



# Westport Fire Department

# Annual Report

# 2025



# Table of Contents

- 1.Chief Marsan’s Message – Page 3**
- 2.About the Department – Page 4**
- 3.Mission and Core Values – Page 5**
- 4.Training and Professional Development – Page 6-8**
- 5.New Hires – Page 9**
- 6.Cold Water Rescue – Page 10**
- 7.Promotions – Page 11**
- 8.Awards and Certifications – Page 12-13**
- 9.Swift Water Rescue Grant – Page 14**
- 10.Fire Marshal’s Office Activities – Page 15-16**
- 11.Incident Response Statistics – Page 17-18**
- 12.Fire and Rescue – Page 19-22**
- 13.Community Engagement & Public Events – Page 23-25**
- 14.Westport Firefighters Charitable Foundation – Page 26**
- 15.Command Staff & Leadership – Page 27**

# Chief Marsan's Message

It is my honor to present the Westport Fire Department's 2025 Annual Report, highlighting our operations and our commitment to the safety of our community.

Reflecting on the past year, I am proud of the professionalism demonstrated by our firefighters, officers, and staff. The fire service is always evolving, and 2025 required us to navigate a wide range of emergencies. From structure fires and medical calls to weather events, our team answered every call with dedication.

2025 was a year of growth and training for the department. We hired nine new recruits, adding to our staffing levels, while continuing to develop the members who joined us in 2024. Combining these newer members with our experienced staff ensures we maintain a strong and effective team.

Beyond emergency response, we remained focused on fire prevention and public education. Our programs in schools and local businesses help reinforce the importance of safety. We believe that an informed community is a safer community, and we are grateful for the engagement we saw from residents this year.

I also want to thank the Westport community and town leadership for your continued support. Your partnership allows us to maintain high standards of service and ensures our team has the resources needed to keep Westport safe.

To the members of the Westport Fire Department, thank you for your hard work and professionalism. Your daily commitment to our mission is essential to this organization's success, and I am proud to serve as your Chief.

We look forward to the year ahead, ready to serve the Town of Westport.

Respectfully,  
**Nicholas L. Marsan**  
Fire Chief, Westport Fire Department



# About the Department



Under Section C23-1 of the Town Charter, the Westport Fire Department (WFD) is responsible for protecting the lives and property of residents and visitors from fire and other life-threatening hazards. The Department also enforces laws, ordinances, and regulations related to fire prevention and fire safety. Operating from four fire stations, WFD responded to **4,236 incidents in 2025**, a **2.8% increase over 2024**, reflecting sustained growth in service demand and an expanding range of emergency responsibilities beyond traditional fire suppression.

In its modern operational role, the department responds not only to fires, but also to medical emergencies, technical rescue incidents, hazardous material releases, and other all-hazards events. The department provides fire prevention and public education, code compliance inspections, fire investigations, and emergency management services for the Town of Westport, using both sworn and civilian staff. Call volume trends continue to show a shift from traditional fire suppression toward a broader all-hazards response model, requiring expanded technical training, specialized equipment, and operational readiness.

Under the leadership of Chief Marsan and Deputy Chief Cohen, the department operates four shifts of emergency personnel, a Fire Prevention Division, and the Office of Emergency Management. Each shift is led by an Assistant Fire Chief who oversees a platoon of 14 firefighters and company officers.

## Mission

The mission of the Westport Fire Department is to provide the highest level of protection and service to all those in need through a continuous commitment to our core values.

## Values

WFD's core values are the foundation of the organization, and they guide each member in their personal and professional lives. We take pride in our commitment to professional service by maintaining our skills, knowledge, and abilities. WFD's core values include:

**PROTECTION**: Provide the highest level of protection from man-made and natural emergencies in a qualified, dedicated, and professional manner.

**PROFESSIONALISM**: As professionals, WFD members honor the trust and responsibility expected of them from members of the public.

**RESOURCES**: WFD will use all resources available to mitigate emergencies. We move forward based on the extra effort of our people.



**DEVELOPMENT**: WFD's leadership encourages employee development and strives to create an atmosphere of goal-oriented achievement.

**EMPOWERMENT**: Employees are at the core of the organization. The Department values their inclusion in decision-making processes and will continually seek their input in shaping our future.

**RESPONSIBILITY**: The Department will fulfil our responsibility to the community through community engagement, fire and life safety education, and providing nontraditional services.

**INTEGRITY**: WFD embraces integrity, accountability, selflessness, loyalty, and compassion.

**KNOWLEDGE**: Department members increase their knowledge and abilities through extensive training and pursuit of technology to work with efficiency, intelligence, and sound risk-management principles.

**SUCCESSION**: We believe that professional development and ongoing succession planning are critical to the Department's success.

**FAMILY**: We value our family and friends. WFD's commitment is to count the Westport community and its guests as members of our extended family.

**SUSTAINABILITY**: The Department conducts operations with a focus on sustainability through the three core pillars of environmental stewardship, community engagement, and infrastructure resiliency.

