

HERMANTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

2024 YEAR END REPORT





Hermantown Fire Department



HERMANTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
2024



Hermantown Fire Department

History

The Hermantown Fire Department (HFD) officially became a municipal fire department under the City of Hermantown on January 1, 2024, at 12:00 a.m., transitioning from the Hermantown Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) which was a 501C that has been contracting with the city since 1951. At the time of this transition, approximately 75% of HVFD's dedicated members continued their service with HFD, ensuring a strong foundation of experience and community commitment. Today, HFD operates as a combination department with 25 paid-on-call firefighters and two full-time staff members, providing enhanced coverage and emergency response capabilities.

The department's personnel bring a diverse range of experience, from brand-new firefighters and EMS providers to members with over 20 years of service. This blend of expertise allows HFD to maintain a strong focus on both fire suppression and life safety services. HFD actively engages in fire and life safety education, performing routine fire and life safety visits at local businesses and private residences to help ensure the community meets high safety standards.

A significant advancement in 2024 was the implementation of the First Due response software, which integrates the Community Connect platform. This system allows residents and businesses to voluntarily share critical information about their properties, such as emergency contacts, occupants, hazards, and structural details. This data provides responders with vital information during emergencies, improving situational awareness and ensuring a safer, more effective response.

HFD also continues to support the Live-In Program, where college students and military personnel reside at the station while gaining hands-on experience in fire and EMS operations. This program has become a valuable pathway for developing the next generation of fire service professionals by providing mentorship, training, and real-world experience.

Through these advancements and a commitment to safety, training, and community service, the Hermantown Fire Department remains dedicated to protecting the lives and property of those it serves.



Hermantown Fire Department

Message from The Chief

As the Fire Chief of the Hermantown Fire Department, I am pleased to present this 2024 year-end report. I am extremely proud of the work the members of the Hermantown Fire Department accomplished this past year. It was a busy year with emergency calls, requests for service, repairs & maintenance, restarting commercial fire safety inspections and of course many hours of training. As I completed my first year as Fire Chief I can honestly say that I am truly blessed to serve this community and such a fine group of Firefighters.



With new leadership comes change. Some changes have been challenging yet necessary and of course intended to make us more effective, efficient and better at what we do. These changes have come by way of how we operate at emergencies, how we train, changes to some policy and changes in personnel. Again, I am proud of our Firefighters as they have adapted, embraced and even excelled with the changes we have made. Our Firefighters have made the difference.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize and mention the great support we received from our Community, Mayor, Councilmen and all of the other City Departments. This support is essential and very much appreciated. I would also like to thank the families of our firefighters as they have made many sacrifices that allow our Firefighters to serve our community when needed.

Finally, this report will reflect many of the accomplishments made by our Firefighters. With that said I find it impossible to convey the positive impact our Firefighters make on individuals, daily! Whether it is saving someone's life, stabilizing an emergency, protecting someone's property, treating someone's medical needs or simply taking the time to show compassion towards someone having a bad day, we are here to serve the citizens of Hermantown and our surrounding area.

Sincerely,

Zachary Graves
Fire Chief



Hermantown Fire Department

Mission Statement

Hermantown Fire Department is dedicated to strengthening community relationships through ensuring life safety, managing fire prevention, and safeguarding the environment.



VISION

Hermantown Fire Department strives toward a higher quality of fire and life safety protection services by progressing training/education, assuring professionalism, and respecting traditions.



Hermantown Fire Department

Values



TRADITION

Building from the foundation set by those who sacrificed and were devoted to serving our community.



COMPASSION

Exhibiting kindness and empathy towards all.



PROFESSIONALISM

Embracing positivity, presenting a proper appearance, and proactively engaging in training/education.



