

2016 Fargo Fire Department Annual Report



THE CITY OF
Fargo
FAR MORE

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Message from the Chief

Steven J.
Dirksen,
Fire Chief



Mayor Mahoney, Fire Commissioner Gehrig, Board of City Commissioners, and Citizens of Fargo,

People are where the Fargo Fire Department's responsibility begins, not ends. From our personnel to the citizens we serve throughout our long history, a deep sense of mission and purpose has been embedded in everything we do. It represents the fundamental commitment the City of Fargo has embraced for 146 years — to give back to the people we serve. The Fargo Fire Department provides invaluable services to the community.

This Annual Report is intended to highlight some examples of those services. The collective efforts of the fire department staff working with city management, elected officials, neighboring departments and the citizens of our community continues to ensure that the Fargo Fire Department will meet the inevitable challenges that are part of sustaining a premiere fire department.

2016 marked a historic year. The FFD responded to 10,462 calls for service. While "fire" is part of the department name, less than 2 ½% of total responses involved fire. Over 60% of all fire department responses are categorized as emergency medical services (EMS) and rescue responses.

Message from the Chief

Steven J.
Dirksen,
Fire Chief



FFD continues to provide the highest quality prevention and emergency services - EMS, fire, special operations, and community risk reduction activities. We are constantly improving. Initiatives like our hands-only CPR education campaign, smoke detector installations, and youth firesetter and prevention programs are a few examples of using education to try to reduce the need for our response.

2016 ended with the Grand Re-Opening of Fire Station 1. The \$2.7 million renovation culminated with an open house on November 9, 2017. The project included removal and replacement of everything inside the exterior walls. The department is grateful to the Commission and the Community for your support in this renovation. We invite the public to stop in and see the renovations, see some of the history items we have preserved, and learn a few safety tips along the way.

All accomplishments of the past year were made possible by the dedication and hard work of the men and women who make up the Fargo Fire Department. It has been my sincere privilege and honor to serve as the Fire Chief for the City of Fargo for the past five years. I consider myself blessed to be a member of this outstanding organization.

I present you with the 2016 Fargo Fire Department Annual Report. Please contact me with any questions regarding this report.

Thank you,

Steven J. Dirksen
Fire Chief
City of Fargo

MISSION, GOALS, AND VALUES (PRIDE)



Mission Statement

- The Fargo Fire Department's mission is to reduce the rate of emergencies through public education and code enforcement; protect lives and property from fire and other emergencies; and respond to emergencies in a professional and courteous manner.
- We do this by accomplishing six broad goals to meet the public's needs including:
 1. Safeguarding the community through proactive prevention, preparedness, and public education programs.
 2. Integrating emergency medical response capability with other service providers to ensure the needs of the customer are met.
 3. Ensuring systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.
 4. Recruiting, developing, and retaining the highest quality team members and implementing a comprehensive training program that provides for continuous education and career preparation to all personnel.
 5. Maintaining an organization that effectively administers, plans, and manages the physical resources of the department.
 6. Working to be dynamic and continually adjust to meet the changing fire problems; new technologies; new laws and regulations; and, changes occurring in the community.

PROFESSIONALISM– Commitment to quality, pride in your work.

RESPONSIBILITY – Accountability, maturity, ability to respond.

INTEGRITY – Moral and intellectual honesty.

