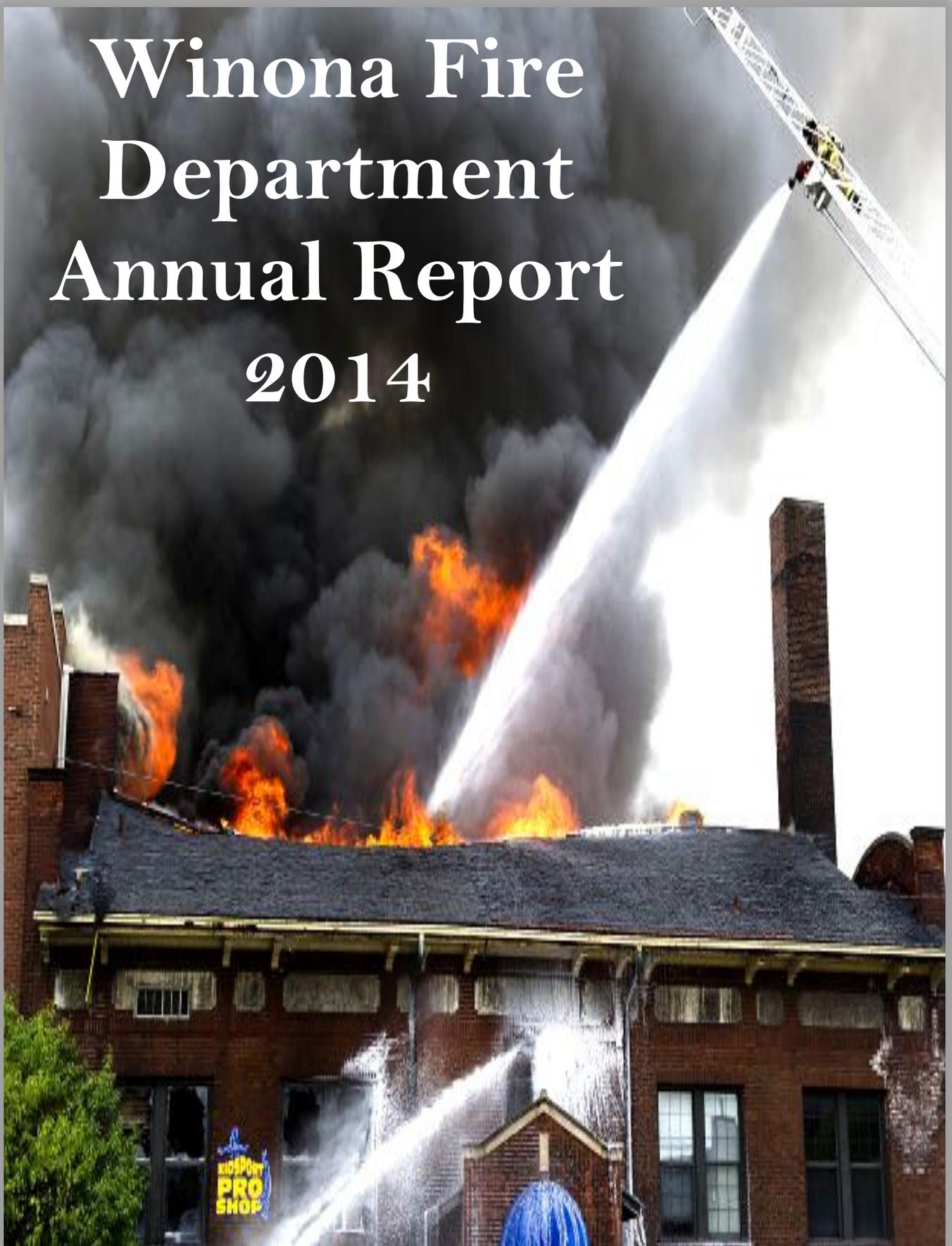


Winona Fire Department Annual Report 2014





WINONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Serving Since November 1, 1889

Headquarters - 451 E. 3rd St.

Winona, MN 55987-3912

FAX: 507/452-0345

www.cityofwinona-mn.com

February 26, 2015

Mayor, City Council and City Manager,

RE: 2014 Winona Fire Department Annual Report

The Winona Fire Department responded to 2021 calls for help in 2014. Rescue and emergency medical calls accounted for 76% (1535) of our overall call volume. We had a slight increase from the previous year in fire related calls, 583 (24%). The Winona Fire Department extinguished 65 fires of various types in 2014, all but 20 of these fires (general page ins) were handled by on-duty staff.

The average emergency response time in 2014 was 3 minutes 56 seconds. With low mass synthetics making up the bulk of a fire load in a typical house or rental, response time has never been more critical.

In the month of June the department took delivery of a new Rosenbauer Fire Engine. This engine replaced the 1986 Pierce Engine that was in backup service. The truck is currently in frontline service protecting the west end of town.

June 1, 2014 was the start date of our new home safety walk thru initiative. This program provides a free home inspection for residential home owners. The inspection is offered from June to August, occurring on Saturdays.

