

January 20, 2020

Honorable Mayor Dan Agnew  
City Manager Russ Behrens  
Grinnell City Council



Contained herein is the annual Report of the Grinnell Fire Department for the year 2019.

Listed below is a breakdown of all incidents responded to, by the Grinnell Fire Department, in 2019.

<b>Type of Call</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Fires</b>	
<i>Building Fires</i>	25
<i>Car/Truck Fires</i>	13
<i>Rubbish Fires</i>	5
<i>Grass/Crops/Brush Fires</i>	9
<b>Total Fires</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Rescues</b>	
<i>Motor Vehicle Crashes</i>	52
<i>MVC W/Extrication</i>	4
<i>Special Rescues</i>	7
<i>Medical Assists</i>	410
<b>Total Rescue Calls</b>	<b>473</b>
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Hazardous Conditions</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Special/Public Service</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Burning Complaints</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Investigation</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Fire Alarms</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Weather Issues</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Calls 2019</b>	<b>746</b>

Of the 746 calls for service 648 were in the City District, 80 were in the Rural District, and 18 were Mutual Aid calls. The total dollar loss to fire was estimated at \$1,040,880.

The Grinnell Fire Department is comprised of 5 full-time, 4 part-time and 19 volunteer firefighters, and the following is a list of them all;

Daniel Sicard	Chief	Full-time
Dave Byers	Assistant Chief of Operations	Volunteer
Brian Paul	Assistant Chief of Training	Volunteer
Carl Eggermont	Captain	Volunteer
Mike Groves	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Volunteer
Ben Barr	Lieutenant	Volunteer
Jason Pollock	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Volunteer
Dave Thompson	Driver/Firefighter	Part-time
Scott Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Scott Schmidt	Driver/Firefighter	Part-time
Rob Vest	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Craig Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Don Ellis	Firefighter	Volunteer
Todd Zell	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Jed Petersen	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Curtis Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Doug Ernsperger	Vol Assoc President/FF	Volunteer
Kyle Esrey	Driver/Firefighter	Part-time
Jenifer Smith	Vol Assoc Secretary/FF	Volunteer
Todd Pollock	Firefighter	Volunteer
Wade Robeson	Firefighter	Volunteer
Merlyn Schakel	Vol Assoc VP/FF	Volunteer
William Gruman	Vol Assoc Treasurer/FF	Volunteer
Kyle Smith	Firefighter	Part-time
Brent Smith	Firefighter	Volunteer
Christian Williams	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Brent Nickel	Firefighter	Volunteer
EJ Rolfes	Firefighter	Volunteer
Oswaldo Carrillo-Torres	Firefighter	Volunteer

Special notes for our roster in 2019 include;

Dan Walker retired from the Fire Department after 23 years of dedicated service. EJ Rolfes and Oswaldo Carrillo-Torres were added as volunteers. The following volunteers left the department this year; Joe Zimsen, Samantha Ramsey, Marcus McMains, Blake Draper and Dalton Lender. Kyle Smith moved from volunteer to part-time.

Below are some of the notable calls from 2019, 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/CARE Ambulance;

January 6<sup>th</sup>

Grinnell and area firefighters provided an honor guard as Firefighter Eric Hosette, a Clinton Firefighter who died in explosion the day before, is returned home. While this was going on several other firefighters were assisting Jasper County Sheriff's Office with a barricaded, armed subject at Deals Acres. The stand-off ended peacefully.



January 19<sup>th</sup>

Grinnell firefighters were busy with three calls at the same time. The first call came in as a tractor rolled over with a person pinned underneath on 310<sup>th</sup> Ave. The second call was for a train vs car accident at 390<sup>th</sup> Ave. The 3<sup>rd</sup> was to assist the ambulance on a medical at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Luckily there were no major injuries at any of the locations.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Firefighters were called to assist Knoxville Fire Department with a building collapse with hazardous materials inside.

January 24<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters went mutual aid to Kellogg for a rural house fire. Firefighters not only battled the fire they also had to battle sub-zero temperatures and a -20 wind chill.

January 25<sup>th</sup>

A full involved truck fire destroyed the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue owner's vehicle.