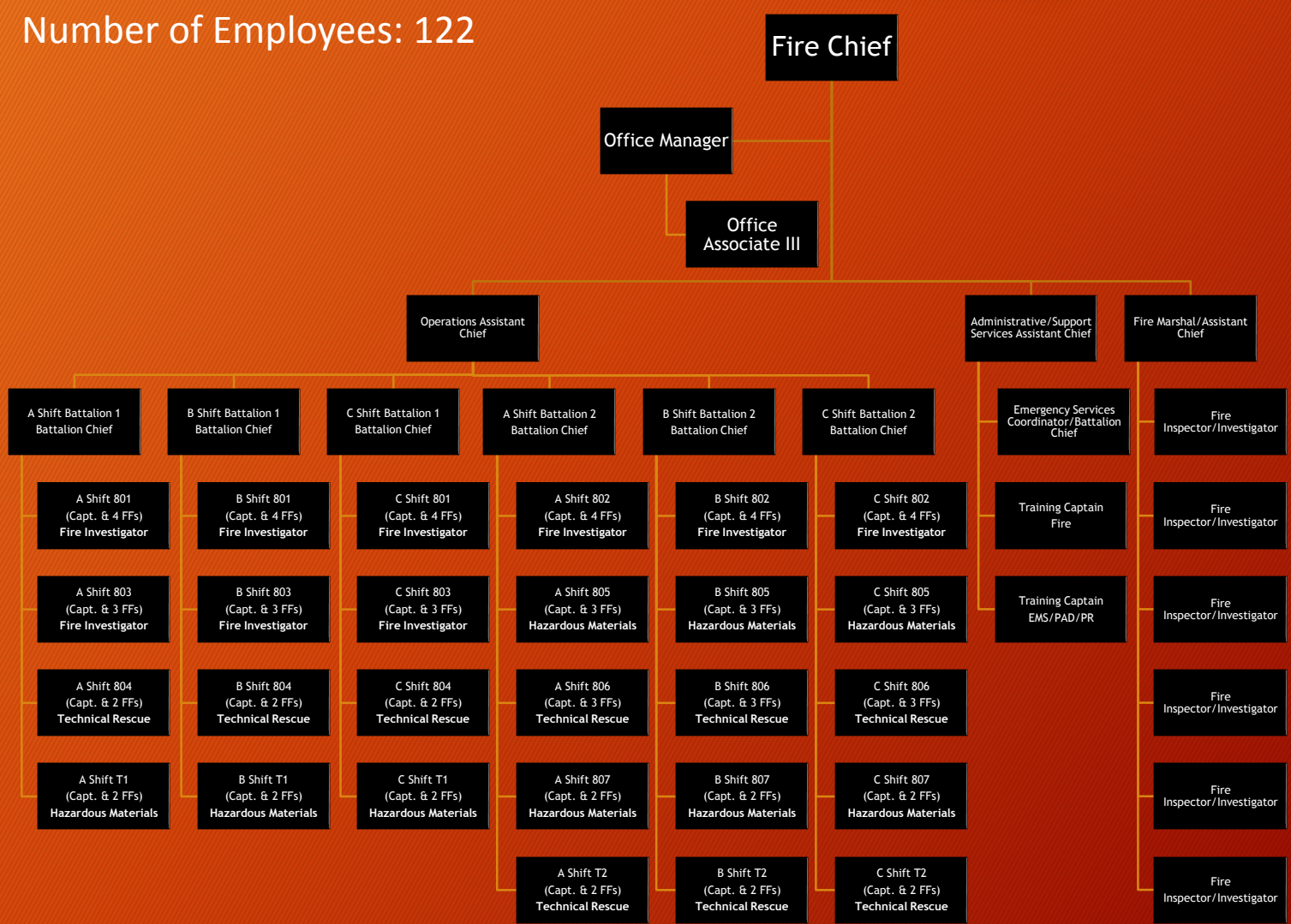
DEPENDABILITY – Worthy of trust, communication, team effort, working together.

EMPATHY – Ability to understand, fairness, straightforwardness, sincerity.

Fargo Fire Department Organizational Chart 2016



Number of Employees: 122



Facilities



- 2016 showcased the grand re-opening of Fire Station 1. The project called for a complete remodel of the 1961 Fire Department Headquarters building. The project included an addition and many improvements to the building. These include:

- Floor heat
- Windows
- Lights
- Apparatus doors
- Elevator
- Smart Classroom
- New Meeting areas
- Accessibility
- Building Addition



- Total project cost \$2.7 million dollars.

New Firefighter Hires



Paul Grommesh



Zach Fink



Josh Worm



Rod Weigel



Andy Dingman

Promotions/Retirements



Firefighter Ryan Young promoted
to Fire Inspector/Investigator



Firefighter Bill Bush
promoted to Fire Captain



Assistant Chief
LeRoy Skarloken
37 years of service



Fire Captain
Jon Bolstad
30 years of service



Firefighter
Matt Nelson
11 years of service

Awards and Commendations: Accreditation



The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) recognizes the Fargo Fire Department as one of only 234 accredited fire departments worldwide.

First accredited in 2010, the FFD completes the accreditation process on a five year cycle. To demonstrate continued compliance, agencies are required to submit annual compliance reports for each of the four intervening years. 2016 marked the FFD's first intervening year in its second accreditation cycle.

To obtain accreditation, the FFD submitted written documentation addressing over 250 performance indicators as outlined in the Fire and Emergency Services Self-Assessment Manual. In addition, the department's Standards of Response Coverage and Strategic Plan documents were updated and submitted. A four person panel appointed by the CFAI reviewed and approved the documents, then traveled to Fargo to verify and validate the information that was provided in the documentation. Following a positive recommendation by the review team, the FFD was granted accredited status during the CFAI hearings.

