



# Fitchburg Fire Department

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT





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## **CHIEF'S WELCOME**

February 27, 2019

Citizens of Fitchburg  
Mayor Gonzales  
City Council Members  
Police and Fire Commission Members  
Public Safety and Human Services Committee Members

### **To Serve:**

The Fitchburg Fire Department has been serving the community for nearly 50 years. This department started as a vision in 1970, to serve those who lived and worked in the Town of Fitchburg.

Starting from nearly nothing, our first Fire Chief, Herman Pfund, staffed, equipped, and directed a fire department, providing the foundation of our organization. The operations of the department have evolved, but our service is rooted in the core values that existed during our inception. We will forever be grateful to Chief Pfund for his passion and determination. This year, Fitchburg Fire responded to a record number of calls... marking the growth and development of the Greater Madison Area.

### **To Learn:**

Our membership strives to improve emergency response objectives, regularly engaging in personal and professional growth through experiential learning. We are known by our colleagues as a department that encourages firefighters to achieve personal bests through career development. We reinforce the need to adapt to an ever-changing environment. Social, technological, structural, and political variables will continue to influence our approach... And with these variables, we will continue to address the best interests of our City and its citizens.

### **To Respect:**

We understand our role in the community. To serve ALL people, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE... Regardless of circumstance. We must always be at our best, bringing our training and readiness into action at a moment's notice. Consequence and peril play no favorites. Our ability to provide care, independent of situation and condition, is a hallmark of the Fitchburg Fire Department and a cornerstone in public safety. In 2018, we continued to address service to our neighborhoods through education, outreach, and recruitment. We appreciate the value of an inclusive effort.

### **To Lead:**

We were busy in 2018. We specified the manufacture of two new fire engines (in service 2019), broke ground on a new fire station, purchased and introduced new breathing apparatus, and evaluated our response to technical rescue emergencies. Further, we evaluated the short-term and long-term potential with Emergency Medical Response. Ultimately, we do well in addressing the variables of our industry and our community. But... To Lead... we must be committed to our people... our firefighters. Without a capable and productive work force, our ability to achieve greatness is limited. So, in 2018, along with Fitchburg Police and Fitch-Rona EMS, we lead in the area of Peer Assistance, stress mitigation, and grief support. We chose to help our emergency responders... so they can help others.

I am proud to present our 2018 Annual Report. Although comprehensive, it only represents a portion of our total effort. Fitchburg firefighters consistently carry out our mission to Serve, Learn, Respect, and Lead. Please feel free to contact me if you require more information.

Sincerely,

Joe Pulvermacher  
Fire Chief



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## CORE VALUES

Honesty & Integrity  
Pride & Ownership  
Passion & Professionalism

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Fitchburg Fire Department strives:

### To Serve

by providing care through a dedicated and dependable response

### To Learn

by exercising readiness through repetition and vigilance. We will train to our limits... (not afraid of failure in a training environment) as we work toward competence and confidence

### To Respect

by exhibiting teamwork, honor, and accountability at all levels – continually treating others in a way that we would want to be treated

### To Lead

through initiative and service excellence, we are committed to be an example in our profession and in our community

## VISION

For those we are sworn to protect...  
For those with whom we serve...  
For all who live in, work in, or visit the City of Fitchburg,  
*We envision our optimal future:*

### ***When it comes to our profession:***

- We know our “**Why**,”
- We value our “**What**,”
- We will constantly strive to improve our “**How**,”
- While working toward our “**WOW!**”



## 2018 WORK PLAN – Chief Joe Pulvermacher

The prevalence of mental and behavioral health concerns among first responders nationwide prompted us to prioritize first responder well-being in 2018. This need was addressed with the implementation of a Public Safety Wellness Initiative, including the integration of:

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness
- Critical Incident Stress Management/Debriefing (CISM/CISD)
- Peer Support Network
- Chaplaincy

Though this initiative was spear-headed by the fire department, it was important to us that we involve our fellow first responders. This will encourage a stronger response- regardless of agency. The initiative includes individuals from:

- Fitchburg Fire
- Fitchburg Police
- FitchRona EMS
- Agrace Grief Center
- UW Health & Clinics

Early in the year, the fire department hosted two regional training opportunities, both of which were attended by first responders from across Dane County:

- Group and Individual Crisis Intervention
- Concepts and Practices in Peer Support for First Responders

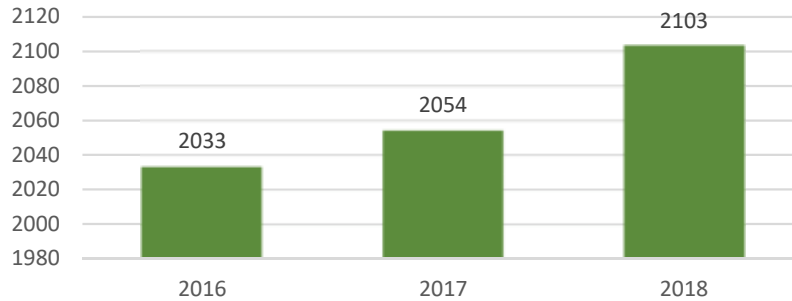
Since its creation in early 2018, members of the Fitchburg Public Safety Wellness Initiative provided assistance to Sun Prairie, Fort McCoy, and Monona following critical incidents involving local first responders. For more information about this initiative and to access resources, please visit [www.firstrespondwell.com](http://www.firstrespondwell.com).





