

**MOORHEAD FIRE
DIVISIONS
1999
ANNUAL REPORT**

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CITY OF
MOORHEAD
 FIRE AND RESCUE

111 12th STREET NORTH, MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56560
 (218) 299-5434 FAX (218) 299-5072

**1999 MOORHEAD FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT
 ANNUAL FIRE CHIEF REPORT
 Marty Soeth, Fire Chief**

There were 2,066 emergency run responses in 1999, as compared to 1,978 in 1998, which is an increase of approximately 4%. The increases over the last five years are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Emergency Runs</u>	<u>Increase</u>
1999	2,066	4%
1998	1,978	1.5%
1997	1,949	3%
1996	1,893	5.9%
1995	1,786	7.4%
1994	1,665	

Listed below are the estimated total fire losses for the last five years. This year we have added the total values and total saved, as we believe these are important numbers as well. When structure fires were involved, the value was obtained from the City Assessor's estimated market values. A further breakdown of all responses is found in the Fire Suppression Report on page 10.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Loss</u>	<u>Total Values</u>	<u>Total Saved</u>
1999	\$1,470,095.00	\$10,155,595.00	\$8,685,500.00
1998	\$540,588.00		
1997	\$183,430.00		
1996	\$262,765.00		
1995	\$581,856.00		
1994	\$499,225.00		



You may note the total loss for 1999 was over double the amount of the total loss for 1998. Contributing to this high dollar loss was the fire that occurred at A-1 Pawn on May 29, 1999. I believe that given the magnitude of this fire, the loss would have undoubtedly been much higher without the professionals that were there to control it.

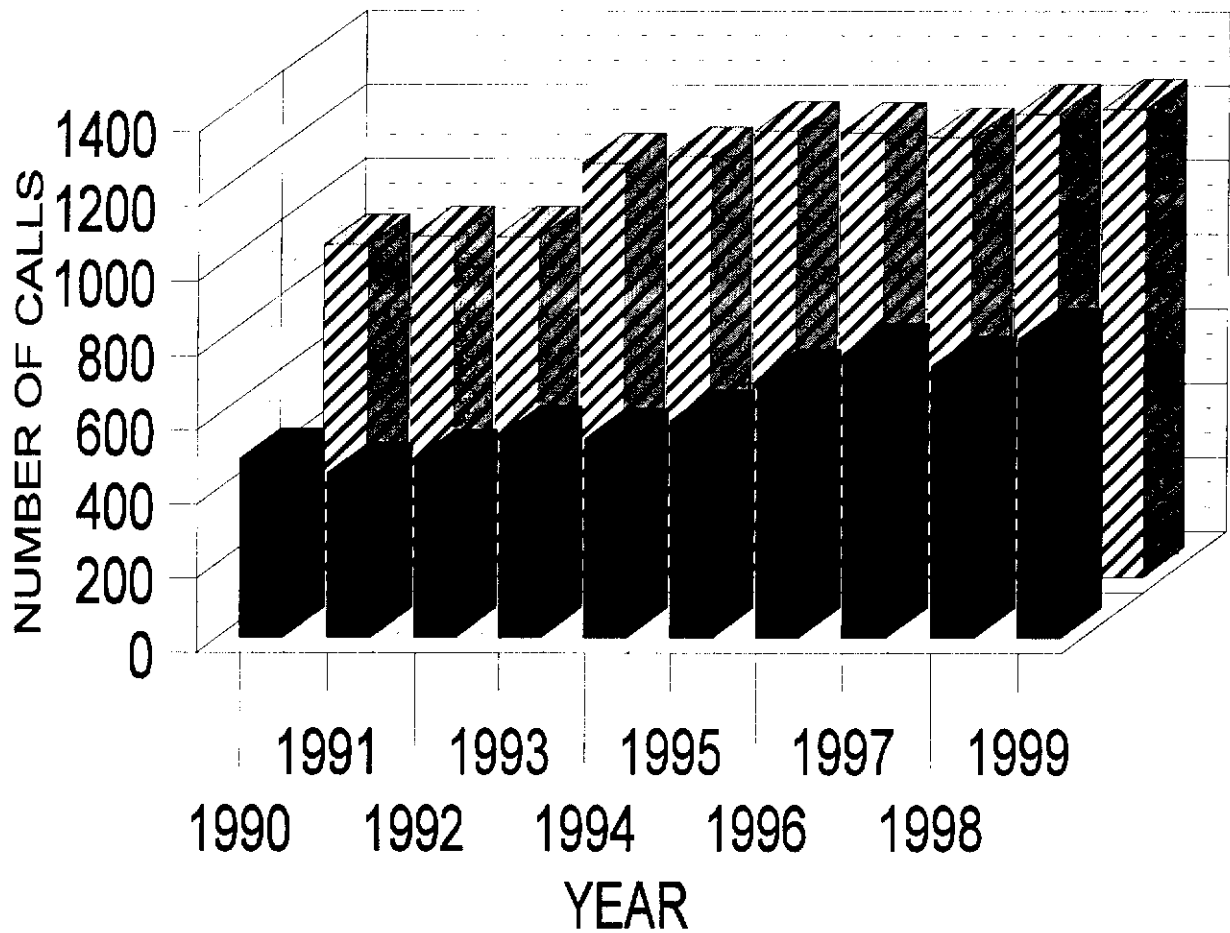
This year we saw many changes within our department. Retirees in 1999 were Assistant Fire Chief Don Johnson and Firefighters Gary Haaland and Ray Kline. Firefighter Andy Garding also left our Department for employment elsewhere. We had several promotions within our Department; Firefighters Mike Saulsbury and Rich Eggert were promoted to Fire Lieutenants, Lieutenant Greg Doeden was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief, and Assistant Fire Marshal Todd Erickson was promoted to Fire Marshal.

