

BERGHEIM VFD - 5-YEAR GROWTH PLAN

2017-2021

As the Bergheim VFD's service area population continues to grow at a rapid rate, the Department's goal is to provide equipment and training for our firefighters so they can provide quality and efficient service to the property owners in the area. This remains the central focus of our 5-year Growth Plan. Fire Chief Adam Hawkins has said, "The area is growing way faster than we can. They're building new elementary, middle and high schools in the next five years and that will drastically change our response area."

This is reflected in the 2016 results. The Department made 182 runs in 2016 - about 55% were emergency/medical, 15% were for fires and the remainder miscellaneous. At year-end, the Department had 19 firefighters, with 4 of them EMT's. Major accomplishments include:

- Installed a 10,000 gallon water supply tank in North Barcroft Estates
- Purchased a "Lucas" chest compression machine for automated CPR
- Purchased a "Cascade" system to refill firefighters' breathing air bottles

The next five years is expected to be as or more active. Highlights of the 5-year plan include:

- Continue to increase the number of volunteer firefighters each year, while maintaining 25% of them as certified EMT's. This will mean providing training to 5 firefighters/year and 2-3 new EMT's/year. Upgrades to firefighter protective gear and equipment will be ongoing.
- Add up to three new vehicles as the Department grows and needs expand. These include a heavy rescue/emergency response vehicle, a command vehicle and a ladder truck.
- Install one remote static water supply within the service area. New commercial buildings are expected to provide further sources of water away from the fire station.
- Build a new satellite fire station within the service area as growth demands greater coverage.
- Build a "Live Fire Training Facility" to provide firefighters live fire training in the area.

[While not part of Bergheim VFD, the county is planning to add EMS (ambulance service with paid EMS personnel) to eastern Kendall County starting in 2017. Initially, the ambulance is expected be part-time at the Bergheim VFD fire station. Expanded service may come later.]

Improvements to firefighting and emergency response capabilities are made with the help of donations from people living in the service area who are receiving the benefits. Kendall County provides annual support to help with operating expenses necessary to "keep the doors open." But capital purchases of such items as vehicles, water storage and firefighter equipment is dependent on donations.

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