



cmjworld

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## **Mission Statement**

Watertown Fire Rescue...Always Ready...Honored to serve...Proudly committed to our neighbors, our friends, our families...Serving and protecting our community...Most importantly sharing a common bond and interest in preserving life and property. Always Ready!

## **Vision Statement**

Watertown Fire Rescue will strive to exceed the expectations of our community while aspiring to be a positive example for all fire and EMS organizations in the area, region, and state.

## **Core Values**

Members of the Watertown Fire Rescue value a positive attitude, being friendly and personal in daily interactions with the public at all times to include emergency calls for service. Members will strive to meet all of our community's needs and to go beyond the call of duty.

### **Integrity and Honesty**

Members of the Watertown Fire Rescue value integrity and honesty and abide by our moral values. Members can be trusted to do the right thing, to make the best possible decisions in any situation encountered, even when no one is watching.

### **Professionalism**

Members of the Watertown Fire Rescue will always be ready to use and apply good judgment and their professional skills when conducting routine duties or when assisting the public.

### **Tradition and Pride**

Members of the Watertown Fire Rescue recognize their chosen occupation to be a noble and honorable calling—an opportunity to serve and help our friends and neighbors in their greatest time of need. Members will always strive to do their jobs properly and to the best of their abilities—knowing there is nothing more noble one could do with their life than to serve as a member of the Watertown Fire Rescue.

### **Brotherhood**

Members of the Watertown Fire Rescue will face danger and fear and even give their lives, if necessary, for their brother. Members will always accept responsibility for each other, will always hold each other accountable, and will continuously strive to live up to the standards of honor required to be a member of the brotherhood.



## **Message from the Chief**

**Mayor, City Council and Citizens of Watertown:**

It is my pleasure to present our 2014 annual report for Watertown Fire Rescue. At the end of each year we go through a process of assessing where we are currently in our organization and if we have met our goals and expectations for the year. We review our accomplishments and our achievements through strategic planning to measure our growth and success as a Department. We also look at our mission statement to make sure we are meeting the needs of our community. The Watertown Fire Rescue patch are the words “Always Ready”.

We will touch on most of our 2014 accomplishments throughout this report. This report will not only provide Fire and EMS statistics for the year, but it will also provide a story of who we are and what do and what were about. We currently have Two Stations, 4 administration, 33 shift firefighters. Most of our firefighters are also paramedics. We are one of 5 full time professional Fire/EMS based Departments in South Dakota.

Over my 26 year Career in Watertown I have seen a lot of change. The industry we are in as a profession is a very demanding but rewarding job. My personal goal is to have the vision, knowledge and planning to meet the needs of our community and to be proactive in public safety.

The 2014 report is going to emphasize our staff at Watertown Fire Rescue. They are truly the difference between a good fire department and a great fire department. Customer Service in public safety is very important to us. The Watertown Fire Rescue staff is a team of professionals that I am proud to be a part of. This report is about them.

Respectfully,

Doug Kranz, Fire Chief

## **2014 Department Accomplishments**

- Received over \$150,000 in grants
- Completion of the SCBA house at the Watertown Fire Training Center.
- Formation of a new strategic plan with the following goals
  1. Community Education
  2. Staffing Enhancement
  3. Identify new revenue streams
  4. ISO/PPC classification improvements
  5. Training center progress
  6. Introduce a safety, health and wellness program.

Improved turnout time response in both fire and EMS

## **2014 Personnel Accomplishments**

- VFW firefighter of the year: Gregg Noeldner
- VFW EMT of the Year: Mike Mack
- Optimist Club Firefighter of the year: Scott Jongbloed
- Grant Writing training: Mike Mack
- National Fire Academy: Chris Noeldner, Scott Jongbloed, Adam Bloom
- BNSF crude oil class: Tony Aas, Mike Mack, Adam Bloom, Bryan Wientjes, Kyle Hollenbeck
- TEEX: Matt Schell, Adam Heinrich
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructor Course: Tony Aas and Mike Mack
- Completion of Paramedic Training and Certification: Josh Crance, Derek Landeen, Cameron Mack, Zach Ordal, Joy Hetle.
- Started paramedic training in 2014: Chris Mikkelsen, Mike Sackmann, Jeffery Hauck, and Anthony Gangler.

Welcomed new hires in 2014

1. Derek Landeen
2. Alex DeFea
3. Joy Hetle
4. Anthony Gengler
5. Chris Mikkelsen

## WFR Operations Overview



Watertown Fire Rescue (WFR) had a wonderful year of providing professional and experienced EMS/Fire protection for the citizens of Watertown. Throughout the year we had some personnel leave the department and I was wondering what might be the reasons for this. I realized then we have very professional and educated staff that work for us, and with that said I believe the opportunities that exist for them are very high in this competitive job market and I truly wish them the best in their new adventures. As for the current staff, and the new hires this year we are very fortunate and proud to have you working for WFR.

Some highlights in 2014, brought excitement with the completion of the SCBA training house. The department hosted an open house celebration in September to celebrate the opening of the training facility. We had a good turnout of the sponsors and citizens attend this event to show their support for the new and exciting training opportunity at WFR.

Watertown Fire Rescue also purchased a new brush truck. This truck is the first brush truck that was ever designed and manufactured at a fire truck manufacturer. We had a team of 3 personnel that took the lead on this project, and a special thank you goes to Lt Noeldner and Firefighter Adam Heinrich for helping with the planning and spec writing for this wonderful new fire truck.

