



Wheeling Fire Department
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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wheeling Fire Department Records Busiest Year on Record

In 2018, the Wheeling Fire Department responded to more calls for service than any previous year in the department's history.

A total of **6,885** calls for service were made, up slightly from the 2015 record of 6,880.

"Last year was a historic year for the Wheeling Fire Department. Resources can reach levels of stress at times, and budgets can be tight, but our firefighters-paramedics remain committed to the City of Wheeling and are proud to serve their community every day," said Fire Chief Larry Helms.

Medical/rescue calls were up significantly, primarily because of the on-going drug addiction epidemic and an aging population. 4,460 of the calls for service, or 65-percent were medical calls, up 6-percent from the previous year.

Firefighters responded to a total of 104 fires in 2018, a steady decrease over the last several years. The total number of fires were down due in part because of fire prevention education, self-awareness, the demolition of old structures and new building construction with updated fire suppression systems.

Other call types for 2018 included 778 service calls, 520 good intent calls, 713 false alarms, 262 hazardous condition calls, 39 explosions, 6 severe weather calls and 3 special type calls.

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