

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MINNESOTA STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

CONTENTS

- 2** HISTORICAL TIMELINE
- 4** ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
- 6** STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION
- 8** FIRE CODE TEAM
- 10** FIRE DATA TEAM
- 12** FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM
- 16** FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION TEAM
- 18** FIRE PROTECTION TEAM
- 22** FIRE SERVICE SPECIALISTS
- 25** HEALTH CARE TEAM
- 29** RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM
- 33** SCHOOL INSPECTION TEAM
- 37** SPECIAL TEAMS AND PROJECTS
- 39** STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS
- 42** SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM
- 44** MINNESOTA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER
TRAINING AND EDUCATION
- 46** RETIREMENTS



Welcome to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's State Fire Marshal Division 2019 Annual Report.

Each year, the State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD) continues to grow and develop new ways of assisting the thousands of clients we work with on a day-to-day basis. From fire departments to building officials, from schools to hotels, and day cares to health care facilities, the staff of the SFMD are always there to answer questions, conduct building inspections, certify commercial fire sprinkler plans, and educate our clients in the most current of fire and life safety procedures. On top of that, the SFMD also completed the important project of updating the Minnesota State Fire Code — which was adopted March 31, 2020. Our fire investigation team is being called out to complete a thorough fire investigation at more and more structure fires. Their expertise is also in demand for more fire investigation training across the State of Minnesota. All in all, 2019 ended up being yet another very busy year. But it was all for a good cause – making the citizens of the state, and the buildings they work and reside in — the safest in the country.

Being able to adapt has helped the SFMD manage the myriad of issues we face every day. And the fire service has needed to adapt to new and different issues, as well. Higher incidences of cancer, an increase in cardiac and psychological episodes, continued recruitment and retention concerns. All of these are the dangers and dilemmas the Minnesota fire service must adapt to. We must now begin to treat fires as hazardous material calls. We must now aggressively monitor all aspects of our health. We must now have in place a solid plan to deal with the psychological impacts of being one of today's firefighters. The fire service is changing in almost every respect. The state fire marshal division will always be there to assist with the right answers, the right person to call, or the right foundation to contact.

As your state fire marshal, I am proud to provide you with the State Fire Marshal Division 2019 Annual Report.

Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Smith".

Jim Smith
State Fire Marshal

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1905

Legislation authorizing governor to appoint state fire marshal for two-year term. Funding through tax levy on insurance companies.

1907

Amendment authorizing two deputy state fire marshals. Authorization to pay fire departments \$1 for reports submitted to the state fire marshal.

1913

All former acts repealed and new State Fire Marshal Department was created. Governor appointed fire marshal and two deputies.

1919

The appointing authority was given to the Commissioner of Insurance.

1970

The State Fire Marshal Department moved into the Department of Public Safety to be known as the State Fire Marshal Division (SFMD). Gene Weber transfers from the Insurance Commission to DPS to be the state fire marshal.

1972

Health care inspection program begins through a contract with the state health department. Wes Werner is appointed state fire marshal.

1975

Legislature adopted Minnesota's first fire code. (October) — Minnesota Uniform Fire Code (MUFC) adopted the 1973 edition of the Uniform Fire Code (UFC).

1977 (January 28)

17 people killed in a fire at Stratford Hotel in Breckenridge, Minn.

1977

State Fire Marshal Division receives a \$20,000 grant from the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration (now the U.S. Fire Administration) to implement the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Minnesota becomes one of the first states to participate.

1925

Legislative action made the Commissioner of Insurance the Ex-Officio State Fire Marshal.

1937

Tax levy to fund the State Fire Marshal Department was raised to 1/2 percent of all insurance premiums to include Town Fire Insurance Company and Farmers Mutual.

1941

Legislature directed all monies collected by the State Fire Marshal for tax and license fees, etc., to be turned over to the General Fund. Fire Marshal Department to be operated under an appropriation by legislative action.

1969

Legislative action created a Department of Public Safety.

1978-79

Legislative action enabled local fire departments to enforce the MUFC without local adoption.

1978

Ten positions added to implement hotel/motel/resort inspection program as a result of the Stratford Hotel fire and others.

1979 (May)

First national fire incident reporting system conference is held in Minnesota.

1980

Minnesota is the first state in the nation to require smoke alarms in new and rental residential properties. Three fire code specialists were added.

1983 (April)

MUFC updated to 1982 edition of the UFC.

1987 (March)

Thomas Brace appointed state fire marshal.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1989

Three more positions were added to the SFMD: Two day care inspectors and one fire safety educator. The first edition of the Fire in Minnesota annual report is released. (October) — MUFC updated to 1988 edition of the UFC

1990

Legislation added five new positions to the SFMD to conduct school inspections in Minnesota.

1992

New program added to license fire sprinkler contractors, designers, and fitters. New program to develop operation of Hazardous Material Response Teams.

1998

As a result of the Arson Task Force, two new positions were added to the SFMD: One arson investigation trainer and one juvenile fire setter interventionist. (June) — MUFC updated to 1997 edition of UFC. One inspector for the Fire Protection Team was added.

1993

Legislative action updated arson statutes. Legislation requires a smoke alarm in every dwelling (new and existing). (August) MUFC updated to 1991 edition of the UFC.

1995

Licensing of operators of public fireworks displays. One fire investigator position added.

1996

The Attorney General formed a task force to study the crime of arson in Minnesota. The division received a federal grant of \$400,000 to study arson as it relates to the criminal or abusive use of alcohol and/or drugs.

1999

The arson data specialist position was filled. Legislation added funding for a part-time code specialist position, to be hired in FY 01.

2000

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) — Version 5 introduced and implementation begun.

2003 (March)

Fire code changed to adopt the 2000 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC); became known as the Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC). (June) — Jerry Rosendahl appointed state fire marshal.

2005 (April)

100th anniversary of the State Fire Marshal Division.

2007 (July)

MSFC updated to 2006 edition of the IFC.

2008

Online fire reporting software system purchased for fire departments to use. Minnesota is the first state fire marshal to have such a system.

2009 (January 1)

All fire reporting to meet NFIRS Version 5 (electronic reporting).

2012 (August 1)

Fire protection system demonstration Trailer placed into service

2013 (December)

Bruce West appointed state fire marshal.

2014 (September)

25th anniversary of *Fire in Minnesota* is published using an updated format.

2015 (April)

110th anniversary of the State Fire Marshal Division.

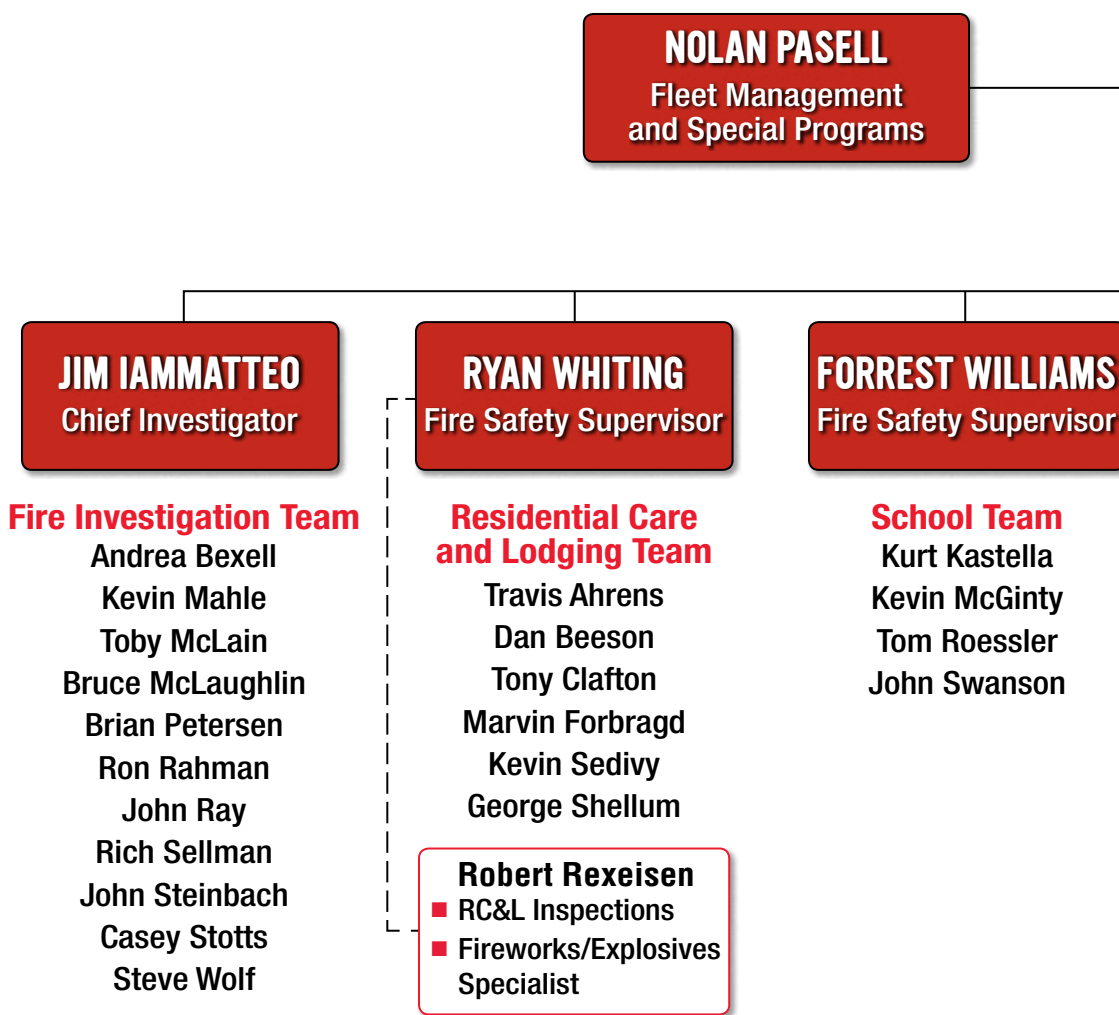
2016 (May)

The 2015 Minnesota Fire Code was adopted on May 2.

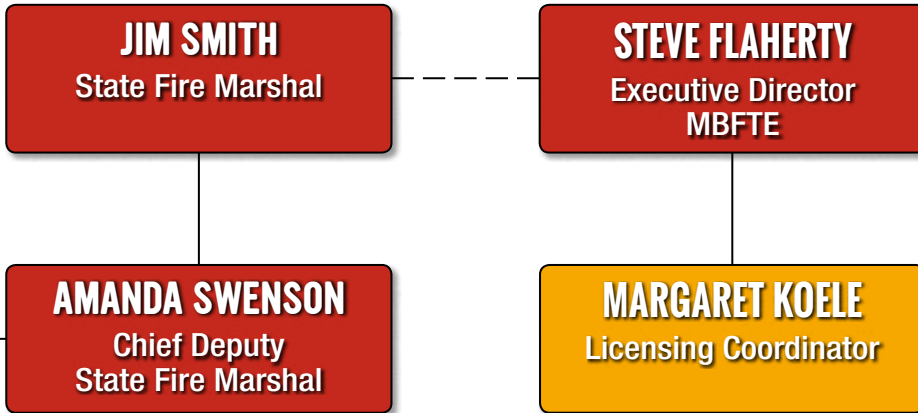
2019 (December)

Jim Smith appointed as the state fire marshal.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART — STAFFING



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – STAFFING



TOM LINHOFF
Fire Safety Supervisor

- Health Care Team**
William Abderhalden
James Anderson
Bob Baumann
Larry Gannon
Steve Jurrens
Roy Kingsley
Kimberly Swenson

- Kerry Queen**
- DOC Inspections
 - FSCC Program
 - BLSC Inspections

JON NISJA
Fire Safety Supervisor

- Fire Protection Team**
Dan Kaiser
Ryan Kunst
Ralph Peterson
- State Fire Code Team**
Tom Jenson
(Code Specialist)
Jake Lindquist
(Code Training and Development)

- Information Management Team**
Nora Gierok
Joel Paylor
Scott Radke

JOHN EHRET
Fire Safety Supervisor

- Fire Service Specialists**
Vacant
(NE Region)
Tate Mills
(Central Region)
Jared Rozeboom
(South Region)
Steve White
(NW Region)

- Public Education/
YFPI Team**
Kathi Osmonson
Bob Reif

- Tom McDonough**
- State Response Teams Coordinator

- John Kreuser
Bob Berg**
- Program Planners

BARB LUNDBERG
Office Manager

- Support Services**
Kathleen Donovan
Nathan Le
Randi Samuelson
Becky Schmidt
Marian Whitney

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Residential Inspector | Owatonna
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Health Care Inspector | Little Falls
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BAUMANN, Robert

Health Care Inspector | Alexandria
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Residential Inspector | Brainerd
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MBFTE Director | St. Paul
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LINHOFF, Thomas

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McGINTY, Kevin

School Inspector | Zimmerman
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McLAUGHLIN, Bruce

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NISJA, Jon

Sprinkler and Training Supervisor | St. Paul
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OSMONSON, Kathi

Fire and Life Safety/YFPI Specialist | St. Paul
(O) 651-201-7220 (C) 763-280-4609

PETERSEN, Brian

Investigator | Waseca
(C) 651-263-0793

PETERSON, Ralph

Sprinkler Inspector | St. Paul
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Data Administrator | St. Paul
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RAHMAN, Ron

Investigator | Northfield
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Fire and Life Safety/YFPI Specialist | St. Paul
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Residential Inspector | Silver Lake
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Fire Marshal | St. Paul
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STEINBACH, John

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Investigator | Hutchinson
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SWENSON, Amanda

Interim Chief Deputy | St. Paul
(O) 651-201-7202 (C) 651-398-1091

SWENSON, Kimberly

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WHITE, Steve

Fire Service Specialist | Walker
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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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LE, Nathan

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LUNDBERG, Barbara

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SAMUELSON, Randi

Residential/Schools | St. Paul
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SCHMIDT, Rebecca

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WHITNEY, Marian

Health Care | St. Paul
(O) 651-201-7213

FIRE CODE TEAM



ABOUT

The Fire Code Team provides fire code information, guidance in the development of state fire code and training on fire code provisions.

