

Wausau Fire Department Quarterly Report

Quarter 1 –2025



(We held our Annual Firefighters Banquet on February 1st, 2025 at The Great Hall)

Fire Chief Report by Chief Jeremy Kopp

Introduction

This report covers the period from January to April 2025 for the Wausau Fire Department. We are pleased to report that our efforts in recruiting new personnel are beginning to bear fruit, which has provided some relief to our members from the strain of overtime shifts. We deeply appreciate the continued dedication and professionalism that our team demonstrates on a daily basis.

Operational Challenges

Our apprenticeship program is off to a strong start, with outstanding support from both our members and Northcentral Technical College (NTC). This collaboration is essential to the program's success and has set a solid foundation for the future. Additionally, we continue to actively seek funding through grants to replace and purchase vital equipment.

Among our key operational focuses, we are exploring the replacement of our extrication equipment and considering the construction of a new training tower in the city, potentially in partnership with NTC. These initiatives are crucial for improving our operational capabilities and ensuring we are prepared for a wide range of emergencies.

Another significant development is the implementation of a new shift schedule for our staff. After transitioning from the California schedule, we have adopted the widely popular 48/96 schedule. Early feedback indicates that this change is improving work-life balance and increasing efficiency across the department.

Leadership Reflections

Our commitment to leadership is a core value within the department. This year, we sent three Lieutenants to the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in April, with a focus on succession planning. Staffing shortages had previously delayed this initiative, but we are now prioritizing it as we prepare for future retirements and opportunities for advancement within the department. Succession planning is essential to ensuring long-term success and stability.

In addition, we have established a committee tasked with developing a new strategic plan to guide the department's growth and service improvements. We are also in the process of reaching out to external stakeholders to provide input and support for this plan.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Our partnership with Northcentral Technical College (NTC) continues to grow, providing valuable training opportunities for our personnel. This collaboration is fostering a stronger, more knowledgeable workforce.

We are also pleased to announce that we have begun collaborating with SAFER Fire District and Riverside Fire District to jointly purchase equipment and use the same vendors. By doing so, we expect to reduce costs, maximize purchasing power, and improve resource efficiency.

Community Care Paramedic Program

We are excited to report the continued success of our Community Care Paramedic program. Matthew Kozloski, our dedicated Community Care Paramedic, has made significant strides in providing in-home healthcare, helping to reduce the strain on the traditional 911 emergency response system. His commitment and passion for the role have already made a positive impact on our community, and we are optimistic about the future growth of this program.

Facilities and Infrastructure

Our central station is undergoing critical updates and repairs as outlined in the facility assessment report. These improvements are necessary to maintain the building's functionality and safety. Additionally, we are actively pursuing \$700,000 in funding for the architectural planning of a new fire station on Grand Avenue. This new station is a top

priority, as it will allow us to better serve the growing needs of the community.

Conclusion

The first quarter of 2025 has been an exciting and challenging time for the Wausau Fire Department. We remain focused on enhancing operational readiness, building stronger community partnerships, and addressing facility needs to ensure that we can continue providing exceptional service to the residents of Wausau.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspects of this report further, please feel free to reach out.

Fire Operations Report by Deputy Chief Justin Pluess

The Wausau Fire Department's **Community Care Paramedic Program** continues to make meaningful progress within our community. In early March, we reached a significant milestone—our operational plan was officially approved by the **Wisconsin Department of Health Services**, granting us licensure as a **Community EMS provider**.

Since that time, **Community Care Paramedic Matt Kozloski** has directly improved health outcomes and, in several cases, has quite literally saved lives. Through in-depth, in-home visits, Matt has identified critical gaps in patient care—such as individuals unknowingly taking incorrect or conflicting medications. By taking the time to conduct thorough **medication reconciliations**, he has been able to catch and correct these errors, consulting directly with primary care providers to adjust treatment plans and prevent dangerous complications.

One notable outcome has been the prevention of **congestive heart failure exacerbations**, where early intervention eliminated the need for hospitalization. These are not isolated success stories—they are part of a growing body of evidence demonstrating how proactive, community-based care can reduce system strain while improving quality of life.

As of **April 9th**, the program has recorded **84 patient encounters**. **Eleven patients** are currently enrolled, referred by both our own ambulance crews and physicians from **Aspirus Clinics**. We are also working closely with **Aspirus Hospital** to streamline referrals from Emergency Department staff, and we expect those to begin in the near future.

To date, **five patients have successfully graduated** from the program, having reached a level of independence and stability in their health management. Additionally, **twelve emergency department visits and/or 911 calls** have been prevented—though we anticipate this number will rise significantly as we continue to extract and analyze data from our reporting software. Several of these avoided incidents were serious in nature and, had they gone unaddressed, could have resulted in hospital admissions or readmissions.

The Community Care Paramedic Program is a prime example of innovation, compassion, and operational excellence. It reflects our department's core values—**Professionalism, Accountability, Integrity, Respect, and Compassion**—and it represents a model of modern EMS that meets people where they are, before crises occur. The first quarter of 2025 brought momentum, growth, and collaboration across all divisions of the Wausau Fire Department. From onboarding new hires and launching our inaugural apprenticeship class, to expanding our community health initiatives, this period showcased the adaptability and dedication of our team. Despite ongoing challenges related to staffing and apparatus readiness, our members have remained focused and resilient—ensuring WFD continues to provide the highest standard of service to the Wausau community.



