



2017 Fargo Fire Department Annual Report





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Message from the Chief

Serving as the Fire Chief for the City of Fargo is a great honor. The Fargo Fire Department has a rich history spanning over 140 years. The traditions of this department are honored and celebrated. As we move forward, our goal is to lead through our accreditation methodologies, which we use to assess our performance and outcomes. We understand that achieving excellence means constant re-evaluation and new effort. It is one thing to look good on paper, yet another to look good on the street. What we do is not easy. In fact, it is just the opposite. This fact, more than any other, most clearly illustrates why we tend to be so passionate about “the job”. We work hard and challenge each other to go further.

The Fargo Fire Department focuses its efforts in four main areas: prevention, training, public education, and response. Budgets are formed, goals are set, and performance monitored, all focusing on providing the highest level of service to our community through a continuous quality improvement model. Our community continues to evolve as a regional destination, with our downtown growing vertically due to multiple construction projects and our borders continually expanding. The challenge for the Fargo Fire Department is to maintain our prevention, training, public education, and response activities by ensuring that staffing levels and station locations are adequate to protect the evolving risk in our community.

You will find numerous examples of successful projects, responses, and individual and team efforts that resulted in the delivery of outstanding levels of service to the community while simultaneously driving the Fargo Fire Department forward. Ultimately, this report depicts a mutual level of achievement, in which we all share. This past year, we said good-bye to several long-term members of our department. We will miss them for their contributions of effort, experience and personality. We also welcomed new members, promoted new officers, and look forward to the contributions that they will make in the future.

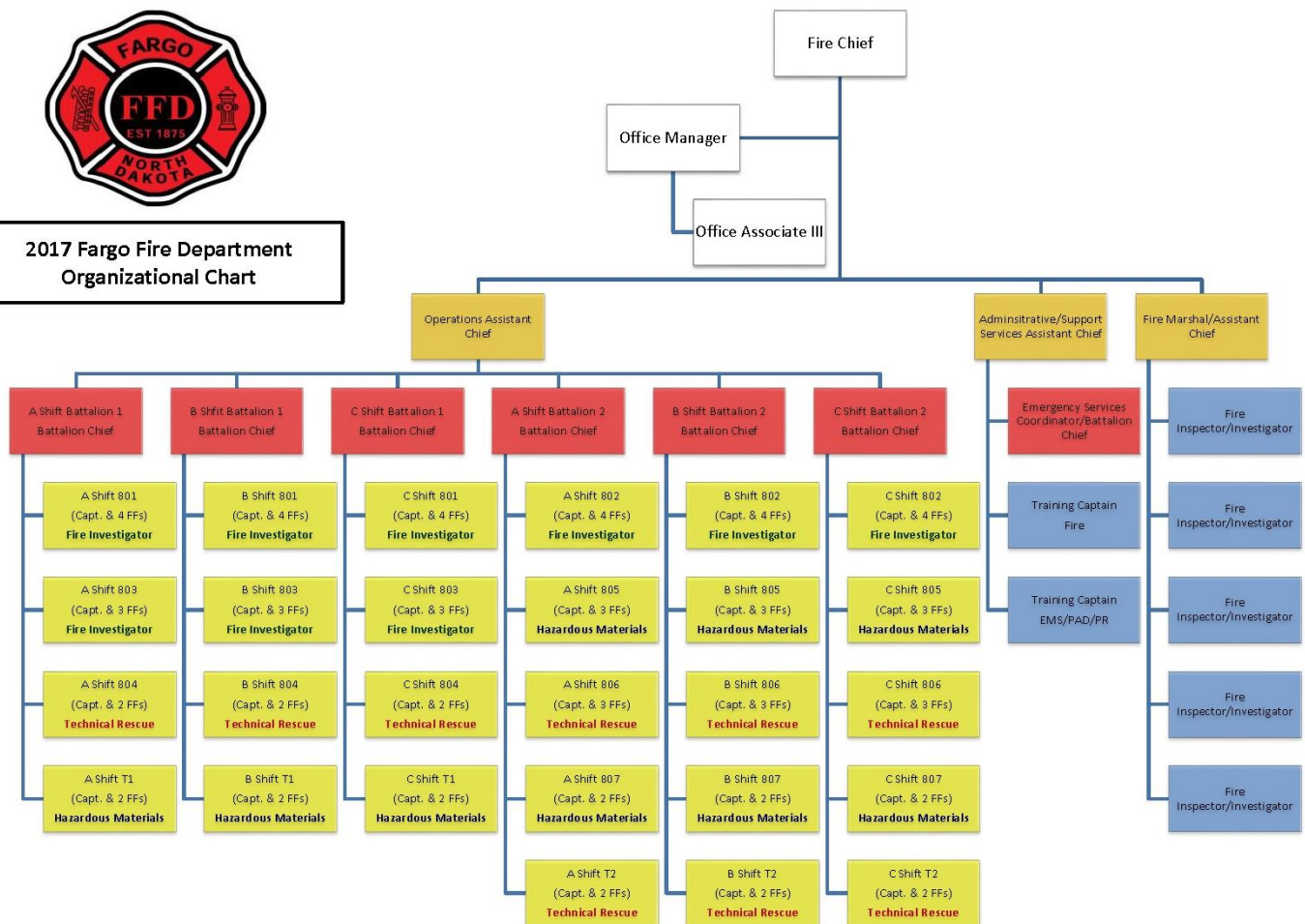
I continue to be impressed daily with the dedication and hard work of the men and women of the Fargo Fire Department and I am very proud to serve this department and this community. Please enjoy this report.

