



Annual Report

2020

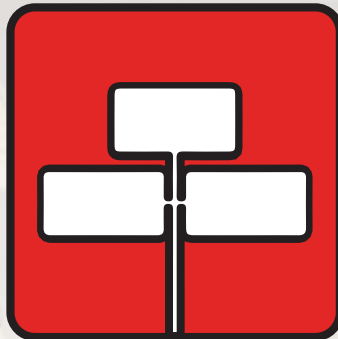




TABLE OF CONTENTS



Message from
Chief Dirksen **1**



Organizational
Chart **4**



New Hires
5



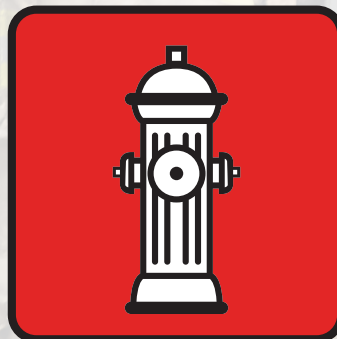
Retirements
6



Planning Goal 1
7



Planning Goal 2
12



Planning Goal 3
13



Planning Goal 4
23



Planning Goal 5
25



Planning Goal 6
27



IAFF Local 642
30





MESSAGE
FROM
CHIEF
DIRKSEN



1





A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF DIRKSEN



It goes without saying that 2020 was an extraordinary year. The theme that emerged multiple times throughout the year was **preparedness**. On January 23, the Fargo Fire Department (FFD) responded to a fire at Elim Rehab and Care Center. A fire at a long-term care facility is one thing that can cause a Fire Chief great stress and concern due in part to the 111 residents who may or may not be able to engage in self-rescue. The various medical conditions and the need for around-the-clock treatment can create a very labor intensive operation. Our hats go off to the administration and staff at Elim and Fargo Cass Public Health for their evacuation plan development and abilities to exercise their plans. These phenomenal efforts led to the safe removal of all residents and staff, as well as providing alternative placements for all residents by midnight.

As we progressed into the year, we began to prepare for our annual flood fight. Sandbag Central was opened and FFD employees joined with many other City of Fargo employees to fill sandbags to protect our community from the rising waters of the Red River of the North. Fortunately, we did not need to place any bags and were able to close down Sandbag Central after more than 300,000 bags were filled.

While our community was preparing for the flood, we started to learn information related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our department quickly felt the pinch of COVID-19 as national supply chains were disrupted; we discovered paper-based and disinfection products were difficult to find. Normal work routines and social structures were interrupted. Every one of our employees felt some strain and stress related to the pandemic. Again, the FFD found that our preparedness efforts, advanced ordering and stock of supplies (including masks, gloves, gowns, paper products and disinfectants) allowed us to provide a safe working environment and delivery of services to our community. The end of May and the month of June found the FFD working in conjunction with the Fargo Police Department and other City departments to respond to multiple events of civil unrest throughout our community. Preparedness played an integral role in our ability to respond effectively.

Despite the disruption to our normal operations, we have continued to deliver high levels of service to our community. We quickly took measures to limit transmission of the virus within our fire stations and to the citizens who called on us for assistance. Some of our staff were able to work remotely for a few months. I am pleased to report we never dropped our sharp focus on execution and getting the job done. Of course, none of this would be possible without the expert and dedicated contributions of our 123 employees.

Since the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic became clear, our focus has been to consistently balance the prioritization of employee safety with our sworn duty to protect our community at all times. Our staff members experienced changes to their normal routines but were able to complete an average of 340 hours of training per person. Suppression crews conducted 4,171 businesses fire safety inspections and the Deputy Fire Marshals conducted 1,514 permit and technical inspections. All 7,223 fire hydrants in Fargo were tested and fire suppression crews responded to a 12% increase in calls for service compared to 2019.

The FFD was awarded the Accredited Fire Agency Status for the third consecutive time by the Center for Public Safety Excellence's Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The FFD Team worked diligently to continue accreditation efforts and established itself as an international leader by being the first fire agency in the world to welcome a peer team to our community to verify and validate the quality of programs, equipment and facilities within the FFD during a global pandemic.

Please enjoy this report. I profoundly appreciate serving as your Fire Chief; it is the honor of a lifetime.

