

2025

ANNUAL REPORT.





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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Mayor and Commissioners,

It is my privilege to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Fargo Fire Department. This report offers a concise overview of the department's activities, accomplishments, and ongoing commitment to serving the Fargo community throughout the year.

As an all-hazards fire department, our mission extends beyond responding to emergencies; it includes proactive efforts to prevent them. Within these pages, you will see the scope of our work — from emergency response to fire prevention, community engagement, and continued investment in training and readiness.

In 2025, the department celebrated the completion of the Station 5 remodel and repair project, enhancing our operational capabilities and the work environment for our firefighters, while also correcting a structural issue. We also experienced an increase in call volume compared to 2024, reaching levels similar to those seen during the peak of the COVID period.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Chief Dirksen for his dedicated leadership and service to the Fargo Fire Department, and offer my congratulations on his retirement.

I am honored to return to Fargo and look forward to continuing our shared work in 2026 as we build on the strengths of this department and the community we serve.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Gary Lorenz". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

GARY LORENZ
FIRE CHIEF

FARGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

FARGO FIRE



CORE VALUES



The Fargo Fire Department (FFD) holds its members to a high standard because our community members call us in their time of need. The department expects its members to always respond professionally and treat the public with respect and empathy. The department's values – identified as most important by the members – provide guidance in the actions we take and the decisions we make. The acronym for Fargo Fire Department's values is

P. R. I. D. E.

Professionalism

Commitment to Quality • Pride in Your Work

Responsibility

Accountability • Maturity • Ability to Respond

Integrity

Moral Honesty • Intellectual Honesty

Dependability

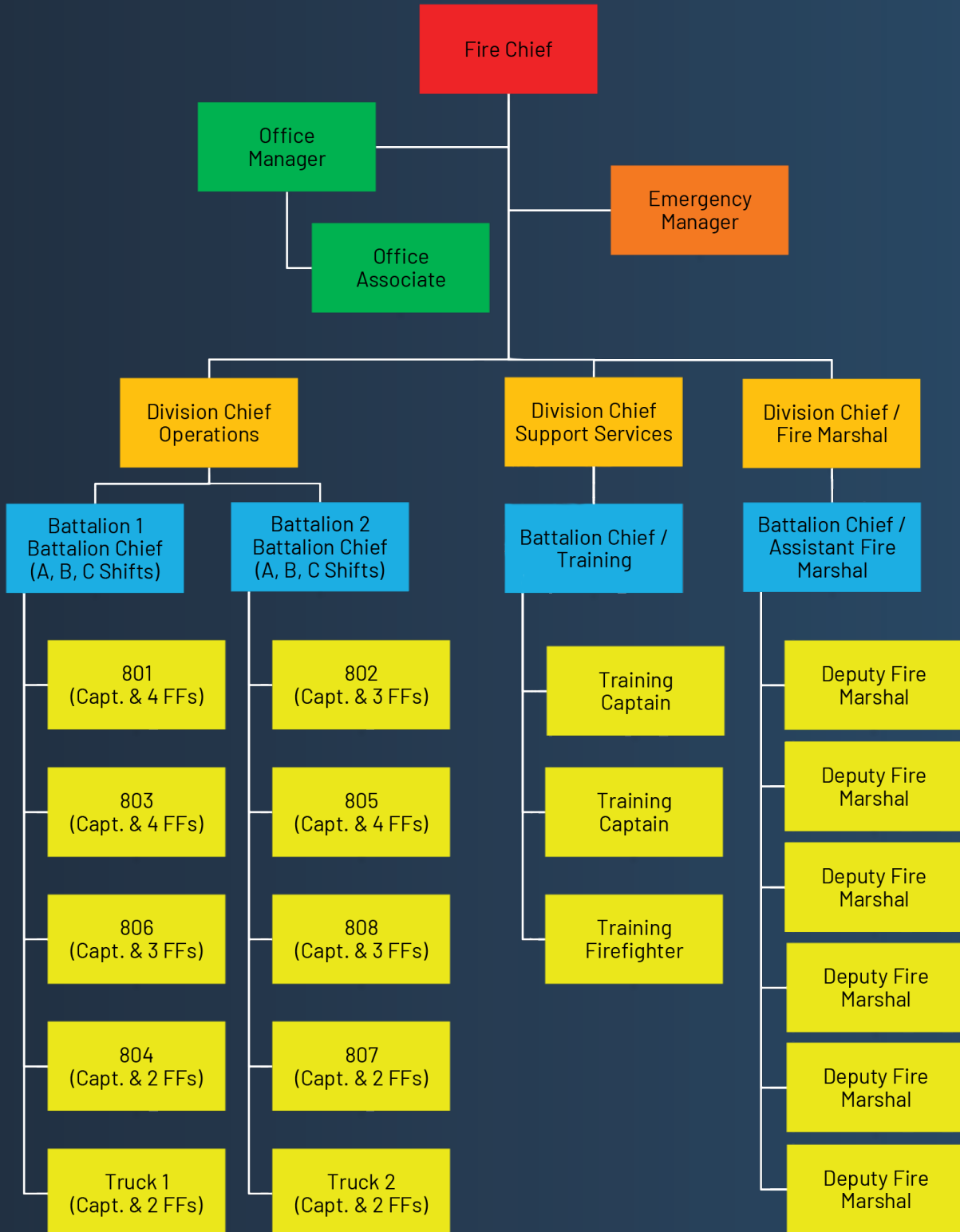
Worthy of Trust • Constructive Communication • Team Effort • Working Together

