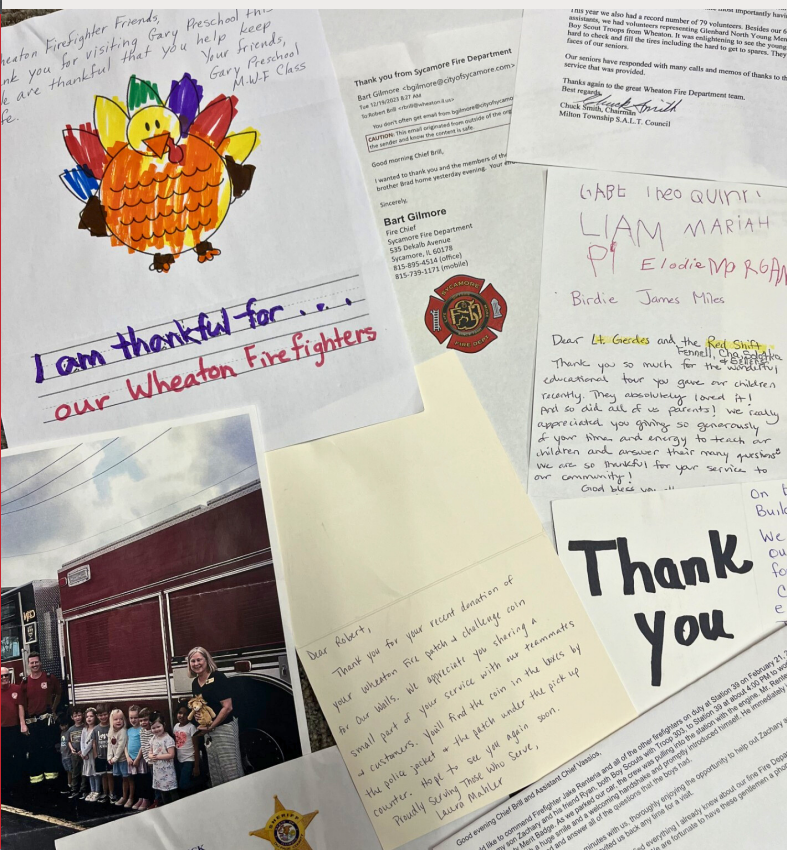


"Thank you so much for the wonderful educational tour you gave our children recently. They absolutely loved it! And so did all of us parents. We really appreciated you giving so generously of your time to teach our children and answer their many questions. We are so thankful for your service to our community."
– Leslie W.



"I would like to say a huge thank you for participating in another successful Trunk-or-Treat event. I know that the (fire) trucks continue to be one of the popular portions of our Halloween Happenings event and we could not do it without you, literally!"

– Wheaton Park District Recreation Department



"Thank you for your recent donation of your Wheaton Fire Patch and Challenge Coin for our walls. We appreciate you sharing a small part of your service with our teammates and customers."
– Laura M.



"I want to extend our thanks and appreciation to you and your fire department for assisting with the recent hazardous materials spill that occurred in our jurisdiction on Aug. 17, 2023. We would not have been able to control the incident as safely and efficiently as we did without the assistance of the Wheaton Fire Department."
– Warrenville Fire Protection District Fire Chief Andrew Dina