Steven J. Dirksen
Fire Chief





2017 Fargo Fire Department Organizational Chart





New Hires



Michael Hawley
2/27/2017



Ross Nelson
2/27/2017



Tyler VandeVelde
2/27/2017



Justin Phillippi
9/11/2017



Kevin Swanson
9/11/2017



Troy Borowicz
9/11/2017



Michael Hagen
9/11/2017



Aaron Lordeman
9/11/2017





Promotions



Tim Binfet – Assistant Chief



Jason Ness – Battalion Chief



Mason Krueger



Nick Duffy
Fire Captains



Dan Senn





Retirements



Captain
Ellis Aakre
30 years of
service



Firefighter
Paul Young
22 years of
service



Captain
Kevin Bernier
30 years of
service



Planning Goal 1

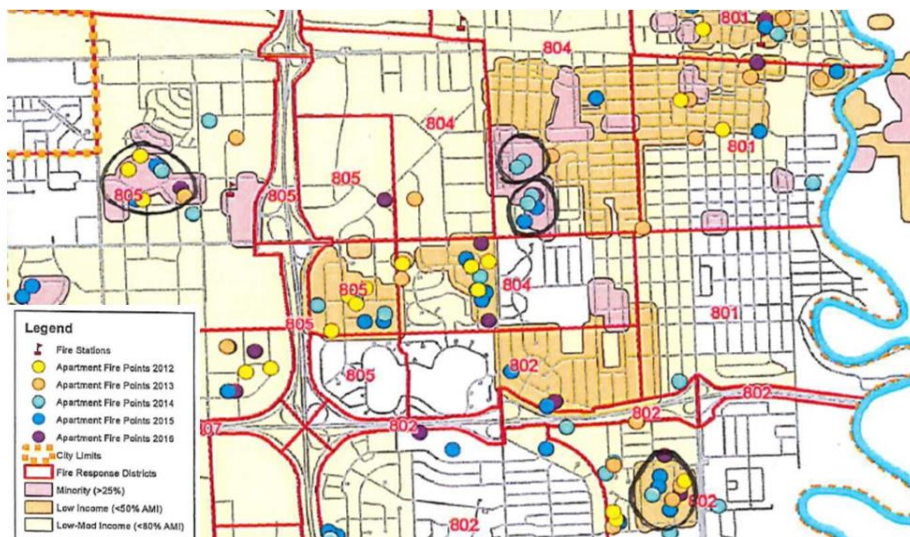


Safeguard the community through proactive prevention, preparedness, and public education programs.

- Inspect 100% of all commercial property, hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, and churches.
 - Inspections are conducted to determine compliance with the fire code. The fire prevention bureau along with suppression personnel inspects commercial and residential occupancies. All Commercial occupancies and 50% of multifamily occupancies are assigned for inspections.