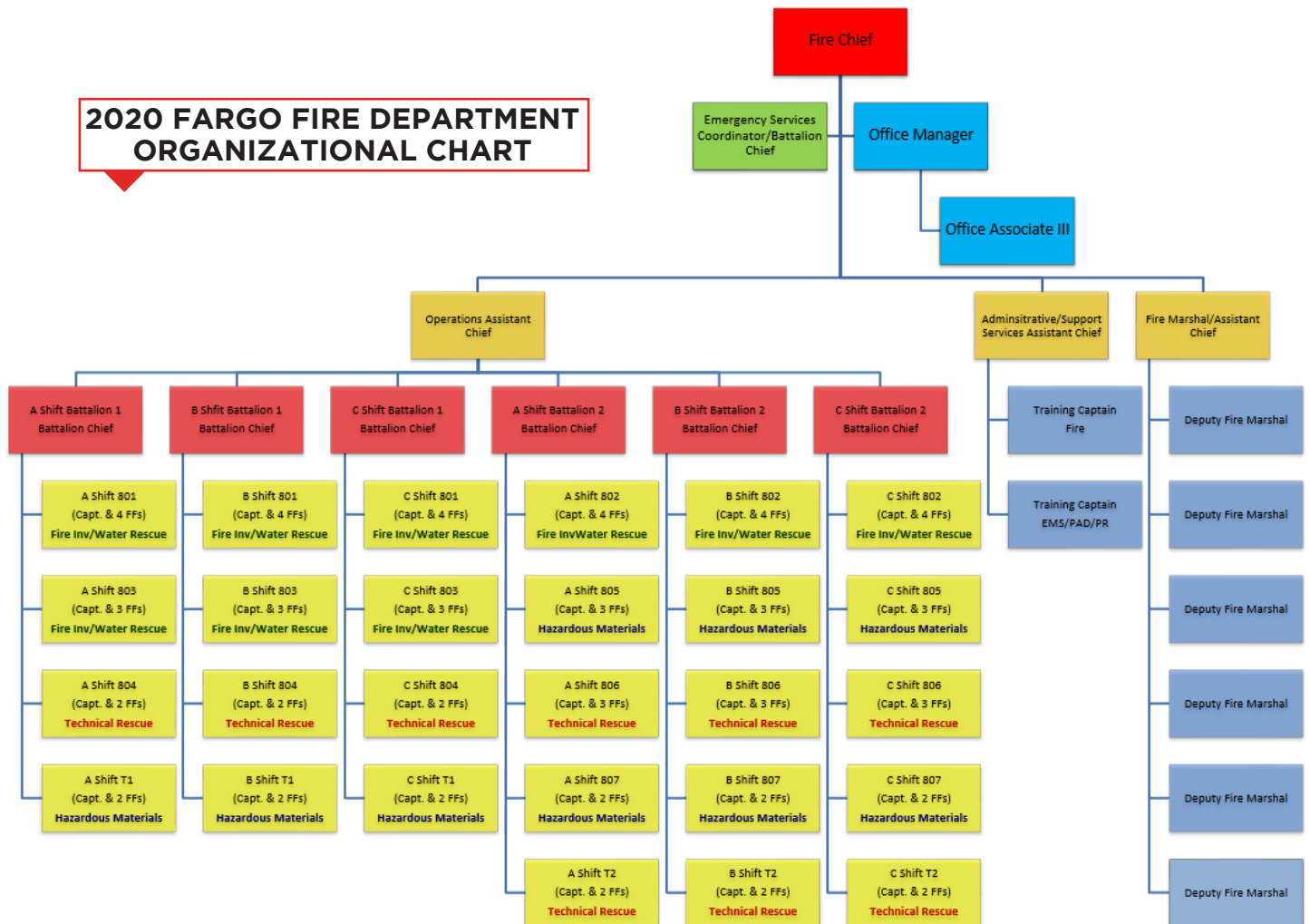
STEVEN DIRKSEN
Fargo Fire Chief



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2020 FARGO FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





2020 NEW HIRES



Todd Hanson



Chris Harig





2020 NEW HIRES



Ross Jones

Logan McConnell

Richard Winter



5





2020 RETIREMENTS



Chris Knutson
Firefighter
30 years of service

Kevin Johnson
Firefighter
30 years of service

Deric Knutson
Firefighter
13 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.

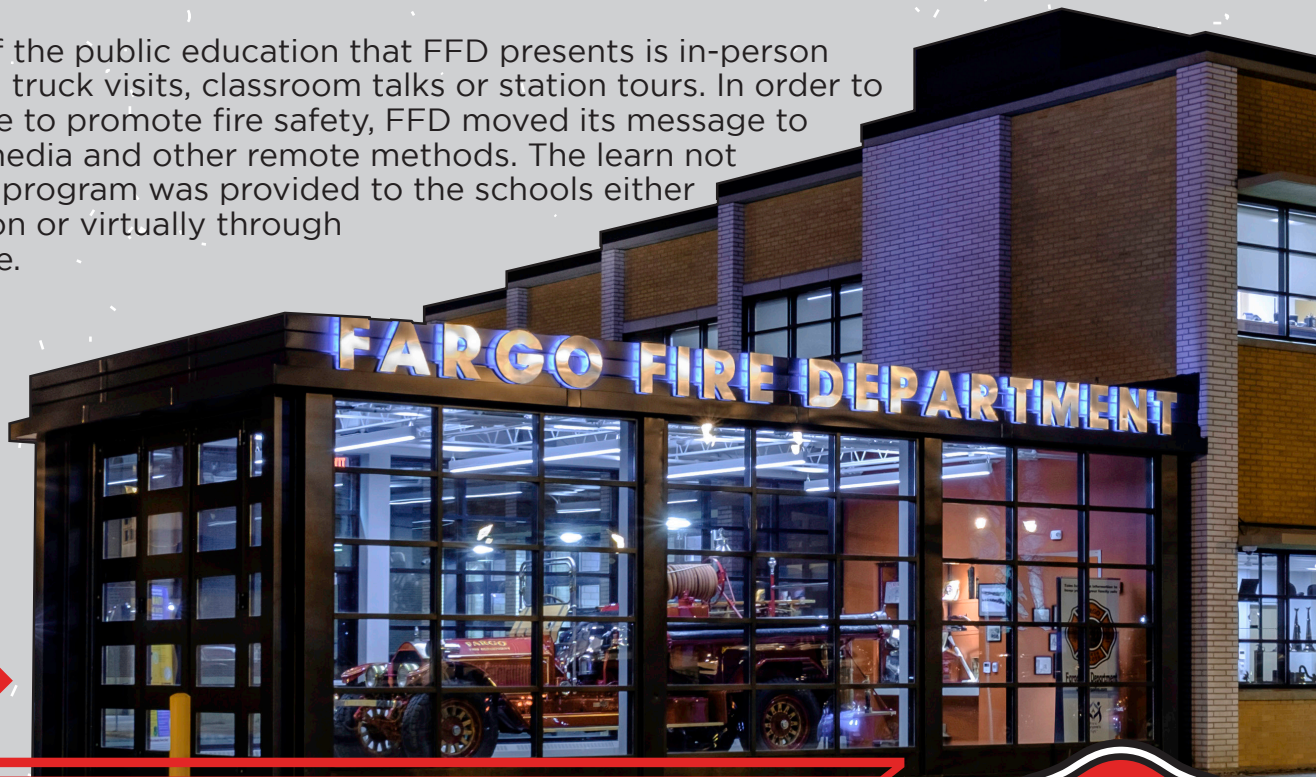
Inspections Completed					
	Inspections Assigned	Suppression	Bureau	Total%	
Apartments	 764	 770	 42	812	106.3%
Commercial	 5611	 4171	 1514	5685	101.3%

» **Provide education to special need organizations, as well as other groups**

The COVID-19 pandemic certainly presented challenges for completing public education and fire preventions inspections. However, the FFD continued to reduce risk through public education, fire prevention inspections and fire investigations.

Much of the public education that FFD presents is in-person through truck visits, classroom talks or station tours. In order to continue to promote fire safety, FFD moved its message to social media and other remote methods. The learn not to burn program was provided to the schools either in-person or virtually through YouTube.

