

Moorhead Fire Department

111 12th Street North | Moorhead Minnesota 56560



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

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Moorhead Fire
Department
Website

A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF | **RICH DUYSSEN**

THE MOORHEAD FIRE DEPARTMENT personnel took on many challenges in 2013! For the first time we challenged ourselves to identify our core values. After several group meetings, we narrowed our focus to record our five most important values. The department personnel then defined a vision statement. Finally, we updated our mission statement to reflect a more encompassing all-hazards approach which includes a focus on community risk reduction. I really appreciate all the effort our members applied to this project! We are currently working on prioritizing our longer term goals and objectives.

In December of 2013 the City of Moorhead was evaluated by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) for a Public Protection Class (PPC) rating. Many insurance companies use this PPC evaluation as a factor in setting premiums for business and residential property insurance within the City of Moorhead. The ratings are scored from 1-10 (1 being the best), and the better the rating, the lower the insurance premium. The fire department operation accounts for more than fifty percent of the overall score. Other factors include the City's water distribution system and the assessment of the Red River Regional Dispatch Center. The PPC for Moorhead has been rated a 4 since 1998. We are excited to get our results back this summer to see where we can improve our score, as this directly affects the insurance rates for our residents, businesses, and industries.

Growth is also a common theme in the Fargo-Moorhead area. We recently built a new bay onto Station 2, which is located near I-94 on 20th Street South. This bay will house all of the equipment for the MN Regional Hazardous Materials Team run by the Moorhead Fire Department. We still cover 13 Minnesota Counties and have a mutual aid agreement with Fargo. In 2015, Oakport Township will be annexed into the City of Moorhead. We look forward to serving our former neighbors with a full service department!



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Moorhead Fire Department is to provide our community with trusted and dedicated professionals who work to ensure a high level of public safety through education, cooperation, and incident response.

VISION STATEMENT

The Moorhead Fire Department will be recognized by our community as an excellent and progressive fire & rescue provider while partnering with the region to improve the safety of all.

VALUES STATEMENT

We value: Professionalism, Responsibility, Integrity, Cooperation, and Dedication.

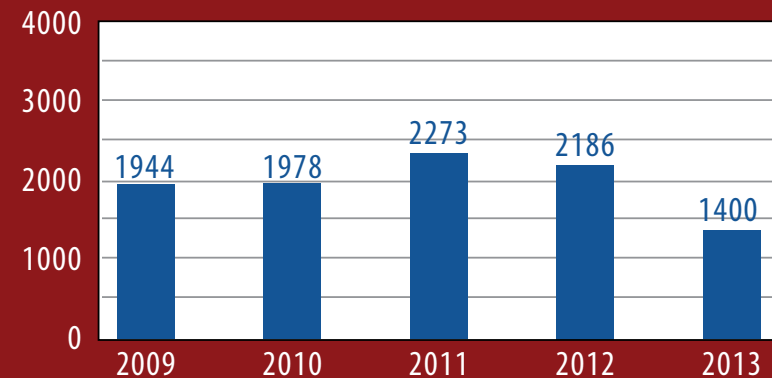
INCIDENT RESPONSE

T HIS YEAR we responded to 2,415 emergencies. This averages just below seven calls for service each day. Of those, 928 were fire related calls, 87 were related to hazardous materials response and the remaining 1,400 were for medical emergencies.

