

West Fargo Fire Department



Annual 2017 Report



“In a spirit of excellence, integrity, and dedication, the West Fargo Fire Department is committed to serving the community, protecting lives and property through the provision of professional fire and emergency services, 24 hours a day”

Commitment - Community Service - Professionalism - Integrity



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Values and Mission Statement



Mission

In a spirit of excellence, integrity, and dedication, the West Fargo Fire Department is committed to serving the community, protecting lives and property through the provision of professional fire and emergency services, 24 hours a day

Commitment

- Commitment is the focusing of efforts, the dedication of service towards an objective or ideal. For the department, it means commitment to the people we serve in the community and to each other.

Community Service

- The focus of the department is to serve the community. We, as a department, make the pledge to respond when a member or visitor of our great city is in trouble; no matter what.

Professionalism

- In maintaining a high level of professionalism, we are able to provide an excellent service to the community in the safest manner possible while maintain fiscal stewardship of the taxpayer's resources.

Integrity

- Doing what is morally and ethically right, always, even when no one is looking. The public holds a great deal of trust in this department, and rightfully so. They depend on us to be having our best day when they are having their worst.

From the Chief's Office

Daniel Fuller, MPA, NRP
Chief of the Department



On behalf of the men and women of the West Fargo Fire Department, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read our 2017 Annual Report. The department is committed to a safe, economically secure and healthy community. Both departments operate as independent fire companies through cooperative agreements with the City of West Fargo, City of Relies Acres, City of North River, and the Townships of Reed, Raymond, Barnes, and Mapleton. We are currently rostered for a total strength of 58, including our 14 career staff working in both operation, prevention, and administration, and our 44 volunteer staff.

Our members operate two separate stations and provide fire and emergency services for our district. The department utilizes a “combination” service delivery model, which is a hybrid of career members and volunteer members. The career members respond with an engine, rescue, or both, to the scene while our volunteer members respond with the additional engine and ladder truck. The on scene commander responds either from the station to the call or from home to the call. This progressive, dynamic, efficient, and responsive system is something we are all very proud of. And, it is a system that no other department in the region is using. The savings to taxpayers, both through reductions in insurance premiums through the Insurance Service Office (ISO) and reduction in property tax through the budget process, is also something we are very proud of.

It sounds repetitive, but this year was the busiest year since the incorporation of the department in 1940 with **507 calls for service**. In fact, every year since 2003 has been the busiest year, but what is more impressive is the **24% increase** in call volume from last year.

With the changes in our service delivery model, we have had the most number of promotions ever in a single year in the department. In total, two Captains were promoted to Battalion Chief, and five Firefighters were promoted to Captain.

Our high caliber training program continues to pay dividends with the successful completion of Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Rope Rescue Operations, Driver/Operator, Company Officer I, Hazmat Operations, and Emergency Medical Responder courses throughout the year. These are in addition to regional and national classes and conferences our members attended. Once again this year, through grant money administrated by the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, we were fortunate enough to have Texas A&M offer an outreach Hazmat Operations course, resulting in 20 of our firefighters achieving national certifications.

In closing, I invite any resident of the district to contact me with concerns, questions or compliments. Thank you for reading.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Fuller'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Board of Directors



The West Fargo Fire Department Board of Directors is a seven person board that oversees the financial and strategic management of the department. These positions are split between five current members of the department and two outside members appointed to the Board of Directors by the five internal members of the Board of Directors.

Joe Tintes	President of the Board	2016-2019
Tom Clark	1st Vice President	2015-2018
Perry McClellan	Secretary	2015-2018
Steve Baron	Treasurer	2017-2020
Nathan Schmidt	2nd Vice President	2017-2020
Mike Thorstad	City Commissioner	Appointed 2017
Bryan Schultz	Member at Large	Appointed 2017



The Annual Meeting of the department occurs on the third Tuesday in January every year. Retired members of the department are invited into the station and meal is prepared by current fire department members. A year end review is given by the Chief, and election of members to the Board of Directors and the Assistant Fire Chief position are completed. This yearly event allows for the life and retired members of the department to come in and see the changes made, meet the younger staff and share experiences.