Empathy

Ability to Understand Others • Fairness • Straightforwardness • Sincerity



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





2025 NEW HIRES



KODY BARRON
Firefighter



ADAM FENLASON
Firefighter



JOEL HAGGARD
Firefighter



REID HAWKINS
Firefighter



CALEB KARTES
Firefighter



CASEY KOOP
Firefighter



MICHAEL LITZINGER
Firefighter



JESSE MUFFENBIER
Firefighter



WESTON MUNDT
Firefighter



2025 NEW HIRES



EMMET SELTZ
Firefighter



OTIS SPIESS
Firefighter



DANIEL WOFFORD
Firefighter



2025 RETIREMENTS



STEVE DIRKSEN
Chief
13 years of service



JASON FORNESS
Firefighter
24 years of service



NICK KINDELSPIRE
Firefighter
10 years of service

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



PLANNING GOAL 1

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

INSPECTION GOAL

Our goal was to inspect **100%** of all commercial properties including hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, churches and 50% of apartment buildings.

6,489
Occupancies assigned for inspection

8,299
Inspections completed

SMOKE DETECTORS

78% Residential homes had smoke detectors present

Smoke detectors were present at 78% of residential occupancy fires and operated at 55% of those fires. Fires were too small to activate smoke detectors 32% of the time.

FFD GOAL

90% Containment to room of origin was our goal

Where fire suppression is present, contain the fire to the room of origin 90% of the time.



| | 2024 | | 2025 | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Suppression System Present | No Suppression System Present | Suppression System Present | No Suppression System Present |
| CONTAINED TO ROOM OF ORIGIN | 94% | 78% | 86% | 73% |
| SPREAD BEYOND ROOM OF ORIGIN | 6% | 22% | 14% | 27% |



» PLANNING GOAL 1 CONTINUED

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 REVIEW

of fire protection systems are conducted to ensure systems are installed properly and will be reliable. In 2025, 193 fire protection system plans were reviewed and approximately 520 acceptance tests were witnessed.

PROVIDE EDUCATION

to special need organizations, as well as other groups.

LEARN NOT TO BURN

We continue to reach out to the children in the community through the "Learn Not to Burn" program. In 2025, all elementary schools within the city of Fargo were provided with a lesson on 911 and 2 Ways Out. Nearly 4,500 children were provided information through presentations in the classrooms of 25 schools.



3,900

Adult Education System Contacts were made

Our adult education system gave safety talks, presentations, fire extinguisher training and public relations events where contact was made to over 3,900 adults. The audience includes apartment building managers, building safety professionals and childcare providers and citizens.

80%

Occupants fire alarm response

In 2025, occupants who were alerted by fire alarms responded appropriately 80% of the time during active fires.

PROVIDE COMMUNICATION TO RESIDENTS

FFD maintains a Facebook, Twitter and YouTube page in addition to the communication that is provided through FargoFire.com



PLANNING GOAL 1 CONTINUED

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 2025 fire investigations results are listed below.

CLASSIFICATION FIRES



STRUCTURE FIRE CAUSE - HEAT SOURCE (TOP THREE)





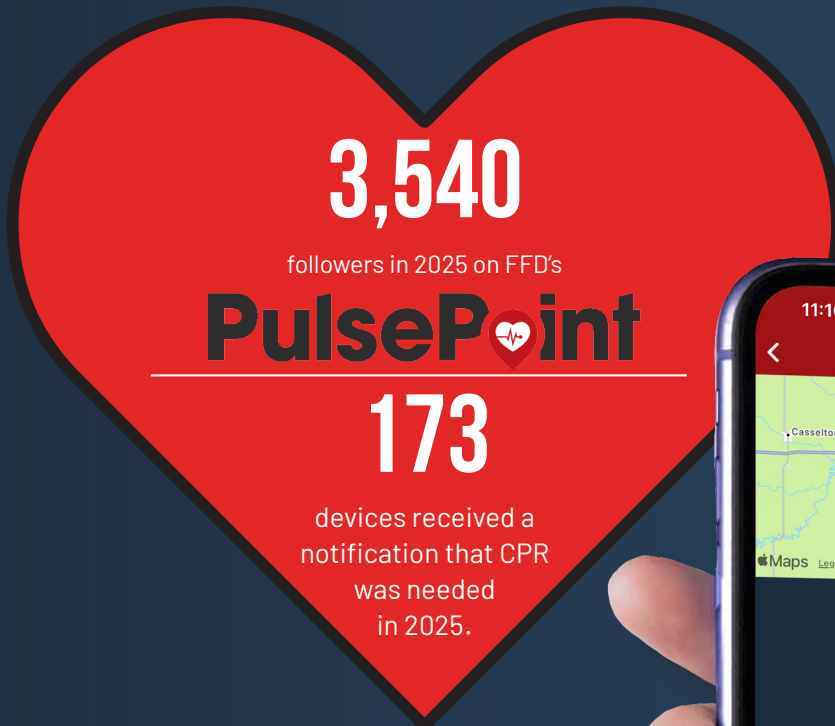
» PLANNING GOAL 1 CONTINUED

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

HEART SAFE FARGO PROGRAM

The FFD provides 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.