# Training and Professional Development



The Westport Fire Department places a high priority on the training and education of its personnel. Most training is conducted in-house while members are on duty and is led by officers and firefighters who hold State of Connecticut instructor certifications. Members also pursue additional training and certifications outside of regular duty hours through the Connecticut Fire Academy and other professional technical training providers to further enhance their skill sets.

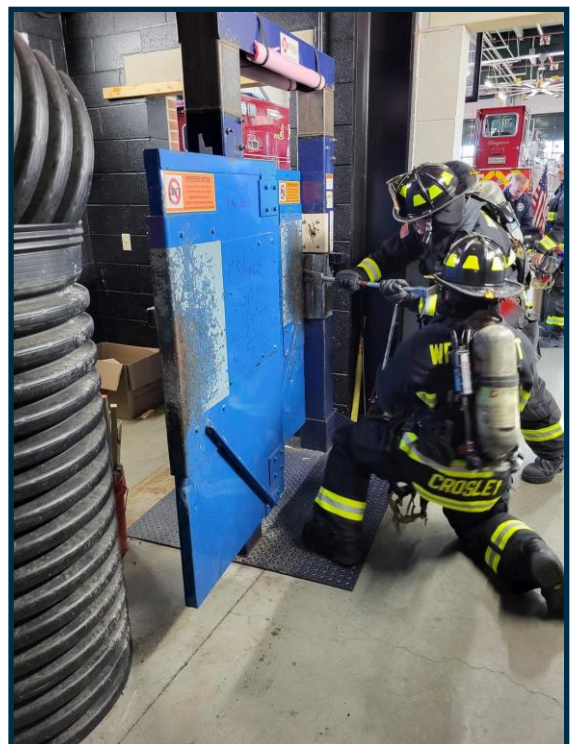
## 2025 Training Highlights

- **9 new probationary firefighters** completed the Connecticut Fire Academy, WFD orientation, and the In-House Academy
- **5,040 cumulative training hours** completed by new hires
- **Lieutenant and Deputy Fire Marshal promotional examinations** conducted
- **19 members** achieved new State of Connecticut certifications
- Live-fire and hands-on training conducted at acquired structures at:
  - 33 High Point Road
  - 14 Westport Avenue
  - 238 Hillspoint Road

## Department-wide training included:

- Rescue Jack operations
- Firefighter bailout (PES) refresher training
- Officer Development training (Flash Fire Industries)
- Stop the Bleed training
- Check and Inject medical training
- Documentation and legal considerations training with Attorney Chris Sochacki

This comprehensive training program reflects the Department's continued commitment to firefighter safety, professional development, and operational excellence in service to the Westport community.



# Training



## Probationary Firefighter Training

The Training Division's most extensive initiative in 2025 was the recruitment, orientation, and training of **probationary firefighters**.

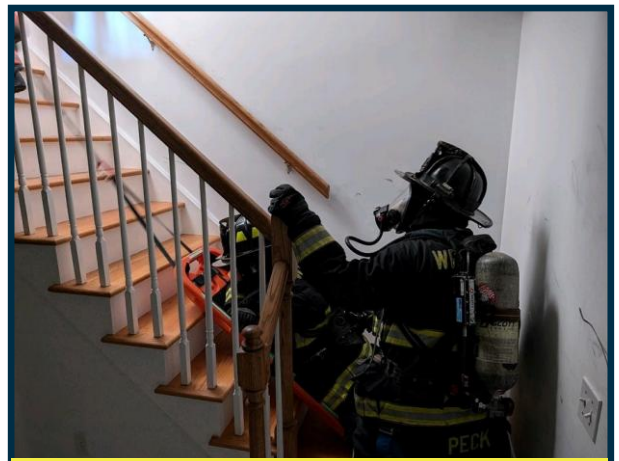
- These recruits began with a **one-week indoctrination and orientation** program before attending the **Connecticut Fire Academy Recruit Class 76**.
- The **14-week, 70-day residential program** at the academy certified these individuals to the **Firefighter 2** level, covering both theoretical and practical firefighting skills, teamwork, self-discipline, and daily physical fitness training.
- After graduation, recruits completed an additional **week-long Westport Fire Department In-House Academy**, designed and delivered by Westport firefighters. This program focused on **hose line deployment techniques** tailored to the town's specific structural challenges.
- Upon completion, the probationary firefighters were assigned to their respective platoons and officially joined