New Firefighters hired in 1999 were Jen Willis, Eric Berg, Jason Dewar and Dan Oldham. Rental Housing Inspector John Mrozla left employment with the Rental Housing Division and in his place Len Dusek was hired.

We had a very busy year in 1999. I feel a very special thanks must go to the Firefighters and Officers of the Moorhead Fire & Rescue and to all the employees of the Fire Administration Office. The Moorhead Fire & Rescue Department and Codes Office could not operate as efficiently and effectively as it now does without their experience, dedication and support.

I would also like to thank Mayor Lanning, members of the Moorhead City Council, and the City Manager for the assistance and guidance given to our department.

ALARM CALLS 1990 - 1999



MEDICALS



OTHER EMERGENCIES INCLUDING FIRE

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**1999 MOORHEAD FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
Todd Erickson, Fire Marshal**

Enclosed is the 1999 annual report for the Fire Prevention Division. This report includes activities from the Fire Marshal, Housing Inspectors and Fire Suppression Shift Inspectors.

Because of the inspections and corrected violations, the property in Moorhead becomes safer for residents, the property values increase for the owners, and the neighborhoods maintain their individuality and neighborhood pride.

In 1999, there was no loss of life in Moorhead due to fire, demonstrating the importance of fire prevention.

Public fire education classes were an important part of the 1999 Fire Prevention Program. The classes given included: CPR/First Aid, Fire Extinguisher, Fire Extinguisher/Fire Safety, Fire Safety, Fire Safety for the Elderly, Fire Safety/Safe Babysitting and Friendly Monster. Approximately 23 classes were given by the Moorhead Fire Prevention Division in 1999, with a total of 1,385 people attending.



FIRE PREVENTION QUARTERLY FIRE PREVENTION REPORT

JANUARY 1, 1999, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1999:

	1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Fire Prevention Man Hours on Field Inspections	68	90	127	68	353
Fire Prevention Bureau Inspections	175	141	168	88	572
Written Violations	66	27	78	32	203
Verbal Violations	28	19	23	6	76
Corrections	46	52	80	44	222
Housing Inspections	4	14	53	-0-	71
Units Inspected	10	54	103	-0-	167
Commercial Inspections	171	128	115	68	482
Building Code Inspections	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
New Inspections	132	84	118	60	394
Reinspections	43	56	50	28	177
Complaint Inspections	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

TIME SPENT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS (HOURS):

	1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Meetings and Conferences	25	32	17	9	83
Schools Attended	89	21	55	16	181
Fire Investigations	31	73	-0-	3	107
Fire Safety Classes Given	32	17	18	14	81
Fire Department Duties	199	242	225	257	923
Court Related Appearances	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Plan Checks	7	6	-0-	-0-	13
TOTAL HOURS	383	391	315	299	1,388

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**1999 MOORHEAD FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
FIRE SUPPRESSION DIVISION
Marty Soeth, Fire Chief**

The following report reflects the duties performed by the Suppression Division. In addition to responding to alarms, suppression includes training, public education, all types of emergency responses and other services performed by Fire & Rescue personnel.

