

2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



Presented to  
**Our citizens, businesses,  
and stakeholders**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03. Message from the Fire Chief
- 04. About Us
- 05. Mission, Vision, and Values
- 06. Metro Fire Board
- 07. Organizational Chart
- 08. Response Area
- 09. Fire Stations
- 10. Response Statistics
- 13. Training
- 16. Budget
- 17. Fire Prevention Bureau
- 24. Our Team
- 28. Promotions
- 29. Recognition
- 30. Highlights
- 31. Follow Us





# FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Thank you for your interest in the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority and our 2024 Annual Report. This report provides an overview of our organization and a statistical summary of our work over the past year. It also highlights each of our divisions and some of our notable accomplishments.

The information presented reflects the unwavering commitment of our personnel, whether responding to emergencies, ensuring safety through code enforcement and inspections, or educating the public on safety and risk reduction. Our primary goal is to serve our community. Achieving this goal requires teamwork among our administrative staff, fire prevention personnel, public educators, and firefighters. Additionally, our successes would not be possible without the support of the GTMESA Board members and our incorporating municipalities of Acme Township, East Bay Charter Township, and the Charter Township of Garfield.

In 2024, our department responded to 6,323 calls for service, with emergency medical incidents accounting for 75% of those calls. This represents a 4.1% increase from the previous year, which we attribute to population growth and demographic changes within Grand Traverse County. With projections indicating a continued increase in demand, preparing for these challenges remains a top priority.

This year, we were fortunate to receive several grants as well as generous donations. These funds allowed us to replace or upgrade essential equipment valued at \$130,533. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of the organizations and individuals who made these resources available, helping us better serve our community.

On a personal note, I joined Metro Fire earlier in 2024, proudly taking the reins from retiring Fire Chief Pat Parker. As we close out the year, I am humbled by the dedication of this community and our team. I firmly believe in our guiding principles and strive to embody our vision: to be a proactive, innovative, and progressive leader in providing high-quality services while remaining fiscally responsible and accountable to our stakeholders and supporters.

Thank you for taking the time to review our Annual Report. If you have thoughts on how we can better serve you, please feel free to contact me at [pmackin@gtmetrofire.org](mailto:pmackin@gtmetrofire.org) or (231) 947-3000 ext. 1235. For more information about our organization, please visit [www.gtmetrofire.org](http://www.gtmetrofire.org).

On behalf of Metro Fire, we sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve you and thank you for your continued support!

Paul Mackin, Fire Chief







# ABOUT US

Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (GTMESSA), also known as the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department, provides comprehensive fire and life safety services to the 37,128 residents and visitors of the Charter Township of Garfield, Acme Township, and East Bay Charter Township. As an all-hazards department, we respond to a wide range of emergencies to ensure community safety.

Covering 110 square miles of diverse terrain, GTMESSA operates five strategically located fire stations to provide timely and effective emergency response. Our combination staffing model integrates full-time and part-time firefighters to maintain operational readiness.

Our Fire Prevention Division enhances public safety through enforcement, education, and engineering, working closely with the Fire Suppression Division for a comprehensive approach. Through proactive planning, professional excellence, and community engagement, GTMESSA remains dedicated to protecting lives and property while adapting to the region's evolving needs.







# 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).

# OUR MISSION

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 VALUES

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.



# FIRE BOARD

GTMESA provides services to the residents and visitors of Charter Township of Garfield, Acme Township, and East Bay Charter Township.

