

Northfield Area Fire and Rescue Service



ANNUAL REPORT for the Year 2023

FIRE CHIEF SUMMARY

For 10 months of 2023, the transition to a full-time fire chief/fire code official started. I was hired starting 2/1/2023. The interim fire chief role, albeit still part-time, allowed me to hit the ground running on the needed work and initiatives not sustainable part-time. Other highlights from 2023:

- Community Risk Reduction including inspections, education, and enforcement bandwidth increased significantly. Delegations for plan review and permit issuance added to the inspection revenue line covering some of the program cost and FTE increase.
- Joint Powers Board - “working” to “policy” board transition process continues having a FT chief providing most of the administration for the Board.
- Unwanted Fire Call reduction – Work continued with following up on most all false alarm calls. This includes many residential alarms as well as commercial. The impact in 2023 was more high-reaching fruit vs. 2022’s work. The reduction goals in 2023 were more “Eliminate that specific alarm cause from happening again” vs. blanket system changes. We continue to use the fire code, recommendations for redesign, repairs, and reconfiguration to reduce or eliminate unwanted page outs.
- Administrative support – Part of the FT chief transition was increasing the administrative assistant’s FTE from .8 to 1 full FTE. That has allowed for code enforcement data support.
- 2023 FF hiring cycle – Four new recruits were on-boarded August 2023. They began their training that fall and winter.
- Command Staff – Development continues in spreading the operations of NAFRS to the chiefs and their captains. More of the team/group leadership is delegated to the captains with support from their assistant chiefs with the continued goal of developing future leaders of NAFRS.
- Glen Castore’s service – 2023 marked the end of Glen’s tenure as a founding NAFRS Joint Powers Board as a representative of the Rural Fire Protection District. His time on the NAFRS board,. He has been a key member that has helped form the cohesive board we have moving into 2023.

Thomas M. Nelson – Fire Chief/Fire Code Official

NAFRS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In 2014 a Joint Power Agreement was signed creating Northfield Area Fire & Rescue Service (NAFRS). It is made up of member entities of City of Northfield, City of Dundas, and Northfield Rural Fire Protection District (a JPA of rural townships served). The Joint Powers Board (JPB) of NAFRS is made up of both elected officials and some community appointments from the Northfield Mayor as per the bylaws. (See board makeup page) There are key ex officio members representing partners in emergency response and the administrators of each member entity.

The board meets monthly as well as the Personnel, Finance, Capital Equipment committees. Members also serve on the Northfield Fire Relief Association as appointed municipal trustees. Other ad hoc committees also are appointed such as exploring an organizational change from a joint power's agreement to a taxing district.

The board is publicly acknowledged by the command staff and firefighters at as many opportunities as possible. The board is a valuable resource for the Fire Chief outside of structured board and committee meetings being sounding boards for ideas and changes.

NAFRS BOARD MEMBERS – 2023

VOTING MEMBERS

Glen Castore, Rural Fire Dist.

Term expires: 12/31/24

Elisabeth Haase, Northfield

Term expires: 12/31/24

Jodi Lawson, Northfield

Term expires: 12/31/23

Brad Ness, Vice-Chair, Northfield

Term expires: 12/31/22

Brian Peterson, Rural Fire Dist.