February 10<sup>th</sup>

A snow storm brought on several accidents on Interstate 80. While responding to one of them, firefighters were hit from behind. Luckily there were no firefighters injured. On the way back from the Interstate, a call was received for a skid loader fire with someone trapped inside. The loader sustained moderate damage and the person was helped out by a passer-by and was not injured. Shortly after this call firefighters responded for a microwave fire on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Grinnell College Noyce Science Building.



February 25<sup>th</sup>

After several rounds of snow firefighters went out and helped clear several hydrants of snow.



March 7<sup>th</sup>

The new Ladder 53 Pierce 100' ladder truck arrived on this day in Grinnell.



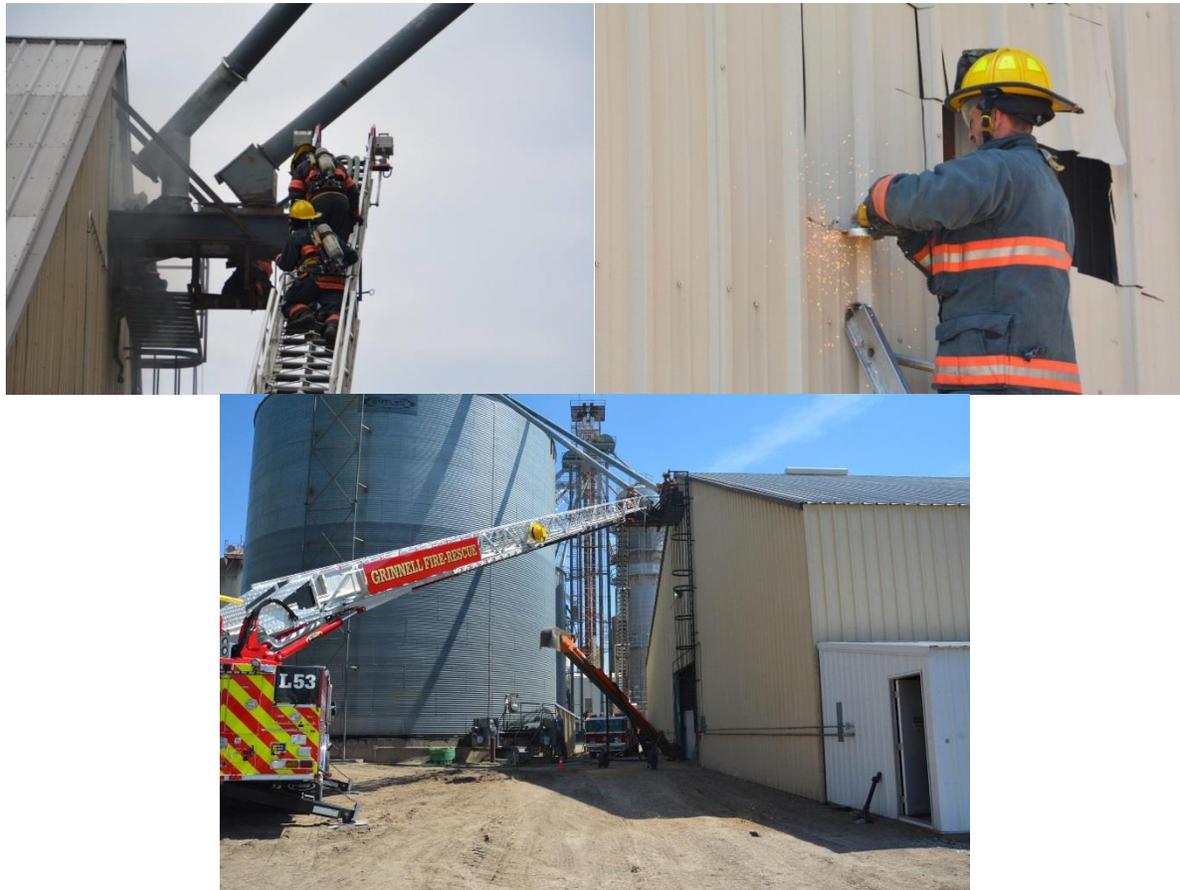
April 8<sup>th</sup>

A dry windy day led to a call for mutual aid to Gilman on Hwy 146 at the Gilman curve for a corn bin and field on fire. While finishing up with this fire a 2<sup>nd</sup> fire was observed to the northeast. Grinnell and Gilman assisted Montour Fire Department with a large field fire.

