



Rockton Fire Protection District

2024 Annual Report

This report contains the following:

Fire Chief's Message - Chief Kirk Wilson

Mission Statement

Rockton Fire Protection District Board of Trustees

Our Values

Our Vision

Rockton Fire Protection District Personnel

Fire District Organizational Structure

Training Division Report - Deputy Chief Tim Free

Cadet Program Report - Lieutenant Cyrus Logan

EMS and Community CPR Program Report - Deputy Chief Dan Ewers

Fire Prevention Report - Fire Prevention Bureau Inspector Andrew Warner

Public Relations Report - Community and Public Relations Liaison Taylor LeVeque

Incident Summary

Incident Comparison per Year

Fire Loss per Year

Response Time Data

Response Time Standard

Fire Chief's Message



It is my pleasure to present the Rockton Fire Protection District's 2024 Annual Report. The fire district proudly answered 1481 calls for service in 2024, an increase of 5.4% from 1404 calls in 2023.

As we move into 2025, the country will see a change in leadership for our great country with the inception of a new President. I'm hoping this change will heal the division of our nation and move us in the right direction. We are all looking forward to seeing improvements with our current economy.

Fire and emergency medical service agencies throughout the nation continue to struggle recruiting and retaining members. As calls for service increase, it is my objective and goal to continue to provide high quality emergency services to our community. Fortunately, the fire district has maintained above average staffing levels ensuring calls for service are answered in a timely, safe, and efficient manner.

Time commitments placed on our members responding to calls, participating in community events, and attending training have continued to consume our members valuable time; however, I'm proud to report that our members have made these sacrifices dedicating themselves to the organization while improving their skills and knowledge.

To ensure we provide these much-needed services, equipment, and apparatus need to be added or replaced. We anticipate the delivery of a new ambulance in December 2025. A second ambulance is due to be delivered later in 2026.

We are always looking for new talent. If you have ever had the ambition to be a valuable part of our community, take that step forward and apply. We will provide all the necessary training and tools for you to become a member of our organization. Applications are available at the fire station or simply by going to the fire district website (www.rocktonfire.com).

I'm pleased to say we have a strong and dedicated leadership team who are committed to moving our organization forward now and into the future. As Chief, it is my priority to maintain focus with sound financial management principles ensuring your tax dollars are utilized appropriately and in the best interest of our community.

The members of the Rockton Fire Protection District take great pride maintaining the highest standards while delivering professional fire, rescue, and EMS services, ensuring a high quality of life to all those who reside in or pass through our community.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to all within the community, the Board of Trustees, and to our members who made 2024 a very successful year. Thank you for your continued investment in and support of our organization.

Respectfully,

Chief Kirk Wilson

Mission Statement

The Rockton Fire Protection District is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the people in the district from man-made and natural emergencies by providing a range of programs that include, but are not limited to:

Emergency Medical Service
Fire Suppression and Rescue
Fire Prevention
Hazardous Material Response
Public Education

Decisions and actions of the members will be in a competent, professional, efficient, safe, and fiscally responsible manner while reaching into the future but never forgetting the past.



Rockton Fire Protection District Board of Trustees



President
Mark Steward



Vice President
Jodi Ewers



Secretary / Treasurer
Bryan Northrop



Trustee
Gene Hermann



Trustee
Nicole Kovarik

Our Values

Loyalty:

The Rockton Fire Protection District instills spirit of individual support of one person toward another as well as organizational support of the individual. This is critical to maintaining emotional well-being in the high stress work environment of the modern firefighter. Also, this support enables people to advance their careers and realize their highest potential of professional service.

Pride:

Pride is defined as a state of feeling proud, a reflection of credit upon oneself. Pride is feeling good after a job well done. It is a feeling of goose bumps as you recount your actions; by going somewhere nobody else can go. By making a rescue and saving a life, by being a part of a unit that successfully achieves its goal. Pride is wiping a tear from your eye and swallowing a lump in your throat, as you are hugged and kissed by a loved one thankful you have returned home safe and sound. Pride is a glow in your kids as they brag about you being a firefighter. Pride is wearing your uniform, proud of your colors, proud of your co-workers and the fire district. Being a member of “THE NOBLEST BREED”.

Tradition:

Tradition is defined as the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, and information from generation to generation. A long established or inherited way of thinking that courage in the face of danger is a tradition of the fire service. Firefighters of the past stand by us today, passing on their legacy and dedication to us. Tradition is the maintenance and connection of values with our heroes, pacesetters, and examples set by our mentors. It is our foundation.

