

Westchester Fire Department

ANNUAL REPORT



Daniel Manning
Fire Chief



2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF	3
MISSION AND VISION	4
CORE VALUES	5
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & RESPONSES	6
TRAINING	8
COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION & PUBLIC OUTREACH	12
PUBLIC OUTREACH PHOTOS	13
FLEET & FACILITIES	14
IAFF LOCAL 4851 ACCOMPLISHMENTS	15
LOOKING AHEAD	16



DEAR VILLAGE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND CITIZENS OF WESTCHESTER

2025 was another great year for the Westchester Fire Department. As you read the report, you will see that every member of the department has been working hard to become better at the profession. We have been busy attending training, inspecting businesses and schools, providing public education, installing smoke alarms, teaching C.P.R., and attending community events. Our new Ambulance arrived in 2025 and is ready to respond to calls in our village. We appreciate the Mayor's and Village Board's commitment to public service in purchasing this ambulance!

The Fire Department welcomed new Firefighter/Paramedics in 2025, saw two promotions, and had a senior member retire after 26 years of service. Firefighter/Paramedics Jackson, Martinez, Do, Szajkovics, and Parisi came on board in 2025. We are happy to have them as they have been wonderful public servants for Westchester. Captain Michael Doocy retired in 2025 after 26 years. We wish him the best of luck in retirement. Captain Doocy's retirement created the opportunity for Lt. Eric Biskup to move up to Captain and FF/PM Nicholas Snively to be promoted to Lieutenant. Congratulations to them both!

2025 was another year of growth for our organization. We are always mindful of staying in motion and building up our personnel through training, innovation, morale, and a solid vision for the future. We look forward to continued success in 2026 with the help and support of our Westchester community.

Sincerely,



Daniel Manning
Fire Chief

MISSION & VISION



MISSION

The Westchester Fire Department is dedicated to protecting life and property, ensuring public safety, and strengthening our community through prevention, response, recovery, and emergency preparedness. As an all-hazards emergency provider, we put the needs of our residents first, delivering fire, rescue, and medical services with professionalism and care.

VISION

The Westchester Fire Department strives to be a leader in emergency services, providing exceptional fire, rescue, and medical response while fostering a safe, prepared, and resilient community. Through innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement, we are committed to delivering the highest level of service to those we protect.



COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

We're more than just first responders—we're your neighbors, dedicated to keeping our community safe and strong. Every day, we strive to provide the best service possible through ongoing training, teamwork, and a deep commitment to those we serve.

INTEGRITY & TRUST

Earning and keeping your trust is at the heart of everything we do. We believe in honesty, accountability, and always doing the right thing—on and off duty.

OPEN COMMUNICATION

Good communication is key to a strong team and a safer community. Whether within our department or with the people we serve, we listen, learn, and work together to solve problems.

RESPECT FOR ALL

Our community is diverse, and we embrace that. We treat everyone with compassion, dignity, and fairness, ensuring every person we serve receives the respect, care, and services they deserve. Diversity and inclusion make our organization and our community better.

HEALTH & SAFETY FIRST

Keeping our community safe starts with keeping our team safe. We train hard, look out for one another, and stay prepared for whatever challenges come our way.

TEAMWORK & LEADERSHIP

Everyone in our organization is a leader. We seek out and value the input and opinions of members at all levels of our organization. The department is only as strong as our teamwork and that drives our organization. We will work together locally and regionally to improve service to the public and to maintain a safe and effective work environment. We believe that all members have a duty to mentor others.

SERVING WITH HEART

We're here because we care. Beyond emergency response, we're committed to making a difference through community programs, education, and outreach that help build a stronger, safer Westchester.

INNOVATION & PROGRESS

The world is always changing, and we're changing with it. We embrace new ideas, technology, and methods to keep improving how we serve you.

**AT THE END OF THE DAY, OUR MISSION IS
SIMPLE: TO PROTECT, SERVE, AND BE THERE
WHEN YOU NEED US MOST.**

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & RESPONSES

6

The Westchester Fire Department continues to make strategic investments in emergency medical services to ensure high-quality care for our community.

