

Norfolk Fire Division Annual Report 2018



NORFOLK FIRE DIVISION

Is dedicated to a lasting partnership with the community, to support a higher quality of life through public education, loss prevention and service response.

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NORFOLK FIRE DIVISION CALENDAR YEAR 2018

The Fire Division concluded another strong year of service to the citizens of Norfolk and the Rural Fire Protection District with no serious injury or death to any of our staff. Many accomplishments were achieved. Following is a list of some of the most notable activities;

2018 resulted in an all-time record year for total emergency calls for service. The new record of 2,442 calls surpassed the previous record of 2,421. The last seven calendar years represent the seven highest emergency call totals in the 135-year history of the department.

During the past calendar year, one full-time staff member left the fire division. Captain John Reding retired after 40 years of service to the city. Following Reding's retirement, Lt. Scott Bonsall was promoted to serve as the A Shift Captain. Fire Inspector Trevor O'Brien was promoted to serve as B Shift Lieutenant, and Firefighter/Paramedic Craig Reeson was promoted to A Shift Fire Inspector. New firefighter/EMT Chris Kneifl was hired to fill the vacancy created by Reding's departure. Additionally, Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Lyon and his Army Reserve unit were deployed to foreign soil for a period of one year in his service to our country. We pray for a safe return of Chris later in 2019 and his return to his role on C Shift.

A ten-member committee completed the plans and specifications for the purchase of a new ambulance. The Mayor & City Council awarded the contract to FYR- TEK for a Life Line ambulance being built in Sumner, Iowa. The expected delivery for this unit is the fall of 2019.

In late 2017 the Mayor & City Council awarded a contract to Smeal Fire Apparatus in Snyder, NE to build a new 100-foot aerial platform truck. Progress on that massive project is progressing nicely. The delivery of the new truck is anticipated in April of 2019. This was a 50-50 joint purchase with the Norfolk Rural Fire Protection District. It replaces a 45-year-old Snorkel/aerial.

The fire division, along with the other fire departments in Madison County, collaborated with the Madison County Commissioners and Rural Fire Boards to purchase individual roadside address signs for each residence and place of business throughout the rural areas of the county. Installation of the signs will begin in the spring of 2019 and are designed to assist emergency responders in finding rural address locations more effectively and efficiently.

The Division looks forward to another successful year of service to the citizens of Norfolk and Rural Fire District. A special thanks to both the Norfolk Mayor & City Council and Norfolk Rural Fire Board for their support in allowing us to carry out the goals and objectives of the division by providing the needed resources to complete the job.

2018 Year in Review

OPERATIONS

This year proved to be another busy one responding to calls and handling day to day operations at Norfolk Fire and Rescue. Responses for the year were 2,109 rescue calls and 333 engine responses. Calls for service included, but were not limited to, vehicle accidents, fires (structural and wildland), medical calls and hazardous materials leaks.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND EVENTS IN 2018

Paramedics attended an annual three day refresher training session at Northeast Community College. All Paramedics received 24 hours of training, which is then added to an additional 48 hours of training received in house that is required to maintain National Registry Certification. We currently have 31 Nationally Registered Paramedics and 3 in training. We also have 12 personnel trained at the EMT-Basic level.

The Norfolk Fire Division serves as a hazardous materials regional response team for Northeast Nebraska. This year in August, we hosted a 40-hour Hazmat Technician Refresher Course and an 80-hour Hazmat Technician Certification Course at our training facility. The Nebraska State Fire



Marshal's Office Training Division provided instruction for these courses. Four of our hazmat technicians attended the 40-hour refresher and three of our responders became Pro Board certified Technicians following the testing for the 80-hour course. In addition, the on duty shifts assisted and participated each day in training.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue also has many technical rescue capabilities including grain bin rescue and ice rescue. This year we took our team to a bin site southeast of Norfolk and did some specialized training in grain bin rescue. Having corn in the bin gave responders real life experience in what it would take to rescue a victim who is trapped. Several responders from Norfolk Fire and surrounding fire departments took part in this unique opportunity for training.

We also trained on ice rescue. All of our shift personnel went through training on how to handle an emergency where someone falls through the ice on a body of water. They also trained on self-rescue techniques.



