



## GRAND TRAVERSE METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



### PRESENTED TO

Our citizens, businesses, and stakeholders

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GRAND TRAVERSE METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Thank you for your interest in Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority. It is with great honor and pride that I present to you our 2023 annual report. The data revealed in this report serves as a testament to the professionalism and dedication of the men and women of our department. As you will find, this report will highlight the accomplishments of the department for the past year. We pride ourselves on delivering the highest quality services to those who live, work, and visit our community.

Our mission is to serve our community by safeguarding life and property from fire, hazards, and medical emergencies. Through our efforts, we hope to enhance the safety and quality of life in the communities of Charter Township of Garfield, Acme Township, and East Bay Charter Township through education, intervention, and quality response.

As you page through our report, you will find a common theme. That theme is that our success is wholly due to the efforts of our firefighters, prevention, and administrative staff as well as the support of our GTMESA Board. We believe in our mission, vision, and values and it shows on every call for service. Being professional, skilled, compassionate, and courteous are a few of our key values and guiding principles. Our team spends hours training for mission critical preparedness. Included, is time for physical and mental readiness. With that said, this report cannot possibly capture all their individual efforts, but does represent an overview of their collective accomplishments.

The year 2023 was a productive year with the department meeting many of its goals. Supply chain issues eased throughout the year except for apparatus. A new engine on order for the past two years is still in production with continued delays. A highlight of the year was our involvement in our Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) validation. Metro took the lead on both validating as a Statewide Asset as a Hazardous Materials Team and Special Operations in ropes and confined space.

As you will read in this annual report, the department responded to 6,071 calls for service which was a 1.4% reduction from the 6,170 calls for service in 2022. Medical calls still lead the way with over 76% of our calls. With a little grit, determination, ingenuity, passion, and teamwork, our team pulled through for another safe and productive year.

On a bittersweet note, this will be my last "Message from the Chief." I retire March 31, 2024 from the department after 40 years, the last 18 as Chief. It has been an honor serving the citizens of Metro and a privilege of leading such a talented team of individuals. Thank you for the trust you have given me!

We are proud to be your fire department! We stand ready to serve you at any time with an atmosphere of enthusiasm, stewardship, and innovation. Thank you for taking time to review this annual report. We actively seek your input and feedback. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can better serve you, please contact me at (231) 947-3000 ext. 1235. You can also visit our website at [www.gtmetrofire.org](http://www.gtmetrofire.org).

We sincerely thank you for your continued support!

Patrick Parker – Fire Chief





## THE DEPARTMENT

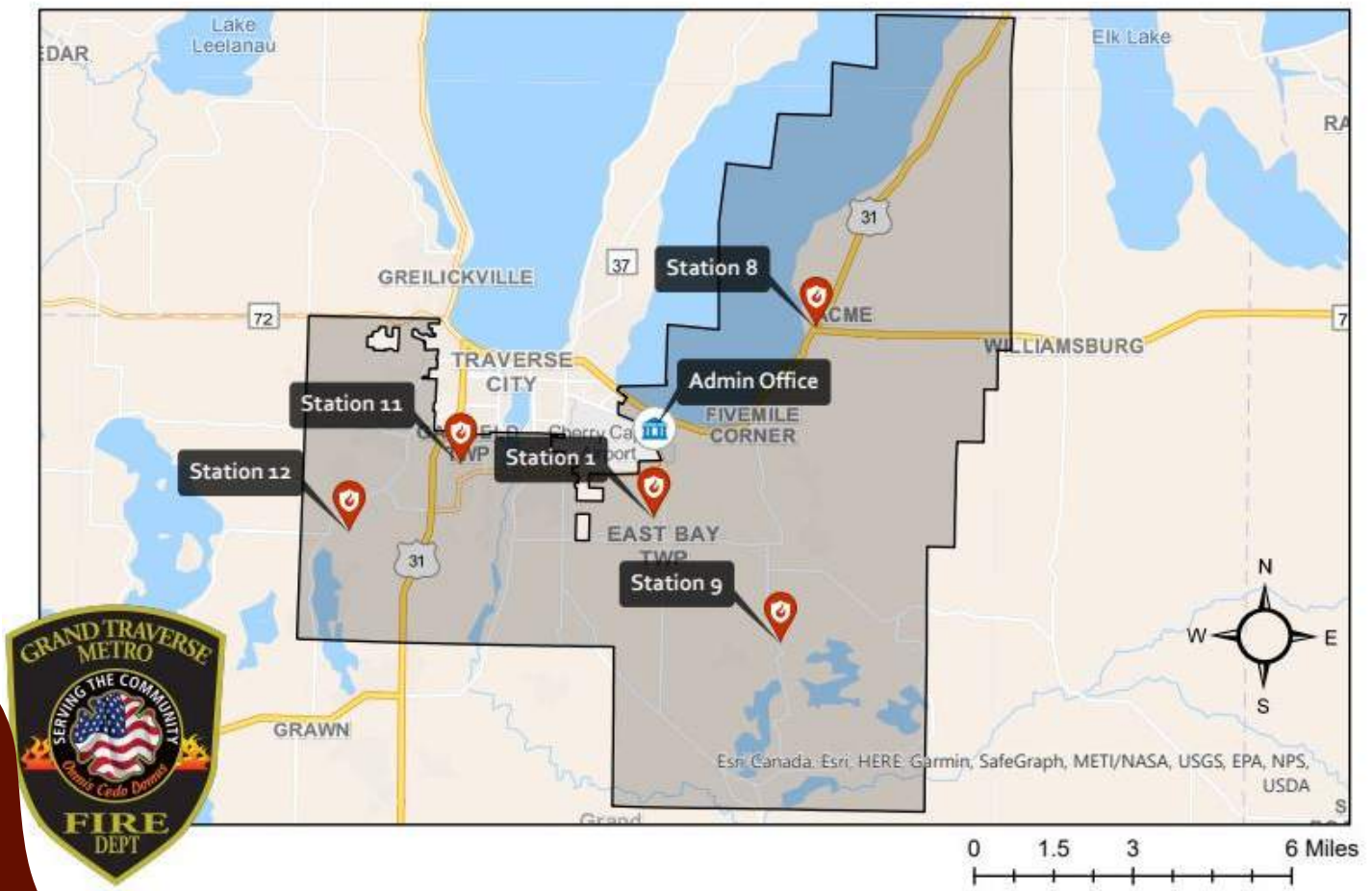
Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Service Authority (GTMESSA), also known as Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department, provides fire and life safety services to citizens of and visitors to the Charter Township of Garfield, Acme Township, and East Bay Charter Township. GTMESSA considers all emergency risks our citizens may face and are considered an "all hazards" department. GTMESSA has five (5) strategically located stations spread across the 110 square miles of land. This landscape encompasses both urban and rural living, boasts many lakes and rivers, and has beautiful recreational state land.

GTMESSA is a combination model department, and our employment base holds a full-time firefighter schedule that is supplemented by shifts filled with part-time firefighters. The Fire Prevention Division is progressive, and provides services covering enforcement, education, and engineering and works in tandem with the Fire Suppression Division to offer a total package of Fire and life Safety to our citizens and visitors.

