

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



**DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE
AND
EMERGENCY
SERVICES**



To: Mayor Walaker, Fire Commissioner Wimmer,
Board of City Commissioners, and Citizens
of Fargo

From: Chief Bruce Hoover, Fargo Fire Department

Date: January 31, 2007

Subject: Fargo Fire Department Annual Report

Typically, when I prepare the introduction to the annual report I look for key events that in some way define the year. 2006 was not a typical year. As I look back at 2006, the key event that has dominated the thoughts of all department members is the debilitating stroke suffered by Fire Captain Rory Eidness in May of 2006.

A fund raiser was held to assist Rory's family during this difficult time. All members of the Fargo City Commission joined Fargo fire fighters, volunteers from other fire departments, other city departments, and volunteers from the community, in this effort. Funds raised were used to purchase a used van and to assist in the remodeling of the Eidness' home.

The Fargo Fire Department sincerely appreciates the support of the community and our elected officials.

I respectfully submit for your review these statistics for 2006.



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2006 Fargo Fire Department

Chief1
 Suppression Division90
 Support/Prevention Division7

Administrative Support2
 Emergency Management1
Total Department Strength101



Station 1

Assistant Chief 800 – 631 Responses
 Engine 801 – 1158 Responses
 Ladder 821 – 522 Responses



Station 2

Engine 802 – 712 Responses
 Suburban 2 – 71 Responses



Station 3

Engine 803 – 613 Responses
 Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) – 3



Station 4

Engine 804 – 788 Responses
 Rescue 834 – 726 Responses



Station 5

Engine 805 – 733 Responses



Station 6

Engine 806 – 261 Responses
 HazMat Unit 846 – 33 Responses

FARGO FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ROSTER

December 2006

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Aakre, Ellis	Captain	Lofald, Caleb	Firefighter
Ambrose, Michael	Firefighter	Lorenz, Gary	Captain
Anderson, Benjamin	Firefighter	Mangin, Joe	Firefighter Specialist
Anderson, Bruce	Captain	Meidinger, Paul	Firefighter
Arens, John	Inspector	Mehlsch, Jason	Captain
Balstad, Steve	Assistant Chief	Meyer, Dean	Assistant Chief
Bernier, Kevin	Captain	Muffenbier, Kevin	Captain
Besette, Brad	Firefighter	Nelson, Doug	Firefighter
Binder, Michael	Firefighter	Nelson, Craig	Firefighter
Binfet, Timothy	Firefighter Specialist	Nelson, Matt	Firefighter
Bolstad, Jon	Captain	Ness, Jason	Firefighter
Bossert, Steve	Firefighter Specialist	Nester, Darrin	Firefighter
Brand, Matthew	Firefighter	Patterson, Everett	Firefighter
Brown, Michael	Firefighter Specialist	Perreault, Bruce	Mechanic
Buchholz, Daniel	Firefighter	Pieper, Chris	Firefighter Specialist
Bush, William	Firefighter Specialist	Rasmussen, Chris	Captain
Buttke, Ron	Support Technician	Rostedt, William	Firefighter
Carley, Dane	Captain	Sabourin, Joseph	Firefighter
Charles, Joshua	Firefighter	Schlafmann, Leon	Captain
Cleary, Michael	Firefighter	Schmidt, Gregory	Firefighter Specialist
Conrad, Dave	Firefighter	Schmidt, Jesse	Firefighter Specialist
Cuchna, Robert	Captain	Schons, Tom	Captain
Darraha, Robert	Firefighter Specialist	Schuh, Larry	Assistant Chief
Dietz, Christopher	Firefighter Specialist	Scott, Norman	Fire Marshal
Dietz, Clark	Captain	Senn, Dan	Firefighter
Eidsness, Rory	Captain	Severson, Rob	Firefighter Specialist
Eisenlohr, Eric	Firefighter	Shirley, Bruce	Firefighter Specialist
Erickson, Perry	Captain	Sisk, Larry	Firefighter
Erickson, Ryan	Firefighter	Skarloken, LeRoy	Captain
Forness, Jason	Firefighter	Smith, Davis	Inspector
Forness, Marshall	Firefighter Specialist	Smith, Justin	Firefighter
Freeman, Dan	Captain	Soeth, Lee	Captain
Garvey, James	Firefighter	Speral, John	Captain
Gisselbeck, Jason	Firefighter	Stetz, Daniel	Firefighter Specialist
Guggisberg, Ron	Firefighter Specialist	Svir, Joseph	Firefighter
Hendrickson, Mike	Captain	Swanson, Ben	Firefighter
Hermann, Jim	Master Mechanic	Swanson, Terry	Captain
Hoover, Bruce	Fire Chief	Sylvester, Steve	Firefighter
Hoover, Jared	Firefighter	Thompson, Steve	Firefighter
Johnson, Bonnie	Principal Office Associate	Viergutz, Ryan	Firefighter
Johnson, Keith	Captain	Wagner, Terry	Captain
Johnson, Kevin	Firefighter	Waller, Mark	Captain
Jordahl, Richard	Firefighter Specialist	Weiss, Randy	Captain
Kankelfritz, Chris	Captain	Welder, Thomas	Firefighter Specialist
Keller, Glen	Firefighter Specialist	Westra, Thomas	Firefighter Specialist
Knutson, Chris	Firefighter Specialist	Willey, Benjamin	Firefighter
Laddusaw, Matthew	Firefighter Specialist	Wilson, Robert	Assistant Chief
LaValle, Todd	Firefighter Specialist	Young, Paul	Firefighter Specialist
Locnikar, Joseph	Captain	Young, Ryan	Firefighter

