Door County Fire Chiefs Association Summary

Number of employees: 0

Number of volunteers: 300+ Fire and EMS personnel, 590+ Community Volunteers as part of the Emergency Support Coalition.

What is your Mission Statement?

Door County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. Improving fire safety, education, and prevention through cooperation.

What is the main source of your funding and what percent of your funding does that source provide?

The Fire Chiefs Association relies on our $150 per year paid to the Association by each of the member Fire Departments and First Response organizations. These annual dues account for about 75% of our funding stream. Any additional funding comes through fund-raising activities like pancake breakfasts and water fights at the County Fair, and direct donations.

What is the geographic scope of your services throughout Door County?

The Door County Fire Chiefs Association serves the entire County through our Eleven (11) member Fire Departments and One (1) independent first responder group.

Explanation of how you serve Door County including primary programs your organization offers to the community.

The Door County Fire Chiefs Association's primary role is to enhance and improve the functions and operations of the Eleven (11) Fire Department, One (1)

Recent examples of our successful efforts include:

When the Fire Chiefs determined the county wide 9-1-1 radio system was no longer capable of meeting the emergency needs of the County, the Chiefs Association applied for and received over 1.8 million dollars in grants to upgrade the system. These funds allowed us to partner with the County to very cost effectively significantly improve the emergency radio system county wide.

In the face of the Covid 19 Pandemic the Fire Chiefs Association created a County wide coalition of Fire Departments, business, and volunteers in a successful effort to help the residents and guests of Door County effectively manage the stay home, stay safe order.

The Fire Chiefs identified a significant need for additional community access AED's (automatic external defibrillators). To address this need, the Fire Chiefs started the *Defibs4DoorCounty* initiative. With support from the community, the Chiefs were able to cooperatively raise over $180,000, successfully adding nearly 100 new AED's distributed across the county.1

independent EMR group, County EMS system and law enforcement through cooperative efforts and joint operations.

In addition to our support efforts, we continually evaluate the current needs of the residents and guests of the County and respond as a group to meet those needs.

How would you define the impact your organization is making in Door County?

If we were to define the Fire Chiefs Associations impact on the County, we would say that our efforts are community based with the goal of being proactive in our efforts to improve the lives and safety of the residents and guests of Door County.

If we look at the history of the Fire Chiefs Association, much of our impact, while significant, has been behind the scenes and typically unknown to the average resident or guest of the County. Examples include:

- Education of Children in Schools and Day Care Centers – Positively affecting life safety – typically the local department is the face of these efforts with the Chiefs Association in the background.
- Mutual Aid Work – As independent departments we understand the benefits of shared resources both in our ability to do the work that is needed but also in the financial savings that these collaborative efforts bring.
- The Formation of the Door County Emergency Support Coalition by the Door County Fire Chiefs association was the first undertaking of the association that was evident to the residents and guests of the County.

What is your annual budget?

The association typically sets a budget or goal on an individual basis depending on the project and the needs. For example, our goal for the AED program was

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$150,000, a goal we fortunately were able to exceed allowing for additional AED's to be placed in the hands of the community.

If you were to receive a donation from 100+WWC, how would that donation be used?

The donation would be used to support the continued efforts of the Chiefs Association, for example:

- The Fire Chiefs Association supports the Door County Incident Support Team (IST), This dedicated team of volunteers responds to major incidents across Door County, supporting not only the first responders but also those residents affected by the event.

- While our *Defibs4DoorCounty* program was remarkably successful and exceeded the goals, it identified more community needs and desires for AED's than we were able to provide.

- The Fire Chefs in cooperation with Door County are currently in the early stages of a radio system upgrade projected to cost in excess of 20 million dollars, while it is unclear exactly how these funds will be collected there is no doubt that a portion of these costs will fall to the local emergency responders.

- The Chief's Association is continually looking for ways to improve the safety of the Door County residents and guests and has a demonstrated ability to positively affect these changes.

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