



Annual Report

2021

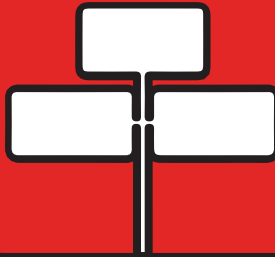




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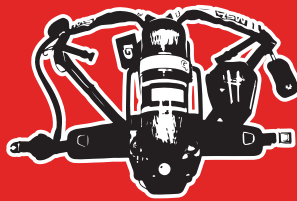
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MESSAGE
FROM
CHIEF
DIRKSEN



1





A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF DIRKSEN



To the Citizens of Fargo,

I am pleased to share The City of Fargo Fire Department's 2021 Annual Report. This annual report covers statistics and information related to our response and how the Fargo Fire Department has worked to meet the goals and objectives of our strategic plan.

The Fargo Fire Department is a professional organization dedicated to serving our community and visitors with Professionalism, Responsibility, Integrity, Dependability and Empathy (PRIDE). Our department strives to provide an exemplary level of service to the citizens who call Fargo home as well as to the many who work in and visit our great city. We continue to be an all hazards fire department staffed by 125 personnel providing services from our administrative offices and seven fire stations.

In 2021, we responded to 13,490 incidents and focused on emergency preparedness through The City of Fargo's Emergency Management Office. We said goodbye to Leon Schlafmann, our Emergency Manager for the last 12 years, and welcomed Brady Scribner as Emergency Manager in November. Our Community Risk Reduction Division led fire safety and education sessions and supported our Suppression and Training Divisions with emergency services delivery. Our Training Division conducted two joint recruit academies with the West Fargo Fire Department and provided continuing fire and emergency medical training to all personnel.

As Fargo continues to grow and evolve, the Fargo Fire Department must remain adaptable and continue to implement the continuous improvement model adopted through our accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). Doing so encourages our staff to collaborate with public, private and nonprofit sectors. Our dedicated personnel remain nimble, creative and resilient. When presented with a challenge, we work together to find solutions.

To the residents of Fargo, thank you for your continued support and commitment to having world-class levels of safety, prevention and response capability. We feel it, see it and we thank you. As you review this document, please remember there are people behind every number. Our department is composed of committed, dedicated and highly capable individuals. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Again, thank you for providing me with the incredible opportunity to serve this great community and the women and men of the Fargo Fire Department.

Regards,

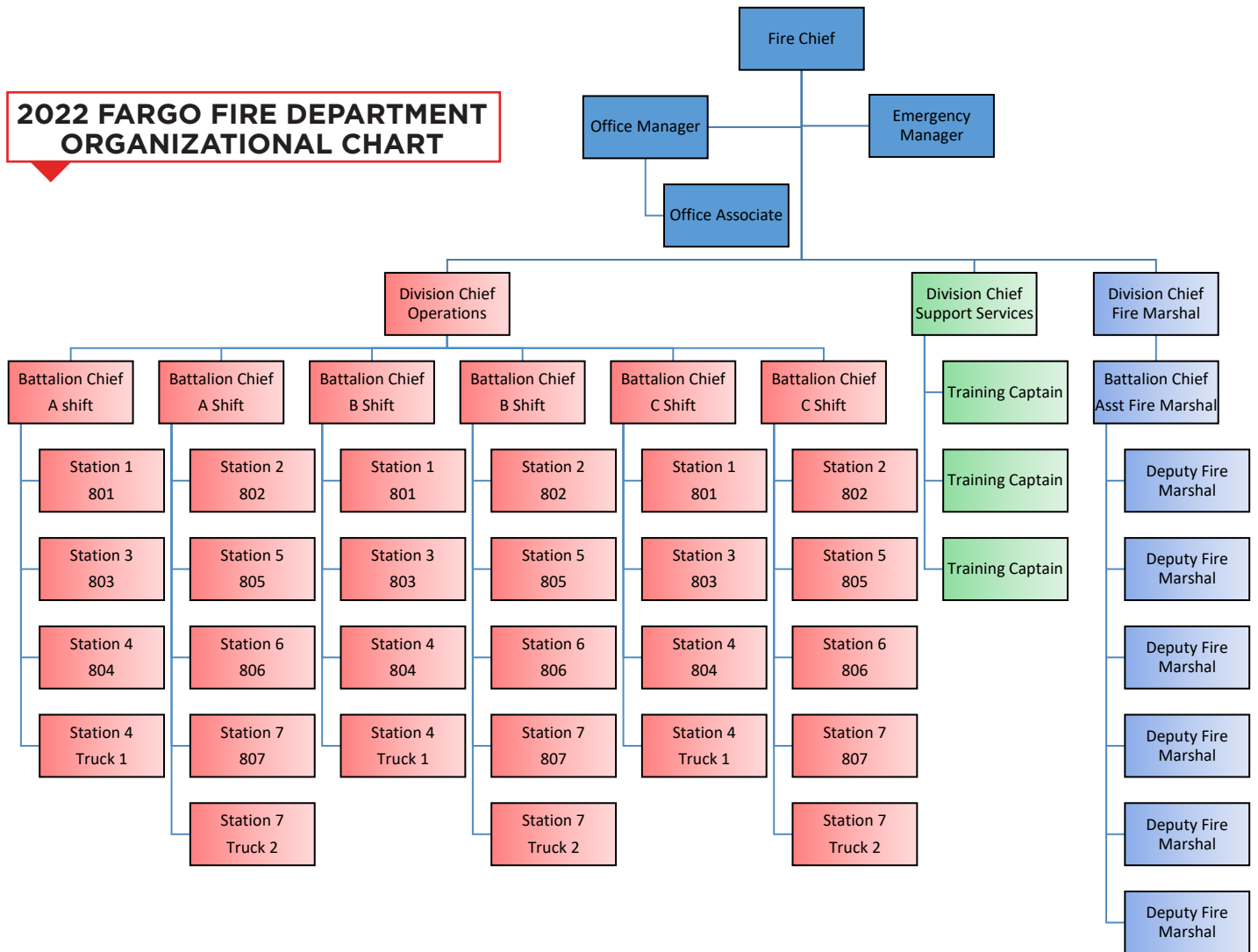
STEVEN DIRKSEN
Fargo Fire Chief



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2022 FARGO FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