Coming and Going

New Firefighters

NONE

Retirees



Noel Walter

24 YEARS OF SERVICE



**Captain
Leon Schlafmann**



**Coordinator
Kym Overland**

In December Captain Schlafmann took over the position of City of Fargo Emergency Services Coordinator from Kym Overland. Ms. Overland took the position of Emergency Preparedness & Response Coordinator of Fargo-Cass Public Health. Captain Schlafmann's office is located in the Public Service Building 4630 15th Ave. N. His primary duties will be emergency management and assisting with the hands on training at the fire department.



A full scale disaster exercise was held at Hector International Airport on June 1. The exercise was a terrorist bombing of a 727 on approach to the airport. The drill involved mass casualties, live explosives, fire, and possible terrorist. About one hundred people participated in the exercise including emergency responders, volunteers, nonprofit groups, and administration.



The Citizens Fire Academy



The Fargo Fire Department completed its sixth Citizens Fire Academy. The participants met weekly. Some of the hands on training included rappelling and a live burn.



TRAINING

Over the last five years the training division has focused on improving specialty skills. Grants were used to host classes in collapse rescue, trench rescue, and confined space rescue, as well as, training with thermal imagers and hazardous materials. In 2006 the Department went back to the basics with refresher classes in firefighting, medical responses, vehicle extrication, and electrical safety. Training for new drivers was held in July which included vehicle and equipment maintenance, driving skills, and pump and ladder operations.



**Chief
Bruce Hoover**



**Assistant Chief
Robert Wilson**



**Captain
Leon Schlafmann**

Incident Command

Chief Hoover, Assistant Chief Wilson, and Captain Schlafmann were certified as National Incident Management instructors. Classes were given to city and county departments, as well as, emergency service providers. (To qualify for future Homeland Security grants National Incident Management classes were completed by the Department.)



**Emergency Coordinator
Kym Overland**



**Assistant Chief
Steve Balstad**



**Assistant Chief
Robert Wilson**

City of Fargo Emergency Coordinator Overland, Assistant Chief Balstad, and Assistant Chief Wilson conducted Incident Management tabletop exercises for responders including the Fargo Police Department, FM Ambulance, and the National Guard.