---

Charter Township of Garfield

Acme Township

East Bay Charter Township



**Chuck Korn**  
*Supervisor*



**Doug White**  
*Supervisor*



**Beth Friend**  
*Supervisor*



**Chris Barsheff**  
*Trustee*



**Dale Stevens**  
*Trustee*

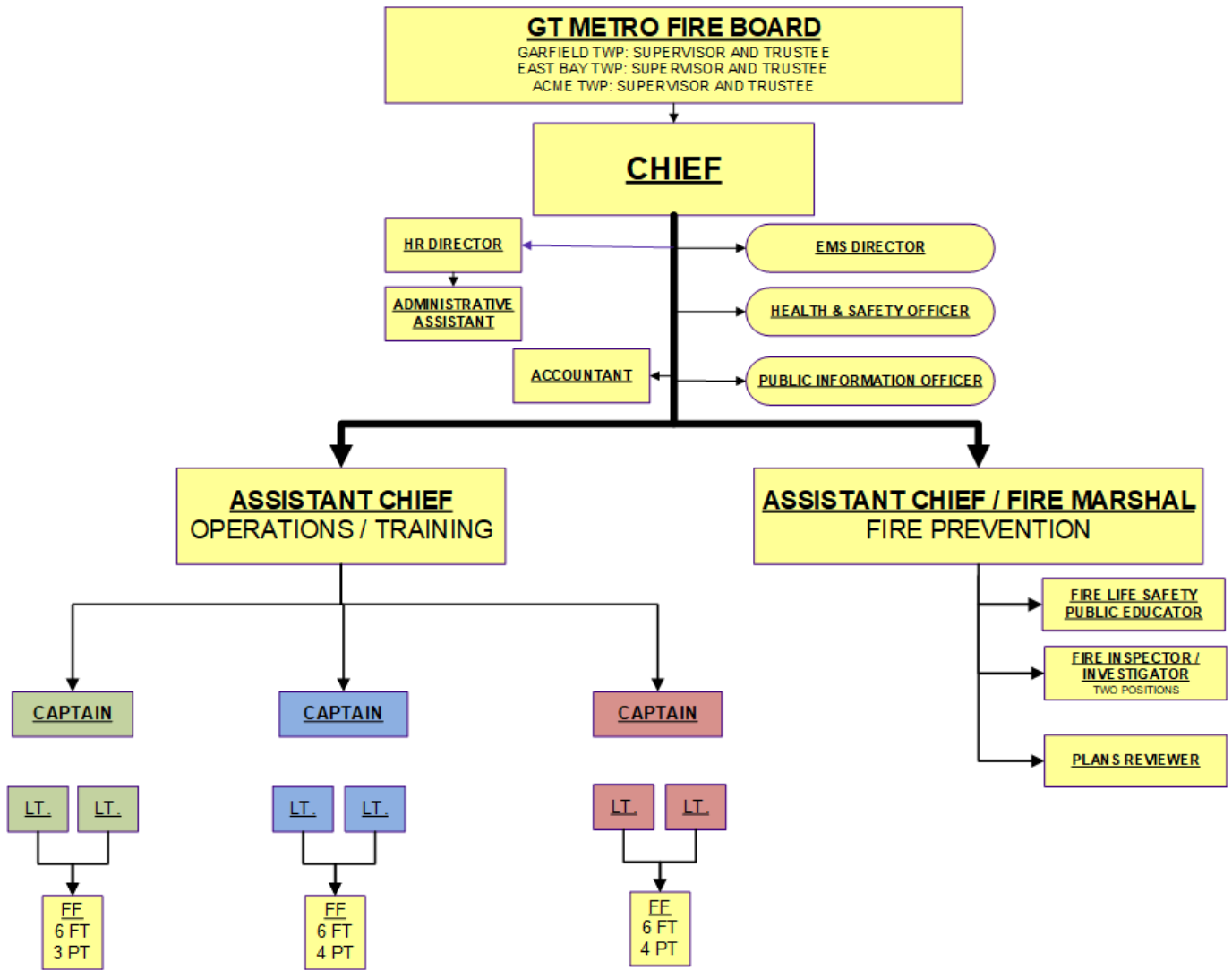


**Glen Lile**  
*Trustee*

The Fire Board is the authorized governing body of the Authority with the primary purpose of providing emergency services to the incorporating townships. Members are appointed by the board of each township with the broad responsibility of overseeing the department's administration.



# ORG CHART



The Operations Division is responsible for providing highly skilled, well-trained, and well-equipped responders to any call for aid. We are a true "All-Hazards" department, meaning we respond to all emergencies that threaten life or property. In 2024, the Operations Division was staffed by an Operations Chief, three Captains, six Lieutenants, eighteen full-time firefighters, and eleven part-time firefighters.

The Fire Prevention Division is an all-hazards Community Risk Reduction program that works in conjunction with the Operations Division to carry out the mission of the department. Our employees are our biggest asset, who strive every day to bring success to all our programs and customers.

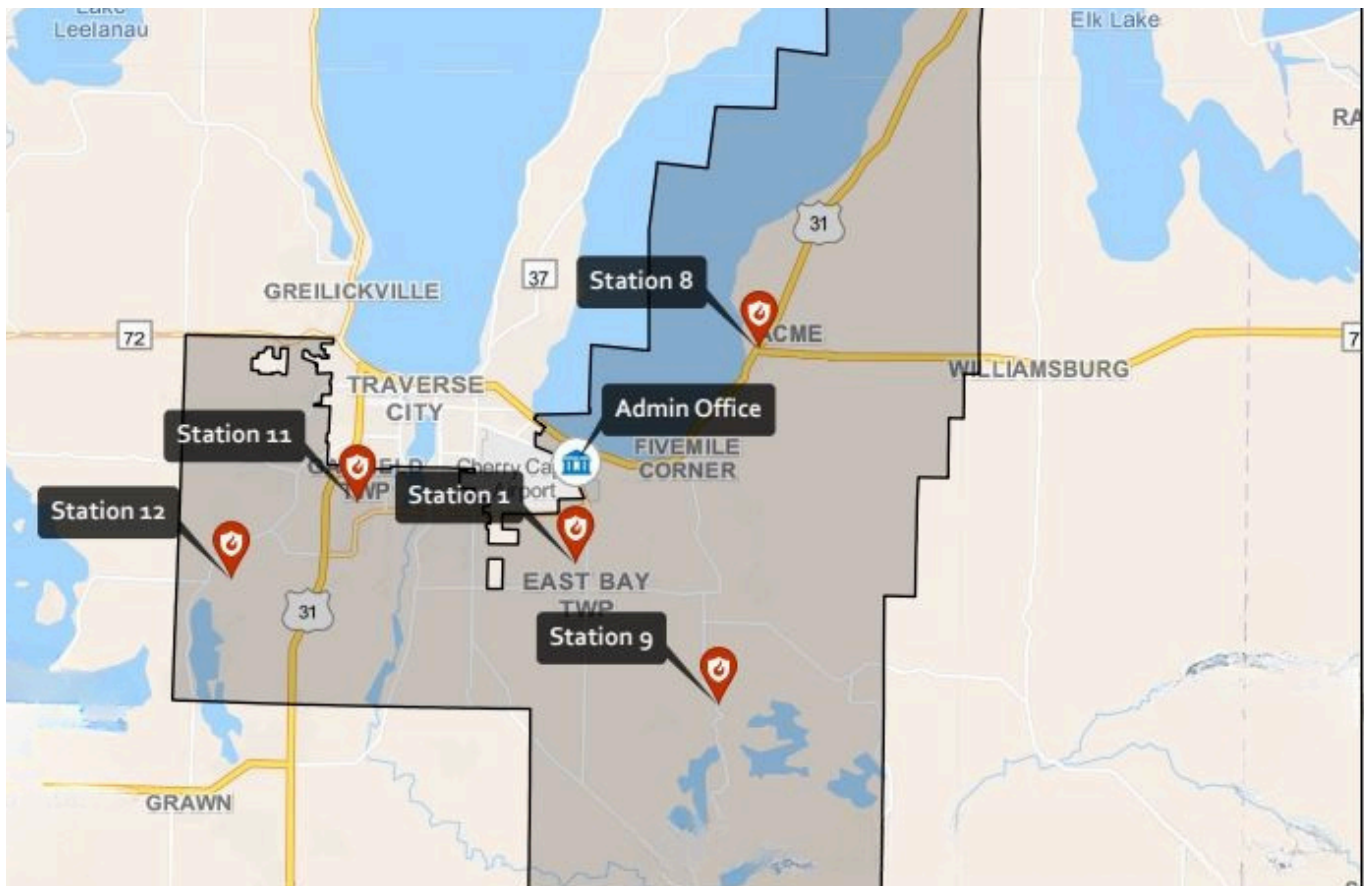


# OUR FIRE CREWS



GT Mesa operates five fire stations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are two fire stations located in the Charter Township of Garfield (Albany Street and East Silver Lake Road), two in East Bay Charter Township (Industrial Circle and High Lake Road), and one in Acme Township (Acme Road). 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 rotation, meaning they work 48 hours in a row, followed by 96 hours off. Our part-time firefighters work a varied schedule of either 12 or 24-hour shifts.