The Nebraska State Fire Marshal Training Division came to Norfolk in August to help us host a training house burn. We were able to utilize a structure on private property to practice many techniques such as vertical and horizontal ventilation and interior attack.

Fire Prevention and Education continues to be a large part of what we do. We had many Public Education opportunities this year both on and off site. The interaction with our community and trying to prevent fires, while knowing what to do if there is a fire is extremely important.

Norfolk Fire's efforts in the area of Peer Support continue to be a focus. We have training planned this coming spring that will be available to current staff, retirees and their families. The class titled "Saving Those Who Save Others" will be an important component in helping our responders and their families better understand how to deal with the highs and lows that exist in the world of Public Safety.

The Norfolk Fire and Police Color Guard assisted in many events including parades, public meetings and funerals.



Region 11 Emergency Management

Region 11 Emergency Management, comprised of Antelope, Madison and Pierce counties completed another busy year. Trent Howard-Director and Faythe Petersen-Coordinator, continue to keep up with the difficult task of maintaining FEMA grants for 2017/2018 and preparing for annual audits and the coordination of the vast amount of deadlines and paperwork involved with these types of programs. A Homeland Security grant continues to provide a small portion of the ongoing training and specialized equipment to maintain the Norfolk Fire Division's Regional Haz-Mat Team.

Region 11 experienced no major disasters requiring the assistance of outside resources. However, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency was contacted several times regarding spills, and weather events, including tornadic activity and flooding in several areas.

Region 11 participates with multiple fire and EMS departments, law enforcement agencies, schools, nursing homes, assisted living institutions, county/city maintenance, hospitals, health departments, the state fire marshals office, natural resource districts, NOAA-weather and multiple other emergency managers in several tabletop and full scale exercises throughout the year.

The director and coordinator attended multiple exercises at Battle Creek Community Care Pride Center, Plainview Hospital, Osmond Hospital, Faith Regional Health Services, Nucor Steel and the City of Pierce levee system. The annual LEPC Haz-Mat Night Out event was held at Pilger Fire Station. The director also toured the Blue Ox Plant in Pender and Tyson's in Madison.

The director was also involved in multiple training programs, classes and conferences throughout the year. The collaboration, relationships and work done by all involved, as a region, continues to be the strong point of Northeast Nebraska and Region 11 Emergency Management.

NORFOLK REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAM



Norfolk Fire Division responded to twenty four hazmat calls in 2018. We hosted our annual 40/80-hour hazmat class to remain current on training and certify new Hazmat Technicians. We purchased a new Area Rae gas monitor, Multi Rae Lite gas monitor, color metric tubes for sampling chemicals, and a second stinger to off load chemicals from tanks that have been in an accident and can't be unloaded normally. This past year we assisted with Faith Regional Hospital's Hazmat training and took our Decon trailer to their facility to demonstrate some of the resources we have available to assist them in a time of need. We also went to Blue Ox in Pender Nebraska to conduct a Hazmat Preplan of their facilities if an incident occurred on site.



Pictured above is an example of our stingers we use to offload products with a specialized air pump. Pictured below is a prop we can use to cold tap (drill a hole in a semi-trailer to gain access to liquids) and unload the product into an undamaged trailer. The round disc on the bottom right is made of the same material as a trailer and we use hole saws and drills to cut holes for access to put the stinger in.



COMBAT CHALLENGE

Norfolk Fire Fighters, as members of the world famous Lonnie's Minions, were once again able to compete in The Fire Fighter Combat Challenge. This has been dubbed "the toughest two minutes in sports" by ESPN. The challenge is a task based obstacle course race that simulates fire ground activities where competitors start at the bottom of a five-story tower and carry a 42 pound high rise pack of hose to the top of the tower. A 42 pound roll of hose is hoisted to the top of the tower with a rope. The competitors then run down the tower hitting every step on the way down and continue on to drive a 165 pound I-beam five feet with a nine pound sledge hammer on a Keiser Force Machine. This is followed by traversing a 145 foot slalom course through cones and advancing a charged 1 ¾ in hose 75 feet to shoot at a target. A 175 pound rescue dummy is carried 106 foot to the finish line. The entire challenge is completed while wearing full firefighting gear, including a Scott air pack. Several regional events are conducted each year culminating with a world championship with teams from all over the world competing. At the regional events fire fighters complete the course as individuals on day one and compete as a relay on day two.