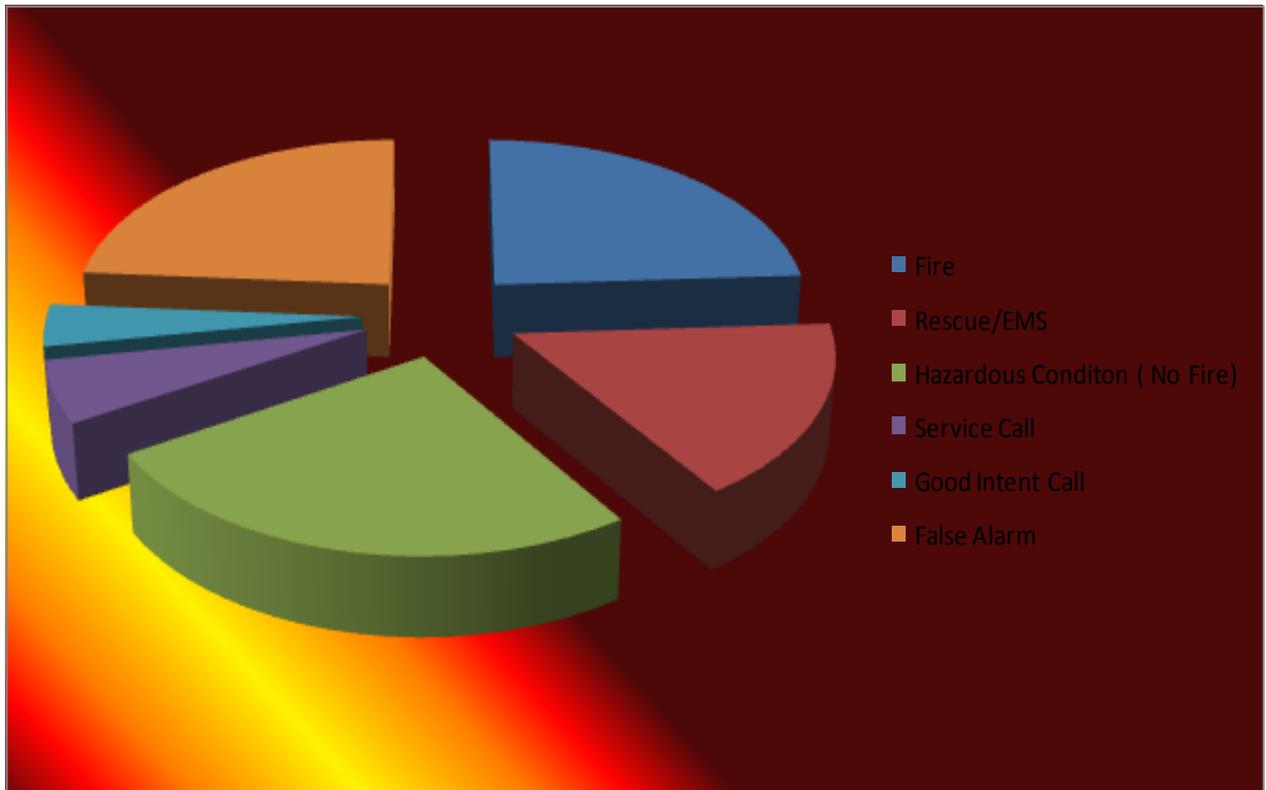
In regards to our budget in 2014, our ambulance overall operating budget was \$2,265,000 and the fire operating budget was \$1,050,000. With an overall operating cost of \$3,315,000 for WFR. We did offset the budget with a few grants totaling more than \$124,000 that were received from Homeland Security and HMEP. Additionally, we received more than \$23,000 in commitments for our new training center that was completed in 2014. As far as revenue the ambulance budget received \$912,000 and fire revenue was \$285,000. These revenue streams are extremely important to offset our overall operating budget.

Watertown Fire Rescue will continue to grow with current programs along with developing new programs to address the needs of our community. We have a great highly trained staff in place, and look forward to the challenges of 2015.

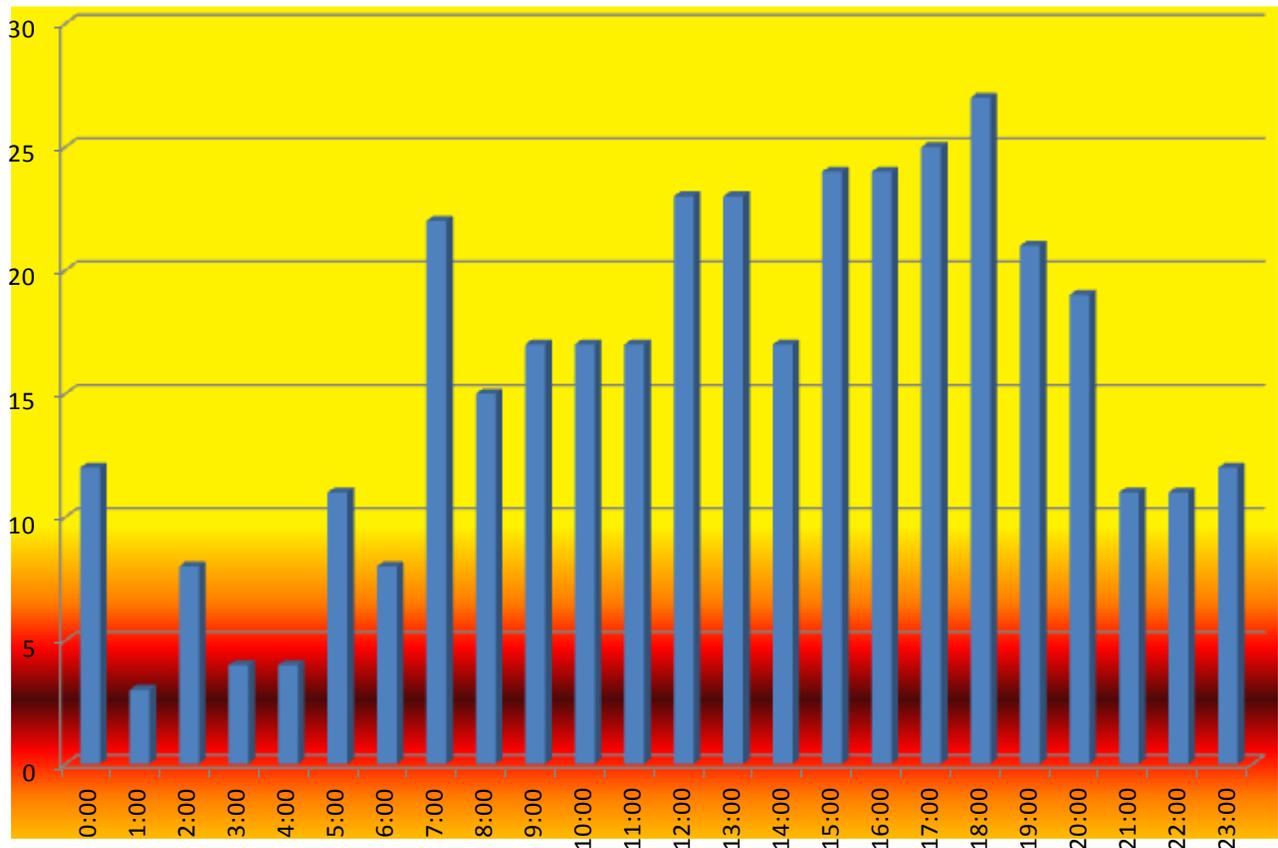
Don Rowland  
Assistant Fire Chief  
Watertown Fire Rescue



