

BEATRICE FIRE & RESCUE

Annual Report - 2010



BEATRICE
FIRE & RESCUE

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100th Year Anniversary
1910 – 2010



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A Word from Chief Daake...

Dear Mayor Schuster and Members of the Beatrice City Council,

On behalf of the members of Beatrice Fire & Rescue, it is with a great sense of pride and accomplishment that I present to you the 2010 Annual Report. The statistical data contained within this report is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of the emergency responders of your department.

This last year did pose some new challenges. Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Young and Firefighter/EMT Justin Theasmeyer were deployed to Iraq with the Nebraska Army National Guard for most of the year. We also had two firefighter/paramedics out on extended medical leave this year. Fortunately everyone is back.

In 2010 we responded to a total of 2,594 calls for service, which is down 174 calls for service from 2009 when we responded to a total of 2,768. This was primarily due to a decrease in transfers. In 2009 we had 1,035 transfers, but in 2010 we had 817 transfers. Due to this decrease we were able to increase the number of documented training hours of the department to a little over 6,000 hours in 2010.

Total fire response numbers for 2010 have basically remained the same. This year we had 62 fires, which is down from 2009, with a total fire loss of \$106,650, but the amount of property value saved was \$570,835.

While transfers were down, 911 EMS calls, including paramedic intercepts, continue to rise. The table below shows the steady progression of these numbers since 2006.

9-1-1 EMS Responses

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
1255	1,285	1,319	1,372	1,491

For EMS our busiest time of day is from 12:00 to 2:59 pm and our busiest day of the week this year was Friday. For fire response our busiest day was Monday and our busiest time of the day was from 11:00 to 11:59 am.

We did see a minor increase in our average fire response time, which was caused by more calls to the northern part of the city on 6th street.

The accomplishments of Beatrice Fire & Rescue are only possible through the ongoing dedication of each member and their commitment to our community. None of which would be possible without the support of the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, and the citizens of Beatrice.

Sincerely,

Brian Daake

Brian Daake, Fire/EMS Chief

Administrative Personnel



Brian Daake
Fire Chief
20 Years of Service

John Carrel
Captain
31 Years of Service

Shift Personnel

“A” Shift



Craig Fisher
Captain/Paramedic
17 Years of Service



Michael Arterburn
Driver/EMT
36 Years of Service



Mike Massey
FF/Paramedic
16 Years of Service



Jim Young
FF/Paramedic
10 Years of Service



Corey Lieneman
FF/Paramedic
5 Years of Service



Darren Allington
FF/EMT
4 Years of Service



Jake Yurka
FF/EMT
3 Years of Service

Shift Personnel

“B” Shift



Jake Carrel
Captain/EMT
10 Years of Service



Kevin Weakland
Driver/EMT
19 Years of Service



Dave Heckman
FF/Paramedic
16 Years of Service



Brett Wells
FF/Paramedic
9 Years of Service



Nathan Koch
FF/EMT
8 Years of Service



Jeremy Seggerman
FF/Paramedic
6 Years of Service



Justin Theasmeyer
FF/EMT
2 year of Service

Shift Personnel

“C” Shift



Jeff Van Winkle
Captain/Paramedic
17 Years of Service



Aaron Burger
Driver/EMT
19 Years of Service



Jeff Hays
FF/Paramedic
16 Years of Service



Lonnie Litterick
FF/EMT
13 Years of Service



Julie Compton
FF/Paramedic
12 Years of Service



Bryan Jelinek
FF/Paramedic
6 Years of Service



Nick Koch
FF/EMT
4 Years of Service

Apparatus



**2008 Crimson 100'
Platform Ladder**



**1994 Smeal/Spartan
Pumper**



**1975 Mack
Pumper**



**1997 GMC C6500
Rescue Truck**



**2002 International Navistar
Hazmat Van**



**2010 Ford F-450 Type-III
Ambulance**



**2009 Chevy G-3500 Type III
Ambulance**



**2006 Ford E-450 Type-III
Ambulance**



**2002 Ford E-450 Type-III
Ambulance**



**2002 Ford E-450 Type-III
Ambulance**



**2010 Ford F150
Medical Response Vehicle**



**2002 Ford Expedition
Chief's Command Vehicle**

Equipment not pictured: 2008 Dodge (school car), haz-mat trailer, air-supply trailer, and Beatrice Rural Fire Department's apparatus including: a tanker, pumper and brush truck.

