

Support the Atkins Volunteer Fire Department – Professional Volunteers

February 18, 2022

To the City of Atkins:

From the Mayors desk to the Community. I want to share with you some news on the operations of the City and to share my support for Fire Chief Dan Rammelsberg and EMS Chief Ben Kurka and the two dozen or so members under their command. These volunteers give many hours of their time to train, maintain, study, and respond when called, at no cost to the City.

As I write this on Friday morning the volunteers are responding to a car accident nearby. Will there be injuries, fire, rescue required? I don't know those details, but I hear the sirens and I know the volunteers are putting their training into practice and using the equipment the City provides to them.

No one knows when the next call will come or where it will be, or who it will be – neighbor, relative or stranger. The call might be at 3 am in the morning, in a snowstorm or at noon in a derecho. It might be a grass fire, ag accident, car accident, house fire, heart attack, sports injury, false alarm -no one knows. The weather may be below zero, pleasant, or above 100 degrees. When you respond, the family might be sleeping, or the fire fighter is having a barbeque with the family in the back yard on Sunday afternoon. Will this interrupt their job? How long will they be gone from home? How many times this week has the call come through or even how many times today have the calls come through? Will enough people respond? Has the City provided the right equipment for the task at hand? Each event response is unique, but I know these dedicated folks are answering the call.

Thank you, Dan, Ben and all your team of the Atkins Volunteer Fire Department, for your dedication and reliability, you are an asset to the community and so from myself and others that have offered support, please know that we hold you in high regard for your important contribution. You help us when we call and we thank you. Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Bruce Visser,

Mayor, City of Atkins Iowa