MEET THE TEAM

Jon Nisja | Supervisor

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7204 or jon.nisja@state.mn.us

Tom Jenson | Fire Code Specialist

Location: St. Paul

Duties: Provides fire code information for code officials, design professionals and the public. Assists in the adoption of the State Fire Code.

Contact: 651-201-7221 or thomas.jenson@state.mn.us

Jacob Lindquist | Fire Code Specialist

Location: St. Paul

Duties: Coordinates the division's training efforts. Assists with fire code adoption.

Contact: 651-201-7219

WHAT THEY DO

The team's mission is to save lives and property, reduce business interruption and minimize the environmental impact from fire and hazardous materials. The Fire Code Team provides fire safety regulations that can be used throughout Minnesota to help reduce the number and severity of fires.

Since the 1975 adoption of a fire code in Minnesota, fire deaths have dropped dramatically. The fire code is a tool for state and local fire officials to improve fire and life safety in buildings and facilities. We hope to continue reducing fire deaths in Minnesota through refinement and enforcement of the fire code.

BEST OF 2019

SFMD code staff worked on the adoption of a newer edition of the Minnesota State Fire Code, which became effective March 31, 2020.

State Fire Marshal Conference

The SFMD hosted its eighth-annual conference April 16-17. The 2019 Fire Marshal Conference was a joint venture with the Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota (FMAM). More than 170 people attended this two-day training event that featured National Fire Protection Association President James Pauley as the keynote presenter. Training topics included:

- Community risk reduction strategies
- Effective communications
- Fire protection failures
- Legal issues for fire inspections
- Motor vehicle fuel dispensing
- Commercial cooking appliances and protection
- Smoke alarm and detector technology
- Fire department site plan review

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

The team prides itself on same-day responses for code questions or at least answering questions within 24 hours.

- Code questions answered:
 - 2019: 2,190
 - 2018: 2,082
 - 2017: 2,290
 - 2016: 2,282
 - 2015: 2,435
- Most common methods for questions: Telephone (40 percent) or email (60 percent)
- Code questions are asked by:
 - Code officials: 32%
 - Building owners: 24%
 - General public: 15%
 - Contractors: 15%
 - Others: 14%

In addition to the two full-time staff and supervisor, six other members of the division monitor and respond to fire code emails.

Fire code and fire protection training

State fire code staff worked with the fire protection staff to provide training opportunities to fire departments, fire protection contractors, fire and building code officials and architects.

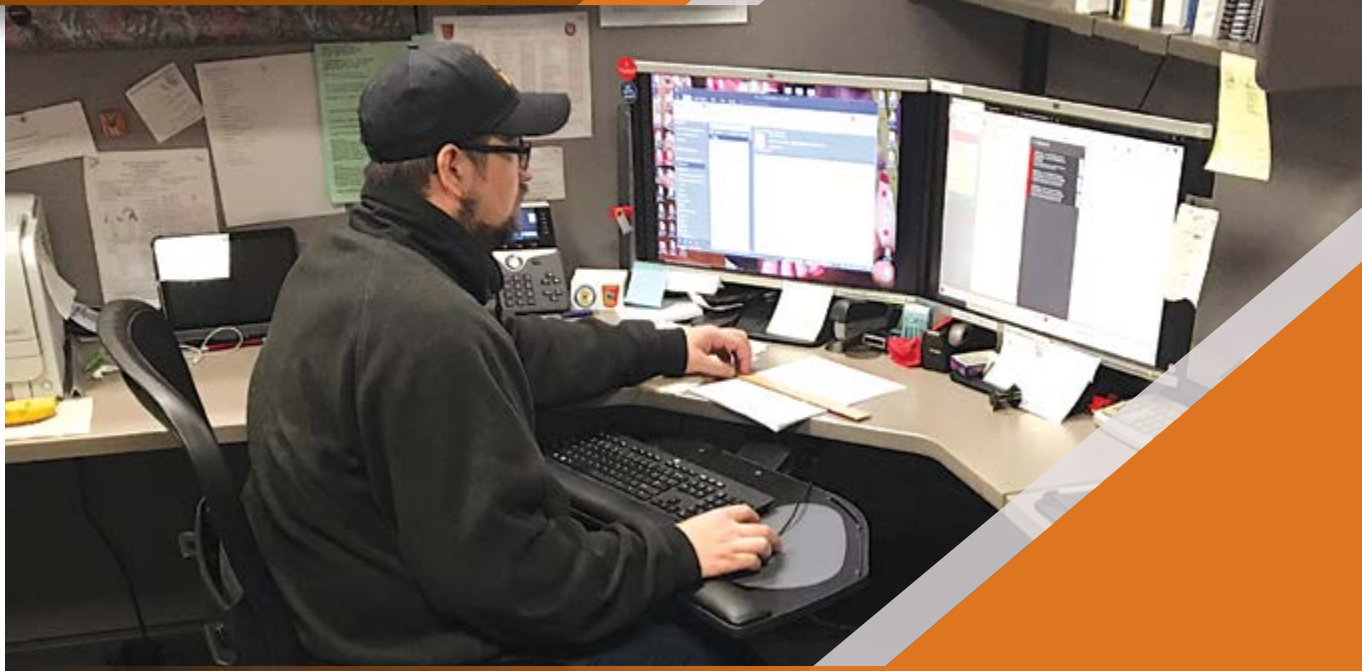
SFMD staff provided 380 hours of training to more than 634 attendees on fire prevention and fire safety in 2019 at locations across the state and at fire inspection conferences, including the annual State Fire Marshal Conference.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fire Code Team staff taught 23 classes totaling 9,286 hours in 2019.

FIRE CODE QUESTIONS — 2019			
Month	Method received		
	Phone	E-mail	Total
January	71	127	198
February	68	114	182
March	69	121	190
April	50	136	186
May	66	145	211
June	65	116	181
July	63	140	203
August	73	106	179
September	55	96	151
October	84	126	210
November	49	94	143
December	54	102	156
Totals	767	1,423	2,190

FIRE DATA TEAM



ABOUT

The Fire Data Team has three primary functions:

- Collection and analysis of statewide fire data.
- Publication of *Fire in Minnesota*.
- Dissemination of fire loss data.

MEET THE TEAM

Jon Nisja | Supervisor

Contact: 651-201-7204 or jon.nisja@state.mn.us

Nora Gierok | Office and Admin Specialist

Duties: Manages the state fire reporting system, coordinates the *Fire in Minnesota* report, serves as point of contact for the federal fire reporting system.

Contact: 651-201-7209 or nora.gierok@state.mn.us

Joel Paylor | Office and Admin Specialist

Duties: Manages the SFMD training website and registrations, newsletters, handles data reporting and other administrative support.

Contact: 651-201-7210 or joel.d.paylor@state.mn.us

Scott Radke | State Fire Data Administrator

Duties: Serves as research analyst for fire data and business processes in the SFMD, trains and supports Minnesota fire departments, supports SFMD investigations and inspections teams.

Contact: 651-201-7222 or scott.radke@state.mn.us

WHAT THEY DO

The team's mission is to save lives and property by collecting and analyzing fire-loss data and publishing the *Fire in Minnesota report*. The Fire Data Team collects and disseminates fire-related data and information to help make Minnesota a safer place to live, work and play.

The team seeks to learn where fires are occurring and what causes them in an effort to provide prevention-related information.

BEST OF 2019

Fire in Minnesota

The *Fire in Minnesota* report provides a snapshot of Minnesota's fire problem for the prior year.

The 2018 report provided information on more than 300,000 incidents responded to by 772 fire departments. Included were 12,929 fires doing \$229.3 million in damage.

Copies of *Fire in Minnesota* are available on the division's website — sfm.dps.mn.gov — for download. Printed copies are also available by contacting one of the staff on the Fire Data Team.



The report summarizes the activities of Minnesota's fire departments over the past year.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

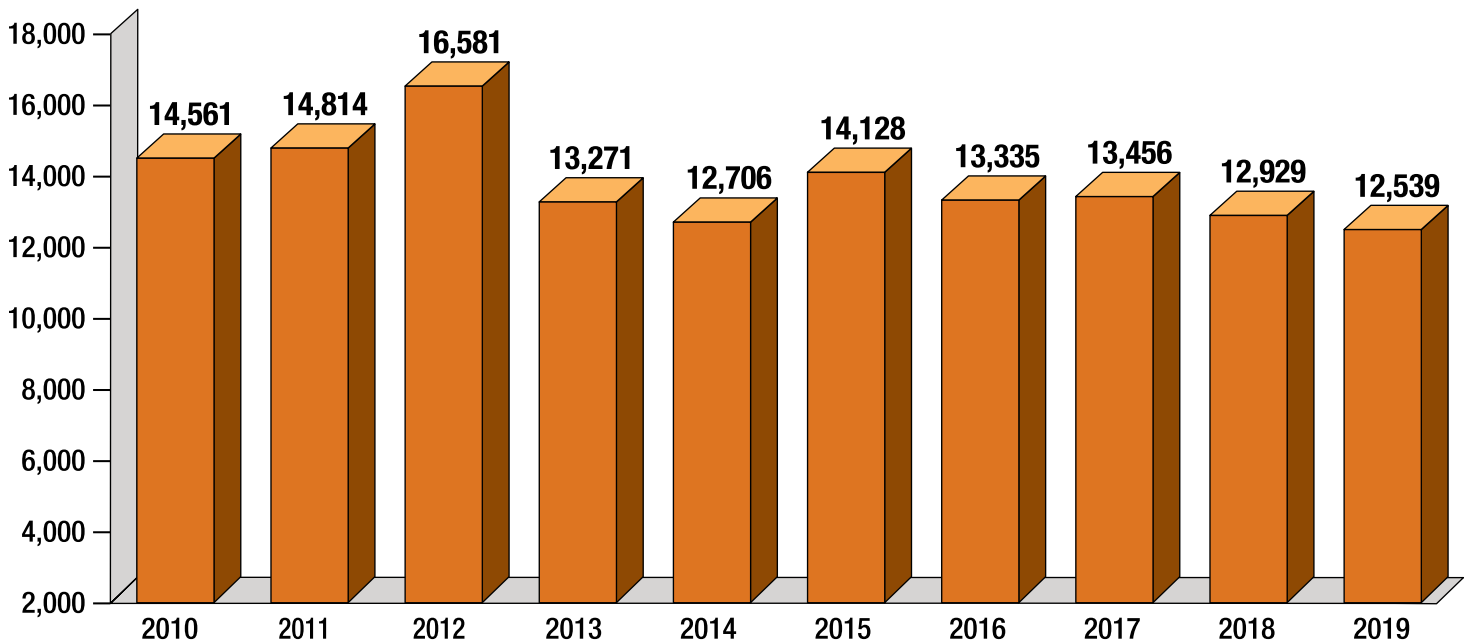
Fire data analysis

The team collected fire incident reports from 771 of the state's 776 fire departments and compiled the fire loss data into its annual report: *Fire in Minnesota* — 2018. Fire departments responded to over 300,000 incidents. Due to the volume and complexity of the data, it takes several months to process and compile this into a usable report.

DID YOU KNOW?

The SFMD was the first agency in the nation to supply a state-wide online fire reporting system for local fire departments.

FIRES IN MINNESOTA 2010 – 2019



FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM



ABOUT

The history of fire investigations in Minnesota goes back to the earliest days of the SFMD. When the office of the State Fire Marshal was established in 1905, one of its primary functions was investigating fire origins and causes. Although state statute assigns responsibility for determining origin and cause of fires to the local fire chief, that function remains a high priority for the SFMD to this day, and staff continues to provide investigative services whenever asked by a local FD.

The Fire Investigation Team consists of 11 investigators and one chief investigator. Each investigator works from a home office located in an assigned regional service area. Coverage areas are reviewed regularly to see if changes need to be made to maintain effective response times — typically two to three hours — but it can be longer when weather is a factor.