**RESPONSE AREA = 110 Square Miles**

**2023 - Total Population = 36,521**

## GTMESSA - Response Area



# GT MESA FIRE BOARD

2024 Chair: Beth Friend Vice Chair: Dale Stevens

## Acme Township



Supervisor  
Doug White



Representative  
Dale Stevens

## East Bay Charter Township



Supervisor  
Beth Friend



Representative  
Glen Lile

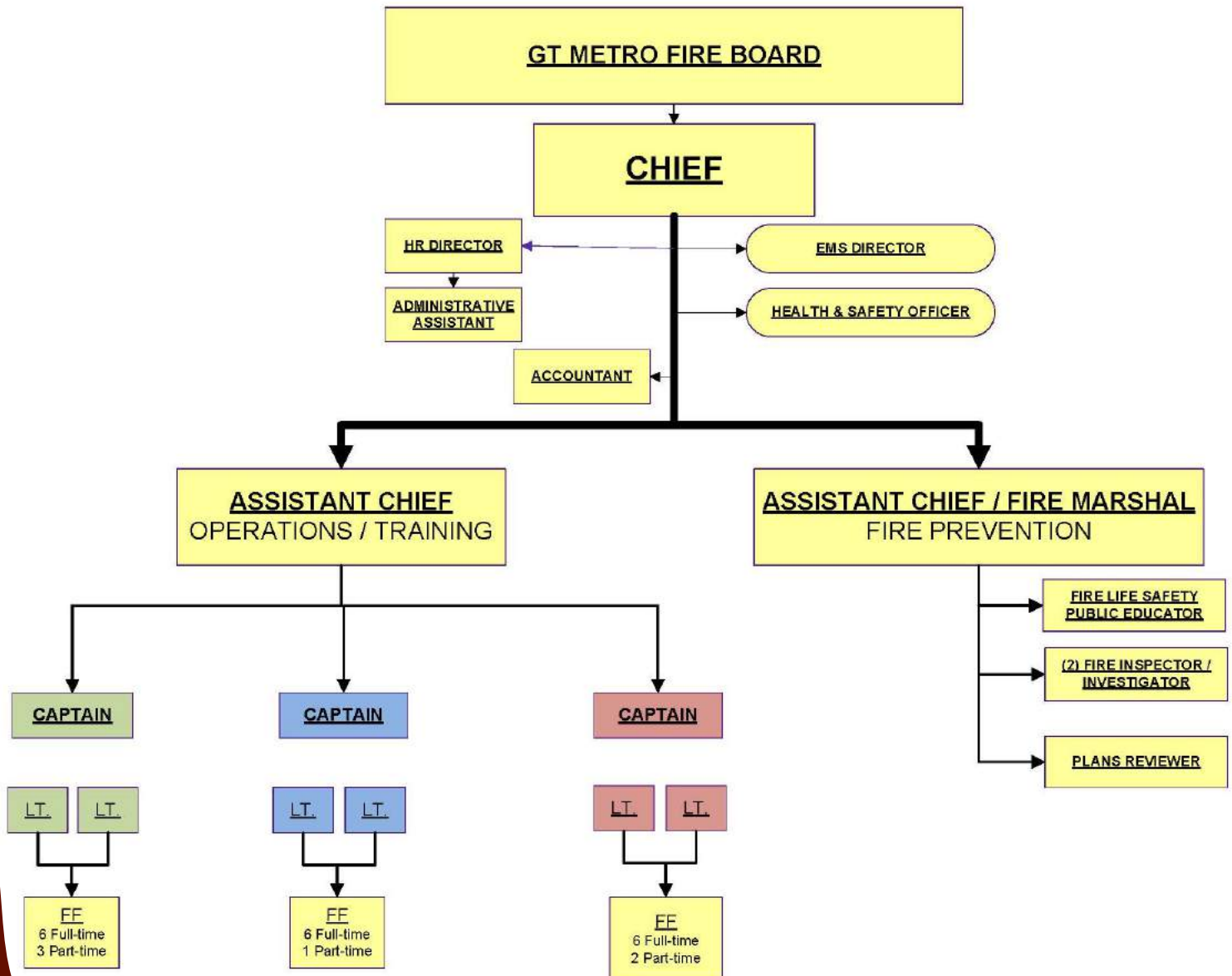
## Charter Township of Garfield



Supervisor  
Chuck Korn



Representative  
Chris Barsheffl



## MISSION STATEMENT

To serve our community by safeguarding life and property from fire, hazards and medical emergencies; through education, intervention, and quality response.

## OUR VISION

Be a proactive, innovative, and progressive leader in providing high quality services to the community.

- A work environment where all employees live our values every day on the job.
- Respected, valued, and supported by the community.
- Recognized as a progressive leader and innovator.
- Enthusiastic, highly motivated, trained, and skilled people providing superior emergency services and prevention activities.
- Continued reduction in fires and other emergencies due to effective Community Risk Reduction.
- Lives are saved due to our actions (endeavors)

## VALUES / GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are committed to:

- Excellence in everything we do
- Serving the community with honesty, fairness, and integrity
- Safe, effective, timely, and economical solutions
- Professional, skilled, and courteous customer service at all times.
- Innovation and continuous improvement to meet the changing community needs.
- Collaboration with others (organizations/individuals) who share our values on behalf of our communities.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO EMPLOYEES

We value our employees and are committed to ensuring the highest standards of safety and health, providing exceptional training and employee development.

# Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department

Chief: Patrick Parker



ADMINISTRATION 897 PARSONS RD  
231-947-3000

STATION 1  
843 INDUSTRIAL CIRCLE 231-947-3814



STATION 8  
6042 ACME RD 231-938-9533



STATION 9  
110 HIGH LAKE RD 231-947-0125



STATION 11  
3000 ALBANY 231-941-7682



STATION 12  
2025 N. EAST SILVER LAKE RD 231-947-2071





# 2023 STATISTICS

8

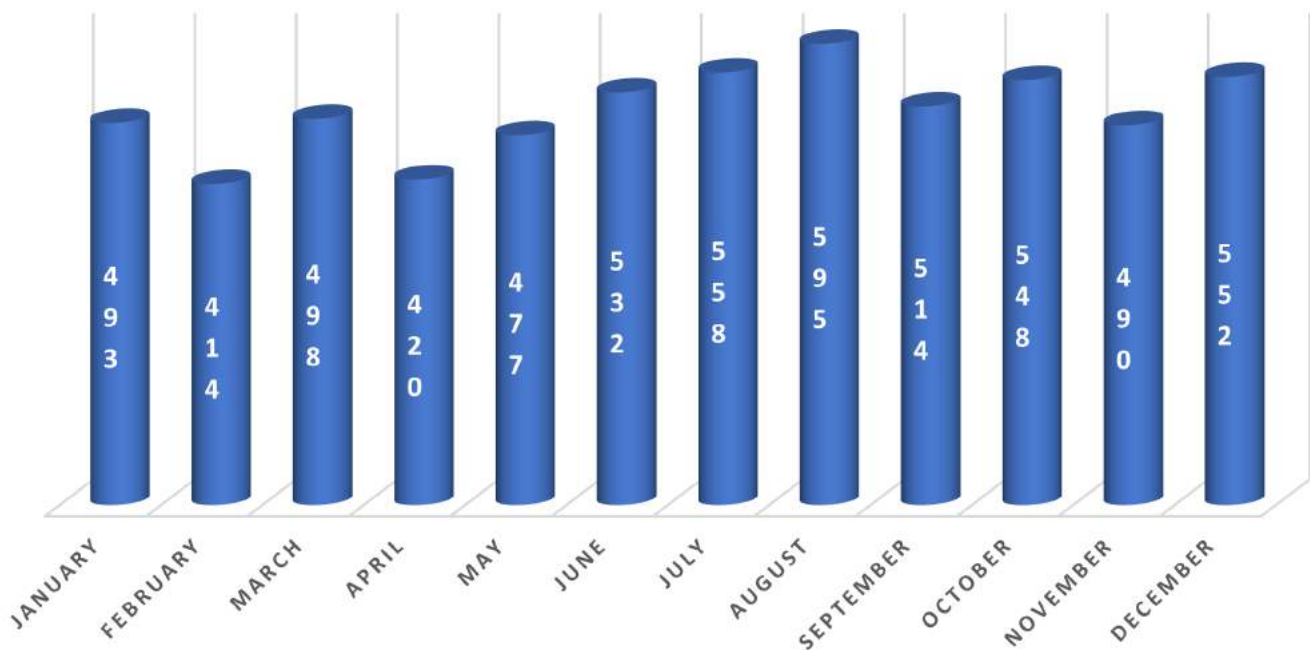
GTMESSA total incident response in 2023

**6,071**

A decrease of 1.4% of incidents from 2022



## INCIDENTS BY MONTH



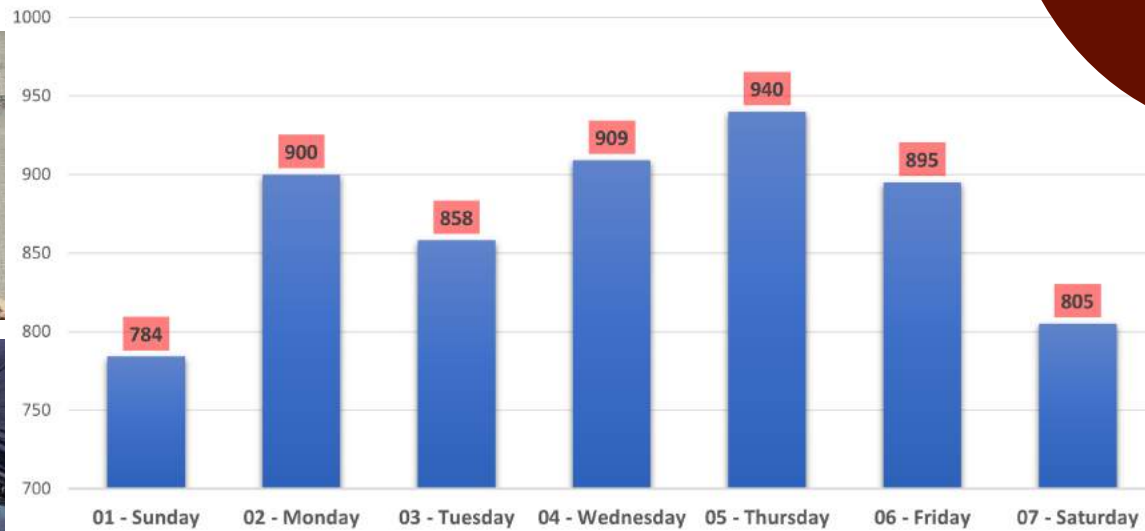
## 2023 - Incidents by Hour



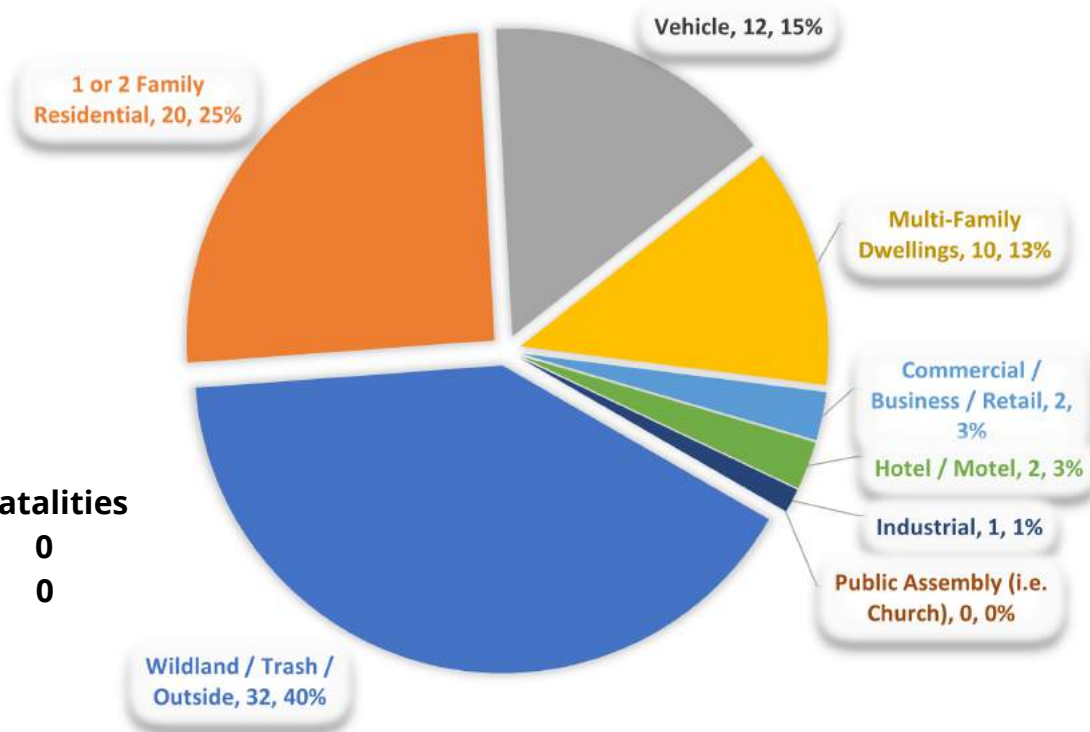


# 2023 STATISTICS

## 2023 Incidents by Weekday



## 2023 FIRES, 79



Fire related  
Civilian  
Firefighter

Injuries  
1  
1

Fatalities  
0  
0

## Top Fires Causes for 2023

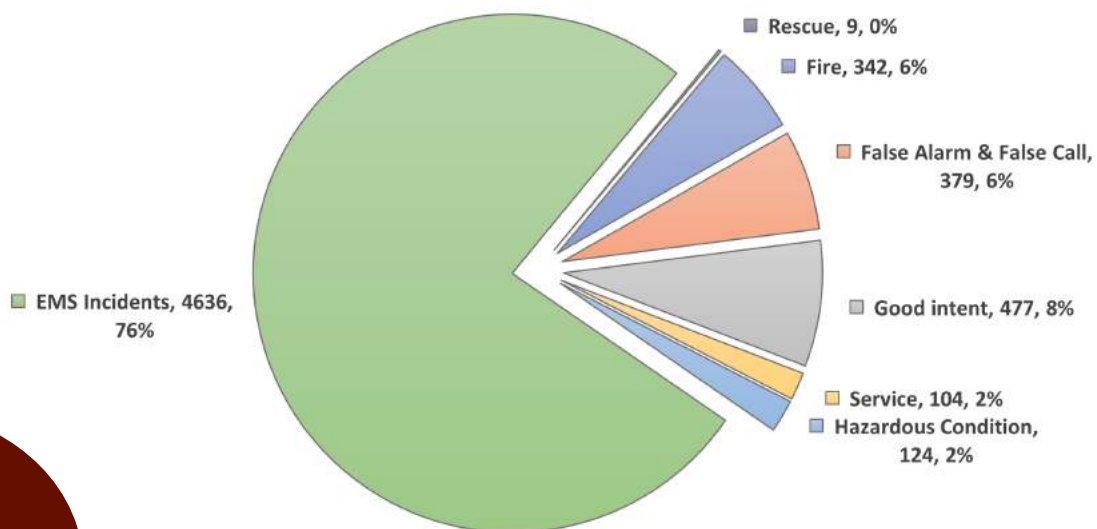
- Misc. Accidental (i.e. appliances, chimney, equipment failures, fireworks)
- Cooking
- Electrical
- Intentional (Arson)

