

Wadena Fire Department

2022 Annual Report

Proudly Serving the

City of Wadena

Compton Township

Leaf River Township

Wadena Township

Established in 1883



It is our discant pleasure to provide you a copy of the 2022 Wadena Fire Department Annual Report. In 2022 we fielded 86 calls for service. This was the same with no changes in an increase of decrease in calls from 2021 as we fielded 86 calls as well the previous year.

In 2022, the Wadena Fire Department responded to some major incidents. The most highlighted incident was the Minnesota Valley Irrigation Fire on Memorial Day. This was the largest dollar loss of property in the history of the Wadena Fire Department. In addition we responded to the May 12th Storms and Memorial Day Storms to name a few other major events. After a devastating year in 2021 of two fatalities and 1 fire related civilian injury in our district, we were happy to announce that in 2022 there were no civilian injuries or fatalities.

In 2022, we purchased a new battery operated Jaws of Life system in December. This new equipment is slated to be in service around February 2023. With this new equipment, this will make for faster access and setup of rescue equipment for motor vehicle crashes and entrapment related calls. Another major purchase in 2022 was two water rescue suits for water rescue related emergencies. Lastly, in the spring we purchased rope rescue equipment and have been actively training on rope rescue and different rescue scenarios. Our goal is to expand our services to provide additional rope and technical rescue services in 2023.

In 2022 two members became certified as Fire Investigator Technicians. Fire Chief Cody Yglesias and Secretary Andrew Browne tested on becoming fire investigators to better assist our fire district with determining origin and cause of fires. Having this knowledge within our department will be able to assist local law enforcement and State Fire Marshal's Office with joint investigations and our own independent investigations.

Currently our department has 19 members of the department. We are approved for 20 firefighters. Our goal within the first quarter is to do another hiring process to establish a list to hire one firefighter and for potential future retirements. In addition in 2023 our department started a Firefighter Reserve Program. This is a program where retired firefighters can assist the department during major events with basic functions to aid the department operations. The goal behind this program is to use reserve firefighters for major events to assist the paid on calls firefighters with operations. Several area fire departments have started similar programs to aid their departments. The Wadena Fire Department has the opportunity to have up to 5 reserve firefighters on its roster.

Going into the 2023, we look forward to serving the citizens and visitors of the City of Wadena, and the Townships of Compton, Leaf River, Wadena. As always, we are here 24 hours a day 7 days a weeks 365 days a year here to serve you at a moments notice.

Sincerely,

Members of the Wadena Fire Department

Member	Title	Start of Service Date
Cody Yglesias	Fire Chief	Serving Since 2007
Matt Rousslang	1st Assistant Chief	Serving Since 2005
Andy Worden	2nd Assistant Chief	Serving Since 2005
Shawn Swenson	3rd Assistant Chief	Serving Since 2005
Andrew Browne	Secretary	Serving Since 2020
Emily Uselman	Fire Marshal	Serving Since 2017
Sam Waln	Firefighter	Serving Since 1978
Sam Sundby	Firefighter	Serving Since 1994
Dale Haman	Firefighter	Serving Since 1999
Mike Kleinke	Firefighter	Serving Since 2000
Darin Lorentz	Firefighter	Serving Since 2005
Warren Boen	Firefighter	Serving Since 2012
Zach Haman	Firefighter	Serving Since 2012
Aaron Ellingworth	Firefighter	Serving Since 2017
Jeremy Zaic	Firefighter	Serving Since 2020
Nate Biederman	Firefighter	Serving Since 2020
Andrew Sundby	Firefighter	Serving Since 2020
George Kveton	Firefighter	Serving Since 2021
Tristin Godel	Firefighter	Serving Since 2021

The Wadena Fire Department has approved for 20 firefighters. 14 firefighter are assigned to our south hall and 6 firefighters to our north hall. The organization for our department includes a Fire Chief, 1st Assistant Chief, 2nd Assistant Fire Chief, 3rd Assistant Fire Chief, Secretary, and Fire Marshal. These officer positions are appointed positions within the department assigned to various functions to provide support to daily operations. In addition, our department is approved for up to 5 reserve firefighter slots to provide additional resources for the department.

Resignations/Retirements

In 2022, we had one resignation and no retirements. Allen Uselman resigned from the department in August due to moving out of the district. Our goal is to fill the position in the first quarter of 2023.

