



Weekly Newsletter

February 28, 2020

Parks and Recreation

Submitted by Marcia Larson, Director

Natural Playground Workshop – March 10th!

You are invited! The Bemidji Parks and Recreation Department and Bemidji Rotary Club are inviting and encouraging the community – adults and children to a hands-on workshop to help design our newest playground – a Natural Playground in North Country Park! Join us on March 10th from 6:00 to 8:00pm at the National Guard Armory located at 1430 23rd Street NW.

This will be an opportunity to learn more about natural playgrounds and playscapes, give your input on what you want in the new playground through hands on activities with natural items such as tree cookies, sticks, balls, pinecones, as well as pictures and images of natural playground elements and pieces.

This interactive work shop will be led by Kerry White a landscape architect from Learning Landscape Designs, a design firm that specializes in designing and creating natural play and playscapes. Volunteers from the Natural Playground Committee will be on hand to assist in the activities and provide information on the playground project! The vision for North Country Park Natural Playground is to inspire a life-long love of nature through informal play, healthy development, outdoor learning, and community stewardship.



The Natural Playground Committee with representatives from the Parks and Recreation Commission, Bemidji Rotary Club and Parks and Recreation staff was formed in the Fall of 2019 to jointly plan for this exciting project in North Country Park.

We hope that you join us on March 10th to learn more about this fun project and provide your input! Please contact Marcia Larson, Parks and Recreation Director at 218-333-1860 or marcia.larson@ci.bemidji.mn.us with any questions or comments!

Upcoming Meetings

Council Meeting

- Monday, March 2 6:00 p.m.

PNP Election Day

- Tuesday, March 3 All Day

Attachments

- 2019 Annual Fire Report
- Shamrock Shuffle



Weekly Newsletter

February 28, 2020

Council Happenings from Emelie Rivera

Michel K. Smith Field Office Director for HUD presented a check for \$29,876 from a recent grant the Bemidji Housing and Redevelopment Authority received. Also pictured is the first recipient from the grant proceeds.

The DWI Court Steering Committee is asking if anyone would be interested in making a donation to the DWI Court program. They can use money for graduation programs - to buy things like pizza, as well as incentives etc. They can also use a wide variety of cards to provide on birthdays, and as support in event of a family birth, death, graduation, etc. Blank cards also are appreciated and can be personalized. They can also use things like plates, cups, cutlery, napkins, etc. but storage space is limited. Any donation is tax deductible. There is a form that can be filled out. I included Katie, as I am not sure the name of the contact person at the Court and she may be able to clarify this a little if I have any errors.





Weekly Newsletter

February 28, 2020



Questioning the Census?

Editorial by Nate Dorr

Vice President for Advocacy

The 2020 U.S. Census is right around the corner. Most people are ready for it, but since it doesn't happen very often, many people still have questions. Let's take a moment to dispel some myths and learn more about the 2020 Census questionnaire. Beginning the middle of March 2020, every household will receive notification from the U.S. Census Bureau by mail that the Census questionnaire is available. This notification will have step-by-step instructions on how to complete the Census, either online, by phone, mail-in paper form, or in-person. The questionnaire will refer to April 1, 2020, as Census Day. You will enter your responses based on your situation on that particular date.

The Census primarily asks questions about your household and your housing situation. It does not ask about citizenship status. It cannot be used against you or shared with any government agency outside of the Census Bureau. It does not ask for full Social Security numbers. It does not ask to give up your first-born child or how much you have in your bank account. It will ask for your telephone number in case there are questions about your responses. Let's face it, the Census questionnaire is far less intrusive than an auto loan or even a Facebook account.

However, we should still be cautious. Be aware that a Census worker visiting your home will have photo identification from the U.S. Census Bureau. They will provide you with an official letter from the Census Bureau. They will also provide the contact information for their supervisor upon request. They will not ask for your full Social Security number, or money, or donations, or any financial banking information like bank accounts or PIN numbers. They will not ask for your political party affiliation. Census workers will only visit you if you have not completed the Census form online, by phone, or by mail by the end of April 2020. They will visit people door-to-door as early as April and as late as August, collecting information. If someone acting as a Census worker cannot provide U.S. Census Bureau identification, a contact for their U.S. Census Bureau supervisor, or asks for bank information or money, you should stop the interview and ask for their name and phone number. This will help in the slim chance someone is fraudulently seeking your personal information.

The Census is important. It helps us plan for our future, retain political representation, and secure public funding for critical programs and projects. Let's exercise our duty to be counted. For more information about the 2020 U.S. Census, visit www.mn.gov/admin/2020-census.

See a sample Census survey here:

<https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-08/2020-informational-questionnaire.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions about the Census

<https://mn.gov/admin/2020-census/learn-about/faqs/>



Shamrock Shuffle

5K & 10K

Saturday, March 14th

Registration at 8am

Race Starts at 9am

Sanford Event Center - Gate 4

30.00\$/pre register,

35.00\$/day of

Celebrate St. Patty's Day with a 5K or 10K ! If you pre-register by February 20 you will be guaranteed a T-shirt. All youth ages 15 and under will receive special recognition for completing the race. Chip timing will be done through Hero Timing.



Info and Registration
www.ci.bemidji.mn.us
218-333-1857

2019 Annual Report



Bemidji Fire Department



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As I look back at 2019, I am reminded of how active an organization we are.

Here are some of the 2019 Highlights:

- Another successful open house in October.
- Thousands of hours of training, with a focus this year on Officer professional development and specialty teams (Water/ice rescue, Hazardous Materials, Rope Rescue).
- ISO improvement to Class 3 for all properties within 5 road miles of any of the four Fire Stations (significant savings on insurance premiums).
- Hired nine new Paid on Call (POC) firefighters. Fully staffed at 56 members (48 POC and 8 fulltime)
- Dragon Boat team won back the "Badge" cup
- Two staff members volunteered at Muscular Dystrophy summer camp.
- Installed hundreds of smoke alarms (free of charge) with cooperation from our partner, American Red Cross.
- Placed a new Ladder truck into service. Replacing a 1992 model.
- Added gear drying equipment at Stations 1 & 2 to assist us with our cancer prevention program.
- Continued our partnership with Paul Bunyan Broadcasting to play thousands of Public Service Fire Safety announcements throughout the year.
- Retirement of POC Fire Equipment Operator Kent Minske with 25 years of service to the Bemidji Community.
- Continuation of our Joint Fire Protection agreement with all 18 LGU partners for another three years. Bemidji Fire is a great example of successful collaboration and cooperation of 18 LGUs working together for the common good.

What's hopefully ahead in 2020:

- Moving into a new Fire Station 4 on the north end.
- Continued cooperation with all of our fantastic partners
- Professional development for our staffing who are looking to take the next "step" in their career.

As an all-hazards public safety agency in a growing community, we are continually adapting and changing to meet the needs of our public and those who visit. The organization has made significant improvements over the past decade. I would like to thank the department's staff who have been the driving force for these improvements, along with elected officials who have been supportive of our organization.

We must also never forget the fact that, behind every strong Firefighter, there's an even stronger family who stands by them, supports them and loves them with all their hearts. I am very grateful and truly blessed to work with wonderful, caring staff, who are dedicated to serving our community.

Thank you to you and your family.



