MONTROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT











MISSION STATEMENT

The Montrose Fire Department is dedicated to protecting life and property within the boundaries of its coverage area. The department will assist citizens and provide medical and fire services to the best of our ability.

FIRE PROTECTION COVERAGE

The Montrose Fire Department protects the city of Montrose and portions of Franklin, Marysville, and Woodland Townships. Our coverage area is approximately 45 square miles and protect a population of approximately 6,000 people.

The department also responds to assist other departments with incidents upon their requests. Our common mutual aid partners are surrounding community fire departments (Waverly, Delano, Watertown, and Buffalo).

The Service area of the Montrose Fire Department officially covers the following:

- 100 % of the City of Montrose
- 11 % of Franklin Township
- 19% of Marysville Township
- 30.25 % of Woodland Township



March 2023

2023 has come to a close and we now begin to look forward to another great year at the Montrose Fire Department in 2024. 2023 was met with many challenges and also many success stories. A record breaking year for calls in 2023 was experienced with a total of 382 calls for service for the Montrose Fire Department.

2024 Marks the beginning of my 10th year at Fire Chief of the Montrose Fire Department. It is a privilege to lead this department and the dedicated members of the Department. I strive to work alongside all firefighters, city staff and mutual aid partners at all times. I pride myself in being professional and leading forward and into the future.

2023 had many challenges, including our continued issue of firefighter recruitment and retention. Recruitment continues to be an issue for all fire volunteer Fire Departments, including the Montrose Fire Department. We continue to try and reach out to perspective members and also are looking at ways to speed up our hiring process to avoid significant waiting periods. We are also looking at various ways to retain the firefighters we have on our roster through different pay and benefit ideas and initiatives.

In 2023 we celebrated the retirement of Firefighter Willie" Bauernschmitt after he retired with 51 years of service to the Montrose Fire Department. Willie will be greatly missed by all.

Goals for 2024 include getting our new officers acclimated to their new positions as well as doing an overhaul on our policies and standard operating guidelines. We also hope to continue to hire additional firefighters throughout the year. We have implemented a new training schedule in hopes of getting firefighters out of the station earlier on our training nights, and throughout the first few months this has been a big success for the most part.

If anyone has any questions, concerns, or comments, I encourage them to contact me directly. All contact information can be found on page 3 of this report. Generally, someone is always at the fire station on Tuesdays in the evening from 6PM until around 10PM. The public and visitors are also always welcome to stop by and visit the station whenever we are here. I truly believe this is the citizens department, and we as firefighters have the privilege of serving the citizens.

As I have done so in previous years, I would like to thank the firefighters that serve with me in the Montrose Fire Department for their service and dedication to the community, department, and fire service. I would also like to thank my family and friends for the support they continue to provide me as I continue my service as the

Montrose Fire Chief.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin S. Triplett - Fire Chief

Kevin S. Triplett



SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Montrose Fire Department 311 Buffalo Ave S Montrose, MN 55363

STATION ADDRESS:

Montrose Fire Department 260 2nd St S Montrose, MN 55363

ISO RATINGS

In City of Montrose - 4
In Townships where contracted - 6

FIRE STATION PHONE NUMBER: 763-575-7480

[Voicemail checked daily]

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: 911

Non-Emergency Phone Number: 763-682-7600

Connects to Wright County Sheriff's Office Communication Center who has the capabilities of paging fire department personnel.

CITY HALL MAIN PHONE NUMBER: 763-575-7422

E-MAIL ADDRESS: montrosefd@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.montrose-mn.com/departments/fire-department

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/MontroseVolunteerFireDepartment/?ref=br_rs

PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!

All information contained within this report is using figures during the 2023 calendar year



PERSONNEL

As of 01/01/2024, MFD has a total of 20 active firefighters. In totality, years of total service is approximately **235 years and 6 months**

OF OUR 20 FIREFIGHTERS:

- 15 Emergency First Responders
- 1 EMT-B
- 1 Registered Nurse
- 14 State Certified Firefighter 2
- 4 State Certified Officer 1
- 8 State Certified Instructor 1
- 5 State Certified Fire Apparatus Operators
- 1 BCA Fire Investigator
- 1 Licensed Firefighters

(Some of the more senior members of the department went through their respective training prior to state certification being an option. All regular training is to the Firefighter 2 level.)

