

January 19, 2019

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 2018.

Listed below is a breakdown of all incidents responded to, by the Grinnell Fire Department, in 2018.

Type of Call	Number	% Change
Fires		
<i>Building Fires</i>	37	+ 16%
<i>Car/Truck Fires</i>	17	+113%
<i>Rubbish Fires</i>	14	+ 75%
<i>Grass/Crops/Brush Fires</i>	27	+ 19%
Total Fires	95	+ 38%
Rescues		
<i>Motor Vehicle Crashes</i>	74	+ 57%
<i>MVC W/Extrication</i>	5	Even
<i>Special Rescues</i>	22	+175%
<i>Medical Assists</i>	214	-13%
Total Rescue Calls	315	+ 3%
Hazardous Materials	41	+ 21%
Hazardous Conditions	31	+ 82%
Special/Public Service	115	+ 51%
Burning Complaints	25	-49%
Investigation	23	-4%
Fire Alarms	70	-4%
Weather Issues	21	+425%
Total Calls 2018	736	+ 13%

Of the 738 calls for service 563 were in the City District, 142 were in the Rural District, and 31 were Mutual Aid calls. The total dollar loss to fire was estimated at \$1,137,075.

The Grinnell Fire Department is comprised of 5 full-time, 3 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	Volunteer
David Byers	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
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
Carl Eggermont	Firefighter	Volunteer
Kyle Esrey	Driver/Firefighter	Part-time
Jenifer Smith	Vol Assoc Secretary/FF	Volunteer
Todd Pollock	Firefighter	Volunteer
Wade Robeson	Firefighter	Volunteer
Dalton Lender	Firefighter	Volunteer
Joe Zimsen	Firefighter	Volunteer
Merlyn Schakel	Vol Assoc VP/FF	Volunteer
Brian Paul	Firefighter	Volunteer
William Gruman	Vol Assoc Treasurer/FF	Volunteer
Kyle Smith	Firefighter	Volunteer
Brent Smith	Firefighter	Volunteer
Christian Williams	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Brent Nickel	Firefighter	Volunteer
Samantha Ramsey	Firefighter	Volunteer
Marcus McMains	Firefighter	Volunteer
Blake Draper	Firefighter	Volunteer

Special notes for our roster in 2018 include;

Dave Crawford and Steve Ashing have resigned as active firefighters. Samantha Ramsey, Blake Draper and Marcus McMains have been added to the roster.

Below are some of the notable calls from 2018, 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 2nd

An intentionally lit fire in an apartment forced the evacuation of two other units as firefighters extinguished the fire. Damage was contained to the original room of origin.



January 17th

An unattended candle ignited an apartment fire in Gracie Park on East St. Quick work by the firefighters kept the fire to one unit.



January 25th

A barn fire north of town on Hwy 146 destroyed the barn and was determined to be arson. Firefighters worked most the night and next day extinguishing the barn and hay. Mutual aid was received from Gilman and Malcom Fire Departments.



February 2nd

Firefighters extricated one person in a two car fatal accident north of town on Hwy 146



February 5th

The day started with a small grass fire out on 410th St before the snow and ice. During the storm a 22 vehicle accident with multiple injuries and people entrapped occurred on I-80 west bound near Malcom. Grinnell Fire responded mutual aid and assisted on scene. The interstate was shut down for several hours. This was the second fatality accident in 3 days.



February 9th

A semi full of hogs rolled over at the 179 exit on I-80. Firefighters had to use rescue tools to cut open the trailer and help free and transfer the surviving hogs to another trailer.

February 20th

Firefighters responded to Hwy 146 north of town for a barn fire. This barn was on the same property as the barn fire in the end of January, it was also an arson fire.



February 23rd

Responded mutual aid to Malcom for a house fire on 310th Ave



February 25th

Firefighters responded for an unusual request for help. A hole had developed in the I-80 east bound bridge over Hwy 146. Several cars were damaged with blown tires and damaged rims as they went through. Vehicles were lined on both side of the east bound lanes, creating a driving hazard. GFD members assisted several citizens with changing tires and getting them underway preventing any further problems.

March 15th

Grinnell firefighters assisted Malcom fire with a grass and corn stubble fire that had spread to several acres.



March 24th

Malcom and Gilman Fire assisted east of town on Hwy 6 with a house fire. The house was heavily involved with fire on arrival, strong winds hampered the firefighting efforts. The house was a total loss, but no one was injured.