April 13<sup>th</sup>  
A field fire on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street burned 4 acres.



April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>  
Firefighters worked for two days alongside Key Co-op employees to extinguish a fire in beans stored in a 200' X 100' flat. Loss of product was estimated at over \$250,000.



April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Plastic furniture came in contact with an outside fire pit on the patio of Hotel Grinnell and erupted into flames.



May 5<sup>th</sup>

22 acres of CRP burned. Mutual aid was received from Gilman.



May 13<sup>th</sup>

Tractor on 70<sup>th</sup> Street was completely destroyed by fire, no injuries were reported.



June 1<sup>st</sup>

Grinnell Fire, with Jasper County Conservation, hosted a multi county training with a live structure fire on E 146<sup>th</sup> Street N. Firefighters from Grinnell, Searsboro, Gilman, Kellogg and Newton participated.



June 28<sup>th</sup>

The cab of a semi was destroyed in a fire on East Street Lane.



June 30<sup>th</sup>

A two vehicle collision on Highway 6 required the use of hydraulic rescue tools to extricate one of the victims.



July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Firefighters assisted Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance with a fire demonstration and arson investigation class. The class was attended by firefighters, private investigators and claims adjusters from around the state.



July 25<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters set up a “Firefighter’s Challenge” for kids at the Verizon Backpack giveaway event.



July 31<sup>st</sup>

Firefighters answered a call for an odor of smoke at Spaulding’s Loft Apartments. A small fire was found in a bathroom and extinguished with a fire extinguisher.



August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Firefighters responded to a motor vehicle roll over on N 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue E. They found a car rolled into a deep ditch. The roof was crushed in and they were unable to tell if anyone was inside. Air bags were used to raise the car enough to check for occupants. It turned out the driver had fled the scene prior to anyone arriving.



August 5<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters responded mutual aid to Newton for a fire in a hotel. Firefighters worked several hours to contain the fire to just one section of the hotel.



August 11

Kellogg Fire requested assistance with a MCI (Mass Casualty Incident) on E 116<sup>th</sup> Street N. A single car rolled over with five patients. Grinnell firefighters responded both to the scene to assist with victims and to the Rock Creek road to set up a landing zone for a medical helicopter.



August 18<sup>th</sup>

A motor vehicle crash on West Street required a citizen, Steve Briscoe, to rescue the driver as the car caught fire. The fire then extended to the trees next to the car.



August 20<sup>th</sup>

What was determined by the National Weather Service to be a micro burst, severely damaged a house on 410<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



August 30<sup>th</sup>

A fire in the offices at Wes Finch Auto was contained by their sprinkler system. Unfortunately the alarm system was not monitored so the issue was not found until someone opened up in the morning.



September 4<sup>th</sup>

A fire in a storage bin at Natural Products on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue caused an estimated \$500,000 loss of product.



October 6<sup>th</sup>

The Volunteer Firefighter Association held its annual Fire Prevention Pancake breakfast. Approximately 1200 people attended.



October 22<sup>nd</sup>

A single vehicle rollover on 400<sup>th</sup> Ave had 2 injured. 1 person was partially ejected from the truck and required to be extricated from the vehicle. While the roof was being cut off with hydraulic rescue tools a volunteer fire fighter was struck by a flying piece of metal. The piece hit just under his protective goggles, hit his cheek-bone and went into his eye. The FF was taken to Grinnell Regional Hospital where he was transferred to the University of Iowa for surgery. After missing about a month of work the firefighter is back on the job with a positive prognosis.



October 31<sup>st</sup>

Fire, EMS and Police Officers ran out of candy from the large number of visitors on Halloween.



