

**Annual
Report**

2023

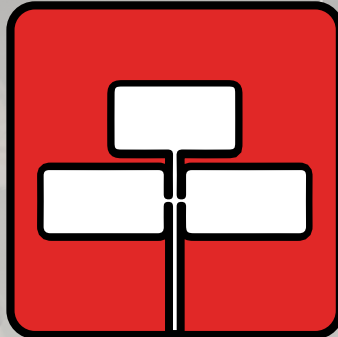




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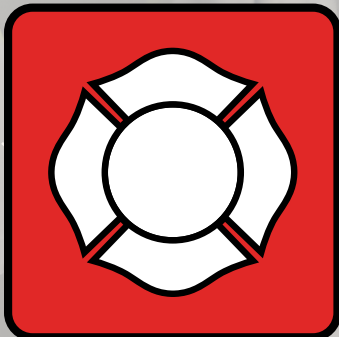
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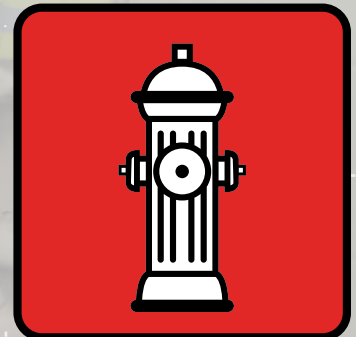
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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF DIRKSEN



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A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF DIRKSEN



Mayor Mahoney, Commissioners, Community Members, and members of the Fargo Fire Department,

As we look back over another year, it is with great pride and gratitude that I share with you the highlights and accomplishments of our Fire Department in 2023. This annual report serves not only as a reflection of our collective efforts but also as a testament to the values that guide us: professionalism, responsibility, integrity, dependability, and empathy.

One of the significant milestones of the year was the groundbreaking ceremony for Fire Station 8. This event marks the commencement of a new chapter in our department's history. As we move forward, we are committed to upholding our core values and ensuring that this station becomes a symbol of our unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of our community.

The Fargo Fire Department hosted a significant event in the firefighting community—the 81st annual conference of the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). This gathering marked a significant milestone as it returned to Fargo after a hiatus of 47 years since the last conference held in the city in 1977.

The conference brought together approximately 140 attendees, including chief officers, vendors, and speakers, creating a valuable platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and collaboration within the firefighting community. Chief officers from various fire departments within the Missouri Valley Division had the opportunity to share insights, best practices, and experiences, fostering a sense of camaraderie and solidarity among the firefighting professionals.

The lineup of speakers featured experts and thought leaders in the field, addressing critical issues, emerging trends, and challenges facing the firefighting community. These presentations provided attendees with valuable insights, strategies, and practical knowledge that can be applied in their respective departments.

The Fargo Fire Department worked to develop an updated strategic plan, a crucial roadmap that will shape the department's goals, strategies, and objectives for the next five years. In this collaborative effort, the department actively sought input from a diverse group of external and internal stakeholders.

A total of 40 external stakeholders were actively engaged in the process, providing valuable insights, perspectives, and recommendations that contributed to the comprehensive and well-informed nature of the strategic plan. These external stakeholders brought a broad range of expertise and perspectives, ensuring that the strategic plan is reflective of the needs and expectations of the wider community and partners involved with the Fargo Fire Department.

Over the next five years, the Fargo Fire Department is poised to implement this strategic plan that reflects the collective wisdom and input of a diverse array of stakeholders, ensuring that the department remains adaptable, resilient, and aligned with the evolving needs of the community it serves. This inclusive approach to strategic planning is a testament to the department's commitment to excellence and its proactive stance in shaping the future of firefighting services in the region.

The events of July 14, 2023, will forever be etched in our memories. On that fateful day, tragedy struck when Fargo Police Officers were attacked by a cowardly gunman. I am proud to acknowledge the bravery displayed by three of our firefighters who were on the scene, taking cover as bullets from the assailant bounced off their fire engine. In the face of adversity, their actions exemplified not only courage but also the unity that defines our department.



A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF DIRKSEN



Continued from page 2

To the women and men of the Fargo Fire Department, I extend my deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment throughout the year. Your professionalism, sense of responsibility, integrity, dependability, and empathy have not only upheld the standards of our department but have also reassured our community that they can depend on us in times of need. Each call for assistance met with your dedicated response has made a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

I would be remiss not to express my sincere appreciation to our community for the steadfast support you've shown us. Your trust and partnership fuel our determination to continually enhance our services and uphold the safety of this wonderful community we call home.

As we move forward into the coming year, let us carry the lessons and accomplishments of 2023 with us. Together, guided by our values, we will continue to grow, adapt, and serve with excellence.

Thank you for your dedication and support.

