

# 2013 Fargo Fire Department Annual Report

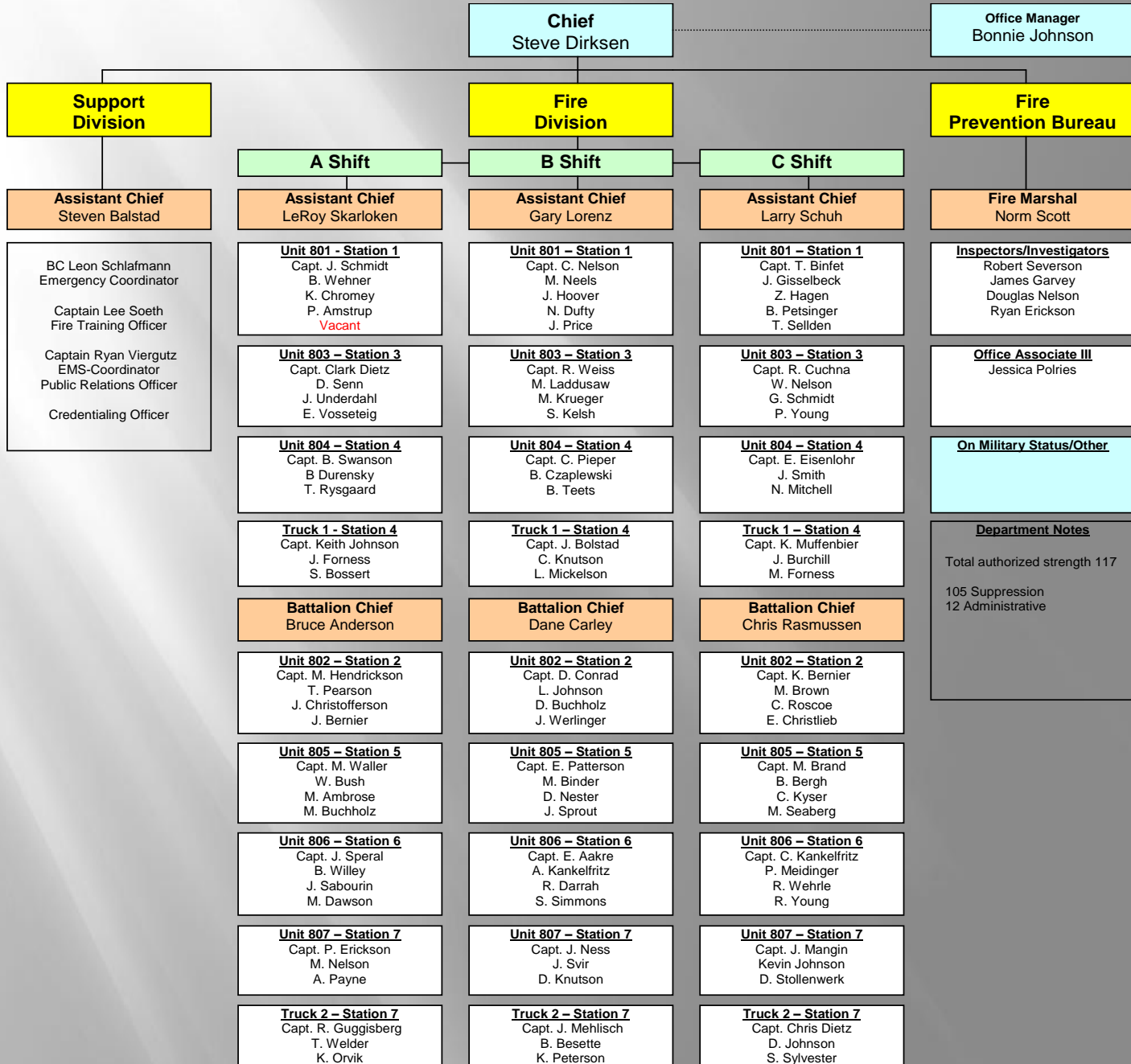


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# Fargo Fire Department Organizational Chart 2013



# Message From the Chief



Mayor Walaker, Fire Commissioner Williams, Board of City Commissioners, and Citizens of Fargo,

The dedicated men and women of the Fargo Fire Department (FFD) work every day to protect the citizens and visitors of the City. This annual report provides an overview of their efforts.

In 2012, the FFD responded to 6,970 calls for service. This was an 11.5 % increase from 2011 and a 35% increase from 2010. Our crews responded to 3,767 Emergency Medical calls, 1,407 false alarms, 221 fires, 124 hazardous materials responses, and 1,427 other calls for service. In 2013, two citizens lost their lives to fire. Our total property loss due to fire was \$2.47 million. This was \$872,237 less than 2012. We are continuing to see additional calls for service in the southern end of the city. We anticipate this to continue to grow as homes and businesses continue to populate that area.

In August the Fargo Fire Department was visited by an ISO representative to conduct a review. The department supplied information on operations, call response times, training, inspections, and equipment. We also facilitated the gathering of information from the Water Department and Red River Regional Dispatch. We anticipate a final determination of our classification in July of 2014. Currently the ISO rating for Fargo is a Class 3 out of 10.

In 2013 the Fargo Fire Department completed its third year as an accredited fire department. The accreditation was initially granted for a five year period. Out of 32,000 fire departments in the United States, there are 155 accredited fire departments. The Fargo Fire Department is the only fire department in North Dakota that is accredited. During the interim years fire departments are asked to submit annual compliance reports. The FFD submitted its report in August and received information that we continue to be a member in good standing.

