

January 19, 2017

Honorable Mayor Gordon Canfield
City Manager Russ Behrens
Grinnell City Council



Contained herein is the annual Report of the Grinnell Fire Department for the year 2016.

Listed below is a breakdown of all incidents responded to, by the Grinnell Fire Department, in 2016.

<u>Type of Call</u>	<u>Number</u>
Fires	
<i>Building Fires</i>	22
<i>Car/Truck Fires</i>	13
<i>Rubbish Fires</i>	3
<i>Grass/Crops/Brush Fires</i>	16
<i>Other</i>	2
Total Fires	56
Rescues	
<i>Motor Vehicle Accidents</i>	63
<i>W/Extrication</i>	5
<i>Special Rescues</i>	8
<i>Medical Assists</i>	246
Total Rescue Calls	322
Hazardous Materials	26
Hazardous Conditions	17
Haz-Mat Investigation w/no release	10
Special/Public Service	57
Illegal Burning/Smoke Complaints	49
Good Intent/Investigation	46
False/Accidental Alarms	85
Weather Stand-By	4
Total 2016 Calls	675

Of the 675 calls for service 553 were in the City District, 109 were in the Rural District, and 13 were Mutual Aid calls. The total dollar loss to fire was estimated at \$475,790. The 675 call is a 18% increase over last year's number of 573.

The Grinnell Fire Department is comprised of 5 full-time, 2 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
Scott Schmidt	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Part-time
Mike Groves	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Volunteer
Ben Barr	Lieutenant	Volunteer
Dave Thompson	Firefighter	Part-time
Scott Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Rob Vest	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Don Ellis	Vol Assoc VP/FF	Volunteer
Ben McFarland	Firefighter	Volunteer
Dave Crawford	Firefighter	Volunteer
Ben Barr	Firefighter	Volunteer
Greg Kirsch	Vol Assoc Treasurer/FF	Volunteer
Todd Zell	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Jed Petersen	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Curtis Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Doug Ernsperger	Firefighter	Volunteer
Carl Eggermont	Firefighter	Volunteer
Andrew Vest	Firefighter	Volunteer
Kyle Esrey	Driver/Firefighter	Full-time
Jenifer Smith	Vol Assoc Secretary/FF	Volunteer
Casey Moore	Firefighter	Volunteer
Jason Pollock	Vol Assoc President/FF	Volunteer
Todd Pollock	Firefighter	Volunteer
Wade Robeson	Firefighter	Volunteer
Dalton Lender	Firefighter	Volunteer
Joe Zimsen	Firefighter	Volunteer
Merlyn Schakel	Firefighter	Volunteer
Brian Paul	Firefighter	Volunteer
William Gruman	Firefighter	Volunteer
Kyle Smith	Firefighter	Volunteer
Brent Smith	Firefighter	Volunteer

Special notes for our roster in 2016 include;

The resignation of volunteers Shyann Warrick and Scott Crecelius and the addition of William Gruman and Kyle & Brent Smith as volunteers.

Below are some of the notable calls from 2016, 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 26th



A fire, just after midnight, on Spring Circle caused significant damage to a home. No one was injured. Firefighters were on scene for almost 3 hours and had assistance from Gilman Fire Department.

March 5th & 6th



Grinnell Fire Department's 2nd Annual Rural Fire/Rescue Training Weekend was another success. The weekend brought 120 students and instructors to Grinnell for hands on training including Rural Fire Attack, Ice Rescue, Rope Rescue, Grain Bin Rescue and Anhydrous & Propane Emergencies. All this training is offered to any Poweshiek County firefighter for free.

April 14th

Malcom & Gilman Fire Departments assisted with a large pile of silage burning on 70th St. Firefighters were on scene for over 5 hours extinguishing the fire.

April 17th



Fire destroyed an old corn crib and another out building on N 79th Ave E. Mutual aid from Kellogg and Gilman Fire Departments was received.

April 18th

Firefighters responded to a reported explosion at the Grinnell College Dining Hall. Once on scene it was determined a fire extinguisher had been damaged and the top blew off. No injuries were reported and no structural damage occurred.

May 16th



Firefighters trained on fire attack, ventilation, water supply and search and rescue during a full day live fire training in an acquired structure. The rural property was used, several different fire scenarios were run. When finished the property was allowed to burn down. These real life training opportunities are essential to not only keep firefighters skills sharp, but to try new concepts and equipment.

May 21st



Firefighters responded to 3 calls in a row in the afternoon. The first was a car fire on Reed Street caused by an electrical short.

The next call firefighters responded to Interstate 80 in Kellogg to assist with a semi accident. GFD's air bags were used to lift the semi off a trapped patient. Unfortunately the patient was pronounced dead on the scene.

As crews were leaving the scene they were called one mile south to assist Sully Fire with a structure fire. That fire was contained to the building of origin and there were no injuries.

July 22nd



Firefighters responded and assisted Kellogg Fire with a structure fire.

July 26th



Firefighters assisted Brooklyn Fire Department with several bales of hay burning. Due to the large amount of hay bales and limited water supply, foam was used to help extinguish the

August 2nd



A demolished barn on Hwy 146 caught fire and was extinguished by firefighters.

