



# 2019 Fargo Fire Department Annual Report

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# Message from the Chief

On behalf of the men and women of the Fargo Fire Department (FFD), we are proud to present the 2019 FFD Annual Report. The FFD is committed to providing community risk reduction and all hazards emergency response to the 125,000 residents of Fargo and the numerous visitors to our community. It is our hope this report will provide you with information about how the FFD is a resource to help all members of our community.

You will note the complexity of today's fire service has drastically changed from just responding to the sound of a fire bell. The knowledge, skills, and abilities, as well as the mental and physical training required to ensure operational readiness in the form of professional service, risk reduction, rapid response, and compassionate care to the community is foremost on the department's list of priorities.

As Fargo continues to evolve and transform over time, your fire department has undergone changes as well. There is an ongoing effort to improve both the effectiveness and efficiency of our services through innovation and continual analysis of our outputs, outcomes, and impacts in all aspects of department operations. This analysis is completed through a newly implemented program appraisal process.

Our shared values are that the mission of service to the community always comes first and our employees are our most important resource. Our recruitment focuses on hiring candidates who possess the attributes and qualities stated in our department's mission statement and core values and who are the most qualified candidates who reflect those values and our mission. This past year we welcomed three new members to the FFD family. One of those three has the distinction of being the 500<sup>th</sup> career firefighter employed by the City of Fargo.

In 2019, the FFD was the only accredited, ISO Class 1 fire department in North Dakota. We are proud of this distinction. The members of the FFD spent the last six months of 2019 preparing documents for an accreditation site visit in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020. This process involves a self-assessment of over 260 Core Competencies and Performance Indicators established by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). CFAI has been in existence for 25 years and there are currently 283 CFAI accredited fire agencies around the world. The 2020 review will be the third time the FFD will have a peer review team come to Fargo to verify and validate the documents and programs of the FFD. This is a challenging process to undertake and maintain, but it provides a third party review to ensure that the FFD continues to deliver industry best practices and has plans and measures in place to ensure quality service delivery for years to come.

I trust you will find the report informative. The highlights in this report would not be possible without the efforts put forth each day by the 123 women and men who are dedicated to Professionalism, Responsibility, Integrity, Dependability, and Empathy.

Thank you for the privilege and honor to serve our great community.