## RESPONSE MAP





# FIRE STATIONS



Administration Office | 897 Parsons  
(231) 947-3000



Station 1 | 843 Industrial Circle  
(231) 947-3814



Station 8 | 6042 Acme Road  
(231) 938-9533



Station 9 | 110 High Lake Road  
(231) 947-0125



Station 11 | 3000 Albany  
(231) 941-7682



Station 12 | 2025 E. Silver Lake Road  
(231) 947-2071

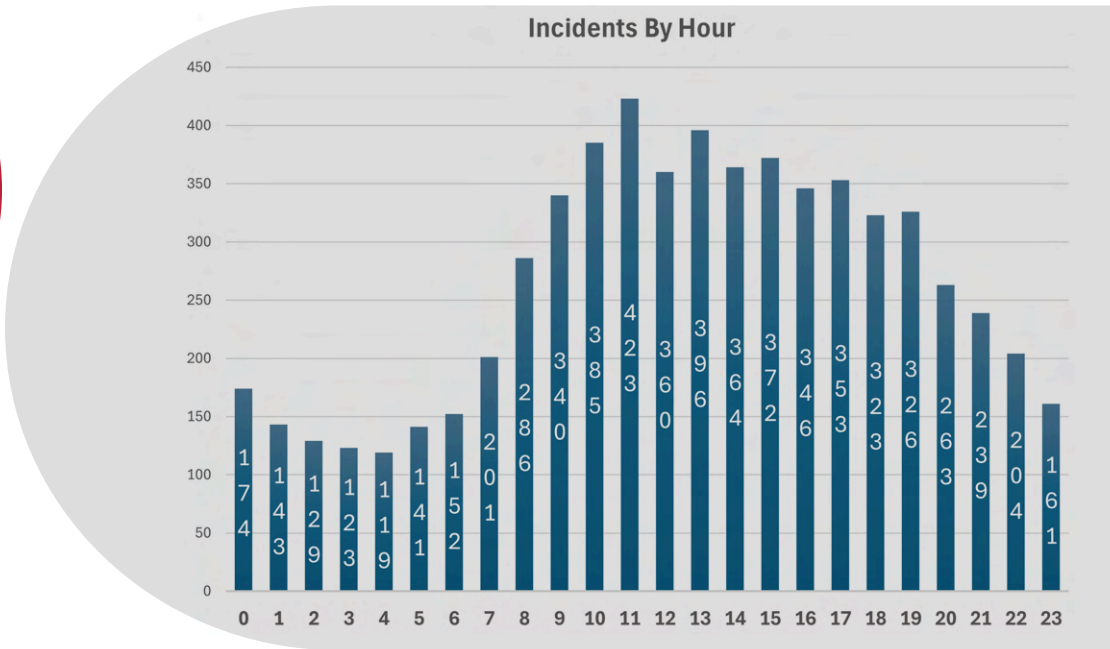
Our fire stations are open to the public and we enjoy interacting with our local community. If you have questions about your fire department, please stop by and see us!



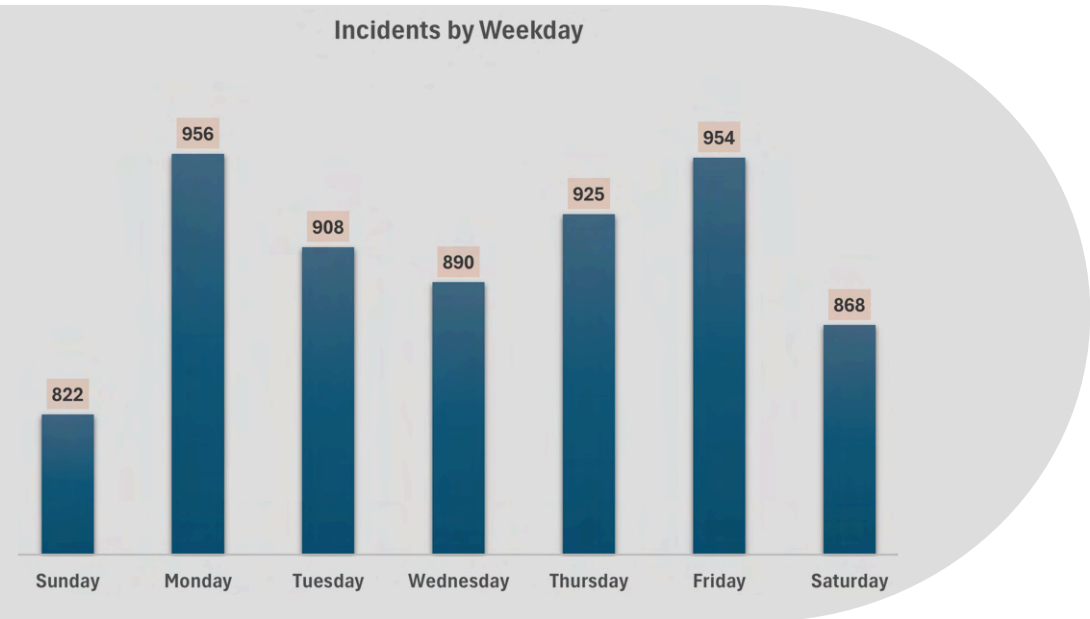
# RESPONSE STATISTICS

**6,323**  
Incident Responses

*An increase of  
4.2%  
from 2023*



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. Our firefighters are also assigned to become subject matter experts in ancillary tasks that include Child Passenger Safety Technicians, Wellness Committee, Peer Support, Apparatus Committee, Medical Advisory Committee, Small Engine Repair, Drone Team, Fleet Maintenance, Training, Building Maintenance, and Water Supply / ISO (Insurance Services Office). Our employees take great pride in being well trained and ready to serve our citizens.