MEET THE TEAM

Jim Iammatteo | Chief Investigator/Supervisor

Location: Keewatin

Contact: 218-778-0016 or james.iammatteo@state.mn.us

Kathleen Donovan | Investigative Team Support

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7208 or kathleen.donovan@state.mn.us

Andrea Bexell | Investigator

Location: Thief River Falls

Coverage area: Northwestern Minnesota

Contact: 218-684-1007 or andrea.wenzlaff@state.mn.us

Kevin Mahle | Investigator/Trainer

Location: Bemidji

Coverage area: North Central Minnesota

Contact: 612-718-8448 or kevin.mahle@state.mn.us

Toby McLain | Investigator

Location: Alexandria

Coverage area: West Central Minnesota

Contact: 612-270-6146 or toby.mclain@state.mn.us

Bruce McLaughlin | Investigator

Location: Inver Grove Heights

Coverage area: East Central Minnesota

Contact: 612-716-6886 or bruce.mclaughlin@state.mn.us

Brian Petersen | Investigator

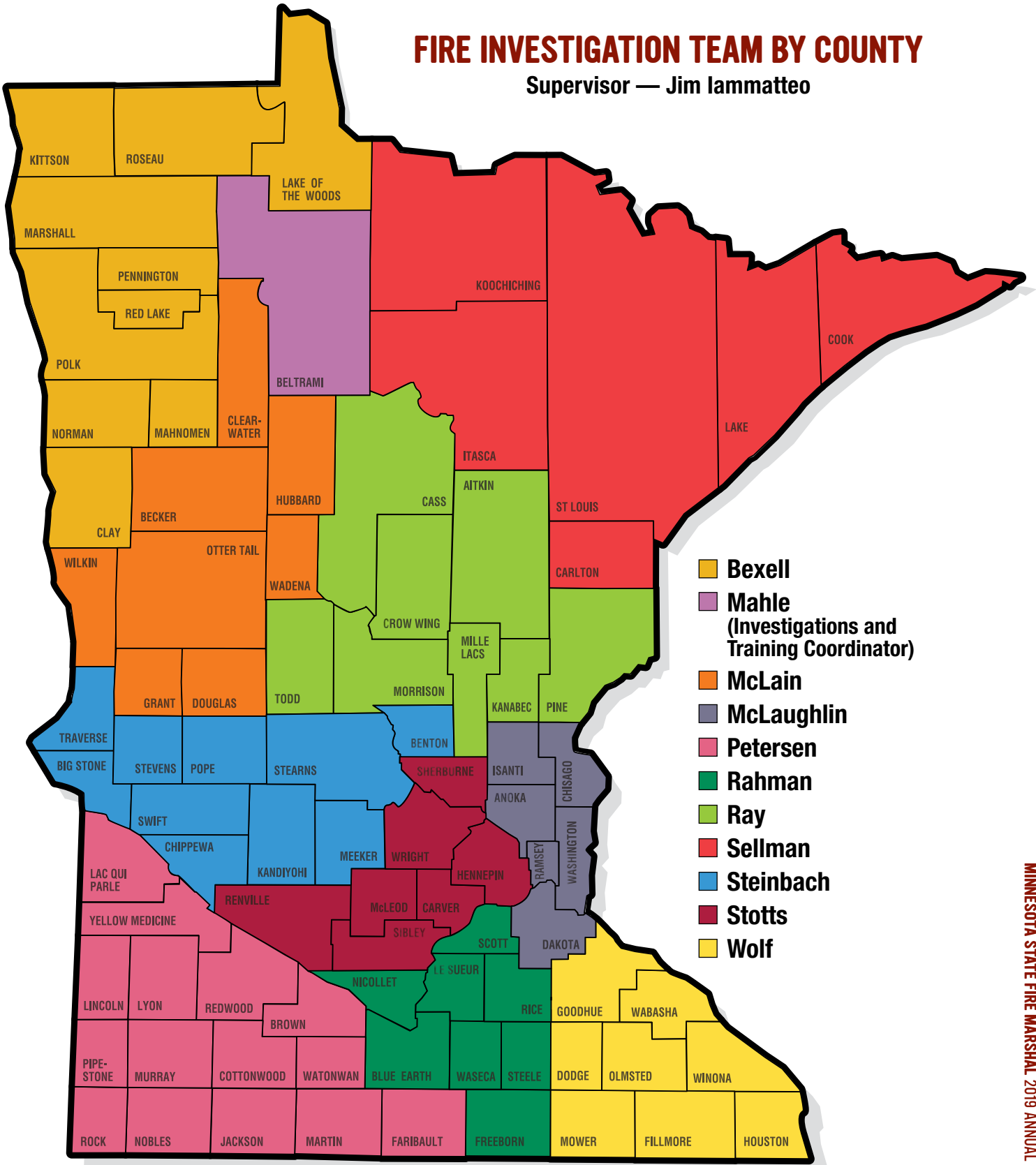
Location: Waseca

Coverage area: Southwest Minnesota

Contact: 651-263-0793 or brian.petersen@state.mn.us

FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Jim Iammatteo



FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM

Ron Rahman I Investigator

Location: Northfield

Coverage area: South Central Minnesota

Contact: 612-716-1654 or ronald.rahman@state.mn.us

John Ray I Investigator

Location: Brainerd

Coverage area: Central Minnesota

Contact: 218-232-1844 or john.ray@state.mn.us

Richard Sellman I Investigator

Location: Chisholm

Coverage area: Northeast Minnesota

Contact: 218-966-4436 or richard.sellman@state.mn.us

John Steinbach I Investigator

Location: New London

Coverage area: Central Minnesota

Contact: 612-710-6825 or john.steinbach@state.mn.us

Casey Stotts I Investigator

Location: Hutchinson

Coverage area: South Central Minnesota

Contact: 651-263-0973 or casey.stotts@state.mn.us

Steve Wolf I Investigator

Location: Stewartville

Coverage area: Southeast Minnesota

Contact: 763-458-7348 or steven.wolf@state.mn.us

WHAT THEY DO

The team helps local fire departments determine fire origin and cause and also helps county, state and federal agencies bring arson cases to justice. Investigators help with interviews and interrogation, subpoena documents, and provide other assistance to agencies involved in case resolution. Fire investigation is a complex science, difficult to master but essential to justice. The SFMD's goal has always been to have all investigators trained to the certified fire investigator level, the gold standard in crime investigation, in law enforcement and in the courtroom.

BEST OF 2019

The SFMD's basic and advanced training has been updated and follows the standards set forth by the National Fire Academy. These class are being rolled out statewide and SFMD Training Coordinator Kevin Mahle is available to discuss fire investigation training needs and questions.

The SFMD hired a new investigator in 2019. John Ray comes to the SFMD from Maryland's State Fire Marshal's Office. John started his career right here in Minnesota. Hiring John has been a big help in investigating fires in the Brainerd lakes region as well as across the state. He has settled right in with his wife and children.

The SFMD has updated trucks from half-ton to three-quarter ton. These newer and larger pickups allow investigators to tow job site trailers to a scene and retire a large walk-in rescue type apparatus. Investigators can now respond to larger scenes a lot faster.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

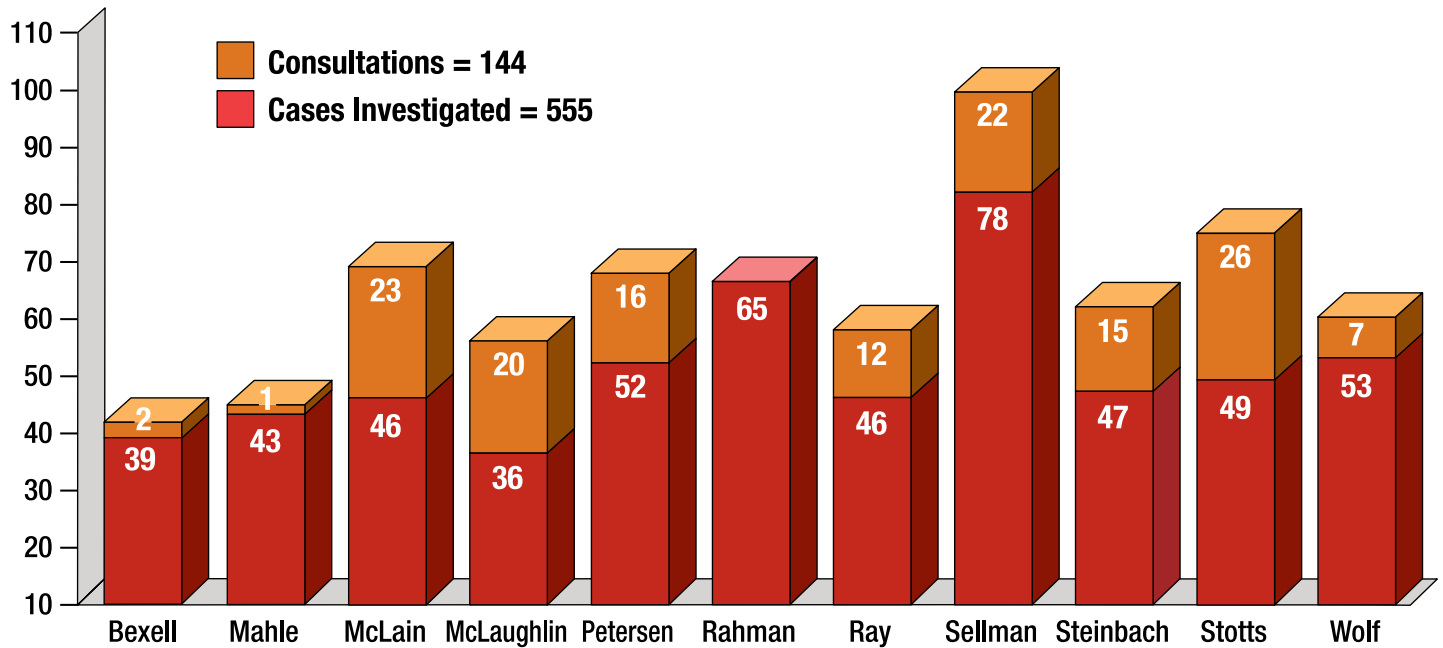
Investigations

The team assists with hundreds of fire investigations each year across Minnesota. Investigation assistance may be requested by local fire service or law enforcement personnel. Investigators will not be dispatched when requests are received from private citizens or insurance companies.

The team has investigated more than 2,400 fires since 2012:

- 2019:555 (plus 144 consultations)
- 2018:557
- 2017:506
- 2016:475
- 2015:465
- 2014:413
- 2013:396
- 2012:428

INVESTIGATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS – 2019



Training

Basic and advanced training courses continue to draw interest from Minnesota firefighters and law enforcement officers. Training is mandated by state statute and conducted by Investigator Kevin Mahle.

- Class topics:
 - Organizing the fire scene
 - Basic fire investigation
 - State fire school
 - Basic fire and arson investigation
 - Basic fire safety
 - A line firefighter's role in fire investigations
 - Advanced fire investigation
 - Fire death investigation
 - Interview and interrogations in fire investigations
- Training classes in 2019: 57
- Number of students: 1,153

DID YOU KNOW?

All of the SFMD investigators are either current or retired firefighters.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION TEAM



About

The Fire and Life Safety Education Team focuses on fire and life safety education across Minnesota.

Meet the Team

John Ehret | Interim Supervisor

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7214 or john.ehret@state.mn.us

Kathi Osmonson | Fire and Life Safety/ YFPI Specialist

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7220 or kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us

Bob Reif | Fire and Life Safety/ YFPI Specialist

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7206 or robert.reif@state.mn.us

What They Do

The Fire and Life Safety Education Team works to educate citizens on the dangers of fire, promote fire-safe behavior, coordinate the youth fire prevention and intervention (YFPI) team, and provide resources and education to fire departments to improve and expand fire and life safety programs. The team works with other SFMD staff to learn more about where and

why fires are happening in the state in order to provide insight to departments and partners.

The team also works closely with the Department of Public Safety's Office of Communications to develop prevention materials for the public, fire service and media.

Best of 2019

Bob Reif joined the team in April and brings his background as an educator and as a firefighter to the team. Former State Fire Marshal Bruce West became a Department of Public Safety assistant commissioner. DPS Commissioner John Harrington appointed Jim Smith as the new fire marshal. Amanda Swenson became interim chief deputy and John Ehret became the Fire and Life Safety Team's interim supervisor.

The Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Team program managers began meeting monthly via Skype and the team has formed a board of directors that guides SFMD educators to meet the needs of the statewide team. The team is seeking mental health partners to help with initial assessments of young fire setters.

The first YFPI talking circle took place in Leech Lake. Twenty-two representatives from four tribes, two fire departments, the Department of Natural Resources, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the SFMD talked about youth fire intervention strategies. The second advanced YFPI training (in conjunction with the

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION TEAM

IAAI conference) featured Ann Adams from Connecticut Child and Family Services.

