

Winneconne-Poygan Fire District



2024 Year End Report

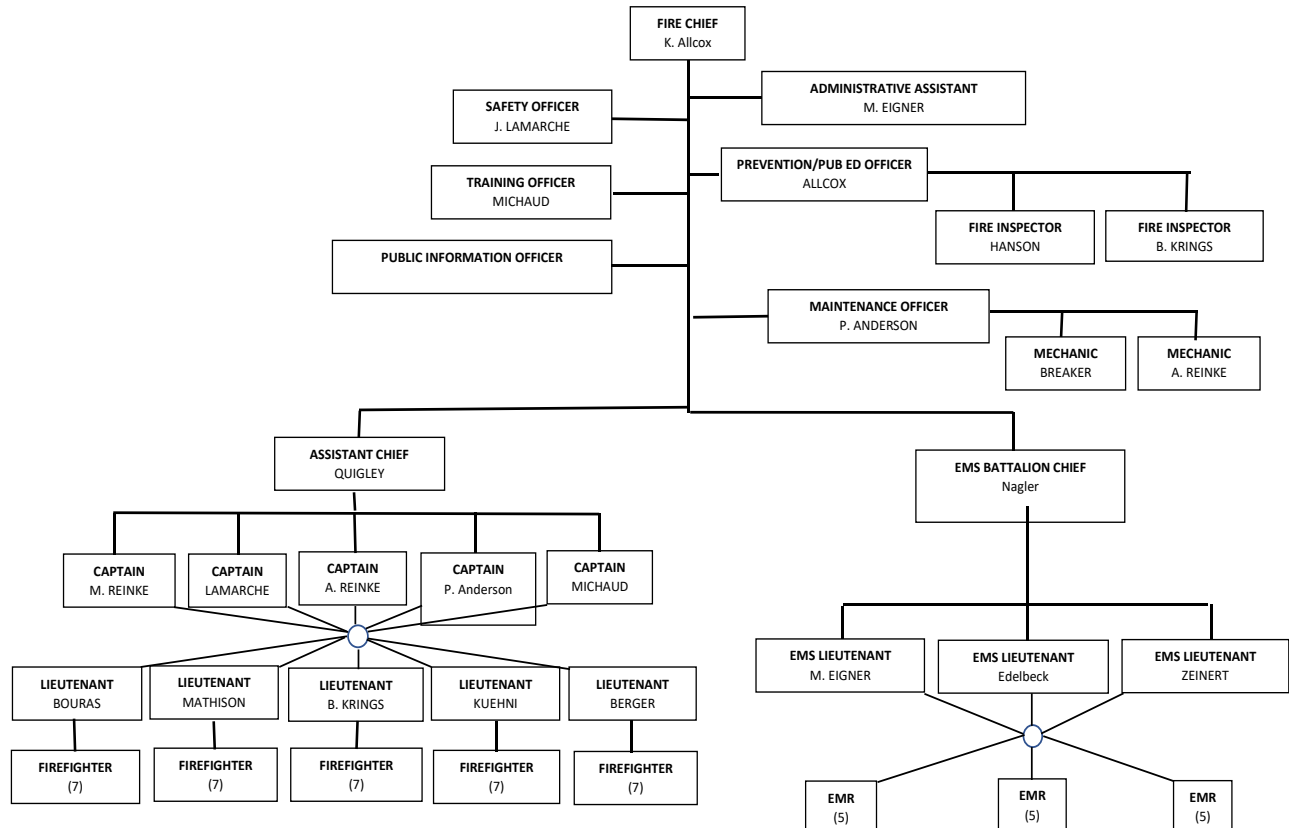
INTRODUCTION

The goal of this report is to provide information regarding the activities of the Winneconne/Poygan Fire District for the 2024 fiscal year beginning 1 January 2024 and ending 31 December 2024. If there is any information not included that would be beneficial, please let me know and I would be happy to alter the format to fit the needs of the Winneconne/Poygan Fire District Fire Commission and the Municipal Boards that they serve.

Kevin M. Allcox, Fire Chief

WINNECONNE/POYGAN FIRE DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

- In 2024 we added **one** new firefighter and **one** new First Responder
- Resigned: 4
- Final Call: None
- Retirement: 1
- Membership as of 12/31/2024: Firefighters - 36 (Roster Max. = 50)
First Responders – 14 (Roster Max = 20)
We have 7 new members starting to take the EMR class in January at the Town of Clayton that are not in this count.



