

Know your Hartford Fire and Rescue Dept.

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What do you know about Hartford Fire and Rescue?

Most people know that when you call 911 with a fire or medical emergency some big red trucks will show up at your door with individuals ready to help resolve whatever the problem may be. You know that some of your tax money is used to pay for these services, but would you like to know more about what makes up our dept.

The Hartford Fire and Rescue Dept. typically have 55 – 60 active members at one time.

40 – 45 Firefighters, 10 – 15 additional EMT members. Many of the Firefighters are also Cross-trained as EMT's as well.

Part of the reason for our changing roster is the fact that younger members often get trained with Hartford Fire and Rescue, find that they love the ability to serve others and seek Full-time Fire and/or EMS employment in other parts of the state. And former members of Hartford Fire and Rescue are often at the top of the list for other departments. This is why new members often seek to join the organization here in Hartford.

Is Hartford Fire and Rescue a full time dept.?

Hartford Fire and rescue is what could be considered a Combination Dept. There are 3 full time Employees.

Fire Chief – Paul Stephens

Fire Inspector/Administrator/Safety Office – Ann Fry-Eickstedt

AEMT Lieutenant/Administrator – Shari Pfeifer

AEMT Lieutenant - Kyle Wenzel

Other Officers and Truck Engineers do get some compensation for additional responsibilities of their position.

The entire membership is a paid per call department. The members are compensated from the time they are responding to the station for a call, until the call is finished and an officer or EMT in charge releases the rest of the members as all responsibilities have been completed.

During the week, Monday – Friday, there are several part time members that staff 6AM – 6PM, primarily for EMS calls, but also complete other duties around the station and assist with Fire inspections and Fire Safety presentations as well. Most of the time, there is one member on shift, but occasionally, a second one is brought in if there are projects or events that warrant the additional help.

On Weekends, the Department is staffed with 3 EMS members that are compensated from 6PM on Friday until 6PM on Sunday to respond with the Primary Ambulance for all medical needs within the coverage area. This is broken into two 24 hour shifts. So there are two separate crews work each

weekend. There are 8 separate crews that handle these responsibilities which has each crew working once every 4 weeks.

What type of training do members have?

There are various levels of training within the department and also various levels of experience.

Firefighters can have any or all of the following training.

- Firefighter I – required for all new members before any active firefighting can be experienced.
- Firefighter II
- Fire Officer
- Hazmat Operations – Required for all entry level firefighters
- Hazmat Technician – Required to become a member of the County Hazmat Team
- Driver/Operator
- Aerial Operator
- Fire Inspector
- EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) To respond as driver for Ambulance
- Many other specialty training courses.

EMS (Emergency Medical Service) can be trained at the following levels

- EMR (As stated above, for Firefighters to respond as driver for Ambulance)
- EMT Basic
- EMT Intermediate (IV –Tech)
- EMT Advanced (Paramedic)
- Hazmat Operations
- Hazmat Technician
- Many other specialty training courses.

In addition to the initial trainings needed to perform the duties required, training is an ongoing effort. In-house Fire Training is conducted every 3rd and 4th Monday of each month (except when Holidays conflict). In-house EMS Training is conducted every 3rd Tuesday of the month. EMS personnel are required to attend a refresher for their level of licensure every 2 years. Hazmat Operations and technicians are required to attend a refresher every year as well.

Often, trainings are conducted within the community so you may see the department in action at times improving their skills and learning new tasks that may assist in making the community safer.

There is a Business meeting conducted on the 2nd Monday of every month to discuss departmental updates on equipment, activities, concerns and other information as needed.

The officers also have a meeting on the 1st Monday of every month to prepare for upcoming activities, trainings, and other communications as needed.

Several committees are in existence as needed, some ongoing, and others as events come up that are staffed by the membership. Some of these are Health & Safety, Truck Committees (When new trucks are being specified for purchase), Fire Prevention, and Others.

What is the chain of command with Hartford Fire and Rescue?

