



# CITY OF NILES FIRE DEPARTMENT



**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**



## **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE NILES FIRE DEPARTMENT**

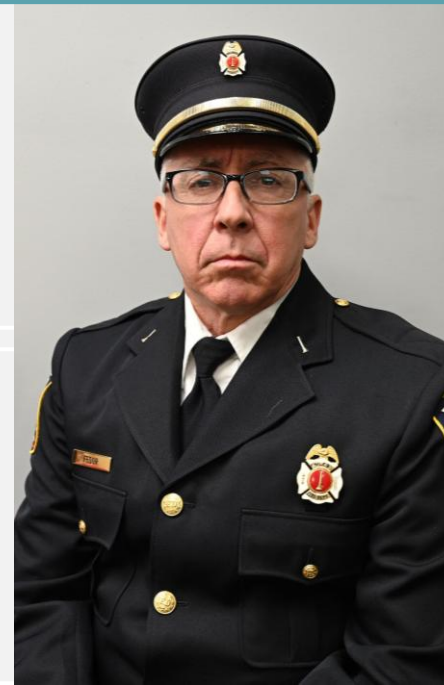
The overall mission of this Department is to educate the public in the prevention of fires coupled with minimizing the loss of life and property caused by fires and emergencies of any nature by way of training, knowledge, skill, and aggressive intervention known only to our profession.

## **DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION**

The City of Niles Fire Department is a full-time department consisting of 30 firefighters and a Chief operating out of two stations. The department provides fire suppression, vehicle extrication, limited technical rescue, fire investigation, fire prevention and inspection, basic life support and first responder emergency medical services, certified car seat installation, and hazardous materials containment. Firefighters work 24-hour shifts followed by 48 hours off, ensuring coverage of the city 365 days a year.


# Personnel Updates

- **Retirements**
  - **Firefighter Ron Danadic** retired after 35 years of devoted service
  - **Lieutenant Jim Fedor** retired after 26 years of devoted service
- **New Hires**
  - **Kyle Kyser** was hired on May 5, 2025
  - **Matthew Kello** was hired on May 6, 2025
- **Promotions**
  - **Lieutenant Adam Kashien** was promoted on May 4, 2025




# Chief's Message

*The Niles Fire Department maintained its staffing level at 31 throughout the year, with only a brief reduction following the planned retirements of two longtime employees. In 2025, the department conducted two promotional exams—one for Lieutenant and one for Captain.*



*Adam Kashien was promoted to the open Lieutenant position on C-Turn in May, and Greg Rowley will assume the open Lieutenant position on B-Turn in January 2026. Trevor Bonacci earned the top score on the Captain's exam and will take command of C-Turn as Captain in January 2026. While the loss of experienced personnel is always a challenge, we are confident in our new leadership and look forward to the fresh ideas and perspectives they bring.*



*The department responded to a total of 3,106 calls in 2025, approximately 100 fewer than the previous year. EMS incidents continued to make up the majority of calls, while fire responses remained steady. Sadly, the year began with a fatal fire in February. By year's end, the department recorded 16 structure fires. Average response times remained consistent at approximately 4 minutes.*



2025 Incident Totals

3106 calls



Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	2
Building fire	7
Cooking fire, confined to container	4
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	1
Dwelling Fire	8
Fire, other	1
Fires in structure other than in a building	1
Forest, woods or wildland fire	1
Grill fire	2
Industrial Building Fire	1
Mulch fire	1
Outside equipment fire	1
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1
Passenger vehicle fire	3

# Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat

**Total 15**

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Burnt Food with no fire	6
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Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	9
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Breathing Problems	68
DOA	17
Emergency medical service incident, other	2
EMS call, <b>excluding</b> vehicle accident with injury	6
Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	1
Fall	107
Heart Problem	53
High-angle rescue	1
Lock-in (if lock out , use 511 )	1
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1734
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	69
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	36
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	3
Overdose	38
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	3



# Hazardous Condition

**Total 99**

Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	6
Carbon monoxide incident	31
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	1
Chemical spill or leak	1
Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other	2
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	4
Explosive, bomb removal (for bomb scare, use 721)	1
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	38
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	3
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1
Overheated motor	2
Power line down	5
Refrigeration leak	1
Transformer Problem	3

# Service Calls

366

Animal problem	2
Animal rescue	1
Assist police or other governmental agency	6
Assist resident - general assistance	5
Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1
Lift Assist - No Injury	272
Lock-out	19
Person in distress, other	1
Police matter	1
Public service	5
Public service assistance, other	1
Service Call, other	8
Smoke or odor removal	8
Unauthorized burning	21
Water or steam leak	2
Water problem, other	1
Welfare Check	12