	Inspections	Inspections Completed			
	Assigned	Suppression	Bureau	total	%
Apartments (50%)	616	614	0	614	99.7%
Commercial	5418	3998	1395	5393	99.5%

- During 2017 FFD targeted neighborhoods where cooking fires had occurred in apartment buildings. Cooking safety pamphlets were distributed to over 1,200 apartment units. Additionally, a cooking safety presentation was presented to apartment building managers where additional safety information was distributed.



Nighborhoods targeted during cooking safety campaign



Planning Goal 1



Safeguard the community through proactive prevention, preparedness, and public education programs.

- Complete plan reviews for all proposed construction to ensure compliance with the adopted International Fire Code.
 - In 2017, 235 fire protection system plans were reviewed and 445 acceptance tests were witnessed. FFD continues to see new projects with 94 construction projects with fire protection systems open and active at the beginning of 2018.
- Present Learn Not to Burn Program in all schools, to grades K-2
 - We continue to reach out to the children in the community through the "Learn Not to Burn" program. This year over 3,400 children were taught "911" and "2 Ways out". The 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.
 - Our adult education system gave safety talks, presentations, and fire extinguisher training to over 1,100 individuals. The audience includes apartment building managers, building safety professionals, and childcare providers.



Planning Goal 1



Safeguard the community through proactive prevention, preparedness, and public education programs.

- Investigate to determine origin and cause of all fires
 - Investigations are conducted to determine origin and cause of a fire. The results of 2017's fire investigations are below. Cooking fires and smoking material fires are the most common cause of structure fires in the City of Fargo

Classification	Fires	Types of Fires (Top three)	
Accidental	153	Building fire	81
Incendiary	16	Passenger vehicle fire	42
Natural	1	Dumpster or other outside fire	24
Undetermined	44		
Total	214		
		Structure Fire Origin (Top three)	
		Cooking area, kitchen	29
		Exterior balcony, unenclosed porch	13
		Laundry area	10

Structure Fire Cause - Heat Source (top four)	
Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment	35
Smoking Materials	20
Undetermined	11
Spark, ember or flame from operating equipment	8

- Provide training and direction to the public as requested, to support the Heart Safe Fargo program.
 - As part of the public access defibrillator program within the Fargo Fire Department, CPR classes using high quality mannequins were provided to several groups. These groups consisted of individuals from outside the city and from various city departments. Approximately 200 individuals received training through this program.



Planning Goal 2



Integrate our emergency medical response capability with other service providers to ensure that the needs of the customer are met.

- Meet the response time performance task as indicated in the Standard of Cover document.
 - For EMS, the SOC states: "The minimum initial response force for EMS is a single unit response with a minimum of two people and shall arrive within 8 minutes 27 seconds total response time 90% of the time when responding emergent."
 - The department exceeds this time goal by responding in 8 minutes and 1 second 90% of the time.
- All suppression personnel are provided training to maintain biannual EMT certification requirements
 - All suppression personnel are required to maintain their certification as an EMT. An individual needs to recertify every two years, so each year, approximately half of the department recertifies to the EMT standard.
 - Training is provided by a fire captain that works 40 hour weeks and provides consistent training to all fire personnel. This captain also maintains the training records and ensures that each person has sufficient individual training. Training includes hands on experience, distributive education through Target Solutions, and individual study.