The fire service is an ever changing profession and training is essential for our Officers and Firefighters to maintain and expand their skills. The department's high level rescue team is actively training and operational. Hazardous Material training for the Regional Hazmat Team is ongoing along with inspections, suppression, confined space, drivers training, water rescue and preplanning activities. Besides the training aspect, much of Suppression's time is spent on facility and equipment maintenance as is reflected in the following report.

A light rescue truck was purchased by the department in 1999. This rescue truck responds to both fire and medical calls. The truck is equipped with a defibrillator, backboards and oxygen. The Jaws of Life extrication equipment is also on board, as is a portable air supply, a generator for portable lighting and other types of rescue equipment.

In 1999, there was a total of 2,066 emergency calls; of this number, 1,259 were emergency medical responses. I have attached a Breakdown of Responses for 1999 which also includes an estimated dollar loss, total values and total saved.

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**MOORHEAD FIRE & RESCUE SUPPRESSION DIVISION
ACTIVITY HOURS FOR 1999**

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Training	4,668.00
Facility Maintenance	3,103.50
Equipment Maintenance	4,023.00
Inspections	394.00
Public Education	362.00
Administration	2,690.50
Physical Training	2,936.50
Fire Runs	1,948.50
Medical Runs	1,309.50

**MOORHEAD FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT
1999 BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSES**

TYPE OF SITUATION	TOTAL NUMBER	TOTAL VALUES	TOTAL LOSSES	TOTAL SAVED
FIRE				
Fire/Explosion	2	\$2,001,000.00	\$100.00	\$2,000,900.00
Structure Fire	28	\$7,142,395.00	\$1,380,645.00	\$5,761,750.00
Outside of Structure Fire	6	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$-0-
Vehicle Fire	22	\$71,500.00	\$40,100.00	\$31,400.00
Trees, Brush, Grass Fire	4	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$400.00
Refuse Fire	10	\$668,200.00	\$44,700.00	\$623,500.00
Fire/Explosion Not Classified	3	\$270,000.00	\$2,450.00	\$267,550.00
TOTAL FIRES:	75	\$10,155,595.00	\$1,470,095.00	\$8,685,500.00
Overpressure Ruptures (steam, air and gas ruptures)	7			
Rescue Calls (emergency medical, search, extrication and ambulance assist)	1,259			
Hazardous Condition (spill/leaks, power line down, arcing/shorting electrical equipment and hazardous condition standby)	84			
Service Calls (lock-out, water evacuation, smoke/odor removal, assist Police and other service calls)	95			
Good Intent Calls (smoke scares, controlled burning, vicinity alarm, steam or other gas thought as smoke)	302			
False Calls (malicious/mischievous false calls, bomb scare - no bomb, system malfunction and unintentional false calls)	244			
TOTAL FOR ALL INCIDENCES:	2,066	\$10,155,595.00	\$1,470,095.00	\$8,685,500.00

**RENTAL
REGISTRATION**

**INSPECTION
PROGRAM**

CITY OF
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**1999 MOORHEAD FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
RENTAL REGISTRATION/INSPECTION PROGRAM
Todd Erickson, Fire Marshal**

Since its inception in 1986, the Rental Registration/Inspection Program continues to move forward to address the issues of parking, deterioration of housing, absentee landlords and overcrowding of rental property.

There are currently 923 properties registered as rental with a total of 4,509 individual units. In 1999, there were 898 housing inspections made. There were 2,373 written housing violations with 1,695 of these violations being fully corrected.

I believe the statistics reveal the effectiveness of the Rental Registration/Inspection Program. This program is doing the job it was designed for - systematic inspection of rental property, addressing life safety and other housing violations, and obtaining corrections of the noted violations.

I have two enclosures following this report. The first is a quarterly breakdown of rental housing inspections and the second is a comparison of fees collected for reinspection and late registration fees.

