

Fitchburg Fire Department 2019 Annual Report



CHIEF'S WELCOME



February 27, 2020

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

Dedication:

First, I would like to dedicate the 2019 Fitchburg Fire Department Annual Report to two firefighters who have significantly influenced our mission and our membership. Two firefighters who we remember for their dedication to the fire service and their contributions to the Fitchburg Fire Department.

- **Herman Pfund** was Fitchburg's first Fire Chief. In 1970, Chief Pfund was hand selected to staff, equip, and direct the foundation of the Town of Fitchburg's Fire Department. Chief Pfund will be missed, but his enduring accomplishments bestow an example for those who continue to serve.
- **Grant Langer** was a Fitchburg Fire Intern before earning a position with the Memphis Fire Department. Grant grew up in the Fitchburg Firehouse until he (inevitably) joined our membership. He was a hardworking, dedicated, and passionate firefighter / paramedic. In his short life, he served as a model public servant... someone who understood the value of ownership and accomplishment.

Serve:

As part of our mission, we strive to find ways to serve our community. We understand that our profession is constantly changing – which requires us to evaluate our means and our methods. New procedures must be carefully weighed to ensure that our effort is efficient, effective, and sustainable. In addition, older methods must be evaluated to determine if the need has passed... is it worth the time and expense? As Fitchburg grows, we must assess a responsible way to meet the increasing demand for services... and look for creative ways to staff and equip a professional and capable fire department.

Learn:

We are constantly learning our trade. Advances in technology and changes in the building industry require careful re-evaluation of firefighting tactics and strategy. We know that fires grow quickly and structural collapse in newer construction happens within minutes. Further, community growth and development trigger a higher potential for industrial accidents and technical rescue. Concerns and considerations during the initial response need to be identified and addressed with realistic expectation and training.

Respect:

"Give Respect... even when the effort is not mutual." Communication through explanation and education do not always provide the intended results... In the end, we must attempt to do what is best for the safety of our community and address the expectations of our response. We will persevere with integrity and professionalism.

Lead:

We demand leadership at all levels. From the entry-level employee to the Fire Chief, all who are affiliated with the Fitchburg Fire Department are leaders... Through words, actions, and deeds. We often talk to new firefighters about being the first in line in school... be the leader in your class, then get in the back of the line and do it again. Everything that we would like to accomplish in our vision, is dependent on our ability to lead... our ability to stand out... and be the best we can be... (Others will notice). It takes a leader!

I am proud to present our 2019 Annual Report. Although comprehensive, it only represents a portion of our total effort. Please feel free to contact me if you require more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Pulvermacher".

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:

We know our “Why,”

*Regardless of our forward momentum, we will never forget why we do what we do...
compassion, respect, professionalism.*

We value our “What,”

*Our accomplishments provide a significant amount of pride for active members
and those who identify with our history*

We will constantly strive to improve our “How,”

Through research, planning, training, and a progressive mindset.

While working toward our “WOW!”

We are standard bearers in our profession... an example for others to follow.



2019 WORK PLAN – Chief Pulvermacher

The Fitchburg Fire Department worked on some significant projects in 2019. Regardless of the additional workload of capital projects, daily activities and emergency response continued at a steady pace. The 2019 work plan assisted us in the coordination of our schedule and helped us keep on task within an allotted timeline.

Projects	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
SOG/SOG Reformat/Revision	Revision/Implementation											
Officer Develop. Training Adjustment	Revision		Implementation									
Emergency Operations Plan	Revision/ Train			Implementation								
Recruitment												
• Intern	Development			Selection		Residency/ On-boarding						
• Youth Development/ Outreach	Development			Event Promo		Program						
• POX			Open House		Orientation				Open House		Orientation	
Retention												
• Awards/ Pinning	Process/ Procedure				Selection							
• Promotion	Address Selection and Process (per ELA)											
Budget Assignments/Priorities	Intro	Implementation										
PTSD/CISD/Chaplaincy Initiative	Implementation											
Prevention/Inspection Ordinance	Draft Changes			Amend		Implement						
Fire Inspections	First Half						Second Half					
CIP												
• Squad Re-Chassis (2020)	Spec/ Quote											
• Staff Vehicle Spec (2020)	Spec/ Quote											
• Lacy Road Firehouse Remodel	Spec	Bid	Construction									
• East Fire Station	Build					Move		Occupy				
Major Training Initiatives												
• RIT		Speaker		JIT		Dept Training				Implementation		
• Rescue Task Force			Train				Lg. Scale					
• EMR	Refresher/ Continuing Education											
• Rope Rescue	Lesson Plan		Department and Battalion Training (Awareness & Ops Level)									
• Vehicle Inspection	Intro		Train		Implementation							

Project Status:

SOGs continue to be written and revised- based on response potential and needed changes.

The **Emergency Operations Plan** is awaiting legal review and State input.

Recruitment has assumed a more active approach to address the need for a more diverse candidate pool.

Peer Assistance is proceeding through application and feedback. **Chaplaincy** is being used- under the premise that the Chaplain role is a volunteer position and involvement of secular employees is not mandated. Chief Pulvermacher has also reached out to secular organizations for input.

