



Established 1870

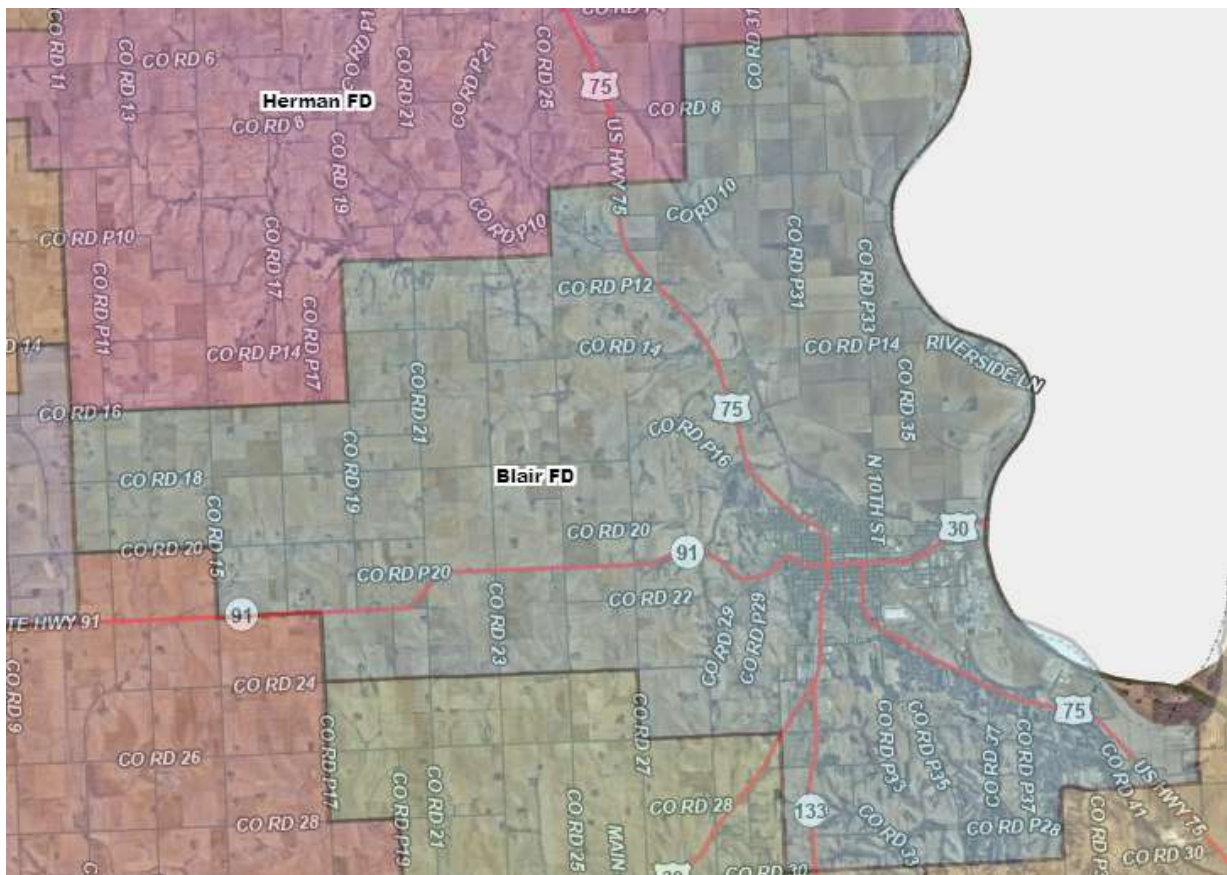
Blair Volunteer Fire & Rescue



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Blair Volunteer Fire & Rescue Mid-Year Report

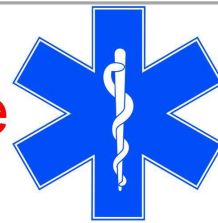
Blair, NE – The Blair Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department is proud to serve as a cornerstone of public safety for the City of Blair and the surrounding area. Operating with a dedicated team of trained volunteers, we provide 24/7 fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue operations, and public outreach across a service area covering approximately 100 square miles. Our department protects and serves a growing population of around 10,000 residents, responding to a wide range of emergencies from structure fires and grass fires to medical calls, vehicle accidents, and hazmat situations. We are deeply committed to being a trusted and responsive presence in our community—not only during emergencies but also through public education, youth mentorship, and active participation in local events and traditions. A map of our service district is included below.





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Department Composition



Our department is made up of 36 dedicated volunteers, each bringing vital skills and a shared commitment to public safety: **19 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)**, **5 EMT-IVs**, **1 Advanced EMT**, **1 Registered Nurse**, and **10 Firefighters**.



We're also proud to invest in the future of emergency services through our Cadet Program, designed for local high school students interested in firefighting and EMS. Currently, we have 12 cadets, including 3 Senior Cadets who are trained and able to assist with emergency responses.



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Apparatus & Equipment



North Station located at 19th and Nebraska Streets



South Station located 16th and Lincoln Streets



North Station located at 19th and Nebraska Streets

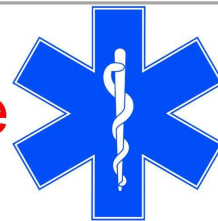
To support our emergency response capabilities, our department maintains a diverse fleet of apparatus: **2 ALS-Capable Ambulances, 2 Brush Trucks, 2 Engines, 2 Tankers, 1 Aerial Ladder Truck, 1 Utility/Rescue Truck, 2 Fire Command Cars, 1 UTV, and 1 Rescue Boat.** This equipment allows us to efficiently respond to a wide range of incidents—from medical emergencies and structure fires to grass fires and water rescues.

