



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



GRAND TRAVERSE METRO
EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

Proudly serving Garfield, Acme, and East Bay Townships

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Access to this department via the Internet has been achieved through the continued use of the fire department website at www.gtmetrofire.org. The site has pages posted for the Fire Administration, Fire Operations, Fire Prevention Bureau, contact information, station pages, and links to our monthly newsletter as well as our annual reports. A “links” page exists for direct connection to addresses of interest to this department such as the township websites and the county website. The development of this site allows for the taxpayers and other interested persons to learn who we are and what our fire department is all about.

Check out our website at
www.gtmetrofire.org
for more information about our department.



Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GTMESA>

Or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/gtmetrofire>



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF PAT PARKER

It is my pleasure to present to you the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority 2020 annual report. On behalf of the Metro Authority Board, Officers and the 48 brave men and women of the department, we thank YOU, the Community for your continued support. Our dedicated employees are the backbone of the Authority. They work hard to provide a positive customer experience and enhancing the safety and quality of life in the communities of Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships. With that said, this report cannot possibly capture all their individual efforts but does represent an overview of their collective accomplishments.



The year 2020 is a year never to forget. The department faced so many challenges as did most of you with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our year began as normal and soon turned. We worked hard to find solutions to keep our employees safe from contracting COVID-19 while responding to medical emergencies including many COVID-19 positive patients. We faced PPE shortages and a lack of sound science to develop proven policies. All non-essential administration and fire prevention staff were sent home or reassigned as inspections/ public education appearances were suspended. During the spring stay at home order, medical calls were down significantly while fires in residential occupancies were up over a normal year. This can be attributed to a fear of being in the hospital setting and more people at home doing projects, yard work and home cooking.

Once the stay at home was lifted, our medical calls increased beyond normal levels. Our tourist industry was remarkably busy which led to an increase of water rescue related calls over normal years. Fall season saw another spike in COVID-19 cases including an outbreak within the department which led to staffing challenges.

Even with our call volume down to 2-3 calls a day during the initial stay at home order, our year end numbers set a record at 5010 calls for service. This was an increase of 6.3 % over 2019.

We also experienced an outpouring of community support during 2020. From meals and treats delivered to our stations, to distilleries providing hand sanitizers, and our local and national retailers prioritizing their deliveries to keep us stocked with cleaning products. We cannot thank you all enough for your help and support. 2020 was a year to be resilient and our team came through.

We are proud to be **your** fire department and 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 947-3000 ext. 1235 or at pparker@gtmetrofire.org. You can also check us out on the web at www.gtmetrofire.org.

We sincerely thank you for your continued support!

Patrick Parker – Fire Chief

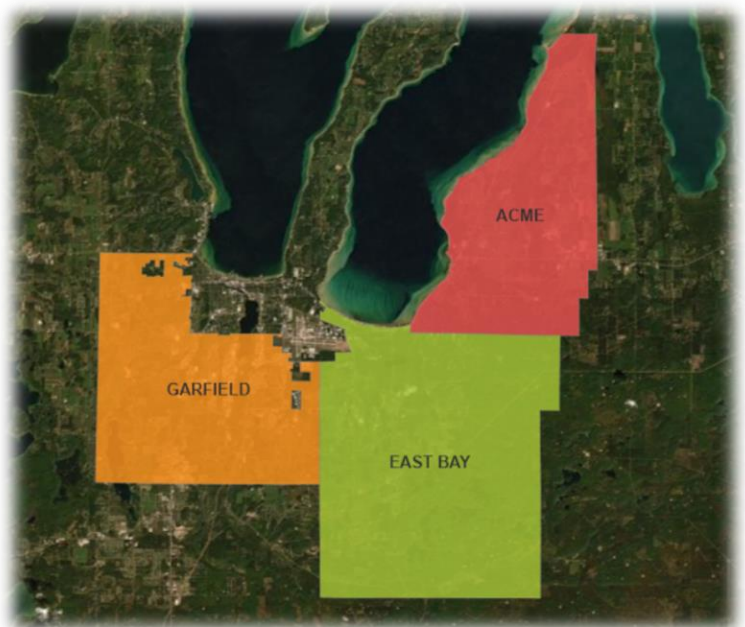




THE DEPARTMENT

Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (GTMESSA) provides fire and life safety services to Acme Township, East Bay Charter Township and the Charter Township of Garfield since 1980. The GTMESSA Authority Board governs and sets policy for the Department. The board consists of a township supervisor and trustee from each member township. On September 11, 2008, the department reorganized under Michigan PA 57 which created the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority. The three townships believed in the concept of a regionalization and the economies of scale by sharing resources long before it became popular. The Authority has created a business model and foundation that could incorporate all modes of emergency services from Police to EMS. We will continue to do business as the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department (GTMESSA) with the Authority as the legal body.