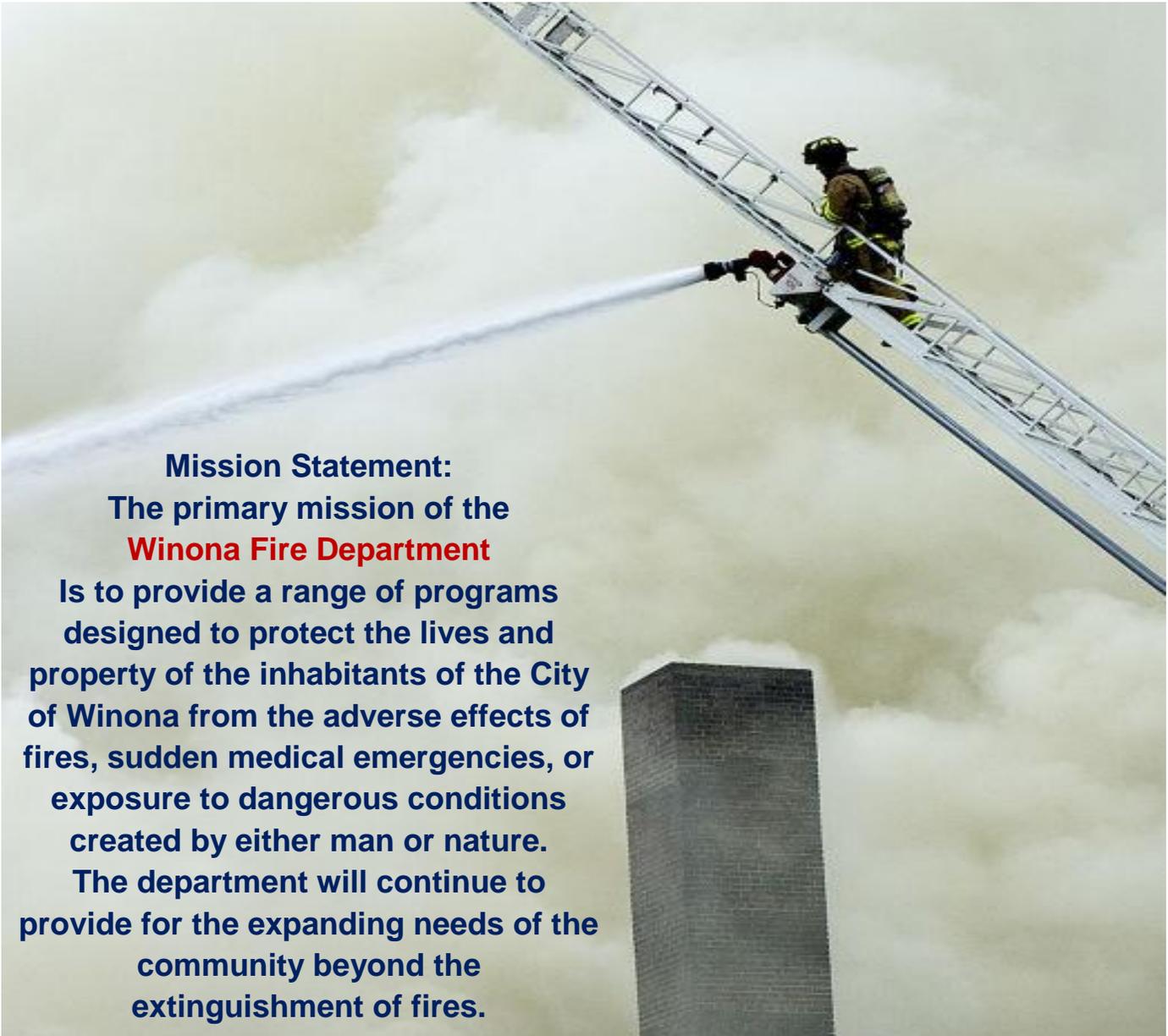
The Winona Fire Department teamed up with the Red Cross in October for the Home Preparedness Campaign. This national programs goal is to reduce the number of fire deaths and injuries in the United States by 25% within five years. Twenty square blocks in the east end of town were canvassed, with over 300 free fire detectors installed by firefighters and volunteers.

This report contains detailed information on the activities and statistics of the department. You are encouraged to contact this office for any further explanation or to tour our facility.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curt Bittle".

Curt Bittle, Fire Chief



Mission Statement:

**The primary mission of the
Winona Fire Department**

**Is to provide a range of programs
designed to protect the lives and
property of the inhabitants of the City
of Winona from the adverse effects of
fires, sudden medical emergencies, or
exposure to dangerous conditions
created by either man or nature.**

**The department will continue to
provide for the expanding needs of the
community beyond the
extinguishment of fires.**

City of Winona Mayor – Mark Peterson

City Manager Judith Bodway

Council Members:

First Ward	Allyn Thurley
Second Ward	Gerry Krage
Third Ward	Pamela Eyden
Fourth Ward	George Borzyskowski
At Large	Michelle Alexander
At Large	Paul Double

Winona Fire Department

Code of Ethics



The Winona Fire Department is dedicated to the protection and preservation of life and property against fire, emergency medical conditions and other emergencies coming under its jurisdiction. Towards this endeavor, members of the department strive to live according to ethical principles consistent with professional conduct and shall;

Maintain the highest standards of personal integrity, be honest and straightforward in dealing with others and avoid conflicts of interest.

Place the public's safety and the safety of firefighters above all concerns; be supportive of training and education which promote safe living and working conditions.

Be mindful of the needs of others and assist them freely in developing their skills, abilities, and talents to the fullest extent; offer encouragement to those trying to better themselves, the Department and the Fire Service.

Be Supportive of the Minnesota State Fire Code, and the fire protection needs of the City of Winona.

Foster creativity and be open to consider innovations that may better enable the performance of the duties and responsibilities of the Winona Fire Department

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Jurisdiction Protected

The Winona Fire Department protects: 24 sq. miles in the city
27,944 people in the city

Within the Winona city limits there is one airport, one hospital, four nursing homes, two universities with associated off campus student dwelling units and one technical college. Student populations include 8,755 Students enrolled at Winona State University, 5,528 enrolled at St. Mary's University and 3,139 at Minnesota State College Southeast Technical. Thirteen percent of households have someone 65 years of age or older living alone and twenty one percent of households have children under the age of 18 living at home. The City of Winona has a population density of 1465 inhabitants per square mile.



