

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



**DEPARTMENT  
OF FIRE  
AND  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICES**





To: Mayor Walaker, Fire Commissioner Williams,  
Board of City Commissioners, and Citizens  
of Fargo

From: Chief Bruce Hoover, Fargo Fire Department

Date: March 14, 2011

Subject: Fargo Fire Department Annual Report

In 2010, the Fargo Fire Department achieved Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. This Commission is a cooperative arrangement between the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The Fargo Fire Department is one of only 153 agencies in United States and Canada that has achieved this status. Accredited Agency status ensures that the Department will evaluate its performance annually and make changes as necessary to ensure quality service to the citizens. An additional benefit of accredited status is reflected in the Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating schedule for fire suppression. With adoption of the new ISO standard, accredited status will impact fire insurance rates.

The Fargo Fire Department has successfully implemented a fire training credentialing program. This program has third party validation of firefighter and emergency responder skills. The FFD is the only nationally recognized Pro Board Credentialing Agency in North Dakota.

I am confident that these two programs will provide the Department with the tools necessary to continually evaluate the needs of the citizens and adjust the deployment of resources in an effective manner. By continually monitoring changing demand for services, as well as changes to inherent risk within the community, citizens of Fargo can be confident the services we provide are in their best interest. The Department continues to appreciate the opportunity to serve our community and respectfully submits for your review these statistics for 2010.



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# 2010 Fargo Fire Department



**Station 1**

Assistant Chief 800 – 679 Responses  
Engine 801 – 1287 Responses  
Ladder 821 – 528 Responses



**Station 2**

Engine 802 – 868 Responses



**Station 3**

Engine 803 – 738 Responses



**Station 4**

Engine 804 – 842 Responses  
Rescue 834 – 717 Responses



**Station 5**

Engine 805 – 836 Responses



**Station 6**

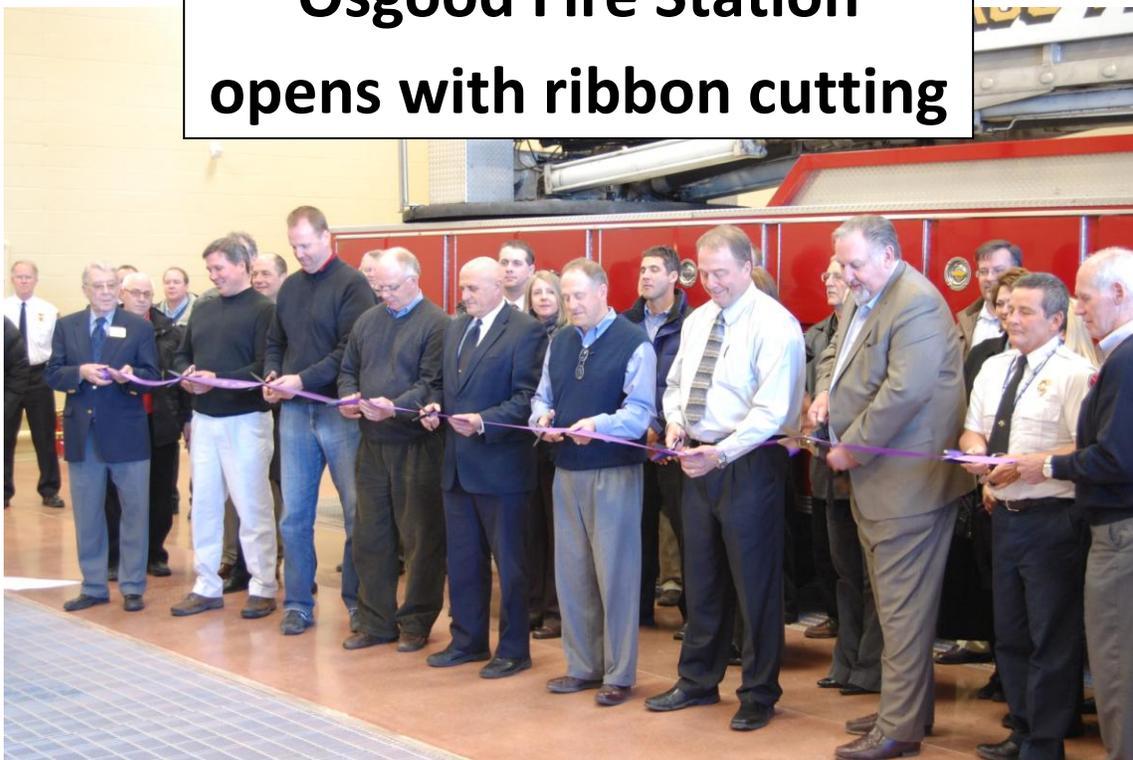
Engine 806 – 222 Responses  
HazMat Unit 846 – 27 Responses

