



# **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **PORT WASHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**



**CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON | FIRE DEPARTMENT & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
Mark Mitchell, Fire Chief

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May 10, 2021

Police and Fire Commissioners  
Mayor Neitzke  
Common Council Members

On behalf of the members of the Port Washington Fire Department, I am pleased to present the Fire Department's Annual Report for 2020. The Department, which celebrated its 168<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year, experience a year like no other in recent history. The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on the Department in many ways. The PWFD saw a decrease in total calls in 2020, when we responded to 1,591 emergency requests for service, which was a decrease of 156 responses from the 1,747 emergency responses in 2019. Of these 1,591 requests, 291 were fire responses and 1,300 were for Emergency Medical Services. The decline in total responses was entirely EMS related, as our EMS staff responded to 159 less ambulance calls from the previous year.

Another COVID-19 related issue dealt with personnel staffing. The Department had ten members test positive for the virus throughout the year, which forced them to quarantine for two weeks. Although each came separately, each was lost to the Department for their quarantine period. But perhaps the more significant staffing issue was the loss of EMS personnel who just simply did not want to take the additional risk of exposure while dealing with sick patients. Although there was no way to know how many patients were positive for the virus, it is safe to say our crews encountered hundreds of patients who exhibited COVID-19 symptoms.

The Department responded to two significant incidents in 2020, both were structure fires. Neither event resulted in loss of life or injuries to either firefighters or civilians. A damage loss of \$401,100 was estimated in 2020. This compares to an estimated \$533,850 loss in 2019.

The members of the Port Washington Fire Department, who I might add have 573 combined years of service to the City and the Department, are committed night and day to serve our citizens. They sacrifice their time and give an effort, that most citizens would not consider, to make our city a better and safer place to live.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Mark Mitchell*

Mark Mitchell  
Fire Chief / Ambulance Director

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**Cover photo:** The Port Washington Fire Department took delivery of a 2020 Chevy Silverado 2500 pick-up truck in January. The new Utility 458 replaces a 2001 Chevy Venture van. It will be used by members to attend classes, haul hose and tools back from fires, and for members to respond to both emergency and non-emergency calls where additional personnel are needed. The 4x4 vehicle is also equipped with a snowplow that would be pressed into service on unplowed Town roads and driveways where the ambulances respond to.



The photo above was taken at a report of a barn fire on Hwy B, in the Town of Port Washington on February 20. Upon arrival, it was determined that a small tractor was on fire inside the barn which was extinguished by PWFD personnel.

# **I. 2020 FIRE RESPONSES**

The Port Washington Fire Department participates in the 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.

## **A. FIRE RESPONSE BY INCIDENT TYPE**

<u>1. FIRES / 2. EXPLOSIONS (None)</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>EST. DOLLAR LOSS</u>
BUILDING	14	\$395,000.00
VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT	2	\$ 6,100.00
TRASH	2	0
BRUSH/GRASS	1	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL FIRE</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$401,100.00</b>

<u>3. RESCUE</u>	
ASSIST EMS CREW	76
CONFINED SPACE / TRENCH RESCUE	2
ELEVATOR RESCUE	3
WATER RELATED RESCUE	8
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	16
<b>TOTAL RESCUE</b>	<b>105</b>

<u>4. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS</u>	
FLAMMABLE/COMBUSTIBLE LEAK/SPILL	17
CHEMICAL LEAK	1
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) INCIDENT	4
STRUCTURE COLLAPSE INVESTIGATION	1
VEHICLE ACCIDENT CLEAN UP	2
ELECTRICAL HAZARD	5
<b>TOTAL HAZARD</b>	<b>30</b>

<u>5. SERVICE / 6. GOOD INTENT</u>	
SMOKE/ODOR/STEAM INVESTIGATIONS	10
ASSIST POLICE/ CORONER	4
ANIMAL RESCUE	2
MUTUAL AID	21
WATER PROBLEM	1
UNAUTHORIZED BURNING	6
OTHER	4
<b>TOTAL SERVICE/GOOD INTENT</b>	<b>48</b>

<u>7. FALSE ALARMS</u>	
MALICIOUS	7
SYSTEM MALFUNCTION	28
UNINTENTIONAL	37
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS (No CO)	16
<b>TOTAL FALSE ALARMS</b>	<b>88</b>

