

Vermillion Fire EMS &
Rural Fire Department
2015 Annual Report





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EXCELLENCE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY



Fire Protection Class 3

We would like to recognize and express our gratitude to our departments Officers for their diligence and creativity in helping to develop the 2015 Fire EMS Department Annual Report.



It is the mission of the Vermillion Fire EMS Department to provide emergency service for the community of Vermillion, South Dakota and surrounding Clay County including mutual aid for surrounding communities. Vermillion Fire EMS Department will respond to fires, accidents, rescues, medical emergencies, mutual aid calls, and other threats to public safety and property from both natural and man-made disasters. As first responders to emergencies, it is the Vermillion Fire EMS Department's goal to provide prompt courteous service with the highest-level of professionalism that saves lives and minimizes property loss. Furthermore, it is the mission of our department to educate the public in fire safety through community involvement and community education.

Vision Statement

The Vermillion Fire EMS Department will be a community focused, value centered, modern, and credible emergency services provider serving the citizens of our community.

Core Values

The Vermillion Fire EMS Department achieves its mission and vision by building upon a system of values. We uphold professionalism as our core value. Our defining values also include integrity, compassion, service, honesty, stewardship, and courteousness.

To The Residents:

We owe the residents of our service area, both city and rural, the highest quality of service possible characterized by responsiveness, integrity, stewardship, and professionalism. We will continually strive for quality improvement.

To The Department:

We owe the Vermillion Fire EMS Department our full commitment and dedication. We will always look beyond the traditional scope of our individual positions to promote teamwork and organizational effectiveness.

To Each Other:

We owe each other a working environment characterized by trust and respect for the individual fostering open and honest communication at all levels.

To Ourselves:

We owe ourselves personal and professional growth. We will seek new knowledge, greater challenges, and strive to remain at the leading edge of our profession.



Letter from the Chief

What a great year, 2015 has been for the Vermillion Fire EMS Department. We have added EMS bike teams and our fire prevention division is achieving more than I could have expected. These are just a few of the areas that we have seen big changes in over the past year.

We continue to evolve to meet the service needs of our great community. We have had many changes in Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression, and EMS to meet these challenges. The Vermillion Fire EMS Department is defined by the efforts of each individual member in our collective pursuit of excellence. As a combination service with dedicated volunteers, firefighters, and part-time EMTs, we are constantly reminded of the delicate balance of service delivery and organizational wellness.

We constantly evaluate our operational platform to ensure it provides efficient and effective services to the community and make changes when needed. Vermillion Fire EMS Department responded to more than 1,000 incidents in the last fiscal year. These numbers are important to us, the citizens of Vermillion, and Clay County. Each number represents when someone within our community experienced an unexpected, and many times unfortunate, event that led them to call us for assistance. We understand the loss and pain that is often associated with an incident that requires our service and it is my hope that we have provided not just the professional response necessary to mitigate these emergencies, but also the appropriate compassion to support the individuals and families involved in these situations.

With the support and guidance of our citizens, Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and County Commissioners, as well as the other City departments, we continue to be an exemplary organization that prides itself on being proactive, efficient, and exceptionally effective in our delivery of services.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the devoted volunteer firefighters of the Vermillion Rural Firefighters Association for their commitment in carrying out their duties, along with our dedicated EMTs and office staff. Without their professionalism and drive to serve, we could not achieve what we have. I am both honored and blessed to serve with them as we continue to serve you.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve as your Chief and for your sustained support as we continue to adapt to the constant development within our community. God has richly blessed me in many ways, including the opportunity and abilities to serve in this capacity as your Fire Chief. I do not take my responsibilities lightly and constantly strive to meet your expectations. It is truly an honor to serve you and I look forward to future service and success.

Richard Shannon Draper, Chief



Staff

Command Staff

Richard (Shannon) Draper, Chief
Matthew Callahan, EMS Chief
John Walker, Assistant Chief
Keith Thompson, Assistant Chief

Fire

Mincks, Curtis, Captain
Taggart, Matt, Captain / Fire Inspector
Fischbach, Ryun, Captain

Brewer, Karl	Lieutenant
Brigham, Emily A	Volunteer Firefighter
Brown, Jeff R	Volunteer Firefighter
Cusick, Kellen	Volunteer Firefighter
Decker, Ray	Volunteer Firefighter
Glawe, Matthew D	Volunteer Firefighter
Gulley, Nicole	Volunteer Firefighter
Hansen, Brandon	Volunteer Firefighter
Husby, Ryan	Volunteer Firefighter
Jansen, Cody	Lieutenant
Klunder, Tony	Volunteer Firefighter
London, Brady	Volunteer Firefighter
Maingi, Ivan K	Volunteer Firefighter
Martensen, Austin	Lieutenant
Martinson, Scott	Volunteer Firefighter
Moore, Mathew	Volunteer Firefighter
Murra, Mike W	Volunteer Firefighter
Nelsen, Dylan	Volunteer Firefighter
Newman, Dayrl R	Volunteer Firefighter
Pham, Minh	Volunteer Firefighter
Rakness, Elizabeth K	Volunteer Firefighter
Roberts, Scott	Volunteer Firefighter
Rydstrom, Tony	Volunteer Firefighter
Sadler, Justin	Volunteer Firefighter
Schoellerman, Blaine	Volunteer Firefighter
Sorensen, Calle	Volunteer Firefighter
Sperry, Bill	Volunteer Firefighter
Stewart, Layne	Volunteer Firefighter
Struve, Rhett	Volunteer Firefighter
Taggart, Chuck	Volunteer Firefighter
Taggart, Cory	Volunteer Firefighter
Taggart, Mark	Volunteer Firefighter
Waage, Brad	Volunteer Firefighter
Waage, Brian	Volunteer Firefighter
Walker, John	Volunteer Firefighter
Walker, Rich	Volunteer Firefighter
Wanamaker, Brandon W	Volunteer Firefighter
Wanamaker, Matthew D	Volunteer Firefighter
Wilmes, Matthew J	Volunteer Firefighter