## 2023 STATISTICS

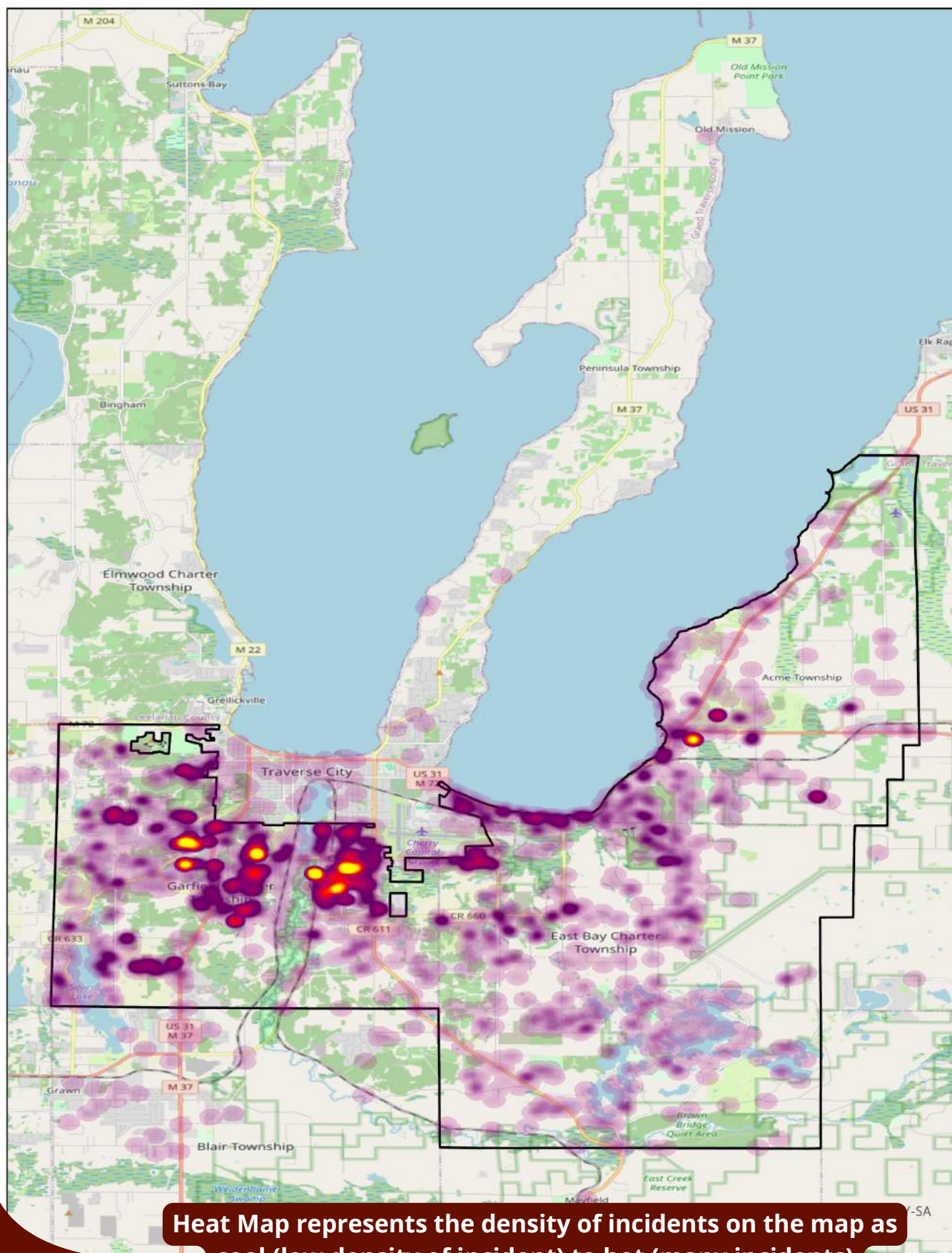
### 10 Year Incident Totals



### 2023 Incidents by Type





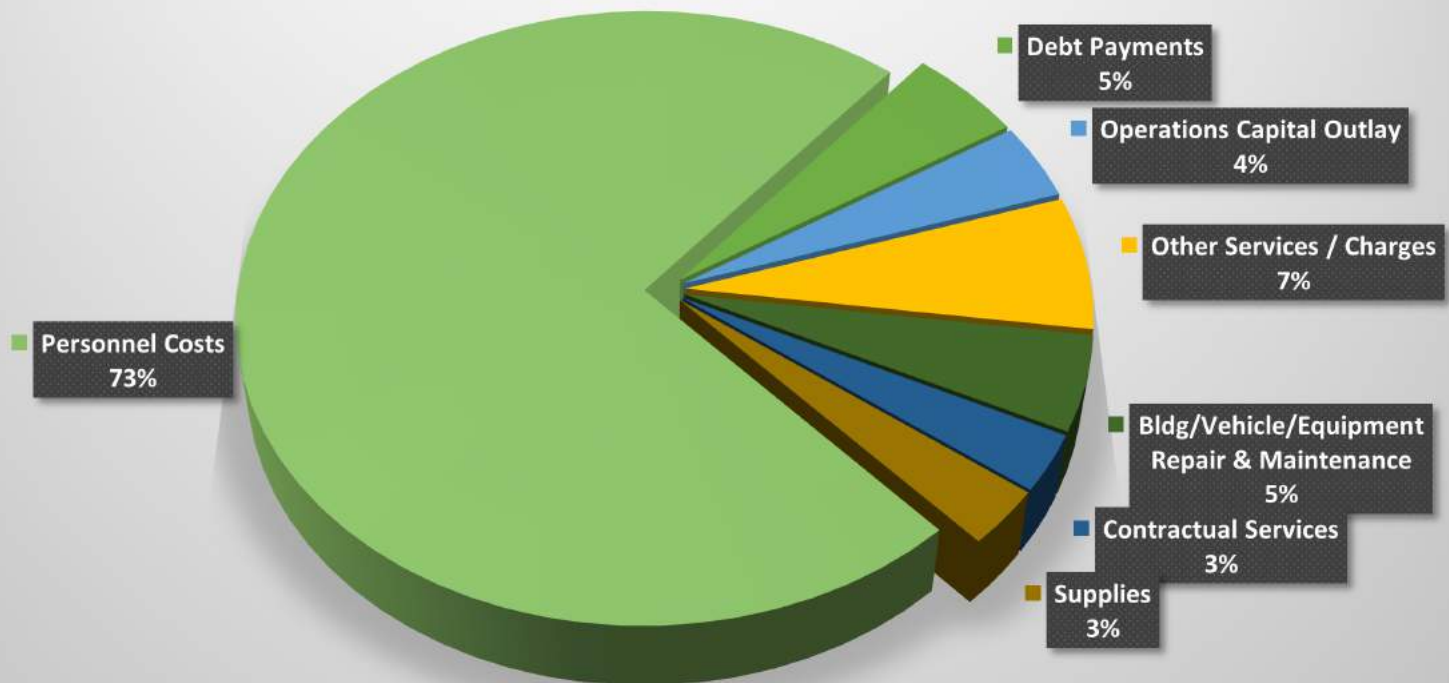
**2023 STATISTICS****GTMESSA Heat Map - 2023**

## 2023 BUDGET

The operating budget for GTMESA was \$6,091,546. This revenue is primarily made up of a fire millage of 2.75 assessed by all three townships. Some additional revenue is seen with third party plan reviews, grants, and interest on investments. Personnel costs continue to lead our expense category. We are challenged with recruitment and retention like most employers. Purchases were made in 2023 from the operating budget for a utility vehicle and a van for the Public Educator using proceeds from the sale of assets.

We spent an additional \$308,764 to cover debt payments out of a dedicated capital fund which is funded from the operating budget.

### 2023 Budget \$6,091,546





## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

The Fire Prevention Division is an all-hazards Community Risk Reduction program who works in conjunction with the Operations Division to carry out the mission of the department. We provide services which encompass the three E's of quality prevention programs: Education, Enforcement and Engineering.

We conduct fire code compliance (enforcement) inspections, plan review (engineering) of new buildings, fire protection systems and assistance to developers for new construction projects. Numerous (education) programs are offered such as: CPR, fire extinguishers, car seat installations, smoke alarm checks in homes, senior specific programs, evacuation training, safety programs in schools, among many others and is the host agency for Safe Kids North Shore programming.

