



City of
Sheboygan

FIRE DEPARTMENT

COURAGE. HONOR. INTEGRITY.
2023 Annual Report

In Memory of

Retired Members:
Firefighter Jon Paskiet
Lieutenant Allan R. Krueger

Active Member:
Fire Equipment Operator
Tyler R. Meyer “Rusty”



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Department Overview

Mission

The Sheboygan Fire Department is dedicated to serving all who live, visit, work, and invest in the City of Sheboygan through excellence in fire protection, rescue, emergency, and non-emergency medical services, code enforcement, and education, at the highest professional level in a compassionate, ethical, and cost effective manner.

Police and Fire Commission

The City of Sheboygan Fire Department is overseen by the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners. At the end of 2023, the commissioners serving included:

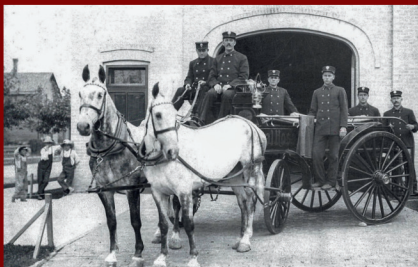
- Larry Samet, *president*
- Jerry Jones, *secretary*
- Jeanne Kliejunas
- Kristin Blanchard Stearns
- Corrado Cirillo



Sheboygan Fire 01

Then...

During the mid-1800's, progress was being made toward better fire protection for people and their property, and Sheboygan's first volunteer firefighting organization was established. Permanent organization of the fire department was recommended and in 1888, Sheboygan had its first paid hose company. Ever since the earliest days of firefighting, our fire department maintains a great legacy of service.



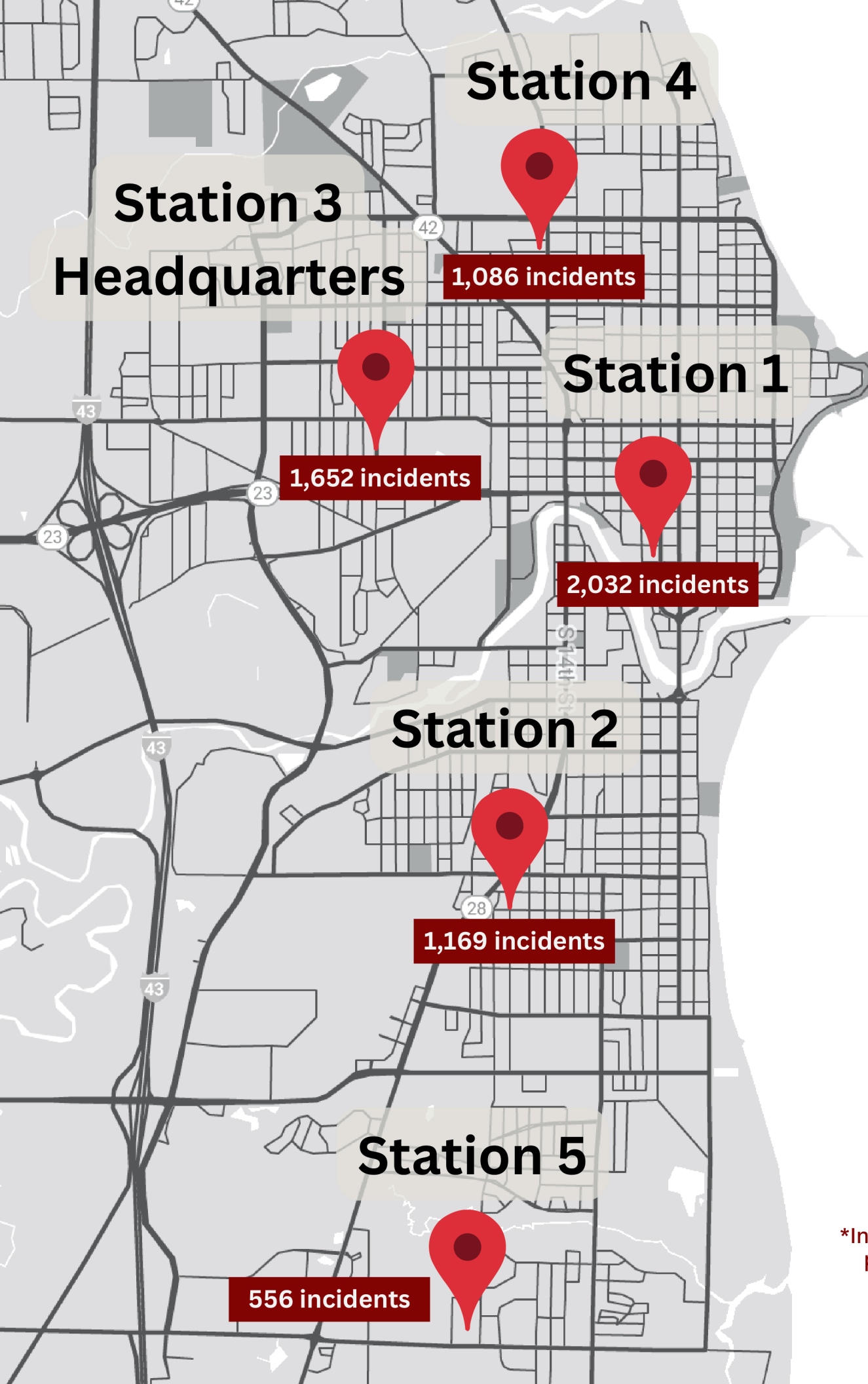
Did you know? Horses were trained and conditioned just like firefighters.