Wishing you a safe 2020!
David A. Hoefer
Fire Chief

BEMIDJI FIRE QUICK FACTS

2019 Annual Report

- 522 Square Mile Coverage Area
- 3 Cities and 15 Townships Served
- 35,000 Permanent Residents
- Operate from four Fire Stations
 - ◊ Station 1: 318 5th ST NW
 - ◊ Station 2: 312 Lake Ave SE
 - ◊ Station 3: 3810 Moberg DR NW
 - ◊ Station 4: 881 Winter Sumac RD NE
- 56 Firefighters and Fire Officers
- ISO Class 3/10
- 1026 Calls for Service in 2019
- 95 Fire Calls in 2019
- 20 Building Fires in 2019
- 37 overlapping calls in 2019
- 5:06 Average response time for first unit



Bemidji Fire Fighters Fill the Boot to Support Kids and Adults with Muscle-Debilitating Diseases

June 18, 2019

This year two fire fighters from the Bemidji Local 2302 had the pleasure of traveling down to Maple Lake, MN to assist at the MDA summer camp. Camp Courage specializes in activities for kids with disabilities and many whom are wheel chair bound. Some of the activities are; zip-lining, and horse-back riding.

July 7, 2019

As per tradition, members of the Bemidji Fire Department kicked off the fire fighter's annual Fill the Boot fundraising campaign to help the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) find urgently needed treatments and cures for muscular dystrophy, ALS, and related diseases that severely limit strength and mobility.

With their boots in hand, the Bemidji Fire Department marched in the Bemidji Jaycees Water Carnival Grand Parade on Sunday, July 7th and raised \$4,567.28, a new record high for Bemidji!

Funds raised through the 2019 Bemidji Fire Boot event empower families with life enhancing resources and support many children and their families. It also allows many children and families to partake in the MDA's summer camp located in Maple Lake, MN.

A large graphic for Bemidji Fire Department Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12. The top features the department's name in large, bold letters against a background of flames. Below the title is a portrait of David Hause, Fire Chief. The middle section contains a grid of 40 small portraits of firefighters, each with their name and tenure. The bottom features a large banner that reads "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!"

The Bemidji Fire Department provides fire protection, fire prevention, hazardous materials response, technical rescue, and emergency services to the following:

Beltrami County Cities and Townships:

- Cities of Bemidji, Turtle River, and Wilton
- Townships of Durand, Liberty, Turtle Lake, Port Hope, Eckles, Northern, Turtle River, Grant Valley, Bemidji and Frohn

Hubbard County Townships:

- Townships of Fern, Rockwood, Helga, Lake Hattie, and Schoolcraft

Bemidji Firefighters also provide:

- Non-transport emergency medical services to the City of Bemidji
- Dedicated and non-dedicated Fire, Rescue and/or EMS stand-by at numerous community events throughout the year

FIRE INJURIES, DEATHS AND PROPERTY LOSS

- ◊ The Bemidji area had no deaths due to fire in 2019
- ◊ Two civilian injuries and one firefighter injury due to fire.
- ◊ The estimated dollar loss to property from fire in 2019 was \$939,766
- ◊ The estimated dollar value saved from fires in 2019 was \$4,708,482

Statewide Sprinkler Saves

In 2018 there were 97 sprinkler saves in Minnesota. This represents the highest number of fire sprinkler saves since tracking them. This means that once every 3.5 days a fire is extinguished by a sprinkler system. These sprinkler activations saved 97 buildings from devastation by fire, minimized property loss, greatly reduced business interruption and potentially saved lives.

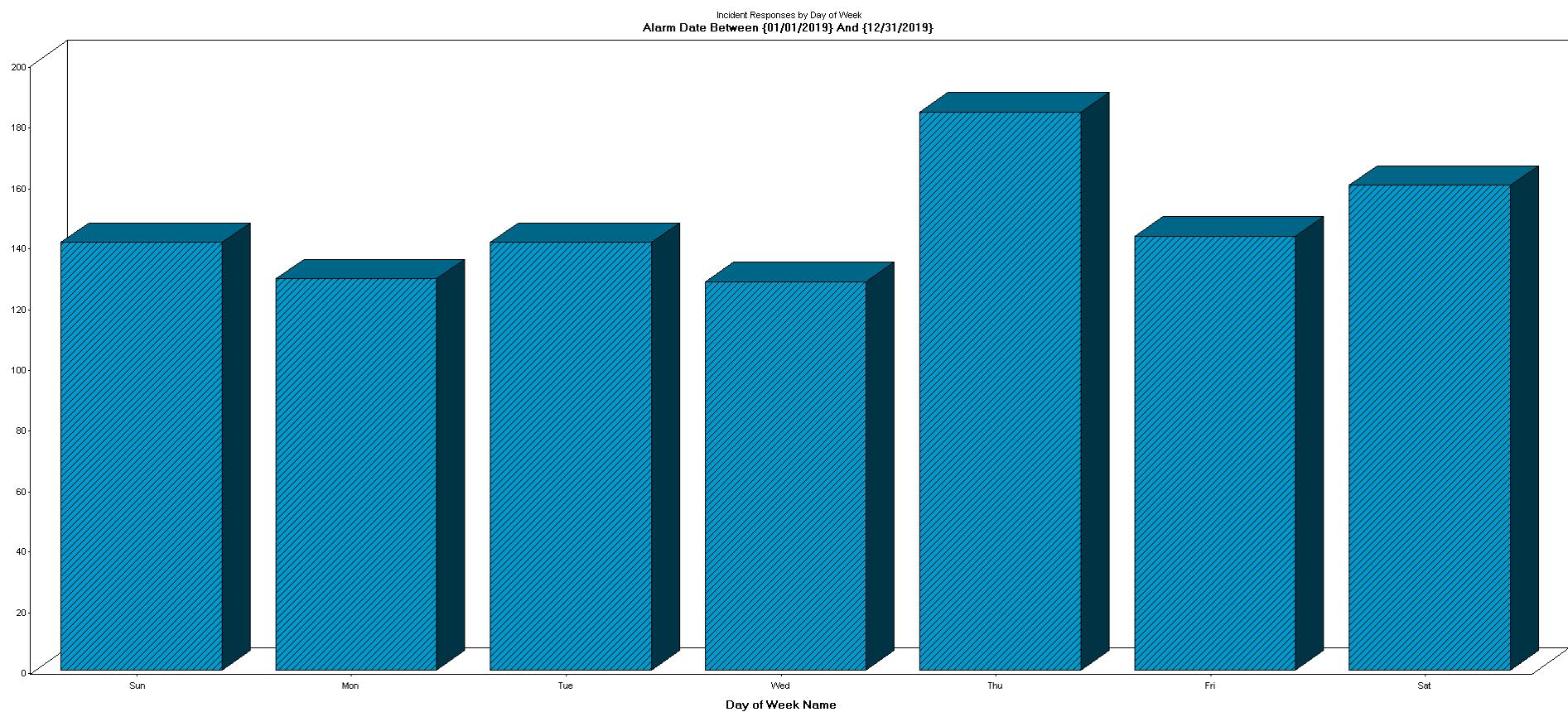
**Minnesota State Fire Marshal
2018 Report**

Bemidji Area Fire Sprinkler Save:

Bemidji Fire responded to a report of smoke in a commercial building around 1:30 am on Saturday, December 28, 2019. Upon entering the building, firefighters encountered smoke and could hear water flowing from a sprinkler head. During the primary search, which is done to locate the fire or any potential victims, crew members found a clothes dryer on fire in a utility room. Directly above, was the activated sprinkler head. Using a multipurpose fire extinguisher, the fire was quickly put out.

Thanks to a functioning sprinkler system, the fire was contained to the appliance and the building sustained only minor smoke damage.