The Fire Prevention Division also conducts investigations of all fires in the battle against arson and provides counseling services through our Youth Firesetter program. Our goal of eliminating fires and traumatic injuries in our community is a huge task which we strive to attain.

The Inspector vacancy from late 2022 was a lengthy process with multiple postings and was filled in August. Kevin Langley relocated his family from southeast Michigan. Finding housing within the district proved challenging which resulted in housing in an adjacent county. Kevin holds multiple certifications including both Michigan State and NFPA licensed Inspector 1 and 2, NFPA Certified Fire Plan Examiner, and National Association of Fire Investigators Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator. He was most recently been employed as Fire Marshal with Grosse Ile Fire Department and has been doing a great job for our department.

We have also assigned three suppression staff members as our "Shift Social Media Specialists", these members post significant events, trainings and our everyday happenings to our social media accounts to educate the public about what their fire department is doing daily.



Fire Extinguisher training provided by GTMESA for international workers at Grand Beach Resort Hotel.

## Safe Neighborhood - Smoke Alarm Campaign



**Visited 366 Homes**

**Performed Services in Homes = 161**

**Smoke Alarms Installed = 268**

**Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms Installed = 47**

**Combination Smoke/CO Alarms Installed = 19**

**15% of alarms checked were either not working or expired.**



In 2023, we were able to secure 216 smoke alarms and 96 smoke/carbon monoxide combination alarms from the state of Michigan inventory. In doing so we were able to expand the program back to the original goals of every fire station spending 2 hours every week going door to door offering our services. This started again in late August and continued through late October. During the winter months our services are offered by request only. The form can be found on our website here [Safe Neighborhood Smoke Alarm Campaign - Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority \(gtmetrofire.org\)](https://gtmetrofire.org).

In 2023, we were on the porch of 366 homes, performed checks in 161 homes, left door hangers for 205 and installed 268 smoke alarms, 47 carbon monoxide alarms, and 19 combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms. In those 161 homes we found 92 non-working alarms. 15% of the homes we visited during this program had no working smoke alarms.

Of the 26 fires that occurred in 1 & 2 family homes and multifamily occupancies in 2023, there were 5 incidents where the smoke alarms failed to operate or were not present. This represents approximately 20% of homes that had fires did not have a functioning smoke alarm. While this number is significantly lower than past years (avg. 40%), this number still represents high risk situations which could lead to injuries and deaths in our communities.



# MICHIGAN FATAL FIRE STATISTICS

## 2023

**125** PEOPLE died in **112** FIRES

**↑4%**  
INCREASE  
in **deaths** compared  
to 2017-2022 average

**↑11%**  
INCREASE  
in **fire** compared  
to 2017-2022 average



**11** MULTI-FATAL FIRES  
resulting in **24** deaths

ONLY  
**28%**



of homes were  
reported as having  
working smoke alarms



**25%**  
of victims were  
reported as  
disabled

### REPORTED HOME VALUES

as compared to Michigan's \$150,000 median value



**77%** OF HOMES  
with fatal fires  
valued **below**

**22%** OF HOMES  
with fatal fires  
valued **above**

**1%** of fatal fires were not in residential structures

GENDER

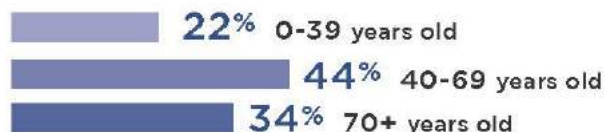


**62%**  
MALE



**38%**  
FEMALE

AGE



TIME



DAYS

Most fatal fires occurred on  
**Saturday & Sunday**

### TOP 3 FATAL FIRE CAUSES



SMOKING



HEATING



COOKING

### TOP 3 AREAS OF ORIGIN



BEDROOM



LIVING ROOM



KITCHEN

(These numbers reflect only the reported fires.)

### MI PREVENTION HOME SAFETY VISITS

Visited

**6,116**  
HOMES

Visited with

**12,818**  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Installed

**21,022** & **3,975** & **157**  
SMOKE ALARMS CO ALARMS SPECIAL ALARMS

### SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

Put one on **EVERY LEVEL** in **EVERY BEDROOM**



Change batteries **EVERY YEAR OR WHEN IT CHIRPS** and replace every **TEN YEARS**

**TEST** smoke alarms every month

MFISfoundation.org



## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION



**Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)** is an integral part of a first responder's career. We have three certified peer support specialists on our team and rely on Northwest Michigan Peer Support to help support first responders before, during, and after a crisis.

*You may notice several amazing images such as this in our report. Photo credit to Dan Sun, who visited us in April and captured these incredible moments with our team.*

[www.dansunphotos.com](http://www.dansunphotos.com)

Event / Program	Number of Children Attending	Number of Adults Attending	Total Attendance
Community Outreach Event	2,017	1,948	3,965
OnWatch	1468	75	1543
Traffic Safety Event / Presentation	583	118	701
Other School Programs	587	9	596
Business / Industry Fire Extinguisher Training & Education	0	367	367
Senior Fall Prevention	0	300	300
Car Seat Fitting / Checks	*Car Seat Checks 183, Car Seat Distributed 83		256
Open House	0	0	200
Business / Industry Fire Drill & Evacuation Training	0	195	195
Business / Industry CPR, AED, Stop the Bleed	0	97	97
Family & Friends CPR	26	64	90
Conduct Fire Station Tour	44	31	75
Peer Support Metro Training	0	30	30
Peer Support / CISM Training	0	21	21
Disability Outreach	9	9	18
Youth Fire Intervention Counseling	2	0	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,736</b>	<b>3,520</b>	<b>8,456</b>

The number of programs and services delivered rose significantly in 2023 over 2022. Programs and attendance more than doubled for the year. With falls being the number one emergency response category yet again, we focused on fall prevention programs and extended the outreach to new groups which resulted in 300 participants learning fall prevention strategies. Our services to business and industry continue to be popular and have expanded to include our Family and Friends CPR/ Automatic Defibrillator and Stop The Bleed programs. We were also able to present our Hazards of Fire Play program to our middle school students who are the most vulnerable age group for playing with fire. Three suppression staff members have volunteered to being assigned as Public Education Specialists who assist in program delivery. It is our hope that program requests require a need for these positions on a more regular basis.





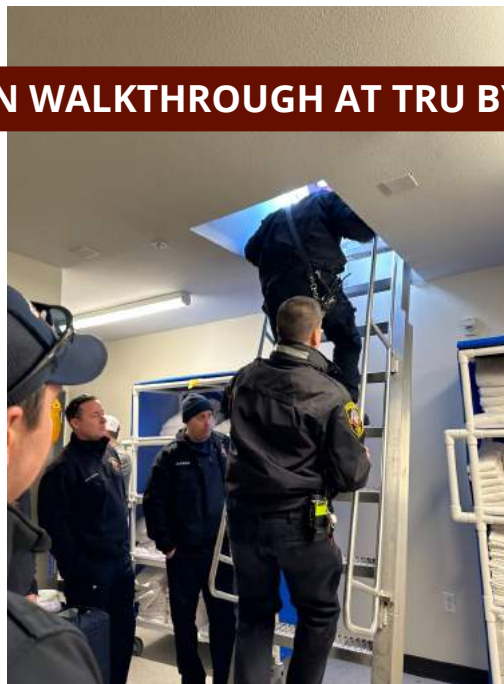
## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

With the Fire Inspector position vacant until August, it was a challenging year for staff in order to complete our high priority annual inspections. Other staff worked outside their assignments to complete these inspections. We continue to inspect every public assembly, hotel/motel, big box store, apartment complexes and other target hazards every year. With the increase in these occupancies due to new construction, the frequency of inspecting the other business types becomes less frequent, with some not inspected in over 4 years. Five civil court citations were issued in 2023 for fire code violation noncompliance. Plan reviews were up across the district with increases in Acme and Garfield, with a slight decline of 14 permits for Easy Bay Township. Out of district reviews were up by one permit in 2023 over 2022. Plan review permit fees generated \$61,616.93 in revenue, with \$7,317.50 of that coming from projects outside the Metro District as a contracted agency for Grand Traverse County Construction Codes to conduct fire protection system plan reviews in townships outside our jurisdiction. Our plan review and permit process went live with the Grand Traverse County EnerGov portal in December 2022 and continued on a trial basis for all of 2023. The system proved difficult for customers and time consuming for staff. The trial was discontinued in January 2024. A new in-house electronic submittal process is in place which includes in-house billing.

