

WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Monthly Report / August 2026

Compassion, Dedication,
Integrity, Accountability,
Trust



Greetings!

As we move into fall and begin another budget season, August provides a good opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made in stabilizing our staffing. Considerable effort has gone into recruiting, hiring, and training employees over the past year, and we are beginning to see the benefit of that work. August overtime was noticeably lower than many previous months, demonstrating the value of filling vacancies, completing training, and having a more stable workforce available to meet our daily needs.

At the same time, being fully staffed as a department does not mean all nine personnel assigned to a shift are working each day. Vacation, sick leave, FMLA, training, and other absences impact daily staffing. In August, our average daily staffing was 7 personnel, our minimum staffing level. At seven, we can staff an engine, one ambulance, and a Battalion Chief. Everyone has an assignment, leaving little flexibility when additional resources are needed.

That flexibility is important when looking at the demands placed on our crews. In August, the department responded to 242 incidents, with EMS continuing to account for the majority of our workload. Twenty percent of August incidents involved simultaneous calls, meaning another emergency occurred while crews were already committed to a call. These overlapping incidents are not unusual; they are part of the daily reality our personnel must be prepared to manage.

As we look toward 2027, our focus is on maintaining the stability we have worked hard to achieve. Adequate staffing helps control overtime, keeps more resources available when calls overlap, and provides a safer and more sustainable workload for our personnel. Our staffing also supports much more than the incident numbers reflected in this report—it provides the capacity for training, fire prevention, mutual aid, community engagement, and the readiness necessary for the next emergency, even when another call is already underway. The progress we are seeing is encouraging, and maintaining a stable, trained workforce will remain an important part of providing reliable service to our community while being responsible with the resources entrusted to us.

Chief Tanya Reynen



Operational Statistics

Incident Count Statistics

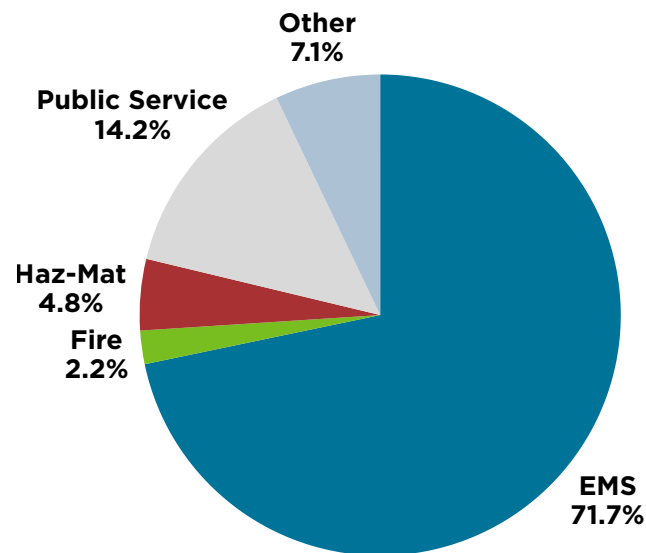
August 2026 Calls:

EMS	Fire	Haz-Mat	Public Service	Other
183	5	15	21	18

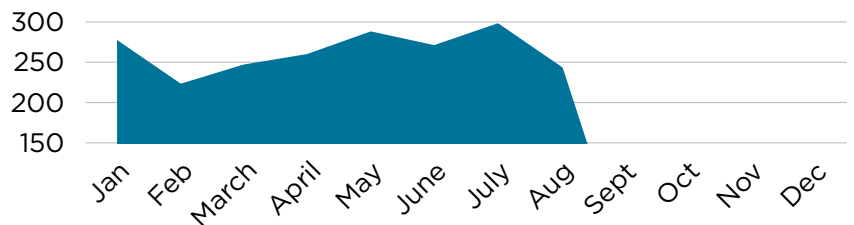
August Incidents by Year

2023	2024	2025	2026
265	229	250	242

Incident Percentages Year to Date

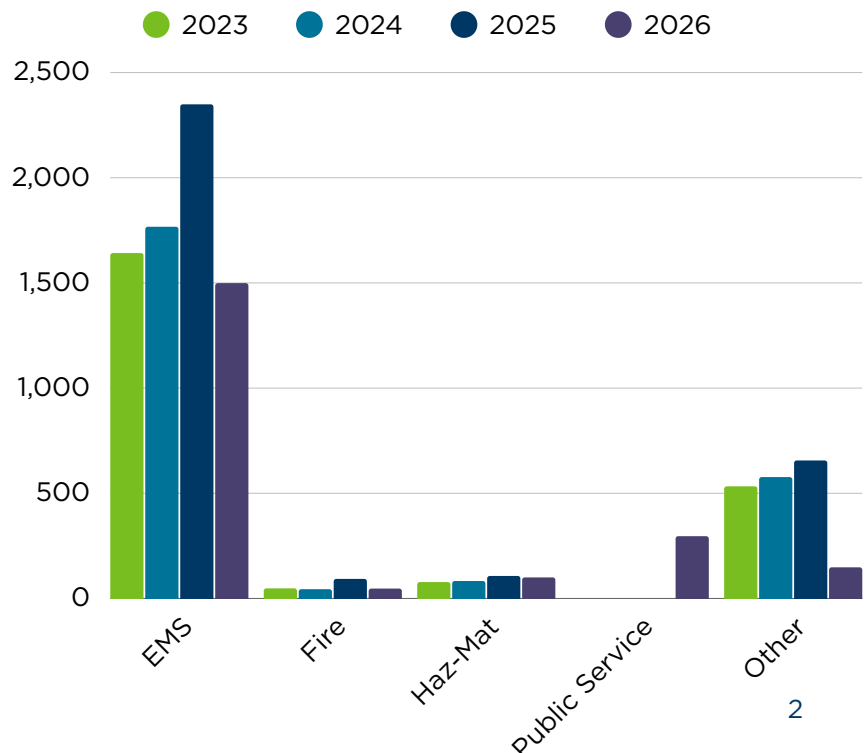


Incident count by Month



**2026
Year-to-Date
Incident Count:
2090**

Year-to-Date Incidents by year and type

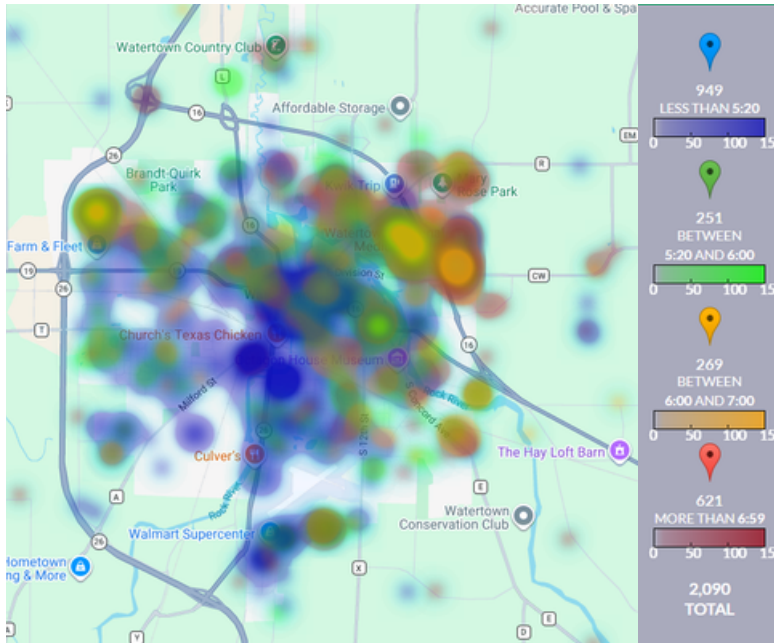


Public Service
The category Public Service is for incidents such as Lift Assist, CO and Smoke Detector alarm malfunctions

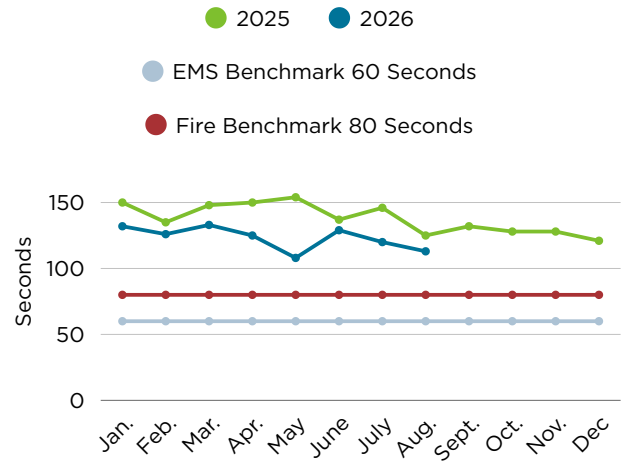
Other
Consists of Standby, Canceled calls, smoke in area, no patient found, controlled burn etc.

