



# WHEELING FIRE DEPARTMENT 2022

**JAMES A. BLAZIER, FIRE CHIEF**  
**HEADQUARTERS – 2126 MARKET STREET**

- |          |                            |           |                               |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| <b>2</b> | <b>801 MAIN STREET</b>     | <b>9</b>  | <b>1301 RICHLAND AVENUE</b>   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>3618 JACOB STREET</b>   | <b>10</b> | <b>298 POPLAR AVENUE</b>      |
| <b>5</b> | <b>11 N. WABASH STREET</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>139 E. BETHLEHEM BLVD.</b> |

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PHOTO GALLERY

**AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION Mission: Lifeline EMS**  
WFD was again recognized with a GOLD PLUS Achievement award.  
BACK ROW W. Barsch, J. Milton, A. Winter, T. Adkins FRONT ROW M. Alexander, J. Beihl, S. Burek



# WFD MISSION STATEMENT

TO **LIMIT THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY** RESULTING FROM FIRES, MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, & ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS.



ABOVE Zane Street fire  
BELOW Firefighters in full gear



The Department fulfills its responsibilities through four divisions: Emergency Response, Fire Prevention, Education, and Investigations.

WFD also responds to non-emergency calls such as water line breaks, interdepartmental assistance, and assistance to individuals.

## STANDARDS OF SERVICE

- ✓ TRAINING
- ✓ PROFESSIONALISM
- ✓ INTEGRITY
- ✓ RESPECT FOR OTHERS
- ✓ PREPAREDNESS
- ✓ COMPASSIONATE PATIENT CARE

**The members of the Wheeling Department believe that pride, the pursuit of excellence, and commitment to public service are of paramount importance.**

April 2023

Mr. Robert Herron  
City Manager  
1500 Chapline Street  
Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Dear Mr. Herron,

I am pleased to present you with the 2022 Annual Report for the Wheeling Fire Department.

2022 represented the first full year serving as Chief of the department. My focus has been divided between projects started by the previous administration, as well as, moving forward with the completion of new projects.

- In late 2021 and early 2022, we took delivery of two new Ford F-450 ambulances and a new Sutphen pumper. Engine-9 will serve our Warwood section of the city.
- We were also fortunate enough to receive a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$400,000. It allowed us to replace dated SCBA equipment – making conditions safer for our crews.
- Breaking ground on the new Fire Headquarters project in August, put us one step closer to our new facility in late 2023. Upgrades to our other existing stations are ongoing as well.
- A new heavy rescue unit is on order. But due to the current climate in the industry, we will not be taking delivery of this unit until 2024.
- We are also in the process of upgrading our rescue equipment. We are adding a new set of Hurst Jaws of Life tools and a Paratech system which is multifaceted across several disciplines of rescue.

Two smaller grant opportunities – one for COVID expenditures and one for WV Workforce – allowed us to make upgrades to ALS ambulance equipment, acquire our first accelerant detection canine for the investigations division, and purchase a drone. The drone has fire and rescue applications – there is also the possibility of augmenting the WPD drone on joint missions.

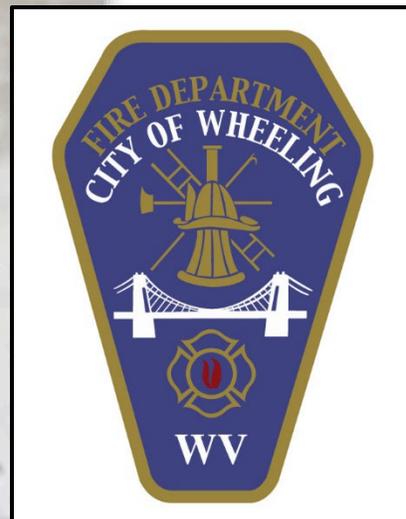
We also received a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$338,000 that is earmarked for paramedic training over the next few years.

With the continued support of the City of Wheeling administration, City Council, State of West Virginia, federal government, our citizens, and the business community, we will continue to meet the current and future needs for service.

In closing, I would like to recognize the hard work of the men and women of the Wheeling Fire Department. Their continued dedication, effort, and commitment to duty carry on the tradition of service to our community that began in 1869.

Sincerely,

James A. Blazier  
Chief of Department



CHIEF JAMES BLAZIER  
CITY OF WHEELING FIRE DEPARTMENT

## **James Blazier, a Wheeling native, is the 16th Fire Chief.**

Chief Blazier came up through the WFD ranks; and he has made a strong impact as a leader throughout his career.

Blazier is a public safety instructor for Mountain State Education Services; and he is also a registered nurse at MedExpress. In addition to numerous fire service certifications, he has an associate degree in manufacturing engineering.

### **In 2016, Blazier was recognized as WFD'S Firefighter of The Year.**

Prior to his appointment as Fire Chief, Blazier served in an administrative capacity – training officer, EMS squad training officer, and supply manager for EMS and firefighting equipment. His high standards, practical approach, and dedication have resulted in a strong foundation for the department's men and women. Chief Blazier's own skill set includes:

- West Virginia/nationally certified paramedic
- CPR/AED first aid instructor
- Hazardous material technician

# ASSISTANT CHIEFS



PAUL HARTO

**Paul Harto**  
**Deric Jamison**  
**James Francis**

**David Harmon**  
**Eric Cianelli**

These officers are veterans of scores of fires and medical calls. Their careers range from 21 to 33 years of service to the City of Wheeling. **They provide leadership by their doing** – training, mentoring, acquiring new skills, and growing positive relationships within the community.