# Station 7

Engine 807 - 315 Responses



**February 24 of 2010  
Osgood Fire Station  
opens with ribbon cutting**



# FARGO FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ROSTER

December 2010

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Aakre, Ellis	Captain	Mehlisich, Jason	Captain
Ambrose, Michael	Firefighter	Meidinger, Paul	Firefighter
Anderson, Bruce	Captain	Meyer, Dean	Assistant Chief
Arens, John	Captain	Mickelson, Luke	Firefighter
Balstad, Steve	Assistant Chief	Muffenbier, Kevin	Captain
Bergh, Brett	Firefighter	Neels, Michael	Firefighter
Bernier, Kevin	Captain	Nelson, Craig	Firefighter
Besette, Brad	Firefighter	Nelson, Doug	Firefighter
Binder, Michael	Firefighter	Nelson, Matt	Firefighter
Binfet, Timothy	Captain	Nelson, William	Firefighter
Bolstad, Jon	Captain	Ness, Jason	Firefighter
Bossert, Steve	Firefighter	Olson, Patrick	Firefighter
Brand, Matthew	Firefighter	Orvik, Kent	Firefighter
Brown, Michael	Firefighter	Nester, Darin	Firefighter
Buchholz, Daniel	Firefighter	Patterson, Everett	Firefighter
Buchholz, Matthew	Firefighter	Payne, Andrew	Firefighter
Burchill, Joseph	Firefighter	Pearson, Tyler	Firefighter
Bush, William	Firefighter EMT Specialist	Peterson, Kirk	Firefighter
Carley, Dane	Captain	Petsinger, Brett	Firefighter
Christofferson, Joshua	Firefighter	Pieper, Chris	Firefighter
Chromey, Kenton	Firefighter	Rasmussen, Chris	Captain
Cleary, Michael	Firefighter	Rysgaard, Trevor	Firefighter
Conrad, Dave	Captain	Sabourin, Joseph	Firefighter
Cuchna, Robert	Captain	Schlafmann, Leon	Captain
Czaplewski, Brett	Firefighter	Schmidt, Gregory	Firefighter
Dockter, James	Firefighter	Schmidt, Jesse	Firefighter
Darrah, Robert	Firefighter EMT Specailist	Schons, Tom	Captain
Dietz, Christopher	Firefighter	Schuh, Larry	Assistant Chief
Dietz, Clark	Captain	Scott, Norman	Fire Marshal
Dufty, Nicholas	Firefighter	Seaberg, Michael	Firefighter
Durensky, Brent	Firefighter	Senn, Dan	Firefighter
Eisenlohr, Eric	Firefighter	Severson, Rob	Captain
Erickson, Perry	Captain	Shirley, Bruce	Data Services
Erickson, Ryan	Firefighter	Simmons, Shane	Firefighter
Forness, Jason	Firefighter	Skarloken, LeRoy	Captain
Forness, Marshall	Firefighter	Smith, Justin	Firefighter
Garvey, James	Firefighter	Soeth, Lee	Captain
Gisselbeck, Jason	Firefighter	Speral, John	Captain
Guggisberg, Ron	Captain	Sprout, Jeffrey	Firefighter
Hendrickson, Mike	Captain	Stollenwerk, Dawn	Firefighter
Hoover, Bruce	Fire Chief	Svir, Joseph	Firefighter
Hoover, Jared	Firefighter	Swanson, Ben	Firefighter
Johnson, Bonnie	Office Manager	Swanson, Terry	Captain
Johnson, Dan	Firefighter	Sylvester, Steve	Firefighter
Johnson, Keith	Captain	Underdahl, Jason	Firefighter
Johnson, Kevin	Firefighter	Viergutz, Ryan	Firefighter
Johnson, Logan	Firefighter	Vosseteig, Erik	Firefighter
Kankelfritz, Adam	Firefighter	Wagner, Terry	Captain
Kankelfritz, Chris	Captain	Waller, Mark	Captain
Kelsh, Scot	Firefighter	Wehner, Brandon	Firefighter
Knutson, Chris	Firefighter	Wehrle, Ross	Firefighter
Knutson, Deric	Firefighter	Weiss, Randy	Captain
Krueger, Mason	Firefighter	Welder, Thomas	Firefighter
Laddusaw, Matthew	Firefighter	Westra, Thomas	Firefighter
Locnikar, Joseph	Captain	Willey, Benjamin	Firefighter
Lorenz, Gary	Captain	Young, Paul	Firefighter EMT Specialist
Mangin, Joe	Captain	Young, Ryan	Firefighter