Our Vision

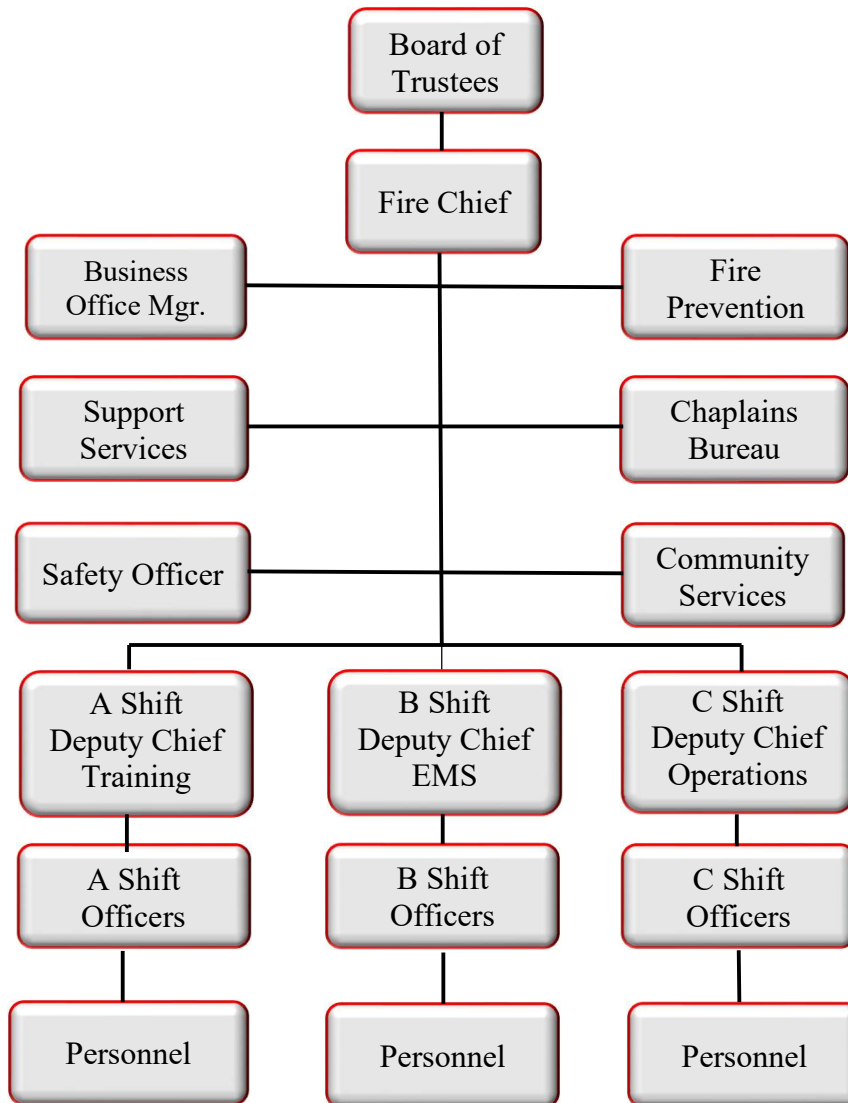
Members of the Rockton Fire Protection District

- Strive to be role models in our community and leaders in our profession.
- Shall be accountable to our community and those we serve.
- Are committed to our values, mission and dedicated to our profession.
- Are committed to education ensuring we provide safe and efficient customer service.
- Shall take our organization into the future through productive teamwork, communication, and sound decision making throughout our organization.

Rockton Fire Protection District Personnel

1. Amato, Robert	Firefighter / EMT-B
2. Ball, Logan	Firefighter
3. Born, Gabriel	Firefighter / EMT-B
4. Byrnes, Kevin	Pump Operator / EMT-B
5. Champlain, Dustin	Pump Operator / EMT-P
6. Correnti, Alahna	Cadet
7. Daughenbaugh, James	Pump Operator
8. Douglass, Sheila	Business Office Manager
9. Ewers, Dan	Deputy Chief of EMS / EMT-P
10. Ewers, Jodi	Board of Trustees
11. Fleege, Nick	Pump Operator / Firefighter
12. Flores, Yandel	Cadet
13. Free, Timothy	Deputy Chief of Training / EMT-P
14. Garcia, Juan	Firefighter
15. Hansmeier, Brogan	Firefighter
16. Henthorn, Gracie	Firefighter / EMT-B
17. Henthorn, Maggie	Firefighter / EMT-B
18. Henthorn, Shawna	Firefighter / EMT-P
19. Herman, Dan	Chaplain
20. Hermann, Andrew	Lieutenant / Pump Operator
21. Hermann, Gene	Board of Trustees
22. Hoey, Alex	Firefighter/ EMT-P
23. Jahnke, Michael	Firefighter / EMT-B
24. Juno, Camden	Cadet
25. Karasek, Alan	EMT-P
26. Kiser, Mary	Support Services / CPR & First Aid Trainer
27. Kovarik, Nicole	Board of Trustees
28. Kretsinger, Chloe	Firefighter / EMT-B
29. Lans, Bruce	Support Services / Information Technology
30. Layman, Stefani	Firefighter / EMT-B
31. LaGrene, Lakota	EMT-B
32. LeVeque, Taylor	Pump Operator / Firefighter / EMT-P
33. Linquist, Konner	Firefighter
34. Logan, Cyrus	Lieutenant / Pump Operator / EMT-P
35. Logan, John	Firefighter / EMT-B
36. Matrick, Maddelin	Cadet
37. Moffitt, Nolan	Cadet
38. Mowers, Nolan	Cadet
39. Nation, Lydia	EMT-B
40. Nielsen, Russtina	Cadet
41. Norwood, Adam	Pump Operator / Firefighter / EMT-B
42. Northrop, Bryan	Board of Trustees
43. Redieske, Bodee	Firefighter
44. Riportella, Mollie	Firefighter / EMT-P
45. Roderick, Brandon	Lieutenant / Pump Operator / EMT-P
46. Schlaf, Tyler	Pump Operator / Firefighter / EMT-P
47. Seeley, Dennis	Lieutenant / Pump Operator
48. Scordato, Roman	Firefighter
49. Sorensen, Jeff	Lieutenant / Pump Operator / EMT-P
50. Steward, Mark	Board of Trustees
51. Stewart, Tim	Deputy Chief of Operations
52. Viel, Victoria	Firefighter / EMT-P
53. Warner, Andrew	Fire Prevention Bureau
54. Washburn, Nicholas	Cadet
55. Williamson, Morgan	Firefighter
56. Wilson, Kirk	Fire Chief / EMT-B
57. Zumwalt, Trevor	Lieutenant / Pump Operator / EMT-P

