



EAST GRAND FORKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2025 Year End Report



East Grand Forks Fire Department

2025 Year End Report

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East Grand Forks Fire Department

A MESSAGE from Chief Boushee

Welcome to the City of East Grand Forks Fire Department's 2025 Year End Report

On behalf of the members of the East Grand Forks Fire Department, I am pleased to present this 2025 year-end report. As we close out another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the dedication, professionalism, and service demonstrated by the members of our Fire Department.

This past year brought its share of challenges, accomplishments, and growth. Our personnel responded to emergencies with skill and compassion, trained diligently to maintain the highest standards of readiness, and continued to serve our community with pride and integrity. Whether answering calls for service, supporting one another, or engaging with the public through education and outreach, our members consistently exemplified what it means to be a firefighter.

I am proud of the teamwork displayed across all levels of the department. The commitment shown by our firefighters does not go unnoticed. Their willingness to go above and beyond—often at personal sacrifice—ensures that our community remains safe and well protected.

I would also like to thank our city leadership, partner agencies, and the residents we serve for their continued trust and support. Strong relationships and collaboration are essential to our success, and we are grateful for their confidence in this department.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain focused on training, safety, accountability, and continuous improvement. We will continue working to strengthen our capabilities while upholding the values and traditions that define the fire service.

Thank you to every member of this department and to our community for another year of service, dedication, and partnership.

Sincerely,

Jeff Boushee
Fire Chief



East Grand Forks Fire Department

Mission

Our mission is to serve the citizens of our community and surrounding areas with a well-trained team of capable individuals who are “Always Ready”

Vision

We will be an adaptive organization that leads the community in public service. Through continuous training, our department will provide fire suppression, emergency medical service, disaster relief, and public education.

Values

Selfless – Putting others first
Evolving – Develop and progress
Reliable – To be trusted
Vigilant – Watchful and alert
Integrity – Strong moral principles
Courageous – Very brave
Educate – Teach others

Motto

“Always Ready”



East Grand Forks Fire Department

DEPARTMENT

The East Grand Forks Fire Department covers 188 square miles serving the City of East Grand Forks and seven surrounding townships. We provide services in EMS, fire suppression, technical rescue, hazardous materials, fire code education and enforcement, fire prevention education and activities, and emergency management.

Staffing

The department currently employs a fire chief, nine career firefighters/EMT's, and 23 paid on call firefighters/first responders. Personnel are divided into three shifts: each shift having three career firefighters along with eight paid on call firefighters. Shift supervisors have three options when needing extra personnel to respond to emergency calls for service.

- 1st alarm: responding with on-duty personnel
- 2nd alarm: adding support of shift paid on call personnel
- 3rd alarm: adding support of all available personnel

We maintain a minimum staffing level of two personnel on duty. We rely on our paid-on call staff from time to time to assist with maintaining our minimum staffing.

Organizational Chart

	Fire Chief	
	Jeff Boushee	
"A" Shift	"B" Shift	"C" Shift
Assistant Chief	Assistant Chief	Assistant Chief
Austin Skjei	Paul Hansen	Ryan Swang
Engineer	Engineer	Engineer
Tanner Petterson	Hunter Olson	Thomas Hajicek
Firefighter	Firefighter	Firefighter
Parker Anderson	Austin Cooley	Nicholas Derrick
Paid On Call	Paid On Call	Paid On Call
Todd Grabanski	Kenny Nultemeier	Jim Benson
Seth Baune	Nate Altendorf	Neil Purcell
Jason Lillibridge	Jacob Cariveau	Nathan Veiergutz
Jeremy King	Troy Tretter	Casey Clement
Cody Wasylow	Andrew Robertson	Tyler Tretter
Chad Gunderson	Frank DeCouteau	Seth Merkens
Jack Chapusette	Catherine Brier	Casey Bergh
	Ben Solem	Joshua Farrell



East Grand Forks Fire Department

Department Picture



Firefighter of the Year

Our Firefighter of the Year was Assistant Fire Chief Paul Hansen. Paul deserved the distinction as his performance was excellent. His attendance to emergency calls and training were nearly perfect.