Apprenticeship Program Update

In an exciting and historic step for our department, Wausau Fire officially launched its Apprenticeship Program in January 2025. We proudly welcomed six firefighter/paramedic apprentices into this groundbreaking initiative. These individuals represent a new generation of dedicated professionals, and their participation marks a key investment in the future of emergency services in Wausau.

The apprentices began their four-week academy in early March and are expected to graduate on April 11. Upon completion, they will continue their training while working toward full paramedic licensure. The program is already showing promising results in recruitment and development, offering a structured and supportive path for individuals who aspire to serve our community in the fire service.

Division Chief of Prevention Appointment

We are proud to announce that the Fire Marshal position has officially been filled. Effective March 3rd, 2025, Shahn Kariger has accepted the role of Division Chief of Prevention, formerly known as Fire Marshal.

Shahn is the first-ever IAAI Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI) at the Wausau Fire Department. This nationally recognized certification is granted to experienced fire investigators qualified to serve as expert witnesses. In addition, he holds certifications as a Fire and Explosion Investigator and IAAI Evidence Collection Technician.



In his role as Division Chief of Prevention, Shahn will:

- Lead fire inspection and investigation efforts.
- Oversee and improve the integration of technology in the inspections division.
- Spearhead community risk reduction initiatives across the City of Wausau.
- Serve as the department's liaison to local businesses and property managers to enhance compliance and education.
- Lead public fire education campaigns in schools, senior housing, and community centers.
- Oversee annual fire prevention week activities and other outreach events.
- Collaborate with the planning and zoning departments to review fire code compliance for new construction and major renovations.
- Develop and implement performance metrics for inspection operations to improve accountability and efficiency.

Fleet Report

Fleet readiness remains a concern, particularly with Ladder 2 continuing to face mechanical issues and extended periods out of service. We remain in regular coordination with DPW to prioritize maintenance and ensure operational readiness of all frontline apparatus.

Additionally, the urgency surrounding the replacement of Truck-1 continues. Approaching 12 years in service, Truck-1 has suffered multiple mechanical failures. We await confirmation that replacement funding is included in the 2025 budget.

Strategic Planning Initiative

In early 2025, the Wausau Fire Department officially launched its strategic planning process to help guide the department's long-term goals, operations, and community impact. We began by hosting our first strategic planning meeting with internal stakeholders, representing a cross-section of our department's leadership and frontline personnel.

To ensure broad participation and gather meaningful input, a department-wide survey was distributed to all members. The survey remains open, and we continue to collect responses. The feedback gathered will play a critical role in shaping the priorities, objectives, and initiatives included in the final strategic plan.

Training Update

The first quarter of 2025 has been busy for training at the Wausau Fire Department. Despite being without a Division Chief of Training, our Lieutenants and crews have stepped up in a big way—leading two four-week recruit academies for our newest hires and apprentices, who are set to complete their academy on **April 11th**.

In addition to instructing, crews have taken initiative to build new training props designed to enhance SCBA skills and prepare firefighters to navigate challenging obstacles while in full gear. These efforts reflect the dedication and creativity of our personnel.

WFD also partnered with the **State of Wisconsin's REACT Center** to host advanced **Hazardous Materials training**, sharpening our team's readiness for incidents involving chemical, biological, or radiological threats.



Looking Ahead

As we continue to navigate staffing shortages and an increased demand for service, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our members. From the development of our apprenticeship program to continued innovation in paramedicine and tactical response, WFD is leading by example in modern fire service delivery.

We are grateful for your support and partnership as we move forward together, committed to the safety, health, and resilience of our community.

Summary of Significant Incidents - Wausau Fire Department (WFD) First Quarterly Report 2025

January 1, 2025, Wausau Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire involving a bedroom full of smoke. Upon arrival, crews encountered a closed bedroom door that was hot to the touch. Entry was made, revealing heavy smoke conditions and a fire that had mostly extinguished itself. Final extinguishment and ventilation were completed, with the fire successfully contained to the room of origin. The occupant was awakened by smoke alarms, exited safely. WFD Fire Investigation Bureau was called in, and WPD remained on scene to maintain scene integrity. No foul play was suspected.

January 7, 2025, Wausau Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at an apartment complex, with dispatch notes indicating a smoke alarm activation and a strong smell of smoke in Apartment. Engine 3 arrived to find light smoke and an active fire, with the occupant still asleep in bed. Crews quickly rescued the occupant, extinguished the fire and provided emergency medical care to occupant. Fire investigators were called in, and WPD secured the scene. This incident highlights the importance of working smoke alarms.

January 20, 2025, Wausau Fire Department's Truck 1 responded for automatic aid to assist SAFER with a structure fire. Upon arrival, the crew deployed a second 1 3/4" hoseline and assisted with extinguishment efforts in the basement, clearing smoke and addressing hot spots. Lt. Woller gained access to a utility room and secured the main power by shutting off the breaker. All actions and findings were reported to SAFER command before Truck 1 cleared the scene.

January 30, 2025, Engine 3 was dispatched for an oven fire. While en route, dispatch advised the homeowner attempted to extinguish the flames with a fire extinguisher. Upon arrival crews confirmed the fire was fully extinguished, the oven was turned off, and no fire extension had occurred. The fire was caused by food spilled the previous day, which ignited when the oven was turned on. The resident was advised to thoroughly clean the oven and remaining extinguisher residue.

February 10, 2025, Wausau Fire Department responded to a fully involved detached garage fire at 913 S. 14th Avenue, with flames impinging on a nearby home. Engine 1 arrived first and prioritized protecting the house while conducting a 360 and primary search of the residence, which was found to be unoccupied. The fire was suppressed using multiple hose lines, with significant overhaul needed due to large amounts of debris including mattresses, firewood, and a furnace emitting hot ashes. Minor exterior damage was sustained by the home, but no interior extension occurred. A PPV fan was used for ventilation, and a thermal imaging camera (TIC) confirmed no remaining hotspots. No civilian injuries were reported.

