



# Fitchburg Fire Department

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT





## CHIEF'S WELCOME

February 27, 2018

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

Compared to other fire departments in the area and in the State, the Fitchburg Fire Department is not very old. Our short, 46-year history has played to our benefit... it has allowed us to address the needs of our community and the trends of a dynamic industry- while honoring (without getting lost in) the traditions of a very proud profession. Further, we have been able to stay ahead of the curve due to a progressive staff. In 2017, we addressed health, safety, and welfare initiatives to advocate for firefighter wellness. We also funded, equipped, and staffed facilities and equipment that will serve our members and our community for many years to come.

Our role in the fire service has been well-developed by regular, reoccurring training sessions- we have hired and trained some of the best and brightest firefighters. We train people to serve... Those firefighters benefit from our effort and we benefit from a capable, available staff. Recruitment is a continual process that has become more difficult as our target demographic (military-type, athletic, decision makers) has limited discretionary time- due to professional and family commitments.

The City of Fitchburg is growing and our calls for service are rising. In 2017, the Fitchburg Fire Department responded to 2054- surpassing 2016's numbers. Prevention continues to be a priority- through inspection, prevention, and education. It is difficult to quantify the value of prevention- as a prevented fire is not a statistical value that is easily captured. One prevention initiative that has proven itself is fire protection systems. In 2017, there were at least three kitchen fires in multi-family residential units (apartments) that were controlled with a sprinkler system.

In an effort to anticipate the emergency needs of the City of Fitchburg, we have addressed the following through our 2017 work plan:

- Application of amended SOG/SOP library
- Implement budget initiatives- with assigned responsibility
- Evaluate Employee Assistance and Critical Incident Stress awareness

The following major projects/activities were implemented in 2017:

- Rescue Task Force/ Active Assailant response guideline
- Delivery of Pierce 100 foot aerial platform
- Order, equip, and rollout new ATV
- Construct, Furnish, and Occupy new Marketplace Firehouse

I am proud to present our 2017 Annual Report; however, it represents only 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



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Department Mission & Values .....	4
Department Vision .....	5
Work Plan.....	6
Operations .....	7
Personnel .....	8
Prevention & Inspection .....	8
Investigation .....	9
Public Education .....	10
Support Services .....	11
Training .....	12
Fire Science Internship Program .....	13
Honor Guard .....	14





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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.*



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## VISION *for the* FITCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

**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:**

### Why?

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We are a compassionate, respectful, well organized, and well-trained professional service that provides fire, rescue, and emergency medical service...We became involved in the fire service because we enjoy helping people and providing care...We have never forgotten our “Why”:  
Serve, Learn, Respect, Lead

### What?

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Our employees (regardless of rank, role, or tenure) are an accomplished, fun group who appreciate the need for high morale. Our employees support each other like a family through loyalty and comradery. Our accomplishments provide a significant amount of pride for active members and those who identify with our history.

Our stakeholders appreciate their return on investment because we exceed their expectations and we support our community beyond the emergency.

### How?

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We are nationally recognized and respected for our readiness, confidence, and professionalism. We are prepared to respond to identified risks and we work diligently to predict the evolution of our work environment through research, planning, training, and a progressive mindset.

### WOW!

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Those who provide a similar service want to be more like the Fitchburg Fire Department. They are impressed by our proficiency and our persistence (WOW factor). We set the standard for an effective, efficient service.

#### ***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!”**



## **2017 WORK PLAN – Chief Joe Pulvermacher**

In addition to typical fire department operations and training, the Fitchburg Fire Department identified a number of newer initiatives that required attention in 2017. Our Fire Department Vision was one of those initiatives. In order to effectively apply momentum and progress, we needed to address what success looks like to the membership. The previous page is the result of an overall-department effort to identify that optimal future.

### **Active Assailant Incident Management**

This initiative allows emergency responders to expedite emergency medical care in less-than-safe, tactical environments. The following concepts were accomplished in 2017:

- Equipped first responders with ballistic equipment.
- Provided medical equipment needed for warm zone pre-hospital medicine.
- Practiced Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) and first-care trauma medicine.
- Worked with Fitchburg Police to identify protection and movement priorities.



### **Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)**

In July 2017, the State of Wisconsin approved the Fitchburg Fire Department Operational Plan for emergency medical first response. Fitchburg is collaboratively involved with Dane County and Fitch-Rona EMS. This tiered approach to emergency medicine allows for quicker patient contact.