It has been my sincere honor to serve as the Fire Chief for the City of Fargo for the past year. I am extremely proud to serve the City of Fargo, its citizens, and employees.

I owe all that has been accomplished in the past year to the hard work and dedication of the men and women that make up the Fargo Fire Department. I consider myself very blessed to work with and be associated with such an outstanding group of people. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the information contained in this report.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven J. Dirksen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a white rectangular background.

Steven J. Dirksen  
Fire Chief  
City of Fargo



# 2013 Year Review



## Services

The Fargo Fire Department Operations Division responds to all fires, fire alarm notifications, emergency medical calls, hazardous materials responses, and technical rescues. The operations members also perform company level inspections in all businesses within the city. This division also works in conjunction with the City of Fargo Hydrants and Mains Division to flush all 6,400 fire hydrants in the city.

The Administration Division is staffed with an Assistant Fire Chief, one Emergency Manager/Battalion Chief, and 2 Training Captains. This division is responsible for all training conducted within the department. This division also oversees all equipment, maintenance, and training records for the department. The Administration Division coordinates all public relations activities, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and the HeartSafe Fargo Public Access Defibrillation Program (PAD).



The Fire Prevention Bureau is staffed with 4 Fire Inspector/Investigators and an Assistant Chief who serves as the Fire Marshal. The FPB annually inspects all schools, churches, gas stations, medical facilities, bars and restaurants. The FPB also provides the "Learn Not to Burn Program" in all schools in the city.

# 2013 Year Review Continued...

## Resources

The Fire Department operates out of 7 fire stations strategically located throughout the City. Our daily staffing is 35 personnel with a minimum of 27 personnel on duty each day. There are 7 engine companies and 2 truck companies and 2 command vehicles in service each day to serve the needs of the citizens and visitors of the City of Fargo.



The Fargo Fire Department has entered into two Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the State of North Dakota. The MOU's are for Hazardous Materials response and Technical Rescue response to the Southeast Region of the State.

# 2013 Year Review Continued...

## **Insurance Services Organization (ISO)**

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# 2013 Year Review Continued...



## **Mission**

The mission of the Fargo Fire Department is: Protect lives and property from fire and other emergencies; to respond to emergencies in a professional and courteous manner; to reduce the rate of emergencies through public education and code enforcement.



# 2013 Year Review Continued...



## Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Accreditation

In 2013 the Fargo Fire Department completed its third year as an accredited fire department. The accreditation was initially granted for a five year period. Out of 32,000 fire departments in the United States, there are 155 accredited fire departments. The Fargo Fire Department is the only fire department in North Dakota that is accredited. During the interim years fire departments are asked to submit annual compliance reports. The FFD submitted its report in August and received information that we continue to be a member in good standing.



# 2013 Year Overview

All Operations Division personnel completed annual EMT training and were recertified.

All Fire Companies completed annual training evolutions in accordance with EPA, NFPA, and OSHA standards.

There were two fire fatalities as the result of a fire that occurred on April 6, 2013. National statistics show that a community the size of Fargo can expect one to two fire fatalities annually.

HeartSafe Fargo Public Access Defibrillator program placed 62 PADS and trained 104 citizens in CPR.

A new fire engine was purchased from Spartan CRV to replace an engine destroyed by fire.



Took delivery of a Regional Quick Response Vehicle.

Annual medical exams were conducted for all personnel.

# 2013 Year in Overview Continued...

Continued with Officer Development Training.

Continued with the certification of 42 Operations Division employees to ProBoard Confined Space Level 1 and 2.

Started discussions to deal with the large number of deck fires on apartment buildings.

Flu vaccinations were offered through Fargo/Cass Public Health for all employees.

Annual physical fitness testing was conducted for all personnel.

Planned certification requirements for members of the Hazardous Materials team to the Technician, Science Officer and Incident Commander levels.

Conducted promotional examinations for the position of Fire Inspector/Investigator.





# 2013 Year Overview Continued

The City was split into two battalions effective January 21. Fire Captains Bruce Anderson, Chris Rasmussen, and Dane Carley were promoted to the position of Battalion Chief to staff the new battalion. Fire Captain and Emergency Manager Leon Schlafmann was also promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief.

## Battalion Chiefs



Firefighters (left to right) Matt Brand, Chris Pieper, Ben Swanson, and Ryan Viergutz were promoted to Fire Captain.

## Captains





# 2013 Year Overview Continued

Firefighter Ryan Erickson was promoted to Fire Inspector/Investigator in January. Firefighters Jamie Garvey and Doug Nelson were promoted to Fire Inspector/Investigator in October. (Pictured left to right)