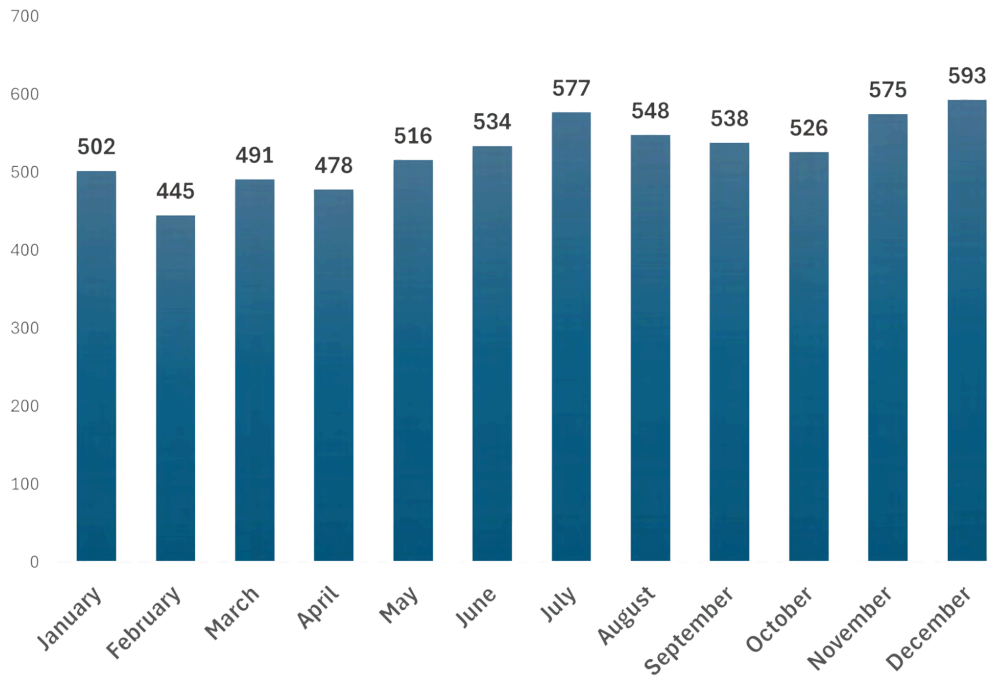






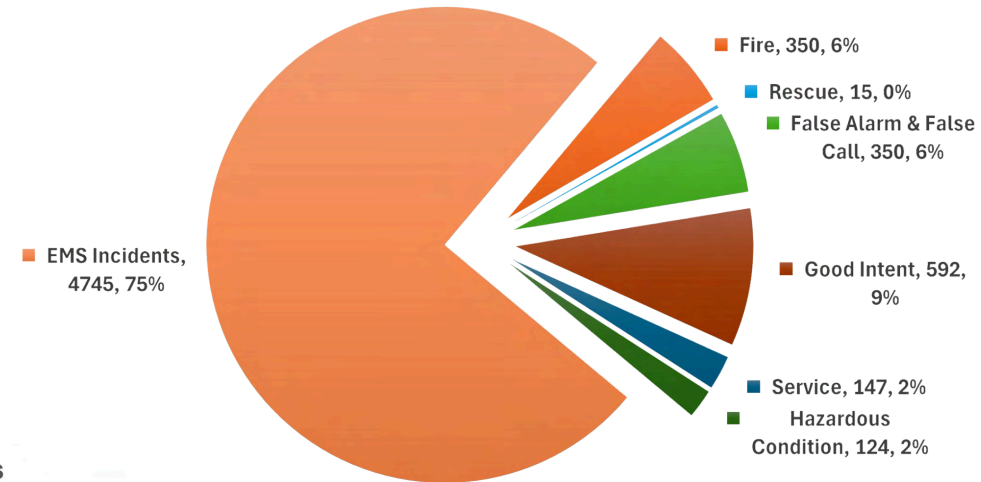
# RESPONSE STATISTICS

INCIDENTS BY MONTH

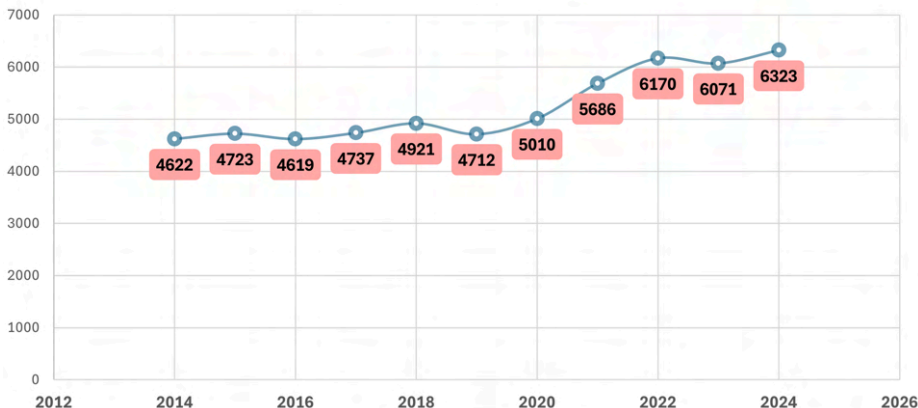


**Top Fire Causes 2024**  
 Cooking  
 Equipment failure  
 Smoking  
 Electrical

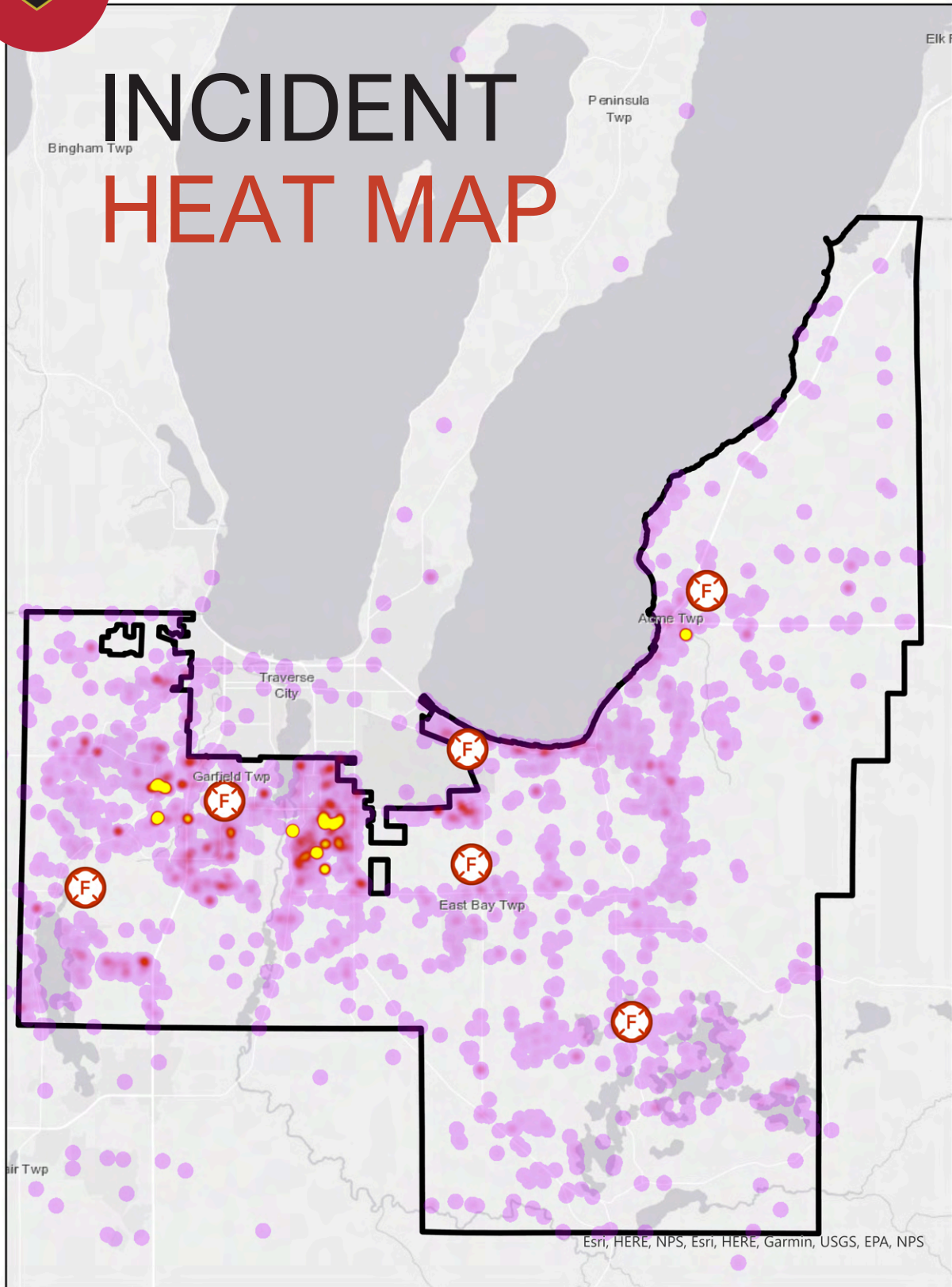
Incidents by Type



10 Year Incident Totals



Civilian Injuries - 5  
 Civilian Deaths - 0  
 Firefighter Injuries - 2  
 Firefighter Deaths - 0



Every response is added to the map as a “hot” point. As multiple calls occur in the same area, the color will intensify and eventually change to dark purple, then yellow, then orange, indicating the highest area for call volume.





# 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. Our organization trains under many different conditions day and night to ensure we are ready for any emergency. Our firefighters and fire officers spent 7,965 hours training both on and off duty in many different disciplines in 2024 with a core focus on firefighter development and fire officer continuing education. We've introduced task books for our employees to better guide the path to training success.