DERIC JAMISON



DAVID HARMON



JAMES FRANCIS



ERIC CIANELLI

# ADMINISTRATION



CITY OF WHEELING  
FIRE CHIEF  
JAMES BLAZIER

## **BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION**

Assistant Chief Deric Jamison  
Captain Tobias Bachman

## **TRAINING DIVISION**

Assistant Chief David Harmon

## **MAINTENANCE DIVISION**

Fire Equipment Manager Clark Graham  
Mechanic Gary Wiechman

## **BUREAU OF FIRE INVESTIGATIONS**

Captain Bernard Davidson  
Lieutenant Clinton Landis

## **OFFICE OF EMS**

Captain Jason Milton

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

Philip Stahl

**Groundbreaking  
New Fire Headquarters  
August 2022**



# BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

## **Our safety message was presented to thousands of citizens in 2022.**

Safety talks were presented at every Wheeling Housing Authority property. Fire extinguisher training was held for local businesses, care facilities, and civic groups. Seasonal messages were broadcast to raise public awareness on issues such as: smoke detectors, kitchen safety, space heaters, and holiday lights.

**FIRE SAFETY HOUSE** visited every elementary school in Ohio County throughout the spring, summer, and fall. Students practiced fire safety skills and were given age-appropriate materials to reinforce the message.

The Fire Safety House was at other locations too – numerous fairs, festivals, and community events. Simulated fire drills taught children and adults how to escape a fire in the home. It was also a component of Wheeling Hospital's Safety Town – an annual two-week summer program designed for young children.

**PLAN REVIEW** Dozens of architectural drawings were reviewed for fire and life safety compliance to federal, state, and local codes. City projects in 2022 included new construction and renovations to existing buildings – such as the new parking garage, housing complexes, and the historic Fort Henry Club.

**OPEN BURN PERMITS** were issued throughout the year in accordance with the WV Division of Forestry guidelines. Every burn site was inspected prior to permit approval. Due to the citywide cleanup efforts following the June 14 derecho, there was an uptick in the number of permits issued.

**FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS** were conducted at existing commercial properties in Wheeling and at every new business prior to its opening day.

**FIREWORKS** Every fireworks display required a safety inspection. Independence Day was marked by public safety messages through all media formats. Because fireworks can cause serious burns and injuries, BFP recommended leaving them to the experts.



**FIREPUP** The generosity of the Wheeling community has increased donations tenfold in past years. These gifts allowed the BFP to expand our community outreach programs. In 2022, donations provided the means to add a mascot, FirePup. FirePup captivated the public with every appearance. Children were especially responsive to his fire safety message.

# NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

## 100th Anniversary

### **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK TOOK PLACE FROM OCTOBER 9 TO OCTOBER 15.**

It commemorates the Great Chicago Fire – a massive fire that killed 250 people, left 100,000 people homeless, destroyed over 17,400 structures, and burned over 2,000 acres.

The **“FIRE WON’T WAIT. PLAN YOUR ESCAPE”** theme is a message for all age groups. There are simple but important actions people can take to protect themselves and others from home fires.

“Being prepared is the best preventative measure you can take to ensure you and those inside your house can be ready to escape should a fire occur,” Assistant Fire Chief Deric Jamison said. **“Working smoke detectors double your chance of survival in a home fire.”**

“Fires occur quickly – you don’t have time to think. **Always have two ways out just in case your primary exit is blocked by fire or an object.** Fire doesn’t wait. It’s fast – so get out and stay out.”

To spread this message with the community, Wheeling firefighters staffed informational tables at the Mount De Chantal Kroger, Warwood Kroger, Elm Grove Riesbeck’s, and the Centre Market house throughout the week.

## HOME FIRE SAFETY

### WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES.

- Install them inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home.
- They should be interconnected – when one sounds, they all sound.
- Design a workable escape plan for your household – including seniors, children, and those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Always have two ways out.
- Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home.
- Practice home fire drills at least twice a year with the entire household. Hold a drill during the day and one at night.

# TRAINING DIVISION



**Assistant Chief David Harmon**



**Train like your life depends on it,  
because it does.**

## EXERCISES ARE HELD TO PREPARE FOR THESE SCENARIOS

SWIFT WATER RESCUE  
HIGH ANGLE ROPES  
VEHICLE RESCUE  
BUILDING COLLAPSE

MASS CASUALTY  
EMT & PARAMEDIC  
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
TRENCH RESCUE

## THREAT PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

A challenging three-day course, conducted by Louisiana State University personnel, was held at the former Ohio Valley Medical Center. WFD and other public safety agencies joined forces to participate in a series of threat preparedness scenarios. WVNCC students participated as actors.

**Instructors from law enforcement, fire, EMS, and emergency management agencies offered hands-on training and critiques. Teams and leaders had to think on their feet and use their skills and resources wisely.**

**The fire service is an active learning environment.**

## **VEHICLE EXTRICATION**

IN MARCH, FIRST RESPONDERS HAD A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE THEIR EXTRICATION SKILLS.

**A mock vehicle accident – between a passenger vehicle and a retired Ohio County school bus – was staged at WFD’s training facility.**

**Braden’s Towing took part by demonstrating rotator capabilities. Ohio County Schools personnel were also present to share their vehicle accident plan.**



**WFD personnel train throughout the year to maintain a state of readiness. Incidents fall into one of these categories: fire, EMS, rescue, hazardous materials, and service calls.**



## BUREAU OF FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

IN 2002, WFD RESPONDED TO **139 FIRES**.  
FORTUNATELY, THERE WERE NO FATALITIES.