2021 NEW HIRES

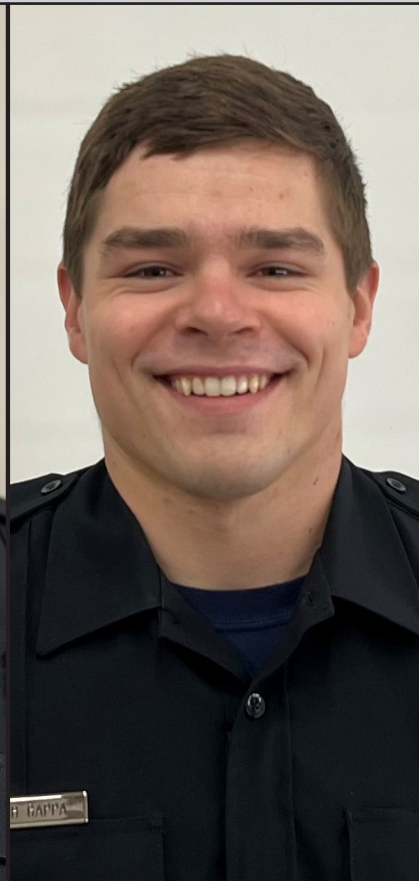


Adam Brewers

Joshua Crance

Chad Dodds

Zach Gappa





2021 NEW HIRES



Jake Hasson

Logan Klobuchar

Karli Kopietz

Brady Scribner

Tristan Walsh



5





2021 RETIREMENTS



David Conrad
Fire Captain
21 years of service

Kevin Muffenbier
Fire Captain
30 years of service

Tyler Pearson
Firefighter
11 years of service





2021 RETIREMENTS



Leon Schlafman
Battalion Chief / Emergency Manager
32 years of service

Rob Severson
Deputy Fire Marshal
27 years of service



7





2021 PROMOTIONS



Trevor Rysgaard
Deputy Fire Marshal

Joe Svir
Deputy Fire Marshal

Joe Sabourin
Fire Captain











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 International Fire Code (IFC). The Fire Prevention Bureau along with suppression personnel inspect commercial and residential occupancy numbers. In 2021, 5,616 businesses and 906 apartment buildings were inspected. The FFD assigns 50% of apartment inspections annually. If available, personnel work to complete remaining inspections. In 2021, 267 additional apartment inspections were completed over 2020.

Inspections Completed					
	Inspections Assigned	Suppression	Bureau	Total%	
Apartments	 633	 639	 267	906	143.1%
Commercial	 5584	 4111	 1505	5616	100.6%

Home fire
sprinkler
informational
display at Fire
Station 1





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 IFC.**

Acceptance tests and reviews of fire protection system plans are conducted to ensure systems are installed properly and will be reliable. In 2021, 226 fire protection system plans were reviewed and approximately 675 acceptance tests were witnessed.





PLANNING GOAL 1



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


- » Provide education to special need organizations and other groups.
- » Present “Learn Not to Burn” program in all Fargo schools to grades K-2.

The FFD continues to connect with children in the community through the “Learn Not to Burn” program. In 2021, all elementary schools were provided with a lesson on “Exits”, “Get Out and Stay Out” and general fire safety. Over 5,100 children were reached through classroom presentations.

Our adult education system gave safety talks, presentations and fire extinguisher training to over 800 individuals including apartment building managers, building safety professionals and childcare providers.

The FFD maintains Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts in addition to communication via The City of Fargo webpage: www.FargoFire.com.

Review



- What is an Emergency?
 - *You need help and it can't wait!*
- What do you do if you see an emergency?

CALL 911

- What are the parts of an escape plan?
 - Smoke Alarms
 - Get out and Stay Out!
 - Do you know two ways out of your house? Bedroom?
 - Meeting Place
 - Practice





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 the origin and cause of a fire. The 2021 fire investigations results are listed below. Cooking fires and smoking material fires continue to be the most common cause of structure fires in Fargo.

» Classification Fires

132 + 46 + 44 + 38 + 3 = 263

Unintentional

Undetermined

*Failure of Equip.
or Heat Source*

Intentional

Act of Nature

Total

» Types of Fires (Top three)

131

Building fire

49

*Passenger
vehicle fire*

42

Dumpster fire

» Structure Fire Origin

32

*Cooking area,
kitchen*

20

*Exterior
balcony*

13

Bedroom

» Intentionally Set Fires (By Year)

16

2017

11

2018

24

2019

37

2020

38

2021

» Structure Fire Cause - Heat Source (top three)

40

*Radiated, conducted heat from
operating equipment*

31

Smoking Materials

13

Lighter and open flame



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 citizen notification and assistance (CPR) if a cardiac arrest occurs in a public location.

Free to users, the PulsePoint app (available for Android and iOS) allows individuals to follow the FFD and receive alerts when CPR is needed.

1,334

followers of FFD on PulsePoint

61

Individuals notified that CPR was needed in a public location



13





PLANNING GOAL 2



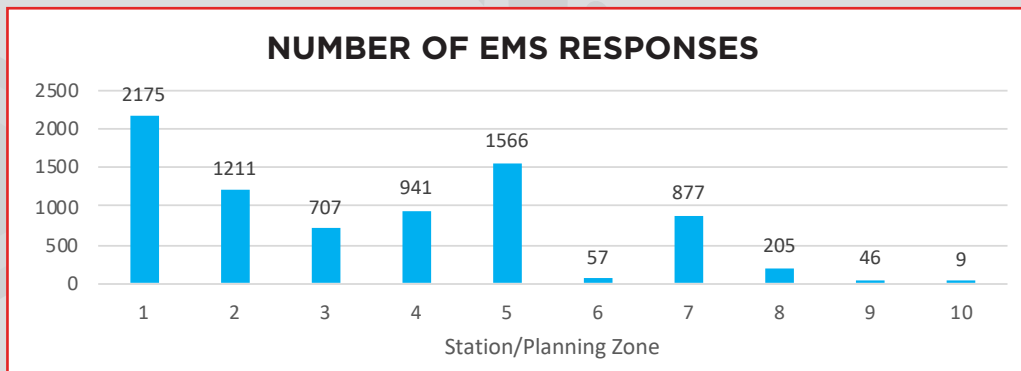
Integrate our emergency medical response capability with other service providers to ensure that the needs of the customer are met.