Five fire departments participated in Sound Off. Sound Off is a national initiative offering participating fire departments free training materials, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. The strategy is for participating fire departments to target a high-risk school and teach second- and third-graders about the various sounds that a smoke alarm makes, calling attention to the low-battery chirp. The students take information home about a free home safety visit and smoke alarm installation. The goal is to raise awareness about fire prevention and safety and to make sure the high risk communities are protected with smoke alarms. At the end of the program cycle, the surplus smoke alarms were offered and distributed to fire departments in Minnesota's 15 highest fire-fatality-risk counties. We also helped metro fire departments re-distribute their smoke alarms to these counties. In all, more than 800 smoke alarms were sent to Minnesota's highest risk communities.

The SFMD's second Safety Summit was popular with fire departments from around the state. Seven topics were covered in this one-day training event.

2019 by the Numbers

The SFMD public educators sent a survey to every fire chief in the state and the educators in our distribution list asking what type of training and resources were of interest to them. Many of the chiefs were interested in on-line training or combination on-line/ classroom training. The educators are researching on-line training options as they work on their strategic plan.

The most popular training topics are Community Risk Reduction (CRR) and Public Information and Current Messaging. An on-line CRR class will soon be available through the National Fire Academy, and Vision 20/20 is considering creating an on line YFPI course. Partnerships are a key component to effective programming.

The Fire and Life Safety Education Team established a goal of reducing smoking-related fire fatalities by 30 percent over five years. Working closely with the Department of Public Safety Office of Communications, the team prepared a communications plan that will be ongoing through 2020 and beyond.

Did You Know

Adults over 50 are at the greatest risk of dying in a fire. Smoking is the top cause of fire fatalities. Alcohol is often a factor in these fire fatalities.



Bob Reif attending a community outreach event.

FIRE PROTECTION TEAM



ABOUT

The Fire Protection Team performs the following functions:

- Licenses fire protection contractors.
- Certifies installing personnel.
- Issues permits for fire protection systems.
- Reviews plans for these systems.
- Inspects fire protection systems.
- Provides training on fire protection systems.
- Provides technical assistance.

MEET THE TEAM

Jon Nisja | Supervisor

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7204 or jon.nisja@state.mn.us

Nathan Le | Protection Team Support

Location: St. Paul

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Dan Kaiser | Sprinkler Plan Reviewer

Duties: Performs plan reviews, conducts inspections and provides fire protection information to clients

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Ryan Kunst | Sprinkler Plan Reviewer

Duties: Performs plan reviews, conducts inspections and provides fire protection information to clients

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Ralph Peterson | Sprinkler Plan Reviewer

Duties: Performs plan reviews, conducts inspections and provides fire protection information to clients

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WHAT THEY DO

The team's mission is to save lives and property through effective licensing, plan review and inspecting fire protection systems. Their efforts ensure that fire protection systems work effectively, reducing the harm caused to people and property by fire.

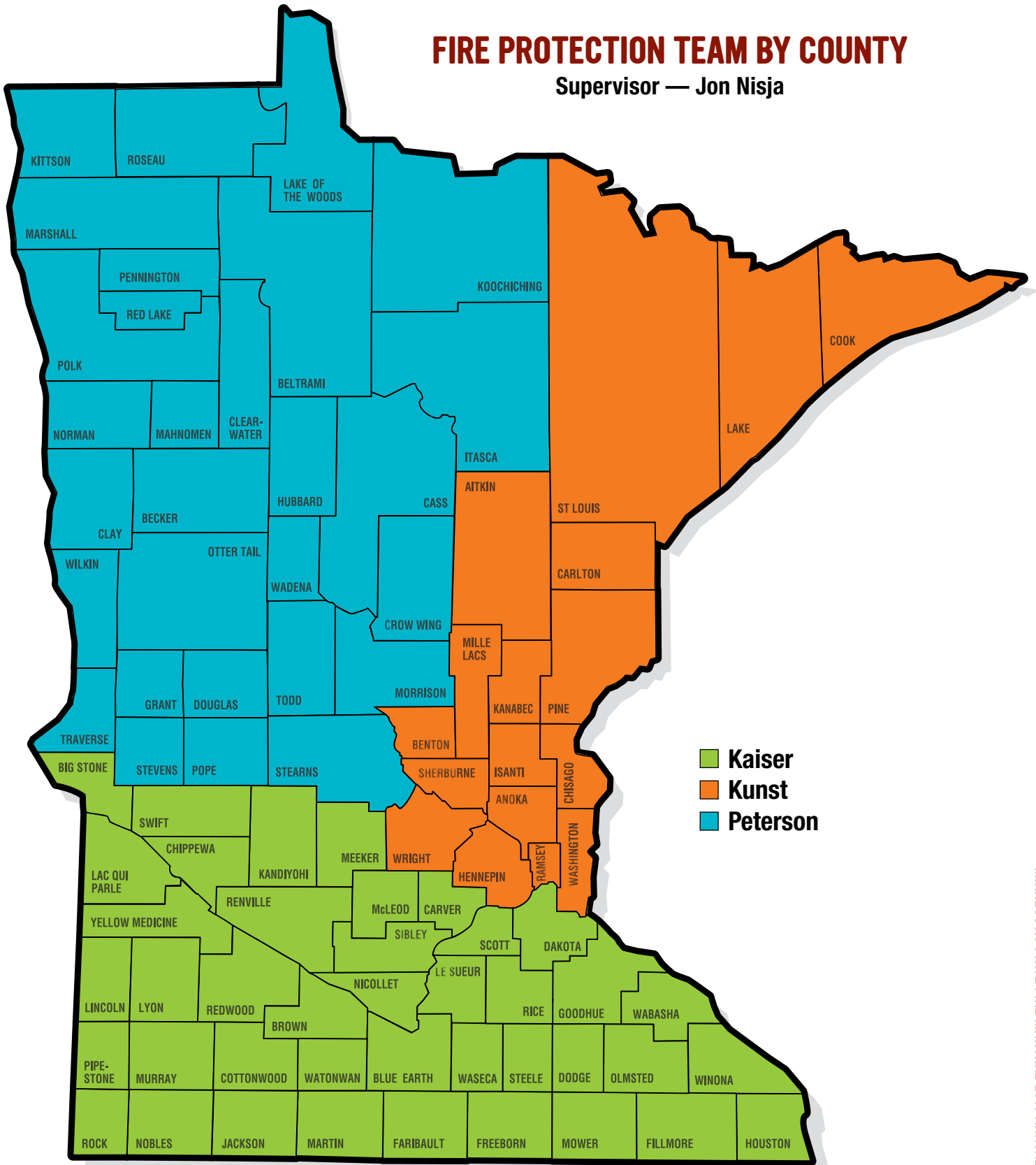
The use of fire protection systems is on the rise. The SFMD Fire Protection Team is able to track sprinkler effectiveness and show that these systems are working.

BEST OF 2019

The Fire Protection Team provided training to 535 of the state's 697 sprinkler fitters (76 percent).

FIRE PROTECTION TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Jon Nisja



- Kaiser
- Kunst
- Peterson

FIRE PROTECTION TEAM

Training on proper fire protection system installation and operation is an important function of the Fire Protection Team. The SFMD had a trailer constructed in 2012 to demonstrate fire protection systems. The trailer has seven sprinkler and

standpipe systems plus a functional fire alarm and detection system. This trailer is transported around Minnesota and used to train fire service personnel, code officials, and facility representatives.

FIRE PROTECTION DEMONSTRATION TRAILER ACTIVITY							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of Demonstrations	47	45	17	23	43	44	35
Number of Participants	908	934	223	434	772	786	555

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

Contractor licensing

In 2019 there were 71 licensed fire-protection contractors in Minnesota. A breakdown of the licenses is as follows:

- Total licensed contractors: 71
 - Limited contractors: 3
 - Design contractors: 8
 - Fire protection contractors: 60
- Breakdown of fire protection contractors
 - Out-of-state based: 22
 - Minnesota-based: 38
 - Metro area: 24
 - Greater Minnesota: 14

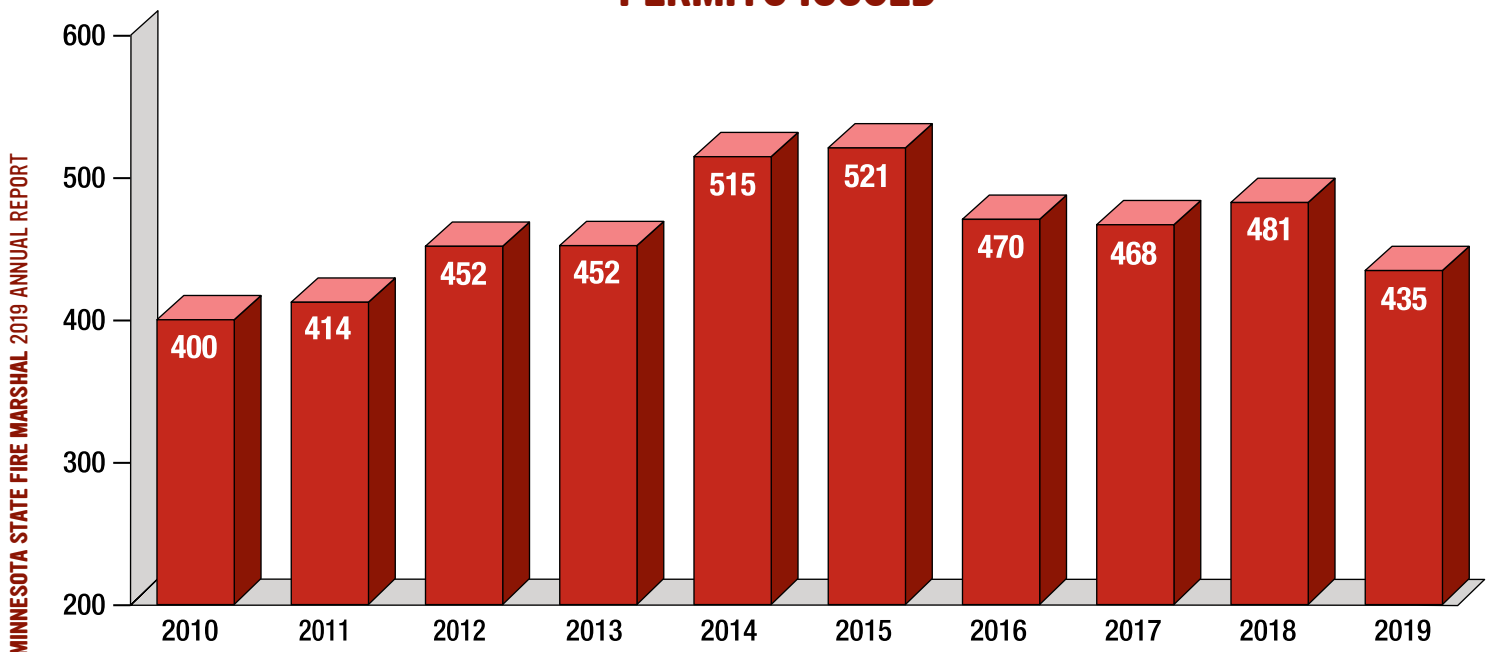
Installer certification

In 2019 there were 697 certificates were issued to journeyman sprinkler fitters and managing employees; the following is a breakdown of certificates issued:

- Number of journeyman sprinkler fitters: 609
- Number of limited journeyman sprinkler fitters: 10
- Number of managing employees: 78

Exams for journeyman sprinkler fitters and managing employees are given every two months. The following shows the exam activity for the past 10 years:

PERMITS ISSUED



Permit issuing

There are about 180 communities and townships that issue fire protection installation permits. In all other areas of Minnesota, the SFMD is the issuing authority for fire protection permits. The following table shows permit activity since 2010.

Plan reviews and inspections

The team has three full-time employees who perform hundreds of fire protection plan reviews and inspections each year. There was a slight decrease in total plan reviews in 2016, while the number of inspections increased substantially. A breakdown of the plan review and inspection activity for the past seven years is shown below:

PLANS AND INSPECTION ACTIVITY				
Year	Initial Reviews	Re-Submittal Reviews	Total Reviews	Inspections
2013	400	59	459	274
2014	424	80	504	312
2015	524	53	577	308
2016	491	48	539	423
2017	524	59	583	297
2018	355	25	360	391
2019	537	37	574	366

Fire protection systems training

Training on proper fire protection system installation and operation is an important function of the Fire Protection Team. The SFMD had a trailer constructed IN 2012 to demonstrate fire protection systems. The trailer has seven sprinkler and standpipe systems, plus a functional fire alarm and detection system. The fire protection system demonstration trailer is transported around Minnesota and used to train fire service personnel, code officials and facility representatives.

Here is the data on the Fire Protection System Demonstration Trailer activity:

- Number of demonstrations in 2019: 35
- Number of participants: 555

DID YOU KNOW?

In fires controlled by fire sprinkler systems in 2019, only 0.35 percent of the value of the building and contents was damaged.

FIRE SERVICE SPECIALISTS



ABOUT

The fire service specialists are a liaison between the SFMD and Minnesota fire departments. The fire service specialists also provide assistance as requested by fire department officials across Minnesota.

