

2024

KEWASKUM FIRE DEPARTMENT Annual Report



KEWASKUM FIRE DEPARTMENT
1106 FOND DU LAC AVENUE
KEWASKUM, WI 53040
PHONE 262-626-6731
mgroeschel@village.kewaskum.wi.us

It is my honor and privilege as the Fire Chief of the Kewaskum Fire Department to present to you the following summary of activities for 2024.

This will be my last report that I will be giving to the Kewaskum Police and Fire Commission as I will be retiring as the Fire Chief on 3/2/2026. Having served on the Fire Department for 46 years and as the Fire Chief for 33 years, It has been a long journey for me.

2024 was a record year for the Department. We responded to 747 calls for service as compared to 622 calls in 2023, an overall increase of 125 calls or 25%. Fire calls increased by 24 runs (26%) and EMS increased by 101 runs (19%).

2024 was also the start of a year of change. As I had indicated last year, we have been struggling with covering all of the EMS shifts. After many meetings and much deliberation, the Village has signed a contract with the City of West Bend to do our ambulance transports. Kewaskum Fire will still respond in our fire area as first responders to provide patients with the initial care that they need and then turn the patient over to the transport ambulance service.

In closing, I would like to offer my gratitude and appreciation to the Village of Kewaskum Board, Village Administrator, Police and Fire Commission Members, Kewaskum Fire Department Officers and Members as well as the entire Village of Kewaskum leadership team for their support, and guidance over the past 33 years.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Groeschel
Fire Chief



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2024 Police and Fire Commission Report

2024 Fire Related Activities
(116 total calls)

2023 Fire Related Activities
(92 total calls)

Village of Kewaskum	28 Calls	Village of Kewaskum	22 Calls
Town of Kewaskum	15 Calls	Town of Kewaskum	3 Calls
Town of Auburn	5 Calls	Town of Auburn	5 Calls
DNR	0 Calls	DNR	0 Calls
Mutual Aid	25 Calls	Mutual Aid	21 Calls
Ambulance District	43 Calls	Ambulance District	41 Calls
Fires	30	Fires	23
Rescue & EMS	37	Rescue & EMS	39
Hazardous Condition (no fire)	16	Hazardous Condition (no fire)	8
Good Intent Call	19	Good Intent Call	12
False Alarm & False Call	14	False Alarm & False Call	10

Estimated total loss dollar value \$401,400

Estimated total loss dollar value \$175,400

Training Hours 1420.25 Hours

Training Hours 1214.25 Hours

Other Activities 2049.75 Hours

Other Activities 1732.03 Hours

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2024 Rescue Squad Activities
(631 total calls)

2023 Rescue Squad Activities
(530 total calls)

Village of Kewaskum	347 Calls
Town of Kewaskum	56 Calls
Town of Wayne	87 Calls
Town of Farmington	68 Calls
Town of Barton	17 Calls
Town of Auburn	52 Calls
Mutual aid	4 Calls
Total Transports	432
No Transports	210
Intercept Calls	22
Mutual aid Received Calls	12
Mutual Aid Given Calls	1
Ambulances Miles	17,109

Village of Kewaskum	307 Calls
Town of Kewaskum	52 Calls
Town of Wayne	47 Calls
Town of Farmington	68 Calls
Town of Barton	7 Calls
Town of Auburn	44 Calls
Mutual aid	5 Calls
Total Transports	385
No Transports	175
Intercept Calls	38
Mutual aid Received Calls	13
Mutual Aid Given Calls	5
Ambulances Miles	14,160

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2024 Personnel Statistics

The Kewaskum Fire Department started in 2024 with 58 members. During the course of the year, we lost 6 members due to personnel moving out of the area, retirement and people just quitting. Of those 3 members, 2 of them were involved in EMS as an EMT. In 2024, 7 people joined the Department and we ended the year out with 59 active members.

On the fire side we currently have 6 members at the Entry Firefighter level, 26 members at the Firefighter 1 level and 18 members at the Firefighter 2 level for a total of 50 active Firefighters.

On the EMS side, we have 9 drivers, 8 Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), 14 Basic EMT's and 8 Advanced EMT's.

Throughout 2024, The Chief and Assistant Chiefs worked diligently with the City of West Bend to come up with a plan to help our staffing issue on the EMS side. The Department has been struggling to fill the open EMT shifts, and something needed to be done. After much deliberation and many meetings, The City of West Bend agreed to start doing our ambulance transports. in the Village of Kewaskum and the Town of Kewaskum While Campbellsport Fire agreed to take over the transports in the Town of Auburn. Kewaskum still responds to our fire protection area as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR's) and all of our EMT's are affiliated with both West Bend and Campbellsport so they are able to utilize their skills at their respective license level.

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The structure of the Department is as follows:

Mark Groeschel	Chief
James Warnkey	Asst. Chief of Training and Operations
Zachary Groeschel	Asst. Chief of Fire Prevention, Equipment and Facilities
Jeffrey Buechel	Captain
Jeremy Simonson	Captain
Sandra Hahn	Rescue Captain
Zachary Garbisch	Lieutenant
Ross Weber	Lieutenant
Scott Prim	Rescue Lieutenant
*Mark Steiner	Treasurer
*Todd KIRST	Secretary

*Indicates administrative staff and no longer holds a rank within the Department.

Fire Prevention

In 2024, during fire prevention week, the Department hosted an educational program for the local schools in which 276 students and 43 adults attended. This program is intended to educate children from daycare age through 3rd grade with the theme being “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you. The theme worked to educate everyone about the importance of smoke alarms and what is needed to install, test and maintain them properly.

Also during Fire Prevention week, the Department held an open house for the public. The turnout for this event was about the same as last year with 35 adults and 32 children attending.



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Fire Inspection

In 2024 a total of 363 fire inspections were conducted. These included 341 fire prevention inspections, 22 re-inspections. The fire inspectors logged 63 hours conducting these inspections.

In 2024, the Department worked on changing the frequency of inspections. Per Wisconsin code, businesses were either inspected once or twice per year depending upon occupancy, unless local ordinance allowed the inspections to occur once a year. Our lead inspector worked with the Administrator of the Village and got the ordinance changed. The Fire Department now inspects every business occupancy once per calendar year, thus saving the Department a considerable amount of time.