100 Year Anniversary

BEATRICE DAILY SUN MORNING EDITION

ESTABLISHED JULY 8, 1902

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2010

75 CENTS

Beatrice Fire and Rescue celebrates 100 years

Department celebrates anniversary during Homestead Days

By SCOTT KOPERSKI
DAILY SUN STAFF WRITER

The Beatrice fire department is celebrating an important milestone this year. 2010 marks the department's 100 year anniversary of when it began serving the citizens of Beatrice.

Beatrice Fire and Rescue Chief Brian Daake pointed out how far the Fire Department has come over the last 100 years.

"It's pretty impressive that even 100 years ago they still realized the training require-

ments and the rigors of our profession," Daake said. "Back then, it wasn't uncommon for whole cities to burn down because the fire suppression technology wasn't there like it was now."

"Now, in most cases we can get the fire out in the room it started in."

To celebrate its centennial, and to also correspond with Homestead Days, the Department hosted an open house on Saturday to show the public just what it's all about.

Julie Compton, firefighter

and paramedic, helped to organize the kids' activities, including a basketball game, Army dog tag maker, seat belt demonstration and a mini firefighting obstacle course.

For Compton, the anniversary celebration holds a special meaning.

"I'm Beatrice's first and only female firefighter," Compton said. "It's pretty interesting that in 100 years I'm the only one."

The fire department welcomed back a crucial part



PHOTO BY SCOTT KOPERSKI/DAILY SUN STAFF

Jacob Vanwinkle, 8, competes in the Fire Department's miniature training challenge on Saturday. The challenge included walking a beam (on the ground), shooting a fire hose and carrying a dummy to safety.

SEE FIRE/PAGE A8



100 Year Anniversary Celebration



FIRE

COVERED FROM PAGE 41

of the department that's still over rescue response after being sold nearly 20 years ago, the 1964 Chevrolet Corvair made its way from ended up in the hands of Phil Thomas, a retired firefighter from Chicago, New York.

"A friend of mine, Donnie, said 'I told him I had to have it. An electric motor'."

After researching the vehicle's history, Thomas got in touch with the city of Beatrice to see if he could buy the vehicle. When he learned this was the department's 100th anniversary, Thomas was excited to make the 22-hour drive to Beatrice.

The vehicle, which has only 22,000 original miles, was transported by trailer for the trip.

"It's only 100 years old, but it's important for us to have it for the anniversary," Thomas said. "It's a reminder for us to give people what we can."

BEATRICE DAILY SUN
 Monday, August 10, 2020

Department celebrates anniversary during Homestead Days

The Beatrice Fire and Rescue Department celebrated its 100th anniversary during Homestead Days in Beatrice, Mo., on Monday.

The department's 100th anniversary was celebrated with a parade float and a fire engine. The float was led by the department's chief, Mike Conner, and the engine was driven by firefighter Phil Thomas.