GTMESSA is organized into two divisions: **Operations and Fire Prevention.** The Operations Division is the largest and is responsible for delivery of all emergency services. Those include such things as suppression, EMS, hazardous materials, water rescue, vehicle extrication, wildland interface, homeland security, and many others. The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for community fire prevention efforts and focuses on plan reviews, inspections, education, and fire investigations.



OUR FIRE BOARD MEMBERS

2020 CHAIRMAN: CHUCK KORN, VICE CHAIRMAN: DARRYL NELSON



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD

Supervisor Chuck Korn



Rep. Steve Duell



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST BAY

Supervisor Beth Friend



Rep. Glen Lile



ACME TOWNSHIP

Supervisor Doug White



Rep. Darryl Nelson



MISSION STATEMENT

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

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 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 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.

Omnis Cedo Domus.



FIRE STATIONS

STATION 1

843 Industrial Circle, East Bay Twp.

231-947-3814



STATION 8

6042 Acme Rd, Acme Township

231-938-9533



STATION 9

110 High Lake Rd, East Bay Twp.

231-947-0125



STATION 11

3000 Albany, Garfield Township

231-941-7682



STATION 12

2025 N. East Silver Lake Rd, Silver Lake Park, Garfield Township

231-947-2071



INCIDENT DATA AND RESPONSE STATISTICS

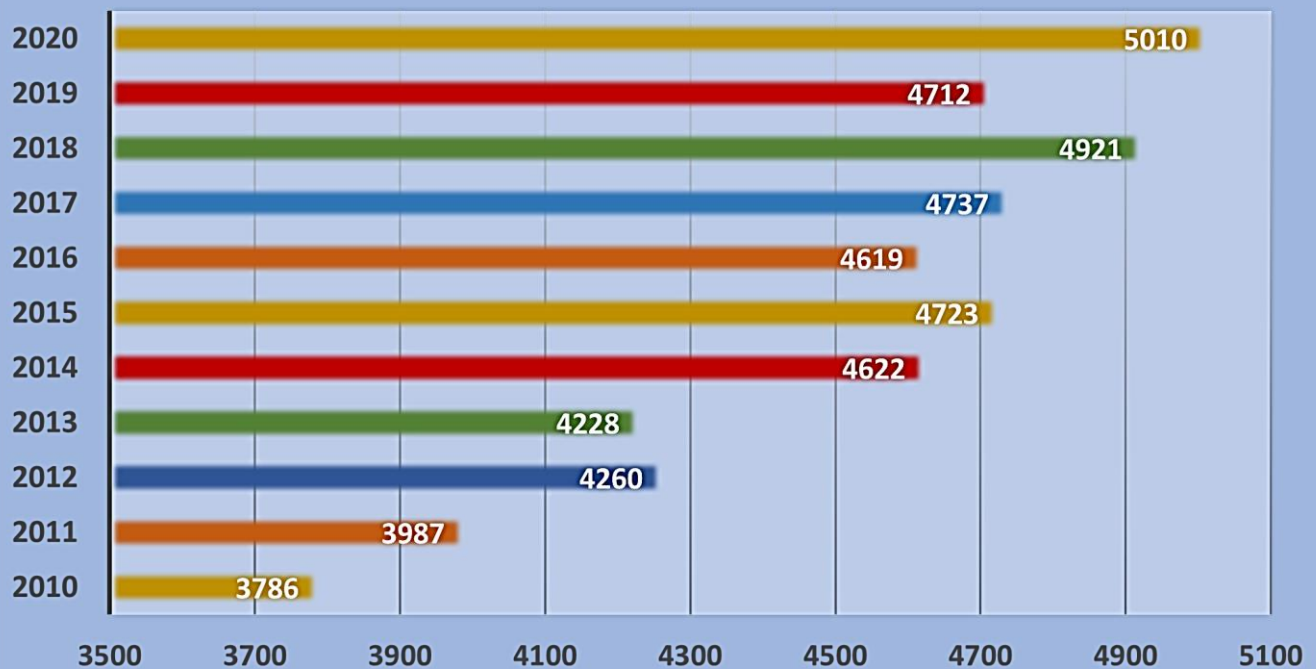


The Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority responded to

5,010 incidents in 2020.