**Assistant Chief
Lawrence Schuh**

MCTO

Assistant Chief Schuh conducted the final class segment for the National Fire Academy course *Managing Company Tactical Operations* (MCTO). The course consisted of three segments. The first involved planning. The second involved decision making. The final course involved tactics, with many officers going through simulations using Fargo buildings for the mock fire incidents.



**Assistant Chief
Dean Meyer**

Leadership

Assistant Chief Meyer conducted the first class segment for the National Fire Academy course *Leadership*. This course consisted of three segments. The first involves decision making and problem solving at the company level. The next two segments will cover strategies for personal and supervisory success.



**Captain
Clark Dietz**

Positive Pressure

Captain Dietz instructed the entire department on positive pressure fire attack. When used properly this tactic will mitigate damage and lessen the likelihood of a flashover.



**Captain
Ellis Aakre**



**Inspector
John Arens**

Defensive Driving

Captain Aakre and Inspector Arens taught the defensive driving course to all city employees with the exception of the police department.



**Captain
Dane Carley**



**Firefighter Specialist
Robert Darrah**



**Firefighter
Jason Ness**

Certified Instructors

Captain Dane Carley, Firefighter Specialist Robert Darrah, and Firefighter Jason Ness were certified as “Courage To Be Safe” instructors. This class emphasizes many aspects of on the job safety for firefighters, from driving safety, to personal physical fitness, and more. The main message of this class is making sure that everyone goes home.



**Firefighter
Dave Conrad**

Structural Collapse

In January of 2006 Firefighter Conrad attended a 10 day advanced course on structural collapse. The course, made possible by a grant, was held in College Station, Texas at the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). TEEX has a full scale city with fully collapsible buildings, rubble piles with tunnels, and a train derailment. Techniques were taught in shoring, lifting, and moving objects, as well as, breaching and breaking skills.



Captain Rory Eidsness



On Monday May 8th, Captain Rory Eidsness suffered a severe stroke. He was taken by ambulance to MeritCare Hospital where he was put on a respirator, put into an induced coma, and stabilized. When brought out of the coma the only voluntary movement Captain Eidsness had was eye movement. In June, Captain Eidsness was transferred from MeritCare to Craig Hospital in Colorado for rehabilitation. In October, he returned to his home in Fargo. The latest update indicated Captain Eidsness is showing improvement with head movement, some voluntary arm movement, and reflex movement in his legs and feet.



Eidsness Benefit



A spaghetti feed and silent auction was held at the Civic Auditorium to benefit the Eidsness' family. All city commissioners helped with the benefit.



(Below) Firefighters head up the remodeling of the Eidsness home while Captain Eidsness is in Craig Hospital.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Firefighters help at the annual Christmas Gift fundraiser on the downtown mall and the Christmas Wish fundraiser at West Acres.

Christmas Gift



Christmas Wish



Firefighters Local 642

Participated and made donations in these and many other charity events.



- Bell ringers for the Salvation Army
- Christmas gifts to hospitalized pediatric patients
- Assisted with calls at the Muscular Dystrophy telethon
- Assisted at the Muscular Dystrophy summer camp



Fargo Fire Explorer Program



POST 259



**Firefighter Specialist
Paul Young**

Firefighter Specialist Young heads up Fargo Fire Explorer Post 259. The Fire Explorer program is dedicated to educate young adults about a career in the fire service. Explorers gain hands-on knowledge of fire service skills through organized training at bi-weekly meetings. In 2006 Explorers helped with sandbagging and also helped with charities by ringing bells for the Salvation Army, and the “Fill the Boot” for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



First the explorers learn how to tie the knots... then, they learn how to use them.