Stations



The Central Station is located at 106 1st St and houses

- Engine 7-0
- Engine 7-2
- Rescue 7-4
- Ladder 7-6
- Tanker 7731
- Brush 7750



Battalion Chief Tom Clark leads the station, which has three groups of volunteer firefighters assigned. It also houses the Administrative and Fire Prevention Divisions. Central Station is open from 7:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

The Southside Station is located at 445 29th Ave W and houses

- Engine 7-1
- Rescue 7-5
- Battalion 7-0
- Brush 7-1
- Tanker 7732



Battalion Chief Kendel Frost leads the station, which has three groups of volunteer firefighters assigned. Southside Station is manned with career personnel from 7:00am to 9:00pm, seven days a week. After hours, the assigned volunteer staff respond to emergencies.

Personnel



At the West Fargo Fire Department, we recognize that our personnel are our greatest resource. For each member on the roster, we've invested around \$4,250 in personal protective equipment and just under \$780 a year in training costs. In return, our members are mandated to respond to 25% of all calls on a quarterly basis. In 2017, the minimum amount of calls any one of our firefighters responded to was **123** and the department average was **178** over the year.

	Fire
FULLER DAN	172 Chief/Paramedic
JORGENSEN, RORY	113 Asst Chief
	Office
WAGNER, TINA	Coordinator

Fire Prevention Division

SPRECHER, DELL	105 Fire Marshal/AC
NEEB, JOHN	166 Inspector
OLSON TRAVIS	181 Inspector



Central Station

	Battalion
CLARK, THOMAS	121 Chief/EMR

Group 1

PORTER, JOEY	118 Captain/EMR
SAPP DAVID	144 Firefighter/EMR
JOHNSON, JOSEPH	159 Firefighter
NESSVOLD LEVI	180 Firefighter/EMR

Group 6

BARON, STEVE	116 Captain
TINTES, JOE	109 Engineer
OTTO SCOTT	142 Engineer
DONLEY, JUSTIN	156 Firefighter
RAGAN BRITTANY	143 Firefighter
JAKE DYKEMA	164 Firefighter
DON AHLISCHLAGER	191 Firefighter
BRANDON KUMMETH	187 Firefighter
KYLE ANDERSON	200 Firefighter

Group 7

McCLELLAN, PERRY	114 Captain/EMR
JOHNSON, SCOTT	160 Engineer
MORLAN, JAMIE	129 Engineer
HAWLEY, MICHAEL	148 Firefighter
STREGE, DALE	170 Firefighter
BILL HALL	190 Firefighter/EMR
WILLIAM KRUMWIEDE	186 Firefighter
CODY NIRSCHL	201 Firefighter
TALYOR TOLLEFSON	202 Firefighter

Southside Station

FROST, KENDEL	115 Battalion Chief/EMR
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Group 2

CARRIVEAU, JASON	147 Captain/EMR
BANISTER, ZACHARY	153 Firefighter/EMR
SYLSTAD, MIKE	152 Firefighter/Paramedic
GAUGLER BRANDON	177 Firefighter/EMR

Group 3

FREEMAN, JOHN	122 Captain
SCHMID, NATHAN	120 Engineer/EMR
LANZ, BRAD	165 Firefighter
KEVIN SWANSON	184 Firefighter
ALLICKSON BRYCE	174 Firefighter
AARON SENNER	194 Firefighter
KENNETH MILLER	195 Firefighter
BENJAMIN HERBST	196 Firefighter
JOSH FRANK	197 Firefighter

Group 4

BERGE, SCOTT	155 Captain
CHRISTENSEN, BRIAN	127 Engineer
BRITTANY HOLT	189 Firefighter
BUCHOLZ TUCKER	175 Firefighter
AXEL ROSE	193 Firefighter
JANET' LOGGINS	198 Firefighter
DYLAN KOPISCHKE	199 Firefighter

Personnel



In 2017, two members of the department retired from service. We thank them for their combined 58 years of service to the community

Kevin Dockter	30 Years	Ken Zetocha	28 Years
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In 2017, several members made the decision to leave the department. Regardless of the reason, we thank them for the time they spent here, protecting our great community and being part of our team.

