

January 16, 2015

Honorable Mayor Gordon Canfield
City Manager Russ Behrens
Grinnell City Council



Contained herein is the annual Report of the Grinnell Fire Department for the year 2015.

Listed below is a breakdown of all incidents responded to, by the Grinnell Fire Department, in 2015.

<u>Type of Call</u>	<u>Number</u>
Fires	
<i>Building Fires</i>	20
<i>Car/Truck Fires</i>	10
<i>Rubbish Fires</i>	7
<i>Grass/Crops/Brush Fires</i>	12
<i>Other</i>	2
Total Fires	51
Rescues	
<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	36
<i>W/Extrication</i>	4
<i>Special Rescues</i>	10
<i>Medical Assists</i>	245
Total Rescue Calls	304
Hazardous Materials	25
Hazardous Conditions	13
Haz-Mat Investigation w/no release	8
Special/Public Service	28
Illegal Burning/Smoke Complaints	28
Good Intent/Investigation	43
False/Accidental Alarms	81
Weather Stand-By	3
Total 2015 Calls	573

Of the 573 calls for service 491 were in the City District, 69 were in the Rural Fire Association District, and 13 were Mutual Aid calls. The total dollar loss to fire was estimated at \$316,975.

The Grinnell Fire Department is comprised of 5 full-time, 2 part-time and 25 volunteer firefighters, and the following is a list of them all;

Daniel Sicard	Chief	Full-time
Dan Walker	Assistant Chief of Operations	Volunteer
Craig Sieck	Assistant Chief of Training/ Vol Assoc Treasurer	Volunteer
Scott Schmidt	Captain	Part-time
Mike Groves	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Volunteer
Dave Thompson	Firefighter	Part-time
Scott Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
David Byers	Firefighter	Volunteer
Rob Vest	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Don Ellis	Firefighter	Volunteer
Ben McFarland	Firefighter	Volunteer
Dave Crawford	Firefighter	Volunteer
Ben Barr	Vol Assoc President/FF	Volunteer
Greg Kirsch	Firefighter	Volunteer
Todd Zell	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Jed Petersen	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Scott Crecelius	Firefighter	Volunteer
Curtis Sieck	Vol Assoc VP/FF	Volunteer
Doug Ernsperger	Firefighter	Volunteer
Carl Eggermont	Firefighter	Volunteer
Andrew Vest	Firefighter	Volunteer
Kyle Esrey	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Jenifer Smith	Vol Assoc Secretary/FF	Volunteer
Casey Moore	Firefighter	Volunteer
Jason Pollock	Firefighter	Volunteer
Todd Pollock	Firefighter	Volunteer
Wade Robeson	Firefighter	Volunteer
Dalton Lender	Firefighter	Volunteer
Joe Zimsen	Firefighter	Volunteer
Shyann Warrick	Firefighter	Volunteer
Merlyn Schakel	Firefighter	Volunteer
Brian Paul	Firefighter	Volunteer

Special notes for our roster in 2015 include;
Steve Bernemann retired with 35 years of service. The addition of Shyann Warrick and Brian Paul as volunteers

Below are some of the notable calls from 2015, it should be noted that we are many times assisted on scene by Grinnell Police Department, Poweshiek & Jasper County Sheriff's Office and/or Midwest Ambulance;

January 8th



A fire on E 156th St S destroyed a home. Due to the extreme cold temperatures mutual aid was received from Sully, Lynnville, Kellogg, Searsboro and Reasnor Fire Departments. 2 people were displaced from the fire and 2 dogs perished.

February 3rd



A fire at ASI Signs started in a cutting machine and was contained to the machine and connected duct work.

February 17th & Feb 19th

Gilman Fire requested our help for both a house fire and an apartment fire in the span of 3 days. On the house fire manpower with Rescue 50 was sent to assist, on the apartment fire manpower with Rescue 50 and Ladder Truck 52 responded to help.

March 8th

Two Reed St. residents were overcome by Carbon Monoxide in their home. Grinnell Police Officers and Firefighters were assisted by a neighbor in removing them to safety. Midwest Ambulance treated and transported the patients who both later recovered. The building was ventilated as extremely dangerous levels were found throughout the home.

March 14th



Firefighter Esrey rescued a child out of a tree, with the assistance of Police Officer Fricke.

March 28th & 29th



The Grinnell Fire Department hosted the 2nd Annual Rural Rescue Weekend. Over 100 firefighters from around the area attended. During the first day Grinnell firefighters were called away for a field fire, a small fire in a house under construction on Jewell Dr and a motor vehicle crash on Interstate 80.

March 30th



A controlled burn at the Waste Water Plant got out of control and ignited the tree dump and piles of mulch/compost. Mutual aid was received from Gilman, Malcom, Searsboro and Kellogg Fire Departments. Firefighters were on scene for more than 12 hours over the course of 2 days.

April 12th



Assisted Barnes City Fire Department and Key Coop with the controlled burn of their grain elevator.

April 30th



A fire in a trash can in the garage of a Borad St home damaged a truck and the garage.

May 29th

Firefighters responded to a West St home for a small girl pinned between a cast iron radiator and the wall. The girl was freed with no injuries or damage to the home with the use of airbags.

May 30th



Firefighters trained all day on fire attack in a vacant structure south of town of Hwy 146. The property was donated by Big Rivers LLC.

July 4th

While on safety stand-by at the fireworks show, Grinnell Firefighters were able to locate a missing child and return him to his parents.

