



# 2015 Annual Report

## **MESSAGE FROM CHIEF TAYLOR**

It is with a great sense of pride and enthusiasm that I present the 2015 annual report of the North Prairie Fire Department. This has been a monumental year for the organization and we have high expectations for 2016 as well. The statistical information contained within this report is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of the men and women who serve the community.

The year saw the addition of 2 new volunteer members who have eagerly embarked on their training to become professional emergency medical technician and Firefighters.

We also saw the retirement of Bob Rice after 35 dedicated years of service to the Village of North Prairie.

The North Prairie Fire Department also had a review by the Insurance Services Office. I am pleased to announce we reduced our score from a 5 to a 4. This could result in lower insurance for Village Residents. A copy of the report is attached to this document

The fire department continues to promote its fire prevention program by visiting the elementary schools in October. There was 0 recorded incident of loss of life due to fire in our community in 2015.

We look forward to serving you in 2016!

Brian Taylor  
Fire Chief

## **CURRENT PROGRAM SERVICES OFFERED BY THE NORTH PRAIRIE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES:

- Fire Inspection
- Fire Investigation – Cause and Origin Determination
- Public Education
- Public Training
- Departmental Training
- Equipment Maintenance and Repair
- Data Collection, Record-keeping, and Analysis
- Smoke Detector Installation

### EMERGENCY SERVICES:

- Firefighting
- Basic Life Support Emergency Medical Services
- Extrication
- Water Rescue
- Search and Rescue
- Mutual Aid Responses with surrounding departments
- Scene Stabilization and Security
- Natural Disaster Responses
- Man-made Disaster Responses

## **HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING**

Volunteerism has been on a steep decline over the past several decades. It is difficult for volunteer and combination fire departments to recruit and retain quality, motivated people. However, we are pleased to report that our staffing levels consist of highly motivated individuals who are willing and able to meet the dynamic needs of the community.

As of August 15, our fire department consists of the following personnel:

- 1 Fire Chief
- 2 Captains
- 2 Lieutenants
- 13 FireFighters (Only)
- 4 EMT (Only)
- 8 EMT/Firefighter Combined

Of the volunteer personnel, 90% have length of service time greater than 5 years. 9 of those members have more than 20 years of service.

This information is statistically significant in several ways. First, it reflects the long-term commitment that volunteers have to the organization and the community. Second, it demonstrates the experience that will be lost when those members retire. It is important for the department to recruit new members on a continual basis so that new personnel can be conditioned to carry the torch when our senior members retire.

The department is currently staffed 5 days a week with 1 part-time person. Because North Prairie is a bedroom community, most of our volunteer personnel work in other cities. Their commute reduces our staffing to critical levels during the day. As a result, part-time staffing was added in 2005 to provide a minimum response level while our volunteers were out of the community.

The North Prairie Fire Department currently employs 6 part-time EMT IV tec's, our part-time EMTs work Monday through Friday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. This ensures that when someone calls 911, an ambulance will respond.

Our part-time staff conducts routine building maintenance, as well as other projects that are assigned by the fire chief in addition to answering calls for service. Their commitment to the organization reduces the workload on the volunteer members and allows them to focus their time and energy on training to better prepare themselves for emergency calls for service.

## **TRAINING**

This year was a banner year for training by the North Prairie Fire Department. Firefighters completed a total of **3125** hours of training in firefighting and emergency medical services.

Topics covered for the year included:

- Communications
- EMS Protocols Review
- Water Rescue
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Hyperthermia
- Hypothermia
- Search and Rescue
- Building Construction
- Live Fire Training
- Advanced Medical Skills
- Fire Ground Set up
- Flight For Life Safety
- ...and many more!

Don Gray and Bob Ryniecki will attend the Wisconsin Inspector's Association conference where they will learn about recent changes to fire codes.