» **Meet the response time performance task as indicated in the Standard of Cover document**

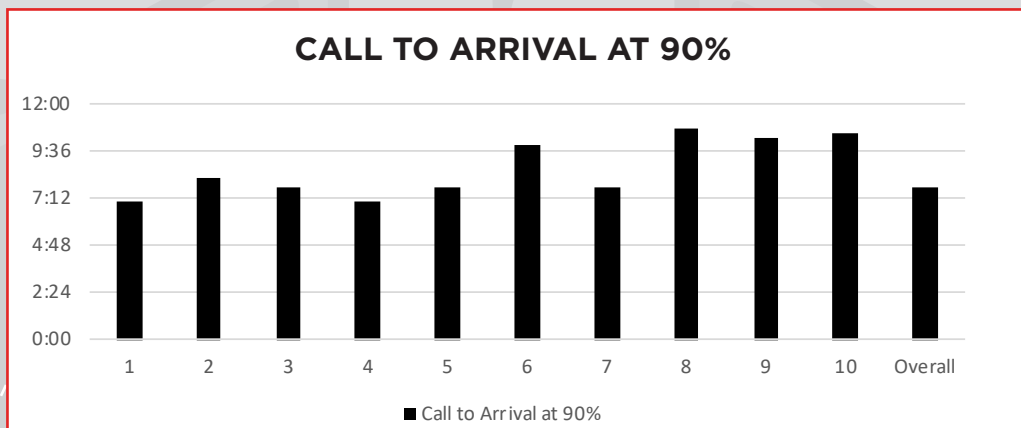
7,794

*Calls coded as EMS (58% of all responses for the year) were responded to in 2021.
That is an increase of 476 from 2020.*

The table below shows EMS calls per station/planning zone. Planning Zones 8 and 9 are covered by Fire Stations 2 and 7, respectively. Created in June 2021, Planning Zone 10 is covered by Fire Stations 3 and 6.



2021 included many responses to patients with COVID-19 or symptoms that required additional precautions. Additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including N-95 masks, face shields, gowns and gloves required crews to take extra time so these items were properly in place for personnel and patient safety.





PLANNING GOAL 2



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

» **All personnel are trained to maintain biannual Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification requirements.**

All FFD personnel are required to maintain EMT certification. Individuals are required to re-certify every two years. Each year, approximately half of the department re-certifies to the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) standard.

One of three training captains provide continuous EMS training. These individuals work 40 hours a week and provide consistent training to all fire personnel. These captains also maintain training records and ensure everyone has sufficient individual training. Training includes hands on experience, education through Vector Solutions and individual study.



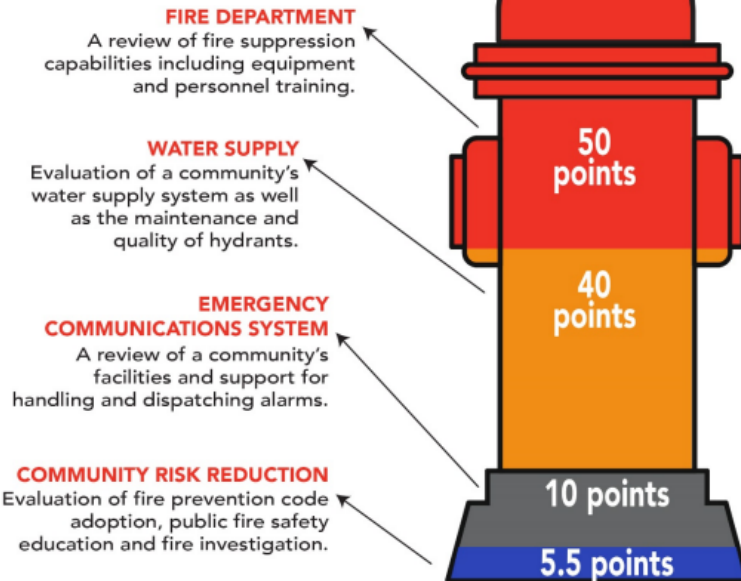


PLANNING GOAL 3



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

CRITERIA USED TO EVALUATE A COMMUNITY'S PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION



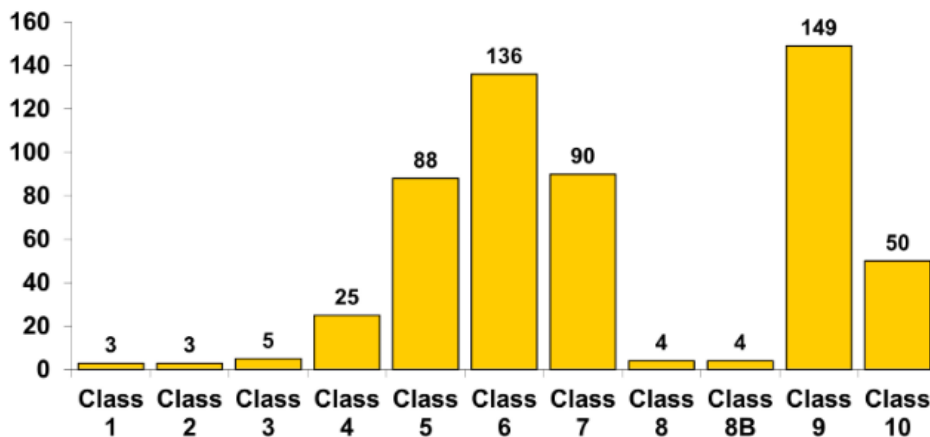
Source: ISOMitigation.com

ISO then assigns a PPC rating from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

The insurance Service Office (ISO) evaluates a community's Public Protection System (PPC) using the criteria shown on the fire hydrant graphic.



Fargo is rated as an ISO Class 1 community.



This table shows the ISO ratings of North Dakota communities.