To analyze a fire scene and determine its cause, Captain Davidson and Lieutenant Landis have completed extensive training with these agencies:

**The National Fire Academy**  
**IAAI - International Association of Arson Investigators**  
**West Virginia State Police**  
**Federal Law Enforcement Training Center**

Whenever there is a fire, the officers in the Bureau of Fire Investigations respond to the scene. They are tasked with documenting the fire scene, collecting samples, interviewing eyewitnesses, assisting displaced residents, and reporting the results.

Now they have a new partner – a Belgian Malinois named Indy. **She's an accelerant detection canine.** This means she can detect and locate trace amounts of accelerants left behind at a fire scene. 3-year-old Indy will work alongside the officers whenever a fire breaks out in the city.



### MEET INDY – SHE WEARS BADGE 226

Indy was acquired from Pennsylvania's Stateline Canine Training Center in October. She joined the department after Lt. Landis completed a canine handlers course. He learned specific commands to maximize her skills and also how to care for her – particularly after exposure to a fire scene. The partners train together on a regular basis – often in downtown Wheeling. This regimen promotes Indy's fitness and readiness to investigate the next fire scene.

# FIRE INVESTIGATIONS NOTABLE FIRES OF 2022



LEFT **2141 Market Street fire**

**June 14 1:37 AM**

A derecho struck Wheeling causing citywide emergencies – in this case, a downed power line caused a fire on the rear of the structure near the roofline.

Visible fire & heavy electrical arcing

The residents escaped without injury. Three firefighters were injured.

RIGHT **1415 Jacob Street fire**

**August 13 12:23 PM**

Responded to a report of heavy smoke. Arrived on scene to find multiple buildings involved. An exterior attack was initiated due to heavy fire.

Cumberland Trail and Glen Dale ladder companies provided mutual aid.

All occupants exited the building safely. The cause was undetermined.



## WHAT DOES A FIRE INVESTIGATION COVER?

Origin and cause

Injury or loss of life

Legal considerations

Collect samples; send to lab for testing

Suspicious circumstances – if any

Document the scene

Property damage

Report findings

**WHEELING FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDED TO 139 FIRES.**



CAPT. JASON MILTON  
EMS OFFICER

## OFFICE OF EMS



## MISSION LIFELINE GOLD PLUS AWARD

For the second consecutive year, WFD earned a coveted Mission Lifeline Gold Plus award from the American Heart Association.

This award recognizes the EMS providers for their response to **HEART ATTACK, STROKE, AND CARDIAC ARREST** emergencies.

**EVERY MINUTE COUNTS FOR THESE HIGH-RISK PATIENTS.**

EMS providers communicate with emergency room staff in real time. Their assessment often means transporting the patient directly to Wheeling Hospital's Cardiac Cath Lab to begin treatment. Bypassing the emergency room saves valuable time and boosts positive outcomes.

**EMS** patients may be experiencing a cardiac, airway, trauma, or other emergency.

**Wheeling Fire Department squads respond 24/7.  
The average squad response time is 3 minutes.**

### **CARDIAC EMERGENCIES**

- MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION (HEART ATTACK)
- DYSRHYTHMIA (IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT)
- DRUG ADMINISTRATION (EX. EPINEPHRINE)

### **RESPIRATORY EMERGENCIES**

- SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN
- CONTINUOUS POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE (CPAP)
- ADVANCED AIRWAY
  - ENDOTRACHEAL TUBE
  - VIDEO LARYNGOSCOPY
- NEBULIZED MEDICINE

### **TRAUMA EMERGENCIES**

- WOUND MANAGEMENT, BANDAGING
- FLUID REPLACEMENT, BLOOD LOSS MANAGEMENT
- TRANEXAMIC ACID
- SPLINTING, IMMOBILIZATION



### **OTHER MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

- DRUG OVERDOSE
- DIABETIC EMERGENCY
- ALLERGIC REACTION

**5,375**

**Emergency  
Medical Calls**

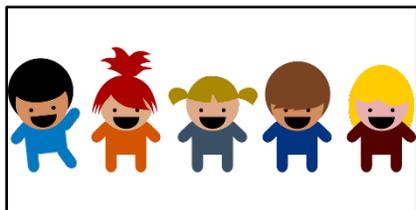
**THIS IS A  
RECORD HIGH  
FOR ONE YEAR.**

**65% of all WFD  
incidents were  
EMS calls.**

**WFD squads  
respond from  
Stations 2, 4,  
and 10.**

# EMS Continuing Education

The initial minutes of an emergency are critical. So EMS providers retest every two years. EMT's and paramedics are forever students of the **best practices for patient care.**



**PALS – PEDIATRIC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT.** A child's body weight and development are different from an adult's. Primary goals – recognize life-threatening pediatric emergencies, provide prompt assessment and treatment

**Cardiac emergencies** – Cardiac Arrest, Cardiac Arrhythmias

**Respiratory emergencies** – Work of Breathing, Upper & Lower Airway Obstructions, Lung Tissue Disease

**Shock** – Hypovolemic, Obstructive, Distributive, Cardiogenic

**ACLS – ADVANCED CARDIOVASCULAR LIFE SUPPORT.** Primary goals – recognize life-threatening cardiac problems, provide prompt assessment and treatment