**Captain  
Leon Schlafmann  
Emergency Services Coordinator**

The year started with the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) being reviewed and ended the same way. The City of Fargo EOP is under constant revision. As we finish one area, we look at an exercise or event and reevaluate. At this time, we are rewriting the evacuation and the pet sheltering sections of the plan, and meet with outside agencies and organizations to make sure that the City has a workable product.

2010 started off with flood planning and working to improve on the after action items needing to be addressed from the 2009 record flood event. Meeting with each department and holding a flood exercise in January lead the effort.

March of 2010 Fargo again faced a major flood event on the Red River. With high river levels anticipated we set up for a 40' river gage line of protection. The river crested at just short of 37'. (This height was in the top ten all time flood levels for the Red River.)

Fargo will participate by having members on the North Dakota Incident Management Assist Team (IMAT) and I attended the Logistics Section Chief and the Safety Officer courses at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The tornado season brought new challenges to the city as we prepared our citizens for such an event. The warning system was evaluated and we found some areas of concern regarding coverage. A new weather warning system was purchased for the city of Fargo and all of Cass and Clay counties. The warning system, through CodeRed, alerts registered citizens of a flood warning, thunder storm warning, or tornado warning that is in their area. It is issued as soon as the National Weather Service puts out a warning polygon so there is very little delay.

In the fall I went to all City of Fargo facilities and performed fire evacuation drills. The process was a success and this will now be an annual event.

# TRAINING



**Captain Lee Soeth trained and evaluated the entire department on company evolutions. These evolutions are designed so each firefighter can train with the equipment to accomplish the fire ground tasks that they may encounter during an emergency response. Firefighters were also trained to Haz Mat technician level and in confined space operations.**



Firefighters participated in a mock helipad crash involving the Stanford life flight helicopter. Fire crews were involved in the removal of the occupants and fire suppression operations.

If they cannot exit through the door they came in, exiting through a stud wall space is a self survival technique used by firefighters. In this training exercise the firefighters have their face masks blacked out and are sent through a course in full gear.



Firefighters utilized houses that were purchased by the city for training throughout 2010. The training included ventilation, fire attack and search and rescue.

# Fargo's Ranking in *Firehouse Magazine Survey*

## BUSIEST ENGINE COMPANY

	DEPARTMENT		TOTAL RUNS
184.	Lodi, CA.....	E2033.....	1688
185.	Monroe, LA.....	E105.....	1682
<b>186.</b>	<b>Fargo, ND.....</b>	<b>E801 .....</b>	<b>1670</b>
187.	Centennial, South Metro, CO.....	E33.....	1652
188.	North Attleborough, MA.....	E8113.....	1649

## BUSIEST LADDER COMPANY

	DEPARTMENT		TOTAL RUNS
94.	Olympia, WA.....	T1.....	1372
95.	Lexington, KY.....	L2.....	1354
<b>96.</b>	<b>Fargo, ND.....</b>	<b>L821.....</b>	<b>1351</b>
97.	Passaic, NJ.....	L1.....	1348
98.	Somerville, MA.....	L2.....	1344

## BUSIEST HAZMAT UNIT

	DEPARTMENT		TOTAL RUNS
68	Fresno, CA.....	HM1.....	73
68.	Philadelphia, PA.....	HM1.....	73
70.	San Diego, CA.....	HM1.....	70
<b>71.</b>	<b>Fargo, ND.....</b>	<b>HM846.....</b>	<b>66</b>
71.	Winston-Salem, NC.....	HM1.....	66
73.	Orange County CA .....	HM4.....	37

## BUSIEST STATION

	DEPARTMENT	STATION	RUNS	UNITS
142.	Lawrence, KS.....	5.....	4480.....	5
143.	Meriden, CT.....	2.....	4475.....	2
<b>144.</b>	<b>Fargo, ND.....</b>	<b>1.....</b>	<b>4461.....</b>	<b>3</b>
145.	Schenectady, NY.....	1.....	4403.....	5
146.	Denton, TX.....	3.....	4390.....	2

## BUSIEST CHIEF

	DEPARTMENT	CHIEF	TOTAL RUNS
30	Fort Lauderdale, FL.....	B2.....	1514
31.	Athens-Clarke County, GA.....	C34.....	1503
<b>32.</b>	<b>Fargo, ND.....</b>	<b>BC800.....</b>	<b>1440</b>
33.	Meriden, CT.....	C3.....	1437
34.	Nashville, TN.....	D8.....	1435
		...	

