

January 26, 2026

Honorable Mayor Sam Cox  
City Manager Russ Behrens  
Grinnell City Council



Contained herein is the annual Report of the Grinnell Fire Department for the year 2025.

Listed below is a breakdown of all incidents responded to, by the Grinnell Fire Department, in 2025.

<b>Type of Call</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Fires</b>	
<i>Building Fires</i>	34
<i>Car/Truck Fires</i>	14
<i>Rubbish Fires</i>	9
<i>Grass/Crops/Brush Fires</i>	24
<i>Outside Equipment</i>	4
<b>Total Fires</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Rescues</b>	
<i>Medical Calls</i>	1038
<i>Motor Vehicle Crashes</i>	72
<i>With Injuries</i>	35
<i>No Injuries</i>	37
<i>Special Rescues</i>	7
<i>EMS Stand by</i>	14
<b>Total Rescue Calls</b>	<b>1131</b>
<b>Hazardous Materials &amp; Conditions</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Special/Public Service</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Burning Complaints</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Investigation</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Fire Alarms</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Storm Spotting</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Calls 2025</b>	<b>1543</b>

1543 calls is an increase of 12% over last year's total of 1385. Of the 1543 calls for service 1289 were in the City District, 204 were in the Rural District, and 50 were Mutual Aid calls. There were 0 civilian fire injuries and 2 firefighter injuries this past year. The total dollar loss to fire was estimated at \$763,725. 169 times last year 2 or more calls happened at during the same time.

The Grinnell Fire Department is comprised of 12 full-time (11 spots filled), 5 part-time (5 spots filled) and 30 volunteer firefighters (20 spots filled). The following is our current roster;

Daniel Sicard	Chief	Full-time
Patrick Duffey	Assistant Chief of EMS	Full-time
Carl Eggermont	Assistant Chief of Volunteers	Volunteer
Todd Pollock	Captain	Volunteer
Jason Pollock	Lieutenant/Safety Officer	Volunteer
Brian Paul	Lieutenant/Safety Officer/Paramedic	Part-time
Scott Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Mike Groves	Firefighter	Volunteer
Todd Zell	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time
Jed Petersen	Firefighter/EMT	Full-time
Curtis Sieck	Firefighter	Volunteer
Doug Ernsperger	Firefighter	Volunteer
Wade Robeson	Firefighter	Part-time
William Gruman	Firefighter	Volunteer
Brent Smith	Firefighter	Volunteer
Christian Williams	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
TJ Pinkerton	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
Kelly Fosse	Firefighter/Vol Assoc President	Volunteer
Brandon Merrill	Firefighter	Volunteer
Benjamin Bock	Firefighter/EMT	Part-time
Zared Sittig	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
Vince Lukehart	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
Keagen Richmond	Firefighter	Volunteer
Joshua Stepanek	Firefighter/Vol Assoc Treasurer	Volunteer
Mathew Innis	Firefighter	Volunteer
Matt Moretz	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
Mathew Dickey	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
Katya Lackey	EMT	Part-time
Tyler Beam	Firefighter/Paramedic	Full-time
William Gastreich	Firefighter	Volunteer
Jennifer Klinefelter	Firefighter	Volunteer
Klaire Thompson	EMT	Volunteer
Esmeralda Aladuena Salcido	EMT	Part-time*
Emma Johnston	Firefighter	Volunteer*
Sacha Rhein	Firefighter/EMT	Volunteer*
Braden Johnson	Firefighter	Volunteer*

\*new in 2025

Kyle Esrey, DJ Beck, Blake Pearson and Colin Moline all resigned from the volunteers. Eric Pagen resigned from the full-time staff.

## Ambulance Service

The second full year of ambulance transport was completed in 2025. The breakdown of the 1151 EMS reports are as follows; (note some calls with multiple people require multiple reports)

409	ALS transports	Paramedic care provided.
11	ALS 2 transports	Advanced paramedic procedures required.
331	BLS transports	EMT level care only needed.
34	ALS Tier	Paramedic assistance to other agencies.
366	Non transports	Patient refusals, lift assists, standbys, no patient found.

- Firefighters Christian Williams and TJ Pinkerton both completed their Paramedic training and received their certifications.
- Firefighters Ben Bock, Wade Robeson, Emma Johnston, Jennifer Klinefelter, William Gastreich and Brent Smith have all completed their training and have been certified as EMTs.
- Esmeralda Alduena Salcido was hired as a part time EMT.
- Two Grinnell College students were added as volunteers having already had their EMT certification, Klaire Thompson and Sascha Rein.

## Notable Calls in 2025

Below are some of the notable calls from 2025, it should be noted that we are many times assisted on scene by Grinnell Police Department, Poweshiek & Jasper County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State Patrol, and our Mutual Aid partners.

January 11<sup>th</sup>

A home in rural Grinnell was donated for training fires. After a full day of training and several smaller fires, the home was allowed to burn to the ground.