Steven J. Dirksen, Fire Chief

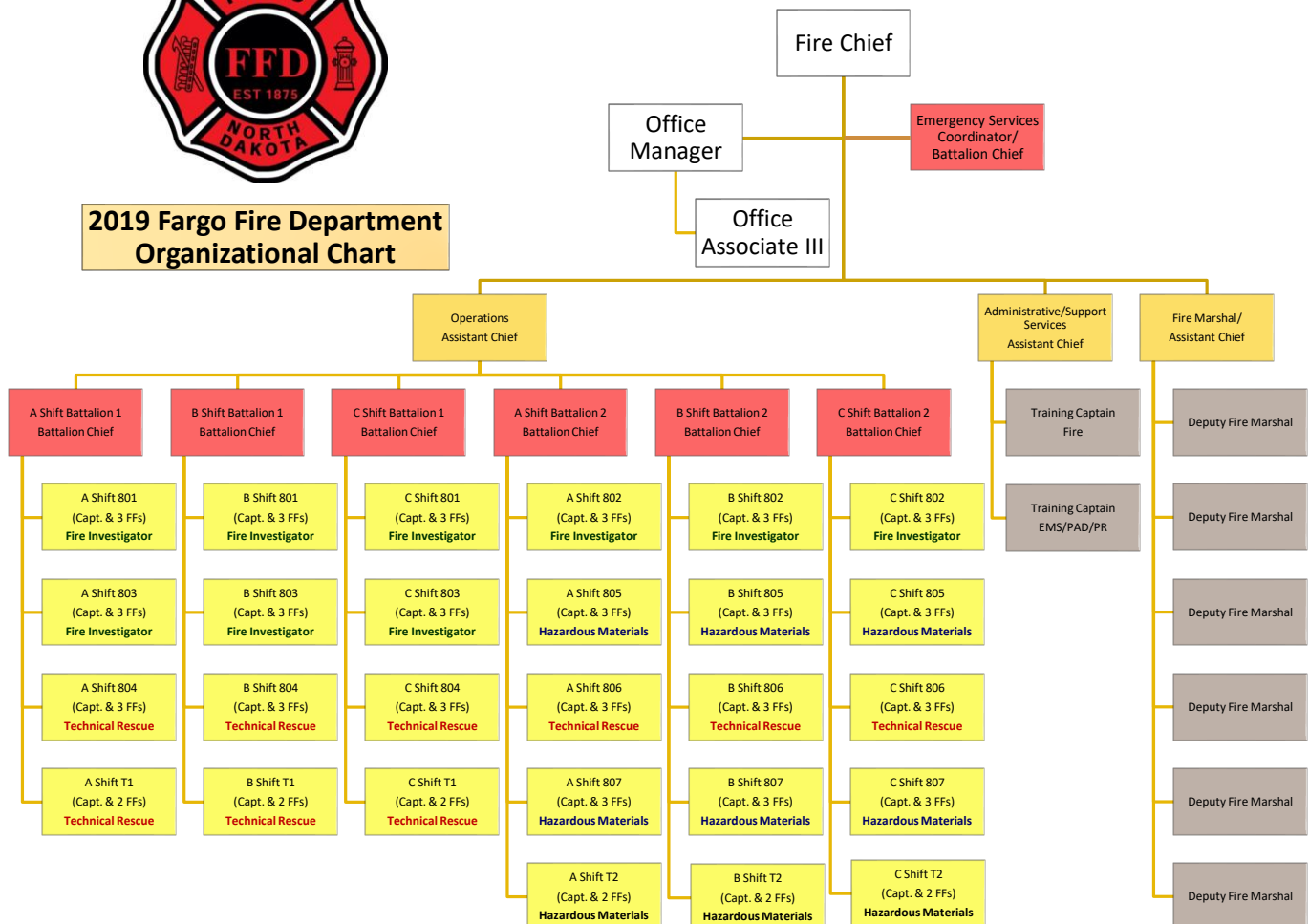




# Organizational Chart



## 2019 Fargo Fire Department Organizational Chart





# 2019 New Hires

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Brett Baune



Taylor Tollefson



Tylor Garding





# 2019 Promotions

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Daniel Johnson  
Fire Captain



Brett Bergh  
Deputy Fire Marshal

# 2019 Retirement



Mike Seaberg, Firefighter  
10 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 inspect commercial and residential occupancies. In 2019, 5,599 businesses and 646 apartment buildings were inspected.

	Inspections	Inspections Completed			
	Assigned	Suppression	Bureau	Total	%
Apartments	641	646	0	646	100.8%
Commercial	5574	4140	1459	5599	100.4%

- Provide education to special need organizations, as well as other groups.
  - The Fargo Fire Department is proud to be designated a “Built For Life” fire department by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition. We were able to upgrade the fire safety house to include educational information on home fire sprinklers through a grant provided by the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition.
  - All seven FFD stations were available for the public to tour and visit during fire prevention week where citizens could learn about the 2019 campaign: “Not every hero wears a cape, plan and practice your escape”