Awards and Commendations: White-Hartman Award



- During 2016, the FFD's commendation committee had the pleasure of awarding the White-Hartman Award to two recipients, and the Commendation for Service on an Emergency Scene Award to three recipients. Ms. Ashley Kankelfritz and Mr. Gary Jorgensen each received the White-Hartman Award for actions taken at separate cardiac arrest incidents.
- These are two examples of how the department's Public Access to Defibrillators (PAD) program can improve the quality of life in the City of Fargo. Since 2011, the fire department has advocated for public placement of AEDs, provided CPR training to citizens, and worked with the city's IT department to integrate a smart phone app to notify people of the need for CPR when an incident is occurring near them (Pulse Point).



Awards and Commendations: Commendation for Service on an Emergency Scene



Truck 2, A shift crew received their commendation for rescuing an unconscious and trapped person from a second story bedroom on August 20th. The actions taken by the Truck 2 crew fulfilled their duty to protect lives to the best of their ability as sworn by each firefighter when taking the Firefighter's Oath of Office and demonstrated their commitment to the department's core values of professionalism, responsibility, integrity, dependability, and empathy.

Fire Prevention Bureau

Assistant
Chief/Fire
Marshal
Ryan
Erickson



Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fargo Fire Department continues to reduce risk through public education, fire prevention inspections, and fire investigations

During 2016, FFD promoted Ryan Young to Inspector/Investigator. The fire prevention bureau now includes 5 inspector/investigators and 1 fire marshal. With the addition of an additional inspector/investigator, the FFD has been able to continue to provide inspections for annual permits (which now number over 750), conduct plan reviews for all fire protection systems, and witness acceptance tests during another busy construction season.

The board of appeals began hearings in late 2015 to adopt the 2015 International code council (ICC) codes. Those hearings were finished during 2016 and the 2015 International Fire Code was adopted in the City of Fargo. Two new requirements include: low frequency sounder requirements for smoke detection in sleeping areas to better wake individuals, and a new section that regulates carbon dioxide systems. Carbon dioxide systems are typically used in restaurants and bars to pressurize their beverage systems.

The FFD continues to reach out to the children in the community through the “Learn Not to Burn” program. This year over 4000 children were taught “911” and “2 Ways out”. Engine and truck companies visit the schools in May to reinforce the safety messages and give the kids a chance to see the equipment up close and personal.

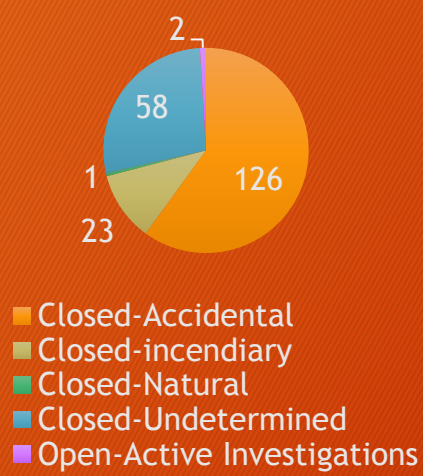
The adult education system included giving safety talks, presentations, and fire extinguisher training to over 820 individuals. The audience included apartment building managers, building safety professionals, and childcare providers.