There are 10,989 housing units at an average density of 583 per square mile of which thirty-five percent are rental units. Over seventy-five percent of the homes pre-date the 1950's with more than forty-five percent of those pre-dating the turn of the century.

There are 30 buildings in Winona that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. There is also an older downtown business area with structures in excess of 100 years in age. A portion of these are protected with built-in systems monitored at remote locations. The Winona Fire Department protects 18.84 sq. miles of land area and 5.29 sq. miles of water area. The department also responds with extraction services outside of its normal jurisdiction by contract with the Town of Buffalo, WI. There are mutual aid contracts with Wilson, Goodview, Lewiston, Pickwick, and Fountain City, WI. The City of Goodview also contracts with Winona for hazardous material responses.

Winona Fire Department
Organizational Statement

Per OSHA 1910.156 and NFPA 1500 Chapter 2 (1992 Edition)

Curt Rittle

Fire Chief

January 1, 2015
Date

Organizational Chart

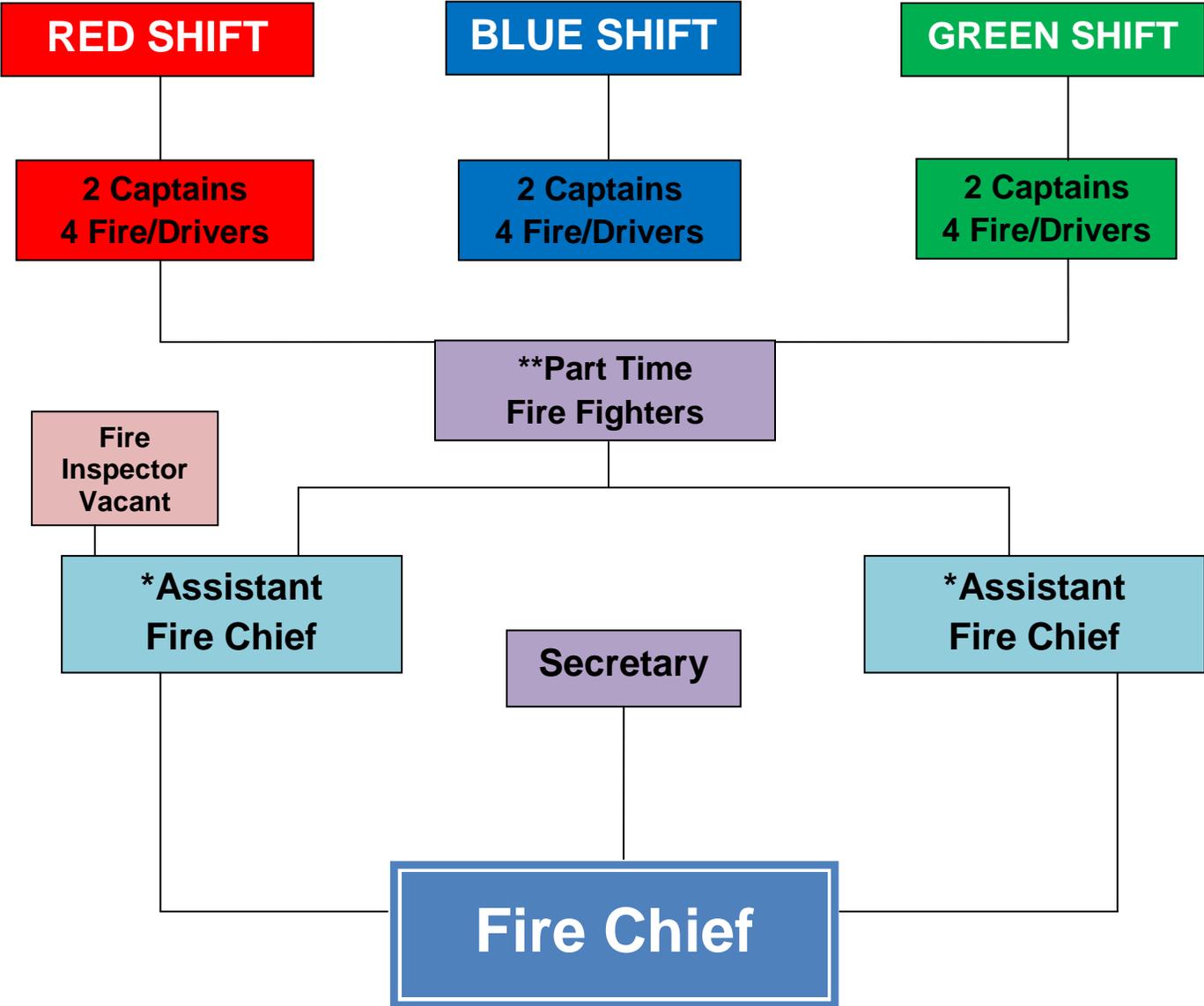
The organizational chart of the Winona Fire Department, as of January 1, 2014, is attached to this statement. As of that date, the department is authorized:

- 1 Fire Chief
- 2 Assistant Chiefs
- 6 Captains
- 12 Firefighter / Drivers
- 15 Active Part-time Firefighters

The Fire Chief and Two Assistant Chiefs work a 40-hour work week. One Assistant Chief is in charge of fire prevention and public education; and the other Assistant Chief is in charge of training and the part time program both Assistant Chiefs are of equal rank and answer directly to the Fire Chief. The six Captains and 12 career Firefighter/Drivers are normally assigned to 24-hour shifts averaging 56 hours per week. The 18 career personnel that are assigned to 24-hour shifts are divided into three shifts Red, Blue and Green. Each shift has two officers (Captains) assigned to it plus 4 Firefighter/Drivers. The Captain at the Central Station is the "Company Officer". The part time firefighters are paid on call.