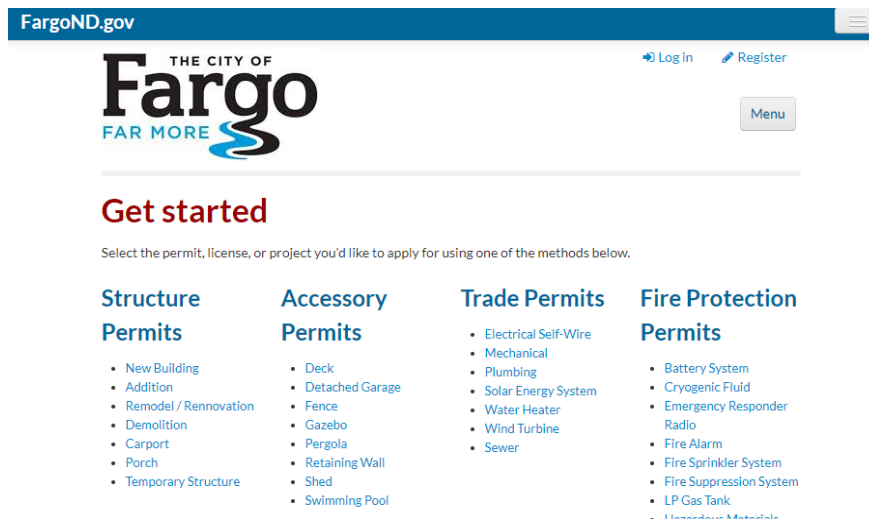


# Planning Goal 1



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
  - Acceptance tests and plan reviews of fire protection systems are conducted to ensure systems are installed properly and will be reliable. In 2019, 175 fire protection system plans were reviewed and approximately 250 acceptance tests were witnessed.
  - The inspections department launched a new permitting and plan review software system. The fire department was able to integrate many of our permits into this system. Citizens and contractors can now apply for permits online at [Permits.FargoND.gov](https://Permits.FargoND.gov)





# Planning Goal 1



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

- Present “Learn Not to Burn” program in all schools, grades K-2.
  - We continue to reach out to the children in the community through the “Learn Not to Burn” program. This year, over 5,300 children were taught “911”, “Two ways out,” and general fire safety. The engine and truck companies visited 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 provided safety talks, presentations, and fire extinguisher training to over 2,300 individuals. The audience included 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 the 2019 fire investigations are below. Cooking fires and smoking material fires are the most common cause of structure fires in the City of Fargo.

Types of Fires (Top three)	
Building fire	80
Passenger vehicle fire	52
Dumpster or other outside fire	28

Classification	Fires
Accidental	134
Incendiary	24
Natural	1
Undetermined	43
Total	202

Structure Fire Origin (Top three)	
Cooking area, kitchen	33
Exterior balcony, unenclosed porch	9
Vehicle Storage area, Garage	8

Structure Fire Cause - Heat Source (top four)	
Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment	30
Smoking Materials	11
Electrical arcing	10
Heat from powered equipment	9



# Planning Goal 1



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

- Provide training and direction to the public, as requested, to support the Heart Safe Fargo program.
  - Continue utilizing PulsePoint to enable citizens to be notified and provide assistance (CPR) if a cardiac arrest occurs in a public location.

Number of followers of the FFD on PulsePoint.....**4438**

Number of individuals notified that CPR was needed in a public location.....**43**



- 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.

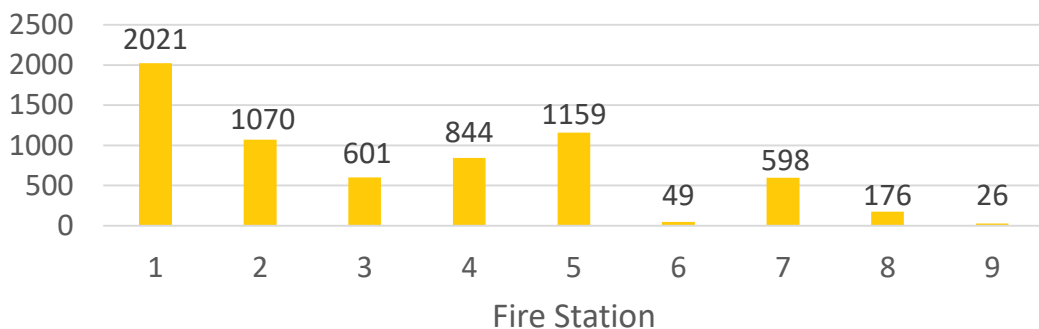


# Planning Goal 2



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.
  - In 2019, the FFD responded to 6,545 calls coded as EMS (57% of all responses for the year), an increase of 136 from 2018.
  - EMS calls per station/planning zone; planning zones 8 and 9 are covered by Stations 2 and 7 respectively.



- 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 NREMT standard.
  - Continuing EMS 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.