Team members travelled to 11 regional events across the country as well as U.S. Nationals in Branson, MO and the World Finals in Sacramento, CA. The team traveled an estimated 17,318 miles this year. As a result of this hard work the team was able to claim the Grand National Championship in the Relay category.

At the regional event hosted by the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island Norfolk Fire personnel were able to field multiple teams to represent Norfolk Fire. All teams ran well and put up some of their best times at this event. The teams train all year. Winters are spent in the gym gaining strength and speed. Summer training is at the training tower, on and off duty, running the course. The team spent well over 250 hours of off duty time training for these events. This training not only allows for better competitors, it provides for better fire fighters. Due to the competition, those who trained are confident that they are physically capable of handling any situation and are better able to serve the citizens of Norfolk. Norfolk firefighters have been competing in these competitions since 2007. The teams would like to thank Dr. G. Tom Surber, a firm believer in firefighter fitness, as well as numerous other family, friends, coworkers and business who provided both financial and emotional support.



FIRE INSPECTIONS AND PREVENTION

Business fire inspections along with preplans were conducted by the firefighter inspectors and the fire marshal. This year there were a total of 559 inspections conducted on customer owned premises with a wide variety of violations found and corrected. Firefighter/Inspectors Craig Reeson, Jerry Thompson and Nathan Wortmann have continued to do a good job. Craig Reeson is the newest inspector and is working towards his Fire Inspector I certification.

The Division was dispatched to 333 fire calls for service with 15 of these calls having active fire in the structure at the time of the fire division's arrival. Of those calls the fire was contained to the room of origin 10 times and to the structure of origin 15 times. The total amount of loss to the structures was \$418,120. This number is down from last year by approximately \$330,000. The total contents lost in these buildings was \$120,920. This amount was down approximately \$83,000 from the previous year. The total amount of property and contents that were saved in these 15 structures was \$15,177,436. We continue to work towards preventing as many fires as possible.