Fire Calls by Type of Call. In 2014 Watertown Fire Rescue responded on 375 fire calls for service.



Below you will find Fire Calls by time of day





## EMS Summary

Watertown Fire Rescue continues to serve Codington County residents and the surrounding area with Advanced Life Support services with 5 ambulances. In 2014, we put on 64,170 miles with these ambulances.

The number of calls of service for these five ambulances was slightly down from last year with just over 2100 calls for service. Although overall calls were down, we did see an increase in transfers which reflected an increase in revenue that was generated by the ambulance service.

2014 did show some interesting additions to services. With the Helmsley Charitable Trust that gave a 3.7 million dollar grant to both South Dakota and North Dakota for 3 years. Its goal was to provide all ambulance services in SD with a Lucas Chest Compressor. WFR

received 2 Lucas automated chest compressor units valued at 35,000 dollars and completed the training and put them into service in 2014. These units greatly add to the quality of CPR that our crews can administer to patients. Studies prove that these units add to the successful transition to surviving a Cardiac Infarction by creating better arterial pressures than a human can provide by performing CPR by hand. We plan to add more of these units in the future as budget planning allows.

Another addition to the service was our new IV pumps. These pumps will replace some units that were up to 17 years old. This was a necessary change due to the old units were no longer able to get parts for them. This helps provide the required IV fluids necessary on some calls.

We were able to secure a new ambulance for the 2015 CIP budget and worked hard to get the specs ready for a 2015 Type 1 ambulance with 4 wheel drive. This is an identical ambulance to the last one we purchased in 2013. This will be the second 4 wheel drive ambulance for our service. This new ambulance will arrive in the fall of 2015.

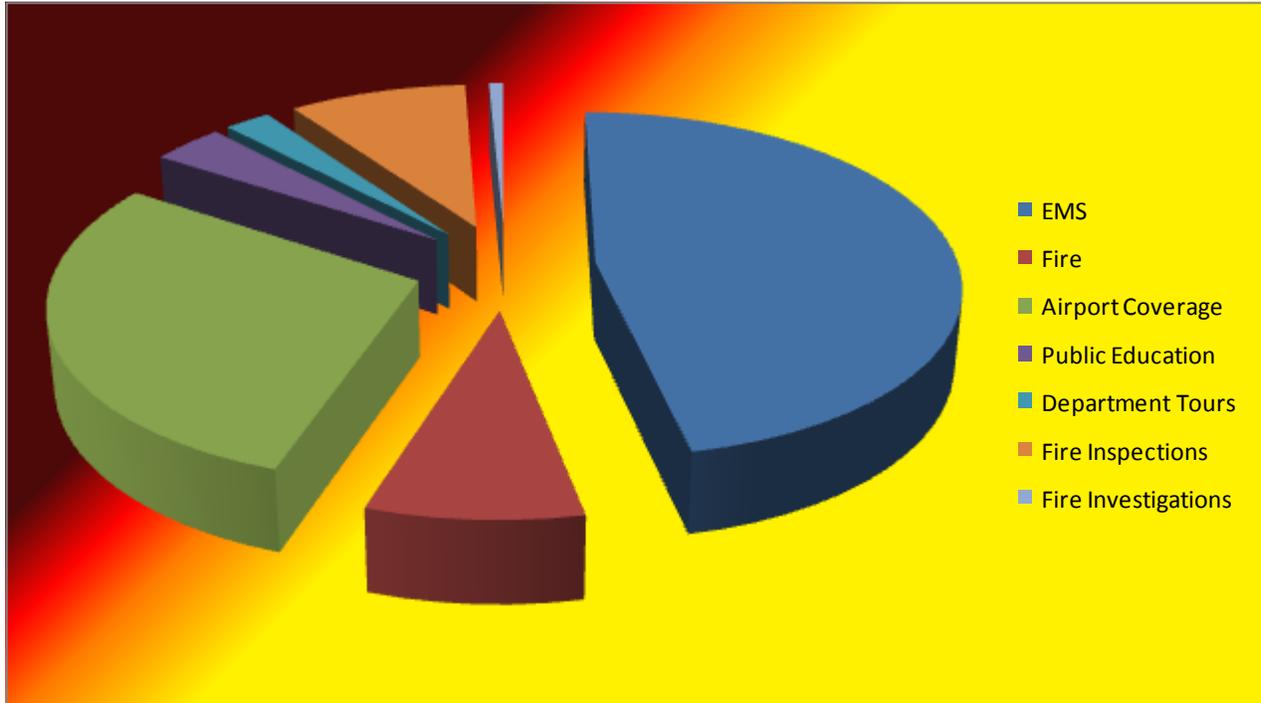
WFR also has 2 more EMT-BASICS that are currently enrolled in Paramedic class. Once these 2 employees have successfully completed the course and passed the test, we will be at 100% of our on shift employees at Paramedic level of EMT. This will be a long awaited completion of a goal that was established almost 20 years ago by the administration then. This will be an amazing accomplishment!!

Stay safe and best of luck in the future!