MEET THE TEAM

John Ehret | Interim Supervisor

Location: St. Paul

Contact: john.ehret@state.mn.us or 651-201-7214

Vacant | Fire Service Specialist Northeast

Tate Mills | Fire Service Specialist Central

Location: Albertville

Contact: tate.mills@state.mn.us or 320-333-2817

Jared Rozeboom | Fire Service Specialist South

Location: Hills

Contact: jared.rozeboom@state.mn.us or 507-456-0907

Steve White | Fire Service Specialist Northwest

Location: Walker

Contact: steven.l.white@state.mn.us or 218-579-0128

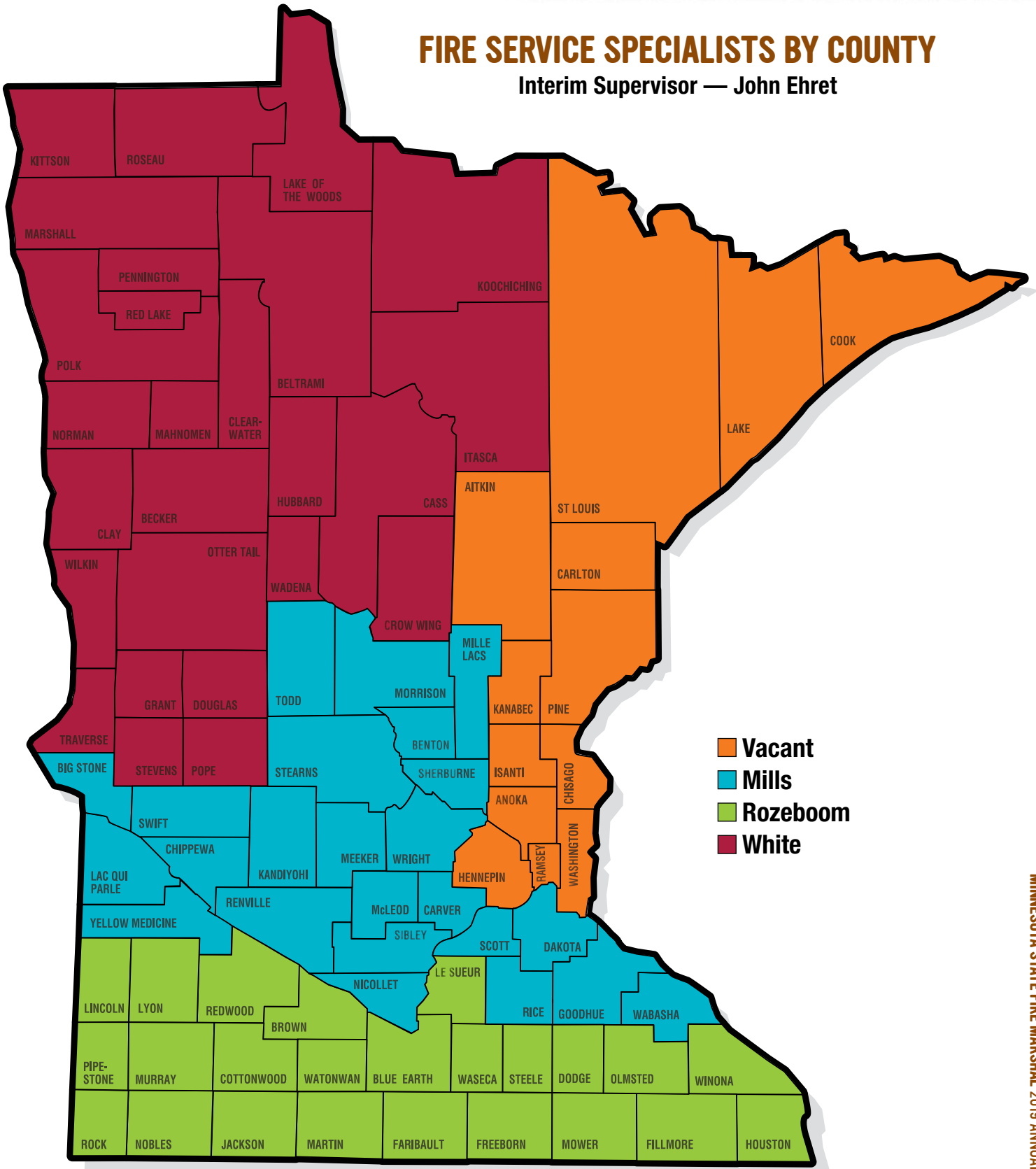
WHAT THEY DO

The fire service specialists assist fire departments upon request with the following:

- Large incident response and staging (per governor executive order)
- Deaths of retired or active duty firefighters
- Fire department management
- Disciplinary issues
- Grants
- Contracts/disputes/arbitration
- Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE) funding
- Development of standard operating guidelines and procedures
- Service Planning Grant Program
- Minimum credentials/requirements
- Mutual-aid agreements/joint-powers agreements
- National Fire Academy training (point of contact)

FIRE SERVICE SPECIALISTS BY COUNTY

Interim Supervisor — John Ehret



- Vacant
- Mills
- Rozeboom
- White

FIRE SERVICE SPECIALISTS

BEST OF 2019

The fire service specialists discussed training funds from Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education with over 560 different departments. They helped department staff fully understand the reimbursement process and how to utilize the training dollars. Along with discussions on training funds, the fire service specialists met with nearly 260 departments to discuss training props and trailers available. The team has worked to develop plans and partnerships to ensure training resources are available across the state. The list of topics that the team covers with fire departments is extensive. The other top topics during 2019 included:

- Assisting with the relationships between fire departments and townships/cities
- Recruitment and retention
- Completion of fire aid forms
- Working with the Office of the State Auditor, and relief associations
- Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System
- Mutual aid/auto aid
- Fire code
- Policies
- Federal Assistance to Firefighter Grants
- Service Planning Grants
- Merger/consolidation
- Staging Manager Program
- On-call for the State Emergency Response Teams

The team continues to work with MnFIRE to assist in the awareness and introduce the program to departments across the state.

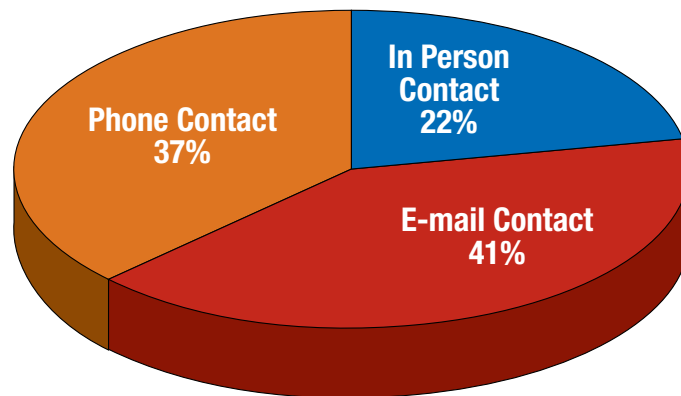
The SFMD now coordinates the State Emergency Teams. The fire service specialists now provide 24/7 on-call support for the teams.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

The Fire Service Specialists worked directly with departments to assist on a number of different topics. The team of four was able to reach 650 of the 775 fire departments across the state. Here is a breakdown of what the specialists achieved in 2019:

- 650 fire departments contacted
- 16 county government contacts
- 61 city government contacts
- 22 regional meetings attended
- 48 county chiefs meetings attended
- 10 private companies contacted
- 1,259 phone requests answered
- 1,396 email requests
- 750 in-person meetings
- 6 Service Planning Grants

TYPES OF CONTACTS



DID YOU KNOW?

The fire service specialists put thousands of miles on their trucks each month.

HEALTH CARE TEAM



ABOUT

The Health Care Team is responsible for the inspection of all health care facilities licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health and also those federally certified by the Federal Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services for federal reimbursement. Inspections are also conducted as required by the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC).

Health care facilities in these categories include:

- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Boarding care homes
- Supervised licensed facilities
- Outpatient surgical centers
- Hospice facilities
- Prisons/jails

In addition to the above facilities, the team inspects adult foster care facilities upon their initial license application to the State DHS.

The team is made up of 11 personnel: A fire safety supervisor, two support staff and eight inspectors.

MEET THE TEAM

Tom Linhoff | Supervisor

Location: St. Paul

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Kathleen Donovan | Health Care Team Support

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7208 or kathleen.donovan@state.mn.us

Marian Whitney | Health Care Team Support

Location: St. Paul

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William Abderhalden | Inspector

Location: Otsego

Coverage: West Metro

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James Anderson | Inspector

Location: Little Falls

Coverage area: Northeastern Minnesota

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Robert Baumann | Inspector

Location: Alexandria

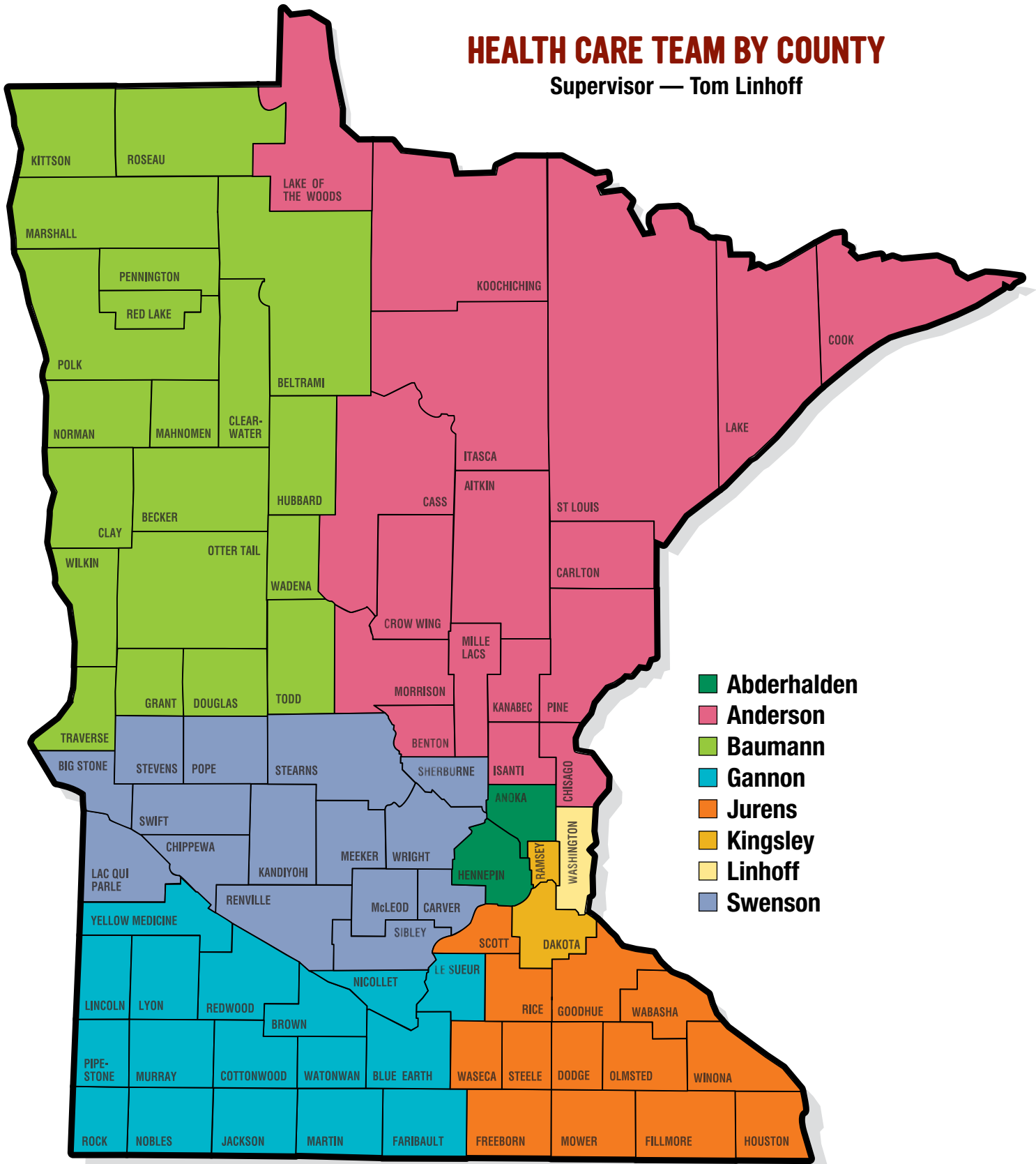
Coverage: Northwestern Minnesota

Contact: 612-430-1276 or Robert.baumann@state.mn.us

HEALTH CARE TEAM

HEALTH CARE TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Tom Linhoff



Larry Gannon I Inspector

Location: Janesville

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Steven Jurens I Inspector

Location: Kasson

Coverage area: Southeastern Minnesota

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Roy Kingsley I Inspector

Location: Mendota Heights

Coverage: East

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Kerry Queen I Inspector

Location: St. Cloud

Coverage: Statewide

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Kim Swenson I Inspector

Location: Milaca

Coverage area: West Central Minnesota

Contact: 651-769-7773 or kimberly.swenson@state.mn.us

WHAT THEY DO

Annual fire inspections help assure that every resident and/or patient of a Minnesota health care facility has a living environment reasonably safe from the dangers of fire and related emergencies.