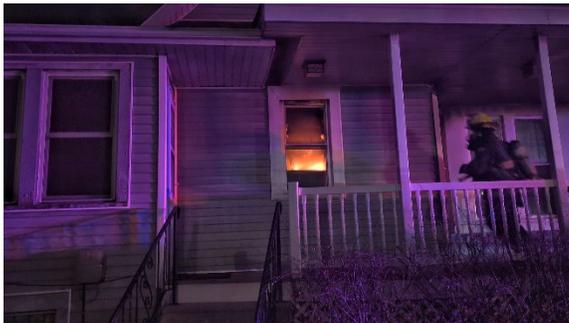
January 29<sup>th</sup> Fire got away from a home owner who was burning brush on T-38 South. The fire burned 6 acres, scorched their house and burned down a neighbors shed.

February 22<sup>nd</sup> A semi crashed through the median into a creek on I-80 at the 179 mile marker. The driver was deceased, heavily entrapped and diesel was leaking into the creek. Firefighters were on scene for over 4 hours assisting. A crane was needed to lift the truck to the highway so the driver could be extricated.

February 24<sup>th</sup> Two trucks were sent mutual aid to Lynville to assist them with a structure fire.

February 28<sup>th</sup> A busy day for the department. Over 12 hours they responded to 3 brush/grass fires (2 at the same time), a motor vehicle collision, an investigation and 7 medical calls.

March 1<sup>st</sup> An Elm St home having some renovations received serious damage from a fire inside.



March 2<sup>nd</sup> Two trucks were sent to help Kellogg with a large outside fire on Hwy 224.

March 12<sup>th</sup> 4 calls came in within 2 minutes, spreading the department thin across the area. 2 brush/grass fires and 2 medicals were handled simultaneously.

March 14<sup>th</sup>

Outside burning, by Newburg, during a Red Flag Day led to a large out of control brush fire. The fire burned about 300 acres over 2.5 hours before it was brought under control. Mutual aid was needed from Kellogg, Gilman, Malcom, Brooklyn, Searsboro, Sully, LeGrand and Montour Fire Departments. Several farmers with discs also responded to help. Jasper & Poweshiek County EMA's assisted with command and control.



March 18<sup>th</sup>

An outside wood pile spread to a machine shed on E 156<sup>th</sup> St N, causing heavy damages inside. Kellogg Fire assisted on scene.



March 22<sup>nd</sup>

An oven fire, three outside brush fires, a fire alarm and a medical made for a busy day.



March 25<sup>th</sup>

Responded mutual aid to north of Malcom for a tour bus accident. 21 people on board, 11 injured and transported. GFD assisted with transport of the injured and relocating the uninjured to Grinnell College. Malcom, Brooklyn Fire, East Poweshiek and Montezuma Ambulance, Poweshiek EMA, SO and Iowa State Patrol all worked together on this incident.



April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Grinnell units, including our foam trailer, responded to I-80 to assist Malcom Fire. A tanker of diesel and gasoline was in an accident tearing the tank off the truck and spill all over the highway. Firefighters were on scene for over 4 hours assisting with the spill/recovery efforts and providing safety coverage with the available foam.

April 13<sup>th</sup>

Grinnell's' Rescue truck and Ladder truck responded to Freemont Farms in Malcom for a high angle rescue. The individual was removed from the elevated position, but unfortunately had succumbed to his injuries.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Responded mutual aid to Kellog at the 176-mile marker. A truck pulling a trailer had left the roadway. GFD members assisted with the extrication of the driver and treatment of the passenger. The driver later died from his injuries. Firefighters also worked to extricate a dog stuck under the trailer, the dog was transported to Grinnell Vet Clinic for treatment.

May 16<sup>th</sup>

Rear wheels and the floor of a trailer full of hogs caught fire north of town on Hwy 146. Firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire and spray down the confined hogs.



May 30<sup>th</sup>

A fire in a trailer home destroyed the contents of the trailer. Firefighters removed a dog and a cat, but despite resuscitation efforts they did not survive. 1 firefighter injury was reported.



June 6<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters responded to a structure fire at Olson's Farm on T-38. On arrival one structure was heavily involved in fire and was spreading to two other structure and was threatening the house. Several propane tanks were

exploding throughout the fire. With assistance from Kellogg, Gilman and Malcom Fire Departments, the damage to the other structures was limited.



June 19<sup>th</sup>

A semi crashed into an oversized load and its escort vehicle that was being serviced on the side of the road on I-80. One worker was pinned between the car and the semi. A passenger in the semi was also injured. The pinned worker was extricated and transported, but passed from his injuries.

July 4<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters stoodby during the evening fire works.



July 16<sup>th</sup>

A fire in an abandoned home spread to the garage on the neighboring property. The properties located in Deals Acres were difficult to access due to the lack of maintenance of the private road.

August 5<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters showed off some of their rope rescue skills at the National Night Out.



August 27<sup>th</sup>

Fire on the exterior of a house on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave was quickly controlled by the department.