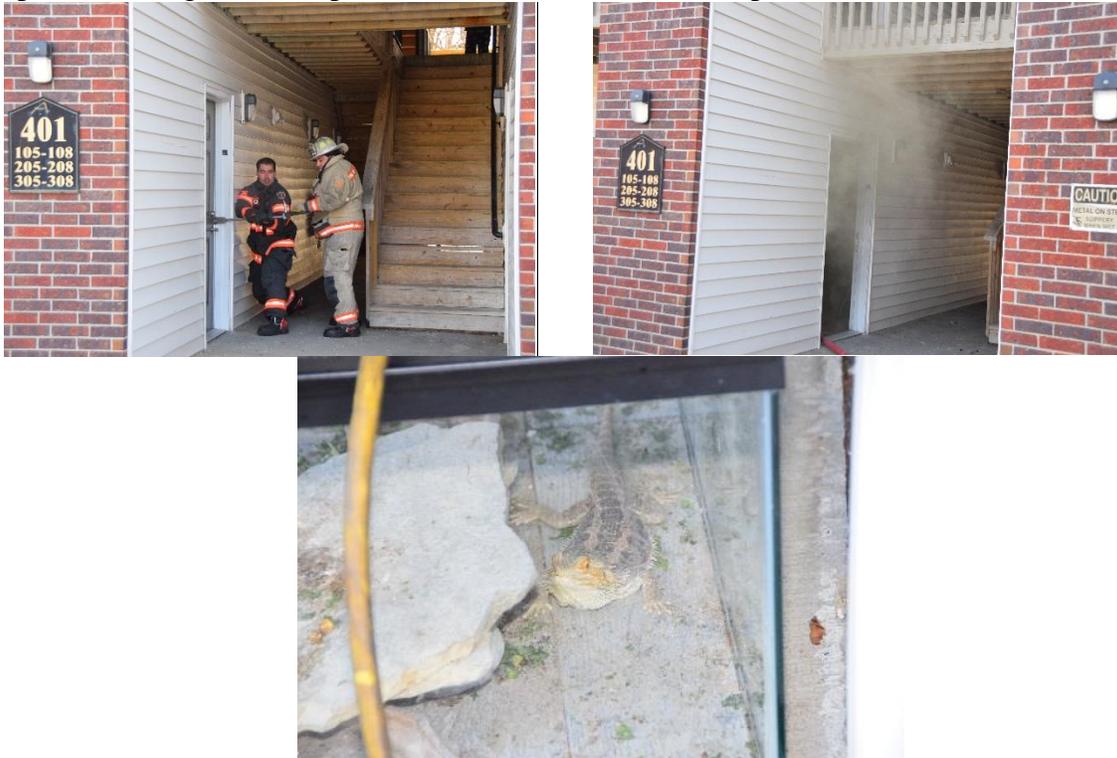


April 7th

Firefighters were kept busy most the day with three separate grass fires. The first was mutual aid to Searsboro on 40th St, just after clearing this call they responded to N55th Ave E for a small fire. Latter in the day they were called to assist Laurel with a grass fire that had spread from Hwy 14 down to Hwy 224.

April 10th

The sprinkler system at Arbor Apartments prevented a huge tragedy when an unoccupied apartment caught fire. A pet lizard was rescued from the apartment.



April 12th

A delivery truck hit a building and gas meter down town. The driver was knocked unconscious and needed to be rescued by firefighters. One city block was evacuated until the gas was shut down.



April 18th

After a year of planning Grinnell Fire, Grinnell Police and Grinnell Newburg School District held a full scale active shooter drill. The drill was held at the Middle School and had responders from Poweshiek and several surrounding Counties participating.



April 22nd

MA Gilman Corn Crib/Grass, T-38 MA from Lynnville, 385th Grass, 4 other in town calls



April 26th

Firefighters responded to two structure fires at the same time in town. One on Reed St and one on 6th Ave. The fires were both determined to be arson and were connected. A quick response to both fires limited damages and prevented any injuries.



May 28th

One victim was transported to the hospital following a small kitchen fire in a 4th Ave Apartment

June 6th

The day started with a small grass fire. As severe storms moved in firefighters responded to 26 other calls for service over the next 5 hours. These included transmission power lines down trapping a person in their car, 2 semi-trucks blown over on I-80, lightning strikes and debris blocking roads.