**Vehicle Extrication**



**Search and Rescue**

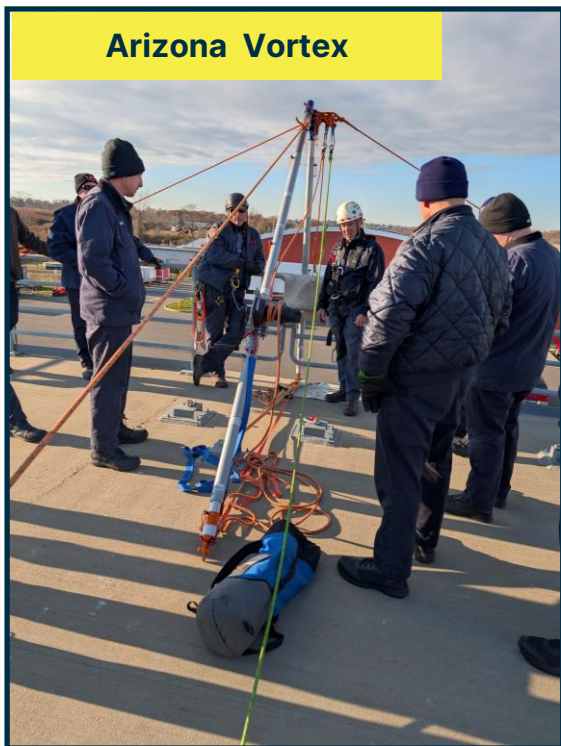


**Down Firefighter Removal**

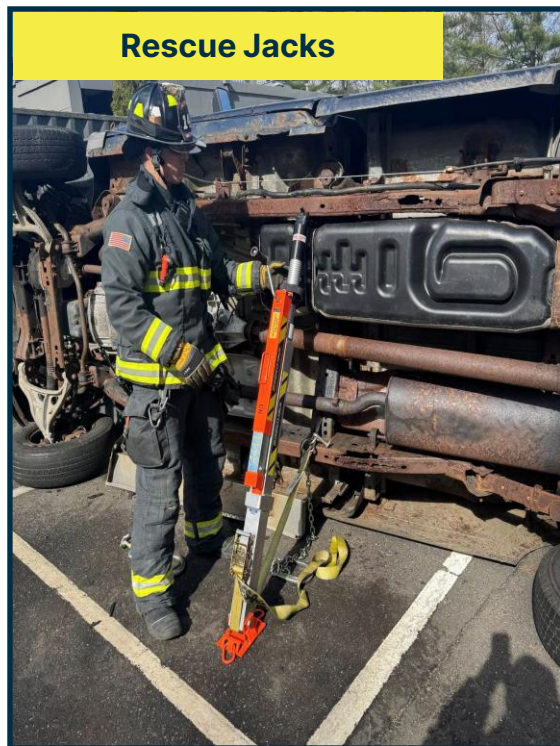


## New Equipment Training

### Arizona Vortex



### Rescue Jacks



### Taylor'd Series 12 Prop

In 2025, the Department enhanced its training capabilities with the addition of the **Taylor'd Series 12 Prop**, generously donated by the Westport Volunteer Fire Department. This state-of-the-art, multi-functional training prop supports realistic, repeatable fire suppression and rescue training in a controlled environment.

Designed to enhance firefighter skills in forcible entry, ventilation, and other critical fireground operations, the prop is built with durability, realism, and firefighter safety in mind. All members completed hands-on training with the prop prior to it being placed into service, reinforcing proper technique, teamwork, decision-making, and overall operational readiness.





In August 2025, nine recruits— (top left standing: **Steve Marsan, Cody Ruschmeyer, and Joseph McKay**); (kneeling left to right: **Clayton Janssen, Zachary Ouellette, Liam Chrzanowski, Drew Haig, Patricia Quinn, William O'Rourke**) —embarked on their journey to join the Westport Fire Department by enrolling in the Connecticut Fire Academy's Recruit Firefighter Training Program, Class #76. This comprehensive program, known for its rigorous physical and mental demands, spans 14 weeks and equips recruits with essential skills in emergency response tactics, fire suppression, and physical conditioning. Upon successful completion of the academy, these individuals were sworn in as probationary firefighters with the Westport Fire Department in December 2025. Their graduation and subsequent integration into our team not only bolster our department's capabilities but also reinforce our commitment to maintaining a highly trained and professional workforce dedicated to safeguarding the Westport community.





## Cold Water Rescue Training

### Westport Firefighters practicing cold water rescue techniques at Compo Beach

Westport Firefighters participate in an essential cold water rescue training session at Compo Beach. The training, designed to enhance the team's readiness in emergency water rescue situations, focused on vital skills such as victim recovery, safe water entry, and teamwork.

Firefighters engaged in hands-on scenarios that simulated real-life emergencies, ensuring they are fully prepared for any cold-water rescue situation, whether in swift currents or icy conditions. In addition to practicing rescue techniques, the team received valuable instruction on hypothermia recognition and treatment.

The training reinforced the importance of coordination, safety, and the proper use of rescue equipment. The skills learned will help ensure Westport Firefighters are equipped to respond quickly and effectively to cold water emergencies, ensuring the safety of both rescuers and those in need of assistance.



## Promotions



The following WFD members were promoted in 2025:

- **Sean Kelly** was promoted from firefighter to **lieutenant**.
- **Benjamin Racho** was promoted from lieutenant to **deputy fire marshal**.
- **Daniel Mascolo** was promoted from lieutenant to **deputy fire marshal**.
- **Paul Spennato** was promoted from firefighter to **lieutenant**.
- **Daniel Korin** was promoted from firefighter to **lieutenant**.
- **Michael Peck** was promoted from firefighter to **lieutenant**.
- **Robert Lenois** was promoted from deputy fire marshal to **lieutenant**.
- **Ronald Burgess** was promoted from firefighter to **lieutenant**.
- **Todd Hall** was promoted from firefighter to **lieutenant**.