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**RENTAL HOUSING
QUARTERLY FIRE PREVENTION REPORT FOR
RENTAL INSPECTORS AND SHIFT INSPECTIONS**

JANUARY 1, 1999, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1999:

	1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Fire Prevention Man Hours on Field Inspections	182.5	217.5	100.5	93	593.5
Fire Prevention Bureau Inspections	276	310	122	109	817
Written Violations	535	777	425	433	2,170
Verbal Violations	-0-	1	4	-0-	5
Corrections	264	508	393	308	1,473
Housing Inspections	276	310	122	119	827
Units Inspected	104	989	193	153	1,439
Commercial Inspections	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Building Code Inspections	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
New Inspections	161	151	40	35	387
Reinspections	116	162	82	66	426
Complaint Inspections	2	-0-	-0-	-0-	2

TIME SPENT IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS (HOURS):

	1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Meetings and Conferences	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Schools Attended	8	-0-	-0-	-0-	8
Fire Investigations	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Fire Safety Classes Given	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Fire Department Duties	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Court Related Appearances	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Plan Checks	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL HOURS	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	8

RENTAL HOUSING FEES COLLECTED IN 1999

MONTH	REINSPECTION FEES				LATE REGISTRATION				COPIES			
	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999
JAN	0	25.00	0	150.00	80.00	50.00	390.00	430.00	5.00	0	77.80	5.00
FEB	0	25.00	250.00	0	30.00	0	280.00	80.00	5.00	0	0	0
MAR	25.00	0	0	0	30.00	0	180.00	40.00	0	0	0	5.00
APR	50.00	175.00	175.00	0	40.00	240.00	1160.00	240.00	0	0	66.00	5.00
MAY	25.00	25.00	75.00	0	140.00	40.00	640.00	300.00	5.00	0	0	0
JUN	75.00	175.00	25.00	0	0	0	400.00	0	86.70	10.00	0	5.00
JUL	0	0	0	325.00	80.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.00
AUG	100.00	0	175.00	100.00	0	0	80.00	600.00	0	0	0	0
SEP	0	0	125.00	100.00	0	0	0	80.00	0	0	0	0
OCT	150.00	375.00	800.00	475.00	80.00	0	10.00	400.00	0	11.00	0	0
NOV	75.00	250.00	100.00	325.00	90.00	70.00	530.00	20.00	0	0	0	0
DEC	50.00	400.00	350.00	150.00	60.00	740.00	530.00	30.00	0	0	10.00	0
TOTAL	\$550.00	\$1450.00	\$2075.00	\$1625.00	\$630.00	\$1140.00	\$4200.00	\$2220.00	\$101.70	\$21.00	\$153.80	\$26.00

QUARTER	REINSPECTION FEES				LATE REGISTRATION FEES				COPIES			
	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999
JAN/FEB/MAR	25.00	50.00	250.00	150.00	140.00	50.00	850.00	550.00	10.00	0	77.80	10.00
APR/MAY/JUN	150.00	375.00	275.00	0	180.00	280.00	2200.00	540.00	91.70	10.00	66.00	10.00
JUL/AUG/SEP	100.00	0	300.00	525.00	80.00	0	80.00	660.00	0	0	0	5.00
OCT/NOV/DEC	275.00	1025.00	1250.00	950.00	230.00	810.00	1070.00	450.00	0	11.00	10.00	0

thrh fees collected comparison report.wpd

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

CITY OF
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**1999 MOORHEAD FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
Don Lawrence, Environmental Health Director**

The Environmental Health Division inspects all food/beverage/lodging, mobile home parks, swimming pools and vending machines. This Division also takes care of nuisance complaints and does plan review for new construction and remodeling of food/beverage/lodging establishments. The Environmental Health Division has a delegation agreement with both the Minnesota Department of Health and Department of Agriculture regarding environmental affairs.

Most nuisance complaints are channeled through Citizen Action Requests, which are complaints received from citizens concerning junk/debris, junk vehicles, food service, pools and mobile home parks. An estimated 100 letters were written regarding Citizen Action Requests this year. Eleven were referred to the office of the City Attorney for prosecution. Six complaints were referred to the City for abatement.

Periodically we receive requests for information concerning indoor air problems such as mold and radon. Although we have limited information, it is provided upon request. There are currently two consulting firms that deal specifically with indoor air problems that we can use as referrals, however. Outdoor air problems, oil spills or complaints of that nature are referred to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The vending machines have increased since the program was initiated; there were 62 machines in 1989, and an estimated 130 machines in 1999.