In 2025, **Medic 26** officially joined our fleet. After several months of preparation, the new unit is now fully operational and actively serving residents. The Department also invested in new blood glucose kits, pulse oximeters, and updated EMS bags to support frontline patient care.

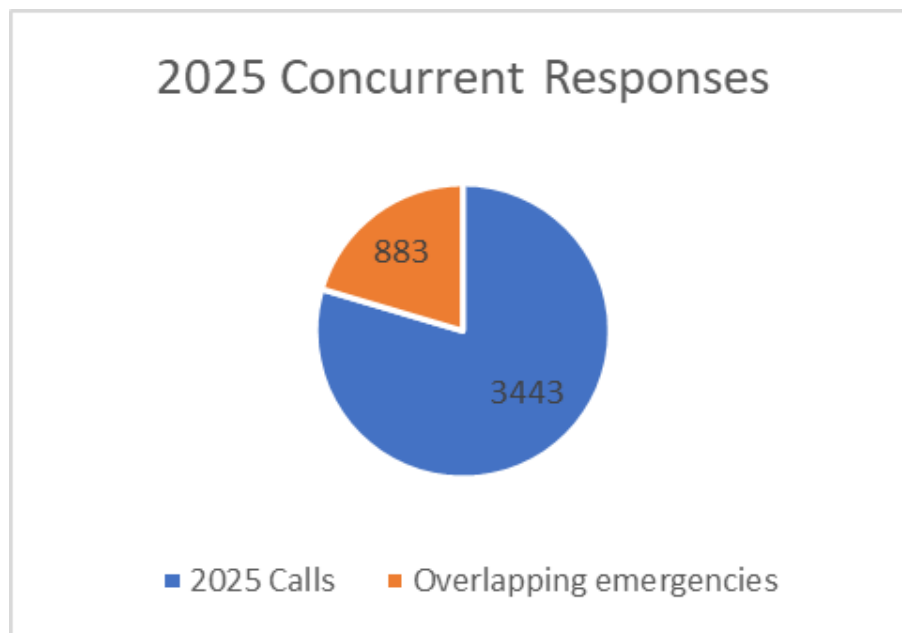
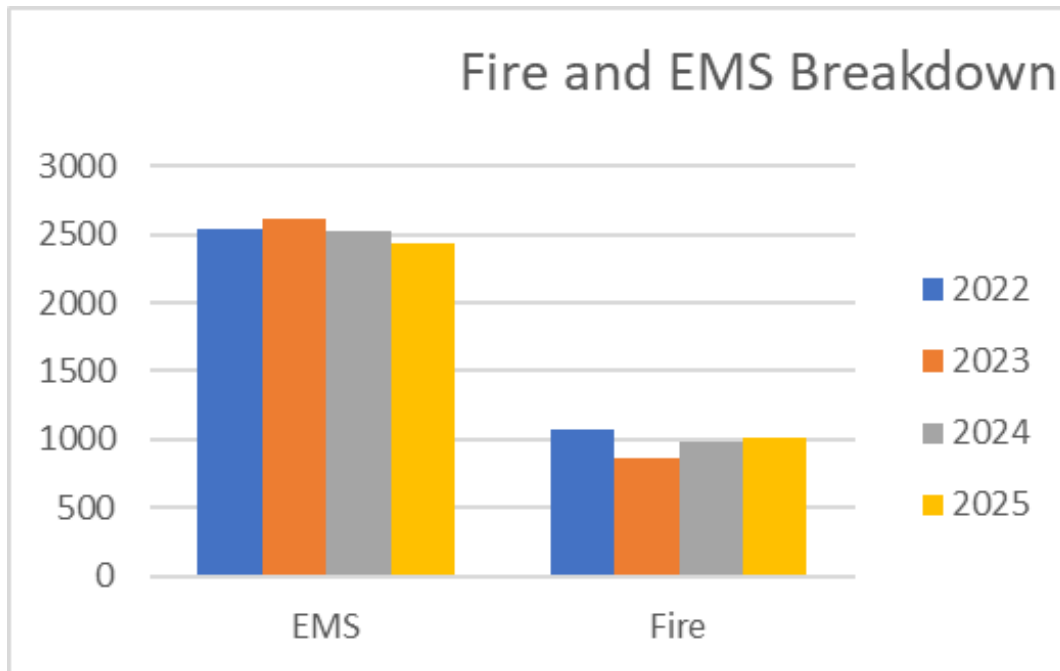
Emergency medical services remain the backbone of our Department, accounting for **71% of total call volume** this year. To meet this demand, personnel participate in **weekly EMS-focused training**, including on-site instruction provided in partnership with Loyola Hospital, ensuring our teams remain current on best practices and evolving medical standards.