Firefighter of the Year "Paul Hansen"



East Grand Forks Fire Department

Fleet



Command Vehicle 400
2019 Chevrolet
City



Rescue 421
2014 Ford F550
City



Fire Engine 407
2018 E-One Typhoon
City/Township



Fire Engine 408
2008 International
City



Fire Engine 409
2000 International
Township



East Grand Forks Fire Department



Aerial Platform T-1
2007 Seagrave
City



Tanker 406
2010 Kenworth
Township



Utility Vehicle 424
2022 Ford F-350
City



Utility Vehicle 420
2010 Ford F-350
City



Utility Vehicle 422
2011 Chevrolet 2500
City



East Grand Forks Fire Department



Grass Rig 412
1994 Ford
City / Township



2009 Crestliner Boat
2017 Polaris Ranger
City



Snowmobile / Cutter
2012 Arctic Bearcat
City

Fire Stations



Fire Station #1
415 4th St NW



Fire Station #2
243 5th Ave SE

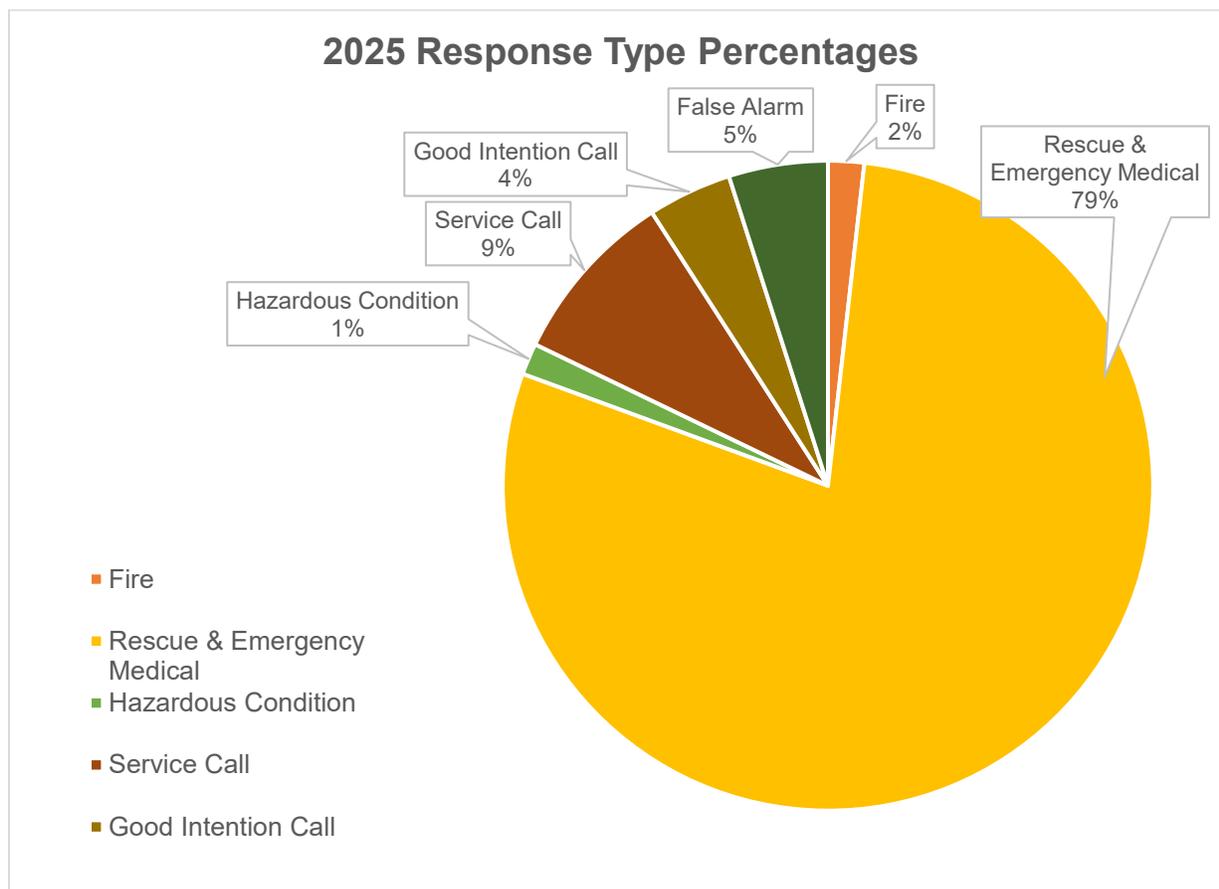


East Grand Forks Fire Department

CALLS FOR SERVICE

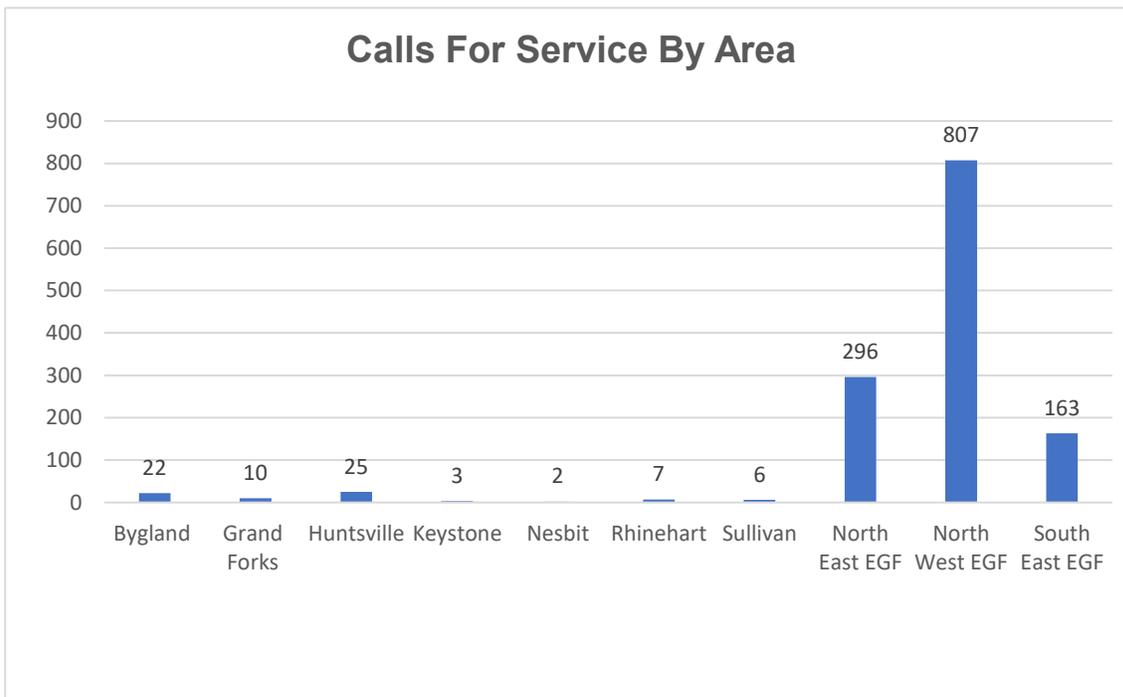
The East Grand Forks Fire Department responded to 1,343 calls for service in 2025. The following tables and graphs provide a breakdown of our 2025 calls for service. The calls are broken into 8 separate areas for reporting purposes. The following tables and graphs provide a statistical view of 2025 calls.

