



EAST GRAND FORKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2020 Year-end Report



East Grand Forks Fire Department

2020 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 2020 Year End Report

As the newly appointed Fire Chief of the City of East Grand Forks I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve our community as the Fire Chief, I take this responsibility very seriously. I am looking forward to serving with integrity, dedication, passion and most importantly with a desire to serve. It is a pleasure to present this 2020 year-end report of the Fire Departments services and activities. I would like to first recognize the past Fire Chief and Chief's for their accomplishments which helped form a solid foundation to build on as we continue to maintain and improve our services to the community. I would also like to recognize the support of the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator and the Residents of our community, your support is very important and appreciated.

2020 has been very unusual, challenging and full of change. We started the year with the retirement of Fire Chief Gary Larson. Under new leadership of an Interim Fire Chief (myself) we entered into one of the top if not the top state of emergencies our community has experienced with the Pandemic. We then rolled into the spring flood fight, Fire Chief hiring process, Assistant Fire Chief and Engineer promotional process and Hiring process. All this has brought with it challenges, change, new leadership in several areas and new faces. In the midst of all this our Firefighters have been steadfast and resilient, continuing to deliver excellent emergency services to our community.

I would like to share with you some of the challenges and changes we have faced with this pandemic. We have had to change the way we think and operate. First and foremost is the safety of our citizens and our firefighters. Initially we worked on PPE inventory, limiting access to our fire stations, disinfecting our stations daily, daily health screenings, social distancing, wearing masks and modify how we respond to emergencies. We then moved to trying to isolate crews to assigned stations, limiting our interaction. During this time we also put our in person training, fire safety inspections, and public education activities on hold. We did experience a run of COVID exposures that really put a strain on our fulltime staff as well as our paid on call staff, but again our Firefighters were steadfast and resilient. As we continue to move forward in anticipation of a vaccine we are hopeful and maybe we will get back to normal!

Finally I would like to give a big THANK YOU to my Firefighters and their Families, your Dedication, Support and Sacrifices are appreciated. You are the reason for our success!!

Sincerely
Jeff Boushee
Fire Chief



East Grand Forks Fire Department

DEPARTMENT

The East Grand Forks Fire Department serves the City of East Grand Forks as well as 7 surrounding townships, which is approximately 188 square miles. The services we provide are EMS, Fire Suppression, Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Fire Code Education / Enforcement, Fire Prevention Education / Activities and Emergency Management.

Staffing

The department currently employs 1 Fire Chief, 9 Fulltime Firefighters/EMT's and 19 Paid-on-Call Firefighters/FR's. We are in the process of hiring 6 additional Paid-on-Call to bring our roster up to the council approved level of 35 Firefighters. The department is divided into 3 shifts (A, B, C). Each shift has 3 fulltime and 8 Paid-on-Call Firefighters. Our shift supervisors (Assistant Fire Chief's) have three options to handle emergency calls.

1st Alarm = On duty fulltime staff

2nd Alarm= On duty fulltime staff plus 8 Paid-on-Call Firefighters

3rd Alarm= On duty fulltime staff plus all off duty Firefighters (Both fulltime and Paid-on-Call)

The department maintains a minimum level of 2 Firefighters on duty at all times. Our Paid-on-Call Firefighters are relied on to help maintain our minimum level of staffing if needed.

Organizational Chart

	Fire Chief	
	Jeff Boushee	
"A" Shift	"B" Shift	"C" Shift
Assistant Chief	Assistant Chief	Assistant Chief
Jeff Anderson	Paul Hansen	Kevin Boushee
Engineer	Engineer	Engineer
Tanner Petterson	Ryan Swang	Austin Skjei
Firefighter	Firefighter	Firefighter
Benjamin Staska	Thomas Hajicek	Hunter Olson
Paid On Call	Paid On Call	Paid On Call
Todd Grabanski	Seth Merkens	Jim Benson
Nathan Viergutz	Cody Wasylow	Chad Erickson
Casey Bergh	Kenny Nultemeier	Jeff Voigt
Jason Lillibridge	Troy Tretter	Casey Clement
Jeremy King	Nate Altendorf	Neil Purcell
Matthew Steien	Jacob Cariveau	Tyler Tretter
Seth Baune		