## Recognitions and Certifications

The Westport Fire Department is proud to recognize members who reached significant years-of-service milestones in 2025:

- **Todd Denke**, Lieutenant
- **Justin Moser**, Firefighter



**Thirty Year Pin**



**Twenty Year Pin**

We have had **19 members** achieve new state certifications in 2025.

Fire Officer II- 2 members  
Fire Officer III-1 member  
Fire Officer IV- 3 members  
Instructor II- 2 members  
Pump Operator- 4 members  
Aerial Operator- 1 member  
Incident Safety Officer- 1 member  
Rope Technician- 2 members  
Confined Space Technician- 1 member  
State of CT "Q" Endorsement- 2 members



### Honoring Excellence in Community Service

The Westport Sunrise Rotary awarded **Lieutenant Daniel Ambruso** and **Firefighter Brien Cartagena** of the Westport Fire Department with the **Paul Harris Fellowship Award**, one of Rotary International’s highest honors.

This prestigious award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment to humanitarian service and sustained involvement in their community. Lieutenant Ambruso and Firefighter Cartagena were honored for their ongoing dedication, leadership, and service to the residents of Westport, both within the Fire Department and through broader community engagement.



### Community Service & Public Protection Award

At the Community Service and Public Protection Award Luncheon on **June 4, 2025**, the **Westport Rotary Club** recognized the coordinated efforts of **Westport Public Safety—Fire, Police, and Emergency Medical Services** for their response to a large-scale water rescue in **Long Island Sound** on **March 20, 2024**.

With water temperatures near **48 degrees**, personnel from the **Westport Fire Department**, operating within a Unified Command structure alongside public safety partners, responded swiftly to ensure that **two adults and twenty-seven high school students were safely brought to shore without loss of life**. This recognition reflects the professionalism, preparedness, and teamwork that define Westport’s public safety agencies.



## Swift Water Grant

# Assistance to Firefighters Grant Swiftwater Rescue Training

The Westport Fire Department was awarded a **\$94,952 federal grant** through the **Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program**. The AFG Program is a highly competitive national initiative that provides funding to fire departments nationwide to strengthen emergency response capabilities through critical training and equipment. This award will fund **Swiftwater Rescue Technician training** for department members. The program includes hands-on, scenario-based instruction in moving water environments, providing firefighters with the specialized skills necessary to safely perform rescues during flooding, coastal incidents, and other water-related emergencies. Given Westport's proximity to rivers, streams, and Long Island Sound, this training ensures the department is prepared to protect residents and support neighboring communities through regional mutual aid.

The grant enhances operational readiness, improves firefighter safety, and expands the department's ability to respond effectively to water-related emergencies. It comes at a critical time as Connecticut and other coastal communities continue to experience an increase in extreme weather events and flooding. By strengthening water rescue preparedness, the Westport Fire Department is better positioned to meet these evolving challenges and maintain a high level of service to the community.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program provides direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments to help ensure first responders have the training, equipment, and resources necessary to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and other hazards.





# Fire Marshal's Office Activities

The **Westport Fire Marshal's Office** remained highly active in 2025 with multiple, large-scale construction projects and numerous smaller commercial renovations throughout Westport. Notable projects included:

- Heavy ongoing renovations at **Longshore Inn**
- 8-30G project at **85 Post Road W** – 68 unit residential building
- 8-30G project at **44 Hiawatha Lane** – 157 unit residential building
- The **Delamar Hotel** was completed including 86 rooms
- **Greens Farms Academy** ~30,000-square-foot Athletics & Wellness Center
- **251-253 Riverside Avenue** – offices converted into 8 residential units

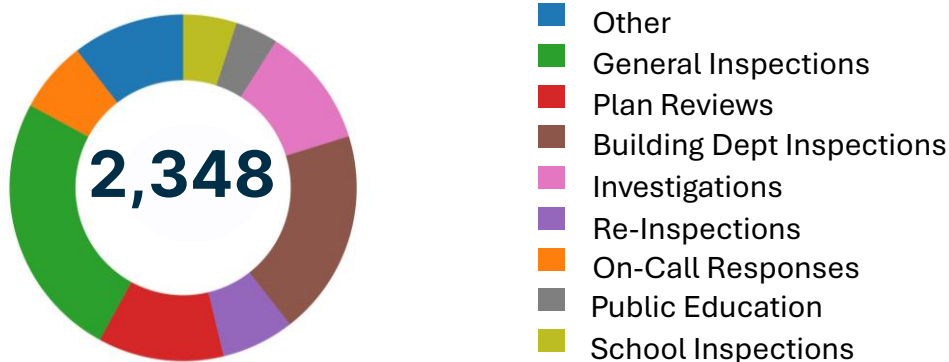
## Inspections and Fire Investigations

- **700+ routine inspections** of commercial properties were conducted to ensure compliance with the **Connecticut Fire Safety and Prevention Codes** (excluding public school inspections, which occur every summer).
- **176 fire investigations** were carried out, covering a variety of incidents, including burn injuries, car fires, and **lithium-ion battery fires**.