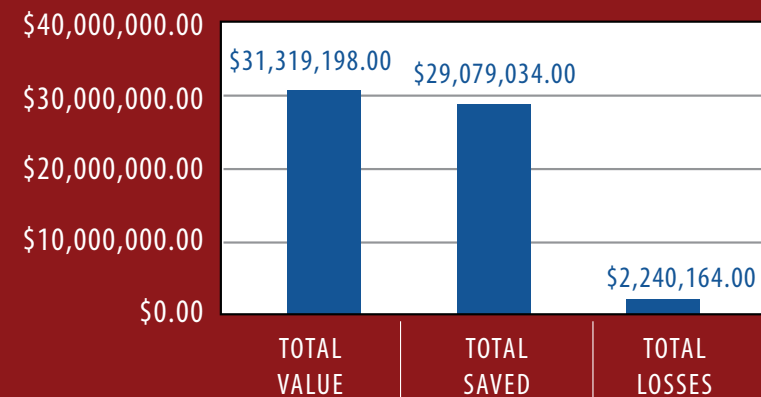
In 2013, with the cooperation of the Red River Regional Dispatch Center, we instituted the Priority Dispatch System, which is a triage protocol for all medical emergencies in town. This system is designed by medical professionals and is used throughout the country. One of its many facets prompts dispatchers to ask 911 callers medical information to help decide the most appropriate resources to send to a call. We are now responding to only the calls where we are truly needed. If the ambulance service or law enforcement still needs assistance they can request a fire or medical response from the Moorhead Fire Department. The result for the department is fewer medical calls. We use this added available time to work on other initiatives including training, prevention, maintenance, and inspections.

Property values with structures involved in fire was over thirty-one million dollars. The total damage to all structures is estimated at 2.2 million dollars this year. This equates to a 93% save rate (bottom right).

TOTAL EMERGENCY CALLS BY YEAR

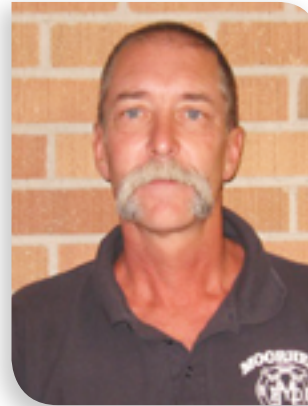


2013 STRUCTURE FIRES



RETIREMENTS

FIREFIGHTER John Peterson and Firefighter Steve LaFlamme retired this year. Peterson served twenty-one years and LaFlamme twenty-eight years with the Department. We are losing a great deal of knowledge, experience, and skill. Both are exceptional men and we wish them the best in their future endeavors!



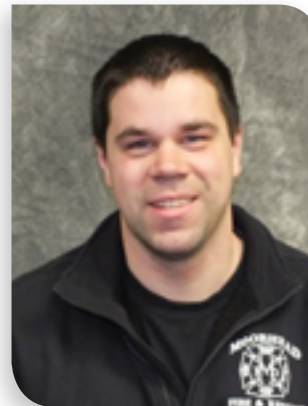
JOHN PETERSON



STEVE LAFLAMME

NEW EMPLOYEES

IN DECEMBER, the Moorhead City Council approved the hiring of two new firefighters. We selected Michael Miller and Derek Berg from the city's firefighter hiring list. Michael Miller is originally from Canby, Minnesota and worked for the North Dakota Air National Guard as a firefighter at Hector Field in Fargo. Derek Berg grew up in Madison, Minnesota and was most recently working as a firefighter for South Sioux City, Nebraska. Both are certified firefighters. We look forward to a long future with both quality individuals.



DEREK BERG



MIKE MILLER

MOORHEAD FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART

Rich Duysen
Fire Chief

Dorene Rurup
Program Assistant

Joe Gaughan
A/C A Shift

Greg Doeden
A/C B Shift

Rich Eggert
A/C C Shift

Jeff Wallin
A/C Training

Chad Stangeland
A/C AFM-EM

Dave Allen
Captain

Eric Berg
Captain

Ryan Muchow
Captain

Gary Larsen
Captain

Benton Hicks
Captain

Todd Church
Captain

Bert McDonough
AO Firefighter

Jason Dewar
AO Firefighter

Mike Miller
Firefighter

Troy Thies
Firefighter

Dan Schoonhoven
Firefighter

Dale Hovis
Firefighter

Dean Bloch
Firefighter

Tom Zarak
Firefighter

Trent Amundsen
AO Firefighter

Nick Anderson
AO Firefighter

Bob Carney
Firefighter

Erick Brager
Firefighter

Dwayne Tollefson
Firefighter

Adam Peutz
Firefighter

Justin Rosenfeldt
Firefighter

Unfunded 2013
Firefighter

Rick Loveland
AO Firefighter

Dan Oldham
AO Firefighter

Eric Welk
AO Firefighter

Derek Berg
Firefighter

Wes Dahl
Firefighter

Kevin Salisbury
Firefighter

Joey Benesh
Firefighter

John Schlafmann
Firefighter

TRAINING

Mission Statement

The mission of the Training Division of the Moorhead Fire Department is to prepare our staff members to perform their jobs, maintain a desired level of service delivery proficiency, and promote innovation to improve our performance.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to develop the best trained, most effective fire personnel in the Fargo-Moorhead area and the State of Minnesota, consistently exceeding customer expectations and industry standards.