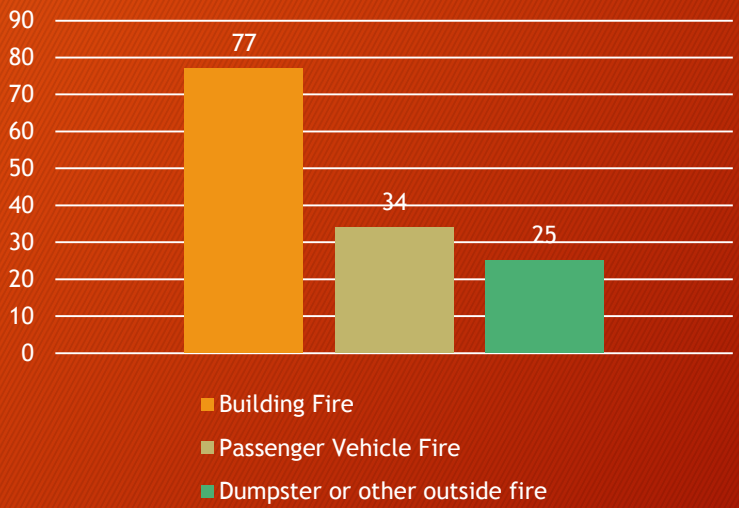
Fire Investigations



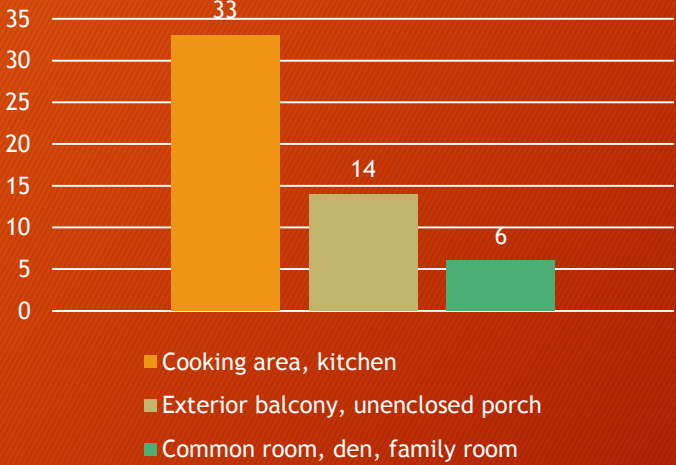
- Investigations are conducted to determine origin and cause of a fire. The results of 2016’s fire investigations are below. Unattended cooking and improperly disposed of smoking materials are the most common cause of fire in the City of Fargo.



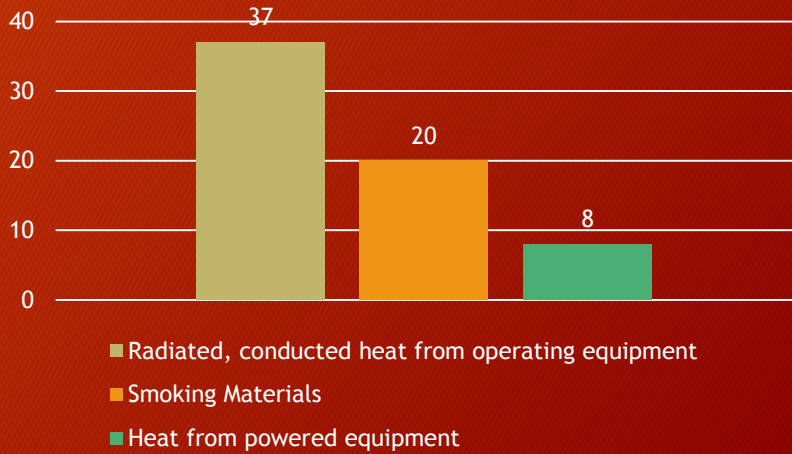
Types of Fires



Structure Fire - Area of Origin



Structure Fire - Cause of Fire, Heat Source



Notable Fires and Associated Fire Loss



MAJOR FIRES

DATE	PROPERTY USE AND ADDRESS	NUMBER OF CIVILIAN DEATHS	PROPERTY LOSS
2/6/2016	1 or 2 family dwelling 2617 26 Ave S	0	\$504,700.00
6/7/2016	Industrial plant yard 4001 38 St S	0	\$229,000.00
7/22/2016	Bar or Nightclub 1211 University Dr N	0	\$425,000.00
11/30/2016	Multifamily Dwelling 802 14 St S	0	\$27,000.00
		Major Fires Total:	\$1,185,700.00

Total Fire Loss by Property Use



Total Estimated Fire Loss

Structure Fires 2016	Number of Fires	Dollar Loss
Playground	1	\$105
Restaurant or cafeteria	8	\$278,600
Bar or nightclub	1	\$425,000
Adult education center, college classroom	1	\$100
Mental retardation/development disability facility	1	\$200
Alcohol or substance abuse recovery center	2	\$2,005
1 or 2 family dwelling	23	\$737,140
Multifamily dwelling	50	\$374,740
Hotel/motel, commercial	2	\$6,825
Residential board and care	1	\$9,000
Mercantile, business, other	1	\$500
Department or discount store	2	\$100,500
Business office	1	\$5,000
Grain elevator, silo	1	\$500
Parking garage, (detached residential garage)	5	\$218,200
Parking garage, general vehicle	1	\$30,000
Warehouse	2	\$55,000
Outbuilding, protective shelter	1	\$900
Open land or field	1	\$70
Vehicle parking area	1	\$100
Total	106	\$2,244,485
Vehicle Fires 2016	43	\$455,945
All Other Fires 2016	83	\$18,971
Total	232	\$2,719,401

Hydrant Inspection, Testing and Flushing



The Fargo Fire Department works diligently to ensure that the City of Fargo has a reliable fire hydrant system through testing and flushing of over 6,980 hydrants annually. Currently less than 0.5% of hydrants are out of service in the City of Fargo



Emergency Services

Leon
Schlafmann
Battalion
Chief of
Emergency
Services



Emergency Management Annual Report Year Ending 2016

National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) training, working with response and VOAD partners kept us busy in 2016. With the help of the SE regional coordinator, Bill Brown, we held ICS 300 and 400 classes in Fargo, ICS 200 classes for Casselton first responders and the West Fargo School system.