February 15, 2025, Wausau Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at a large bowling alley with initial

reports indicating people may still be inside. Engine 4 arrived to find approximately 75 individuals evacuated into the parking lot. Smoke was discovered coming from the rear (C side) of the building. A bystander reported visible flames through a window on the D side. Crews made forcible entry and advanced a hoseline to locate and extinguish the fire. Overhaul was initiated, and PPV ventilation was conducted to clear smoke. Additional crews investigated the roof and removed fascia and soffit to check for extension. Wausau FD’s Investigation team arrived for follow-up, conducted interviews, and completed an investigation. No injuries were reported.

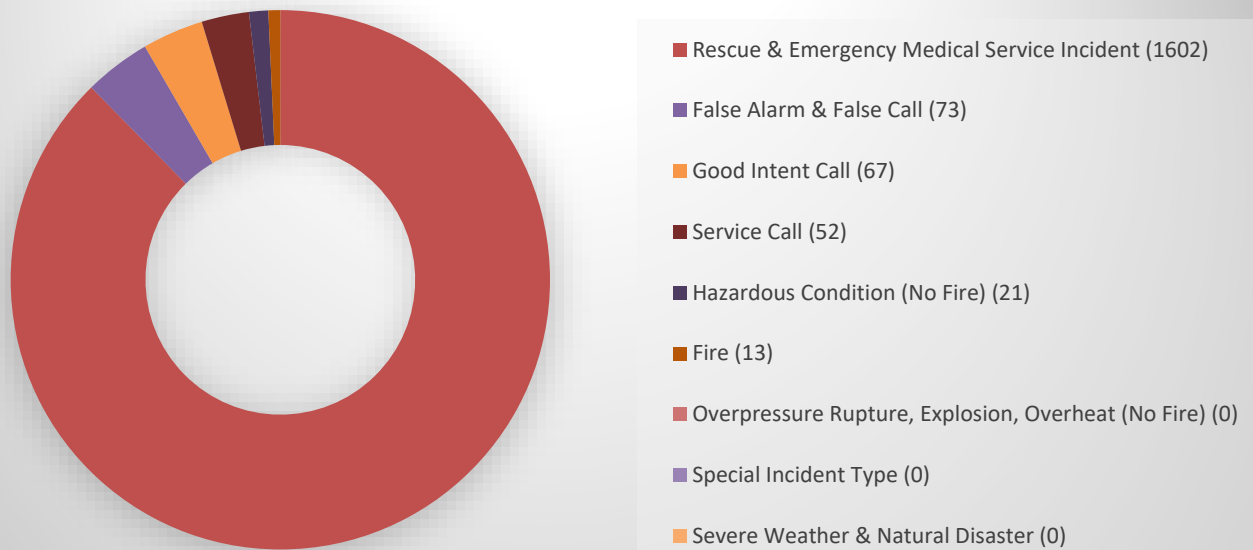
March 15, 2025, Wausau Fire Department responded to a potentially deadly fire at a local hotel. Engine 3 was assigned to perform a primary search of the hotel while guests were being evacuated. Crews followed the hotel manager into the basement, where smoke was initially observed. Upon opening a locked room, heavy smoke quickly filled the basement, prompting the manager to flee. Firefighters entered the zero-visibility room, located the fire, and extinguished it. Alarmingly, it was discovered that some guests, instead of exiting the building safely, had unknowingly descended into the smoke-filled basement—a scenario that could have ended tragically. After confirming the fire was fully extinguished and no victims were found, the building was ventilated and cleared for re-entry. This incident highlights how close the situation came to being fatal and the critical importance of functional fire alarms and clear evacuation routes in multi-occupancy buildings.

Significant Fire Events:

Date	Address	City	Incident #	Type
1/1/2025	1016 Winton Street	City of Wausau	F25000003	Building fire
1/7/2025	1240 Merrill Avenue	City of Wausau	F25000035	Building fire
1/7/2025	2125 Franklin Street	City of Wausau	F25000041	Passenger vehicle fire
1/8/2025	1531 Curling Way	City of Wausau	F25000049	Rail vehicle fire
1/20/2025	4401 West Raybelle Drive	Village of Weston	F25000128	Building fire
1/30/2025	1009 Hamilton Street	City of Wausau	F25000201	Cooking fire, confined to container
2/10/2025	913 South 14th Avenue	City of Wausau	F25000278	Building fire
2/15/2025	1715 Stewart Avenue	City of Wausau	F25000326	Building fire
2/20/2025	1117 Marquardt Road	City of Wausau	F25000350	Passenger vehicle fire
2/26/2025	5101 Mesker Street	Village of Weston	F25000400	Building fire
3/6/2025	1000 West Campus Drive	City of Wausau	F25000445	Passenger vehicle fire
3/15/2025	201 North 17th Avenue	City of Wausau	F25000506	Building fire
3/29/2025	8207 Callon Avenue	Village of Weston	F25000591	Building fire

Monthly NFIRS Incident Comparison:

	2025	2024	2023	2022	% Of Change from 2024 2025
January	677	646	579	591	4.80%
February	589	597	506	507	-1.34%
March	561	555	551	540	1.08%
April		541	527	498	
May		605	574	574	
June		578	553	590	
July		585	679	531	
August		581	571	600	
September		547	548	524	
October		564	616	545	
November		556	624	574	
December		606	623	612	
TOTAL		6961	6951	6686	