When responding to a fire, the horses were trained to run out of their stalls and in front of the piece of equipment they were to pull. The horses were conditioned by being hitched to an exercise wagon and being taken for a run.

... and Now

The Sheboygan Fire Department is a 24/7 staffed department providing service for fire protection and emergency medical services. Our department responds to a wide range of incident types which may go well beyond internal capabilities. Therefore, our firefighters also train with outside specialty response teams, such as the Sheboygan County Hazmat and Technical Rescue teams including the Sheboygan County Dive Team, which the SFD oversees.





*Incident count
per station
in 2023

Personnel

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Fire Chief Eric Montellano
Asst. Chief Jeffrey Salzman
Asst. Chief Michael Lubbert
Division Chief Nic Noster

Battalion Chief Pat Nicolaus
Battalion Chief Jamon Ingelse
Battalion Chief Chase Longmiller

Admin. Coordinator Karley Campbell
Admin. Asst. Mindi Garrigan

Chaplain Father Leo Gavrilos

NEW HIRES

Ryan Heitzmann
Joshua Hittman
Daniel Hernandez
Andre Schmitt
Bryce Goodman
Jacob Hittman
Connor Walsh

PROMOTIONS

Lt. Jordan Juday
FEO Ryan Shaw
FEO Larry McBain II
FEO Jestin Demerath
FEO Roy Brion

RETIREMENTS

FEO Scott Mueller, *17 years*
FEO Dean Bauer, *15 years*



STAFFING INCREASE APPROVED

With the support of Common Council, the Fire Department was approved for its first staffing increase in over a decade. With the addition of three firefighter/paramedics, each shift will increase staffing by one member. These additional members will help to staff the city's fourth front-line ambulance to improve EMS response during peak hours. In an effort to improve crew management and consistency across all five stations, three lieutenant positions were approved for change to the rank of captain which will also take effect in 2024.



Sheboygan Fire 04

Budget Snapshot



1 Operating

2023: \$954,788

Covers day-to-day operational expenses including vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, IT services, contracted services, office supplies, firefighting supplies, medical supplies, gas and utilities.

2 Capital (CIP)

2023: \$2,445,300

This special budget referred to as Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) covers major projects, equipment purchase and replacement. Amount varies based on a 5-year forecast which is submitted annually and presented before Common Council. The Fire Department is currently addressing long neglected fleet replacement and facility updates in urgent need of attention.



3 Personnel

2023: \$8,903,921

The personnel budget is comprised of salaries, overtime, workers compensation and city benefits.



Sheboygan Fire 05

2023 Capital Projects

Turnout Gear \$25,300

Purchased turnout coats and bunker pants. Per NFPA standard, gear must be replaced every ten years. This is typically an annual purchase.



