



EAST GRAND FORKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 Year End Report



East Grand Forks Fire Department

2022 Year End Report

Table of Contents

A MESSAGE from Chief Boushee.....	2
MISSION / VISION.....	3
DEPARTMENT	4
Staffing.....	4
Organizational Chart.....	4
Fleet.....	5
Fire Stations	7
CALLS FOR SERVICE	8
ADMINISTRATIVE	10
Staffing.....	10
Grants	10
Strategic Planning.....	11
Facility Improvements and Repairs	11
Township Fire Service Contract.....	11
Insurance Services Office (ISO)	11
TRAINING..... Training Officer Paul Hansen	12
FIRE PREVENTION..... Fire Prevention Officer Austin Skjei	13
HEALTH & SAFETY..... Health & Safety Officer Ryan Swang	14
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	14
Spring Flood	14
Helping Others	15
Severe Weather	15
Emergency Management Training.....	15



East Grand Forks Fire Department

A MESSAGE from Chief Boushee

Welcome to the City of East Grand Forks Fire Department's 2022 Year End Report

On behalf of the members of the East Grand Forks Fire Department, I am pleased to present this 2022 year-end report. This report serves as a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our firefighters. Our firefighters are carrying out our mission, pursuing our vision and living by our core values.

Within this report you will see some data and accomplishments. What you will not see are the challenges the EGFFD faced in 2022. I would like to share a few of the challenges that stood out.

We were shorthanded for 11 months due to a retirement, a resignation and sick leave. Because of this shortage both our full-time and paid on call firefighters were asked to cover more shifts than ever before. Then add in an extended highwater event and an extended river search, we were pushing our firefighters to near burn out. Our firefighters never complained, on the contrary they were resilient and persevered.

We then experienced a day that tested our capabilities and leadership. We had two significant farmyard fires and a grass fire in the city at the same time. To add to the problem the farmyard fires were at opposite ends of our jurisdiction (8 miles apart), we were stretched. I am very proud of our response, our firefighters performed exceptionally. I would also like to credit our leadership for great decision making during this incident. Wisdom was used over pride as we called for help from our neighboring fire depts. (Fisher, Crookston, and Grand Forks). We are thankful for our neighboring fire depts.

This last challenge to share with you really hit home as one of our own firefighters was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer. It was time for our firefighters to take care of one of our own and they did with compassion. Our firefighters gave generously in many ways during his battle. I am extremely happy to report that this firefighter is now cancer free and back serving his community.

In 2022 our firefighters responded to an increasing number of emergency calls, logged nearly record number of hours training, received a record number of state certifications, and exceeded attendance requirements all while maintaining a high quality of service. When I look back the one thing that stands out is the performance of our firefighters. In 2022 our firefighters showed their value to the community with their dedication, commitment, and selflessness in serving each other and our community. I am extremely proud of each of our firefighters as they exceeded expectations. It is an honor to serve as their Fire Chief.

In closing, I would like to thank our community, city leadership, and our city departments for all the support we receive, your support is essential to our success. I cannot close without expressing my deep appreciation for the families of our firefighters whose sacrifices make it possible for our firefighters to serve. **THANK YOU!!**

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 21 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 always maintains a minimum level of 2 Firefighters on duty. 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
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	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
Cody Wasylow	Andrew Robertson	Wyatt Swanson
Chad Gunderson	Frank DeCouteau	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



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 Crestline 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