August 4th

A storm moved through Grinnell knocking down several trees and power lines. Firefighters responded to 17 calls for service during that time. These calls consisted of structural damage to homes, power poles burning, power lines down and a gas leak. One firefighter received minor injuries when he slipped getting off a truck.

August 15th



A liquid oxygen leak from a Lincaire truck was contained by firefighters in a Reed Street neighborhood. Liquid oxygen when released in a contained space can create an explosive atmosphere. While the oxygen does not burn, in an oxygen enriched atmosphere any combustibles or flammables ignite easier and burn rapidly. A small spark can have explosive results.

August 27th & 28th



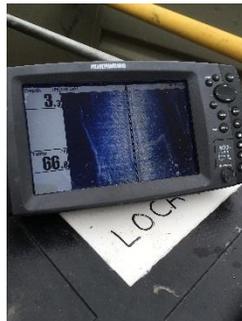
Firefighters held a two day R.I.T training program. Rapid Intervention Team is an OSHA requirement for any fireground. The training teaches firefighters how to rescue trapped, lost or injured firefighters. This two day class was taught by Mid-Plains Community College Fire Program out of Nebraska.

September 7th



The oldest known living Grinnell Firefighter, Warren Miller, was given proper honors at his funeral. At the request of the family an honor guard stood by at the funeral, his casket was carried by 'Old Betsy' to the cemetery and FF Petersen played the traditional bagpipes of a firefighter's service. Warren served his City and Country well and will be greatly missed.

September 7th



Grinnell Fire Department, Jasper County Emergency Management and Jasper County Sheriff's Office conducted a joint search of the Rock Creek Lake and surrounding area for a missing man. Newton Fire assisted with personnel. The missing man was located walking on the road in Grundy County. Personnel searched the area around the lake and into the woods. The GFD's boat and side scanning sonar was used to search the lake bottom. Due to the age of the boat and issues encountered on this search it was determined to be unsafe for any further searches. The boat has been removed from service permanently.

September 7th

A small mercury spill was cleaned up by firefighters in a 4th Ave Apartment.

September 13th

Two Grinnell firefighters responded, at the request of Jasper County Emergency Management, to Colfax for a water search. Firefighters attempted to use their sonar unit, but the depth of the river was too shallow to allow a good image. The missing man was recovered several days later in the Skunk River.

September 24th



Firefighters, Police and the Waste Water Dept. teamed up to rescue a kitten from a downtown storm drain. The cat was adopted by one of the City workers.

October 4th

A County Roads truck rolled over on T-38 South. Firefighters were called to extricate the driver who had minor injuries.

October 9th



Firefighters held their Annual Fire Prevention Pancake Breakfast fund raiser. Over 1300 people attended the event. Money raised is being set aside to help fund the purchase of new vehicle extrication equipment.

November 8th



A fire in a trailer at 1st Ave trailer park was extinguished. The trailer was being cut up for scrap when sparks started the insulation on fire.

November 9th



A small fire on a balcony at Arbor Apartments was quickly extinguished. The fire started from disposal of a cigarette.

November 14th



The Chief and the on duty firefighter responded to the County Road shop on East St for a reported oil spill in the building. It was determined around 1500 gallons spilled over the long weekend and had entered City's waste water system. Waste Water Dept. and DNR were notified and a substantial clean-up effort followed.

December 2nd



A structure being demolished at P.A.L.S. caught fire overnight. The fire was brought under control and contained to the abandoned structure. No animals were harmed by the fire.

December 8th



Two people in a car escaped with minor injuries after being involved in a semi-truck versus car accident. The accident happened at Newburg Road and Highway 146. A fuel leak on the semi was confined to the ditch and the tank was plugged.

December 12th



A State Street business sustained minor damage when an electrical short started a fire in the attic space.

December 14th



An early morning fire destroyed a cattle barn loaded with hay. All the cattle were able exit safely. Over 80,000 gallons of water were trucked in to control & extinguish the fire. Two other buildings received minor damage. Water tankers from Kellogg, Gilman, Malcom and Montour were called to assist. Firefighters were on scene for almost 6 hours in frigid temperatures.

December 27th



Assisted Kellogg Fire Department with a three vehicle collision including a semi-truck on Interstate 80. 1 person was pronounced dead at the scene.

December 30th



Open burning of trash caused two grass fires when the wind started gusting. The first was on E 132nd St N and burned about 8 acres of grass and brush. While firefighters were extinguishing the first fire a second broke out at E 144th St N.

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.

Thanks to a generous donation by Poweshiek Mutual Insurance we were able to continue to offer free smoke detectors to residents in our fire district. 45 detectors were added or replaced with over 100 more tested.

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. 142 inspections were conducted last year resulting in 152 hazards found. All hazards were corrected by the people responsible for the property.

Besides two regular training nights a month for the volunteers, the fire department conducted a day long live fire training burn, the Annual Rural Training Weekend and held a weekend R.I.T training class. An on-line training program was started at the end of this year. Since the full-time firefighters are not scheduled to attend all of the volunteer training, their training is supplemented with this on-line education. It is also being used for volunteers when they are unable to make the monthly training.

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