***Rockton Fire Protection District
Organizational Structure***



Three new Lieutenants were added to our command staff in 2024

Training Division Report ***By Deputy Chief Tim Free***



Prelude

2024 brought a slight change to the Training Division, but also is allowing for true succession planning to be implemented, ensuring the organization never has to start over with training. With DC Free working full time outside of the district, Lt. Zumwalt and Lt. Roderick have been taking a more active role within the division. Both Lieutenants have been actively involved in delivering departmental training. Working alongside DC Free, both Lt. Zumwalt and Lt. Roderick learned what it takes to manage a Training Division. Overseeing a Training Division is a thankless job, but it is also highly rewarding to watch the members grow professionally. Having the ability for a member to spend several years learning this

role is ensuring when the position is vacated, everything that has been built over the last nine years will continue to grow and evolve to meet the district's needs.

Recruits

Like any year, we continue to bring members into the organization. In 2024, we brought in five new recruits who attended either the Illinois Fire Service Institute Fire Academy or the Rock Valley College Fire Academy. Both fire academies have served us well over the last several years, providing us with trained, professional firefighters to serve our community.

A typical recruit year consists of 220 hours of training to meet the Basic Operations Firefighter level. In addition to that training, they must complete 40 hours to meet Hazardous Materials Operations and 20 additional hours in other various courses to achieve state certification. This is on top of the internal training a recruit undergoes to become comfortable with Rockton Fire's operations, which is substantial on its own.