PLANNING GOAL 2

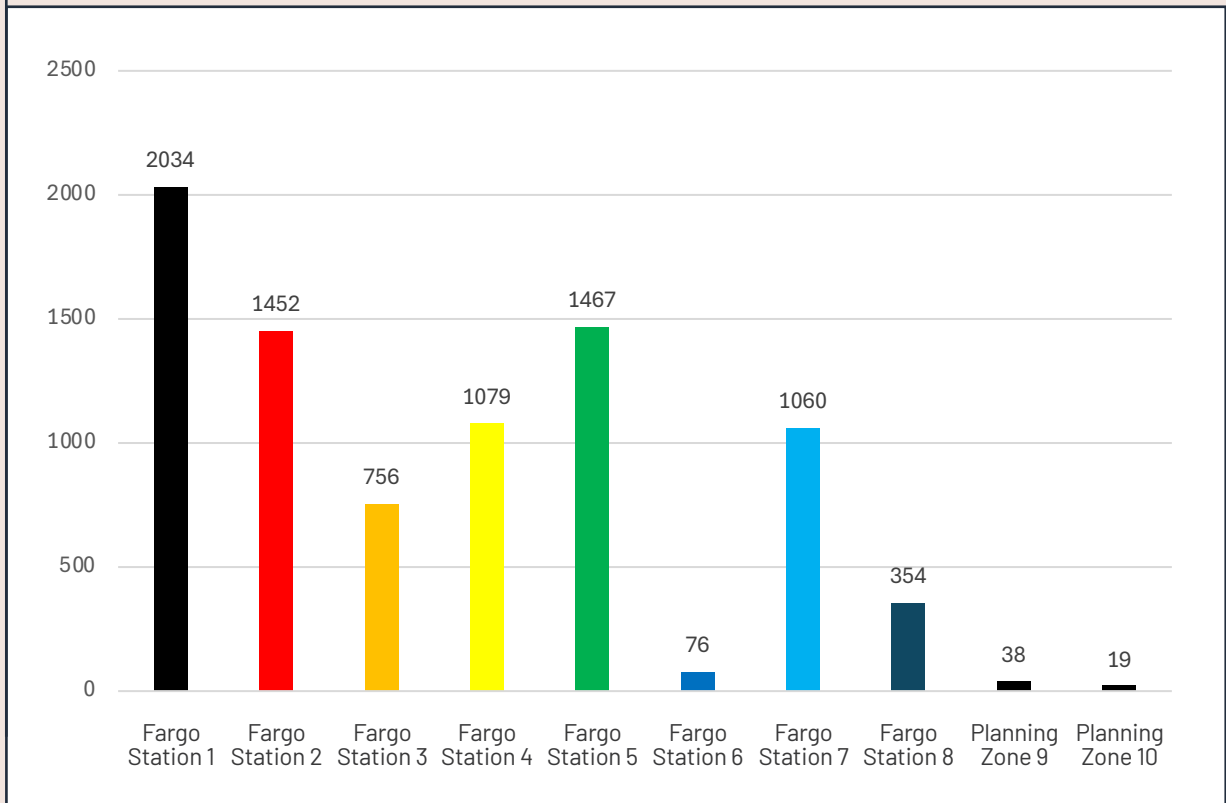
Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from medicals, fires, disasters and other emergencies.

EMS INCIDENTS BY STATION PLANNING ZONE

The Fargo Fire Department is an all-hazards 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 2

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

STATION 5 RECONSTRUCTION

In September 2024, the Fargo Fire Department temporarily closed Station 5, located at 930 40th St. S., for significant reconstruction and renovation work. The closure followed an engineering assessment that found structural issues caused by shifting ground beneath the building. The structural issues, along with needs to modernize Station 5, led the Fargo Fire Department to undertake the project, which involved rebuilding the living quarters and upgrading other parts of the building.

During the closure, Station 5 operations were moved first to another Fargo fire station and then to the West Fargo Fire Department. The Fargo Fire Department wants to express its gratitude to the West Fargo Fire Department for allowing Fargo firefighters to live in and operate out of their main fire station. West Fargo's assistance helped ensure uninterrupted emergency services for community residents. On September 8, 2025, Fargo Fire crews moved back into Station 5 and began operating from the newly rebuilt facility.

The cost of the Station 5 project came in under the estimated budget of \$2.5 million. Features of the renovated and reconstructed station include:

- A newly constructed storage room for structural firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) that vents carcinogens out of the station
- A new generator that serves the entire station
- Updated energy efficient heating and lighting throughout the building
- A fire sprinkler system throughout the building
- A City of Fargo fiber internet connection to the building, providing a secure network
- A decontamination area, commercial extractor, washer/dryer, bathroom and shower on the apparatus floor (hot zone)
- Entry vestibules with handwashing stations between the apparatus floor and the living quarters (warm zone)
- Living quarters (cold zone) that include individual sleeping rooms, gender-neutral bathroom facilities, a fitness area, firefighter computer work stations and a new station alerting system.





