

End of Year Report 2025

February 9, 2026

The Buchanan City Fire Department had **172** Runs / calls for the year. (A record year)

We responded to:

- 6** Fires in a Structure
- 4** Fires not in a Structure – grass, shed, dumpster
- 2** Vehicle Fires
- 6** Illegal Burning Complaints
- 9** Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 22** Mutual Aid Request
- 38** Fire/Smoke/Co Alarms
- 9** Smoke Investigations
- 21** Medical Assist
- 57** Others – (Power lines down, gas leaks, missing person, service calls)

Highlight of the calls per month

January – First call of the year was a Mill Pound Apts where it was discovered that there fire extinguishers had been stolen

February – Responded a fire ever fire in a Freezer

March – Responded to 10 calls in 15-hour period due to weather, one call was a car port from 3 houses down, was on the caller's roof entangled in his power line. Also hosted Semco gas FF training for us & our mutual aid partners

April – We responded to string of city park equipment fires, and a had a very good RIT (rapid intervention team) & self-rescue training

May – Responded to a fully involved dryer fire inside Sudsville Laundry, and a working structure fire on Chicago St, also had very good vertical ventilation training on a real roof.

June – Supported the first spray day at the commons & the annual fire drill at the AEP building on Redbud

July - Responded to a dump truck caught in power lines, a minor structure fire on Arctic St and had good Vehicle extrication training at Padnos

August –Started the Fire Inspection Program, by this time in the year we had several gas leaks from construction work, including 2 this month. Supported the annual Niles Haunted house fire pre-plan walk through for auto aid partners

September – Started Hydrant flow testing, had an aerial request from our PD for person on the roof of one downtown building.

October – Several Fire prevention / Public Education dates, Including Pizza Hut night and supported the Trek & treat and the trick or treat night.

November – Responded to 2 different structure fire in Niles city, we ran 11 calls in a 24-hour period due to weather and Hosted the BCFFA meeting

December – We took delivery of 5 new MSA SCBA packs & 20 respirators, supported the tree/commons lighting and the Santa parade, and responded to Niles city high rise apt building fire with aerial (kitchen fire)

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We spent **322** hours conducting internal training -

We spent **16** hours in training outside of the department – These are training from other dept's. FF training classes or even online training

We Conducted **142** hours of Fire Truck Inventories & Maintenance

We Spent **71.5** hours with public – This ranges from supporting city events, smoke detector installations, nation night out, football game standbys, fire prevention / public education, the annual blood drive, supporting the school programs like the Mythology class, fair duty, spray days, pizza hut night out, Halloween and Christmas events.

We also logged **710.5** hours at the fire station, this part of the ISO rating. Fire departments that are full-time get 100% points for manning the fire station, For volunteer/paid on call, if you log your time at the fire station you can get partial credit points.

Currently our membership numbers are **17** firefighters and **1** cadet

FIRE INSPECTIONS

John & firefighters have completed 160 hours of Fire Inspections and pre-incident planning, in just the 5 months since we were able to start the program. The current plan is complete all business, churches and public and city building. Once those are complete, we will then move the apartment building and home rental throughout the city, this will then become a every other year inspection program for each of those disciplines.

BELL MEMORIAL

For those who are not aware on the corner of Oak & Chicago St, is the one of original fire station locations. In 2012 the Buchanan City Fire Department was 150 years old we took our fire bell (much like the liberty bell) and constructed a memorial park at that location. All by volunteers from the fire department members – past and present. We, the BCFD maintain the park year-round, mowing the grass, keeping up with vegetation, refilling the mulch and repairing the benches or swing when they damaged.

SUMMARY

2025 was interesting to say the least! Especially with several months of the year a major part of the city was under construction. This made fire response very difficult at times, with re-routing traffic on narrower roads and limited access to downtown areas.

In 2020 we moved from an ISO classification of a 5 to a 4 which was a great accomplishment for a department of our size and type of responders (volunteer paid on call). However, now that we have re-started the fire Inspection program and started Fire Hydrant flow testing, I am 100% confident that during our next evaluation we will move to a class 3. If that happens, then that will change the effect on residential homes and not just businesses. Discounts should be available to those who ask. When we had the last evaluation, we were just over 2 points from a 3 classification. That concludes my report, as mentioned prior, we have brought one of our new SCBA pack and mask to demonstrate what your investment looks like.

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