Term expires: 12/31/23

Jami Reister, Northfield

Term expires: 12/31/23

Michael Stowe, Northfield

Term expires: 12/31/25

Glenn Switzer, Dundas

Term expires: 12/31/23

EX-OFFICIO (NON-VOTING) MEMBERS

Mike Fox, Rural Fire Dist. Administrator

Brian Edwards, Northfield Hospital EMS

Tom Nelson, NAFRS Fire Chief

Ben Martig, Northfield City Administrator

Jenelle Teppen, Dundas City Administrator

Mark Elliot, Northfield Police Chief

2023 – 2021 FIRE CALLS

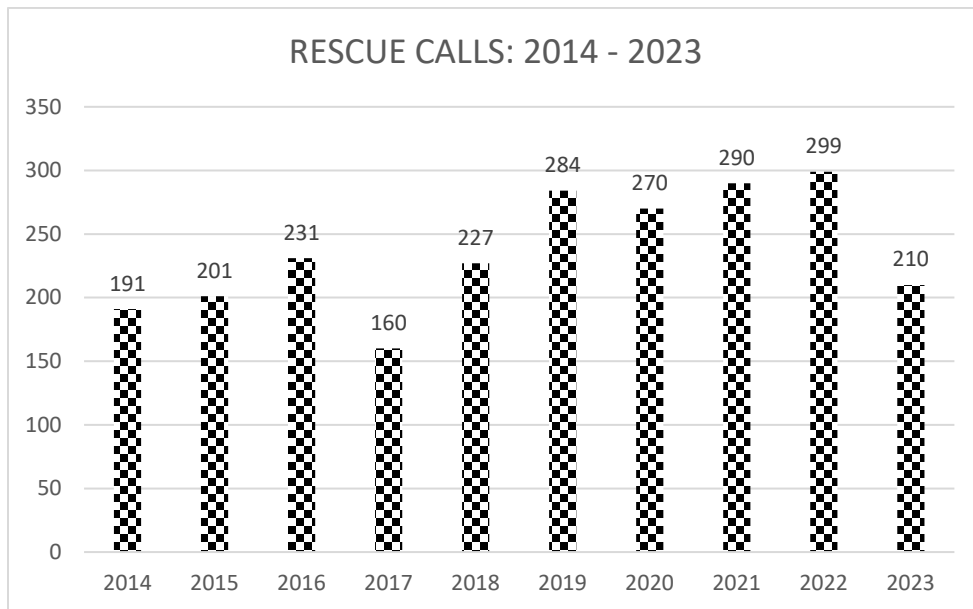
	2023	2022	2021
1. Private dwellings (1 or 2 families)	10	7	15
2. Apartments (3 or more families)	9	5	12
3. Hotels and motels	0	0	1
4. All other residential	4	4	1
6. Public assembly (church, restaurant, etc.)	0	0	2
7. Schools and colleges	2	0	0
8. Health care and penal institutions (hospitals, prisons, etc.)	4	0	3
9. Stores and offices	3	1	2
10. Industry, defense, utilities, manufacturing	10	1	1
11. Storage in structures (barns, garages, general storage, etc.)	2	8	4
12. Other structures (outbuildings, bridges, etc.)	2	1	2
14a. Fire in highway vehicles (I-35, cars, trucks, buses, etc.)	12	8	7
14b. Fires in other vehicles (trains, construction or farm vehicles)	1	2	1
15. Fires outside of structures with value but no vehicles (crops, timber)	3	7	4
16. Fires in brush, grass, wildland	10	17	18
17. Fires in rubbish including dumpsters	7	6	9
18. All other fires	0	0	0
20. Rescue/Emergency Medical	210	299	290
21. False alarm responses	184	209	82
22. Mutual aid responses given	6	6	3
23a. Hazardous materials responses (spills, leaks, etc)	51	42	39
23b. Other hazardous responses (arcing wires, power line down, etc.)	14	11	3
24. All other responses (smoke scares, lock-outs, animal rescue)	135	103	159
	589	721	659

The fire call categories above are established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). These categories are reported to the Fire Marshal’s office annually where they are consolidated into a report covering the State of Minnesota. The Fire District covers 147 square miles, depicted on the following map, with approximately 26,000 residents.

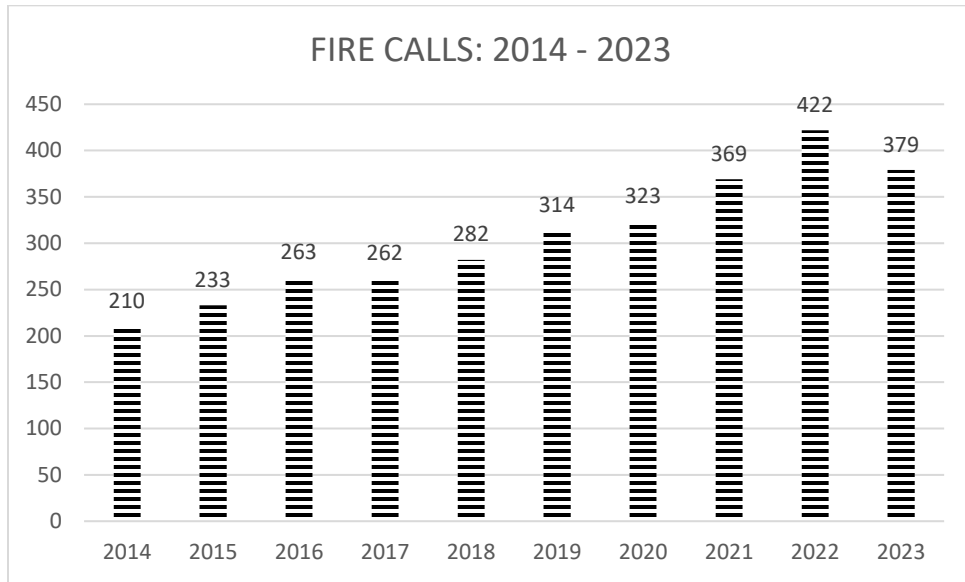
2023 CALL STATISTICS

The long-term call trends are indicated in the following three charts. The first chart depicts total number of rescue calls over the last 10 years. The second chart depicts the number of fire calls over the last 10 years. And the third chart shows the comparison of Rescue and fire calls over the past 10 years.