» PLANNING GOAL 2 CONTINUED

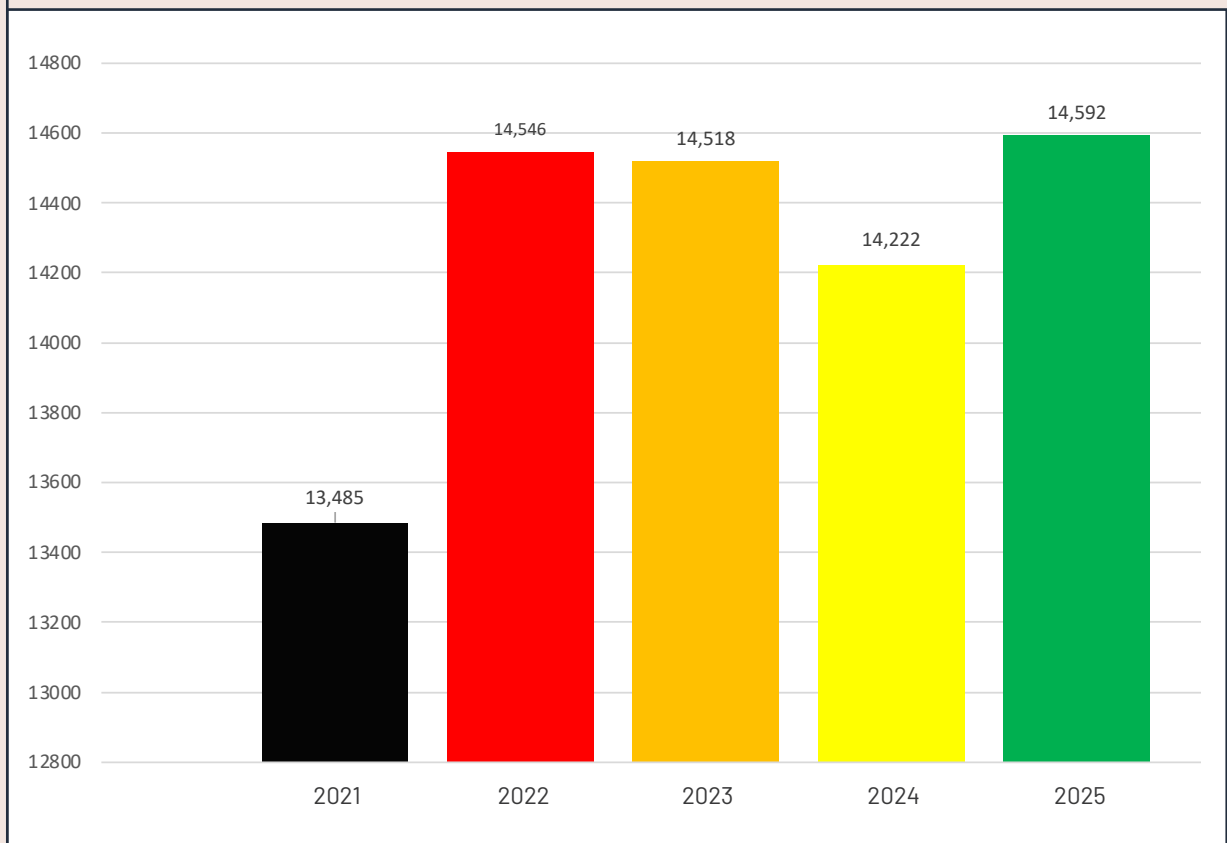
Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from medicals, fires, disasters and other emergencies.

14,592

Calls for service in 2025 . This includes mutual aid responses outside of the city of Fargo.



2021-2025 TOTAL INCIDENTS PER YEAR





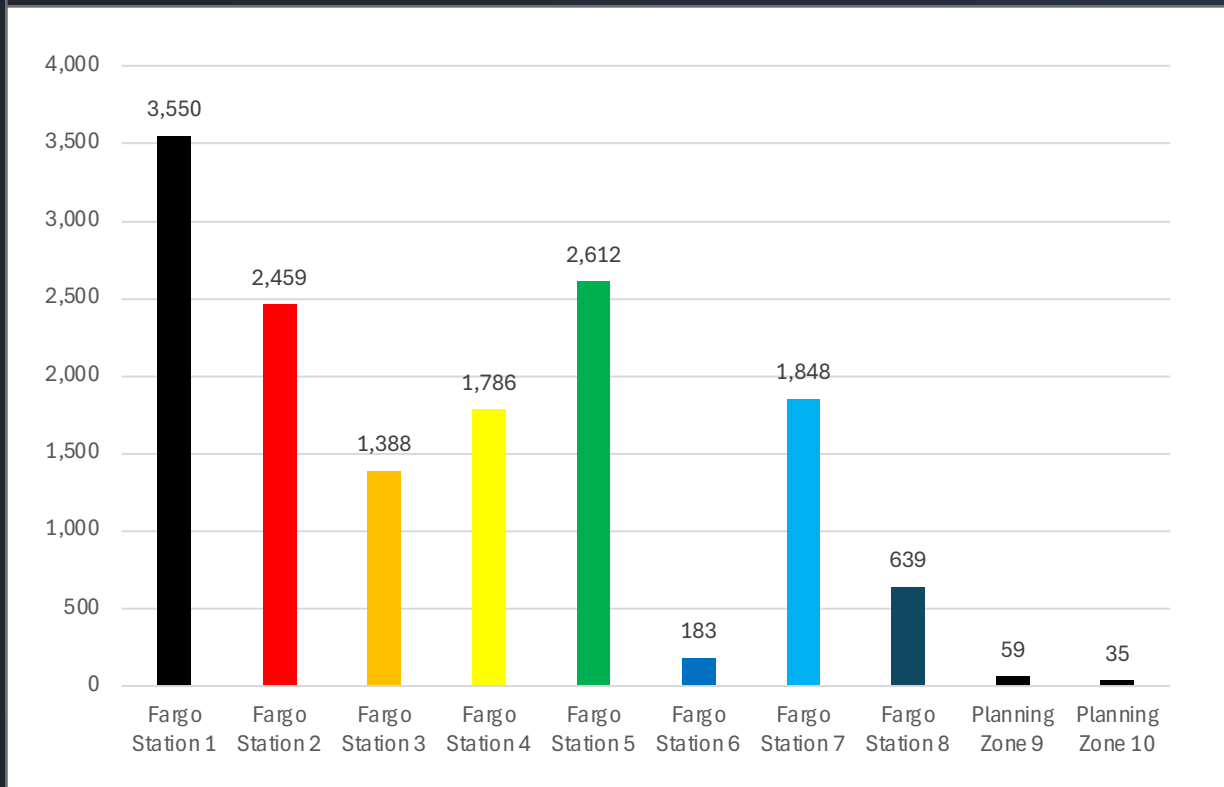
» PLANNING GOAL 2 CONTINUED

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



NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY STATION PLANNING ZONE

This graph shows incidents by Planning Zone remained the same, but other apparatus (804, 802, Truck 1) were called into Planning Zone 5 more often during 2025. Please note there are not fire stations in Planning Zones 9 and 10. The zones were developed for planning purposes.