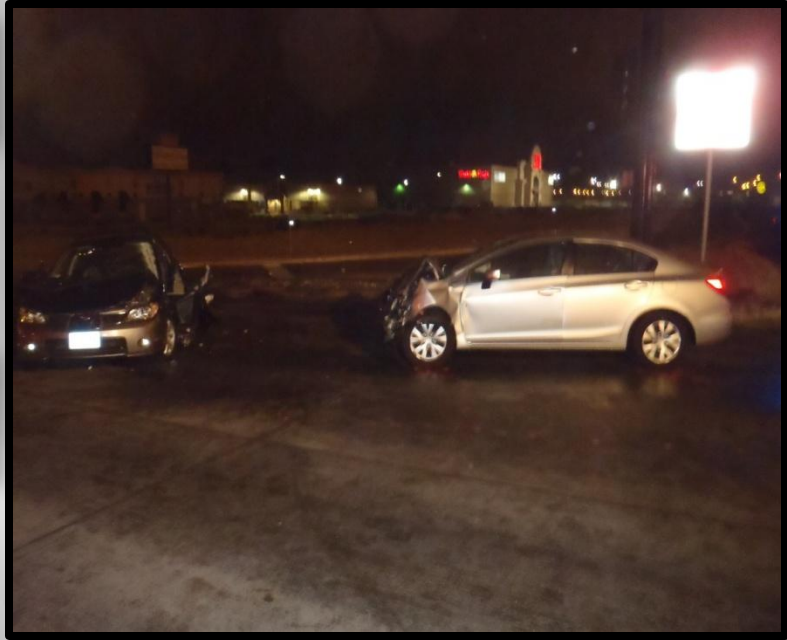
## Inspector/Investigators



# Immediate Future Plans

Update current physical fitness testing procedures.

Participate in exercises with the Civil Support Team.

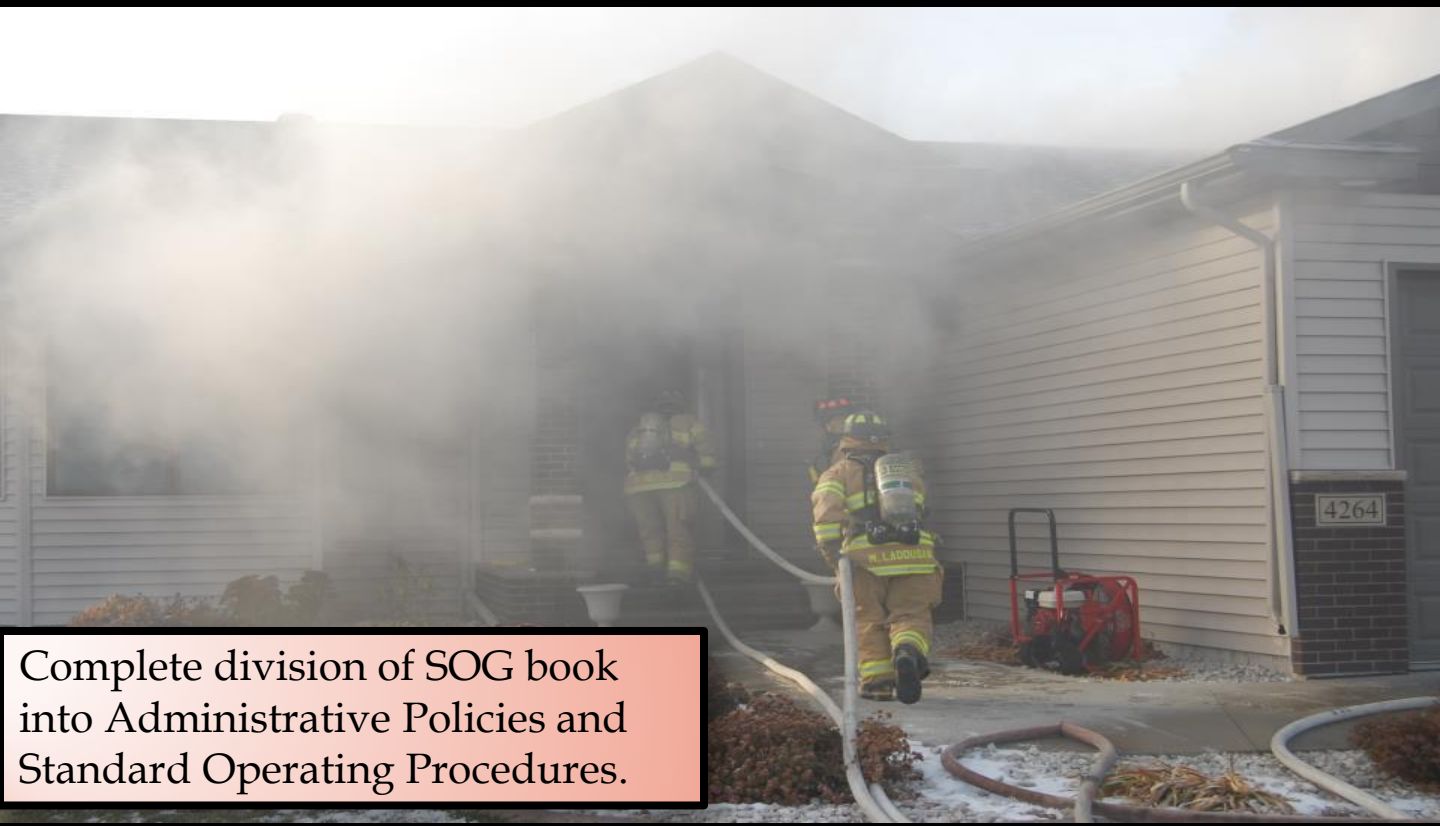


Begin implementation of paperless record keeping for training and fire and life safety inspections.



Conduct continuing education for nine shift personnel as Fire Investigation Technicians.

# Immediate Future Plans



Complete division of SOG book into Administrative Policies and Standard Operating Procedures.

Certify rescue team members to Confined Space and Trench Rescue levels 1

Conduct promotional testing for Fire Battalion Chief, Fire Captain, and Fire Inspector/Investigator.

Train all Fire Prevention Bureau personnel to Certified Fire Inspectors.

Certify Hazardous Materials team members to Technician level.



# Long-term Plans



Development of Internal Programs Experts.

Identify land in Southeast Fargo for placement and building of Fire Station #8.

