

LOMBARD

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024





OUR MISSION

The Lombard Fire Department is dedicated to the preservation of life and property through professional services provided by skilled personnel.

STRATEGIC PLAN

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Competent workforce
- Efficient service delivery
- Improving operational effectiveness

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Obtain/maintain certifications
- Succession planning
- Understanding role/responsibilities

PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION

- Improving working relationships with other departments, intradepartmental agencies, as well as relevant outside agencies (e.g. DuComm, ETSB)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Increase non-emergency contracts to meet needs of the whole community



VILLAGE BOARD

Keith Giagnorio, Village President

Liz Brezinski, Village Clerk

Brian LaVaque, Trustee - District 1

Anthony Puccio, Trustee - District 2

Bernie Dudek, Trustee - District 3

Andrew Honig, Trustee - District 4

Dan Militello, Trustee - District 5

Bob Bachner, Trustee - District 6

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Scott Niehaus, Village Manager

Nicole Aranas, Assistant Village Manager

Tim Sexton, Finance Director

Rick Sander, Fire Chief

Tom Wirsing, Police Chief

Carl Goldsmith, Director of Public Works

Kathleen Dunne, Director of Human Resources

Bill Heniff, Director of Community Development



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK



As we close out the year, I want to take a moment to thank our personnel for their service and dedication to our community. We continue to be one of the busiest departments in DuPage County and our success as an organization is a testament to their hard and dedication each day.

I also want to thank our entire Lombard community for their continued and unwavering support.

As we look back on 2024, I would like to highlight some of our achievements:

- ◆ Continued planning for a third fire station.
- ◆ Hired a new Administrative Specialist.
- ◆ Hired a second Deputy Chief.
- ◆ Hired four new firefighter/paramedics and celebrated the retirement of one firefighter.
- ◆ Took delivery of a new Tower Ladder and ordered a new ambulance and a new engine.
- ◆ Replaced our existing firefighting foam with a firefighting foam that does not contain per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The new foam is more environmentally friendly.
- ◆ Updated department policies.

In 2025, we will continue to strive for excellence every day and meet new challenges and opportunities head on.

Sincerely,

Rick Sander

Fire Chief



A detailed map of the Lombard Fire Department's service area, showing various streets and fire station locations. The map is color-coded by station: Station 45 (pink), Station 44 (light blue), Station 441 (green), Station 443 (light green), Station 445 (purple), and Station 449 (light blue). A red fire department emblem is overlaid on the bottom left of the map.

OVERVIEW

The Fire Department serves a population of approximately 44,000 residents and protects approximately eleven (11) square miles of corporate Lombard and unincorporated areas of DuPage County. The Department responds to emergency and non-emergency incidents out of two strategically located fire stations that are staffed 24 hours a day by sworn full-time firefighter/paramedics.

Fire Station 45 (Headquarters) is located at 50 East St. Charles Road, and deploys two front line Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances and one front line ALS engine. This station also houses staff and reserve vehicles.

Fire Station 44 is located at 2020 South Highland Avenue. This station deploys one front line ALS engine, one front line ALS tower ladder, one front line ALS ambulance, and one front line battalion chief vehicle.

The minimum daily staffing of both stations combined is sixteen (16) personnel. The Lombard Fire Department is one of the busiest in DuPage County. In 2024, the Department responded to 8,125 calls for assistance.

The Department also provides fire safety programs to our schools, public education for our citizens, and fire inspections for our residents and business community through our Bureau of Fire Prevention.

FIRE STATIONS



FIRE STATION 45

50 E. St. Charles Road

- ♦ Administration
- ♦ Training & EMS Division
- ♦ Engine 45
- ♦ Medic 45
- ♦ Medic 47