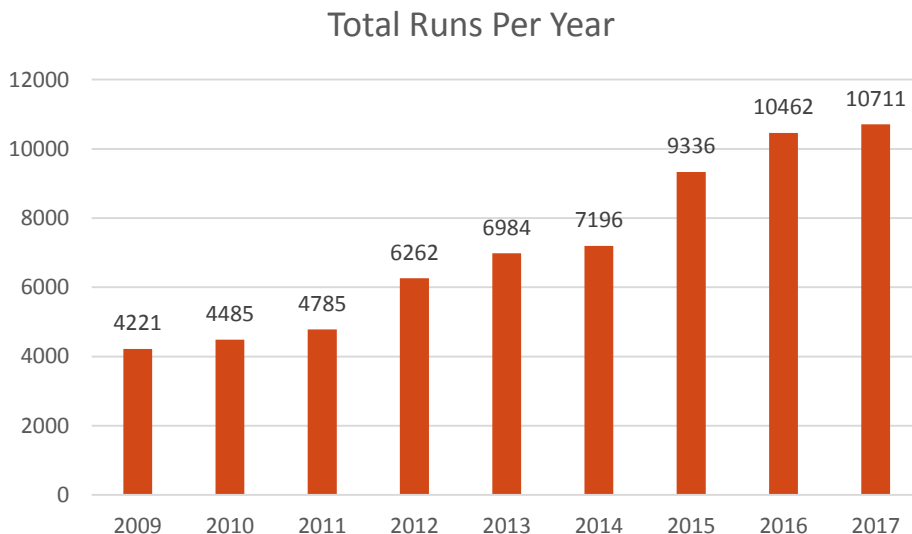


Planning Goal 3



Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

The number of calls for service for the FFD continues to increase. In 2017, the FFD's fire suppression division responded to a total of 10,711 calls for service. This includes mutual aid responses outside of the City of Fargo.

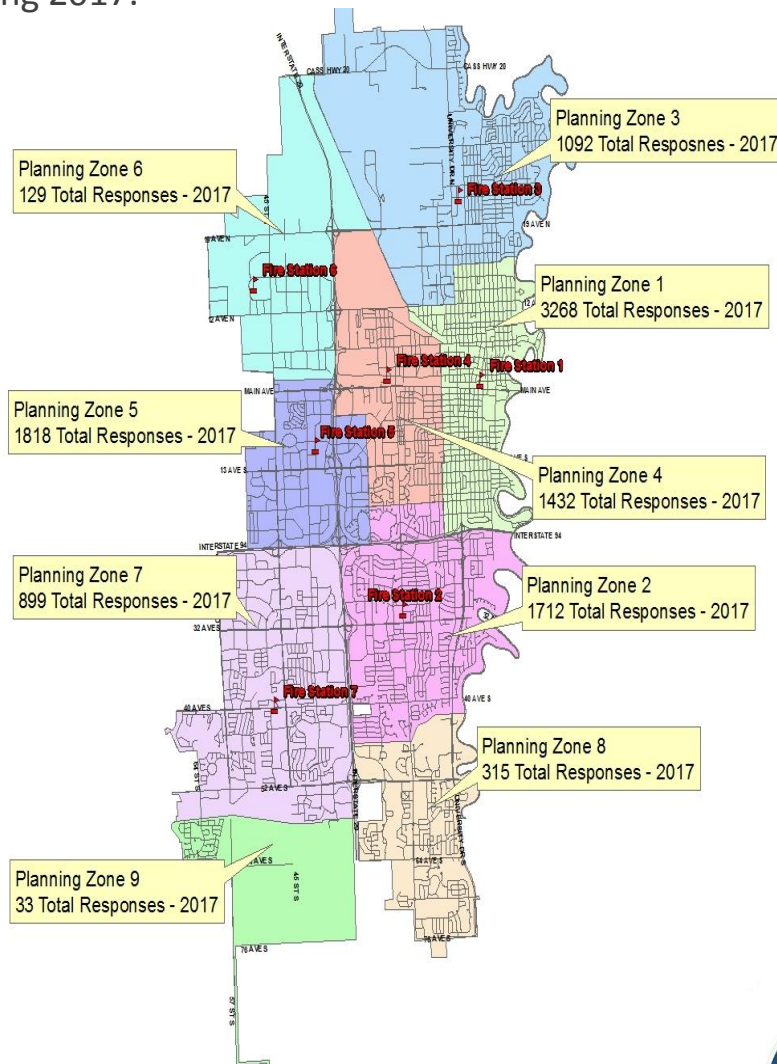


Planning Goal 3



Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

To monitor growth and emergency response within specific regions of the City, the FFD has created planning/response zones. The map below depicts the number of responses that occurred within each of these zones during 2017.



Planning Goal 3



Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

While there were 10,711 total calls that the FFD responded to in 2017, for many of these calls more than one fire apparatus responded. Such as, for building fires or vehicular crashes. The table below depicts the total number of emergency responses made by each fire apparatus during 2017.