# Good Intent Calls

288

Authorized controlled burning	9
Dispatched & canceled en route	133
Dispatched & cancelled on scene	20
Good intent call, other	7
HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	33
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	56
Prescribed fire	1
Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	1
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	21
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	1
Unnecessary - No Problem	6

Accidental alarm due to fire drill	1
Accidental transmission of alarm due to test	3
Accidental transmission of MEDICAL Alarm	26
Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	45
Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	23
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	21
CO detector activation due to malfunction	5
Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	6
False alarm due to testing system	3
False alarm or false call, other	4
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1
Malicious, mischievous false call, other	1
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	8
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	13
Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	2
Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	1

# Special Calls

**Severe Weather & Natural Disaster**

Tree Down

1

**Special Incident**

Special Incident, other

1

# NILES FD FLEET

**Rescue 8**



**2016 Pierce PUC pumper  
Acquired with 2014 FEMA  
Assistance to firefighter  
grant funds  
\$420,000**

**Rescue 7**



**2021 Pierce PUC pumper  
Acquired with City of Niles  
funds  
\$660,935.**

**Tower 7**



**1998 Pierce 100' aerial  
Acquired with City of Niles  
Funds  
\$667,534**

**Engine 8**



**2000 Pierce Saber pumper  
Acquired with City of Niles  
funds  
\$365,542**

## Engine 7



**2024 Pierce Saber pumper**  
**Acquired in 2024**  
**with City of Niles funds**  
**\$667,517**

## Pickup truck 7



**2020 Ford F150**  
**Acquired with CARES ACT**  
**funds**  
**\$32,500**

## BOAT 8



**2004 MERCURY INFLATABLE 14'**  
**AND TRAILER**  
**ACQUIRED WITH CITY OF NILES**  
**FUNDS \$3,448**

## PICKUP TRUCK 8



**2020 FORD F150**  
**ACQUIRED WITH CARES ACT**  
**FUNDS \$32,500**

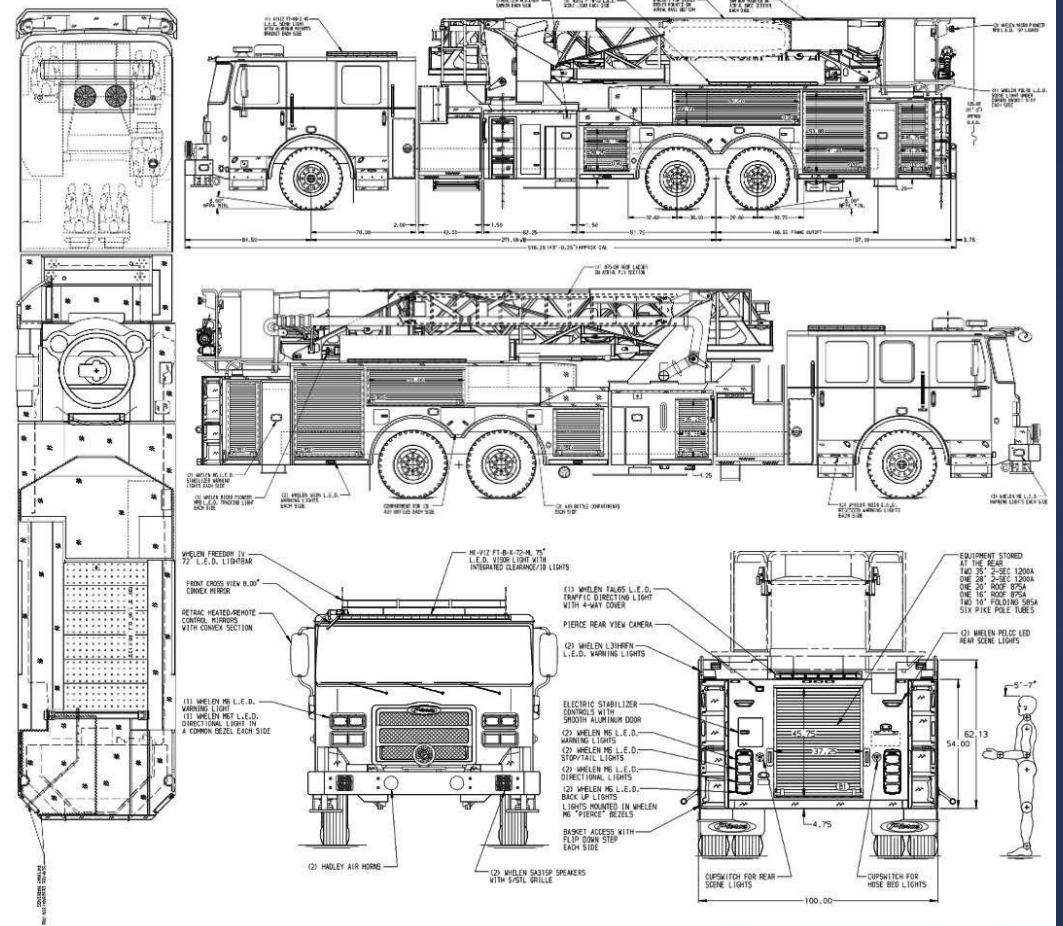
## CHIEF CAR 7



**2020 FORD EXPLORER SUV**  
**ACQUIRED WITH CITY OF NILES**  
**FUNDS \$32,432**

# New Purchase Alert

- In June 2025, the Niles Fire Department collaborated with the Niles City Administration and the Niles City Council Safety Committee to secure funding for a new 100-foot Pierce Enforcer Ascendant Aerial Tower. The new Tower 7 will feature a mid-mount aerial design, all-wheel steering, and integrated outrigger pads for improved maneuverability and faster setup. This apparatus will replace the department's 1998 Tower 7 and is expected to be delivered in July 2026. The department looks forward to the enhanced capabilities this new equipment will bring to our operations.





# Niles Fire Department Station 7 & 8

Station 7 and Station 8 both saw targeted improvements in 2025. Firefighters contributed significantly through ongoing painting, cleaning, and decluttering efforts.

## Station 7 updates

- Minimal facility changes were required at Station 7 during 2025.
- The primary focus was continuing to update and improve the fitness equipment to support firefighter health and readiness.

## Station 8 updates

- The apparatus bay floor at Station 8 was refinished with a durable epoxy coating to improve safety, cleanability, and longevity.