FIRE STATION 44

2020 S. Highland Avenue

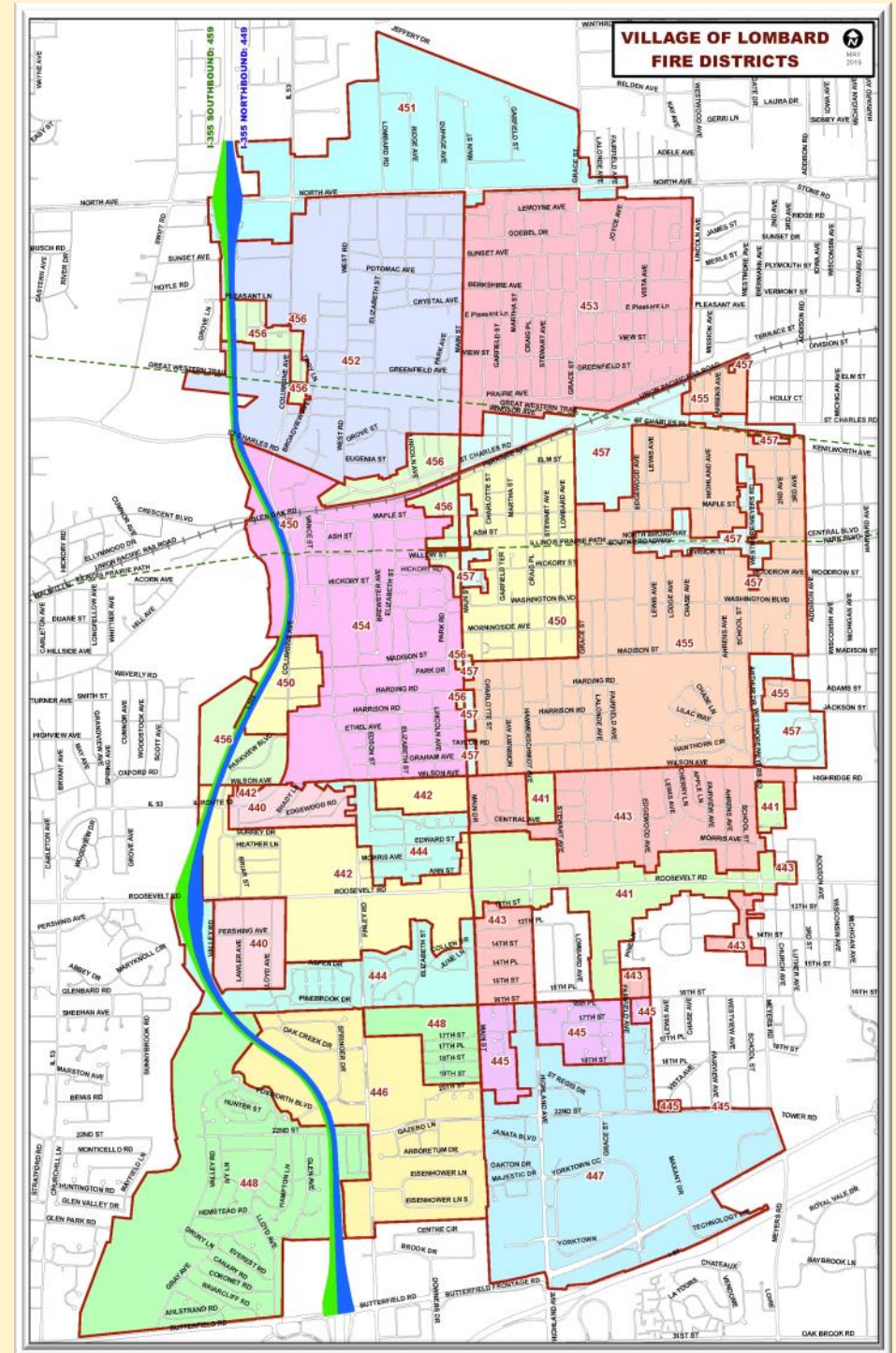
- ♦ Engine 44
- ♦ Tower 44
- ♦ Medic 44
- ♦ Battalion 44