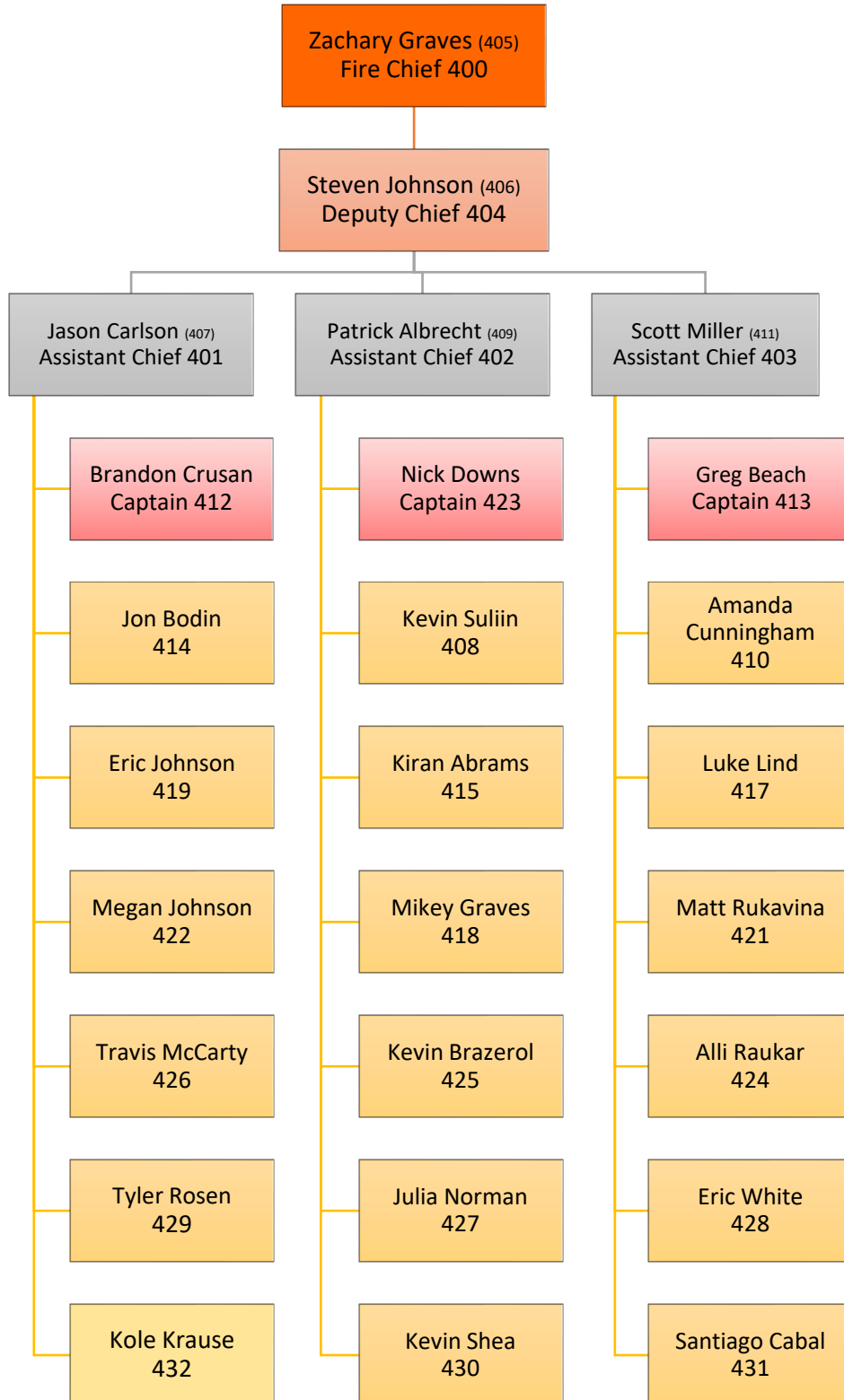
ACCOUNTABILITY

Holding personnel to a higher standard and employing those who are dedicated to serving our community.



Hermantown Fire Department

Organizational Chart





Hermantown Fire Department

Fire Response Apparatus

Ladder 1



2003 E-One 75ft Aerial Pumper
500 Gallon
75 Responses 2024

Engine 1



2010 Sutphen Pumper
500 Gallons
10 Responses 2024

Engine 2



2016 E-One Pumper
500 Gallons
34 Responses 2024

Engine 3



2021 E-One Pumper
2500 Gallons
47 Responses 2024



Hermantown Fire Department

Tanker 1



2013 US Tanker
2000 Gallons
15 Responses 2024

Brush Truck



2007 Ford F350 with skid unit
150 Gallons
35 Responses 2024

Medical Response Apparatus

Rescue 1



539 Responses 2024

Rescue 2



612 Responses 2024



Hermantown Fire Department

Rescue 3



725 Responses 2024

Rescue 4



421 Responses 2024

Squad 400



557 Responses 2024



Hermantown Fire Department

CALLS FOR SERVICE

The Hermantown Fire Department experienced a significant uptick in activity in 2024, responding to 1,483 calls for service, a 14% increase over 2023, representing 212 more calls. In 2024 the fire department saw a slight increase in mutual calls, this was in part due to St. Louis County dispatch knowing our new model of always having two people on call 24/7 365 days a year.

