



NEW RICHMOND FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT



2022
ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department is to preserve life and property, promote public safety, and foster economic growth through leadership, management, and actions as an all risk life safety response provider. The Department focuses on responding rapidly to emergencies and providing appropriate intervention and community education.

OUR COMMUNITY

The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department proudly provides fire prevention, fire suppression, fire inspections, extrication, and rescue operations for a 150-mile radius consisting of the following local units of government:

City of New Richmond
Village of Star Prairie

Town of Erin Prairie
Town of Star Prairie

Town of Richmond
Town of Stanton

FIRE BOARD

Tom Weinmeyer
Ron Volkert
Kari Kraft
Rita Keating
John Van Dyk
Tom Heintz
Dave Naser
Dave Stephens
Dick Hesselink

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Jim Zajkowski
Craig Kittel
Mike Montello
Kari Kraft
Tom Weinmeyer
Ron Volkert
Pete Vrieze

POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION

Jon Hailey, Kirk Lindell, Jordyn Aufderhar,
Andrea Kier, Michael Hedges

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tom Weinmeyer, Mike Montello, Ron Volkert,
Bill O'Connell, Shawn Demulling



OUR FIREFIGHTERS

Josh Bell
Chris Bendix
Joel Bulman
Daryl Chute
Marc Chute
Richard Haffner
Robin Haffner
Dominic Harker
Tyler Harris

Noah Hughes
Brad Johnson
Jocelyn Kahonen
Antonio Kappos
Kiel Kwiatowski
Tony Leblanc
Joshua Lindstrom
Tristen Mortel
Brad Niederer

Brad Olek
Noah Rud
Jerry Smith
Mike Strey
Jeff Swanson
Jeremy Sylvester
Michael Tobritzhofer
Nick Watters

OUR EXPLORERS

Local youth ages 14-18 who are interested in learning more about firefighting are encouraged to join our Explorers Program to participate in some classroom training and hands-on lessons. Explorers can also participate in many of our community events throughout the year. Students who earn certifications in EMT, EMR, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and/or Fire Inspector can earn a \$500 Career and Technical Education Incentive Grant per certification from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) upon their high school graduation.

OUR VEHICLE FLEET

The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department uses a variety of specialized vehicles to respond to vehicle accidents, structure fires, grass and off-road events, and water/ice rescues.

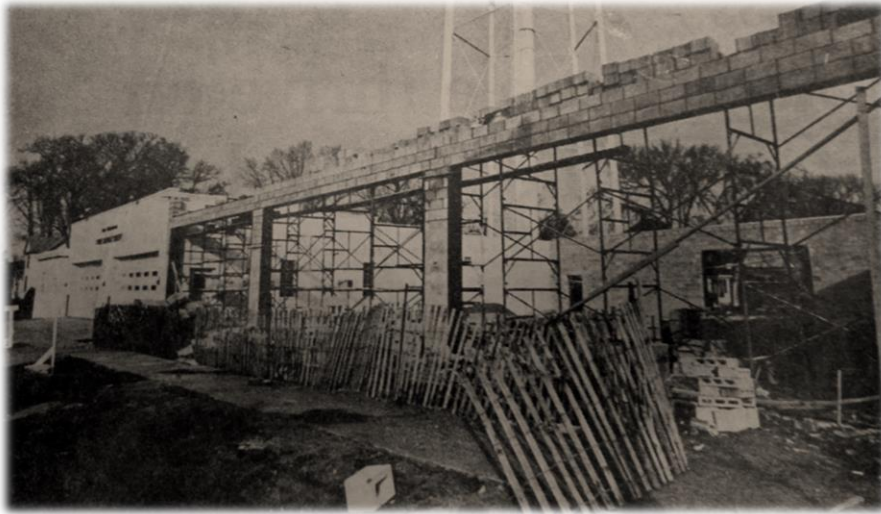
VEHICLE	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
3261	Engine	2003
3262	Engine	2017
3263	Ladder Truck	2010
3264	Chief's Vehicle	2017
3265	Rescue Pumper	2006
3266	Brush Truck	2009
3267	Brush Truck	1999
3268	Tender	2006
3269	Tender	2001
3270	Rescue	1996
3271	Engine	1997
3272	Assistant Chief's Vehicle	2021
N/A	UTV	2018