Winona Fire Department



* One Assistant Fire Chief is primarily responsible for Fire Prevention, Public Education, Investigations, etc.

* One Assistant Chief is primarily responsible for training, part time program, hazardous materials, etc.

** There are a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 part time firefighters authorized by City Council. The numbers will vary.

2014 Full Time Roster

40 Hour Per Week Personnel		Anniversary Date
Fire Chief, Curt Bittle		8-18-92
Assistant Fire Chief, Britt Hendrickson		3-22-88
Assistant Fire Chief, Jason Theusch		10-14-99
<hr/>		
Captains		
Jim Pelley		3-31-86
Larry Vogen		2-7-90
Duane Chadbourn		8-18-92
Brandon Luehmann		11-5-05
Joel Corcoran		4-19-02
Matt Lisowski		12-23-05
<hr/>		
Firefighter / Drivers		
Mark Vieth		5-23-07
<hr/>		
Firefighter / Driver / Paramedics		
Shawn Kohner		4-13-02
Mark Allred		12-24-04
Kirk Skogebo		3-26-09
Matt Yackel		12-15-10
Nathan Speltz		6-21-11
Shaun Bartelson		7-21-11
Derick Ritter		9-25-11
Brandon Czaplewski		4-29-12
Pete Brueggen		4-27-13
*Charles Mayer		4-13-14
*Mike Allred		5-11-14
<i>*Entrance Firefighter</i>		
<hr/>		
Secretary		
Crystal Srock	(20 Hours/Week)	8-13-12
<hr/>		
Retired		
Jim Multhaup	1-8-1980	4-30-14
Bill Heitman	8-21-1979	5-31-14

Training

Prior to becoming a career firefighter, an individual must successfully complete Basic Firefighting training and be a certified Firefighter I by the State Fire Service Certification Board, and be Certified as an Emergency Medical Technician by EMS Regulatory Board.

Assistant Chief Hendrickson is in charge of training and maintaining training records. A hard copy is printed annually and inserted into an individual training binder for each member of the department, and available for inspection to any regulatory agency or the individual.

Fire Department training is divided into several general areas including; firefighting, emergency medical services, hazardous material, and rescue. It is recognized that much of the training overlaps; however, these are general guidelines for record keeping purposes.

Copies of all certificates, diplomas and other training received outside of the Winona Fire Department are also maintained in this binder. The originals are issued back to the individual. Training for Career (full time) personnel usually occurs between Mondays and Fridays but can occur at any time. Personnel are encouraged to attend outside training such as sectional, regional, and state fire schools. The City does NOT have the resources to pay overtime for attending such training sessions. However, all tuition registration, meals and lodging expenses are covered for individuals that volunteer to go to these sessions. In-house training is scheduled by Assistant Chief Britt Hendrickson, and may be conducted by an Assistant Chief, Captain, Firefighter Specialized in a particular area, or an outside instructor.





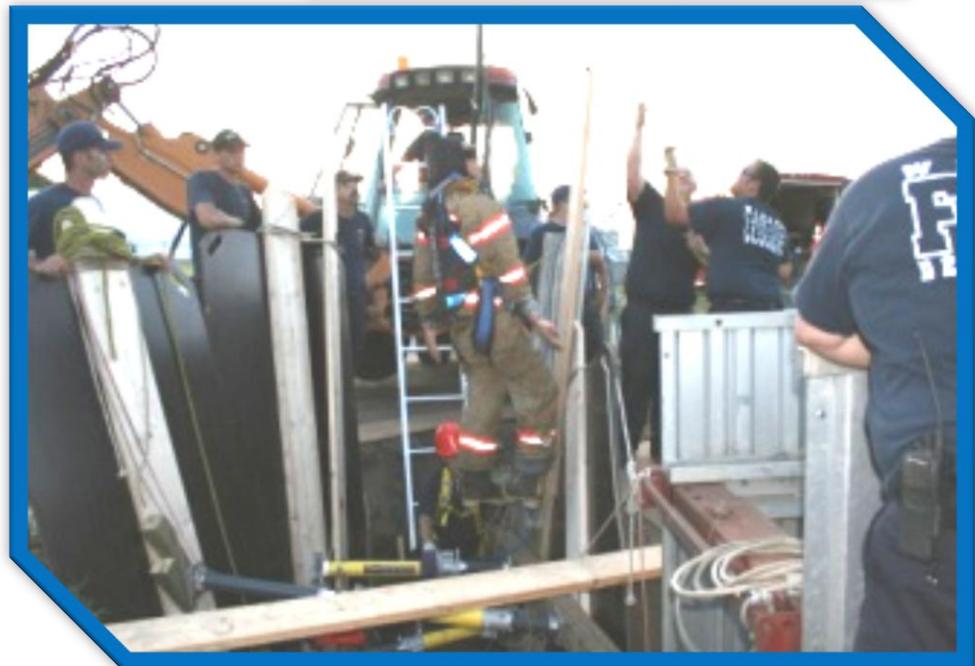
All three shifts take the time to train with extraction tools. At a staged car accident they must use the tools to rescue "Rescue Randy" or a fellow firefighter. This training not only sharpens their skills but it also assures that all the tools are properly working for when they are really needed.



The Winona Fire Department trains in trench rescue techniques with the City of Winona Water Department every year. All three shifts and the part time firefighters participate in this training.