Chris Papenfuss	12 Years	Brad Kommer	12 Years
Nolan Carlson	12 Years	Tim Bonnema	12 Years
Jayson Schneider	2 Years	Chad Noyes	2 Years
BJ Carlson	2 Years	David Troy	1 Year
Ryan Sherbrokke	1 Year	Brandon Meske	1 Year
Wyatt Koeing	1 Year	Jordan Gagner	1 Year



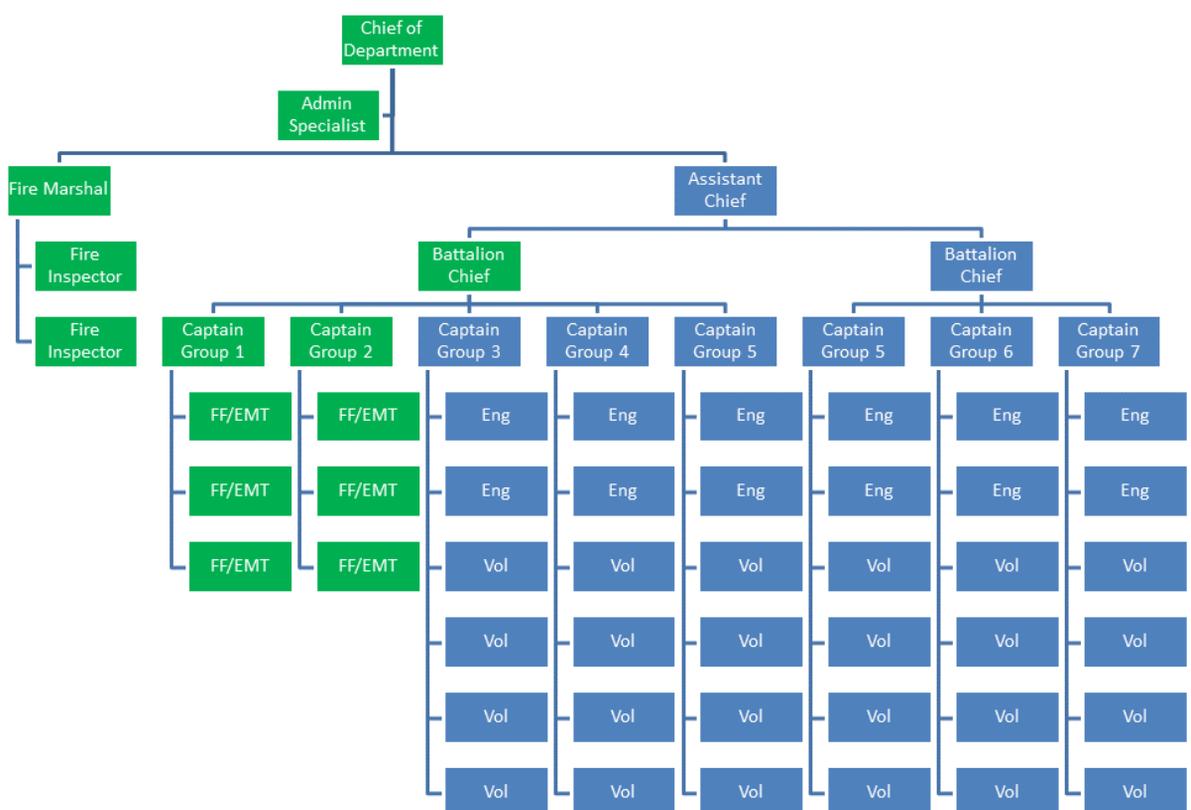
We also added a class of probationary firefighters to the roster in 2017. These firefighters have been responding to calls, attending training. They completed their Firefighter 1 ProBoard Certification in summer of 2017. We welcome them to the team.