Fires	Building, Cooking, Vehicle, and Wildland Fires	24
Overpressure Rupture/ Explosion	Explosion, Excessive Heat	1
Rescue & Emergency Medical	Medical Assist, Vehicle Accident, Rescues	1,056
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	Carbon Monoxide, Gas/Fuel Spills, Gas leaks	21
Service Calls	Assist Public, Assist Police, Water Problem	117
Good Intent Calls	No Incident Found, Cancelled, Smoke Scare	56
False Alarm	System Malfunction, Unintentional, Malicious	66
Severe Weather	Standby, Open Shelters	2
Total Calls for 2025		1,343





East Grand Forks Fire Department



Three Year Calls for Service Breakdown			
	2023	2024	2025
Fires	38	29	24
Overpressure Rupture/ Explosion	0	1	1
Rescue & Emergency Medical	842	935	1,056
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	31	15	21
Service Calls	117	121	117
Good Intent Calls	57	62	56
False Alarm	60	58	66
Severe Weather	0	1	2
TOTAL	1145	1222	1,343



East Grand Forks Fire Department

ADMINISTRATIVE

In 2025, the Fire Department continued to provide reliable, professional service to the community while operating within the approved budget. Through careful planning and responsible spending, the department maintained required safety standards, including the scheduled replacement of personal protective equipment and upkeep of essential equipment. The department's fleet remained in excellent working condition thanks to the ongoing support of City mechanics and Fire Department staff. Grants, reimbursements, and generous community donations played an important role in helping offset costs and strengthen department resources.

The department remained focused on long-term planning throughout the year. Efforts continued in career development, training, and succession planning to ensure the Fire Department is well prepared for the future. Facility needs were also evaluated, with continued emphasis on the proposed Station 2 renovation and the addition of a training tower at Station 1 to enhance training opportunities and firefighter safety.

In May of 2025 the fire department introduced a drone team to its response capabilities. Since then, the drone has been used three times to help locate individuals who have wandered away and have a 100% success rate. The average time from drone launch to locating the person has been about 20 minutes. The department currently has two licensed pilots with four more members in training.

Another significant highlight of 2025 was the addition of two new paid-on call firefighters to the department. These new team members increase staffing capacity, improve response readiness, and support the department's ability to serve the community effectively both now and into the future.

Strategic Planning

Strategic planning efforts identified three key goals for 2025. These included improving medical training by increasing hands-on, in-person instruction; strengthening mutual aid relationships through joint training and collaboration with neighboring departments; and promoting firefighter health and wellness through fitness initiatives and education. These priorities have successfully been implemented with positive ongoing results. This effort reflects the department's ongoing commitment to safety, preparedness, and continuous improvement.

Grants

Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE): The department received a training reimbursement grant of \$30,728.00 for the fiscal year of 2025. This has been used to purchase updated curriculum, Target Solutions internet based learning system, cover tuition for outside training, and cover some overtime costs to back fill to accommodate for training. No local match is required.

DT Midstream: The department received \$3,545.00 to purchase a set of turnout gear. This grant required no local match.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

Greater Northwest EMS Grant: The department received \$721.88 to purchase communication equipment. Also received \$850.00 to cover the cost of medical training and drone pilot test. This grant is a 75/25 match.

American Crystal Sugars "Community Roots Grant": The department received \$5,000.00 to purchase a battery-operated power fan.

Donations

Ultima Bank: The East Grand Forks Ultima Bank provided pizza for the EGFFD staff on our November drill night.

East Grand Forks Fire Dept. Relief Association: The department received \$10,364.00 to purchase a drone and support equipment.

Minnesota Firefighters Foundation "Hoods for Heros Campaign": The department received 31 hoods. These hoods are part of a firefighter's personal protective equipment. The total donation is valued at approximately \$4,650.00

Fire Station #1 Flagpole Fundraiser

In 2025, the East Grand Forks Firefighters Relief Association launched a fundraising effort to install a permanent flagpole at Fire Station #1. The project is intended to honor those who serve and have served while enhancing the station's appearance and reflecting the department's pride, professionalism, and commitment to the community. Funds raised will support the purchase and installation of a lighted flagpole, granite name marker, concrete base, and associated landscaping. The total project cost is **\$19,070**, with **\$16,335 raised to date** through community and donor support. **\$2,735** needed to finish the project.