**CPR** – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

**Advanced treatment options**

**Conditions leading to cardiac arrest** – Respiratory arrest, Bradycardia, Tachycardia, Acute Coronary Syndrome, Stroke

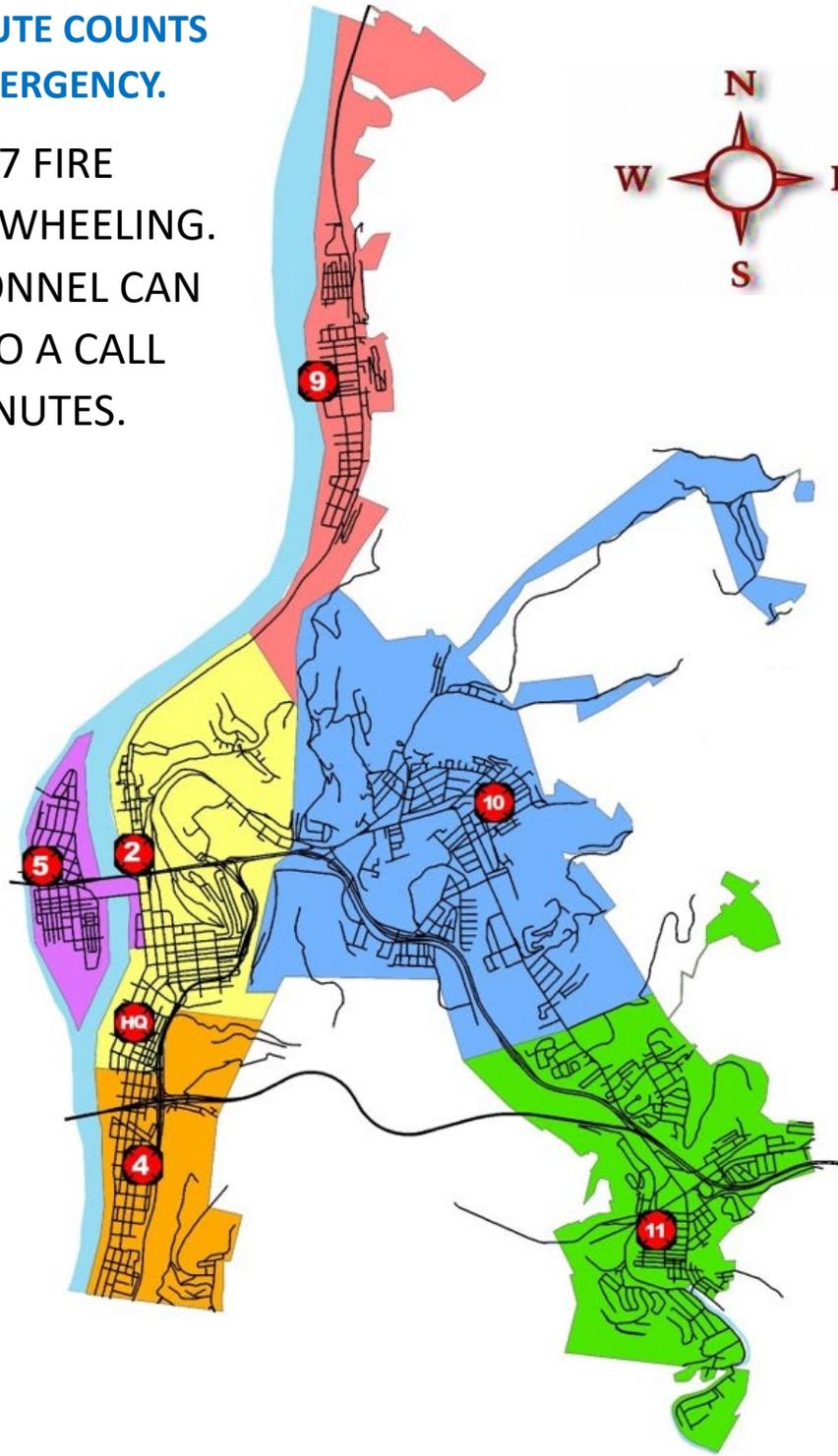
**ITLS – INTERNATIONAL TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT** is hands-on and intensive. Purpose – provide fundamental knowledge and skills to **get the trauma patient from the scene to surgery in the best possible condition.**



**THIS ATTENTION TO BEST PRACTICES  
EARNED THE WHEELING FIRE  
DEPARTMENT A SECOND MISSION  
LIFELINE GOLD PLUS AWARD FROM THE  
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION.**

**EVERY MINUTE COUNTS  
IN AN EMERGENCY.**

THERE ARE 7 FIRE  
HOUSES IN WHEELING.  
WFD PERSONNEL CAN  
RESPOND TO A CALL  
WITHIN MINUTES.