The department saw a decrease in car accidents, however the ones they responded to were more severe with major life threatening injuries. We did respond to one fatal motorcycle crash. We also responded to several structure fires, with one occurring within city limits and others as part of our automatic aid to neighboring departments. Tragically, one of these fires resulted in the loss of the homeowner's life. Additionally, the department had a busy spring dealing with a surge in grass fires, likely due to the lack of snow during the winter season, which created more favorable conditions for wildfires to spread.

Overall, 2024 was a year of increased demand for the department, marked by a mix of severe accidents, structure fires, and seasonal wildfires, all contributing to our higher call volume.

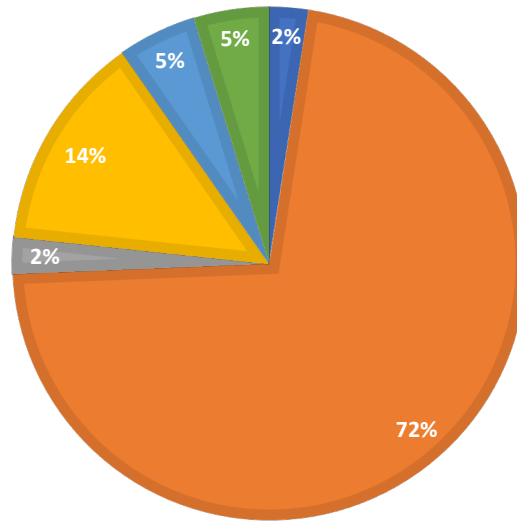
Fires	Building, Cooking, Vehicle and Wildland Fires	36
Overpressure Rupture	Explosion, Excessive heat	1
Rescue & Emergency Medical	Medical Assist, Vehicle Accident	1064
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire)	Carbon Monoxide, Gas/Fuel Spills, Gas Leaks	34
Service Calls	Lift Assist, Assist Police, Water Problems	202
Good Intent Calls	Cancelled En route, Wrong Address	73
False Alarm	System Malfunction, Unintentional, Malicious	70
Total Calls for 2024		1483



Hermantown Fire Department

2024 RESPONSE TYPE PERCENTAGES

■ Fires
 ■ EMS
 ■ Harardous Condition
 ■ Service Calls
 ■ Good Intent Calls
 ■ False Alarm



Days of the Week Breakdown

Day of Week	Number of Incidents
01 - Sunday	180
02 - Monday	213
03 - Tuesday	209
04 - Wednesday	227
05 - Thursday	223
06 - Friday	235
07 - Saturday	196
Total: 1,483	



Hermantown Fire Department





Hermantown Fire Department

Time of the Day Breakdown

Hour of Day	Number of Incidents
00:00:00 - 00:59:59	40
01:00:00 - 01:59:59	25
02:00:00 - 02:59:59	26
03:00:00 - 03:59:59	21
04:00:00 - 04:59:59	23
05:00:00 - 05:59:59	19
06:00:00 - 06:59:59	33
07:00:00 - 07:59:59	56
08:00:00 - 08:59:59	81
09:00:00 - 09:59:59	100
10:00:00 - 10:59:59	86
11:00:00 - 11:59:59	95
12:00:00 - 12:59:59	97
13:00:00 - 13:59:59	101
14:00:00 - 14:59:59	84
15:00:00 - 15:59:59	95
16:00:00 - 16:59:59	74
17:00:00 - 17:59:59	64
18:00:00 - 18:59:59	87
19:00:00 - 19:59:59	76
20:00:00 - 20:59:59	59
21:00:00 - 21:59:59	54
22:00:00 - 22:59:59	44
23:00:00 - 23:59:59	43
Total: 1,483	