### **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)**

This initiative has been a work-in-progress for the past year. In 2017, significant strides were made in the pursuance of employee assistance at the completion of a critical incident. This program is also intended to address the cumulative effect of emergency response and the impact of post-traumatic stress. This is a multi-faceted plan that addresses:

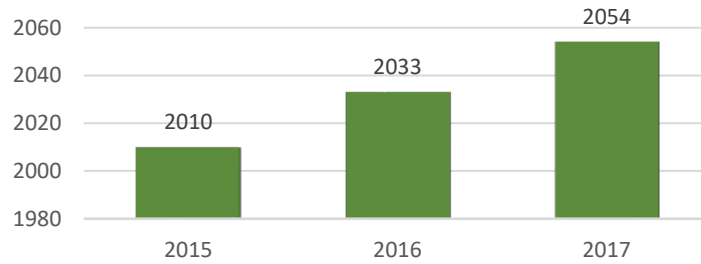
- Peer Assistance (Department Members)
- Employee Assistance (Employer driven)
- Chaplaincy (Firefighter support)
- Wellness Program (Stress Reduction)





## OPERATIONS – Deputy Chief Chad Grossen

### Requests for Service - 3 Years



### Most common requests for service in 2017



**EMS Assist**  
**1202**

Including Priority Medical  
Dispatch calls



**Still Alarm**  
**700**

Alarm Sounding, Car Fires,  
Odor Investigations



**Car Crash**  
**97**



**Structure Fire**  
**29**



## PERSONNEL – Deputy Chief Richard Roth

### Hired in 2017

Trevor Aebly	Collin Christenson	Jared Duffy
Jordan Finley	McKenzie Forseth	David Neumann
Andrew Ott	Camden Parman	Kenia Salas
Jon Schnelle	Charlie Scott	Joe Soehnlein
Jesus Villagomez	Alex Wichmann	Tony Zimmerman

### Promotion

#### **Division Chief of Support Services**

Captain Steve Wunsch to Division Chief .....October 25, 2017

### Length of Service Recognition

#### **30 Years**

Deputy Chief Richard Roth

#### **25 Years**

Deputy Chief Chad Grossen  
Firefighter Jason Ladwig

#### **20 Years**

Firefighter Wayne Aeschbach

#### **15 Years**

Lieutenant Rob Kunze  
Firefighter Brian Hageman  
Firefighter Scott Westphal

#### **5 Years**

Firefighter Brian Hotchkiss  
Firefighter Davin Blazek

## PREVENTION & INSPECTION – Deputy Chief Chad Grossen

In 2017, 2,320 inspections were performed on 1,305 properties. 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 works to determine whether the cause of a fire was accidental, intentional, or undetermined. Once the investigation is completed, affected insurance companies may choose to investigate further (in the case of an accidental fire or one that is listed as undetermined) or, 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 2017 there was an estimated total fire loss of just over \$888,000.





## PUBLIC EDUCATION – Firefighter Adam Dorn

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



### **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

The department hosts its annual open house in October. This is the largest single event promoting fire and safety education to the community and includes a variety of fire and life safety learning activities for kids and adults. With the help of area businesses, community organizations, and other city departments, the open house attracts between 2500 and 3500 visitors annually from all over Dane County and southern Wisconsin.





## 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

### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### **2016 Polaris Ranger**

On April 1, we put ATV1 into service in the City of Fitchburg. This vehicle is designed to help reach patients who are not accessible by larger vehicles, such as bike paths and wooded areas.



#### **Firehouse 2 - 2931 Marketplace Drive**

On September 8, the new west fire station was officially put into service with an Uncoupling Ceremony (the fire service version of a ribbon cutting).



#### **Pierce Quantum 105' Aerial Platform**

On June 26, Truck 1 was washed and pushed into quarters for the first time. At 11:45 that morning, she went on her first call: an EMS assist.





## 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 2017, department members participated in a total of almost 8,000 hours of training.



Ice Rescue



Hose Movement / Structure Fire



Inter-Agency Casualty Response



Roof Ventilation



Tactical EMS / Wound Treatment



## 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 internship program has a total of 9 spots:

- 3 first-year interns live and work, primarily, at Firehouse 1
- 3 second-year interns live and work, primarily, at Firehouse 2
- 3 third-year paramedic interns work, primarily, with Fitch-Rona EMS. As time allows, third-year interns may continue to respond as POC firefighters. Third-year interns reside at Firehouse 1.





# FITCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT



HONOR GUARD  
FITCHBURG, WI  
Est. 2011



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 2017:

April 7	Milwaukee Honor Guard Clinic	Milwaukee, WI	Clinic
April 20	Beloit Fire Department	Beloit, WI	Active Duty Funeral
May 2	Waunakee EMS	Waunakee, WI	Active Duty Funeral
June 23	Cazenovia Fire Department	Cazenovia, WI	Active Duty Funeral
September 8	Fitchburg Fire Department	Fitchburg, WI	Firehouse Uncoupling
October 5	Winneconne Fire Department	Winneconne, WI	Retired Member Funeral
October 8	Dane County Fire Chief's Parade	Madison, WI	Presentation of Colors
October 14	WI Firefighters Memorial	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	Final Alarm Ceremony
November 11	Middleton Fire Department	Middleton, WI	Presentation of Colors
December 13	Milwaukee Fire Department	Milwaukee, WI	Line of Duty Death