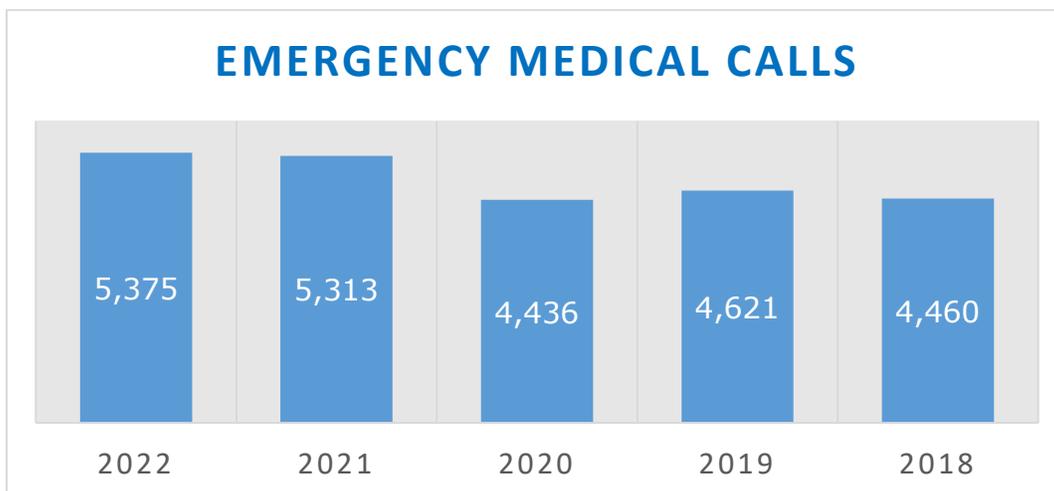
## **RESPONSE DISTRICTS**

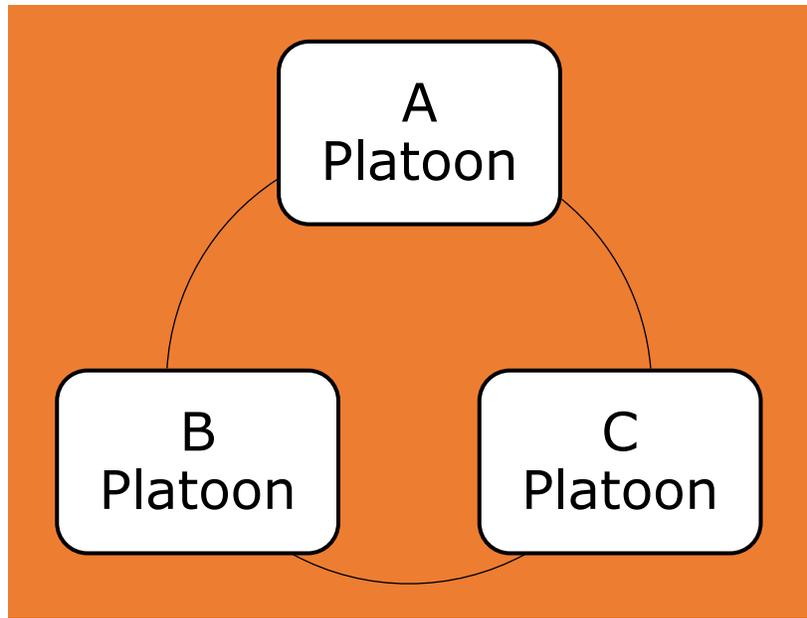


## 2022 YEAR-END SUMMARY

### 8,313 Calls – A RECORD HIGH FOR A 1-YEAR PERIOD

- 65% of all incidents were medical emergencies
- Fire calls – 139 fires; no fatalities
- Groundbreaking for new Fire Headquarters
- Indy, a Belgian Malinois, joined the Bureau of Fire Investigations
- A drone was acquired for fire scene response & analysis
- Ten probationary firefighters were hired

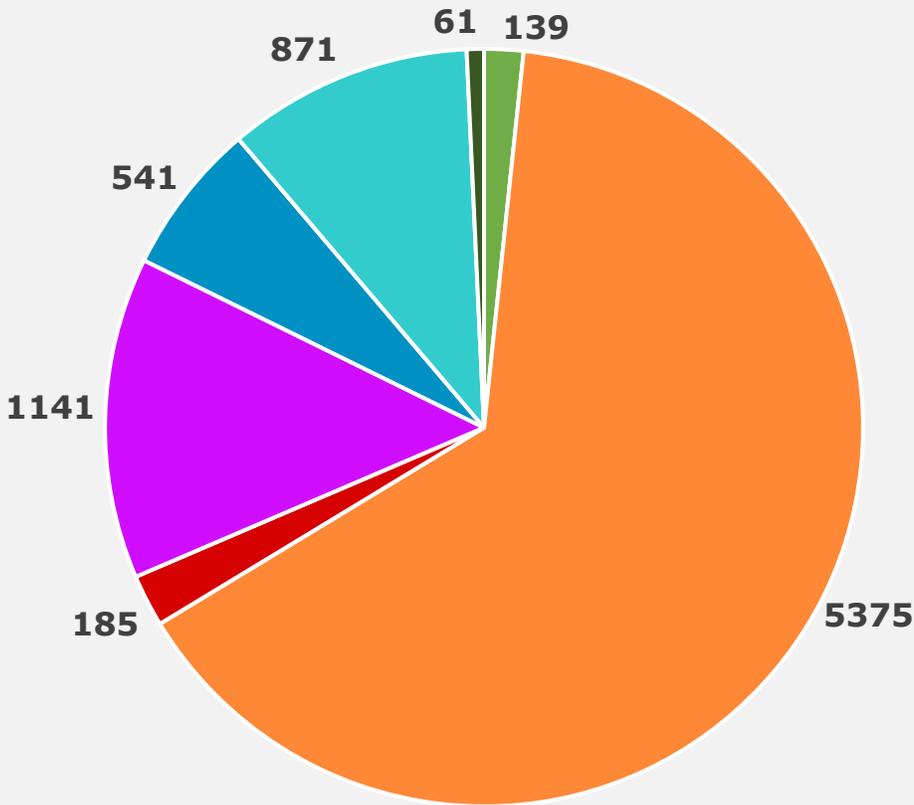




A	B	C
<b>Assistant Chief James Francis</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Eric Cianelli</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Paul Harto</b>
CAPTAINS – 4	CAPTAINS – 3	CAPTAINS - 3
LIEUTENANTS – 5	LIEUTENANTS - 6	LIEUTENANTS - 6
ENGINEERS - 10	ENGINEERS - 10	ENGINEERS - 9
FIREFIGHTERS – 10	FIREFIGHTERS - 9	FIREFIGHTERS – 11