## Plan Reviews and Fees

- The Office conducted **289 plan reviews** for new construction and renovation projects.
- Plan review fees reflect fees collected during calendar year 2025: **\$283,275**

Chart 1. Fire Marshal's Office Activities





## New Construction

The **Westport Fire Marshal's Office** remained highly active in 2025, supporting a robust level of **new construction, redevelopment, and major renovation projects** across the community. The Office played a critical role in ensuring that fire protection systems, means of egress, and life-safety features were properly designed, installed, and approved throughout all phases of construction.

Notable projects reviewed and inspected during the year included significant renovations at the **Longshore Inn**, completion of the **Delamar Hotel**, multiple **8-30g residential developments**, a major addition at **Greens Farms Academy**, and the conversion of commercial space to residential use along **Riverside Avenue**. These projects required extensive plan review coordination and ongoing field inspections to verify compliance prior to occupancy.

The Fire Marshal's Office's workload was driven primarily by general inspections, plan reviews, re-inspections, and coordination with the Building Department, reflecting a proactive approach to risk reduction during periods of active development. This preventative work was balanced by responsive responsibilities, including fire investigations, on-call responses, and public safety support, reinforcing the Office's dual role in both development oversight and emergency readiness.

Collectively, these activities highlight the Fire Marshal's Office's essential function in protecting life and property while supporting safe, compliant growth throughout Westport.

# Incident Response Statistics

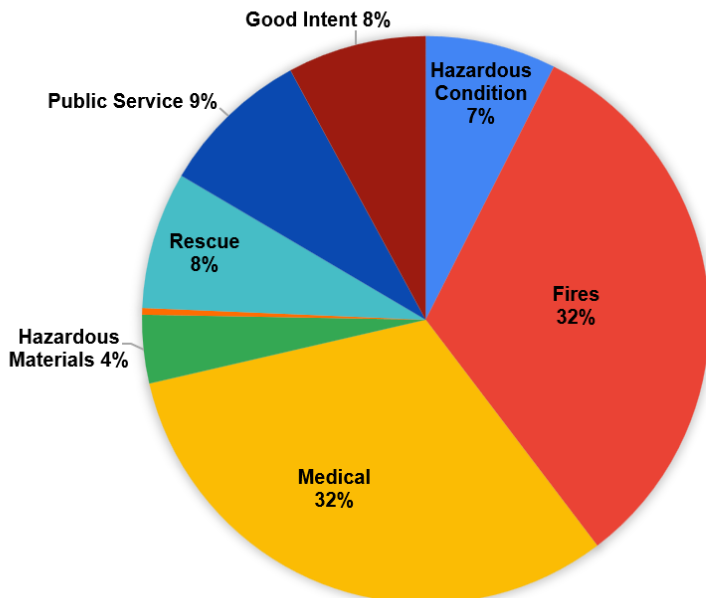


WFD responded to **4,236 incidents** in 2025, including:

<p><b>4,236</b> <b>Total Incidents</b></p>	Incident Type	Number of Incidents
	All Fire Incidents	1,364
	Medical	1,344
	Hazardous Materials	165
	Structure Fires	16
	Rescues	331
	Public Service Calls	365
	Good Intent	335
	Hazardous Condition	316

Chart 2. Incidents in 2025

## INCIDENT TYPES - 2025



**Animal Rescue**

# Response Time Performance & Coverage



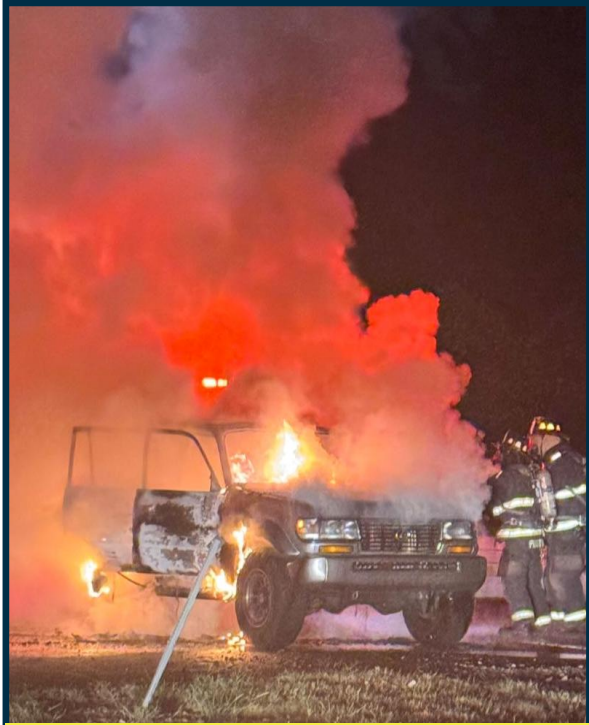
## What 4,236 Incidents Means for Westport

- 12 emergency incidents per day
- A department response every 2 hours
- Medical and rescue calls represent nearly one-third of total workload
- Fire alarm activations remain the single highest call category
- Motor vehicle crashes require technical rescue skills and coordinated EMS care
- Hazardous materials, gas leaks, and CO incidents demand specialized training and equipment
- Low-frequency / high-risk incidents (water rescues, technical rescues) require constant readiness