2023 FIREFIGHTERS RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

- Justin Phillips Resigned 01/01/2023 with a total of 11 years, 7 months and 1 day of Service to the Montrose Fire Department
- Willie Bauernschmitt Retired 02/07/2023 with a total of 51 years and 1 day of service to the Montrose Fire Department
- Diane Holman Resigned 03/20/2023 with a total of 3 years, 1 month and 1 day of service to the Montrose Fire Department
- Dustin Falk Resigned 06/06/2023 with a total of 1 month, 2 weeks and 5 days of service to the Montrose Fire Department
- Michael Sommerfeld Resigned 09/29/2023 with a total of 1 year, 3 weeks and 2 days of service to the Montrose Fire Department as a Reserve Firefighter
- Evan Kako Resigned 11/17/2023 with a total of 6 months, 1 week and 2 days of service to the Montrose Fire Department

New Firefighters in 2023

- 2 new firefighters were hired (Dustin Falk & Evan Kako) who after a short time of service with the Montrose Fire Department needed to resign due to unforseen circumstances
- Nicholas Mondragon joined the Montrose Fire Department effective 02/03/2023
- Joseph Florek & Katherine Mika joined the Montrose Fire Department with an effective start date of 12/05/2023





Active Firefighter Roster (As of 12/31/2023)

NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE (as of 12/31/2023)		
Mike Marketon - Captain	39 Years, 6 Months		
Steven Mortensen	30 Years, 11 Months		
Allen Mortensen	26 Years, 1 Month (37 Months LOA)		
Kevin Triplett – Fire Chief	20 Years, 7 Months		
Thomas Marketon - Assit Fire Chief	20 Years		
Keith Johnson	19 Years, 5 Months (16 Months LOA)		
Roy (Co-Co) Henry Jr.	19 Years, 5 Months (131 Month LOA)		
Kelly Stoll – Captain	12 Years, 7 Months		
Cory DeWitte	11 Years, 4 Months		
Joseph Von Thoma	9 Years, 2 Months		
Eddie Andreoff	5 Years, 9 Months		
Joel Grave	5 Years, 1 Month		
Joey Theis	4 Years, 1 Month		
Zack Walters	4 Years, 1 Month		
Cade Stuntebeck	3 Year, 1 Month		
David Paradeise	2 Year, 2 Months		
Jennifer Brenny	1 Year, 3 Months		
Nicholas Mondragon	11 Months		
Joseph Florek	1 Month		
Katherine Mika	1 Month		



APPARATUS

			Mileage	Total	2022	Total Pump Hours	
		01/2023	01/2024	Mileage (2023)	Mileage	2022	2023
UTILITY 11	2011 Chevrolet Suburban	16918	17904	986	1584		
ENGINE 11	2001 Freightliner	18683	19123	440	259	355	365
ENGINE 12	2014 Spartan	10445	11248	803	943	145	160
RESCUE 11	2006 Sterling	8174	8400	226	194		
TENDER 11	2021 Freightliner	1240	1614	374	396		
TENDER 12	2009 Freightliner	6060	6265	205	100		
GRASS 11	2012 Ford Super Duty	16270	19030	2760	1553		
GRASS 12	1986 Chevrolet 1 Ton	21577	21600	23	25		
GRASS 13	2023 Can Am Defender	0	12	12	0		

Utility 11

- 2011 Chevrolet Suburban
- Can carry up to 5 firefighters
- Utilized for minor medical calls
 Medical Supplies/AED
- Fire Investigation equipment
- Used to go to regional/county meetings/events

Engine 11

- Built by Central States Fire Apparatus
 2000 Freightliner Chassis
- 1000 Gallon Water Tank
 1500 GPM Darley Pump
- Thermal Imaging Camera 20 Gallon Foam Tank
- Carries 4 firefighters in full suppression gear, driver, and front seat officer
- over 3,200 feet of hose (800' 5" | 900' 2 1/2" | 1515' 1 1/2")

Engine 12

- Built by CustomFire Apparatus
 2014 Spartan Chassis
- 1500 GPM Waterous Pump 1000 Gallon Water Tank
- over 3,100 feet of hose (600' 5" | 1000' 2 1/2" | 1530' 1 1/2")
- Thermal imaging Camera Light Tower
- 20 Gallon Foam Tank Extrication Tools (Jaws-of-Life)
- Carries 4 firefighters in full suppression gear, driver, and front seat officer