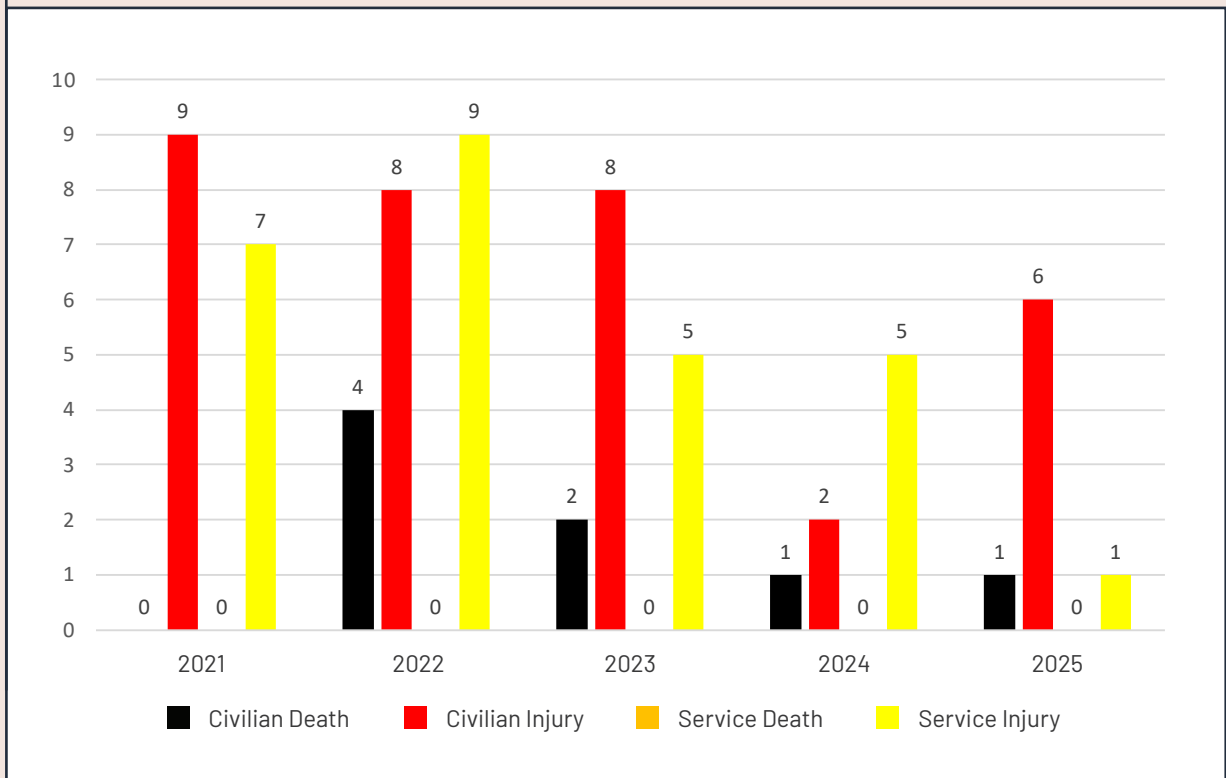


PLANNING GOAL 2 CONTINUED

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



FIRE INJURIES AND FATALITIES IN 2025, THERE WERE SIX CIVILIAN INJURIES AND ONE CIVILIAN DEATH



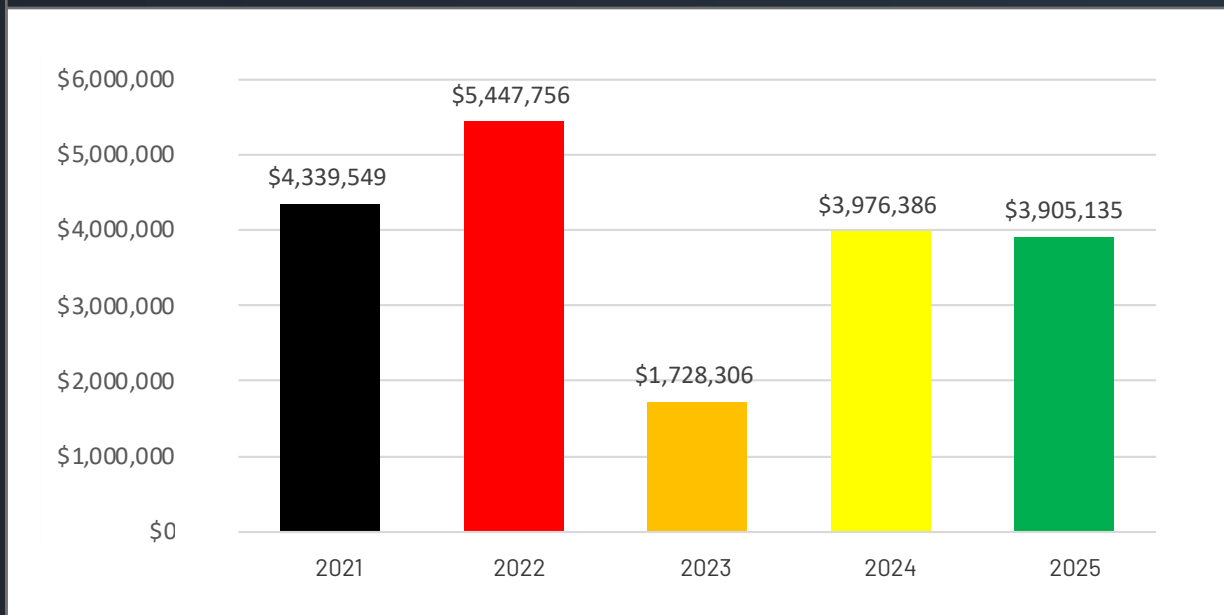


» PLANNING GOAL 2 CONTINUED

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



2021-2025 TOTAL DOLLAR LOSS





PLANNING GOAL 2 CONTINUED

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

