

January 12, 2023

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 2022.

Listed below is a breakdown of all incidents responded to, by the Grinnell Fire Department, in 2022.

Type of Call	Number
Fires	
<i>Building Fires</i>	33
<i>Car/Truck Fires</i>	21
<i>Rubbish Fires</i>	10
<i>Grass/Crops/Brush Fires</i>	27
<i>Outside Equipment</i>	1
Total Fires	92
Rescues	
<i>Motor Vehicle Crashes</i>	78
<i>MVC W/Extrication</i>	6
<i>Special Rescues</i>	2
<i>Medical Assists</i>	391
<i>Operated 2nd Ambulance</i>	44
Total Rescue Calls	521
Hazardous Materials	17
Hazardous Conditions	19
Special/Public Service	45
Burning Complaints	35
Investigation	26
Fire Alarms	63
Storm Spotting	2
Total Calls 2021	820

Of the 820 calls for service 673 were in the City District, 130 were in the Rural District, and 18 were Mutual Aid calls. There were 0 fire deaths & 3 civilian fire injuries this past year. The total dollar loss to fire was estimated at \$600,600

The Grinnell Fire Department is comprised of 5 full-time, 4 part-time and 26 volunteer firefighters, and the following is a list of them all;

Daniel Sicard	Chief	Full-time
Brian Paul	Assistant Chief of Training	Volunteer
Todd Pollock	Captain	Volunteer
Mike Groves	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Volunteer
Doug Ernsperger	Lieutenant	Volunteer
Jason Pollock	LT Safety Officer	Volunteer
Scott Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Dave Byers	Firefighter	Volunteer
Craig Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Todd Zell	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Jed Petersen	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Curtis Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Carl Eggermont	Lieutenant	Volunteer
Kyle Esrey	Driver/Firefighter	Part-time
Wade Robeson	Firefighter/Vol Assoc Secretary	Volunteer
Merlyn Schakel	Firefighter	Volunteer
William Gruman	Firefighter	Volunteer
Kyle Smith	Firefighter	Part-time
Brent Smith	Firefighter	Volunteer
Christian Williams	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Brent Nickel	Firefighter/Vol Assoc President	Volunteer
TJ Pinkerton	Firefighter	Volunteer
DJ Beck	Driver/Firefighter	Part-time
Kelly Fosse	Firefighter/Vol Assoc Vice Pres	Volunteer
Brandon Merrill	Firefighter	Volunteer
Blake Pearson	Firefighter	Volunteer
Benjamin Bock	Firefighter	Volunteer
Vince Lukehart	Driver/Firefighter	Part-time
Keagen Richmond	Firefighter	Volunteer
Joshua Stepanek	Firefighter/Vol Assoc Treasurer	Volunteer
Mathew Innis	Firefighter	Volunteer
Zared Sittig	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Drake Beardmore	Firefighter	Volunteer*
Nicoli Janosek	Firefighter	Volunteer*
Daniel Shaffer	Firefighter	Volunteer*

*new in 2022

The following firefighters retired or resigned in 2022;

Dave Thompson retired with 45 years of service and Rob Vest retired with 33 years of service to the fire department. Their dedication and knowledge will be greatly missed. Dustin Briggs, Ozzie Carrillo-Torres and EJ Rolfes all resigned from the volunteers.

Notable Calls in 2022

Below are some of the notable calls from 2022, 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;

February 18th



A large garage was destroyed east of Grinnell on Hwy 6. Malsom fire assisted on scene.

March 5th



A tornado passed west of Grinnell causing damage in the Grinnell Rural fire district. Firefighters out on storm watch responded and checked the damaged area to make sure there were no injuries. Crews were also sent to assist Kellogg Fire with damage in their area.

March 11th



Firefighters handled two fires that came in at the same time. One was a basement fire on High St, the other was a barn fire on Jewel St. While still on scene at both fires, firefighters had to break a truck away from the High St call to handle a fire alarm at the High School.

March 26th



An overnight fire on 360th Ave destroyed an out building and damaged several vehicles. 30 mph winds hampered the firefighting efforts. Assistance was received from Gilman Fire. Pictured in the second picture are Zared Sittig with his first fire as a full-time firefighter and Dave Thompson showing him the ropes with one of his last fires before retiring.

April 12th



Firefighters battled a large, wind driven, grass and brush fire behind Westfield Church. The fire extended out to the interstate. Searsboro and Kellogg fire were requested mutual aid for assistance.

April 15th



Firefighters used foam to extinguish a bull dozer fire.

April 19th



Grinnell responded to assist Montezuma and several other fire departments at a lumber yard fire by Lake Ponderosa.