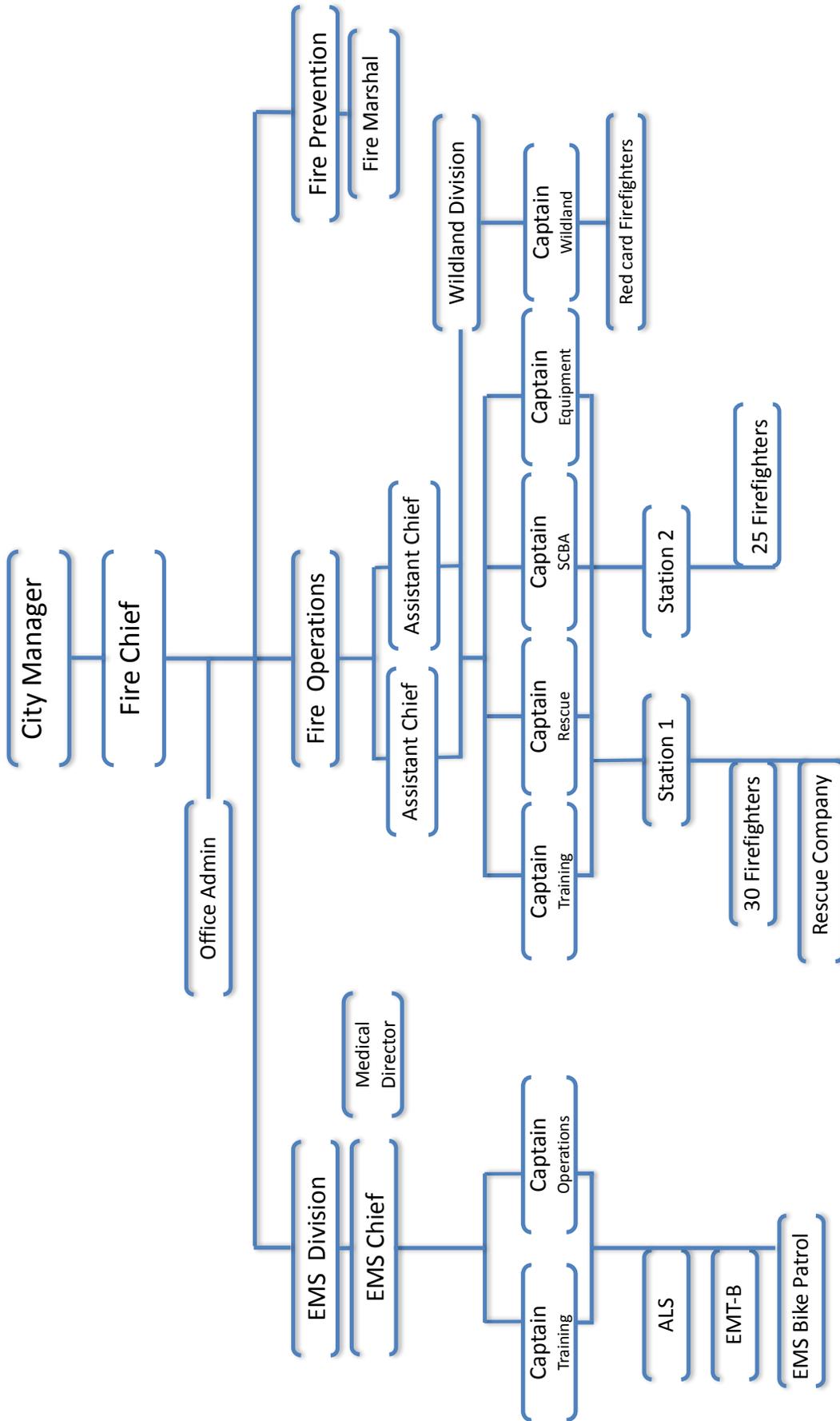
EMS

Klunder Tony, Captain
Kyte David, Captain

Abbott-Thompson, Dawn	EMT
Ackerman, Riley	EMT
Brunick, Ashley	A-EMT
Crance, Luke A	EMT
Fowler, Jarrett J	
Fischbach, Ryun	EMT
Hansen, Amanda H	EMT
Hower, Robin	EMT
Hower, Valarie	A-EMT
Hunt, Alyssa	EMT
Hansen, Brandon	Paramedic
Kyte, Joe	EMT
Larson, Jordyn	EMT
Melby, Neil	EMT
Portz, Danielle	EMT
Reed, Amanda	Paramedic
Rohan, Tara	EMT
Ruden, Stephanie A	EMT
Sherlock, Alexander	Paramedic
Soderlin, Shea T	EMT
Wetherington, John	EMT
Wildermuth, Michael	RN
Wood, Lisa	EMT
Brigham, Emily A	EMT
Gulley, Nicole	EMT
Jansen, Cody	EMT
Sadler, Justin	EMT

2015 Member Recognition

John Walker, Officer of the Year
Tony Rydstrom, Firefighter of the Year
Dawn Abbott Thompson, EMT of the Year
Amanda Hansen, Recruit of the Year





Organizational Background

After a series of devastating fires, the Vermillion Hose Company No. 1 was formed in 1892. C.F. Lotze was the first Fire Chief. There were 16 members of the volunteer company manning two, hand-drawn hose carts and one hand drawn 40' hook and ladder truck. The crew had an inventory of 800 feet of hose, six spanners, four axes, ladders, nozzles, and four pairs of rubber boots.



The newly organized fire department was soon put to the test when in the early morning hours of Sunday, October 15, 1893 a disastrous fire started in the main building on the university campus.



Reorganized in 1900, under direction of Chief Egan and Chief Rasmussen, the department received the confidence of the community and was soon on its way to a reputation for efficiency and professionalism. The 32 volunteer members, nicknamed "the fire boys," trained weekly and proved themselves on the fire ground and at state conventions

In September 1913, the department started providing fire protection for rural areas of Clay County - limited to only sending men and some equipment. In 1923, with the purchase of our first motorized apparatus, the department started providing full fire protection for our surrounding rural communities.

During the 1940's, the fire department started to provide first aid for Clay County by 1949 firefighters were trained and had formed a rescue squad manned by the volunteer firefighters. Ambulance services were provided by the Wagner-Iverson funeral home. Working together, the fire department and the funeral home provided emergency medical services for Vermillion and surrounding Clay County communities.

In 1971, with an ambulance from Iverson and equipment from the fire department, the first-aid squad organized the Vermillion Ambulance Service (later called Vermillion Clay County EMS). Led by Frank Hard, a Vermillion police officer, as the first EMS director, and staffed with volunteer firefighters, the organization assumed all EMS duties from the funeral home and first-aid squad. Although two separate originations, fire and EMS continued to work together and over the years have remained housed in the same station sharing resources.

In 1978, the Ambulance Department, with funding from Clay County, acquired a seconded ambulance and staffing was comprised of 50% university students.





In 2006, with a very generous donation from Ivan Pierce, the department was able to purchase a four story training tower. Constructed by the volunteer firefighters, this facility gave firefighters a safe training area for fire and rescue training. The area has now expanded to include an area for vehicle extrication and other simulations and is available to all area departments.

