

Rapid City's early fire department consisted of three hose companies organized in 1881, and a hook and ladder company. Fire fighting equipment of the day was horse-drawn and housed in these frame, garage-like structures, as pictured above. The department became formally organized in 1907. In 1915, a fire hall was built on Main Street. The two-story firehouse (right), constructed of brick and Fall River sandstone, exemplifies the Chicago school style. At street level, the primary facade contains five bays with segmented arches over three windows, a double vehicle entrance, and a pedestrian door. The upper level contains three bays with definitive, Chicago school-style, tripartite windows. Decorative elements include various styles of brick patterning such as herringbone. Interior spaces included living quarters for firemen, offices, and equipment storage. At the time it was built, the fire hall was considered the most modern in the state.