Home fire
sprinkler
informational
display at Fire
Station 1



7

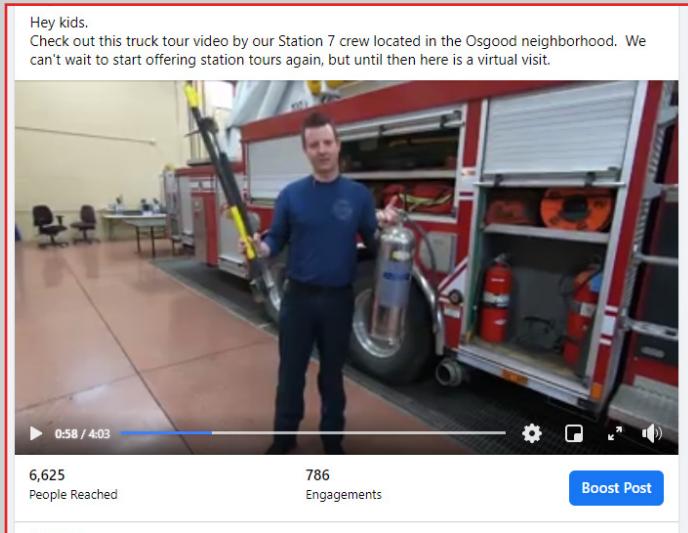




PLANNING GOAL 1



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



Fire Station 7 and Truck 2 tour available on Facebook



New for 2020 - truck tour drive-by

5,685

Businesses inspected in 2020



812

Apartment buildings inspected in 2020



186

Fire protection system plans were reviewed in 2020



≈ 411

Acceptance tests were witnessed in 2020



» **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.



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

During 2020 all elementary schools within the Fargo community were provided with a lesson on “Burn Prevention,” “Stop Drop and Roll” and general fire safety either in-person or virtually.



1,500

Children were provided information in person and many more through virtual presentations.



807

Individuals received safety talks, presentations and fire extinguisher training from FFD's adult education system.



The adult education audience includes apartment building managers, building safety professionals and childcare providers. Once again FFD used virtual meeting in order to safely provide our message to the public.

FFD maintains a Facebook, Twitter and YouTube page. Additional information is available on the FFD's webpage at www.FargoFire.com.





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 2020 fire investigations are below.

Cooking fires and smoking material fires continue to be the most common cause of structure fires in the City of Fargo. Several high-dollar-loss fires were attributed to cigarettes improperly disposed of on exterior balconies. Intentionally-set fires saw an increase from 2019 of an additional 13 fires.

» Classification Fires

153 + 37 + 2 + 54 = 246

<i>Accidental</i>	<i>Incendiary</i>	<i>Natural</i>	<i>Undetermined</i>	Total
-------------------	-------------------	----------------	---------------------	--------------

» Types of Fires (Top three)

110	39	2	27	21	19
<i>Building fire</i>	<i>Dumpster fire</i>	<i>Passenger vehicle fire</i>	<i>Cooking area, kitchen</i>	<i>Exterior balcony</i>	<i>Vehicle storage area, garage</i>

» Structure Fire Origin

» Structure Fire Cause - Heat Source (top three)

39	21	19
<i>Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment</i>	<i>Lighter and open flame</i>	<i>Smoking Materials</i>





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.

Anyone with access to the PulsePoint app (free for users), can follow FFD and receive alerts when CPR is needed.

5,234

followers of FFD on PulsePoint

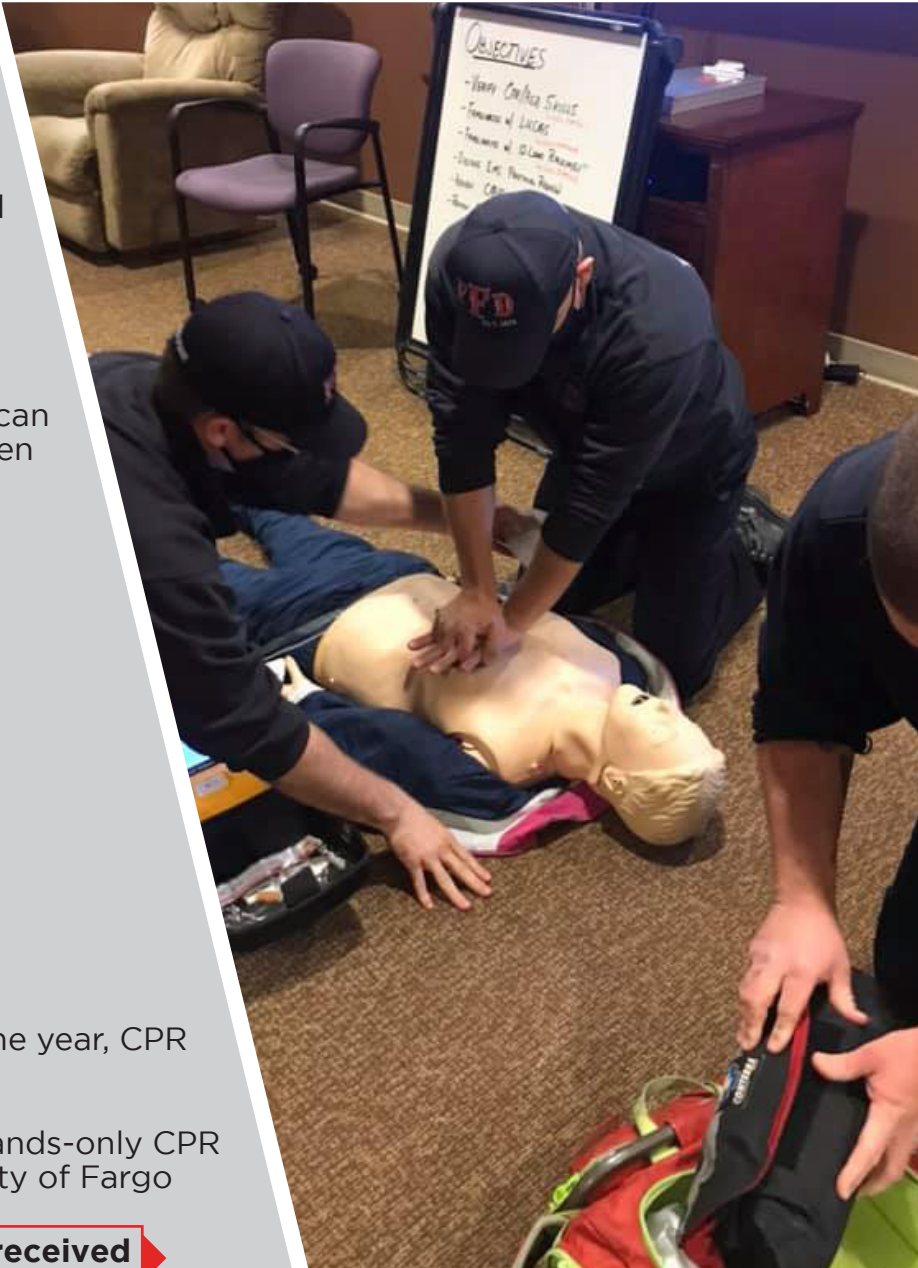
36

Individuals notified that CPR was needed in a public location

Due to COVID-19 restrictions most of the year, CPR classes to the public were minimized.

