

January 26.2024

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 2023.

Listed below is a breakdown of all incidents responded to, by the Grinnell Fire Department, in 2023.

<b>Type of Call</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Fires</b>	
<i>Building Fires</i>	32
<i>Car/Truck Fires</i>	8
<i>Rubbish Fires</i>	8
<i>Grass/Crops/Brush Fires</i>	12
<i>Outside Equipment</i>	2
<b>Total Fires</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Rescues</b>	
<i>Medical Calls</i>	516
<i>Motor Vehicle Crashes</i>	57
<i>Special Rescues</i>	16
<b>Total Rescue Calls</b>	<b>589</b>
<b>Hazardous Materials &amp; Conditions</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Special/Public Service</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Burning Complaints</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Investigation</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Fire Alarms</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Storm Spotting</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Calls 2023</b>	<b>874</b>

Of the 874 calls for service 748 were in the City District, 114 were in the Rural District, and 12 were Mutual Aid calls. There was 1 civilian fire death, 9 civilian fire injuries and 2 firefighter injuries this past year. The total dollar loss to fire was estimated at \$1,511,070.

The Grinnell Fire Department is comprised of 8 full-time, 5 part-time and 21 volunteer firefighters, and the following is a list of them all;

Daniel Sicard	Chief	Full-time
Patrick Duffey	Assistant Chief of EMS	Full-time*
Todd Pollock	Captain	Volunteer
Doug Ernsperger	Lieutenant	Volunteer
Jason Pollock	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Volunteer
Brian Paul	Lieutenant/Safety Officer/Paramedic	Part-time
Scott Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Dave Byers	Firefighter	Volunteer
Mike Groves	Firefighter	Volunteer
Craig Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Todd Zell	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time
Jed Petersen	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time
Curtis Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Carl Eggermont	Firefighter	Volunteer
Kyle Esrey	Firefighter/Paramedic	Part-time
Wade Robeson	Firefighter/Vol Assoc Secretary	Volunteer
William Gruman	Firefighter	Volunteer
Kyle Smith	Firefighter/Paramedic	Part-time
Brent Smith	Firefighter/Vol Assoc Vice Pres	Volunteer
Christian Williams	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time
TJ Pinkerton	Firefighter/EMT	Part-time
DJ Beck	Firefighter/EMT	Part-time
Kelly Fosse	Firefighter/Vol Assoc President	Volunteer
Brandon Merrill	Firefighter	Volunteer
Blake Pearson	Firefighter	Volunteer
Benjamin Bock	Firefighter	Volunteer
Vince Lukehart	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
Keagen Richmond	Firefighter	Volunteer
Joshua Stepanek	Firefighter/Vol Assoc Treasurer	Volunteer
Mathew Innis	Firefighter	Volunteer
Zared Sittig	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
Steven Kibbee	Firefighter	Volunteer*
Matt Moretz	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time*
Devin Phillips	Firefighter	Volunteer*

\*new in 2023

The following firefighters retired or resigned in 2023;

Merlyn Schakel and Brent Nickel retired as volunteers. Three new volunteers that started last year resigned before completing their year.

## Notable Calls in 2023

Below are some of the notable calls from 2023, it should be noted that we are many times assisted on scene by Grinnell Police Department, Poweshiek & Jasper County Sheriff's Office and/or other ambulance services;

January 10<sup>th</sup>

A fire in a mobile home was contained to one bedroom.



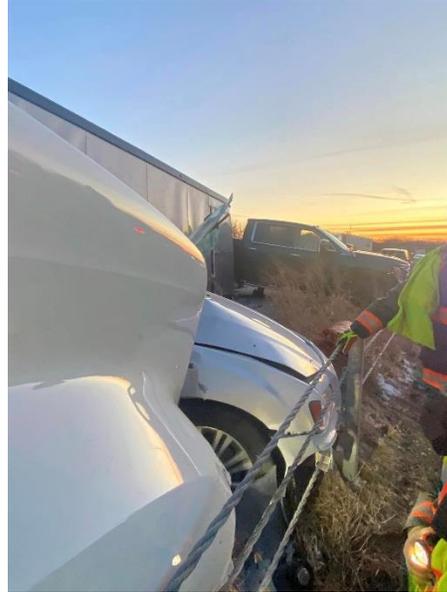
February 4<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters responded to a chimney fire. Fire was contained to the chimney causing no structure damage.