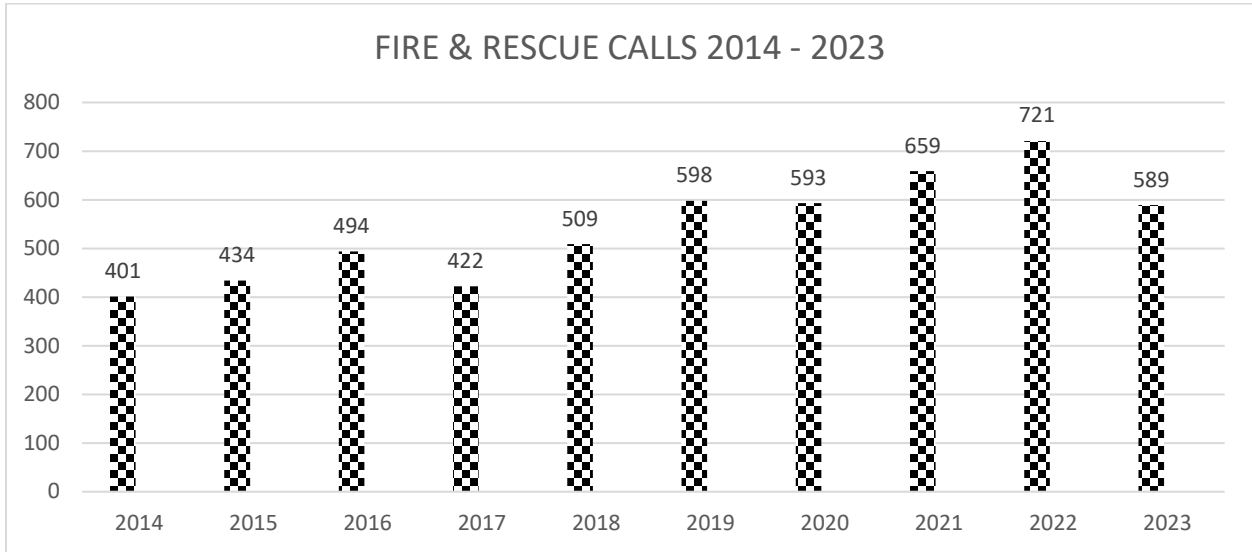
Total Rescue Calls 2014 - 2023



Total Fire Calls 2014 – 2023



Total Fire and Rescue Calls 2014 – 2023



Fire Calls by JPA Party

	2023		2022	
	Calls	Call %	Calls	Call %
Northfield	306	80.74%	341	81.97%
Dundas	11	2.90%	14	3.37%
Rural Fire District	62	16.36%	61	14.66%
Total	379	100.00%	416	100.00%
Mutual Aid	2		6	
Total	381		422	

Response Time

NAFRS tracks response time as the time from receiving a call from the Rice Steele 911 Center to having equipment and personnel at the scene. The table below indicates the response time in minutes. Response time does not include calls cancelled in-route by the dispatch center.

Response Time by JPA Party

	2023			2022		
	Fire Calls	Average Response Time (min)	Average Firefighters Responding	Fire Calls	Average Response Time (min)	Average Firefighters Responding
Northfield	306	7.2	11.5	341	10.4	15.4
Dundas	11	13.8	11.1	14	11.5	18.2
Rural	62	11.4	12.4	61	13.8	15.7