Sincerely,

STEVEN DIRKSEN
Fargo Fire Chief

We Honor The Heroes
July 14, 2023 Awards Ceremony



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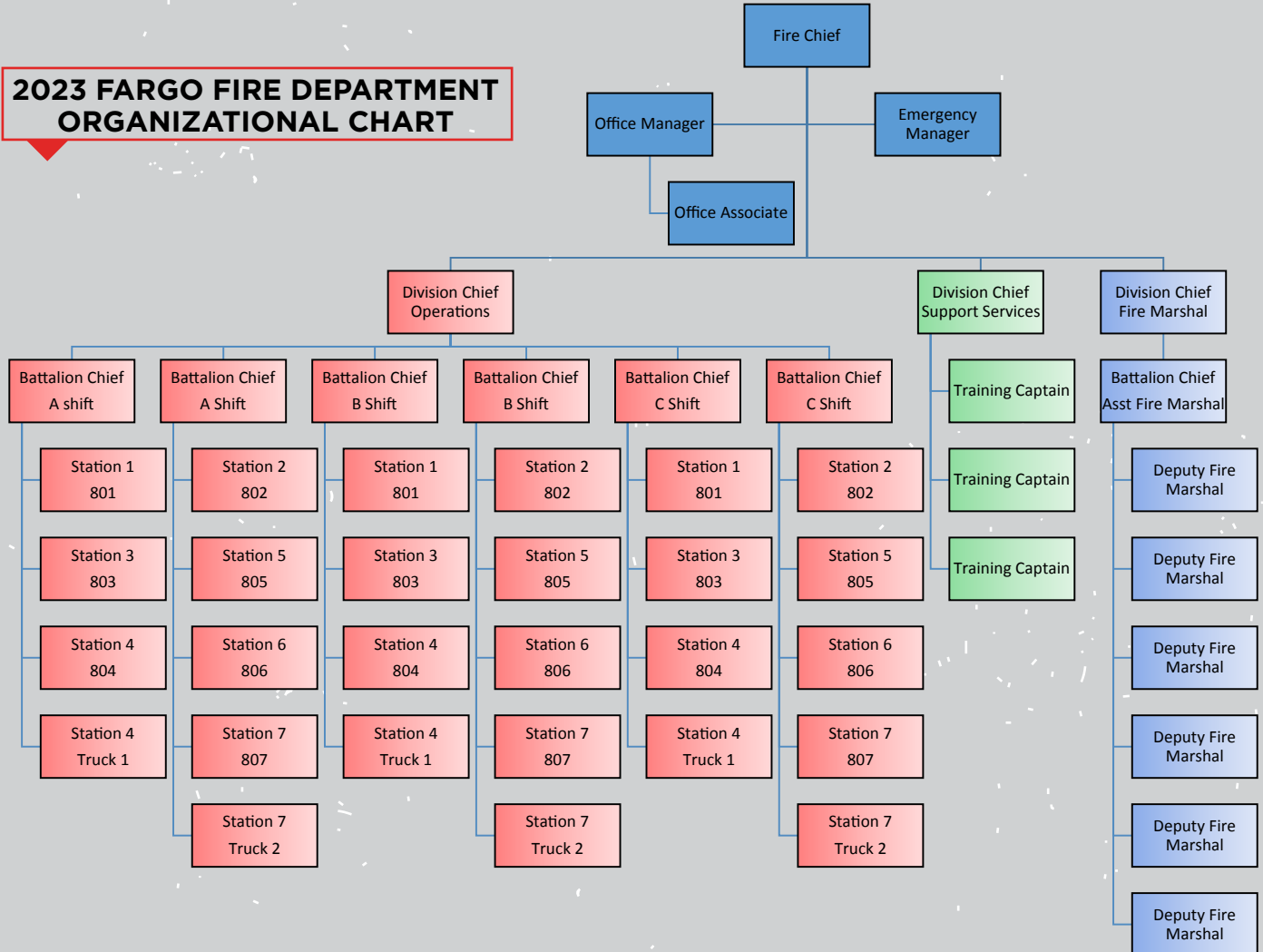




ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2023 FARGO FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





2023 NEW HIRES



Karli Kopietz



Ben Duppler



Roxanne Roemer



5





2023 NEW HIRES



Levi Tompkins



Caleb Zander



Mitch Miller





2023 NEW HIRES



Alex Lambert



Jacob Richter



James Simmons





2023 NEW HIRES



Sodalín Tran



Sawyer Salter



Joel Traub





2023 NEW HIRES



Leon DuBois



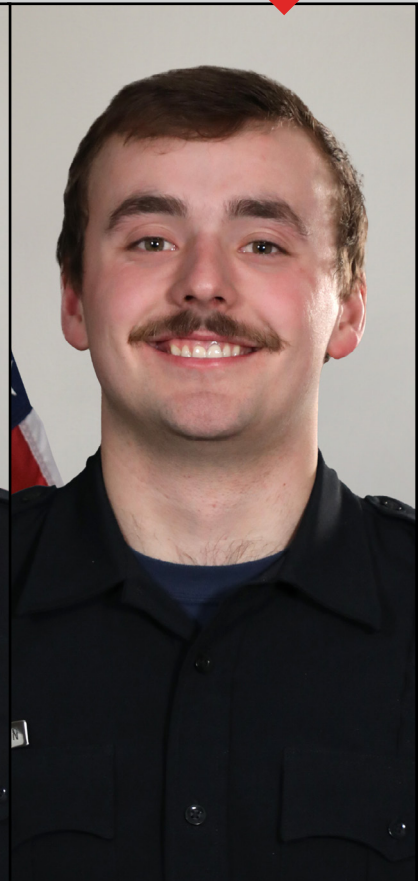
Jesse Suppa



Felix Ramos



Daniel Wilson





2023 RETIREMENTS



Mark Waller
Captain
35 years of service

Bruce Anderson
Battalion Chief
32 years of service

Marshall Forness
Firefighter
32 years of service

Keith Johnson
Captain
30 years of service





2023 RETIREMENTS



Tom Welder
Firefighter
30 years of service

Matt Laddusaw
Firefighter
30 years of service

Matt Brand
Captain
20 years of service





2023 PROMOTIONS



Nate Adams
Captain

Brad Besette
Battalion Chief





2023 PROMOTIONS



Josh Christofferson
Captain

Brent Durensky
Captain

Justin Werlinger
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.**
- » **All commercial properties were assigned for inspection in 2023, along with 50% of the apartment buildings. 6,007 occupancies were assigned and 7,803 inspections were completed.**
- » **Smoke Detectors were present in over 84% of residential occupancy fires and operated at over 55% of those fires. The fire was too small to activate the detector 33% of the time.**
- » **FFD Goal: Where fire suppression is present contain the fire to the room of origin 90% of the time.**

	2022		2023	
	Suppression System Present	No Suppression System Present	Suppression System Present	No Suppression System Present
Contained to room of origin	 88%	 67%	 97%	 81%
Spread beyond room of origin	 12%	 33%	 3%	 19%