Some of the positive changes in 1999, were:

- (1) The adoption and implementation of the FDA Food Code.
- (2) The updating of all mandatory evacuation plans for mobile home courts.
- (3) Implementation of the standard orders for all the program areas.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT
DIRECTOR**

JAN. 1, 1999, THROUGH DEC. 31, 1999:

	TOTAL
Environmental Health Man Hours on Field Inspections	1,065
Environmental Health Inspections	706
Written Violations	380
Corrections	275
Lodging Inspections	15
Food Service Inspections	273
Mobile Home Park	7
Swimming Pools	56
Env. Health Complaint/Nuisance Inspections	250
Vending	130
Other	5

TIME SPENT IN OTHER AREAS (HOURS)

	TOTAL
Meetings and Conferences	57
Schools Attended	34
Classes Given	-0-
Court Related Appearances	-0-
Plan Checks	62
TOTAL HOURS	153

BUILDING CODES

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**1999 ANNUAL REPORT
BUILDING CODES DIVISION**

Included herein is the Divisions's Annual Report which contains comparisons of permit activity in 1999 to previous years and comments about the past year.

TABLE: 1990 - 1999 COMPARISONS OF
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY BY
MAJOR CATEGORY-----Page 20

TABLE: 1990 - 1999 PERMIT, VALUATION
AND REVENUE COMPARISONS-----Page 20

COMMENTS:-----Page 21



10 YEAR COMPARISON OF PERMIT NUMBERS, VALUATION AND REVENUE

YEAR	NUMBER OF BLDG PERMITS	BUILDING PERMIT VALUATION	BUILDING PERMIT REVENUES	NUMBER OF MECH PERMITS	MECH PERMIT REVENUES	NUMBER OF PLMB PERMITS	PLUMBING PERMIT REVENUES	PLMB/HTG LICENSE FEES	OTHER FEES	TOTAL MN SUR-CHARGE	NUMBER OF TOTAL PERMITS	TOTAL REVENUE
1990	447	21,012,716.00	77,077.00	368	9,240.00	432	19,389.00	5,030.00	3,575.00	10,761.60	1,247	\$ 125,072.60
1991	513	23,085,259.00	74,398.50	387	12,022.00	426	21,132.00	4,540.00	2,525.00	11,279.00	1,326	\$ 125,896.50
1992	615	19,970,216.00	79,644.50	390	12,722.00	324	21,363.50	2,810.00	6,860.00	11,056.50	1,329	\$ 134,456.50
1993	729	43,554,522.00	148,686.50	512	17,731.00	288	23,330.00	4,830.00	3,540.00	21,283.52	1,529	\$ 219,401.02
1994	686	26,651,516.00	101,530.00	468	15,558.00	971	30,150.00	3,790.00	1,590.00	14,515.20	2,125	\$ 167,133.20
1995	649	23,831,684.00	93,139.50	591	18,064.00	776	28,374.00	2,190.00	1,640.00	13,518.00	2,016	\$ 156,925.50
1996	554	25,069,947.00	93,735.75	565	19,033.00	650	22,585.00	3,420.00	1,785.00	13,464.00	1,769	\$ 154,022.75
1997	620	20,702,468.00	75,175.00	647	19,407.00	381	14,396.50	3,495.00	1,905.00	11,675.50	1,648	\$ 126,054.00
1998	621	28,077,235.00	103,510.00	513	17,524.00	303	17,447.00	3,455.00	4,567.00	15,698.00	1,437	\$ 162,201.00
1999	599	35,953,896.00	121,078.00	654	23,508.00	263	17,203.00	615.00	375.00	18,559.50	1,516	\$ 181,338.50

