

Seward Volunteer Fire Department

Purpose

To provide Fire Protection, Suppression, Rescue and Emergency Medical care and transportation for the City of Seward, Nebraska, and the Seward Rural Fire District. Promote Fire Prevention through education and training of the public. Provide aid to Civil Authorities in the case of a Natural or National Disaster or Emergency of any type. Promote safety through education to the public. Provide training and equipment necessary for the above tasks to be accomplished as well as aid Seward County departments.

Mission Statement

Mission Statement

With the desire to serve and courage to act we preserve property, save lives, and build a safer community for the citizens we serve.

The department has an internal committee with the sole purpose of monitoring and maintaining a positive culture within the organization. This committee helps implement changes to maintain a positive and healthy future for the organization.

2024 Call Responses

Total Calls 724

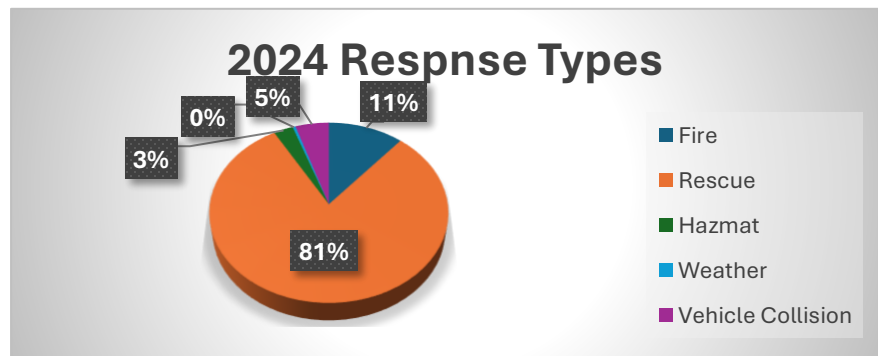
Fire 81

Rescue 583

Motor Vehicle Accidents 36

Hazmat 21

Weather 3



Membership

Seward Fire Department currently has 38 active members, with multiple reserve members from each company. Members maintain the highest level of competency through training and personal development.

The membership meets monthly for departmental meetings and training sessions.

We welcomed three new members in 2023-Noah Brumm, Jax Johnson, Kaitlyn Denniston.

The department lost 3 members in 2024; those 3 members resigned from active status for different reasons. (1) Time commitments (1) Moved (1) Reserve Status.

2024 Officers

Chief - James Kimsey
Dan Brumm - Assistant Chief
Training Officer - Landon Dirks
Assistant Training Officer - Tayler Mifflin
Rescue Captain - Connie Languein
Assistant Rescue Captain - Thomas Suhr
Company 1 Captain – John Singleton
Company 2 Captain - Lisa Kimsey
Hook and Ladder Captain - Tyler Dickinson
Safety Officer - Kent Auman
President - Mark Suhr
Secretary - Brian Niebrugge

2024 Elected Officers

Chief - Tayler Mifflin
Assistant Chief - Dan Brumm
Training Officer - Landon Dirks
Assistant Training Officer - Tyler Dickinson
Rescue Captain – Thomas Suhr
Assistant Rescue Captain – Emily Estes
Company 1 Captain – Bryan Niebrugge
Company 2 Captain Lisa Kimsey
Hook and Ladder Captain – Tyler Dickinson
Safety Officer - Open
President - Mark Suhr
Secretary – Travis Pollak

Training

We take training very seriously, preparing our members for different situations big and small. High level scenario-based training keeps our members prepared to protect the citizens and property of Seward County. Our members always stay prepared through our 11 department trainings.

Members attend and train on a variety of classes and leadership courses by attending monthly training sessions, mutual aid trainings, Storm Spotting Classes, various trainings outside of the department, EMS Conference, Les Lukert Leadership conference and Fire School as well as many others.