An increase of 6.3% of incidents from 2019 despite the decrease in responses due to COVID-19 related incidents.

GTMESA - 10 YEAR INCIDENT TOTALS

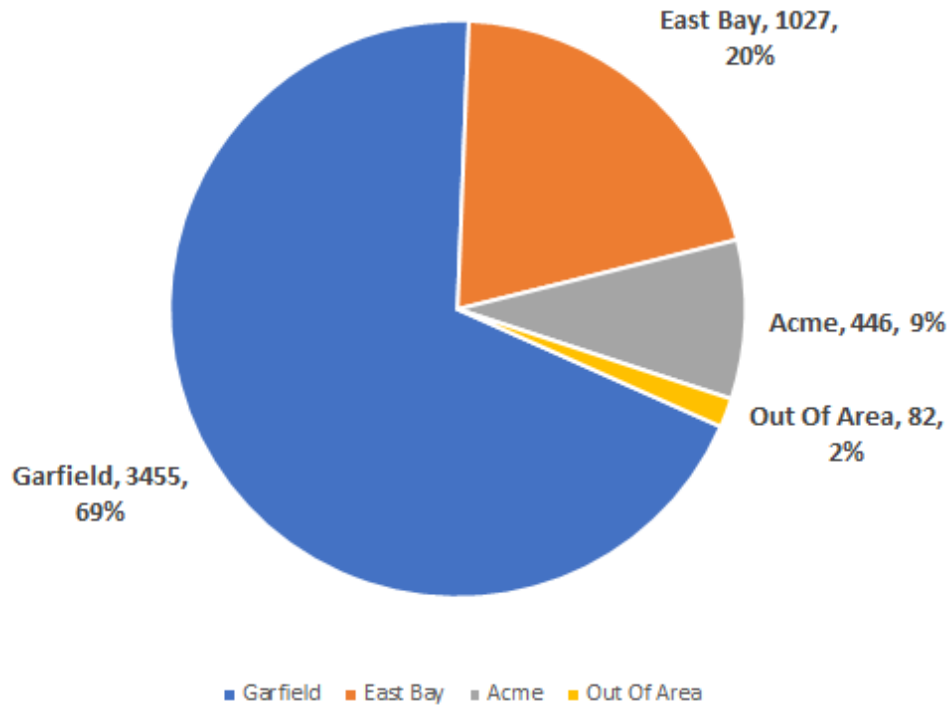


Statistics for the last 10 years shows our growth of incidents in the Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships.