2024 Recruits – Roman Scordato, Konner Lindquist, Juan Garcia, Brogan Hansmeier, Bodee Redieske

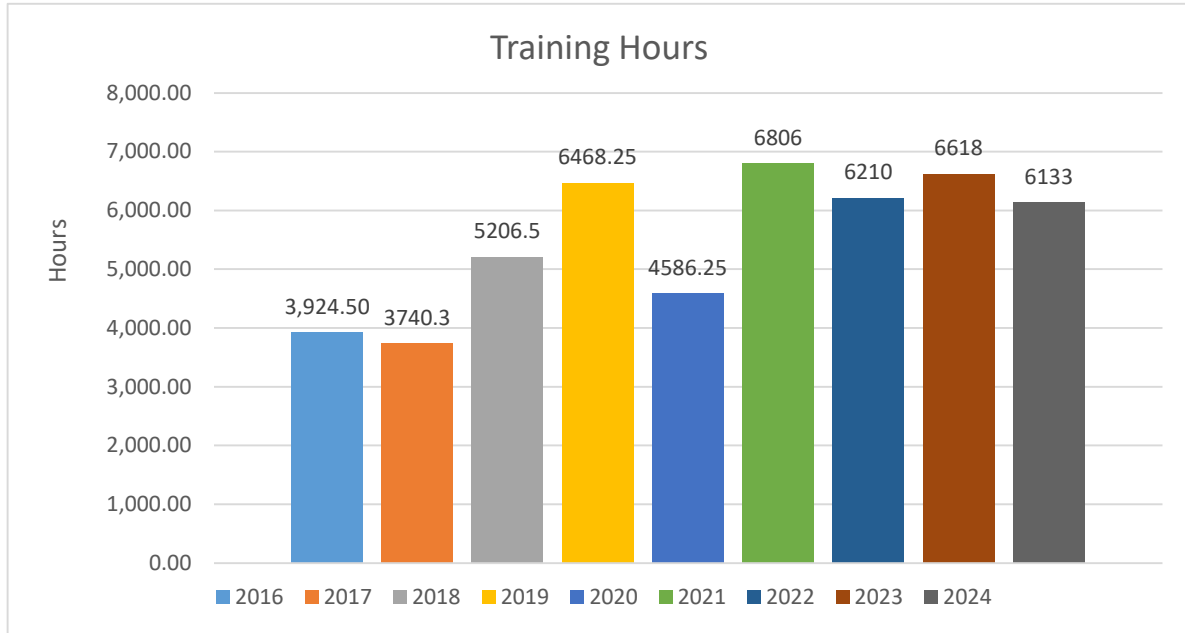
OSFM Audit

In December 2024, the OSFM arrived for a routine audit of the district's training program. Our last audit was in 2017, when the OSFM came in to conduct a training audit at our request. This audit was a fantastic opportunity for us to learn new details about the direction the state is going with fire service training, but also provided us with a report card of how we are doing as an organization. Chief Wilson, DC Free and DC Ewers attended the audit with two of the state's field staff members. The district is proud to report that we had a very successful audit, and took away several new

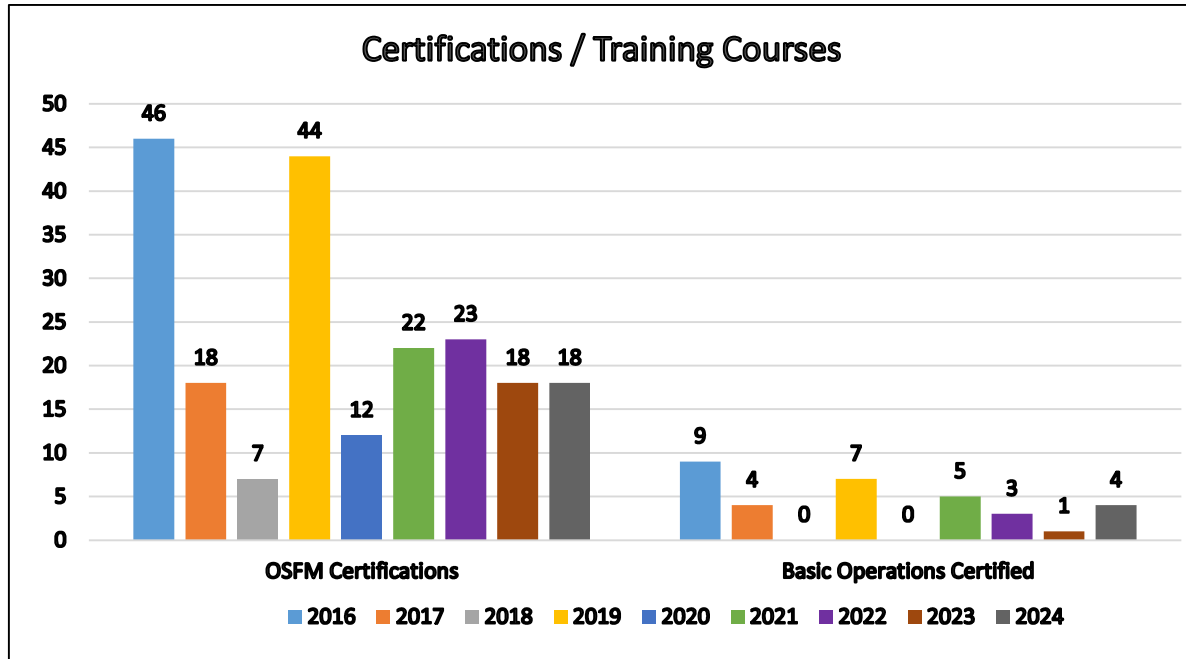


ideas to aid in streamlining our process. It was a pleasure to have the OSFM here with us and look forward to maintaining a positive relationship in the future.

Yearly Training Hours



2023 Member Certification Achievements



Certifications / Training Courses

Bobby Amato – Basic Operations Firefighter, Hazardous Materials Operations

Gabe Born – Basic Operations Firefighter, Hazardous Materials Operations

Nick Fleege – Advanced Technician Firefighter, Fire Service Vehicle Operator

Tim Free – Rope Technician

Andy Hermann – Advanced Technician Firefighter

Chloe Kretsinger – Basic Operations Firefighter,
Hazardous Materials Operations

Taylor LeVeque – Structural Collapse Operations,
Confined Space Operations, Public Fire and Life Safety
Educator I

Tori Viel – Advanced Technician Firefighter, Fire
Investigator, Hazardous Materials Technician