Operational Statistics

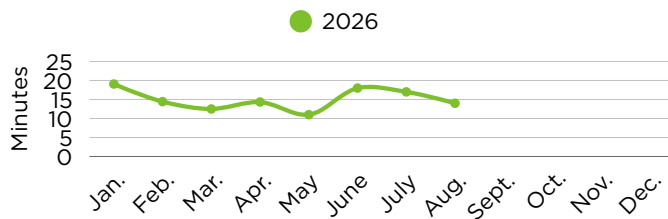
Year-to-Date Response Time Heat Map



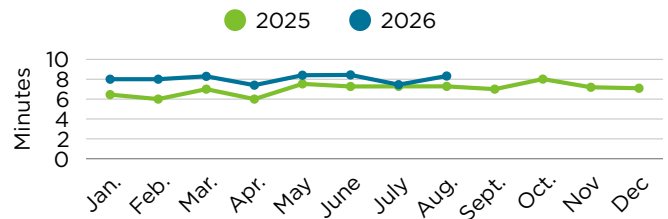
90th Percentile ALL ZONE TURNOUT TIME (Alarm>EnRoute)



90th Percentile TOWNSHIPS RESPONSE TIME (Alarm>First Unit Arrival)



90th Percentile CITY ZONE RESPONSE TIME (Alarm>First Unit Arrival)



Simultaneous Calls by Month- Year to Year

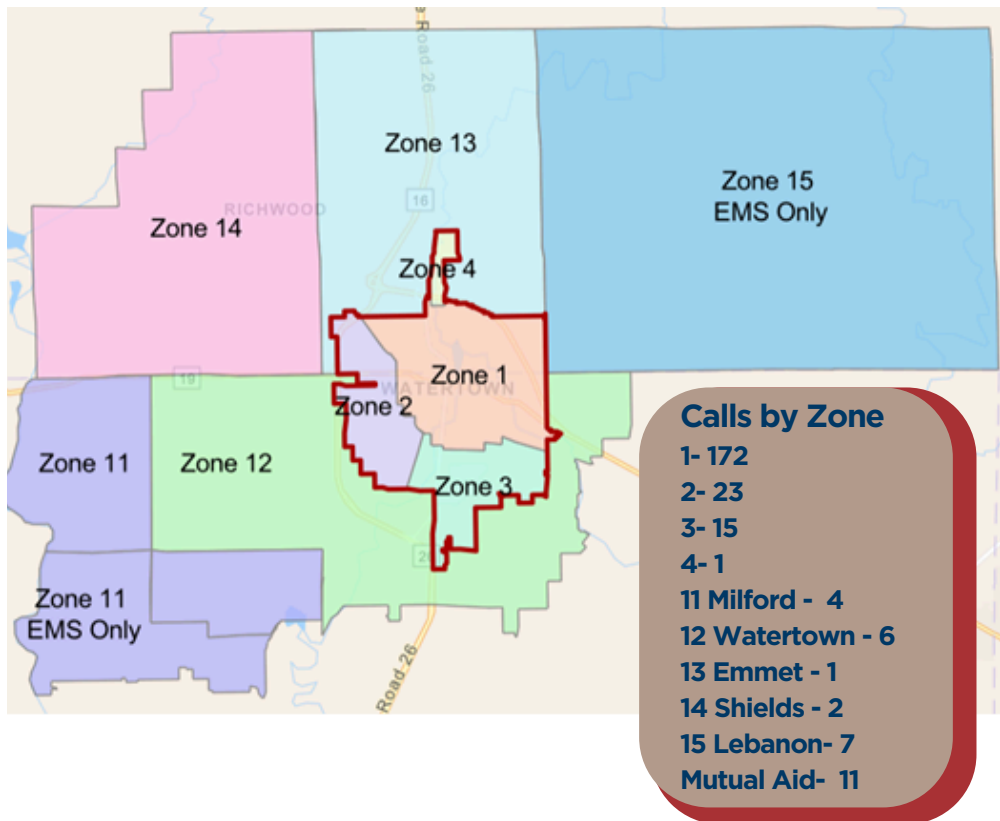
This means that the crew is out on more than one call at the same time.