Training

In 2022 Wadena Fire Department logged a total of 1,771 of combined training between our members. In order for firefighters to maintain their certifications, firefighters must complete required training hours every two years. Firefighters meet twice a month for 9 months and once a month during the 3 summer months. Each training night is roughly 2 to 3 hours depending on the training. In addition, firefighters further their education by attending outside training as well.



Fleet and Equipment

The Wadena Fire Department manages a fleet of equipment ranging from several vehicles to emergency equipment. Currently our truck apparatus fleet consist of 3 engines, 1 tanker, 1 pumper/tanker, 2 grass rigs, 1 utility pickup, 1 heavy rescue, and 1 off-road UTV.

Our equipment that we house within our trucks include, jaw of life systems, SCBA air packs, hand tools, rope rescue, air bag systems, water rescue, cutting tools, to name a few of the tools. Our tools are inspected and tested each month to ensure proper operation.

Unit	Type of Truck	Description	Hall Assigned	# of Responses
4355	Engine	2021 International Engine Rosenbauer 1500 GPM Pump	North	61
4357	Engine	1988 Ford L8000 Engine Custom Fire 1250 GPM Pump	South	7
4358	Engine	2007 International Engine Rosenbauer 1500 GPM Pump	South	57
4361	Tanker	2004 International 3000 Gallon Tanker	North	46
4362	Pumper/Tanker	1990 Seagrave 2500 Gallon Pumper/Tanker	South	27
4370	Heavy Rescue	2003 Ford F550 Heavy Rescue 300 Gallon Tank	South	40
4371	Grass Rig	1990 Ford F250 Pickup 300 Gallon Tank	South	12
4372	Grass Rig	2011 Chevrolet 2500 Pickup 300 Gallon Tank	North	26
4373	Utility Pickup	1986 Chevrolet Pickup	South	7
4374	Off-Road UTV	2018 Textron Stampede UTV	South	0

2022 Calls

Incident Type	# of Calls	% of Calls	Total Loss
Building Fires	16	18.6%	\$16,038,200.00
Passenger Vehicle Fires	2	2.3%	\$7,900.00
Rail Vehicle Fire	1	1.2%	-
Off-Road Vehicle Fire	1	1.2%	\$85,000.00
Grass Fire	2	2.3%	-
Dumpster Fire	1	1.2%	\$479.00
Medical Assist	1	1.2%	-
Motor Vehicle Accident With Injuries	2	2.3%	-
Motor Vehicle Accident No Injuries	4	4.7%	-
Extrication from Machinery	1	1.2%	-
Swift Water Rescue	1	1.2%	-
Gas Leak	1	1.2%	-
Carbon Monoxide Incident	2	2.3%	-
Water Leak	1	1.2%	-
Smoke/Odor Removal	2	2.3%	-
Public Service	3	3.5%	-
Unauthorized Burning	1	1.2%	-
Dispatched Cancel Enroute	18	20.9%	-
No Incident Found Upon Arrival	2	2.3%	-
Smoke Scare	3	3.5%	-
False Alarm/False Call	1	1.2%	-
Alarm Call- Malfunction	9	10.5%	-
Alarm Call- Unintentional	2	2.3%	-
Carbon Monoxide Incident No CO	3	3.5%	-
Storm Assessment	1	1.2%	-
Lighting Strike (No Fire)	1	1.2%	-
Weather Spotting/Standby	4	4.7%	-

Zone	# of Calls	% of Calls
City of Wadena	48	55.81%
Compton Township	11	12.79%
Leaf River Township	4	4.65%
Wadena Township	14	16.27%
Mutual Aid	9	10.46%

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	17	10	9	16	10	13

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	7	5	5	14	9	4	2	6	8	7	8

0000-0400	0400-0800	0800-1200	1200-1600	1600-2000	2000-2359
12	7	20	17	17	13

City Zone	# of Calls
Northwest City Zone	7
Northeast City Zone	11
Southwest City Zone	15
Southeast City Zone	15
Golf Course Zone	0

Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid is an important part of fire operations. Mutual aid agreements provide resources for providing manpower and water to name a few. Mutual aid agreements provide area fire departments at no cost for 4 hours in most cases that provides additional resources. We have mutual aid agreements with Wadena, Todd, and Otter Tail County department.