March 19<sup>th</sup>

Glare in the construction zone on I-80 funneled cars off the highway causing a multiple vehicle accident. One person was out of his car as the vehicles were struck again and received serious injuries. In all 3 people were transported to Unity Point Grinnell.



March 20<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters received two simultaneous calls; one to Prairie Street for a grill and deck on fire the other to Ewart Road for a field fire. Both fires were right up to structures but only had little damage.



April 18<sup>th</sup>

A machine shed was heavily damaged by fire. Kellogg Fire responded as mutual aid.



May 27<sup>th</sup>

Grinnell Fire responded to assist Kellogg Fire and DNR with a man thrown from a horse on the trails at Rock Creek. Our Scout unit assisted in locating the party then transported him out of the woods to the waiting medical helicopter. The Scout is specially designed to assist with grass fires and has a area to secure a patient for situations like this.

May 4<sup>th</sup>

On duty firefighters went to assist Grinnell College in removing chairs from the roofs of some buildings. Students performed this prank causing no damage and gave our ladder operators an opportunity to practice their skills.



June 22<sup>nd</sup>

A fire on the deck of a vacant house was extinguished before getting into the house.



June 27<sup>th</sup>

Brooklyn Fire requested assistance from all Poweshiek County departments for a large fire at a dairy farm. Grinnell firefighters responded and assisted and even sent trucks back latter that week to help again.



July 7<sup>th</sup>

Responded mutual aid to Malcom to assist with a person trapped in a grain bin. After almost 2 hours the man was successfully extricated from the bin.

September 8<sup>th</sup>

Grinnell Fire put its first ambulance in to service to provide second out coverage to the area. It made its maiden voyage when a call for a two-vehicle accident came in at Newburg Road and Hwy 146. GFD members and extricated one patient, unfortunately two patients were pronounced dead on scene.



September 13<sup>th</sup>

A new tanker was delivered to the station. The tanker was purchased by the Rural Fire Association to replace a 27-year-old tanker. The tanker can hold 2000 gallons of water and pump 750 gallons a minute if needed.



September 20<sup>th</sup>

GFD responded to assist Kellogg on the west side of Rock Creek for a house fire. Firefighters also set up a pumper at the dry hydrant (drafts water from the lake) on the east side of the lake to fill the tankers to deliver water to the fire.



November 5<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters battled a house and two cars burning. Homeowners were able to escape but the family was transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation. The home and cars were a total loss. Malcom and Gilman Fire Departments assisted on scene.



November 18<sup>th</sup>

A security guard at Grinnell Unity Point Hospital extinguished a fire in a storage room. Several patients were evacuated by hospital staff to other areas of the hospital as firefighters cleared the smoke from the building. This occurred just one day after collaborating with the hospital staff as they practiced their emergency command structure and response.



November 21<sup>st</sup>

Two people were injured jumping from a second story window and several pets were lost at this Main Street fire. Kellogg and Gilman Fire Departments assisted on scene.