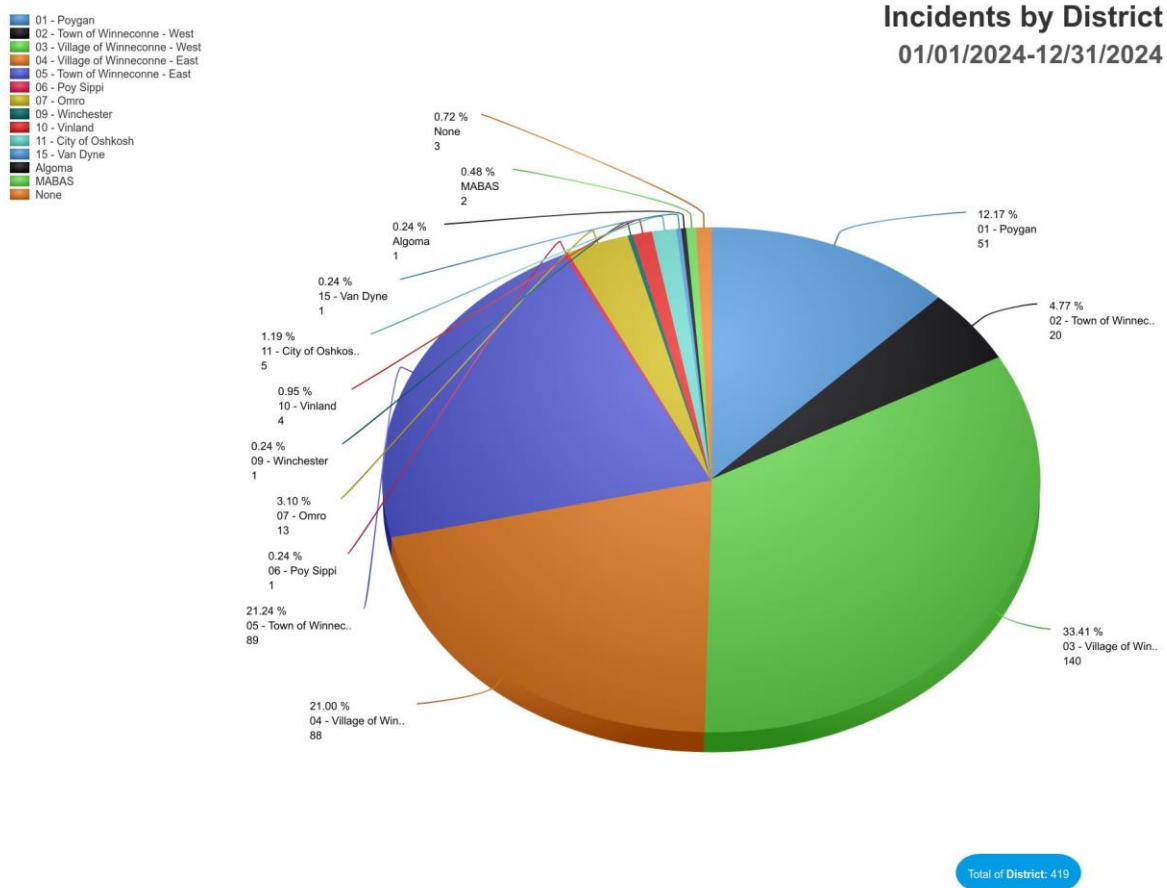
FIRE SUPPRESSION & EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSES

The Winneconne/Poygan Fire District and First Responders provide a professional service to the Towns of Poygan and Winneconne and the Village of Winneconne. We are also members of a county-wide mutual aid agreement, providing fire and rescue support to our surrounding communities.

During 2024 we responded to 419 calls. This is 11 calls less than 2023.

296 Rescue & EMS Incidents – Medical Assist, Motor Vehicle Accident, Water/Ice Rescue.

- 17 Fire Incidents – Structure, Vehicle, Brush/Grass.
- 15 Hazardous Condition Incidents – Gas Leak, Spills, Carbon Monoxide.
- 71 Other Responses – Odor Investigation, Lock-out etc.
- 11 False Alarms – Detector/System Activation.



TRAINING BUREAU

INTRODUCTION

The Winneconne/Poygan Fire District Training Bureau is responsible for scheduling and conducting training operations for our membership. Fire and rescue related training is conducted monthly on the third Tuesday and occasionally on Saturdays as necessary.

Fire/Rescue Training

During the 2024 fiscal year firefighters accumulated approximately 1200 hours in classroom and real-time practical evolutions in the following areas:



Pumping Operations



Shore-based Ice Rescue

- Apparatus Driver Skills
 - Open-Water Boat Operations
 - Hose Loads
 - Electric Vehicle Operations
 - Vehicle Extrication
 - Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
 - Husky Airboat Operations
- Search and Rescue Operations
 - Shore-based Ice Rescue
 - Ventilation Operations
 - Ladder Operations
 - Firefighter Survival
 - Communications / Radio Operations
 - Traffic Incident Management

First Responder Training

Winneconne/Poygan Fire District First Responders meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We have also started some First Responder and Fire Department training that allows the fire fighters the ability to assist the first responders as necessary on some calls. This year, the EMRs are doing all re-certification in house. The re-certification sessions include classroom discussion accompanied by practical skills, all of which are needed during the various types of emergency medical incidents we are dispatched to. As necessary, resources will be brought in to assist with the training.

The in-house re-certification process became necessary as Oshkosh Fire Department, who provides Ambulance service to the district has become less involved with the rural departments.

FIRE PREVENTION / EDUCATION BUREAU

The Winneconne/Poygan Fire District Fire Prevention / Education Bureau is responsible for conducting semi-annual fire safety inspections of all commercial, industrial and educational facilities within the district. Semi-annual inspections are also conducted at all residential buildings over two-family occupancy. Inspectors Kevin Allcox, Brad Hanson and Bennett Krings complete these inspections.