PLANNING GOAL 3



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

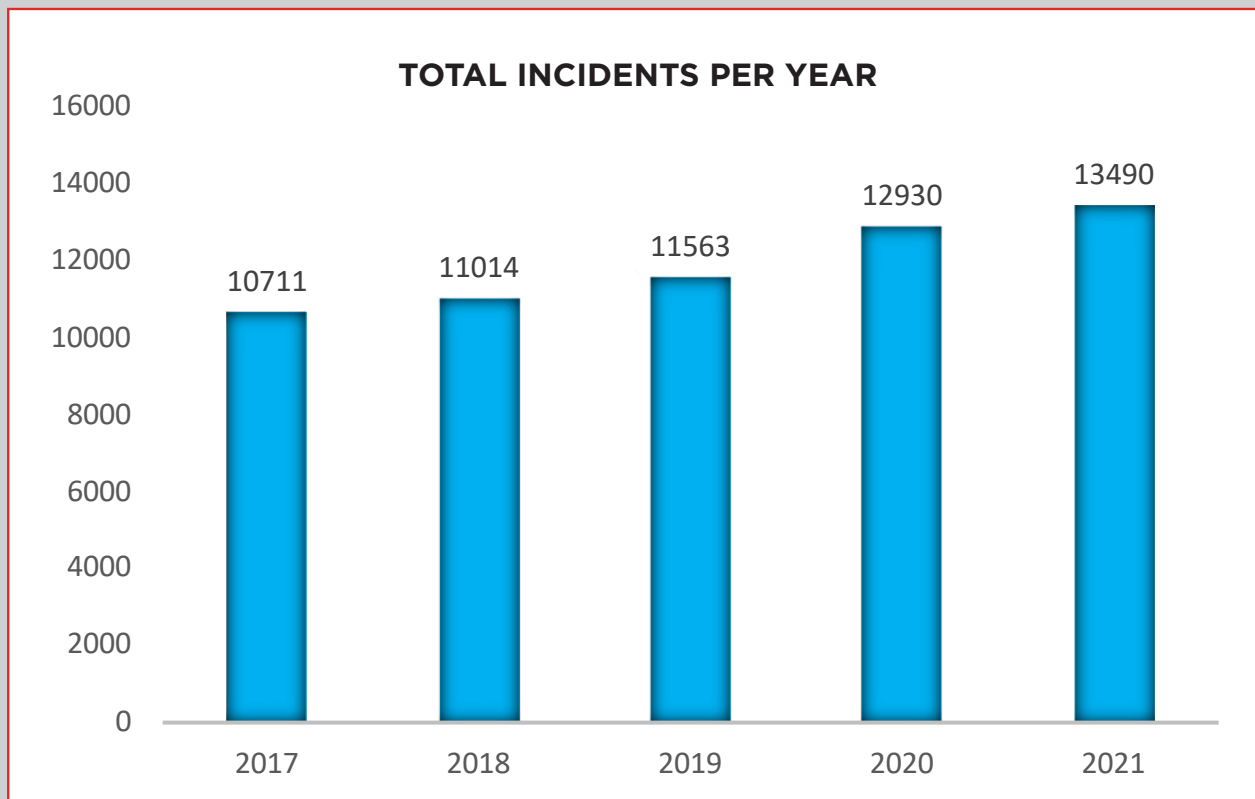
» As The City of Fargo grows, the number of calls for service for the FFD continues to increase

13,490

Calls for service the FFD's Fire Suppression Division responded to in 2021. This includes mutual aid responses outside of The City of Fargo.



2017-2021 response statistics are reflected below.

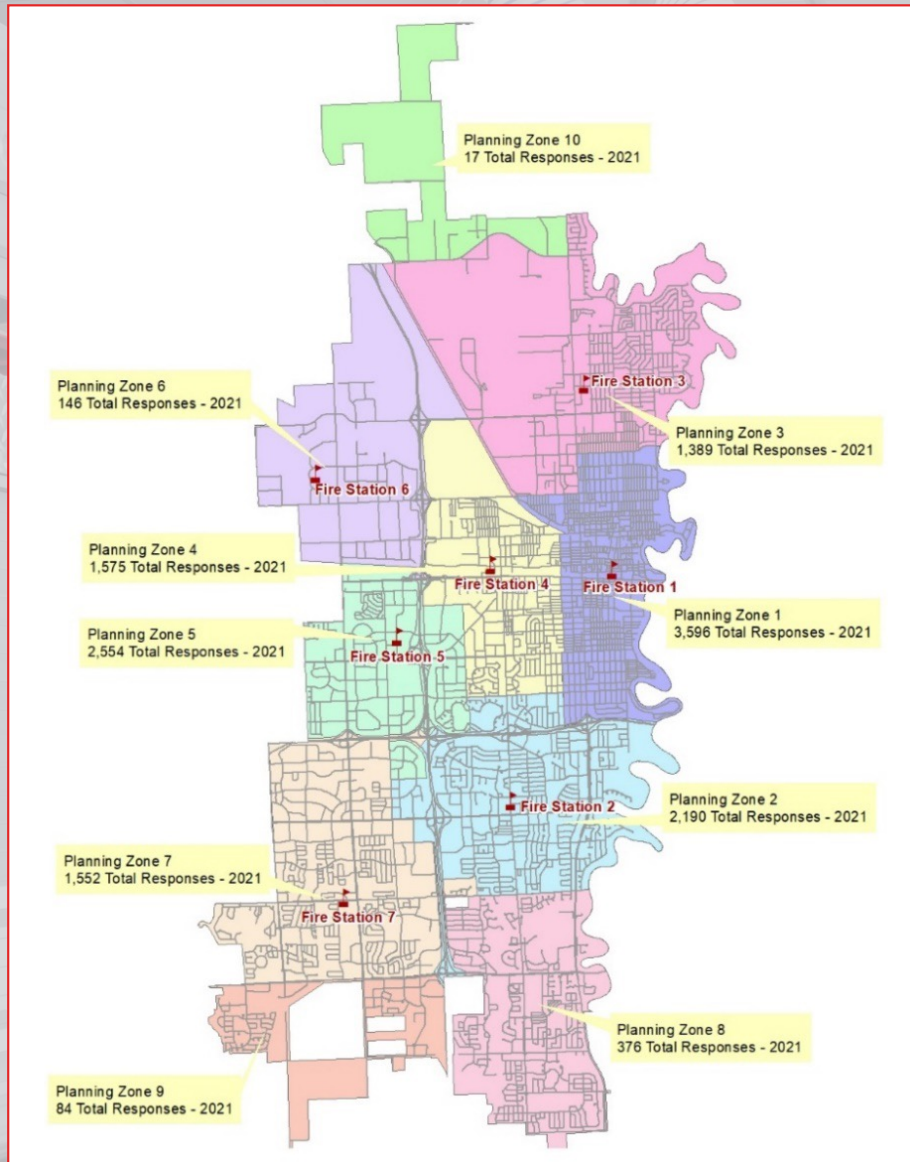




PLANNING GOAL 3



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 Fargo, the FFD created specific Planning Zones. The map above depicts the number of responses that occurred within each of these zones during 2021.