Morgan Williamson – Basic Operations Firefighter,
Hazardous Materials Operations



Notable Course Completions

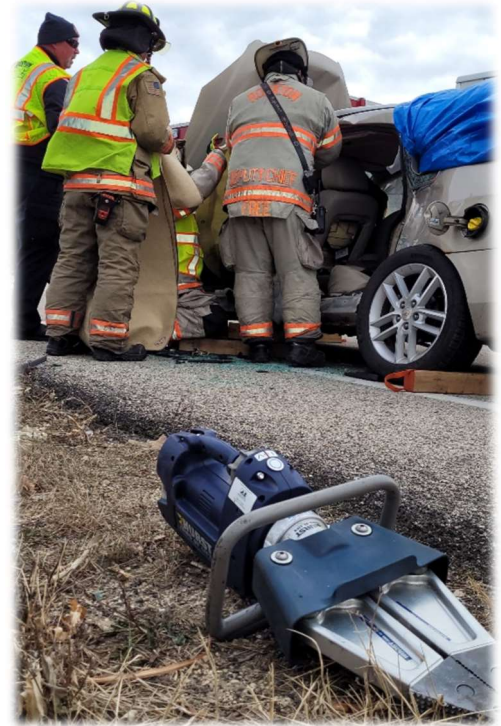
Andy Hermann – Padi Full Face Mask & Dry Suit Diver

Tyler Schlaf – Padi Full Face Mask & Dry Suit Diver

Closing

If we were to summarize 2024, it would be considered a rebuilding year. Like clockwork, every 3-5 years, we lose several of our more senior members to career departments. This forces us to evaluate our needs and plot a course to fill voids and that is exactly what we did this year. Sometimes this rebuilding becomes frustrating, but we as an organization are leaving behind a legacy in the fire service. We have become known for turning out well rounded and experience firefighters in the region. We are doing our part to leave the fire service better than we found it.

In closing, I would like to thank Chief Wilson and the Board of Trustees for their continued support. Their support is critical to ensure our members are highly trained and have the tools and experience needed to protect our community.



Cadet Program Report

By Lt. Cyrus Logan



At the beginning of the year, we had multiple Fire Cadets graduate from high school, thus completing the program. Two of those graduates joined the Rockton Fire Protection District upon graduation, recently completed their probationary period with us as Recruit Firefighters, undertook and completed EMT-B programs, and now regularly pick up shifts here at the Rockton Fire Protection District.

Recruitment efforts over the last year have been efficacious; in the last year we brought more Fire Cadets into the program leaving us at the end of 2024 with a total of 8 Fire Cadets, the group being comprised of teenagers from the sophomore, junior and senior classes at Hononegah High School. All but one of our current Fire Cadets have completed the first phase of our curriculum, the one having just started the program in December.

Our most successful avenues of recruitment continue to stem from our relationship with Hononegah High School's experiential learning programs. Our interaction with Heather Plourde's Health 2 class and our participation in Hononegah High School's Lunch and Learn job fairs have helped to keep our program visible to the community, as well as provide us opportunities to talk about the Fire Cadet program to those young adults interested in the Fire

Service and/or EMS career paths. We also continue to work closely with Hononegah High School instructor Sharon Bowman as a registered organization in her work-study program. Participation in this program affords our Fire Cadets the opportunity to receive high school credit for participation in our Fire Cadet program.

Over the course of this last year, we noted an increased interest in Emergency Medical Services amongst our Fire Cadets; with four of our Fire Cadets enrolling in an EMT-B class. To further accommodate our Fire Cadets' interests, we have expanded our program's curriculum to include education about the Emergency Medical Services aspect of the Fire Service, which includes allowing our Fire Cadets, on a limited basis, to ride on the ambulance with our ambulance crew so that they can get an unbiased look at what being an EMT is like.

I would also like to give extra recognition to Cadet Advisors Tori Viel and Taylor LeVeque, all of whom have greatly assisted with managing the Fire Cadet monthly schedule, program applicant interviews, onboarding, and teaching.

In summary, I believe that we have made good progress in growing and evolving our program over this last year. Ultimately, all our biggest successes can be traced back to our Fire Cadets – without their hard work and dedication any progress we have made would not have been possible.



***Emergency Medical Service / Community CPR Program Report
By Deputy Chief Dan Ewers***



**Rockton Fire Protection District 2024 EMS
Summary:**

The Rockton Fire Protection District's Emergency Medical Service continues to provide the highest level of advanced life support and emergency services to our residents and surrounding communities. In 2024, the number of emergency medical transports was 695 with 891 patient contacts.

The fire district's overall call volume for fire and EMS services totaled 1,481 in 2024, an increase of 5.48% from 2023. In 2023, the district answered 1,404 calls.