We are thankful for the support we received from the following organizations:

Widseth	Mayo MFG	Evergreen Insurance
Eagle Electric	American Federal Bank	Blue Moose
Grand City Monument	Frandsen Bank	C & H Insurance
Shea's Nursery	Good Samaritan Residents	Hugo's EGF
Walmart	Ultima Bank	Eagles Club Aerie 350
Extinguisher Guys	Black Gold Farms	Scheels
VFW Post 3817	Opticare EGF	Thompson's USA





East Grand Forks Fire Department

Township Fire Service Contract

The City of East Grand Forks provides fire services through a contract with seven townships (Bygland, Grand Forks, Huntsville, Keystone, Nesbit, Rhinehart, and Sullivan). The townships and the City of East Grand Forks have a long history of partnering to provide fire protection and emergency services to the citizens of the surrounding area. This partnership has benefited both the townships and the city. To keep this partnership strong the fire dept. hosts an annual meeting (chili feed) between township officials, city officials, and fire dept. staff. This meeting is used to update all stakeholders with fire department business, review the past year, discuss future plans, look at equipment, and discuss any concerns. This meeting is also an opportunity to show our appreciation and thank the townships for putting their trust in our fire dept. and the services we provide.

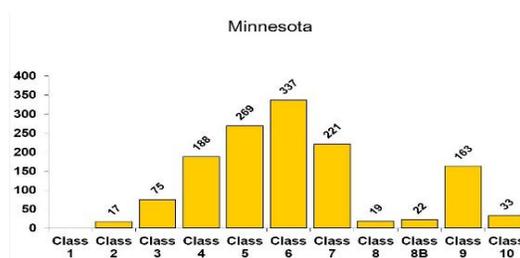
2025 was a contract renewal year. The new contract was negotiated and approved by the townships and city council; this is a 5-year contract. Also, in 2025 the townships and the City of East Grand Forks established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a fire engine replacement plan and future joint fire engine purchases.

The East Grand Forks Fire Dept. looks forward to serving the townships and building on the already great relationship.

Insurance Services Office (ISO)

The ISO's Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. In fact, most U.S. insurers use PPC information as part of their decision making when deciding what coverages to offer or prices to charge for personal and commercial property insurance. The ISO uses a 1 to 10 number system for its classifications with "1" representing the best.

The East Grand Forks Fire Department Completed an ISO assessment in 2019. As a result of that assessment the EGFFD improved from class 4 to a class 3 rating.





East Grand Forks Fire Department

TRAINING..... Training Officer Paul Hansen

The East Grand Forks Fire Department maintained a strong commitment to training and professional development throughout the year. Our members collectively completed over 2,000 man-hours of training, focusing on operational readiness, firefighter safety, and continuous skill improvement. This training ensured department members remained prepared to effectively respond to a wide range of emergency incidents.

Over the past year, department members accumulated training hours through a combination of in-house drills, live fire evolutions, and onboarding and development of new firefighters. Firefighters continue to utilize the use of technology and our partnership with Altru Ambulance to complete their required 40 hours of education to maintain their EMT and first responder certifications.

Several members participated in a live hotel training burn in Warroad, Minnesota. This unique and rare opportunity provided valuable hands-on experience in a multi-story commercial structure, allowing firefighters to practice fire attack, search and rescue, ventilation, and coordinated crew operations in a realistic environment. The training emphasized situational awareness, communication, and safety under live fire conditions.

Department members attended a variety of outside training schools and courses throughout the year. These opportunities allowed firefighters to gain advanced knowledge and bring updated techniques and best practices back to the department. Topics included firefighting operations, incident command, and specialized rescue skills.

The department placed a strong emphasis on training and mentoring new firefighters. New members completed required entry-level training, hands-on skill development, and department orientation. Senior members played an active role in mentoring, ensuring new firefighters developed the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary to operate safely and effectively on the fireground.

As we look forward into 2026, we strive to ensure our team is always ready for any emergency that may arise in our community. Our membership remains committed to providing a quality service to all who live and visit our great community, through training and education.





East Grand Forks Fire Department

FIRE PREVENTION.....Fire Prevention Officer Austin Skjei

Fire Prevention this year continued to support the department’s mission of protecting life, property, and promoting community safety through proactive risk reduction, education, and code enforcement.