PLANNING GOAL 3



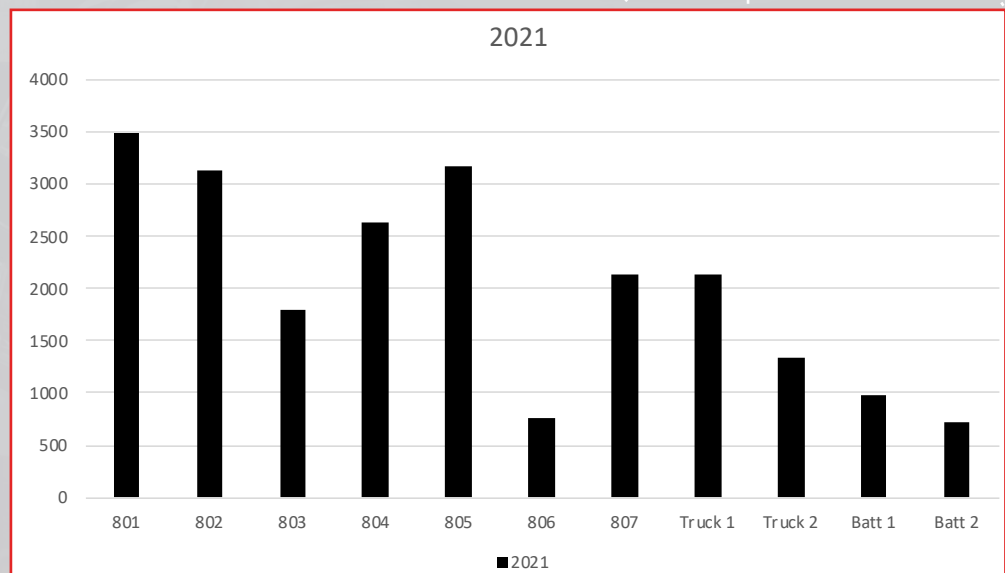
Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters and other emergencies.

» In 2021, the FFD responded to 13,490 calls and many required more than one fire apparatus to respond. These include incidents such as building fires or vehicle crashes.

2021 APPARATUS TOTAL RESPONSES

801	3,505	807	2,140
802	3,147	Truck 1	2,135
803	1,790	Truck 2	1,342
804	2,633	Battalion 1	988
805	3,172	Battalion 2	724
806	764		

This table depicts the total number of emergency responses made by each fire apparatus during 2021.





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. The FFD follows the National Fire Protection Standard (NFPA) 1710 as a guide for response time goals. NFPA 1710 provides a nationwide standard for all size departments and cities. Three components make up Total Response Time.

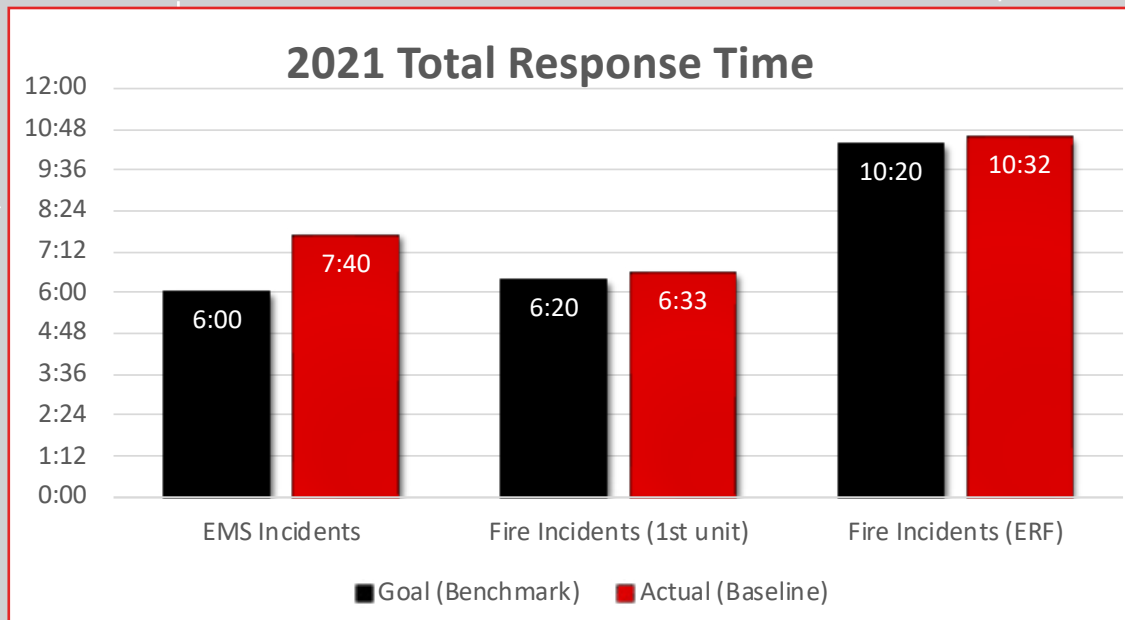
» Three components comprise total response time

Alarm Handling Time – The time the dispatch center takes to answer a 911 call and dispatch the appropriate fire department unit(s). The goal, or benchmark, is one minute, 90% of the time.

Turnout Time – The time it takes fire crews from notification 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 one minute, 20 seconds, 90% of the time, as firefighters need to put on their gear before getting in the truck.

Travel Time – The time it takes fire crews to drive to the scene of an incident. The goal for travel time is four minutes, 90% of the time.

» The FFD strives to meet these goals. Although the standard is set very high from the 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.