Training was still provided during six hands-only CPR events for community members and City of Fargo employees.

All FFD staff received refresher training in CPR and AED use.





PLANNING GOAL 2



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

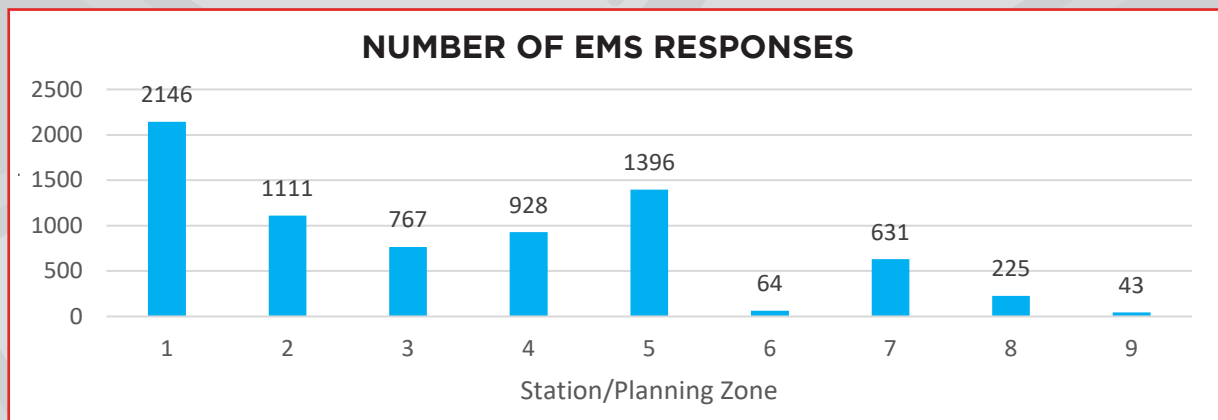
» Meet the response time performance task as indicated in the Standard of Cover document

7,312

Calls coded as EMS (57% of all responses for the year) were responded to in 2020. That is an increase of 767 from 2019.



The table below shows EMS calls per station/planning zone; Planning Zones 8 and 9 are covered by Fire Stations 2 and 7 respectively.



» All suppression personnel are required to maintain their certifications as an EMT and are provided training to maintain biannual EMT certification requirements

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 who 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

CRITERIA USED TO EVALUATE A COMMUNITY'S PUBLIC PROTECTION CLASSIFICATION

FIRE DEPARTMENT

A review of fire suppression capabilities including equipment and personnel training.

WATER SUPPLY

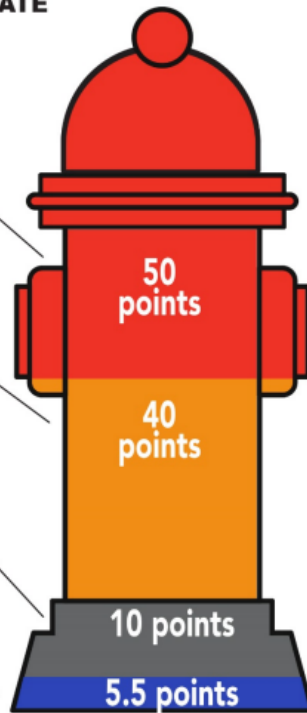
Evaluation of a community's water supply system as well as the maintenance and quality of hydrants.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

A review of a community's facilities and support for handling and dispatching alarms.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Evaluation of fire prevention code adoption, public fire safety education and fire investigation.

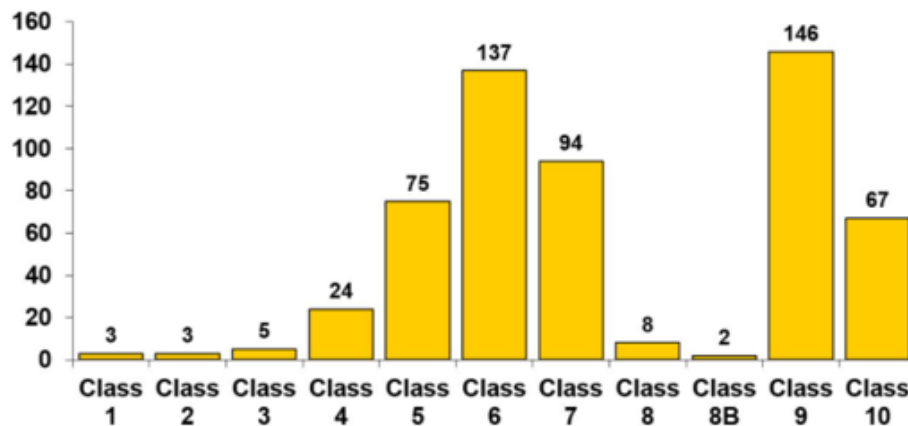


Source: ISOMitigation.com

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 communities in North Dakota.