Responses by Municipality (All NFIRS Reports):

City	# of Runs	% of Runs	# of Runs - YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	0
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	0
City of Colby	0	0.00%	0
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	0
City of Mosinee	1	0.05%	1
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	0
City of Wausau	1,695	92.72%	1,695
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Lincoln County	0	0.00%	0
Oneida County	0	0.00%	0
Rosholt	0	0.00%	0
Taylor County	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Berlin	10	0.55%	10
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town of Cassel	2	0.11%	2
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hamburg	0	0.00%	0
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hewitt	5	0.27%	5
Town of Hull	0	0.00%	0
Town of Johnson	1	0.05%	1
Town of Knowlton	1	0.05%	1
Town of Marathon	2	0.11%	2

Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	0
Town of Plover	1	0.05%	1
Town of Rib Falls	3	0.16%	3
Town of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	0
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	0
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	0
Town of Texas	25	1.37%	25
Town of Wausau	23	1.26%	23
Town of Weston	0	0.00%	0
Town of Wien	3	0.16%	3
Village of Athens	0	0.00%	0
Village of Brokaw	0	0.00%	0
Village of Edgar	3	0.16%	3
Village of Hatley	0	0.00%	0
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	31	1.70%	31
Village of Marathon City	5	0.27%	5
Village of Rib Mountain	8	0.44%	8
Village of Rothschild	1	0.05%	1
Village of Stratford	1	0.05%	1
Village of Weston	7	0.38%	7
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	1,828	100.00%	1,828

Activity/Incident Hours Committed:

Category	Time Committed
NFIRS Incidents	518:46:26 Hours
EMS Incidents	2560:33:28 Hours
Non-Incident Activities (Station Maintenance, Vehicle Check-off/Fire Pre-plan, Hazmat Outreach, Administration duties, Public Education, Committee and Staff Meetings)	356.85 Hours
Training (including Wellness)	3,509.65 Hours

Aid Responses:

Type of Aid	# of Runs
Mutual Aid Given – EMS	19
Mutual Aid Given – Fire	1
Automatic Aid Given – EMS	67
Automatic Aid Given – Fire	3
Mutual Aid Received – EMS	14
Mutual Aid Received – Fire	0
Automatic Aid Received – EMS	0
Automatic Aid Received – Fire	5
Other Aid Given – EMS	0

Request for EMS from Other Agencies to the City of Wausau (not Aid)	11
Request for Fire from Other Agencies to the City of Wausau (not Aid)	0
Total Non-Aid Incidents (outside City with no other agency response)	43

EMS Division by EMS Division Chief Jared Thompson

The first quarter of the year has been busy and productive for the EMS Division. This report highlights some key activities and progress. Our focus remains on providing Rapid, Professional Emergency Medical Services to Enhance and our Community.

EMS Patient Experience

The EMS Division would like to share our Q1 Patient Experience Report.

Patient Experience Report

January 01, 2025 to March 31, 2025

Your Score

91.96

Your Patients in this Report

88

Total Patients in this Report

15456

Total EMS Organizations

248

Executive Summary

Your overall score for the period selected is **91.96**, a difference of **-1.80**, compared to your score from the previous year, **93.76**.

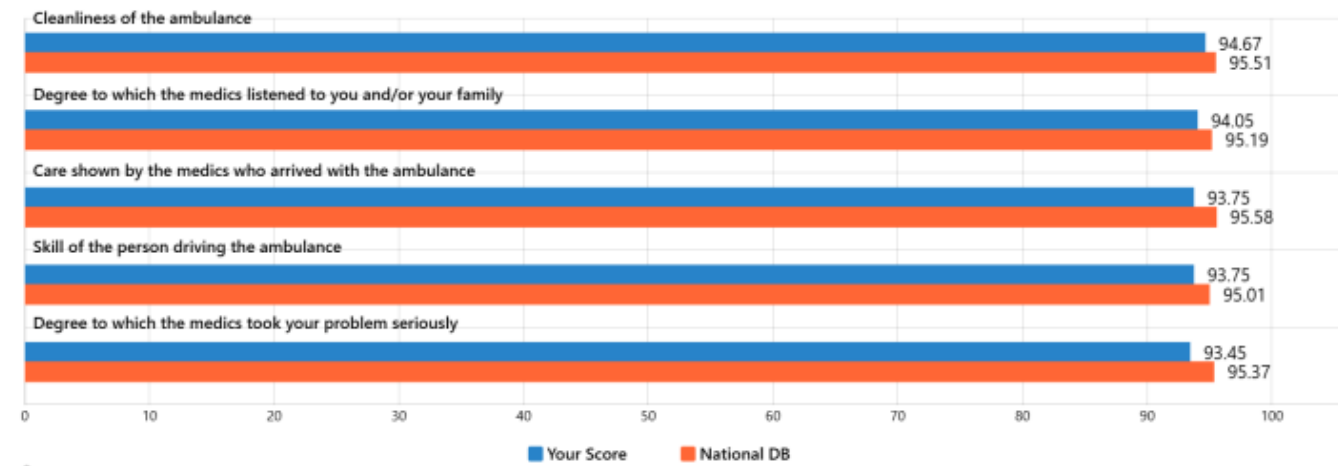
Your overall Top Box score, which represents the percentage of the highest possible rating Very Good, is **72%**.

In addition, your rolling **12-** month score of **91.86** is a difference of **-0.61** from the national database score of **92.47**.

