

RAMONA FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY (Provided by Ken Hart)

A meeting was called on April 11, 1903 to organize a fire department for the Village of Ramona. Under Chief J.M. Muggli they established a call bell system. One tap of the bell for chemical division, two taps of the bell for hook and ladder division, and three taps of the bell for general department. The fire department consisted of twenty one members and the following equipment: 1 ladder wagon, 1 grappling hook, 2 roof ladders, 1 crow bar, 1 24 ft ladder, 2 firemen's axes, 4 firemen's lanterns, and 1 dozen buckets. According to the minutes in 1907, they agreed to pay \$5.00 "to the first team able to pull the fire engine to the fire in case necessity".

Over one hundred years later, the Ramona Fire Department has gone from horse drawn teams to tankers, pumpers, and a first response pickup. Current members respond to fires and medical emergencies.

The Ramona Fire Department currently provides a Class 7 fire rating. The first due area consists of 39 square miles plus which involves mutual aid agreements with other area departments. Members attend district and state fire schools on a regular basis.

FIRE DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Annual Mountain Oyster Feed in February each year

July 4 Celebration with games, parade, and meal followed by a fireworks display

ON GOING FIRE PREVENTION

National "LEARN NOT TO BURN" taught yearly at Ramona School

Hands on Fire Extinguisher training

Programs are assisted by the state fire marshals office and the Redbook fund

MEMBERSHIP

South Dakota Firefighters association – Full Member status

Southeast South Dakota Firefighters Association

EQUIPMENT

Two Pumpers

Two Tankers

First Response Pickup