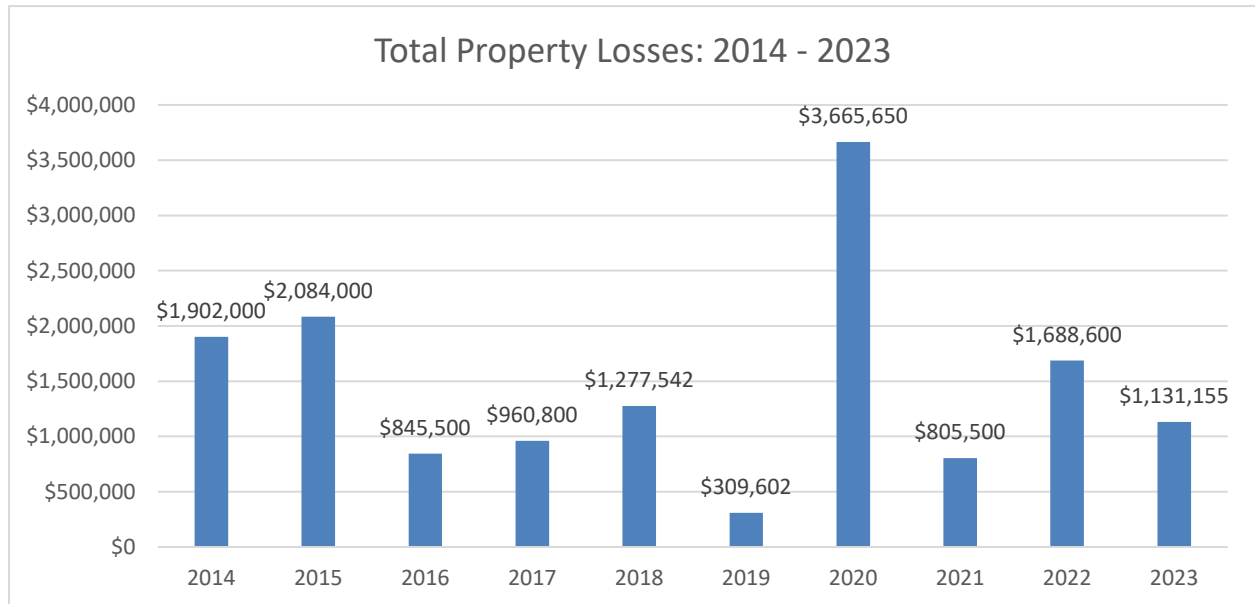
Response Time for Rescue Calls

The average Response Time for Rescue Calls was 9.4 minutes in 2023 with the average number of Firefighters responding of 5.2 personnel per call.

PROPERTY LOSSES

The total estimated market value of property in the fire district is approximately \$2.5 billion as of 2016.
(Source: Rice and Dakota County Assessors Offices)

Total Property Losses: 2014 – 2023



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Firefighters have been involved in community activities for many years. These range from visits to schools and the mock crash enactment during prom week to the annual Christmas spaghetti dinner. These community engagements include:

School visits - Fire Prevention week: Firefighters visit each of the elementary schools in Northfield teaching fire prevention. K through 3rd grade students is the target audience.

Open House for Fire Prevention Week, at the Northfield Fire Station: Community members are invited to the Fire Station for a public open house with demonstrations, refreshments, and to see up close the equipment used to protect Northfield and our surrounding communities. This Open House is held every other year, and will be held again in 2025.

Annual Christmas Sharing Spaghetti Dinner: Firefighters donate their time to prep/cook/serve the dinner. Proceeds from this fundraiser are donated to the Northfield Community Action Center, benefiting local youth of the community who would otherwise likely not receive a Christmas present.