## BUSIEST HEAVY RESCUE

	DEPARTMENT	UNIT	TOTAL RUNS
34.	Spokane, WA.....	SR1.....	1772
35.	Orlando, FL.....	HR1.....	1756
<b>36.</b>	<b>Fargo, ND.....</b>	<b>HR834.....</b>	<b>1747</b>
37.	Nashville, TN.....	R12.....	1701
38.	Monroe, LA.....	R2.....	1641

## WHITE – HARTMAN AWARDS

The White-Hartman Award for Citizen Assistance recognizes a member of the general public, who has provided assistance at an emergency scene during a potentially significant, potentially dangerous or potentially life-threatening incident.



Chief Hoover awards Daniel Hanlon, Melvin Woods, and Eric Breslin for saving the life of a victim by pulling him out of a burning vehicle.



Captain Weiss awards Kathy Oines, Susan Ross, and Berell Sannes for saving the life of a choking victim by doing the Heimlich maneuver and administering CPR.



## Letter of Commendation for Innovation



**Firefighter  
Ryan Erickson**

In recognition for developing a computer program to aid Central Dispatch in determining the correct units to dispatch on emergency runs. This program decreases call processing times, resulting in faster response times.

# PUBLIC RELATIONS



Having and keeping friends in the community is the basis and purpose of a good public relations program. A variety of programs have been created to fulfill the necessity



to stay relevant in the community and gain continued acceptance and support. This is accomplished by delivering messages educating citizens in safety awareness and at the same time promoting the fire service. Programs like the ones we use are intended to communicate the value of its firefighters within the community. Through good public relations we are able to demonstrate specific actions that show a positive presence and add value in the services we provide to the citizens of Fargo showing we are dedicated to public safety.

The following programs listed below are used to promote our professional firefighters and to market the Fargo Fire Department.

- Our social media use generates interest from citizens and media personalities who monitor the messages we disseminate.
- We have a great working relationship with the local media.
- Our public education program results showed 42 visits within our schools for various programs and prompted 26 participants in our ride along program.
- Over the year our department hosted 95 fire station tours.
- We have attended 65 community events.
- We have attended 6 professional workshops and expos.



# PUBLIC EDUCATION

## Health & Career Expo

The Department was able to showcase firefighting as a career to over 2,600 9<sup>th</sup> graders from around the region at the Health & Career Expo held at the FargoDome.



## Fires & Falls, Public Safety & Health Career Classes, and the Learn Not To Burn Program

Public Education programs are delivered to all ages within the community to promote safety and health. The Fires & Falls program is offered to citizens over the age of 55. Fire safety is brought to life and taught to all Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades in the Fargo Public and Private Elementary Schools through the Learn Not to Burn Program. Middle school and high school students are educated in careers in the fire service and are encouraged to take advantage of our "Ride Along" Program.



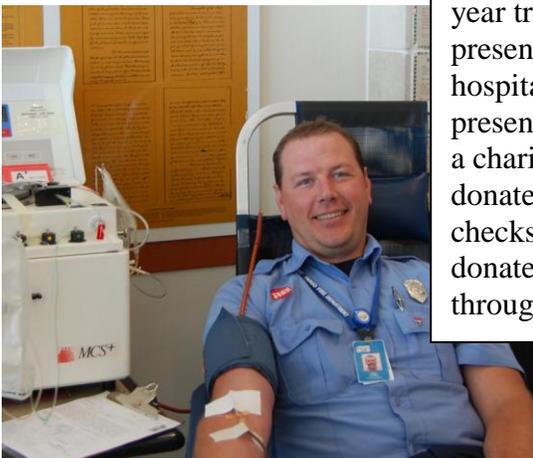
## Safety Safari and Safety Town

Safety Safari and Safety Town are programs geared to educate pre-school and elementary school age children in home fire safety and fire escape plans through the "Get Out and Stay Out" programs featuring our safety smoke house.