Rockton Fire Protection District 2024 Emergency Medical Service Summary:

- 891 - Patient Contact
- 695 - Ambulance Transports
- 156 - Non-Transports (includes refusal of transport or no transport needed).
- 164 - Lift Assists / Public Assist / Police Assist / Other assistance.
- 83 - Motor vehicle accidents, motorcycle or other vehicles.
- 6:22 - Average response times (minutes / seconds).
- 473 - EMS Calls between the hours of 6pm-6am.
- 367 - EMS calls between the hours of 6am-6pm.
- 426.5 - Hours of EMS related continued education training.

Public Education – CPR & First Aid Training



The Rockton Fire Protection District continues to provide our community education with offering CPR and First Aid courses. The district provided BLS / CPR or Community Heartsaver CPR / First Aid to a record 291 individuals in 2024. Classes included local Boy & Girl Scout Troops, Rockton area schoolteachers, Hononegah High School Students, health care professionals, Rockton Firefighters, Rockton Police Officers as well as many residents throughout the community. Our dedicated instructors, Mary Kiser, Lanny Wong, and Maggie Henthorn, take pride in their community and their continued support is greatly appreciated. Their outstanding teaching talents are second to none.





Rockton Fire Protection District Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Resource Hospital/Medical Control Change

2024 brought in a new change with our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Medical Control and resource hospital guidance. The Rockton Fire Protection District was previously affiliated with UW Health Swedish American as our Medical Direction/Control resource hospital for the past 17 years. We thank UW Health Swedish American for those years of guidance and medical direction to Rockton Fire.



On December 1, 2024, the Rockton Fire Protection District began our affiliation with Mercyhealth Prehospital Emergency Services in Rockford, Illinois. The Rockton Fire Protection District is excited to be a part of the Mercyhealth family, and we look forward to working with Mercyhealth for many years to come.

To the members of the Rockton Fire Protection District, Chief Kirk Wilson, and the Rockton Fire Protection District Board of Trustees, I say “Thank You” for your hard work, continued support, and dedication to the Emergency Medical Services program at Rockton Fire Protection District. We shall continue to move forward providing the highest quality emergency medical services & advanced life support to the residents of our community and the surrounding area.



Fire Prevention Report

By Fire Prevention Inspector Andrew Warner



The Rockton Fire Protection District prides itself on ensuring a fire safe community. The Fire Prevention Bureau remained active in 2024 and completed 76 business inspections. The bureau worked alongside local business owners ensuring alarm systems and sprinkler installation projects were up to code. The Village Green Apartments on Salem Street received a “full sweep” inspection ensuring all residents were equipped with working smoke alarms.

Allowing the fire district to have access to local businesses may save the property owners expense by installing a “Knox Box”. A Knox Box is a secure key system that provides emergency personnel access to buildings during emergencies. The boxes are installed on the outside of buildings and contain keys to the building's interior. If there is an emergency on your property, fire personnel may have to force entry causing damage to entryways. Only the fire district has access to our local Knox Boxes.

The fire inspection bureau also implemented a “Knox Box Maintenance Program” ensuring all boxes located in our response area are operational and accessible. A database was created ensuring all Knox Boxes throughout the fire district are recorded and maintained. If you’re interested in a Knox Box for your business, simply call the fire station and we’ll provide the information necessary to purchase one.



Business Knox Box

Since 2006, the Rockton Fire Protection District has been providing access key lock boxes for residents that may have limited mobility or may not be able to open their door for first responders. Mounting a secure lock box on your home will reduce the time needed to get to you during an emergency. It also reduces damage to your home if first responders need to force entry.

Lock Boxes are at no cost to our residents. If you would like a lock box, simply drop by the fire station with your door key Monday – Friday between the hours of 9am-2pm. Fire personnel will install the box for you. If you have questions, please call the fire station at 815-624-6010.



Residential Lock Box

Annually, our educational facilities are inspected. We successfully worked alongside the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Regional Board of Education ensuring Hononegah High School, Whitman Post / Rockton Elementary Schools, and Stephen Mack Middle School were properly inspected ensuring a fire safe occupancy. The fire district also played an important role working alongside school officials updating emergency action plans.

Community Service Report
By Public Relations Liaison Taylor LeVeque



The Rockton Fire Protection District Public Relations Division had an exceptional year in participating in events throughout the community. We also participated in local events with the surrounding communities as well. Our members take pride in serving our community. Having the ability to educate our future generations continues to give our members great pleasure. We were involved in many community events and here is a list of some we supported during 2024.

Annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive: In March 2024, the Rockton Fire Protection District and Rockton Police held their annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive. It was great seeing the community come out and support this very important cause.



Hononegah Community High School Lunch and Learn & Career Fair: Rockton Fire was involved in participating in the Hononegah Community High School's Lunch and Learn Career Fair. The members were able to show and explain to the students what this career field encompasses.

Station Tours and Rockton Lions Club Wimpy's Fund Firetruck Ride to School:

The first half of the year entailed numerous station tours for various groups within the community and the fire department was able to partner with the Rockton Lions Club Wimpy's Foundation to donate two certificates for a free firetruck ride to school.