Core Values

- Industry training and performance standards
- Training in the manner we wish to operate
- Innovation
- Research and development
- Safety
- Regionalized consistency

2013 Goals

- Support up to 6 staff training activities at the National Fire Academy.
- Support regional training opportunities for staff as the budget allows.
- Support tuition reimbursement requests as the budget allows.
- Train all department members to the Radiation/Nuclear Awareness level.
- Train 16 department members to the Radiation/Nuclear Operations level.



TRAINING

TRAINING | 2013 OUTCOMES

Staff Achievements

This year, several notable achievements were accomplished by department members. Four members completed 32 semester credits of college coursework in pursuit of a degree. Chief Duysen was the second department member to attain the Chief Fire Officer designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Firefighter Justin Rosenfeldt was awarded an Associates in Applied Science degree in EMT Paramedic Technology from Bismarck State College and Firefighter Dan Oldham completed National Incident Management System IS-300 and IS-400 classes and was the first department member to obtain IFSAC certification as a Fire Officer III and a Fire Officer IV through the Alabama Fire College. Our congratulations go out to these members for their accomplishments.

General Training Activities

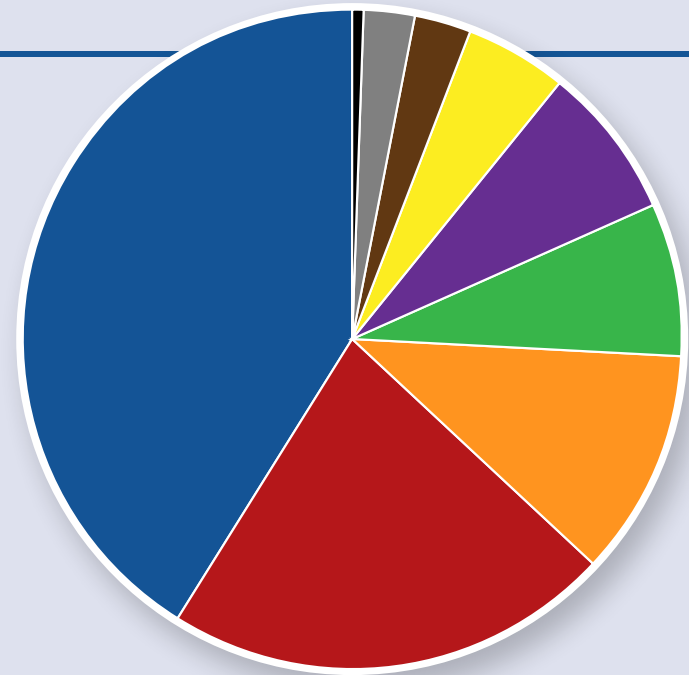
The department utilizes a combination of in-house training, outside schools and conferences, on-line training courses and formal education to reach our goals and objectives.

2013 TRAINING HOURS BY TYPE

6402 Total training hours

182.91 Average hours per member

2628		Hazardous Material	309		Fire Prevention
1401		Officer, Tactics, and Strategy	184		Driver/Operator
707		Fire Suppression	160		OSHA and Safety
493		Emergency Medical	45		Other
476		Technical Rescue			