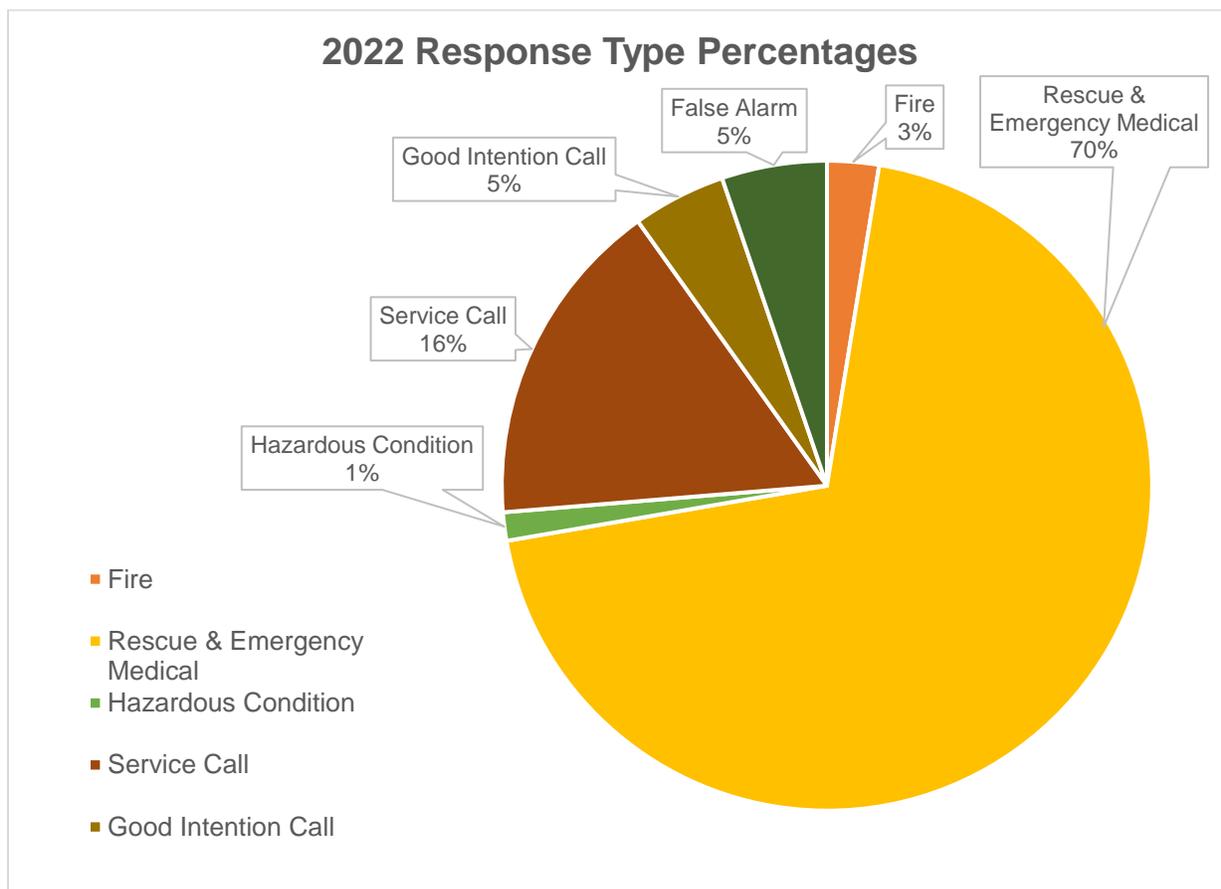


East Grand Forks Fire Department

CALLS FOR SERVICE

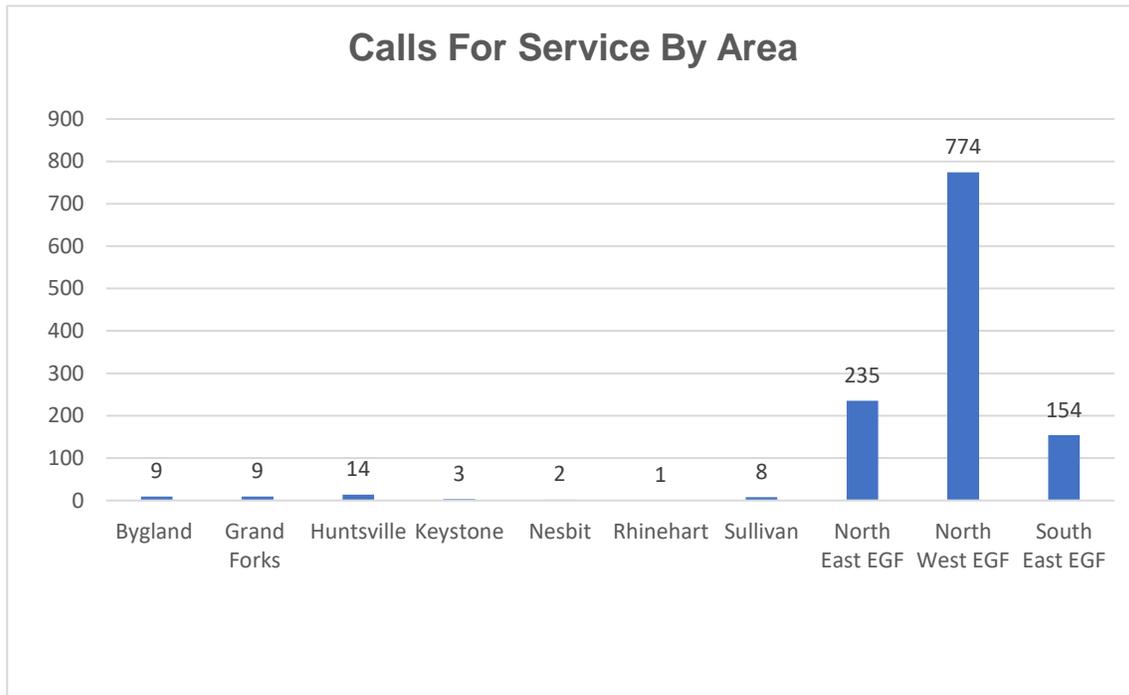
The East Grand Forks Fire Department responded to 1,210 calls for service in 2022. This is an 8% increase from 2021. The following tables and graphs provide a breakdown of our 2022 calls for service. The calls are broken into 8 separate areas for reporting purposes. The following tables and graphs provide a statistical view of 2022 calls.

Fires	Building, Cooking, Vehicle and Wildland Fires	31
Overpressure Rupture/ Explosion	Explosion, Excessive Heat	3
Rescue & Emergency Medical	Medical Assist, Vehicle Accident, Rescues	840
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	Carbon Monoxide, Gas/Fuel Spills, Gas leaks	17
Service Calls	Assist Public, Assist Police, Water Problem	198
Good Intent Calls	No Incident Found, Cancelled, Smoke Scare	56
False Alarm	System Malfunction, Unintentional, Malicious	63
Severe Weather	Standby, Open Shelters	2
Total Calls for 2022		1210





East Grand Forks Fire Department



Three Year Calls for Service Breakdown			
	2020	2021	2022
Fires	31	43	31
Overpressure Rupture/ Explosion	4	1	3
Rescue & Emergency Medical	686	791	840
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	19	12	17
Service Calls	93	177	198
Good Intent Calls	34	55	56
False Alarm	60	38	63
Severe Weather	3	2	2
TOTAL	930	1119	1210



East Grand Forks Fire Department

ADMINISTRATIVE