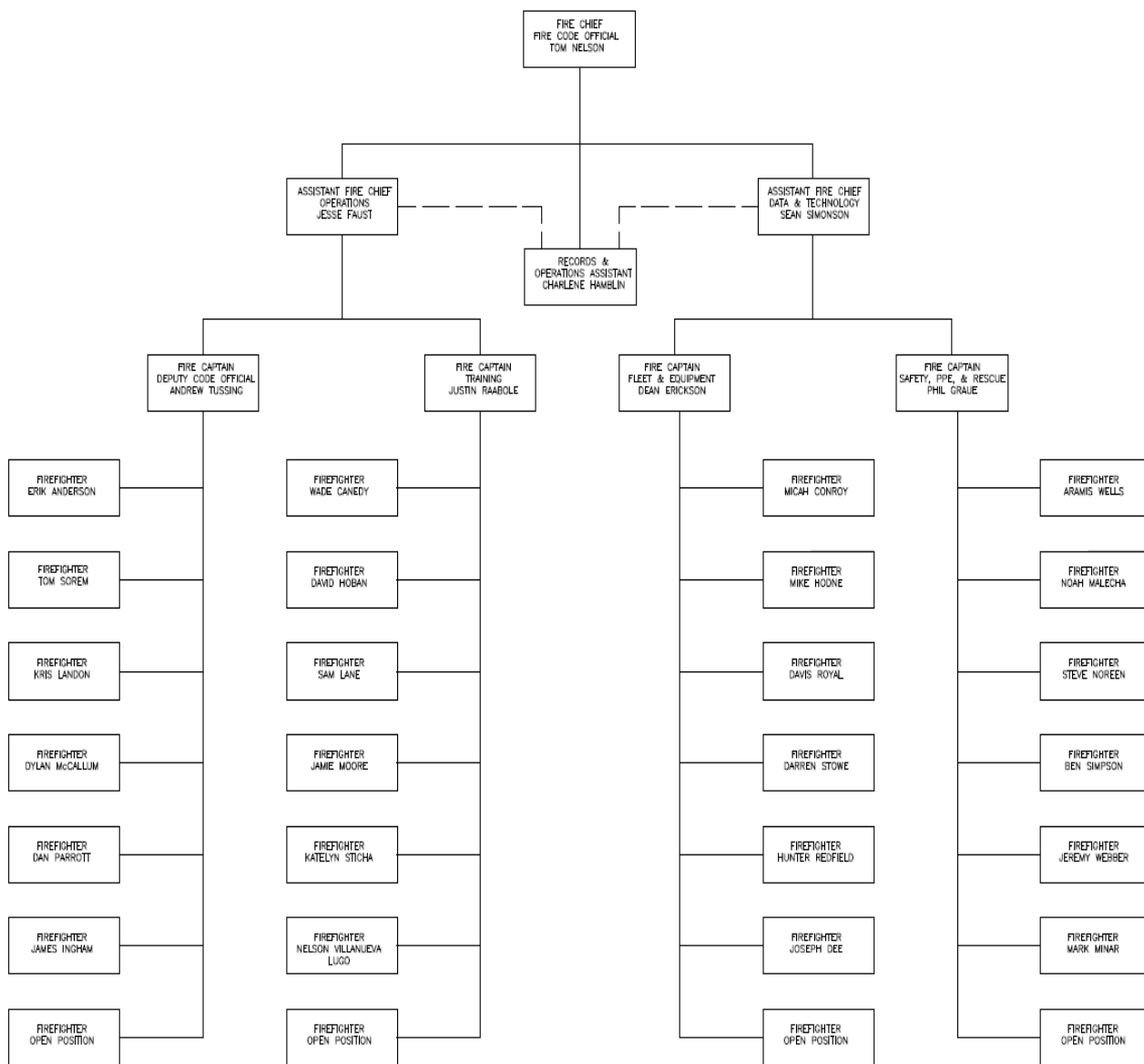
April Food Drive: NAFRS joined forces again with the local food and assisted with a food drop off event that occurred in April at the Community Action Center.

Northfield Rescue Squad Association Duck Race (DJJD event): This is a Northfield Rescue Squad Association Fundraiser. This event was held during the abbreviated DJJD festivities.

Charitable Gambling: Operated under the Northfield Fire Relief Association's gambling license, a firefighter donates time to call bingo each week. Proceeds go to the Northfield Rescue Squad Association and are used to purchase equipment for the rescue squad. Below is a table of our Charitable gambling sites and information of each site:

Gambling Site	Pull Tabs	E-tabs	Bar Bingo	E-bingo
Carbone's	X	X	X	X
Boonies Bar and Grill	X	X	X	X
Northfield Golf Club	X	X		