Identify computer software to assist in fire safety inspections.



Explore and develop regionalization opportunities.



# New Initiatives

Enhance the current records management system.



Institutionalize company officer training and development.

Develop an automated reporting system for fire sprinkler and fire alarm testing results.

Expand elevator rescue training for all operations division personnel.

Expand the Public Access Defibrillator program to include neighborhood CPR training.

# Fire Prevention Bureau



Fire Marshal  
Norm Scott

The Fire Prevention Bureau continues to reduce risk through public education programs, fire prevention inspections, and fire investigations.

Public education is a critical component of fire prevention. One way we educate the public is the “Learn not to burn” program for kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. As a part of this program we spent time in January teaching “Exits” to 2795 children. In October 2878 children learned about the 911 system.

At risk young community members were provided with additional fire safety information by distributing “Spot something hot” safety books to Fargo YMCA childcare centers, the YWCA Emergency shelter, and Nokomis child care centers.

Our adult education system gave safety talks, presentations, and fire extinguisher training to 98 individuals. The audience included apartment building managers, building safety professionals, and childcare providers. “Cooking Safety Tips” pamphlets were delivered to the Fargo Housing Authority to be distributed to new tenants.

Annually, in October we participate in the National fire prevention week and place fire prevention posters throughout the community to raise fire prevention awareness.

# Fire Prevention

Inspections are done to determine compliance with the Fire Code. The city of Fargo adopted the International Fire Code 2012 edition effective August 2013. The fire prevention bureau along with suppression personnel inspect commercial and residential occupancies. A few of the fire prevention bureau's responsibilities include: permit inspections, new construction/remodels, fire alarm and sprinkler system installations, plan reviews, and complaints.

## Fire Prevention Bureau Inspections

Public Assembly	181
Offices	34
Educational	169
Factory	46
Haz Materials	196
Institutional	16
Mercantile	28
Residential	97
Storage	118
Buildings	4
Complaints	30
Preplans	5
Rechecks	31
Sprinkler System	209
Tanks	17
Outdoor /junk	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1187</b>

## Fire Suppression Inspections

Commercial	4221
Apartments	1144
<b>Total</b>	<b>5365</b>

## Fire Prevention Bureau Personal Hours

Recordkeeping	781
Research	615.5
Bldg Inspection	323.25
Recheck Insp.	124
Special/Req. Insp.	580
Church Inspection	113
School Inspection	70
Flam. Liquid Insp.	40
Plans Review	372.5
Investigations	154
Training	1111.5
Fire Drill Activity	4
Permits	370
Public Relations	280.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4939</b>

# Fire Investigations

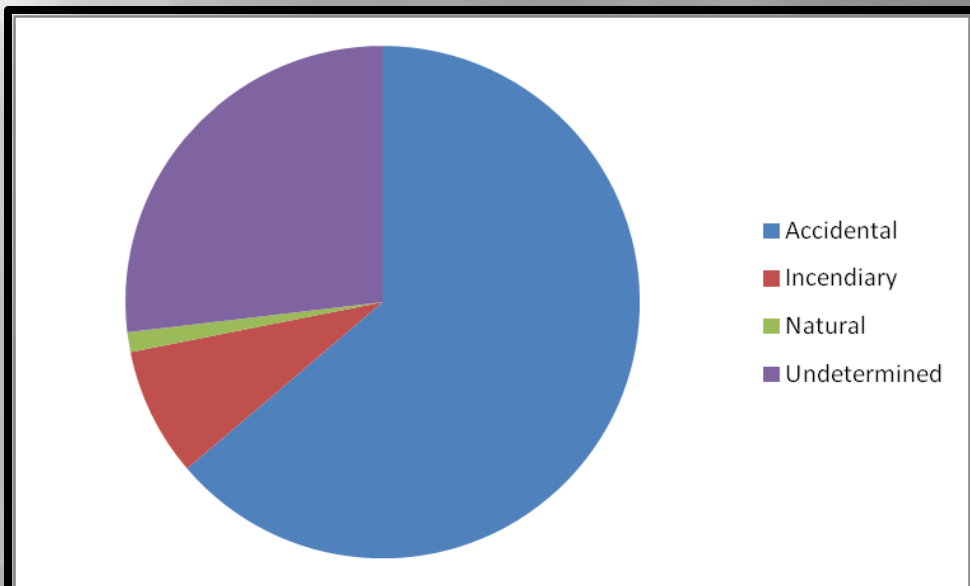
In 2013 the Fargo Fire Department had two Fire Prevention Bureau members and two shift investigators achieve Fire Investigation Technician (FIT) Certification through the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI).

Investigations are conducted to determine origin and cause. The results of 2013's fire investigations are shown below.



