

January 19, 2018

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 2017.

Listed below is a breakdown of all incidents responded to, by the Grinnell Fire Department, in 2017.

<u>Type of Call</u>	<u>Number</u>
Fires	
<i>Building Fires</i>	32
<i>Car/Truck Fires</i>	8
<i>Rubbish Fires</i>	8
<i>Grass/Crops/Brush Fires</i>	21
Total Fires	69
Rescues	
<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	47
<i>W/Extrication</i>	5
<i>Special Rescues</i>	8
<i>Medical Assists</i>	246
Total Rescue Calls	306
Hazardous Materials	30
Hazardous Conditions	17
Haz-Mat Investigation w/no release	4
Special/Public Service	76
Illegal Burning/Smoke Complaints	49
Good Intent/Investigation	24
False/Accidental Alarms	73
Weather Stand-By	4
Total 2017 Calls	652

Of the 652 calls for service 549 were in the City District, 88 were in the Rural District, and 15 were Mutual Aid calls. The total dollar loss to fire was estimated at \$1,072,040.

The Grinnell Fire Department is comprised of 5 full-time, 3 part-time and 23 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
Scott Schmidt	Driver/Firefighter	Part-time
Mike Groves	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Volunteer
Dave Thompson	Driver/Firefighter	Part-time
Scott Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Rob Vest	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Don Ellis	Firefighter	Volunteer
Dave Crawford	Firefighter	Volunteer
Ben Barr	Lieutenant	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
Jason Pollock	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	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
Steve Ashing	Firefighter	Volunteer
Brent Nickel	Firefighter	Volunteer

Special notes for our roster in 2017 include;

Christian Williams was hired as a full-time firefighter. He replaces Kyle Esrey who took a job as a full-time firefighter in Newton, but has stayed on here part-time. Greg Kirsch resigned his volunteer position. Steve Ashing moved back to the fire district and has rejoined the as a volunteer, Steve is a Captain full-time on Newton FD. Brent Nickel has joined as a volunteer, Brent has a State Farm Insurance Office in Grinnell.

Below are some of the notable calls from 2017, 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

A semi caught fire at 6th & Broad St. Firefighters contained the blaze to the rear wheels and saved the contents of the trailer.



January 27th

Grinnell Fire Department hosted a class on Flammable Liquids From Rail Cars. The class was half a day of lecture and half a day hands on practical with actual rail car valves and portals.



January 28th

An electrical short in the Rescue Truck sparked a fire in the truck damaging the wiring harness, battery charger, truck batteries and a compressor. Smoke was observed coming out of the truck, firefighters were able to remove the truck from the building and cut the power to the short. Approximately \$4,000 damage was done and the truck was out of service for several weeks.

February 12th

Wind helped feed a garage fire that spread to a vehicle on 6th Ave. Firefighters were able to prevent the spread of the fire to the house. The house only sustained minor damage of melted siding.



February 18th

Firefighters responded to 370th Ave for a 5 acre field fire. Just after arriving on scene a call for a motor vehicle accident with a person trapped under the vehicle east of the Grinnell Steak House came in. In coming firefighters responded to this call and extricated on male patient. Malcom Fire was called to assist on the field fire. As units cleaned up from the field fire a second field fire was called in on T-38 North. Firefighters extinguished 12 acres at that fire with the assistance of Gilman Fire.



February 26th

Grinnell firefighters responded mutual aid to two separate grass fires in the Searsboro Fire District.

March 3rd

A bathroom fan ignited a fire downtown on Broad St. No one was injured and the damage was contained to one apartment.



March 4th & 5th

Firefighters had a busy weekend hosting the Grinnell Rural Fire Training Weekend. Around 80 firefighters from across the state attended one of the several fire classes held in Grinnell. Firefighters also held their Annual Firefighter's Dance on Saturday night. Sunday immediately following training firefighters responded mutual aid to Kellogg for a grass fire.



March 6th

A pick-up being chased by Grinnell PD crashed on Interstate 80. Firefighters responded and extricated 3 patients from the truck by cutting the roof off and forcing the doors. 2 medical helicopters were called to take 2 of the patients on to trauma centers.



March 11th

A two car accident on 50th Street rolled one van on its side. Firefighter had to extricate one male from the van through the windshield.

March 16th

A middle of the night barn fire claimed the lives of 10 horses. The large barn was fully involved on the fire departments arrival. Searsboro, Lynnville and Sully Fire Departments were called in to help supply water. Firefighters were on scene for over 6 hours.

March 17th

Firefighters responded to a grass fire on 390th Ave. The fire burned 5 acres right up to a barn and several out buildings.



March 20th

Firefighters responded to and extinguished a house fire at Deals Acres housing development in Jasper County. One civilian was injured in the fire and sent to GRMC.

April 3rd

A truck inside a barn caught fire on 32nd St. Firefighters were able to save the structure, but the truck was a total loss.



May 12th

Firefighters responded to a head on collision on Hwy 146 south of town. There were 5 victims in 2 vehicles. 1 was dead on arrival, 1 had minor injuries, the remaining 3 were in critical condition and 2 of them were pinned in their vehicles. A MCI (Mass Casualty Incident) was declared bringing in a medical helicopter and extra ambulances. Grinnell firefighters worked in 2 separate groups and had both victims extricated in less than 30 minutes. Unfortunately 4 people wound up dying from injuries sustained in the crash.