PERSONNEL



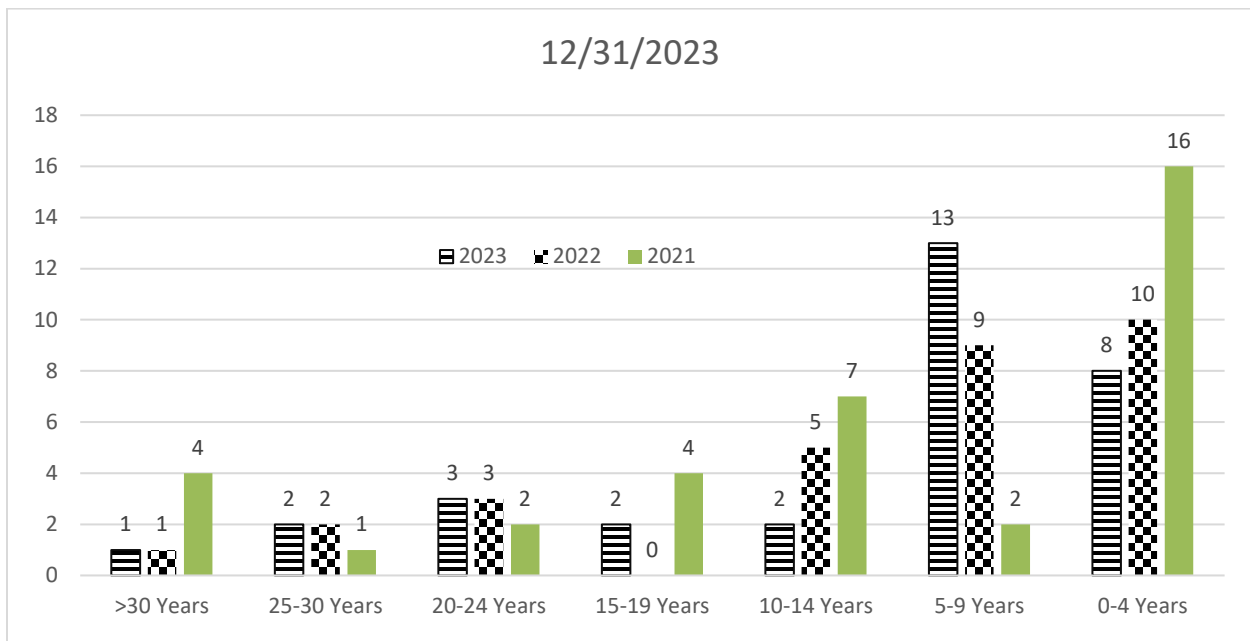
Personnel

Position	Name	Years of Service (as of 12/31/2023)
Fire Chief	Tom Nelson	36
Assistant Chief/Operations	Jesse Faust	26
Assistant Chief/Data & Technology	Sean Simonson	22
Fire Captain/Deputy Code Official	Andrew Tussing	15
Fire Captain/Training	Justin Raabolle	11
Fire Captain/Fleet and Equipment	Dean Erickson	15
Fire Captain/PPE & Rescue	Phil Graue	6
Firefighter	Wade Canedy	30
Firefighter	Aramis Wells	24
Firefighter	David Hoban	22
Firefighter	Steve Noreen	11
Firefighter	Michael Hodne	7
Firefighter	Darrin Stowe	7
Firefighter	Erik Anderson	6
Firefighter	Sam Lane	6
Firefighter	Dan Parrott	6
Firefighter	Hunter Redfield	6
Firefighter	Tom Sorem	6
Firefighter	Micah Conroy	4
Firefighter	Kristopher Landon	4
Firefighter	Jamie Moore	4
Firefighter	Benjamin Simpson	4
Firefighter	Noah Malecha	2
Firefighter	Dylan McCallum	2
Firefighter	Davis Royle	2
Firefighter	Katelyn Sticha	2
Firefighter	Joseph Dee	1
Firefighter	Nelson Villanueva Lugo	1
Firefighter	Mark Minar	1
Firefighter	James Ingham	1

Recruiting suitable members is the major challenge to viability of volunteer and paid-on-call fire departments across the state. Strong community support for the department is evident from the number of applicants for open positions received during the periodic hiring process. The NAFRS Board and Officers will continue to be active in raising awareness in the Fire District of the excellent work done by the members and of the opportunity to serve the community.

Distribution of Years of Service – Officers and Firefighters

2021-2023



PERSONNEL HIGHLIGHTS - 2023

Hiring

NAFRS made the following hires in 2023:

- Joseph Dee – Firefighter
- Nelson Villanueva Lugo – Firefighter
- Mark Minar – Firefighter
- James Ingham - Firefighter

Retirees

- Tommy Mulligan – 15 years
- Tyler Leppert – 4 years
- Amy Redding – 2 years

EQUIPMENT

The NAFRS Equipment Committee meets on a regular basis to assess equipment condition and capabilities in light of changing community needs and advances in emergency response technology. Since its inception in 2014 NAFRS has concentrated on replacing outdated and worn-out equipment. In 2023, NAFRS ordered a new Pumper from Custom Fire to replace the current 8125. Delivery of this apparatus is expected in early 2025.