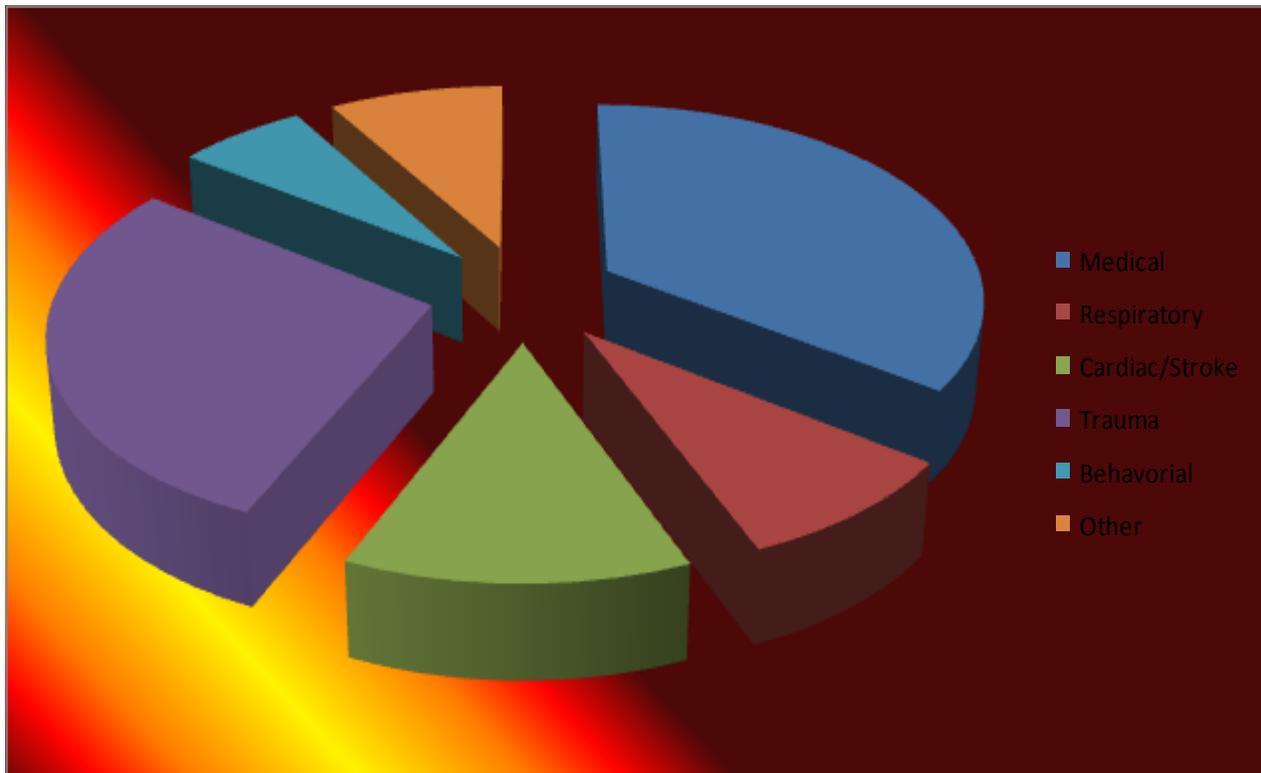
Tyler McElhany  
Battalion Chief  
EMS Director



Below you will find a graph that shows the many different types of calls or services provided in 2014 by Watertown Fire Rescue. At the end of 2014 Watertown Fire Rescue had 4520 Calls for Service



Below is a graph showing the many different types of Ambulance calls that Watertown Fire Rescue personal respond to. WFR personal responded to a total of 2114 calls for service.





## Watertown Fire Rescue Fire Prevention Division

Fire Prevention Officer  
Chip Premus  
Lieutenant  
Chad Fischer



**Community education and awareness on fire safety is the most efficient tool that is available for life and economic preservation for a community.**

### Public Education

Watertown Fire Rescue spent another year trying as hard as possible to keep our community educated. This year we added a new program, Safety Tip of the Week. This is a weekly column/ad in the Public Opinion newspaper that covers a safety or fire prevention tip. Some of them cover seasonal tips and others cover health and safety topics. We try to keep the tips seasonal as well as educational.

In the fall of 2014 Watertown Fire Rescue continued our annual visits to each 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. This includes each grade school in our school system. It allowed us to touch base and hopefully influence approximately 700 children. We also have a Fire Safety House that we use to educate 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on the importance of having a Home Escape Plan. The Safety House is taken to each school. It gives the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders a chance to get inside a controlled environment and see and hear what a fire may be like. In this scenario we are able to assist them in escaping their home in case of an actual fire and teach them the importance of remaining calm and having a plan. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are reminded of safety tips that are age appropriate and always seem to enjoy sitting through our meetings as well!

Watertown Fire Rescue also held our Win a Ride To School essay contest. This involves our local 4<sup>th</sup> graders. The best essay from each school wins a ride to school in a fire truck. It sure puts a smile on their faces when we pull up to school with one of their classmates! It really is something we enjoy rewarding a 4<sup>th</sup> grader with and hope to continue the program next year again.

South Dakota celebrated it's 125 of statehood this past year. Joy Ranch in Watertown held the festivities and Watertown Fire Rescue was honored to be a part of it. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, we were able to set up a booth and educate the community on what we do on a daily basis at the fire department. We also passed out informational pamphlets and had coloring books for the kids.

Watertown Fire Rescue also continued our Public Service Announcement program in 2014. This involves our firefighters recording safety messages and the local radio stations playing them on the air.

Our city IT department has a program on our local TV station called Gov TV. This channel has 24/7/365 coverage of local news items, city department updates and information that we can use to get messages out to the public. Watertown Fire Rescue uses this avenue to disperse information to the public. We played safety videos and covered many safety suggestions and tips via a power point. We had great feedback from the public and will continue to update the site as often as possible.

Watertown Fire Rescue was fortunate to have found a great partner in State Farm Insurance in 2014. State Farm agents Steve Gales and Kathy Witte-Holmes were very gracious in donating two hundred teddy bears to WFR. The bears are given out to children affected by emergencies. We carry them on our ambulances and they really do make a difference on some of our calls. Thank you State Farm!