When compared to all organizations in the national database, your score of **91.86** is ranked **36th**.

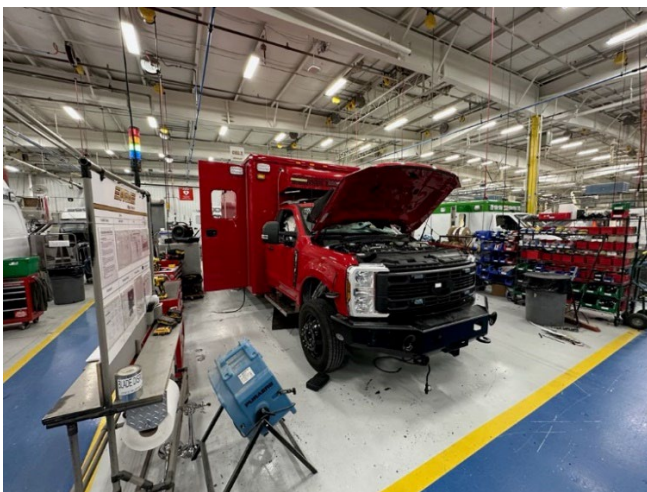
Highest and Lowest Scores

5 Highest Scores



New Ambulance Build Progress

The building of our new ambulance is coming along nicely, and I'm excited to share that we are nearing completion. Attached are some pictures which highlight the current stage of production. The equipment layout and design modifications are being finalized, and we're on track for the anticipated delivery date mid to late April.





Recent Award

The EMS Division is proud to announce that the City of Wausau Fire Department has been recognized by the **Coverdell Stroke Program** for its outstanding commitment to patient care, particularly for those who have suffered a stroke. Our department was honored for having **Records Complete**, meaning we maintain thorough, accurate, and timely documentation of each patient's care from emergency response through recovery. This helps ensure that all necessary information is available to provide the best possible care and improve patient outcomes.

The **Coverdell Stroke Program** is a national initiative dedicated to improving the quality of care for stroke patients by promoting organized systems of care. Complete records are a crucial part of this system, ensuring consistent, high-quality treatment at every stage.



EMS Division Current Hardships

The EMS Division is facing significant challenges due to the ongoing shortage of Normal Saline following the devastating wildfires in California. The increased demand for IV fluids in affected regions has strained supply chains, leaving EMS providers struggling to maintain adequate stock for patient care. This shortage impacts critical treatments, including hydration, medication administration, and emergency resuscitation. As a result, EMS agencies are forced to implement conservation strategies while seeking alternative solutions to ensure continued high-quality patient care.

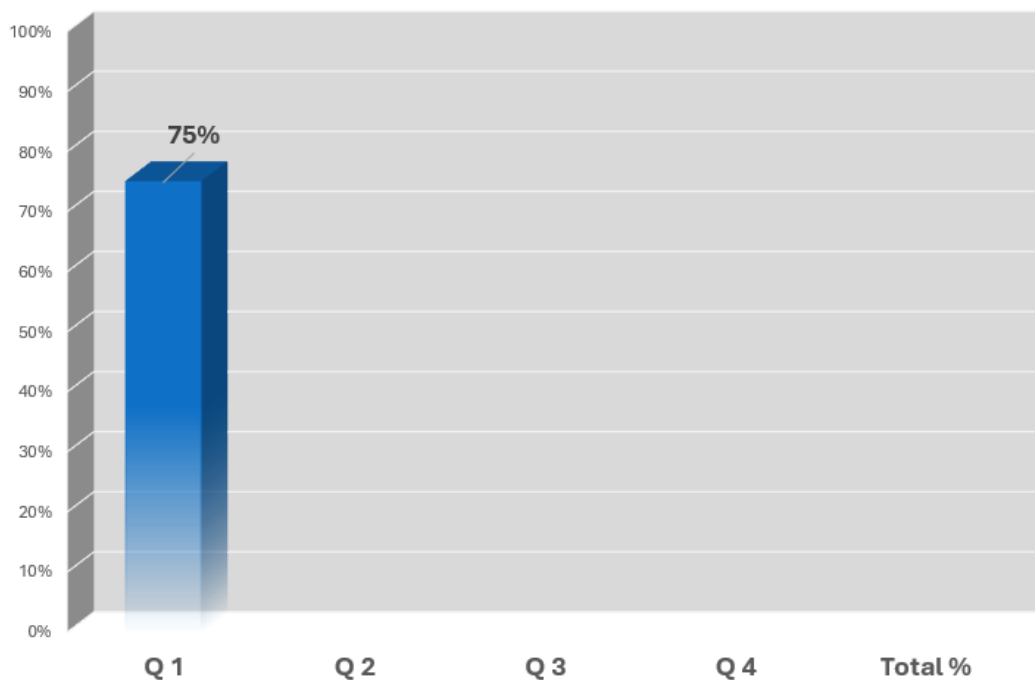
Quarterly Benchmarks

Wausau Fire Department EMS is committed to delivering high-quality, evidence-based prehospital care through continuous monitoring and improvement of clinical performance. Key quality improvement (QI) benchmarks include:

- **Aspirin Administration:** Aspirin is administered within **5 minutes of patient contact** for suspected cardiac-related chest pain, aligning with national guidelines for early intervention in acute coronary syndromes.
- **12-Lead ECG Acquisition:** A 12-lead ECG is obtained within **10 minutes of patient contact**, ensuring timely recognition and treatment of ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI).
- **Airway Management:** Emphasis is placed on **first-attempt success** in endotracheal intubation to reduce complications and improve patient outcomes.

