

Fire Board Report

CDH-Vergas Fire & Rescue Board conducted the annual meeting on February 1, 2022, 7pm, at the Fire Hall.

Fire:

1. Responded to 39 fire calls in 2021: 10 grass fire (26%) with another 3 (8%) grass/brush mixture fires and 8 (21%) building fires were the major categories of fire response.
2. There were 11 mutual aid calls. Reflects 4 Dent, 3 Frazee, 3 DL, 1 Perham
3. No trends by day or time of day. Did respond to more grass fires in 2021.
4. 39 response calls in 2021, compares to 40 fire calls in 2020 and 43 in 2019.
5. There are 24 fireman. Down 1 fireman, however compared to other communities Vergas is sitting good.
6. Experiencing increased costs impacting budget. Need to purchase 4 sets of gear this year and cost went up \$400. (Was \$1200, now \$1600). A 3% budget increase was previously approved for 2022.
7. Need to be finish outfitting engine 2 and look at fire vehicle replacements, which is very costly.

Rescue:

1. Responded to 90 calls on 2021: 30 (33%) Medical and 23 (26%) falls were the major categories of response.
2. Number of calls is consistent with prior years. No trends by day or time of day.
3. Breakdown of where responded: Hobart 35 (39%); Vergas 24 (27%); Candor 20 (22%), Dora 10 (11%); and Lida1 (1%).
4. There are 15 rescue members, 4 which are also fireman. There were 3 retirements in 2021 and recruited 2 new members. Could use 5-6 more. The fact that rescue is not deemed an essential service in Minnesota, with no retirement benefit, is problematic.
5. Purchased a Binder Lift in 2021 to assist in lifts from the ground, which has been very effective.

Annual Audit was completed on January 31, 2022 with no issues.