

2007 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: February 6, 2008

Subject: Fargo Fire Department Annual Report

As Chief of Fargo's Fire Department, I submit for your review this annual report for calendar year 2007. This report summarizes the activities of the Department's various divisions and provides statistical information on the services provided by the department.

The Department seeks to ensure that what we are doing is in the best interest of the citizens we serve. The most cost effective component of community fire protection is the prevention of fires and preplanning emergencies to limit the loss when fires do occur. Since 2000, the Department has provided fire prevention inspections in all commercial occupancies annually. This includes preplanning these occupancies to facilitate more effective response should an emergency occur. We also inspect and preplan all multi-family occupancies biannually.

Another important component of fire prevention is educating the citizen. The focus of public education is primarily high risk populations and high risk behaviors. High risk populations include the very young and the senior population. As high risk behaviors are identified within our community, various methods are used to educate the citizens; these include the use of billboards and public service announcements on the radio and television.

The citizens of Fargo can continue to be certain that when help and protection are needed in emergencies, the Fargo Fire Department will be there to meet those needs. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve the community.



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2007 Fargo Fire Department

Chief1
 Suppression Division90
 Support/Prevention Division7

Administrative Support2
 Emergency Management1
Total Department Strength101



Station 1

Assistant Chief 800 – 641 Responses
 Engine 801 – 1232 Responses
 Ladder 821 – 541 Responses



Station 2

Engine 802 – 821 Responses
 Suburban 2 – 126 Responses



Station 3

Engine 803 – 718 Responses
 Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) – 23



Station 4

Engine 804 – 835 Responses
 Rescue 834 – 728 Responses



Station 5

Engine 805 – 745 Responses



Station 6

Engine 806 – 241 Responses
 HazMat Unit 846 – 41 Responses

FARGO FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ROSTER

December 2007

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

Coming and Going

New Firefighters



Brett Czaplewski, Deric Knutson, Jason Underdahl, Nicholas Dufty, Mason Krueger, Jeffery Sprout, Brett Bergh

New Support Technician



Bruce Shirley

Retirees



Captain Rory Eidsness
19 years of service



Firefighter Richard Jordahl
30 years of service



Firefighter Bruce Shirley
27 years of service



**Captain
Leon Schlafmann
Emergency Services Coordinator**

To ensure continued access to homeland security funds, 2007 started off with evacuation and sheltering planning for the city. This included planning for the citizens capable of self-rescue, as well as for the special needs population and pet population.

The Red River reached flood stage seven times with a projected crest of 32 to 33 feet. On June 4th the city of Fargo declared an Emergency declaration followed by state and presidential disaster declarations. The next two months were spent working with FEMA and the engineering department, on reimbursement.

This office sponsored a table top training session. The scenario used was a hostage situation involving explosives and hazardous materials at a Fargo school. 23 agencies of the joint task force participated in the exercise.

Throughout the year this office has been working on the NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliance issues. The emergency management office hosted a number of classes on NIMS 700 and ICS 100, 200, 300, and 400. Training included city and county employees and others. Attendance reached well over 300 students.

Regional response teams have become an important planning consideration within the state of North Dakota. To date, an outline has been prepared and it appears that the state is moving in the direction of a regional response for CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radioactive/Nuclear, and Explosive) events. An advisory and policy committee has been formed and emergency management has been involved in this process.

The Citizens Fire Academy



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



Training

Over 30,850 hours of training were logged in 2007.

- This is more than 354 hours for every firefighter and company officer.
- Each of these individuals averaged more than 12 - three hour training drills for the year.
- At least four of these drills were multiple company drills.
- Two of the multi-company drills were completed at night.

Suppression officers completed 956 hours of officer training for the year. This is an average of 40 hours each for all the company officers and shift commanders.



Suppression personnel averaged 30.3 hours per person training on response to hazardous materials releases.

Recruits trained over 240 hours.

- 120 hours of basic fire fighter skills
- 120 hours of emergency medical training

This training provides them with training beyond the firefighter I standards, as published in NFPA 1001. Additionally, the first year recruits and their officers complete the International Fire Service Training Association self study program. This program reinforces Firefighter I skills and teaches Firefighter II skills as prescribed by NFPA 1001.