Brittany Holt	Kevin Swanson
Don Alltslauger	Will Krumwiede
Brandon Kummeth	Bill Hall

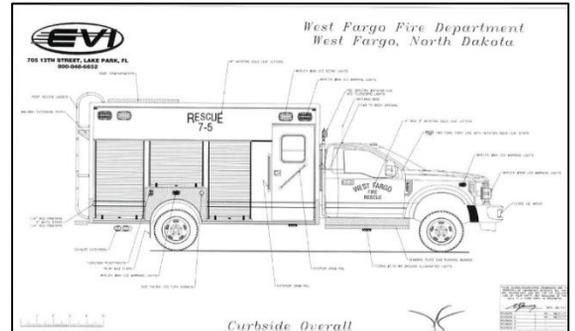
Organizational Chart



The department is authorized for a total of 14 career staff (green) and forty-four volunteer staff (blue) for a total of 58, including the Office Coordinator and the Fire Prevention Division. Our system is set up so volunteer and career staff integrate well, especially at our Chief Officer ranks; the Assistant Fire Chief (volunteer) reports the Fire Chief (career) while the Battalion Chiefs (career and volunteer) report to the Assistant Chief. This system helps ensure that equal representation is achieved throughout the combination system.



Rolling Stock Report



Apparatus is rotated on a set schedule, to allow for budgeting of replacements over a more stable time period versus having to budget for a single truck over two years.

The current fleet of the department is in very good repair and serviceability.

Funds have been invested in having an outside service company annually inspect our apparatus, including pump testing, changing of primer oil, ladder testing, and regular diesel engine maintenance.

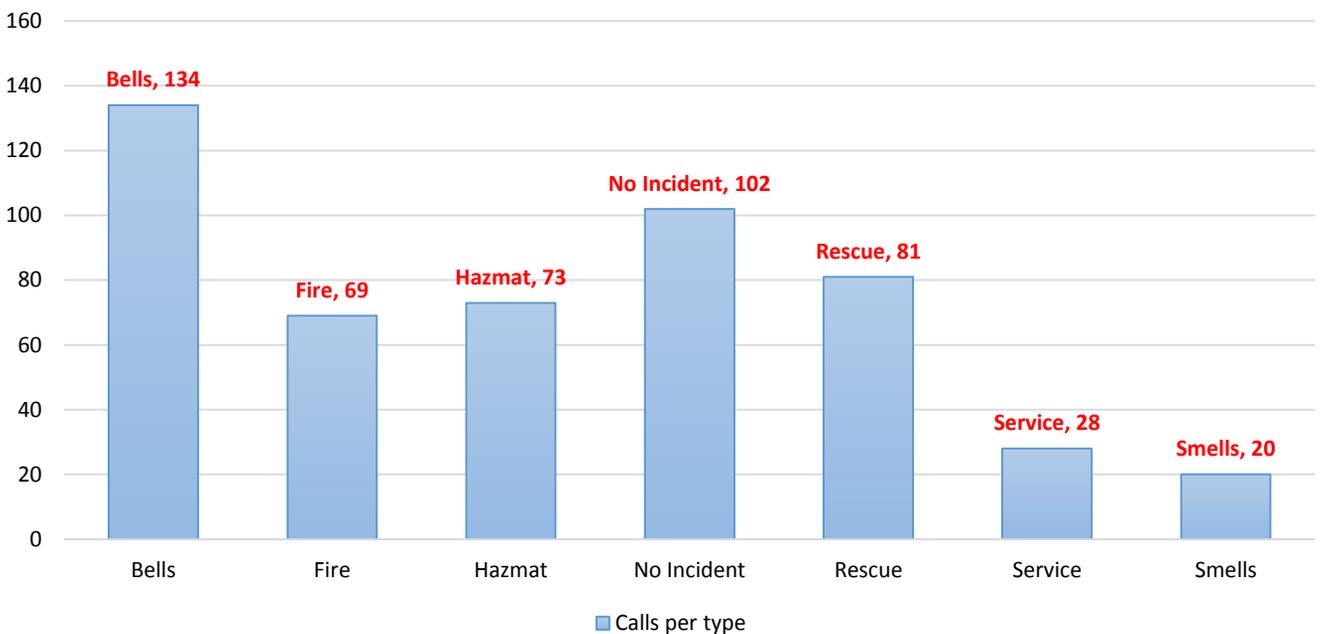
In 2017, we added a new Battalion Chief SUV used to respond to all fire and EMS calls from the Southside Station. It is manned 24 hours a day (FT Batt Chief AM and Vol Batt Chief/Officer PM and Weekends) and adds a response capability not previously had by the department. A new rescue was also designed and built, with delivery anticipated in early 2018. This truck will make EMS calls easier for our responders, and allow for two calls to be handled by FT staff at the same time.