GTMESSA has created a training program to ensure that our firefighters and fire officers are not only meeting the state requirements but far exceeding them. A weekly training schedule is built out and firefighters who are certified as subject matter experts (SMEs) ensure the latest training is being delivered safely and effectively. We pride ourselves on being one of the best trained fire departments in Northern Michigan.





# TRAINING DIVISION

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, drone operations, 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 hand tools and power equipment.

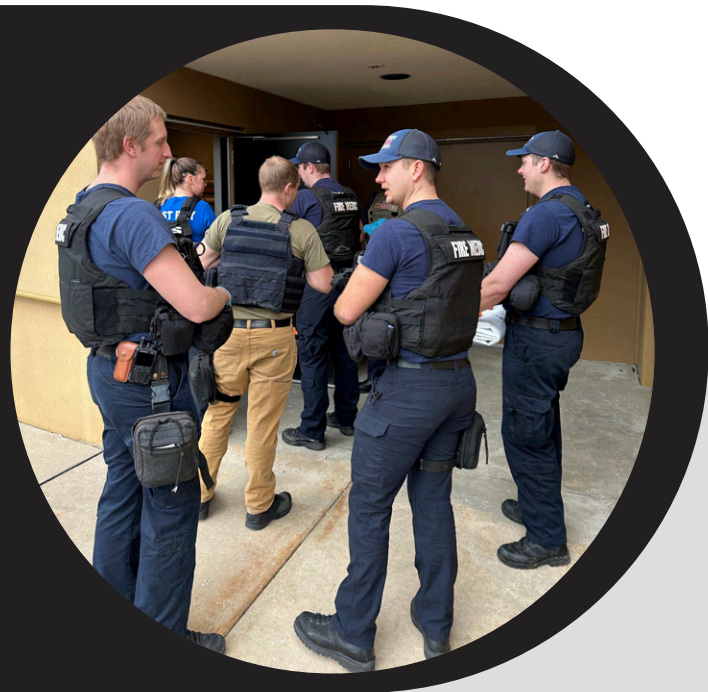
The Operations Division utilizes many different Fire / EMS apparatus including fire engines (pumpers), tanker trucks, a ladder truck, a heavy rescue, Basic Life Support (BLS) response squads, all terrain vehicles, marine units, snowmobiles, and two Special Operations trailers.



Our training needs assessments are constantly evaluating the target hazards within our community. Exponential growth in our area has changed the way we train and prepare for some of these hazards. An increase in battery storage and technology, taller buildings, denser development, more recreational activities with limited access, and a higher population density all factor into our needs assessment.