We are still working on utilizing our training platform to accurately document our training hours for the membership. The department had over 1500 training hours in 2024 which is a dip from 2023. This dip is due to a bulk of FF1 classes and EMT classes our members took in 2023. The department currently has:

17 Total EMTS certified in 2024 with three members in EMT class right now.

19 Total FF1 certified firefighters in 2024

Community

Seward Volunteer Fire gives back every year to the community through public interactions. Community Service events, Sporting Events and Escorts, Fire Prevention, Fourth of July, Education to schools, and collaborations with the local hospital.

Response Time

The response times for 2024 was based on information documented in Response Master. The calculated time is calculated from two phases of a call. The first is the time the unit is dispatch to the time the unit was en route.

The second is the time the unit was leaving the station to the arriving on scene. Please note, the times listed above are only figured using the first arriving unit, and we are working on tracking all apparatus better in 2025. There are also times that by using radio communications a member may be closer to the scene without responding to the fire station. With this consideration response times can be reduced.

2024 Response Times		
Dispatch to En Route	Enroute to On Scene	Total Response Average
7.25 Minutes	3.5 Minutes	10.75 Minutes

We are working on ways to reduce this time to better serve the community.

Insurance Services Office (ISO)

Fire Score is a rating that determines how well the fire department can protect your community and home. ISO Rating is assigned to a Public Protection Classification on a scale from 1-10 with 1 being the best score from analyzed data.

A good ISO fire rating brings value to your community and decreases insurance costs.

Seward Fire Department has built an ISO rating of 4 and continues to look for ways to improve the score greater.

Infrastructure

We are currently using 3 different programs daily that cover everything we do. Most of these programs have become more advanced through 2024. Image Trend Elite in conjunction with Nebraska EMS, Response Master, and Fire Engineering Training.

The department has gone digital with patient care documentation using Image Trend Elite on a tablet to complete patient care forms and patient signatures for billing.

Response Master Program continues to grow and has been used for truck maintenance, work orders, monthly truck check off's, fleet management, Hydrant location, Incidents, and maps. We have been utilizing it more at the end of the year to document our calls and response times of apparatus. Using this platform we now collaborate with Seward County Communications and law enforcement by utilizing the same response number generated by dispatch.

Fire Engineering training remains available for training. This allows members to complete a range of quick trainings to long trainings and only requires a computer and the members attention. We have been working with the program for better documentation of our training.

Seward Volunteer Apparatus

Seward Fire welcomed a new Tanker truck from Deep South Fire Apparatus. We had been waiting on this truck to be completed for years and is finally in the fire station. We added it to the fleet at the end of December and are still working on stocking the truck to put it into service. The department currently has 10 apparatus utilized for emergency response. We utilize (2) Ambulance, (2) Pumpers, (1) Ladder, (2) Tankers, (2) Brush Trucks, (1) UTV, and (1) station generator.

We continue to look for advancements in equipment and apparatus to better protect the citizens and community of Seward while staying ahead of the curve with ageing apparatus.

Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid is currently working toward a bond to purchase needed apparatus for departments throughout the county. The overall project goal is to standardize and update apparatus to have all Seward County Departments operating with reliable and similar trucks.

This reduces the impact to the community if there is an emergency. It allows departments to work together with similar equipment to accomplish the common goal of community safety.

Building Expansion Project

Seward Fire remains to be one of the busiest volunteer fire departments in the state. With the increasing demands and the foreseeable needs for increased services the building expansion planning project was started to meet those needs. The department is working with the architects to lock down everything the department as well as the community needs. Nothing is currently set in stone as far as the expansion plan goes, and we will work on the project through 2025 to get closer to a solution to those problems.

Goals for 2025

- Lower Response times
- Better tracking of apparatus response
- Better tracking of training
- Establish better communication
- Public, interdepartmental, city officials and processes
- Building expansion project
- Establish better Standard Operating Guidelines.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tayler Mifflin

Seward Volunteer Fire Chief