<u>8. SEVERE WEATHER</u>	
TORNADO WARNING STAND BY	1
<b>TOTAL SEVERE WEATHER</b>	<b>1</b>

**TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES - INCIDENT TYPE = 291**

<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED DOLLAR LOSS BY LOCATION</b>	
CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON	\$378,500.00
TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON	\$ 22,600.00
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED DOLLAR LOSS IN 2020</b>	<b>\$401,100.00</b>

## **B. FIRE RESPONSES BY PROPERTY TYPE**

### **100. ASSEMBLY**

CHURCHES	2
PLAYGROUND	3
CLUB	1
RESTAURANT / BAR / TAVERN	8
<b>TOTAL ASSEMBLY</b>	<b>14</b>

### **200. EDUCATIONAL**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1
MIDDLE SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL	4
<b>TOTAL EDUCATIONAL</b>	<b>5</b>

### **300. HEALTH CARE**

HEALTH CLINIC	2
ASSISTED LIVING	28
<b>TOTAL HEALTH CARE</b>	<b>30</b>

### **400. RESIDENTIAL**

1 OR 2 FAMILY DWELLINGS	98
MULTI FAMILY DWELLING	56
<b>TOTAL RESIDENTIAL</b>	<b>154</b>

### **500. MERCHANTILE / BUSINESS**

BANK	6
RETAIL STORE	6
BUSINESS OFFICE	1
<b>TOTAL MERCHANTILE / BUSINESS</b>	<b>13</b>

### **600. INDUSTRIAL / 700. MANUFACTURING**

MANUFACTURING / PROCESSING	11
<b>TOTAL INDUSTRIAL / MANUFACTURING</b>	<b>11</b>

### **800. STORAGE**

GARAGE	6
AGRICULTURE STORAGE	4
WAREHOUSE	4
FIRE STATION (MUTUAL AID)	2
<b>TOTAL STORAGE</b>	<b>16</b>

### **900. OUTSIDE & SPECIAL PROPERTY**

OPEN LAND / FIELD / BLUFF	13
WATER AREA	10
RAILROAD / UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY	4
PARKING AREA	1
DIVIDED HIGHWAY	3
RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL STREETS	17
<b>TOTAL OUTSIDE &amp; SPECIAL</b>	<b>48</b>

**TOTAL RESPONSES BY PROPERTY TYPE = 291**

**C. FIRE RESPONSES BY MONTH**

JANUARY	22
FEBRUARY	19
MARCH	23
APRIL	30
MAY	30
JUNE	25
JULY	24
AUGUST	27
SEPTEMBER	23
OCTOBER	24
NOVEMBER	23
DECEMBER	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>291</b>

**D. FIRE RESPONSES BY DAY**

SUNDAY	46
MONDAY	49
TUESDAY	35
WEDNESDAY	43
THURSDAY	37
FRIDAY	42
SATURDAY	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>291</b>

**E. FIRE RESPONSES BY HOUR**

MIDNIGHT – 6:00 a.m.	41	14%
6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	71	25%
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	105	36%
6:00 p.m. – MIDNIGHT	74	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>100%</b>

**F. FIRE RESPONSES BY AREA**

CITY of PORT WASHINGTON	224
TOWN of PORT WASHINGTON	40
VILLAGE/TOWN of BELGIUM	5
CITY OF CEDARBURG	2
VILLAGE/TOWN of GRAFTON	13
CITY of MEQUON	1
VILLAGE/TOWN of SAUKVILLE	4
VILLAGE of THIENSVILLE	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>291</b>

**G. FIRE RESPONSES BY FIRE SQUAD**

CHIEF OFFICER ONLY	43
FIRE SQUAD 1	19
FIRE SQUAD 2	9
FIRE SQUAD 3	18
ENTIRE DEPARTMENT	202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>291</b>

## **II. 2020 AMBULANCE RESPONSES**

The City of Port Washington contracts with *EMS Medical Billing Associates LLC*, an ambulance billing, and data management service. To further aid in the gathering of data, the Department also utilizes both *Image Trend™* and *FIREHOUSE Software™*. The data listed below is a culmination of data from all sources. The Department transmits patient data to the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health, through the statewide data collection program, **WARDS**, Wisconsin **A**mbulance **R**un **D**ata **S**ystem.