### Fargo Firefighters Local 642

The Fargo Firefighters Local 642 continues to be on the frontlines in 2010 by working to achieve the highest quality fire department to best serve the citizens of Fargo. 105 Fargo Firefighters are represented by our organization that continually represents the city and fire department in a professional manner. The benevolent heart of our organization continues to be the charity work we do in the community. The Muscular Dystrophy Association is our flagship charity, raising millions of dollars nationally for children who suffer from this disease. Fargo Firefighters broke two North Dakota State charity records this year. In July the firefighters broke the record for recruiting the most blood donors for United Blood Services with over 800 units of blood. In December the firefighters from Local 642 broke the single day dollar amount raised for the Salvation Army with over \$26,000. Christmas morning firefighters continued the 20 year tradition of delivering Christmas presents to children that were in the hospital over the holidays. The presents are bought with money from a charity account that the firefighters donate portions of their personal checks, this money is also used to donate to various charities and causes throughout the whole year.



# Business Continuity

The Fargo Fire Department continues to seek new and innovative programs to better serve the Fargo citizens. For over 30 years the fire department has had a successful and informative fire prevention program to reduce the amount of fire casualties and property damage. In 2010, the fire department conducted a survey to assess the risk preparedness level of Fargo Businesses during its fire company inspections. The survey asked...

- if the business has a continuity of operation plan in case of disaster?
- if they had an emergency planner?
- do they have records backup systems in place?
- if they have alternate locations and vendors that they can receive products from to stay in business?

The response we received was that most Fargo businesses do not have these programs in place. We also asked if they would like to receive more information or training on these topics. The response was that over 250 businesses wanted to receive more information.

To facilitate the need of these businesses, in January 2011, the Fargo Fire Department will conduct a series of workshops to educate and assist the business community to plan, prepare, and ensure their longevity after a disaster. The workshops will address several key issues that are vital in disaster preparation for a business. Those topics include, evacuation plans, shelter in place plans, disaster insurance checklists, emergency kit checklists, vendor and supplier plans, communication plans, and assigning an emergency preparedness representative.

# Fargo Fire Explorer Program



POST 259

2010 was a year of stability for the Explorer Program membership. The same eight members at the beginning of the year are the same eight we had at the end of the year. A new addition to the program was Firefighter Dawn Stollenwerk, who agreed to be a co-advisor. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.



Explorer training this year consisted of the usual bread and butter fire ground operations as well as some more specialized activities. This fall we practiced rappelling for the first time. We were also able to do ice rescue training



for the first time.

The Explorers continued their tradition of giving back to the community by various service activities. They volunteered at Sandbag Central and helped build dikes for the 2010 flood fight. They also manned locations for the Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser (Fill the Boot) and rang bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive.

2011 will result in some goodbyes as two of our explorers will age out of the program. Our goals are to recruit more members, hopefully to get all the FM area schools represented. We would also like to recruit a third Firefighter to be a co-advisor. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this another good year for the explorers.



**Firefighter Dawn Stollenwerk**



**Firefighter Justin Smith**

# CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)



In the end of 2010, the Fargo Fire Department acquired the responsibility of training volunteers through the Adult CERT program.



Following a major disaster, the Fargo Fire Department will not be able to meet the demand for emergency response. Factors as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees, and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training.

If we can predict that emergency services will not meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is little warning as in a tornado, and people will spontaneously volunteer, what can the Fire Department do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

- Present citizens the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services.
- Give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness.
- Train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.
- Organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.



**Captain Leon Schlafmann**  
Emergency Services  
Coordinator



**Firefighter Matt Nelson**  
Cass County CERT  
Coordinator

# SUPPRESSION DIVISION HOURS



Fire Emergencies	17,837
Medical Emergencies	5,320
Inspections	4,664.8
Hydrants	2,381.4
Emergency Training	23,290
Medical Training	1,916
Routine Maintenance	12,752
Emergency Equipment Maint.	13,304
Equipment & Building Maint.	2,191.8
Personal Health & Safety	3,214.5
Data Entry	5,830.5
Public Relations	1,337
Special Inspections	88
Administration Projects	2,628
Misc. Duties	<u>2,325</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99,080</b>

## Fire Prevention Bureau Hours

Recordkeeping/Reports	849
Research/Other	762
Building Inspections	638
Recheck Inspections	191
Special or Requested Inspections	740
Church Inspections	90
School Inspections	101
Flammable Liquid Inspections	157
Plans Review	322
Investigations	294.5
Training	353
Fire Drill Activities	7
Permits	483
Public Relations	<u>457.75</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,445.25</b>



## Number of Inspections

### Fire Suppression Inspections

Commercial	4286
Apartments	<u>1288</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5574</b>

The yearly inspection goals are:

- A) to inspect 100% of the commercial properties and
- B) to inspect 50% of the apartment properties.