PLANNING GOAL 3



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

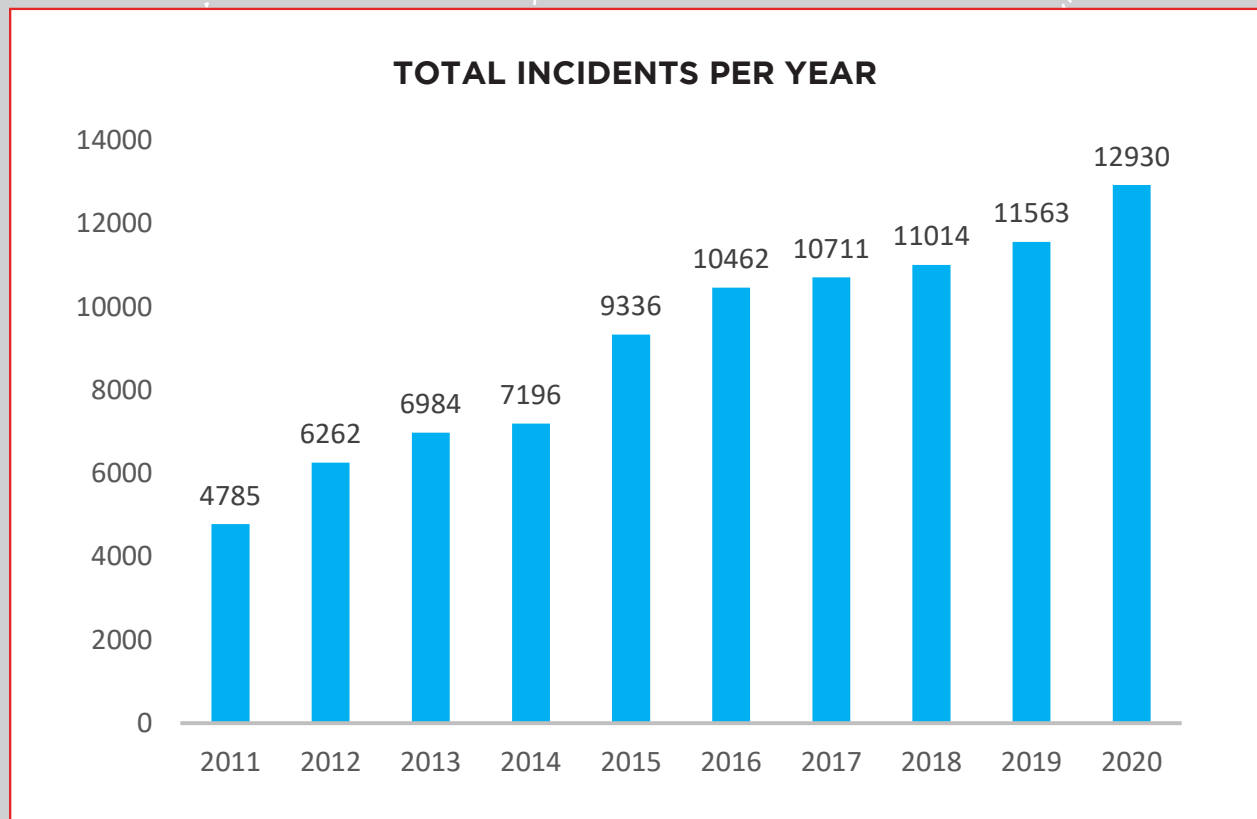
» As The City of Fargo grows, the number of calls for service for the FFD continues to increase

12,930

*Calls for service the FFD's fire suppression division responded to in 2020.
This includes mutual aid responses outside of the City.*



2011-2020 response statistics are reflected below.

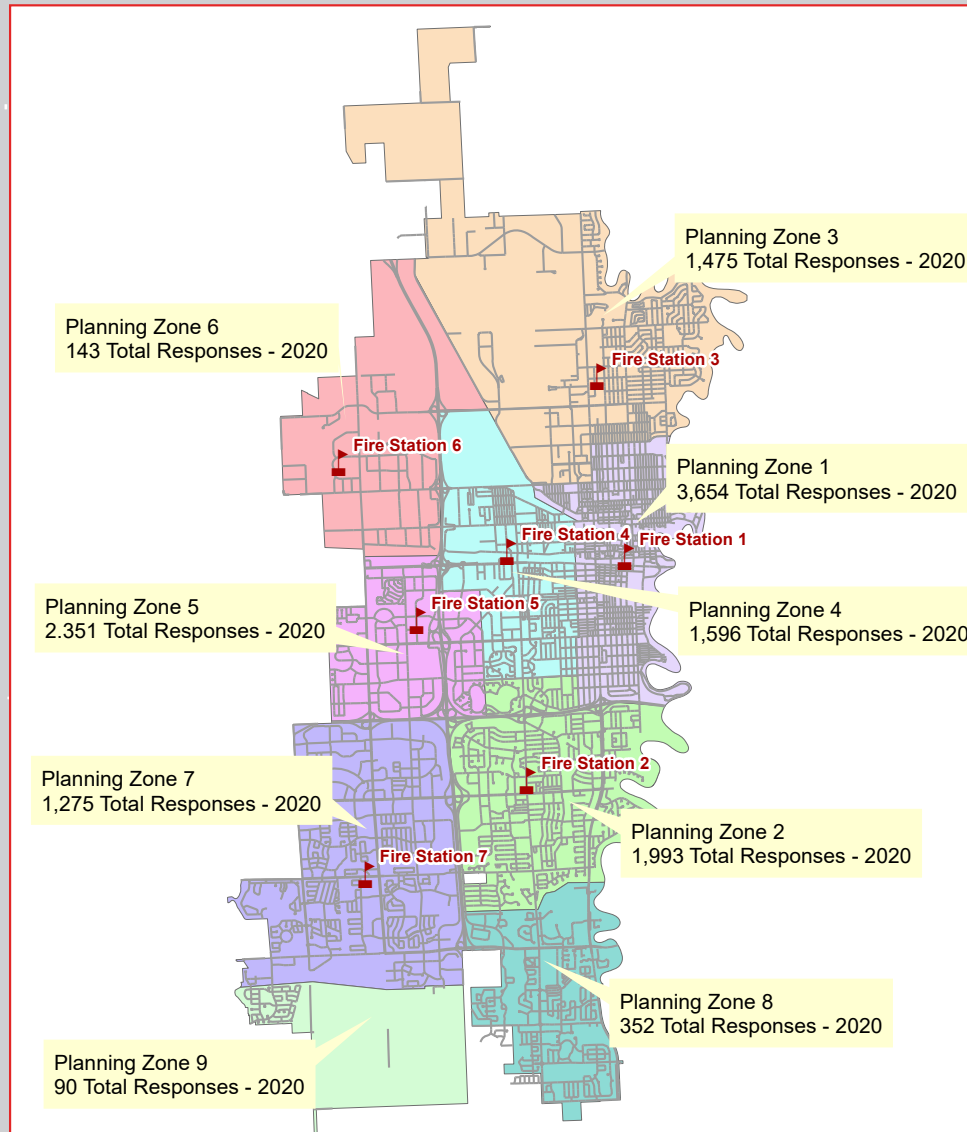




PLANNING GOAL 3



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 the city, the FFD has created planning/response zones. The map above depicts the number of responses that occurred within each of these zones during 2020.