Captain Ellis Aakre assisted with training and evaluating the entire department on company evolutions. These evolutions are designed so each firefighter can train with the equipment to accomplish the fire ground tasks that they may encounter during an emergency response.

COMMENDATIONS



**Captain
Dietz**



**Firefighter
Thompson**



**Firefighter
Viergutz**



**Captain
Schons**



**Firefighter
Swanson**



**Firefighter
Darrah**



**Captain
Hendrickson**



**Firefighter
Conrad**

These commendations were presented for duties performed at a vehicle rollover on January 26, 2007 in which three people were injured. The rescue involved the extrication of a patient that was impaled by a 20-foot length of two- inch pipe.



**Captain
Sperl**



**Firefighter
Jordahl**



**Firefighter
Cleary**



**Captain
Hendrickson**



**Firefighter
Conrad**

These commendations were presented for duties performed at an injury accident on January 27, 2007 in which two people were injured; these injuries resulted in the death of one of the accident victims.

WHITE – HARTMAN AWARD

The White-Hartman Award for Citizen Assistance recognizes a member of the general public, who has provided assistance at an emergency scene during a potentially significant, potentially dangerous or potentially life-threatening incident.



Chief Hoover awards Ryan Erickson and Stephanie Fennell

Ryan Erickson and Stephanie Fennell performed CPR at a downtown Fargo restaurant. When Engine Company 1 arrived there was no pulse found on the individual. The firefighters attached a defibrillator and a pulse was obtained after shocking. Mr. Erickson and Ms. Fennell are credited for their life-saving efforts.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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



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**
- **Battle of the badges blood drive**

Fargo Fire Explorer Program



**Firefighter EMT Specialist
Paul Young**



POST 259

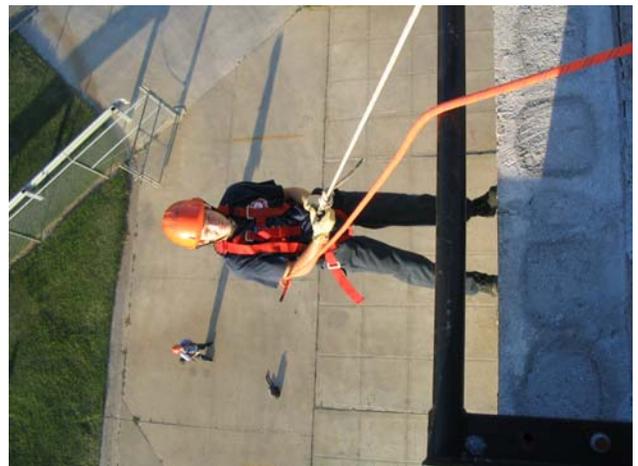


Firefighter Justin Smith

Firefighter EMT Specialist Paul Young stepped down after being advisor for the last five years. Firefighter Justin Smith now heads up Fargo Fire Explorer Post 259 after being co-advisor for the last 3 years. The Fire Explorer program is dedicated to educate young adults about a career in the fire service.

In 2007 the Explorer program gained 5 new members from local high schools. Three current members went off to college but still manage to make meetings and serve as leaders for the new explorers.

Explorers repel off the West-side training tower.



Fire Prevention Bureau Hours

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| RECORD KEEPING/REPORTS | 687 |
| RESEARCH/OTHER | 752 |
| BUILDING INSPECTIONS | 478 |
| RECHECK INSPECTIONS | 50 |
| SPECIAL OR REQ. INSPECTIONS | 705 |
| CHURCH INSPECTIONS | 84 |
| SCHOOL INSPECTIONS | 105 |
| FLAMMABLE LIQUID INSPECTIONS | 239 |
| PLAN REVIEW | 364 |
| INVESTIGATIONS | 259 |
| TRAINING | 247.5 |
| FIRE DRILL ACTIVITIES | 8 |
| PERMITS | 433 |
| PUBLIC RELATIONS | <u>507</u> |

TOTAL **4,918.5**



Number of Inspections

Fire Suppression Inspections

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Commercial | 4334 |
| Apartments | <u>710</u> |
| TOTAL | 5044 |