- Fire Chief
- Assistant Fire Chief
- Deputy Fire Chief

All of the above identified on scene by white helmets.

- 3 Captains – 2 with primary Fire responsibility and 1 Cross Fire/EMS responsibility

Captains identified on scene by red helmets

- 4 Lieutenants – 1 primary Fire responsibility, 2 primary EMS responsibilities, and 1 with cross responsibility.

Lieutenants identified on scene by yellow helmets.

Any officer will assume command of a scene and may oversee the entire operation of the call, or if necessary, may pass command to another officer depending on the nature and size of the call.

Who shows up for Fire Calls?

For most Fire calls, it is assumed that all available firefighters and officers should respond to the station and be prepared to respond to the scene. For any major incidents, all EMS personnel will also be requested to respond to the scene.

There is a crew that is signed up on call for specific types of incidents (Car accidents, Carbon Monoxide Calls, EMS assist, and small fluid spills) This is called the Crash Crew. This crew will consist of

- One Officer
- One Pump Operator
- 2 Firefighters
- Ride-along (when trainees are on the department)

Hartford Fire and Rescue also has a very good working relationship with all of our neighboring departments and are very active in the support and use of the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) This a pre-planned system to obtain additional resource as needed without depleting any or all neighboring communities of resource during a major incident. With the use of this system, and depending on the location and size of the incident, there may also be responding units from one or more neighboring communities also responding to the scene. Or to Man the HFR station with their equipment for additional calls as needed.

Who shows up at Rescue Calls?

Hartford Fire and Rescue is considered an intermediate response department. Our primary response Ambulance is required to have and will have at least one EMT Intermediate (IV-Tech) and one EMT Basic. This is the minimum that will be on the 1st out ambulance. Since the department also has a second ambulance. The requirement is that the back-up crew as it is called must consist of at least 2 EMT-Basic's.

It is the policy of Hartford Fire and rescue to respond with at least 3 personnel on each ambulance. The crew generally consists of the above requirements and a driver. This driver may be another EMT, or could be an EMR. At times there may be a ride-along (generally someone in training.)

If both ambulances have been dispatched, the department will respond with one of two 1st responder vehicles with whatever available EMS personnel can respond. This crew will provide care until a department ambulance is available or until a neighboring community ambulance can arrive for transport.

If the Ambulance crew needs lift assistance, or if the nature of the call warrants additional personnel, the Fire dept. Crash Crew (as defined above) will be dispatched with the ambulance to assist.

Several of the EMT's on Hartford Fire and rescue have been trained to the EMT-Paramedic level, however as this is an EMT-Intermediate service, they will practice to this level when responding with Hartford Fire and Rescue as this is the scope of practice and the Licensure for the department.

What other types of calls do Firefighters and EMT's respond to?

Fires and Health Risk calls are not the only calls that HFR responds to. Here are several other types of calls that HFR will respond to when called upon.

Severe Weather (For Tornado Warnings, equipment is dispersed to several locations for 2 reasons, One to avoid a catastrophe that will eliminate all of the equipment at one time, and also to assist in weather spotting.)

Suspected Hazardous Materials release: Any type of suspected hazard from as small as gasoline leaking from a vehicle, to a Natural gas line being punctured, to an unknown chemical release from a facility or vehicle.

Lift Assist with no medical needs.

Search and rescue for missing persons on Land.

Ice Rescue.

A carbon monoxide detector that has activated.

What area is covered by Hartford Fire and Rescue?

Hartford Fire and Rescue covers the entire City of Hartford for all Fire and EMS and Hazardous situation calls. In addition the fire response area also covers much of the Town of Hartford, Town of Rubicon, Town of Herman, and the Town of Erin. EMS response covers a larger area of the same townships as well as the Village of Neosho. The following link shows a map of the current primary response area for Hartford Fire and EMS. http://www.co.washington.wi.us/uploads/docs/GIS_HartfordHybridMABAS.pdf Maps for the entire county and neighboring communities can be found at the Washington County GIS (Geographic Information System) Division Website.