August 26th



A dumpster at Main and Commercial St was lit on fire.

September 19th



© Duane McClun



© Duane McClun

Assisted Gilman Fire with a house fire, the house was a total loss.

September 21st



Grinnell, Gilman and Marshalltown Firefighters worked together to perform a high angle rescue of an injured man north of Gilman. The injured man was over 100 feet up on a grain elevator. Grinnell firefighters used ropes, a rescue basket and webbing to lower and secure the patient to the Marshalltown Tower Ladder. He was brought to the ground and transported by Marshalltown Hospital paramedics with non-life threatening injuries.

October 5th



Photo by Duane McClun

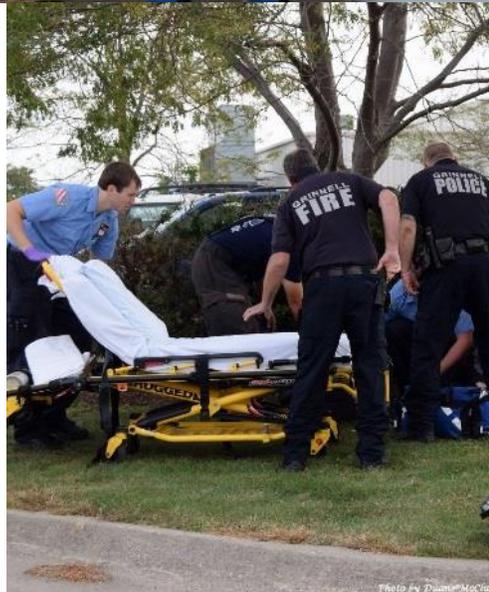


Photo by Duane McClun

An ammonia refrigerant leak inside Purfoods on Blakely Circle forced the evacuation of the building. Grinnell firefighters set up a triage area and helped Midwest and East Poweshiek Ambulance triage and treat 11 people with breathing difficulties. Firefighters were also sent into the building to search and make sure everyone was out. A decontamination area was set up to rinse down the firefighters. After identifying the product two firefighters were sent in wearing chemical protective suits to stop the leak. Readings on the meters indicated levels of ammonia in hazard area that were in the lethal range, but not within the flammable limits. The leak was successfully stopped and the building was ventilated.

October 15th



Grinnell Fire assisted Montezuma Fire with a fast moving field fire. With sustained winds over 30 mph and gust over 40 mph the fire spread quickly for over 2 miles. All Poweshiek County fire departments responded as well as departments from Jasper and Mahaska County. In the end over 500 acres of fields, including standing corn, a semi and two vehicles were burned. No houses were damaged and no civilians were injured.

October 18th

Grinnell, Gilman, Montour, Tama and LeGrand fire departments extinguished a field fire on the Poweshiek County Tama Count line.

October 19th

Grinnell responded mutual to Kellogg for a house fire, and just as they cleared Malcom Fire requested them for a house and barn on fire.

October 21st



Central College's women's soccer team bus caught fire on Hwy 146 at Interstate 80. There were no injuries, but the bus was a total loss.

October 31st



A training burn of a building south of town on Hwy 146 was conducted. Firefighters trained on a fire attack called a transitional attack as well as use of thermal imagers. Searsboro fire department joined in on the training.

November 30th

Firefighters employed the recently trained on transitional attack on a Park St house fire. The attack led to a quick knockdown of the main bulk of fire. However, conditions in the house made it extremely difficult to completely extinguish the fire. Gilman Fire assisted on scene. 3 people were displaced by the fire and 2 dogs perished.

December 18th

Firefighters responded to a reported gas leak on Industrial Ave. When they arrived they found a pressure relief device from the high pressure natural gas system was operating. As they were investigating local businesses a second call came in for the same problem on Blakely Circle. Safety zones were established and gas readings taken inside the nearby buildings. Alliant Energy responded and shut down the gas to the area.

December 22nd

Responded north of town for a semi vs pick up crash. 1 fatality was involved. Crews assisted the Iowa State Patrol on scene for over 5 hours until the road could be cleared.

Fire Prevention/Inspections and Training

The Grinnell Fire Department continued to provide fire prevention to all age groups throughout our fire district. Prevention activities include installing/replacing smoke detectors, fire extinguisher classes, safety talks at schools and businesses, tours of the fire station and several special events including our Fire Prevention Breakfast. Over the course of the year over 3500 adults and children are reached through these efforts.

The Grinnell Fire Department conducts fire inspections of all liquor establishments in City limits, on citizen complaints and at the request of property owners. 99 inspections were conducted last year resulting in 80 hazards found. All hazards were corrected by the people responsible for the property.

Over 4000 man hours were committed to training and prevention activities last year. Besides two regular training nights a month for the volunteers, the fire department conducted two day long live fire training burns, assisted with another burn in Barnes City and held the Annual Rural Training Weekend. This weekend training allows all Grinnell Firefighters to obtain specialized rescue training for free. The program has been so successful we have been able to extend the free training offer to any Poweshiek County firefighter.

ISO Rating

Because of the department's commitment to training and fire prevention our Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating has improved to a 4. This rating is determined by a third party organization and is used by many insurance companies in determining insurance rates. The lower the number the better. The City's rating was lowered from a 5 to a 4 this year.

The Grinnell Fire Department strives to continue protecting life and property to the highest standard. We also plan on continuing our efforts to contribute to, and be a part of, what makes the Grinnell Community a special place to live.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Sicard
Fire Chief
Grinnell Fire Department