Accidental	102
Incendiary	13
Natural	2
Undetermined	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>

## 2013 Investigation Results





# Notable Fires in 2013

2/15/13 1437 3 Ave N, structure fire,  
approximate loss \$48,700

3/14/13 1710 2 St N, structure fire,  
approximate loss \$30,000

4/4/13 423 8 St S, structure fire,  
approximate loss \$110,000

4/6/13 925 Page Dr S, Fatal structure  
fire, approximate loss \$150,000

4/14/13 4468 Domingo Rd S, structure  
fire, approximate loss \$140,000

4/30/13 4219 10 Ave S, structure fire,  
approximate loss \$210,000

5/21/13 503 38 St S, heavy equipment  
fire, approximate loss \$75,000

7/14/13 702 21 St S, structure fire,  
approximate loss \$25,000



7/20/13 119 8 St S, structure fire,  
estimated loss \$45,000

8/4/13 1103 University Dr S, structure  
fire, estimated loss \$25,000

8/23/13 1836 56 Ave S, structure fire,  
estimated loss \$230,000

8/23/13 4488 Domingo Rd S, structure  
fire, estimated loss \$54,000

9/28/13 117 Broadway N, structure fire,  
estimated loss \$55,000

10/24/13 1421 42 Ave S, structure fire,  
estimated loss \$50,000

12/16/13 512 45 St S, structure fire,  
estimated loss \$125,000

12/28/13 4637 16 Ave N, structure fire,  
estimated loss \$30,000



# Fire Loss Summery



**Total Property Pre-Incident Value:** \$91,450,279

**Total Contents Pre-Incident Value:** \$13,892,948

**Total Pre-Incident Value:** \$105,343,227

**Total Property Loss:** \$1,945,774

**Total Content Loss:** \$529,262

**Total Losses:** \$2,475,036

# Stations & Apparatus



Station 1  
Apparatus Responses:  
801 - 2,856  
Batt. 1 - 1350



Station 2  
Apparatus Responses:  
802 - 1815





Station 3  
Apparatus Responses:  
803 - 1528



Station 4  
Apparatus Responses:  
804 - 2318  
Truck 1 - 1777



Station 5  
Apparatus  
Responses:  
805 - 2262



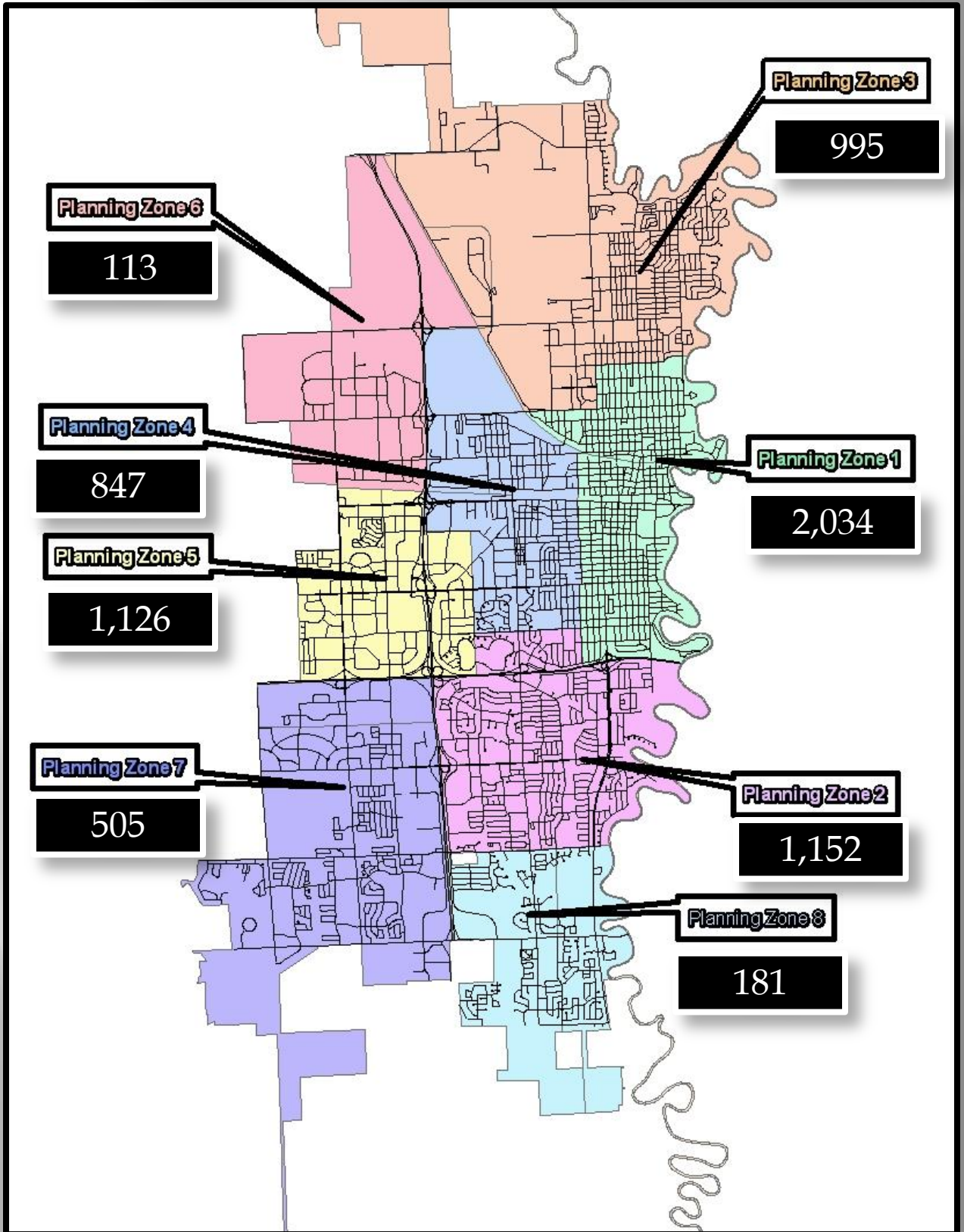
Station 6  
Apparatus  
Responses:  
806 - 1153



Station 7  
Apparatus  
Responses:  
807 - 1185  
Truck 2 - 903  
857(Hazmat) - 17  
Batt. 2 - 1116