Fire Prevention Bureau Inspections

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Public Assembly..... | 222 |
| Offices..... | 86 |
| Educational..... | 225 |
| Factory..... | 68 |
| Hazardous Materials..... | 175 |
| Institutional..... | 27 |
| Mercantile..... | 152 |
| Residential..... | 78 |
| Storage..... | 45 |
| Utility..... | 11 |
| Special Inspections..... | <u>1041</u> |

TOTAL **2,130**

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 2007



Fire Suppression Division Hours

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Fire Emergencies | 16,864 |
| Medical Responses | 5,689 |
| Emergency Training | 28,201 |
| Hydrant Flushing | 2,103 |
| Hydrant Maintenance | 168 |
| Public Relations | 1,286 |
| Assembly Inspections | 102 |
| General Maintenance | 14,254 |
| Data Entry | 3,424 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 4,083 |
| Administration Projects | 2,678 |
| Vehicle Maintenance | <u>5,614</u> |
| TOTAL | 84,466 |



Maintenance Division Hours

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Emergency Vehicle Maint. & Repair | 1330 |
| Emergency Equipment Maint. & Repair | 128 |
| Emerg. Equip. Testing & Certification | 312 |
| Support Vehicle & Maintenance & Repair | 146 |
| Non-Emergency Equip. Maint. & Repair | 133 |
| Research & Equipment Modification | 560 |
| Buildings & Grounds Maint. & Repair | 560 |
| Record Keeping/Inventory Control | <u>230</u> |
| TOTAL HOURS | 3399 |

Fargo's Ranking in *Firehouse Magazine* Survey

BUSIEST ENGINE COMPANY

| | DEPARTMENT | | TOTAL RUNS |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 195. | Spartanburg, SC..... | E1..... | 1,189 |
| 196. | Alton, IL..... | E72..... | 1,170 |
| 197. | Fargo, ND..... | E801 | 1,158 |
| 198. | Ridgewood, NJ..... | E35..... | 1,146 |
| 199. | Maumelle, AR..... | E1..... | 1,129 |

BUSIEST LADDER COMPANY

| | DEPARTMENT | | TOTAL RUNS |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|
| 181. | Lubbock, TX..... | T1..... | 554 |
| 182. | Ridgewood, NJ..... | L36..... | 530 |
| 183. | Fargo, ND..... | L821..... | 522 |
| 183. | Green Bay, WI..... | LA421..... | 522 |
| 185. | Norwalk, CT..... | T2..... | 510 |

BUSIEST HAZMAT UNIT

| | DEPARTMENT | | TOTAL RUNS |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 80. | Dothan, AL..... | HM2..... | 35 |
| 82. | Buffalo, NY..... | HM1..... | 34 |
| 83. | Fargo, ND..... | HM846..... | 33 |
| 83. | Louisville, KY | HM1..... | 33 |
| 83. | South Bend, IN..... | HM1..... | 33 |

BUSIEST STATION

| | DEPARTMENT | STATION | RUNS | UNITS |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| 185. | Springfield, TN..... | 1..... | 2,354..... | 7 |
| 186. | Bristol, TN..... | 1..... | 2,324..... | 4 |
| 187. | Fargo, ND..... | HQ..... | 2,311..... | 3 |
| 188. | St. Joseph, MO..... | HQ..... | 2,296..... | 4 |
| 189. | Waco, TX..... | 9..... | 2,259..... | 2 |

BUSIEST CHIEF

| | DEPARTMENT | CHIEF | TOTAL RUNS |
|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 131. | Colorado Springs, Co..... | D1..... | 636 |
| 132. | Wilmington DE..... | B1..... | 635 |
| 133. | Fargo, ND..... | BC800..... | 631 |
| 134. | Watertown, NY..... | BC1..... | 627 |
| 135. | Daytona Beach, FL..... | B1..... | 623 |