OUR HISTORY

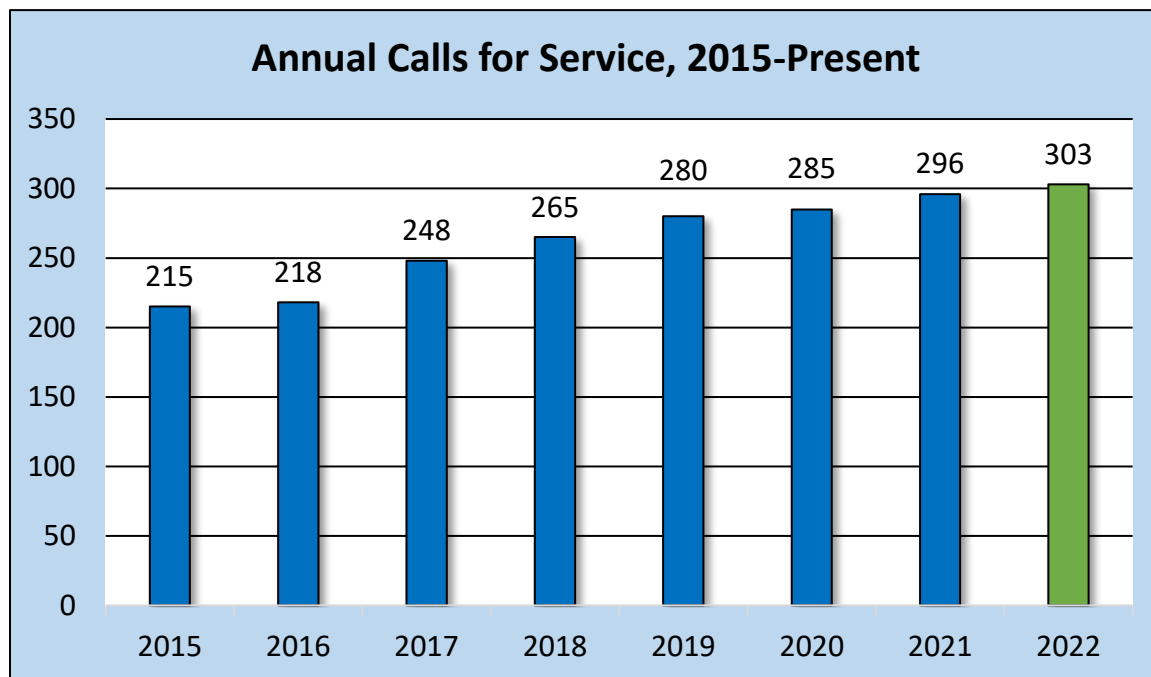
New Richmond was established in 1857 and the community slowly grew with churches, schools, the Omaha railroad, financial institutions, businesses, and houses. It's believed that organized firefighting followed shortly thereafter. A "truck house" for the first fire truck – a hook and ladder truck twenty feet long with pails on both sides – was constructed in 1880. Fires wiped out much of the City in 1892, and again in 1899 following the infamous cyclone that destroyed much of the city. Early bucket brigades advanced thanks to the invention of water-pumping engines and municipal water supplies. Common citizens selflessly participated on the fire department to help protect their communities and their fellow citizens, and this tradition continues to this day. We are appreciative of the hundreds of citizens who have served on the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department over the years and helped their fellow citizens during a time of need. The fire station, trucks, and specialized equipment have certainly changed over past 150 years, but the principle at the core of the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department – service to the community – has not changed.