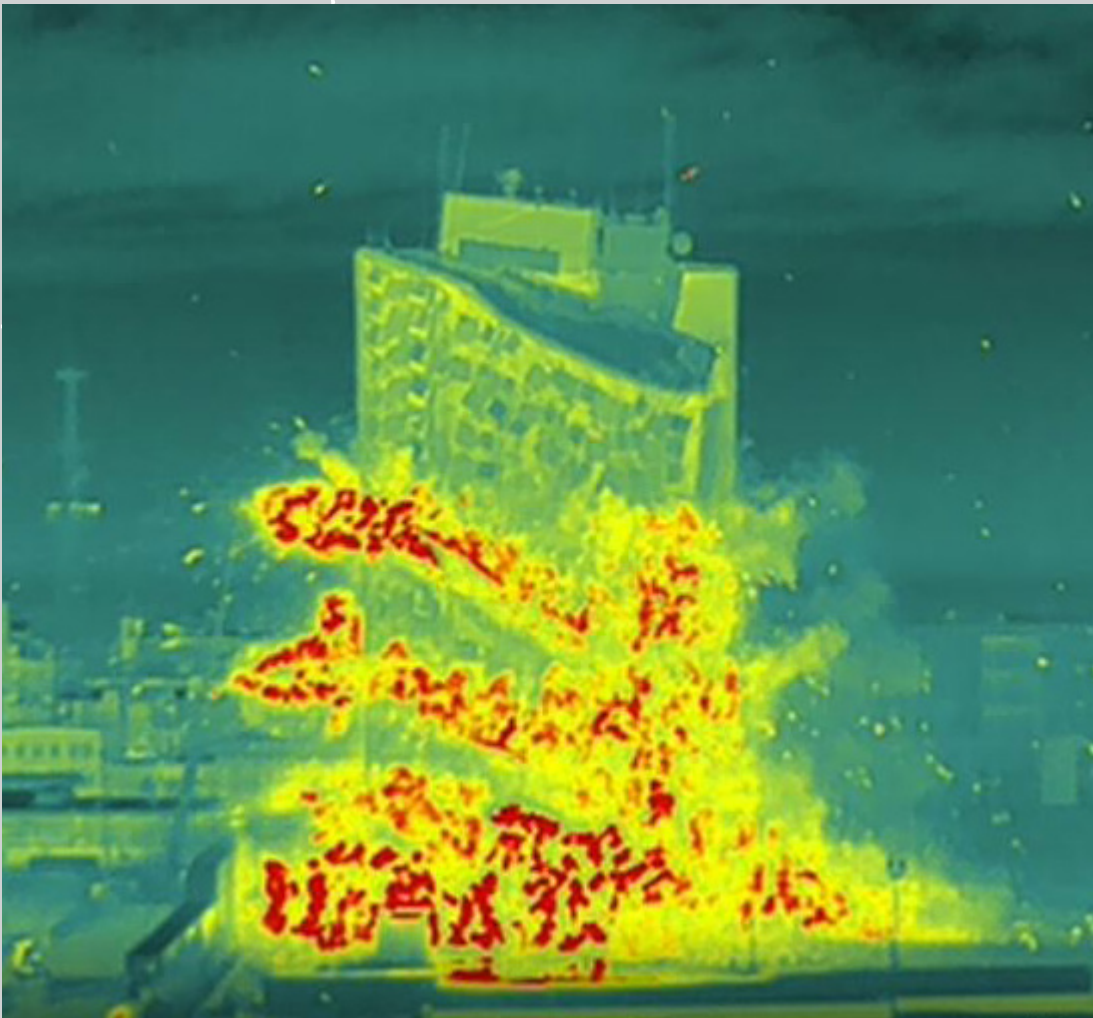


PLANNING GOAL 1



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 2023, 223 fire protection system plans were reviewed and approximately 571 acceptance tests were witnessed.



**Lashkowitz
High-Rise
implosion
viewed through
thermal imaging
camera**





PLANNING GOAL 1



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

- » Provide education to special need organizations, as well as other groups.
- » We continue to reach out to the children in the community through the “Learn Not to Burn” program. This year all elementary schools within the city of Fargo were provided with a lesson on burn prevention, cooking safety and ‘stop, drop, and roll’. Nearly 5,000 children were provided information through presentations in the classroom.
- » Our adult education system gave safety talks, presentations, fire extinguisher training and public relations events where contact was made to over 4,400 adults. The audience includes apartment building managers, building safety professionals and childcare providers and citizens.
- » FFD maintains a Facebook, Twitter and YouTube page in addition to the communication that is provided through The City of Fargo web page, FargoFire.com

**Fire Simulation
Knockdown House**





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 2023 fire investigations results are listed below.

» Classification Fires

159 + 61 + 28 + 40 = 288

Unintentional

Undetermined

*Failure of Equip. or
Heat Source*

Intentional

Total

» Types of Fires (Top three)

91

Building fire

57

Dumpster fire

50

*Passenger
vehicle fire*

46

*Cooking area,
kitchen*

11

Bedroom

10

Garage

» Structure Fire Origin (Top three)

» Structure Fire Cause - Heat Source (Top three)

39

*Radiated, conducted heat from
operating equipment*

24

Smoking Materials

13

*Spark ember or flame from
operating equipment*

» Intentionally Set Fires

24

2019

37

2020

38

2021

29

2022

40

2023





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.**

The PulsePoint app is free and allows users to follow incidents the FFD is dispatched to and will send a notification when CPR is needed in a public location.

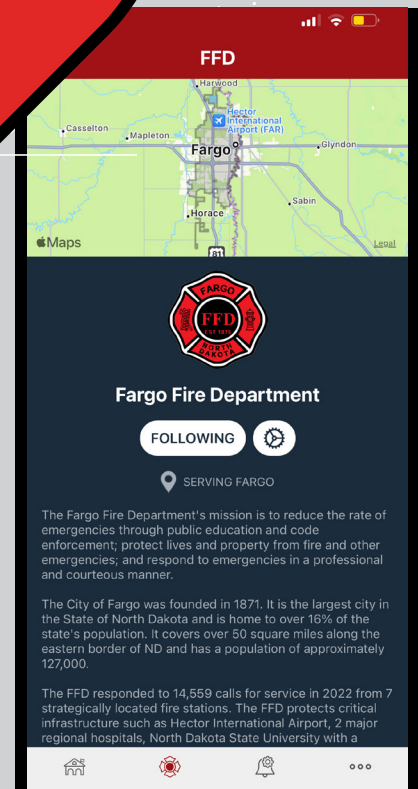
2,433

followers (December 2023) on FFD's

PulsePoint

166

devices received a notification that CPR was needed in 2023.