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



Grass Rig 412
1994 Ford
City / Township



Utility Vehicle 420
2010 Ford F-350
City



Utility Vehicle 422
2011 Chevrolet 2500
City



East Grand Forks Fire Department



Boat
2009 Crestline
City



UTV 412
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

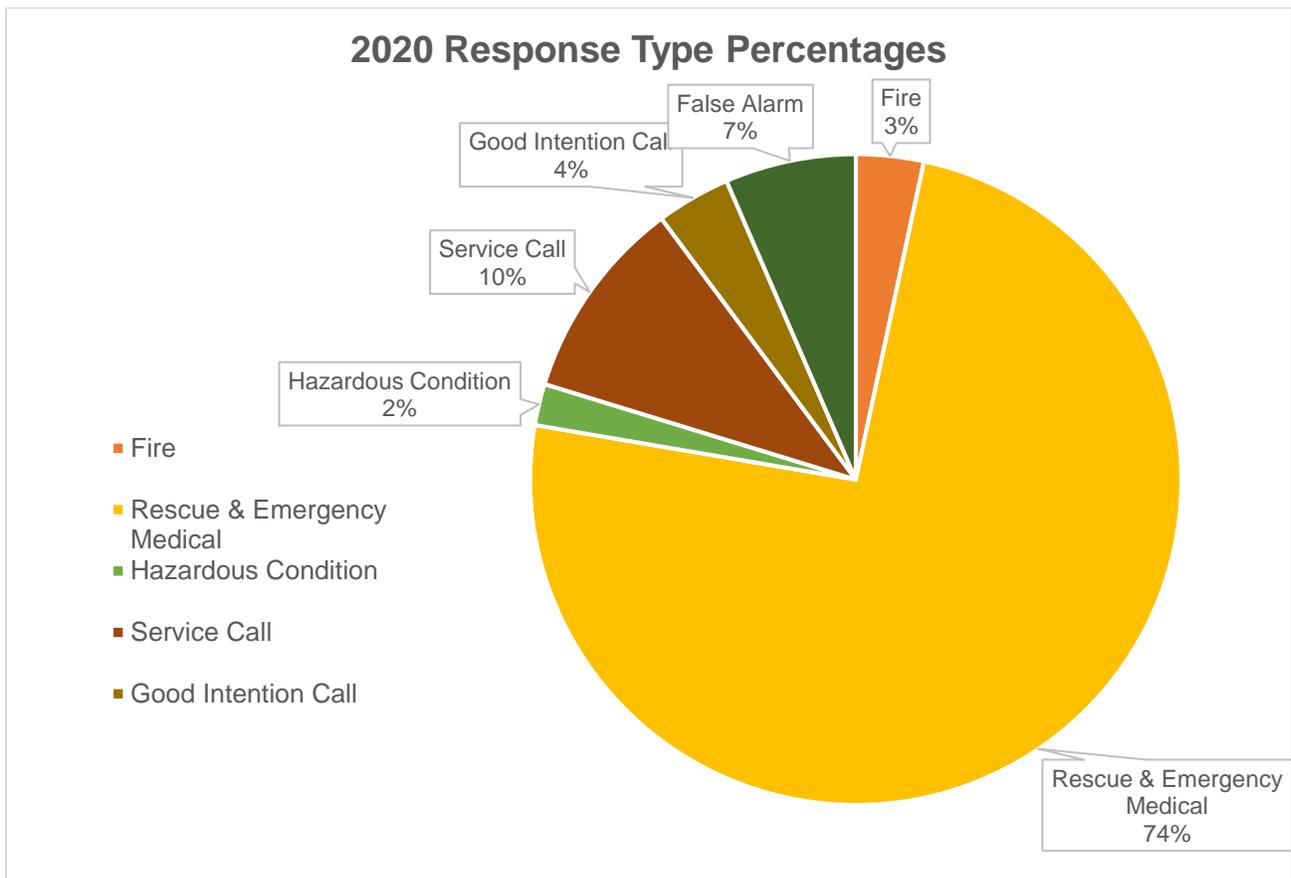


East Grand Forks Fire Department

CALLS FOR SERVICE

The East Grand forks Fire Department responded to 930 calls for service in 2020. The following tables and graphs provide a breakdown of our 2020 calls for service. The calls are broke into 8 separate areas for reporting purposes. The following tables and graphs provide a statistical view of 2020 calls.