Fire Prevention Bureau Hours



RECORD KEEPING/REPORTS	781
RESEARCH/OTHER	878
BUILDING INSPECTIONS	717
RECHECK INSPECTIONS	83
SPECIAL OR REQ. INSPECTIONS	622
CHURCH INSPECTIONS	47
SCHOOL INSPECTIONS	62
FLAMMABLE LIQUID INSPECTIONS	203
PLAN REVIEW	283
INVESTIGATIONS	333
TRAINING	277
FIRE DRILL ACTIVITIES	14
PERMITS	436
PUBLIC RELATIONS	<u>504</u>
TOTAL	5,240

Number of Inspections

Fire Suppression Inspections

Commercial	4243
Apartments	<u>592</u>
TOTAL	4835

Fire Prevention Bureau Inspections

Public Assembly.....	145
Offices.....	164
Educational.....	243
Factory.....	69
Hazardous Materials.....	127
Institutional.....	22
Mercantile.....	61
Residential.....	92
Storage.....	32
Utility.....	16
Special Inspections.....	<u>1305</u>

TOTAL **2276**

The yearly inspection goals are:

- A) to inspect 100% of the commercial properties and
- B) to inspect 50% of the apartment properties.

Both goals were met in 2006



Fire Suppression Division Hours

Fire Emergencies	16,566.5
Medical Responses	5,224
Emergency Training	28,732.5
Hydrant Flushing	2,165.5
Hydrant Maintenance	76.5
Public Relations	1,050
Assembly Inspections	270.5
General Maintenance	13,789
Data Entry	3,424
Equipment Maintenance	4,180.5
Vehicle Maintenance	5,334.5
Administration Projects	<u>2,729.5</u>
TOTAL	83,543



Maintenance Division Hours



Emergency Vehicle Maint. & Repair	1260
Emergency Equipment Maint. & Repair	326
Emerg. Equip. Testing & Certification	254
Support Vehicle & Maintenance & Repair	209
Non-Emergency Equip. Maint. & Repair	197
Research & Equipment Modification	506
Buildings & Grounds Maint. & Repair	196
Record Keeping/Inventory Control	<u>348</u>
TOTAL HOURS	3296

Fargo's Ranking in *Firehouse Magazine* Survey

BUSIEST ENGINE COMPANY

	DEPARTMENT		TOTAL RUNS
210.	Killeen, TX.....	E6.....	1,410
211.	Waterbury, CT.....	E10.....	1,410
212.	Fargo, ND.....	E801	1,391
213.	Concord, NC.....	E2	1,371
214.	Cedar Park, TX.....	E1.....	1,365

BUSIEST LADDER COMPANY

	DEPARTMENT		TOTAL RUNS
196.	Shoreline, WA.....	T61.....	635
197.	Decatur, IL.....	T1.....	618
198.	Fargo, ND.....	L821.....	615
199.	Kingsport, TN.....	L1.....	610
200.	Santa Barbara County, CA.....	T11.....	609

BUSIEST HAZMAT UNIT

	DEPARTMENT		TOTAL RUNS
87.	San Francisco, Ca.....	HZ1.....	38
88.	Cobb County, GA.....	HM8.....	37
89.	Fargo, ND.....	HM846.....	37
90.	Roanoke, VA.....	HM1.....	36
91.	Tallahassee, FL.....	HM2.....	36

BUSIEST STATION

	DEPARTMENT	STATION	RUNS	UNITS
209.	Olathe, KS.....	2.....	2,759.....	4
210.	Snohomich County #7, WA.....	71.....	2,746.....	7
211.	Fargo, ND.....	HQ.....	2,728.....	3
212.	Waterbury, CT	10.....	2,691.....	2b
213.	Huntsville, AL.....	1.....	2,668.....	2

BUSIEST CHIEF

	DEPARTMENT	CHIEF	TOTAL RUNS
129.	Toledo, OH.....	B2.....	747
130.	Greeley, CO.....	BC4160.....	731
131.	Fargo, ND.....	BC800.....	722
132.	Deltona, FL.....	BA61.....	719
133.	Hagerstown, MD.....	B2.....	717