# FIRE SUPPRESSION FORCES 2022

# INCIDENTS 2022



■ FIRE ■ EMS ■ HAZ-MAT ■ SERVICE ■ GOOD INTENT ■ FALSE ALARM ■ OTHER

N. CARSON, PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR



T. ADKINS, FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



# PERSONNEL ROSTER

## A PLATOON A/C FRANCIS

### ENGINE 2

CAPT Geisel  
FE Pace  
FF Sicurella  
FF Dent

### LADDER 1

LT Lawrence  
FE Waldron  
FF Johnston, R

### E-4 and S-3

LT Mowder  
FE Hughes  
FF Melsop  
FF Furbee

### ENGINE 5

CAPT West  
FE Haney, C

### ENGINE 9

CAPT Heldreth  
FE Ames

### E-10 and S-2

LT Twardoski  
FE Carson  
FF Spencer  
FF Gilbert

### LADDER 6

CAPT Joltes  
FF Johnston, H

### ENGINE 11

LT Morris  
FE Castello  
FF McFarland

### R-1 and S-1

LT Vankirk  
FE Hoffman  
FE Brown, D  
FE Howard  
FF Ulrich

## B PLATOON A/C CIANELLI

### ENGINE 2

LT Haluscak  
FE Boggs  
FF Quattro  
FF Burek

### LADDER 1

CAPT DeLuca  
FE Kefauver  
FF Stewart

### E-4 and S-3

CAPT Touvelle  
FE Haney, M  
FF Cook  
FF Waugh

### ENGINE 5

LT Wagner  
FE Vapner

### ENGINE 9

LT Reineke  
FE Brown, N

### E-10 and S-2

CAPT Brown, N  
FE Donley  
FF Yahn  
FF Beihl

### LADDER 6

LT Fedorko  
FE Bell

### ENGINE 11

LT Baker  
FE Toepfer  
FF Peterson

### R-1 and S-1

LT Brown, R  
FE Ransom  
FF Kemp  
FE LaCoe

## C PLATOON A/C HARTO

### ENGINE 2

LT Geisel, K  
FE Dietrich  
FF Namlik  
FF Alexander

### LADDER 1

CAPT Moore  
FE Becker  
FF Engle

### E-4 and S-3

LT Johns  
FE Shipley  
FE Myers, C  
FF Myers, H

### ENGINE 5

LT Treiber  
FE Carrington

### ENGINE 9

LT Bickler  
FE McKenzie

### E-10 and S-2

LT Clawson  
FE Vallera  
FF Gordon  
FF Loveland

### LADDER 6

LT Wodesky  
FF Bryan

### ENGINE 11

CAPT Funari  
FE Shelek  
FF Francis II

### R-1 and S-1

CAPT Fabrizio  
FE Barsch  
FF Adkins  
FF DeWitt  
FF Winter

**PARAMEDICS – 11 Full Time; 29 Part Time**

**December 2022**

# PERSONNEL CHANGES

## RETIRED

**CAPTAIN** T. Fledderus  
27.5 Years of Service

## PROMOTIONS

**CAPTAIN**  
T. Bachman  
R. Heldreth

**LIEUTENANT**  
A. Twardoski

### FIRE ENGINEER

P. Donley  
T. Pace  
J. Howard  
C. Boggs  
R. LaCoe  
L. Bell  
D. Vallera  
C. Myers

## MILESTONES

### 20 Years of Service

G. Funari  
T. Bachman

### 15 Years of Service

R. Heldreth  
C. Baker  
J. Treiber  
C. Ransom

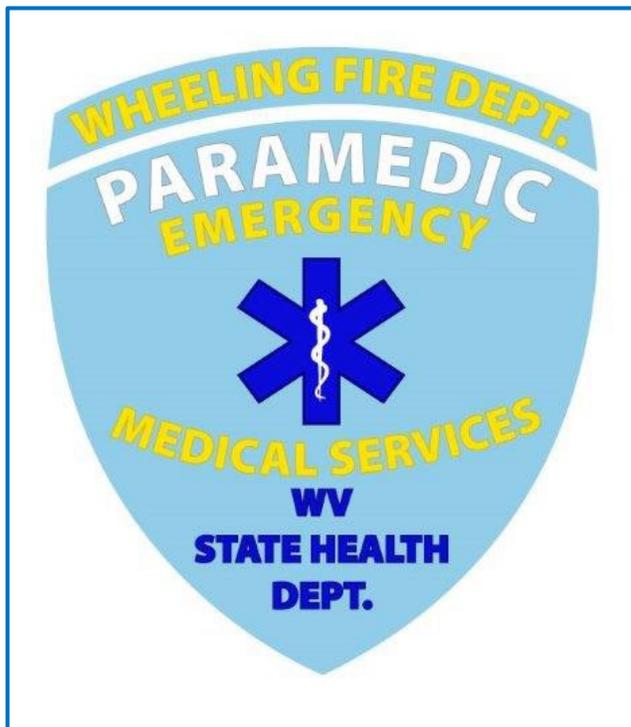
## RECRUITS

P. Namlik  
J. Dent  
J. Stewart  
L. DeWitt  
M. Alexander  
S. Burek  
J. Beihl  
T. Sicurella  
J. Quattro  
R. Cook  
D. Gordon





Top L-R **RYAN LOVELAND, ANDREW YAHN, ANDREW FURBEE**  
 Bottom L-R **KALEN SPENCER, DOMINIK VALLERA, LOGAN BELL**



## 2022 PARAMEDICS

### Congratulations!

Earning this certification is no easy task. Following rigorous classroom instruction and clinicals, these individuals passed the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam.