**Both goals were met in 2010**

### Fire Prevention Bureau Inspections

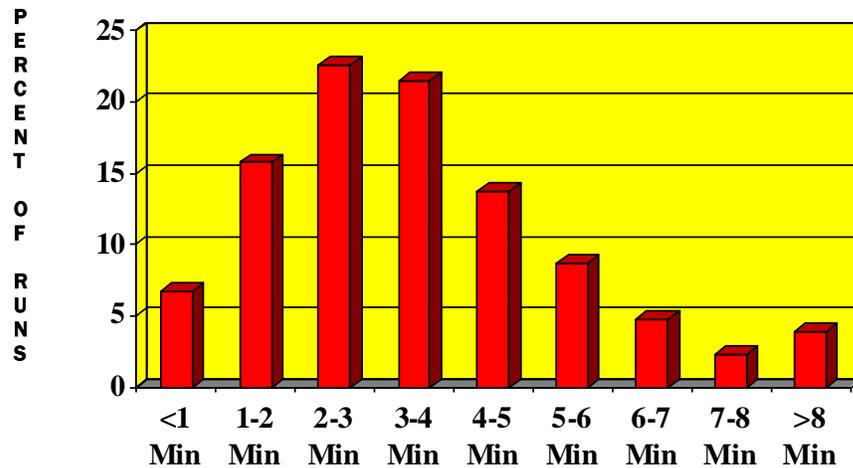
Public Assembly.....	177
Offices.....	90
Educational.....	201
Factory.....	57
Hazardous Materials.....	169
Institutional.....	27
Mercantile.....	107
Residential.....	102
Storage.....	200
Utility.....	13
Special Inspections.....	<u>1,037</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,180</b>

# FIRE LOSS SUMMARY

## INCIDENT TYPE

## LOSSES

BUILDING FIRE.....	\$9,789,964
FIRES IN STRUCTURES OTHER.....	\$8,900
PASSENGER VEHICLE FIRE.....	\$124,210
ROAD FREIGHT OR TRANSPORT.....	\$56,350
OUTSIDE RUBBISH FIRE AND TRASH....	\$700
DUMPSTER OR OTHER OUTSIDE.....	\$4,024
OUTSIDE EQUIPMENT FIRE.....	\$8,000
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT.....	\$48,200
COOKING FIRE.....	<u>\$410</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,040,758</b>



## Emergency Response Times

### SITUATION SUMMARY

Fire .....	255
Explosion/Overpressure.....	3
Rescue/Emergency Medical .....	1712
Hazardous Conditions .....	292
Service Calls .....	500
Good Intent Calls .....	529
False Calls .....	1154
Weather Calls .....	4
Special Incident .....	<u>36</u>
<b>TOTAL INCIDENT COUNT</b>	<b>4485</b>

# Looking beyond 2010

In February 2010, the department opened its seventh station in the Osgood neighborhood. The City Commission made the commitment to build and staff this new station based on the increasing risk in that area. The Department continues to identify community needs and develop programs in the field of community risk reduction.

## **Continuity of Business Operations**

Recognizing local businesses as important components in Fargo's growing economy, the Department is assisting businesses in the preparation of Continuity of Business Operations Plans. Local businesses create plans to ensure their ability to continue daily operations during times of emergency. As part of the annual fire prevention inspection each business was surveyed. Training was provided for those businesses that indicated a desire for assistance. Individual businesses will be provided assistance as needed. Training classes will continue on a semi-annual basis or as needed.

## **CERT Program**

The Fargo Fire Department is the coordinating body for the administration of the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Fargo and Cass County. The Department took over responsibility for this program in 2010 and expects future growth of the program. The goal of this program is to provide citizens with basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills. This training will better prepare citizens to care for themselves, their families, and their neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster, until emergency services personnel can arrive.

## **Regional Haz Mat/WMD, and Technical Rescue Response**

In partnership with the North Dakota Department of Emergency Service, the Fargo Fire Department, along with the three other career fire departments in the state, is in the process of developing plans to respond to Haz Mat and technical rescue emergencies. These programs will benefit the citizens of Fargo and communities throughout North Dakota.