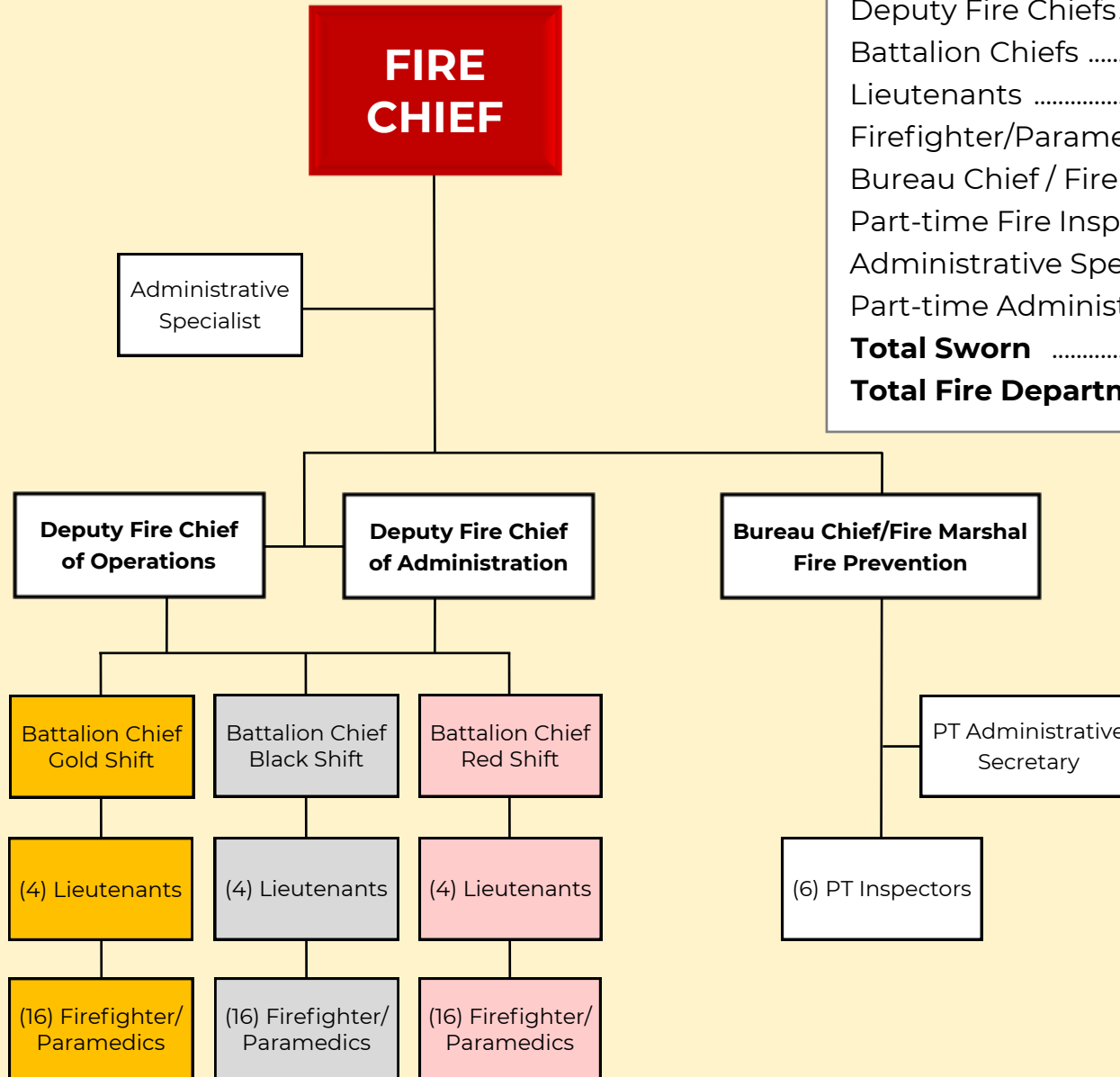
DEMOGRAPHICS

The Department provides coverage within Village limits and surrounding unincorporated areas.

*Serving the
Community of Lombard
Since 1913*



DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL



Fire Chief	1
Deputy Fire Chiefs.....	2
Battalion Chiefs	3
Lieutenants	12
Firefighter/Paramedics	48
Bureau Chief / Fire Marshal	1
Part-time Fire Inspectors	6
Administrative Specialist	1
Part-time Administrative Secretary	1
Total Sworn	66
Total Fire Department Personnel	75