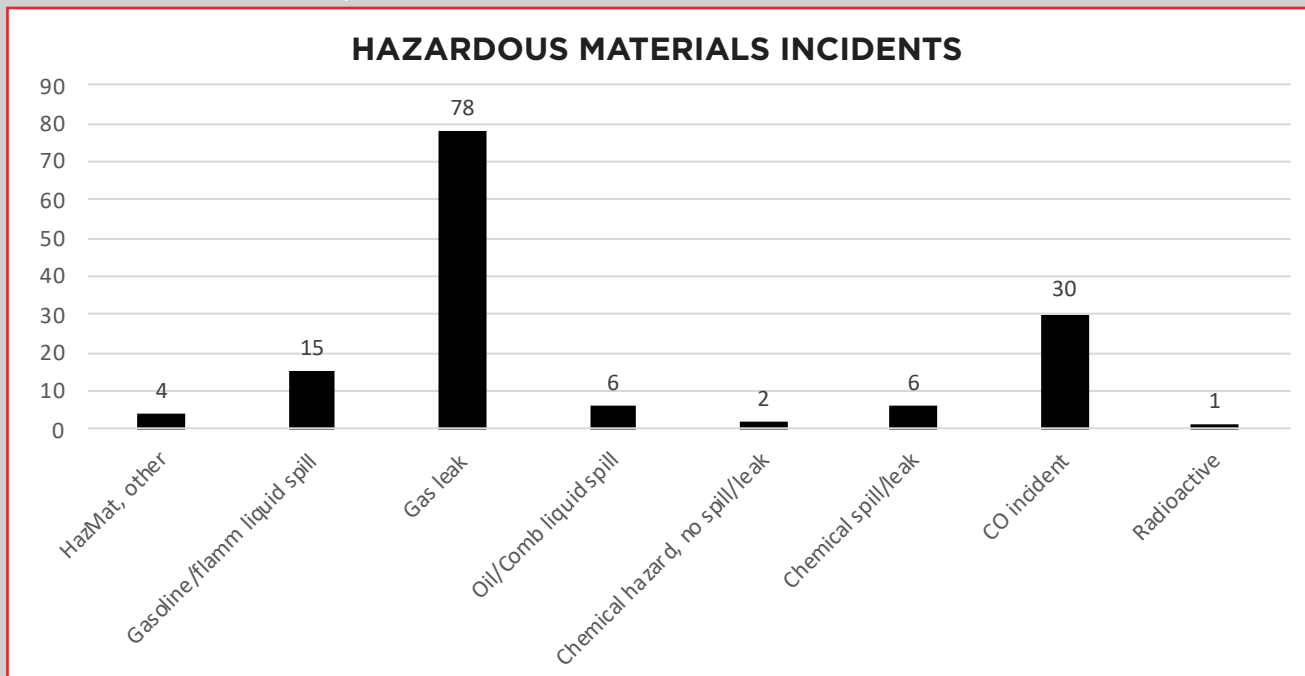
- » The FFD provides response for hazardous materials, technical rescue and ice/water rescue incidents.
- » Provide emergency response to hazardous materials incidents with firefighters trained to the Technician level.

30

*Individuals trained to the level of Hazardous Materials Technician.
Remaining department members are trained to the Awareness and Operations level.*

Every month, one day per shift is dedicated to hazardous materials training for personnel on the city and regional hazmat team.

- » Hazardous materials incidents include hazardous, flammable, combustible or toxic chemical spills and leaks.