Truck	Year	Type	Miles	Hours
Batt 7-0	2018	Chevy Tahoe	1770	
Utility 7-7	2015	Chevy 1500 P/U, Inspector	15,301	
Utility 7-8	2011	Chevy 1500 P/U, Inspector	45,423	
C10	2017	Ford Utility, Fire Marshal	34	
7751	2013	Chevy 2500 Brush	22,665	
7750	2014	Chevy 2500 Brush	39,215	
Engine 7-0	2015	Spartan/Toyne Pumper	3,723	259
Engine 7-1	2008	Spartan/Crimson Pumper	13,304	1103
Engine 7-2	1996	Spartan/General Pumper	13,627	1899
7731	1990	Volvo/White 1,500 Tanker	15,984	373
7732	2006	Volvo/Midwest 3,000 Tanker	2,252	67
Rescue 7-4	2004	Spartan/Marion Rescue	6,616	
Ladder 7-6	2012	Sutphen 95ft Tower Ladder	3,993	341

Operations Statistical Data



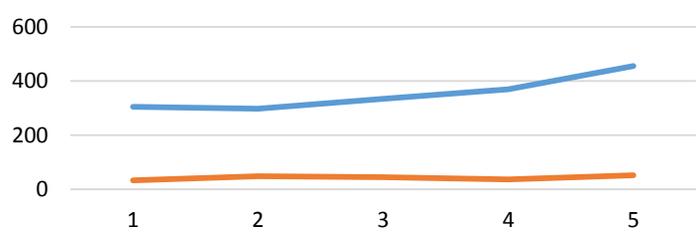
2017 Call Volume by Type



In 2016, the department responded to a diverse compliment of calls for service. Through each of our record **507 calls for service** our firefighters endeavored to provide timely service in the most efficient and safe methods possible. Of the 507 calls for service, 52 occurred in the rural area and 455 occurred in the City of West Fargo. Through a closer dissection of the call type, a picture of fire safety in our community comes into focus.

It was noted in the last annual report that every year since 2010 has been the “busiest” on record. From 2013 – 2017 an increase of 169 calls in five years. Most of the increase is due to fire alarms and sprinkler system activations, while the increase of more serious calls, such as CO incidents, hazmat and fires has been increasing steadily over the same timeframe.