In addition, the Department continues its commitment to professional development and mentorship through participation in **local paramedic preceptor programs**. This year, we proudly hosted multiple paramedic students from Triton College and the Loyola Paramedic Program, supporting the next generation of emergency medical professionals.

Through continued investment in **training, equipment, and technology**, the Westchester Fire Department remains dedicated to delivering reliable, high-quality emergency medical care to the residents we serve.

71% OF OUR RESPONSES IN 2025 WERE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE CALLS





OVER A QUARTER (26%) OF OUR CALLS ARE OVERLAPPING, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH LAST YEAR. WE WILL NEED TO STAFF A SECOND AMBULANCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

TRAINING

MESSAGE FROM THE TRAINING CAPTAIN: The Training Division of the Westchester Fire Department remains committed to delivering high-quality, progressive, and standardized training to ensure the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters and fire officers. In 2025, the division continued to adapt to evolving operational challenges, regulatory requirements, and emerging hazards while maintaining a strong focus on firefighter safety, professionalism, and operational readiness. Through collaboration with other career agencies, regional partners, and state and national training organizations, the Westchester Fire Dept. training division provided comprehensive instruction that strengthened emergency response capabilities across the Village of Westchester.

The Training Division is responsible for planning, coordinating, delivering, and evaluating fire service training for department personnel serving the Village of Westchester. This work includes firefighter recruit training, ongoing in-service and refresher instruction, officer development, and specialized technical rescue training. The division also ensures compliance with all applicable State of Illinois and national standards. In addition, the Training Division manages training records, oversees re-certification and credentialing requirements, and tracks certifications to ensure all personnel remain properly trained and qualified in accordance with OSFM, OSHA, ISO, and NFPA standards.

FIRE OFFICER & COMMAND LEADERSHIP

The department continued to strengthen its leadership capacity through advanced officer and command training:

- **Capt. Biskup** completed the *Advanced Fire Officer* program, reinforcing leadership in fireground operations and strategic command. He also attended the *Calm the Chaos Command* class, which focuses on structured decision-making during high-stress incidents.
- **FF LeMay** completed the *Basic Company Officer* program, providing foundational leadership training for supervising fire company operations and personnel.
- **Capt. Middendorf** completed the *Advanced Fire Officer* program, further enhancing tactical leadership and incident command skills. He also participated in the *Calm the Chaos Incident Command Workshop*, emphasizing command presence and operational control during complex incidents.
- **Capt. O'Connor** completed the *Chief Fire Officer* program, an executive-level course centered on organizational leadership, strategic planning, and administrative oversight.

FIRE ACADEMY, APPARATUS OPERATIONS & EMERGENCY VEHICLE TRAINING

Firefighters completed a wide range of operational certifications to ensure readiness across all response types:

- **FF Do** earned certifications as a *Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE)*, *Fire Service Vehicle Operator (FSVO)*, and *Basic Operations Firefighter (BOF)*, and completed *HazMat Operations* training, covering pump operations, apparatus maintenance, emergency vehicle safety, core firefighting skills, and hazardous materials response.
- **FF Garcia** completed *Common Passenger Vehicle* training focused on vehicle extrication and stabilization, and earned *Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE)* certification in apparatus operation and water supply management.
- **FF Rodriguez** completed *Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE)* training and *Common Passenger Vehicle* certification, strengthening skills in apparatus functionality and vehicle rescue operations.
- **FF Szajkovics** completed *Basic Operations Firefighter (BOF)*, *HazMat Operations*, *Fire Service Vehicle Operator (FSVO)*, and *Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE)* training, covering a broad range of firefighting, hazardous materials, and apparatus competencies.
- **FF Curran** completed *Common Passenger Vehicle* training focused on vehicle rescue and stabilization techniques.
- **FF Ward** completed *Common Passenger Vehicle* training and *Nozzle Forward*, emphasizing advanced hose handling and fire attack techniques.
- **FF Wilson** completed *Nozzle Forward* training, specializing in aggressive interior fire attack and nozzle movement strategies.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- **FF Do** and **FF Szajkovichs** completed *HazMat Operations* training, focusing on hazardous materials identification, containment, mitigation, and response to chemical, biological, and radiological incidents.

TECHNICAL RESCUE & WATERCRAFT RESCUE

- **FF Johnson** completed *Trench Technician, Collapse Technician, Trench Operations, and Watercraft Technician* training, developing advanced skills in trench and structural collapse rescue, specialized equipment use, and water rescue operations.
- **FF Krueger** completed *Watercraft Technician* training, certifying proficiency in water-based rescue and emergency boat operations.

INSTRUCTION & TRAINING

- **FF Mika** earned *Instructor I* certification, qualifying him to deliver fire service training and evaluate performance.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- **Lt. Snavelly** completed *DICO* training, focused on infection control practices and policies designed to reduce the spread of infectious diseases within emergency response and healthcare environments.

INSTRUCTION & TRAINING

- **FF Curran** and **FF Jackson** completed *Building Performing Fire Inspections* training, gaining knowledge of local, state, and national fire safety regulations and improving their ability to identify fire hazards, including electrical issues, blocked exits, flammable materials, and inadequate fire protection systems.

Other key training programs are completed on a regular, recurring schedule to maintain operational readiness and ensure consistent, high-quality service delivery. These programs include Basic Operations recruit training; annual OSHA and NFPA refresher training; facility-based and multi-company drills; vehicle extrication operations; Basic Company Officer and Advanced Fire Officer leadership training; Incident Command System (NIMS) instruction; Mayday and Rapid Intervention training; Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations; and Emergency Medical Operations conducted in coordination with Loyola EMS.



TRAINING:

OSFM RE-CERTIFICATION INITIATIVE

In 2025, the Westchester Fire Department successfully completed **Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)** re-certification for **27 fire department members**. This milestone marks the culmination of a sustained four-year initiative aimed at enhancing **operational readiness** and **professional development** across multiple fire service disciplines. The comprehensive process encompassed the following areas:

- **Technical Rescue Disciplines** – Including trench, collapse, and rope rescue.
- **Hazardous Materials Response** – Ensuring preparedness for chemical, biological, and radiological incidents.
- **Driver/Operator Training** – Covering Fire Service Vehicle Operator (FSVO).
- **Fire Apparatus Engineer** – Reinforcing knowledge in pump operations, flow calculations, and water supply management.
- **Public Education** – Strengthening community outreach and fire prevention efforts.
- **Fire Inspection** – Enhancing code enforcement and safety compliance capabilities.
- **Fire Investigation** – Developing skills in origin and cause determination.
- **Fire Service Instruction** – Certifying members as Instructor I to support internal training and mentorship.