In 2013, we started looking at how we provide services and how we could improve. One of the areas, identified fire and EMS, were two departments existing side-by-side utilizing some of the same personnel but all separate equipment. This resulted in the duplication of resources and equipment.

In January 2015, the fire department and Vermillion Clay County EMS (VCCEMS) consolidated, forming the Vermillion Fire EMS Department. Today, fire and EMS divisions are still staffed using separate employee rosters but now share training, equipment, and budgets resulting in saving money and improving service.



Today, Our department is diverse and stronger then ever consisting of two entities working under one command structure.

-First, is the Rural fire department providing fire and rescue services for Clay County funded by county taxes and donations, staffed with 55 dedicated volunteer firefighters, and maintaining a fleet of rural fire trucks.

-Second, is the City Fire EMS department providing fire protection for the City of Vermillion and EMS for Clay County, funded by the City of Vermillion and Clay County for ambulances. Staffed by two full-time Chief officers, fire inspector and 25 part-time EMS staff, the rural department firefighters staff both rural and city fire trucks.

Together we are the **Vermillion Fire EMS Department**, a progressively minded combination department serving the City of Vermillion and the surrounding Clay County. We provide fire protection, emergency medical, and rescue services, as well as an enthusiastic and dynamic public education program for the community. We are able to accomplish this because of our strong working relationship with the City of Vermillion, Clay County, Vermillion Rural Firefighters and your support.

With an authorized staff of 55 Volunteer firefighters of the Vermillion Rural Firefighters Association, 25 Part-time EMTs / Paramedics, 1 part-time Fire Inspector, 1 part-time Office Administrator, and 2 Career Chief Officers.





Training

Tony Klunder, Captain EMS
Kellen Cusick, Lieutenant Fire

2015 was a very busy and productive year once again for the Vermillion Training Division, with several tasks accomplished. We are very fortunate to have the training facilities that we do, which started when the rural fire department received a donation from Ivan Pierce. With this donation, and land from the City of Vermillion, the volunteer firefighters have constructed a 4-floor burn tower and 3-acre training facility. This facility, the burn tower, and auto extrication area along with props, such as trench rescue, fuel fires, gas fires, car fires, dumpster fires, and confined space allowing our department to train for every situation..



Our department has 10 state certified fire instructors. Having this number of instructors allows us to hold in-house state training without the need of bringing instructors in.

A requirement for our new members is to obtain certification in Firefighter 1 and 2. These certification classes require almost 200 hours of classroom and practical evaluation training.

Other critical training held during 2015:

-Firefighter classes - we hold over 150 hours of on going core firefighter training during the year. Firefighters spend most of that time at the department's training facility using some of the dozen of training props that the we have constructed. The rest of the training is completed in our classroom.

-Driver training - All Vermillion firefighters that wish to drive must first complete driver training for each vehicle. This includes pump operations, defensive driving, and map reading. Drivers must also show proficiency on that vehicle and the equipment it carries.

-Officer training - Vermillion officers are required to attend officer/leadership training. Our department also holds ongoing officer training during the year. Reviewing incident command, leadership, radio operations, and the department computer software.

-Wildland - All of our firefighters are required to have 130/190 training. We also offer training for firefighters wishing to continue with the wildland certifications and receive their "red card."





The department also conducted a series of Heavy Rescue classes at the operations level. Each discipline, consisting of 4-6 hours of classroom and 16 hours of hands-on training, takes a full weekend. Topics include: training on vehicle rescue, school bus rescue, high-angle rope rescue, low-angle rescue, confined space rescue, and trench rescue. During the next year, we will complete the course and department firefighters will receive state certification as certified, "rescue technicians."

During 2015, our department hosted the state's first certified fire inspector class. Chief Draper, as the instructor, held a 40 hour fire inspector class with students from Mitchell, Brookings, Sioux Falls, and Vermillion representing private and public industries.

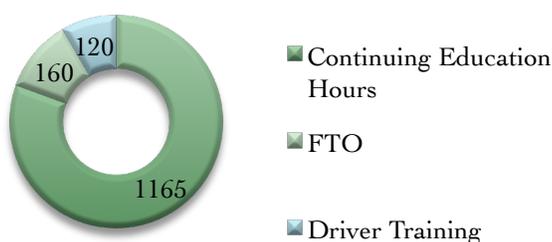
EMS Training:

During this last year, our staff has been working hard to maintain competency and proficiency in all areas of medical & trauma care through continuing education. Our staff attended 1,284 hours of continuing education at our station to maintain their licensure and certification. All staff are required to relicense/certify every two years through the National Registry of EMTs and/or the State of South Dakota. Our training is geared toward the most up-to-date literature, advancements, and best practices so that we can provide the best patient care possible.

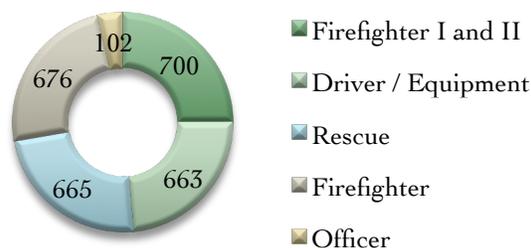


Looking ahead, 2016 appears to be another busy year of training. Along with our scheduled monthly training we will host a National Fire Academy command and control class. The instructors are from the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD. Our department will also offer certified Hazmat, Water Rescue, and Rescue classes

2015 EMS Training 1,337 Hours



2015 Fire Training 2,806 Hours



Our training room is used by the department and outside agencies.







EMS Division

Matthew Callahan, EMS Chief

2015 has proven again to be a very successful & busy year for the Vermillion Fire EMS Department's EMS Division. We have made many improvements in equipment and education of our staff to better serve the citizens that we have sworn to protect day in and day out within the City of Vermillion while also providing ambulance coverage for approximately 80% of Clay County. The EMS Division is responsible for all medical care provided at all calls. The Division has 3 fully stocked ambulances, with 2 staffed at all times, to assure and maintain our response times to emergent and non-emergent ambulance calls. Our average response time was just over 5 minutes from time of call to enroute. In 2015, we drove 35,191 miles. The Division is overseen by Division Chief Matthew Callahan and supported by paid-on-call staff.



Equipment:

This last year the department acquired a Stryker Powerlift Cot System through the City second penny fund. This lift system allows our staff to load and unload a patient from the ambulance without having to lift the patient at all. The lift raises and lowers the cot on its own and the crew pushes and pulls the cot in and out of the ambulance.