The Airport tabletop exercise in May prepared our responders for an airline emergency. Another flood free year allowed us to update flood fight plans as mitigation efforts continue and plans were out of date. In December, we started developing a tabletop exercise to evaluate those plans in January of 2017.

Cass Fargo Emergency management hosted the Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) meeting and exercise at the Public Safety Building in October. We were involved in the planning of the event and topped it off with a tabletop exercise using a tornado or summer storm disaster.

Throughout 2016 we were involved with the following groups or committees:

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Fargo Emergency Planning Committee (FEPC)

Southeast North Dakota Regional Emergency Managers (Richland, Dickey, Sargent, Ransom, Barnes, Stutsman, Lamoure,)

North Dakota Incident Management Assist Team (IMAT)

Emergency Services



We maintained working relationships with these partners:

City of Fargo Departments:

City Commission and Administration

Fire

Police

Planning

Engineering

Public Works

Finance

Library

Human Resources

Enterprise (Waste Water TX, Water TX, Solid Waste)

Public Health

Cass County Emergency Mgmt.

Clay County Emergency Mgmt.

Moorhead Emergency Mgmt.

State of North Dakota Dept of EM Services

State of ND Department of Health NDSU

Fargo Airport

North Dakota National Guard

North Dakota CST

American Red Cross

Salvation Army

First Link

Red River Fair grounds

Convention Visitor Bureau

Sanford Health

Essentia Health

VA hospital

Wenck Associates

Fargo Parks

Fargo Public Schools

Oak Grove schools

Catholic schools

West Acres Mall

Boarder States Electric

West Fargo Schools

BNSF

RRRDC – Red River Regional Dispatch

Red River Radio Amateurs'

Fargo Marathon

FM Ambulance

Weather Service (Grand Forks)

Cass County Electric

Xcel Energy

These were just a few of the many tasks that the FFD worked on this past year. The FFD is consistently monitoring and updating all of the response and operational plans and fulfilling EMPG requirements.

Fire Training

Jason Ness
Fire
Training
Captain



Each year, Fargo firefighters complete a minimum of 248 hours of training. This training is designed to prepare firefighters for the many different emergencies to which they respond. Firefighters focus much of this training on skill development and incident management. Training takes place at the departments training facility and through the use of acquired structures scheduled for demolition. In addition to training provided in-house, many firefighters take advantage of regional, state, and national training opportunities.



Fire Training



In 2016, five new firefighters completed the department's 8-week recruit academy. During this academy, the firefighters receive training that prepares them to respond to incidents involving fire, medical emergencies, vehicle extrication, and hazardous materials. Once a firefighter leaves the FFD academy, they are assigned to a fire suppression crew and continue on the job training at the crew level for a probationary period of one year.



Emergency Medical Services Training

Ron Guggisberg
Fire Captain
Emergency
Medical Training
Officer



- Fargo Firefighters are trained to respond as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Out of 10,462 calls for service to the department in 2016, 6,365 (or 60.84%) involved a request for emergency medical services. Some significant changes and updates to Emergency Medical Services are listed below.
- Narcan/Naloxone
 - The increase in community opioid overdoses has spurred one of our most significant EMS response changes.
 - Fargo Firefighters began carrying and administering Narcan/Naloxone in the summer of 2016.
 - The new protocol immediately provided a positive impact for emergency medical patients experiencing opioid overdoses. Fargo Firefighters successfully administered 13 doses of Intranasal Narcan/Naloxone, preventing accidental fatalities.
- Community CPR Education
 - High-quality CPR is the primary component in influencing survival from cardiac arrest.
 - Fargo Firefighters continue to administer the Community CPR Education program, which teaches citizens to provide CPR, use an Automatic External Defibrillator, and quickly activate the 911 system.

Hazardous Materials



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. The department responds to hazmat calls within the city of Fargo and are contracted as the Southeast Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team for the State of North Dakota. This Regional team responds to hazmat incidents in Barnes, Cass, Dickey, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, and Stutsman Counties. The primary funding of the HazMat Team comes from grants distributed by the ND Department of Emergency Services.