These benchmarks are tracked and reviewed regularly to enhance provider performance and patient care across the community.

WAUSAU EMS ETT FIRST PASS SUCCESS

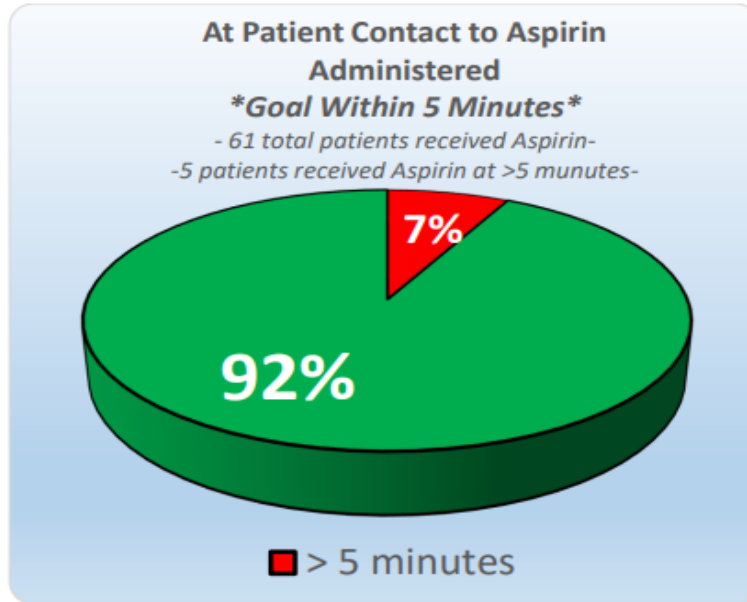


➤ **Q1- 8 ETT attempts resulting in 6 with first pass success.**

✓ **First pass success rate for ETT for Q1 is 75%.**



Wausau Fire Department's 2025 Q1 Aspirin Administration



Q4: October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Aspirin Administration – Q1 Analysis

Overview:

During Q1, a total of **61 patients** received **Aspirin** as part of suspected acute coronary syndrome (ACS) management. Of these, **61 patients (92%)** received Aspirin within our target window of **5 minutes**, while **five patients** experienced delays beyond this timeframe.

Performance Insight:

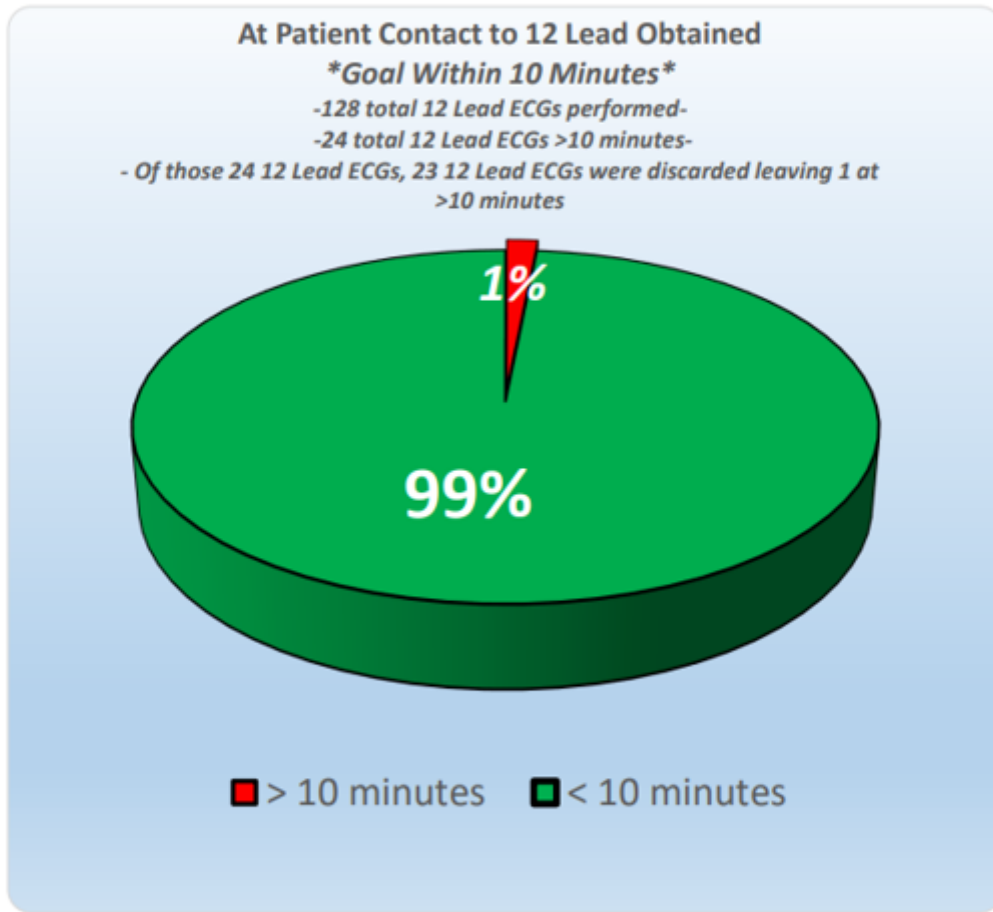
- **Timely Administration:** With a 92% success rate, Aspirin delivery exceeds our performance benchmark of 90%.
- **Clinical Relevance:** Aspirin holds a **Class I recommendation** by the American Heart Association (AHA) for ACS treatment, indicating strong evidence and consensus on its benefits.
- **Impact on Care:** Timely administration supports improved patient outcomes, emphasizing the importance of continuing to meet and exceed this standard.