Like everyone, the fire dept. has faced increased costs to operate. We have seen our utilities, fuel, and workers compensation increase significantly. These increases were not planned for in our budget. With that we have tried to compensate through spending cuts, actively pursuing grants to help supplement our equipment needs. We have made a purchase of an online training platform which administers our mandatory training. This system has saved significant costs in overtime. We have even taken simple measures such as turning down station thermostats. The following is a brief description of our status and accomplishments.

Staffing

This past year we had 1 retirement, Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Anderson retired after 30 years. Fulltime firefighter Ben Staska resigned. We hired 2 new fulltime firefighters, Parker Anderson and Austin Cooley. Both Parker and Austin have been doing a fine job, I look forward to watching them grow as firefighters. Firefighter Nicolas Derrick has successfully finished his probation. Nicholas has been a great addition. We have also promoted Austin Skjei to Assistant Fire Chief and Hunter Olson to Engineer. Our roster is currently at 30 firefighters.

Grants

We have been fortunate to receive \$25,905 in grants and \$7,300 in equipment donations. I would like to recognize and thank the organizations & family for their generosity.

Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE): The department received a training reimbursement grant of \$9,900 for the fiscal year of 2022. 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.

American Crystal Community Roots Giving Program: The department received \$5,000 to purchase fire hose testing equipment. This grant required no local match.

DNR Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant: The department received \$3,672 to purchase firefighter turnout gear (PPE). This grant is a 50/50 match.