### **A. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY NATURE**

CARDIAC & RESPIRATORY ISSUES	378
MEDICAL RELATED	492
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	44
TRAUMA RELATED & FALLS	304
OVERDOSE / POISONING / ALCOHOL	45
MEDICAL ALERT ALARMS	15
OTHER	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,300</b>

### **B. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY MONTH**

JANUARY	102
FEBRUARY	104
MARCH	126
APRIL	93
MAY	104
JUNE	114
JULY	127
AUGUST	124
SEPTEMBER	117
OCTOBER	97
NOVEMBER	109
DECEMBER	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,300</b>

### **C. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY DAY**

SUNDAY	166
MONDAY	206
TUESDAY	214
WEDNESDAY	177
THURSDAY	194
FRIDAY	164
SATURDAY	179
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,300</b>

### **D. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY HOUR**

MIDNIGHT – 6:00 a.m.	179	13.77%
6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	340	26.15%
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	437	33.62%
6:00 p.m. – MIDNIGHT	344	26.46%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **E. HOSPITALS RECEIVING PATIENTS**

AURORA - GRAFTON	683	52.54%
ASCENSION COLUMBIA ST. MARY'S – MEQUON	204	15.70%
FROEDERT – WAUWATOSA	3	0.23%
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - WAUWATOSA	5	0.37%
FROEDERT – WEST BEND	1	0.08%
ASCENSION COLUMBIA ST. MARY'S – MILWAUKEE	1	0.08%
PATIENTS NOT TRANSPORTED	403	31.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### **F. AMBULANCE RESPONSES BY LOCATION TYPE**

1. ASSEMBLY	22	1.71%
2. EDUCATIONAL	4	0.30%
3. HEALTH CARE / INSTITUTIONAL	274	21.07%
4. RESIDENTIAL	801	61.62%
5. MERCHANTILE / BUSINESS	43	3.31%
6. INDUSTRIAL	28	2.15%
7. MANUFACTURING	4	0.30%
8. STORGE	3	0.23%
9. OUTSIDE / SPECIAL PROPERTY	121	9.31%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

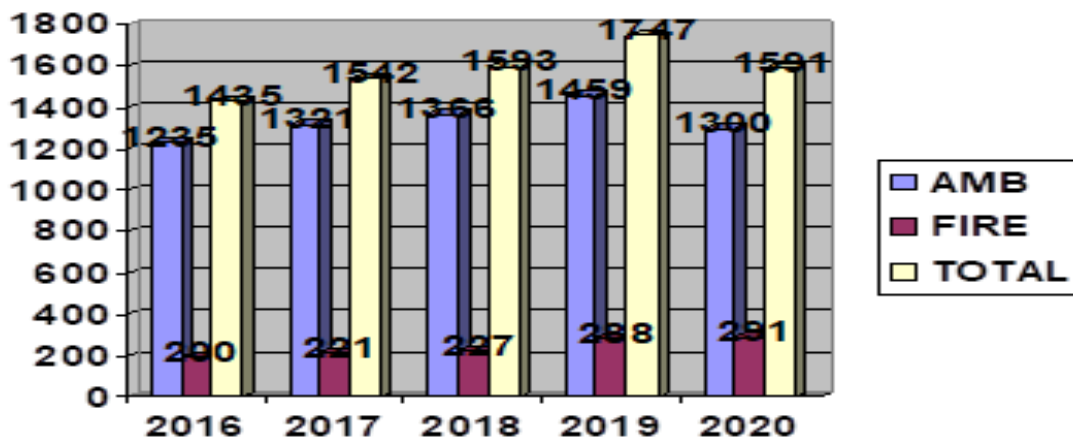
#### **G. AMBULANCE OR INTERCEPT RESPONSES BY AREA**

CITY of PORT WASHINGTON	879
TOWN of PORT WASHINGTON	75
VILLAGE / TOWN of BELGIUM	98
VILLAGE of FREDONIA	66
VILLAGE / TOWN of GRAFTON	4
NEWBURG F.D. AMBULANCE AREA	9
VILLAGE of OOSTBURG	2
VILLAGE of RANDOM LAKE	6
VILLAGE / TOWN of SAUKVILLE	130
WAUBEKA F.D. AMBULANCE AREA	31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,300</b>