Jaimie Cox Memorial Motorcycle Ride:

The fire district was able to show their support honoring fallen Rockford Police Officer Jaimie Cox during their annual memorial motorcycle ride by displaying our Ladder truck and a large American flag.



Rockton-Roscoe Rotary Rib Fest:

On July 20th, local fire departments came together to compete for bragging rights on who had the best BBQ ribs. Shirland Fire Department won "Best Ribs" for 2024. All proceeds from this event are used to fund the Rotary scholarship fund. In the past five years a total of over \$20,000 has been raised to give scholarships to seniors from Hononegah High School and South Beloit High School.



Shirland's annual 4th of July Parade:

The fire district wrapped up the summer by attending Shirland's annual Fourth of July Parade, handing out candy and greeting kids throughout the parade route.



Blues & BBQ:

In September, we took part in the Rockton Police Association “Blues & BBQ” event. The fire district provided a fire prevention station and ladder truck rides. The Rockton Firefighters Association sold T-shirts and loaded baked potatoes with a portion of the proceeds being donated to the Jaimie Cox Memorial Foundation supporting our local law enforcement officers.



Open House:

October was a very busy month for the fire district with fire prevention week activities and our annual open house. We had an increase in public attendance, and the community was able to view all our apparatus and equipment. We provided ladder truck rides as well as activities for the kids to get the feeling of what it's like to spray the fire hose. The community enjoyed seeing what all the hours of training entail and the equipment we use in case of an emergency.



Rockton & Whitman Post Grade School Visits:

In addition, the department has got to extend their knowledge to the young students by visiting the Rockton Grade and Whitman Post Schools and teaching them about fire safety.



Main Street Trunk or Treat:

We wrapped up the month of October by passing out candy at the American Legion's “Main Street Trunk or Treat”. The kids were also able to get pictures with the members and the fire trucks.

Rockton Village Lighted Christmas Parade:

December was a great way to end the year by bringing joy to those within the community. We attended the annual Village of Rockton Lighted Christmas Parade with a variety of our apparatus. Everyone enjoyed seeing Santa and our members handed out candy to all the kids along the parade route.

Shop with a Hero & Toys for Tots:

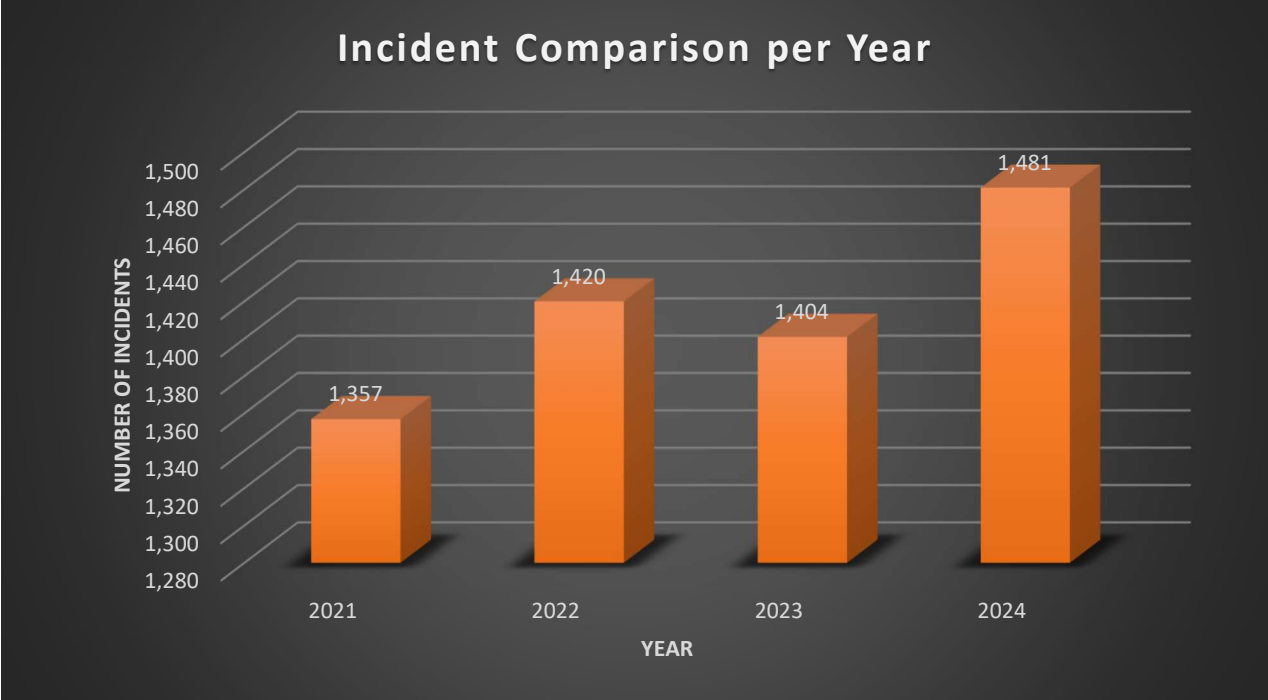
The final event of the year was participating with the Rockton Police during their annual “Shop with a Hero” event. Members had the privilege of shopping alongside families and see all the new toys the kids were able to get for Christmas. The Rockton Fire Association had a busy month with a Christmas donation to a family in need of some food and gifts for the holidays. They also contributed to the “Toys for Tots” toy drive with many members of the community coming together to donate toys.