The **East Fire Station** is staffed (occupied behind schedule). The **Lacy Road** (Station #1) Remodel timeline was pushed back and started later than anticipated. Completion of the remodel is anticipated for first quarter 2020.



PEER SUPPORT - Chief Joe Pulvermacher

The prevalence of mental and behavioral health concerns among first responders nationwide prompted us to prioritize first responder well-being in 2019. This need was addressed with the implementation of a Public Safety Wellness Initiative, including the integration of:

- Post-Traumatic Stress (PTSD) Awareness
- Critical Incident Stress Management/Debriefing (CISM/CISD)
- Peer Support Network
- Grief Support
- Employee Assistance Programming (EAP)
- Chaplaincy

Though this initiative was spear-headed by the fire department, it was important to 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

Those trained in peer support must attend continuing education and apply their skills regularly- repetition encourages competency and demonstrates proficiency. In order to address sustainability, the support group looks to involve and train new providers. Interest has grown throughout Dane County... future training will involve providers from other agencies. When more providers are trained the following benefits can be realized:

- Workload can be reduced as requests can be shared
- If Fitchburg ever requires Peer Support, having outside providers positively influences participation (for members that are apprehensive to share with firefighters they work with).

Since its creation in early 2018, members of the Fitchburg Public Safety Wellness Initiative provided assistance to Sun Prairie, Fort McCoy, and Monona. Unfortunately in 2019, Peer Support was needed to assist our own firefighters... as we grieved the untimely loss of a past Fitchburg Firefighter. Fortunately, with one call, we were able to assemble Peer Support to discuss our disbelief and grief... it was a necessary step to begin the healing process through appropriate coping mechanisms.

For more information about this initiative and to access resources, please visit:

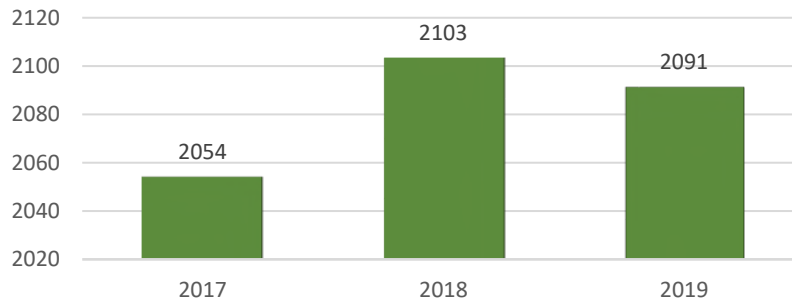
www.firstrespondwell.org.





OPERATIONS – Deputy Chief Chad Grossen

Requests for Service - 3 Years



Most common requests for service in 2019



EMS Assist
1185

Including Priority Medical
Dispatch calls



Still Alarm
717

Alarm Sounding, Car Fires,
Odor Investigations



Car Crash
85



Structure Fire
33

PREVENTION & INSPECTION – Deputy Chief Chad Grossen

In 2019, 2,221 inspections were performed on 1,477 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 we list the cause as intentional, an additional criminal investigation may begin. When we list the cause of a fire as “undetermined,” the investigators were unable to find definitive evidence pointing to any one specific cause.

In 2019 there was an estimated total fire loss of just over \$1,530,000.



Pike Drive Kitchen Fire



Greenway Cross Structure Fire



Blazing Star Lane Structure Fire



Thurston Lane Structure Fire



Greenway Cross Car Fire



PERSONNEL – Deputy Chief Richard Roth

Hired in 2019

Erik Beckstrom	Brad Ritter	Emily Schwarzenberger	Logan Solano
Donald Sparby	Nathan Willson	Cal McCreary	Emmanuel Mielke
Katie Schildgen	Cody Didier	Michael Guenther	Brian Hermesen
Sam Jollie	Justin Shaffer		

Promoted in 2019

Jesus Villagomez to Full-Time Firefighter	August 26, 2019
Scott Westphal to Full-Time Firefighter	August 26, 2019
Meredith Shelton to Administrative Services Manager	September 23, 2019

Length of Service Milestones

15 Years
Support Services Hunter Hill

5 Years
Lieutenant Eric Wakeman

Retirements

25 Years
Full-Time Firefighter/Inspector Andy Brandl

12 Years
Full-Time Firefighter/Inspector Jon Engelhart



Brandl



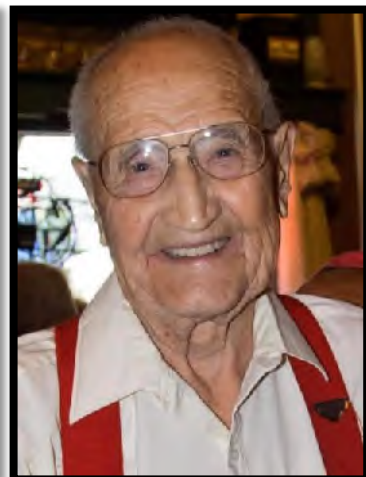
Engelhart

In Memoriam

Grant Langer
Intern 2016-17



Herman Pfund
Fitchburg's First Fire Chief (1970- 82)





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.