	2024		2025		2026	
January	52	19%	79	28%	51	25%
February	39	18%	63	28%	26	16%
March	52	22%	93	32%	44	23%
April	31	14%	74	28%	49	19%
May	47	20%	103	34%	65	23%
June	68	27%	78	27%	68	25%

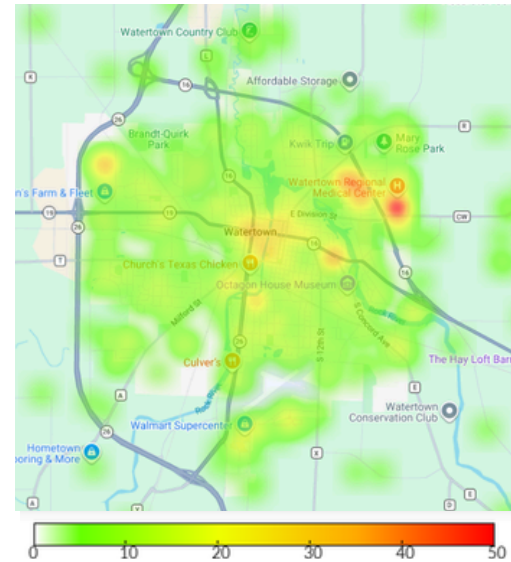
	2024		2025		2026	
July	57	24%	87	30%	69	23%
August	50	22%	60	24%	47	20%
September	66	25%	89	33%		
October	57	22%	70	25%		
November	64	28%	57	24%		
December	58	28%	80	29%		