Along with the daily emergency calls and everyday tasks completed at Watertown Fire Rescue, we continue to make an attempt to remain as involved with public education as we possibly can. This is something we all take pride in, realizing that returning to the community in this manner truly makes a difference.

Here is a list of some of the programs we are involved in throughout the year. We are continuously looking for new ways to serve Watertown and its wonderful residents, and thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Special Olympic Torch Run  
National Night Out  
Children's Safety House (3rd graders)  
5th Grade Safety Talks  
Elementary Safety Talks (misc classes/ages)  
High School Rodeo Ambulance Coverage  
SDHSAA Events, including Great Plains Lutheran and Watertown Arrow Football Game Coverage  
Cub Scout Safety Talks  
Boy Scout Safety Talks  
Watertown Family Aquatic Center CPR/First Aid  
Win a Ride to School Essay Contest (4th Grade all schools)  
SOFY Involvement (Save our farm youth)  
Gov TV Programs, Educating All Ages Throughout the Year  
Face Book Safety Updates  
Cooking on Kampeska Involvement  
Camp Chance  
High School Wellness Fair  
Boys and Girls Club Health Fair  
Intervention with Youth Fire Starters (Fire Safety)  
Golden Age Group Involvement  
Fire Extinguisher Classes at Many Businesses  
Long Term Care/Extended Care Facility Safety Talks  
Kindergarten Speeches for 911 Dialing Do's and Don'ts  
MDA Involvement  
Standby at National Softball Tournament  
Special Talks During Fire Prevention Week and EMS Week  
Public Service Announcements on Local Radio Stations  
Assisting Elderly in Smoke Alarm/CO Detector Installation and Battery Changes  
Weekly Safety Tip on Public Opinion  
Blood Drive Involvement  
Project Santa Involvement (in conjunction w Local #1724)  
Tour a Business with Fire Personnel



4<sup>th</sup> Grade win a ride to school essay winner



School Visit 2014



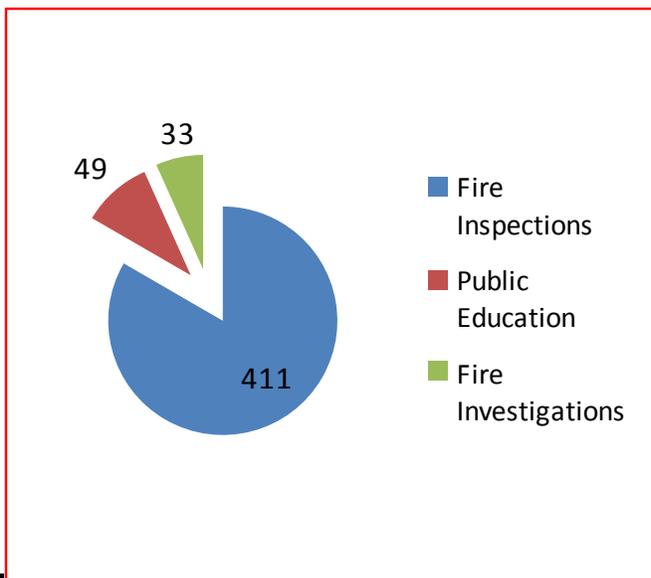
South Dakota's 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration



State Farm Teddy Bear Presentation



Ride to school recipient



### Fire Inspections

Inspection of businesses in Watertown provides an opportunity to walk through and identify fire hazards and Code Violations. More importantly we are able to educate merchants why the code is in place and provide examples of things that can be done to make a safer work environment for employee's, emergency responders and decrease the liability from the owner or tenant of a structure by ensuring code compliance was achieved.

## **Fire Investigation**

Fire investigation had a very active year. We had a serial arsonist setting some structure and vehicle fires in Watertown. Through the use of the Arson Task force which included Watertown Fire Rescue, Watertown Police Department, South Dakota Department of Criminal Investigation and South Dakota Fire Marshal's Office, an individual was caught and charge for the fire starting. The Person charged is currently awaiting prosecution.

The Arson task force is growing this year by adding two fire investigators. Firefighter Adam Bloom has just completed his initial training at the National Fire Academy and Detective Reuben Kinnunen is scheduled to attend class.



## **Planning Items Review**

The past year economic development in the city has kept the Fire Prevention Division busy with plan reviews. Fire Prevention work close with the City Building and Engineering Departments on fire code compliance which includes, plan reviews of sprinkler and alarm systems, issuing of occupancy permits, construction site inspections, consultations with architects and engineers on building plans and also attends all the Board of Adjustment and Planning /Zoning meetings.

WFR TRAINING 2014



It is the Watertown Fire Rescue's commitment to provide the best service possible to everyone that lives, works or visits Watertown. Whether it is a medical emergency, a fire emergency, or an emergency of another nature, we are committed to mitigating it as quickly and efficiently as possible with the resources at our disposal. We will continue to challenge ourselves through our training and education to ensure that we are prepared to fulfill that commitment.

Watertown Fire Rescue works hard to constantly improve the delivery of service to our citizens. Our training program is a major part of that. In 2014, the Watertown Fire Department spent over 6,800 hours training to ensure that our delivery of service is the best that it can be. The department conducted annual recertification and refresher on Structural Firefighting skills, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, EMS, Hazmat and Rescue.

**Fire**

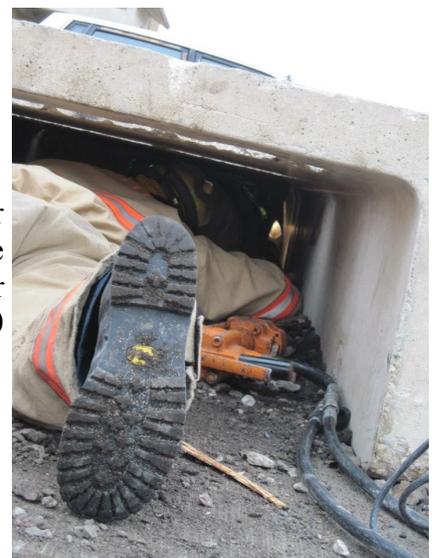
In the fall of 2014 Five Watertown Firefighter were selected to attend the Crude By Rail Program at the Security and Emergency Response Training Center (SERTC) in Pueblo CO. The program covers chemical and physical properties of the crude oil transported, basic site, damage assessment, as well tank car design and construction. Other subjects included tactical product control methods including the application of firefighting foam agents, water and spill control procedures, planning for crude oil incidents, and the environmental impacts. The evolutions included demonstrations of crude oil fires, boil overs, and foam applications and advanced firefighting techniques as applied to Crude Oil incidents by rail. Training culminated in a full-scale derailment exercise.