The FFD strives to respond as quickly as possible to all incidents and 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 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.

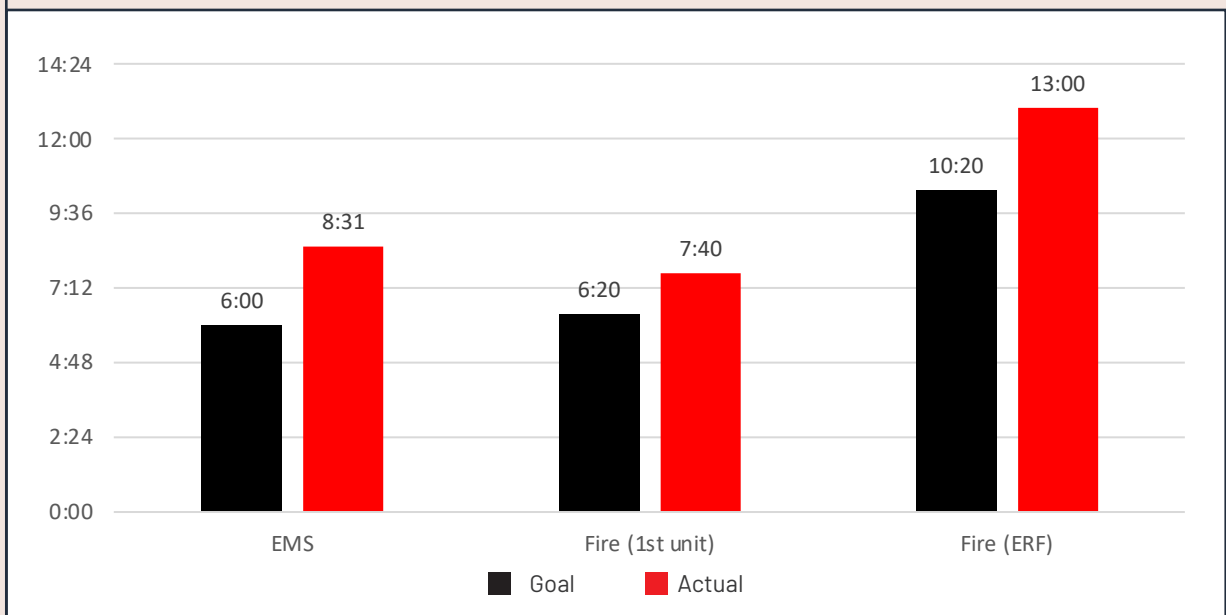
The **first unit** on Fire incidents is the first engine or truck to arrive on scene.

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



2025 TOTAL RESPONSE TIME

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.