Also, this year the Division upgraded some of its backboards, immobilization vests, and computer mounts. This was accomplished through watchful spending of the department budget.

EMS Bike Team:

This year, we implemented our EMS Bike Team. This team of 12 individuals rides in groups of 2-3 at special events to provide front-line first aid and medical care until the ambulance arrives. The team can get into places the ambulance cannot and provide patient care faster. Between the 3 bikes, the team carries a full complement of BLS equipment including an AED and oxygen. The team has provided coverage for events such as USD home football games and 5K races.





Wildland Division

Ryun Fichbach, Captain
Austin Martensen, Lieutenant

The wildland division of the Vermillion Fire EMS Department was created in January of 2013. The division is headed by Captain Ryun Fichbach and is overseen by Chief Draper. This division was created to ensure regular training mandated by the National Wildland Fire Coordination (NWFC). The NWFC oversees the qualifications and training for wildland firefighters nationwide. From there, the division's education goals have expanded to involve education for all firefighters and community citizens.

The operational goals for the division include: identifying high-risk areas for wildland fires, preparing equipment, and assisting land owners with safe controlled burns. Vermillion Fire EMS Department received a grant through South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire with various federal agricultural funding. In 2015, all department members were outfitted with new lightweight wildland pants and shirts. These light weight materials help reduce the fatigue on firefighters when operating in a rugged, hot environment. Over the next year, we hope to secure funding for leather work boots so firefighters are not wearing their own shoes at grass fires.



In 2015, the department responded to 45 natural vegetation fires that burned over 600 acres, including one fire that burned 125 acres by the time crews had extinguished the fire. We had over 90 firefighters and 35 vehicles from area departments assisting with operations.

This division strives to conduct a safe operation while practicing hands on skills. The division has been working with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks for future prescribed burns in the area.

Rescue

Cody Jansen, Lieutenant

The rescue company is lead by Chief Thompson and Lieutenant Jansen who oversees two rescue company's one a light duty rescue stationed at station 2 and one 18' heavy rescue out of station 1. Our rescue companies provide operations and technician level rescue for Vehicle, Confined Space, High / Low angle, Trench, Farm / Industrial and Water rescue.







Station Information

Station 1 HQ

820 N. Dakota

865 Incidents (178 Fire Related / 920 Medicals)

Station 1 houses two Engines, one Ladder truck, one Tanker, one Heavy Rescue truck, one Wildland tanker, three Ambulances and two staff and utility vehicles.

Staffed by 35 Volunteer Firefighters and Officers, 20 paid on call EMT's and Paramedics, 1 part-time Office Administrator and 2 career Chief Officers



Station 2

25 Center St

165 Incidents (169 Fire Related)

Station 2 houses one Engine, one Tanker, one Light Rescue truck, one Brush.

Staffed by 35 Volunteer Firefighters and Officers



Training Center

1530 S. Dakota St





Fire Prevention & Safety

Matt Taggart, Captain (Inspector)

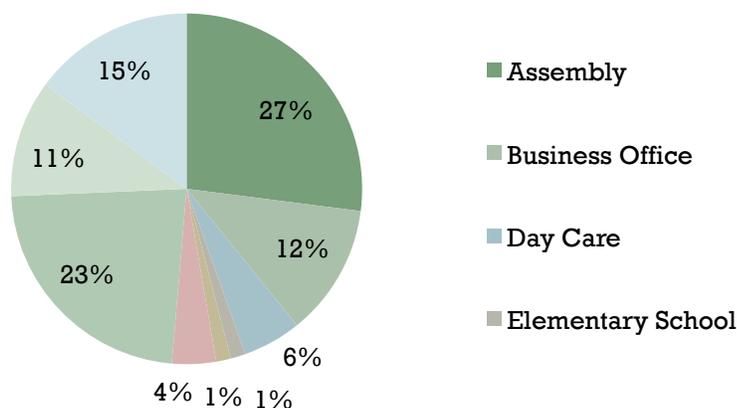
The Vermillion Fire & EMS Department Fire Prevention Division is tasked with inspecting new and existing buildings within the city limits of Vermillion, providing fire prevention education and conducting fire investigations.

Our main focus when performing these inspections is Life Safety. The goal of the inspections are to have safe businesses and to provide risk reduction to building owners, employees, customers, tenants, visitors, and firefighters in the case of a fire or emergency in the building. These goals are achieved by seeking code compliance and your cooperation.

Working together we are making a difference in Vermillion.

In 2015, there were a total of 69 buildings inspected with only 4 requiring a re-inspection. Included in those inspections were all the fraternity and sorority houses in Vermillion. The primary focus and goal of the inspection, is to educate the property owner of any problems that may exist within their building, and how we can resolve it together.

Inspections Per Occupancy Type



OCCUPANCY TYPE	# VIOLATIONS
Assembly	51
Business Office	8
Day Care	3
Low Hazard Storage	1
Medical/Dental Office	3
Mercantile	22
Multi-Family Residential	8
Sorority or Fraternity House	16
Total of Violations:	112



Plan Review

The Fire Prevention Division is again tasked with reviewing building plans and specifications to determine the safety characteristics of any proposed building in Vermillion. Plan review is also done during any renovations and/or additions to buildings in Vermillion.

In the plan review process comes testing of any fire protection systems (sprinklers, fire pumps, alarms) installed within the building. These are done during construction. Upon completion of construction, all fire protection systems are subjected to acceptance testing.

In 2015, the Fire Prevention Division completed over 60 hours of plan review, either in the office or in the field.

Community Fire Safety

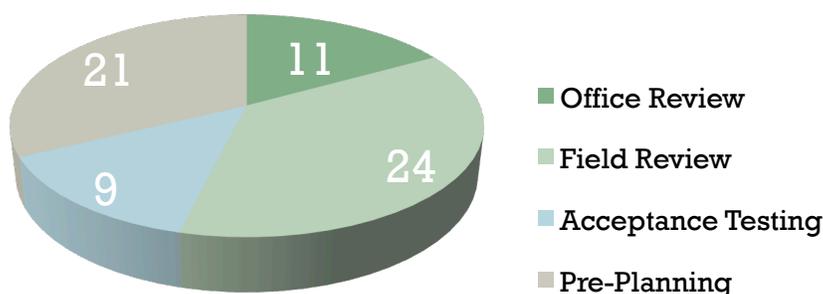
Fire Safety in the community of Vermillion in 2015 has been absolutely wonderful. Just the opportunity to educate the public on fire safety is gratifying enough and then you meet the wide variety of people - from stop, drop, and roll that turns into story-time with kindergarteners, to apartment safety with the elderly.