It looks like the Winona Fire Department saves the day again as Rescue Randy is pulled out of the trench and survives to be rescued another day.





Three primary categories of rope rescue are high angle urban/structural, wilderness/mountain rescue, and cave rescue. There are significant differences between each in both technique and equipment. This training is important because of the high rise structures in the city and bluffs that surround Winona (Above) Ice Rescue Training is important with the river and lakes surrounding Winona and the below freezing winter months. (Left & Below)



Part Time Program

The part time program was started in June of 1992. Part time firefighters go through the same hiring process as the full time city employees, including a written test, agility test and interview. They are paid an hourly rate based upon their level of certification. Below is a listing of the various certification levels of part time personnel.

Last Name	First Name	Step	Certification Level	EMS / Paramedic	Haz/Mat
Anderson	Brent	D	II	EMT	OPER
Bartelson	Bradley	D	II	FR	OPER
Casperson	Charles	C	I	FR	OPER
Cottrell	Daniel	D	II	FR	AWARE
Douglas	Paul	D	II	FR	AWARE
Harris	Jeffery	C	I	FR	AWARE
Larson	Chad	D	II	EMT	OPER
Lisson	Andrew	E	II	EMT	OPER
Lossen	Alex	D	II	EMT	OPER
Merchlewitz	Rodney	D	II	FR	OPER
Meyer	Andrew	D	II	FR	OPER
Passehl	Craig	D	II	EMT	OPER
Scharmer	Brandon	D	II	FR	OPER
Schmelzer	Josh	D	II	EMT	AWARE
Van Brunt	Bill	D	II	EMT	AWARE

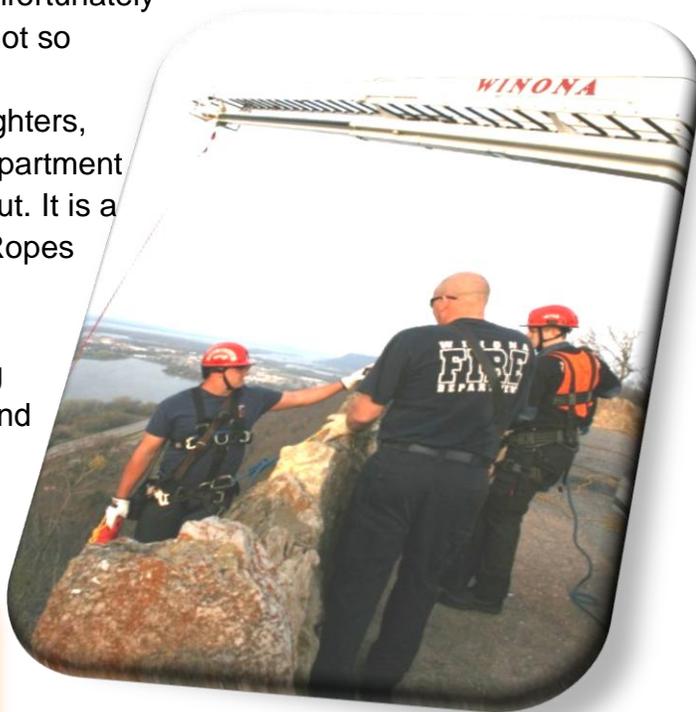
Part time personnel usually train on the first 3 Wednesday nights of each month for a total of three hours each night. They are also given opportunities to attend training outside of the department.

In addition to regular training, part time personnel are encouraged to participate in the “ride along” program. To participate in the ride along program the part time employee must have prior approval of the Assistant Chief In charge of training. Other requirements are Successful completion of Basic Firefighter Training Program (to be allowed to combat and extinguish fires) and certified as a “First Responder” or “Emergency Medical Technician” (to be allowed to assist with emergency medical calls). A part time ride along can be conducted between the hours of 0800 and 2200 and be no more than 8 hours in duration. This is an opportunity for the part time fire fighters to become familiar with the apparatus and daily operations at the stations and to gain experience.

Garvin Heights Cleanup

Every year thousands of visitors come to see the panoramic views of Winona, the bluffs and the Mississippi River Valley. Unfortunately Some of them leave behind some not so beautiful garbage. The Winona Fire Department, full and part time firefighters, team up with Winona Park Rec. Department to clean the Garvin Heights Look Out. It is a great training opportunity for High Ropes Training.

This year they pulled out everything from T.V.'s to washing machines and computers to car parts, along with the basic everyday garbage and a lot of plastic water bottles.



Functions at the Workplace

Career and part time personnel maintain fire department facilities, apparatus, vehicles, and equipment. Major repairs beyond the expertise and time constraints of personnel, are performed at the City of Winona Central Garage, or contracted out.

Performance of Duties

All personnel are expected to perform the arduous tasks of an interior structural firefighter. Additionally, members are expected to perform emergency medical services, rescue operations and certain corrective actions at hazardous material incidents.

It is the intention of the Winona Fire Department to ensure that its members are properly trained and equipped to perform the tasks expected of them, to provide for their safety and to be in compliance with all regulatory agencies. No member of the department is ever expected to perform duties beyond the scope and intention of their training, personal protective equipment and emergency response equipment.

Emergency Response

Currently the Winona Fire Department maintains 5 Personnel on duty, 24 hours per day, every day of the year. The 5 personnel are divided between the two stations and come together for training, apparatus maintenance and certain social events.

Shift Captains are authorized to “page” off duty and part time personnel whenever the need is recognized and shall page all personnel for all confirmed structure fires.