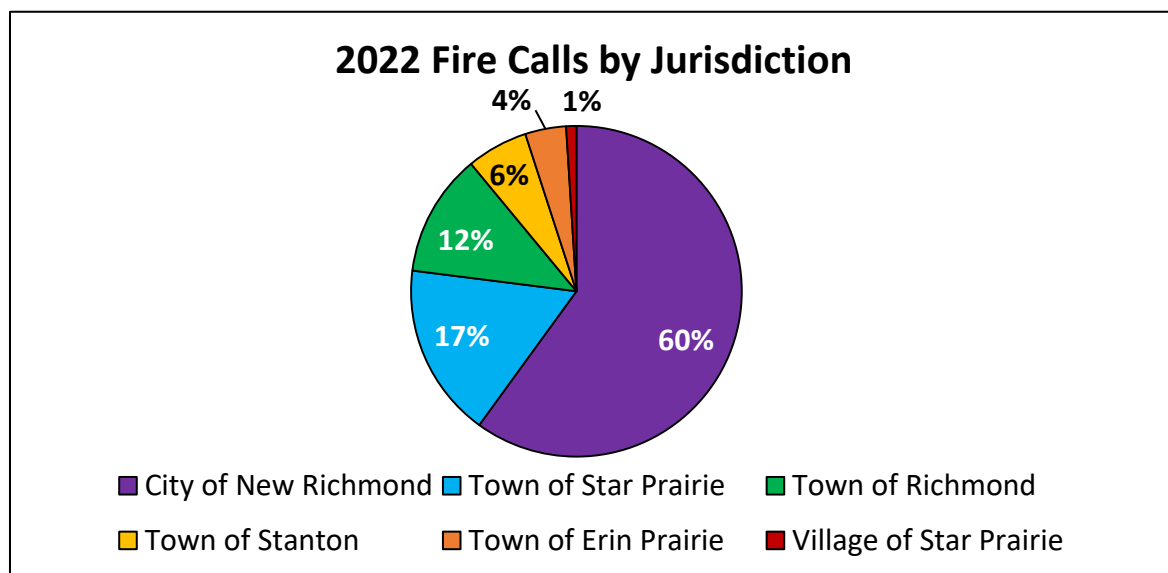


2022 CALL VOLUME & INCIDENT SUMMARY

As St. Croix County continues to grow, so too has the number of calls for service. The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department received a record-high 303 calls in 2022.



The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department directly serves residents and businesses in the City of New Richmond, Town of Star Prairie, Town of Richmond, Town of Stanton, Town of Erin Prairie, and Village of Star Prairie. The table below shows a breakdown of the calls for service in 2022 according to jurisdiction.



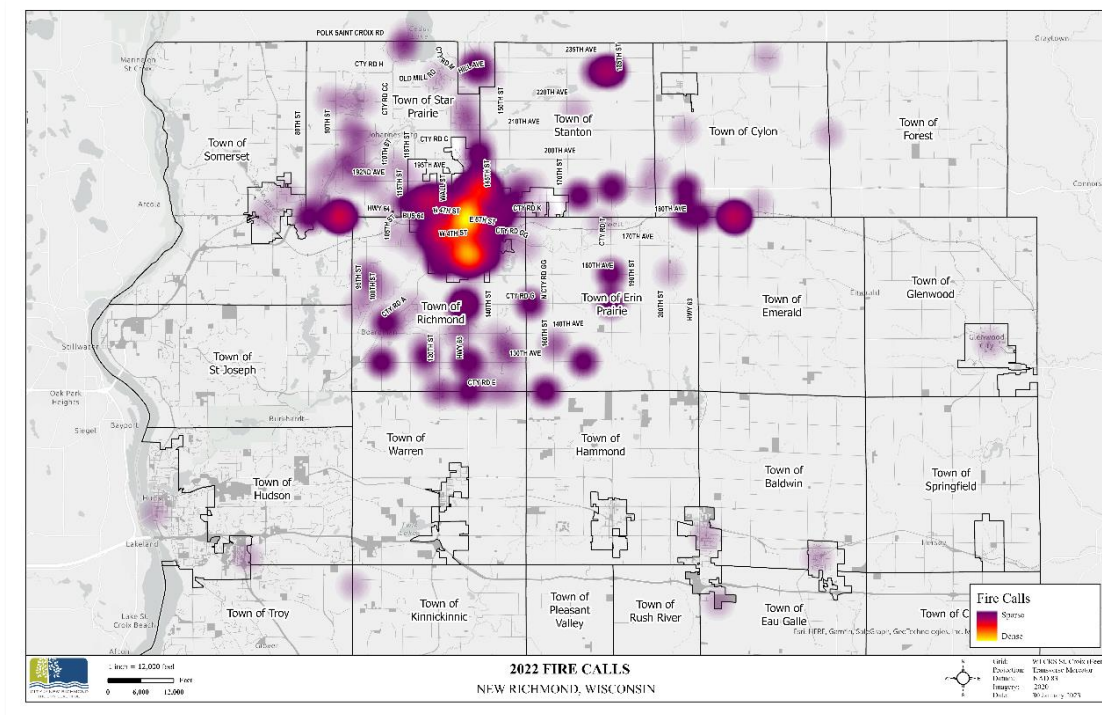
Department and Type of Aid	Count
Deer Park Fire Department	
Automatic Aid Received	1
Automatic Aid Given	2
Mutual Aid Received	1
Mutual Aid Given	3
Somerset Fire Department	
Automatic Aid Received	3
Mutual Aid Received	2
Mutual Aid Given	2
Roberts/Warren Fire Department	
Automatic Aid Received	1
Mutual Aid Received	1
Dresser/Osceola Fire Department	
Mutual Aid Given	1
United Fire Department	
Mutual Aid Received	1
Mutual Aid Given	1
Hudson Fire Department	
Mutual Aid Given	2
Glenwood City Fire Department	
Mutual Aid Given	1