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HISTORY OF THE BEATRICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

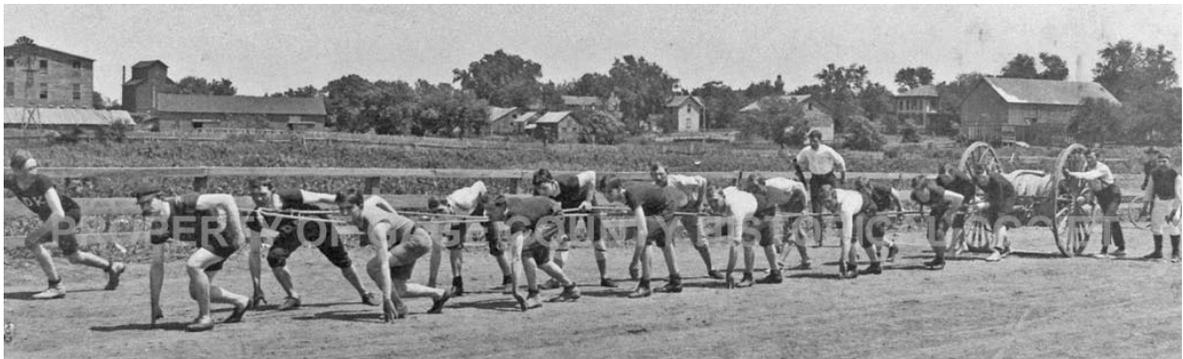
(The following information and many of the photos were provided by the Gage County Historical Society.)



Beatrice was founded in 1857 and little success was made to organize a fire company until 1886 when the city water works were installed. Prior to that time the bucket brigade system was used. Each lumber yard or blacksmith shop with a well had buckets hanging at the ready in case of fire. An attempt was made in 1873 to form a hook and ladder company, but nothing was formally organized until 1882 when Conrad Schmidt received donations for his Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company. After the water hydrants were installed, the old bucket brigade system was abandoned and hose companies formed. Hose Company #1 organized on May 8, 1886 at Bob Hunt's coal office. On June 8, 1886 the J.D. Kilpatrick Hose Company was formed at Charley Emery's Barn, which coincidentally would become the site for the 1909 Beatrice Volunteer Fire Department building. A group calling themselves Hooks went before the Council in 1887 asking for a hook and ladder truck enabling them to form Rough and Ready Hook and Ladder Company. That same year Volunteer Hose Company #3 was incorporated. The men chose Nathaniel Herron for their first fire chief.

By 1888 the city had fire districts starting at the intersection of 5th and Court. The Fifth District, across the river west, was formed about the time Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company built its factory there in 1889. It was called Hose Company #5, West Side Hose Company or Dempster Hose Company. The hose carts were housed in Hose Houses located around town and at the City Hall at 412 Market. Ward 4 Hose Company was formed in 1904. It would soon be reorganized as Hose Company #6.

The Beatrice Volunteer Fire Department was earning a reputation for quickness, agility, and a readiness to serve. They had regular exhibitions including races with the hose carts and dry and wet coupling races. The hose races were extremely important to the proficiency of the men in moving the hose cart with speed, safety and accuracy to the location of the fire. The Rough and Ready Ladder Company exhibited their skills by running 50 feet with a ladder, followed by a ladder climb. They also did dry and wet coupling races.

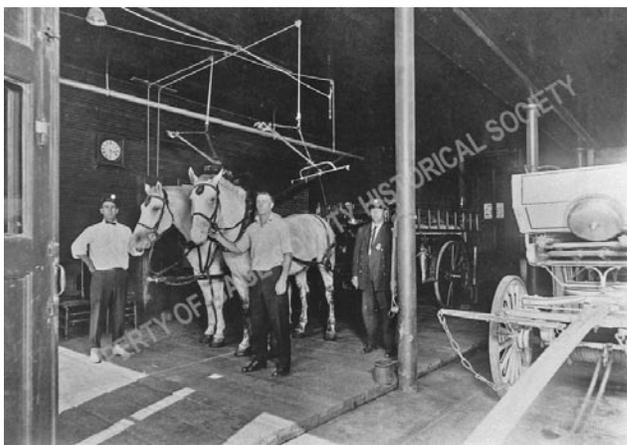




Exemption papers were issued after a fireman had served the fire department for five years. The men were then exempt from jury duty and paying poll taxes for as long as they remained in the State of Nebraska. In the 1890s, the Cemetery Board offered free plots for firemen. The firemen were regularly marking the graves of firemen on the second Sunday in June after the deaths of J.D. Kilpatrick in 1891 and Chief Herron in 1893. In 1905, Beatrice's Fireman's Memorial Sunday was adopted by the Nebraska State Firemen Association and by the National Volunteer Firemen Association. From that point on, Beatrice firemen were honored as being the originators of the Fireman's Memorial Sunday. With this distinction in mind, the men went to work collecting donations for a fireman's

