



EAST GRAND FORKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021 Year-end Report



East Grand Forks Fire Department

2021 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 2021 Year End Report

As the Fire Chief of the East Grand Forks Fire Department, I am pleased to present this 2021 year-end report. I am extremely proud of the work the members of the East Grand Forks Fire Department accomplished this past year. It was a busy year with emergency calls, requests for service, repairs & maintenance, restarting commercial fire safety inspections and of course many hours of training. As I completed my first year as Fire Chief I can honestly say that I am truly blessed to serve this community and such a fine group of Firefighters.

In 2021 we began a return to a somewhat pre-COVID normal, yet the Fire Department has experienced change not related to COVID. With new leadership comes change. Some changes have been challenging yet necessary and of course intended to make us more effective, efficient and better at what we do. These changes have come by way of how we operate at emergencies, how we train, changes to some policy and changes in personnel. Again I am proud of our Firefighters as they have adapted, embraced and even excelled with the changes we have made. Our Firefighters have made the difference.

2021 like every other year has had joyful moments as well as sad moments. It is with sadness that we reflect on the passing of Retired Fire Chief Daniel Formato. Chief Formato served as Fire Chief for 21 years. It is with joyfulness that we reflect on Chief Formato as a person, family man, Fire Chief and leader. Chief Formato's accomplishments have made a significant impact on this Fire Dept. and Community. Rest in Peace Chief Dan Formato!

I would be remiss if I did not recognize and mention the great support we received from our Community, Mayor, Councilmen and all of the other City Departments. This support is essential and very much appreciated. I would also like to thank the families of our firefighters as they have made many sacrifices that allow our Firefighters to serve our community when needed.

Finally, this report will reflect many of the accomplishments made by our Firefighters. With that said I find it impossible to convey the positive impact our Firefighters make on individuals, daily! Whether it is saving someone's life, stabilizing an emergency, protecting someone's property, treating someone's medical needs or simply taking the time to show compassion towards someone having a bad day, we are here to serve the citizens of East Grand Forks and our surrounding area.

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 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 24 Paid-on-Call Firefighters/FR's. 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 | Ryan Swang |
| Engineer | Engineer | Engineer |
| Tanner Petterson | Austin Skjei | Thomas Hajicek |
| Firefighter | Firefighter | Firefighter |
| Benjamin Staska | Nicholas Derrick | Hunter Olson |
| Paid On Call | Paid On Call | Paid On Call |
| Todd Grabanski | Seth Merkens | Jim Benson |
| Casey Bergh | Kenny Nultemeier | Neil Purcell |
| Seth Baune | Nate Altendorf | Nathan Veiergutz |
| Jason Lillibridge | Jacob Cariveau | Casey Clement |
| Jeremy King | Troy Tretter | Tyler Tretter |
| Matthew Steien | Andrew Robertson | Wyatt Swanson |
| Cody Wasylow | Frank DeCouteau | Alexander Garceau |
| Chad Gunderson | Bryan Drinkman | Brock Larson |