#### **H. PATIENTS BY AGE & GENDER**

0-9 y/o	46	MALE =	655
10-19 y/o	53	FEMALE =	645
20-29 y/o	72		
30-39 y/o	92		
40-49 y/o	96		
50-59 y/o	139		
60-69 y/o	195		
70-79 y/o	245		
80-89 y/o	235		
90-99 y/o	124		
100+ y/o	3		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,300</b>		<b>1,300</b>

#### **5 YEAR COMPARISION**



### **III. COVID-19 & ITS EFFECT ON P.W.F.D. OPERATIONS**

The year 2020 started out like any other year for the Port Washington Fire Department. Even though the Department was still experiencing inconsistent staffing in the Paramedic position, there was every indication that the full-time Firefighter/Paramedic position, created in 2019 and carried over in the 2020 budget, would alleviate some of the staffing shortages from the past. The monthly call volume appeared to continue its rise, from the record setting 2019 total of 1,747 calls. Department EMS personnel were finishing up their biannual relicensing training requirements.

Everything seemed on track for another banner year for the PWFD until the reality of a new virus called Coronavirus Disease 2019, COVID-19 for short, invaded the country and changed the operations of the Department in ways we have never seen or were used to. Once declared a pandemic, and never having to deal with anything like this before, the Department immediately started following the guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Public Health, as well as the Washington/Ozaukee County Health Department. Listed here are some of the precautions taken:

- Mandatory mask wearing in the station and while riding in department vehicles was instituted.
- The station was placed on “lock down” to all, except for Department personnel.
- Department personnel responding to emergency calls were released immediately after it was determined that the call had been mitigated and equipment had been placed back in service.
- There was no “hanging around” the station after calls to socialize, and Department personnel coming to the station must have a business agenda.
- Most Department training was suspended.
- The Department’s monthly meetings were held via Zoom.

Ten Department members tested positive for the virus with symptoms ranging from mild to near hospitalization. Each member followed the City’s policy and quarantined for the required fourteen days until they could continue to respond to calls.

### **IV. FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES**

The most important non-emergency function a Fire Department can do for its community is to promote fire prevention. Fire prevention activities are divided between fire inspections, fire investigations, and public fire safety education. Regrettably, both fire inspections and public fire safety education were victims of COVID-19. The State’s Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), our State regulatory body, imposed an Emergency Rule that ordered a moratorium on conducting fire inspections for the two six-month inspection periods during 2020.

Public Fire Safety Education also suffered due to the pandemic. The Governor’s Safer At Home Order forced the cancellation of all public gatherings where our Department gets our message out regarding fire safety. This included the Community Street Festival in May, Safety Town in June, and Fire Prevention Week school visits in October. But perhaps the biggest let down for our membership was the cancellation of the annual open house and pancake breakfast. This one event, also held around Fire Prevention Week in October, usually draws over a thousand people to the station to partake in many activities where fire prevention in the home is our main message.

## A. FIRE INSPECTIONS

There are about 600 addresses, or properties, that are inspected by the Port Washington Fire Department twice each year. These include buildings in the City and Town of Port Washington, except for single family and two-family dwellings. Many of the buildings have multiple addresses due to mixed occupancies. The DSPS Emergency Rule went into effect in May, was lifted in August, but reinstated in October. The fire inspections completed during 2020 were done by Chief Mitchell. Even with the moratorium in place, 829 fire inspections were done during the year with 243 apparent violations noted.

Another branch of fire inspection is the testing and inspection of new fire suppression systems and new fire alarm systems. Owners of the buildings, where these systems are located, must furnish the fire department with plans of the systems for review. Once the plans for each system have been approved, installation will take place and upon completion, testing witnessed by the fire department, must be complete before occupancy is given. Even the pandemic could not slow down new construction in Port Washington. In 2020, tests for eighteen new fire alarm or fire suppression systems were witnessed.

## B. PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

As previously mentioned, all Public Fire Safety Education was suspended in 2020 due to the Safer at Home Order. Every public appearance, usually performed by the Fire Department was cancelled. In a typical year, the Department has contact with over two thousand adults and children promoting a variety of fire safety programs and messages. Through social media, the Department's web site and Facebook page, we were still able to get timely messages out throughout the year.

One such program is the National Fire Protection Association's annual, **"Change Your Clocks – Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries"** promotion. This program is promoted twice a year to remind people to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms when changing their clocks in the spring and the fall.

