Retirements

- Firefighter Rick Dahly
  Retired 03/22/2018
  33 Years of Service

- Senior Firefighter Jesse Hemes
  Retired 08/13/2018
  29 Years of Service

- Senior Firefighter Michael Rogstad
  Retired 06/08/2018
  28 Years of Service

Achievements/Promotions

- Brent Hanson
  Achieved Senior Firefighter
  10/10/2018

- Thomas Hardmeyer
  Promoted to Captain
  12/17/2018

Bismarck Fire Department

2018 Annual Report
Chief’s Message

On behalf of the employees of the Bismarck Fire Department, it is an honor to present our 2018 Annual Report. The information provided in the report demonstrates the wide array of services and skills provided by the BFD staff. We strive to serve the community with professionalism and care. Thank you for reviewing our report and please contact us if we can be of assistance.

Respectfully,

Joel Boespflug
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Fire Chief
Miriam Fire Station #4

The new Miriam Ave fire station opened for business in June of 2018. The new site will allow firefighters to be closer to some of the newly developed areas of Bismarck. The department goal is to get to 90 percent of calls in four and a half minutes or less. This new location will help the department accomplish this goal.

The new station features a large training room, separate sleeping quarters, drive-through bays and is located adjacent to the burn building training facility.

An open house was held in October. The event brought in hundreds from Bismarck and beyond to celebrate the opening. Tours were given of the fire station and the training facility. The public was able to get a taste of life as a first responder with many hands-on activities and displays.

Stations

The below map provides an illustration of our five fire station locations. Emergency response is provided throughout the community from either one or multiple stations depending on the severity of the emergency and the number of responders required. For a smaller scale incident such as a vehicle fire, staff from one fire station will respond. For larger incidents such as a structure fire, staff from four or five of the stations will respond. Fire stations are carefully located for staff to provide timely responses to emergencies, and the Con Comm staff in efficient handling of 911 calls is important.

The Bismarck Fire Department has an Insurance Services Office Community Fire Protection Classification of 2.
STRATEGIES

Emergency Response
Safeguard the community by providing personnel and equipment capable of effectively mitigating natural and man-made emergencies, which are common or have significant potential to occur in our communities.

Prevention
Work to reduce the occurrence or impact of natural and man-made emergencies that are common or have significant potential to occur in our community by enforcing codes, planning, and educating the public.

Administration
Provide the administrative organization processes and policies necessary to accomplish the mission of the department in order to provide the best value for the City of Bismarck.

Workplace
Provide a work setting that helps the employees use their abilities to accomplish the mission of the department while fulfilling their professional ambitions.

MISSION

To be an innovative leader in fire services and emergency management.

VISION

To be a proactive organization protecting life and property for the City of Bismarck.

CORE VALUES

Integrity
Trust, adherence to moral and ethical principles

Nice
Kind, pleasant, caring

Commitment
Engaging, involvement, dedication

Honesty
Uprightness, fairness, reliability

Excellence
Talent or quality which is unusually good and surpasses ordinary standards

Support our Neighbors
Lend a helping hand

How We Spend Our Day...

- Responding to Emergencies
- Public Education Classes
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Inspections/Preplanning
- Administrative Work
- Checking Equipment
- Fitness
- Training
TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES TO SOFTWARE

In 2018 a number of major advancements were made at the Central Dakota Communications Center. An upgrade to the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), led to technology advancements for the emergency response agencies.

The fire department utilizes mobile data browsers that receive critical response information from the Communications Center CAD.

In conjunction with the CAD upgrade, the fire department implemented a new fire records management system and pre-fire planning software.

2018 Emergencies

4451 Emergency Incidents
ZERO Fire Fatalities
$116 million in property threatened by fire
$884 thousand in property lost to fire

2998 Emergency medical and rescue incidents
669 False alarms
74 Hazardous materials responses
54 Other hazard type responses (arching wires, power lines down, etc.)
549 All other responses (smoke scares, ruptures, etc.)
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management program is a proactive effort to best prepare the community, including city departments and staff as well as community stakeholders, to work efficiently during large-scale disasters. Emergency Management coordinates an array of activities including planning, training and exercise events, public education and emergency preparedness presentations, as well as the installation and maintenance of our city's outdoor warning sirens. As a result of "rapid damage assessment" planning efforts completed in 2018, Bismarck will follow up with training and exercise activities in 2019 to enhance our community's capability to conduct an accurate post-disaster needs assessment to help inform response and recovery priorities.

Bismarck Emergency Management, in cooperation with various entities including Bismarck Police, Bismarck Airport, CHI St. Alexius Medical Center, Sanford Health, and Metro Area Ambulance developed and participated in the 2018 Full Scale Airport Exercise simulating an aircraft disaster scenario involving multiple casualties. The activities conducted before, during, and as follow up to exercise have enhanced the level of our community readiness to respond to any disaster, including those relating to aircraft accidents. The community demonstrated impressive commitment in becoming better prepared via the full scale exercise.