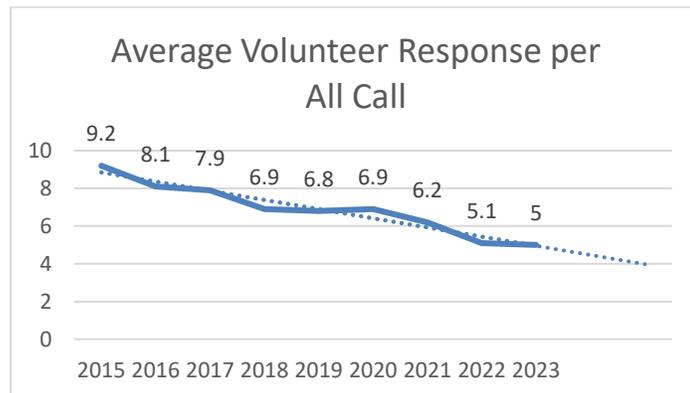
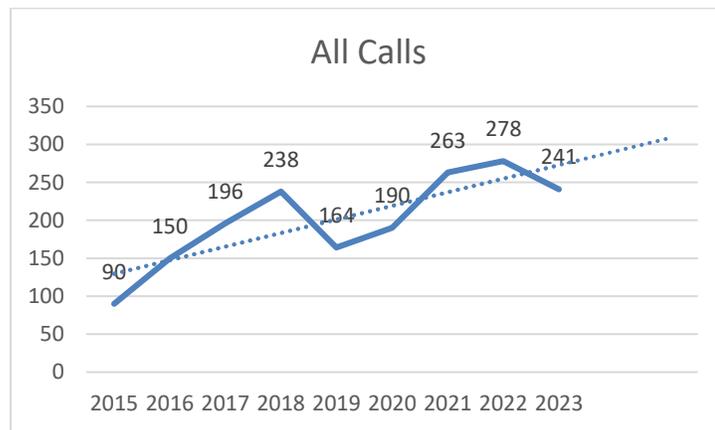
November 22<sup>nd</sup>

Firefighters battled their second working structure fire in two days. A fire was contained to a large grain dryer and the duct work around it at Natural Products on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.



## Increasing Use of Volunteers

Following up from the last couple years of reports, All Calls were down slightly. Part of this was the addition of one more day crew member, calls of less a priority were able to be handled with on duty staff rather than having to call back volunteers. However, we continue to see the average number of volunteers responding on ach call to be decreasing. The plan is to stop using All Calls for fire alarms once we are up to 3 per shift. It is hoped this decrease frequency of All Calls will help to raise the average per call number.



## **Awards**

An awards ceremony was held this year and the following awards were given out;

Jed Petersen 15 Years of Service  
Todd Zell 15 Years of Service  
Carl Eggermont 10 Years of Service  
Kyle Esrey 10 Years of Service  
Brent Nickel 5 Years of Service  
Ben Bock 1 Year of Service  
Matt Innis 1 Year of Service  
Blake Pearson 1 Year of Service  
Keegan Richmond 1 Year of Service  
Josh Stepanek 1 Year of Service  
Zared Sittig 1 Year of Service

## **Grinnell Ambulance Service**

Patrick Duffey was hired in January 2023 as the new Assistant Chief of EMS to help coordinate and set up the fire departments ambulance service. Patrick comes from the Mason City Fire Department. On May 31<sup>st</sup> our contract ambulance service requested help because they were unable to full fill the contract and provide enough staffing for the only ambulance in town. They we requested we put a firefighter on their ambulance under their control. We advised we would provide a firefighter, to make sure our citizens were covered, but he would not be their employee and would operate under our EMS protocols and licenses. Over the next few months our full and part time firefighters covered over 780 hours of ambulance time (along with working their own shifts). During this time, we put the process of being ready to start doing transports into overdrive. We were originally scheduled to start in February of 2025, but due to the inabilities of the current contract ambulance we knew this time would come sooner. In September we started providing the 2<sup>nd</sup> out coverage with our own ambulance, instead of staffing the contract ambulance. In December we took over all of the EMS coverage for the Grinnell area. In that one month we did 43 BLS and 19 ALS transports. This was all done with just one more full-time person added to the roster. The other 5 will start after the first of the year. I commend my current staff for the extra time and work put in to make sure there is EMS coverage 24/7, including a 2<sup>nd</sup> out ambulance when needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Sicard  
Fire Chief  
Grinnell Fire Department