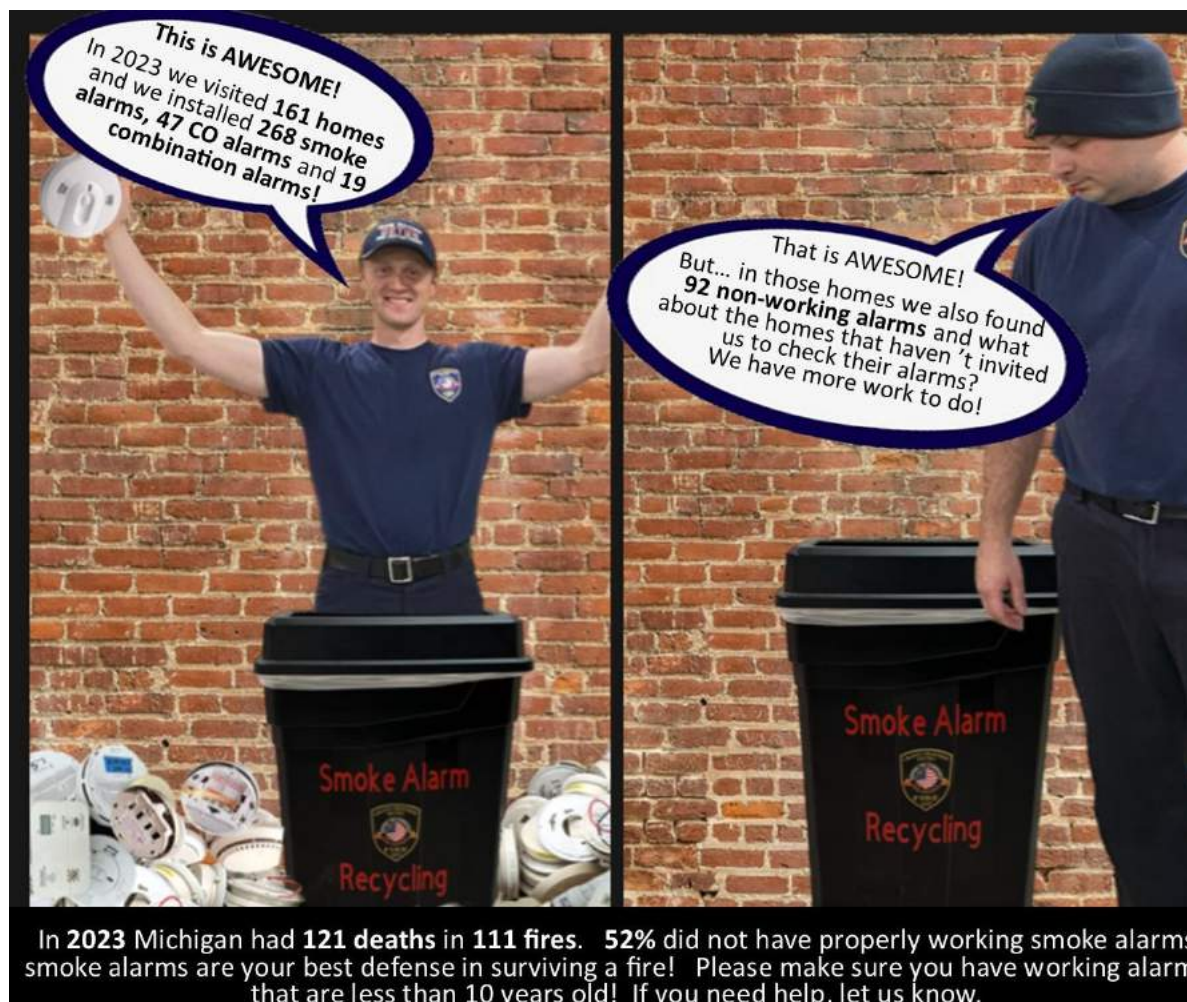
### 2023 Inspections Totals

	ACME	EASTBAY	GARFIELD	TOTAL
RE-INSPECTIONS	176	160	801	<b>1,137</b>
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS	60	78	415	<b>553</b>
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	42	46	178	<b>266</b>
PLAN REVIEWS	36	32	138	<b>206</b>
OTHER, MOBILE FOOD VENDERS	11	9	69	<b>89</b>
FF RIGHT TO KNOW	9	6	55	<b>70</b>
COMPLAINT	2	1	8	<b>11</b>
FIRE WATCH / FIRE PROTECTION IMPARTMENTS	0	3	6	<b>9</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>2,341</b>

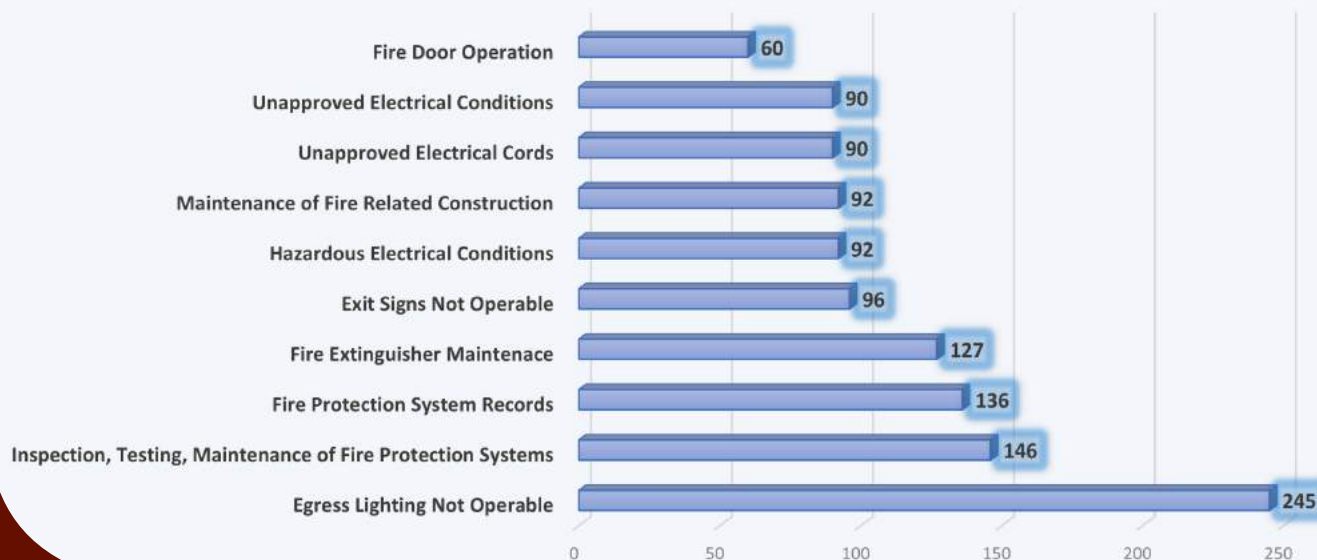
### PRE-PLAN WALKTHROUGH AT TRU BY HILTON



## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION



2023 Top 10 Code Violations





## FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

2023 Annual  
Inspections  
by Use Group

Business	152
Mercantile	143
Assembly	111
Residential	54
Storage	31
Mixed	28
Factory	9
Institutional	4
Utility	3
Educational	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>536</b>



## OPERATIONS DIVISION

GTMESSA Operations Division is responsible for providing a skilled and timely response to any call for aid – we are a true “All-Hazards” department. In 2023, The Operations Division encompassed an Operations Chief, 3 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 18 full-time firefighters, and 12 part-time firefighters.