## OPERATIONS - Deputy Chief Chad Grossen

### Requests for Service - 3 Years



### Most common requests for service in 2018



**EMS Assist**  
**1169**

Including Priority Medical  
Dispatch calls



**Still Alarm**  
**784**

Alarm Sounding, Car Fires,  
Odor Investigations



**Car Crash**  
**83**



**Structure Fire**  
**20**

## PREVENTION & INSPECTION - Deputy Chief Chad Grossen

In 2018, 2,349 inspections were performed on 1,457 occupancies. The majority of the inspections were routine fire prevention inspections, but inspectors also conducted:

- occupancy inspections
- life safety system acceptance inspections
- follow-up or re-inspections





## FIRE INVESTIGATION - Deputy Chief Richard Roth

Members of the City of Fitchburg Joint Police and Fire Investigation Team work to determine the cause of a fire: accidental, intentional, or undetermined. Once the investigation is completed, insurance companies may choose to investigate further; when the cause is found to be intentional, an additional criminal investigation may begin. When the cause of a fire is listed as “undetermined,” the investigators were unable to find definitive evidence pointing to any one specific cause.

In 2018 there was an estimated total fire loss of just over \$2,700,000.



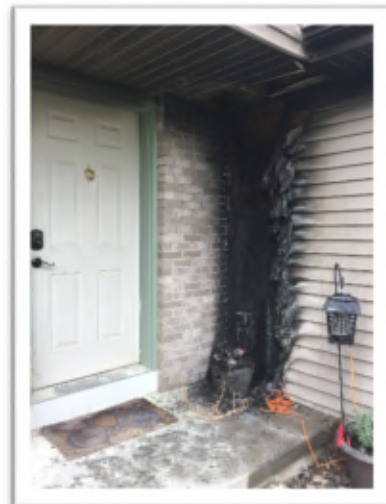
Woods Edge Way Structure Fire



High Ridge Trail Kitchen Fire



Aztec Trail Structure Fire



Quartz Drive Structure Fire



Tudor Drive Structure Fire



## PERSONNEL - Deputy Chief Richard Roth

### Hired in 2018

Niles Consigny	Corey Dahmen	Jesse Dickrell	Suzie Genin
Tanner Hanson	Nathan Hobert	Micah Lillegard	Jett Mallas
Megan Meyers	Hans Schwoerer	Erik Theissen	John Venturino

### Promoted in 2018

Captain Jeff Berman to Division Chief	April 16, 2018
Firefighter Eric Wakeman to Lieutenant	April 16, 2018
Firefighter Brad Way to Lieutenant	April 16, 2018

### Length of Service Milestones

#### **25 Years**

Firefighter Wayne Aeschbach	Firefighter Andy Brandl
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#### **20 Years**

Lieutenant Dale Struckmeyer	Firefighter Stephen Block
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#### **15 Years**

Lieutenant Dwight Shelton	Firefighter Jeremy Brueggemann
Support Services Staff Ron Martin	

#### **10 Years**

Business Manager Meredith Shelton	Lieutenant Brad Way
Firefighter David Zuehlke	Firefighter Kevin Kelm
Support Services Staff Wes Coppersmith	

#### **5 Years**

Firefighter Tim Bank	Firefighter Andrew Eastman
Firefighter AJ Miller	





## PUBLIC EDUCATION - Firefighter Adam Dorn

The City of Fitchburg Fire Department promotes fire and life safety education for Fitchburg residents and its visitors through fire education programs and events throughout the year.



Leopold Community Night



Woods Hollow Daycare



Lacy Heights Bike Parade

### **Public Education Activities include:**

- Portable fire extinguisher training
- Home fire safety inspections
- Emergency planning for area businesses
- Firehouse tours for groups or individuals
- Public appearances at community events

In October, the department hosts its annual open house. With the help of area businesses, community organizations, and other city departments, this event promotes fire and safety education and includes a variety of fire and life safety learning activities for kids and adults.





## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Chief Joe Pulvermacher**

In 2018, the position of the Emergency Management Director was transitioned over to the Fire Chief. Using the National Incident Management model and working with County and State agencies, an ordinance was drafted to address the need for readiness and response authority.