Throughout the year, fire and life safety inspections were conducted across commercial, multi-family residential, educational, and public assembly occupancies. Emphasis was placed on compliance through education and cooperation with property owners, resulting in improved understanding of fire code requirements and reduced repeat violations.

Public education is a core focus. Fire safety programs were delivered to local schools, community groups, and businesses, with targeted messaging on smoke alarms, escape planning, cooking safety, heating safety, and seasonal hazards. In addition, the department initiated public CPR training classes, expanding community preparedness and providing residents with lifesaving skills that support improved outcomes during medical emergencies. The department continues to implement our smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detector installation program, providing and installing devices in residences to reduce fire-related injuries and deaths while improving early detection of fire and CO hazards. Fire station tours were conducted for schools, community groups, and residents, offering hands-on fire safety education, familiarization with emergency operations, and opportunities to strengthen community trust and engagement. Outreach efforts strengthened community awareness and reinforced the importance of prevention and preparedness as shared responsibilities.





East Grand Forks Fire Department

HEALTH & SAFETY.....Health & Safety Officer Ryan Swang

OSHA Emergency Response Standard — Status Update

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is actively working to modernize its outdated *Fire Brigades* standard (29 CFR 1910.156) by replacing it with a new *Emergency Response Standard* that would cover a broader range of emergency responders, including firefighters, EMS, and technical rescue personnel. The rule was published as a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in February 2024 and received extensive public comments, with comment periods and an informal public hearing extending into early 2025. OSHA is currently reviewing the public input and testimony, and no final rule has been issued yet; the existing Fire Brigades standard remains in effect during this ongoing review process. The proposed standard would include updated requirements for emergency response programs, hazard assessments, training, PPE, and responder health protections designed to align OSHA regulations more closely with current NFPA consensus standards.

Because the final regulation is still under analysis and has no set publication date, the fire department will continue to monitor OSHA communications and prepare for potential changes once the standard is finalized.

OSHA Emergency Response Standard — Major Potential Impacts

While the final text is not yet published, the proposed Emergency Response Standard could bring significant implications for fire departments, including:

- Expanded scope covering more responder roles beyond industrial fire brigades.
- Formalized requirements for written emergency response programs, training plans, and hazard assessments.
- Updated PPE and health & wellness provisions aligned to modern NFPA standards.
- Increased emphasis on responder health screening and behavioral-health support.

Turnout Gear Purchasing Continuation

In alignment with our ongoing commitment to firefighter safety, the department continued its annual purchase of **three (3) new sets of turnout gear** in 2025. This strategic investment, at an approximate cost of **\$10,000 per year**, ensures that gear remains up to date with service demands and provides reliable personal protective equipment for all active members. Turnout gear procurement remains a priority in the annual budgeting process to maintain readiness and compliance with industry's best practices.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Fire Chief is responsible for performing the duties of the Emergency Manager for the City of East Grand Forks. I have included a summary of Emergency Management activities for this past year.

Spring Flooding

The National Weather Service 2025 spring flood outlook anticipated minor flooding across the region. This was the case of the Red River of the North, which never came out of its banks. This was a nonevent in terms of spring flooding.

Severe Weather

We opened storm shelters on June 21st due to severe weather moving through our area, sheltering 89 people. On Aug. 8th storm shelters were opened due to a tornado warning for our area, sheltering 79 people and 13 pets.

Disaster Assistance

On June 21st the Bemidji area experienced a devastating straight-line wind/tornado event. Members of the East Grand Forks Fire Department responded to the request for assistance with cleanup efforts. For three consecutive days firefighters with equipment assisted eleven homes clearing debris from yards.

Emergency Management Training

The East Grand Forks Emergency Management Team continues to prepare through training. We had three members of our team attend a tabletop exercise in Mahanomen. The East Grand Forks Team performed very well and gained good knowledge and experience. Members also attended a Red Cross Sheltering Management training and exercise, EPA Red River Area Plan meeting, Minnesota Emergency Managers Conference and the HSEM Governors Conference.





East Grand Forks Fire Department



“Junior Firefighter Academy 2025”





East Grand Forks Fire Department



“Always Ready”