Oneok Community Investment Grant: The department received \$3,177 to purchase 10 new firefighter helmets. This will replace 10 helmets that are no longer compliant with today's standards. This grant required no local match.

Walmart Community Grants: The department received a \$3,000 to purchase PPE. The PPE purchased was winter Hi-Vis safety jackets and Hi-Vis stocking caps. This grant required no local match.

Greater Northwest EMS Grant: The department received \$1,156 to purchase batteries for pagers and portable radios. This grant required no local match.

Red River Snowmobile Club, Grand Trailer Sales & Home of Economy donated a 2022 snowmobile trailer valued at \$4,700.

East Grand Forks Fireman's Relief Association donated a new sonar for the boat valued at \$2,600.

Sharon Bramer Memorial was donated by the Bramer family for flowers in front of both stations.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

Strategic Planning

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 our internal positions and supporting a career development plan that encourages growth. The next part of our planning is going to be facilities specifically station 2 and a training facility.

Facility Improvements and Repairs

- Station 1
 - Replaced Roof
 - Updated overhead door safety system.
 - Painted parking lot.
- Station 2
 - Updated overhead door safety system.
 - Painted parking lot.

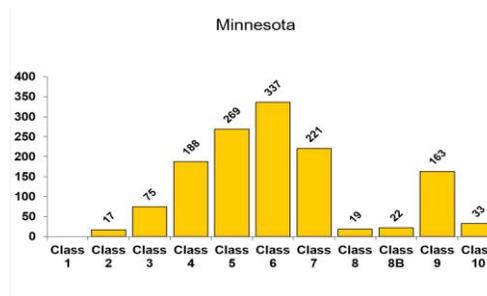
Township Fire Service Contract

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

2022 was another successful year of training in our department. We continued to hone our skills on the 11 core elements of firefighting. We spent a little more time this past year working on technical rescue skills. As an all-hazards Fire Department, we need to be ready for any emergency that can come our way. We spent extra time training on auto extrication, rope rescue, and grain bin rescue just to name a few.

To keep fresh and complete probationary training we required all firefighters to complete live burn training. This year it was completed in September, Northland Community and Technical College was generous enough to allow us to use there burn facility. This live burn is done in a controlled environment using live fire to allow new firefighters to see all the growth stages of fire, known as a level one burn. Once the level one burns are complete, we re-light the fires and complete level two burns. These burns are where burn instructors light the fire and let it grow, once it is in a fully developed stage, firefighters are instructed into the building to knock the fire down. This training is always a hit for our staff.

2022 saw our newest group of Paid-On-Call firefighters complete the initial training, that training takes those individuals over 100 hours to complete, capped off by a live burn. With them completing this training they have now successfully completed their MN Firefighter I Certification. We also saw our first MN Pump Operators Certifications and staff completing their Instructor I Certifications.

Firefighter I

Brock Larson
Chad Gunderson
Frank DeCouteau
Andrew Robertson

Pump Operator

Hunter Olson
Nick Derrick
Thomas Hajicek
Tanner Petterson
Cody Wasylow

Instructor I

Austin Skjei
Tanner Petterson

Again in 2022 we saw several of our staff attend out of department training; this always proves to be valuable training both from the classes as well as the networking that happens. We saw staff attend courses from basic firefighter all the way to emergency management. Again, this year our staff logged over 2,000 hours of training, we will continue to see growth in our department in the coming years.





East Grand Forks Fire Department

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

Fire prevention this past year is back to normal. We've been busy in both the city and rural for fire prevention activities.

- For Fire prevention week which is the beginning of October. The theme this year was "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape." We had station tours for all Kindergarten classes throughout the month of October.
- 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 show 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 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.
- Over the year we conducted our bi-annual fire inspections. This program splits all of our business's in town and rural between the three shifts. This helps Fire Department personnel become familiar with the businesses within our community. Along with being able to teach our business owners some safe fire prevention habits.
- Coming in the next few months we will be doing a program called "Community Safety Net". This program allows us to visit all the 3rd grade classes and teach more advanced fire safety and build off what they learned in kindergarten from 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 website to watch the video again with their family.

We've had a program with smoke detectors for resident who need them. This program is supported through The Red Cross. Along with this program we are starting our own program with giving CO detectors to residents in need. This program will be funded in part from our Fire Department Association and will be out early in 2023.