PLANNING GOAL 2

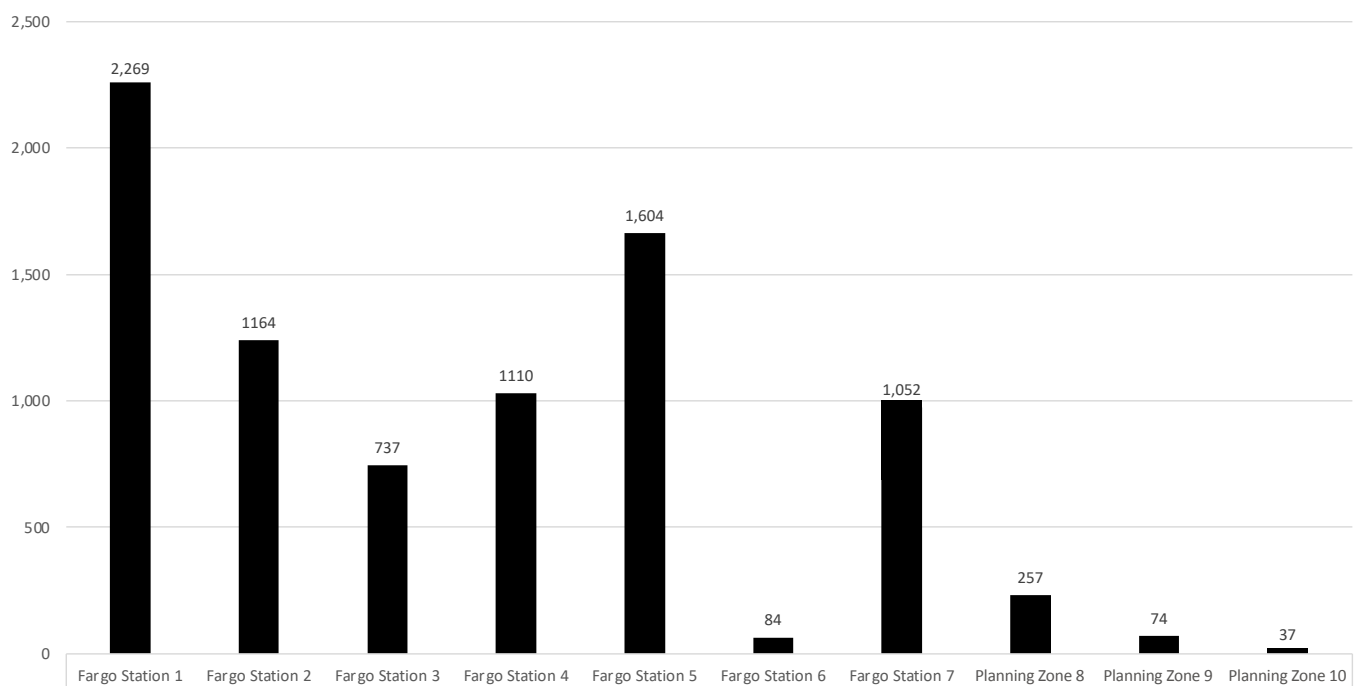


Integrate our emergency medical response capability with other service providers to ensure that the needs of the customer are met.

» EMS incidents by station planning zone

The Fargo Fire Department is an all-hazard response organization. The responses made by crews are not limited to solely fire-related incidents. Calls for service can include medical assists, motor vehicle accidents, natural gas leaks and more. The majority of all responses made by the Fargo Fire Department are in service to members of our community who are experiencing some type of medical issue. All Fargo Firefighters are certified EMT's and are well-trained to respond to citizens and visitors in emergency situations.

NUMBER OF EMS RESPONSES





PLANNING GOAL 3



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

» Future Fire Station 8

The groundbreaking ceremony for Fire Station 8 occurred on June 20, 2023. Station 8 will be completed and staffed in the fall of 2024.

As The City of Fargo continues to grow, the FFD closely analyzes the number of responses, as well as the time it takes to respond to the various calls. The FFD has divided Fargo into ten planning zones to be able to more closely monitor the needs in those zones. Planning Zone 8 is approximately 65% built-out and calls for service are on the rise in this area. It has become apparent that it is now time to invest in a new station, adding equipment and personnel to meet the needs of the citizens in this area of our community.





PLANNING GOAL 3



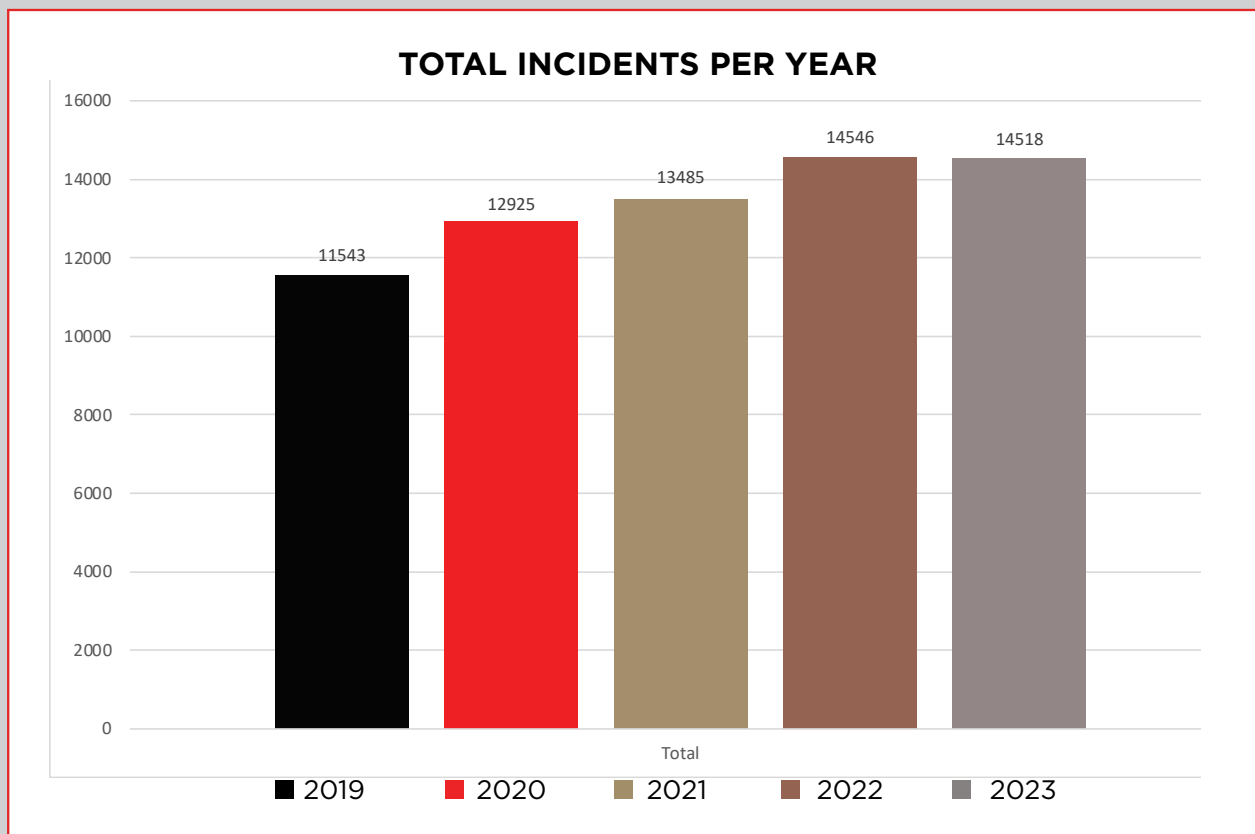
Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters and other emergencies.