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

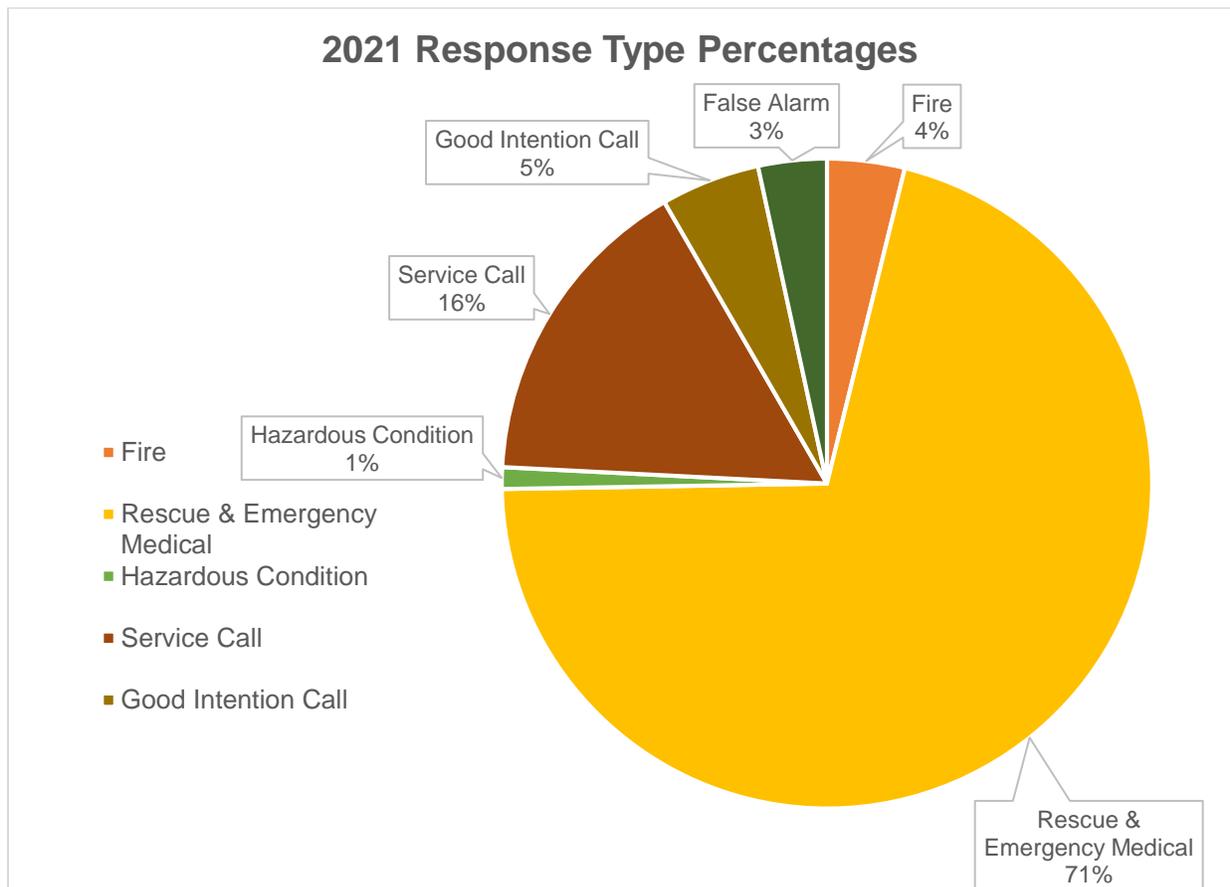


East Grand Forks Fire Department

CALLS FOR SERVICE

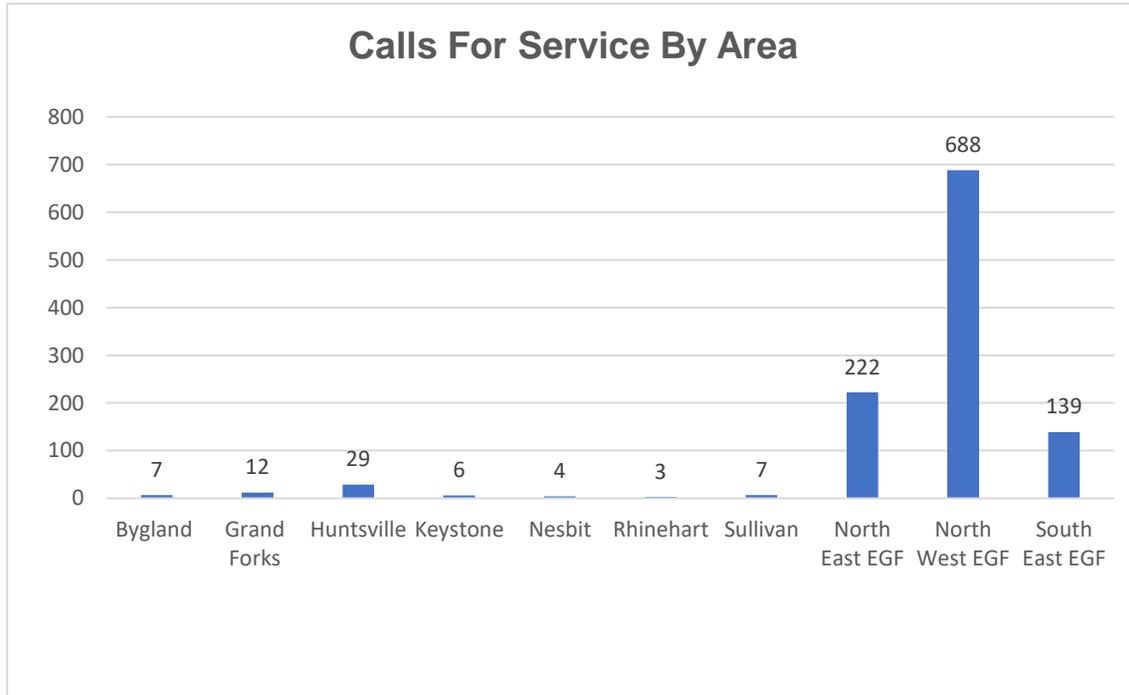
The East Grand forks Fire Department responded to 1119 calls for service in 2021. The following tables and graphs provide a breakdown of our 2021 calls for service. The calls are broke into 8 separate areas for reporting purposes. The following tables and graphs provide a statistical view of 2021 calls.

| | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| Fires | Building, Cooking, Vehicle and Wildland Fires | 43 |
| Overpressure Rupture/ Explosion | Explosion, Excessive Heat | 1 |
| Rescue & Emergency Medical | Medical Assist, Vehicle Accident, Rescues | 791 |
| Hazardous Condition (No Fire) | Carbon Monoxide, Gas/Fuel Spills, Gas leaks | 12 |
| Service Calls | Assist Public, Assist Police, Water Problem | 177 |
| Good Intent Calls | No Incident Found, Cancelled, Smoke Scare | 55 |
| False Alarm | System Malfunction, Unintentional, Malicious | 38 |
| Severe Weather | Standby, Open Shelters | 2 |
| Total Calls for 2020 | | 1119 |





East Grand Forks Fire Department



| Three Year Calls for Service Breakdown | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| Fires | 22 | 31 | 43 |
| Overpressure Rupture/ Explosion | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| Rescue & Emergency Medical | 758 | 686 | 791 |
| Hazardous Condition (No Fire) | 24 | 19 | 12 |
| Service Calls | 143 | 93 | 177 |
| Good Intent Calls | 40 | 34 | 55 |
| False Alarm | 72 | 60 | 38 |
| Severe Weather | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 1067 | 930 | 1119 |



East Grand Forks Fire Department

ADMINISTRATIVE

As Fire Chief, when speaking administratively, my goal for our department is to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible, yet maintaining safety as our primary objective. This past year we have made progress with some changes to attendance requirements, Paid-on-Call hourly wage with minimum call back. These changes have been effective. The following is a brief description of our accomplishments and future plans

Staffing

This past year we have had 2 retirements. Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Boushee retired after 25 years. Jeff Voigt retired after a 10 year career as a Paid on Call Firefighter. Chad Erickson resigned after a 10 year career as a Paid on Call Firefighter. We then promoted Ryan Swang to Assistant Fire Chief and Thomas Hajicek to Engineer. Nicholas Derrick was hired as a Fulltime Firefighter. Firefighter Benjamin Staska successfully completed his probation. This past year we have also hired 7 Paid on Call Firefighters; Wyatt Swanson, Andrew Robertson, Alexander Garceau, Bryan Drinkman, Brock Larson, Chad Gunderson and Frank DeCouteau. These Firefighters have been a great addition to our department bringing our roster total up to 34 Firefighters.

Grants

Minnesota State Fire Department Association (MSFDA): The department received a \$1,000.00 grant to help offset the costs of four (4) pre-employment medical exams. The department also received an \$11,779.40 grant for the purchase of four (4) sets of turnout gear. These funds came from a FEMA Recruitment (SAFER) Grant in which the MSFDA was successful in receiving.

Enbridge Safe Community First Responder Grant: The department received \$7,500.00 to purchase equipment for hazardous material emergencies. This grant required no local match.

Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE): The department received a Training reimbursement grant of \$19,433.00 for the fiscal year of 2021. 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 required.

Strategic Planning

A big part of our strategic planning has been accomplished this year with our committee finalizing and implementing a Mission/Vision Statement along with our Core Values and a Motto. With our mission/vision driving the point of a service to our community, provided by well-trained individuals working as a team, we have put time and effort into improving how we train and the amount of time spent on training. We have also improved our succession plan by supporting all of our internal positions, and supporting a career development plan that encourages growth.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

Facility Improvements and Repairs

- Station 1
 - 1 AC unit replaced
 - Replaced station generator transfer switch
 - Remodeled an office space
 - Remodeled a work station area for research and EOC space
- Station 2
 - Replaced entrance sidewalk
 - Replaced asphalt front apron with concrete

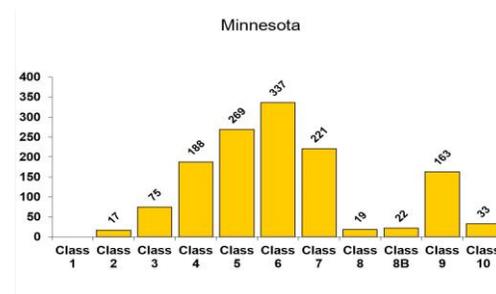
Township Fire Service Contract

The City of East Grand Forks provides Fire Services through a contract with 7 Townships (Bygland, Grand Forks, Huntsville, Keystone, Nesbit, Rhinehart and Sullivan). 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 past year, discuss future plans, look at equipment and discuss any concerns.

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

2021 was a year of some firsts for our department. First we entered the new year with our new online training platform Vector Solutions. This platform allows us to easily disperse, track and log training hours. With this new program we are able to effectively keep firefighters up to date with the ever changing tactics and techniques of firefighting.