Department	Aid Given	Aid Received
Bertha	0	1
Bluffton	3	2
Deer Creek	1	5
Hewitt	0	2
Menahga	0	1
New York Mills	1	0
Sebeka	1	1
Staples	0	2
Verndale	4	11



5 Year Call History By Category Type

Incident Type Group Classification	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Category Type 1: Fire Related Calls	23	26	18	25	27
Category Type 2: Overpressure/Rupture, Overheat (No Fire)	0	0	2	2	3
Category Type 3: Accident, Rescue, Medical Related Calls	9	14	17	9	8
Category Type 4: Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	3	3	2	15	8
Category Type 5: Service Calls	7	7	1	2	1
Category Type 6: Good Intent Calls	23	27	24	11	10
Category Type 7: False Alarm & False Calls	15	8	5	2	1
Category Type 8: Severe Weather & Natural Disasters	6	1	4	0	0
Total Calls For Year	86	86	73	67	58

Looking at the 5 data for call history, our calls each year have increase over the past 5 years. Looking at the data, the calls are increasing in our service related and good intent calls. This is in part due to more alarm systems being installed in within our district. Also residents are calling more often for hazards like carbon monoxide and odor investigations. We encourage residents and business owners within our district to call if they see something suspicious or out of the ordinary. Also as our population within our district has been increasing over the last census count, calls will also increase as well with new buildings being built.

Fire Causes

Every fire the Wadena Fire Department does a complete investigation to determine the area of origin and cause. In 2022, the Wadena Fire Department had certified two fire personnel to IAAI Fire Investigator Technician level of training. We work closely with the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office and local law enforcement in a joint investigation capacity. Finding the cause and origin of fires is important for determining fire trends and prevention of future fires. In some cases, we can find the area of origin of the fire, but cannot rule out the cause of the fire, which results in an undetermined fire.

Cause	# of Calls
Carless Smoking	1
Radiated Heat	2
Rekindle	3
Spark, Ember from Flame	2
Spontaneous Combustion	1
Undetermined	3

City of Wadena Call Breakdown

Call Type	Number of Calls
Building Fires	5
Dumpster Fire	1
Passenger Vehicle Fire	1
Motor Vehicle Accident with Injuries	1
Motor Vehicle Accident No Injuries	1
Carbon Monoxide Incident	2
Gas Leak	1
Public Service	3
Smoke Scare/Odor Removal	2
Water Leak	1
Dispatched Canceled Enroute	9
Smoke Scare/Odor of Smoke	2
Alarm Call- Unintentional	1
Alarm Call- Malfunction	8
Carbon Monoxide Call- No CO	3
False Alarm/ False Call	1
Lighting Strike (No Fire)	1
Weather Spotting	4
Storm Assessment	1
Total of Calls	48



Compton Township Call Breakdown

Call Type	Number of Calls
Grass Fire	1
Off-Road Vehicle Fire	1
Rail Vehicle Fire	1
Motor Vehicle Accident With Injuries	1
Motor Vehicle Accident No Injuries	2
Dispatched Canceled Enroute	1
No Incident Found Upon Arrival	1
Smoke Scare/Odor of Smoke	1
Alarm Call- Unintentional	1
Alarm Call- Malfunction	1
Total of Calls	11



Leaf River Township Call Breakdown

Call Type	Number of Calls
Building Fires	1
Grass Fire	1
Unauthorized Burning	1
Dispatched Canceled Enroute	1
Total of Calls	4



Wadena Township Call Breakdown

Call Type	Number of Calls
Building Fires	6
Passenger Vehicle Fire	1
Extrication from Machinery	1
Medical Assist	1
Motor Vehicle Accident No Injuries	1
Dispatched Canceled Enroute	3
No Incident Found Upon Arrival	1
Total of Calls	14



Mutual Aid Call Breakdown

Call Type	Number of Calls
Building Fires	4
Swift Water Rescue	1
Dispatched Canceled Enroute	4
Total of Calls	9



Fundraising

The Wadena Fire Department every year holds several fundraisers to offset costs on equipment replacement. The Wadena Fire Department Relief Association is responsible for the fundraising and funds of these events. The relief association is an arm of the fire department responsible for management of firefighter retirement funds and fundraising. Annually the Wadena Fire Department holds a golf scramble on the Saturday before Memorial Day Weekend, Turkey Bingo the Friday before Thanksgiving, and a Fall Fire Prevention Calendar. This is an excellent way of providing additional funding for projects that may not get off the ground. The relief association is governed by a board that is elected within the department. Also two members from the city sit on the board.

Closing

We again thank everyone that supported us in 2022 and look forward to serving you in 2023. We hope that you find this report informational about our operations in 2022.