Hermantown Fire Department

Incidents by Property Use

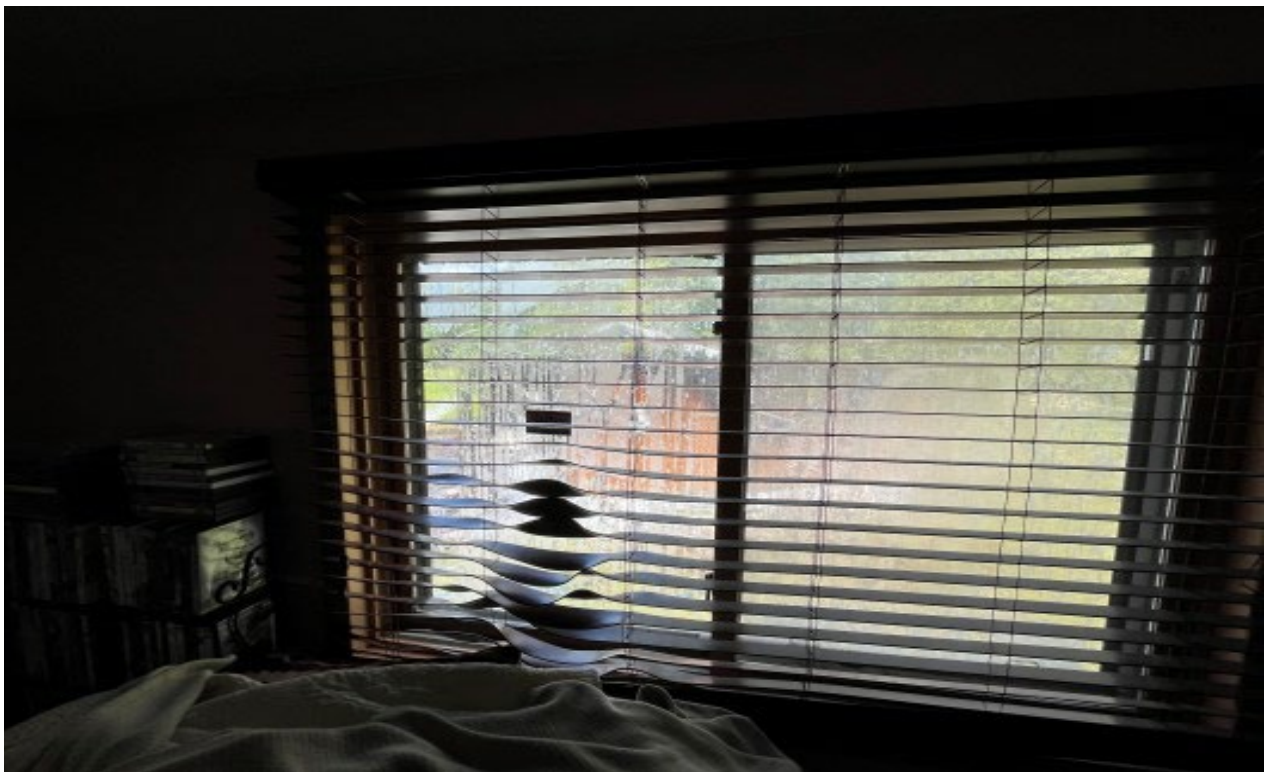
Property Use	Responses	Percentage
Residential	709	48%
24-hour Care Nursing Home	217	16%
Group Homes	141	9%
Mercantile (Business)	115	8%
Roadway	90	6%
Other	83	6%
Clinics	71	5%
Prison	30	1%
Hotels	27	1%

Department saw a 32% increase to call at 24-hour care nursing homes.





Hermantown Fire Department



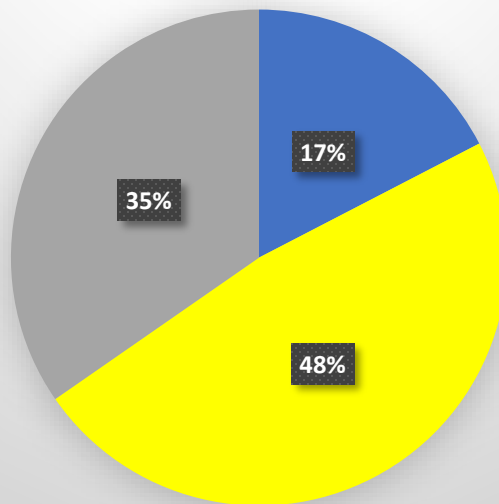


Hermantown Fire Department

Call Coverage

Month	All Calls	Paid On Call	Full Time	Total
January	29	57	47	133
February	17	53	33	103
March	19	78	40	137
April	23	39	34	96
May	22	77	46	145
June	24	73	30	127
July	12	70	43	125
August	31	60	62	153
September	20	51	56	127
October	23	41	47	111
November	20	53	33	106
December	18	59	43	120
Total	258	711	514	1483