Two annual programs, aimed at teaching the public worthwhile life saving techniques, were also suspended. Both ***Hands Only CPR*** and ***Stop the Bleed***, which were fast becoming popular programs, and had to be postponed indefinitely.

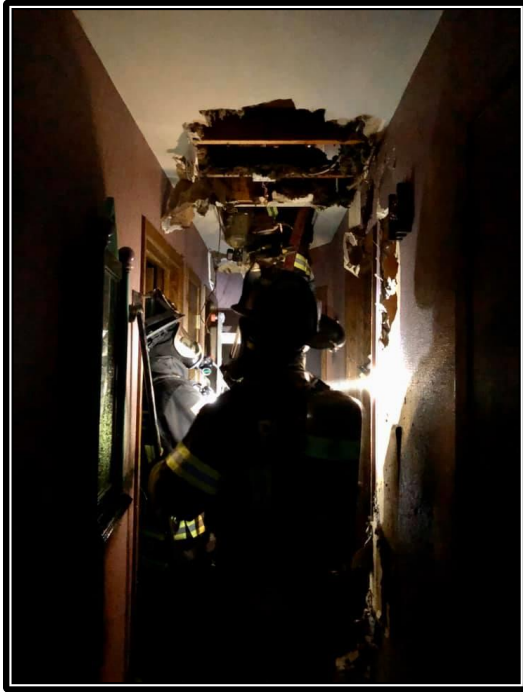
## C. FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Fires did not take a break during the pandemic. The cause and origin of fourteen structure fires was investigated in 2020. The causes of those structure fires were as follows: (4) careless cooking, (3) spontaneous combustion (3) excessive heat, (1) equipment failure, (2) incendiary (arson), and (1) careless use of smoking materials.



The above photo shows PWFD members operating at one of two commercial clothes dryer fires, that occurred at the laundromat on South Spring St. during 2020.

## *P.W.F.D. AT WORK*



April was a busy month for fires for the PWFD. Four structure fires occurred during the month resulting in an estimated dollar loss of \$235,500. The photo on the left, shows personnel checking the ceiling for fire spread in a hallway after an attic fire.

In the photo on the right, members are overhauling an exterior overhang where the homeowner was stripping paint with a heat gun, and accidentally started the overhang on fire.



Responding to traffic accidents is a common task for the Fire Department. It could be as simple as a roll over, as pictured on the left, or something more interesting, as is pictured on the right. This incident involved a dump truck whose dump box sprung open just as it was passing under some primary electrical lines. This brought several power poles down along with a large transformer. Luckily, neither of the above resulted in any injuries.

## **V. PERSONNEL - TRAINING - SPECIAL TEAMS**

### **A. PERSONNEL**

The Port Washington Fire Department had fifty personnel as of December 31, 2020. The following personnel were hired in 2020: FF Cole Adam, FF/EMT-P Lucas Altman, EMT-B Lars Bland, EMT-P Grace Boylan, EMT-B Melanie Clausing-Miles, FF Kurt Ellmauer, FF/EMT-P Chris Kueker, EMT-B Jill Myers FF/EMT-P Paul Taleck, and FF Travis Walberg. The following personnel left the department in 2020: Rescue Diver James Bach, FF/EMT-P Jacob Campbell, EMT-B Sue Cross, EMT-P Michael Demcak, Deputy Fire Chief Glenn Doers, FF James Doyle, FF Breanna Haskins, Asst. Engineer/EMT-P Jacob Hemming, EMT-P Steve McGaughey, EMT-P Kayla Mirsberger, FF/EMT-B Amanda Pierce, FF/EMT-P Trevor Potkay, EMT-P Wesley Reimer, EMT-B Dr. Jonathan Scheel, Engineer Oliver Travis