GTMESSA - 2020 Totals

5010 Total Incidents

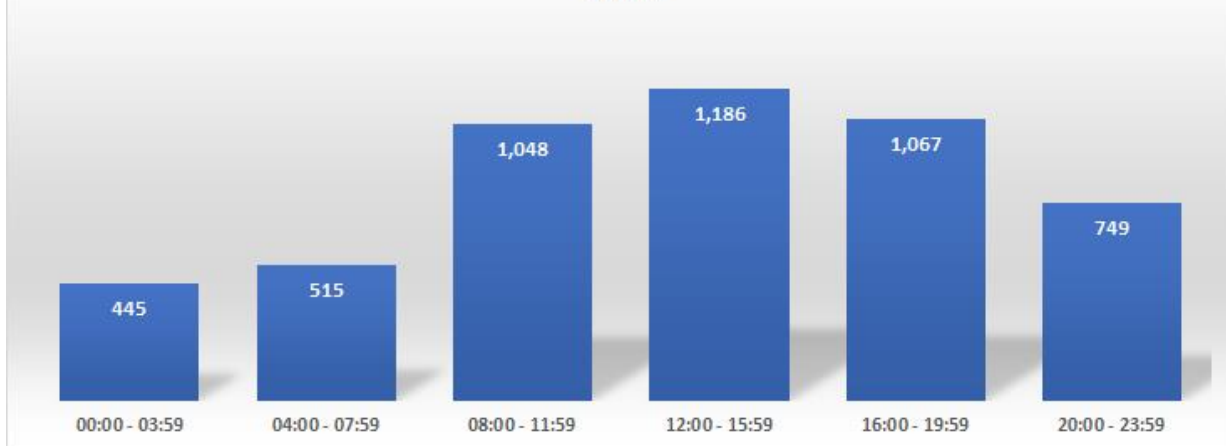


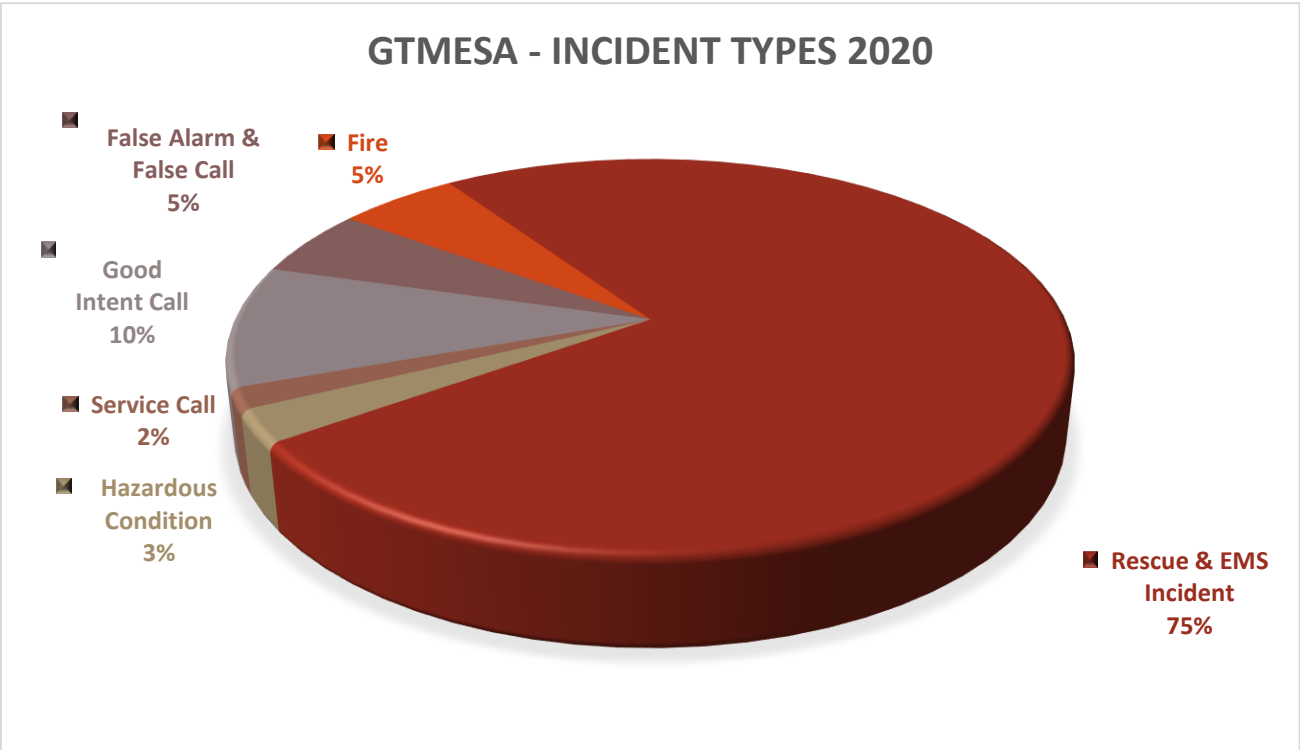
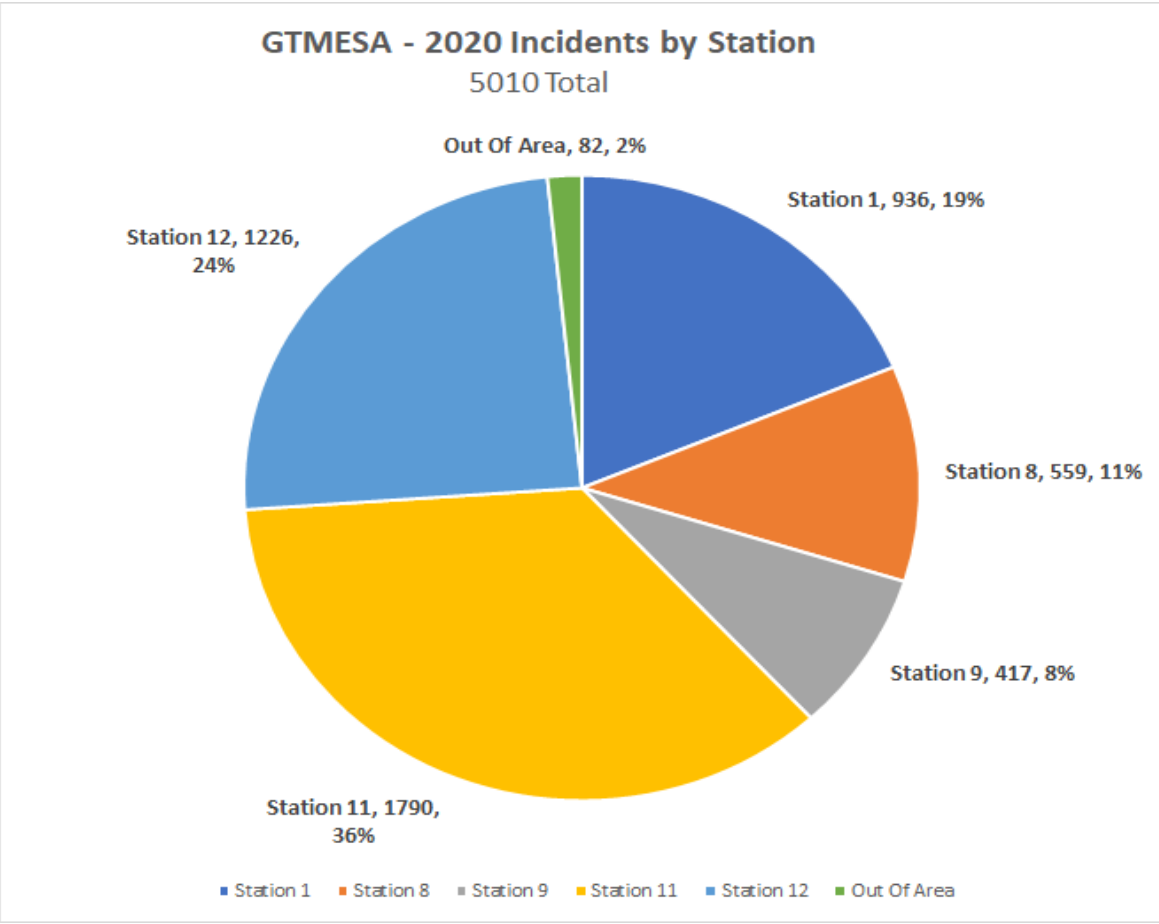
Our busiest time of day appears to be between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm.