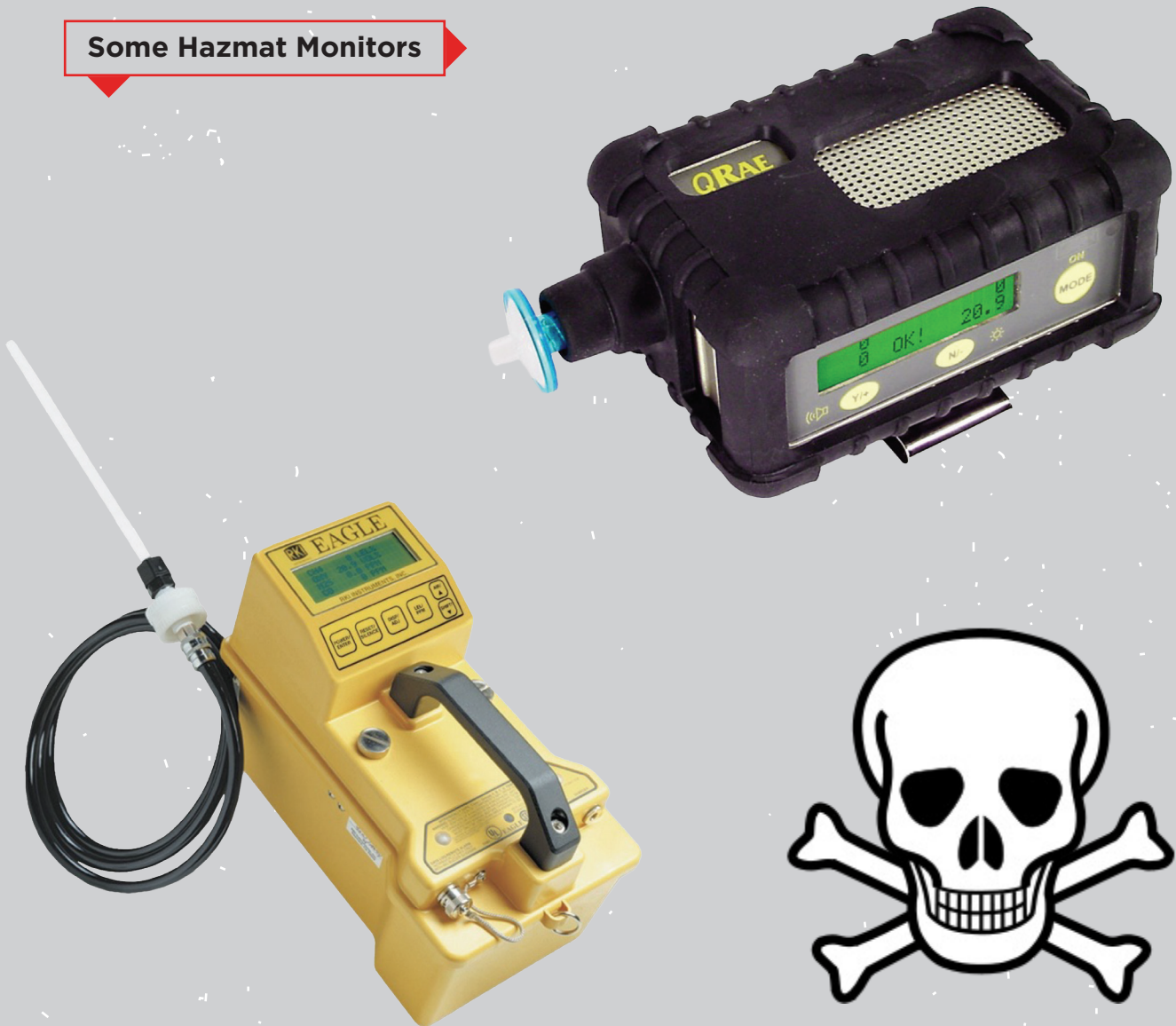


PLANNING GOAL 3



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

Some Hazmat Monitors





PLANNING GOAL 3



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

» **Maintain a Technical Rescue Team (TRT) with specialized training in four core competencies.**

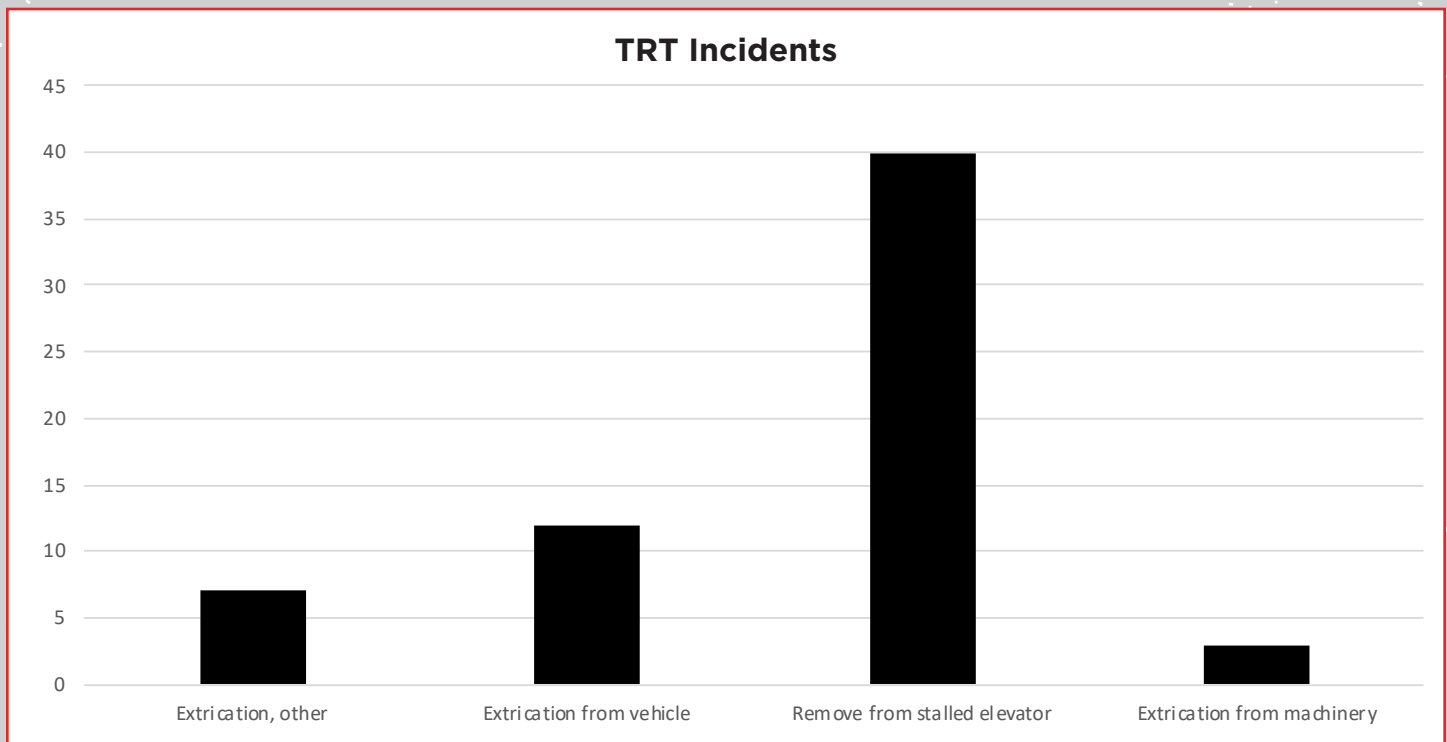
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*Individuals trained in four specialty areas of technical rescue.
These areas include rope rescue, confined space, trench rescue and structural collapse.*

Every month, one day per shift is dedicated to technical rescue training for personnel on the city and regional TRT team.

Emphasis is placed on conducting training at various sites to make the drills as realistic as possible.

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.