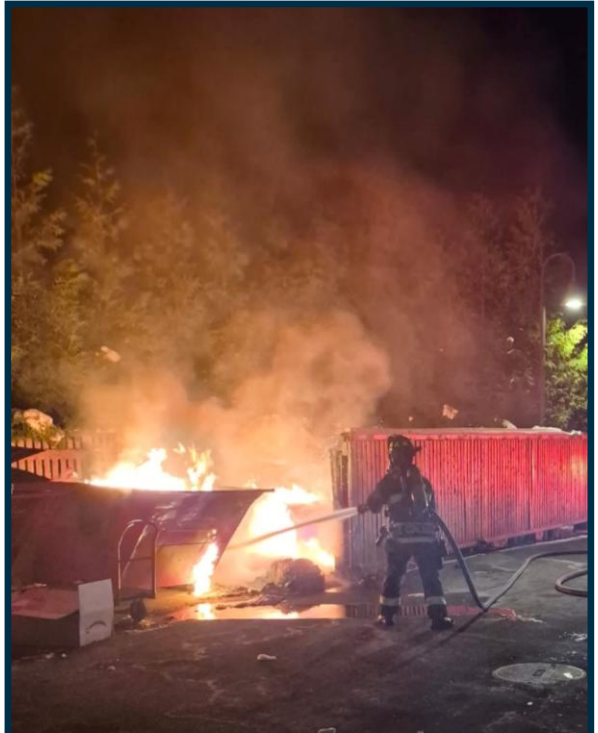


The Westport Fire Department remains committed to **response time efficiency, continuous improvement**, and ensuring the timely delivery of emergency services across all areas of the community. Firefighters must be prepared to manage **any emergency, at any time — not just fires**. The volume and diversity of incidents drive the need for ongoing investment in personnel, training, and equipment.

# Fire and Rescue



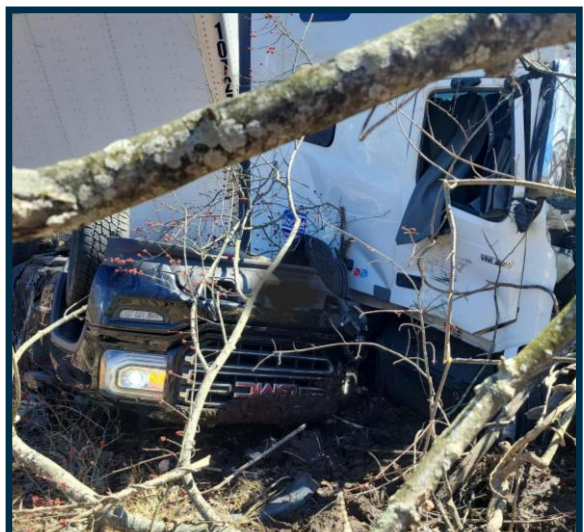
**Car Fire**



**Dumpster Fire**



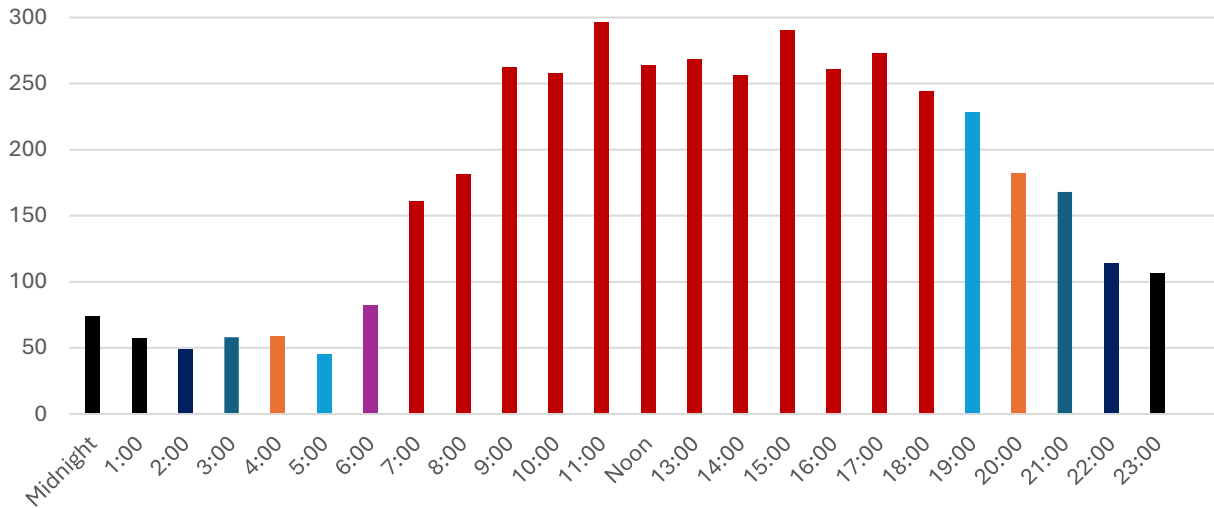
**Fire Suppression**



**Vehicle Rescue**



Chart 3. Incidents by Hour of Day



The Department continues to prioritize response time efficiency. In 2025, Westport Fire Department units arrived on scene in an average of **5 minutes and 14 seconds from the time of dispatch**, with **90 percent of emergencies reached in 8 minutes and 9 seconds or less**.