The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department has a positive working relationship with its neighboring agencies, who assist each other when the need arises.

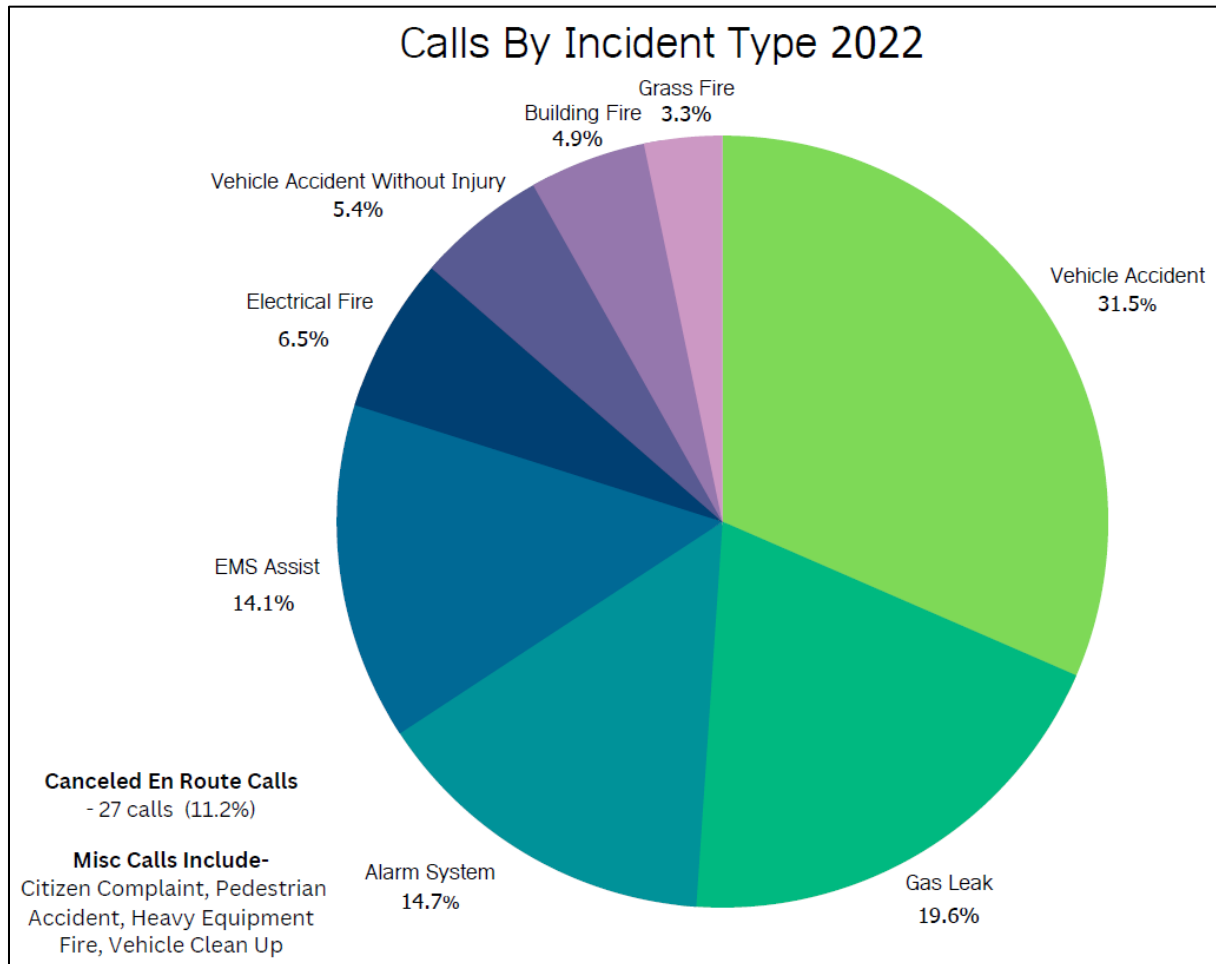
“Automatic Aid” refers to when the St. Croix County Communications Center (Dispatch) pages more than one fire department simultaneously for a single incident, without a request initiated by a fire department. “Mutual Aid” refers to when Dispatch pages a fire department after the first responding fire department requests assistance.