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION



Deputy Fire Chief
GEORGE HYLAND



Fire Chief
RICK SANDER



Deputy Fire Chief
NATHAN GAC



Administrative Specialist
MAGGIE SOUTH



Fire Marshal / Bureau Chief
PERRY JOHNSON



Administrative Secretary
TINA WEATHERHEAD



DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

2024 TOTAL CALLS 8,125

EMS CALLS 6,250

FIRE CALLS 1,875

TOTAL CALLS FIRE STATION 45 3,579

EMS Calls FS45 2,845

FIRE Calls FS45 734

TOTAL CALLS FIRE STATION 44 4,546

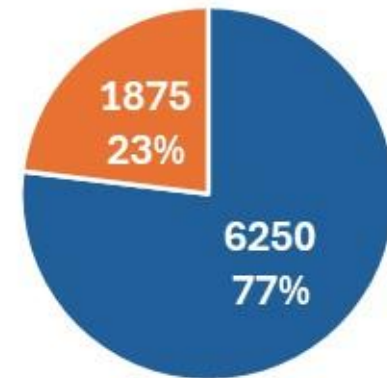
EMS Calls FS44 3,405

FIRE Calls FS44 1,141

Total Structure Fires 14

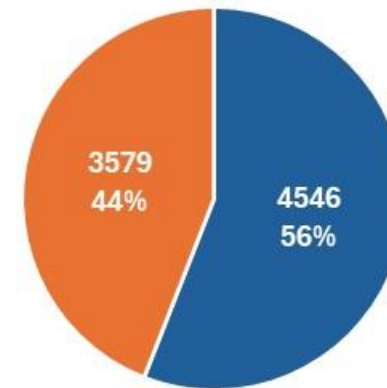
Estimated Property Loss \$934,000

FIRE/EMS CALL DISTRIBUTION



■ EMS CALLS ■ FIRE CALLS

FIRE/EMS CALLS by FIRE STATION



■ STATION 44 ■ STATION 45



DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

2024 Calls 8,125

EMS Calls 6,250

FIRE Calls 1,875

2023 Calls 7,691

EMS Calls 6,051

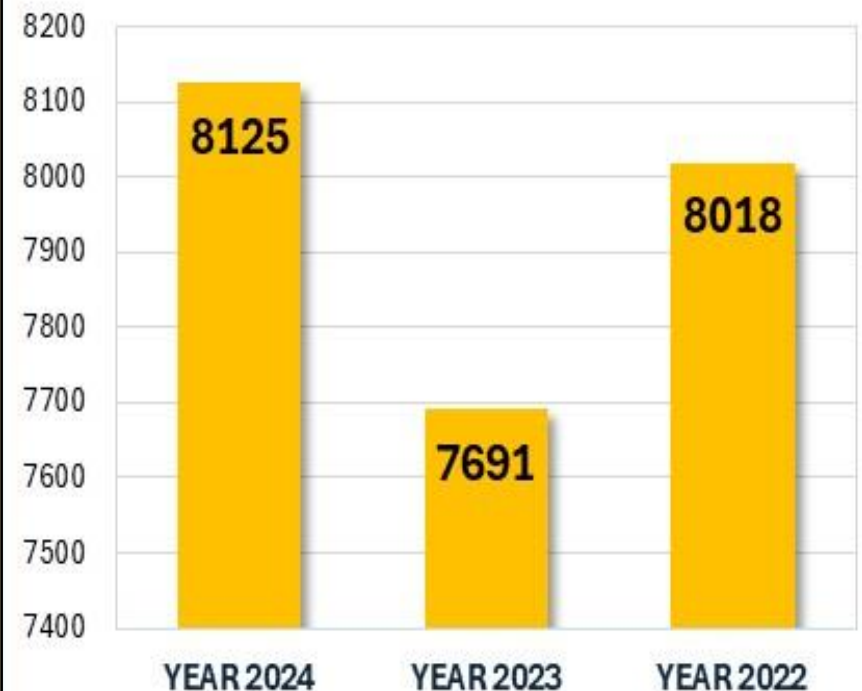
FIRE Calls 1,640

2022 Calls 8,018

EMS Calls 6,272

FIRE Calls 1,746

CALL VOLUME COMPARISON





FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The Fire Prevention Bureau is overseen by the Fire Marshal/Bureau Chief, and includes one part-time Administrative Secretary and six part-time Fire Inspectors.