Technical Rescue Team



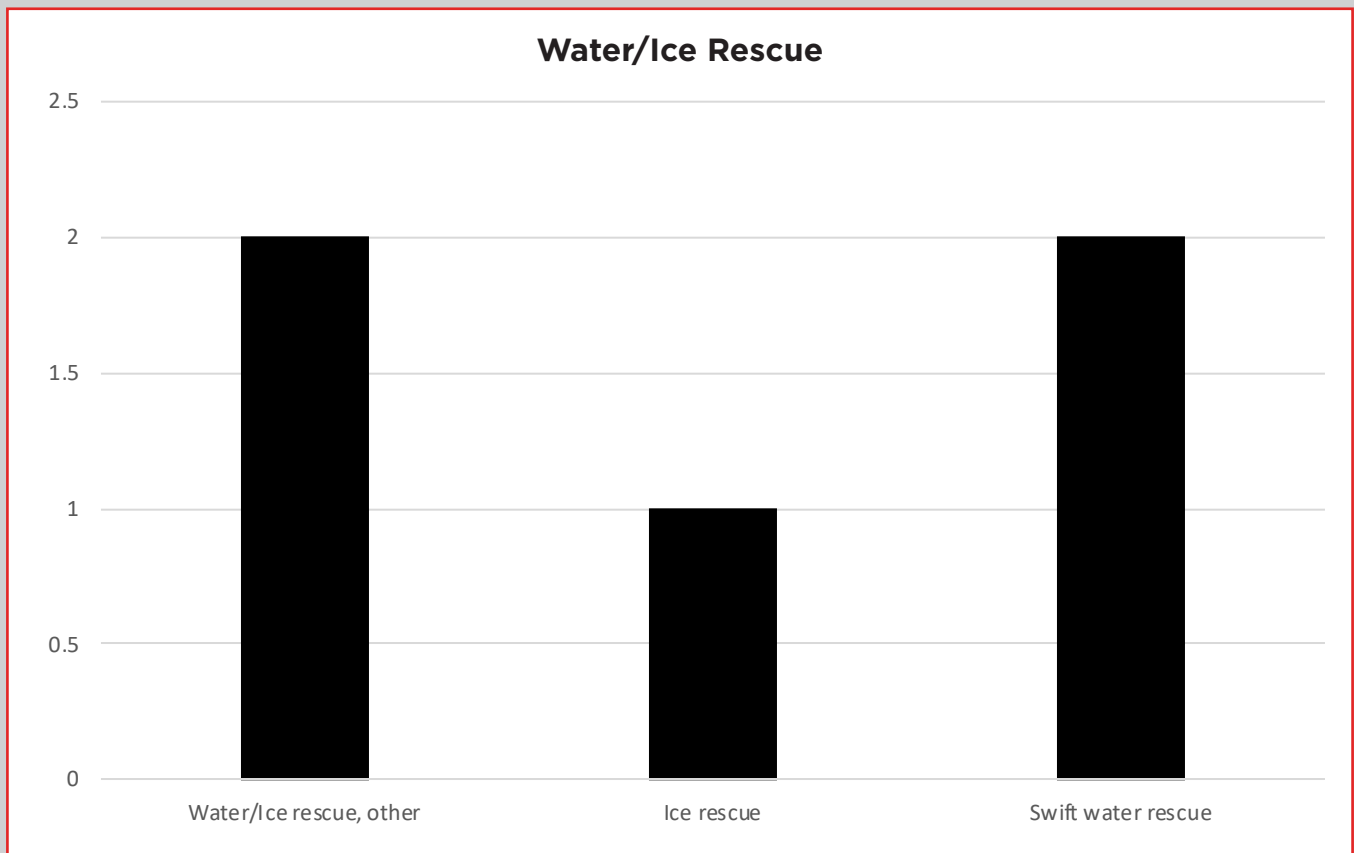


PLANNING GOAL 3



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

- » The primary goal of the Water Rescue Team is to respond to and manage water rescue emergencies within Fargo. The team focuses on training for responses to swift and ice water incidents, rescue boat operations and underwater sonar searching. The Water Rescue Team provides training to all fire suppression crews to help prepare them for quick responses within individual response zones.





PLANNING GOAL 3



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

Water Rescue Team





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.

» In 2021, the FFD and West Fargo Fire Department held two joint recruit academies.

The FFD had 7 new firefighters complete the academy. Over 10 weeks, the new firefighters received training on how to respond to incidents involving fire, EMS, vehicle extrication and hazardous materials. Training captains also provided new recruits with an EMT class that certifies them as Emergency Medical Technicians. Once a firefighter graduates from the academy, they are assigned to a fire suppression crew where they continue the training process at the crew level for a probationary period of one year.



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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 educational opportunities.**

The FFD encourages the professional growth of its officers and firefighters through local and national training opportunities. Members are encouraged to attend the National Fire Academy (NFA) in Emmitsburg, MD. The NFA provides specialized training courses and advanced management programs on site or through local delivery.

In addition, firefighters and officers attend conferences and classes when possible and often utilize online and in-station training.

» **The FFD will promote safety along with employee health and wellness 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.

Several committees consisting of fire department and city employees meet throughout the year to discuss and ensure safety and health and wellness issues are addressed and needs are met.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and its care is emphasized through use and cleaning.



PLANNING GOAL 5



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

» Numerous daily, weekly, monthly and yearly checks and evaluation processes are in place to manage the department's physical resources.

For example, firefighters conduct daily checks on each 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. A new truck was put into service in September of 2021.



A new truck was put into service in September of 2021.

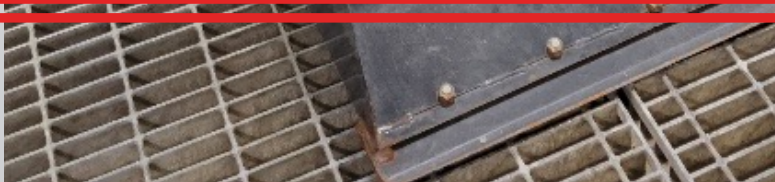




PLANNING GOAL 5



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





PLANNING GOAL 5



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

- » The FFD received all new mobile and portable radios as part of a new countywide, interoperable radio system that integrated with the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) system in Minnesota.





PLANNING GOAL 6



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

» **Monitor legislation that could affect the FFD, The City of Fargo and the fire service in North Dakota.**

The FFD continues to reduce risk through public education, fire prevention inspections and fire investigations.

During 2021, the FFD presented the significant changes of the 2021 IFC to the Board of Appeals. The FFD along with the Building Inspections Department expect to finish code presentations in 2022 with a tentative adoption by the City Commission the summer of 2022.





PLANNING GOAL 6



The department will work to be dynamic and continually adjust to meet the changing fire problems, new technologies, laws, 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, station tours, public education, the “Learn Not to Burn” program, delivering educational materials to targeted care organizations and participating in community events. Through these activities, the FFD has had direct contact with over 14,400 adults and 21,400 children.



FARGO FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 642



» Despite continuing COVID-19 restrictions, International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 642 members found ways to donate their time and money to various organizations and causes in the community throughout 2021.

\$6,000

Is donated annually into a charity account that can be distributed to any cause or charity the group sees fit.



\$32,199

Was donated during the MDA Virtual Fill the Boot Campaign, members of Local 642 raised these funds. The MDA uses the money to send children diagnosed with muscular dystrophy to a weeklong summer camp free of charge.



OVER 75

Gifts and gift cards were donated to children and their families in 2021. Every year, Local 642 members deliver gifts to children in area hospitals that are unable to be home with their families on Christmas day.



\$21,302

Was raised for "Fire up the Kettles" for the Salvation Army during their Red Kettle Campaign.



FARGO FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 642



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