Emergency Medical Services

By Firefighter/Driver/Paramedic - Matt Yackel



The Winona Fire Department responded to a total of 1,535 medical calls in 2014. The number of medical calls fluctuated very little from 2013. To assure the highest quality of medical care is provided the department continues to invest time and money into training and equipment. All shift personnel are registered as Emergency Medical Technicians, with 12 of the 18 shift personnel maintaining Paramedic licenses. Two shift

Advanced Life Support Procedures (ALS) in 2014

King Airway	5
CPAP	2
Defibrillations	2
EKG Monitoring	99
IV Therapy	39
Albuterol	11
Epinephrine	8
Nitroglycerin	19
Aspirin	24
Dextrose 50%	2
Oral Glucose	10
EPI Pen	1

personnel enrolled in Paramedic school at Western Technical College in 2014 and will complete the certification process in the summer of 2015. As an effort to continue higher quality of and more advanced care in the City of Winona the EZ-IO and Naloxone administration were implemented in 2014. The EZ-IO is a device that allows the responder to quickly and easily access the vascular space located in a patient's bone when time is critical. This quick access allows responders to rapidly administer medications and fluids. Throughout the region and country narcotic overdose has become a growing problem. Naloxone is a drug responders administer to reverse the affects of narcotic overdose. Even though the City of Winona has not experienced a notable increase in narcotic overdoses Naloxone was implemented to maintain a proactive approach to Emergency Medicine. A breakdown of ALS procedures and medications used in 2014 are shown to the left.

Physical Fitness by Captain Jim Pelley

Whether station duty, training or on an emergency run, firefighters need to maintain a high level of fitness. To ensure safety for our crews or those we serve, the ability to carry out our duties in a professional manner is of utmost importance. Members of the Winona Fire Department take this to heart and are involved in activities both on and off duty to maintain ourselves.



You will find us in health clubs, or participating in outdoor activities on off days, and in our fitness rooms while on duty. Department policy provides workout time in the 24 hour shift. We must meet the challenges each day offers and keep ourselves prepared for the future events. Our health and fitness is individually important, and is needed and expected by the community we serve.



Every year the Winona Fire Department does provide, at no cost to any member, full time and part time, a periodic physical examination to ensure that the member is physically capable to perform the duties of an interior structural fire fighter. Also every year the hazardous material technician physical exams are provided to full time personnel.

Annual Service Testing of Fire Hose Submitted by Captain Duane Chadbourn

All Winona Fire Department fire hose on apparatus or in storage is inspected and pressure tested annually in accordance with the recommendations of NFPA Standard 1962. The purpose of the service test is to insure the safety and reliability of the fire hose when it is used at each incident. Each hose section is numbered and corresponding records are maintained during its lifetime regarding the date placed in service, testing, damage and repairs. Because of standard 4.8.1 of the NFPA standard 1962; 30 sections of 2 ½” hose had to be taken out of service and replaced. Hose is taken out of service due to irreparable damage or it has reached the department retirement guideline of 35 years of age.



CL	Cross Lay–Precon
HR	Hi Rise Pack
HB	Hose Bed
MU	Make Up Line
B	Blitz Line–Precon

Hose Summary 2014

	1 ½ “	1 ¾ “	2 ½ “	3”	5”
Engine 1		400 PC	1000 HB		500 HB
		200 HR	200 PC		50 MU
Engine 2		400 PC	1000 HB	500 HB	1000 HB
		200 HR			50 MU
Engine 3		400 PC	800 HB		500 HB
		100 HR	200 PC		50 MU
Engine 4		500 PC	1000 HB		500 HB
		200 HR	200 PC		50MU
Ladder 1		400 PC	750 HB		500 HB
		200 HR	200 PC		50 MU
Tanker 1	600 HB		500 HB	50	
Boat	50				
Hose Tower or Storage	450	2,250	1,300	100	250
Bought New			1500		200
Retired	200	200	1500		200

2014 Statistics

According to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) a Structural Fire is defined as follows: “any fire the requires the use of a 1 ½ inches or larger fire attack hose line and that also requires the use of self-contained breathing apparatus for members entering the hazardous area”.

The recent history of this type of fire is:



2004	7
2005	17
2006	8
2007	11
2008	8
2009	10
2010	7
2011	16
2012	8
2013	16
2014	20