BUSIEST HEAVY RESCUE

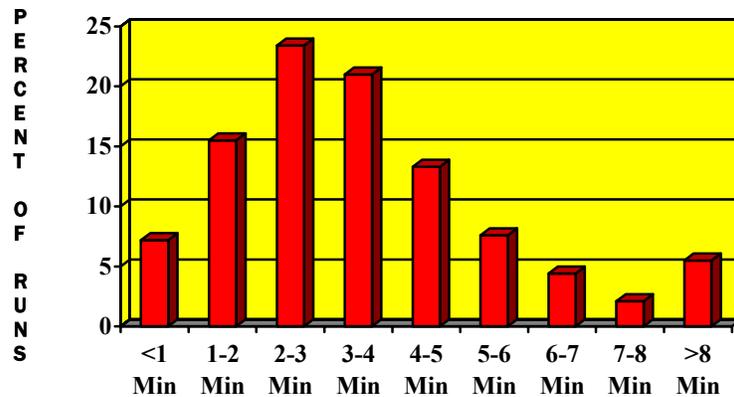
	DEPARTMENT	UNIT	TOTAL RUNS
87.	Columbia, SC.....	R1.....	893
88.	Decatur, IL.....	SQ1.....	871
89.	Fargo, ND.....	HR834.....	859
90.	Flint, MI.....	SQ1.....	847
91.	Oklahoma City, OK.....	R8.....	806

FIRE LOSS SUMMARY

INCIDENT TYPE

LOSSES

BUILDING FIRE.....	\$1,415,825
FIRES IN STRUCTURES OTHER.....	\$25,700
FIRE, OTHER.....	\$5,700
FIRE IN MOBILE HOME.....	\$31,347
MOBILE PROPERTY (VEHICLE).....	\$11,000
PASSENGER VEHICLE FIRE.....	\$95,910
ROAD FREIGHT OR TRANSPORT.....	\$85,000
CAMPER OR RECREATIONAL.....	\$8,000
OUTSIDE RUBBISH FIRE AND TRASH...	\$110
DUMPSTER OR OTHER OUTSIDE.....	\$14,777
SPECIAL OUTSIDE FIRE.....	\$500
OUTSIDE STORAGE FIRE.....	\$37,750
OFF-ROAD VEHICLE.....	\$30,000
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT.....	\$15,000
CHIMNEY FIRE.....	\$1,000
COOKING FIRE.....	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$1,778,619



Emergency Response Times

Average Response Time = 4:19 Minutes

SITUATION SUMMARY

FIRE	239
EXPLOSION/OVERPRESSURE.....	10
RESCUE/ EMERGENCY MEDICAL....	1469
HAZARDOUS CONDITION.....	232
SERVICE CALLS.....	431
GOOD INTENT CALLS.....	380
FALSE CALLS.....	832
WEATHER CALLS.....	3
SPECIAL INCIDENT.....	<u>13</u>
TOTAL INCIDENT COUNT	3609

Looking beyond 2006

When considering future needs for fire protection for the city of Fargo we must remain cognizant that there is no single solution to be found when designing a community's fire protection system. It is obvious that as the city expands geographically so must the fire department. Less obvious is the concept that cost effective fire protection includes much more than investing in fire suppression equipment and personnel.

- Community risks are identified and considered when allocating resources. This is valuable for locating stations at or near the most efficient locations possible.
- Current planning considerations include an emphasis on fire prevention and pre-fire planning. A public/private partnership in community fire protection must be maintained by balancing emergency response capabilities with adoption of fire codes.
- Technological resources are utilized to maximize efficiency in delivery of service.
- Planning considerations are reviewed annually.

During 2006 the department made a presentation to the Fargo City Commission that identified the following considerations that warrant immediate attention:

1. Acquire suitable property for a future fire station in the area of 45th St. and 40th Ave. S. as soon as possible.
2. Identify funding for the remodeling of Station 2, which will provide the housing of the second rescue/ladder company.
3. Acquire property appropriate for a future fire station in the area of 25th St. S. and 56th Ave. S.

By continually monitoring the changing environment in Fargo and understanding that the fire department needs to change with this dynamic external force, the citizens of Fargo can be assured that they will continue to receive quality emergency services in a cost effective manner.