**Basic Gear
59 pounds**

Helmet
6 pounds

Breathing Apparatus
27 pounds

Bunker Gear
26 pounds
(boots, pants, coat, radio, gloves, personal hand tools)

Station 4 Window and Door Replacement \$68,500

Issued purchase order for replacement of original (1990) windows and exterior doors to increase energy efficiency and security throughout the building while addressing health concerns brought on by leaking windows, rotting wood and mold.

Ambulance \$351,500

Issued purchase order as part of the fleet replacement program. The department continues to anticipate receipt of the first replacement ordered in 2021.

As a result of these significant lead times, special permission was granted by common council to order the 2024 replacement this year as well.

Station 3 Phase 1 of 3 \$2,000,000 >>> Justification:

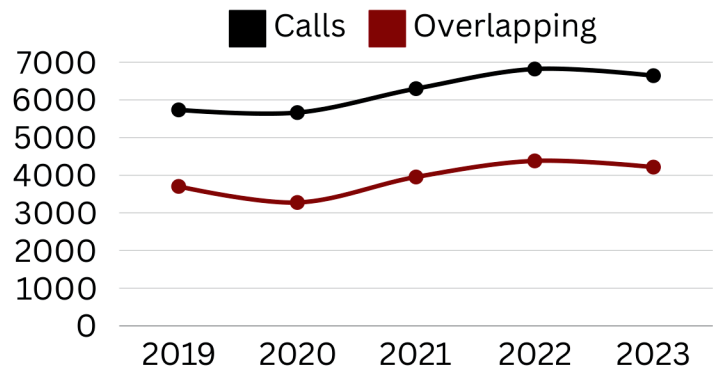
Since 2020, the department has been pursuing replacement of its current headquarters at Fire Station 3 which no longer meets department needs. A new property was identified for construction and the project is pending a sale agreement.

- ADA compliance
- Communal showers are unfit for co-ed living
- Emergency generator is overdue for replacement and parts are unavailable
- Insufficient bunk space
- Failing, asbestos wrapped pipes
- Lack of sufficient training space



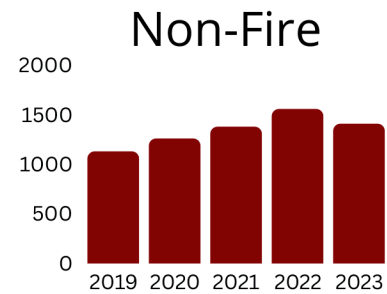
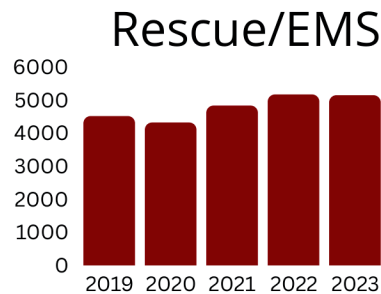
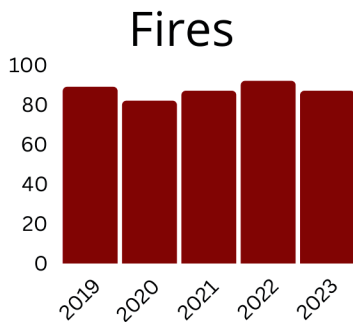
Sheboygan Fire 06

Incident Statistics



INCIDENT TYPE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	GOAL
FIRES	89	82	87	92	87	< 90
RESCUE & EMS	4,516	4,321	4,833	5,170	5,147	4,900
NON-FIRES	1,130	1,260	1,379	1,558	1,409	1,400
TOTAL	5,735	5,663	6,299	6,820	6,643	6,300

Breakdown



Why does a fire truck/engine respond to an EMS call in addition to an ambulance?

Each fire truck/engine is staffed with paramedics who can provide extra care if necessary, such as lifting a patient, carrying equipment or assisting in the back of the ambulance. This ensures that patient care needs are met in a timely and safe manner.