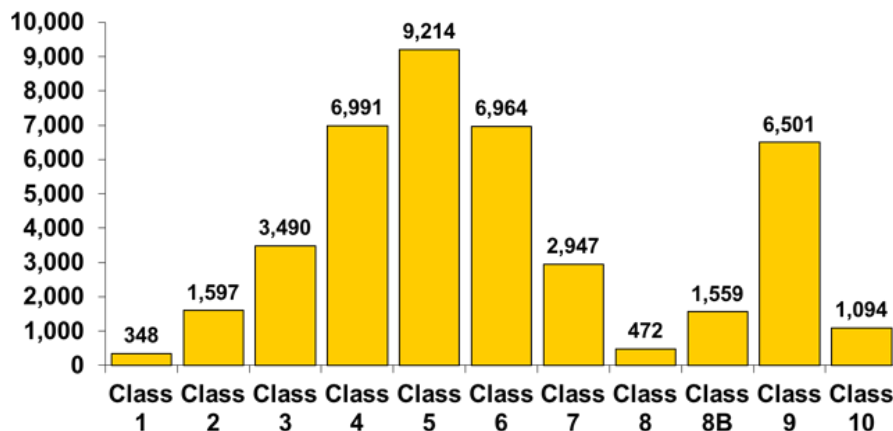
# Planning Goal 3



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

- The Fargo Fire Department was designated as an ISO Class 1 Community after its most recent Insurance Service Office (ISO) evaluation. The process is a comprehensive review of the fire department (50%), the water supply systems (40%), and the emergency communication systems (10%).
- With this rating, the City of Fargo is in the top ½ percent of all communities nationwide for their fire suppression delivery system. To put this into perspective - of approximately 48,855 fire departments in the U.S., as of 2019, only 348 have achieved the elite Class 1 designation. The Fargo Fire Department is one of only **94** fire departments nationwide that have achieved an ISO Class 1 designation as well as being Internationally Accredited.
- A rating of “1” indicates the highest level of fire protection, while a “10” shows an undeniable need for improvement in all areas of public protection. These ratings are then used by insurance companies to establish fair premiums for commercial and residential insurance.

Countrywide





# Planning Goal 3

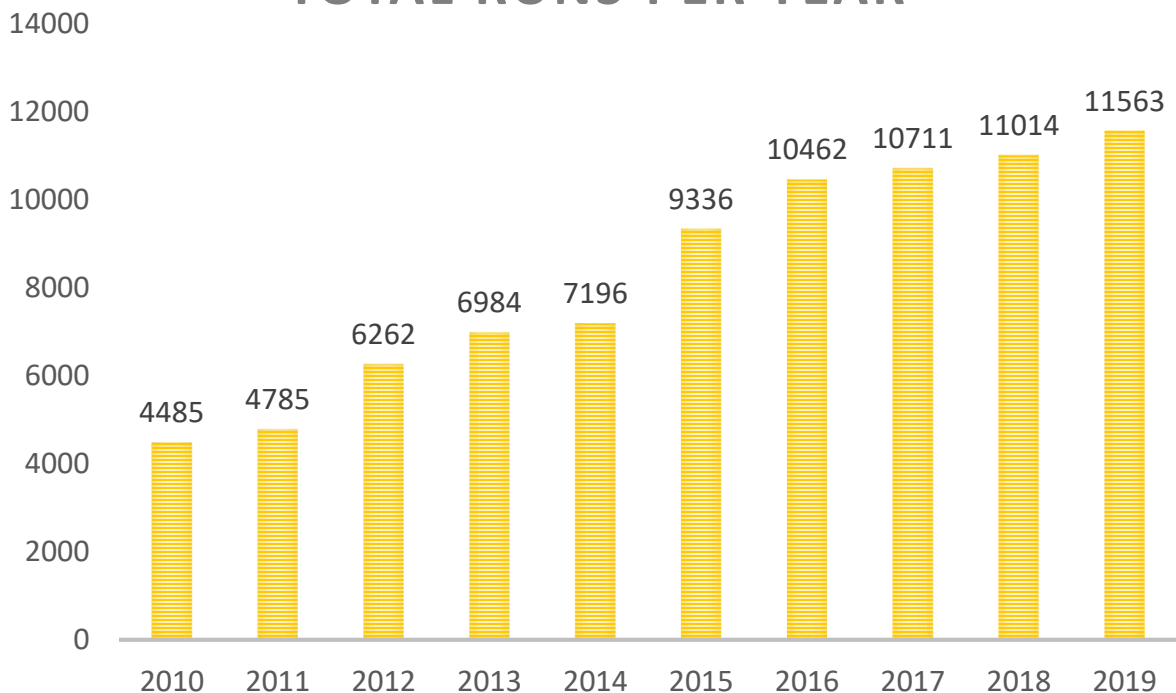


Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters, and other emergencies.