Fire Inspection Activity

Total inspectable properties- 155

Total inspections- $155 \times 2 = 310$

310 Routine Fire Safety Inspections

- 105 Fire Safety Violations Discovered

The Fire Prevention / Education Bureau is also responsible for activities performed during Fire Prevention Week in October and any other public education activities requested throughout the year. During Fire Prevention Week members of our department, along with assistance from the Winneconne/Poygan Fire District EMRs, provide fire safety messages to local day care centers and the Winneconne Kindergarten students. This year, we also did a Pub Ed program with the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts at Lord of the Lakes Church. We also participated in the Touch a Truck events at National Night Out and the Village Fall Fest. Also the WPFED EMRs had a booth at the Village Fall Fest and utilized the CPR mannequins.

ARPA FUNDS

This year, WPFED received ARPA funds from the 3 municipalities we serve. Each municipality gave the fire department \$15,000 for a total of \$45,000. WPFED utilized the monies for a wide range of equipment. The items purchased were new Firefighting Nozzles, several sections of colored fire hose, sets of turnout gear, RIT Cylinders, and upgrade the lights on E128 to LED.

WPFED did not apply for any other grants this year and will look into applying in the near future.

FUND RAISERS

Members of the Winneconne/Poygan Fire District actively raise funds through functions conducted during the year. The first is the annual Chicken Fun Night held in January. In July we raise funds during Sovereign State Days.

Chicken Fun Night

Funds raised by our members during Chicken Fun Night are used to purchase new equipment that may be necessary for fire or rescue operations. Over the past 30+ years funds from this event have been used to purchase ice/water rescue equipment, wildland firefighting equipment, vehicle extrication equipment and thermal imaging cameras. For the past eight to ten years funds raised from this event have been designated for our future training facility.

The 2023 Chicken Fun Night was held at Fin & Feather on January 31th. The following statistics are provided for the activities:

Meal Tickets Sold – 280
Cash Donations - \$2,350.00
Total Funds Raised - \$13,358.02

This years Chicken Fun Night will be held at the Fin and Feather on January 29, 2024

Sovereign State Days

During the annual Sovereign State Days held each July the members assist with the set up of the street dance and also with bartending on Friday night. Proceeds from the sales made at the bar are distributed to the fire department. This money is used for annual get-togethers held for the members, and for the purchase of equipment.

Total Funds Raised - \$700.00

WPFD Training Facility Project

Over the past 12 years the members of the Winneconne Poygan Fire District have been actively pursuing funds to build a training facility that will be used for training evolutions. To date our members have raised approximately \$180,000 for the project and are close to reaching a projected goal that will allow us to move forward with the project.

Phase 2 of the project is to raise funds to construct or purchase training props for the site and to allow for construction of a two-story training model within the building. This model will act like a two-story residential building that can be utilized for many aspects of firefighter training. The members are in the process of designing and getting structural drawings for the inside building as well and looking into various training props.

EMS BUREAU

The Winneconne Poygan Fire District First Responders are comprised of 14 members, including cross-trained firefighters, who have been trained to the First Responder - Defibrillator level. Our first responders are on call 24/7 and provide emergency medical care throughout our response district.

Our first responders are also involved in the Fire District's annual Chicken Fun Night, and Sovereign State Days helping with operation of the events.

The first-due area of the Winneconne/Poygan Fire District is a significant area to cover, and the first responders are always looking to improve our response methods, providing the district with the best possible coverage in the event of a medical emergency.

On July 31, 2024, Battalion Chief Brian Miller resigned from the department and Todd Nagler was promoted to the EMR Battalion Chief position.

Transition

On May 31, 2024, long time Chief Ryan Krings retired for the Winneconne Poygan Fire District. The fire department and 3 municipalities that it serves owes Ryan a deep debt of gratitude for his years of service. Ryan started his service as a member of the then, Town of Winneconne Fire department and became a part of the Winneconne Poygan Fire District when it was formed in 1997. He became Fire Chief and served the department extremely well for his time here. The department is in a better place for his service and he will be greatly missed.

Upon Ryan's retirement, then Assistant Chief Kevin Allcox took over the position of Fire Chief. Chief Allcox brings 30 years of experience on the fire department to the position. Since, Chief Allcox has taken over the position, the department has been focusing some of its efforts on Recruitment and Retention. We have participated in some events like Fall Fest and Touch-a-truck and used these events to bring some attention to the department. A newspaper article was printed in the Winneconne News to highlight the

need for EMR and Fire Personnel on the department. We also put up a “Help Wanted” sign in the yard in front of the station. Since we have done these things, we have enrolled 7 new potential members in an EMR class that starts in the Town of Clayton in January, 2024.

The department has taken a different approach to its day-to-day operations. Officers from the department have begun taking on more responsibilities, making some decisions that take some of the work off the fire chief. So far this has worked out well and we are looking forward to developing the department for the future. As a department, the focus is to look forward and be good stewards of the communities we serve and protect.