THIS INITIATIVE REFLECTS THE DEPARTMENT'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE, SAFETY, AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. THE SUCCESSFUL RE-CERTIFICATION OF THESE MEMBERS ENSURES THAT WESTCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT REMAINS AT THE FOREFRONT OF FIRE SERVICE PROFESSIONALISM AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING INITIATIVES

In 2025, the Training Division expanded and enhanced specialized training opportunities, including:

- **Technical Rescue Training Rope Rescue**
- **Confined Space**
- **Trench Rescue**
- **Structural Collapse**
- **Leadership and Officer Development Company Officer Development Workshops**
- **Command Simulation and Tabletop Exercises**

RECRUIT TRAINING PROGRAM

The Training Division has sent 2 probationary firefighters to recruit classes during 2025, graduating **2 new firefighters**. Recruits completed an intensive curriculum aligned with Illinois and OSFM standards, emphasizing:

- **Fireground safety and survival**
- **Engine and truck company operations**
- **Live fire training**
- **Physical fitness and job performance skills**
- **Professional conduct and teamwork**

SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

Firefighter safety remains the highest priority of the Training Division. All training programs were conducted in compliance with:

- **NFPA standards**
- **OSFM of Fire Prevention and Control requirements**
- **County and departmental safety policies**
- **OSHA and IDOL regulations.**

- NO TRAINING-RELATED INJURIES WERE REPORTED IN 2025! -

CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

Key challenges encountered in 2025 included:

- **Scheduling complexities across multiple agencies**
- **Increased demand for specialized training**

These challenges were addressed through improved scheduling coordination, expanded instructor development, and increased use of blended learning formats.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR 2026

The Training Division will focus on the following priorities in the coming year:

- **Expansion of officer and acting officer development programs**
- **Increased technical rescue and special operations training**
- **Enhanced training data tracking and reporting**
- **Continued emphasis on firefighter health and safety**

OUR MEMBERS PROUDLY COMPLETED OVER 6,300 HOURS OF TRAINING IN 2025.

THE WESTCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING DIVISION REMAINS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING HIGH-QUALITY, RELEVANT, AND SAFE TRAINING THAT SUPPORTS OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE OF WESTCHESTER AND THROUGHOUT COOK COUNTY, IL. THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2025 REFLECT THE PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMITMENT OF OUR INSTRUCTORS, STAFF, AND PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS.

- DAVE MIDDENDORF, TRAINING DIVISION CAPTAIN

COMMUNITY: RISK REDUCTION & PUBLIC OUTREACH

RISK REDUCTION

In 2025, the Fire Prevention Bureau completed **157** inspections throughout the Village of Westchester. The community includes **274** premises equipped with fire alarm systems and **156** premises protected by sprinkler systems. The bureau works closely with Compliance Engine to ensure all life safety systems remain current, compliant, and fully operational. As a result of these efforts, Westchester maintains an overall business compliance rate of more than **89 percent**. This year also marked a period of growth for the Fire Prevention Bureau, with the addition of **three new inspectors** who are scheduled to begin their education and certification process in 2026. Lt. Mark Wandtke has been working closely with these members to familiarize them with local businesses and Westchester's building and fire codes.

Beyond inspections, the Fire Prevention Bureau plays an active role in **community safety and outreach**. Responsibilities include conducting annual fire drills, distributing **more than 100 smoke detectors** to residents in 2025, and working in coordination with the Building Department to support overall code compliance and public safety.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Members of the department remain **highly visible** throughout the year at community events and activities across the Village. The department strongly believes in building **meaningful relationships** with both residents and local businesses, and **active participation** in village events provides valuable opportunities to connect with the community we serve. From **Juneteenth** and the **Torch Run** to **senior-focused events**, these interactions reinforce our ongoing commitment to **community engagement** and **public service**.

The department's annual **Open House**, held on October 6, 2025, was a tremendous success. Each year, the department strives to create an event that is both **educational and enjoyable for all ages**. With the support of local businesses and community partners, the event offered free flu shots, smoke detectors, blood pressure checks, and a wide range of fire safety and health-related information.

Looking ahead, the department will continue offering **free CPR classes** to residents in 2026. These classes are typically held once per month and are taught by department members, further strengthening **community preparedness** and **life-saving skills**.



FLEET, FACILITIES & OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

FLEET & BUILDING MAINTENANCE

The Westchester Fire Department remained focused throughout the year on maintaining operational readiness through diligent fleet management and continued investment in departmental facilities. Despite challenges associated with aging apparatus and infrastructure, the department made meaningful progress and upheld its commitment to safety, reliability, and service to the community.