In the past year, the Fire Prevention Division has visited all the schools in Vermillion, along with various care facilities. During these visits, we spent over 20 hours educating around 500 children and adults about fire safety.

In 2015, the Fire Prevention Department has partnered with SESDAC to implement a fire safety program suited solely for the clients of SESDAC. This program is designed to help the clients know the basics of fire safety and to know when and how to call 911.

In 2015, the Fire & EMS department has also strengthened its relationship with the University of South Dakota (USD). Significant work has been done with the housing department at USD in ensuring all fraternities and sororities are getting the proper fire safety training they deserve. We have been also working with Risk Management to tour the buildings on campus.

Plan Review/Pre-Planning Hours





Community Outreach

Fire Extinguisher Training

The Fire Prevention Division provided over 12 hours of fire extinguisher training to over 150 people this year. In 2016, we have introduced a fire extinguisher training prop to the program to provide more controlled, hands-on training program. We are also currently working on funding to purchase an interactive fire safety trailer, which will be tailored to fit our training programs within the community, especially in fire extinguishers.

The Vermillion Fire & EMS Fire Prevention Division is looking forward to continuing its great relationship and education with the community in 2016.



Open House

2015 was another successful year for the Vermillion Fire & EMS Departments annual open house. We saw roughly 600-700 people visit our annual Open House, located at Station 1 HQ, in October during fire prevention week.





4th of July in the Park

Yet another great event hosted by the Vermillion Rural Fire Department is the 4th of July in the park. The festivities are located at Barstow Park. The celebration allows families to come to the park, enjoy a meal prepared by the department, and fun and games for the kids, followed by the fireworks show presented by the City of Vermillion. In 2015, we estimated about 2,000 people attended the event.



Smoke Detector Program

In partnership with the State Fire Marshals office and local vendors, the Vermillion Fire & EMS Department offers free smoke detectors and installation to senior citizens and low-income residents of Vermillion.

Burning Desire to Read

Our reading program rewards the student with the most reading hours at the end of the school year with a ride to school in a fire truck and they receive a backpack with the Vermillion Fire & EMS logo on it.

2015 Winners: Rishi Koodali, Basmala Elemam, and Henery Anderson.



Community CPR

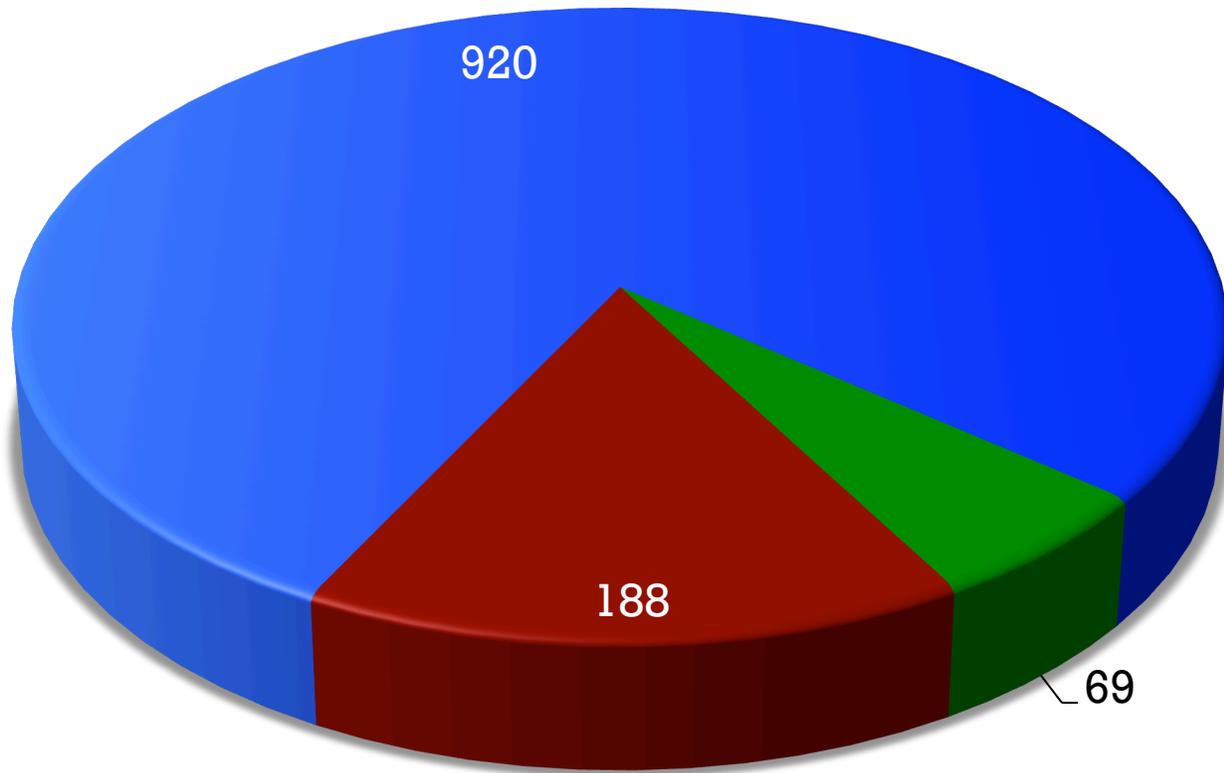
Public classes are held every month and private classes can be scheduled on an individual basis. During the 2015 class season, VCCEMS Association has successfully given 470 people the incredible ability to provide critical, life-saving interventions to someone in need. This now increases our total number of students certified to 4,817 since the start of the program in 2002. This year, we also implemented an online registration process to make it more convenient for our students to sign up and pay for their desired class. Our registration can be found at www.vermillioncpr.eventbrite.com

Public Access Defibrillator (PAD)

Currently, the program has placed a machine in every county and city patrol car as well as purchased units to be placed in public buildings. Currently, there are a total of 60 defibrillators in the community that are available for public use if the situation was to arise. The VCCEMS Association CPR/AED Coordinator inspects all PAD units on an annual basis. This program is funded through awarded grants and generous donations.