Incidents by Station does not represent assistance to the other stations for additional manpower, apparatus, or to cover for multiple incidents.

GTMESSA - Incidents by Time of Day

2020





OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020



Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority is responsible for delivering emergency services to a population that continues to grow in the Townships of Acme, East Bay, & Garfield in Grand Traverse County. Population figures should rise above 35,000 during the next census and is a large draw for tourists from all over the world. The district varies significantly and comprises of suburban, rural, agriculture, and industrial areas over 100 square miles. The department operates out of 5 fire stations and an administration building. Four stations are staffed 24/7 with 2 personnel. Fire Suppression personnel work a 24/48-hour schedule (24 hours on, 48 hours off).

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

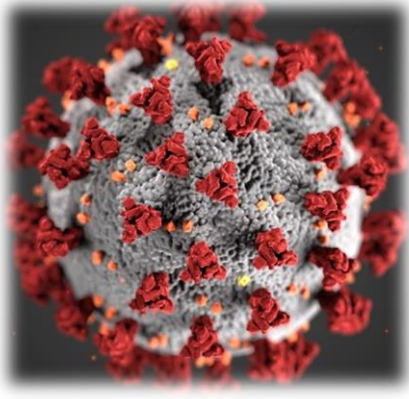
Of the GTMESA's emergency calls, 75% are for medical response (including motor vehicle crashes). Since 2009, our apparatus is licensed at a Basic Life Support level, which allows our members to provide a higher degree of medical attention to the community. Our members have the ability and training to provide basic life support measures to citizens, which include advanced airways, pre-hospital drug administration, and automatic defibrillation. The suppression personnel are certified as Medical First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics. East Bay Township operates a township-operated ambulance service that is now an Advanced Life Support agency. The other four stations operate rescue units that respond and assist North Flight EMS, an Advanced Life Support agency. Three of our stations house a North Flight EMS unit with a paramedic.



The large draw of tourists and citizens places a strain on our highways and roadways. GTMESA has experienced many high-speed car crashes that require the need for vehicle extrication. Rescue units at each station respond to all motor vehicle crashes with injuries and are equipped with extrication equipment to free victims from entrapment. In 2020, rescue units responded to 174 motor vehicle crashes, which at least 13 of them required extrication of victims. Of those 196 incidents, 4 involved pedestrians and 61 motor vehicle crashes had no reported injuries.