Table 2. Incidents by Fire District

Fire District	Incidents
1	1,194
4	1,054
5	1,122
6	797
Outgoing Aid/ Other	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,236</b>

Table 3. Unit Responses by Fire District

Fire District	Incidents
1	2,227
4	1,854
5	2,177
6	1,387
Outgoing Aid/ Other	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,645</b>

Table 4. Response Times for First Unit On Scene by Fire District

Fire District	Time
1	0:04:44
4	0:05:15
5	0:05:13
6	0:06:03
<b>Total</b>	<b>0:05:14</b>



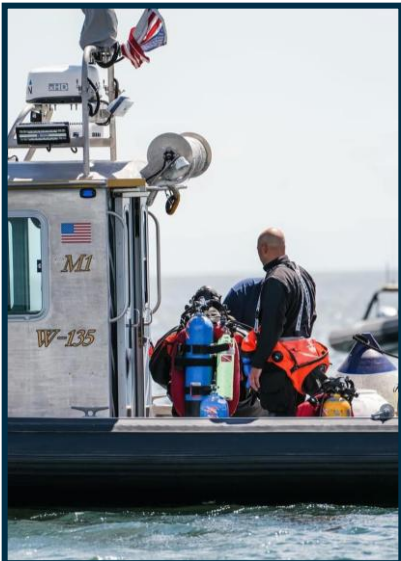
## Structure Fires

In 2025, the Westport Fire Department responded to **16 structure fires**, representing a small percentage of overall incidents but some of the most complex and high-risk emergencies the Department faces. Each structure fire requires a rapid, coordinated response involving fire suppression, search and rescue, ventilation, and exposure protection to safeguard residents and limit property damage. While infrequent, these incidents demand constant training, readiness, and professional expertise to ensure the safety of the community and responding personnel.

# Fire & Police Dive Rescue Team



Cold-water dive training conducted to maintain operational readiness in ice conditions.



# Community Engagement, Public Events, and Education

WFD remains deeply committed to engaging with the community through **educational programs, safety initiatives, and public outreach efforts**. In addition to in-person events, we have expanded our reach through **Facebook, Instagram, and other digital platforms** to share vital fire safety tips, Department updates, and behind-the-scenes insights into our daily operations.

## Social Media Engagement Highlights

**Fire Prevention Week:** Through Facebook and Instagram, the Department shared daily fire safety tips and engaged the community with interactive quizzes, videos, and reminders about issues such as smoke alarm maintenance and escape planning.

**Live Safety Demonstrations:** Throughout the year, WFD hosted live-streamed fire extinguisher training and CPR demonstrations, allowing **residents, town employees, and local businesses** to receive essential safety education.

**Emergency Alerts and Road Closures:** Our social media channels provided real-time updates on extreme fire danger, road closures, and storm preparedness to ensure that residents were informed.

**Community Spotlights:** We featured our firefighters in "Meet Your Firefighter" posts, highlighting their backgrounds, training, and dedication to public service.

**Behind-the-Scenes Training Footage:** Videos showcasing rope rescue training, probationary firefighter drills, and specialized emergency response training were shared to give residents insight into the Department's rigorous preparation.

**Community Connect:** WFD encouraged residents to sign up for *Community Connect*, a secure online platform that allows families and businesses to share critical information with first responders to help the Department provide faster, more effective, emergency responses.



**Halloween Parade**



**Staples High School  
GET REAL DAY**

**Halloween Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, Slice of Saugatuck Open House and many other Public Safety Outreach Events:** Firefighters engaged with families at Westport’s annual Halloween Parade, handing out treats while promoting fire safety awareness. Engaged with high schoolers at GET REAL DAY playing fire safety games with prizes! During October, firefighters visited local elementary schools during their breast cancer awareness events.

**Community Outreach Visits:** The Department visited several local agencies and organizations to further strengthen our community ties and provide education on fire safety, emergency preparedness, and resources available through WFD, such as the **Senior Center, Y’s Men of Westport Group, Westport Woman’s Club, Rotary Clubs, Westport PTA Council, Club203, and the Westport Special Needs PTA (Westport Children with Disabilities)**. By engaging with these groups, we were able to reach individuals of all ages and backgrounds, ensuring everyone has the information they need to stay safe and prepared.





## Annual Memorial Day Parade

Westport firefighters and retirees proudly march in the annual **Memorial Day Parade**, a time-honored tradition that brings thousands of families together. The parade features fire trucks, marching bands, and local organizations, all honoring those who have served and sacrificed for the country. The community comes together to celebrate the day with a ceremony at the war memorial, where the names of the fallen are read, and wreaths are laid in their honor, fostering a deep sense of gratitude and remembrance.