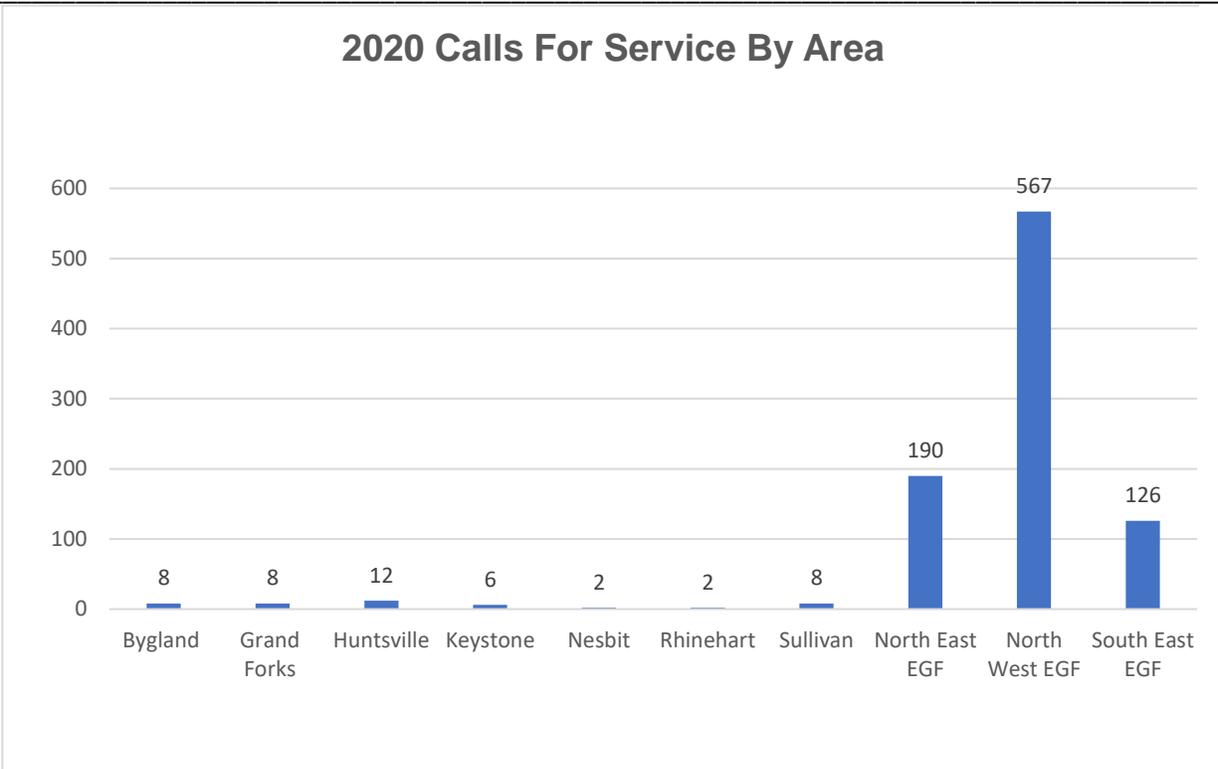
Fires	Building, Cooking, Vehicle and Wildland Fires	31
Overpressure Rupture/ Explosion	Explosion, Excessive Heat	4
Rescue & Emergency Medical	Medical Assist, Vehicle Accident, Rescues	686
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	Carbon Monoxide, Gas/Fuel Spills, Gas leaks	19
Service Calls	Assist Public, Assist Police, Water Problem	93
Good Intent Calls	No Incident Found, Cancelled, Smoke Scare	34
False Alarm	System Malfunction, Unintentional, Malicious	60
Severe Weather	Standby, Open Shelters	3
Total Calls for 2020		930





East Grand Forks Fire Department

2020 Calls For Service By Area



Three Year Calls for Service Breakdown

	2018	2019	2020
Fires	23	22	31
Overpressure Rupture/ Explosion	4	7	4
Rescue & Emergency Medical	714	758	686
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	22	24	19
Service Calls	159	143	93
Good Intent Calls	33	40	34
False Alarm	52	72	60
Severe Weather	1	1	3
TOTAL	1008	1067	930



East Grand Forks Fire Department

ADMINISTRATIVE

As a new Fire Chief I have dedicated much of my time to working on planning and establishing department direction and goals. As I look back at 2020 we have been making progress, we have implemented some change and made many improvements. I must say with the impact of COVID on our department I have had to learn patience. The following is a brief description of our accomplishments and future plans

Staffing

This year we have promoted Paul Hansen to Assistant Fire Chief and Tanner Petterson to Engineer. Firefighter Hunter Olson successfully completed his probation. We have also hired Benjamin Staska as a Fulltime Firefighter and Matthew Steien as a Paid-on-Call. We are also in the process of hiring 6 Paid-on-Call. This hiring process we have put on hold due to COVID.