Number	8125
Type	Engine, Pumper
Year Acquired	2016
Pump Capacity	1250 gpm
Tank Capacity	1000 gallons
Foam Capacity	50 gallons
Use	First approach for all fires *Scheduled for Replacement in 2023



Number	8115
Type	Engine, Pumper
Year Acquired	2019
Pump Capacity	1250 gpm
Tank Capacity	1000 gallons
Use	Backup for city fires, large diameter hose deployment



Number	8118
Type	Ladder, 75 ft
Year Acquired	2013
Pump Capacity	2000 gpm
Tank Capacity	500 gallons
Use	Residential structural fires, historic district



Number	8128
Type	Aerial Platform, 100 ft
Year Acquired	Purchased used in 2016, built in 2004
Pump Capacity	1250 gpm
Tank Capacity	300 gallons
Use	Historic district, big box retail, industrial, high angle rescue



Number	8116
Type	Tanker
Year Acquired	2008
Pump Capacity	350 gpm
Tank Capacity	2000 gallons
Use	Water transport, backup fire pump



Number	8126
Type	Tanker
Year Acquired	2022
Pump Capacity	350 gpm
Tank Capacity	2000 gallons
Use	Water transport, backup fire pump



Number	8113
Type	Grass Fire Rig
Year Acquired	2020
Pump Capacity	100 gpm
Tank Capacity	250 gallons
Use	Wildland fires, transport ATV, boat, dive trailer



Number	none
Type	ATV
Year Acquired	2013
Pump Capacity	10 gpm
Tank Capacity	50 gallons
Use	Wildland fires, victim transport *Scheduled for replacement in 2023



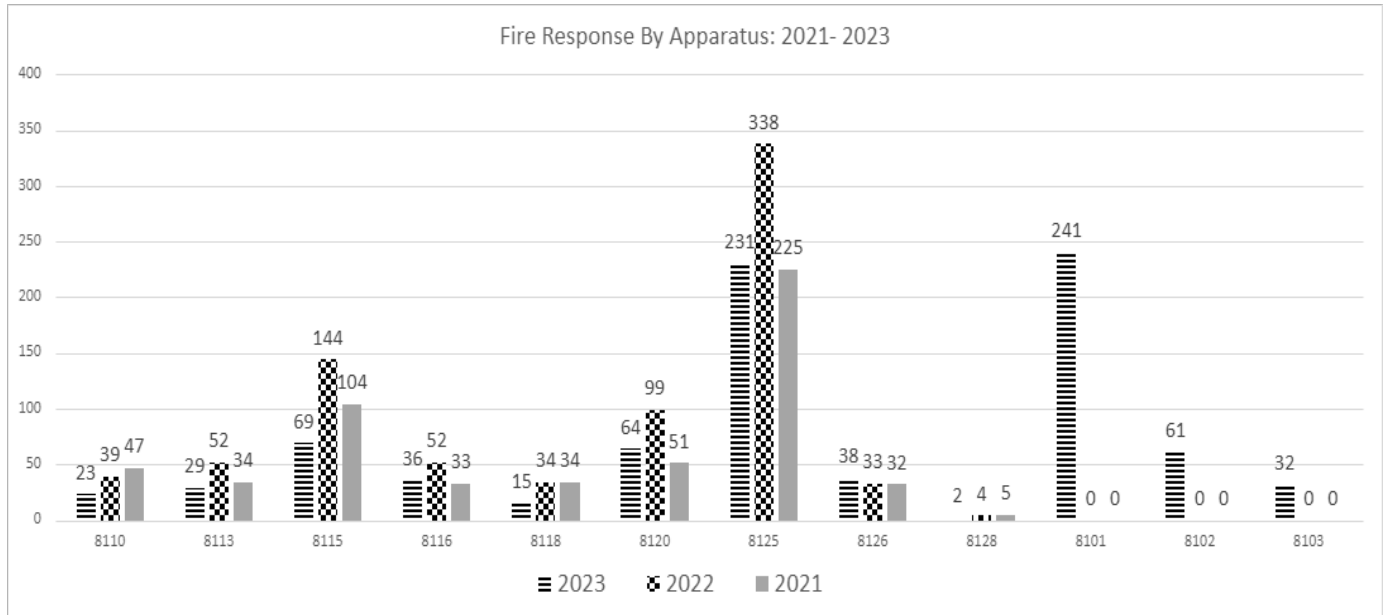
Number	8110
Type	Ambulance, 4WD
Year Acquired	2022
Use	Basic life support, victim transport, EMS support (Purchased with Community fundraising effort)



Number	8120
Type	Heavy Rescue
Year Acquired	2020
Use	Rescue, hazmat, incident command center (Purchased through a collaborative Community Fundraising effort between the Northfield Rescue Squad and the Northfield VFW Post 4393.)