# Runs per Station Area/Planning Zone

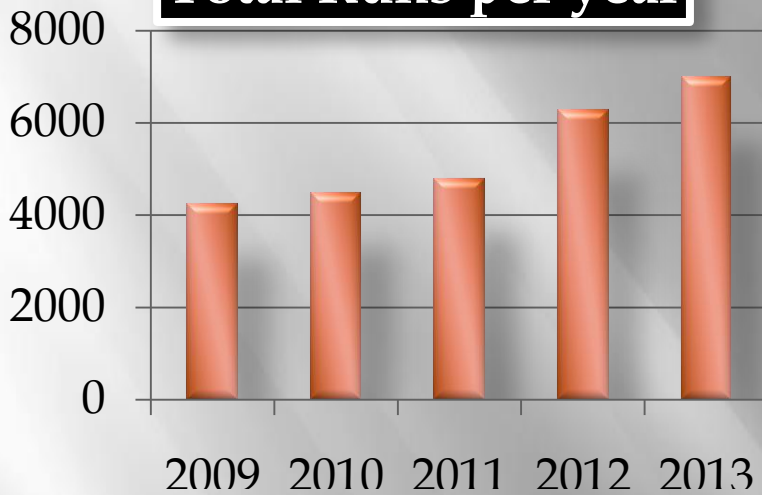




# Operations

As the City of Fargo continues to grow, so do the number of emergency calls that the FFD responds to. In 2013 the FFD went on 6,984 calls for service which is an increase of 722 from 2012. The average number of calls per day is 19.13. This is an increase of 60% from 5 years ago.

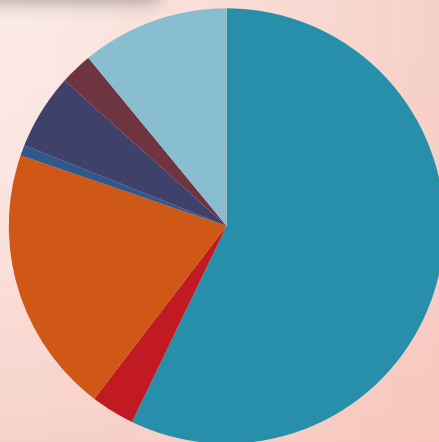
## Total Runs per year



This chart shows the number of calls for service over the past 5 years.

The chart below is a break down of the nature of the calls in 2013.

## Nature of Calls



- EMS - 3992
- Working Fires - 226
- False Alarms - 1387
- Rescues - 55
- Lift Assists - 391
- Haz-Mat - 168
- Misc. - 765

# Activity Hours of Crews

Category	A-Shift	B-Shift	C-Shift	Total
Fire	6164	5549	5935	17,648
Medical	2604	2626	2701	7,931
Inspections	1695	1544	1766	5,005
Hydrants	860	701	711	2,272
Emergency Training	6729	6672	6970	20,371
Medical Training	1206	914	574	2,694
Routine Maintenance	3463	3150	3065	9,678
Emergency Equipment Maintenance	4101	4286	4493	12,880
Equipment & Building Maintenance	1068	552	939	2,559
Personal Health & Safety	1479	935	984	3,398
Data Entry	1792	1858	1962	5,612
Public Relations	391	437	424	1,252
Special Inspections	15	24	27	66
Administrative	611	806	580	1,997
Misc. Duties	1078	1015	609	2,702
Total	33,256	31,069	31,740	96,065

# EMS Training Report



Ryan Viergutz  
EMS Training  
Captain



55 Firefighters received training and were transitioned from the current EMT-Basic standard to the new EMT standard for national certification with the remainder to be transitioned in the upcoming year.

107 firefighters were trained in the knowledge, skills and abilities required to provide quality emergency medical care. Some areas of training include:

- Patient assessment
- Care and treatment for potentially life threatening medical conditions
- Care and treatment for traumatic injuries
- Emergency cardiac care
- Auto extrication

Roughly 75% of the emergency calls responded to by the Fargo Fire Department are medical in nature. The fire department is committed to ensuring that the citizens of Fargo receive the highest quality emergency medical care possible.





308 citizens were trained in traditional CPR, Compression Only CPR, and Automated External Defibrillator Use and the Apple App Store.

Pulsepoint.org was added to our growing list of Heartsafe partners:

- Pulsepoint is a Smartphone application allowing citizen responders to be notified in the event that CPR is needed in their immediate vicinity.
- It provides the user with the location of emergency.
- It provides the user with the location of the AED nearest to location of the emergency
- Pulsepoint is currently available from Google Play and the Apple App Store

The Fargo Fire Department continued its partnership with Essentia Health and the American Red Cross in an attempt to increase sudden cardiac arrest survival rates in the Fargo community by increasing awareness, the number of trained citizens in our community and public access to Automated External Defibrillators.

# Public Relations Report

Representatives from the Fargo Fire Department attended numerous media events to increase an awareness for public safety and to allow the public an opportunity to interact with fire department employees.



To educate students on the merits of public service and encourage career paths into the fire service, representatives from the Fargo Fire Department attended numerous career and job fair events at local schools and universities.

With respect to fire safety and emergency preparedness, representatives from the Fargo Fire Department attended various safety events and public gatherings sponsored by local businesses and organizations to educate their staff, patrons, and neighbors on safe practices at work and in the home.



# Social Media

## #FargoFireDepartment



Fargo Fire Department shared a link.  
October 30, 2013

Please use added caution during the upcoming holiday. Brightly colored clothing is best for costumes. If children will be out after dark, please integrate reflective tape into their costume. If you are out driving this Halloween, please slow down and take special care to look out for Trick-or-Treater's.