SFMD fire inspectors are certified through the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board as a fire inspector I or II and have extensive fire inspection experience. Because this team is responsible for enforcing the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) fire safety program, each inspector is required to attend a week-long CMS training class on the Life Safety Code, which is the basis of the CMS fire safety program. They must also attend a 24-hour class from CMS including Health Care Facilities (NFPA Standard 99) and Fire Safety Evaluation System (NFPA Standard 101A) for both health care facilities and board-and-care facilities.

BEST OF 2019

We had a full team of inspectors to start the year. All inspectors are certified by the CMS and trained to the 2012 Life Safety Code, which enables them to inspect all federally regulated healthcare facilities to the latest code requirements.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

Inspections

The Health Care Team conducted 916 inspections in hospitals, nursing homes, boarding caring homes, supervised living facilities, outpatient surgical centers, hospice facilities and prisons/jails.

Hospitals and nursing homes present some of the most complicated fire inspections. Large complexes often feature many types of occupancies, including institutional, assembly, storage, maintenance, helicopter landing pads, clinics, and doctors' offices.

Here is a breakdown of our 2019 inspections:

- Special hospital validation inspections: 3
- Hospital inspections: 11
- Nursing home inspections: 373
- Supervised living inspections: 138
- Surgery center/clinic inspections: 19
- Prison/jail inspections: 86
- Foster care inspections: 254
- Juvenile detention: 29

Fires

- Prison: 3
 - Arson: 1
 - Electrical equipment: 2
- Health care facility: 26
 - Smoking related: 2 (affected 25 clients)
 - Electrical equipment: 11 (affected 465 clients)
 - Electrical system: 3 (affected 145 clients)
 - Arson: 2 (affected 132 clients)
 - Chemical spills: 1 (affected 65 clients)
 - Kitchen: 2 (affected 60 clients)
 - Flood 1: (affected 40 clients)
 - Dryer 3: (affected 0 clients)

HEALTH CARE TEAM

DID YOU KNOW?

All inspectors are certified in emergency management and preparedness standards for hospitals and nursing homes. Emergency preparedness is a new federal standard for hospitals and nursing homes.

The **top five** most frequently cited **fire safety deficiencies** by our health care inspectors are:

1. Failure to conduct or document required sprinkler systems testing.
2. Failure to conduct required fire drills.
3. Failure to conduct electrical systems maintenance or testing.
4. Failure to separate and store oxygen storage rooms.
5. Failure to maintain electrical systems.



Bob Baumann looking over fire codes for a health care facility.

RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM



ABOUT

The Residential Care and Lodging Team (RCLT) was created following several tragic losses of life in Minnesota lodging buildings. Comprehensive fire safety inspections now help make Minnesota a safer travel, vacation and conference destination.

The RCLT:

- Conducts fire safety inspections in hotels throughout Minnesota. Each hotel is inspected at least once every three years with follow-up fire safety inspections as needed.
- Conducts initial fire safety inspections of all Department of Human Services-licensed facilities, including licensed day care centers, certified day care centers, family child care homes, adult day care centers, adult day services, day training and habilitation, child foster care, chemical dependency treatment and mental health treatment facilities.
- Conducts fire safety inspections on request from local fire departments in response to complaints of fire safety violations.
- Provides training on fire code requirements to child care and foster care licensors, providers and local fire marshals.

National and state statistics show people are most vulnerable to fire when they are sleeping. Having working smoke detectors and suppression systems are critical to waking people who are sleeping for providing adequate time for escape.

MEET THE TEAM

Ryan Whiting | Supervisor

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Randi Samuelson | Residential Team Support

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Becky Schmidt | Residential Team Support

Location: St. Paul

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Travis Ahrens | Inspector

Location: Owatonna

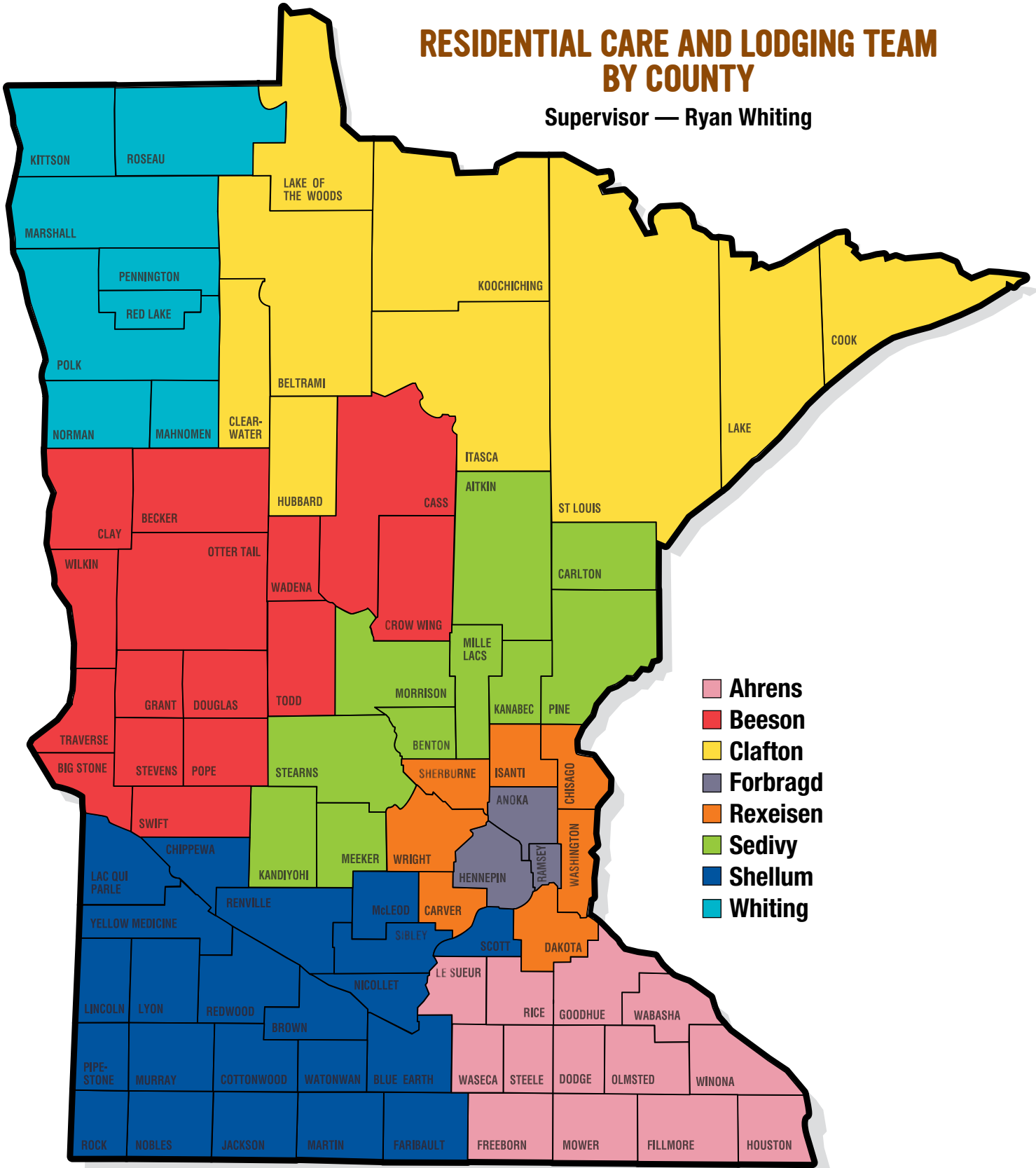
Coverage area: Southeast Minnesota

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RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM

RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Ryan Whiting



Dan Beeson I Inspector

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Coverage area: West Central Minnesota
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Tony Clifton I Inspector

Location: Duluth
Coverage area: Northeast Minnesota
Contact: 612-206-1864 or tony.clifton@state.mn.us

Marvin Forbragd I Inspector

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Coverage area: Metro Area
Contact: 651-769-7783 or marvin.forbragd@state.mn.us

Bob Rexeisen I Inspector

Location: Circle Pines
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Kevin Sedivy I Inspector

Location: Cross Lake
Coverage area: North Central Minnesota
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George Shellum I Inspector

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Coverage area: Southwest Minnesota
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WHAT THEY DO

The mission of the RCLT is to prevent fire deaths and property loss in hotels and residential care homes. People are most vulnerable when they are sleeping in unfamiliar buildings with no one awake to notice a developing fire. As the number of people and the size of a building increase, the potential for loss of life increases, too. The RCLT mitigates this hazard through fire safety inspections of all hotels in Minnesota every three years, as required by law, with follow-up inspections as needed to gain compliance with the Minnesota State Fire Code. Training and consultation on fire safety requirements and fire prevention is provided to municipalities who conduct fire safety inspections of hotels and residential care homes, and to building owners, licensors and managers. Residential care homes (day care, foster care, rehab) are inspected for fire safety when first licensed by the DHS.

Fire code safety requirements depend on the use of the building, age of construction, size of the building and other occupancies within the building (such as places of assembly, retail, garages and hazardous areas). Fire safety may include fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire-protected exit corridors and stairways, employee safety training, exit route identification, emergency lighting, fire resistive construction and other requirements, depending on the size and use of the building.

THE BEST OF 2019

The team completed all mandatory hotel inspections for fiscal year 2019 on time and kept the DHS inspection wait time reasonable even though the team was short-staffed most of the year. Due to staffing changes, the team regions were changed to reduce travel distances and even out the workload for some inspectors.

The team also provided training to 169 DHS licensors at six locations and to 26 local fire inspectors at a one and one-half day class conducted at Camp Ripley. The inspector class included a half day of hands on inspection experience utilizing the staged village at Camp Ripley.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS Inspections

The RCLT is spread out across the state and assists with hundreds of inspections each year. The following is a breakdown of inspections in 2019. These stay fairly consistent from year to year with all hotels in the state being inspected once every three years.

Hotels:

- 326 fire safety inspections
- 395 follow-up inspections
- 1,691 fire safety violations cited

DHS-licensed facilities:

- 838 fire safety inspections
- 106 follow-up inspections
- 2,401 recommended corrections for licensing

RESIDENTIAL CARE AND LODGING TEAM

Inspections in response to fire department requests:

- 5 apartment buildings
- 6 assembly occupancies
- 2 single family homes
- 3 hotel buildings
- 2 amusement facilities
- 2 daycare facilities
- 2 storage buildings

Facilities

Here is the breakdown of child care centers, family child care settings, child foster care homes, adult foster care homes and community residential settings in Minnesota at the end of 2018. As you can see, there are a lot of people located throughout Minnesota helping others by providing daily care for children and vulnerable adults. Having childcare available has become a major issue for many growing communities.

- 1,576 licensed child care centers
- 616 certified child care centers
- 7,462 family child care settings
- 5,038 child foster care homes
- 1,006 adult foster care homes
- 3,681 community residential settings

DID YOU KNOW?

The RCLT handles all fire code complaints in the state that do not relate to facilities already inspected by the SFMD. These complaints are always referred to the local fire department if there is one and the RCLT provides any requested assistance to help the local jurisdiction resolve the complaint. If a local fire department feels they have a conflict of interest they can defer jurisdiction to the SFMD by written request.



ABOUT

The public school inspection program was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1990 following several destructive school fires in the late 1980s. The legislation requires the State Fire Marshal Division to inspect each of Minnesota's roughly 1,750 public and charter school buildings once every three years, including primary, middle, secondary and alternative schools.

The School Inspection Team consists of four inspectors, one supervisor and a support specialist. Each member is assigned to a geographical inspection region. All school inspectors hold, at a minimum, a Fire Inspector II certification from the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board and participate in continuing education each year.