Rescue 11

- Built by Central States Fire Apparatus (Rosenbauer)
- Heavy Rescue walk in body 4 Gas monitor
- Extrication Tools
 Rescue & medical equipment & AED
- 2006 Sterling Chassis
 Seating for 8 Firefighters (6 with SCBA)

Tender 11 (Took Delivery 01/2021)

- Built by Midwest Fire Equipment
 2021 Freightliner Chassis
- 2000 Gallon Tank
 2100 Gallon folding water tank
- 400 GPM Waterous pump Hose reel w/ 200' of 3/4" hose
- Storage for additional rolled hose, tools & equipment

Tender 12 (Previously known as Tender 11)

- Built by Midwest Fire Equipment 2009 Freightliner Chassis
- 2000 Gallon Tank 2100 Gallon folding water tank
- 400 GPM Waterous pump 200' of 1 ½" pre-connect hose
- 250 feet of rolled hose (100' 4" | 50' 3" | 50' 1 ½")











Apparatus Continued

Grass 11

- Built by Montrose Fire Department/Kirivada Fire/E.A.T.I.
- 200 Gallon removable skid unit (Water pump/tank/hoses)
- 12 HP Honda Pump 300 GPM Water pump
- Skid unit removed during winter & Truck used as a plain pickup
- Used to go to regional/county/state events/trainings

FIRE DEPT

2012 Ford F350 Pickup Truck

Grass 12

- Vehicle acquired from MN DNR through Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP)
- 1986 Chevrolet 1-ton pickup
- Acquired and outfitted as a Grass/Wildland Firefighting truck in 1995
- 225 Gallon Water Tank
- High Pressure Warner Pump/Hoses

Grass 13

- 2023 Can-Am Defender 1000
- Purchased 04/2023 through HexCo Motor Sports Oshkosh, WI
- Purchased by the Montrose Firefighters Relief Association and donated to the Montrose Fire Department
- 75 Gallon Water Tank
 8.5 HP Ultra High Pressure water pump (1500psi | 7.4GPM)





A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FIREFIGHTERS WHO PERFORM COUNTLESS HOURS OF MAINTENANCE ON OUR TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT SAVING THE CITY & DEPARTMENT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR.

STATION INFORMATION

- Built 1994/1995
- 7200 square foot
- 1 Drive-thru Apparatus Bay
- 4 Back-in Apparatus Bays
- Office Space (Shared by Officers, Relief Association, Internal Dispatch)
- Work Area (SCBA Filling, Storage, Workbench)
- Storage for 30 sets of turnout gear
- Gear washing extractor
- Gear Dryer











TRAINING

Training is an important part of any fire department. The Montrose Fire Department strives to have its personnel trained in the most up to date methods of fire suppression and emergency medical care. Training ensures we are ready 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. Our firefighters dedicate much time to training, making sure they are proficient in the use of department equipment and apparatus. Firefighters take training seriously and commit to learning and preforming the newest and updated ways of working in the Fire Service

We continue to utilize our own instructors that are a part of the Fire Department. This allows for growth of individuals and also for cost effective training within our walls. Our training was coordinated by Assistant Chief Marketon who does a fantastic job of mixing up new training with basic fundamentals on an ongoing basis. The Captains lead the trainings and teach much of the information during out in house trainings. Without the dedication and commitment of the Officer group to training we would not be as good as we currently are. We also utilize out side sources for training including a lot of training through Customized Fire & Rescue Training (CFRT). In 2023, 2 Firefighters completed their Firefighter 1 & 2 training. 4 Firefighters completed Fire Apparatus Operator.

3 Officers (Chief Triplett, Assistant Chief Marketon & Captain Stoll) attended the 2023 MN State Fire Chiefs Conference in October 2023 in Duluth.

In March of 2023 we were able to practice in a live burn setting utilizing the house that the City had purchased near City Hall. This unique opportunity allows firefighters to train in real fire conditions and these houses and training opportunities have become hard to come by.