2013 - 2017 City vs Rural Calls for Service

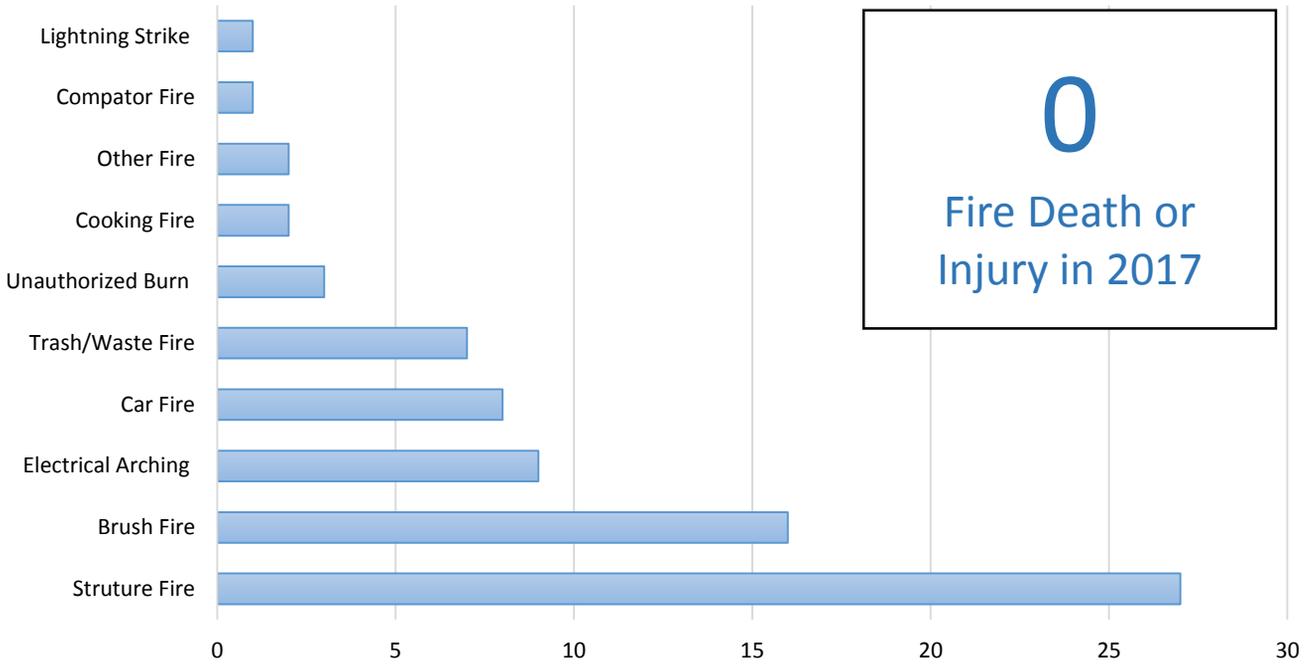


Operations Statistical Data



	City	Rural	Total
Threatened by fire	\$9,015,300	\$1,625,500	\$10,640,800
Fire losses	\$1,775,900	\$166,300	\$1,942,200
Value saved	\$7,239,400	\$1,459,200	\$8,698,600

2017 Fires in West Fargo



August 2017 = **61** Calls

21 Calls – Aug 13th-Aug 19th

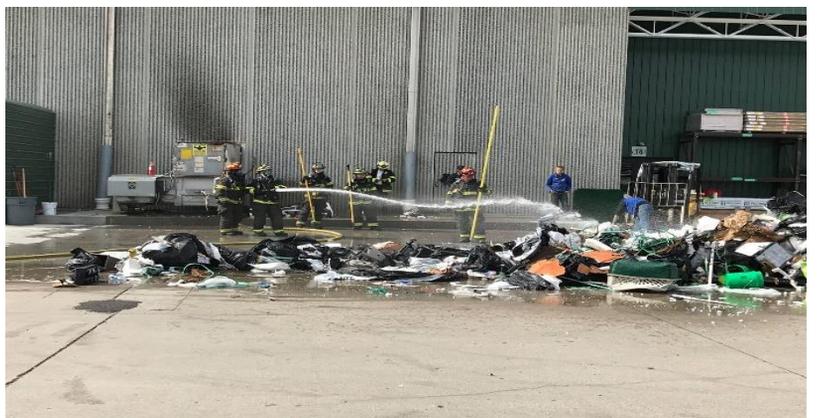
August 16th = **7** Calls

139

Multiple Call Days
in 2017

Cooking Fires
2016 vs 2017

16 > 2



Fire Prevention

Dell Sprecher
Fire Marshal



During the summer and fall of 2017, members attended an *average of twelve block parties a month*, giving residents and visitors of our city the chance to view our equipment up-close. Fire safety messages were relayed as well, to all age groups.

Annually, the United States Fire Administration sets a Fire Prevention Week. This week is set aside to publicize one of the worst fire disasters in the United States; The Great Chicago Fire which occurred on October 9th, 1871. The Saturday through Sunday period in which the 9th falls into is proclaimed Fire Prevention Week, as it has every year since 1922. This year, your West Fargo Firefighters set out to get the fire prevention message to every home in the city. Most of this delivery occurred through the school system; when a child is educated about fire safety, they bring the message home and remind their parents and neighbors. A over 7,000 West Fargo schoolchildren were reached in 2017. Depending on their age group, they were either visited at school or took a field trip to see the fire station in person.