- A new HVAC system was installed for the bedrooms and office areas to enhance comfort and climate control.
- A fence was added around the dumpster area to improve appearance and site security.
- Additional fitness equipment was purchased or installed to further support firefighter wellness.



# Equipment

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The NFD acquired a Roll N Rack powered hose-rolling system to assist with rolling and loading all sizes of fire hose, some of which can weigh up to 100 pounds. This purchase was made possible through a very generous donation from **VFW Post 2074**.



# Personnel

*The personnel of the Niles Fire Department hold a wide range of specialty certifications to ensure comprehensive service to the community. Our members include Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Emergency Medical Responders who provide expert care during medical incidents.*

*On the prevention side, the department has five Certified Fire and Life Safety Inspectors and four Certified Fire Investigators. Additionally, two members are Certified Car Seat Installers, assisting new parents in properly securing their children in vehicles.*

*Many firefighters have also continued their professional education by earning advanced certifications such as Fire Instructor, Fire Officer, Rope Rescue, Hazardous Materials, and other specialized trainings to enhance the overall capabilities of the Niles Fire Department.*

## A - Turn

CAPT. MIKE HUDZIK  
LT. CHRIS VOTINO  
LT. ANDY BICKERSTAFF  
BEN REED  
JUSTIN ROSS  
NICK STASIAK  
HADEN RUPNIK  
TODD ALLEN  
KYLE KYSER

## B - Turn

CAPT. BRYAN LOWRIE  
LT. MIKE BURNS  
LT. GREG ROWLEY  
ROB RUSSELL  
JERRY KIRKWOOD  
JACOB SIGLEY  
NICK AUGUSTA  
NICOLAS CLEMENTI  
KYLE HAMMON  
MATT KELLO

## C - Turn

CAPT. TREVOR BONACCI  
LT. RON FREEL  
LT. ADAM KASHIEN  
KEN HEINSELMAN  
LOU VIGLIO  
MIKE O'CONNELL  
DERICK RAPCZAK  
BRANDON DAVIS  
JOSEPH PAGE  
JASON KOCHES



# 2026

*As we move into 2026, the Niles Fire Department has many promising developments on the horizon.*

- New construction projects in and around the Eastwood Mall area continue, and our Fire Inspection Bureau will oversee all associated fire safety inspections. The department will also develop preplans for these new facilities to ensure effective and safe responses to any future emergencies.*
- The downtown district is also seeing significant improvements that are expected to attract more visitors. To support this growth, the department will conduct training exercises in the river near the new boat dock, allowing firefighters to become familiar with the area and enhance their operational readiness.*
- We are also proud to have department members serving on several Trumbull County Special Operations Groups. Lieutenant Andrew Bickerstaff serves as Commander of the Technical Rescue Team, accompanied by one additional NFD firefighter, and three of our members also serve on the Water Rescue Team. These specialized units are still in their early stages but are expected to become fully operational soon, with ongoing training throughout the year.*
- In 2026, we will continue updating firefighters' protective gear and begin upgrading some of our nozzles to improve efficiency and safety. Planned building improvements include interior repairs at Station 8, completing the purchase of new fitness equipment, and replacing mattresses at both stations.*