**Wheeling Fire Department  
now has 44 paramedics.**

They are trained to provide advanced patient care whenever a call comes in for medical service.



TOP PHOTO L-R  
P. NAMLIK  
J. DENT  
J. STEWART  
L. DEWITT



MIDDLE L-R  
M. ALEXANDER  
J. BEIHL  
S. BUREK



BOTTOM L-R  
J. QUATTRO  
T. SICURELLA



## RECRUITS – CLASS OF 2022



ABOVE

Captain/Paramedic Thomas Fledderus served 27.5 years on the Fire Department.

B Platoon and well-wishers gather to say farewell on his last shift.

**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SERVICE**

# FIREFIGHTER SERVICE AWARDS

**Firefighter Service Award Evaluation Committee** WFD personnel can nominate their peers in **recognition for acts of valor and heroism** either on or off the fire ground. Or during a severe weather event like a derecho. Nominations are reviewed by the committee; then their recommendations are forwarded to the Fire Chief for final approval.

Certain medals are awarded only by the Chief of the department – the Medal of Honor, Medal of Valor, Medal for Bravery, Distinguished Service Medal, and the Lifesaving Medal.

## THE 2022 HONOREES ARE HEROES ON AND OFF DUTY.

### PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR

Nicholas Carson

### MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

Ryan Loveland

### FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Trevor Adkins

### EXCEPTIONAL DUTY

Clark Graham

### NON-FIRE UNIT COMMENDATION

Kody Geisel  
Andrew Furbee  
Courtney Engle  
Lucas DeWitt

### PURPLE HEART

Robert Heldreth  
Daniel Brown  
Hayden Johnston  
Joshua Dent

### MEDAL FOR BRAVERY

Andrew Furbee  
Thomas Ames  
Robert Waldron  
Joshua Dent

### COMMENDATION

Christopher Haney

## What's a derecho? ONE STRUCK WHEELING ON JUNE 14, 2022.

Thunderstorm clusters, gusts up to 70 mph, and fierce straight-line winds resulted in flash flooding. Hundreds of mature trees were either uprooted or snapped in two. Power lines were pulled down. Roads were blocked. Wheeling Park and homes in the Park View area were in the storm's crosshairs.

Three WFD firefighters were injured after responding to a fire caused by the storm. Fortunately, after treatment at Wheeling Hospital, they returned home to their families.

Property damage and power outages were widespread. West Virginia Governor Jim Justice declared a state-of-emergency for Ohio County.



2141 Market Street fire **JUNE 14, 2022** Downed trees & power lines in E. Wheeling





**FIREPUP** (CAPT. MILTON)  
Fire Prevention's New Mascot



**INDY** – BADGE #226  
Accelerant Detection K-9

## NEW & EXCITING

**NEW MASCOT** – Bureau of Fire Prevention's FIREPUP spreads the fire safety message

**NEW CANINE** – Indy, a Belgian Malinois, joined the Bureau of Fire Investigations

**NEW HEADQUARTERS** – the groundbreaking took place in August





(L-R) D. Brown, K. Spencer, FirePup, D. Jamison, S. Mowder, and D. Hughes

## 150th Anniversary – Station 4

**THERE HAS BEEN A FIREHOUSE AT 3618 JACOB STREET FOR 150 YEARS.**

The City's South Wheeling firefighters held an Open House on Sunday, March 13 to celebrate this amazing anniversary. Station 4's primary response district extends from 27th Street to the city limits at 48th Street.

Wheeling Fire Department personnel invited the community to get a behind-the-scenes look. Visitors toured the station, checked out apparatus and firefighting equipment, and learned more about this station's long history. FirePup, the department's mascot, was also on hand to greet visitors.

Construction on the original station began in 1871 – shortly after the town of South Wheeling was incorporated into the City of Wheeling. **Station 4 opened its doors on March 13, 1872.** But according to historical documents, there was little fanfare.

**Nicknamed the "8th Ward Hose House"**, Station 4 is the only WFD station that has retained its original designation and truck number. When the original structure was torn down in 1953, the firefighters were forced to work out of the nearby Coeey-Bentz warehouse. The current building was built the following year. It houses Engine-4 and Squad-3.

# **ENGINE-9**

IS THE NEWEST  
ADDITION TO  
THE WFD FLEET.

**The 2022 Sutphen 1750  
GPM pumper was put  
into service on  
June 5, 2022.**

**E-9 is an upgrade from  
the former 1987 model.**

WFD Station 9 is located at  
1301 Richland Avenue in Warwood.

First responders in this two-person  
house must be very prepared. They  
are the sole on-scene company during  
the first crucial minutes of an incident  
in their district.

## **E-9 SPECIFICATIONS**

185" WHEELBASE  
TOP SPEED 68 MPH  
4-PERSON CAB  
HYDRAULIC CAB LIFT SYSTEM  
(FOR FLUID CHECKS &  
SERVICING)  
DECK GUN WITH NOZZLE  
CARRIES 3 SIZES FIRE HOSE  
HYDRAULIC LADDER LIFT  
HOLDS 500 GALLONS  
PUMP PANEL HAS LED LIGHTS



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Fire Safety House visited every elementary school in Ohio County.