The Bureau handles a variety of duties which include:

- ♦ Fire Safety Inspections
- ♦ Fire Alarm and Suppression System Inspections
- ♦ Building Certificate of Occupancy Life Safety Inspections
- ♦ Public and Private School Fire Safety Inspections
- ♦ Fire Alarm and Fire Suppression Plan Reviews
- ♦ Fire Code and Regulation Inquiries

There are approximately 2,400 commercial businesses within the Village. The Fire Inspectors conduct inspections of these businesses on a regular basis to encourage and confirm compliance of the fire and life safety codes. The number of annual inspections may change due to a change in building use, occupancy, remodeling, new construction, and the willingness of the owner/occupant to comply with the violation. During 2024, the Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 1,844 inspections.

Plan reviews of sprinkler and fire alarm systems continue to be steady throughout the year. The Fire Prevention Bureau reviewed 347 Plans; including 57 Sprinkler Plans, 99 Fire Alarm Plans, 36 Special Events, 134 Site Plans, and 21 other specialized systems.

Over the course of the year, 750 Fire Alarm Reports were reviewed, including 196 False Fire Alarms. Fire Prevention Bureau also issued 29 smoke detectors in residential homes, along with installing 28 Residential Knox HomeBoxes.

Plans for 2025

- ♦ Continue to participate in a Fire Safety Education and Smoke Alarm Installation Program, administered cooperatively between the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance (IFSA) and the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- ♦ Continue to promote the Residential Knox HomeBox™ as an option to homeowners for rapid access to a residence for a variety of emergencies
- ♦ Continue to provide professional service and code enforcement, to assist our business partners in maintaining a safe community
- ♦ Work closely with Building Division and Board of Building Appeals on future introduction of new building and fire codes and local amendments

The Fire Prevention Bureau works diligently to keep our community a safe place to live and work. With the continued support of the Village officials and continued training of staff, we shall achieve our goals.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Lombard Fire Department staffs seven advanced life support (ALS) vehicles capable of providing the highest level of emergency medical care on a daily basis. This includes three (3) ambulances, two (2) fire engines and one (1) tower ladder making a total daily staffing of 16 members. The fire engines and tower ladder can provide the same level of care (ALS) as the ambulances.

In 2024, the department responded to 6,250 medical calls, broken into low, medium and high risk. An example of a low-risk EMS call handled by the ambulance crew (staffed with two members) is a sprained ankle, a medium risk EMS call is a vehicle accident, and a high-risk call is one that requires more resources such as a stroke, seizures or cardiac arrest, normally handled with at least five responding members on two vehicles.

EMS CALLS	2024 DEPARTMENT TOTAL	DISTRICT 44 SOUTH PORTION OF VILLAGE	DISTRICT 45 NORTHWEST PORTION OF VILLAGE	DISTRICT 47 NORTHEAST PORTION OF VILLAGE	MUTUAL AID TO OTHER TOWNS
High Risk EMS	1192	667	228	289	8
Medium Risk EMS	302	134	107	49	12
Low Risk EMS	4756	2789	732	1145	90
Total Calls	6250	3590	1067	1483	110

The department purchased new auto-ventilators and video laryngoscopes this year. Video laryngoscopes are tools that allow of the effective and efficient placement of an advanced airway (intubation) by our paramedics. This procedure is done on our most serious calls and provides a secure path for the delivery of oxygen to patients that cannot breathe for themselves. Often, they are used in conjunction with the auto-ventilators. The ventilators control the rate and volume of oxygen delivered to patients that are intubated and can not breath. The use of these advanced tools increases the number of positive patient outcomes. There is significant training that goes into the use of these life-saving tools and every member of the department practices these skills on a regular basis.

Every year, each member of the department receives over 25 hours of EMS specific training directed by the Good Samaritan EMS System, the State of Illinois and self-identified opportunities. This training covers topics including CPR, cardiac event diagnosis, stroke assessment, medication administration and medical care for patients of all age groups. Additionally, the department trained with the Police Department on Rescue Task Forces operations, a cooperative program on responding to active shooter/mass casualty events.



TRAINING DIVISION

In 2024, the LFD Training Division continued its mission of providing training for all Department members that is realistic, relevant, and relatable, to deliver outstanding service to the residents of Lombard and its surrounding communities. Practical hands-on training evolutions were completed at the Lombard Training Facility located behind Station 44, as well as at acquired structures within the Village. The Training Division was responsible for over 11,444 hours of training in 2024, including over 2,000 hours in elective outside classes. This training met the standards set by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, The National Fire Protection Association, The Illinois Department of Labor, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Center for Disease Control, and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

In 2024, the Training Division coordinated the training of four newly hired Firefighter/ Paramedics. Probationary firefighters spend nine weeks at a regional fire academy taught by some of the area's most experienced firefighters and fire officers. Following this nine-week academy training, probationary members then complete two additional weeks of in-house training before being assigned to their shift. Once on shift, members spend the remainder of their probationary year completing a rigorous training program along with their regular Fire/EMS duties.



TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

The members of the Technical Rescue Team (TRT) are trained in specialty rescues involving trench collapse, high angle rope rescue of window washers/construction workers, sewer or tank workers injured or overcome by hazardous environments, a building collapse due to weather, earthquakes or man-made events, or difficult vehicle/machinery accidents. Lombard Fire Department's TRT brought on two new members to the team, FF/PM Dalton Huftel and FF/PM Pat Schlueter, making a full team of eight members. Three of the team's members have completed all TRT certifications and are considered "deployable" for MABAS Division 12's TRT. Also, FF/PM Studnicka has stepped up to be the Assistant Coordinator of the team. In 2024, two members completed Vehicle and Machinery Technician and another member completed Rope Technician.

Member	Rope Rescue	Trench Rescue	Confined Space	Structural Collapse	Vehicle/Machinery	Deployable
Lieutenant Sally	Technician	Technician	Technician	Technician	Technician	Yes
FF/PM Farris	Technician	Technician	Technician	Technician	Operations	Yes
FF/PM Trapani	Technician	Technician	Technician	Technician	Technician	Yes
FF/PM Stevens	Technician	Technician	Technician	Operations	Operations	No
FF/PM Studnicka	Technician	-	Operations	Operations	Operations	No
FF/PM Gunn	Technician	-	-	-	Operations	No
FF/PM Huftel	-	-	-	-	-	No
FF/PM Schlueter	-	-	-	-	-	No

Operations = First Level of Certification
 Technician = Second Level of Certification



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Our Public Education teams delivered another year of Fire and Life Safety Programs for both kindergarten and 3rd grade students in all of Lombard's public and parochial schools. Thank you to the following members who make up the Public Education Division:

- ◆ FF/PM Rob Blockinger
- ◆ FF/PM Brian Kurth
- ◆ FF/PM Brennen Legan
- ◆ FF/PM Mike Batiz



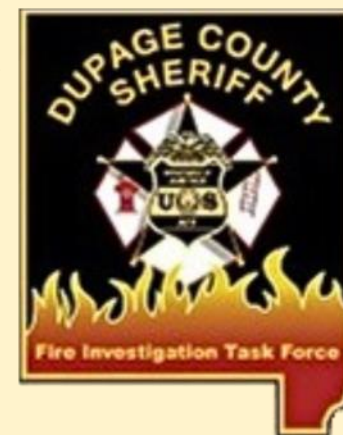
FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT



The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) investigates any significant fire; whether they are initially suspicious or not. A thorough fire investigation provides the Fire Department with a better understanding of the causes of fires, the ways fires spread, and the procedures to prevent future fires. Fire investigations have also led to the discovery of defects in home appliances and other electronics resulting in product recalls which in turn can help prevent similar fires from occurring elsewhere. The Unit, overseen by Commander Corvett, is comprised of one Arson Investigator and six Certified Fire Investigators. In 2024, the FIU investigated 11 structure fires. Lombard FIU requested the assistance of the DuPage County Fire Investigation Task

Force for one incident. Requesting the DCFITF brings in extra resources for Lombard Fire Investigators to utilize.

The Fire Investigation Unit provides two members to the DuPage County Fire Investigation Task Force. The DuPage County Fire Investigation Task Force was established in 1999 to assist local municipalities in processing & investigating significant fires of questionable origin. The Task Force is comprised of Federal, State and Local investigators from 36 fire service & law enforcement agencies in DuPage County. Teams of Task Force investigators are available to respond to assist in origin and cause investigations. Task Force resources include: ATF, FBI, DuPage County Sheriff's Office Forensic Investigations Unit, Hazardous Devices Unit, Crime Laboratory, Office of the State Fire Marshal, DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, accelerant detection K-9s, electrical engineers, and demolition & shoring.