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/holiday-seasonal/halloween.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/halloween.shtm)



**Halloween Fire Safety**  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

Learn how to prevent tragic Halloween fires. Safety tips for parents and children from the

Like · Comment · Share

Facebook and Twitter are two social media tools that have been previously established with the intent to reach out to the public.

Social media is currently being used to disseminate information about our department's day to day operations, providing updates on emergency information, public education, public safety messages, promoting charity functions, and for current news and events.



Fargo Fire Department shared a link.  
October 29, 2013

Here is a story with some great information about smoke detectors. Please remember to check your smoke detectors when changing your clocks this coming weekend.



**Fargo Fire Department Recommends Smoke Detector Check**  
[www.valleynewslive.com](http://www.valleynewslive.com)

As the saying goes, where there's smoke, there's fire. So as we fall back this weekend for Daylight Saving Time, it's a good time to keep in mind one more thing: your smoke detector. "A working smoke

Like · Comment · Share

5





## Fargo Fire @FargoFireDept

Fargo's Bravest who proudly serve within the City of Fargo!  
Fargo, North Dakota · fargofire.com

### Twitter

2141 Followers



★★★★★

Thank you FFD for saving my apartment building today. My upstairs neighbor had started a fire and was nowhere to be found. Who knows, if it wasn't for you guys we might be out of a home! All of the firefighters that were here earlier were very nice and kind. I really appreciate you guys and all the work that you do! :)

Like 1 · about 5 months ago ·



★★★★★

Thank you for being so nice to me tonight and getting me in the ambulance and keeping me warm! And making me smile when I was in pain♥️👉♥️👉 thank you everyone!

Like · about 2 months ago ·

### Facebook

Jan 1, 2013

•3196 likes

Dec 31, 2013

•3734 likes

Single biggest "reach" in 2013

•10,693 people on October 8

45 countries represented speaking 31 languages

5 of 5 star rating

# Fire Training



Captain Lee Soeth trained and evaluated the entire department on company level firefighting skills. These skills are designed so each firefighter can train with the equipment needed to accomplish the wide variety of fire ground tasks. Fire suppression personnel completed an average of 180 hours per person of fire ground training. Additional training hours were completed in technical rescue, driver/pump operator, and hazardous materials. The fire department also conducted two recruit classes that added four new firefighters. Each recruit completed 250 hour of classroom and hands on training

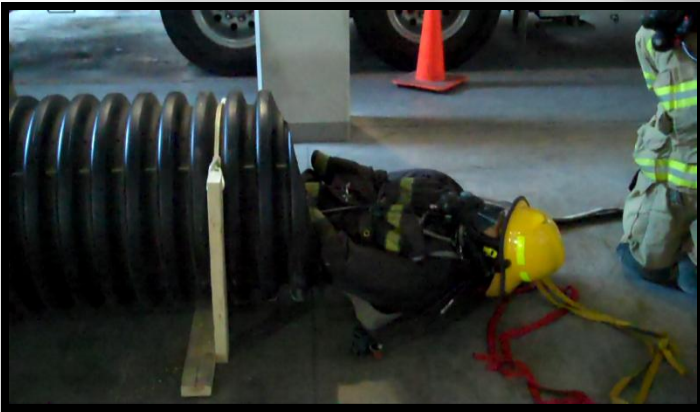


To the right you see two firefighters gearing up to enter our burn building in a training exercise. This exercise was done simulating a structure fire on the second floor of a residence. Firefighters had to enter structure and do search and rescue while advancing a line for fire attack .



# Fire Training Continued...

During summer months the Fargo Fire Department took advantage of the warm weather to gain experience in moving large volumes of water. Here firefighters are training on the use of one of our two aerial apparatus that is capable of flowing 1500 gallons per minute.



Ice water rescue training at the Red River. Firefighters are wearing mustang suits that help keep them dry and help with buoyancy

The Fargo Fire Department spent the cold weather months training inside at the public safety building. Firefighters were trained on self survival, finding lost firefighters, and the removal of injured firefighters through different obstacles.





# CASS FARGO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Batt. Chief  
Leon Schlafmann

2013 started off like most years here in the valley, planning and preparing for a spring flood. As Emergency Services Coordinator I represent the City of Fargo in a number of planning meetings. Emergency Management worked with local, regional and state partners for the overall preparedness for the City of Fargo.

## Fargo Flood Planning Meetings



## EM Conference in Bismarck



# Training, Exercise and Planning Meetings for 2013 Included Events:

Taught an EOC Operational Training Course in Ghana Africa

Train derailment Table top Exercise for City Leaders

ND National Guard CST Full Scale Exercise (Civil Support Team)

Facilitate a Table top Tornado Exercise at Harwood ND.

Fargo Marathon table top exercise and Event

Regional North Dakota IMAT Training (Incident Management Assist Team)

Facilitate a Table top Exercise at Kindred ND.