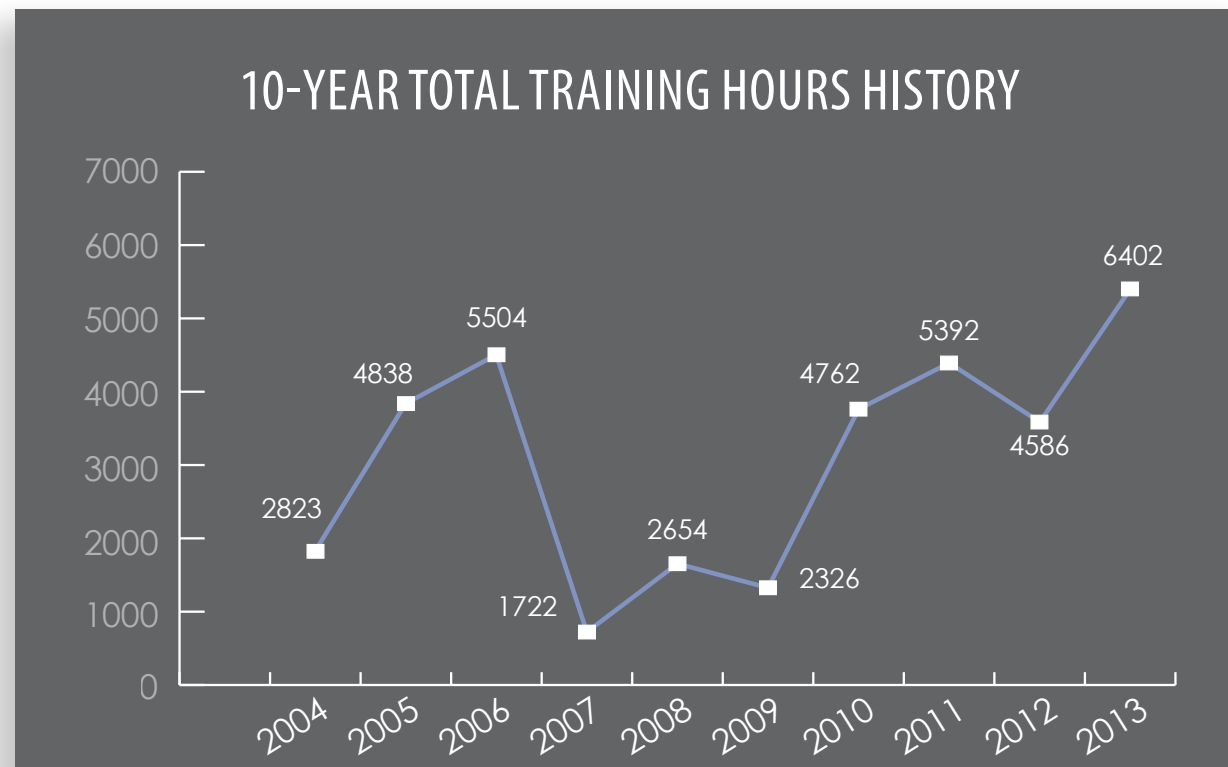


TRAINING | 2013 OUTCOMES

Certifications and Licenses

This year, 93 certifications held by department members were renewed through the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board and 4 new certifications earned by department members through the military in previous years were recognized in Minnesota. The licenses and certifications of 32 Emergency Medical Technicians and 2 Paramedics were renewed and 11 CPR certifications were renewed.

A comprehensive report and analysis of training activities may be found at: www.moorheadfire.com.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

THE GOAL OF THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU is to minimize the risk of life and property loss through a proactive Community Risk Reduction Program. Community risk reduction combines prevention and mitigation strategies. Risk prevention involves anticipating potential hazards within the community and facilitating interventions to **prevent occurrences**. Risk mitigation involves anticipating potential hazards within the community and facilitating interventions to **diminish adverse outcomes**.

Community risk reduction is the sharing of responsibility between government and its citizens to create an environment where people live, work and invest in a safe community. The entire community (including citizens sharing in the responsibility for their own safety and preparedness) and the fire department collaborate to mitigate the fire risk within the community.

The Moorhead Fire Department supports this effort through a variety of programs such as emergency management and fire prevention.