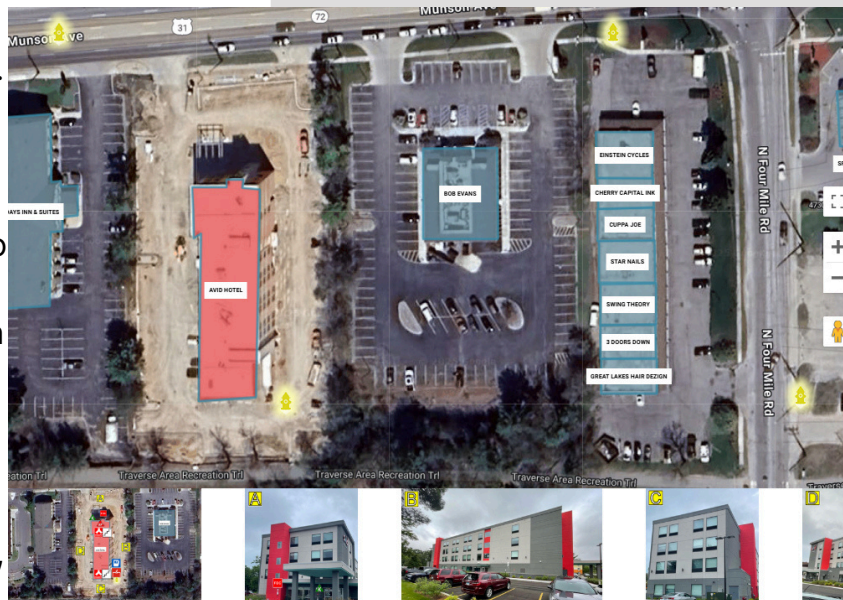
# TRAINING DIVISION



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

Two of our members also joined Michigan Task Force 1, which is the statewide response team asset responding not only state wide, but also to larger events in the US. These employees will gain valuable training and experience to better serve the residents of our jurisdiction.

A major change for us in 2024 was how we conducted building pre-plans in our jurisdiction. We introduced a program called FlowMSP, which has allowed us to conduct many more building pre-plans than previously, cataloging the information, and allowing that information to be disseminated in real time to our responding firefighters. Important building information such as occupancy, the number of floors, location of hazards, utilities, fire protection features, etc. are all now available at the fingertips of our firefighters upon dispatch. Our fire officers conducted over 500 building pre-plans in 2024, and we continue to work on this project.





# 2024 BUDGET

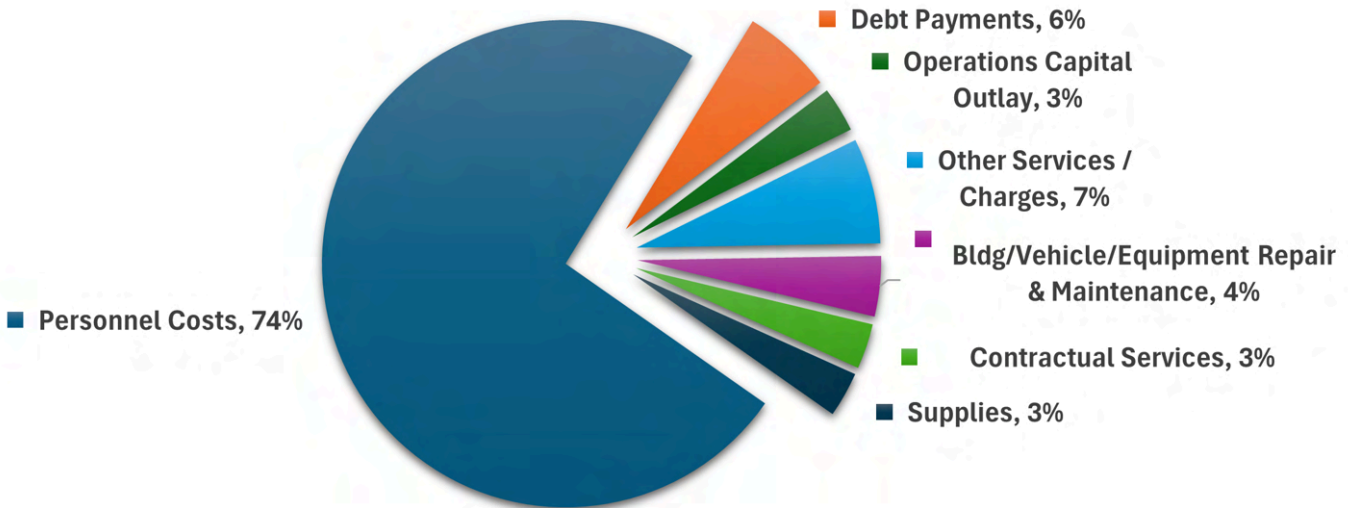


The operating budget was \$6,526,253. This revenue is primarily a fire millage of 2.75 mills assessed by our three townships. Additional revenue is seen with third party plan reviews, donations, grants, and investment interest. We also received \$157,500 in revenue during 2024 from the sale of surplus apparatus.

Personnel costs continue to lead our expense category as staffing has a direct correlation to our service delivery and emergency response capabilities. Like most industries recruitment and retention of quality personnel remain an organizational priority.

We spent an additional \$361,604 to cover debt payments and made budgeted purchases of a squad and rescue boat out of the public improvement fund, which is funded from the operating budget. GTMESA also purchased a new fire engine in 2024, financing the purchase jointly with our bank and through a zero-interest economic development loan from Cherryland Electric Cooperative.

## 2024 Budget \$6,526,253







# FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Division provides services which encompass the three E's of quality prevention programs: **E**ducation, **E**nforcement and **E**ngineering.