monument. On June 9, 1907 the fireman's monument, the first in the state, was unveiled at the entrance to Evergreen Home Cemetery. The monument still stands today. The monument was designed by Beatrice's own Louise Neidhart, daughter of Charles Neidhart.

The left-over monument funds were invested for a Fireman's Hall to be built on the very site where, 23 years prior, J.D. Kilpatrick Hose Company met for the first time. The building, completed in 1909, was a two two-story brick structure at 110 South 5th. The lower floor was designed so that each vehicle would not have to be removed to bring out the next. The upper floor was used as a meeting hall. The time came when employers were reluctant to let their workers off for fires; it was affecting their productivity. It was also affecting response time so in 1910, Beatrice Volunteer Chief Rudolph Woelke proposed a partially paid department. At the same time, the Peter Pirsch & Company combination hose and chemical wagon was purchased.

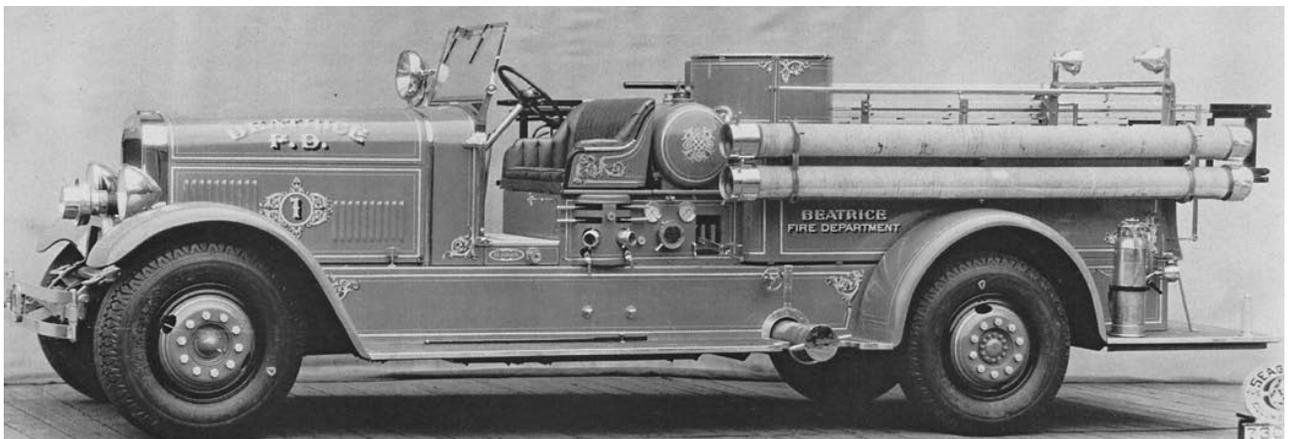


For the first time ever a pair of dapple gray horses, known as Roc and Doc, were part of the Department. The horses were trained to walk under the harness when a call came in; the harness was lowered and off they went. They were so well trained that the dray man, who purchased the horses from the Fire Department in 1916, often found himself off to a fire when the bell was sounded.