MEET THE TEAM

Forrest Williams I Supervisor

Location: Duluth

Coverage area: Northeastern Minnesota

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Randi Samuelson I School Team Support

Location: St. Paul

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Kurt Kastella I Inspector

Location: Underwood

Coverage area: Northwestern Minnesota

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Kevin McGinty I Inspector

Location: Zimmerman

Coverage area: Northern Metro and Surrounding Counties

Contact: 651-888-9119 or kevin.mcginity@state.mn.us

Tom Roessler I Inspector

Location: St. Peter

Coverage area: Southern Minnesota

Contact: 507-602-0651 or thomas.roessler@state.mn.us

John Swanson I Inspector and Plans Examiner

Location: Lakeville

Coverage area: South Central Minnesota

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WHAT THEY DO

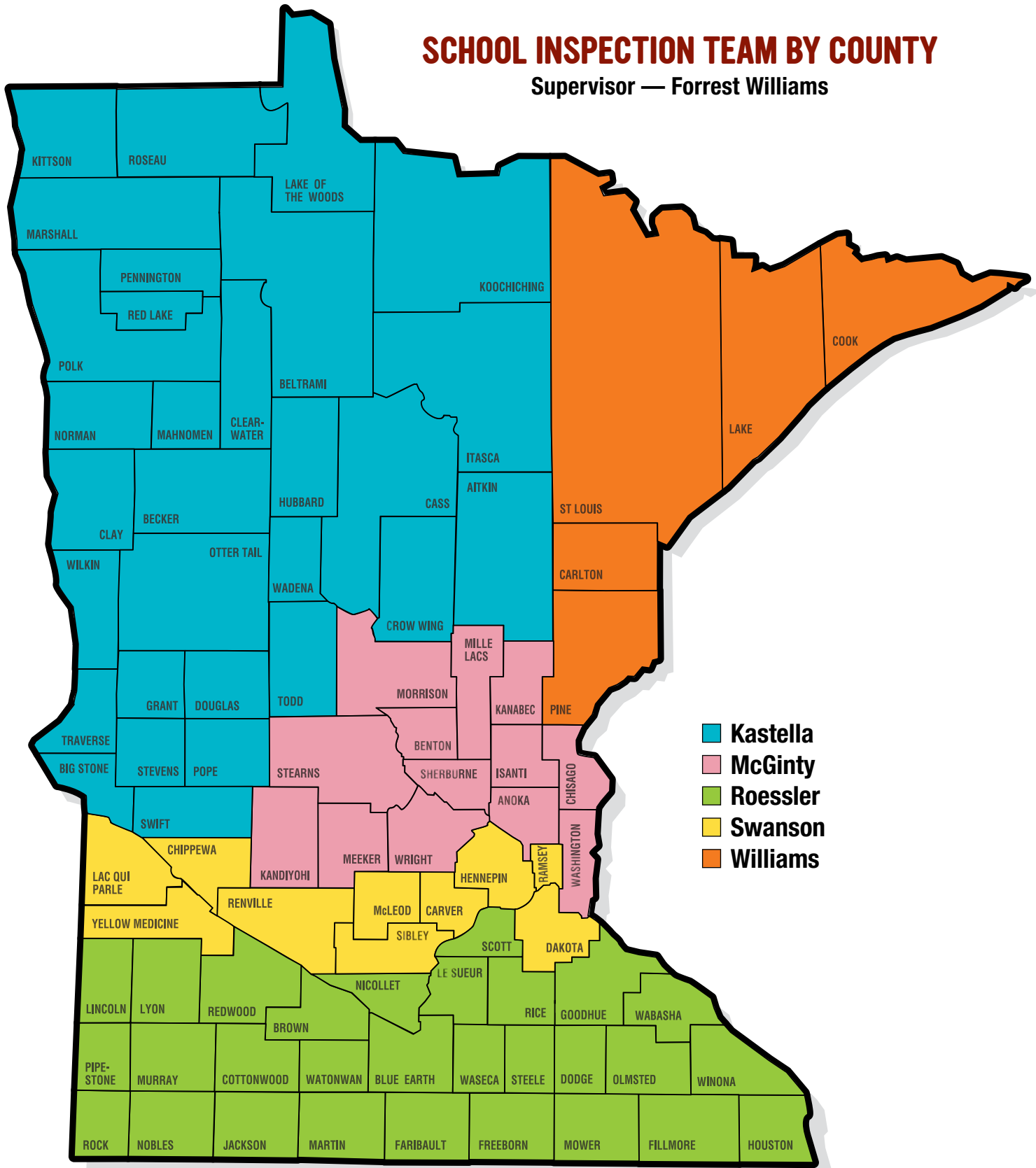
The primary goal of the program is to identify and correct fire and life safety violations that have historically contributed to disastrous events in schools. To this end, school inspectors focus their attention on the following:

- Means of egress.

SCHOOL INSPECTION TEAM

SCHOOL INSPECTION TEAM BY COUNTY

Supervisor — Forrest Williams



- Kastella
- McGinty
- Roessler
- Swanson
- Williams

- Fire alarm and fire suppression systems.
- Fire resistance rated construction features.
- Identification and abatement of fire hazards.
- Educating school administration and staff on fire prevention practices and code compliance.
- Emergency evacuation plans and procedures.

Because many Minnesota school buildings were constructed prior to the adoption of statewide building and fire codes, SFMD officials developed policies to allow installation of automatic sprinkler and fire alarm systems to compensate for the fire safety deficiencies found in these older buildings. Many of these policies were later incorporated into the state fire code. Each year fires are detected early by alarm systems. In many cases, those fires are controlled or extinguished by fire sprinkler systems installed under these policies.

When school inspectors identify fire code deficiencies, the schools must provide a plan to correct them. Inspectors review these plans to assure that alarm installations and other construction projects meet minimum code requirements.

Evaluating program effectiveness

Based on Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) data comparing the average number of school fires during the first five years of the inspection program (1990-1994) with the most recent data available (2014-2018), fire occurrences have dropped 54 percent. The current five-year trend shows a 3.5 percent increase in the rate of school fires. Minnesota has

approximately 30 percent fewer fires in educational occupancies compared to the national rate. The preliminary number of school fires for 2019 is 40, but the final number is likely to be higher.

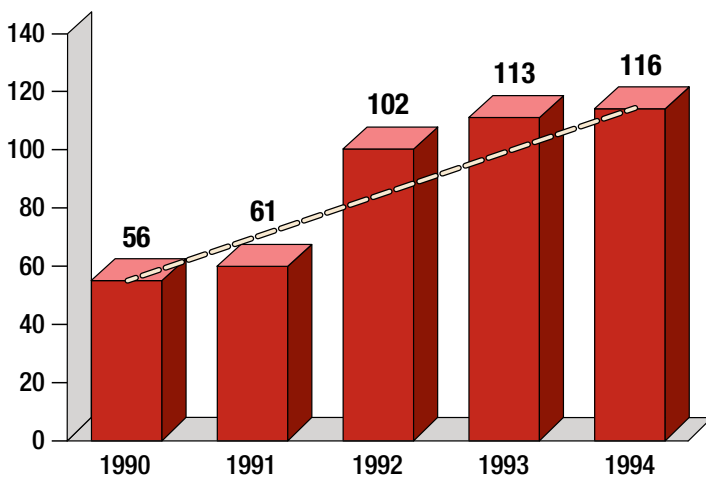
THE BEST OF 2019

At the request of the Department of Public Safety's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, the School Inspection Team had the opportunity to provide training to newly assigned school resource officers (SROs) regarding the coordination of school security with fire- and life-safety. The presentations offered an overview of fire code provisions specific to emergency egress, door locking arrangements, and fire response procedures. Recent Minnesota school fire incidents and statistics were also discussed.

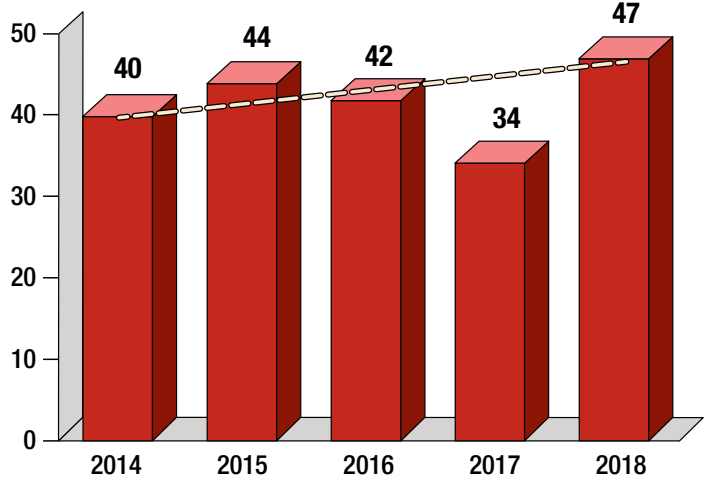
Three members of the school team staff also served as instructors during the first-annual SFMD Fire Code Academy at Camp Ripley. This week-long course was designed to provide fire code officials the essential knowledge and skills necessary to inspect buildings and enforce the Minnesota State Fire Code within their jurisdictions.

School team members also staffed information booths at two state-wide conferences in 2019 — The Minnesota Educational Facilities Management Professionals Fall Conference in St. Cloud, and the Minnesota Educator Academy in St. Paul. A training presentation on the significant changes to the 2020 Minnesota State Fire Code was also offered at the Facilities Management Conference in St. Cloud.

SCHOOL FIRES IN MINNESOTA 1990 - 1994



SCHOOL FIRES IN MINNESOTA 2014 - 2018



2019 BY THE NUMBERS

Inspections

The School Inspection Team conducted 536 primary inspections and 651 follow-up inspections, resulting in the discovery of 3,658 violations. The top five most commonly cited violations categories were:

1. Fire protection systems (fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems)
 - Failure to provide annual inspection, testing and maintenance
 - Damaged or missing system components
 - Improper installation or incomplete coverage
2. Means of egress
 - Obstructed exit doors, corridors or aisles
 - Improper locking/latching hardware
 - Missing or damaged exit signs
 - Maintenance of emergency lighting
3. Electrical
 - Improper use of extension cords and power-taps
 - Exposed wiring and connections
 - General electrical hazards
 - Appliances — damaged, non-listed or improperly used
4. Storage arrangements
 - Obstructed fire sprinklers
 - Combustibles adjacent to ignition sources
 - Storage in main electrical equipment rooms
 - Storage obstructing access to critical equipment
5. Interior finish
 - Improper flame-spread ratings
 - Foam plastics used without proper fire testing documentation
 - Flame-resistance certification for stage curtains and draperies

Training

School Inspection Team members provide fire code and inspection training for code officials and local school inspectors, including those units of government authorized to inspect public schools within their jurisdiction. Training is also available for school maintenance staff and administrators, school resource officers, health and safety consultants, fire protection system contractors, design professionals and general stakeholders. Additionally, school inspectors are available to answer questions and provide onsite consultations regarding code requirements, fire safety practices, and emergency planning.

In 2019, school inspection staff offered 15 separate fire-code-related presentations, providing training for approximately 650 people.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2020 Minnesota State Fire Code will include new language for the locking of classroom doors in order to prevent entry by an intruder. This language was added to the 2018 International Fire Code in response to the increased practice of using non-code-compliant barricade devices to secure classroom doors. The new language specifically prohibits devices that:

- Do not allow unlocking from outside the room in order to permit immediate access to school staff and first responders, or
- Do not allow the door to unlock and unlatch from the classroom side with a single operation, or
- Require the use of a key, tool, or special knowledge or effort, or
- Are installed less than 34 inches, or more than 48 inches, above floor level

These provisions are essential to provide classroom occupants with free and uninhibited egress should circumstances permit, and to ensure school staff and emergency personnel have the ability to gain immediate access in order to stop an assault, perform a rescue, or render medical aid.



SFMD HONOR GUARD

ABOUT

The Honor Guard was created after a retired staff member died in 2013 and his family requested the SFMD staff participate in the visitation and funeral service.

MEET THE TEAM

Jared Rozeboom | Commander

Contact: jared.rozeboom@state.mn.us or 507-456-0907

Travis Ahrens

James Iammatteo

Thomas Linhoff

Kevin McGinty

Kathi Osmonson

Brian Petersen

Ralph Peterson

Kerry Queen

Kevin Sedivy

Casey Stotts

Amanda Swenson

WHAT THEY DO

The 13-member group provides honor guard and color presentation detail for special occasions including:

- Retirements
- Funerals
- Conferences

HOW TO REQUEST THE HONOR GUARD

All requests for the Honor Guard will be forwarded to the State Fire Marshal for consideration. Once a request has been approved, team leaders will contact members for availability to respond and provide all information on the event, its location and times. Go to our website at sfm.dps.mn.gov under the “services” tab to find the Honor Guard webpage to make a request.

2019 EVENTS

The Honor Guard attended three non-line of duty death funerals for active firefighters. Other notable events were:

- The posting of colors for the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators Conference
- State Fire Marshal Division Fire Code Academy Graduation
- State Fire Chief’s Conference
- Minnesota Fire Department Association Conference
- Minnesota Fire Marshal Conference
- Governor’s Fire Prevention Day at the Minnesota State Fair.

SPECIAL TEAMS AND PROJECTS

BEST OF 2019

The SFMD Honor Guard provided key support to the 2019 Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service with bell ringing.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Honor Guard's team motto is "Family, Honor, Respect, Compassion." Honor Guard members meet quarterly for training to perfect their skills and to review past and upcoming requests.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

MEET THE SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR AND FLEET MANAGER

Nolan Pasell | Fleet manager/special projects coordinator

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7218 or nolan.pasell@state.mn.us

WHAT HE DOES

Nolan Pasell coordinated the Minnesota Fire Department Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor/Dryer program. The program received more than 170 applications for over \$2 million. Approximately \$400,000 in grants went to 37 departments to purchase gear washers and 22 departments for gear dryers.

The fleet includes 75 vehicles. Nolan has refined and expanded plans for vehicle safety, replacement and procurement.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

SFMD vehicles traveled 967,772 miles. If SFMD staff were traveling around the earth they would have made it just over 38 times around or to the moon and back twice.

DID YOU KNOW?

Through funds from the Fire Service Advisory Committee, the SFMD has awarded over \$1.5 million to more than 180 Minnesota fire departments since 2015 for purchase of turnout gear washer/extractors/dryers.