NAME		RANK	YR	NAME		RANK	YR.
Adam	Cole	FF	-	Kropidowski	Morgan	EMT-B	1
Altman	Lucas	FF/EMT-P	-	Kueker	Chris	FF / EMT-P	-
Barbuch	Maribeth	EMS Lt./EMT-P	19	Kultgen	Richard	Lt./Rescue Diver	14
Bland	Lars	EMT-B	-	Langford	James	Deputy Chief	27
Boylan	Grace	EMT-P	-	Lanser	Adam	FF	14
Brede	Dennis	Asst. Engineer	4	Lathrop	Rick	FF	10
Cehanovich	Dan	EMT-B	17	Leasum	Charles	FF	8
Cehanovich	Rachelle	A-EMT	15	Mitchell	Mark	Fire Chief	16
Chaloupka	Roland	Rescue Diver	39	Mundt	Adam	FF / EMT-B	2
Clausing-Miles	Melanie	EMT-B	-	Myers	Jill	EMT-B	-
Daggett	John	FF	2	Petrov	Viktor	FF	4
DeBoer	Joseph	Capt. / EMT-P	16	Pipkorn	John	EMT-P	9
Dicker	Todd	EMT-P	8	Poggemann	Eric	Rescue Diver	8
Didier	Michael	Engineer	27	Reed	Tim	Amb. Driver	14
Eibs	Eric	EMT-B	21	Riley	James	Deputy Chief / A-EMT	43
Eibs	Mike	EMT-B	8	Riley	Kevin	FF / EMT-B	6
Ellmauer	Kurt	FF	-	Schmidt	Steven	Assistant Chief	40
Foote	Cody	EMT-B	4	Sharbuno	Thomas	Deputy Chief	38
Godersky	Joanne	A-EMT	6	Taleck	Paul	FF/EMT-P	-
Gregozeski	Brandon	Engineer/ EMT-P	1	Tietyen	Jeffrey	Engineer	34
Grittner	Michael	Lt.	7	Ulm	Stephen	Captain	22
Henckel	Jessica	EMT-B	4	Vannatta	Josh	EMT-P	5
Hill	Eric	FF / Rescue Diver	12	Walberg	Travis	FF	-
Jajtner	Michael	Rescue Diver / Team Leader	22	Weis	Jason	Lt.	6
Klopp	Andrew	Engineer	12	Zeigler	Scott	Capt. / EMT-B	8

EMT-B = Emergency Medical Technician-Basic

A-EMT= Emergency Medical Technician-Advanced

EMT-P = Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic

FF = Firefighter

## **B. TRAINING**

Deputy Chief Jim Langford coordinates fire training, and EMS training is coordinated by Capt. Joe DeBoer. A minimum of sixty hours per year of fire training is required of each firefighter. EMS personnel are required to attend a minimum of six EMS training sessions per year and a 30-hour EMT refresher class every two years. EMS personnel also utilize Target Solutions™, an on-line training program. The Department's Rescue Dive Team holds two practices per month. Most of the Dive Team practices are actual "in-water" drills. Due to COVID-19, most Department training was suspended from March until July.

The following training hours were recorded in 2020:

Fire and Engineer –1929 hours  
EMS – 884 hours

Rescue Dive Team - 287 hours  
Rescue Task Force - 16 hours

The following specialized training was completed in 2020:

CERTIFIED FIRE FIGHTER I (116 hours): Cole Adam, Kurt Ellmauer, and Travis Walberg.  
CERTIFIED DRIVER/OPERATOR-PUMPER (30 hours): Adam Mundt and Viktor Petrov.  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-BASIC (180 hours): Adam Mundt.

## **C. RESCUE DIVE TEAM**

The Department's Rescue Dive Team is coordinated by Team Leader Mike Jajtner and currently has seven members. The team logged almost 300 hours in training in 2020, most of it underwater.

Seen below left is a shot of the annual ice dive training held each year at the Harrington Beach State Park Quarry in Belgium.

The right photo shows Team Leader Mike Jajtner (l.) and Rescue Diver Eric Poggemann (r.) showing off the Team's new rescue mannequin, which was donated by Eric Poggemann's business, Treetops Landscape Design.



## **D. RESCUE TASK FORCE**

Established in 2017, the Department's Rescue Task Force is made up of both fire and EMS personnel. Their mission is to back up law enforcement at an active shooter situation by providing rapid medical response to shooting victims. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, only 16 hours of training occurred in 2020, but the team remains active.

## **E. BLUFF RESCUE TEAM**

In 2020, the PWFD's Bluff Rescue Team partnered with the Grafton and Mequon teams to create a joint response to bluff rescue situations along the shores of Lake Michigan in Ozaukee County. Each Department has had their individual situations over the years, but the idea arose to train together and respond to each other's rescues to become more proficient in dealing with these events as more and more access to the bluff areas become available to the public. The PWFD team logged 96 hours of training during 2020.