Second we hired two separate groups of new paid on call firefighters. Yes it's sad to see veterans leave but it's refreshing to see new and eager firefighters enter the ranks. With the new firefighters we need to train those to be proficient in their job and the time that they dedicate to the community cannot be understated. New recruits spend roughly 100 hours both at home studying and on the training grounds enhancing skills in the 11 core elements of firefighting.

These 11 elements are:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Safety and protective equipment | 7. Ladders |
| 2. Chemistry of fire and fire behavior | 8. Rescue |
| 3. Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) | 9. Forcible Entry |
| 4. Fire Streams | 10. Ventilation |
| 5. Hose | 11. Administrative/Command |
| 6. Pumping Fire Apparatus | |

Third we saw a new firefighter have his first day in his new career. He will undoubtedly be a great fit for our department. With new, means more training, training on our equipment, how we operate and honing skills he already has learned.

We were able to get back into the routine of training monthly with our entire department on a regular basis again after 2020 threw us for a loop. We spent time again honing skills already learned, we saw our new CPR instructor conduct his first classes in house. Spent time on ladders, conducting searches, deploying hose loads, entering confined spaces, hazardous materials, auto extrication on large vehicles, driving and pump operations to name a few. Our technical rescue team could also be seen from time to time training on their rope rescue skills. This training cannot be conducted without the support of the community and other city departments allowing us to conduct drills at their facilities.

After a break in outside classes in 2020 we saw the fire service again open the doors to the opportunity of outside the department training. Members took the opportunity to travel to Moorhead and take a variety of classes from command to pump operations. We saw career individuals take time and obtain their NIMS ICS 300 and 400 certification, take the MBFTE four weekend Leadership course. Thomas Hajicek, Hunter Olson, and Ben Stastka obtained their Minnesota Fire Instructor I certification.

2021 saw our department log over 2,700 hours of training. In 2022 we look forward to surpassing that number and continue to the commitment of **"Always Ready"** through training.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

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

Fire prevention this year is on its way back to some normalcy after the past year of Covid-19. We were able to host some events and tours again. We have not had to cancel as many events unlike last year. Our long time Fire Prevention Officer Kevin Boushee retired this past year in 2021. I (Austin Skjei) will be the new Fire Prevention Officer.

- For fire prevention week which is the beginning of October. The theme this year was “Learn the Sounds of **Fire** Safety!” We were able to once again have station tours for our Kindergarten classes. As precaution we followed guidelines and used masks and stayed out in the truck bays where we had more space.
- Another big event for fire prevention week is our annual open house. We had a nice night and were able keep our bay doors open for the event. We had events/activities as follows.
 1. Fire extinguisher demonstrations with our training prop.
 2. Cooking fire demonstrations which shows the right and wrong way to put out a grease fire.
 3. We had a vehicle donated from Interstate Towing. Which allowed us to do an auto extrication demonstration. This showcased our training and the process of an auto extrication incident.
 4. We set up a Firefighter physical agility course for kids, which was a big hit!
 5. We also had fire hose set up to spray water at some targets.
 6. To top it all off our Fire Dept. mascot “Sparky” made an appearance.
- We were able to get back out and start up our bi-annual fire inspections. This program was put on pause last year due to Covid-19. This program splits all of our businesses in town between the three shifts. This helps our Fire Department personnel become familiar with our community.
- Coming in the next few months we will be doing a program called “Community Safety Net”. With this program we visit all the 3rd grade classes and teach more advanced fire safety from what they learned in Kindergarten from the past tours. This program is funded by donations from local businesses. Community Safety Net program comes with a book for each student and contains a web site to watch the video again with their family.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

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

Over the past year the Fire Department has been moving forward on many fronts. We have been making improvements to our stations, updating firefighter turnout gear, implementing safety policies and improving OSHA compliance department wide. We are also happy to report that we were able to get through the year without any work related injuries. I have listed some of the highlights below.

- Implemented a Exposure Control Plan.
- Implemented a revised Respiratory Protection Program.
- Updated SDS sheets at Station 1 and Station 2.
- Revised our pre-employment exam to include vision and audiogram exams.
- Repaired and/or removed hazardous conditions at station 1 and station 2.
- Continue to following COVID protocol when responding to calls for service and/or interacting with the public.

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 Fire Chief is responsible to perform 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 Flood

This spring flood was minimal as we entered into drought conditions. The Red River crested on March 21st at 18.25 ft. then again on April 14th at 18.35 ft.

Pandemic

In 2021 the impact of COVID-19 was still prevalent, variant's started to infect people. Many people are still getting very sick. Many people are still dying from COVID. On the positive side vaccines became available which provided some relief and hope.

Severe Weather

We had three severe weather events that required our storm shelters to be opened.



East Grand Forks Fire Department





East Grand Forks Fire Department