Rudolph Woelke was hired as the first paid chief; Johnny S. Walker, the oldest member of the volunteers, became the first paid fireman; Henry Grabowski was hired as driver; and Fred Koslowski as the plug man. The paid firemen were required to work 24 hour shifts with only 12 hours off a week. These long hours and the low pay made resignations a common occurrence; so much so, that a newly hired man was required to give a 30 day notice before leaving. In 1920, after the rash of fires in 1919, a new pay increase was adopted and the State Fire Marshal enacted a new shift plan where two men would be on duty from 7am to 6pm and the other two men from 6pm until 7am. They would then be rotated. Today Beatrice Firefighters work 24 hour shifts with two days off.

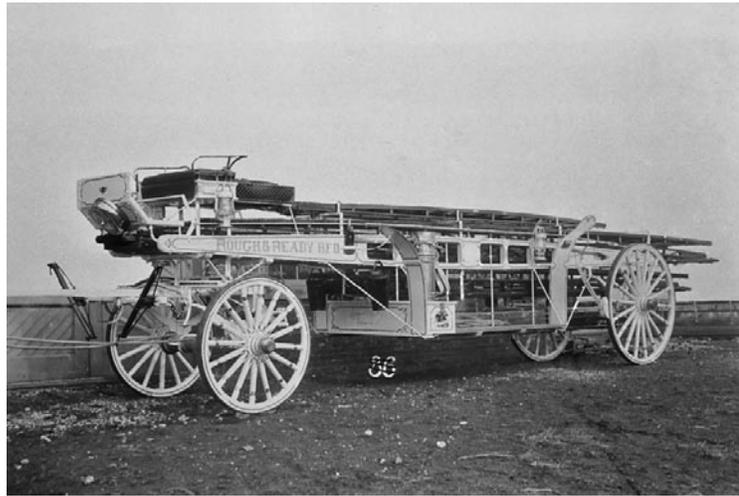


When it came time to replace Roc and Doc with the city's first motorized fire truck, the Peter Pirsch White Chassis was purchased. The truck was equipped with a self starting motor, 60 horsepower engine, electric lights and a 20 gallon chemical tank. It had a White Motor Company chassis and the body and equipment from the Peter Pirsch Factory. The 1924 GMC became the next vehicle purchased. It was a triple combination (two chemical and one water) capable of pumping 400 gallons per minute. This truck was sold to the Blue Valley Shrine Club in 1957. It was revamped for their purposes and later given to the Gage County Historical Society.



1933 Seagraves Pumper

The GMC proved to be very unreliable so in 1933, when it was time to purchase a new truck, they chose the 1933 Seagraves pumper; one of the best trucks made at the time. The 6-cylinder truck, today considered one of the rarest, cost a whopping \$12,000. That was a large sum of money in the midst of the Great Depression, but was considered to be a very good investment for the City.



"Rough & Ready" Horse-Drawn Ladder Apparatus



1948 American LaFrance 75' Ladder Truck

Insurance rates prompted the next truck to be purchased; a 1948 American LaFrance Quintuplet aerial. The 75 foot hydraulic ladder could be operated by one man with the capability of being used as a water tower or to rescue people trapped on an upper floor of a building. For years the aerial stuck out of the old station until 1965 when the Beatrice Fire Department moved from the old fire station on South 5th Street to the lower level of the City Auditorium building at 3rd and Ella Street. It was the only existing public building that was large enough to provide the space that was needed for the Fire Department to house their modern pieces of fire apparatus and it is still the home of the Beatrice Fire Department today.



Fire Station-Lower Level of City Auditorium 310 Ella St. (1965-Present)

The History of the Ambulance Service

The City of Beatrice took over the ambulance service from the mortuaries in 1967. It was run by the Police Department during the day and the Fire Department at night. The ambulance service would become part of the county soon after and then back to the Beatrice Fire Department in 1994.