Training

Kendel Frost
Battalion Chief



Firefighters of the West Fargo Fire Department are mandated to attend three monthly trainings a year, for a total of 144 hours per member. That totals an aggregate of over **6,624** total firefighter training hours for the entire department. Additionally, members of the department completed several ancillary courses, as well as courses for certification as Pro-board Firefighter I, II, Fire Officer I, and Fire Instructor I. With these additional training hours, the total hours department wide are **10,985**

Event	Location	Member Hours
Monthly Firefighter Training	West Fargo Fire	6,624
Industrial Rescue I/II	Bismarck, ND	50
TEEX Industrial Firefighting	College Station, Texas	16
Incident Command 300	Fargo Fire	260
Incident Command 400	Fargo Fire	144
Emergency Medical Responder	West Fargo Fire	480
NDFA Southeast Regional School	West Fargo Fire	28
Fire Dept Instructors Conference (FDIC)	Indianapolis, IN	64
NFPA Conference	Boston, MA	36
MN State Fire School	Moorhead, MN	192
ND State Fire School	Minot, ND	140
TEEX Hazmat Ops	West Fargo Fire	480
NFA "Shaping the Future"	Fargo Fire	32
NFA "Initial Fire Investigation"	West Fargo Fire	272
National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer	Emittsburg, MD	80
Firefighter I & II Cert Course	West Fargo Fire	1,124
Fire Officer I Cert Course	West Fargo Fire	540
Fire Apparatus Engineer Course	West Fargo Fire	140
NDFA Fire Instructor I Cert Course	West Fargo Fire	45
Managing Discipline in the Fire Service	Billerica, MA	80
TOTAL		10,985

Emergency Medical Services

Mike Sylstad
Firefighter / Paramedic



During the year, the members of the West Fargo Fire Department began to receive training as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) to gear up for the 2018 switch where the department will begin to respond to all medical calls for service in the City of West Fargo. This is a new service to be provided by the fire department, one that historically the department didn't provide. A majority of fire departments across the United States provide either Basic Life Support or Advanced Life Support services (NFPA, 2015) with only 39% providing no emergency medical services. In 2015, calls nationwide for emergency medical services totaled over 21,500,000, and with the baby boomer generation aging into their 60's and 70's, this trend is not going to decrease.



A new concept in the US Fire Service is the "Rescue task Force" where prehospital providers are equipped with ballistic personal protective equipment (PPE) and trauma supplies and enter a cleared but still "warm" zone of an active assailant scene to treat life threatening injury and triage patients for later treatment and transport. West Fargo Fire & Rescue has secured a grant from Firehouse Subs in 2017 to purchase and train with four kits for our firefighter/EMTs to utilize in the case of an active assailant call in West Fargo.

Special Operations

Joey Porter
Captain/EMR



The department is been steadily adding technical rescue capability over the last three years, such as Grain Bin Rescue, High Angle Rope Rescue, and Water/Ice Rescue. Beginning in 2017, the department began to formally adopt a Special Operations Program, to provide our members with the training to handle smaller incidents without mutual aid, but also be able to integrate with Fargo Fire on larger incidents where more resources are needed.

The outcome for the residents of West Fargo is a quicker Special Operations response for incidents that are somewhat outside the norm of daily response.



Firefighter Health and Wellness

Zach Banister
Firefighter/EMR



The department has been investing time and capital in our health and wellness program this year. Both fire stations have full gyms including;

- Cardio Equipment
- Stair Stepper
- Free Weights
- Cable Machines
- Rowers



Our firefighters are encouraged to use this equipment as often as they like, while our career firefighters have a mandatory workout each shift, with time scheduled for them to accommodate a workout.



When our new firefighters, both career and volunteer, are hired, they go through a thorough NFPA 1582 physical that monitors for several health conditions.



Major Incidents



Structure Fire
940 44th Ave W



Structure Fire
434 Sheyenne St



Structure Fire
1919 Main Ave E



Motor Vehicle Collision
I-94 Westbound @ Veterans Blvd



Hazmat Release
612 6th St E



Structure Fire
3524 5th St W



Propane Leak
268 Main Ave E

Major Incidents



**Structure Fire
703 17th Ave W**



**Compactor Fire
1300 13th Ave E**



**Structure Fire
16459 36th St SE**



**Structure Fire
205 Warren St**



**Structure Fire
229 12th Ave E**