### **What is Emergency Management?**

The City of Fitchburg must prepare for the possible occurrence of natural or man-made disasters that are unprecedented in size and destruction (resulting from accidental or deliberate action). Instituting emergency management actions will provide for common defense to protect the public peace, health, safety, and to preserve the lives and property of the people of Fitchburg. It is necessary to:

- Establish a city emergency management organization responsible for city planning and preparation for emergency government operations in time of disasters.
- Provide for the necessary powers during emergencies and disasters.
- Provide for the rendering of mutual aid between city and other political subdivisions of this state with respect to carrying out of emergency-preparedness functions.
- Comply with the provisions of Wis.Stats. Chapter 323.
- Establish and maintain an Emergency Management Plan and Basic Response Plan.

### **Emergency Management in Action:**

The City of Fitchburg participated in large scale preparation and incident response throughout the City, Dane County, and the State. By actively participating in regular emergency management activities, we not only exercise needed skills for retention and recall, we also have an appreciation for the assistance that can be reciprocated during an escalating incident. In 2018, Fitchburg assisted with the following:

- Responded to local and regional flooding.
- Staffed positions in the Dane County EOC.
- Trained regularly on position specific functions of emergency management.
- Actively participated in the Southwest Wisconsin Incident Management Team (SWIMT)





## SUPPORT SERVICES – Division Chief Steven Wunsch

The Fire Department's Support Services Division is responsible for:

- New vehicle design and procurement
- Specification and purchasing of fire equipment and protective clothing
- Maintenance, repair, and disposal of existing vehicles and equipment
- Minor maintenance and repairs of the Firehouses and their grounds

### Engine Replacement

For many years, the Fitchburg Fire Department had four engines (two at each station) in its inventory. With the introduction of our aerial platform (Truck #1) in 2017, we expanded our pumping capabilities. This addition allowed us to reduce our fire engine fleet from four engines to three. So, in 2018, we purchased two new Pierce fire engines and sold (through surplus) three engines. The new engines are anticipated to be in service within the first quarter of 2019.



### East Fire Station Groundbreaking

In June 2018, we broke ground on the East Fire Station. Located on the corner of South Syene and West Clayton Road, this fire station will serve the development in the Uptown area of the City (northeast side). This location was also considered due to the anticipated annexation of sections of the Town of Madison. This station will be occupied in the Summer of 2019.

### Replace Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

SCBA are arguably THE MOST IMPORTANT tools a firefighter can use. This equipment is used on every fire and every IDLH (immediately dangerous to life and health) environment. The Fitchburg Fire Department is committed to a sound respiratory protection program. Predictable equipment is important for reinforcing this priority. Our SCBAs are scheduled for replacement every 10 years.





## TRAINING - Deputy Chief Rich Roth / Lieutenant Rob Kunze

The Fire Department's Training Division is responsible for developing and delivering a program to help ensure that:

- New members are trained up to an the same skill and competency level
- Current members maintain and build on their existing skill and competency level
- Updates and additions to national standards are implemented as appropriate

In 2018, department members participated in a total of almost 7,000 hours of training.



Rope Rescue



Vehicle Stabilization



Vehicle Extrication

## FIRE SCIENCE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Since 1975, the Fire Science Internship Program has been providing an opportunity for Madison College students, who are enrolled in the two-year Fire Science program, to live and work with the Fitchburg Fire Department.

The program is comprised of 3 first-year interns who live and work, primarily, at Firehouse 1 and 3 second-year interns who love and work, primarily, at Firehouse 2.

The program also offers an optional third-year paramedic intern program, in conjunction with Fitch-Rona EMS.





# FITCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT



Established in September of 2011, the Fitchburg Fire Department's Honor Guard was formed to honor and remember firefighters.

The Honor Guard is a branch of the Fitchburg Fire & Rescue Association, and is not an official element of the department or the City, but represents the department and our City at funerals, memorial services and any other function authorized/requested by the chief of the department.

The following are events that Fitchburg Honor Guard members attended in 2018:

March 2	Wisconsin Firefighter Association	Middleton, WI	Presentation of Colors
April 6	Madison Fire Department	Madison, WI	Line of Duty Death
April 20	Milwaukee Honor Guard Clinic	Milwaukee, WI	Clinic
May 28	Fitchburg Memorial Day Ceremony	Fitchburg, WI	Presentation of Colors
June 1	Fitchburg Fire Department	Fitchburg, WI	Groundbreaking Ceremony
July 13 & 14	Sun Prairie Fire Department	Sun Prairie, WI	Line of Duty Death
August 26 & 27	Black River Falls Fire Department	Black River Falls, WI	Active Duty Funeral
October 13	WI Firefighters Memorial	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	Final Alarm Ceremony
October 24	WI Fire Inspectors Association	Green Bay, WI	Presentation of Colors
December 21	Juda Fire Department	Juda, WI	Active Duty Funeral