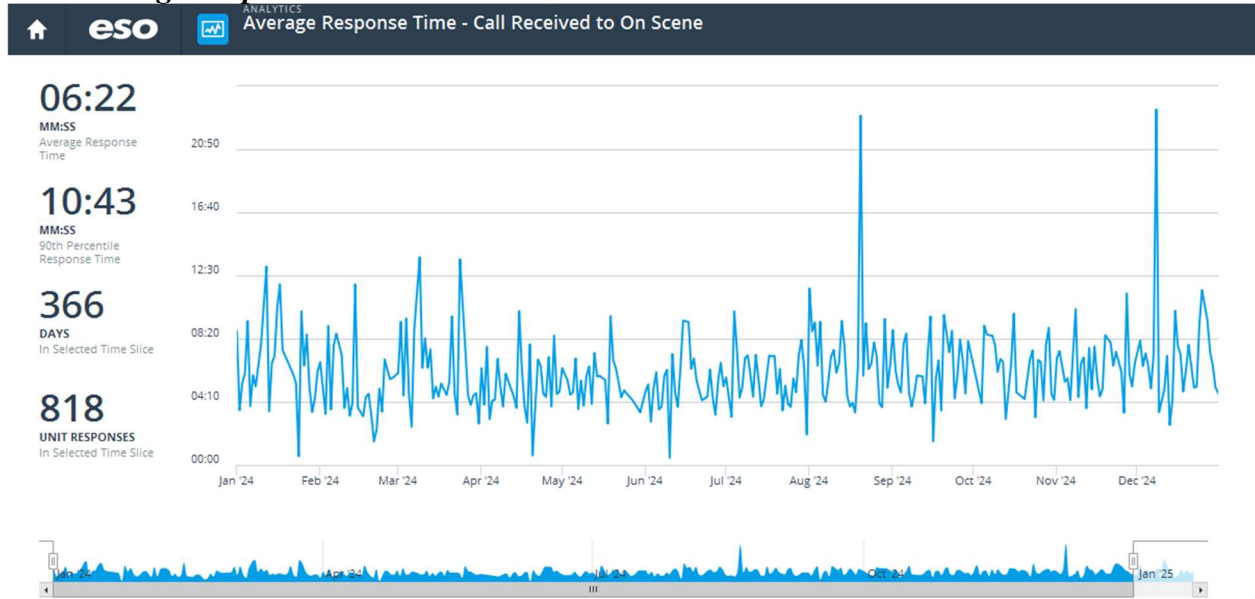
Overall, all our members enjoyed the time spent with our community and being able to educate those that we serve and protect is always a pleasure. We can’t wait to see what 2025 brings. If you would like to schedule an event in 2025, you can contact me at publicrelations@rocktonfire.com.

2024 Incident Summary

Fire Incidents	87
EMS / Ambulance Calls	930
Hazardous Materials / fuel spill / Electrical	50
Dispatched / Cancelled while responding	197
False Alarms	53
Public Service Calls	164
Total:	1481



2024 Average Response Time Data



Non-emergency calls are not included.
 Canceled calls and false alarms are not included.
 All calls are within the fire district boundaries (mutual aid calls to other communities are not included).

NFPA 1720 Response Time Standard 2014 Edition

Staffing and Deployment Standards for Volunteer Fire Departments

<i>Demand Zone</i>	<i>Demographics</i>	<i>Minimum staff to respond</i>	<i>Response Time (Minutes)</i>	<i>Meets Objective (%)</i>
Urban	> 1000 People	15	9:00	90%
Suburban	500-1000 People	10	10:00	80%
Rural	< 500 people per square mile	6	14:00	80%
Remote Area	Travel Distance > 8 miles	4	Dependent on travel distance	90%
Special Risk	Determined by the AHJ	Determined by AHJ based on risk	Determined by AHJ	90%

- The Rockton Fire Protection District is considered Rural (22,000 residents divided by 54 square miles = 404 people per square mile).
- The Rockton Fire Protection District currently exceeds NFPA 1720 standards.
- The Average Percentile Response Time is 10:43 which is under the required 14:00 minute response time for rural communities.



Loyalty - Pride - Tradition