**Special Operations**

In spring 2014 WFR provided a High Angle Rope Rescue course with new nine initiates. Firefighters were trained in the fundamentals of rope rescue, focusing on high angle rescue techniques. The course covered skills used in the industrial setting with a lot of information and intense hands on. The skill sets blended with those skills used for fire rescue, confined space entry and other technician rescue disciplines. Later in July those that complete the course tested and passed the state of South Dakotas standards test for Rescue Technician.

In April, Two team members were selected to further their training in the Advanced Structural Collapse 3 course offered at Texas A&M through the Texas Engineering Extension Service. This course is designed to provide team members with the knowledge, skills to conduct advanced exterior shoring operations at large-scale structural collapse incidents. Team members constructed large and complex exterior shoring systems in Disaster City in this 50 hour course. The skills learned are applicable at structural collapses involving multi-story, heavily-reinforced structures such as office buildings and large apartment complexes.

In August, Three Team members were selected to further their training on structural collapse incidents in the Structural Collapse Technicians Course at the V.L. Cruisenberry Fire Training Center in Sioux Falls. In the Structural Collapse Technicians Course 20 members from across the state were trained over the 40 hours.



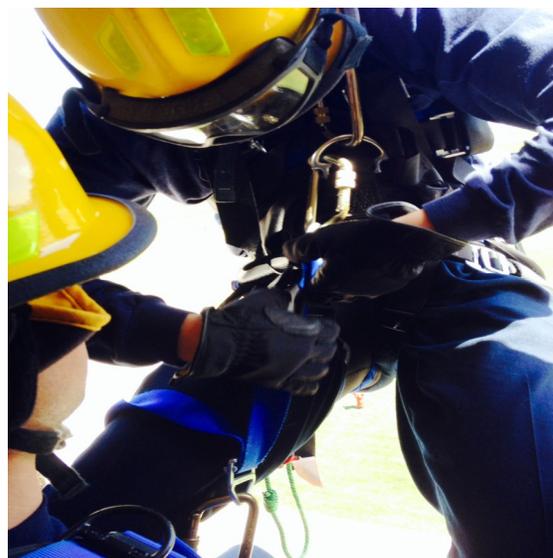
### Hazmat

Chemicals make our daily lives more convenient in many different ways. Every year there are thousands of new chemicals that are developed. It is always a challenge for our Hazmat Technicians to stay up to date with our ever-changing world full of chemicals. The members of the Watertown Fire Department remain committed to protecting the members of our community and the environment in which we live. The Watertown Fire Rescue's first priority at any Haz-Mat scene is life safety of all persons that may be affected. The entire Watertown Fire Department is trained to Hazardous Material Operations level, which allows the fire department to handle hazardous materials incidents defensively. If a more aggressive and intense strategy is needed, the Hazardous Materials team is called out.

The Watertown Fire Rescue Hazardous Materials Team consists of 27 firefighter/paramedics with additional Hazardous Materials training. These 27 personnel, in addition to their normal firefighter/paramedic duties, have been trained to the level of Hazardous Materials Technician. This level of specialized training allows these personnel to mitigate any hazardous materials situation offensively. In addition to that training, several of the team members attended specialized schools each year. Some of the training in 2014 that challenged team members was the three day hazmat technician refresher. The Haz-Mat refresher course challenged technicians in a series of skills drills that allowed technician to sharpen skills while maintaining certifications, the three days culminated with a real time drill in Watertown. In addition to that training, several of the team members attended specialized schools each year. Some of the subject matters were, Tank Car Specialist, Highway Emergency Specialist, and Leadership and Management of Surface Transport Incidents.

*How you train is how you will perform on the scene during an emergency. The foundation of any successful emergency operation is directly linked to the training of its members that provide Fire or EMS services. Training is essential for safe operations to both the emergency provider and those receiving the service. Training is never-ending, and the recording of that training is as essential as the training itself. For the safety of the citizens and firefighters, the fire service must rely on training to ensure coordination, consistency, and timely communications as well as the ability to accomplish the emergency tasks. Fire departments that provide quality training opportunities for their personnel are better prepared to handle emergencies.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Lieutenant Gregory Hall



Urban Search And Rescue



2014 has been a productive year at the Watertown Fire Department Regional Training Center. The completion of the SCBA smoke house at the training grounds has been completed by Lake Area Tech. The finishing touches are being completed by WFR personnel, The house has been painted on the outside and the construction of a confined space maze is near completion in the basement. The house will now be able to train firefighters on search and rescue, ventilation and have a SCBA confidence course inside. This will enable firefighters to gain the confidence and perfect their skill to make entry into structures that are smoke filled or where visibility is minimal. WFR has also installed a fire hydrant with the help of the Municipal Utilities on the training grounds. This will give firefighters the ability to do

pump operations during the summer months and develop their pump operating skills, hand line placement etc. Lake Area Tech's Heavy Equipment class has also started ground work on building a road to the center, and putting blacktop millings in the parking lot and training area. This will give a better area to do fire department evolutions at the training center.



Currently LATI's Med Fire program has received 4 connex shipping containers and will be working on designing a burn tower made out of them. This will be another asset to the training center when completed. WFR will also be putting in place after the millings are on the ground some more props to do confined space and hazmat training etc. WFR had also sent 3 firefighters to Sioux Falls Fire's Structural collapse class and 2 firefighters to TEEEX in Texas for an advanced shoring class. This brings WFR's numbers up to 12 in Structural collapse.

It has been a long time overdue but the training center is finally starting to come together and with WFR and LATI working together it will become a great asset not only to Watertown but other surrounding fire departments.