In 2022, the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department received assistance on ten (10) occasions and provided assistance to other agencies on twelve (12) occasions.

The map below is known as a “hot-spot” or “heat” map which uses a color-coded system to better illustrate the concentration and location of fire calls. There were few calls for service from areas depicted in soft purple, and more calls for service from areas depicted in a darker purple or red/yellow.



The most frequent type of call for service in 2022 was to assist with motor vehicle accidents. It might surprise some people to learn that fires make up a relatively small number of the total calls received by the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department. Firefighters are asked to assist with an increasingly wide range of emergency situations, thus they require a variety of specialized equipment, tools, and training.



CEDAR LAKE SPEEDWAY

The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department provides contracted fire services to Cedar Lake Speedway, supplying two firefighters and a brush truck at all races during the outdoor season.

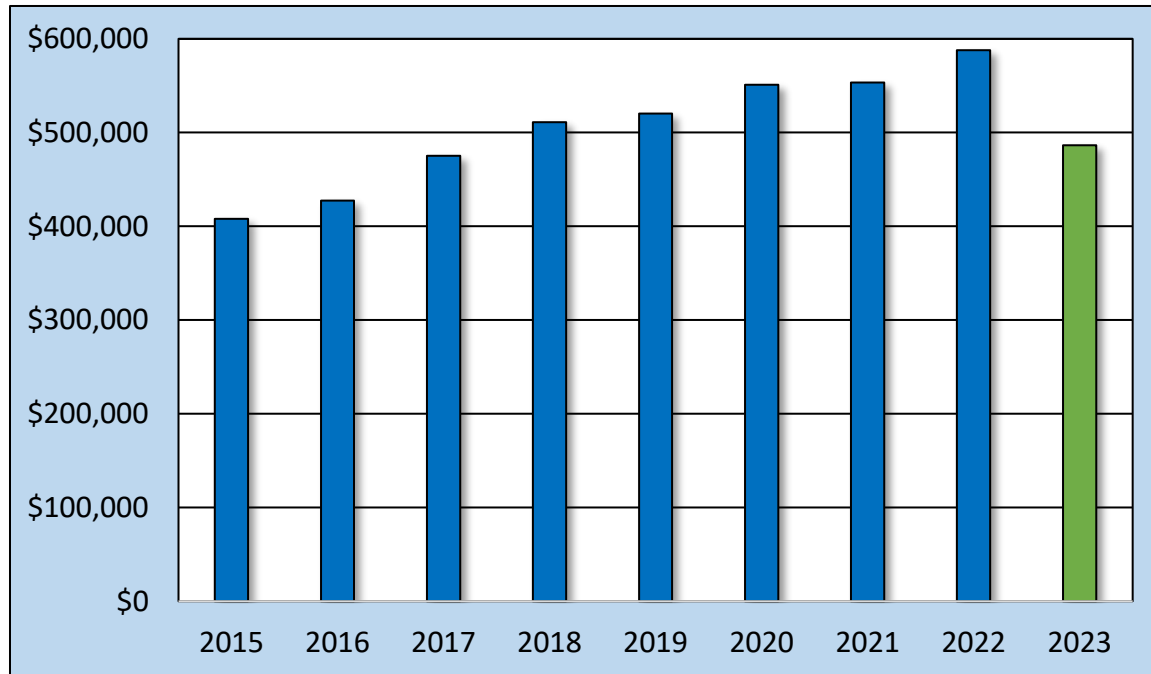


FIRE INSPECTIONS

The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department performs annual inspections of commercial and industrial businesses, office buildings, nursing homes, apartment buildings, hangars, etc. to identify possible fire hazards.

HISTORICAL OPERATING BUDGETS

The 2023 budget reduces operating expenditures by almost \$100,000 from 2022 levels.



CAPITAL PROJECTS

In 2022, the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department replaced rescue airbags and harnesses, and the fire station parking lot was reconstructed. A diesel exhaust removal system has been approved and will be installed in the fire station by MagneGrip in 2023. Additional capital projects in 2023 include but are not limited to the replacement of SCBA cylinders, the purchase of a hose dryer, and earmarking funds towards future vehicle replacement.



Left: North Star Masonic Lodge #187 donated a fire suppression device to the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department in 2022. We appreciate the generous donations and continued support we receive from many local organizations and events throughout the year, which help us purchase new equipment to better serve the community.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

A new tradition was established this past year with the creation of a swearing-in ceremony for our new firefighters and police officers. The ceremonies included the presentation of colors, welcome from the Mayor, invocation, remarks by the Chief of Police and Fire Chief, oaths of office, and cake and refreshments. We were pleased to welcome eight (8) new firefighters and their families to the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department this past year.