Call Coverage



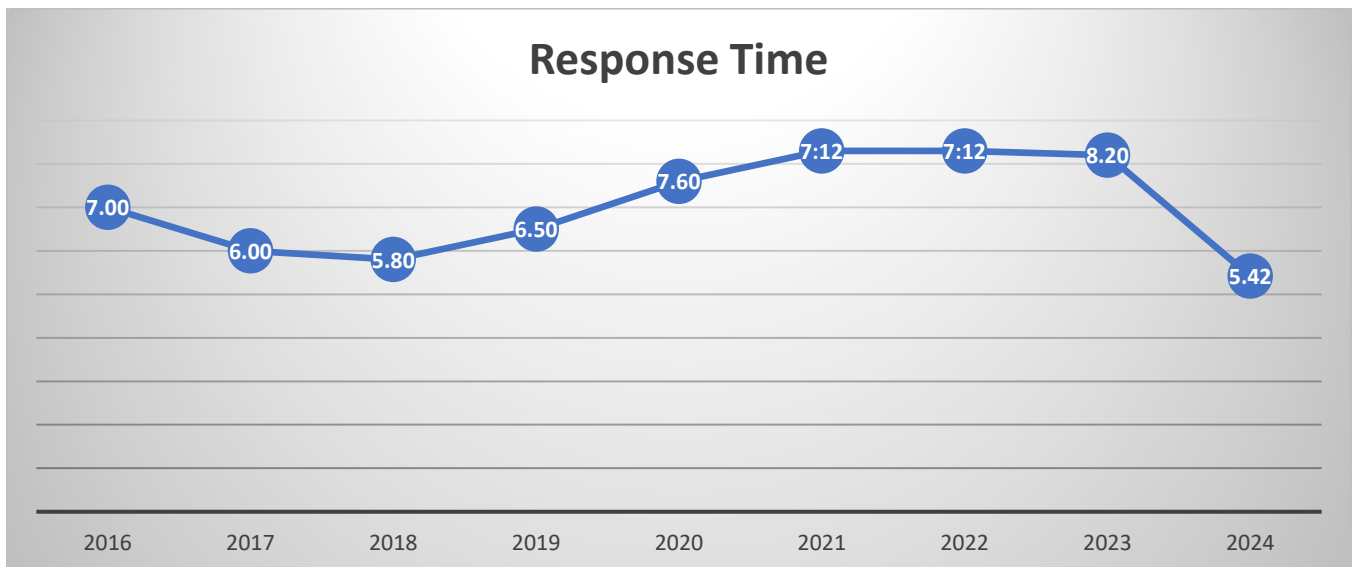
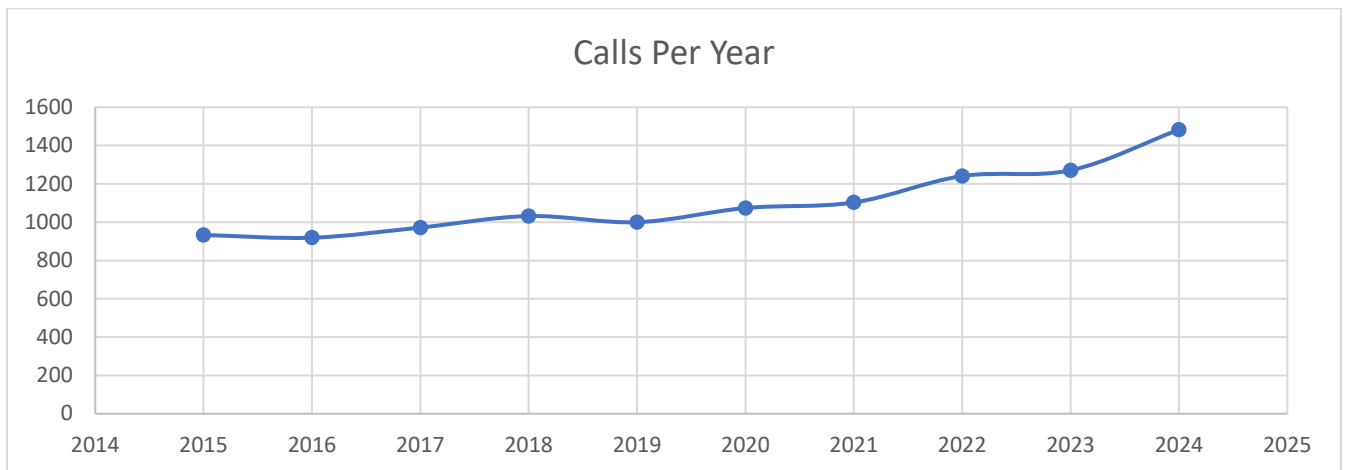


Hermantown Fire Department

Response Time

Improving response times for firefighters is critical for saving lives and minimizing property damage during emergencies. One of our goals with going to the new department structure was reducing response time on priority calls. Having two members on shift 24/7 and having them respond from their home with a medical apparatus has shown a significant decrease in the response time. In 2023 the average response time to a call was over 8 minutes. Staff set a goal at the beginning of the year to have response time under 7 minutes. The average response time in 2024 was 5 minutes 42 seconds for priority calls.