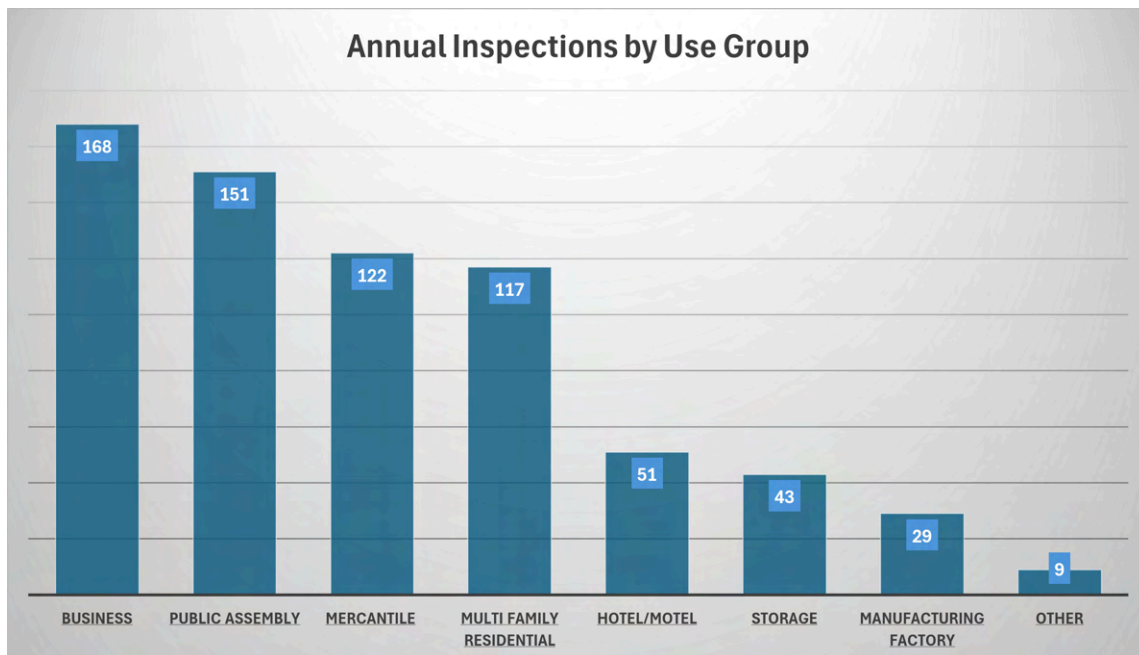
We conduct fire code compliance (**E**nforcement) inspections, plan review (**E**ngineering) of new buildings, fire protection systems and assistance to developers for new construction projects. Numerous (**E**ducation) programs are offered such as: CPR, fire extinguishers, car seat installations, smoke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

# INSPECTION/ PLAN REVIEW



	ACME	EASTBAY	GARFIELD	TOTAL
PLAN REVIEWS	36	52	123	211
ANNUALS	77	141	472	690
RE-INSPECTIONS	154	236	857	1247
FIREFIGHTER RIGHT TO KNOW	7	21	89	117
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	52	47	283	382
COMPLAINTS	0	2	9	11
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>1833</b>	<b>2658</b>

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 5 years. 2024 saw a new inspection software program implemented. This software is a module of a program already in use for our incident reporting. This move saved the department approximately \$2,500.00 per year while also streamlining the number of software programs requiring support and maintenance.





# FIRE PREVENTION

## DATA

One civil court citation was issued in 2024 for fire code violation noncompliance.

Plan reviews were up across the district with increases in East Bay Township, the same number in Acme as 2023 and a slight decrease in Garfield Township.

Out of district reviews increased in 2024 over 2023 by 15% primarily due to the growth in Blair Township.

August 1, 2024, a new permit fee schedule became effective. Plan review permit fees generated \$75,945.70 in revenue, with \$10,993.40 coming from projects outside the Metro District. Metro continues as a contracted agency for Grand Traverse County Construction Codes to conduct fire protection system plan reviews in townships outside our jurisdiction.



Building and content values of fire incidents = \$95,123,695.00  
 Total losses = \$2,290,745.00 – 2.4%  
 Total value saved = \$92,832,950.00 – 97.6%

The largest loss in 2024 was a duplex fire which resulted in a loss of approximately \$570,000.00



# PUBLIC EDUCATION

Event / Program	Number of Adults Attending	Number of Youth Attending	Total Attendance
Steps to Safety	160		160
Matter of Balance	94		94
Stop the Bleed	32		32
Fire Extinguishers	316		316
Family & Friends CPR (Community)	69		69
Family & Friends CPR (Sta. 11)	66	3	69
Disability Alarms	4	2	6
Car Seats (Scheduled)	196	130	326
Chill Out Winter Safety	46	900	946
Career Expos	50	1,400	1,450
Community Outreach / Events	885	1,686	2,571
School Programs	181	3,445	3,626
Shelter-in-place	78	0	78
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>7,566</b>	<b>9,743</b>

2024 was another busy year for our public education programs. We continued to deliver a wide array of programs and community outreach events in order to provide education to our communities with the goal of reducing traumatic injuries and death. With falls being the number one emergency response category yet again, we continued our focus on fall prevention programs.

We expanded our classes to include a Steps for Safety program delivered in senior living facilities. This was in addition to the Matter of Balance 8-week classes in partnership with Munson hospital injury prevention department which were delivered 6 times throughout the year with 94 participants.





# PUBLIC EDUCATION



Three suppression staff members have been 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.

With the departure of our Public Educator at the end of 2024, a recruitment process was started. It is our hope to have this position filled early in the new year. Our Public Education Specialists have stepped in and delivered programs and services during this gap. They have done a fantastic job in our ability to still meet customer demand, preventing a lapse in programming.

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 also delivered more fire extinguisher training to the hotel industry in 2024 than years past. To schedule a training program for your business or group, contact us at (231) 947-3000 ext. 1234



# SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD



In 2024 we were able to secure smoke alarms and smoke/carbon monoxide combination alarms from the state of Michigan through our partnership with *MI Prevention*, a statewide initiative through the Bureau of Fire Services and State Fire Marshals Office. 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 May and continued through late October. During the winter months our services are offered by request only. The form can be found on our website [gtmetrofire.org](http://gtmetrofire.org)

In 2024 we visited 1,171 homes, performed services in 149 homes, left door hangers for 750 and installed 535 smoke alarms, 25 carbon monoxide alarms, and 143 combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms. In those 149 homes we found 183 non-working alarms. 36% of the homes we visited in 2024 had no working smoke alarms.

Statewide the MI Prevention partner fire departments visited 11,277 homes and installed 43,992 smoke alarms. This shows that your GT Metro team contributed approximately 10% to the total number of houses visited statewide!