Pre 1967

(Above photo is for example purposes only, NOT a local photo)



Pre 1994

Gage County Ambulance



1994 - Present

Beatrice Fire & Rescue



Present Ambulance Fleet (2010)

(Since this photo was taken, the oldest ambulance in the picture was sold at auction)

The first full year that the Fire Department operated the ambulance service (1995), they responded to approximately 1300 calls and for the year 2009 they responded to over 2400 calls. In 1994 the Department had many EMT's but no paramedics; currently all shift personnel are either an EMT or a paramedic and over half of them are paramedics. With the equipment that is currently utilized in their ambulances and with a paramedic caring for the patient, the Department is providing advanced life support similar to what is available in a hospital emergency room.

BEATRICE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

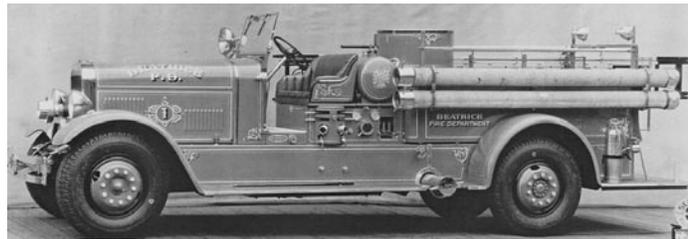
In the spring of 1947, area farmers met at the farm of A. Claassen to organize a fire district and the following year enough signatures were gathered to form The Beatrice Rural Fire District. The directors were: Herman Buss, Clyde Thober, Don Morton, and Vernon Schuster. They purchased a 1948 American LaFrance pumper with a 600 GPM pump for \$20,000. It was at this time they made an arrangement with the Beatrice Fire Department to house their truck at the Fire Station and to have a Beatrice fireman drive the truck to the fire. The rural townships were divided into districts: 1) Hanover and Logan 2) Holt and Midland 3) Blakely 4) Lincoln 5) Riverside 6) Rockford and villages including Ellis, Rockford and Pickrell. Each district had a captain with five firemen and each farm appointed a number (before the roads were named). Herman Buss was elected the first chief and Lee Bartlett as assistant chief.

Currently the Beatrice Rural Fire Department houses a pumper, a tanker and a brush truck at the Beatrice Fire Station. The City firefighters still drive the rural trucks to the fire and operate the pumps at the scene and the volunteers respond directly to the fire.



(Pictured above are the Beatrice Rural fire trucks currently housed in the City fire station.)

THE PROGRESSION FROM THE DAYS WHEN MEN PULLED HOSE CARTS TO THE FIRE; TO WHEN HORSES PULLED THE FIRE EQUIPMENT; TO THE PRESENT



**BEATRICE FIRE DEPARTMENT
UNIFORM ARM PATCHES**



1960's - 1993



1993 - 2003



2003 - Present

FIRE CHIEFS FROM 1930 – PRESENT



Cecil Hess
1930 - 1962



Dale Workman
1962 - 1972



Leland Gerwick
1972 - 1992



Darrell Eastin
1992 - 2001



Terry Burger
2001 - 2006



Brian Daake
2006 - Present

Fire Incident Type Summary

2006 - 2010

Fire / Explosion

Type of Situation Found	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Commercial Fire	8	4	9	1	0
Residential Fire	25	20	23	18	19
Fire Outside Structure	2	3	3	1	9
Vehicle Fire	15	23	12	18	12
Tree, Brush, Grass Fire	31	18	21	31	11
Refuse Fire	12	10	19	5	10
Aircraft Fire	0	0	0	0	0
Outside Spill w/Fire	0	0	0	0	0
Fire/Explosion, Unclassified	3	2	3	1	0
TOTAL	96	80	90	75	61

Emergency Medical (when fire crew assists EMS crew)

Rescue	52	49	65	60	70
Emergency Medical Call	447	478	496	491	477
Water/Ice Rescue	0	1	1	0	1
Extrication	17	16	14	3	5
Rescue Call, Unclassified	0	1	3	0	4
TOTAL	516	545	579	554	557