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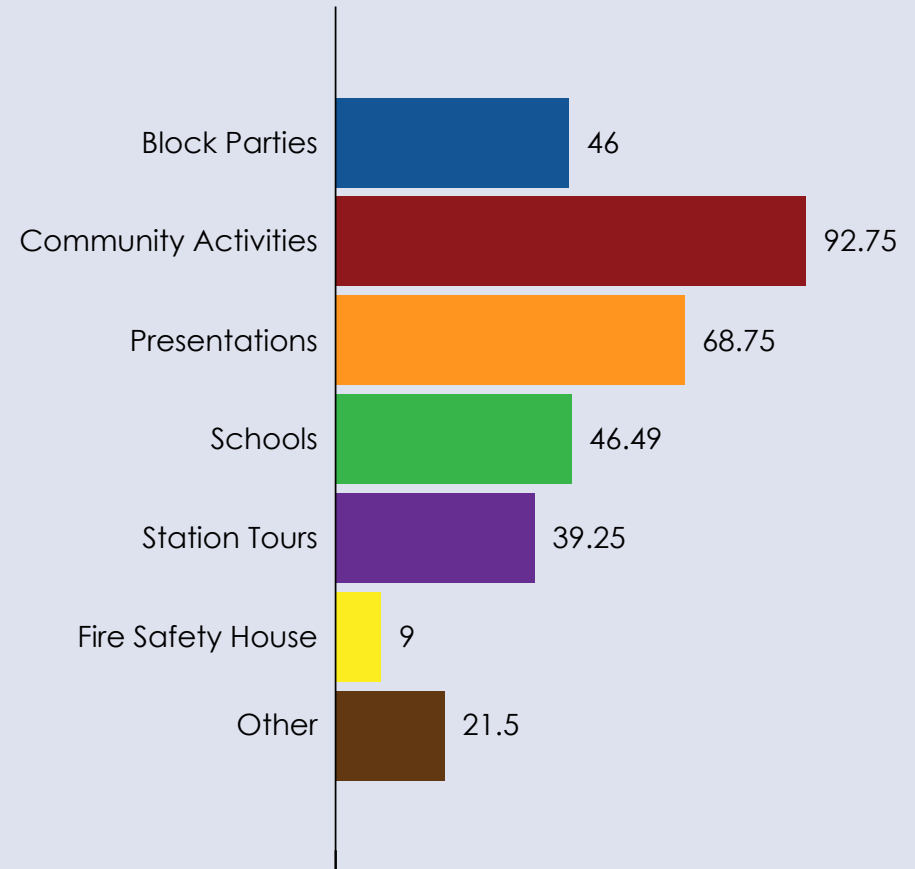
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FIRE PREVENTION

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

(shown in staff hours)



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

THE GOAL OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT is to prepare the City to respond to, recover from, and reduce or mitigate the risk of natural and man-made emergencies and/or disasters. Emergency Management works with local, state and federal government partners, as well as non-governmental organizations to achieve this goal. Emergency Management works closely with the Clay County Emergency Management Director to maintain an Emergency Operations Center in a state of constant readiness, and conducts exercises to test and continuously revise the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

The City of Moorhead Emergency Manager works closely with the Clay County Emergency Management Director and representatives of Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) to help receive the necessary resources that Moorhead would need in a disaster. The Emergency Manager is tasked with coordination between local, county, regional, and state agencies which is critical to successful operations. To assist in this critical support between emergency management agencies, the City of Moorhead Emergency Manager attends meetings throughout the Northwest Emergency Management Region, and belongs to the joint-powers board of Minnesota HSEM Region Three. This participation helps to connect plans at the local level with plans in other area jurisdictions.

The following are highlights of Minnesota HSEM Region Three projects for 2013:

1. Participated in and encouraged "whole community" planning throughout a 14 county region. Interact with other response discipline partners.
2. Region tries to utilize Video Conferencing technology when available. EM VCT System is available for other groups to use.
3. Having knowledge of regional issues, trainings and events. Also have a group to bring up issues or information to meetings.
4. Attained conference cost reimbursement for MN members of the Red River Regional Bomb Squad for 2014. Grant opportunities like this occur yearly. SHSP Grants are applied for based on what the region needs.
5. Helped create the Regional Pet Sheltering Cache (cages, bowls and leashes) that would be deployable anywhere in HSEM Region 3. Could be used in Moorhead.
6. Helped create a regional resource manual that can be utilized at county/local levels (which is happening in Clay County). Includes Moorhead assets.
7. Participated in the County and Regional THIRA.
8. Aided in a region-wide sheltering effort that included cities.
9. Helped in purchasing a Regional identification system for everyone in HSEM Region 3 (Tyvek and hard badge creation). Could be used in Moorhead.