Homes visited: 1,171  
Smoke alarms installed- 535  
Combo smoke and CO alarms – 143  
CO alarms- 25  
Batteries replaced- 144  
**36% of the homes we visited in 2024 had no working smoke alarms.**

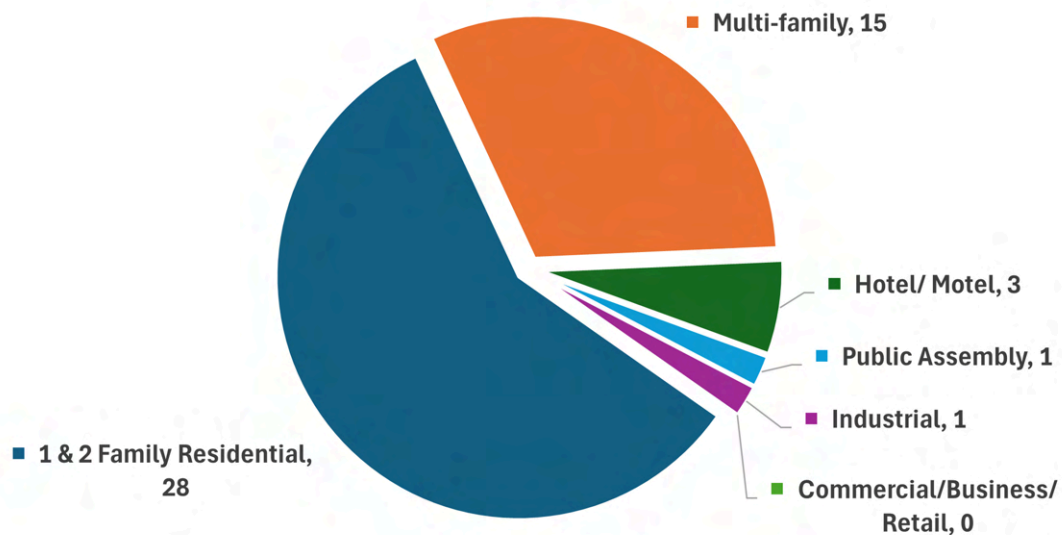




# SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD

Of the 43 fires that occurred in 1 & 2 family homes and multi-family occupancies in 2024, there were 10 incidents where the smoke alarms failed to operate or were not present. This represents approximately 23% 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. Statewide in 2024 there were 96 deaths which occurred in 92 fires. This is a 19% decrease in deaths and a 9% decrease in fires than the 2017-2023 averages.

Property Use of Fire Locations







# OUR TEAM



**Paul Mackin**  
*Fire Chief*



**Tony Posey**  
*Assistant Chief /  
Operations*



**Brian Belcher**  
*Assistant Chief /  
Fire Marshal*



**Stacey Bird**  
*Human Resources  
Director*



**Kim McCann**  
*Accountant*



**Jennifer  
Grochowalksi**  
*Administrative  
Assistant*



**Kathy Fordyce**  
*Fire Inspector /  
Plans Reviewer*



**Jen Froehlich**  
*Fire Life Safety  
Public Educator*



**Eric Chryst**  
*Inspector /  
Investigator*



**Kevin Langley**  
*Inspector /  
Investigator*





**Adam Drewery**  
*Captain / EMT*



**Steve Meek**  
*Captain / EMT*



**Spencer Scanlon**  
*Captain/EMT-P-IC*



**Dave Sicotte**  
*Lieutenant / EMT*



**Josh Sprenger**  
*Lieutenant / EMT*



**Mike Thomas**  
*Lieutenant / EMT*



**Cody Lipe**  
*Lieutenant / EMT*



**Austin Miner**  
*Lieutenant / EMT*



**Kyle Clute**  
*Lieutenant / EMT*



**Brian Bloom**  
*Firefighter / EMT*



**Gary Francisco**  
*Firefighter / EMT*



**Mike Stone**  
*Firefighter / EMT*





**Cory Snyder**

*Firefighter / EMT*



**Peter Bean**

*Firefighter / AEMT*



**Tyler Young**

*Firefighter / EMT*



**Brett Baines**

*Firefighter / EMT*



**Tony Longo**

*Firefighter / EMT*



**Nathan Leigeb**

*Firefighter / EMT*



**Cody Randall**

*Firefighter / EMT-P*



**Rick Worm**

*Firefighter / EMT*



**Adam Farthing**

*Firefighter / EMT*



**Doug Dombek**

*Firefighter / EMT*



**David Mudd**

*Firefighter / EMT*



**Christian Riddle**

*Firefighter / EMT*





**Gunnar Keaton**  
*Firefighter / EMT*



**Brian Buckley**  
*Firefighter / EMT*



**Ajay Murray**  
*Firefighter / EMT*



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



**Mike Winter**  
*PT Firefighter/EMT*



**Evan Schnabele**  
*PT Firefighter/EMT*



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



**Aidan Kamp**  
*PT Firefighter/EMT*



**Terran Peterson**  
*PT Firefighter/EMT*



**Cam MacKinnon**  
*PT Firefighter/EMT*



**Erica DeBortoli**  
*PT Firefighter/EMT*



# FIRE PROMOTIONS

January 15- Austin Miner promoted to Lieutenant



April 21- Spencer Scanlon promoted to Captain



April 21- Kyle Clute promoted to Lieutenant



December 15- Rick Worm promoted to Lieutenant





# DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION

**Chief Wayne Hanna**  
**Memorial Fire Prevention**  
**Award - Brian Bloom**



**EMS Provider of the Year -**  
**Michael Stone**



**Fire Officer of the Year -**  
**Lieutenant Kyle Clute**



**Firefighter of the Year -**  
**Rick Worm**







# HIGHLIGHTS

30

- Received grant funding from the State of Michigan to replace 27 sets of firefighter turn out gear.
- Received grant funding from two sources to purchase a new Lucas Chest Compression Device - Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 2% Grant.
- Took delivery of a new Pierce Impel pumper, which went into service in September 2024.
- Received a donation funding the purchase of three thermal imaging cameras.
- Took delivery of a new SeaWolf inflatable rescue boat, which went into service in December 2024.
- Three part-time firefighters completed the fire academy to become certified as Firefighter I & II. Five part-time firefighters completed the EMT-B program, receiving their state medical licenses.

*Grant Funding and donations totaled **\$130,533.89** in 2024*



Chief Pat Parker retired in March after 40 years of unwavering service—18 of those as Fire Chief—and we extend our deepest gratitude for his guidance, dedication, and sacrifice.

Thank you, Chief Parker, for your devoted service. We honor your contributions and will carry your mission forward with pride.



# FOLLOW US



231-947-3000



info@gtmetrofire.org



www.gtmetrofire.org