Operational Statistics

Calls per Zone This Month



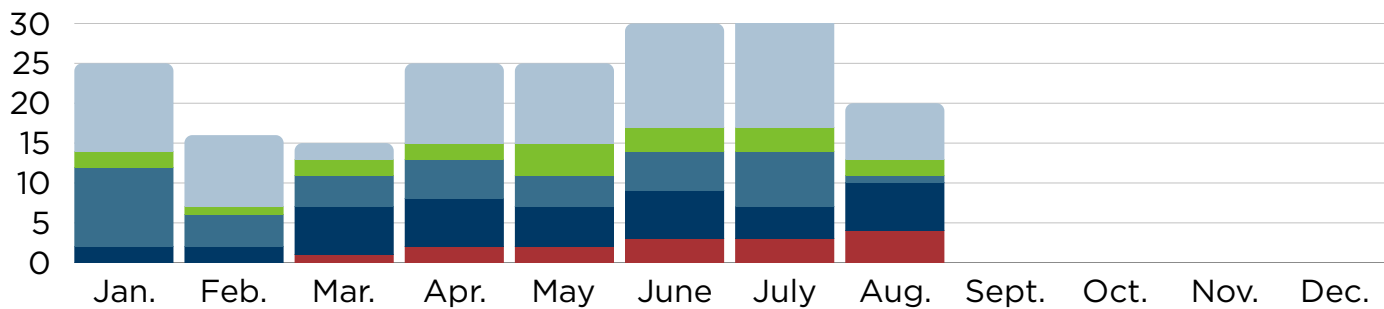
Year-to-Date Call Volume Heat Map



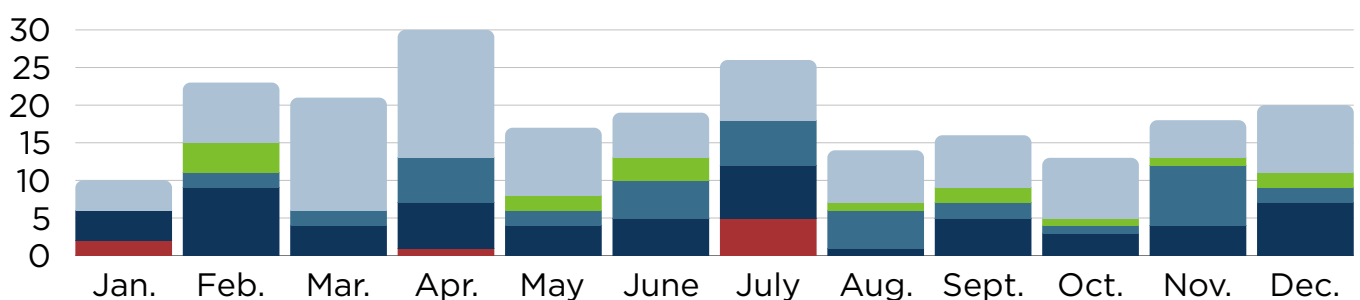
Calls per Township

● Milford 11 ● Watertown 12 ● Emmet 13 ● Shields 14 ● Lebanon 15

2026



2025



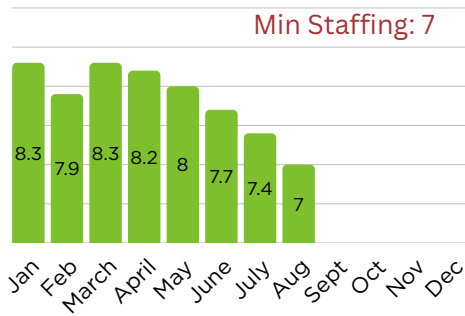
Operational Statistics

Department Staffing Overview

The department policy minimum staffing is 7 personnel per shift. That gets an engine, an ambulance, and a command vehicle out the door. At 7, everybody has a job and there is nobody left over. If a second call comes in, we have to pull someone off one of those units to cover it.

There are 9 personnel assigned to each shift so we can absorb vacation, sick time, and FMLA and still hit our minimum. When all 9 are working, we can put more apparatus in service. Most of our units, ambulances included, take at least two people to operate. At 9, we can run the ambulance, the tender, and the brush truck or boat, and we can get the ladder out, though not with a full crew.

Average Daily Staffing Level



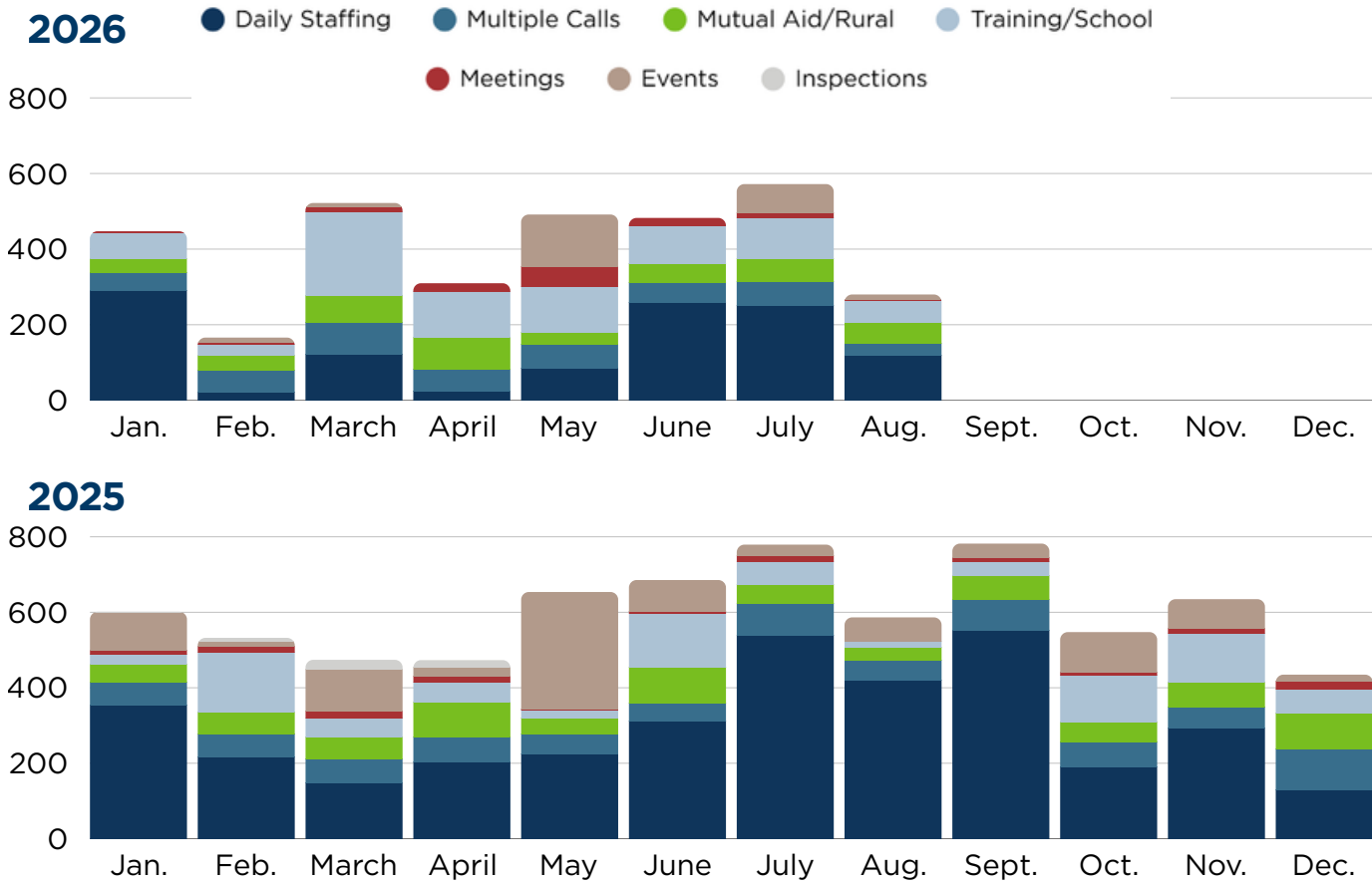
Engine Crew
4
Firefighters required to safely staff and operate the engine on a response