» As the community of Fargo grows, the number of calls for service continues to increase.

14,518

Calls for service the FFD's Fire Suppression Division responded to in 2023. This includes mutual aid responses outside of The City of Fargo.

2019-2023 response statistics are reflected below.





PLANNING GOAL 3

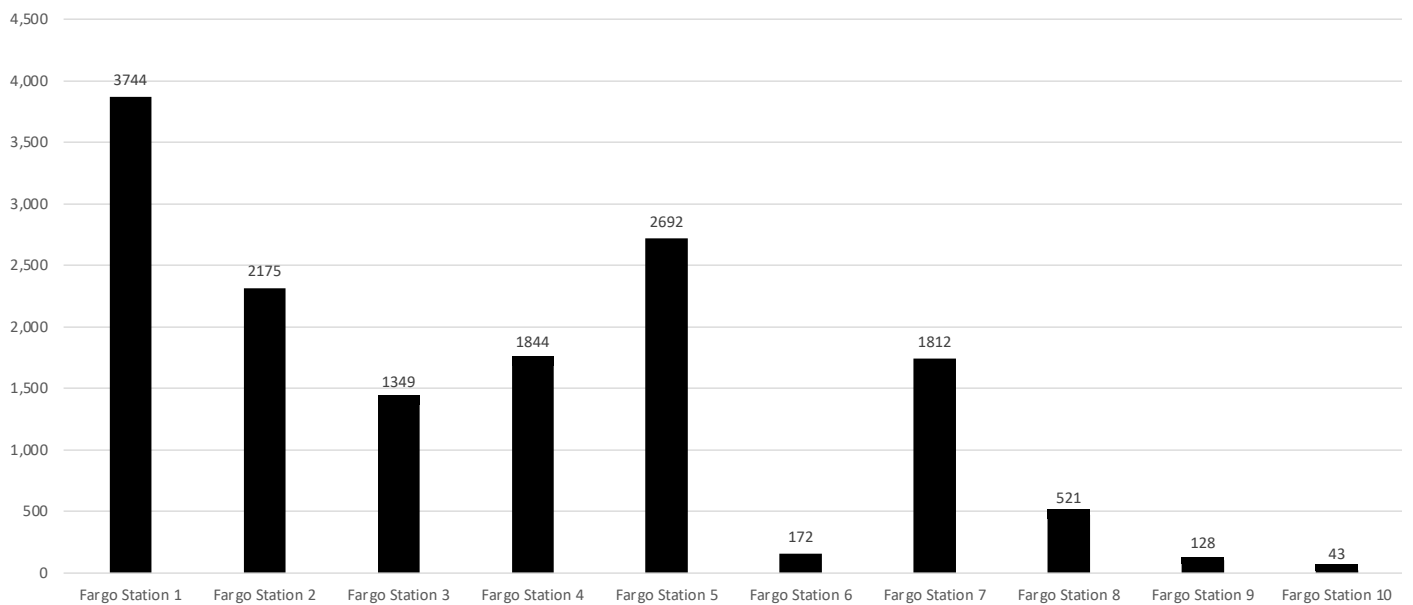


Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters and other emergencies.

» **As our community continues to grow in population as well as geographic size, the FFD's calls for service continue to increase.**

Fire Station 1 (which is located in Downtown Fargo) continues to be the busiest of all fire stations. Station 5 (located in the West Acres area) is seeing a significant increase in calls for service.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY STATION PLANNING ZONE





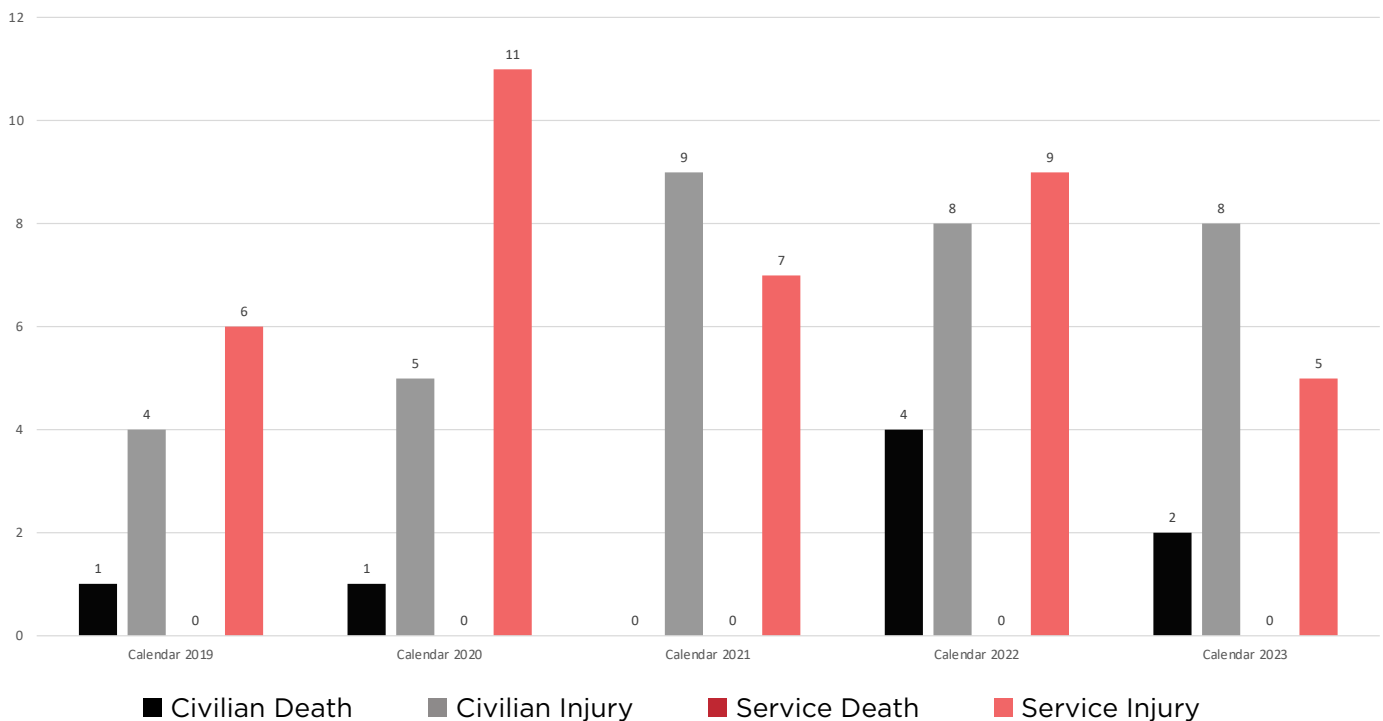
PLANNING GOAL 3



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

» In 2023, there were two civilian deaths and eight civilian injuries.