A **new compensation structure** was adopted in 2022, which increased wages for probationary firefighters for the first time in several years and also rewards years of service. Firefighters earn between \$14 and \$20 per hour depending on their position and years of service, and officers receive an additional annual stipend. Job descriptions were updated and approved by the City Council. A **457(b) Plan** for firefighters was also approved in 2022. A 457(b) is a tax-advantaged retirement plan which allows employees to voluntarily defer income into an investment account on a pre-tax basis. The City of New Richmond, as the employer, will also make annual contributions to firefighters in good standing who have responded to at least 25% of fire calls in the calendar year. Annual contributions increase from \$120 for new firefighters to \$480 for firefighters with four or more years of service.

TRAINING

The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department has regular trainings throughout the year and encourages firefighters to obtain additional certifications and complete additional continuing education courses. Some training highlights in 2022 included ice rescue training (see photo above right), seven firefighters completing Fire Inspector I, the entire Department completing Entry Level Driver/Operator Part I (Driving), and practicing use of the decontamination tent for hazardous material response (see photo bottom right).



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The first annual **pancake breakfast** was held in June during Park Art Fair, and was a success. Thank you to everyone who purchased meals and donated or bid on silent auction items. We look forward to continuing to grow this event in the future.



The annual **Fun Fest Water Battle** was once again a highlight in 2022. This annual tradition is always a favorite for kids, and many families watch every year. Thanks to the fire departments from Deer Park and St. Croix Falls for sending teams to compete, and to LaVenture Crane and Rigging for their continued support.



The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department, along with the New Richmond Police Department and New Richmond Area Ambulance Service, attended several neighborhood block parties as part of **National Night Out**, an annual community-building campaign that promotes partnerships with first responders and neighborhood camaraderie.



In recognition of **National Fire Prevention Week**, the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department visited local schools and childcare centers to help educate youth about fire safety. Special thanks to the 30+ local businesses and individuals who made generous donations to help purchase fire safety activity books, stickers, coloring books, bracelets, etc. for more than 1,300 children in our community. Families also had an opportunity to watch a vehicle extrication demonstration (car provided by GTK Services), enjoy a fire truck ride to Mary Park, learn safety tips to prevent home fires, and more. Attendees at the open house event also donated 136 pounds of food to Five Loaves Food Shelf.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

In addition to their service on the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department, firefighters gave back to the community during the holiday season by ringing bells for Salvation Army and by assisting with two great local organizations – Toys for Tots and Love Baskets – which provide gifts for hundreds of families in New Richmond and surrounding communities.