TRAINING

Training is conducted on a routine basis to give personnel opportunities to learn new skills and enhance existing skills through repetition and advance drill design. In the year, the firefighting staff averaged approximately 450 hours of training each. Some of the various subjects covered in the training program are:

- Fire Suppression
- Driver/Operator
- Hazardous Materials
- Technical Rescue
- EMS

In addition, all personnel are required to spend 18 hours per year in the training building conducting live fire training.
ICE WATER RESCUE

The Ice Water Rescue discipline received funding for two suits in 2018. Another two suits will be purchased in 2019.

In the spring of 2018, each shift sent a representative to train with the Bismarck Rural Fire Department and update their knowledge of best practice for Ice Rescue.

We continue to train each spring and fall, using the Southport Bay area for on ice training and the BSC Aquatic Center for other training.

ROPE RESCUE

In 2018, the rope rescue group comprised primarily of Stations 4 and 5, continued to build upon skills and core competencies, as well as training on more advanced technical skills.

Engine 3 at Station 3 was supplied with the same inventory of equipment as Engine's 4 and 5. Assigned firefighters at Station 3 continue to work into the group, focusing on Level 1 operations, with a goal of moving towards Level 2 skills.

Within the City of Bismarck, we have identified, preplanned and trained at target hazards such as the Event Center, water treatment plant, water towers, communication towers, parking ramps, industrial sites and outdoor sites for low angle rescue.

STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE

This year with the assistance of a grant we were able to obtain a new Paratech raker system to supplement our existing cache of equipment.

We were able to send five people to TEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service) Disaster City for their Technical Search Specialist class which involved advanced techniques with listening devises, cameras and GPS's.

EMT

All emergency response personnel are trained to the National Emergency Technician level (EMT) and are recertified every two years.

We operate within a coordinated tiered response system which includes fire department response to medical emergencies such as persons having trouble breathing, chest pain, non-responsive patients, falls, stroke symptoms, overdoses, etc.

We coordinate our training utilizing the local SIM trailer (training trailer providing real life emergencies with feedback opportunities) and the local ambulance service.
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

This past year we set out to advance the skills and knowledge of our personnel on “Hazardous Materials” thru several avenues. Personnel have attended off site training at multiple locations. The training keeps us informed of new changes within the hazardous materials specialty. We also worked to streamline our hazmat training program.

Training
- Inner departmental training was conducted on the Hazmat IQ system, Terrorism, Control Techniques, Monitoring and detection, Hazmat ICS along with working on hazardous materials JPR Skill sheets.
- Personnel attended Technical training in Pueblo, CO at SERTC on Hazmat technician and Crude by rail.
- Personnel attended the Hazmat Symposium in Daytona Beach.
- Personnel attended the International Fire Chiefs Hazardous Materials Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Participated in a joint exercise with the National Guards Civil Support Team.
- We participated in a tabletop exercise in Beulah, ND on Anhydrous Ammonia.
- A full scale Multi agency exercise was conducted at the Bismarck Airport.
- Worked with the NDFA to get new firefighters Pro Board certified at Awareness and Operations levels of Hazmat.

Equipment
- The hazmat team is looking into new monitoring equipment such as a Raman Spectrometer that would assist in identifying chemicals.
- New technology thru computer software that are useful in helping us gather information and monitor operations on scene.

PREVENTION PROGRAM

The department places a high priority on fire prevention. Fire safety inspections of buildings and events are one of the most effective means to providing a safer environment by reducing risk for the occupants. The fire code enforcement program involves on-site fire inspection of approximately 4000 sites each year. In 2018, there were 734 code violations cited and by the end of the year over 90% had already been corrected.

The department continually disseminates fire safety information to the public through a number of media. Events are conducted within the fire stations, at schools, community social events and at businesses throughout the year. It is estimated that these safety events were delivered to over 19,000 children and adults in 2018. In addition, fire safety messages are released throughout the year to the media potentially reaching over 100,000 people within the broadcast area. The department maintains an up-to-date fire prevention page on the City of Bismarck website. This allows Bismarck citizens access to information and resources regarding a variety of fire safety topics.

WILDLAND FIRES

Fire personnel ensure response readiness for wildland fire incidents to include wildland urban interface risks. Training is continual to ensure competencies and skill sets are maintained. There are numerous locations throughout the community that contain heavy vegetation and difficult terrain or access. Alternative brush firefighting equipment is used in these areas.

CONFINED SPACE

Confined space operations are inherently hazardous. Confined space has limited or restricted means for entry or exit. Confined space rescue training is a high priority to ensure a high degree of safety and response readiness. This training involves hands on practical drills, as well as the pre-planning of confined spaces in our response area. Confined space examples in Bismarck include tanks, manholes, boilers, furnaces, sewers, silos, hoppers, vaults, pipes, trenches, ducts, bins and pits.
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