### Hazardous Material Team



Hazardous material is defined as any substance when outside of its container could cause harm to an individual or the environment. In 2014, the HazMat team had 85 calls for service.

WFR Hazmat Team is one of four teams (Aberdeen, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls) in the State of South Dakota. When a hazardous material incident occurs in a community throughout the state, the State Emergency Response Center in Pierre, can request the WFR HazMat Team to assist the community.

In 2014, the team was awarded \$53,000 in grants, to help fund training and equipment purchases. One of the training events we funded this year with the grant money was a weeklong HazMat Refresher course that ended with a drill at the Outdoor Aquatic Center. A scenario was staged in which a chemical release occurred, the team had to determine what chemicals were released, set objects to mitigate the release, decontaminate the victims and response team.

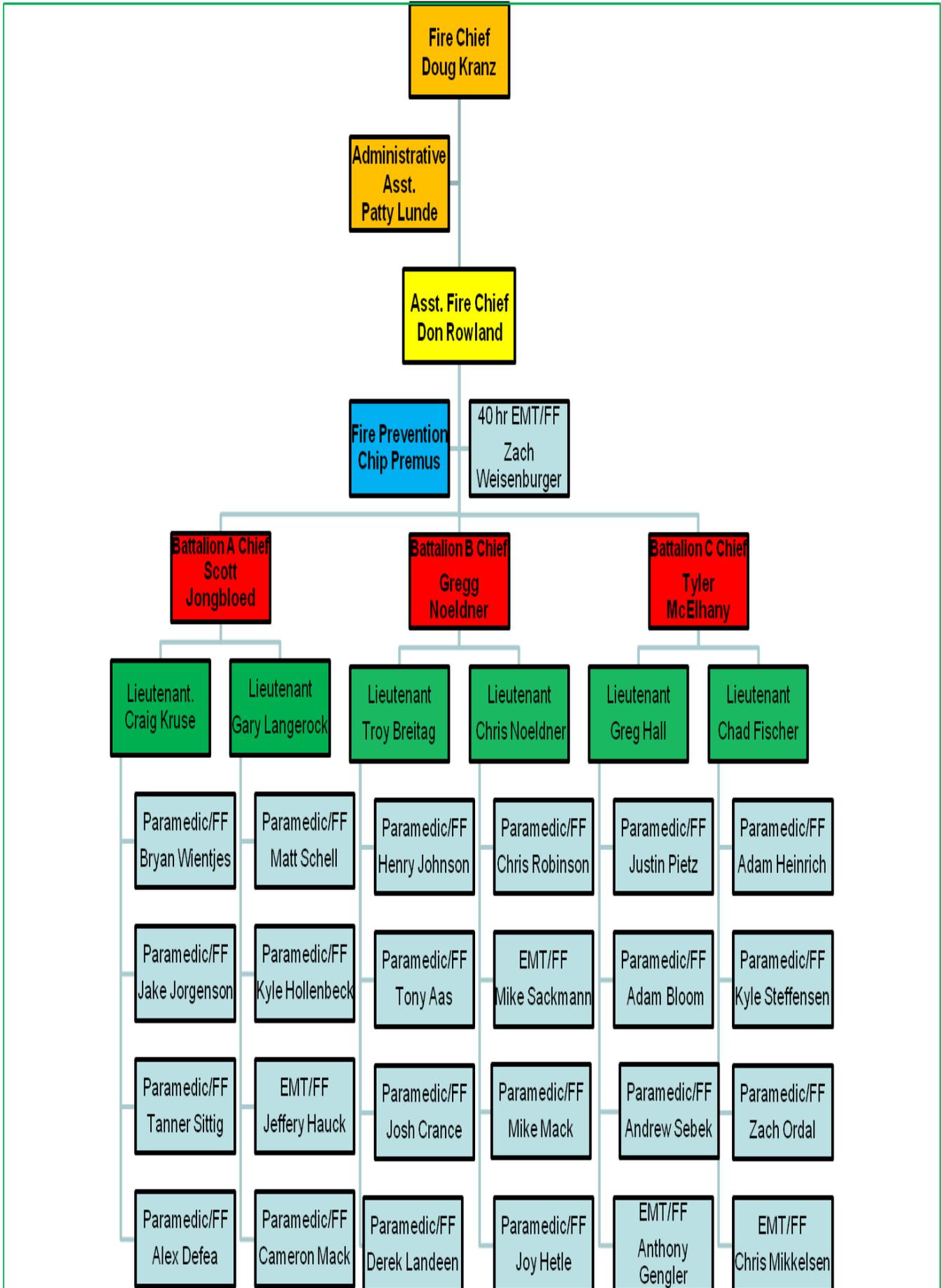


WFR received three donated training props this year. The valve end of a 1 ton Chlorine tank from Brenntag Southwest in Oklahoma, and 2 railroad tank car man way props from BNSF railway. These props will make it possible for us to practice applying some of equipment needed to stop leaks.

Training is essential to the WFR HazMat Team, it helps us achieve and maintain the standard set in our Mission Statement to be “Always Ready”. For more information about training, see Lieutenant Hall’s training report page.



# Watertown Fire Rescue Organizational Chart



Faces of Watertown Fire Rescue



Don Rowland  
Assistant Chief  
22 Years of Service



Doug Kranz  
Fire Chief  
26 Years of Service



Chip Premus  
Fire Prevention Officer  
12 Years of Service



Gregg Noeldner  
Battalion Chief  
23 Years of Service



Tyler McElhany  
Battalion Chief  
20 Years of Service



Scott Jongbloed  
Battalion Chief  
15 Years of Service



Troy Breitag  
Lieutenant  
19 Years of Service



Gary Langerock  
Lieutenant  
14 Years of Service



Greg Hall  
Lieutenant  
13 Years of Service

Faces of Watertown Fire Rescue



Chad Fischer  
Lieutenant  
13 Years of Service



Chris Noeldner  
Lieutenant  
13 Years of Service



Craig Kruse  
Lieutenant  
13 Years of Service



Henry Johnson  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
20 Years of Service



Matt Schell  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
11 Years of Service