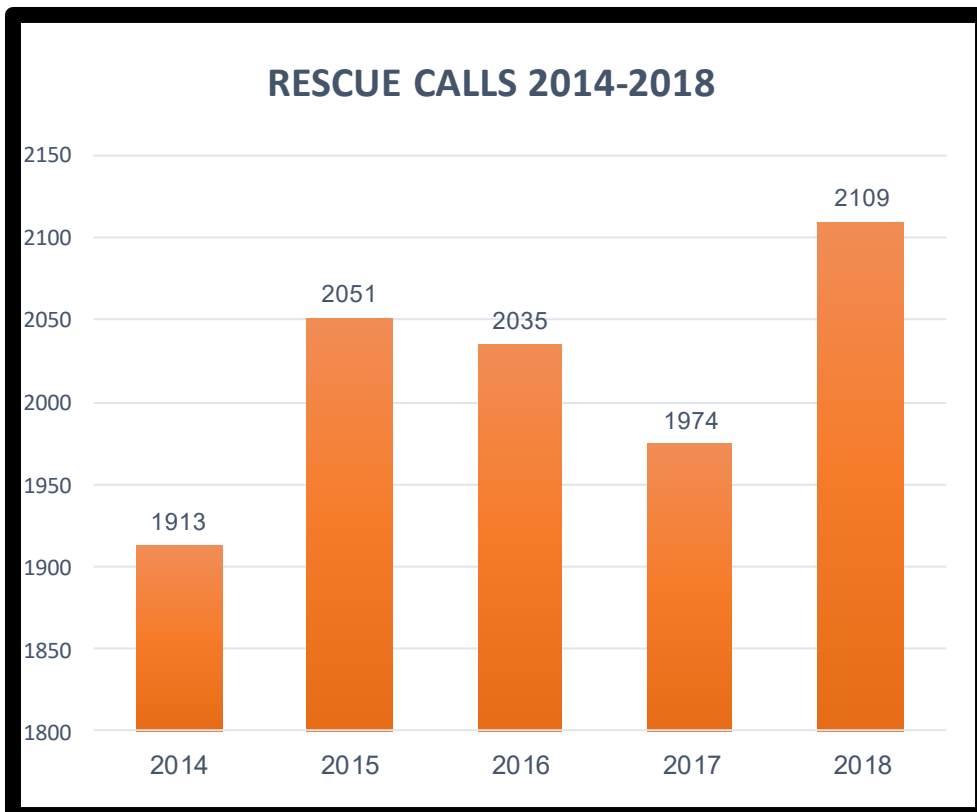
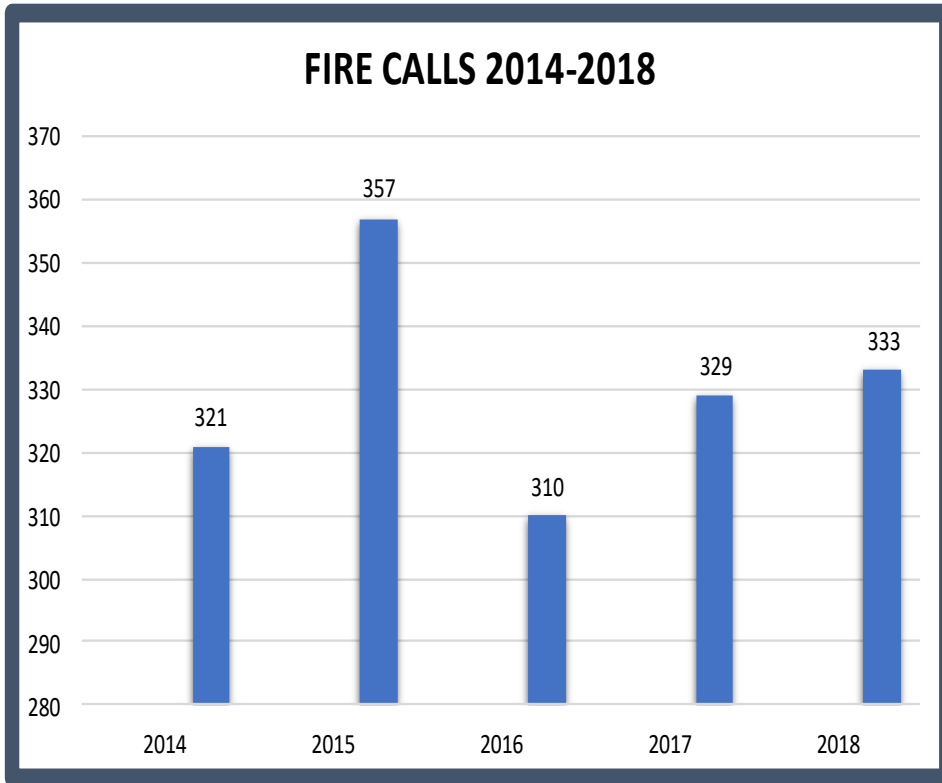
Continued efforts were made to get the fire prevention word out to the general public via school visits, station tours, press releases and training classes. 3,343 people visited our fire stations, attended fire prevention activities or were given fire prevention material during these visits. The annual open house of the fire division held on the Sunday of Fire Prevention week in October has not been well attended and we continue to encourage everyone to attend these events. There were multiple training classes given, a booth was manned at the Norfolk Area Home Builders Home and Garden show, and we presented at the Annual Night Out in Central Park during August. This brings our interaction with public to a total of over 200 hours spent, interacting with over 6700 citizens.

The easiest fire for any fire department to fight is the one that does not occur. With this in mind fire prevention is always our main goal for all the citizens of Norfolk and surrounding area, plus the visitors to our city. Our activities are focused on this goal. The fire division offers delivery and or replacement of out of date smoke alarms and assists the elderly with smoke alarm battery replacement. Smoke alarms have a life span of 10 years and need to be replaced accordingly. The alarms have a date on the back or inside of the alarm showing the date of manufacture. This year was the second full year that we have been enforcing the installation of carbon monoxide detectors whenever there was a permit taken out for other work being done and for home daycare providers and daycare centers. Carbon monoxide detectors have a life span of 5 years. The date of manufacture is marked on the detector.

Norfolk is an accredited Safe Communities America, which was awarded in 2018. Local industrial safety departments, education members, Faith Regional Hospital, the City of Norfolk and other groups around the city all contributed to this accreditation.

If you have any questions about this or any other fire issues please feel free to give us a call.

