

MENDOTA HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2024





CHIEF DAN JOHNSON

I am proud to present the Fire Department's 2024 annual report! During the year, we made great use of our new ladder truck, hired three new firefighters, had five new firefighters graduate from our Fire Academy, responded to 381 calls and completed more than 4,200 hours of training. In addition, we participated in many community events and hosted a very successful Fire Prevention Open House.

We also bid farewell to Fire Chief Dave Dreelan who served with the Department for 34 years. On behalf of the Department, the City and the community, I want to thank Chief Dreelan for his service, dedication, and leadership.

I am humbled to step into the role of fire chief and build upon the strong foundation Chief Dreelan leaves behind. It is with tremendous gratitude and sense of humility that I thank you for the opportunity to lead the Fire Department.

We are committed to continually improving training, strengthening community outreach, and ensuring our Department is well equipped to meet the challenges of the future.

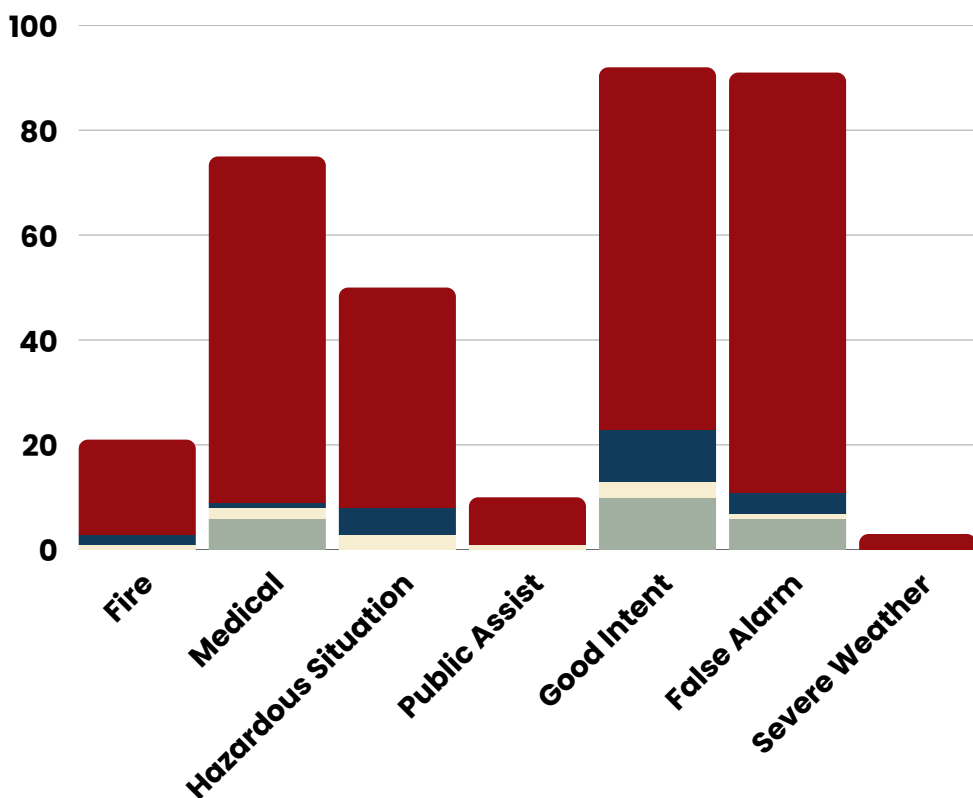
Thanks for your ongoing support of the Fire Department!

-Chief Johnson

2024 CALLS FOR SERVICE



● Lilydale ● Mendota ● Sunfish Lake
● Mendota Heights



Local Calls: 342 Mutual Aid Calls: 39 Total Calls: 381

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

The Mendota Heights Fire Department is a paid-on-call (paid when called to duty) team of dedicated residents who serve their community. To recruit and retain firefighters, leaders have expanded outreach, improved training, and enhanced benefits in partnership with the City Council.

Have a passion for teamwork, solving challenges, and want to contribute to a greater cause? Learn about what it takes to become a firefighter at **MendotaHeightsMN.gov/BecomingAFirefighter**.

FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

The Mendota Heights Fire Relief Association manages the Fire Department's retirement funds. Each year, the City and State contribute to the pension fund, which helps recruit and retain firefighters and rewards long, dedicated service.

The Relief Association also leads fundraising efforts for projects outside the City Budget, including the annual retirement banquet and community outreach events.

Donations are welcome. To support the Association, mail a check payable to:

**Mendota Heights
Fire Relief Association
2121 Dodd Road
Mendota Heights, MN 55120**



DEPARTMENT TRAINING

In 2024, firefighters completed:

- 4,201 hours of cumulative training.
- 113 training hours per firefighter.
- 800 total instructor hours.

Training included:

- Mass Casualty Incidents & Triage
- Hazardous Materials
- Ice Water Rescue
- Technical Rescue Scenarios
- Search & Rescue
- Firefighter Survivability & Maydays
- Auto Extrication
- Fireground Operations

Two firefighters completed a 40 -hour program to become certified Driver/Operators:

- TJ Samec
- Alex Lauth

Five new firefighters graduated from the Fire Academy:

- Ricky Chodek
- Gretchen Conner
- Christian Douah
- Emily Mahon
- Anna Molinaro

In August, the Department welcomed three new recruits:

- Joe Fabiano
- Pete Johnson
- Brandon Rebhan



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public education is an important part of fire prevention and safety. In 2024, the Department...

Hosted a Fire Prevention Open House featuring:

- Fire extinguisher training
- Fire prevention BINGO
- Fire escape planning and practice with the safety smoke house

Engaged with the community at:

- Frozen Fun Fest
- Bogey with the Red & Blue
- Parks Celebration
- Pickleball with Public Safety
- Mendota Days parade

Offered on-the-spot training in:

- Fire extinguishers
- Hands-only C.P.R.



This year's Open House featured a live fire demonstration highlighting the importance of closing bedroom doors at night to protect occupants in the event of a fire — and reinforced the vital need for working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in every home.

DEPARTMENT RETIREMENTS

Dave Dreelan

In January 2025, Chief Dreelan retired from the Department, after 34 years of service. Having grown up in Mendota Heights, Dave followed in his father's footsteps when he joined the Fire Department. He worked his way up through the ranks, and became chief in 2017.

In his time with the Department, Dave provided valuable insight, leadership and exceptional service to the community. The positive changes he made are countless. Thanks for your dedicated service, Dave – we will carry your legacy forward.



David Winge

David joined the Fire Department in 2013 and, after serving the community for 10 years, retired in 2024.

On behalf of the Department and the entire community, we wish David the very best on his next chapter!





Mendota Heights Fire Department

2121 Dodd Road

Mendota Heights, MN 55120

651-452-1850

MendotaHeightsMN.gov/Fire

SAVE THE DATE **FIRE DEPARTMENT** **OPEN HOUSE**

SATURDAY, OCT. 11
10 A.M.-1 P.M.



Mendota Heights
Fire Station