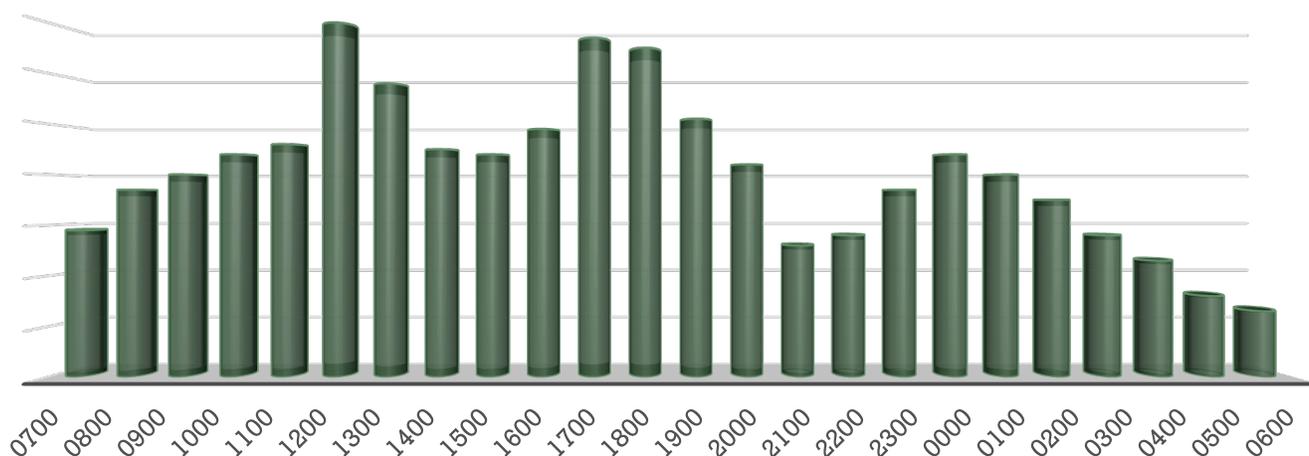
2015 Calls for Service 1181



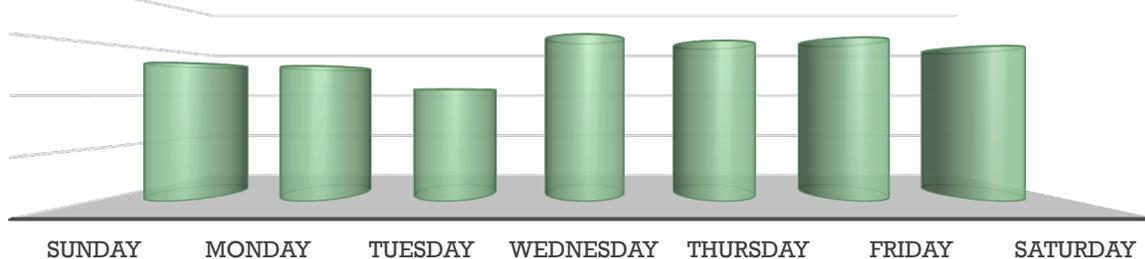
■ Fire ■ EMS ■ Fire Prevention Inspections



2015 Calls by Hour



2015 Calls by Day of the Week

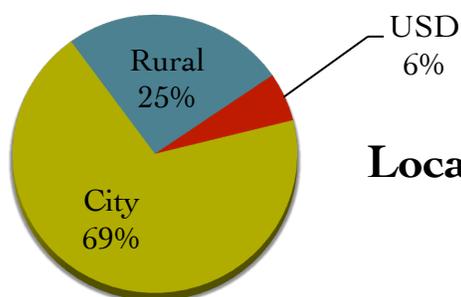
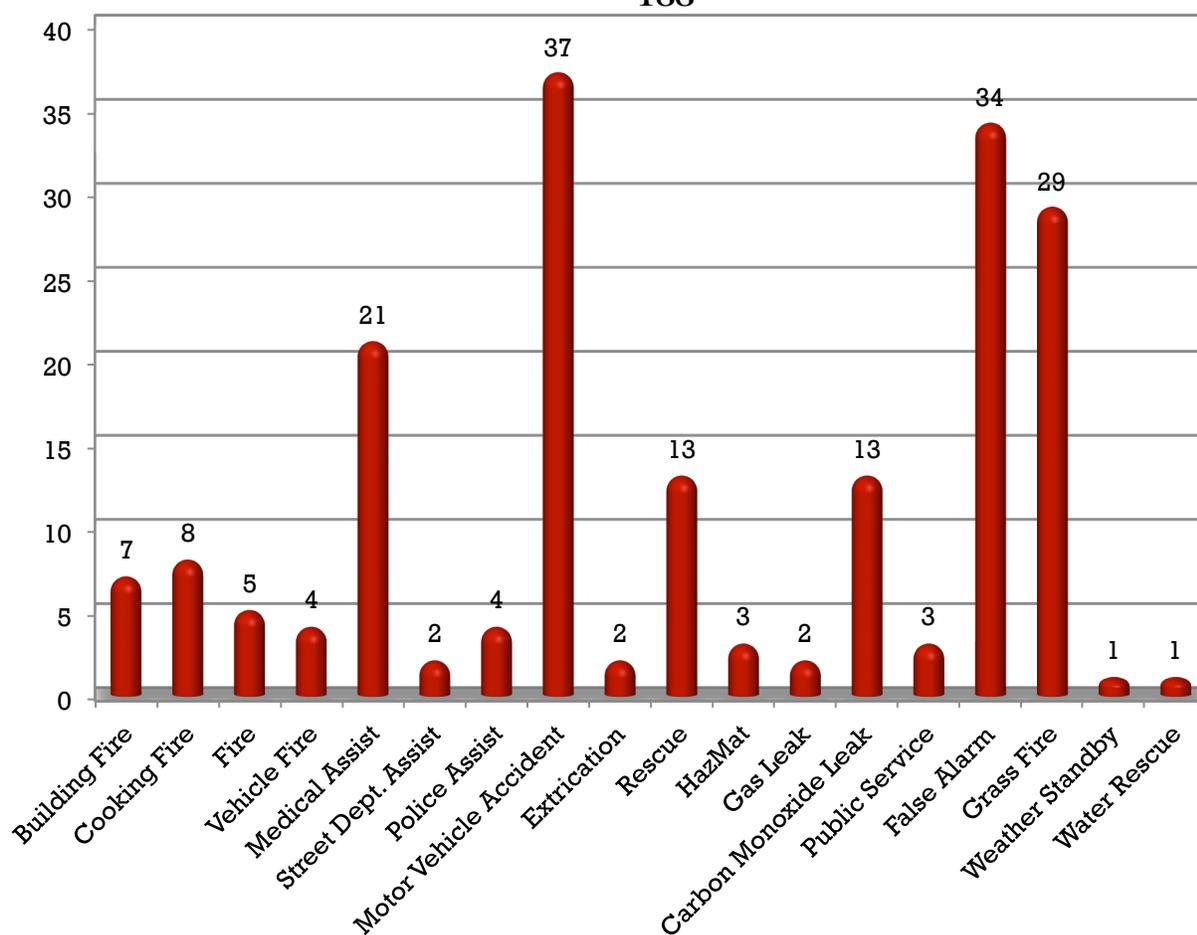