The number of calls for service for the FFD continues to increase. In 2019, the FFD's fire suppression division responded to a total of 11,563 calls for service. This includes mutual aid responses outside of the City of Fargo.

- 2010-2019 statistics are reflected below.

## TOTAL RUNS PER YEAR



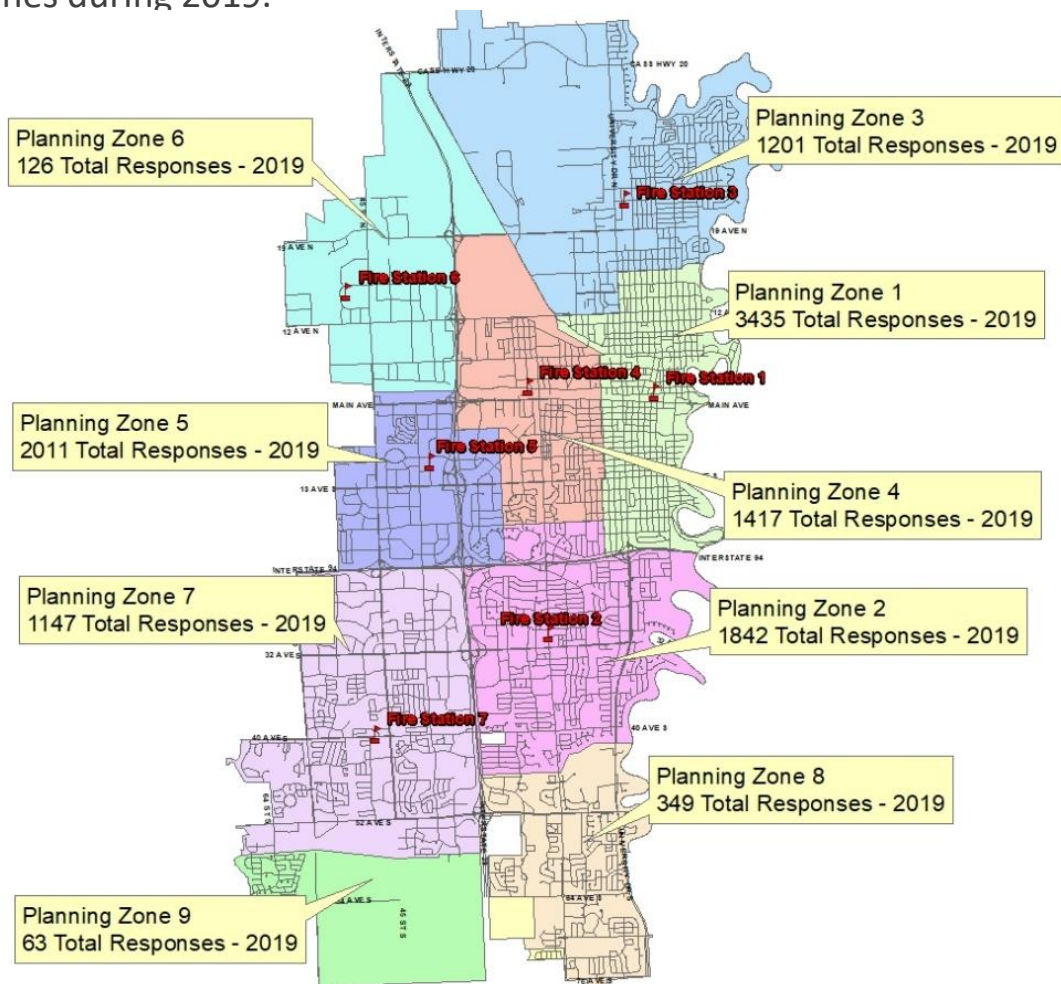


# Planning Goal 3



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 2019.



# Planning Goal 3



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

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While there were 11,563 total calls that the FFD responded to in 2019, many of these calls required more than one fire apparatus to respond. These include incidents such as building fires or vehicle crashes.

- The table below depicts the **total** number of emergency responses made by each fire apparatus during 2019.