5-Year Comparison

INCIDENT COUNT PER STATION	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	GOAL
STATION 1	1,556	1,620	1,809	2,003	2,032	1,825
STATION 2	1,130	1,016	1,239	1,229	1,169	1,225
STATION 3	1,422	1,400	1,459	1,677	1,652	1,500
STATION 4	1,043	1,026	1,163	1,171	1,086	1,150
STATION 5	543	533	594	609	556	600
MUTUAL AID GIVEN	N/A	N/A	N/A	131	85	
MUTUAL AID RECEIVED	N/A	N/A	N/A	54	56	
FIRE LOSS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	55	67	54	61	60	
PRE-INCIDENT VALUE	N/A	\$70,450,745	\$95,389,290	\$163,942,270	\$59,645,278	
PROPERTY LOSS	\$373,100	\$458,010	\$538,550	\$887,790	\$745,460	
CONTENT LOSS	\$152,565	\$148,850	\$546,617	\$1,115,910	\$205,730	
TOTAL LOSS	\$525,665	\$606,860	\$1,085,167	\$2,003,700	\$951,190	
AVERAGE LOSS	\$9,557	\$9,057	\$20,095.69	\$32,848	\$15,853	
PROPERTY SAVED	N/A	\$69,843,885	\$94,304,123	\$161,938,570	\$58,694,088	
WORKLOAD	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	GOAL
INSPECTIONS	1,987	2,179	2,267	2,742	2,556	2,300
SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMS (STUDENTS)	3,330	3,116	3,148	3,122	3,118	3,200
PUBLIC EVENTS	46	55	56	76	105	60
STATION TOURS	N/A	5	9	16	16	25
NON-COMPLIANCE/ INSTALLED SMOKE ALARMS	128/161	85/90	63/82	78/94	56/79	
INVESTIGATIONS	91	88	84	89	78	



Sheboygan Fire 08

Training & Operations



Mutual aid was requested for a June 2023 structure fire. Assisting departments included Town of Sheboygan FD, Town of Wilson FD, Village of Kohler FD and Sheboygan Police.

Annual Training

Training hour goals were met and exceeded for both EMS and Fire. Fire training hours saw a major increase as compared to previous years as a result of increased training efforts and implementation of a new reporting software.

Firefighter training topics include:

- Hoses
- Confined Space
- High Angle Rescue
- RIT (Rapid Intervention Team)
- Search and Rescue
- Water Rescue
- HazMat

TRAINING	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	GOAL
FIRE HOURS	8,437	6,494	4,981	6,279	17,060	8,000
EMS HOURS	2,314	2,275	2,072	1,939	2,333	2,100

Working Together

The SFD works closely with neighboring county departments to receive and provide mutual aid. This adds depth to our ability to mitigate incidents.



Emergency Medical Services

5,147 EMS calls

This is just 23 calls shy of the previous year's record high (5,170).

In 2022, the SFD received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA for five new automated CPR devices known as LUCAS devices. These devices are used to provide effective, consistent and continuous chest compressions. The order was delivered in spring of 2023 with crews receiving hands-on training prior to implementation.

This year, the SFD received funds from the WI EMS Flex grant to purchase a 6-wheel Polaris Ranger UTV.

Other significant changes of the year include:

- Operating a fourth ambulance as front-line during peak hours
- Engine 1865 transition from Basic Life Support (BLS) to Advanced Life Support (ALS)
- LVO transfers
- New medical director



Fire Station 1 crew members demonstrated use of a LUCAS device at the June 5, 2023 Common Council meeting.

Welcome!

**New Medical Director
Erin McGlynn, MD, MPH**



EMS Medical Director
and Emergency Medicine Physician:
Aurora Medical Center Sheboygan County

Undergraduate and medical school:
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Emergency Medicine Residency:
Detroit Receiving Hospital, Detroit, MI

EMS Fellowship:
Medical College of Wisconsin/Froedtert
Hospital, Milwaukee, WI

Fire Prevention Bureau



78 Fire Investigations

The Sheboygan Fire Department has trained fire investigators. Under WI Statute, fires of more than \$500 need to be investigated for Origin and Cause, where and how did the fire start. This is a highly scientific process which must follow national standards for best practice. The primary role of the fire investigation is to determine if a crime was committed or not. Fire Investigators are the “Detectives” of the fire scene. SFD investigators work closely, as needed, with the Sheboygan Police Department, Sheboygan County Fire Investigation Unit, and the WI Department of Criminal Investigation Fire Marshal’s Office.

2,556 Fire Inspections

Annual inspections are completed for commercial and general assembly occupancies, such as businesses, schools, places of worship, and 3 or more family complexes. Possible exits and the paths taken to reach them, fire extinguishers, electrical systems, emergency lighting, sprinkler systems and fire alarm systems are just some of the items examined. If a violation is noted, a time frame is given to the owner or occupant to make the required corrections. Based on the severity of the violation, a re-inspection may be conducted.