HAZMAT TEAM

The Hazardous Materials Team is comprised of four dedicated members. The team is trained to respond to hazardous material incidents within the Village of Lombard and when called upon by MABAS Division 12 for incidents in the DuPage County area. Team members have taken additional classes to attain the Hazardous Material Technician designation at a minimum, with many attending additional classes over and above the technician requirement. Our team members regularly attend monthly MABAS Division 12 training on various topics throughout the year. Over half the team exceeded the annual training requirements this past year. Lombard Fire Department HazMat Team Members routinely coordinated with their shift leadership and members to handle many hazardous incident calls. This past year these responses ranged from small- to large-scale natural gas leaks, fuel spills, and unknown substance investigations.





TACTICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) team is a specialized, multi-agency unit designed to provide rapid medical intervention during critical incidents. Organized under the METRO SWAT umbrella, the team consists of 10 highly trained Paramedics drawn from five fire departments throughout DuPage County. Notably, the team includes 3 members from the Lombard Fire Department, reinforcing their capacity to operate effectively within the region. In addition, the TEMS team benefits from seamless coordination with personnel from DuPage County fire departments, police departments, and dispatch centers. This integrated approach enables the team to respond efficiently to complex emergencies, combining tactical expertise with advanced medical support to enhance overall public safety.

Over the past year, the TEMS team has made significant strides in training, operational readiness, and interagency collaboration. The 3 LFD TEMS members dedicated a cumulative 502 hours to training over the past year, reinforcing their expertise in both tactical operations and emergency medical services. TEMS members are required to attend two 8-hour trainings per month unless on duty at the fire department. In addition, TEMS members are required to attend “Team Week,” a 5-day mid-year comprehensive assessment of team knowledge, skills and abilities. Team Week concludes with a full-scale scenario that integrates SWAT Operators, Tactical Medics, Snipers, Dispatchers, Negotiators, Fire/EMS, and role players. This extensive training ensures that team members are well-prepared for the challenges they may encounter during callouts.

Two new Lombard Paramedics were elevated to full deployable status in 2024. These medics successfully completed both SWAT school and Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) training, significantly enhancing the team’s operational capabilities. Their advanced skills contribute to a higher standard of care and responsiveness during critical incidents.

The METRO SWAT team responded to 12 callouts throughout the year, down from 15 the prior year. Possible callouts include hostage rescues, active shooter incidents, high-risk warrants, barricaded subject situations and assistance to other SWAT agencies. Each deployment provides invaluable practical experience and reinforces the importance of ongoing training and interagency cooperation.

The achievements of Lombard FD’s TEMS team over the past year—marked by extensive training, advanced certifications, and successful callouts—underscore their commitment to excellence in emergency response. The integration of highly trained Paramedics and the collaboration within the METRO SWAT framework have positioned the team to continue delivering exceptional service to the community. Moving forward, the team will build on this strong foundation, further enhancing its training programs and operational capabilities to meet future challenges.



NEW ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS

In April, the Department welcomed Nathan Gac as its second Deputy Chief. Nathan has over twenty years of service and has held multiple positions including Firefighter / Paramedic, Lieutenant, Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief, and Acting Chief. His knowledge, experience, and dedication to the fire service makes him a great fit to the Department.

In January, the Department welcomed Administrative Specialist Maggie South. Maggie has seven years of administrative experience and knowledge of working in a municipality.



Deputy Chief

NATHAN GAC

April 2024



Administrative Specialist

MAGGIE SOUTH

January 2024



NEW MEMBERS

In 2024, the Department welcomed four new Firefighter / Paramedics; Noah Plunge, John Horn, Justin Kirincich, and Sebastien Gonzalez. Each member completed their nine weeks of basic training as well as pre and post academy in-house training. They will continue as Probationary Firefighter / Paramedics for a 12-month period.



Pictured L to R: Deputy Chief Nathan Gac, Deputy Chief George Hyland, FF/PM Justin Kirincich, FF/PM John Horn, FF/PM Noah Plunge



Firefighter / Paramedic

NOAH PLUNGE

February 2024



Firefighter / Paramedic

JOHN HORN

May 2024



Firefighter / Paramedic

JUSTIN KIRINCICH

May 2024



Firefighter / Paramedic

SEBASTIEN GONZALEZ

September 2024



RETIREMENT

The Lombard Fire Department congratulated Firefighter / Paramedic Tim Moran on this retirement. Tim retired on February 3 after serving the community for over twenty-three years. Thank you for your many years of commitment, dedication, leadership, and service.