Ambulance Crew
2
Paramedics required to staff and provide care

Shift Commander
1
Battalion Chief responsible for incident command and shift oversight

“Swing”
2
Covers Vacation & Sick leave; If none, staffs Ambulance, Tender, and Ladder

Total Monthly Overtime Hours



Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention Updates

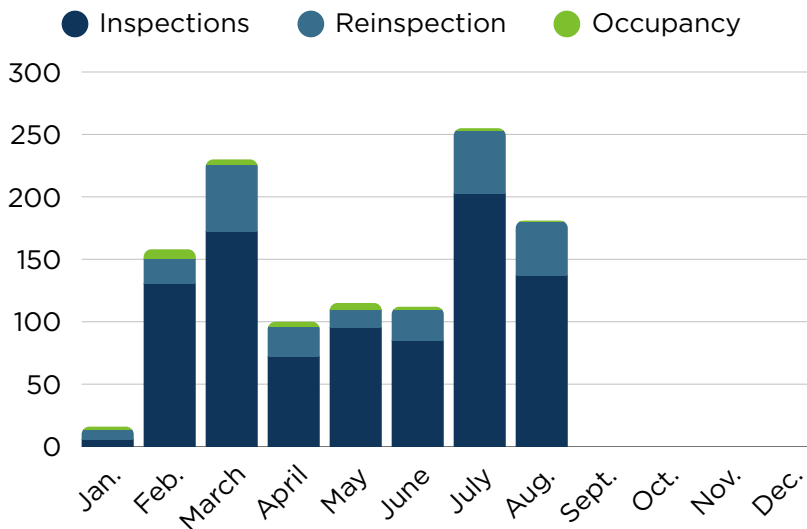
As cooler weather arrives in Watertown, fall is a good time to prepare your home for the heating season. Residents are encouraged to have furnaces and fireplaces inspected, keep combustible materials away from heating equipment, and test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms throughout the home.

Fall Safety Checklist

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and check their expiration dates.
- Have furnaces, fireplaces, and chimneys inspected and cleaned as appropriate.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn.
- Never leave candles, outdoor fires, or cooking unattended.
- Make sure your home address is clearly visible from the street for emergency responders.

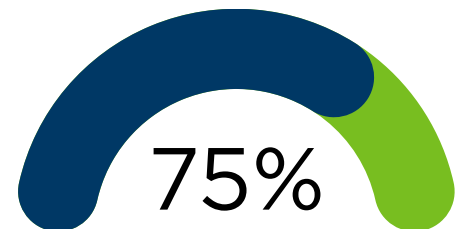
Our crews see firsthand how quickly a small fire or carbon monoxide problem can become a serious emergency. As you close up the house, turn on the furnace, or light the fireplace for the first time this season, take a few extra minutes to make sure everything is working safely. If something doesn't look or smell right, don't ignore it. A little prevention at home goes a long way toward keeping our Watertown families safe this fall.