FLEET MAINTENANCE AND APPARATUS OVERVIEW

The department continues to operate a fleet that includes several aging pieces of fire apparatus. Current frontline equipment includes a fire engine that is 17 years old, a second engine that is 18 years old, and a ladder truck that is 28 years old. These vehicles require increased maintenance attention due to their age and continued service demands.

The department has worked diligently to keep all apparatus in safe and reliable operating condition. Through proactive inspections, timely repairs, and careful scheduling, the fleet has remained serviceable and available to respond to emergencies. While the age of these vehicles presents ongoing challenges, the department remains committed to extending their service life responsibly while planning for future replacement needs.

A significant positive development this year was the addition of a new 2026 ambulance from Wheeled Coach Industries, Inc. This investment represents a major step forward in enhancing emergency medical response capabilities, improving reliability, and ensuring the safety of both patients and personnel. The new ambulance will serve the community for many years to come and reflects the Village's continued support of emergency services.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE & FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Facility maintenance and improvements also remained a priority. The Village of Westchester completed a major renovation project at Station 26, which included comprehensive tuckpointing and the installation of a new roof. These upgrades not only improve the structural integrity and longevity of the building but also enhance the working environment for firefighters and EMS personnel.

The renovation of Station 26 demonstrates a strong commitment to preserving essential infrastructure and ensuring that fire department facilities remain safe, functional, and well-maintained.

IAFF LOCAL 4851 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2025, **IAFF Local 4851** demonstrated strong growth, commitment, and leadership through **expanded membership**, meaningful **community engagement**, and impactful **fundraising** efforts. These accomplishments reflect the local's dedication not only to its members, but also to the broader community it serves.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL

One of the most notable achievements of IAFF Local 4851 in 2025 was the addition of **five new members**. This growth strengthened the local's collective voice and reinforced unity within the organization. Welcoming new members ensured continued representation, mentorship, and sustainability for the local, while fostering a culture of inclusion and professional pride.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

IAFF Local 4851 remained deeply engaged in community service throughout the year. Members actively participated in several high-profile and meaningful events, reinforcing the local's presence beyond the firehouse.

- **Polar Plunge:** Members took part in the Polar Plunge, demonstrating solidarity with charitable causes while raising awareness and funds for community initiatives.
- **Project Fire Buddies:** The local continued its commitment to Project Fire Buddies, providing support and encouragement to children facing serious medical challenges.
- **Supporting Other IAFF Chapters:** Local 4851 also supported neighboring and affiliated IAFF chapters by participating in and contributing to their fundraising events.

FUNDRAISING LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

Fundraising was a major focus in 2025, with IAFF Local 4851 achieving significant success through both collaboration and innovation. The local partnered with Burger Social to host a 1st annual fundraising event, which exceeded expectations by raising over **\$4,000 for Project Fire Buddies**. This successful inaugural event showcased the local's ability to build strong community partnerships and generate meaningful financial support for important causes.

LOOKING AHEAD

The accomplishments of IAFF Local 4851 in 2025 reflect a year marked by **growth, service, and impact**. Through expanding membership, active community involvement, and successful fundraising initiatives, the local reinforced its mission and values. These efforts have laid a strong foundation for continued success and community engagement in the years to come.

LOOKING AHEAD

Despite the challenges associated with an aging fleet and the ongoing demands of facility upkeep, the Westchester Fire Department made meaningful progress in 2025. The addition of a **new ambulance, continued maintenance of aging apparatus, and targeted improvements to Station 26** reflect a forward-thinking approach and a strong, collaborative partnership between the department and the Village. These efforts demonstrate a **continued commitment to maintaining readiness** while balancing day-to-day operational needs with **long-term planning**.

As the year concludes, the department remains in a **positive position** and **fully committed** to providing dependable, professional, and high-quality emergency services to the residents of Westchester.

Guided by a focus on **safety, training, and responsible stewardship of resources**, the Westchester Fire Department looks ahead with confidence —prepared to meet future challenges while continuing to serve the community with **dedication and pride**.



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