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10. Access to regional and state staff, grants and opportunities that might otherwise be missed.
11. Working on a regional mutual aid agreement for 14 counties
12. Gain important information during times of flooding or other disaster situations.
13. Participation and creation of the Regional Sheltering Plan – As well as added partnership with the Red Cross and inclusion of viable shelters in the National Sheltering System.



The highlights of the 2013 local emergency management activities were developed and supported by community partners in disaster and emergency preparation. These partners included both governmental and non-governmental agencies such as: area fire departments, law enforcement, emergency medical service, Volunteers Active in Disasters (VOAD), Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), Citizen Corp, Salvation

Army, Red Cross, Moorhead Public School District, Minnesota State University Moorhead and Concordia College.

Emergency Management assisted the Moorhead Public School District with the preparation, planning and designing of a student relocation and reunification exercise. This culminated in a full-scale exercise which moved three classes from Horizon Middle School and practiced the challenging task of reunification of students with parents in a calm and coordinated effort.

This led to emergency management being included in a taskforce made up school staff members, members of law enforcement, and school resource officers to update the common operation plans for school districts handling emergencies in Cass and Clay County.

In 2013, the Moorhead Fire Department and emergency management provided free training on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to city staff, area responders, and staff of support agencies. This training is used to develop the expertise and community partnerships that are critical in handling emergencies and disasters.

Lastly, the City of Moorhead Emergency Manager completed the Emergency Management Certification process from Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The certification included over 271 hours of on-line and classroom instruction. This provides the baseline knowledge an emergency manager should have to perform competently in the position.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Involvement on community partnerships

- VOAD
- COAD
- Citizen Corp

Cass-Clay Unified School Response Task Force

Moorhead Public School District student relocation and reunification exercise.

Spring Flood preparations and planning with Clay County and State agencies

Provide NIMS training to city employees, area responders, and support agencies.

City Emergency Manager completed the Emergency Management Certification process.

FIRE PREVENTION

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES include code enforcement, fire inspections, plan reviews, permitting, fire education, and fire investigations. The fire department conducts fire and safety inspections of adult and child foster care facilities, child care and daycare facilities, commercial businesses, and rental property with 12 units or more. In 2014, the fire department will be inspecting all rental property with 5 or more units.

Fire department public education is critical to the long term reduction of the threat of fire. The Moorhead Fire Department has worked closely with the area elementary schools to educate students in lifesaving skills such as stop-drop-and roll, 911, smoke detectors, and home fire escape plans. The fire department education doesn't stop at the elementary schools. The Moorhead Fire Department works with local college campuses to educate resident assistants and college students in the threat of fire and how to practice evacuation drills and the use of fire extinguishers. In 2013 we had a tremendous opportunity to partner with Minnesota State University Moorhead students and faculty to be part of a freshmen event called House Party 101. The event featured life challenges that young adults face and the importance of making good life choices. The fire department used this opportunity to train over 300 college students from area colleges on the proper use of a fire extinguisher. The night was then capped off by starting a mock dorm room on fire to show the rapid fire growth and how a person must quickly react to the fire to save their life.

This year's Moorhead Fire Department Open House featured demonstrations in the use of fire extinguishers, auto extrication, Safe Coalition rollover simulator (which shows the importance of seat belt usage), Fargo Fire Department's fire safety house and what to do with a kitchen grease fire. We presented awards to our 2nd grade poster contest winners from each of the schools in Moorhead. There were interactive computer fire safety programs and educational materials to hand out. The Moorhead Police Department also had police volunteers attend to fingerprint children. It was a nice day and great community turnout.