Justin Pietz  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
10 Years of Service



Bryan Wientjes  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
8 Years of Service



CJ Robinson  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
7 Years of Service



Adam Heinrich  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
7 Years of Service

Faces of Watertown Fire Rescue



Adam Bloom  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
6 Years of Service



Tony Aas  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
6 Years of Service



Jacob Jorgenson  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
5 Years of Service



Kyle Steffensen  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
4 Years of Service



Kyle Hollenbeck  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
3 Years of Service



Mike Sackmann  
Firefighter/EMT-Basic  
2 Years of Service



Tanner Sittig  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
2 Years of Service



Mike Mack  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
1 Year of Service



Andrew Sebek  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
1 Year of Service

Faces of Watertown Fire Rescue



Jeff Hauck  
Firefighter/EMT-Basic  
1 Year of Service



Josh Crance  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
1 Year of Service



Cam Mack  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
1 Year of Service



Zach Ordahl  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
1 Year of Service



Derek Landeen  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
Probationary Employee



Alex De Fea  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
Probationary Employee



Joy Hetle  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
Probationary Employee



Anthony Gengler  
Firefighter/EMT-Basic  
Probationary Employee



Chris Mikkelsen  
Firefighter/EMT-Basic  
Probationary Employee



Watertown Firefighters Local #1724 held its second Fire Ops 101 event on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Fire Ops 101 provides elected and appointed officials and the local media with a hands-on opportunity to better understand the complexities of what Watertown Firefighters do on a daily basis. This year's event allowed participants to learn about: vehicle extrication, search and rescue, high angle rescue, CPR, and live fire training. Watertown Firefighters are very passionate about what they do and look forward to not only showing our elected officials what we do but allowing them to take part in it. Hopefully the participants in this year's event took away something about our job that they didn't know before. We would like to thank the participants that showed up for Fire Ops 101. They include Mayor Steve Thorson, Councilwoman Beth Mantey, Commissioner Brenda Hanten, District 5 State Senator Ried Holien, Watertown Public Opinion, and Watertown Radio's Josh Weyh. All participants are awarded a real fire helmet upon completion. Watertown Firefighters look forward to future Fire Ops 101 events.

Lieutenant Craig Kruse



Meet the Newest Members of Watertown Fire Rescue who were hired in 2014.



Derek Landeen

I was born in Sioux Falls, SD. I grew up on a lake near Madison, SD and graduated from Madison High School. After graduating I attended Lake Area Technical Institute for the Med/Fire Rescue program where I earned an AAS degree and became a Firefighter/Paramedic. I have lived in Watertown for 3 years now and have really enjoyed being a part of the community. Upon obtaining my EMT Basic I joined the work force in Sisseton while still attending LATI. After completing my Paramedic and applying for the Firefighter/EMT position at Watertown Fire Rescue I was hired in March of 2014, which was the ultimate goal I had been working toward the previous 2 yrs. In my free time I enjoy spending time with family, friends and also like being outdoors hunting and fishing. I have appreciated and enjoyed my first year and hope to spend many more years with my family at WFR.



Joy Hetle

I grew up on a ranch south of Kadoka, SD. I have one sister and one brother, and now 6 nephews and 2 nieces. I graduated high school from Sunshine Bible Academy in 2000 and then went to SDSU, where my then boyfriend (now my husband) was attending college also. Phil and I were married in June 2001. We moved to Sioux Falls in 2003 where I began a 10 year career with Verizon. We moved to Huron in 2007 where we lived until moving here to Watertown. My husband and I have three daughters, Leah (10), Kate (7), and Remy(3). We enjoy camping, fishing, canoeing, and just being together. I love music and enjoy playing the piano, drums, and singing. I became interested in full time EMS when I took an EMT class and went to the Rosebud Reservation for ride time. I enrolled in Avera McKennan's paramedic program the following fall while also working on Huron's ambulance service. I became interested in the fire service when I did my internship at Mitchell Fire last May-June. I count it a great privilege to be able to serve the people of Watertown and look forward to building friendships while making Watertown our home.



Anthony Gengler

I was born in Brookings, SD. I was raised in Colman, SD and graduated from Colman-Egan High School. After high school I jumped from college to college trying to find my calling. I ended up in Casper, WY at Casper College where I graduated with an Associates of Science in Fire Science and General Studies. In February of 2014 I continued my education enrolling in the Paramedic program at Avera McKennan School of EMS. During the middle of going through the paramedic program I was given the opportunity to join WFR. I have been with WFR since September of 2014 and am looking forward to creating many memories and new friends here. I currently am finishing up my paramedic program and expected to graduate at the end of February in 2015. In my spare time I enjoy playing many different sports, running, and working out. Looking forward to having a great career here at WFR.



Alex DeFea

I was born in Milbank, South Dakota. I grew up in Milbank and attended Milbank High School where I graduated in 2009. I attend LATI following high school and earned an AAS degree in Med/Fire Rescue. I moved to Sisseton, South Dakota and worked for Grant/Roberts Ambulance for almost 2 years. In July 2014 I was hired by Watertown Fire Rescue. During my off time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. The time I am spending with WFR has been enjoyable and I look forward going to work each and every day.



Christopher Mikkelsen

I was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I grew up in Lennox, SD. I graduated from Lennox High School in 2012. I am attending LATI in the Med/Fire Rescue program where I will earn my AAS degree. I have lived in Watertown for 2 years. While attending school at LATI I worked at Hometown Building Center until I was hired by Watertown Fire Rescue in the month of November 2014. I am very thankful to be a part of the WFR. I enjoy outdoor activities and hanging out with friends and family during my time off. I really appreciate and have enjoyed being part of the WFR family thus far. I have met many more new people and made friends at WFR and hope to continue to do so.

## Watertown Fire Rescue



### *Advisory Committee*

Watertown Fire Rescue would like to thank the Watertown Fire Rescue Advisory Committee for their Dedication and time to help our department achieve excellence.

### *Members*

*Mike Danforth*

*Russ Wilkins*

*Jim Stoudt*

*Mike Cartney*

*Lee McPeck*

*Jim Sutton*

*Chad Holdin*