Incident Responses by Day of the week

CALLS FOR SERVICE BY TYPE

2019 Annual Report

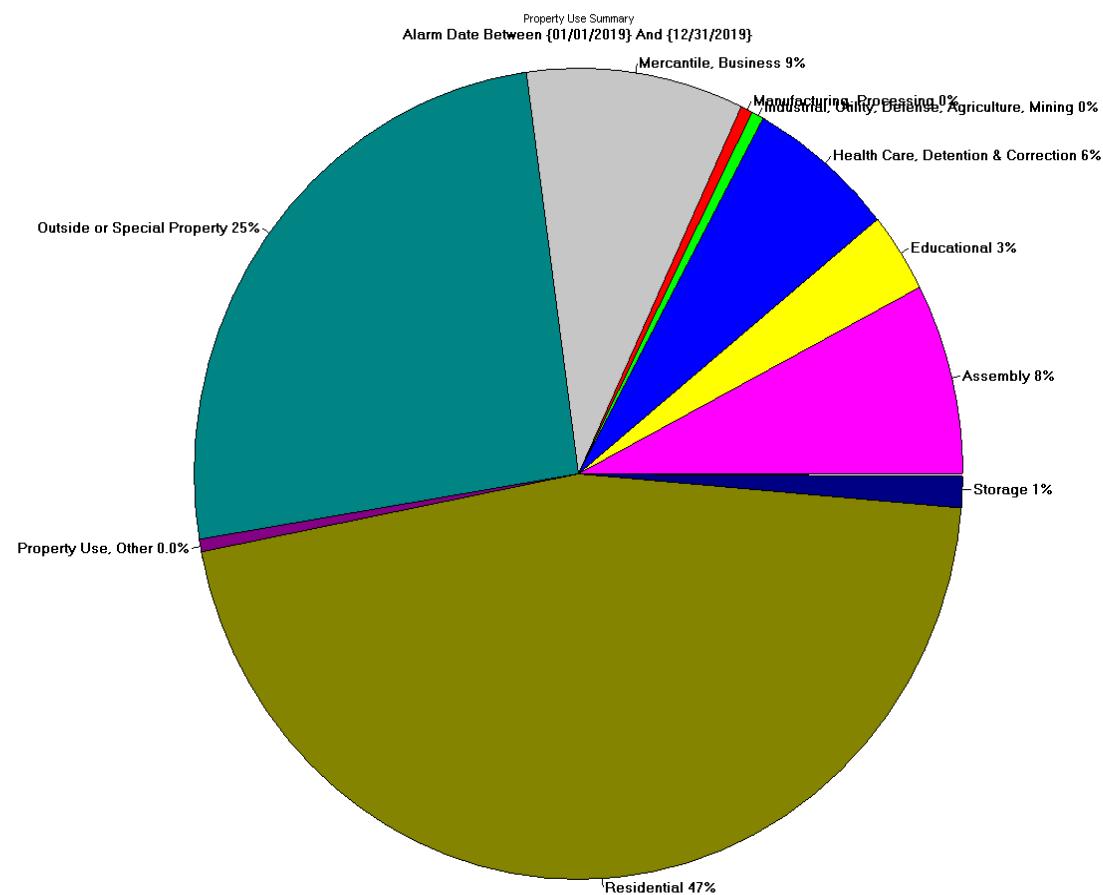
Fires	95
Building fires, cooking fires, chimney fires	(20 Building fires)
dumpster/trash fires, vehicle	(17 Wildland fires)
fires, wildland/grass fires	(20 Vehicle fires)
Rescue & Emergency Medical Services	594
Motor vehicle accident with injuries,	(446 Medicals)
confined space rescues, high angle	
rescues, water or ice rescues, medical assist	
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire)	62
Carbon Monoxide incidents, gas/fuel spills,	
gas leaks/ruptures, downed power lines	
Service Calls	49
Water problem, assist police, animal rescue,	
assist public, unauthorized burning	
Good Intent Calls	27
Prescribed fire, smoke/steam scare,	
wrong location, investigations	
False Alarm & False Calls	196
Malicious/non-malicious false calls,	
system malfunction, smoke/CO detectors,	
sprinkler activation, unintentional notifications	
Overpressure Rupture/Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	3
Total Calls for 2019	1,026

Minnesota Fire Departments with 100 or more fire responses in 2018

1	St. Paul	1377
2	Minneapolis	1187
3	Duluth	227
4	Brooklyn Park	213
5	Bloomington	208
6	St. Cloud	189
7	Plymouth	183
8	West Metro	183
9	Rochester	169
10	SBM	142
11	St. Louis Park	131
12	Bemidji	124
13	Coon Rapids	117
14	Mankato	113
15	Fairbault	105
16	Burnsville	103
17	Maplewood	100



Types of Property



CALLS FOR SERVICE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)

2019 Annual Report

	Fires	Overpressure Rupture	Rescues	Hazardous Conditions	Service Calls	Good Intent	False Calls	Severe Weather	Special Incident Type	Total Calls
Bemidji, Twp	7		16	3		4	5			35
Bemidji, City	36	1	542	38	35	13	158			823
Durand	2		1		1					4
Eckles	9		4	2	1		7			23
Fern										0
Frohn	6	1	2	4		2	1			16
Grant Valley	10		2	4	2	2	2			22
Helga	2		2	1	1		4			10
Lake Hattie	3	1								4
Liberty	1		1	3			4			9
Northern	10		15	4	2	4	11			46
Port Hope						2				2
Rockwood	2		1				1			4
Schoolcraft					1					1
Turtle Lake	2		2	1						5
Turtle River, City										0
Turtle River, Twp	3		3	1			3			10
Wilton			2							2
Out of Area	2		1		7					10
Grand Total for 2019	95	3	594	62	49	27	196	0	0	1026