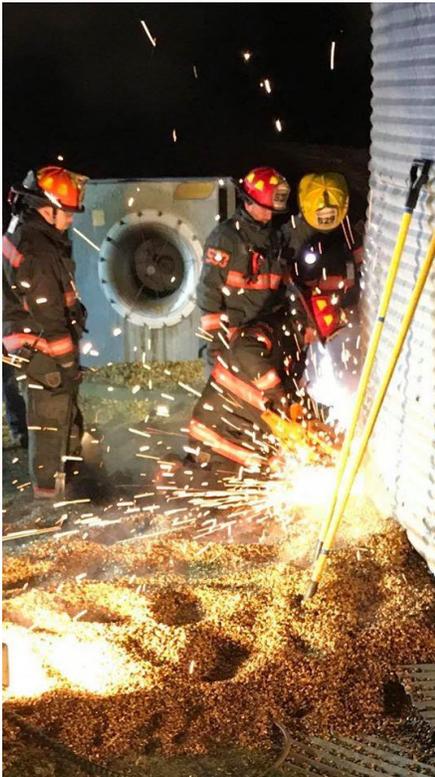
November 6<sup>th</sup>

Grinnell firefighters responded to a barn fire with Malcom fire on 90<sup>th</sup> St. During the fire, firefighters left covering the station responded to an electrical fire on Reed St,



November 7<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters were stretched thin with three calls for help at the same time. The first call was to assist Brooklyn Fire Department with a grain bin fire. As firefighters were assembling to respond there a second call for a skid loader on fire with a person hurt was received on I-80. Crews were split and assigned to each call. As firefighters arrived on I-80 a priority EMS call was received for East St. and another truck was dispatched to there. Below are a couple pictures from Brooklyn where firefighters were tied up for 8 hours.



November 12<sup>th</sup>

A house and garage fire in Gilman required Grinnell Fire's assistance. 1 civilian was transported to Marshalltown Hospital and a couple dogs perished in the fire.



November 14<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

During inventory of chemicals at Grinnell College Noyce Science Center a container of Diethyl Ether was found to be out of date. The chemical becomes unstable and explosive if not maintained properly. Grinnell FD, City Street Department Grinnell Police and the State Fire Marshal's Bob Squad moved the container to near the observatory to be detonated. The following week several more suspect containers were found. Working with the Bomb Squad the four containers deemed dangerous were carefully transported to the City tree dump and detonated there. The rest of the containers were removed by a hazardous waste clean-up company.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>

During the Jolly Holly celebration Grinnell Firefighters rescue Santa Claus from the roof of the building as several people watched on.



November 26<sup>th</sup>

A fuel truck rolled over on 40<sup>th</sup> St. No fuel spilled and there were no injuries, however firefighters were required to standby for 2 ½ hours until the truck was up righted.



December 12<sup>th</sup>

While operating at MVC on Hwy 6 into Jasper County a firefighter was hit by a car mirror and had his feet run over. Luckily his steel toed boots protected him and he only had minor injuries.

December 25<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters were able to rescue the presents from this burning vehicle on Christmas day.



## Equipment Purchases

The following large equipment upgrades/purchases were undertaken by the Fire Department last year.

New 100' Ladder/Pumper	\$875,000	City Funded
Equipment for new ladder truck	\$ 30,000	Vol. Fire Assn. Funded
3 New Thermal Imagers	\$ 10,000	Vol. Fire Assn. Funded
CO Detectors	\$ 1,000	Elks Grant
2 New rescue saws	\$ 2,500	Vol. Fire Assn. Funded
Rescue Windshield Cutter	\$ 1,000	American Brawn Grant

## Awards

On March 17<sup>th</sup> the Grinnell Firefighter Association held their Annual Dance and Awards Ceremony. The following awards were given out;

Carl Eggermont and Todd Zell were given the "Life Saver Award" for their performance in helping revive a citizen in cardiac arrest by performing CPR.

Todd Pollock, Jason Pollock, Curtis Sieck and Todd Zell were given the "Life Saver Award" for their performance in helping revive a citizen in cardiac arrest by performing CPR.

The following firefighters were recognized for their years of service;

Dave Byers – 30 years

Scott Sieck – 30 years

Rob Vest – 30 years

Mike Groves – 25 years

Kyle Esrey – 5 years

Jason Pollock – 5 years

Todd Pollock – 5 years

Wade Robeson – 5 years

Brent Nickel – 1 year

# Training

The photos below are just a small sample of some of the training done by the Grinnell Firefighters.



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