It was also a component of Safety Town – Wheeling Hospital’s annual two-week summer program designed for young children.

## WHEELING HOSPITAL’S SAFETY TOWN

4- and 5-year-olds show off firefighter helmets

The youngsters take turns behind the wheel of a fire truck. They don’t seem to mind that their feet can’t reach the pedals.



The Fire Safety House visited numerous fairs, festivals, and community events.

Simulated fire drills taught children and adults how to escape a fire in the home.

# FILL THE BOOT for Muscular Dystrophy Association



Local-12 raised  
**\$28,502**



## Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce – Leadership Wheeling

April 12 The Leadership Wheeling class donned helmets and bunker gear for an afternoon of firefighter training. They navigated through WFD's training tower – it simulates the blackout conditions of a residence filled with smoke and fire. They cut into a vehicle with the Jaws of Life tool, operated fire hoses, forced entry on a steel door, and got a bird's eye view of Wheeling from the platform of Ladder-1.



November 2 Firefighters spent a morning familiarizing themselves with a new electric school bus. Ohio County Schools participated in a 6-week pilot program operating the new bus throughout the county.

Wheeling firefighters met with representatives from the manufacturer to go over emergency procedures associated with the new bus. This included shutting down the electrical system and the safest ways to extricate victims during an emergency.





## FANTASY IN LIGHTS PARADE

NOVEMBER 18, 2022

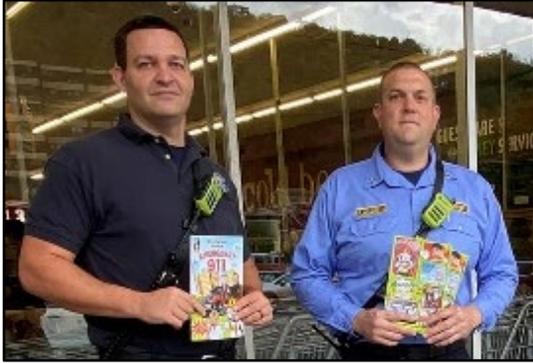
**FIRE SAFETY SKILLS SAVE LIVES.** This is the purpose of the Wheeling Fire Department's **Fire Safety House**. It has provided hands-on training to over 24,000 children and adults in Ohio County.

This year, due to the generosity of community partners and neighbors, **FirePup** joined the Wheeling Fire Department. **HIS JOB IS TEACHING PEOPLE HOW TO STAY SAFE** at school and at home. He showed off his dancing skills on the parade route.

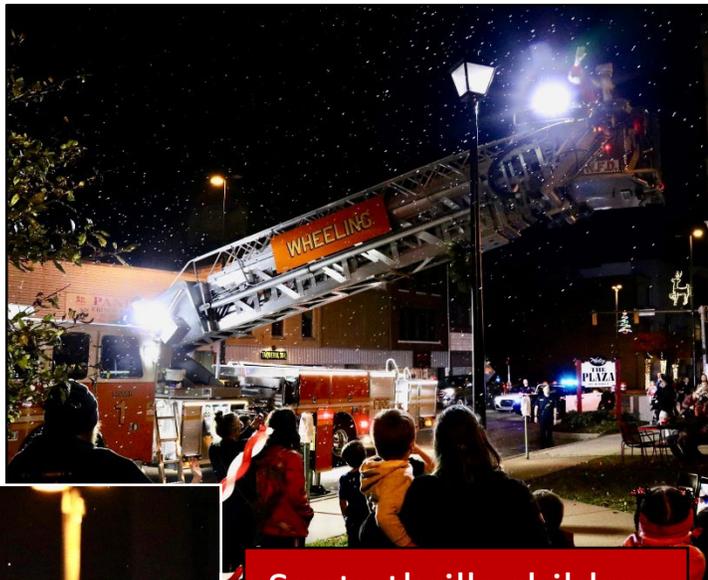
This ladder truck was in service at every major fire scene in Wheeling from 1973 through 2020. **Ladder-13 WAS RETIRED FROM WFD'S FLEET AFTER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE.**

**Honor Guard** members drill regularly to prepare for duty at funerals, parades, and civic ceremonies. They carry the American flag and either the City flag or their Local-12 flag. **OUR COUNTRY'S FLAG IS SYMBOLICALLY PROTECTED BY TWO FIREFIGHTING TOOLS – A PIKE POLE AND AN AXE.**

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**Firefighters meet & greet people in Wheeling's neighborhoods. They share the fire safety message and provide activity books to children.**



**Santa thrills children & adults when he arrives at the Market Street plaza – not by sleigh – but in the platform of Ladder-1.**











# WHEELING FIRE DEPARTMENT

**In 1869, City Council passed an ordinance to establish and regulate a paid fire department for Wheeling.**

## **WILLIAM WINDER WAS SWORN IN AS THE FIRST FIRE CHIEF.**

HE SET UP TWO RESPONSE DISTRICTS THAT WERE DIVIDED BY WHEELING CREEK. THEN HE ORGANIZED FOUR FIRE COMPANIES.

AT THAT TIME, FIRES WERE FOUGHT WITH STEAM FIRE ENGINES, HOSE CARRIAGES, AND EVEN AN EARLY HOOK-AND-LADDER TRUCK. THE APPARATUS WERE DRAWN EITHER BY A TEAM OF HORSES OR BY MEN. EARLY ARRIVALS ROUTINELY SENT THE HORSES BACK TO THE FIRE HOUSE TO PULL ANOTHER HOSE CARRIAGE TO THE SCENE.