FIRE INJURIES & FATALITIES



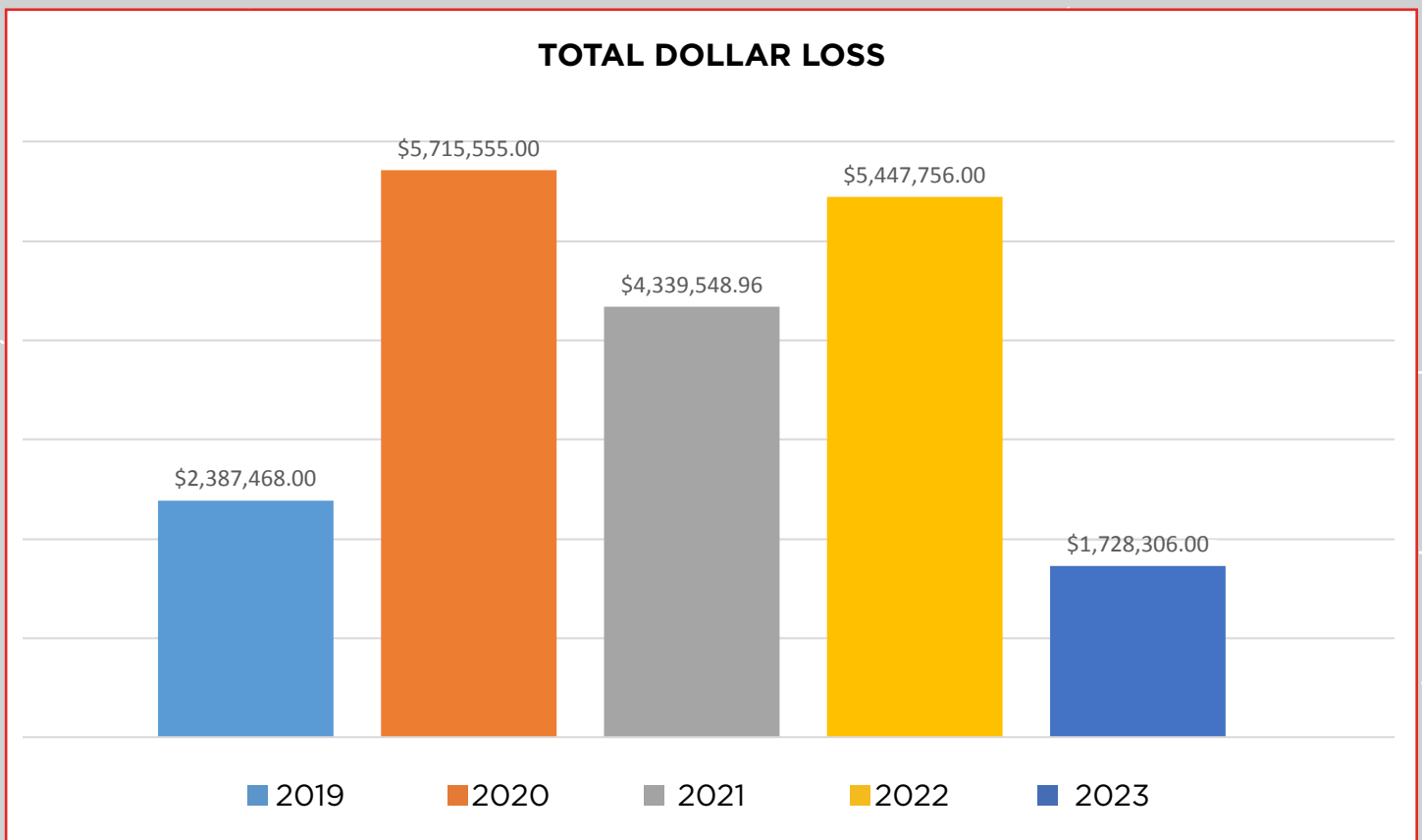


PLANNING GOAL 3



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

2019-2023 total dollar loss 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.

» Response time; the FFD strives to respond as quickly as possible to all incidents. The FFD uses 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 comprise total response time

Alarm Handling Time - The time that the dispatch center takes to answer a 911 call and dispatch the appropriate fire department unit(s).

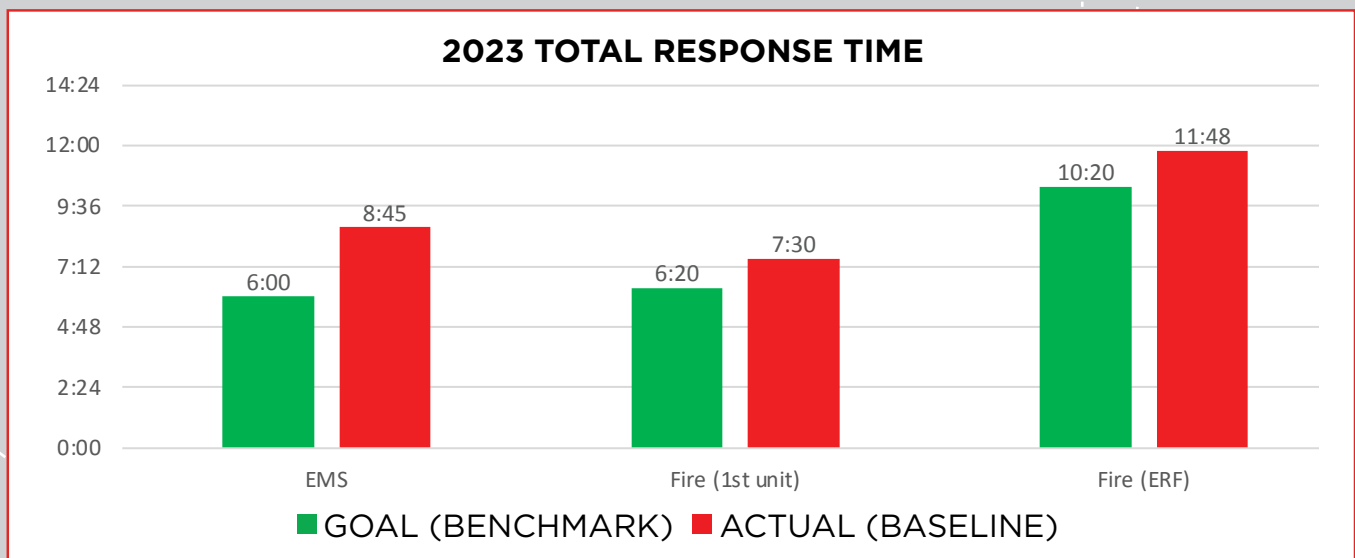
Turnout Time - The time that it takes fire crews from when they are notified of an incident to when the apparatus is en route to the incident.