Key Takeaways:

- **Performance:** Aspirin administration during Q1 was timely and exceeded our internal benchmark.
- **Guideline Adherence:** Consistent with AHA guidelines, the prompt delivery of Aspirin supports optimal ACS care.
- **Opportunities:** Continued focus on rapid recognition and administration can help further reduce the small number of delays and enhance care consistency.

Wausau Fire 2025 Q1 12 Lead ECG Times

*** The 10-minute goal is based on the America Heart Association Mission: Life Line Measure***



Q1 January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025

The 24 discarded 12 Lead ECGs did not meet the Mission: Lifeline Criteria, including an initial complaint of non-traumatic chest pain/ACS symptoms.

Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Overview:

During Q1, the Wausau Fire Department's Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) team continued its commitment to operational readiness by participating in consistent, high-level training alongside the Marathon County's SWAT team. Comprised of eight members, the TEMS team conducted regular training sessions—up to twice a month to ensure proficiency in both medical and tactical disciplines with our Law enforcement counterparts.

Training Highlights:

The TEMS team engaged in a broad range of training topics this quarter, all designed to integrate medical expertise directly into SWAT operations. These sessions not only enhanced medical readiness but also allowed medics to develop a strong operational understanding of SWAT procedures. Key training topics this quarter included:

- **Close Quarters Combat (CQC):** TEMS medics trained alongside SWAT operators in confined and high-stress scenarios, ensuring they could safely and effectively provide care during dynamic entries and room clearing operations. Be able to fill into rooms and provide immediate care, while not getting in the way of tactical movements.
- **Water Operations:** The team conducted specialized water-based training at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point at Wausau pool. This evolution included patient stabilization in aquatic environments, and waterborne tactical

movement. Members donned specialized life jackets, and other equipment to provide medical care to the team in a beach assault.

- **Hostage Rescue Scenarios:** TEMS members participated in simulated hostage rescue missions, practicing rapid triage and treatment under pressure, while integrating seamlessly into SWAT maneuvers. This training also included the involvement of Marathon County’s County negotiator team or CNT.
- **Explosive Breaching and Mechanical Breaching:** The team reviewed procedures for operating in and around explosive breaching scenarios, focusing on safety, blast injury management, and maintaining operational awareness. The team not only practiced explosive breaching on multiple doors but also had TEMS members provide mechanical breaching with the use of the team’s battering rams, for rapid entry.
- **K9 Medical Care:** Medics received targeted training on treating injured police K9s in the field, emphasizing trauma care and rapid response techniques tailored to working dogs.

February Full team Medical Training:

The most crucial training conducted this February was full team training on TEMS related items. This was a joint session focused on **Self-Aid and Buddy Care**, delivered by TEMS medics to the entire SWAT team. This vital training emphasized:

- How to use the medical gear carried by TEMS medics.
- Immediate life-saving interventions officers can perform on themselves or fellow operators.
- Tactical casualty care principles in high-threat environments.

This session strengthened the overall resilience of the team by ensuring every member, not just the medics, is prepared to provide life-saving aid in the field.

Integration and Collaboration

Every training evolution this quarter demonstrated the value of having professional medics embedded with tactical teams. By training side by side with SWAT operators, TEMS medics not only enhanced their situational awareness and tactical proficiency but also reinforced team cohesion. This seamless integration allows medics to respond quickly and effectively during missions, minimizing delays and maximizing survivability during critical incidents.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the first quarter, the dedication and hard work of our EMS Division continue to drive positive outcomes for those we serve. We remain committed to our mission of delivering rapid, professional emergency medical services and continually enhancing the well-being of our community.

Responses by Municipality (EMS Patient Care Reports):

City	# of Reports	% of Reports	# of Reports – YTD
City of Abbotsford	0	0.00%	0
City of Antigo	0	0.00%	0
City of Merrill	0	0.00%	0
City of Mosinee	1	0.06%	1
City of Schofield	0	0.00%	0
City of Wausau	1,485	92.24%	1,485
Clark County	0	0.00%	0
Oneida County	0	0.00%	0
Other	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bergen	0	0.00%	0
Town of Berlin	10	0.62%	10
Town of Bevent	0	0.00%	0
Town of Bern	0	0.00%	0
Town of Cassel	2	0.12%	2
Town of Elderon	0	0.00%	0
Town of Emmet	0	0.00%	0
Town of Frankfort	0	0.00%	0
Town of Franzen	0	0.00%	0

Town of Halsey	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hamburg	0	0.00%	0
Town of Harrison	0	0.00%	0
Town of Hewitt	5	0.31%	5
Town of Hull	0	0.00%	0
Town of Johnson	1	0.06%	1
Town of Knowlton	0	0.00%	0
Town of Marathon	2	0.12%	2
Town of Mosinee	0	0.00%	0
Town of Norrie	0	0.00%	0
Town of Plover	1	0.06%	1
Town of Rib Falls	3	0.19%	3
Town of Rietbrock	0	0.00%	0
Town of Ringle	0	0.00%	0
Town of Stettin	0	0.00%	0
Town of Texas	25	1.55%	25
Town of Wausau	23	1.43%	23
Town of Wien	3	0.19%	3
Village of Athens	0	0.00%	0
Village of Edgar	3	0.19%	3
Village of Hatley	0	0.00%	0
Village of Kronenwetter	0	0.00%	0
Village of Maine	32	1.99%	32
Village of Marathon City	5	0.31%	5
Village of Rib Mountain	6	0.37%	6
Village of Rothschild	0	0.00%	0
Village of Stratford	1	0.06%	1
Village of Weston	2	0.12%	2
Wittenberg	0	0.00%	0
Wood County	0	0.00%	0
Total	1,610	100.00%	1,610