June 17th

Firefighters responded mutual aid to Kellogg at Rock Creek Beach for a water search. Grinnell firefighters searching the water in the beach area recovered a 9 year old boy. Unfortunately EMS providers were unable to resuscitate him.

July 14th

An unattended candle in the cupola of an apartment building ignited an attic fire. A passerby called the fire department and firefighters removed the occupants of the building as the fire was extinguished. The fire was contained to the attic area of the building.



July 16th

Firefighters responded to Rock Creek State Park for a swimmer in distress. The swimmer was picked up by a nearby boat and turned over to DNR.

July 19th

Firefighters responded mutual aid to Pella for tornado damage at the Vermeer Plant. Grinnell firefighters were assigned to search two heavily damaged buildings for victims and gas leaks. Several leaks were contained and luckily there were no victims to be found.



July 22nd

Firefighters responded to County line road and found a house and 2 cars heavily involved in fire. Mutual aid was received from Gilman and Kellogg Fire Departments. Although the house was a total loss, firefighters were able to rescue the owner's pet cat.



August 6th

Lightning ignited the attic of a house on Spring St. Gilman fire responded mutual aid to assist with the fire.



August 16th

Firefighters responded to the construction site of the new waste water treatment plant for an injured worker. A worker had fallen to the bottom of a pit and had been hit in the head. Firefighters worked with the construction crew rigging the victim in a basket to be raised out with a crane.

September 8th

Grinnell Fire responded to a fatal accident north of Grinnell on Hwy 146. The vehicle had left the roadway and landed upside down in a creek.

October 22nd

Firefighters responded to Dunbar to assist Gilman Fire Dept. with a garage fire.

October 23rd

Live fire training was conducted on an acquired structure on 6th Ave.



Oct 26th

Firefighters worked with the Iowa State Fire Marshal Explosives Team and Grinnell PD to recover and investigate an exploded improvised explosive device (IED).

October 27th

Firefighters responded mutual aid to Kellogg west of Rock Creek on F27 for a MVC with fire and serious injury.



November 21st

Two on duty firefighters responded to Montezuma to assist with 3 people who had gone through the ice. Unfortunately one child did not survive.

December 5th

A semi carrying fertilizer rolled over spilling 4000 gallons of product into the ditch on the on ramp to I-80. Firefighters helped contain the spill and worked with DNR to arrange the cleanup of the property.



December 13th

Firefighters responded quickly saved a dog who had gone through the ice into the water and was unable to get out.



December 17th

A downtown fire required mutual aid from Gilman, Searsboro, Kellogg, Malcom and Brooklyn Fire Depts. Fire had burned through the roof of the El Molcajete Restaurant before anyone was alerted to the fire. Firefighting efforts were hampered due to an unstable roof which collapsed shortly after arrival. The fire was contained to the building of origin, however several adjoining buildings suffered smoke and water damage.



December 31st

A two car accident south of town on Hwy 146 required the use of both sets of rescue tools as three patients needed to be extricated.



Equipment Purchases

The following large equipment upgrades/purchases were undertaken by the Fire Department last year. Along with this design specifications were approved for the purchase of a new ladder truck to take delivery in 2019. Below is a brief description, an approximate cost and the funding sources for the equipment projects that were completed in 2018;

Grass Fire Pump & Water Tank for ATV	\$15,000	Vol. Assn. & Rural Fire Assn.
New Pagers	\$ 6,000	City Funded
CO Detectors for Citizens	\$ 1,500	Vol. Assn. and the Elks

Arson Fires Arrest Made

The Grinnell Fire Department is working with the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office, Poweshiek County Attorney's Office and the Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office continuing to investigate several arson fires in and around Grinnell. On May 27th Chance Beres was arrested and charged with arson for a property in Montezuma. At that time Chance was employed by Midwest Ambulance Service and worked out of the Grinnell Public Safety Building. Since his original charges, several other charges have been added for fires in the Grinnell Fire District. This case is still on going at this time.

Increased Time Commitment for Volunteers

Over the last ten years volunteers have continued to commit more time to the department. Training requirements have required more than 50% increase in training time. This year volunteers were called into the station a record 238 times. This is a 21.5% increase from the previous high and last year's 196 times. Volunteers in 2018 contributed more than 5800 hours of service to the community. This amounts to about 6 full work weeks per volunteer. While the department has been able to continue to recruit and retain volunteers, the response during the day time hours has been our weakest spot. We will continue to work with employers looking encouraging them to release volunteer firefighters when there is a call.

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