Calls per Unit

Officers		Apparatus	
Chief 1	98	Ambulance 9A	614
Chief 2	26	Ambulance 9B	122
Chief 3	49	Ambulance 9C	184
Medic 1	150	Brush 1	23
		Engine 1	31
		Engine 2	46
		Engine 3	25
		Ladder 1	23
		Rescue 1	48
		Rescue 2	46
		Tanker 1	24
		Tanker 2	19



2015 Fire Calls for Service 188



Location of Fire Calls

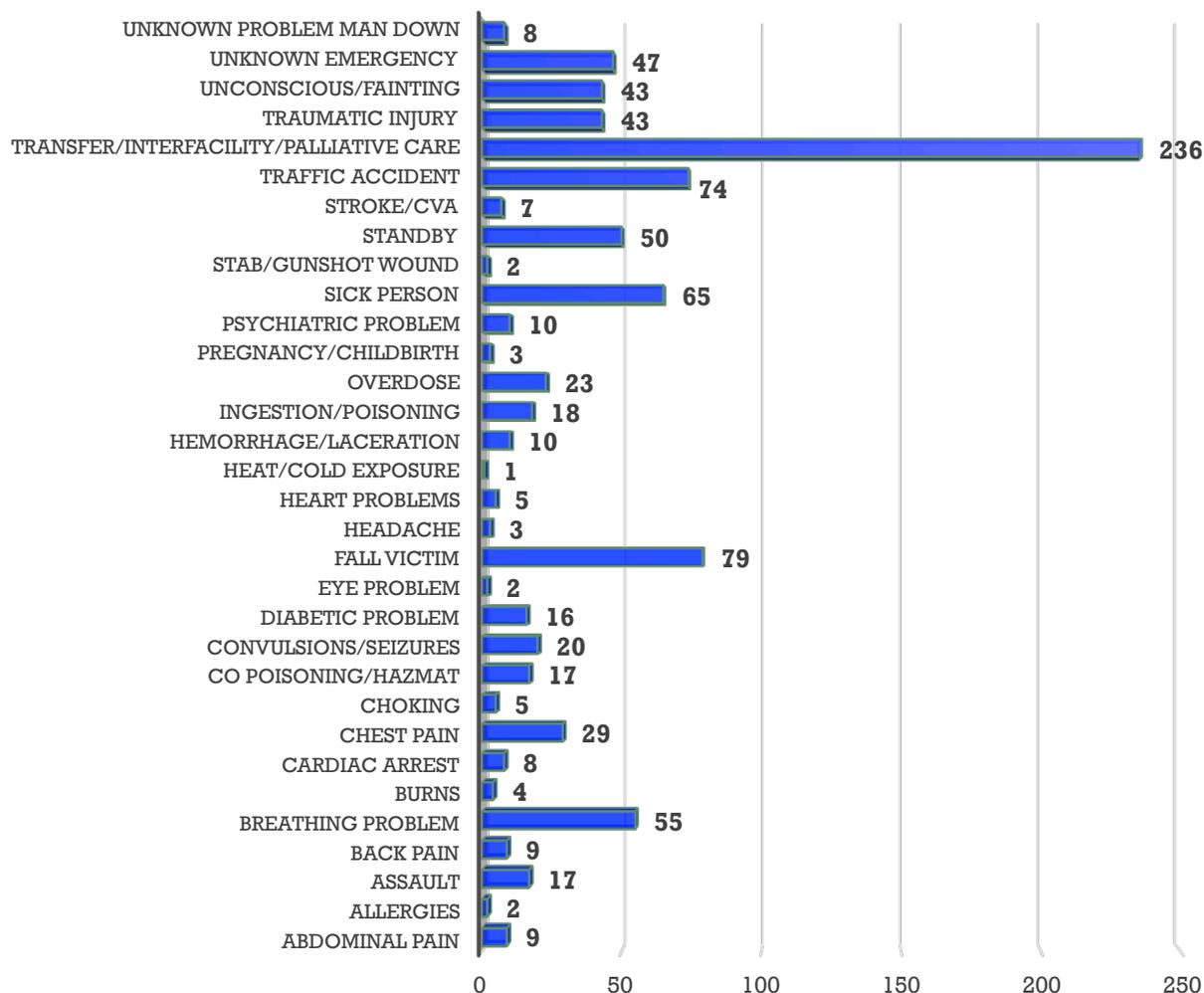
When we are dispatched for a fire call firefighters respond to their assigned station from home and or work. Our fire trucks do not leave the station until they are fully staffed in accordance with NFPA minimum of 4 per truck. This ensures that when we arrive a truck arrives at your emergency we are staffed and ready to immediately render aid.