BUSIEST HEAVY RESCUE

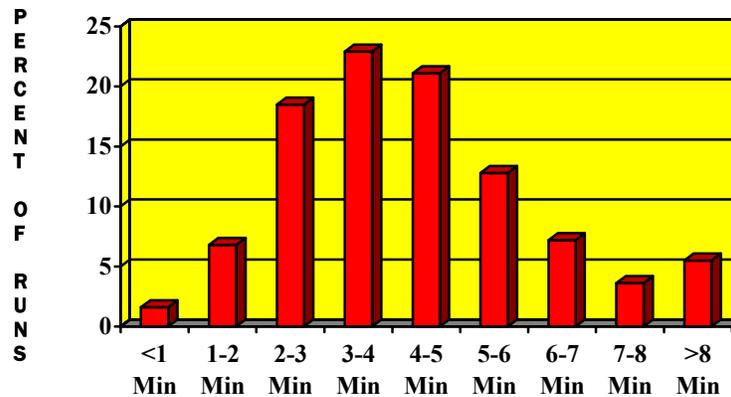
| | DEPARTMENT | UNIT | TOTAL RUNS |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 80. | Memphis, TN..... | HR2..... | 786 |
| 81. | Raleigh, NC..... | R7..... | 751 |
| 82. | Fargo, ND..... | HR834..... | 726 |
| 83. | Lawton, OK..... | R1..... | 702 |
| 84. | Chula Vista, CA..... | USAR53..... | 700 |

FIRE LOSS SUMMARY

INCIDENT TYPE

LOSSES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| BUILDING FIRE..... | \$1,623,471 |
| FIRES IN STRUCTURES OTHER..... | \$1,500 |
| FIRE, OTHER..... | \$0 |
| FIRE IN MOBILE HOME..... | \$0 |
| MOBILE PROPERTY (VEHICLE)..... | \$1,200 |
| PASSENGER VEHICLE FIRE..... | \$146,700 |
| ROAD FREIGHT OR TRANSPORT..... | \$15,000 |
| CAMPER OR RECREATIONAL..... | \$1,000 |
| OUTSIDE RUBBISH FIRE AND TRASH... | \$750 |
| DUMPSTER OR OTHER OUTSIDE..... | \$1,710 |
| SPECIAL OUTSIDE FIRE..... | \$0 |
| OUTSIDE STORAGE FIRE..... | \$1,000 |
| OFF-ROAD VEHICLE..... | \$0 |
| MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT..... | \$30,500 |
| CHIMNEY FIRE..... | \$0 |
| COOKING FIRE..... | \$350 |
| TOTAL | \$1,823,181 |



Emergency Response Times

Average Response Time = 4:11 Minutes

SITUATION SUMMARY

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| FIRE | 245 |
| EXPLOSION/OVERPRESSURE..... | 13 |
| RESCUE/ EMERGENCY MEDICAL.... | 1627 |
| HAZARDOUS CONDITION..... | 293 |
| SERVICE CALLS..... | 390 |
| GOOD INTENT CALLS..... | 410 |
| FALSE CALLS..... | 884 |
| WEATHER CALLS..... | 6 |
| SPECIAL INCIDENT..... | <u>18</u> |
| TOTAL INCIDENT COUNT | 3886 |

Looking beyond 2007

As the city of Fargo continues to develop, planning for the fire protection system must also evolve. Planning is a work in progress, adapting to meet the changes in demands for service from the Fire Department. Planning is based on the assumptions that fire department services should be provided to:

- Safeguard the general economy.
- Provide a broad range of emergency services.
- Maintain an ISO Class 3 Fire Protection rating.
- Provide service based on risk/value and demand for service.

Fire department capabilities are continually monitored and evaluated. The fire protection system plan is reviewed annually. Changes in demand for fire department services are considered; fire department capabilities are adjusted as necessary.

Factors taken into include:

- Growth of the City of Fargo
Metro COG projections suggest that by 2009, the newly developed area in southwest Fargo will have 7,500 jobs and over 12,000 residents, demonstrating the need for an additional fire station in that area. (The city commission has made a commitment to build and staff a new fire station in the area of 45th Street and 40th Avenue South.)
- Emergency Service requests
Call volume and distribution and are evaluated to identify trends for use in projecting future demands for service.
- Response Time
Planning is based on having the first responding fire apparatus at the scene of an emergency within five minutes.
- High risk and high value properties
The potential impact on citizen safety and on economic wellbeing of the community is significant in areas containing these properties.

As we move into 2008, the Fargo Fire Department is beginning a program for Fire Service Accreditation and a process to credential fire training programs.

- The purpose of fire department accreditation is to assist in organizational development through a strategic self-assessment and accreditation process.
- The process of credentialing fire training programs will facilitate continuous quality improvement and enhancement of service delivery to the community.