



**CITY OF WILKES-BARRE, PA
BUREAU OF FIRE**

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**MAYOR
George C. Brown**

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Charles McCormick**

**FIRE CHIEF/EMC
James Jay Delaney**

**DEPUTY CHIEF
Alan Klapat**

Wilkes-Barre City Fire Department

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of each member to support the mission by subscribing to the following values:

FOR THE COMMUNITY:

- We recognize that the community is the reason for our presence.
- We value the faith and trust of the community and continually work to deserve the confidence through our attitude, conduct and accomplishments.
- Lives are more valuable than property.
- The safety of the public is of paramount importance, followed closely by the safety of our members.
- All members of the public are entitled to our best efforts.



FOR THE DEPARTMENT:

- We strive for excellence in everything we do.
- Honesty, fairness, and integrity will not be compromised.
- We continually seek effectiveness, efficiency, and economy.
- Unity and teamwork are stressed as being to our mutual advantage as individuals and employees.
- The free exchange of ideas is encouraged.
- We will provide professional and courteous service at all times.
- We are sensitive to changing community needs.

Jay Delaney, Fire Chief



2023 RESPONSE COUNT PER APPARATUS

Apparatus	Number of Responses
Engine 1	1731
Engine 2	1156
Engine 3	598
Engine 4	13
Truck 6	662
F-6 Assistant Chief	678
Special Operations 1	5
Water Rescue 1	6

FIVE YEAR COMPARATIVE RUN SUMMARY

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
FIRE	4174	4083	4279	3971	3721
EMS	7994	7475	7702	7897	7791
TOTAL	12,168	11,558	11,981	11,868	11,512



BREAKDOWN OF MAJOR INCIDENT TYPES

Major Incident Types	Incident Count
Fires	132
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion	50
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1833
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	286
Service Call	447
Good Intent Call	296
False Alarm & False Call	593
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	14
Special Incident Type	70
TOTAL	3721



2023 EMS REPORT



The Bureau operates two Advanced Life Support ambulance units, Medic 3 and Medic 5, staffed by a Firefighter/EMT and a Paramedic. There are also two ready reserve ALS ambulances that are available to be placed in service for severe weather, special events, and other significant emergencies.

Unit	Run Totals
Medic 3	4150
Medic 5	3637
Medic 3B	4
TOTAL	7791

Call Outcome Percentage	Count
Cancelled Enroute	230
Cancelled on Scene	800
DOA/No Transport	71
No Patient Found	80
No Treatment Required	121
Patient Refused Care	313
Standby	3
Treated and Released	43
Treated, Refused Transport	66
Treated, Transferred Care	6
Treated, Transported by EMS	6058

Location	Facility Count
Geisinger Wyoming Valley	2540
Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre	1304
Wilkes-Barre General	2026
VA Medical Center	185

Naloxone Program



The Wilkes-Barre City Fire Department is committed to saving lives.

In 2023 Firefighter/EMT's and Paramedics administered **148** doses of Naloxone, the opioid reversal drug commonly called Narcan.

Naloxone administration by year:

2016 – 190 doses administered

2017 – 410 doses administered

2018 – 311 doses administered

2019 – 161 doses administered

2020 – 175 doses administered

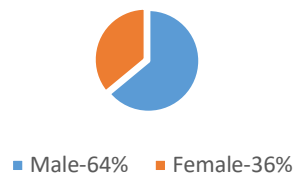
2021 – 259 doses administered

2022 – 192 doses administered

2023 – 148 doses administered

Average Age: 42 years old

Administered Narcan



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



The City of Wilkes-Barre Fire Department participated in community and charitable events throughout the year. The Fire Administration, members of IAFF Local 104 and Paramedics Local 1310 teamed up to support the following:

Diamond City Downtown Discoveries Passport Program and Kid's Fest

Multi-Cultural Day Parade

Trick or Treating on the Square

Wyoming Valley Veterans Day Parade

Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony

Santa on the Square

Special Needs Christmas Brunch

Northeast Highway Safety Program Car Seat Programs

Janet Weiss Children's Hospital Toy Collection

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Hometown Heroes 5K

Read Across America

Veterans Day Parade

Junior Achievement Inspire

Pridefest

Farmer's Market

Beads of Courage



FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

Each year, the Wilkes-Barre City Bureau of Fire visits schools, community groups, high rise residential buildings, daycares, and other venues to present fire safety messages that have been developed for different target audiences. Although the material may be presented differently to each group, the content is consistent with a focus on fire safety, fire prevention, and emergency preparedness.