PLANNING GOAL 3



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

2020 APPARATUS TOTAL RESPONSES

801	3,736
802	2,953
803	1,811
804	2,380
805	2,978
806	643
807	1,753
Truck 1	1,749
Truck 2	1,149
Battalion 1	780
Battalion 2	610

The table below depicts the total number of emergency responses made by each fire apparatus during 2020.



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

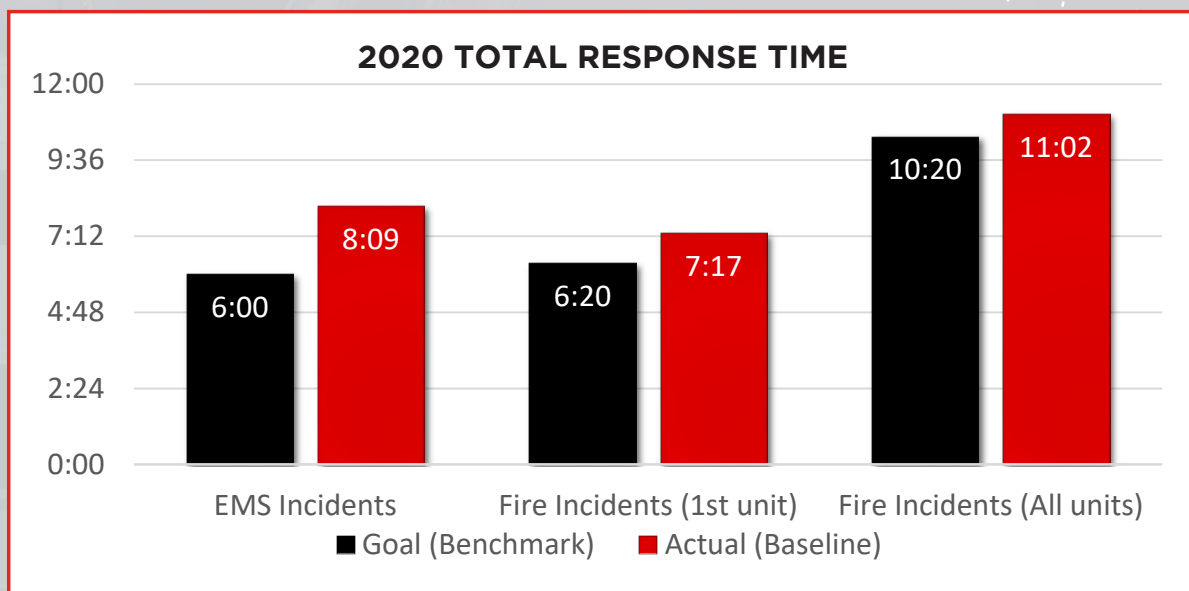
» Three components comprise total response time

Alarm Handling Time – This is the time that the dispatch center takes to answer an emergency 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 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.

» The FFD strives for these goals in every response. Although the standard is set very high from the NFPA, FFD personnel continually look for ways to safely improve its 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

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

The FFD provides response for hazardous materials, technical rescue and ice/water rescue incidents.

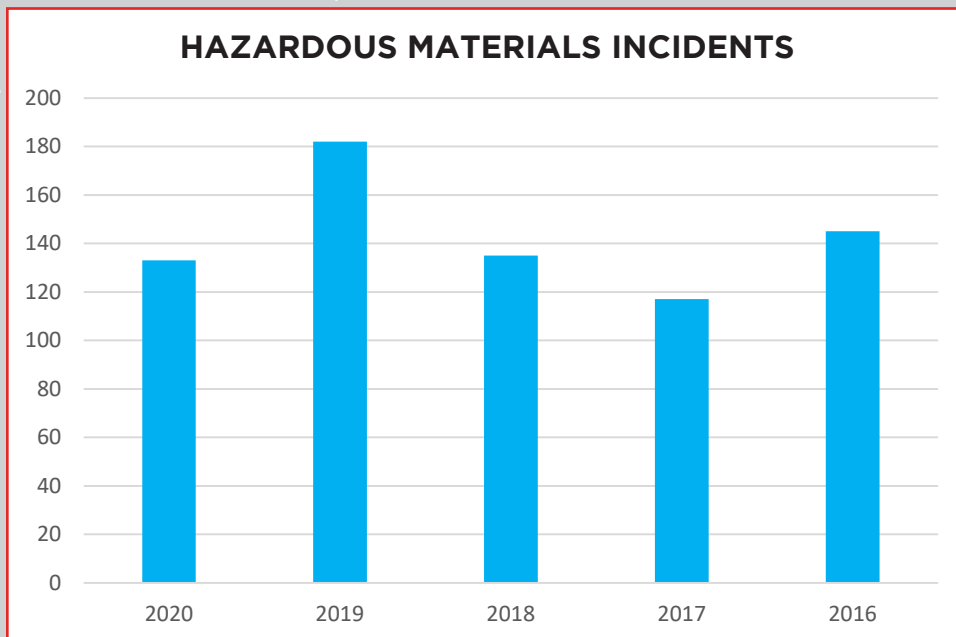
30

Individuals are trained to the level of hazardous materials technician for the FFD.



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.



