

a Proud Salute to our community Guardians

Introducing Tom Kurtenbach



Tom Kurtenbach is the Fire Chief of the Yankton Fire Department having accepted the position in April 2005. He entered the world of public safety in 1981 as an EMT for his hometown ambulance service in Bridgewater. He has been active in emergency services ever since.

Tom was a member of the Pierre Fire Department for nearly 19 years having served the last eight years as the Fire Department's Superintendent. He spent most of the rest of his tenure in Pierre as a volunteer officer having served as the Department's First Assistant Chief, Second Assistant Chief, Ladder Company Captain, Department Training/Safety Officer, Department Secretary and First Lieutenant of the Pierre Fire Department's Rescue Squad.

Tom was the first 9-1-1 Coordinator for the South Dakota Division of Emergency Management holding that position from December 1991 to May 1996. He previously held the positions of Hazardous Materials Coordinator and Population Protection Planner at the Division of Emergency Management. During this tenure as State 9-1-1 Coordinator, one of Tom's major projects was the development of a statewide rural addressing system that is now in place today throughout South Dakota.

Tom still holds his Emergency Medical Technician certification and has served with ambulance services in Bridgewater, Vermillion/Clay County and Pierre.

Tom is a graduate of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion where he earned a BS Degree in Business Administration.

Tom and his wife Darcie have two boys, Nick and Adam.

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