Travel Time - The time that it takes fire crews to drive to the scene of the incident.

» The **1st unit** on Fire Incidents is just that, the first engine or truck to arrive on scene.

» The **ERF** is the Effective Response Force needed to fight a fire and includes a first alarm assignment of 16 personnel.

» As an accredited agency, the Fargo Fire Department measures times at the 90th percentile. This means the times reported are the actual times the department responds 90 out of 100 responses.





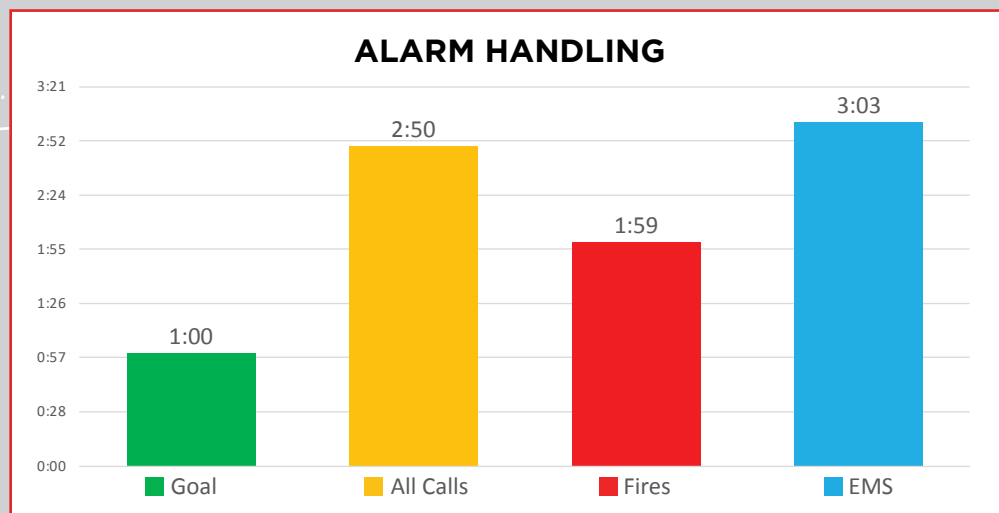
PLANNING GOAL 3



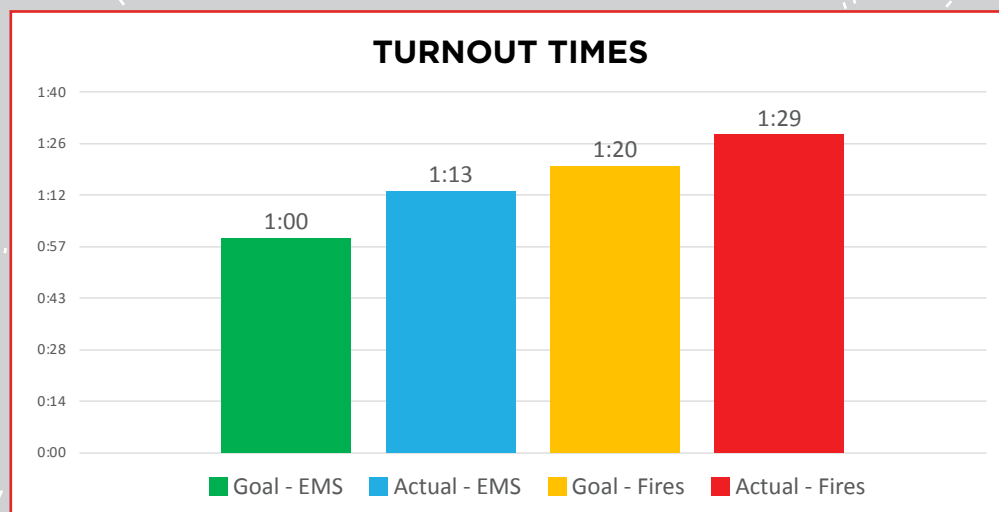
Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters and other emergencies.

» Alarm Handling and Turnout Times

Before alerting the fire department on EMS calls, dispatch has to determine what the problem is and who needs to be sent, so these times are longer than for fires.



The goal time for fires is 20 seconds longer than EMS because the crews need to put on their turnout gear before they leave the station.