HOW TO JOIN

Are you interested in giving back to your community and serving on the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department? Please contact Human Resources Manager Sarah Reese at 715-246-4268 or sreese@newrichmondwi.gov to complete an application form and to learn more. Applicants will be invited to participate in an interview process. New probationary firefighters are formally approved by the Police & Fire Commission, pending completion of a background check and physical exam.



FAQS – PROSPECTIVE FIREFIGHTERS



Do I have to be a City resident?

No. Firefighters must reside within fifteen miles of the City boundaries; several firefighters reside in the surrounding townships/villages. Many of our firefighters also work outside of New Richmond and even in Minnesota.

Do I need advance training to be hired?

No. While we certainly welcome firefighters with previous experience and training, most new hires have little or no previous training or experience. Probationary firefighters must complete over 100 hours of coursework offered through Northwood Technical College (or another college) including *Firefighter I*, *Hazmat*, *Auto Extrication*, and *Emergency Medical Responder* to gain the basic knowledge and skills necessary to safely perform firefighting functions. Registration fees and the cost of books/materials are covered.

What is the time commitment?

The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department has regularly scheduled meetings and trainings on Monday nights. Vehicle and equipment maintenance trainings are scheduled every six weeks on Tuesdays for two hours. Firefighters shall respond to a minimum of 25% of fire calls per calendar year unless they have an approved absence.

What is expected of my employer?

Some professions, due to the nature of their position, may not allow for a firefighter to leave work, so communication is important to be sure that employers and employees have a mutual understanding of expectations. Employers should understand there could be instances where an employee may need to be late to work or leave work in order to respond to an emergency.

What are the benefits of serving as a paid per call firefighter?

Firefighters make a direct impact in their community and find it rewarding to serve others in a time of need, and to interact with and educate their fellow citizens about fire safety. Firefighters develop strong relationships with fellow firefighters and first responders in New Richmond and neighboring agencies. Serving as a firefighter is also a great opportunity to further develop one's leadership skills, confidence, and abilities to communicate and work together on a team.

Are firefighters paid?

The New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department is not a full-time career department that one might find in a larger city; our firefighters have their own full-time employment elsewhere. While firefighters receive some monetary compensation for their efforts, they serve first and foremost to help the community. Probationary firefighters who have not yet completed their coursework earn \$14 per hour. After moving to non-probationary status, firefighters earn \$18 to \$20 per hour based on years of service and position/rank.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

You can help the New Richmond Fire & Rescue Department in several different ways – big and small. We appreciate the continued support from our local community!

Serve As a Firefighter

We are always looking for high-character, service-minded individuals who are interested in becoming firefighters. We welcome new recruits year-round and provide all necessary training. If you are a local employer, encourage and support your employees to serve as firefighters – it's a great way to give back to the community and your employees will become stronger leaders. If you or someone you know might be interested in learning more about serving as a firefighter, please contact us! We would be glad to meet with you and answer any questions that you or someone else might have.



Participate in Our Community Events

Consider attending our various community events throughout the year, including our pancake breakfast, Fun Fest water battle, National Night Out, and Fire Prevention Week Open House. We always welcome donations, sponsorships, silent auction items, and volunteers.

Support Fire Safety Education

Consider making a financial contribution to support our National Fire Prevention Week visits to local schools and childcare centers. Teach your children and grandchildren the dangers of fire and how to respond if there is a fire. Plan and practice escape routes from your home. Teach the importance of closing doors before going to sleep to prevent fires from spreading.

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

Hydrants can easily get buried in snow and ice during the winter months. If there's a hydrant near your home or business, please clear at least three feet around the hydrant and clear a pathway to the street. Every second matters during an emergency, and keeping the hydrants clear saves our firefighters considerable time if they need to access them.



Apply for a Burning Permit

Request a burning permit from the Fire Department (they're free) to make sure there is not a local or DNR-imposed burning ban in place, or other dangerous conditions present.

Install Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

It sounds simple, but installing smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and replacing the batteries at least once a year is critical for the early detection of a fire in your home or business. Offer to assist an elderly neighbor or parent/grandparent as well.