Ten Year Breakdown





Hermantown Fire Department

2024 Training Information

Breakdown of Monthly Training

January	Pillars Pre-Plan, SOG's, Policies
February	Medical Refresher Training
March	Medical Refresher Training
April	SCBA
May	Building Construction, Live Burn
June	Mental Health
July	Off
August	National Night Out
September	Hose Loads and Advancements
October	Drivers Training
November	Auto Extraction
December	SCBA, 4 Gas Monitor, First Due





Hermantown Fire Department

In-person Classes

Emergency Medical Technician (140 hours)
Five members completed

Emergency Medical Responder (80 hours)
Two members completed

Firefighter I/II (187 hours)
Five members started
Finish February 2025

Fire Officer 1 (40 hours)
Five members completed

Minnesota Board of Firefighting Training and Education (MBFTE)
Awarded \$5,500
Received \$16,712





Community Involvement

2024 Fire Awareness and Community Outreach

- Provided on-site medical responders for home football games at Hermantown High School.
- Provided ladder truck and support for the National Park Ranger in line of service death caravan on I-35.
- Participated in and traffic control for Hermantown Summerfest parades
- Participated in the national night out event at the city center Fire hall 1.
- Provided fire safety training to the students at the Hermantown elementary school on site for the public safety day.
- Provided traffic control and medical staff for Saint Fennessy 4K
- Cub Scouts Hall 1 fire tour and badge training in November.
- Provided traffic control for Presidents Biden's visit
- Provided traffic control for First Lady Jill Biden's visit
- Assisted DFD with Flag for Firefighter Ray Skoglund
- Visited several home day cars and child care centers for Fire Prevention week
- 30 Car seat safety checks





Hermantown Fire Department



Police Department
2000 North Arlington Avenue
Duluth, Minnesota 55811

218-720-5400
police@duluthmn.gov

January 29, 2024

Hermantown Fire Department
Zach Graves
5111 Maple Grove Road
Hermantown, MN 55811

Dear Zach,

On behalf of the Duluth Police Department, thank you for your agency's assistance with President Biden's recent visit. During an operation such as this, with so many moving parts and last-minute changes, we couldn't have provided the necessary security without you. I appreciate your willingness to work together to make this event a success.

Respectfully,

Mike Ceynowa
Chief of Police



www.duluthmn.gov

The City of Duluth is an equal opportunity employer



Hermantown Fire Department



Fire Department
Fire Headquarters
402 West Second Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

218-730-4394
Business Office
218-730-4400
Fire Stations

February 19, 2024

Zach Graves
Fire Chief
City of Hermantown
5111 Maple Grove Rd
Hermantown, MN 55811

Re: Support of Firefighter Skoglund

Dear Chief Graves,

On behalf of the Duluth Fire Department, and IAFF Local 101, we would like to thank you and your staff for supporting Raymond, his family, and our department during the sendoff event at the Duluth airport. Having you, your staff, and the Hermantown ladder truck participate in the event made for a very special event that could not have been accomplished without your support. We were told by Angel MedFlight staff that they "do this every day, and have never seen anything like it."

Please pass our thanks along to your firefighters for helping make the event a very special sendoff that meant a lot to the Skoglund family and our staff.

Respectfully,

Shawn Krizaj
City of Duluth Fire Chief

Adam Casillas
IAFF Local 101 President



www.duluthmn.gov

The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Hermantown Fire Department

Employees

Full Time- 2

Paid-On-Call- 24

One member left September for Brooklyn Park, MN fire department

Medical Qualification

Paramedics: 1

EMTs: 18

First Responders: 5

Probationary: 5

Fire I/II Certification

Complete- 22

Currently in Class- 4

Call Summary

Total Dispatches: 1,483

EMS: 1,064

Fire: 37

Hazardous Condition: 34

False Alarm – 70

Good Intent Call: 73

Service Calls: 202

Mutual Aid Calls

Mutual Aid Given: 21

Mutual Aid Received: 6

Average Response Time:

5 minutes and 2 seconds



Hermantown Fire Department