## VI. APPARATUS

The Port Washington Fire Department's apparatus fleet is maintained under the direction of Assistant Chief Steve Schmidt. The staff consists of four Engineers and one Assistant Engineer, all of whom do a superb job to make sure all the fire and EMS vehicles are ready to respond in the event of an emergency. The Department has a separate training night for Engineers, Assistant Engineers and any Department member interested in the driving and operation of the Department's vehicles. In 2020, 266 hours of Engineer training were recorded. That is down considerably due to the training restrictions in place during the pandemic.

Weekly and monthly inspections are performed on each vehicle and preventive maintenance is done as needed. All vehicles receive annual maintenance in January that consists of oil and filter changes, lubrication, and other important services. In addition, annual fire pump testing is done in July on each apparatus equipped with a fire pump. Ground ladders and the department's aerial tower are tested each spring. Below is the current roster of apparatus for the Port Washington Fire Department.

<u>UNIT #</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MAKE &amp; MODEL</u>	<u>2020 RESPONSES</u>	<u>TOTAL MILEAGE</u>	<u>2020 MILEAGE</u>	<u>CONDITION</u>
450	AMBULANCE	2008	FORD/MEDTEC	21	69,369	1,656	GOOD
451	AMBULANCE	2018	FORD/LIFELINE	929	32,100	18,393	NEW
452	AMBULANCE	2010	FORD/MEDTEC (12)	67	65,496	1,236	GOOD
453	HEAVY RESCUE	2014	PIERCE ARROW XT	31	3,571	703	EXCELLENT
454	ALL TERRAIN	2005	POLARIS 6x6	4	178.4 hrs.	6.2 hrs.	VERY GOOD
455	PARAMEDIC INTERCEPT	2014	CHEVY SUBURBAN	283	45,559	6,134	VERY GOOD
456	COMMAND	2013	CHEVY SUBURBAN	163	69,262	16,797	GOOD
457	BRUSH TRUCK	1992	CHEVY 4x4	3	14,189	68	GOOD
458	UTILITY PICK UP	2020	CHEVY 2500 4x4	31	2,370	2,370	NEW
460	AERIAL TOWER	1997	PIERCE LANCE	29	12,808	369	GOOD
462	RESERVE ENGINE	1993	PIERCE DASH	0	23,909	101	GOOD
463	ENGINE	2008	PIERCE DASH	16	7,879	366	VERY GOOD
464	ENGINE	1999	PIERCE SABER	24	14,268	736	GOOD
465	ENGINE	2006	PIERCE DASH	95	17,647	1,056	VERY GOOD
467	TANKER	2019	KENWORTH/UST	7	3,281	269	NEW
468	DIVE RESCUE BOAT	2013	JP MARINE 17'	3			VERY GOOD
469	FIRE BOAT	2010	BOSTON WHALER 25'	7	254 hrs.	18 hrs.	VERY GOOD



After most of the training was suspended due to COVID-19, several members had the idea to provide "Birthday Parades" for children in Port Washington who were celebrating their birthdays in April, May, and June. This provided a great public relations tool, as well as driver training and street familiarization for the membership who participated.

## **VII. THE HEROES OF 2020**

Year in and year out, each one of our members, who “*Answer the Call*”, puts him or herself in harm’s way not knowing what they may encounter on each alarm. Remember, this is not their vocation, but a group of volunteers who dedicate a portion of their lives to serve the Port Washington community as EMTs, Firefighters, or Rescue Divers. Now throw in a pandemic and the real heroes emerge. Routinely, our personnel would encounter COVID-19 positive patients and continued doing their job knowing full well that they may be the next statistic. But each kept on serving and coming back for more. That is the definition of being a HERO.



Pictured above is the crew from Engine 465 who rescued an unconscious subject from an apartment fire early Christmas morning. The members are L.to R., Lieutenant Jason Weis, Firefighter Kurt Ellmauer, Firefighter Adam Lanser, and Engineer Brandon Gregozeski, who are all proudly showing off their recognition plaques.



The Department was the recipient of donated funds to purchase four AEDs to be placed on several fire trucks. The donation came from Nick Groseknick, pictured third from the left in the bottom row. Nick raised money on a GoFundMe page by cycling to Door County and back. Sadly however, Nick was killed in a cycling accident less than a month after this photo was taken. A memorial plaque was placed on each truck equipped with one of Nick’s AEDs as a lasting tribute to him. Nick was truly a Hero to our Department.