April 23rd



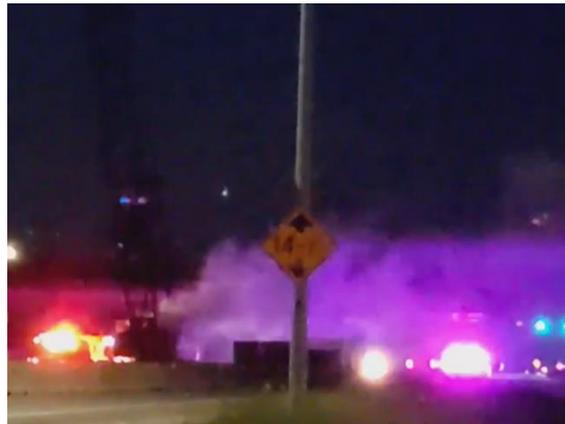
Firefighters extricated a patient from a single vehicle roll over on Hwy 146 north of town.

June 9th



An overnight fire at Reed St Apartments (Old Wiltfang Apts) was contained to the attached 4 bay garage. The apartments were evacuated but there were no injuries. Kellogg and Gilman Fire were called for assistance.

June 12th



A crane being used to construct the bridges for Interstate 80 caught fire. Firefighters extinguished the fire in the hydraulic system/engine area.

July 15th



A semi crash and fire on Interstate 80 in the construction zone shut down the interstate for several hours. Mutual aid tankers from Searsboro and Malcom Fire were used.

July 24th



Firefighters prevented a garage fire from spreading into the house on High Street.

August 22nd



Neighbors prevented a tragedy when they alerted a sleeping family of a fire in their attached garage. Grinnell firefighters, assisted by Sully & Kellogg Fire Departments, were able to stop the spread of the fire keeping damage in the house to a minimum.

September 6th



A train vs semi accident occurred on a rural road. Luckily there were only minor injuries.

September 21st



Grinnell assisted Kellogg Fire with a semi crash and fire I-80 westbound at the 176 mile marker. 1 person was life flighted from the scene. The foam trailer was sent later in the morning to help completely extinguish the fire.

October 12th



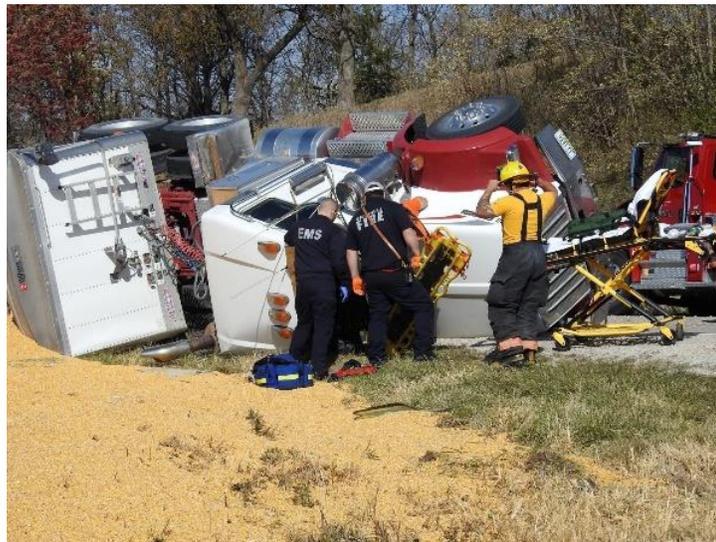
Firefighters responded to two animal rescues on this day. FF Williams rescued a cat from a tree and FF Zell rescued a dog stuck in the mud in a creek.

October 13th



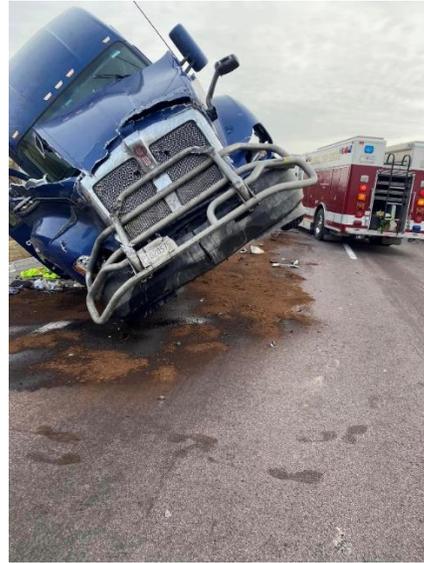
Grinnell assisted Sully Fire Department, along with several other departments, with a fast-moving field fire. Extreme winds made the fire difficult to control.

October 22nd



Firefighters helped extricate the driver of a semi that rolled over.