2019 Apparatus Total Responses	
801	3,298
802	2,774
803	1,511
804	2,305
805	2,509
806	685
807	1,488
Truck 1	1,862
Truck 2	1,135
Batt 1	810
Batt 2	640

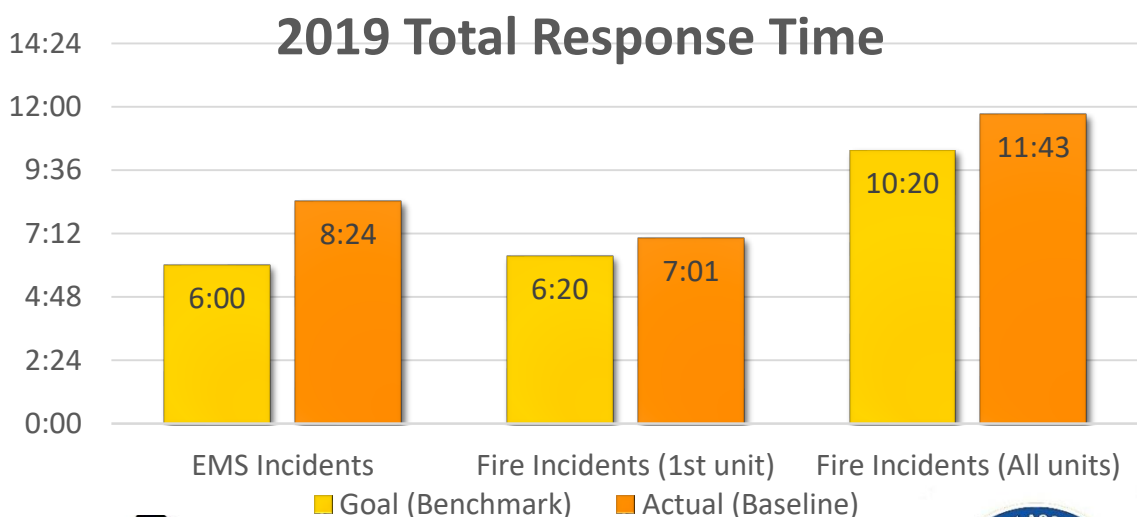


# Planning Goal 3



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

- The FFD strives to respond as quickly as possible to all incidents. As a guide for response time goals, the FFD follows the National Fire Protection Standard (NFPA) 1710, which provides a nationwide standard for all size departments and cities. Three components make up Total Response Time.
  - Alarm Handling Time – This is the time that the dispatch center takes to answer a 911 call and dispatch the appropriate fire department unit(s). The goal, or benchmark, for this time is one minute, 90% of the time.
  - Turnout Time – This is the time that it takes fire crews from when they are notified of a call to when the truck is moving out of the station. The goal for medical responses is one minute, 90% of the time. The goal for fire responses is 1:20, 90% of the time, due to the fact that the firefighters need to put on firefighting gear before getting in the truck.
  - Travel Time – This is the time that it takes fire crews to drive to the scene of the incident. The goal for travel time is 4:00, 90% of the time.
- These are goals that the FFD strives to meet. Although the standard is set very high from NFPA, FFD personnel continually look for ways to safely improve the Total Response Time.



# Planning Goal 3



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

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- The FFD provides response for hazardous materials, technical rescue, and ice/water rescue incidents
- Provide emergency response to hazardous materials incidents with firefighters trained to the technician level.
  - The FFD 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.
  - 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.



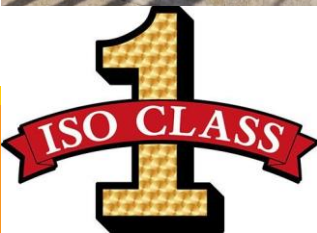
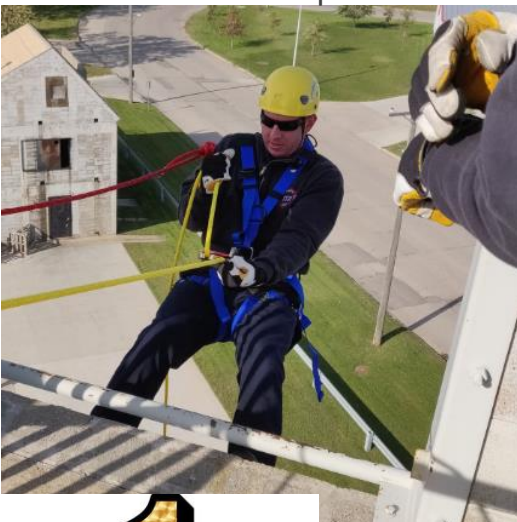


# Planning Goal 3



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

- The FFD provides response for hazardous materials, technical rescue, and ice/water rescue incidents
- Maintain a technical rescue team with specialized training in four core competencies.
  - The FFD has 30 individuals trained in four specialty areas of technical rescue. These areas include rope rescue, confined space, trench rescue and structural collapse.
  - 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.
  - All TRT members pursue certification through ProBoard in all specialty areas.