FIRE RESPONSE BY APPARATUS

Since the implementation of the ImageTrend database software in 2019, which is an important addition to the information in this report, Staff has been able to track apparatus response for all fire calls each year. The graph below shows the response numbers for each of the Fire Department Apparatus.



Capital Equipment Plan 2024 - 2033

Equipment Information																		
Type	Suggested Replacement (Years)****	Year	Make	Model	No.	VIN#	Odometer**	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	
ChiefVehicle	10							\$ 75,000										
Aerial Ladder	20	2013	E-One	HP 78	8118	7992	6,393											
Pumper	15	2019	Spartan	Metro Star	8115	6839	6,304											
Elevating Platform	20	2004	Sutphen	SPH-100	8128		75,092					\$1,100,000						
Heavy Rescue	15	2020	Spartan	Gladiator	8120		4,167											
Ambulance	15	2021	Ford	F-450	8110	1718	3,028											
Grass Rig	10	2020	Chevy	3500	8113	7365	2,699							\$ 120,000				
Pumper	7	2016	Spartan	Metro Star	8125	1713	13,688	\$ 400,000	\$ 550,000							\$ 950,000		
Tanker	15	2022	Freightliner		8126		781											
Tanker	15	2008	Peterbuilt	M340	8116	2843	9,461		\$ 475,000									
ATV	10	2013	Polaris	Ranger 900XT	8123	4XAU	246	\$ 25,000										
ATV	N/A	2004	Polars	Ranger 400		7437	132 HR											
Other																		
Compressor		2015	Scott				178 HR											
Air Packs and Bottles		2015	Scott															
ATV Trailer		2013	Aluma			1873		\$ 5,000										
Boat										\$ 25,000								
Duck Trailer		1993				1073												
Boat Trailer		1993																
ATV Trailer		2004	Eagle															
***ESTIMATED REVENUE									\$ 500,000			\$ 75,000			\$ 350,000			
TOTAL									\$ 505,000	\$ 1,025,000	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$1,025,000	\$ -	\$ 120,000	\$ 600,000		

ISO RATING

Northfield's Public Protection Classification Number (ISO rating) is: 04/4Y

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) collects and evaluates information from communities in the United States on their structure fire suppression capabilities. The data is analyzed using our Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) and then a Public Protection Classification (PPC™) grade is assigned to the community. The surveys are conducted whenever it appears that there is a possibility of a PPC change. As such, the PPC program provides important, up-to-date information about fire protection services throughout the country.

The FSRS recognizes fire protection features only as they relate to suppression of first alarm structure fires. In many communities, fire suppression may be only a small part of the fire department's overall responsibility. ISO recognizes the dynamic and comprehensive duties of a community's fire service, and understands the complex decisions a community must make in planning and delivering emergency services. However, in developing a community's PPC grade, only features related to reducing property losses from structural fires are evaluated. Multiple alarms, simultaneous incidents and life safety are not considered in this evaluation. The PPC program evaluates the fire protection for small to average size buildings. Specific properties with a Needed Fire Flow in excess of 3,500 gpm are evaluated separately and assigned an individual PPC grade.

A community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Statistical data on insurance losses bears out the relationship between excellent fire protection - as measured by the PPC program - and low fire losses. So, insurance companies use PPC information for marketing, underwriting, and to help establish fair premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC grade is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC grade, assuming all other factors are equal.

ISO is an independent company that serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments, insurance regulators, and others by providing information about risk. ISO's expert staff collects information about municipal fire suppression efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data and assigns a PPC grade - a number from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents an exemplary fire suppression program, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

ISO's PPC program evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria, incorporating nationally recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association. A community's PPC grade depends on:

- ▶ **Needed Fire Flows**, which are representative building locations used to determine

the theoretical amount of water necessary for fire suppression purposes.

- ▶ **Emergency Communications**, including emergency reporting, telecommunicators, and dispatching systems.
- ▶ **Fire Department**, including equipment, staffing, training, geographic distribution of fire companies, operational considerations, and community risk reduction.
- ▶ **Water Supply**, including inspection and flow testing of hydrants, alternative water supply operations, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires up to 3,500 gpm.

Northfield's last ISO PCC rating was completed in the fall of 2017, and has been in effect since July 1, 2018. Northfield's PCC rating was classified as a **04/4Y**. A copy of the PCC Summary Report is on file with NAFRS, and can be reviewed upon request.