2017 Apparatus Responses	
801	3,869
802	2,764
803	1,796
804	3,073
805	3,012
806	1,212
807	1,679
Truck 1	1,867
Truck 2	1,098
Batt 1	1,285
Batt 2	1,265



Planning Goal 3



Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

- Meet the response time performance tasks as indicated in the standard of cover.
 - For structure fires, the FFD's response objective as outlined in the FFD's Standard of Cover Document states: "Four engines staffed with a minimum of three personnel each, one truck staffed with three personnel, and a battalion chief vehicle staffed with one. Each engine will have a minimum pump capacity of 1250 gpm. First arriving unit shall arrive within 8 minutes 14 seconds total response time 90% of the time."
 - In 2017, the first unit on scene for structure fires arrived on scene 90% of the time in 6 minutes and 50 seconds.
- Ensure hazmat members retain their skills by scheduling training monthly.
 - The Fargo Fire Department has 30 individuals trained to the level of hazardous materials technician. The remaining members of the department are trained to the Awareness and Operations level of hazardous materials.
 - Every month, one day per shift is dedicated to hazardous materials training for the members that are on the city and regional hazmat team.
 - Each monthly training session is led by a senior member of the hazmat team and includes hands on, written materials, and individual study through various sources. An annual plan is developed by the battalion chief and fire captain in charge of the program so that consistent training is received by all members of the team.
 - Throughout the year, members of the team provide training to the remainder of the department to ensure their skills remain up to date.
- Ensure TRT members retain their skills by scheduling training monthly.
 - The Fargo Fire Department has 30 individuals trained in four specialty areas of technical rescue. These areas include rope rescue, confined space, structural collapse, and trench rescue.
 - Every month, one day per shift is dedicated to technical rescue team training for the members that are on the city and regional TRT team.
 - Each monthly training session is led by a senior member of the TRT team and includes hands on, written materials, and individual study from various sources. An annual plan is developed by the battalion chief and fire captain in charge of the program so that consistent training is received by all members of the team.
 - In 2017, the FFD hosted a regional, ten day structural collapse class.
 - All TRT members pursue certification through ProBoard in all specialty areas.



Planning Goal 4



Recruit, develop, and retain the highest quality team members and implement a comprehensive training program that provides for continuous education and career preparation opportunities to all personnel.

- Fire suppression personnel shall receive a minimum of 240 hours of firefighter training.

Each year, every Fargo firefighter completes 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 is performed using the department's training facility in conjunction with acquired structures scheduled for demolition. In 2017, Fargo Fire Department members completed 40,552 hours of training. Early in 2017, we were very fortunate to have the use of multiple acquired structures near the NDSU campus. Crews were able to conduct numerous training scenarios over a three-month time-period.

In 2017, eight new firefighters completed the department's 8-week recruit academy. During this academy, firefighters receive training on how to respond to incidents involving: fire, EMS, vehicle extrication and hazardous materials. Once a firefighter leaves the FFD academy, they are assigned to a fire suppression crew. They continue the training process at the crew level for a probationary period of one year.

- Conduct a 40 hour Fire Instructor 1 Training class.

In the fall of 2017, the fire department began the process of conducting Fire Instructor 1 certification. Members who choose to participate in the program take a written and practical test to demonstrate their knowledge in the subject. The practical test involves teaching a short class. Eleven firefighters completed the initial sessions of Instructor 1 with another fifteen currently working on the completing the second session.



Planning Goal 4



Recruit, develop, and retain the highest quality team members and implement a comprehensive training program that provides for continuous education and career preparation opportunities to all personnel.

- Encourage professional growth of officers and firefighters through attendance of educational opportunities.

The Fargo Fire Department encourages the professional growth of its officers and firefighters through local and national training opportunities. In April, three members attended the Fire Department Instructor's Conference in Indianapolis. This conference brings the best instructors from around the country to one location and is the most attended firefighter training event in the country. We hosted two National Fire Academy local delivery classes. These two NFA classes were designed to help develop our current and future company officers.

- The FFD will promote safety along with the health and wellness of the employees of the Fire Department.