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS



ABOUT

The State Emergency Response Teams include Hazardous Materials Response Teams, Bomb Squads, Minnesota Task Force 1 (MN-TF1) and the Minnesota Air Rescue Team (MART). The State Fire Marshal Division oversees the teams.

MEET THE SFMD TEAM

John Ehret | Interim Supervisor

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7214 or john.ehret@state.mn.us

Tom McDonough | State Emergency Response Team Coordinator

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7225 or tom.mcdonough@state.mn.us

Robert Berg | Hazardous Materials Response Planner

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7223 or robert.m.berg@state.mn.us

John Kreuser | Hazardous Materials Response Planner

Location: St. Paul

Contact: 651-201-7224 or john.kreuser@state.mn.us

WHAT THEY DO

The SFMD team, in conjunction with the SFMD fire service specialists, provides 24-hour on-call for the State Emergency Response Teams through the Minnesota duty officer. When an incident commander calls the duty officer, the SFMD on-call staff will direct the appropriate State Emergency Response Team along with other state agencies or resources that may be necessary.

The team also assists the State Emergency Response Teams by facilitating training events and technical advisory committee meetings. The SFMD also maintains the extensive inventory of the State Emergency Response Teams and provides hazardous materials training to departments throughout the state. Some of the training provided by the team include Hazmat-The First Hour, Ethanol Emergency Response and Rail and Pipeline Emergency Response.

BEST OF 2019

The SFMD team supported over 60 hazardous materials training and exercises in 2019 from International Falls to Winona.

STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS



Hazmat team members assemble gear for a training incident.



Bomb squad member assessing object in trash container.

Hazardous Materials Response Teams

There are 11 hazardous materials response teams across the state. The teams are classified as either Chemical Assessment Teams (CATs) or Emergency Response Teams (ERTs).

Teams are located in Duluth, Moorhead, St. Cloud, St. Paul, Grand Rapids, Hopkins, International Falls, Marshall (southwest CAT), Anoka County (north metro CAT) and Rochester.

WHAT THEY DO

ERTs assist local authorities by taking emergency actions necessary to protect life, property, and the environment from the effects of a release of a hazardous material. These emergency actions include, but are not limited to, preventing the release, mitigating the effects of the release, and stabilizing the emergency situation.

CATs assist local authorities by providing technical advice to local incident commanders, and recommending mitigation actions necessary to protect life, property, and the environment that are in keeping with locally available levels of hazardous materials training and response capability.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

The CATs and ERTs currently has over 500 members.

Bomb Squads

There are four approved and certified Bomb Squads that are staffed by personnel from both police departments and a sheriff department. Bomb squads are located in Bloomington, Crow Wing County, Minneapolis and St. Paul.

WHAT THEY DO

Bomb Squad team members are trained and equipped licensed Minnesota peace officers who are certified hazardous device technicians. Teams are equipped with hazardous device robots, portable digital X-ray machines, and containment vessels.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

Bomb Squads responded to 112 calls for service outside of their primary jurisdiction. This total does not include the numerous special details and consultations provided by the teams to communities throughout Minnesota.

Minnesota Task Force 1 (MN-TF1)

MN-TF1 is a 185-member structural collapse team.

WHAT THEY DO

MN-TF1 is equipped for structural collapse heavy rescue, wide area searches, trench rescue, confined space rescue, rope rescue and cave rescue. The team includes medical specialists and physicians who can provide medical direction. MN-TF1 can be self-contained for up to 72 hours in areas with little or no infrastructure. The team has members from Dakota County and the Edina, Minneapolis, Rochester and St. Paul fire departments.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

MN-TF1 personnel are assigned positions based on specialties and the team currently consists of:

- Rescue specialists: 71
- Plans specialists: 19
- Search specialists: 31
- Logistics specialists: 25
- Medical specialists: 15
- In training: 25
- Physicians: 9

MN-TF1 personnel are not considered deployable until they have completed a minimum of 200 hours of technical rescue training including certification in rope rescue, confined space rescue and trench rescue. Task force members attended over 500 hours of training in 2019 for a total of over 12,000 instructional hours.



MN-TF1 members participate in training.

Minnesota Air Rescue Team (MART)

MART is a partnership between the Minnesota State Patrol Aviation Division and the Saint Paul Fire Department that provides helicopter-based search and rescue services to the entire State of Minnesota. The State Patrol provides the helicopter and highly trained pilots and the St. Paul Fire Department provides the rescuers.

WHAT THEY DO

MART specializes in rescue and extraction of victims from locations that can't be easily reached by ground or water or pose excessive risk to rescuers. MART can assist with lost person search by visual and thermal images from the air. MART helps public safety agencies across the state maximize safety of victims and minimize risk to responders.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

MART has five specially trained pilots and 16 rescue technicians. MART had 38 activations for searches, rescues and agency assists. The team had two successful short-haul rescues, multiple successful searches and were first on scene of a downed aircraft.

DID YOU KNOW?

The State Emergency Response Teams cannot assume command of an incident and must remain in a support role for local incident commanders?



St. Paul firefighters and the State Patrol take part in a training exercise.

SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM



ABOUT

The SFMD home office in St. Paul has a team of six talented individuals that make sure the division is in great shape to run at optimal levels. Formerly called the clerical staff, these nine professionals are now known as the Support Services Team, a name which better reflects the range of responsibilities carried out by its members.

MEET THE TEAM

Barbara Lundberg | Supervisor

Contact: Barbara.lundberg@state.mn.us or 651-201-7203

Kathleen Donovan | Investigations, Health Care, Adult Foster Care and Explosives Support

Contact: kathleen.donovan@state.mn.us or 651-201-7208

Nathan Le | Fire Protection and State Fire Marshal Conference Support

Contact: nathan.le@state.mn.us or 651-201-7207

Nolan Pasel | Fleet Manager

Contact: nolan.pasel@state.mn.us or 651-501-7218

Randi Samuelson | Schools and Residential Care and Lodging Team Support

Contact: randi.j.samuelson@state.mn.us or 651-201-7212

Becky Schmidt | Residential Care and Lodging Team Support

Contact: rebecca.j.schmidt@state.mn.us or 651-201-7211

Marian Whitney | Health Care Team Support

Contact: marian.whitney@state.mn.us or 651-201-7213

WHAT THEY DO

The complexities of electronic technology have vastly changed the skills required and the level of performance necessary to keep up with the fast pace of the inspectors, investigators, and citizens who depend on the SFMD. No longer the clerical typist of yesteryear, each Support Team member is proficient in the operation of several computer software programs, some of which are job specific, some which occasionally change and require retraining and some of which are completely new. Each team member has individualized, detailed responsibilities for maintaining the schedules and submitted reports of the field staff. Support Services Team members relieve the field staff of some of the details that must be met to successfully conduct our classes around the state. Calls from the public are responded to in a timely and professional manner so issues can be resolved. We respect that we hold a position which is critical to the smooth operation of our complicated organization.

2018 BY THE NUMBERS

The Support Services Team reviewed and analyzed 5,406 reports in 2019. The reports contained findings following the investigations of fires and the inspections of nursing homes, hospitals, out-patient clinics, daycares, schools, adult and child foster care homes, hotels and motels. Sprinkler plans are reviewed and installations are inspected in construction and remodeling projects. Sites are inspected for explosive permits. Each of these actions requires the careful and thorough documentation by the Support Services Team.

Staff entered applications and fees into databases, addressed customer phone calls and emails, fulfilled investigation reports requests, sent out invoices and made deposits. The team is continually busy doing the work needed to promote and encourage fire safety and awareness in the state.



ABOUT

The Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education's (MBFTE) mission is to standardize training by providing funding to pay for it and by licensing Minnesota firefighters. The MBFTE's vision is to reduce fire-related deaths and injuries through excellence in fire service training and education.

MEET THE TEAM

Steve Flaherty | Executive Director

Location: St. Paul

Duties: Supports and provides information to the Minnesota fire service on various MBFTE programs, including firefighter training reimbursements, fire instructor qualifications, firefighter licensing, firefighter continuing education, and other support services for fire departments.

Contact: 651-201-7258 or steve.flaherty@state.mn.us

Margaret Koele | Licensing Coordinator

Location: St. Paul

Duties: Manages and administers the MBFTE's legislative mandate to license firefighters; oversees laws, rules and regulations for firefighter licensure; works with the Attorney General's Office regarding the licensing process

Contact: 651-201-7259 or margaret.koele@state.mn.us

WHAT THEY DO

The MBFTE was established by the Minnesota Legislature to:

- Review fire service training needs and make training recommendations to Minnesota fire service organizations
- Establish standards for educational programs for the fire service and develop procedures for continuing oversight of those programs
- Establish qualifications for fire service training instructors
- Establish standards under which reimbursement will be provided to departments for training and education

The MBFTE has several funding and training reimbursement programs for the fire service to make use of, including: Fire Department Training Reimbursement Award; Live Burn; NFPA 1001 with certification; Conferences and Seminars Award; Incident Safety Officer; Mass and Gross Decon; Railway and Pipeline Awareness; and Fire Service Leadership Development Visit www.mbfte.org for more information about the MBFTE.

THE BEST OF 2019

A base budget appropriation of \$4.265 million and a \$2.4 million one-time appropriation from the Fire Safety Account was made available for Minnesota fire departments. Awards to all Minnesota fire departments were based on a "per firefighter" rate (\$205).

The MBFTE chose to award fire departments based on the number of firefighters on their current roster. No formal applications were required by the MBFTE for a fire department to receive a training reimbursement award.

The average fire department reimbursement was \$7,715 based on 687 departments seeking training reimbursement. Overall, more than \$5.3 million in training reimbursements was requested by Minnesota fire departments.

Nearly 89 percent of the 775 fire departments submitted training reimbursement documentation to the MBFTE. First-time applicants to the training reimbursement program numbered four fire departments, and all but 10 fire departments in Minnesota have now submitted for training reimbursements in at least one of the first eleven rounds since this program began.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

- The MBFTE provided a separate reimbursement directly to fire departments for basic firefighter training (Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2 and Hazardous Materials Operations). There was \$1.7 million available to Minnesota fire departments to pay for this training — enough to fund more than 1,000 firefighters.
- There was more than \$213,000 dedicated by the MBFTE to provide reimbursements for Fire Instructor training with certification to 400 firefighters.
- The MBFTE provided more than \$66,000 in reimbursement grants to local, regional and statewide fire service organizations for unique training events. These “conference, seminar and symposium” awards made available 17 different training opportunities for all Minnesota firefighters at a significantly reduced rate.
- There was \$145,000 available for live-burn training throughout Minnesota. The money funded 97 separate live-burn trainings in acquired structures across the state in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1403 standards. NFPA 1403 live-burn training ensures that all live burns in acquired structures were conducted in a safe manner, meeting a nationally recognized standard.
- The MBFTE, in partnership with Sourcewell (formally National Joint Powers Alliance) in Staples, Minnesota, was able to provide the fire departments in Sourcewell’s Region 5 (counties of Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena) with an additional \$175,000 in training reimbursements. These funds were distributed to the 49 fire departments on a per firefighter rate of \$167.00 in addition to the MBFTE’s per firefighter rate (\$205).
- The MBFTE provided more than \$44,000 to fund two Fire Service Leadership Development courses held at Camp Ripley throughout the fiscal year. Each 32-hour course consists of four modules, bringing a cross-section of fire service leaders from across the state — at no cost to them or their department — to develop skills and address key leadership issues that are specific to the Minnesota fire service. More than 160 fire service leaders have now participated in this unique training opportunity over the last five years.
- In partnership with Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM), the MBFTE reimbursed more than \$50,000 to over 275 firefighters to attend various training courses dealing with Hazardous Materials. The grant funding for this is provided by the Federal government known as the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant.

DID YOU KNOW?

Minnesota is the only state in the nation that requires all 2,550 full-time (career) firefighters to be licensed; while volunteer, part-time, or paid on call firefighters have the option to receive licensure. There are 4,059 licensed firefighters in Minnesota as of the end of calendar year 2019.

RETIREMENTS

RICK LUTH, STATE TEAMS COORDINATOR

Congratulations to Rick Luth, who retired from State Fire Marshal Division in September 2019. Rick only worked for SFMD for five months when the state emergency response teams were relocated to SFMD from Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) in May 2019. Rick started with HSEM in 2014 and had been in the fire service for many years before coming to work at the Department of Public Safety. Rick is enjoying his retirement and spending time at his cabin near Palisade. While his tenure with SFMD was short, he is remembered for his constant smile and positive attitude.

JOE FAUST, SCHOOL INSPECTOR

Congratulations to Joe Faust, who retired from SFMD after seven years with the School Team. Joe worked with schools across southern Minnesota from the South Dakota boarder to the Wisconsin boarder. Along with his work on the School Team, he also served as the Honor Guard commander. As the commander, he was instrumental in ensuring that the team was well trained and well equipped for duties. During his time as leader, the team became increasingly busy due to the reliable and professional standard that Joe set. In his retirement, Joe is making make a cross country journey with his wife and seeing amazing sights along the way.





Minnesota Department of Public Safety
State Fire Marshal Division
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