We now staff all 5 fire stations on a 24/7 basis, with Station 9 (High Lake Road) coming online with 24/7 staffing in January 2023. Our suppression firefighters are divided into three shift rotations: Red, Green, and Blue. Between full time and part-time personnel, we average 10 firefighters on duty per day. Our full-time firefighters work a 48/96 schedule, meaning they work 48 hours in a row, followed by 96 hours off. Our part-time firefighters work a varying schedule of either 12- or 24-hour shifts. Our fire stations are strategically located in each of the three townships we serve: the Charter Township of Garfield, Acme Township, and East Bay Charter Township.

The Operations Division utilizes a multitude of different Fire / EMS apparatus including fire engines, tanker trucks, a ladder truck, a heavy rescue, Basic Life Support (BLS) response squads, all terrain vehicles, marine units, snowmobiles, and two Special Operations trailers for Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue response.

Our firefighters run an average of 17 calls for service per day. When they are not responding to calls for service, they are actively engaged in training, physical fitness, and ensuring all equipment and facilities are in a state of readiness for the next emergency. Our firefighters are also assigned to become subject matter experts in ancillary tasks that include Child Passenger Safety Technicians, Wellness Committee, Apparatus Committee, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Technician, Medical Advisory Committee, Small Engine Repair, Drone Team, Fleet Maintenance, Training Committee, Building Maintenance, and Water Supply / ISO (Insurance Services Office).

Our fire stations are open to the public and we enjoy interacting with our local community. If you have questions about your fire department, please stop by and see us!





## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

GTMESSA is responsible for providing primary non-transport medical services in all three of our townships. We had 5,193 patient contacts in 2023, of which 2,163 were life threatening patient conditions.

In 2023, seventy-six percent (76%) of our emergency calls involved medical responses, including motor vehicle crashes. Recognizing this critical need, we've proudly held Basic Life Support (BLS) licensure since 2009, enabling our personnel to deliver expanded medical care.

Currently, fifteen (15) of our medical response vehicles hold State of Michigan BLS licenses, signifying their adherence to standards and equipment protocols. These vehicles carry a comprehensive array of medical equipment, which undergo daily inspections, ensuring their readiness to handle diverse medical emergencies.

Our licensed employees have the ability and training to provide basic life support measures, which includes advanced airways, prehospital drug administration, automatic defibrillation, trauma care, and more. For our prehospital drug administration, we carry medications for asthma attacks, nausea and vomiting, diabetic emergencies, chest pain, potential heart attacks, allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, opioid overdoses, and low blood sugar episodes.

All suppression personnel are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians, minimally. Our department partners in response with East Bay Township Advanced Life Support and Mobile Medical Response (MMR) Advanced Life Support, who are the primary transporting agencies. Station 9 houses East Bay EMS. Stations 8, 11, and 12 each house an MMR ambulance as well.

Our commitment to rapid response times starts with a dedicated team of 10 highly trained firefighters/EMS providers across 5 stations. This strategy proved successful in 2023, with our first responders arriving on the scene first in sixty-seven percent (67%) of all EMS emergencies. This response allows us to initiate life-saving care and interventions immediately, improving outcomes for our community. Additionally, our team provided critical extra care during ambulance transport on 113 occasions, further demonstrating our commitment to patient care. *(Continued ...)*



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

(Continued ... ) The region's booming tourism industry, which attracted approximately 7.3 million visitors in 2023, increased demand for our services. The large influx of traffic on our roadways brings additional motor vehicle crashes. GTMESA stands prepared for these situations, with all fire engines equipped with vehicle extrication tools and readily supported by a dedicated Heavy Rescue truck stationed at Station 1. This past year, our crews responded to two hundred twenty-four (224) motor vehicle crashes. Fifteen (15) of those incidents required extrication. GTMESA's specialized equipment and personnel skills proved invaluable in freeing victims safely and efficiently.

Our team is prepared to respond to a wide range of medical emergencies thanks to our advanced equipment selection. This includes:

- LUCAS Mechanical Chest Compression Device: Ensures consistent, high-quality CPR even in challenging situations.
- Lifepak15 Monitors: Provide real-time vital sign monitoring and defibrillation capabilities.
- Stair Chairs: Facilitate safe and efficient patient transport, especially for those with access restricted areas.
- Oxygen Tanks and Delivery Systems: Deliver critical respiratory support to patients experiencing breathing difficulties.
- Trauma and Medical Kits: Contain essential supplies for wound care, bleeding control, and other medical interventions.
- Pediatric Specialized Equipment: Ensures we can provide appropriate care to patients of all ages.
- Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs): Can potentially save lives in cases of sudden cardiac arrest.
- Suction Devices: Maintain airway patency and remove fluids or obstructions.
- Pelvic/Traction Splints and Other Splinting Devices: Immobilize fractures and other musculoskeletal injuries to minimize further harm.

This comprehensive equipment selection helps us provide the highest quality of care to every patient, regardless of the emergency they face.





## TRAINING DIVISION

Training is the foundation of any well-prepared organization, and we take our mission of serving our community by safeguarding life and property from fire, hazards, and medical emergencies through education, intervention, and quality response very seriously. We train under many different conditions day and night to ensure we are ready for any emergency. Our firefighters and fire officers spent over 7,200 hours training both on and off duty in many different disciplines in 2023.

Our firefighters are tasked with not only fire and EMS responsibilities, but also Hazardous Materials Mitigation, Rope Rescue, Confined Space, Trench Rescue, Ice / Water / Land Search and Rescue, Building Pre-Plan Training, and Machine / Vehicle Extrication to name a few. Our firefighters are trained in operating fire engines, ladder trucks, tanker trucks, all terrain vehicles, boats, and snowmobiles, as well as many different types of handheld tools and power equipment.

GTMESSA Training Division is comprised of the Operations Chief, Shift Supervisors, and several firefighters / officers who are subject matter experts (SMEs) in certain disciplines to ensure the latest training is being delivered safely and efficiently – exceeding the State of Michigan training requirements. We pride ourselves on being one of the best trained fire departments in Northern Michigan.

Our training needs assessments always evaluate target hazards within our community. A particular focus in 2023 was on the growing use of lithium-ion batteries (electric vehicles, mobility devices, tools, etc.) and battery energy storage systems. These items present a high-level risk to both the public and our responders. We've updated guidelines, training and response tactics, and prevention measures to ensure we are taking a proactive approach to this evolving technology.

We had many firefighters and fire officers complete training requirements and certification for Firefighter I & II, EMT-B, Fire Instructor I, Fire Officer I & II, Ice Rescue Technician, Chemistry, Hazmat Highway Cargo, Hazmat Officer, Rope & Confined Space Rescue, Structural Collapse, Wildland firefighting, Peer Support, Active Assailant, Incident Command, and Live Fire Training, among others.