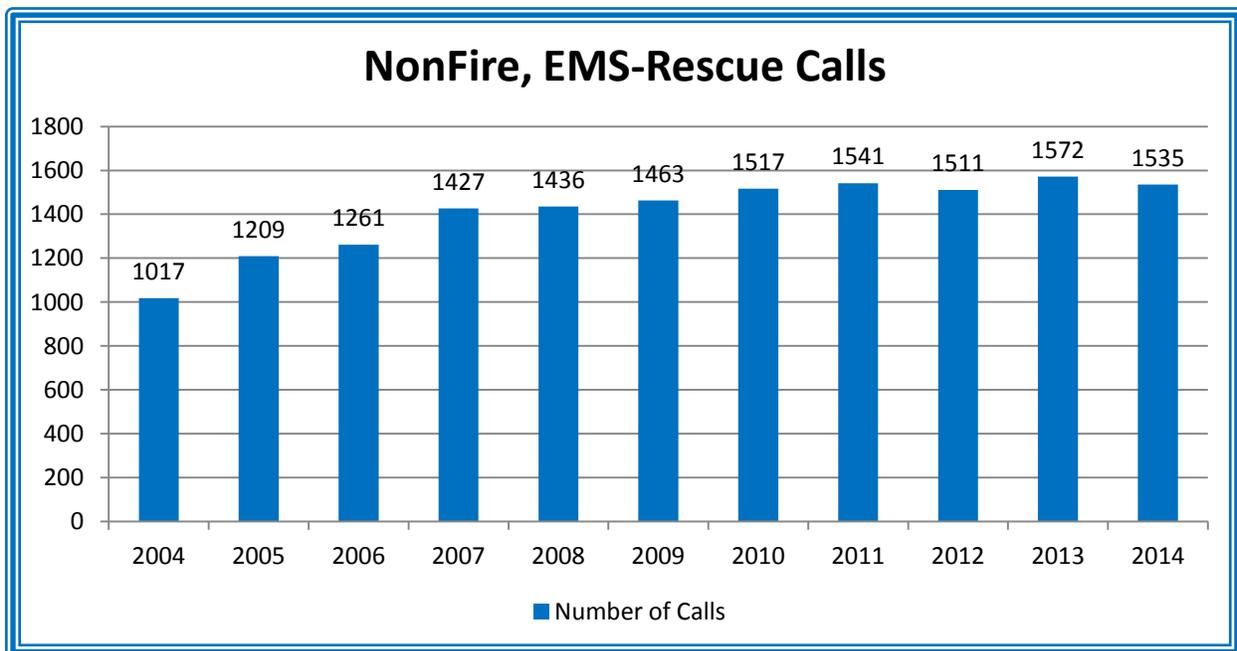
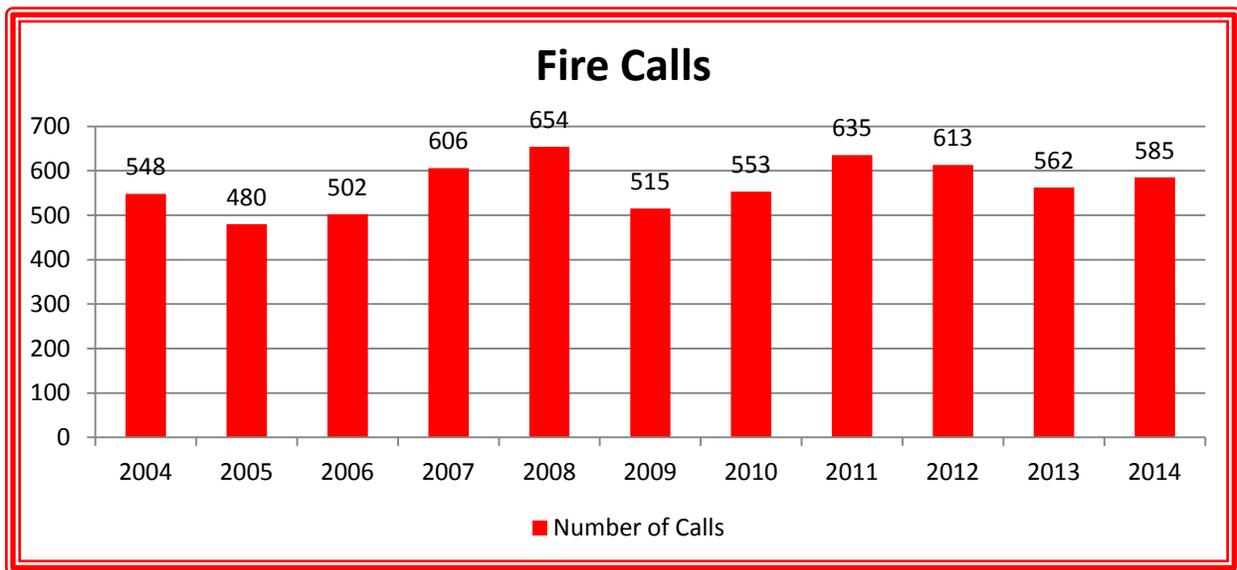
Overlapping Calls

2008	157
2009	149
2010	136
2011	165
2012	171
2013	179
2014	178

When we receive calls for assistance prior to clearing the scene of a previous call it is defined as an overlapping call. It would be extremely difficult to respond to this type of call in a timely manner with less than the mandated 5 person crew. The record for this type of call is shown in the chart. (above right)

Emergency Record

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fire/Fire Related	548	480	502	606	654	515	553	635	613	562	585
EMS Rescue	1017	1209	1261	1427	1436	1463	1517	1541	1511	1572	1535
Total	1565	1689	1763	2033	2090	1978	2070	2176	2124	2134	2120



Pages

Fire Officers are authorized to page off-duty personnel and part time personnel whenever the need arises. They are to page for assistance at all confirmed structure fires.

There were 20 General Pages in 2014

Year	Pages
2004	12
2005	23
2006	15
2007	21
2008	19
2009	10
2010	10
2011	21
2012	15
2013	16
2014	20



Average number of personnel responding to *General Pages*. These numbers do not include the minimum staff level of five (5) or the chief officers.

General Pages (all shifts)

Within	5 Minutes	1.8 Personnel
Within	10 Minutes	5.05 Personnel
Within	15 Minutes	4.56 Personnel
Within	20 Minutes	2.65 Personnel



Accumulative totals of off duty personnel responding to a *General Page*

Within	5 Minutes	1.8 Personnel
Within	10 Minutes	6.85 Personnel
Within	15 Minutes	11.41 Personnel
Within	20 Minutes	14.01 Personnel



Injuries

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Civilians	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	5	1	0	1
Firefighters	10	5	8	11	7	9	5	9	6	11	3
Totals	10	6	10	13	9	9	5	14	7	11	4



Fire Deaths

There have been no recorded fire deaths in the past ten years in the City of Winona.

Mutual Aid

The Winona Fire Department received mutual aid 7 times from Goodview Fire Department, Wilson Fire Department and St. Charles Fire Department.