Hazardous Condition

Over-pressure/Rupture	0	0	0	0	0
Gas Leak (Natural/LPG)	14	10	5	11	8
Hazardous Condition, Other	1	2	1	1	5
Spill/Leak, No Fire	21	16	15	11	16
Electrical Wiring/Equip. Problem	7	2	5	3	9
Excessive Heat	4	2	3	4	4
Power Line Down	3	6	3	3	4
	2	10	4	4	4
Arcing/Electrical Short	2	3	4	3	3
Hazardous Condition, Unclass.	1	0	0	5	3
TOTAL	55	51	40	45	56

Public Service Assist / Good Intent Calls

Type of Situation Found	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Severe Weather/Nat. Disaster	1	0	4	2	0
Service Call	2	2	2	2	17
Smoke/Odor Removal	3	4	6	0	0
Assist Law Enf./Public Serv.	5	7	8	5	5
Unauthorized Burning	0	2	0	1	2
Cover Assignment	0	0	0	0	0
Service Call, Unclassified	1	4	2	2	1
Good Intent Call	2	2	2	1	2
Smoke Scare	17	8	12	12	14
Animal Rescue	0	0	0	2	0
Vicinity Alarm	0	0	0	0	0
Controlled Burning	4	1	2	2	1
Mistaken For Smoke	4	3	5	3	0
Water Problem	0	0	1	0	1
Carbon Monoxide Inv. Only	6	7	5	4	5
Haz-Mat Investigation Only	14	15	11	11	18
TOTAL	59	55	60	47	66

False Alarm Calls or Cancelled Enroute

False Call/No Incident Found	5	9	8	15	8
Malicious/Mischievous Alarm	9	6	6	9	8
Bomb Scare, No Bomb	0	0	1	0	0
System Malfunction	15	14	20	11	5
Unintentional Alarm	63	74	72	63	82
Cancelled Enroute	68	68	63	68	67
TOTAL	160	171	170	166	170

GRAND TOTALS	714	886	902	939	910
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Fire Response Detail

2006 - 2010



STATISTIC	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Fires	96	80	90	75	62
Total Fire Loss	\$186,890	\$1,110,600	\$161,975	\$214,300	\$106,650
Before Fire Property Value	\$1,482,090	\$1,731,750	\$1,851,250	\$1,078,475	\$677,485
Property Value Saved	\$1,295,200	\$621,150	\$1,689,975	\$864,175	\$570,835
Total Percent Saved	87.39%	35.87%	91.25%	80.13%	84.26%
Number of Fire Deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Firefighter Injuries	6	4	2	0	0
Civilian Injuries	0	2	0	1	2
Busiest Month	Jan.	Aug.	July	Dec.	Sept.
Busiest Day	Fri.	Mon.	Thur.	Tues.	Mon.
Busiest Time	3-3:59 PM	6-6:59 PM	10-10:59 AM	4-4:59 PM	11-11:59 AM
Avg. Response Time	3.35 min.	3.63 min.	3.62 min.	3.98 min.	4.28 min.





Ambulance Service

2006 - 2010



TYPE OF CALL	NUMBER OF EMS RESPONSES				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
911 Calls (not including Intercepts)	1175	1175	1149	1234	1398
In-Town Transfers	75	163	261	318	196
Out-Of-Town Transfers	576	806	745	717	621
Intercepts	80	110	170	138	93*
Standby	22	34	24	28	26
TOTAL EMS RESPONSES	1928	2288	2349	2435	2241
Percent of Increase (annually)	-1.66%	18.67%	2.67%	3.67%	-7.97%

***note**

Aug 1st - Nov 1st 2010 there were 35 911 calls to Wymore that would have normally been Intercepts

* Most Common Age of Patient 75-84 years of age

* Busiest Time of the Day12:00 - 2:59 PM

* Busiest Day of the Week Friday

- * Most Common Reasons for Call
1. Transfers (local and out-of-town)
 2. Falls
 3. Motor Vehicle Accident
 4. Seizures
 5. Respiratory Distress