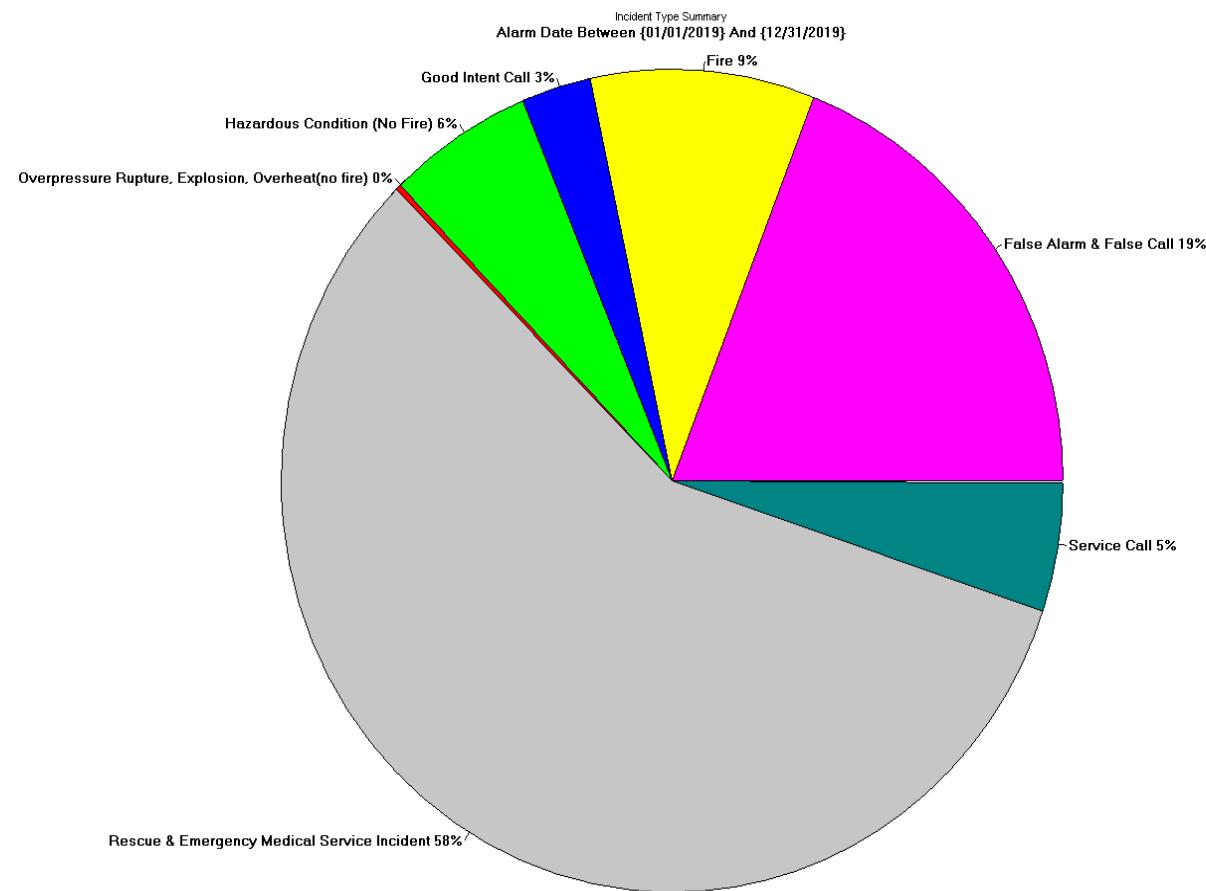
RESPONSE BY APPARATUS

Chief 1	24
Engine 1	19
Engine 2	12
Engine 3	688
Engine 8	3
Ladder 4	3
Ladder 7	6
Hover 1	2
Ranger	1
Rescue 1	234
Squad 2	15
Squad 3	63
Squad 4	8
Squad 5	16
Squad 6	24
Tender 10	22
Tender 11	9
Tender 12	19
Tender 14	3

Calls Historically:

	Fires	Total Calls
2018:	125	986
2017:	105	1985
2016:	107	2195
2015:	97	2152
2014:	93	2010
2013:	102	2108
2012:	136	2213
2011:	84	2308
2010:	98	2656
2009:	77	2600
2008:	100	2836

Incident Types



COLD WATER RESCUE

Chris Loeks, Assistant Chief

As far as rescues go, 2019 was a very slow year. We did not lose anyone and we were called to Upper Red Lake only two times. We are still seeing inpatient fisherman trying to get on the ice too early. As far as training goes, we continued to train in all areas of cold water rescue from the ice suits to the boat and hovercraft. The team had a drill in July and put our pool training to the test on Lake Bemidji in the boat. We had a scenario of injured boaters in the water and it went perfectly. We will also be purchasing new cold water equipment in 2020 to expand our capabilities and replace older equipment.



MUTUAL AID

2019 Annual Report

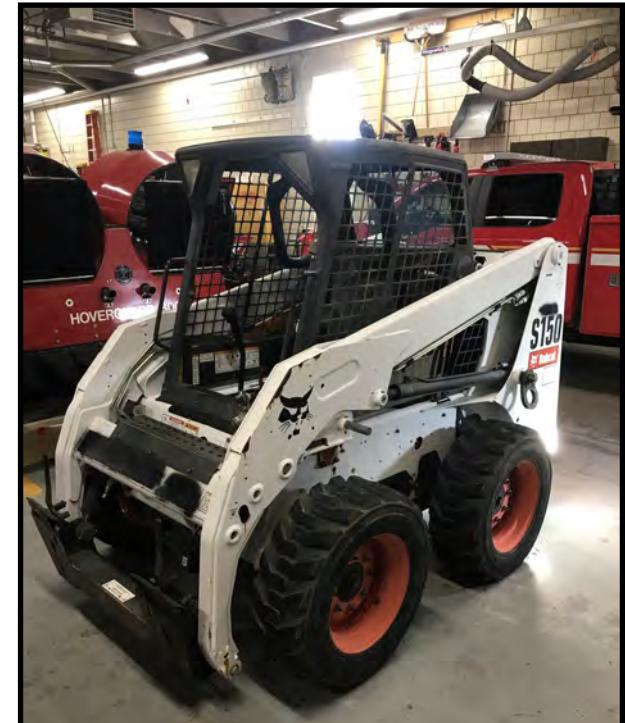
Mutual Aid is a term used to describe when our services and/or equipment is requested by, or rendered to, another fire department or agency. Most fire departments throughout the country rely on these relationships when extenuating circumstances arise, or when resources are out of position. The Bemidji Fire Department received mutual aid six times and rendered mutual aid 15 times in 2019.

Fire Department/Agency	Received	Given
Alaska Fire Department	-	1
Bagley Fire Department	-	-
Blackduck Fire Department	1	-
Cass Lake Fire Department	1	4
Chippewa National Forest	-	-
Kelliher Fire Department	1	1
Lake George Fire Department	-	1
Lakeport Fire Department	-	-
Minnesota DNR Forestry	2	7
Red Lake Fire Department	-	-
Shevlin Fire Department	-	-
Solway Fire Department	1	1
Totals	6	15



The primary revenue source for the fire department is property taxes; however, the department is always looking for alternative funding options such as grants and donations. In 2019 the department secured nearly \$140,000 in alternative funding. Those sources include:

- Ranger (DNR)
- Radio PSAs—Spring Fire Safety (PB Broadcasting)
- Radio PSAs—Fire Safety (PB Broadcasting)
- Radio PSAs—Summer Fire Safety (PB Broadcasting)
- Trailer, Hand Tools, Computers (DNR)
- Bobcat (DNR)
- Pub Ed Materials (Eagles Auxiliary)
- Wildland Skid Unit (DNR)
- Truck Jacks (DNR)
- Radio PSAs—Fall Fire Safety (PB Broadcasting)
- Radio PSAs—Holiday Fire Safety (PB Broadcasting)



NEW FIREFIGHTERS



Paul Bishop



Nathan Brasel



David Gould



Josh Houdek



Alexis Joyce



Levi Knutson



Adrian Luce



Russ Merchant



RECRUITMENT

Chris Loeks, Assistant Chief

2019 Annual Report

2019 was another year where the fire department had a large recruit class hiring nine new recruits of which eight made it through the initial training. As of this report we have two open positions and at this time do not anticipate any more unless we have unexpected departures. It has been many years since we have had four or less positions to fill going into a hiring process. The hiring process for 2020 will begin in just a few months since we moved to an earlier time of year. This will allow the training program to take advantage of warmer weather.



Congratulations Kent Minske on your retirement in 2019. Thank you for your 25 years of service to the Bemidji area.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide the best fire, rescue, and emergency medical services possible to our community and fire protection area.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

Mike Mischke, Training Officer

2019 Annual Report

2019 Annual Training Report

Our training mission is to provide our members with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and effectively meet the needs and expectations of our community and region, providing the highest level of service possible.

2019 Highlights

Focus and completion of a formalized Ladder Company and Ladder Operator training program in conjunction with the arrival of the new Ladder truck, as well as department-wide training on the apparatus. Our Hazardous Materials Specialty Team training progressed, continuing to focus on Operations-level skills such as product identification, boom deployment, and decontamination capabilities. A large New Recruit Firefighter 1 Training Course of eight new recruits filled our ranks to capacity in 2019. We also continued focus on strengthening company cohesion through multiple company-driven exercises. The valuable addition of the Fire Rescue 1 Academy on-line training platform expanded our training delivery options and capabilities, and modifications and improvements to our Live Burn Containers at our training grounds provided for new variables and increased realism in our Live Burn training. High-anchor points and fall protection were added to our Training platform to improve our technical rescue training.