COVID-19 PANDEMIC



BY MEDICAL DIRECTOR SPENCER SCANLON

GTMESSA saw many challenges in 2020 with relations to the COVID-19 pandemic affecting much of Michigan. I am sure you have heard multiple times, 2020 was a year everyone will remember, especially in emergency services and health care. Responding to 911 incidents was one thing we could not do virtually!

In March 2020, our response procedures were changed. We began strict health screenings twice a day, followed even stricter disinfection protocols and began wearing multiple levels of PPE (personal protective equipment) on almost every incident we responded to. We adapted to different protocols and recommendations issued by the CDC, MDHHS and our own Medical Control Authority throughout the year.

As you saw in your local stores, many items were hard to find. Our necessities were no different in the early stages of this pandemic. However, with the help of many donations and partnerships, we slowly increased our stock of personal protective equipment and supplies throughout the year. Our members adapted to wearing a mask, goggles, face shield, isolation gown and gloves during our EMS responses.

Our next step was to get training and access to COVID-19 testing for our personnel. In the spring, we were fortunate enough to receive testing supplies from Grand Traverse County Health Department. We were able to test employees in-house if they met certain criteria.



In the fall, we partnered with NxGen MDx to provide enhanced COVID-19 testing to our employees. This allowed us to test not only for COVID-19, but influenza along with a comprehensive panel of 33 pathogens that may cause an upper respiratory infection, lower respiratory infection, or both.

However, both tests required us to send them by mail to a laboratory downstate. This caused a waiting time of 2-6+ days for test results, which for us was not fast enough. In November 2020, we received COVID-19 rapid tests from the GT County Health Department, which greatly improved our testing capabilities.

Unfortunately, 9 of our members did test positive for COVID-19 during 2020. With every member, symptom and situation being different. Our crews rose to the challenge and overcame many obstacles during the year.

On December 19th, 2020 many of our members received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from the GT County Health Department. This was a turning point in our fight against COVID-19, with hopefully a brighter 2021 on the horizon.



ISO RATING



GTMESSA has an ISO classification 3/5 (3 in hydrant area, 5 in non-hydrant area). The work required to reach this score takes considerable time and effort from all areas of GTMESSA staff. The work paid off with a better score which result in lower insurance cost for some of our residents and business owners.



ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), evaluates four primary categories of fire suppression — fire department, emergency communications, water supply, and community risk reduction. The FSRS includes standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

STATISTICS

GTMESSA saw an increase in calls for service for 2020 totaling 5,010 (an increase of 6.3%). Medical calls account for 75% of all responses. Station 11 off Veteran's Drive was the busiest in the Metro area with 1,790 calls for service with Station 12 not too far behind at 1,226.

TRAINING

Training for Metro firefighters continues to be developed to broaden the knowledge and skills of our members. Locating unique and different training venues and partners was moved forward in 2020 to accomplish this goal but saw a lot of challenges due to COVID-19 and the mass restrictions placed on these venues.

In 2020, Lieutenant Steve Meek (*pictured right with Chief Pat Parker*) attended Eastern Michigan University's Fire Staff and Command program. This program brought command officers together one week each month from February through October. This program sees nearly twice as many applicants as openings.

Numerous members were able to complete certifications even through the pandemic restrictions. Captain Troy Holliday, Captain Adam Drewery and Lieutenant Andy Doornbos completed their Fire Instructor I certification. Lt. Meek was also able to complete his Fire Instructor II certification along with the Staff and Command program.



RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF)



RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF) is continuing to develop for fire and EMS agencies across the country and Grand Traverse County fire departments. RTF's are utilized in a coordinated fashion with law enforcement when a mass casualty event occurs due to hostile actions of one or more attackers. This could include active shooter, stabbings, car ramming, or use of an improvised explosive device (IED). Responses could be to a wide variety of locations including schools, large festivals, places of worship, businesses in Metro's response area or in our mutual aid partners response area.



Area departments performed a large-scale exercise at Cherry Capital Airport to simulate a gunman that traveled through the terminal and took over an airplane parked at the gate. This simulation included numerous victims that needed to be extricated by firefighters working in conjunction with law enforcement officers, to a triage area. Northern Michigan Emergency Response Teams with



numerous police officers also participated. A collaborative effort has been developed with GTMESA, Grand Traverse Sheriff's Department, and the Traverse City Fire and Police Departments to enhance our response capabilities.