Grants

2018 Assistance to Firefighter Grant: The department received a Federal grant for \$89,692.00 with a local match of 4,271.05 to add a vehicle exhaust removal system to station 2 and to replace outdated fire hose. We had an Exhaust Removal System installed at Station 2 and replaced 3,475 ft. of various size fire hose. Due to competitive pricing we had left over funds of \$4,996.26 which we were approved to use to replace 4 outdated Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

Minnesota State Fire Marshal Grant: The department received a state grant for \$6,981.00 with a local match of \$2,327.00 for a Gear Washer/Extractor/Dryer. With this grant we installed a new Gear Washer at Station 1 and installed a washer and dryer at Station 2.

ONEOK Foundation Grant: The department received a \$3,894.00 for EMS Equipment. With this we replaced 1 outdated Automated External Defibrillator (AED), replaced 2 Handheld Pulse Oximeters and purchased 1 AED Trainer. This grant required no local match.

Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE): The department received a Training reimbursement grant of \$5,800.00 for the fiscal year of 2021. This has been used to purchase updated curriculum, cover tuition for outside training, and cover some overtime costs to back fill to accommodate for training.

Strategic Planning

Two of my goals is to implement a Fire Department Mission & Vision statement and create an internal position of Health & Safety Officer. The Mission & Vision statement will describe our purpose as well as drive our future plans. We have created a committee that is currently in the process of accomplishing this task. The Health & Safety Officer position has been created and assigned. We have also finished the job descriptions for this position as well as the other two internal positions of Training Officer and Fire Prevention Officer. We have built a succession plan for our internal positions of Training Officer, Fire Prevention Officer and newly created Health and Safety Officer. To accomplish this we have assigned individuals as Training Officer in training, Fire Prevention Officer in training.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

Facility Improvements and Repairs

- Station 1
 - Exterior painted
 - Parking lot painted
 - Bunkrooms & dayroom painted
 - 1 AC unit replaced
 - Intercom system updated
 - 4 overhead doors & openers replaced
 - Turnout gear extractor (washing machine) installed
 - Vehicle exhaust system repaired & updated
- Station 2
 - Exterior painted
 - Parking lot painted
 - Intercom system updated
 - Washer & Dryer installed
 - New vehicle exhaust system installed

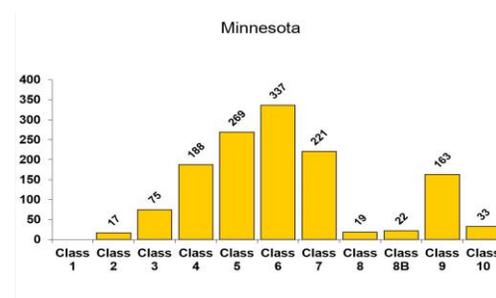
Township Fire Service Contract

The City of East Grand Forks provides Fire Services through a contract with 7 Townships (Bygland, Grand Forks, Huntsville, Keystone, Nesbit, Rhinehart and Sullivan). 2020 was a renewal year for that contract. This contract was successfully negotiated and extended until 2025. I would like to recognize the Township Boards, Mayor, Councilmen and City Administrator for their time, effort and cooperation in accomplishing this contract extension. During this time the township equipment inventory was revised and updated.

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 a class 4 to a class 3 rating.





East Grand Forks Fire Department

TRAINING.....Training Officer Paul Hansen

2020 was a year of first for all of us and the world of firefighting is no exception. We went from training in person with our entire department to trying to figure out how to effectively train in the world of a pandemic. In a typical year we train with the entire department the first Monday of the month, in 2020 we learned that we can effectively train via ZOOM and in smaller groups to accomplish the goals of the department through training.

This past year firefighters spent time honing skills they have already learned and spent time learning new skills. We were fortunate enough to obtain new gas meters and automatic external defibrillator (AED), with new technology means time spent on training in the use, care and maintenance of those devices so we can effectively serve our community. We as a department decided that we needed to employ a new hose load for our apparatus, firefighters spent countless hours researching which load would be most effective for our department. In turn that required said firefighters to then spend countless hours learning how to effectively deploy those loads in the timeliest and effective way possible, which then meant to load the hose just to do it over and over again. We also spent time training on modern fire attack with the use of the Northland Community and Technical College burn facility, pump operations and other essential firefighting skills. Our technical rescue team had the opportunity to train on a few occasions and hone their confined space and high angle rescue techniques. Firefighters also took the opportunity to practice vehicle extrication training using the “Jaws of Life”.