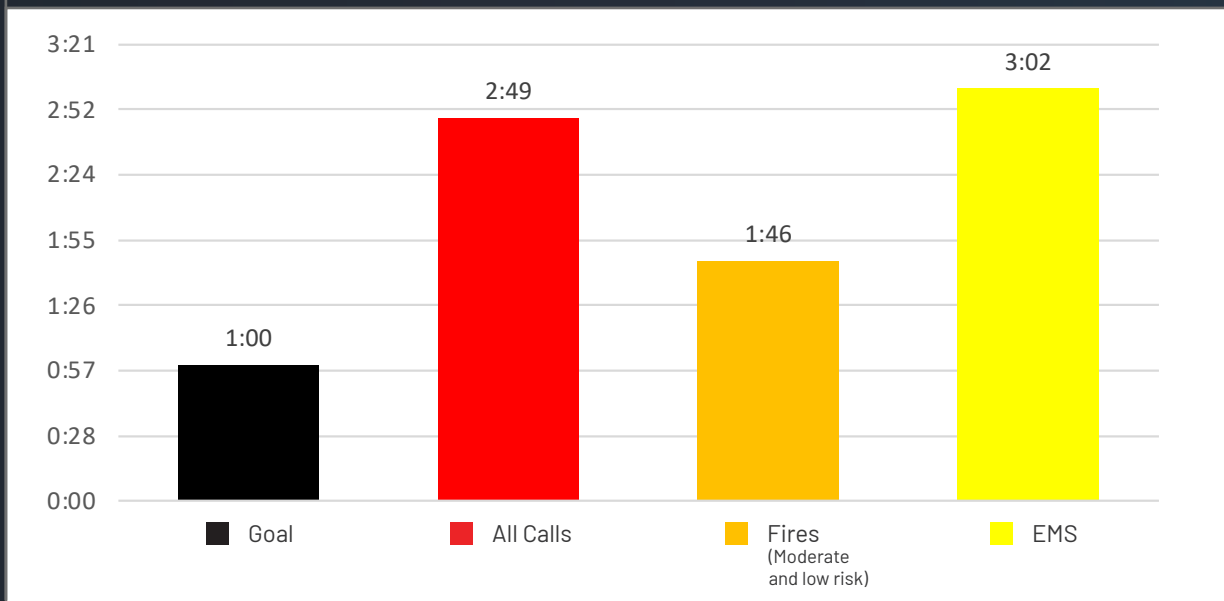
PLANNING GOAL 2 CONTINUED

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



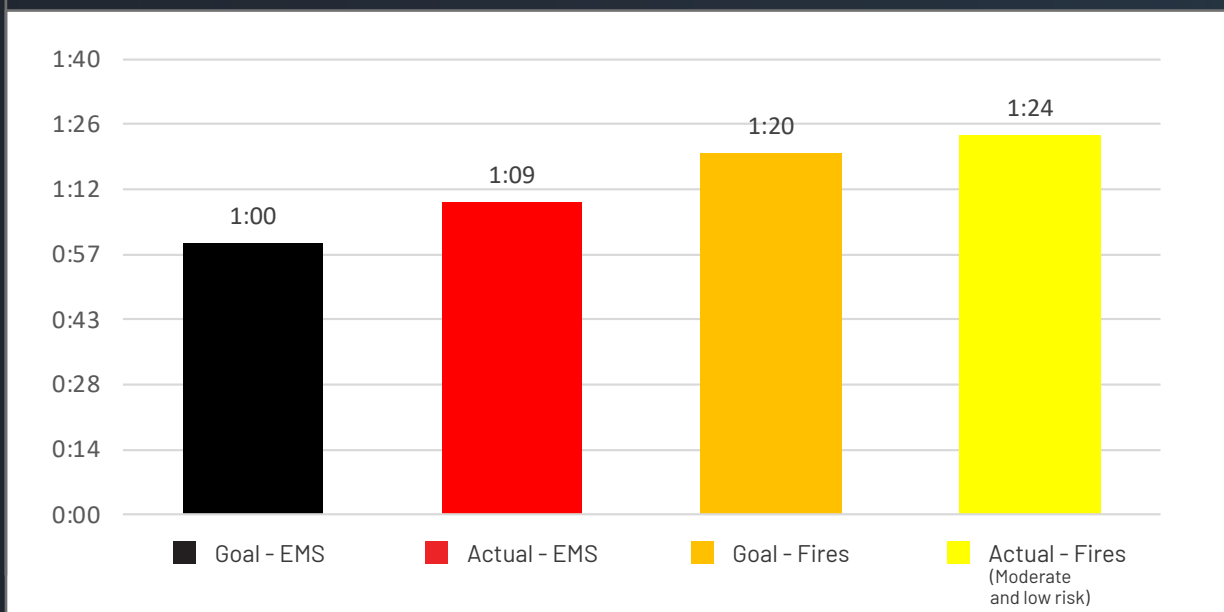
ALARM HANDLING

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.



TURNOUT TIMES

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 2 CONTINUED

Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from medicals, 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 were affected by the closure of Station 5 while other units covered Planning Zone 5. Engine 805 was moved to West Fargo Fire Department's main fire station until Station 5 reconstruction was complete.

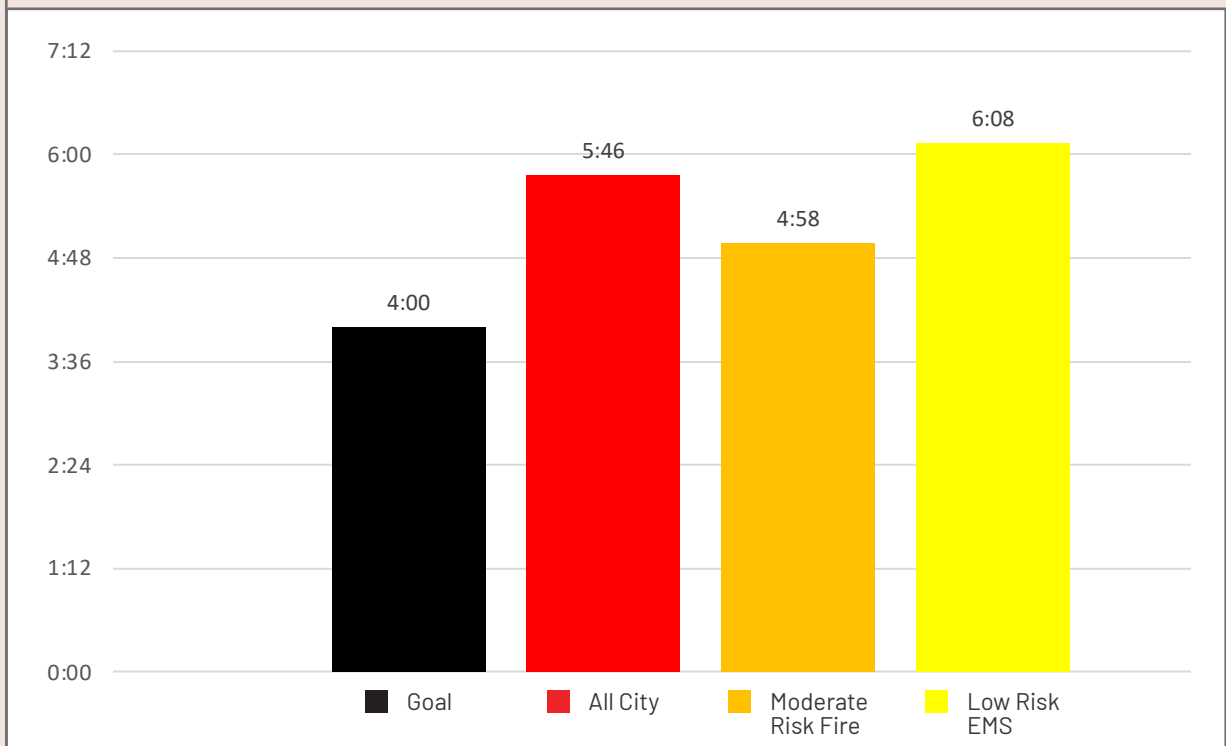
Traffic preemption devices, also called opticoms, are used to make intersections safer during an emergency response. They do this by changing the traffic lights and allowing emergency vehicles to proceed through the intersection with a green light.