Winona Fire Department gave mutual aid 4 times, once to each the Goodview, Wilson, Minnesota City and Fountain City Fire Departments.

Response Time

Winona Fire Department measures response time from the time we get the call until the first unit is on scene. The Winona Fire Department average emergency response time for the year 2014 was 3:56.



Comparable Fire Loss

Year	Alarm Calls	Fire Loss
2004	1565	\$171,974
2005	1689	\$722,371
2006	1763	\$1,259,701
2007	2033	\$419,776
2008	2090	\$911,849
2009	1978	\$729,575
2010	2070	\$560,050
2011	2176	\$2,000,585
2012	2124	\$1,028,301
2013	2134	\$2,068,439
2014	2120	\$1,760,381



Bureau of Fire Prevention

One Assistant Chief is in charge of Fire Prevention Programs, Plan Reviews and Facility Maintenance. The Fire Prevention Office is headed by Assistant Chief Jason Theusch. Assistant Chief Theusch works with building officials, architects and designers to ensure that new construction meets the State Fire Code. Additionally Assistant Chief Theusch reviews all plans for fire protection systems to help ensure compliance with current codes.

Prevention Through Education

While basing our program on the importance of public relations, our primary objectives continue to emphasize the prevention of fire, public education and the investigation of fire. It is through these objectives that enhanced attitudes and safer properties can be produced, with the occurrence and severity of fires being greatly reduced.



Learning how to use a fire extinguisher is a very important part of fire prevention.

Remember to P.A.S.S

Pull the Pin

Aim at the base of the flames

Squeeze the handle/trigger

Sweep left and right

Public Education

Education continues to be an important part of the Fire Prevention program. Last year our program reached a total of 27 groups that ranged from pre-school children to adults. The fifth grade Junior Fire Inspector program included approximately 269 students. This program is conducted by firefighters with direction provided by Firefighter/Driver Mark Vieth. In addition, station tours and truck visits included approximately 32 groups, with 1400 persons. There were also approximately 608 people who attended our annual open house during Fire Prevention Week. All total, there were approximately 2,277 people present. Success of the program has been realized by safely evacuating from fire, and increased effective public use of fire extinguishers.



(above) Notice the spray of hot oil and water coming from the fire as the water is poured on.

(left) Look at how high the flames get as they come right out of the trailer.

What happens when you put water on a grease fire? It will flare up and cause even more damage. Prevention is the best method by never leaving anything you are cooking unattended. However if you are faced with a grease fire there are a few things to do, use a Chemical Extinguisher or Pure Baking Soda only, turn off the heat supply but do not try to move the container, cover the container with a lid that is not flammable to cut off the fires oxygen supply and wait for the container to cool completely before moving it and as always if you feel unsafe call 911. The Winona Fire Department responded to 14 Cooking related fire calls in 2014. To increase awareness of the Kitchen/Cooking fires the Central Station had the Kitchen Fire Demonstration Trailer at the Annual Open House this year and it is also scheduled for the 2015 Open house as well.

Fire Investigations

A total of 11 formal cause and origin fire investigations were conducted by the bureau, with 10 being determined accidental and 1 being determined incendiary. 2 fires were effectively controlled and extinguished by automatic sprinkler protection within separate industrial occupancies. Minimal damage was incurred.



Building Inspections and Plan Reviews

An important concept of fire prevention is that of conducting physical inspections of properties. The Winona Fire Department conducted 46 inspections and is in the process of streamlining and updating the way fire prevention operates in the future. The implementation of The Compliance Engine has been a huge benefit to the bureau and has already achieved significant compliance. In both existing properties and new construction, there were 31 plans reviewed for construction projects, automatic suppression systems and fire alarm systems. As final approval, 58 acceptance tests were conducted.

Permits, Licenses & Certificates

Last year, the bureau issued a total of 47 permits, licenses and certificates, for the purpose of flammable liquid installations, extinguishing system installations, maintenance of portable extinguishers and extinguishing system and burn authorizations.

Lock Boxes

The “Lock Box” program started in 1985 with 41 lock boxes. Bringing the total to 271, there were 6 new lock boxes installed within the city this year. These boxes have proven themselves effective in providing undamaged building access during emergency responses.

2014 News



Assistant Chief Jim Multhaup

Assistant Chief Jim Retired on April 30, 2014. Jim started with the Winona Fire Department on January 8, 1980. Jim was promoted to Fire Inspector in 1984, Fire Marshall in 1990 and Assistant Chief in charge of Fire Prevention in 1992. Jims steadfast stance on the role and implementation of fire prevention over the past 30 years has made Winona a safer and more viable place to work and live. We wish him the best and thank him for his service.

Jason Theusch

Jason has taken over the position of Assistant Chief. Jason is in charge of Fire Prevention which includes inspections, plan reviews and public education. Jason has been a member of the Winona Fire Department since October 14, 1999 and started as the Assistant Fire Chief on March 31, 2014.





Bill Heitman

Bill Heitman Retired on May 31, 2014. He started with the Winona Fire Department on August 21, 1979. Bill was promoted to Firefighter/Driver February 1, 1983. Bill was the departments pump operations and hydraulics instructor for many years. We wish him well in his retirement.

Matt Lisowski

Matt started his probationary year as Captain on March 31st. Mat has been a member of the Winona Fire Department since 2004 when he was a part time firefighter and joined the department full time in 2005.



Charles Mayer

Charles started his probationary year as a full time firefighter on April 13th. Charles has been a part time firefighter with the Winona Fire Department since January of 2009.



Mike Allred

Mike has started his probationary year as a full time firefighter May 11th. Mike has been a part time firefighter with the Winona Fire Department since January of 2006.