FIRE PREVENTION

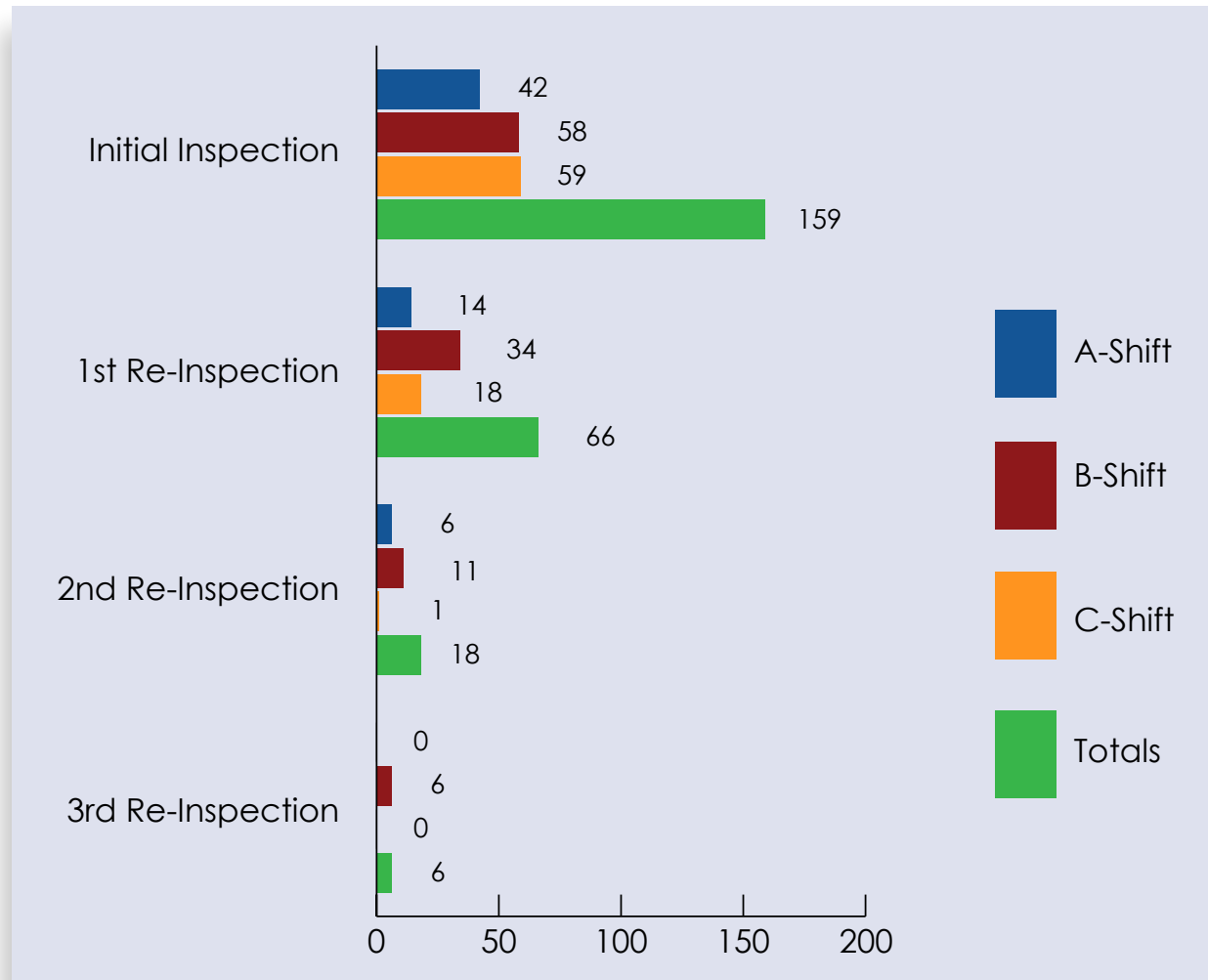
FIRE PUBLIC EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS:

Fire Extinguisher Training

- MSUM-House Party 101 – over 300 college students
- Clay County – 100-125 employees
- Open House – 250 people
- Fire Safety Presentations
- Moorhead Schools
- Senior Living Facilities
- Civic Groups
- Annual Fire Department Open House – Over 300 people

RENTAL HOUSING INSPECTIONS

(Buildings with more than 12 units)



PREVENTION

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM started in 1996 with two types of teams: Emergency Response Team (ERT) and Chemical Assessment Team (CAT). The primary mission of the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Hazardous Materials Response and Chemical Assessment Team(s) is to protect life, property and the environment from the effects or potential effects of a hazardous materials release.