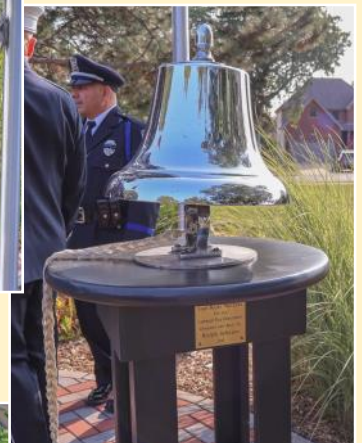
NEW VEHICLE

The Village of Lombard purchased a Pierce Enforcer 100' Tower Ladder providing the community with the highest level of service. The Tower Ladder went in to service in March at Fire Station 44. Thank you to committee members Lieutenant Gabe Suto, Lieutenant Tim Gorvett, Firefighter / Paramedic Bill Klein, Firefighter / Paramedic Alex Putz, and Firefighter / Paramedic Dieterich Herndobler for your expertise in developing the specifications, inspecting the vehicle, and mounting all the equipment.



9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

A brief public ceremony and a moment of silence was held at the Public Safety Plaza, outside Village Hall, to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice during the 9/11 tragedy.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - OPEN HOUSE

The Lombard Fire Department hosted its Annual Open House in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme was "SMOKE ALARMS: Make Them Work for You!" More than 300 guests and vendors came out to enjoy the festivities and learn about fire safety.



CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY

The fourth Citizens Fire Academy (CFA) was held in September 2024. Nine Lombard citizens attended a 5-week “Fire Academy”, which covered the following topics:

- ♦ Fire Department History and Operations
- ♦ Engine Operations
- ♦ Truck Operations
- ♦ Emergency Medical Services Operations
- ♦ Specialty Teams

Students attended the Academy on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and were given presentations in the classroom. The hands-on practical evolutions were held on a Saturday morning at the training tower. The last class coincided with the department’s annual Fire Prevention Week Open House where the department’s specialty teams had a demonstration and display that the Academy members and the public could view. Students from past CFAs formed an Alumni Group and assisted during the open house event this year.





FUNDRAISER

The Pink T-Shirt Fundraiser, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, raised over \$5,000 to support Good Samaritan Hospital's Bhorade Cancer Care Center.

Thank you to Firefighter/Paramedic Bob Hopper and Union Local 3009, for organizing this event. To date, this Annual Pink T-Shirt Fundraiser has raised over \$35,000. Thank you to all who have purchased a t-shirt and participated in raising awareness in the fight against cancer.



TOY DRIVE and PARADE

This year's 23rd Annual Toy Drive and Parade may have been our biggest collection so far! We added two new drop-off sites: Rep. Terra Costa Howard's office and Yorktown Mall. We also added two additional days of collection at the Yorktown Mall during their Small Business Saturday event and Saturday with Santa. Other drop-off locations included: Lombard Fire Stations, Lombard Village Hall, Helen Plum Library, Sunset Knolls Recreation Center, Madison Meadows Athletic Center, Lombard Ace Hardware, Clark Orthodontics, The Ladies Room, ThomKat Boutique, and Brust Funeral Home. The donations, benefitting Toy Express and Teen/Parent Connection, were expected to help over 240 children in Lombard this year.

Thank you to the Village, residents, and guests who continue to support this event, as well as Firefighter/Paramedic Rob Blockinger and Department Members who make this event a big success!



PROJECT FIRE BUDDIES

Project Fire Buddies (PFB) helps bring joy to kids struggling with critical illnesses. We believe that no child should fight these battles alone.

In 2024, our Chapter of Project Fire Buddies have been making regular check-ins with all of our Buddies and their families. Whether this is providing some much needed daily necessities for their families or to help make special celebrations such as birthdays and holidays extra special.

Unfortunately, in 2024, we did lose one of our Buddies to their illness. We continue to be a point of contact for the family to provide support, and also assisted in obtaining some needed supplies for a planned camping vacation.



SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1913



DUTY - PRIDE - TRADITION