June 17th

Grinnell firefighter hosted water fights down town. Several local, and one not so local, teams showed up to participate. Several children got a chance to have a try themselves.



July 17th & 18th

Firefighters took advantage of a building that needed to be torn down and conducted training in the structure. When done with the training the structure was burned down to make way for a parking lot for the new City Offices. This type of 'real life' training is vital to train new firefighters and advance the skills of those that have been on for years.



July 26th

Firefighters in cooperation with Verizon Wireless held their first Jr. Firefighter's Challenge. Several children came out to try their hand at skills required to be a firefighter. Participants were awarded a backpack for school from Verizon.



(c) 2017 Photo Taken by Duane McClun for the Grinnell Fire Dept.



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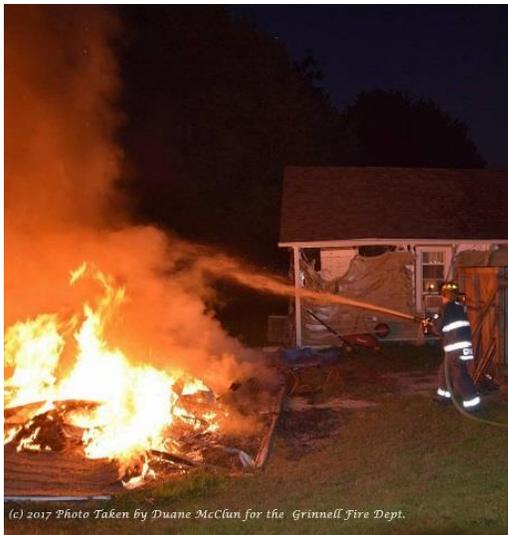
(c) 2017 Photo Taken by Duane McClun for the Grinnell Fire Dept.



(c) 2017 Photo Taken by Duane McClun for the Grinnell Fire Dept.

Sept 3rd

A garage that had been demolished caught fire. Firefighters extinguished the fire. The house sustained damage to its siding.



(c) 2017 Photo Taken by Duane McClun for the Grinnell Fire Dept.



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Sept 21st

Firefighters responded with the Ladder Truck to assist Malcom Fire with a corn dryer on fire on Highway 63.



Sept 24th

Firefighters responded to two separate accidents that day. The first was a vehicle that left the ramp to I-80 and wound up in the field of Brownell's Parkway. Firefighters assisted removing the patient from the car and secured a landing zone for the medical helicopter. The second accident was two cars in front of Oakland Acres Golf Course. One patient hanging from her seatbelt in a van on its side was extricated by firefighters.



October 8th

Grinnell Firefighters Annual Pancake Breakfast was a huge success, serving close to 1500 people. Money raised was used to buy 6 thermal imagers that go directly into the firefighter's mask. These imagers will help the firefighters 'see through' the smoke and speed up finding victims or the seat of the fire.



October 15th

Grinnell firefighters assisted Gilman Fire with a house fire in their town.



November 12th

Firefighters extinguished a house fire on Reed St. The fire was determined to be deliberately set. The investigation remains open at this time.



November 25th

Winds fueled a fast moving field fire on Highway 6 at the Jasper/Poweshiek County line. Firefighters located a person who had been overrun by fire, the victim was pronounced dead on scene. Gilman and Kellogg Fire assisted on scene as the field fire had spread to 40 acres and several hay bales.



November 28th

Unattended burning behind Morrison Tire building led to a fire that burnt 3 buildings and several tires. Firefighters on arrival were met with heavy black smoke and strong winds pushing it into their only entry to the complex. A fourth building was completely surrounded by fire, but the firefighter were able to save it and stop the advance of the fire. Firefighters used the Foam Trailer to help extinguish the fire due to the nuber of tires involved. Assistance was received from Malcom, Kellogg, Gilman and Searsboro Fire Departments. The owner of the property received burns to his face trying to save his tractors.



December 16th

A woman received minor injuries in a 2nd Ave house fire.



Equipment Purchases

The following large equipment upgrades/purchases were undertaken by the Fire Department last year. Below is a brief description, an approximate cost and the funding sources for the projects;

Replacement of Chief's Vehicle	\$40,000	City Funded
Vehicle Extrication Tools for Rescue Truck	\$35,000	Vol. Assn. & College Grant
Upgraded Confined Space Equipment	\$ 5,000	Monsanto Grant
Grass Fire Gear	\$ 6,000	Vol. Assn. & Rural Fire Assn.
6 Thermal Imagers for in SCBA mask	\$10,000	Vol. Assn. & Modern Woodman Financial Foundation Grant
Multi-band Radio w/repeater for the command vehicle	\$ 7,500	911 Board

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 department continues to offer free smoke detector installation and testing. Due to a grant from the Elks we were able to add Carbon Monoxide detectors to several of these installations.

The Grinnell Fire Department conducts fire inspections of all liquor establishments in City limits, all hotels, City properties, on citizen complaints and at the request of property owners. Over 100 inspections were conducted last year and all hazards were corrected by the people responsible for the property.

Grinnell firefighters participated in over 2200 hours of training last years. On Mondays the Department host two training nights a month and a Volunteer Association meeting once a month. The department hosted 4 weekend trainings last year include live structure burns, vehicle extrication and hazardous materials responses. The Volunteer Association also pays the class fee, and lodging if appropriate, for any approved training a member wishes to attend. Firefighters that attend these training are then required to come back to the department and share what they have learned.

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