PZ'S ARE PLANNING ZONES

Planning Zones (PZ's) correlates to the geographic area surrounding a fire station in The City of Fargo. For example, Planning Zone 7 correlates with Fire Station 7 in the Osgood neighborhood. PZ's 8 and 9 have been covered by Station 8 since the grand opening in October 2024.



TRAVEL TIME





» PLANNING **GOAL 2** CONTINUED

Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from medicals, 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.

173

Number of hazardous materials incidents responded to by the FFD in 2025



» PLANNING **GOAL 2** CONTINUED

Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from medicals, 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 (NDES) to provide Technical Rescue Response in Southeast North Dakota. NDES provides annual funding to support the team with equipment and training. The agreement also provides reimbursement when assistance is needed in the Southeast Region.

84

Number of technical rescue incidents responded to by the FFD in 2025





»» PLANNING GOAL 2 CONTINUED

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

WATER RESCUE TEAM

The primary goal of the water rescue team is to respond to and manage water rescue emergencies within the city.

11

Number of water rescue emergencies responded to by the FFD in 2025



» PLANNING GOAL 3

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.

TRAINING ACADEMIES

In 2025, the Fargo Fire Department, West Fargo Fire Department and Moorhead Fire Department held two training academies. The FFD had 12 new firefighters complete the academies.

ANNUAL TRAINING

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

CLASS XII



CLASS XIII





» PLANNING GOAL 3 CONTINUED

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 that includes 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-alongs with The Fargo Police Department and Red River Regional Dispatch Center because they will be working closely with these organizations on a regular basis in their new position.

In addition to in-house training, 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) in Emmitsburg, MD. Instructors are brought in to Fargo, ND, annually to conduct classes.
- The Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) in College Station, TX.
- The Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, AL.

PROMOTE SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR EMPLOYEES BY PROVIDING ANNUAL MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

The FFD provided all sworn personnel with annual medical checks through Employee Health in 2025. All sworn non-exempt personnel also complete an annual fitness test.

The FFD Safety Committee and the FFD Health & Wellness Committee both met quarterly in 2025 and continue to work on improving health, wellness and safety for the department.





» PLANNING GOAL 4

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

CHECK AND EVALUATION PROCESSES

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 5

The Fire 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.

The City of Fargo adopted the 2024 International Fire Code with local amendments during 2025. The fire code is adopted alongside the building code to ensure we work seamlessly with The City of Fargo Inspections Department.

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

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 **3,900 adults and over 16,900 children.**





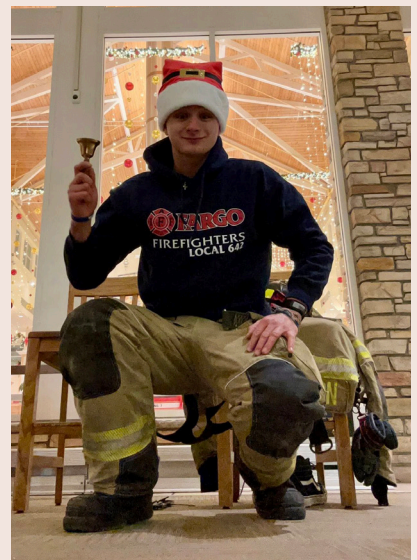
» FARGO FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 642

International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 642 donated their time and money to various organizations and causes in the community throughout 2025.

EVENTS

IAFF Local 642 participated in many local events that supported first responders and community members.

- Members donated their time for the **Fill The Boot** fundraiser and helped raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) to be put towards research and to help send kids to the MDA summer camp.
- Members rang bells for **The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign** to help raise money for a good cause.





» 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 2025.

OTHER EVENTS

IAFF Local 642 participated in many local events that supported first responders and community members.

- Donated money to **Hometown Heroes night** at a Fargo Force game. Money raised during the game benefits regional emergency services departments.
- Donated money to sponsor teams in golf tournaments that supported **The Salvation Army** and local volunteer fire departments.
- Sponsored teams and donated money to support various other events to help 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**



1 FIRE STATION
637 NP Avenue

2 FIRE STATION
3020 25th Street South

3 FIRE STATION
1101 25th Avenue North

4 FIRE STATION
2701 1st Avenue North

5 FIRE STATION
930 40th Street South

6 FIRE STATION
4630 15th Avenue North

7 FIRE STATION
3957 Village Lane South

8 FIRE STATION
6617 33rd Street South



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