The City of Wilkes Barre Bureau of Fire recommends the following online fire safety resources:



<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education>



<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire.html>



<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/>

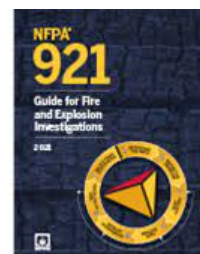


ORIGIN AND CAUSE INVESTIGATIONS



FIRE CAUSES

Unintentional:	53
Undetermined:	39
Incendiary:	9
Equipment Failure:	11
Other:	18



Fire cause & origin determination is the applied science of finding out where, how, and why a fire has occurred. It involves an analysis of a fire's effects and damage on property and life. By observing and interpreting smoke, heat, and fire effects on combustibles and other materials a fire investigator is guided to what is known as the "area of origin" of a fire. Within this area the fire began, and the specialist then sorts through it in search of potential ignition sources. Once all the potential ignition sources are found the process begins to determine if these ignition sources are probable, possible or can be ruled out. An ignition source which best fits the fire's circumstances is eventually identified as the most likely cause of the fire.

Saving lives and preventing injuries are the real reasons fires are investigated, however property loss and costs in the billions of dollars have a devastating effect as well. Origin and cause investigations are conducted for each fire. If a fire has been determined to be intentionally set, the Wilkes-Barre City Police Department is notified and is brought in to begin a criminal investigation.

OFFICE OF PREVENTION AND INSPECTION



The Office of Prevention and Inspection works closely with the city Building Code Official in enforcing Pennsylvania's statewide building code, known as the Uniform Construction Code and the adopted International Fire Code. Fire prevention codes exist to minimize hazards to life and property from fire and panic. The City of Wilkes-Barre fire code enforcement system offers reduced risk of hazards, minimizes fire death and injury and controls inherent hazards that cannot be eliminated. Effective fire prevention enforcement maintains the community's economic structure.

The Office of Prevention and Inspection is responsible for conducting fire inspections and for monitoring fire drills in private, public, and governmental facilities.

Fire Prevention and Inspection also maintains a database of over 500 pre-fire plans of occupancies within the jurisdiction. These preplans contain important information such as utility locations, emergency contacts, known hazards, floor plans, and water flow requirements. Visiting these sites not only assists in updating the database and providing a visual aspect, the preplans become an invaluable tool for risk assessment leading to effective, efficient, and safe firefighting operations.

The fire department also conducts annual inspections of the five hundred and ninety-eight fire hydrants in the city.

The city uses *Brycer - The Compliance Engine* to track and notify occupancies that are required to maintain fire protection and notification systems to ensure compliance with inspection, testing and maintenance.



FIRE/EMS TRAINING



The City of Wilkes-Barre Bureau of Fire Training Division is committed to providing classroom and hands on training to the members of the bureau. The training is designed to build the skills required to perform the duties of firefighters, EMT's, and paramedics. The training also prepares staff to meet the ever-growing demands and challenges associated with providing the best emergency services to the Wilkes-Barre community. Firefighters logged well over 7,000 hours of training last year. Firefighters and paramedics attended a cancer awareness training that included how to reduce the possibility of contracting cancer in the future. The fire department yearly training schedule was updated and implemented to new standards and hours of required training. A sample of the training curriculum covered in 2023 is listed below.

- HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS
- FIRE OFFICER DEVELOPMENT
- NFPA STANDARDS 1001, 1002, 1006, 1021, 1072, 1407, 1451, 471
- PPL ELECTRICAL SAFETY TRAILER
- LARGE AREA SEARCH – PA STATE FIRE ACADEMY
- BASIC VEHICLE RESCUE
- ELECTRICAL VEHICLE FIRE SUPPRESSION TRAINING
- STRATEGIES TO COORDINATE OVERDOSE PREVENTION EFFORTS – University of Pittsburg
- CANCER PREVENTION FOR THE FIRE SERVICE
- TRUCK OPERATIONS

2023 FIRE/EMS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT



Improvements and Equipment	Cost
Fire Headquarters Station HVAC Upgrades and Modernization	\$1,743,190.87
Fire Rescue Equipment and Tools	\$9,998.00
Jaws of Life Battery Upgrades	\$8,809.50
GTAC Mobile Data Terminals	\$14,747.31
Fire Fighting Turnout Gear	\$35,500.00
Electronic Thermal Imaging Camera	\$6,860.00
Fire Hose Replacement	\$19,999.00
South Fire Station Apparatus Floor Heat Upgrades	\$9,700.00
Hollenback Fire Station Infrastructure Upgrades	\$3,500.00
Ford Braun Liberty Type 1 Ambulance	\$349,999.38



City of Wilkes-Barre Fire Department

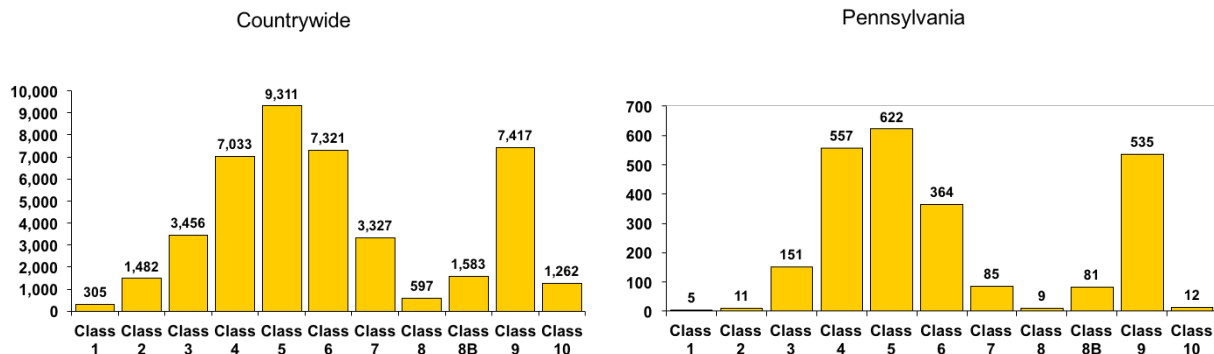
ISO Class 2

The **Public Protection Classification (PPC)** program, is a tool developed by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) for property and casualty insurers to properly assess their risk by rating fire protection services throughout the United States.

The PPC program provides important, up to date information about municipal fire protection services across the country. Insurance companies use PPC information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance – generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection. ISO collects data for more than 47,000 communities and fire districts throughout the country. A PPC score between 1 and 10 is given to the department, with *Class 1* representing "superior property fire protection" and *Class 10* indicating that an area doesn't meet the minimum criteria set by the ISO.

In developing a PPC, the following major categories are evaluated:

- **Emergency Communications:** Fire alarm and communication systems, including telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing and dispatching systems.^[1]
- **Fire Department:** The fire department, including equipment, staffing, training and geographic distribution of fire companies.^[1]
- **Water Supply:** The water supply system, including the condition and maintenance of hydrants and the amount of available water compared with the amount need to suppress fires
- **Fire Prevention:** programs that contain plan review; certificate of occupancy inspections; compliance follow-up; inspection of fire protection equipment; and fire prevention regulations related to fire lanes on area roads, hazardous material routes, fireworks, barbecue grills, and wildland-urban interface areas.
- **Public Fire Safety Education Programs:** fire safety education training and programs for schools, private homes and buildings with large loss potential or hazardous conditions and a juvenile fire setter intervention program.



WILKES-BARRE CITY BUREAU OF FIRE