# 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 FFD provides response for hazardous materials, technical rescue, and ice/water rescue incidents.
- The primary goal of the FFD's Water Rescue Team (WRT) is to respond to and manage water rescue emergencies within the city. The WRT focuses on training for responses to swift and ice water incidents, rescue boat operations, and underwater sonar searching. In addition to team training, the WRT provides training to all fire suppression crews to assist in preparing them for quick responses within their individual response zones.
- Currently the WRT is focusing on development standards to provide a foundation for future training and certification. The WRT meets quarterly to ensure equipment and training needs are being met and to ensure the team operations and preparedness meet the need for water rescue within the city.





# 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.

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In 2019, 3 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.



# 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.

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- 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. Members are encouraged to attend the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. The NFA provides specialized training courses and advanced management programs on site or through local delivery. In 2019, the FFD hosted National Fire Academy local delivery classes. These NFA classes are designed to help our current and future officers with initial company operations and crew management. Selected individuals also attend the Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, IN. This conference brings the best instructors from around the country to one location and is the most attended firefighter training event in the country.
  - In addition, firefighters and officers attend conferences and classes when possible and often utilize online and in station training.
- The Fargo Fire Department will promote safety along with the health and wellness of employees by providing annual medical examinations 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.



# Planning Goal 5



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

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- 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.





# Planning Goal 5



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

- Eight members of the FFD have training in repair and testing of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), the air packs worn during a fire. These individuals that are MSA Certified Airmask Repair Education (CARE) certified are capable of annual testing and repair of 80 MSA Firehawk M7 SCBA. Members are able to completely disassemble an air pack and replace parts on a needed basis.
- Approximately 107 recorded staff hours were spent on repair and testing in 2019.



# 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.

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Monitor legislation that could affect the Fargo Fire Department, the City of Fargo and the fire service in North Dakota. The Fargo Fire Department continues to reduce risk through public education, fire prevention inspections, and fire investigations.

- The fire prevention bureau worked alongside the inspections department to present the 2018 ICC model codes to the board of appeals. This culminated in the City of Fargo adopting the 2018 International Fire Code alongside the other building and residential codes. Fargo has consistently adopted new versions of the ICC codes. Typically this is done every 3 years.



# 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.
  - The FFD continues to promote fire safety through community events, social media posting, station tours, public education, the Learn Not to Burn program, delivering educational materials to targeted care organizations, and participating in community events. The FFD began tracking all PR events during 2019. The FFD recorded more than 135 events and interacted with over 14,000 people.



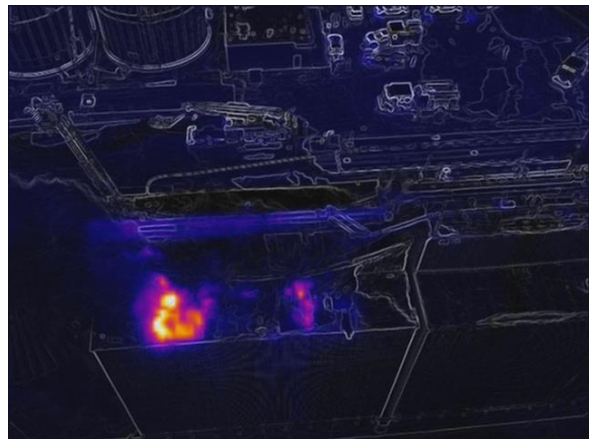


# Planning Goal 6



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 continues to operate drones to assist in multiple areas. Six FAA certified FFD pilots continue to work as a part of 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.





# Fargo Firefighters IAFF Local 642

In 2019, 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 \$25,025. 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 are unable to be home with their families on Christmas day. "Fire up the Kettles" raised \$24,000 for the Salvation Army during their Red Kettle Campaign.