## **APPARATUS AND RESOURCES**

The North Prairie Fire Department is proud to maintain a modern fleet which includes the following apparatus:

- 2001 Pierce Pumper (3561)
- 2004 Medtec Ambulance(3551)
- 1998 Dodge Ram Brush Truck (3581)
- 1990 GMC TopKick Tender (3592)
- 2006 Freightliner M2 Business Command/Equipment Truck (3576)
- 1996 Pierce TeleSquirt (3571)

## **BUILDING**

The building was acquired by the Village in 1980. Currently I believe the building is suitable for the Fire department's needs. But due to the fact we share the back bays with a growing Village DPW this area is becoming too small. This is causing the DPW to have to store equipment outside of the building. Consideration should be given to the square footage required by 2 departments sharing a single building.

Routine maintenance should be performed to ensure longevity. This year we again repaired the roof leak caused by ice damming. We also installed roof top heating elements to hopefully stop the ice damming. As a result of the roof leaks we removed all the drywall and insulation in the truck bays and reinstalled new materials.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The North Prairie Fire Department is extremely involved in the community. The members give additional time to support the following events to make their community a better place.

- Breakfast With Santa
- Pizza Delivery
- Harvest Festival and Parade
- Salvation Army Bell ringing
- School visits
- Tri-Athlon for Kids

## **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

The North Prairie Fire Department responded to 90 calls for service as of the end of August 15 2015.

There were 55 incidents in the Village of North Prairie

There were 3 incidents in the Town of Genesee

There were 4 incidents in the Town Of Mukwonago

There were 2 incidents in the Town Of Ottawa

There were 26 incidents of mutual Aid to other Communities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

I believe that we should continue to investigate consolidation of our department. I believe that with the restrictions handed down by the government and border agreements in place the Village of North Prairie will struggle in the future to keep up with and to maintain the mandates in training and requirements from NFPA to comply with safety standards.

## **Equipment Replacement Schedule**

3571 is a 1996 Peirce, Currently has 25649 miles and is in service as our main Structure Fire Engine. It is slated for replacement in 2018.

3561 is a 2001 Peirce. Currently has 12,735 miles and is in service as our main engine for Auto Accidents. It is slated for replacement in 2028.

3581 is a 1998 Dodge Ram, Currently has 15,937 miles and is in service as our main grass fire Truck. It is slated for replacement in 2017.

3576 is a 2006 Freightliner. Currently has 6072 miles and is in service as our Command/ equipment truck. It is slated for replacement in 2035.

3551 is a 2004 Med Tec. Currently has 46617 miles and is in service as our only Ambulance. It is slated for replacement in 2025.

3592 is a 1990 GMC, currently has 11029 miles and is in service as our Tender. . It is slated for replacement in 2020

All trucks Listed above are in service and are expected to make the estimated replacement date.

The North Prairie Fire Department has in its cache a number of miscellaneous hand tools, (I:e hammers wrenches, shovels, rakes and such) these tools are not on a replacement schedule that is date driven. They will be replaced on an as needed basis.

The Jaws Of Life (TNT Rescue Tools) were purchased in 2003 and are slated to be replaced in 2018.

The Self Contained Breathing Apparatus were acquired thru a federal grant in 2004. We will be replacing a small quantity in 2013 and every year after that until all are replace. This will allow us to spread the replacement costs over several years. These devices are recommended to be replaced every 10 years.

The dates listed above are best guess dates. Issues beyond our control may force us to look at quicker replacement options. As well as being able to push out replacement dates due to proper maintenance and preventive maintenance, as well as our lower call volume compared to larger city Departments.

## **Recruitment**

We recognize that our number one resource is our personnel. With that beginning said we try to recruit people thru out the year. We also have a committee that focuses on recruitment; they have staff that will dedicate themselves at all of our events listed in the community involvement section of this report, to talking to people about our service and the need for members. They hand out applications and answer questions about what's involved with becoming a member of the North Prairie Fire Department. We have also have posted the recruitment banners around town. As well as redesigning our Department web Page and utilizing Facebook as a means to inform the public of events that happen within the community.