East Grand Forks Fire Department

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

Over the past year the Fire Department has been moving forward on many fronts. We have secured a grant to purchase high visible jackets for our full-time staff. Roadway incidents are becoming increasingly hazardous to the EMS community, and this is a good step to help further keep our staff visible during these incidents. 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 an OSHA inspection booklet to use as a guide to keep our stations compliant.
- Received a grant from ONEOK community investments to replace outdated helmets.
- Provided training department wide on mental health and the first responder community.
- Continue to replace turnout gear to remain compliant with today's standards.
- City approved and implemented an Employee Assistance Program for mental health.
- Continue to follow COVID protocols when responding to calls for service.
- Cardiac and overexertion emergencies are a leading cause of injury on the fire ground. The EGF Firefighters Local 3423 purchased a new treadmill. Fitness is becoming a bigger part of the daily routines.

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

2022 spring flood event forced the mayor to declare a state of emergency two different times. On March 23rd the river rose to flood stage triggering the first state of emergency. Cresting at 34.18 ft on March 26th. Then receding to flood stage on April 2nd. The second state of emergency was declared April 23rd due to large amounts of rain fell in the Red River Valley. This rain overwhelmed our storm water system causing significant street flooding. The river rose 7.27 ft in a 24-hour period with a forecast of 48.5 feet. On April 27th the river crested at 45.82 ft. The river remained above flood stage until June 10th.

As a result of the spring flooding the City of East Grand Forks was included in the Northern Minnesota Federal Disaster Declaration. East Grand Forks is currently working with FEMA to recover some of the costs for our flood fight.



East Grand Forks Fire Department

Helping Others

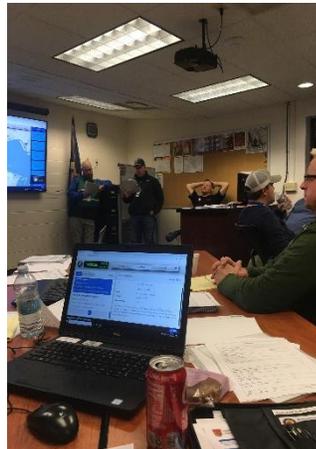
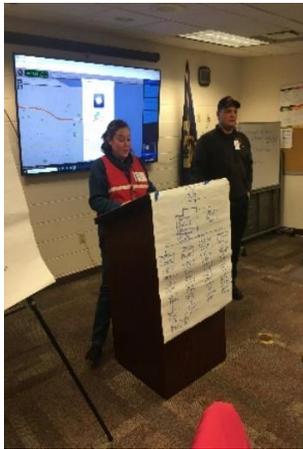
During the spring flooding EGF emergency management put a call out for volunteers to help sandbag in the cities of Crookston and Fisher. Our community and ISD 595 stepped up, we sent two ISD 595 buses with volunteers to both communities. The City of EGF also sent 34 pallets of sandbags to Roseau County to help them in their flood fight.

Severe Weather

East Grand Forks had two severe weather events that required our storm shelters to be opened providing shelter for 84 people.

Emergency Management Training

Training is a large part of preparation. This past year East Grand Forks trained 24 city staff members to operate an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This was a two-day class conducted by Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) on behalf of FEMA. We have plans to continue training as an EOC group to better service our community in the event of a large-scale emergency. We also have had three staff members attend a Family Assistance Center Seminar. We currently have two Fire Dept. personnel working to achieve emergency manager certifications through the state of Minnesota.



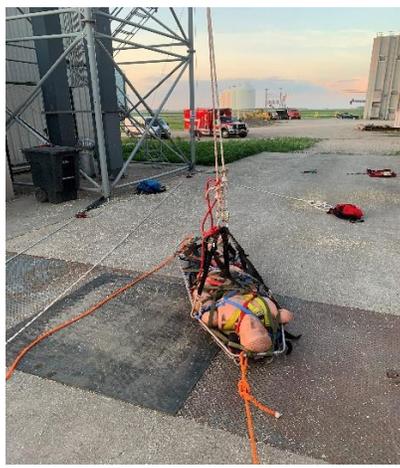


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