2020 Training Goals

- Continue to expand use of our training grounds, adding a Confined Space training prop, as well as other mobile props.
- Complete the third (middle) level of our elevated training platform, including window and wall openings, as well as anchor points for technical rescue skills maintenance.
- Formalize Specialty Team training formats, platforms, and continuing education.
- Expand leadership training and MNFire Initiatives training (Cardiac, Cancer, and Mental Health)
- Continue to host regional training opportunities.

Training Hours

BFD personnel completed 3,164.5 staff-hours of training in 2019.

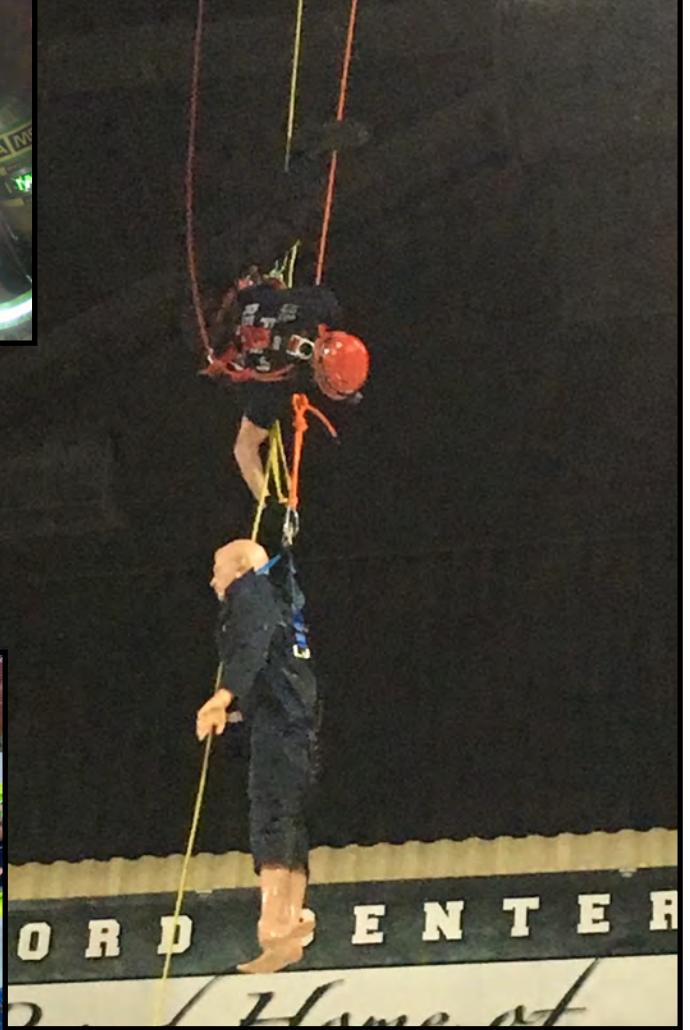
Paid-on-call firefighters averaged 46 hours of training, and career firefighters averaged 115 hours of training for the year, in a wide range of topics.

Training goals and objectives are achieved through a combination of in-house training, online training, outside instruction, and conferences and workshops.

Average Response Times to LGUs	
City of Bemidji	4:22
Bemidji Township	6:07
Grant Valley Township	9:00
Eckles Township	9:16
Northern Township	8:36
Helga Township	11:36
City of Wilton	8:00
City of Turtle River	N/A
Turtle Lake Township	12:36
Frohn Township	12:34
Port Hope Township	12:30
Durand Township	21:45
Liberty Township	19:41
Rockwood Township	18:45
Turtle River Township	15:27
Fern Township	N/A
Lake Hattie Township	22:15
Schoolcraft Township	26:00



HANDS ON TRAINING



PUBLIC EDUCATION & YOUTH FIRE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Justin Sherwood, Captain

2019 Annual Report

Public Education

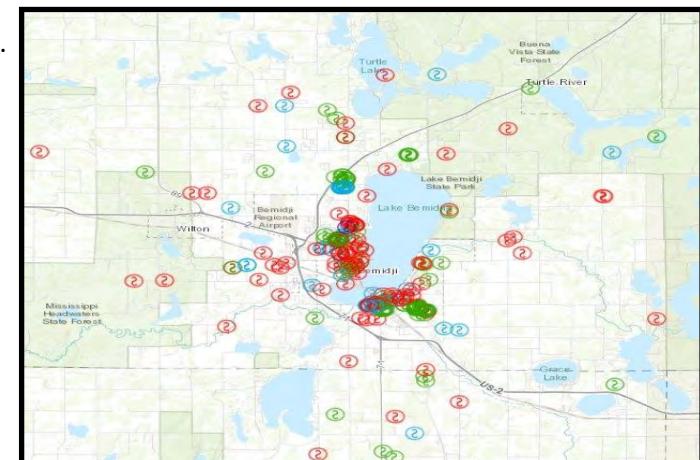
Bemidji Fire Department strongly believes that we can impact and protect the largest number of citizens in our area through public education. Public education is one of many proactive tools that we use to protect our citizens.

In 2020, Bemidji Fire Department continued to make improvements in this area. Some of which include the following:

- The continued delivery of an updated age appropriate fire safety curriculum was delivered at the preschool/elementary school level.
- Our ongoing program titled, “The Fire Safety House Program” was again a huge success. Now in its 6th year, this fire safety program was positively received by all 3rd grade students in our protection area. Each student attended a 30 minute program designed to teach them about smoke detectors, fire escape plans, meeting places and dialing 911. Our data shows that Bemidji Fire Department members had an estimated 1000 contact hours with 671 students in the Fire Safety House. This program will continue in 2020.
- Bemidji Fire Department continued their partnership with the American Red Cross for the fifth year to continue our smoke alarm initiative. Bemidji Fire Department installed 256 working smoke alarms in 95 homes throughout our fire protection area. In addition, we also installed 9 Heard of Hearing (HOH) detectors. These detectors will last for 10 years with no battery change. This program will continue in 2020.
- Bemidji Fire Department, in conjunction with Paul Bunyan Broadcasting, was able to provide in excess \$84,000 worth of fire prevention and education messages without any cost to the department. This was a \$14,000 increase from 2018. Fire Department members also participated in multiple live segments throughout the year on 95.5 fm.
- Bemidji Fire Department members spent a total of 49.5 hours in 18 schools.
- Bemidji Fire Department members collectively gave station tours to over 900 people.
- Bemidji Fire Department members instructed 109 people in the safe use of a fire extinguisher.



Smoke Detector Install Map



Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention (YFPI)

Our Youth Fire Setting Intervention/Prevention program continued to move forward with members of the Bemidji Fire Department taking an active role in the State of MN. Captain Justin Sherwood continued his role as a YFPI Manager position with the Minnesota State Fire Marshall's Office. This position coordinates the YFPI Specialists in 14 counties in the Northwest corner of the State of Minnesota. YFPI members participated in three events in 2019.

FIRE INSPECTIONS

Mike Yavarow, Firefighter

Fire inspectors help to educate residents and business owners in overall fire safety practices to help mitigate the potential of a fire occurring from the onset. This is accomplished by utilizing the Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) and local ordinances to enforce code violations identified during site visits. Every inspection affords us an opportunity to educate and inform our customers by identifying hazards and to familiarize us with the sites should an incident occur.

Our inspectors continue to maintain a routine inspection program on existing structures including, but not limited to: apartments with eight or more units, assembly occupancies that serve alcohol (bars, taverns and/or nightclubs), motor fuel dispensing facilities (gas stations), daycare & foster home facilities, privately funded K-12 schools and assisted living facilities.

The Bemidji Fire Chief works with the local and state Building Officials to assist with all new commercial construction. This proactive collaborative approach before/during construction ensures building life safety systems are installed properly and tested prior to occupancy.



FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Trent Eineichner, Captain

2019 Annual Report

It is required by MN state statute that all fires in our response area be investigated by the fire chief or his designee to determine the origin and cause of each fire. The Bemidji Fire Department currently has four staff members also trained as fire investigators. These investigators receive their initial training from the MN State Fire Marshals, MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and/or The National Fire Academy with regular ongoing continuing education. Our investigators work in conjunction with law enforcement investigators from Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, Bemidji Police Department, Hubbard County Sheriff's Office, MN DNR Forestry, and MN State Fire Marshal's office. All fires are investigated using the seven steps of the scientific method while following the accepted standards of NFPA 921 and the guidelines of NFPA 1033.

Although most fires in our protection area are not criminal we always complete an investigation and report our findings. The result of the investigations help state and national authorities track trends such as to how and where fires start in the homes as well as other statistical data. This information is also used by agencies such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission to determine necessity for product recalls. During 2019 11.4% of our fires were determined to be intentionally set although the vast majority of these were grass and brush fires that we needed to extinguish. We had no arson convictions in 2019.



In 2019, Bemidji Fire Department continued to expand its technical rescue team capabilities with additional training, man power and equipment. Multiple training sessions were held at our training tower. Two scenario based sessions were conducted in 2019. In both training sessions, Bemidji Fire Department members trained alongside NLFX Professional employees. This training was held at Bemidji's Sanford Center.

In 2020, we look to expand our knowledge and training. Training sessions are already scheduled quarterly in 2020 to help better prepare our team members for common rescue scenarios that they may encounter in our service area. Team members will train on above ground rescues, below grade rescues and confined space rescues.



Did you know that:

- There were 6,130 structure fires in Minnesota in 2018.
- 37 fire deaths statewide in 2017, including 28 dwelling deaths.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of structure fires in Minnesota.
- Careless smoking is the most common cause of fatal fire.

Source: 2018 State Fire Marshal Report

FIRE DEPARTMENT FLEET

Chad Hokuf, Captain

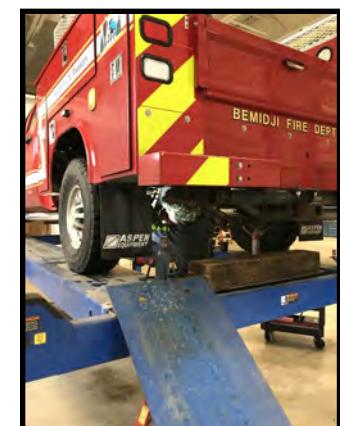
2019 Annual Report

2019 was the end of a busy year and decade with the Bemidji Fire Department. Many new pieces of equipment were purchased and accepted during the year. The biggest and most complex purchase was the new ladder truck (Ladder 7). The vehicle was received in April and the list of loose goods were installed. A new ladder company was formed to create a small group of people who could be experts in the operation of the new truck. This new truck will be utilized and enjoyed by fire fighters for the next 25 years.

Many items were acquired in 2019 through the MN Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Defense excess property program. A Polaris Ranger with seating for four was the first item received in 2019. This UTV was outfitted with a new water pump and tank for wild-land firefighting and also has a platform for a rescue basket. UTV tracks will also be purchased for the machine which will make this an excellent off-road rescue and fire-fighting tool. The second purchase was a Bobcat skid-steer loader. The machine was outfitted with a large snow bucket and pallet forks which is being used regularly at stations 1 and 2 for moving snow. This machine will also be used for assisting with training ground operations at the BFD's training grounds. The third purchase was an enclosed trailer to be used primarily for the training divisions props and tools needed for quality training for firefighters. The last purchase was a set of six mobile column lifts. These lifts have a capacity of 18,000 lbs. each and will now give the maintenance technicians the ability to lift ALL of the heavy fire apparatus off the ground allowing personnel to complete repairs and inspections much more easily.

Vehicle maintenance is an on-going project throughout the year at the BJI FD. Starting in the fall, the fleet manager performs an annual inspection which includes oil and filter changes, brake checks and pump inspections at a minimum. The inspections are performed to ensure all of the vehicles stay response ready. Each year, 110 hours at the minimum are spent performing maintenance checks by the fleet manager. If these checks were hired out this would equate to over \$12,000. The fleet manager also performed many complex projects such as the re-paint of Squad 4 from green to red, fuel injector troubleshoot and change, and an air-bag vehicle suspension install in Squad 5.

Career staff spends many hours throughout the year testing many items carried by fire apparatus. All the fire apparatus pumps are tested for quality and quantity of water flow. All ground ladders are removed, cleaned and tested by a third party. Lastly, all 12,000 feet of fire hose and nozzles are tested by staff for burst pressure and quality of operation. These operations take approximately two months to complete while still performing job duties required of them. The next scheduled purchase will be a new fire Engine in 2021 which was originally a 2020 purchase, and a water tender in 2022.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Jacob Wettschreck, Firefighter

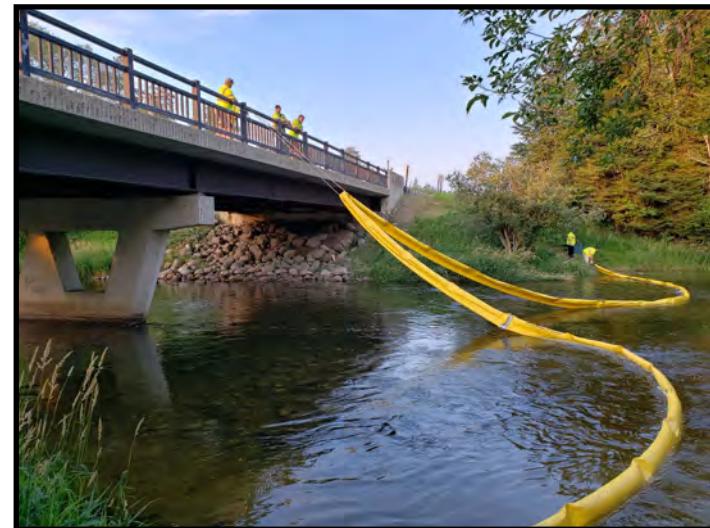
2019 Annual Report

From a small fuel spill at a fuel pump to a rail car derailment, our community is faced with many potential hazards to life, property, and the environment. Bemidji serves as a transportation hub and is home to major highways, railways, a regional airport, oil, and gas pipelines, as well as manufacturing and industrial facilities. The Bemidji Fire Department is the primary responder to incidents involving hazardous materials within our service area and is available by request to assist neighboring communities.

In recent years, there has been an increase in potentially dangerous products passing through our area from other regions. The nature and characteristics of those products has changed as well. Often, modern products are more dangerous than what the Fire Service has encountered in the past. To be better prepared to face these new and existing hazards, Bemidji Fire has organized and maintains a hazardous materials response team. Members of this team receive more extensive and specialized training to serve as the primary responders to emergencies involving hazardous materials. This team is comprised of members from both our on-call and career staff. This year, training included decontamination operations, river boom deployment, and table top exercises with regional partners. Bemidji Fire also hosted an OSHA HAZWOPER 40-Hour Technician class that was sponsored by Leech Lake Emergency Management and conducted by the University of Minnesota at our Station 2 in Nymore.

Our heavy rescue vehicle, Rescue 1, provides initial response capabilities for mitigating minor emergencies and the initial response of larger incidents. Bemidji Fire also hosts and maintains a hazardous materials response trailer in partnership with other agencies and organizations that also play a role in emergency response. Haz-Mat 1 provides us with the equipment necessary to perform spill containment and mitigation on land, as well as lakes and rivers, and decontamination.