2020 was a year of accomplishment for individual firefighters, Tanner Petterson obtained his CPR instructor certification. With this certification he will now be tasked with teaching CPR not only to firefighters but to citizens alike. Paul Hansen obtained his Fire Officer I certification. We also saw paid on call and full-time firefighters take a weekend and attend classes in Mankato for a weekend fire school.

2020 saw us move into a new direction for training, we were put into a pilot program for the State of Minnesota. That pilot program was for an online training platform called Target Solutions, through that pilot program we realized that it may be the perfect opportunity to enhance our training. With funding through the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education we purchased the premier version which expands our training tenfold. We are looking forward to 2021 and the hope of once again providing excellence through training.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

FIRE PREVENTION.....Fire Prevention Officer Kevin Boushee

Fire Prevention was a challenging time in the fire department this year due to covid-19. We had to cancel a lot of events due to state guidelines. So in following I'll show what did happen and also what was cancelled.

- Throughout the month of February all three shifts were able to go to the 3rd grade classes and put on our community safety net presentation. This program is a community business funded program. We are able to go into the schools a talk with 3rd graders about more advanced fire prevention and show a DVD to them. At the completion of the program we are able to send them all home with the DVD and a book to share with their family members. This reaches about 200 kids in total.
- We were able to purchase a fire extinguisher demonstration with the help of our relief association and Enbridge. With that we were able to make some videos on proper fire extinguisher operations and stove top fire training for our Facebook page. This training coincided with this year's fire prevention theme. "Serve up fire safety in the kitchen". This prop will help us with educating businesses on how to properly use a fire extinguisher.
- Fire prevention also includes company fire inspections and due to access to the businesses we were unable to continue them. This program covers all the businesses in town over a two year span. We are assigned about 220 businesses to inspect, which is divided into the 3 shifts.
- Some of the annual fire prevention things that had to be cancelled were:
 1. Kindergarten station tours: This program allows us to have all the kindergarten classes come to our fire station and learn about fire safety and see the fire apparatus. This brings about 200 kids into our station.
 2. Open house: This is an opportunity for the firefighters to showcase our station and equipment. Open house is done on the first Monday in October and includes different activities every year. We do a lot of fire safety at this event. This event usually brings in 250 to 300 people.
 3. 5th grade fire department presentation: This event is usually a time where we showcase our ladder truck outside the schools and let them see it in operation.
 4. Senior citizens fire prevention program: This is where the fire department goes out into the senior living facilities and teach them fire prevention. We talk about cooking safety, trip hazards, and fire escape plans.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

HEALTH & SAFETY.....Health & Safety Officer Jeff Anderson

The Fire Department has implemented a new internal position of Health and Safety Officer. This is a very important position as it will work with employee health and wellness, risk management, accident prevention, accident investigation, station/vehicle equipment safety, training safety, incident safety, infection control, OSHA compliance, critical incident stress management and after action review for fire department staff.

We started by focusing on two areas: Firefighter Health and Wellness and OSHA compliance. In regard to Firefighter Health and Wellness we have implemented a revised Pre-Employment Exam and continue to improve our cancer exposure reduction program with education, policy and equipment.

OSHA compliance has started with Fire Station evaluations and corrections.

Our goal is to ensure that our staff will have a safe and healthy work environment, long career and healthy retirement. As well as maintain a high level of efficiency and protection for our citizens.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The City of East Grand Forks Emergency Manager is the Fire Chief. With that said I have included a summary of Emergency Management activities for this past year. East Grand Forks has declared two states of emergency in 2020. We also had two severe weather events which prompted shelters to be opened. The following is a summary of these events.

Spring Flood

On March 24th, 2020 Mayor Gander declared a local state of emergency based on the NWS prediction of the river level reaching 46 ft. or higher. The river crested on April 9th at 47.43 ft. During this time the Point Bridge and the Sorlie Bridge were closed. Closures were constructed on downtown stem wall, north and south River St., River Road, and 12th St. We also had a significant snow event with 10” of snow in a 24 hour period.

City wide departments and staff came together and executed the flood fight plan very well with no major problems.

Pandemic

On March 17th, 2020 mayor Gander declared a Local Public Health Emergency. With that declaration a Policy group was formed. The purpose of this group was to coordinate, support, advise and assist in the communication of and discharge of the duties and responsibilities pertaining to this declared state of emergency and the City's response and mitigation efforts. Polk County Public Health is the counties lead agency for this event.

Severe Weather

We had two severe weather events that required our storm shelters to be opened. We provided shelter for approx. 100 people during these two events.