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Company Training	2,354	87.50%	2,354
Driver/Operator Training	72.50	2.70%	72.50
Facilities Training	0	0.00%	0
Hazardous Materials Training	123.15	4.58%	123.15
Misc Training	52	1.93%	52
Officer Training	53	1.97%	53
Specialty Training	35.50	1.32%	35.50
Total	2,690.15	100.00%	2,690.15

Training Categories:

Company Training – General firefighting training

Officer Training – Included leadership, management, supervision, and tactical considerations

Driver/Operator Training – Operation of fire apparatus

Hazardous Materials Training – How to mitigate the leak or spill of hazardous substances

Specialty Training – Rope, confined space, trench, collapse, ice, water, and other special rescues.

Facilities Training – Training at a live-burn facility (may include off-duty time)

Misc Training – Any other training category such as software, administrative, etc.

Type of Training	# of Hours	% of Hours	# of Hours -YTD
Admin Training	46	5.61%	46
EMS Training	679	82.86%	679
Fire Instructor Training	94.50	11.53%	94.50

Fire Prevention Training	0	0.00%	0
Investigation Training	0	0.00%	0
Total	819.50	100.00%	819.50

Fire Prevention Division by Fire Prevention Division Chief Shahn Kariger

Inspections: Throughout the first quarter of 2025, we inspected 715 public buildings and places of employment. We performed 614 inspections that passed, and we had 101 properties with fire code violations. 142 of the 715 were re-inspections from previous violations. The failed inspections were primarily overdue fire extinguisher annual maintenance, outdated smoke alarms, kitchen exhaust cleaning, and misuse of electrical cords. These properties will require follow up inspections to confirm compliance. We conducted 21 consultation inspections for the quarter. These include consultations for Fire Alarm Systems, Knox Box updates, and new construction or remodeling. We also received and reviewed 459 reports through the Compliance Engine for services and maintenance of Fire Protection Systems at various businesses.

Investigations: The Division investigated 6 fires during the first quarter of 2025. The first two fires originated inside residential properties, were caused by smoking on or near a bed, and determined to be improper use or disposal of smoking materials. The third originated in a detached garage at a private residence where a grill was being used as a fireplace to heat the garage. The fourth was classified as undetermined; however, most likely originated in a light fixture at a commercial property. The fifth fire was the result of oily rags piled up, and spontaneously combusting in a storage room at a commercial property. The most recent occurred in a private residence and was the result of an unattended space heater plugged into an extension cord. Fortunately, there were no significant injuries because of these fires.

Public Outreach: Throughout the first quarter we had several outreach opportunities. We performed a Fire Safety Outreach Program for 34 special needs adults. New smoke and CO detectors were installed in 5 private residences, with a total of 5 smoke detectors and 4 CO detectors placed.

Education: There was no formal education completed outside the department for the first quarter of 2025 which is typical this time of year. The Prevention Division used this time to maintain equipment and evaluate the need for replacement or additional investigation and inspection tools. We also are fit tested for SCBA & N95 masks. This ensures we have the proper protective equipment to safely perform our job. We have begun the Paramedic refresher courses this year to as part of the state requirement. In addition to our annual inspector and investigator continuing education, we complete 60 hours of continuing education or a refresher course every three years to maintain our Wisconsin Paramedic license.

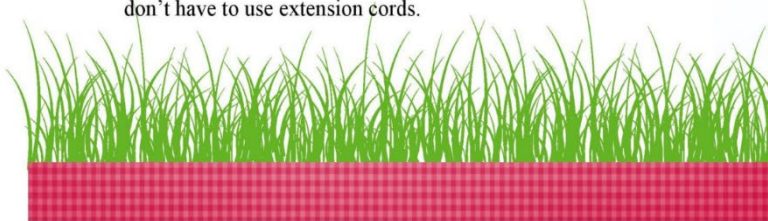
Promotions: With the retirement of Fire Marshal Brian Stahl on December 20, 2024, Lt. Shahn Kariger assumed the role of acting Fire Marshal. Prior to the vacancy in the Prevention Division, it was determined that a new title would align with existing leadership positions and be renamed Fire Prevention Division Chief. Shahn Kariger accepted the promotion to Division Chief of Prevention effective March 3, 2025. His previous position as Lieutenant of Prevention is currently open to the Department for applications.

SPRING

Along with spring cleaning, lets take the time to make sure our homes and family are safe from the threat of fire.

Here is a check list you should go over with your family:

- ⇒ **Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half**
 - Ensure smoke alarms are installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement
 - Test them at least once a month by pushing the test button
 - Replace the batteries in all smoke alarms. Best way to remember is when you change your clocks, change your batteries.
- ⇒ **The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.**
 - Clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
 - Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing.
- ⇒ **Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.**
 - Keep anything that can catch fire - oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains - away from your stovetop.
 - Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stovetop.
- ⇒ **Extension cord fires outnumbered fires beginning with permanent or detachable power cords by two-to-one.**
 - Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use.
 - Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.



Prevention Division Activities:

Inspections Completed	Quarterly	Year to Date
Routine Fire Inspections	552	552
Re-inspections	142	142
All other Inspections (Consults/burn complaints,etc)	21	21
Total Inspections	715	715
Fire Investigations	6	6
Inspection Department Activities	Quarterly	YTD
Public Engagement Activities	32	32