PLANNING GOAL 3



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

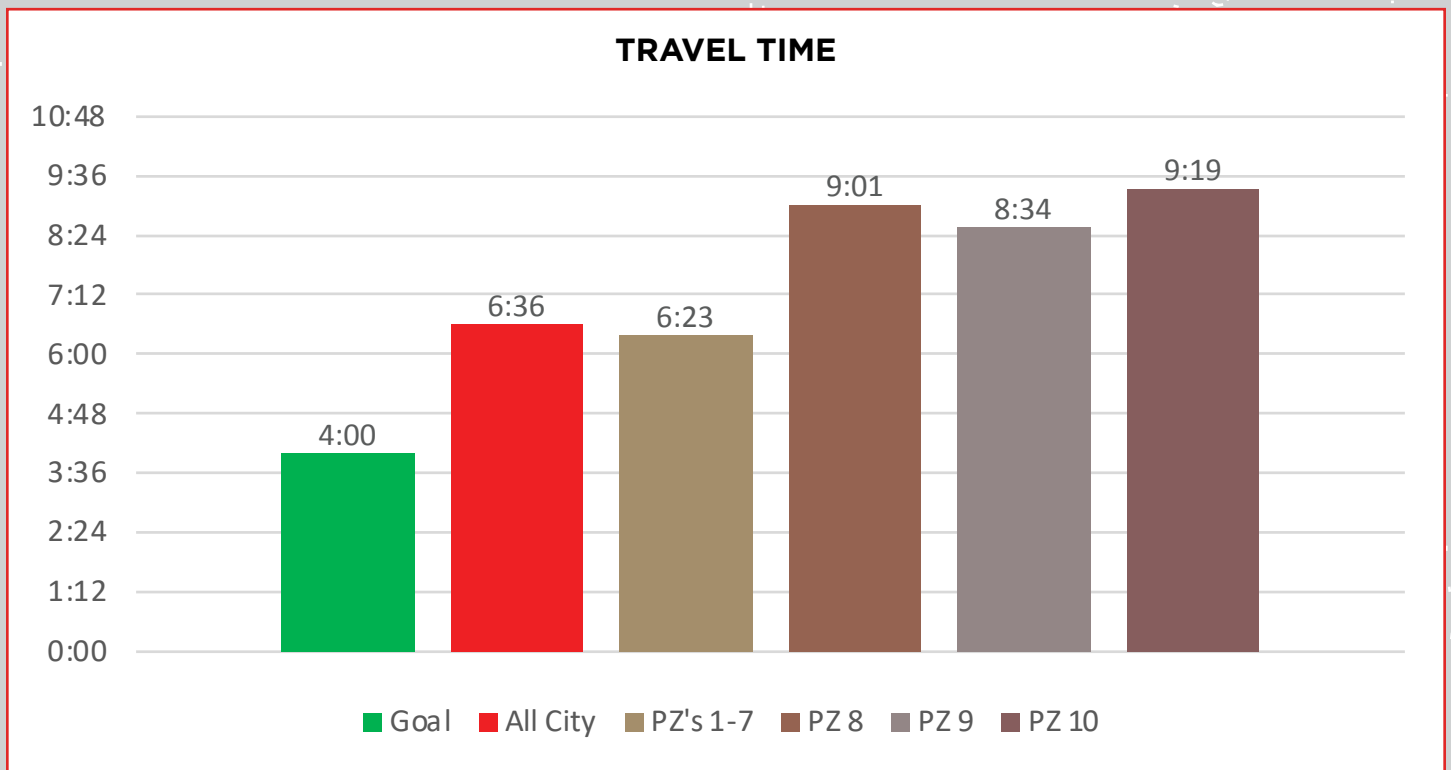
» Travel Time

The goal for travel time is four minutes. Many factors affect these times including weather, traffic, and station location. Travel times in 2023 were affected from January through April due to significant and difficult winter driving conditions. Fire stations are placed strategically throughout the city, with a new station expected to be complete in Planning Zone 8 in 2024.

Opticom, devices that change the traffic lights, are used at intersections so apparatus do not face delays caused by red lights.

» PZ's are Planning Zones.

These correlate to fire stations in The City of Fargo. For example, Planning Zone 7 correlates with Fire Station 7 in the Osgood neighborhood. PZ's 8, 9 & 10 do not yet have a fire station in place; they are used to determine future needs.





PLANNING GOAL 3



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

- » **Provide emergency response to hazardous materials incidents with firefighters trained to the technician level.**

The FFD has an agreement with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) to provide Hazardous Materials Response in Southeast North Dakota. NDDDES provides funding annually to support the team with equipment and training. The agreement also provides reimbursement when assistance is needed in the Southeast Region.

FFD responded to

163

hazardous materials incidents in 2023.





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 with specialized training in four core competencies.**

The FFD has an agreement with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES) to provide Technical Rescue Response in Southeast North Dakota. The four competencies are rope, trench, structure collapse, and confined space rescue. NDDDES provides annual funding to support the team with equipment and training. The agreement also provides reimbursement when assistance is needed in the Southeast Region. All responses in 2023 occurred within Fargo city limits.

FFD responded to

58

technical rescue incidents in 2023.



29





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 the city.

FFD responded to

3

water rescue emergencies in 2023.





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 2023, the Fargo Fire Department and West Fargo Fire Department held **3 joint recruit classes**. The FFD had 16 new firefighters complete the academy.

Annual Training: All members of the FFD are required to completed **248 hours** annually to maintain proficiency and credentialing in different disciplines such as EMS, hazmat, and technical rescue.





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 provides an in-house professional development program for personnel.

All personnel are provided a monthly professional development topic and presentation.

All new officers spend a week in class prior to going on shift to prepare them for their new position. Part of this class includes ride-along's with The Fargo Police Department and RRRDC because they will be working closely with these organizations on a regular basis in their new position.

The FFD also sends personnel to outside training classes that help ensure firefighters are using the current best practices. The department tries to maximize grant funding for many of the outside training opportunities. These include training opportunities at the following nationally recognized institutions:

The National Fire Academy (NFA)

Members attend classes at the NFA in Emmitsburg, MD and instructors are brought in to Fargo, ND to provide classes annually.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) in College Station, TX.

The Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, AL.

» **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 provided all sworn personnel with annual medical checks through Employee Health in 2023.

All sworn, non-exempt FFD personnel also complete an annual fitness test.

The FFD Safety Committee and the FFD Health & Wellness Committee both met quarterly in 2023 and continue to work on improving health, wellness, and safety for the department.



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.





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 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.

2024 IFC Adoption process will begin fall of 2024. This adoption coincides with the 2024 International Building Code that is enforced by The City of Fargo Inspections Department.

The Department works with local, state and federal officials to ensure laws are in place to protect our community and our employees.





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.

Station tours, truck Show N Tells, parades, block parties and other public activities have allowed the department to have direct contact with nearly **4,400 adults and over 17,700 children.**

2023
Firefighter
Public
Activities



35





FARGO FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 642



» International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 642 donated their time and money to various organizations and causes in the community throughout 2023.

Participate every year in **Fill-the-Boot**.

» Members donated their time and help raise over

\$16,000

for the MDA to be put towards research and to help send kids to the MDA summer camp.

» Local 642 also donated

\$1,500

towards this cause.

Members attended the **MDA Boot Camp** to learn more about fill-the-boot Members also attended the MDA summer camp for a day to spend time with the kids at the camp.





FARGO FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 642



» International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 642 donated their time and money to various organizations and causes in the community throughout 2023.



» Donated time to staff kettles and ring the bell for **Salvation Army** for a day helped raise

\$11,271



The Fargo Fire Department bought and delivered gifts to children in local hospitals on Christmas Day 2023.



37





FARGO FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 642



» International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 642 donated their time and money to various organizations and causes in the community throughout 2023.

Donated money to **Hometown Heroes Night** at a Fargo Force game. Money raised during this benefits regional emergency services departments.

Donated money to sponsor teams in golf tournaments that supported Salvation Army and local volunteer fire departments.

Sponsored teams and donated money to support various other events to support community members in need.

Participated in the **Christmas Gift Fashion Show** that benefits local families in need.

Participated in various local events such as the Fargo-Moorhead St. Patrick's Day Parade and the 9/11 stair climb.



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FARGOFIRE.COM