INTERESTING TRAININGS IN 2023

Forcible Entry

- Automotive Extrication
- SCBA Fit Testing
- Alternative fuel vehicles training
 Aerial Training with Delano FD
- Apparatus driving

- Walk Through of CCC SCBA Confidence trailer
- EMR Refresher

Live House Burn

In 2023, the firefighters of the Montrose Fire Department took part in a total of 1,757.15 man hours of training during scheduled training events normally held on Tuesday nights.

**Total man hours listed above does not generally include hours at conferences, or outside trainings. It only includes our regularly scheduled trainings (first 3 Tuesdays of each month) **



03-2023 - Forcible Entry Training



10-2023 - Search & Rescue Training at abandoned house



06/2023 - Automobile **Extrication Training**



FIRE PREVENTION & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fire Prevention and assisting the community in non-emergency events is an important part of the overall mission of any fire department. We reach out to members and groups of our communities to assist in making sure they are safe and prepared for various forms of emergencies and provide support for various functions.

2023 we continued to scale back out involvement in community events but remain dedicated to Fire Prevention through education and information sharing. Social media has been a huge avenue that we are continuing to grow and explore to get various fire prevention and emergency preparedness information out to those that we serve. If you have not "liked" us on Facebook we would encourage you to do so. Scaling back is mainly due to our limited staff resources and increased call volume

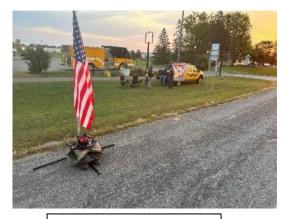
Fire prevention with students from the Montrose Elementary School continues to this day and we enjoy the ability to meet with and discuss fire safety and prevention with students. Students in 1st and 4th grade come down to tour the Fire Department and Firefighters bring trucks up to the school during recess to reach out to the other students at the school.

In 2023 we took part in the below community/fire department events, not related to calls or trainings. We did many other events and helped other organizations, but below are the highlights.

- Remembering 9/11 in front of O'Brothers (Sep 2023)
- Montrose Night to Unite (Aug 2023)
- Fire Prevention week activities with Montrose Elementary School (Oct 2023)
- Montrose Firefighters Relief Association Annual Prim Rib dinner/gun raffle (Feb 2023)
- Many parades for neighboring community events and celebrations



2023 NFPA Fire Prevention Week Theme "Cooking Safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention



Sept 11 Remembrance



08/2023 – National Night to unite – Firefighters got into neighborhoods to show off our trucks and equipment

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Montrose Fire Department provides Emergency Management oversight to the City of Montrose and Townships which we provide service to. Our main point of contact during a large-scale event is the Wright County Sheriff's Office, who has 2 full time employees dedicated solely to Emergency Management. Emergency Management is able to assist in providing various resources throughout a large-scale event.

The Fire Chief is the Emergency Management Director and is responsible for making sure the city is prepared for various emergencies which may arise. The Fire Department Officers and firefighters also play a key role in ensuring we are prepared for various large-scale events.

Throughout 2023 we continued to monitor road work within the City of Montrose and analyze the impact for emergency response. The City of Montrose and the staff have been a huge resource for communication and assistance through all the road work in 2022 and 2023 that has had a significant impact on emergency response and emergency management.

In 2022 the City of Montrose authorized the purchase and installation of a new standby generator at the Montrose Community Center/Fire Department. This generator was installed in February 2023 and has been an asset already during several minor power outages the City Experienced in 2023. The Community Center functions as a backup emergency operations center and backup power is essential in running the backup center and also powering the Fire Station so personnel and apparatus can appropriately respond during power outages.

The Montrose Fire Department and City of Montrose continue to prepare and plan for additional large-scale events that may affect the City of Montrose and it citizens. Examples of these events include; flooding, tornados, railway emergencies, large scale event planning, and anything else that could cause a serious impact to the City and its infrastructure.

BUDGET

Our budget procedure changed in 2023, mainly due to changes at Wright County. We no longer work on a special assessment budget, but are instead now part of the Cities overall budget. This is a new and welcomed budget process so far. In 2023 we continued to charge our Townships \$150 per parcel for fire protection coverage. This will be reevaluated in 2024 to capture more of the correct costs associated with providing fire protection services to our surrounding townships. A large portion of our budget goes to personal costs. A second large portion of our budget goes into our Capitol improvement budget (AKA "Savings Account") which will be utilized for larger purchases in the years ahead.