Hazardous Materials incidents for the past five years. These include hazardous, flammable 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

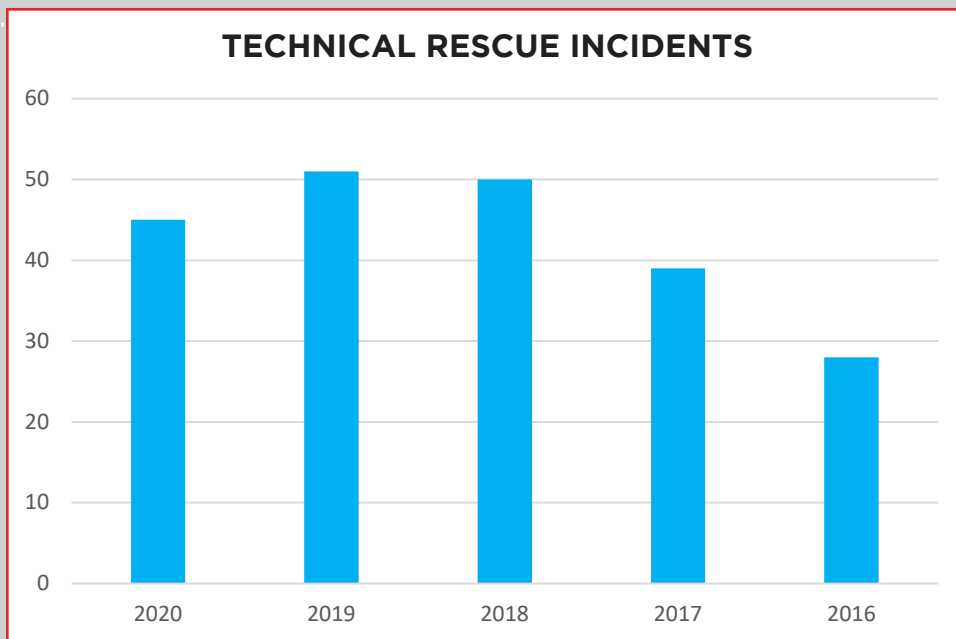
» Maintain a technical rescue team (TRT) with specialized training in four core competencies

The FFD provides response for hazardous materials, technical rescue and ice/water rescue incidents.

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. Emphasis is placed on conducting training at various sites, making the drills as realistic as possible.

All TRT members pursue certification through ProBoard in all specialty areas.



The 2020 incidents in the chart below include four extrications from machinery, one high-angle rescue and one trench rescue.





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



Shoring used during trench rescue to create a safe area

Tripod set up to lower and raise rescuers and victims



PLANNING GOAL 3



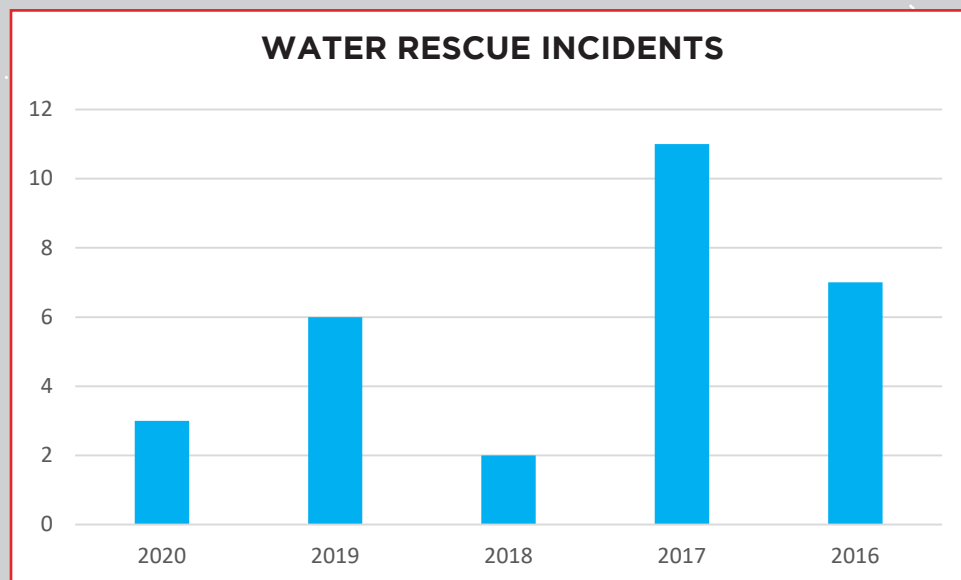
Ensure systems and processes are in place to minimize the impact on life and property from fires, disasters and other emergencies

» The FFD provides response for hazardous materials, technical rescue and ice/water rescue incidents

The primary goal of the water rescue team is to respond to and manage water rescue emergencies within the city. 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 assist in preparing them for quick responses within their individual response zones.

The chart below shows the number of Water Rescue incidents the water rescue team responded to each year between 2016 and 2020.





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 2020, the FFD and West Fargo Fire Department held a joint recruit class.

The five new FFD firefighters completed the academy. Over eight weeks, the new firefighters received training on how to respond to incidents involving fire, EMS, vehicle extrication and hazardous materials.

New this year, the FFD EMS training captain taught a four-week EMT class that allowed the students to be certified as Emergency Medical Technicians. Once a firefighter graduates from the FFD 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.





PLANNING GOAL 4



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

» **Encourage professional growth of officers and firefighters through attendance of educational opportunities**

The 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 in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The NFA provides specialized training courses and advanced management programs on-site or through local delivery. The NFA also provided instructors for classes in Fargo in 2020.

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 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.

Several committees consisting of FFD and other City employees meet throughout the year to discuss and ensure safety and health/wellness issues are addressed and needs continue to be 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

- » To manage the department's physical resources, numerous daily, weekly, monthly and yearly checks and evaluation processes are in place

The FFD's 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 more than 20 emergency response vehicles.