September 13<sup>th</sup>

An ambulance and the Chief responded to Montezuma to assist with a mass casualty accident at Hwy 63 and Ewart Rd. 4 people were injured and 2 passed away.

October 5<sup>th</sup>

A fire in a detached two car garage also damaged the house. Firefighters were able to keep the damage to the house at a minimum, but the garage

was a total loss. Control efforts were hampered by exploding fireworks stored in the garage.



November 17<sup>th</sup>

A vehicle struck two houses on West Street. Firefighters needed to shore up the foundation on one of them to prevent further damage.



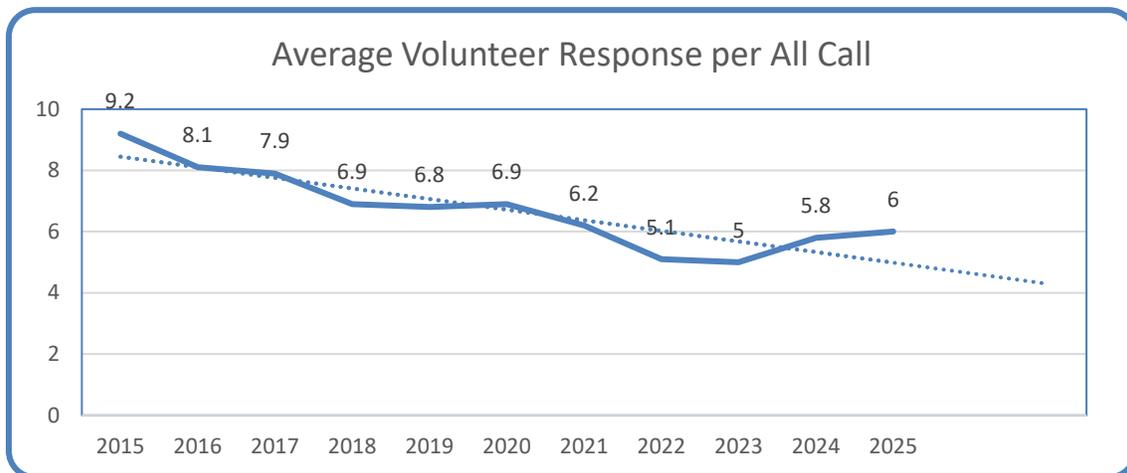
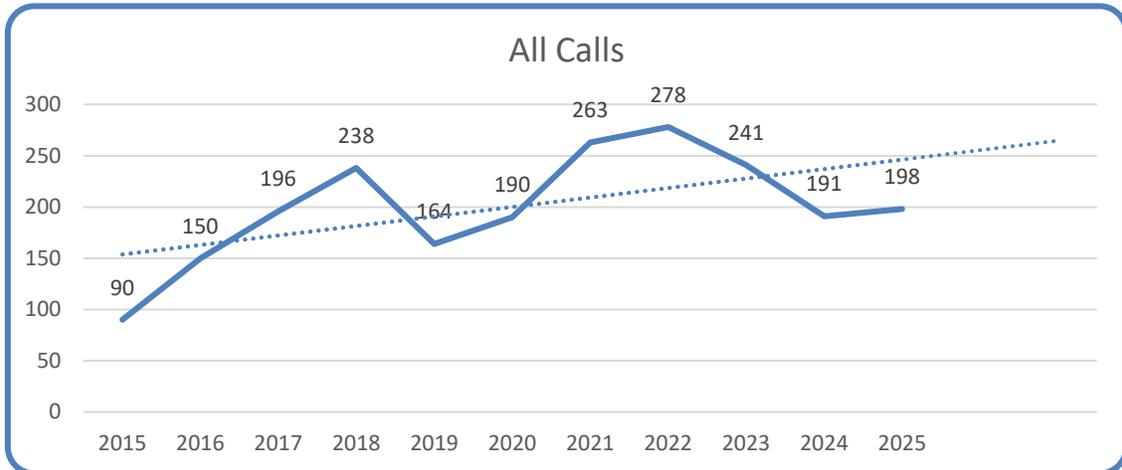
December 7<sup>th</sup>

Firefighters responded to I-80 to assist Malcom Fire Dept with a semi trailer on fire.



## Volunteer Response Numbers

Following up from the last couple years of reports on decreasing volunteer response. With the added full-time members, we were able to cut back on All Call pages. The most significant reduction was by using on duty personnel only to respond to automatic fire alarms. As anticipated, this has had a positive effect on our per call response. It is hoped we can continue this trend and continue to raise this average volunteer response per call up to around 8 members. However, the ability to recruit new volunteers is starting to be more difficult. As of the end of 2025 we only have 20 of the 30 slots for volunteers filled.



In 2026 the Volunteer Association will be proposing a Length of Service Awards Program to help try and recruit and retain volunteers. The State of Iowa passed a law supporting these programs by meeting local funds towards the investment. There will be more to come on that as the program is developed.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Sicard  
Fire Chief  
Grinnell Fire Department