November 14th



A multiple vehicle accident including two semis shut down I-80 westbound. There was one fatality and several injured. Life flight was brought to the scene for one that was being extricated. Montezuma Ambulance, East Poweshiek Ambulance, Malcom Fire and Brooklyn fire responded mutual aid to assist.

November 19th



Larry German, retired volunteer firefighter with 30 years of service, was laid to rest. Grinnell firefighters were honored to have the privilege to part of his escort.

December 8th



Firefighters were called mutual aid to Marengo for a chemical fire in a commercial building. Ladder 52, Engine 51, Brush 57 towing the Foam Unit responded. Members were on scene for about eight hours and used 500 gallons of foam to help extinguish the fire. The cost of the foam, \$35,000, should be the business owner's responsibility. At this time the department is still attempting to recover the cost from the insurance companies but are being told not to expect much. It is hoped the State will step in at some point as several fire departments lost gear and used their foam as well.

December 15th



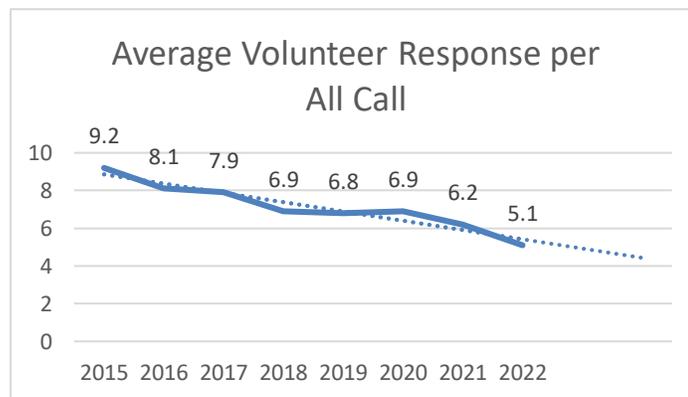
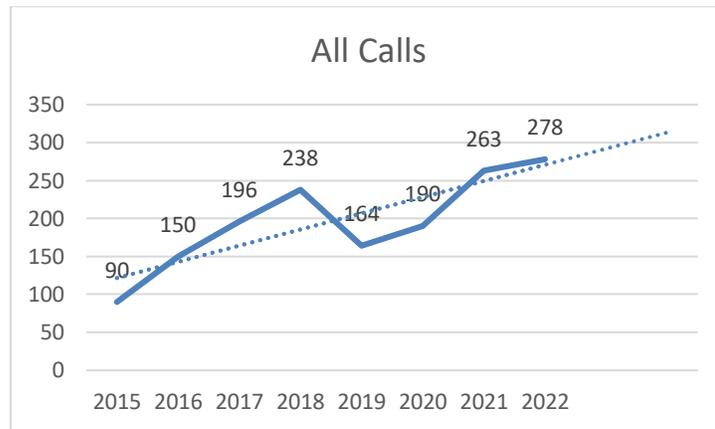
A motor vehicle accident including a semi that rolled over required one person to be extricated. Grinnell firefighters, using almost every rescue tool they had, worked for almost an hour and a half removing a heavily entrapped patient.

December 26th

A slippery day had GFD respond to 5 different motor vehicle accident. 3 people were extricated with rescue tools at two different accidents.

Increasing Use of Volunteers

As a follow up to information in last year's report we continue to see an increase burden put on the volunteer firefighters. An "All Call" is sounded when more than the on-duty firefighter is needed to handle a call. The majority of the time there is only one firefighter on duty. Grinnell continues to rely heavily on their volunteer firefighters. Unfortunately, this increased need places a large burden on our volunteers, their families and their employers. The chart below shows the growth for the last 7 years of total 'All Calls' the second chart shows the effect it has on the average number of volunteers that respond per call;



Awards

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

Dave Thompson Retirement 45 years of service

Rob Vest Retirement 33 years of service

Doug Ernsperger 10 years of service

Brent Smith 5 years of service

Kyle Smith 5 years of service

William Gruman 5 years of service

DJ Beck 1 year of service

Dustin Briggs 1 year of service

Kelly Fosse 1 year of service

Brandon Merrill 1 year of service

TJ Pinkerton 1 year of service

Grinnell Volunteer Firefighter Association

The volunteers started a fundraising campaign to refurbish the current Rescue Truck. Rescue 50 is a 1991 Heavy Rescue vehicle. Plans for the upgrade include repairs and upgrades to the electrical system, repair of the breathing air fill station, upgrade of the emergency and scene lighting and a complete check of the brakes/engine/transmission system. The goal is to be able to make the truck viable for another 15 years. Cost of a replacement vehicle would be about \$600,000. The estimated cost of refurbishing the vehicle is approximately \$150,000-\$200,000. To date the volunteers have been able to raise about \$100,000.

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