In 2002 changes in the program reduced the number of ERT's to the single team in St. Paul and a total of eleven CAT's. Moorhead was retained as a CAT. The purpose of the CAT's is to assist local authorities by recommending appropriate action, in accordance with local levels of training and response capability, which are necessary to prevent the occurrence of a release, mitigate the effects of a release and stabilize the emergency.

In 2005 through the use of federal Homeland Security Grant funds, HSEM purchased a 68 foot response truck and trailer for each of the CAT's. Once all the teams had similar equipment resources, the mission of the CAT's expanded to include limited mitigation activities and increased the number of responders on an incident to five. By making this change, it allowed additional control activities to start prior to the ERT arriving which would be coming from St. Paul.

Since the inception of the team in 1996, the Moorhead Fire Department has partnered with the Fargo Fire Department to provide additional response personnel and redundancy for state responses; this provided competent and well equipped responders in the Fargo-Moorhead area. This also provided an asset of vehicle storage. With a truck and trailer that is close to 70 feet long, the Moorhead Fire Department did not have adequate space to house all of the state equipment in one location, so the Fargo Fire Department housed the trailer, and the Moorhead Fire Department housed the truck. This allowed us to accommodate the program, but response was adversely impacted by delays in moving equipment. In 2013, a \$346,951 addition was added to our Station 2. This provided us with the necessary space to house all of our hazardous materials response equipment in one place, which greatly increases our capabilities. This space provides for better knowledge and maintenance of the 1.2 million dollars of hazardous materials equipment, and allows quicker response times and opportunities to enhance our training.



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In 2013, the Hazardous Materials Team utilized Homeland Security Grant fund sources to help send firefighters to national specialized training. In February we partnered with the North Dakota Air National Guard to host a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Radiological/ Nuclear Responder Operations Course that was delivered by CTOS - Center for Rad/Nuc Training from the Nevada National Security Site. This class required special security measures and partnership with the Air National Guard allowed a class to be hosted and delivered here instead of in Nevada. We had 16 of our firefighters attend the three day training. All personnel and class expenses were covered through grants.

Also in February five firefighters were sent to Socorro, New Mexico to take a course in responding to WMD/ Bomb events. This provided an opportunity for our responders to see first-hand the damages created by bombs, the stand back distances, and to see the explosive characteristics between high grade and low grade explosives. A couple of the firefighters who attended the class recalled the detonation of the Boston Marathon bombing to what they saw during the class. This information helps responders stay safe and provides critical situation awareness during these events. This training and the associated travel costs were provided free to the City of Moorhead through a Homeland Security Grant.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS 2013 HIGHLIGHTS:

New addition to Station 2 to house all of our State Equipment

Partnered with the ND Air National Guard to bring in specialized Radiation/Nuclear training

Participated in a three day exercise with CST team from three different states

Sent five people to specialized explosive training in New Mexico through grant

Sent three people to Texas A&M to receive specialized railcar and highway vehicle training through a grant

In April and May the Hazardous Materials Team also used grant funding to send firefighters to Texas A & M to a specialized facility that had real railcars and highway transportation vehicles that were damaged and used to simulate leaks to challenge the students. This intensive one week class was located at one of the premiere facilities in the world. It provided an excellent, real life training environment and expert knowledge to take back to our team. This travel, training, and associated expenses were all covered at no cost to the City of Moorhead.

Lastly, in August we participated in a three day multi-city exercise with the Civil Support Teams from Minnesota, North Dakota and Wyoming. The exercise was staged at different locations throughout Fargo-Moorhead. The Civil Support Team is a WMD team for the National Guard. Each state has a team, and they work closely with local responders and hazardous materials teams to help monitor and identify WMD's.