5 YEAR BREAKDOWN OF FIRE AND RESCUE CALLS



NORFOLK FIRE RESERVES

The Norfolk Fire Reserves continue to be an extremely important component of the functionality of our Operations Bureau. Their commitment to training and response is something that is of great value to the citizens of Norfolk. Their support aides in continuing to meet increasing demands for services while maintaining operational costs. This past year was packed full of solid training and accomplishments.

Our reserves continue to be a very diverse group with many different skill sets that come together for a common purpose to help serve and protect the citizens of Norfolk when called upon. The current group consists of an engineer, a risk manager, a physical therapist, EMTs, sales associates, a police officer, a security officer, industrial workers, a health inspector, electrical workers, farmers, a lawn care provider, service technicians, a utility lineman, HVAC technician, mechanics, and a fire suppression technician.

We currently have 32 reserves with years of experience ranging from 2 years to over 35 years. This year we had two reserve firefighters leave the organization in good standing but we swore in six new fire reserves with an event that included family and friends of our staff. Along with our full time staff the reserves provide necessary resources for handling calls within the city and rural fire protection district. Events such as fires, hazmat, back-to-back rescue calls, public relations events or labor-intensive technical rescues can result in a need for assistance from our reserve staff.

This past year (14) of our reserve firefighters took classes at the Nebraska State Fire School in Grand Island. In addition to Fire School we also held an in house Hazardous Materials Operations Level (40 Hour) course utilizing curriculum from the Nebraska State Fire Marshal Office. Each of our reserves participated in the training and twelve of them sought and were successful in obtaining new State certification in Haz-Mat Operations Level. The aforementioned certification courses come in addition to the thousands of training hours this group accumulates each year at Norfolk Fire.

The fire division reserves again sent several members to compete in the Firefighter Combat Challenge event held at the State Fair in Grand Island over Labor Day weekend joining a crew from our full time staff. They competed hard and together they all represented this organization and the City of Norfolk very well.

All and all it has been another great year for our Fire Reserves. They are a unified group that makes it their mission to train and better themselves each day. I thank each of them and their families for their sacrifices each year to help make Norfolk Fire and Rescue run as smooth as possible.



	2018 Actual	2019 Estimated	2020 Estimated
Demand:			
City Population	24,210	25,000	25,000
Rural District Population	4,950	5,000	5,000
Total Geographical Area Served	111	111	111
City Area	11	11	11
Rural Area	100	100	100
Mutual Aid Area	1,345	1,345	1,345
Workload:			
Total # of Responses	2,442	2,450	2,460
Emergency Medical Calls	2,109	2,150	2,160
# of Patients Encountered	2,329	2,400	2,420
Fire Calls	333	300	300
Structure Fires	15	15	15
% Contained to Room of Origin	75	75	75
% Contained to Structure of Origin	100	100	100
Hazardous Material Calls	24	30	30
# of Level 1 Call Backs	31	35	35
# of Level 2 Call Backs	180	200	200
# of Citizens Who Toured the Fire Station or attended classes	1,148 Adults 2,195 youth	1,150 Adults 2,200 youth	1,200 Adults 2,200 youth
Public Interacted with	7693	7700	7750

	2018 Actual	2019 Estimated	2020 Estimated
# of Burning Permits Issued	127 241 patio permits	130 250 patio permits	135 255 patio permits
Productivity:			
Total Training Hours	6,937	7,000	7,000
Average Training Hours per Firefighters	114	120	125
Feet of Hose Maintained	26,350	26,350	26,350
# of Pumps Tested & Maintained	6	6	6
# of Warning Sirens Tested & Maintained	10	10	10
# of Preemption Devices Maintained	80	80	80
# of SCBA Tested and Maintained	61	61	61
# of Emergency Vehicles Maintained	22	22	22
# of Defibrillators Maintained	8	8	8
Effectiveness:			
% of Established Patient IV's	66%	70%	70%
% of Established Endotracheal Tubes	71%	75%	75%
Average Response Time per Call	4.6	4.5	4.5
# of Incidents with 1st Arriving Units within 5 minutes (in city)	83.15%	85%	85%
Valuation of Structures involved in Fire	\$8,650,186	\$8,700,000	\$8,800,800
Structural Dollar Amount Loss Due to Fire	\$418,120	\$450,000	\$460,000
Contents Dollar amount of loss due to fire	\$120,920	\$130,000	\$130,000
Valuation of contents involved in fire	\$6,527,250	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
Average Years of Service of Employees	14	14	14