In 2023 the City of Montrose agreed to raise the pay rate for firefighters. Previously we were at \$10 per call and \$10 per meeting/training. In 2023 the pay rate increased to 1\$12.50 per call and \$15 per meeting/training

In 2023 we applied for various grants and were awarded one through the Central MN EMS Region for medical supplies and one through Compeer Financial for the purchase of 5 new nozzles for fire suppression.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- New Officers in 2024 allow opportunity for growth amongst several department members
- Getting our newly acquired SCBA's purchased in 11/2023 through a financing program into service and personnel trained on the new SCBA's
- Firefighter recruitment will be a major priority in 2024 We would like to see our number between 25-30 and have been sitting below 25 for several years now. Many firefighters are looking at new and interesting ways to attract new people to join our department.



The Montrose Fire Department provides a pension for firefighters and the total pension is held through the MN Statewide Volunteer Firefighters Pension administered by The Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). Firefighter's pension level is set by the City of

Montrose and the current level for 2023 is \$5000 per year of service. Firefighters become vested at 5 years and can receive 40% of what they are owed once they turn the age of 50. The vesting level goes up by 4% for each year of service until a firefighter hits 20 years at which time they are 100% vested. As of 02/13/2023 our pension account held with PERA totaled \$1,470,062.04. We are required to be 100% funded in this account at all times. \$30,000 from the Fire Department budget is sent to PERA yearly to contribute to the pension fund and the City of Montrose contributes an additional \$12,000 yearly. We also receive investment income and our Fire State Aid dollars are submitted directly to PERA to support our pension as required by State Law.

SPECIAL MENTION / INFORMATION

In February 2023, Willie Bauernschmitt officially retired from the Montrose Fire Department with 51 years of service to the Montrose Fire Department.

2023 was an overall busy year and we broke our annual response record with a total of 382 calls for service. Our previous record was in 2022 with a total of 347 calls for service

We only experienced 1 Structure fire in 2023 with a significant loss (\$112,500). This is in large part due to our fire prevention efforts and the hard work of the citizens in general of Montrose and the surrounding communities. We have been called early and often to several incidents that we were able to mitigate and prevent significant loss or damage to whatever might have been involved safely and quickly.

We redid our office space in 2023. Desks, cabinets, chairs, file cabinets were all obtained from the old Wright County Government Center in 2022. Everything was installed and back to operational status in 2023. Some new paint, new carpeting, and a lot of organizing has been a huge thing for use. We are now maximizing our space in our office and most of the time it is actually clean and organized.

The 2023 Firefighter of the year award was awarded to Fire Fighter Allen Mortensen for his constant dedication to the Montrose Fire Department year after year

The 2023 top responders (made 60% or more of all calls for service) were; Michael Marketon, Kelly Stoll, Joseph Von Thoma, and David Paradeise

The Montrose Firefighters Relief Association (MFRA) paid to refurbish our old bell which is placed outside our station.

The Montrose Firefighters Relief Association (MFRA) purchased our new side-by-side grass rig (Grass 13) and donated it to the Montrose Fire Department. A \$42,020.62 donation in equipment. This money is from fundraising efforts of the MFRA and had \$0 impact on our budget.









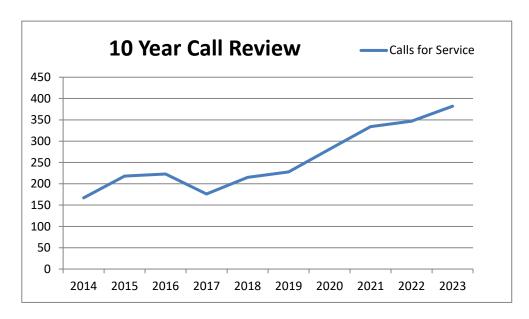
CALL ANALYSIS

[Call Analysis includes all calls for service both in and outside the city of Montrose]

2023 Total Calls for Service: 382

Year Comparison of Calls:

2023: 382 2022: 347 2021: 334 2020: 281 2019: 228 2018: 215 2017: 176 2016: 233 2015: 218 2014: 167

