

2021 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM (HazMat) HIGHLIGHTS

In 2021, the HazMat Team continued to press on through some challenges and personnel turnover. The team, like in the previous year, experienced changes in its leadership structure, especially in its director position. The passing of the torch was seamless due to the professionalism and open communication between the members. Bringing in a new director brought a slight change in the vision and direction of the team. The team continued to work toward the goal of becoming more standardized, creating more accountability of the members and equipment, and worked towards succession plans for both. Many new members were brought in to strive to make a divergent team that will provide the best success for the future.

The team continued to use a committee-based system which works tremendously well. There are six committees, all staffed with in-house members. All committee chairpersons have taken ownership and made large strides in improving each committee, and the team.

The team received the National Achievement Award from **TRANSCAER** (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response). This award was given for the team's commitment and dedication to the National TRANSCAER initiative. This was the first time this award was given to a fire department!

Training / Community Outreach

- Instructors from the IAFF provided an 80-hour Hazmat Technician course training in February for over 20 department members. These members possessing the requirements of technician provided the opportunity to fill hazmat vacancies as they occurred; in 2021, five new members were brought onboard. The team will continue to provide an IAFF 80-hour Technician Course annually, every October.
- Members attended the Wisconsin Association of Hazardous Materials Responders Conference (WAHMR) in Stevens Point in March, allowing them the opportunity to network with other members of the hazmat community. They were able to witness the upcoming technological advances with hazmat equipment, and receive quality training from some of the most respected instructors in the hazmat realm.
- With the lightening of COVID-19 restrictions, the decontamination of firehouses by the HazMat Team was discontinued, and in-house training resumed in the early months of the year.
- The team trained with members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard 128th Airforce Refueling Wing where they were given a full in-depth look at the facility and their capabilities.
- Meshel Lange from the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene provided advanced biological and terrorism training, consisting of sampling techniques and procedures, along with FTIR and RAMAN Spectroscopy monitoring.
- Members participated in Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS) instruction provided by the Medical College of Wisconsin. Members received 16 hours of hazmat education over two days which included medical management of patients exposed to chemical, biological, radiological incidents, and recognizing signs and symptoms of exposure to corrosives, irritant gases, asphyxiates, hydrocarbons, chemical and biological, radiological, and nuclear agents, as well as, the understanding of antidotes and further care concepts.
- Members participated in HAZMAT IQ (Above the Line /Below the Line) and Air Monitoring training by Federal Resources. HAZMAT IQ is a course designed to examine different topics in the management of threats stemming from spills, leaks, and other hazardous incidents. Along with Air Monitoring which provided in depth training on detection with use of meters and test paper.

- Joint Hazard Assessment Team training with the federal government, and in connection with the Civil Support Team 54th Division, provided team members with the necessary skills to operate at the Milwaukee Bucks playoffs at the Fiserv Forum.
- The bulletin entitled **HazMatter** has been a continued success and is published to augment the team's training, as well as provide guidance on completing job performance reviews for which the team is responsible. This bulletin is shared with other departments to assist their personnel with hazmat information.
- The team performed a multi-day training with the Milwaukee County Fire Department at Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport in procedures for events such as airplane crashes, mass casualty and emergency medical services assistance on the airport grounds. Additionally, the team was provided training from Fed Ex on the transport of Hazardous Materials via their planes.
- The team shared its knowledge on metering instruction and rig capabilities via a multi-day training with employees of neighboring shared services fire departments and Miller Brewing.
- The Milwaukee Police Department Bomb Squad provided a one-day training for in-house members on their procedures and capabilities.
- The team once again participated in the community outreach in Eagle, Wisconsin, providing education and rig display for the community.

Significant Purchases

- (6) St Gobain ONESUIT Pro 2 Suits
- Ludlum Model 3005 Digital Survey Meter
- (2) Ludlum Model 26-3 Pancake Friskers
- Drager X-Act 5000 Automatic Tube Pump Meter
- Nikro 6g Mercury Recovery Vacuum
- FLIR K53 High Performance Thermal Imaging Camera
- Milwaukee Infrared Thermometer

Incidents

- HazMat 1 responded to 17 calls, and HazMat 2 to 45 calls for service.
- HazMat 1 assisted the Oak Creek FD with mitigation of a 100lb propane tank at a local resident's house.
- HazMat 1 assisted with clearing of pool at St Augustine's School after a muriatic acid and sodium hypochlorite leak.
- HazMat mitigated a large mercury spill from dumpster and occupancy.