10 YEAR COMPARISON OF BUILDING ACTIVITY BY CATEGORY

YEAR	NEW SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING			NEW MULTIPLE DWELLING			COMMERCIAL (NEW & REMODEL)			GARAGE PERMITS & RESIDENTIAL REMODEL			MISC BLDG PERMITS	TOTALS	
	# OF PERMITS	VALUATION	# OF PERM	# OF UNITS	VALUATION	# OF PERMITS	VALUATION	# OF PERMITS	VALUATION	# OF PERMITS	VALUATION	MISC BLDG PERMITS		# OF PERMITS	VALUATION
1990	65	\$ 5,372,000.00	9	64	\$ 1,204,000.00	130	\$ 13,131,260.00	205	\$ 1,222,756.00	38	\$ 20,930,016.00	447	\$ 20,930,016.00		
1991	56	\$ 4,804,900.00	11	128	\$ 3,414,000.00	134	\$ 13,442,021.00	256	\$ 1,424,338.00	56	\$ 23,085,259.00	513	\$ 23,085,259.00		
1992	135	\$ 11,731,334.00	5	76	\$ 2,680,000.00	110	\$ 3,722,820.00	318	\$ 1,836,062.00	47	\$ 19,970,216.00	615	\$ 19,970,216.00		
1993	141	\$ 13,660,500.00	17	155	\$ 3,623,000.00	109	\$ 24,248,351.00	332	\$ 2,022,671.00	130	\$ 43,554,522.00	729	\$ 43,554,522.00		
1994	72	\$ 7,678,000.00	13	51	\$ 2,104,500.00	113	\$ 13,959,123.00	376	\$ 2,909,893.00	112	\$ 26,651,516.00	686	\$ 26,651,516.00		
1995	128	\$ 12,092,300.00	3	6	\$ 390,000.00	121	\$ 8,131,729.00	319	\$ 3,217,655.00	78	\$ 23,831,684.00	649	\$ 23,831,684.00		
1996	77	\$ 7,956,300.00	2	4	\$ 240,000.00	111	\$ 14,541,159.00	312	\$ 2,332,488.00	52	\$ 25,069,947.00	554	\$ 25,069,947.00		
1997	52	\$ 5,904,000.00	5	20	\$ 1,204,000.00	101	\$ 9,460,260.00	371	\$ 4,134,208.00	91	\$ 20,702,468.00	620	\$ 20,702,468.00		
1998	101	\$ 9,989,147.00	4	9	\$ 1,320,000.00	106	\$ 14,401,050.00	337	\$ 2,367,038.00	73	\$ 28,077,235.00	621	\$ 28,077,235.00		
1999	97	\$ 11,777,000.00	4	79	\$ 4,973,000.00	93	\$ 16,365,942.00	347	\$ 2,825,054.00	56	\$ 35,940,996.00	597	\$ 35,940,996.00		

THE CODES DEPARTMENT

The Moorhead Codes Department, which is located in the Main Fire Station Annex, is staffed by a Building Official, a Plumbing/Heating/Building Inspector, a half-time Building Inspector, a part-time Building Inspector, and an Office Specialist.

The principal responsibility of the Codes Department is the enforcement of the various laws and ordinance enacted by the City and State regulating building construction.

Enforcement of these codes generally consists of review of proposed work to establish compliance with laws and ordinance, issuance of permits, and inspection of the work to insure compliance.

Staff members are also involved in a wide variety of other projects that include the preparation of a myriad of reports, public education, handling of complaints and inquiries, attending various meetings, reviewing and recommending changes in city ordinances, staff education, and providing information for other city departments and the public.

THE YEAR 1999

A total of 599 building permits were issued in 1999, compared to 621 permits issued in 1998. Valuation, however, increased by 28% to \$35,953,896.

New home construction included 97 single family dwellings with a total valuation of \$11,777,000, a 18% increase over 1998. Commercial construction showed a decrease in permits down to 93, however total valuation was up 14% to \$16,365,942.

REVENUE

Total revenue for the year was \$181,338.50 for the 1,516 permits issued. This represents an increase of 12% over 1998.

PERSONNEL STATUS

Don Sakry started his tenth year as Building/Plumbing/Heating Inspector. Don also assists with plan reviews, permit issuance, and answering code questions.

Kurt Wenzel started his seventh year in the Codes Department as a Building Inspector. Kurt attended the Colorado Building Officials Annual Educational Institute in Denver, Colorado, in March.

Karen Berg started her second year in the Codes Department as an Office Specialist. Karen has been attending seminars and is a member of the Minnesota Building Permit Technicians Association.

These staff members issue more than one thousand permits each year as well as

preparing more than 40 technical reports, supervise contractor licensing, and direct thousands of inspection requests.

Rick Davidson completed twelve years of service in 1999 as Building Official and Zoning Administrator. Rick attended ICBO's Annual Education and Code Change Conference in St. Louis during September. Rick also sits on the Minnesota Building Officials International Residential Code Change Committee, the State Education Committee, the International Zoning Code Committee, and a Technical Advisory Committee to the Governors Construction Codes Advisory Council as well as being active in a number of building official chapter activities.

SUMMARY

Based on valuation, 1999 was second only to 1993, in the last ten years in construction activity. Moorhead experienced a successful construction year in 1999 with continued growth expected into the foreseeable future.