Inspections Completed



Inspection Progress

Total Known Inspectable Properties: 1,198



**Fire Marshal
Calls for Service**

3- Incident Response

**Plans Reviewed
Year to Date**

17

Fire & Safety Tip

Preparing to return to school is great reminder that emergencies can happen at any time. Residents are encouraged to review their family emergency plans, make sure emergency kits are stocked, and know how they will receive important alerts and information during an emergency.

Incidents, Training & Public Relations

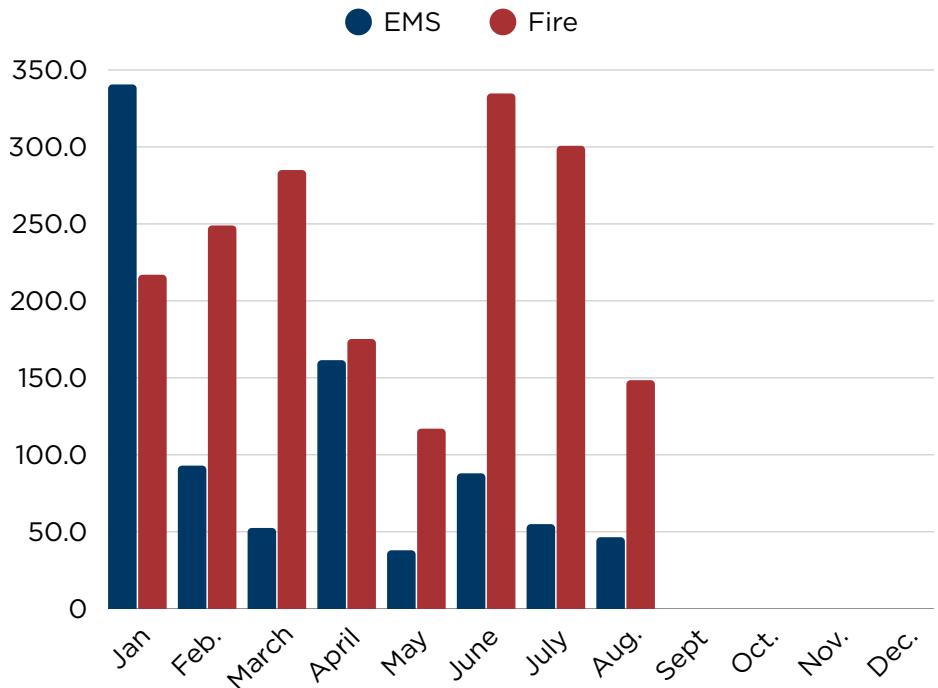
Training Highlights

Fire Investigator Training
Map / Road Familiarization
Vent/Enter/Search
Victim Rescue and Removal
Ventilation
Extrication
Ropes & Knots—Equipment
EMS—Medical

Public Relations Highlights

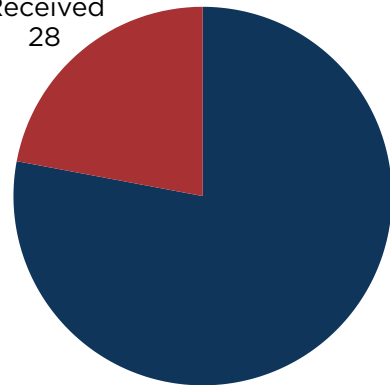
Wi Burn Camp
Movie Night Under Stars
Playgroup at Park- Health Dept
Watertown Hospital Brat Fry
Culvers Donation event

Training Hours



Mutual Aid Given/Received Year to Date

Mutual Aid
Received
28



Mutual Aid Given
99

Each August, Wisconsin Burn Camp provides young burn survivors an opportunity to spend a week with other kids who share similar experiences, building confidence, friendships, and lasting memories. Fire Marshal Don Dishno attended camp again this year, continuing the fire service's strong connection to supporting burn survivors beyond the emergency response.