The HazMat Team trains on a monthly basis to maintain competency in a skill set derived from national standards and local needs. During the past year, Fargo Fire Department members logged over 3200 hours of hazardous materials training. Monthly training was supplemented with several special classes and drills. In February, Firefighter Joe Svir attended a 40 hour Highway Emergency Response Specialist Class at the Security and Emergency Response Training Center in Pueblo, Colorado. This class was designed to give advanced training in response to incidents involving highway cargo container emergencies.



Hazardous Materials



- In April, Hazmat personnel provided early detection air monitoring services at the GOP convention at the Scheels Arena. Monitoring took place over several days.
- In May, two team members attended the International Association of Fire Chiefs HazMat Conference in Baltimore, MD. They were able to take classes from instructors who wrote the textbooks and national standards used by all hazmat teams.
- In June, six team members attended the Cold-Zone HazMat conference in Minneapolis. This conference allowed response team members to meet and train with experts in the hazmat field.
- In October, four members of the team attended the ND Hazardous Materials Conference in Bismarck. The conference focused on state issues and provided an opportunity to meet with members of the other hazardous materials teams from around the state.

Technical Rescue



The Fargo Fire Department has 30 personnel with specialized training in four areas of Technical Rescue:

- Rope Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Trench Rescue
- Structural Collapse



Collectively in 2016, these team members received 2400 total hours of training in the four specialized areas. Monthly training exercises were conducted to refine Technical Rescue skills in all four disciplines.

Crews spent time at one of Fargo's newly constructed lift stations. The location provided many challenging opportunities for firefighters to plan for potential rescue situations.

Six firefighters from Williston spent two weeks in Fargo being trained, and Pro Board certified by FFD technical rescue personnel in Rope Rescue and Confined Space Rescue skills.



Technical Rescue



Similar to the Regional Hazmat Team, the Fargo Technical Rescue Team (TRT) is also a North Dakota Regional Response Team for technical rescue incidents occurring in the Southeast region of the state. They could also be asked to respond anywhere in the state, if needed, on a large scale incident.

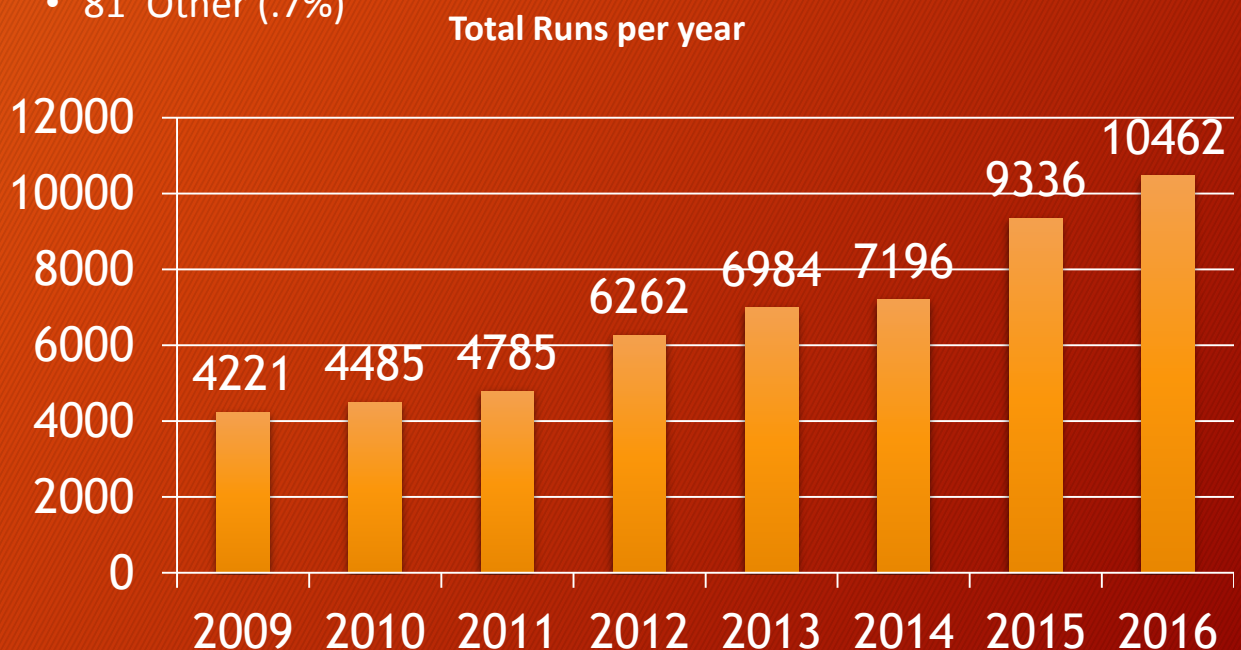
Members train and test to NFPA standards as dictated by Pro Board, an international certification organization. Department TRT members have been Pro Board certified in Ropes I & II, Confined Space I & II, and Trench Rescue I and II. Members are currently working on training and certification in the structural collapse discipline.