25





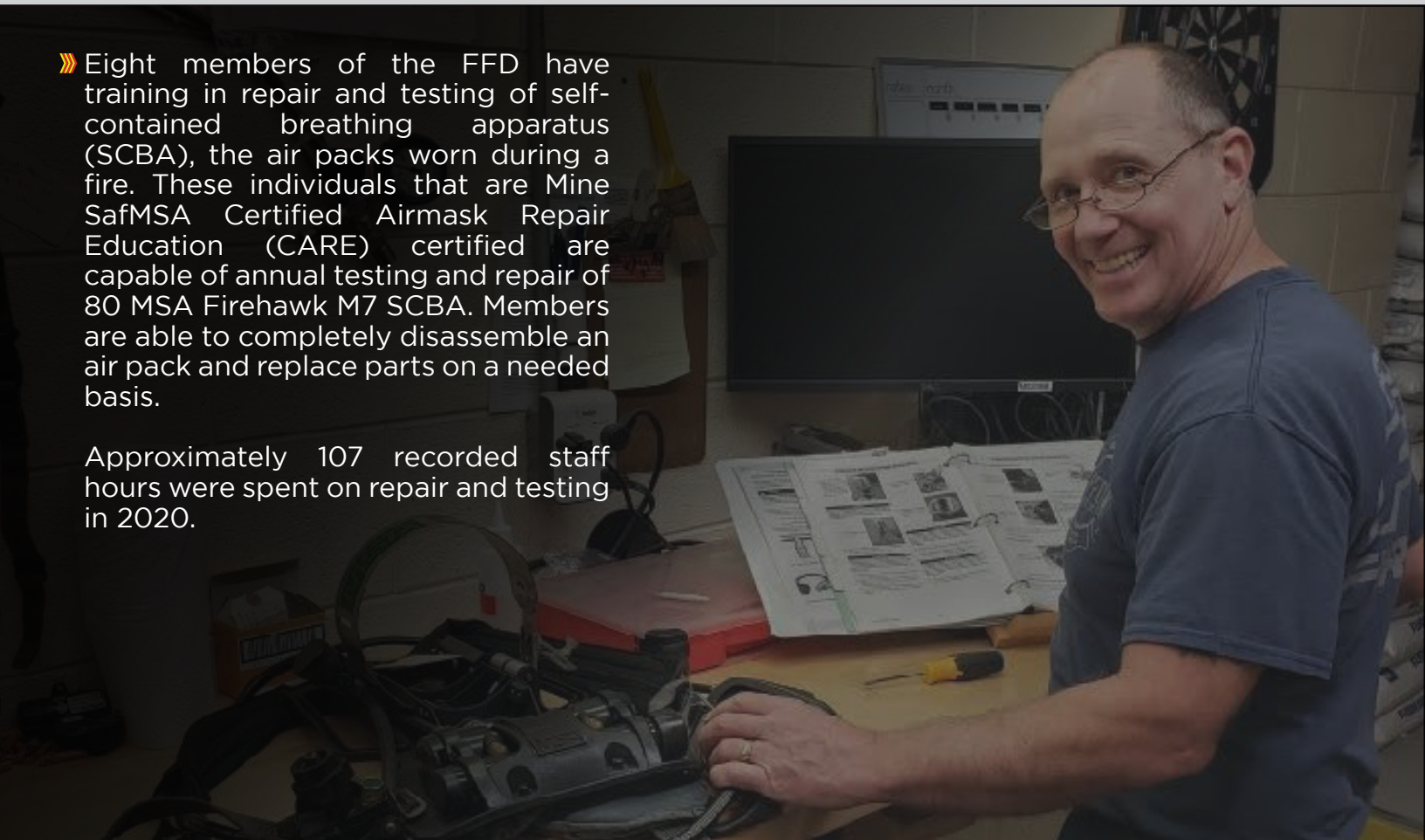
PLANNING GOAL 5



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 Mine SafMSA 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 2020.





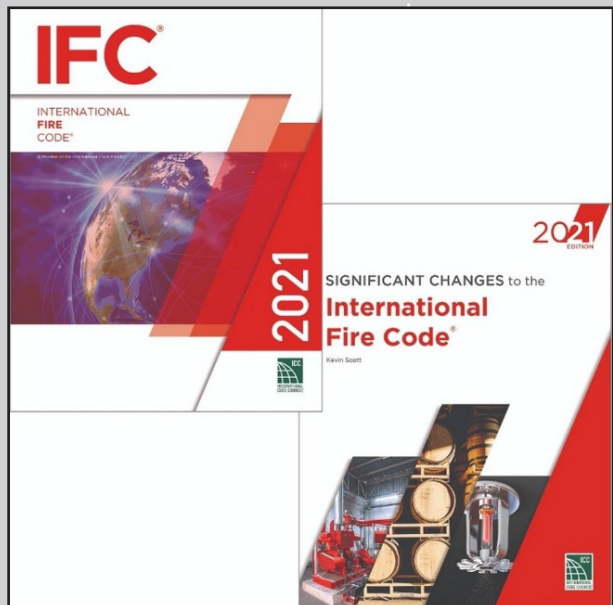
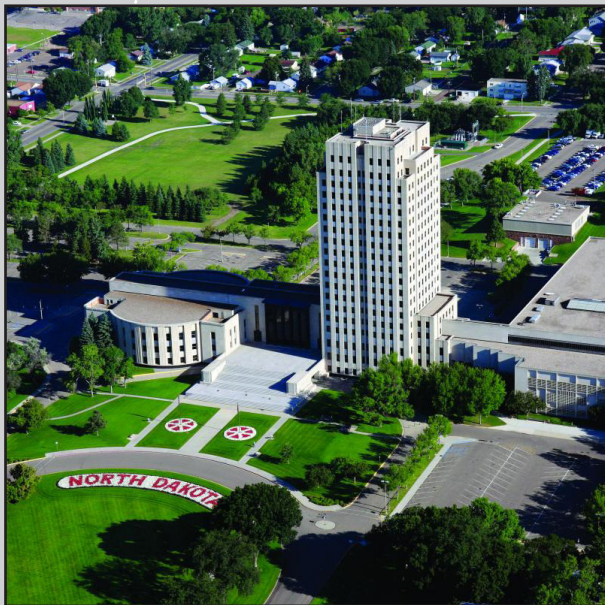
PLANNING GOAL 6



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

» Monitor legislation that could affect the 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.



27





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. FFD's in person events were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, outreach was conducted both virtually and in-person.





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

2020 was a year that tested the Fargo Fire Department's ability to be dynamic. The department needed to react quickly to continue to provide services through the COVID-19 pandemic. This involved evolving PPE requirements, staffing models, overtime callbacks, all while continuing to provide emergency services 24/7/365.



FARGO FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 642



In 2020, despite COVID-19 restrictions cancelling some events, Local 642 members were still able to donate their time and money to various organizations and causes in the community.

The FFD participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's (MDA) Virtual Fill the Boot campaign in 2020. 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. This year over 75 gifts and gift cards were donated to the children and their families.

\$6,000

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



\$11,975

Was donated during the MDA Virtual Fill the Boot Campaign, members of Local 642 raised the highest amount of money in the District (SD, ND, MN, WI).



\$24,000

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







Fargo Fire Department
637 NP Avenue
Fargo, ND 58102

701.241.1540



FARGOFIRE.COM