The goal of these inspections is two-fold: the primary goal is to prevent fires and protect community members. The department has seen a decrease in the number of follow-up inspections which can be attributed to property owners correcting violations in a timely fashion. Second, conducting these inspections allows crews to familiarize themselves with properties as well as configure pre-plans in event of an incident.

Our sincere THANKS to all business owners and building managers who assist our crews in conducting property walk-throughs and updating occupancy information. Together we will continue making our community a safer place for all who live, visit, work, and invest in the City of Sheboygan.



Causes of Fire

Things have changed drastically in the fire industry in the past 50 years. Among these changes are the decrease of fire incidents occurring in Sheboygan. The most common causes of fire incidents have differed greatly between 1973 and 2023.

1973	
Automobile and Truck Fires	65
Electrical Fires	48
Grass and Rubbish Fires	38
TV Sets and Appliances	34
Smokers Carelessness	28
Food or Grease Burning	26
Children Playing with Matches	21
Faulty Heating Systems	15
Dust Collectors	11
Spontaneous Combustion	10

2023	
Operating Equipment	27
Undetermined	27
Other Open Flame or Smoking Materials	11
Hot or Smoldering Object	10
Heat Spread from Another Fire	3
Explosives, Fireworks	1



Public Education

Citizens Fire Academy

This year, the SFD hosted its third annual Citizens Fire Academy. Participants learned firsthand about the operations of the Sheboygan Fire Department from our personnel. They were given hands-on training as well as instruction in a classroom setting. Many topics are covered, such as department operations, fire ground operations, search and rescue, technical rescue, fire investigations/inspections, and Emergency Medical Services. As of 2023, the minimum participation requirement is 16 years of age or older to participate.

On Air with WHBL

It is a priority of our department not only to respond to emergencies, but prevent them. One way the SFD accomplishes this is through live on-air broadcasts on WHBL. Assistant Chief Lubbert gives updates regarding fire prevention tips for the season or to inform of upcoming events. The public can tune in to 1330 AM WHBL every third Friday of the month from 8:40am to 8:50am to learn something new about fire safety or to hear good reminders.



SFD Trivia

In the early 1900's, what was the leading cause of fire injuries to Sheboygan citizens?

Due to the extensive use of kerosene, lamps and lanterns, using kerosene as fuel, accounted for more burns and deaths than any other cause. Most fire injuries occurred because people were careless when filling lamps or standing too close when a lamp tipped.occurred because people were careless when filling lamps or standing too close when a lamp tipped.



Sheboygan Fire 13



Lieutenant Langdon demonstrates the "House of Hazards" to a group of students.

School Programs

The SFD has a long history of providing top-tier education to reduce fire risk in the community. Each fall, the SFD commits time and resources to educate our community's children through fire prevention programs. Kindergarteners through 4th graders from the Sheboygan Area School District, parochial schools, and home school groups were taught about fire prevention safety and what to do in case of emergency. Over 3,100 students were reached in 2023. These programs are vital to continue working toward a safer community for everyone.



Sheboygan Fire 14

Other Events



◀◀ Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin

L483 Union members traveled to Madison to serve as instructors and liaisons for state and local elected officials at PFFW Fire Ops. Fire Ops is an event designed to give political officials the opportunity to experience the duties SFD Union members face on a daily basis. A special thank you to the Secretary of Sheboygan's Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, Gerald Jones, for attending!

Humble Warrior Project ▶▶

The SFD received mindfulness and yoga training from Humble Warrior. The main focus of this training is health and wellness for first responders using different techniques, such as breathing practices, meditation, and stretching. Firefighters can learn from this training and use it to go from "chaos to calm" in any given situation.



Esslingen Visit

Our German colleagues from Sheboygan's sister city in Esslingen visited us this summer. Our cities partner with each other to foster cultural exchange, strengthen relationships, and share heritage, traditions, and accomplishments. During their visit, Esslingen firefighters participated alongside SFD firefighters in the 4th of July parade and attended rescue swimmer training, among other firefighting activities.





SFD members enjoyed training and camaraderie with Esslingen crew members. Thanks for visiting!



Contact Information

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