Oak Bank Pumpkin Giveaway



Lancers LEAD READY Day



Latino Youth Academy

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.



Fire engine rides & Sparky the Fire Dog are always popular during our annual open house





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Chief Joe Pulvermacher

Since 2018, the Fire Chief also fills the position of the Emergency Management Director. 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?

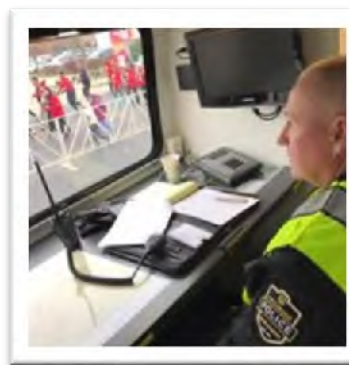
The City of Fitchburg must prepare for the possible occurrence of natural or man-made disasters that are unprecedented in size and destruction (resulting from accidental or deliberate action). Instituting emergency management actions will provide for common defense to protect the public peace, health, 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. Fitchburg continues to assist with the following:

- Local events that require pre-incident planning and coordination.
- Work closely with Dane County Emergency Management.
- 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 ground



Engine Replacement

In early 2019, we put two new Pierce Pumpers into service.

Key features:

- Tier 4 engines comply with the latest emission standards
- Shorter platforms allow safer navigation through SmartCode neighborhoods
- Reconfigured cabs and hose beds create a safer environment for personnel



East Fire Station

In August of 2019, we began responding out of Station 3 located on S Syene Rd.

Key features:

- Confined space training prop built into the mezzanine floor
- Water heater is powered by solar energy
- Retention ponds will capture water runoff and can be used for water rescue training



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 2019, department members participated in a total of more than 7,800 hours of training.



Ice Rescue



Rescue Task Force



Grain Bin Rescue

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 3 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.





PARTNERSHIPS- Chief Joe Pulvermacher

Over the past couple years, the City of Fitchburg Fire Department has been working with two organizations to be able to provide effective and efficient services through outreach and operations. In both situations, the City of Fitchburg provides value and receives value through mutual agreements. We are happy to outline some of the benefits of this collaborative effort.

SAFE KIDS

The Fitchburg Fire Department has been involved with the Safe Kids Madison Area Coalition for over 10 years. Safe Kids is dedicated to reducing injuries to children in communities throughout the Dane County Region. They partner with fire departments, emergency medical services (EMS), health and safety professionals, schools, poison center staff, service organizations, parents and children.

As an organization, Safe Kids works to prevent deaths and injuries to children caused by:

- Motor vehicle crashes
- Pedestrian injuries
- Bicycle crashes
- Drowning
- Fires and burns
- Poison and choking
- Falls
- Firearms
- Suicide



DANE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The City of Fitchburg needed to address resiliency and redundancy in Emergency Management readiness, response, and recovery. We reached out to Dane County Emergency Management, who coincidentally, was looking to do the same thing in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). We will be completing the remodel of Station #1 (Lacy Rd) in the first quarter of 2020. Working with Dane County, we will have a better platform to manage significant events and emergencies.



Dane County Emergency Management provides services to citizens, businesses, and local governments. Services include:

- Coordinating regional emergency responses
- Creating emergency plans
- Developing community hazard mitigation plans
- Operating tornado sirens and emergency alerts
- Organizing emergency medical services



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 2019:

Date(s)	Agency Assisted	Location	Type of Event
January 5 & 6	Lake Mills Fire Department	Lake Mills, WI	Line of Duty Death
April 23	Fitchburg Fire Department	Fitchburg, WI	Retirement Ceremony
May 20	Appleton Fire Department	Appleton, WI	Line of Duty Death
May 28	City of Fitchburg	Fitchburg, WI	Presentation of Colors
June 8	WI Firefighter's Memorial	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	Stone Placement Ceremony
June 16	Madison Fire Department	Madison, WI	Active Duty Death
June 24 & 25	Whitehall Fire Department	White Hall, WI	Active Duty Death
July 9	Fitchburg Fire Department	Fitchburg, WI	Retirement Ceremony
July 26	Mauston Fire Department	Mauston, WI	Retiree Funeral
August 23,30,31	Memphis Fire Department	Madison/Fitchburg, WI	Active Duty Funeral
October 5	Fitchburg Fire Department	New Glarus, WI	Retiree Funeral
October 13	WI Firefighter's Memorial	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	Memorial Ceremony
October 21	City of Fitchburg	Fitchburg, WI	City Dignitary Funeral
October 23	WI State Fire Inspectors Assn	Wisconsin Dells, WI	Presentation of Colors
November 10	Union Grove Yorkville Fire Dept	Union Grove, WI	Line of Duty Death
November 15-16	Baraboo Fire Department	Baraboo, WI	Retiree Funeral
December 6	Fitchburg Fire Department	Fitchburg, WI	Uncoupling Ceremony