Thanks to the generous support of our community, we've also been able to enhance our operational readiness through the addition of several new tools and technologies. This year, we introduced AccuVein devices to assist with IV insertion in the field, implemented PS Trax for more efficient inventory and asset management, and upgraded our extrication capabilities with new Edraulic tools. These additions improve both the safety and efficiency of our responders and are a direct reflection of the community's commitment to supporting its emergency services.



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Call Volume & Activity



Corporate Teams compete in the Corporate Water fight Challenge at Gateway 2025.



FF Steve Howard reading to kids at Blair Library.



BVFD Members providing education to daycare students during a tour of North Station.

Over the past five years, our calls for service have steadily increased:

2025 – On pace for 1,376 calls

2024 – 1,315 calls

2023 – 1,119 calls

2022 – 1,142 calls

2021 – 1,050 calls

2020 – 882 calls



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The first half of 2025 has already proven to be one of our busiest years on record. So far, we have responded to 688 calls for service, broken down into 526 medical-related and 162 fire-related incidents. If this trend continues, we are on track to reach 1,376 calls for the year, surpassing last year's total by 60 calls. In addition to emergency response, our members have logged 448 hours and 29 minutes on service calls and committed hundreds of hours to training. Countless more hours have been devoted to community events such as: Leading Blair High School teams out of town for state tournaments, hosting Hydrant parties during the summer, Fire Prevention Week education, station tours, and public safety outreach.

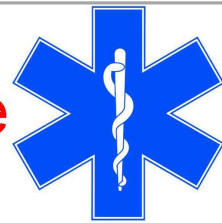
Below is a breakdown of the calls for service each member of our department has responded to since January 1st. With an average call length of 39 minutes plus the clean up afterwards, this represents a staggering amount of time our volunteers have selflessly committed time spent away from their families, workplaces, and daily routines to serve others in times of need. This report is a testament to their dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the Blair community. We are incredibly grateful for everything they do and continue to do, often without recognition, but always with heart.

Member	YTD (Jan 1 - June 30) calls for service	Member	YTD (Jan 1 - June 30) calls for service
DAVE ATEN - 41	208	HOWARD MCMANIGAL - 22	51
RANDY BACKMAN - 54	3	HENRY NEEF - 18	0
BRICE BECKMAN - 44	0	KENT NICHOLSON - 57	0
JOHN BELSKY - 11	67	CHRIS OLSON - 07	13
ANTHONY BORDERS - 43	171	DALE OLSON - 47	0
ERNIE BRENNIS - 04	0	DEREK PAPER - 23	200
MIKE BUTTERY - 32	22	MATT PERSONS - 66	26
AMIE CLAUSEN - 70	42	JIM POUNDS - 72	1
CLINT CLAUSEN - 63	0	SKYLER PUFFER - 15	59
JAKE DUNN - 49	315	CARL RENNERFELDT - 20	69
TY HERNES - 02	239	JACOB ROGGE - 45	29
BOB HORST - 50	150	STEVE ROUNDS - 26	1
STEVE HOWARD - 25	104	TRE MURRAY - 05	69
BRENDA JENNY - 64	17	LOGAN THALLAS - 21	144
LOREN JONES - 39	145	JERRY WEST - 34	38
LUKE JONES - 40	86	SHANE SAVOLD - 8	41
JOE LEONARD - 55	193	LANDON HOLTZ - SC2	171
JOE MAGUIRE - 01	47	EMMETT MCINTOSH - SC3	113
DAVID MCINTOSH - 35	176	CHASITY HAHN - SC1	81



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Mutual Aid & Regional Cooperation



Several area departments at a training burn in May 2025

We are extremely thankful for the continued partnership and support of our neighboring fire departments. In the world of emergency services, mutual aid is not just a resource—it's a lifeline. When large-scale emergencies, overlapping incidents, or complex situations arise, the ability to rely on well-trained and responsive neighboring departments is critical to keeping our communities safe. Whether it's a structure fire requiring additional manpower, a medical event demanding multiple EMS units, or a weather-related disaster impacting a wide area, our mutual aid system ensures no call goes unanswered.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Kennard Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Fort Calhoun Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Arlington Volunteer Fire & Rescue, and Herman Volunteer Fire & Rescue for their continued collaboration, professionalism, and teamwork. These departments—and others throughout the region—have stood beside us during some of our busiest and most challenging moments. We are proud to return the favor whenever called upon, knowing that together, we form a unified emergency response network stronger than any one department alone.



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Volunteer Recruitment



Several members presented in front of City Council in May 2025

Like many fire departments across the country, we rely on dedicated volunteers to fulfill our mission of protecting lives and property. **We welcome anyone living within our fire district who has a passion for service and a willingness to learn to consider joining our team.** Recruitment and retention remain a top priority, and we are grateful for the ongoing support and collaboration of the Blair City Council in helping us strengthen and sustain our volunteer force. The application process includes:

1. Completing an application (available at City Hall during business hours or at either station on Thursdays after 6 PM)
2. Medical physical
3. Background check
4. Physical agility test
5. Final approval by City Council
6. The process typically takes about one month from start to finish.

As we continue through 2025, we remain committed to improving our services, engaging with our community, and supporting one another through the challenges and triumphs ahead. **Thank you** for your ongoing support and trust in the Blair Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department.