- Provide annual medical examination for all uniformed employees

The FFD provides an annual medical examination for all uniformed employees through the City of Fargo Employee Health office. This physical exam includes blood tests, hearing and vision exams, a lung function exam, EKG, and a physical exam. This year the department moved to having employees complete the exam off duty during the employee's birth month. Employees are compensated for completing this exam off duty.

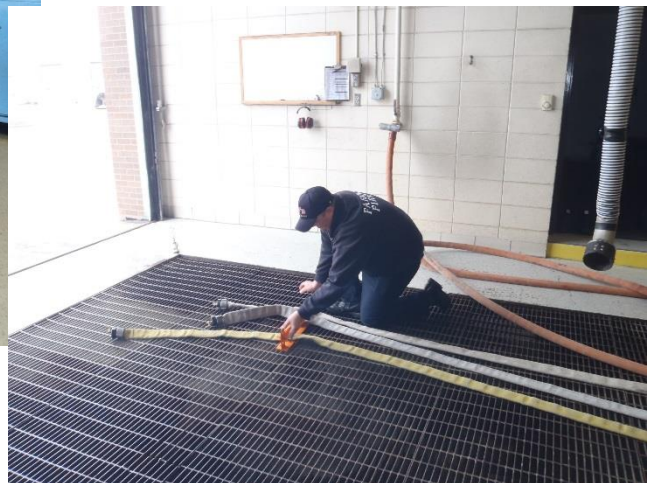


Planning Goal 5



Maintain an organization that effectively administers, plans, and manages the physical resources of the department.

- To manage the department's physical resources, numerous daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly checks and evaluation processes are in place. For example, firefighters conduct daily checks on each department emergency response apparatus. Weekly and monthly evaluations are conducted on items such as fire station generators and all tools and equipment located on over 20 emergency response vehicles. Yearly tests are conducted on items such as all ground ladders and fire hose to ensure that these items meet all manufacturer and regulatory standards. In 2017, fire department personnel conducted performance testing on 302 individual pieces of fire hose and 52 ground ladders.



Planning Goal 6



The fire department will work to be dynamic and continually adjust to meet the changing fire problems, new technologies, new laws and regulations, and changes occurring in the community.

Monitor legislation that could affect the Fargo Fire Department, the City of Fargo and the fire service in North Dakota.

- In December, Congress passed tax reform legislation. Included in this legislation are two provisions that greatly incentivize the installation of fire sprinklers. This legislation has added fire protection as an eligible expenditure under section 179 of the tax code. Congress increased the cap to \$1 million as the amount a small business can deduct in a single year.



- The 2018 model codes were released by the International Code Council in the fall of 2017. FFD will review the 2018 International Fire Code in preparation for code hearings set to begin in the fall of 2018.



Planning Goal 6



The fire department will work to be dynamic and continually adjust to meet the changing fire problems, new technologies, new laws and regulations, and changes occurring in the community.

- The FFD will work to improve public confidence in the fire department through public relations.
 - FFD continues to promote fire safety through community events, social media, station tours, public education, the Learn Not to Burn program, delivering educational materials to targeted care organizations, participating in community events, and partnering with other organizations where possible.

Engine and Truck Company Public Relation Events

Parades	4
Truck Show N Tell	96
Station Tours	114



Planning Goal 6



The fire department will work to be dynamic and continually adjust to meet the changing fire problems, new technologies, new laws and regulations, and changes occurring in the community.

- In an effort to stay current with new technology the Fargo Fire Department secured a “Drone” to assist in multiple areas. The department started the Red River Valley Unmanned Aircraft Systems group. Participants in the team include: Fargo Fire, Fargo Police, Cass County Sheriffs Office, West Fargo Fire and West Fargo Police. The Fargo Fire Department has 6 trained pilots.





Fargo Firefighters IAFF Local 642

In 2017, Local 642 members donated their time and money to various organizations and causes in the community.

During the MDA Fill the Boot Campaign, members of Local 642 raised \$21,375. 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 hospital that are unable to be home with their families on Christmas day. "Fire up the Kettles" raised \$24,867.67 for the Salvation Army during their Red Kettle Campaign. Local 642 members supported Christmas Gift by flipping burgers and participating in the annual fashion show.