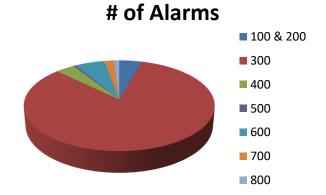


2023 Type of Call Analysis

Type of Calls

- Series 100 Fires (Includes buildings, vehicles, etc.)
- Series 200 Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)
- Series 300 Rescue (Includes EMS Calls, motor vehicle accidents, etc.)
- Series 400 Hazardous Condition (Odor/Electrical/Chemical, etc.)
- Series 500 Service Call (Animal in distress, odor, person in distress, etc.)
- Series 600 Good Intent Call (Canceled en-route, controlled burning, etc.)
- Series 700 False Alarm/False Call (False Alarm, scares, etc.)
- Series 800 Severe Weather/Natural Disasters

SERIES	# OF ALARMS	% OF TOTAL
100 & 200	17	4.5%
300	316	82.7%
400	14	3.7%
500	2	0.5%
600	22	5.8%
700	7	1.8%
800	4	1.0%





2023 Average response time (Page to on scene)

7 minutes 20 seconds

This is our overall response time to all incidents (Fire, EMS, MVA, etc.)

2023 Property/Content Loss:

2023 - \$153,500

2022 - \$11,000

2021 - \$882,183

2020 - \$170,500

2019 - \$153,500

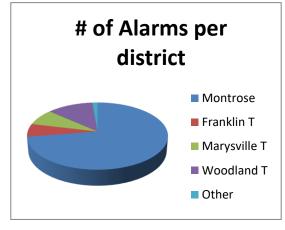
2023 Injuries

0 Injury to civilians0 Injury to Firefighters

2023 Breakdown of District Responses

(Each area we serve is assigned a district (Montrose City, Franklin Township, etc.)

District	# of Alarms	% of total
City of Montrose	270	70.68%
Franklin Township	23	6.02%
Marysville Township	39	10.21%
Woodland Township	45	11.78%
Other (Mutual Aid)	5	1.31%
TOTAL:	382	



2023 Breakdown Time/Day of Week

Day of Week						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
52	58	55	52	37	68	60

Time of Day						
12A-4A	4A-8A	8A-12P	12P-4P	4P-8P	8P-12A	
37	36	66	70	96	77	

2023 Average Turnout per incident

8.25 (382 Total Calls | 3151 Responses) 2022 = 9.67 (347 total calls | 3355 Responses)

2023 Call Hours – 2248.7 Hours (-397.8 from 2022) 2022 Call Hours – 2646.5 Man Hours

2023 Mutual Aid

Given 13 times

Buffalo FD – 1 Incident Watertown FD – 3 Incidents Waverly FD – 9 Incident

Received on 4 Incidents

Waverly FD – 4 Incident
Watertown FD – 1 Incident
Delano FD – 1 Incident

Interesting/Significant Calls for Service

- 07/04/2023 Structure Fire (Garage) Charity Ln Montrose Loss = \$112,500
- 09/01/2023 Vehicle/Garage Fire Woodland Township minimal loss
- 12/22/2023 Motor Vehicle vs Pedestrian Accident US Highway 12 significant, but non-fatal injuries
- Throughout 2023 11 Motor Vehicle Accidents with injuries throughout our protection area
- Changed our response protocols for Sever weather emergencies firefighters remain at their homes and monitor the storm unless called for a specific call for service during the weather event





2023 Firefighter of the year Allen Mortensen – Chief Kevin Triplett presenting the award



Willie Bauernschmitt being presented his retirement plaque by Chief Kevin Triplett after 51 years of service



After his retirement, Willie Bauernschitt stopped by and we celebrated his retirement as a Fire Department



Assisting our partners is very important – Here Fire Chief Kevin Triplett, is spraying water on a fire in Watertown's service area that we assisted them with.









Training with our partners is important! In 2023, we had the opportunity to train with Delano Fire Department in the operation of their Aerial truck

Driving a fire truck is no joke! We train and practice our driving skills regularly so we can safely respond to emergencies.







Each year we test every hose we have – to the right you see why – we want to make sure our hoses are in operational condition at all times, sometimes they fail

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Live fire training is vital to training a fire department. When we have to opportunity to burn an actual structure and practice our skills, it is priceless. The City acquired this structure a couple of years ago and in 2023 we burnt it down after training our interior fire attack skills



Compeer Financial grant award



New SCBA's purchased in 2023, into service Jan 2024