The Bemidji Fire Department is dedicated to ensuring the safety of our community and environment in the event of any hazardous materials emergency that we may face.



Station 1, Station 2 and Station 3 maintained functional fitness areas for its assigned members in 2019. These areas have provided the opportunity for strength training and cardiovascular training in a safe and suitable environment.

BJI FD members were also given yearly medical exams. These tests consisted of heart monitoring and lung capacity tests.

2020 GOALS

- With heart disease being one of the leading causes of firefighter death, we will continue to place a greater emphasis on cardiovascular training.
- Purchase additional cardiovascular equipment.
- Begin outfitting station 4 with fitness equipment.
- Bemidji Fire Department will continue integrating new strategies and tactics to improve firefighter health. Using resources from the Minnesota Firefighter Initiative, we will continue focusing on the following areas:
 - ◊ Cancer prevention
 - ◊ Cardiac health
 - ◊ Mental Health

IN 2019

- 15 Fire Fighters actively utilized provided fitness equipment
- On average, the physical fitness equipment was used 1 hour each day
- While strength training is very important, Cardiovascular training was the activity of choice
- Following the Minnesota Firefighter Initiative, Bemidji Fire Department continued the following practices to help fight the risk of cancer:
 - ◊ Provided towels/soap for showering within one hour after an exposure to products of combustion.
 - ◊ Additional clothes and gear washing facilities for firefighters
 - ◊ Improved the quality of firefighter's 2nd set of turnout gear
 - ◊ Elimination of turnout gear inside response vehicles when possible
 - ◊ Integration of decontamination kits in Fire Engine(s) 1, 2, 3 and 8. These kits include:
 - * Baby wipes
 - * Scrub brushes
 - * Paper towels
 - * Garbage bags
- Following the Minnesota Firefighter Initiative, Bemidji Fire Department provided resources to firefighters who need mental health support.



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WATER SUPPLY

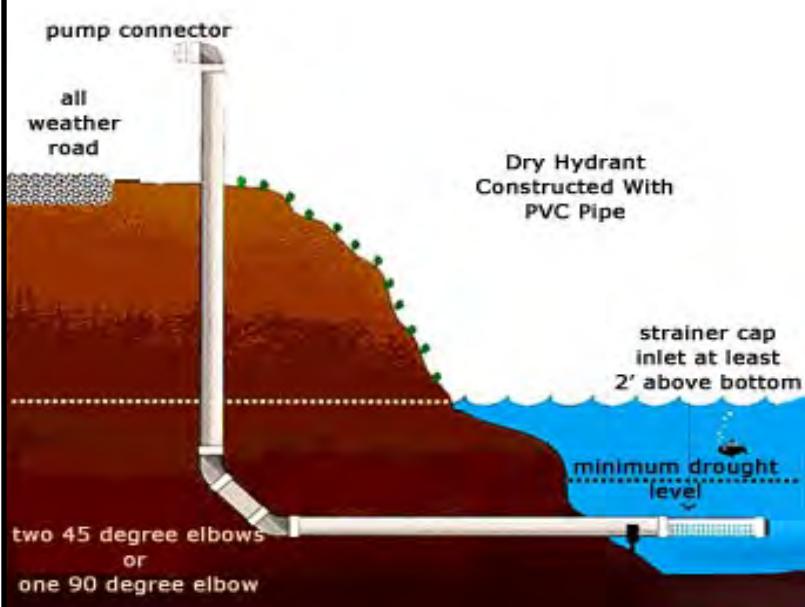
Trent Eineichner, Captain

2019 Annual Report

Bemidji Fire Department uses several means to supply water for firefighting operations. Our four engines each have a 1000 gallon capacity for initial attacks. Our fleet has three tenders each carry over 2000 gallons, and a fourth that carries 1500 gallons of water to the fire scenes. The tenders relay water by shuttling from various water sources to the rural fires where the water is stored in drop tanks so we can keep the tenders on the move. Our engines then draft the water from the drop tanks into their pumps for fire ground operations. When fires are within a reasonable distance of a pressurized fire hydrant, large diameter hose is used instead of the tenders to supply the engines.

Our water can come from various sources. We have 11 dry hydrants strategically located throughout our rural fire protection area as well as several designated water points. These dry hydrants provide water in our areas that are not serviced by the Bemidji municipal water system. Each dry hydrant is used on a training night at least annually and inspected for damage and function during this time. Our municipal water system has nearly 900 pressurized fire hydrants, over 100 miles of water mains with about 2 million gallons of water in them, and 1.75 million gallons in the 3 water towers. The municipal water system is maintained and supplied by the city water department and their wells. The Bemidji Fire Department also has some identified water points where we can access water seasonally such as boat landings and streams. These multiple sources and relaying have allowed us to achieve a more favorable ISO rating in our nonhydranted rural areas.

Dry Hydrants



FIRE STATION 4

Trent Eineichner, Captain

2019 Annual Report

The Bemidji Fire Department completed its first full year in our northern fire station located at 881 Winter Sumac Rd NW. This is just off of US HWY 71 North of town. The assigned crew responded to 22 pages during this year.

ISO has recognized this station along with the rest of the department as an ISO class 3 within 5 driving miles of each station. The feedback we have received from this change has been very positive, with many residents in this newly classified area experiencing reductions on their insurance premiums. I personally now save over \$800 per year due to this change and have heard of some others with similar and larger savings.

Currently housed at Station 4 are Engine 8, Tender 14, and Squad 4. There are 7 firefighters and two captains assigned to Station 4 with we hope to get a couple more firefighters with our recruitment process in 2020.

Our current space in a short term lease that we make work for now although not ideal for our operations. The Bemidji Fire Department is currently looking for a long term solution for this station and if everything continues to move smoothly, we could be in our new home beginning 2021.



ISO uses a 1 to 10 number system for its classifications with "1" representing the best. ISO's Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. In fact, most U. S. insurers use PPC information as part of their decision making when deciding what coverages to offer or prices to charge for personal or commercial property insurance.

ISO INFORMATION

The Bemidji Fire Department completed an ISO assessment in 2018 and saw the following classification effective May 1, 2019:

- Class 3 for properties within 5 road miles of a recognized fire station.
- Class 10 applies to properties over 5 road miles of a recognized fire station.

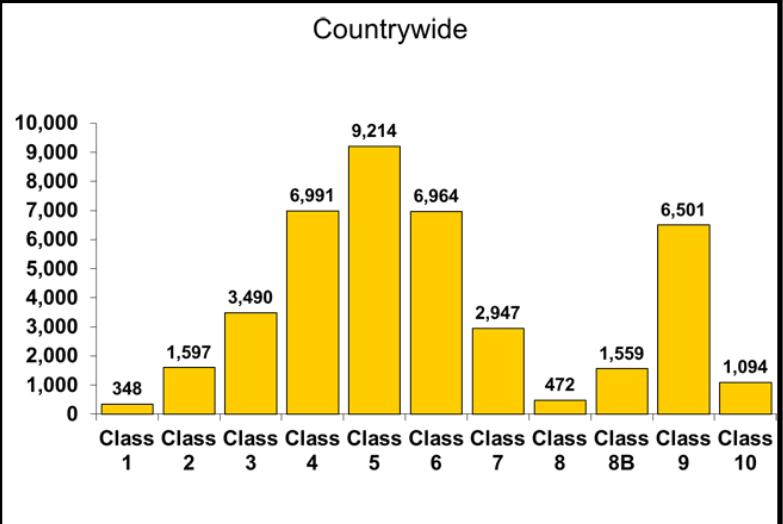


Bemidji Fire Department operates from four ISO recognized fire stations strategically located within the Bemidji area. The locations of our fire stations are:

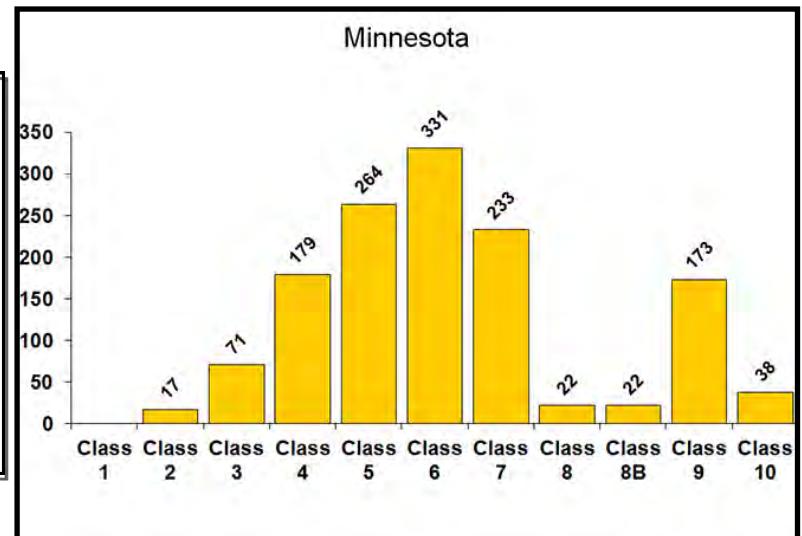
- Fire Station #1: 318 5th St NW
- Fire Station #2: 312 Lake Ave SE
- Fire Station #3: 3810 Moberg Dr NW
- Fire Station #4: 881 Winter Sumac Rd NE



Number of Departments



Number of Departments



**Engine 1—2005 Pierce, Type 1 Engine**

1500 GPM Pump w/1000 Gallon Tank

20 Gallon Class A Foam Tank, 600' of 2½" Hose, 600' of 5" Hose, 20' Hard Suction, 200' 1¾" Pre-Connects (2), Extrication Tools, PPV Fan (gas), Roof Saw, Attic Ladder, Roof Ladder and 35' Ladder, Thermal Imager

Assigned to Station 2

**Engine 2—2008 Pierce, Type 1 Engine**

1500 GPM Pump w/1000 Gallon Tank

20 Gallon Class A Foam Tank, 600' of 2½" Hose, 600' of 5" Hose, 20' Hard Suction, 200' 1¾" Pre-Connects (2), Extrication Tools, PPV Fan (gas), Roof Saw, Attic Ladder, Roof Ladder and 35' Ladder, Thermal Imager

Assigned to Station 3

**Engine 3—2014 Pierce, Type 1 Engine**

1250 GPM Pump w/1000 Gallon Tank

20 Gallon Class A Foam Tank, 600' of 2½" Hose, 600' of 5" Hose, 20' Hard Suction, 200' 1¾" Pre-Connects (2), Extrication Tools, PPV Fan (gas), Roof Saw, Attic Ladder, Roof Ladder and 35' Ladder, Thermal Imager

Assigned to Station 1

**Engine 8—1995 General, Type 1 Engine**

1250 GPM Pump w/1000 Gallon Tank

Rear Intake, 200' of 1" Booster Line, 600' of 2½" Hose, 600' of 5" Hose, 20' Hard Suction, 200' 1¾" Pre-Connects (2), Portable Pumps, Ice Auger

Assigned to Station 4



Tender 10—2018 Pierce Type 1 Tactical Tender

500 GPM Pump w/2100 Gallon Tank

20' of Hard Suction, 2000 Gallon Drop Tank, 200' 1½" Pre-Connects

"Pump and Roll" capable

Assigned to Station 1



Tender 11—2005 Pierce, Type 1 Tactical Tender

500 GPM Pump w/2100 Gallon Tank

2500 Drop Tank, 20' of Hard Suction, 150' 1½" Pre-Connects (2)

"Pump and Roll" Capable

Assigned to Station 3



Tender 12—2009 Pierce, Type 1 Tactical Tender

500 GPM Pump w/2100 Gallon Tank, 2500 Drop Tank, 20' of Hard Suction, 150' 1½" Pre-Connects (2)

"Pump and Roll" Capable

Assigned to Station 2



Tender 14—1980 IHC Type 3 Support Tender

100 GPM Pump w/1500 Gallon Tank, 1500 Drop Tank

Assigned to Station 4

**Squad 3** – 2017 Ford F-350 Utility Vehicle, Type 6 Engine

Used daily to conduct routine fire department business. Tow vehicle for trailers. Type 7 Engine during wildfire season, 250 GPM pump with 150 gallon tank, 200' of $\frac{3}{4}$ " booster line. Wildland equipment.

“Wildland Fire Rig/People Mover”

Assigned to Station 1

**Squad 4**—1999 Ford F-450 Utility Vehicle, Type 6 Engine

Type 6 Engine, 250 GPM Pump w/270 Gallon Tank and Five Gallon Class A Foam Tank, 200' of 1" Booster Line, Wildland Fire Equipment

“Wildland Fire Rig/People Mover”

Assigned to Station 4

**Squad 5**—2008 Chevy Crew Utility Vehicle, Type 6 Engine

Type 7 Engine, 100 GPM Pump w/100 Gallon Water Tank, 200' of $\frac{3}{4}$ " Hose, Wildland Fire Equipment

“Wildland Fire Rig/People Mover”

Assigned to Station 2

**Squad 6**—2005 Ford F-450 Utility Vehicle, Type 6 Engine

Type 6 Engine, 250 GPM Pump w/270 Gallon Tank and Five Gallon Class A Foam Tank, 200' of 1" Booster Line, Wildland Fire Equipment

- ***“Wildland Fire Rig/People Mover”***

Assigned to Station 1

**Hover 1**—2003 Hovertechnics Hovercraft

Used as a platform for ice rescue and open water rescue operations.

Assigned to Station 1

**Marine 1**

Used as a platform for water rescue.

Assigned to Station 1

**Rescue 1**—1996 Pierce Arrow Heavy Rescue

Four Wheel Drive. PTO Generator with Light Tower. Carries specialized rescue equipment, such as rope, water/ice rescue, confined space, vehicle extrication. Carried Hazardous Materials response equipment.

Assigned to Station 1

**Chief 1**—2016 Chevy Tahoe

Four wheel drive. Used daily to conduct routine fire department business and as a command vehicle on emergency incidents. Has four mobile radios (2-VHF, 800 MHz, Aircraft) and command center in rear of vehicle.

Assigned to Fire Chief

**Ladder 7—2019 Pierce Ascendant**

1500 GPM Pump w/500 Gallon Tank

110' Aerial Ladder w/Pre-Piped Master Stream, 600' of 3" Hose, 600' of 5" Hose, 200' 1½" Pre-Connects (2), 200' of 2½" Pre-Connect

Assigned to Station 1

**Squad 2—2004 Chevy Tahoe**

Four wheel drive. Used daily to conduct routine fire department business and as a command vehicle on emergency incidents.

**Large Portable Pump**

500 GPM Self-Contained, Diesel Power, 25' of 5" Suction Hose, Floating Strainer, 5" Storz & 2½" NST Discharge

**Ranger 1—2010 Polaris Crew**

Wildfire/Rescue UTV. 85 Gallon water tank, 50 pump, 100' of ¾" boosterline. Can transport a basket stretcher with long board.

BEMIDJI FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE AREAS

Dry Hydrant and Water Access Points

SERVICE AREA MAP

2019 Annual Report