ND National Guard CST Table Top Exercise (Civil Support Team)

City of Fargo Flood Preparedness meetings

FEMA ICS 300 Training (Incident Command System)  
FEMA ICS 400 Training (Incident Command System)

EOC training for City Staff (Emergency Operation Center)

Quarterly LEPC Meetings (Local Emergency Planning Committee)

Cass Fargo Multi Hazard Plan-Liaison Training for the North Dakota National Guard (LNO)



NADMO Class and Graduation in Accra, Ghana

# Hazardous Material Team

## Casselton Train Derailment



The Fargo Fire Department maintains a Hazardous Materials Response Team based out of Fire Station 7. The team is comprised of 30 members divided between three shifts. We respond to all calls in the city of Fargo and are contracted as the Southeast Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team for the State of North Dakota. As part of the Regional team, we respond to Haz Mat incidents in Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, and Stutsman Counties. The team also provides personnel to back up the Moorhead Fire Department Haz Mat Team. The primary funding of the Haz Mat Team comes from grants distributed by the ND Department of Emergency Services. This year grants have helped purchase a Chevy Suburban support vehicle, Haz Mat entry suits, monitors, communication equipment, and consumable supplies.



# Hazardous Material Continued...

The Haz Mat team trains on a monthly basis to maintain competency in a skill set derived from National standards and local needs. This past year we supplemented our monthly training with several special classes and drills including:



In February, a WMD Radiological/Nuclear Responder Operations class taught by instructors from the Center for Rad/Nuke Training, Nevada Test Site. In May, a drill with the MFD Haz mat team simulating a chlorine leak at their water treatment plant.

In June, a training session with the Mobil Deployment Detection Unit, a rapid response trailer of equipment for radiological monitoring/detection that is sent to large events such as the Super Bowl and Political Conventions.

In August, a three day drill with the National Guard Civil Support Teams from North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wyoming, the FBI, and the Moorhead Fire Department Haz Mat Team. This drill simulated stolen radiological components to be used for terrorist activities.

# Hazardous Material Continued...



In Sept the Haz Mat team participated in a table top drill in West Fargo simulating a crude oil train derailment with fire between Fargo and West Fargo.

In November, the team participated in a Railway Emergency Response class with BNSF that included a hands-on portion with a full sized rail car training prop.

We accomplished a major goal this year with the writing and approval of Standard Operating Guidelines for use by all of the Regional Haz Mat Response Teams in ND. In 2014 the team will work to attain Pro Board Certification for Hazardous Material Technicians.

The team had several deployments in the past year. We responded to chemical spills, meth labs, petroleum releases, and most notably train derailment with fire just outside of Casselton, ND. In Casselton, the team assisted the local Incident Commander with gathering and interpreting information to make decisions on evacuation vs sheltering in place.



# Technical Rescue Team



This picture was taken at Teex training center in College Station, Texas. 6 TRT members went to the training center for a 1 week course in confined space rescue.



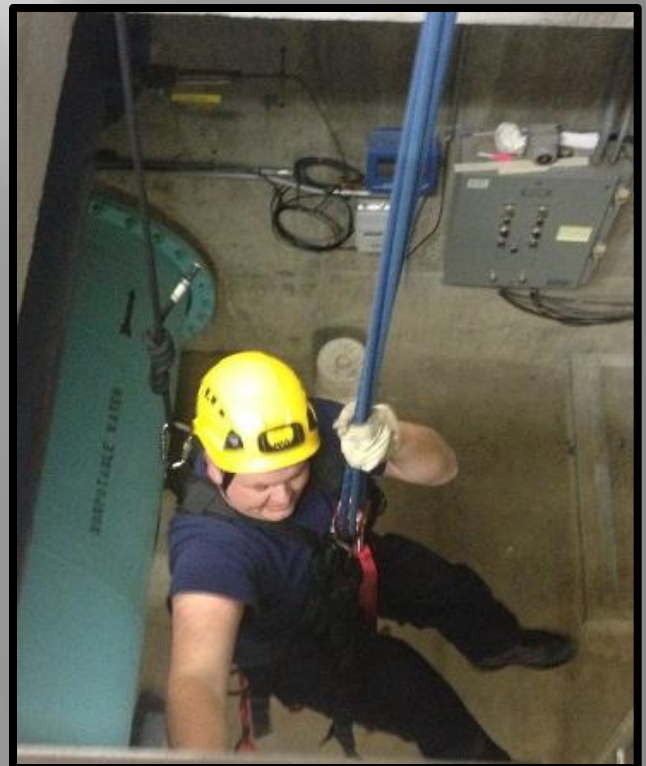
# Technical Rescue Team Continued...

42 Technical Rescue Team members were certified in Rope Rescue 1 and 2.

TRT training is held once a month for each of the 3 shifts. 802, 804, 806, and Truck 2 contain members of the TRT team

High Angle Rope Rescue Training at the Fargo Dome

Confined Space Training



# Coming and Going

## New Employees



Jeremy Price



Trevor Selden



Peter Amstrup



Zach Hagen

## Retirees



John Arens  
1980-2013  
33 yrs of service



Joe Locnikar  
1980-2013  
33 yrs of service



Michael Cleary  
1978-2013  
35 years of service

# Local 642 Firefighters Union

Local 642 Members donate time and money to various organizations and causes in the community.



Local 642 Member Kent Orvick with his daughter Carly during Fill the Boot to benefit the MDA



# Local 642 Firefighters Union Highlights of 2013



Local 642 member  
Josh Christofferson ringing  
the bell for the Salvation  
Army

Delivering Christmas  
presents at the children's  
hospital on Christmas Day

Raised \$32,660 for the  
salvation army.

Donated time to Gift  
Burgers, Blood drive,  
MDA camps, benefits  
and other various  
events.



\$1,775 in various donations to events such Christmas Day presents  
at the children's hospital, Fargo St. Patrick's day parade and the  
Go Far Women marathons.

Raised over \$20,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy with the fill the  
boot campaign.





**1924 La France being pump tested in 1928 at the Red River**

**1924 La France after being restored in 2013**

