Last week's figures are already outdated with two mutual aid fire calls over the weekend.

By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

There are four months left in the year, and the Grant Volunteer Fire Department recently broke a record for the most fires responded to within a given year.

Fire Chief Don Softley released figures for the current year and several previous years.

The department broke a record on Sunday, Aug. 26 with their 56th fire response of the year.

The previous record for number of fire responses within a year's time was set in 1999 when the department was summoned to 46 fires.

The hot, dry conditions this summer have created volatile situations on a continual basis for Grant and surrounding fire departments who have received numerous red flag warnings issued by the National Weather Service in North Platte. Weather conditions have produced extreme or critical fire danger warnings for southwest Nebraska on a frequent basis.

A red flag warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now or will shortly. The combination of strong winds, low relative humidity and warm temperatures create explosive fire growth potential.

GVFD Responses

The below figures released by Softley are for the top 10 most active years for fire responses by the Grant Volunteer Fire Department:

1999	46
1990	45
2008	43
2009	42
1989	39
1985	37
1988	37
2011	37
1966	36
1974	36

According to Softley, the total activity for the fire department including ambulance responses, long distance transfers, accidents, etc. stands at 168 thus far in 2012—that's an average of 21 per month so far this year.

An average year of responses for the members is 190 per year.