Dispatch to Enroute = 5.04 Minutes



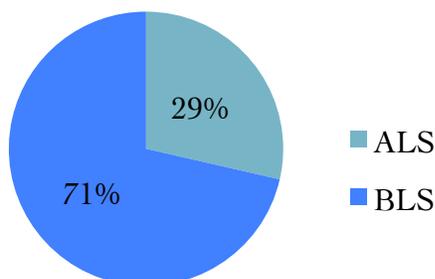
2015 EMS Calls for Service

920



Dispatch to Enroute = 5.87 Minutes

BLS v.s. ALS

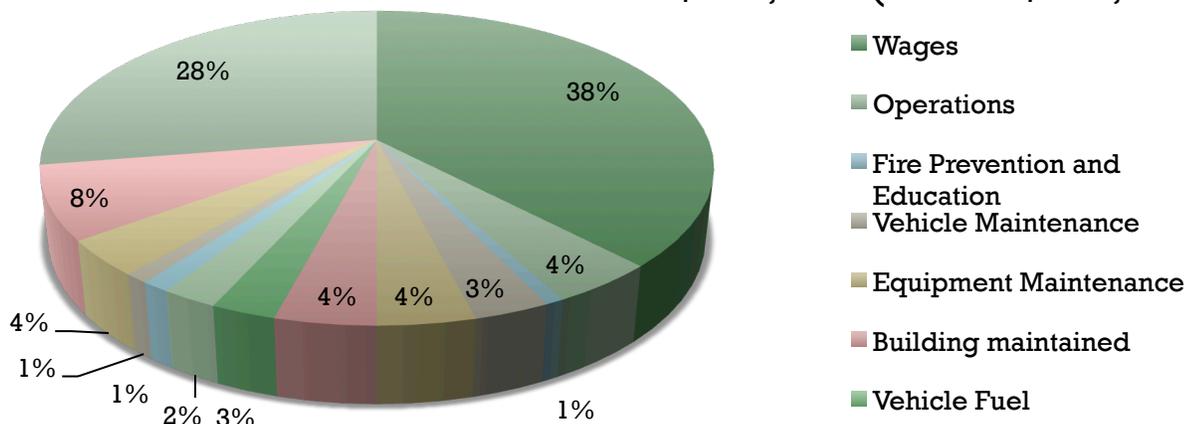




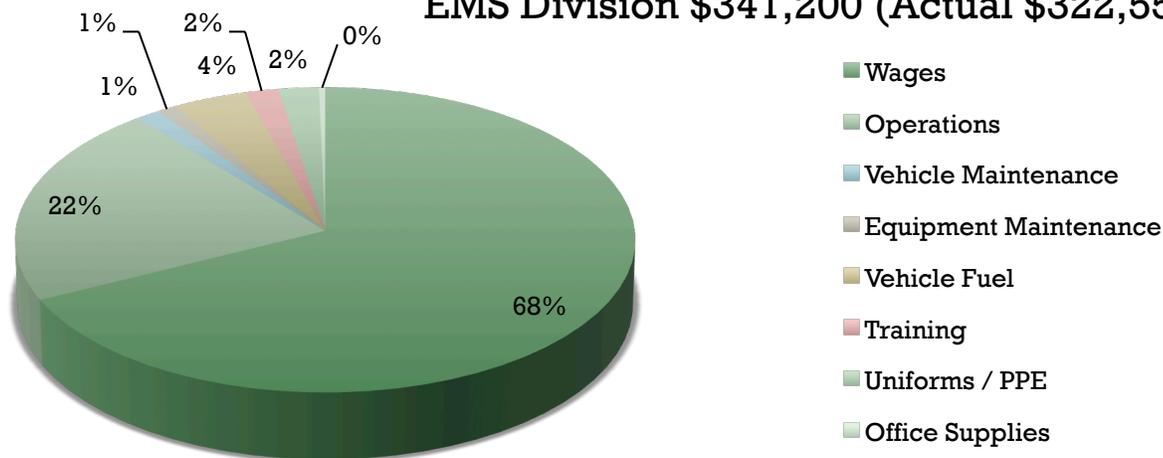
2015 Budget

Vermillion Fire EMS Department operates on a budget provided by the City of Vermillion. The Vermillion Rural Fire Department operates on from a budget provided by Clay County taxes and fund raising. The below budgets reflect only the Vermillion Fire EMS budget.

Fire \$249,363 (Actual \$238,000)



EMS Division \$341,200 (Actual \$322,554)



2015 Grants Received

Wildland Equipment	\$2,000
Radios	\$42,000
Firefighter Training	\$750



FAQ's

How do I become a Firefighter or EMT?

We are always accepting applications. You can fill one out online at our website or stop-by Station 1 during business hours.

Is Vermillion all volunteer?

All of our firefighters are volunteers and our EMTs are part-time employees.

How do I get a copy of a Fire or Medical report?

Call the Fire Department at 605-677-7098, during our regular business hours of 7:00AM-5:30PM Monday through Thursday, for proper procedures to obtain a report.

Who do I call to learn CPR?

You can call 605-677-7098 and ask for the CPR Coordinator.

What is a "Knox Box" & where can I obtain one?

A Knox Box is a secured locked box that is placed on the front of a building/house and contains keys to the building or residence. The fire department keeps a key that opens the Knox Box locked and secured on their vehicles. This allows the fire department easy access to a home or business even when the building may be secured, i.e. after hours or when occupants have limited mobility. Information to purchase a "Knox Box" can be obtained by calling the Fire Prevention Division at 605-677-7098.

If my Carbon Monoxide detector activates, what should I do?

Carbon Monoxide (ALSO KNOWN AS THE SILENT KILLER) is a colorless/odorless gas that is created by the incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuels. It also connects to blood cells at a rate 200 times faster than oxygen. It is recommended that you install a Carbon Monoxide detector on each level of your home and if a detector activates, call 911 and leave your home. The fire department will come to your home and check the level of Carbon Monoxide (if any).

Why do re fighters cut holes in the roof and break windows of a building on fire?

This is called "VENTILATION". There are two basic reasons for ventilating a structure. The first is, removal of dangerous gases, heat, and dark smoke that accumulate in a burning building reducing visibility and greatly impeding rescue and fire fighting efforts. Second, ventilation allows fighters to relieve the structure of superheated gases and smoke which spread fire and contribute to dangerous situations like flashover and backdraft explosions.

What should I do with HOT fireplace ash?

DO NOT remove hot ashes from the fireplace immediately. Wait up to 2-3 days and let the ashes cool completely in the fireplace until there are no remaining hot embers before removing them. Place cool ash in a metal container and store outside away from the home and all combustibles.



Associations

Vermillion Firefighter Association

The Vermillion Rural Fire Department (formerly Vermillion Volunteer Fire Department, changed 10/29/13) has long existed in some form and composed of members responding to fires in both Vermillion and elsewhere in Clay County. The formal date of incorporation with the Secretary of State's Office in South Dakota was October 22, 1963, and the association remains listed in good standing as a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation. The purpose of the association is "the preservation and protection of life and property from and during such fires and man-made or natural disasters as may occur in the City of Vermillion and vicinity," according to the Department's constitution. By-laws of the organization are also kept and provide more detail on rules of operation, meeting agendas, and the like.

While the roster of members was 75 following World War II to accommodate returning armed-service veterans interested in membership and service, that number was later lowered to 43 for some time; and, now the group is considering raising the number to 55 active members. All but the Chief remains volunteers (nonpaid).

The regular business meetings of the Department are held on the first Wednesday of each month. The Annual Meeting of the Department is held the first Wednesday in February, when officers are elected.

Vermillion Clay County EMS Association

The Vermillion Clay County EMS association is an association open to all Clay County EMS providers. We meet monthly at the Vermillion Fire EMS Station and are dedicated to providing EMS education. In 2015, our agency provided CPR training for 410 community members. We also hosted basic EMT classes for a total of 45 students. In addition to classroom hours, our members have participated in many volunteer training opportunities such as Sidewalk CPR during Ribs, Rods, and Rock and Roll.