Operations



- In 2016, the Fargo Fire Department responded to 10,462 calls for service.
 - Total pre-incident estimated property value \$140,245,545
 - Total estimated property value lost \$2,719,401
- Total calls for service include:
 - 6365 EMS (61%)
 - 1386 False Alarms (13.2%)
 - 1109 Good Intent (10.6%)
 - 752 Service (7.2%)
 - 537 Hazardous Conditions (5.1%)
 - 232 Fires (2.2%)
 - 81 Other (.7%)



Station and Apparatus Responses



Fire Station 1

Battalion 1

Calls for Service 1,303

Engine Company 801

Calls for Service 3,916

Planning Zone 1 Primary
Responses 3,299

Mutual Aid Responses
7



Fire Station 2

Engine Company 802

Calls for Service 2,580

Planning Zone 2 Primary
Responses 1,609

Planning Zone 8 Responses
314

Station and Apparatus Responses



Fire Station 3

Engine Company 803
Calls for Service 1,754

Planning Zone 3 Primary
Responses 1,091



Fire Station 4

Engine Company 804
Calls for Service 3,119

Truck Company 1
1,807 Calls for Service

Planning Zone 4 Primary
Responses 1,368

Station and Apparatus Responses



Fire Station 5

Engine Company 805
Calls for Service 2,955

Planning Zone 5 Primary
Responses 1,749



Fire Station 6

Engine Company 806
Calls for Service 1,310

Planning Zone 6 Primary
Responses 116

Station and Apparatus Responses



Fire Station 7

Battalion 2 Calls for Service 1,333

Engine Company 807
Calls for Service 1,745

Truck Company 2 Calls
for Service 1,050

Planning Zone 7 Primary
Responses 877

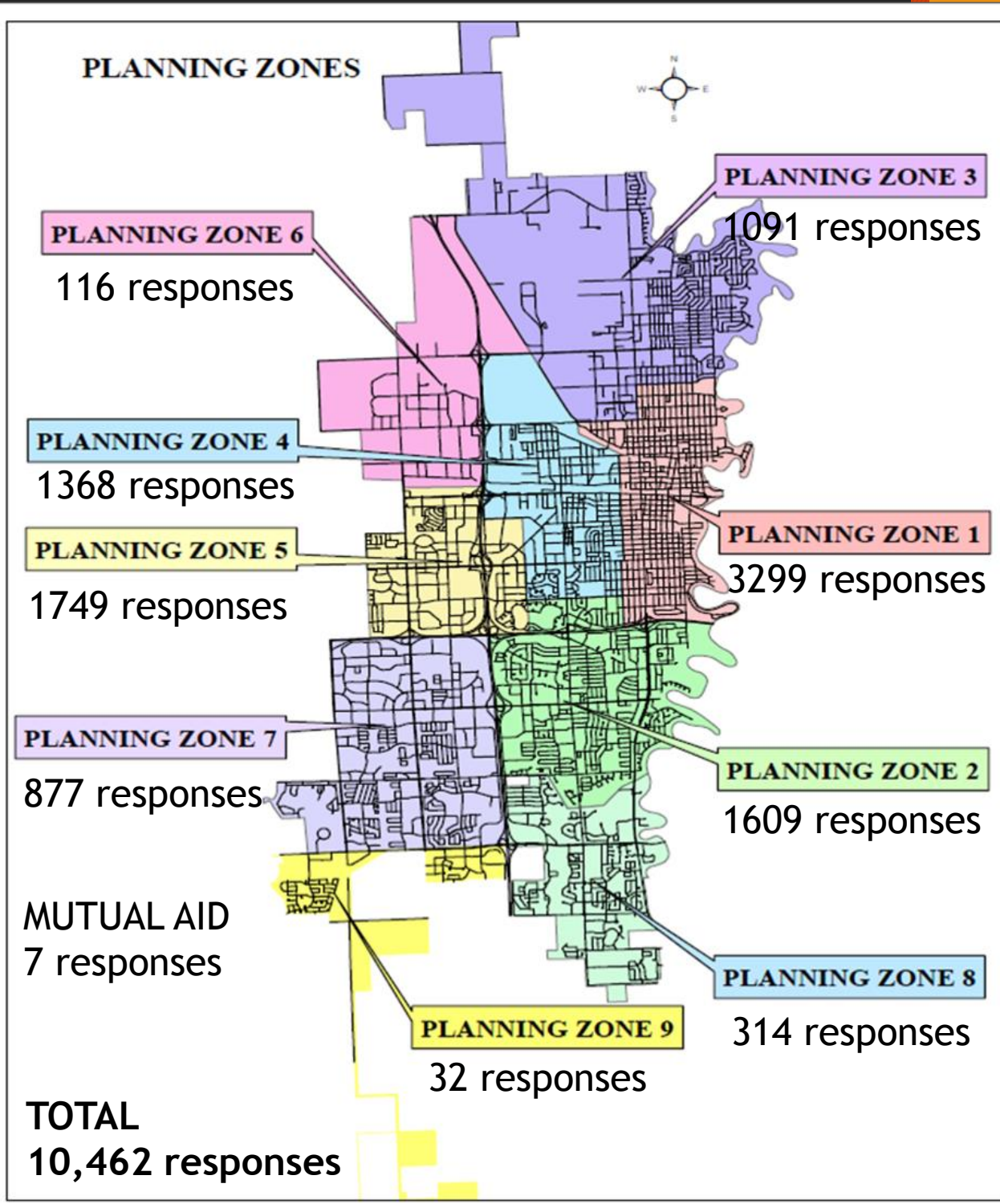
Planning Zone 9
Responses 32

HazMat and Technical Rescue Apparatus

Hazardous Materials HM857 Calls for Service 14

Technical Rescue TRT856 Calls for Service 14

Responses per Planning Zone



Fargo Fire Fighters IAFF Local 642



In 2016, Local 642 Members donated their time and \$6,600.00 to various organizations and causes in the community.

During the annual MDA Fill the Boot campaign, members of Local 642 raised \$24,086.55 with a matching donation of \$10,000 for a total of \$34,086.55. The MDA uses the money to send children diagnosed with muscular dystrophy to a weeklong summer camp free of charge. Every year, members of Local 642 deliver gifts to children in area hospitals that cannot be home with their families on Christmas day. "Fire up the Kettles" raised \$19,102.76 for the Salvation Army during their Red Kettle Campaign. During the "10th Annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive" two hundred seventy-five volunteers were recruited to donate blood on behalf of "Team Fire." A total of 719 volunteers donated blood during the event.