# Community Impact



## Westport Firefighters Charitable Foundation

### A Firefighter-Driven Initiative Supporting Local Neighbors in Need



#### Annual "Share the Warmth" Coat Drive

- Over **2,200 coats** collected and donated to Bridgeport Rescue Mission
- Warm coats, hats, and gloves delivered to families in need
- Continued partnership with community organizations and volunteers



#### Santa Run

- The Westport firefighters brought holiday cheer to **700 local children**, with the event raising funds to support local community.



#### Thanksgiving Turkey Fundraiser

- **1000 turkeys** and sides were donated to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.
- Warm meals provided for families during the holiday season

## Command Staff



**Left to right: Brett Kirby** (Assistant Chief Platoon 1), **Jeffrey Gootman** (Assistant Chief Platoon 3), **Matthew Cohen** Deputy Chief, **Nicholas Marsan** Fire Chief, **Terrence Dunn** Fire Marshal, **Philip Hessberger** (Assistant Chief Platoon 2), **Brian Meadows** (Assistant Chief Platoon 4), **Jason Kronenberger** Assistant Chief of Training

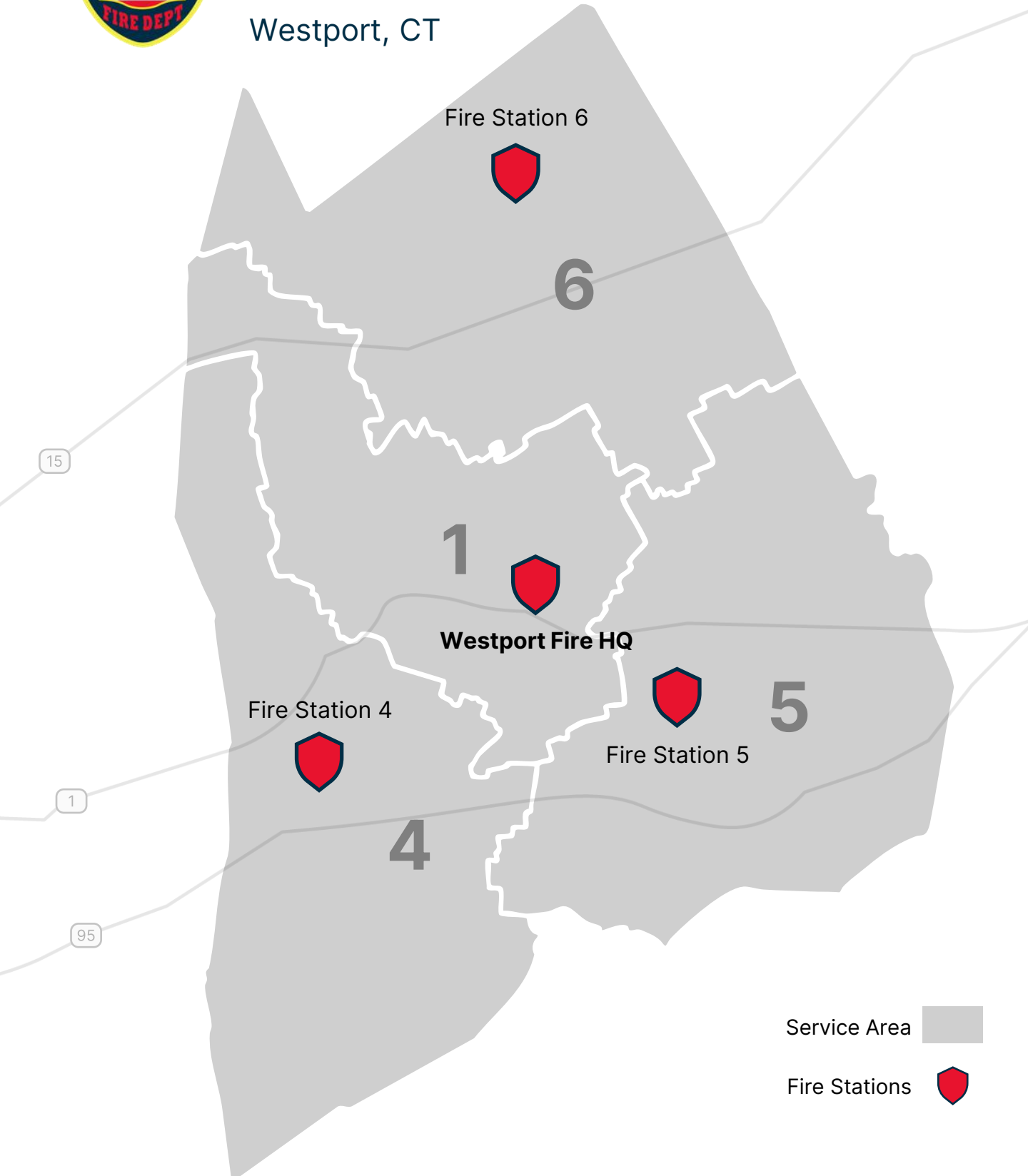
The Westport Fire Department's command staff remains dedicated to supporting our members, advancing professional excellence, and ensuring the highest level of service to the Westport community.

*Prepared by: **Jennifer Petrosinelli**, Office Manager*



# Westport Fire Department

Westport, CT



Service Area 

Fire Stations 