Our crews were on stand-by with Traverse City Fire Department crews for President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence when they had multiple visits at the Traverse City Cherry Capital Airport in 2020. GTMESA provided RTF stand-by and Hazardous Materials Decon Team. It was an honor to be part of the response team for the President and Vice President of the United States.



STAFFING

Another year has gone by and we still see a staffing shortage as the department continues to lose our workforce, both full-time and part-time. Our sincere gratitude to our members that have left our department over the last year. However, those departing opened additional opportunities for our Metro family to grow again... From Fire Board members, Administrative Staff, part-time staff to be hired as full-time, firefighters promoted to Lieutenants, and Lieutenant promoted to Captain in 2020.

After 25 years of service for our Administrative Office, Marcia Schwind (*pictured left*) decided to retire as our Human Resource/Office Manager. We would like to wish Marcia all the best in her retirement and our deepest gratitude for many years of service.

Our



department administration looked for someone to replace Marcia and through the search we found Stacey Bird (*pictured right*), who just happens to be the daughter of our Chief Emeritus Wayne Hanna. With a bachelor's degree in Human Resources from Michigan State University, Stacey joined the department in March 2020 as the Human Resources Manager. Stacey brings over 20 years of Human Resource experience and has functioned as an HR Generalist for most of her career specializing in FMLA, Employment Law, and Training.



Darryl Nelson (*Pictured right, pictured below with GTMESA Board Chairman Chuck Korn*), Acme Township representative that has served on the Metro Fire Board since 2016 stepped down from his position to pursue his future as a Grand Traverse County Commissioner. GTMESA would like to thank you for your leadership, dedication, and hard work as our Board Member.



Thank You to Firefighter Tim Wrede (*Pictured below*) who retired in 2020 after 32 years of service to our department. Tim has been very instrumental over the years as a Chief Officer and Coordinator for the Northwest Regional Fire Training Center that produces many hours of training to new firefighters, officers, and maritime students.



Adam Drewery was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain after the retirement of Capt. Mark Shaul in late 2019. Capt. Drewery now supervises Blue Shift personnel.

David Sicotte was promoted from Firefighter to Lieutenant in September 2020 and was moved to Red Shift.

Firefighter Spencer Scanlon was promoted to our Medical Director after our previous Director Jared Barber stepped down to further his education down state. Director Barber worked diligently to get our department and members through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our crews are very appreciative because they were kept safer through the ever-changing pandemic requirements because of both Jared Barber and Spencer Scanlon extreme hard work.

Firefighter Matt Adamek was promoted to our Health & Safety Officer for the department.

Hired to our Full-Time suppression staff in 2020: FF Jon Flynn, FF Mike Thomas, FF Weston Willoughby, FF Peter Bean, and FF Cory Snyder.

A potential firefighter candidate with no formal training needs to attend a medical first responder and firefighter training courses. This training runs from September to May and requires attendance on Monday and Wednesday evenings, along with numerous Saturdays. Most members take an additional 250 to 300 hours of on shift training once they complete the formal training classes before being ready to respond to calls. We have added some part-time suppression personnel to our roster as well.

Welcome to Probationary Candidates Trevor Alworden, Caleb Nygren, Nathan Leigeb, Brett Baines, Evan Schnabele, and Tyler Young.



During 2020, full-time suppression and Inspector/Investigator members joined the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) forming Grand Traverse Metro Fire Fighters Local 5288.



HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENTS

BY CAPT. ADAM DREWERY, HAZ MAT LEADER

Hazardous Materials Special Response

GTMESSA provides a specialty team to respond to Hazardous Material Incidents. We are also recognized by the State of Michigan as a Hazmat response team for Region 7. We have 18 certified Hazmat Technicians, 5 certified Specialists on Highway Cargo Tanks and 1 certified Hazmat Officer.



GTMESSA has a variety of detection equipment to identify numerous hazards to provide for the safety of our workers and the community. This detection equipment includes RMI GX-6000 air monitoring instruments that monitor Oxygen, Methane, Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen Sulfide, Hydrogen Cyanide and an additional 720 chemicals with a built in PID sensor. Test papers for Fluoride, Acids / Bases & Neutral substances, Strong Oxidizers (Iodine / Chlorine / Peroxides) & Liquid Chemical Agent Aerosols (V & G type Nerve Agents / H, HD, HN & HT Mustard Agents) provide added safety of personnel and identification of hazardous atmospheres. Additional equipment used to mitigate a Hazmat Incident include a transfer pump with kit, flaring kit and water injection kit. In 2020, GTMESSA added the following equipment to assist with Hazmat response: Refrigerant Detectors, Golf Balls / Footballs (plugging material) and Storm Drain covers.