Fargo Fire Department Explorer Post 259



The Explorers of Fargo Fire Department's Post 259 worked hard to become knowledgeable and maintain a certain amount of proficiency in a number of areas. PPE/SCBA was the first objective met as the individuals learned how to select and maintain all pieces of their PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). This included their turnout coat and pants, boots, gloves, hood and helmet. This also included helping them understand how to operate and use an SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus). The explorers attained a level of awareness in both 1st Aid and CPR as well. Last, the explorers trained in the use of ladders, establishing a water supply, hose placement on a scene, and how to use the different tools and equipment that may be in operation at any given time.

- During the year, the Explorer group participated in three team based exercises. They worked with assisting members of the Fargo Fire Department using a shortened form of the Incident Command System.
1. Search and Rescue: The Explorers learned the basics of searching a house or residence for potential victims involved in smoke filled conditions. Two mannequins were to be removed from the building to complete the exercise.
 2. Auto Extrication: The Explorers learned the basics of how automobiles are designed to protect the passenger compartment in an accident and how to use the proper tools to extricate entrapped individuals in an effective and safe manner. This exercise was taught by Engine 804 B-Shift.
 3. Burn Exercise: The Explorers learned how to effectively extinguish a dumpster fire that was next to a building, minimizing the damage the building would receive during the event. This exercise also utilized the Search and Rescue skills learned earlier in the year. They had to find a mannequin and remove it from the building. This exercise was taught by Engine 804 and Truck 1 C-Shift.

Fargo Fire Department Explorer Post 259



As the year ended, many of the Explorers achieved the basic knowledge level and understanding of what firefighters at the Fargo Fire Department do day in and day out. Many of the Explorers were granted permission to ride along with an engine crew on a quarterly basis. These individuals attained the necessary knowledge, as described above, to observe and take part with assisting at an emergency scene to a certain level of discrepancy by the engine crew with which they are riding.