<http://www.co.washington.wi.us/departments.iml?mdl=departments.mdl&ID=GIS>

What other Services does Hartford Fire and Rescue provide?

Hartford Fire and rescue is very active in many Community Events and Activities. The major department wide event annually is the Open House during Fire Prevention Week in early October. The Fire Station and EMS Garage are open and available for all to see. The Survive Alive trailer is active, as well as other static Historic and Functional displays of the Department capabilities. Refreshments and entertainment are also provided, especially for the Children of the community.

The department also provides battery replacement in smoke detectors during Change-your-Clock, Change-your-Battery drive every fall. The initiative is primarily directed towards seniors and others that struggle to reach and/or are able to change their own detector batteries. The program is growing every year and an important step in keeping our community safe. Around the same time of the year, the department also delivers Fire safety message, by delivering pizzas for Fire safety. Also the annual "Fill the Boot" campaign has been very successful in support of MDA.

Every year members of the Department provide continuing Fire and Health Safety Education to the youth within our response area. Depending on the Age level, school visits are conducted with the Survive Alive Trailer, while other age groups visit the station for safety instruction and a tour of the equipment. In addition information and visits are conducted for special request classes at the schools and Rec Center, such as babysitting, and Stay Home Alone classes.

HFR has multiple trained Child Passenger Safety Technicians that offer free inspections of car seats and booster seats as they are currently installed in your vehicle. The technicians will assess the safety of the seat and assist parents and caregivers with the proper installation of the seat as well as safely securing the child in the seat. (See link on HFR Home page for more details.)

Another program Hosted by HFR is CERT (Community Emergency Response Training). This is a training provided to any member of the community to help make them understand the nature of major disasters

or small incidents and how to prepare for them and how to respond to them to better protect their families and assist their neighbors in a time of crisis.

EMS Staff is provided annually as well, for all HUHS Home Football games, Hartford Youth Football games, Hartford Sideliners "Kick the Grass" Soccer Tourney, Hartford Youth Wrestling Tourney, Neosho Snowmobile Races, and many other activities that may arise, other than on an annual basis.

Hartford Fire and rescue also participates in all parades sponsored by the City, many memorial Events, The annual Fireworks, and other events such as "Touch a Truck", and other safety days promoted by several merchants in the community.

What type of Profession organizations is Harford Fire and Rescue part of?

Members may belong to various Professional Organizations individually and this is encouraged by the dept. In addition, the Dept. has representatives attend several area Organizations such as the following.

- Badger Firefighters Association
- Washington County Emergency Management
- Washington County Fire Chiefs
- Dodge County Fire Chiefs
- Washington County Training Officers
- Dodge County Training Officers
- Washington County EMS
- Dodge County EMS
- Washington County Hazmat

What else does Hartford Fire and Rescue do?

Hartford Fire and Rescue does promote a family atmosphere and encourages members and family members to participate in activities not directly related to Fire and EMS service that help build a sense of community. Some of the activities listed below. HFR has often represented well in these activities

- Holiday Parade Float
- Dodge County Tournament
 - Softball Tourney
 - Dodge County Fire Queen Competition
 - Water Fighting
 - Parade (Marching)
- Water fighting competitions in other communities

When an active or retired member, close family member, community dignitary or respected member of another department, happen to lose their battle with an extended or sudden illness, the Department will come together to support the family in their time of loss. The Harford Fire and Rescue Dept. will

attend the visitation as a Department in full dress uniform, greeting the family while paying respect to the deceased and then falling into formation for a moment of silence with a simultaneous removal of the caps. This can be a very moving experience.

Hopefully this will give you a little more insight to the people (your neighbors) that give of their time. And work to make the Hartford Area Community a safer and happier place to live. If you would like additional information on any of the topics listed above, or would like to consider becoming a member of the HFR family, please call or stop in to Hartford Fire and Rescue during normal business hours at the number listed on the Home page.