## PREPAREDNESS

The physical health, fitness for duty, and safety of all personnel are priorities of GTMESA. Emergency services are a physically demanding profession which requires personnel to be fit to perform their duties. Metro requires each firefighter one hour of fitness while on duty. Each spring our firefighters submit to an annual medical evaluation that conforms to the NFPA 1582 Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments. Every October, our firefighters perform a Physical Ability Test (PAT) that replicates essential functions that our firefighters perform on the fire scene. Lastly, each firefighter completes an annual wellness assessment by our Wellness Coordinator. This program encompasses body composition, nutrition, physical activity, and education information. We hope health and wellness becomes a lifelong habit.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS



## FRIENDS & FAMILY CPR TRAINING



## FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING FOR BUSINESSES



## MATTER OF BALANCE CLASSES

## CAR SEAT CHECKS



# MEET YOUR GTMESA TEAM

## Administration



**Fire Chief  
Pat Parker**



**Assistant Chief  
of Operations  
Tony Posey**



**Assistant Chief /  
Fire Marshal  
Brian Belcher**



**Human Resources  
Director  
Stacey Bird**



**Administrative  
Assistant  
Jennifer  
Grochowalski**



**Accountant  
Kim McCann**

## Fire Prevention Bureau



**Fire Life Safety  
Specialist  
Jennifer Froehlich**



**Fire Inspector /  
Plan Reviewer  
Kathy Fordyce**



**Fire Inspector /  
Investigator  
Kevin Langley**



**Fire Inspector /  
Investigator  
Eric Chryst**

# MEET YOUR GTMESA TEAM

## Captains



**Captain / EMT  
Training Officer  
Troy Holliday**



**Captain / EMT  
Haz Mat Leader  
Adam Drewery**



**Captain / EMT  
Steve Meek**

## Lieutenants



**Lieutenant / EMT  
Mike Thomas**



**Lieutenant / EMT  
Rescue Ops Leader  
David Sicotte**



**Lieutenant / EMT  
Josh Sprenger**



**Lieutenant / EMT  
Mike Winter**



**Lieutenant / EMT  
Cody Lipe**



**Lieutenant/EMT-P IC  
Medical Director  
Spencer Scanlon**



# MEET YOUR GTMESA TEAM

## Firefighters Full-Time



**Firefighter / EMT  
Brian Bloom**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Gary Francisco**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Evan Schnabele**



**Firefighter / EMT-P  
Cody Randall**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Austin Miner**



**Firefighter / EMT  
David Ginebaugh**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Mike Stone**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Heather Newkirk**



**Firefighter / AEMT  
Peter Bean**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Cory Snyder**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Tyler Young**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Brett Baines**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Tony Longo**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Nathan Leigeb**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Trevor Alworden**



**Firefighter / EMT  
Rick Worm**



# MEET YOUR GTMESA TEAM

## Firefighters Part-Time



**Firefighter / EMT**  
**Jon Williamson**



**Firefighter / EMT**  
**Sam Rojewski**



**Firefighter / EMT**  
**Jon Flynn**



**Firefighter / EMT**  
**Grant Blackmer**



**Firefighter / EMT**  
**Adam Farthing**



**Firefighter / EMT**  
**Christian Riddle**



**Firefighter / EMT**  
**Doug Dombek**



**Probationary**  
**Gunner Keaton**



**Probationary**  
**David Mudd**



**Probationary**  
**Ajay Murray**



**Probationary**  
**Aidan Kamp**



**Probationary**  
**Cam MacKinnon**



**Probationary**  
**Terran Peterson**

## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### PROMOTIONS

#### **Lieutenant Cody Lipe**

Promoted from Firefighter to Lieutenant in April 2023

~and~

15 years of service with GTMESA

### GTMESA AWARDS CEREMONY - 2023

#### **Fire Officer of the Year**

Captain Steve Meek



#### **Firefighter of the Year**

Firefighter Mike Stone



## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### GTMESSA AWARDS CEREMONY - 2023

#### EMS Provider of the Year

Firefighter Brian Bloom



#### Chief Wayne Hanna Memorial Prevention Award

Inspector / Investigator

Eric Chryst



### CHIEFS' LENGTH OF SERVICE - 2023



Tony Posey  
20 Years

Pat Parker  
40 Years

Brian Belcher  
35 Years



## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### MABAS DIVISION 3701 VALIDATION

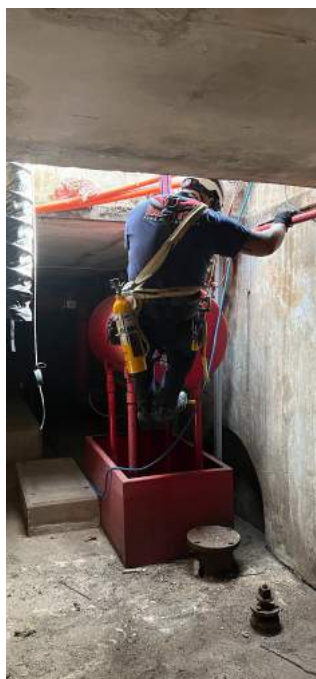
GTMESSA is a proud member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 3701. Through mutual aid, MI-MABAS has the capability to provide emergency response locally or statewide when lives, property or the environment is threatened by man-made, technological, or natural disasters or emergencies by deploying fire resources, emergency medical services, technical rescue teams, hazardous materials teams and other special rescue operations needed and requested by the host/stricken community. Division 3701 is made up of fire and rescue departments from Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Emmet, and Otsego counties.

One of the glaring deficiencies recognized over the last several years was the fact that there were no Special Operations (Hazardous Materials or Technical Rescue) resources in Northern Michigan. If a major incident were to take place, our community would be waiting hours for the resources to come from southern Michigan. This was highlighted in recent years with major storms and events.

MABAS Division 3701 took a proactive approach to this and began working towards Special Operations teams for Northern Michigan. GTMESSA played a critical role in developing these teams with Operations Chief Tony Posey filling the Chief role, and Captain Adam Drewery and Lieutenant Dave Sicotte becoming Team Leaders for Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue, respectively. Team members and equipment resources are comprised from many different fire departments in our division.

Our division reached a major milestone in 2023 working diligently to become validated as a Hazardous Materials Type II Team and a Rope and Confined Space Rescue team. Becoming validated not only shows that we've achieved a high-level standard in training, but also provides additional resources in equipment and financial aid to our area.

Our members are committed to providing the highest level of service to those we are sworn to protect and continue to work and train daily to keep those skills sharp!





# 2023 Open House



Dunk the fire chief



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- Chief Pat Parker was awarded Fire Chief of the Year by the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs.
- Assistant Chief of Operations Tony Posey earned Michigan's Professional Emergency Manager Designation.
- Lieutenant Mike Thomas awarded as EMT of the Year 2022 by VFW Cherryland Post 2780 in February.
- Added three full-time firefighters to our department, allowing 24/7 staffing in all five stations.
- Three probationary candidates graduated from Northwest Regional Fire Training Center's fire school with Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and HazMat Operations certification. They also earned their Emergency Medical Technician- Basic (EMT-B) medical license, allowing them to become part-time firefighters with our department.
- Three new probationary candidates were hired earn their own fire certification and medical license.
- Two Lieutenants completed Blue Card Incident Command training.
- Completed the succession planning process for both Lieutenant and Captain positions.
- Twelve suppression personnel attended Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) Light and Fight training.
- We were awarded AAA Traffic Safety Grant for \$5,000 to purchase safety items (vests, Pi-Lot lights, signage) for directing traffic and remaining highly visible while on scenes.
- MABAS Validation for HazMat Type II and Rope/Confined Spaces.
- Commencement of GTMESA Drone Team and we have three pilots and grant funded training.
- OSHA Part 74 assessment is complete and we are compliant.





## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Chief Pat Parker  
awarded Fire Chief of the Year  
by the Michigan Association of  
Fire Chiefs.



Lieutenant Mike Thomas awarded  
as EMT of the Year 2022 by VFW  
Cherryland Post 2780 in February.



Firefighters are sworn in by  
GTMESA's Fire Chief



Well-trained  
firefighters are  
safe & happy  
firefighters



## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Veterans Day Parade



Feb 2, 2023 - At 6:12 pm initial arriving units found a large wood frame outbuilding with heavy fire involving 75% of the building. Crews remained on scene for several hours to bring the fire under control.





## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



A July 15 response to a vehicle fire at a gas station resulted in no injuries, no damage to the building, and a reminder to put vehicles in park and turn off the ignition.