Employees trained monthly on a Hazmat topic and equipment to meet required standards. These trainings cover the capabilities of air monitoring equipment, proper PPE / dress out, required reporting, containment / mitigation operations, decontamination, and research.

GTMESSA provided Hazmat protection during the visits of Vice President Pence and President Trump. Staff worked with the Secret Service to provide decontamination and monitoring if an incident occurred at the detail. Staff provided two locations for these services at both details, one for Secret Service / Motorcade and another for the Vice President / President.

In 2020, GTMESSA responded to 79 incidents classified as Hazmat. Below is a breakdown of these incidents by category:

- ▶ 9 Gasoline or Flammable Liquid Spill Incidents
- ▶ 16 Carbon Monoxide Incidents
- ▶ 22 Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, no CO
- ▶ 30 Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG)
- ▶ 2 Hazmat Release (Investigation w/no Hazmat)
- ▶ 1 Toxic Chemical Asphyxiant Release



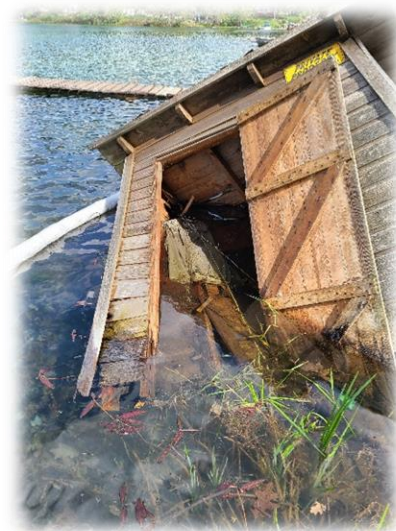
All these incidents were appropriately mitigated by GTMESA staff. A superior working relationship has continued with Northern A1 who has provided exceptional remediation and clean-up of two major incidents as a specialized contractor. The 2020 cost recovery for the 4 major Hazardous Materials incidents totaled over \$8,000, incidents described below.

- ★ On 1/9/2020, Metro Fire was requested to support City Fire with a hazmat response located in Cadillac. Metro sent two Hazmat Technicians to support operations to mitigate a Cyanogen Chloride leak.

Cyanogen chloride is a highly volatile and toxic chemical asphyxiant that interferes with the body's ability to use oxygen. Exposure to cyanogen chloride can be rapidly fatal. Cyanogen chloride is a chemical warfare agent. It is used commercially in chemical synthesis and fumigation.

The leak occurred when a "D" tank, with said material, failed releasing its contents. The incident took place inside a laboratory in a commercial business. Metro Hazmat Technicians were assigned as a Back-up Entry Team and Decon for the incident.

- ★ On 5/25/20, Metro Fire was dispatched to Pinehurst Trail (*pictured right*) for a boathouse that had fallen into the water and a sheen was noticed in the water of Arbutus Lake #1. Boom was deployed around the origin of the spill to mitigate any further spread. Additional boom was deployed down and along the shoreline where product had spread, approximately 120' from the origin. It was noted that the sheen was approximately 10 feet from shore. Wind direction was in the favor of the crew and was isolating the spread across the lake. Absorbent pads were placed in the two boomed off areas and along the affected shoreline between these areas.



Upon investigation near the boathouse, two, one-quart metal oil cans were found in the debris. Also found in the debris was a one-gallon plastic container that appeared to have used oil sludge inside. This container had leaked out due to a hole in the side of it. It was noted that one of these containers were damaged and had leaked out its contents into the water.

EGLE Incident Management Specialist was contacted for funding assistance to clean-up the spill, due to



difficulties that were encountered with the property owner. A contact was able to be secured between EGLE and Northern A-1 as clean-up contractor.

GTMESSA staff remained on scene and managed the clean-up process. Once the product was removed from the water and containers were packaged for removal the incident was turned over to EGLE for further investigation.



On 6/28/20 Metro Fire's assistance was requested by Blair Township Emergency Services for a propane tank leaking on an RV. This incident occurred in a campground that was at 75% capacity.

The RV involved in the incident had just filled up with propane at the campground. The propane tank was a fixed underbody unit. It was noted that the propane tank was releasing liquid propane from the bottom side. A recon crew from Blair approached the tank, with a suppression line for protection, to shut off the valving and to identify the issue with the tank.

As Recon operations were occurring, air monitoring was performed with a 5 gas, zones were identified and marked with cones. They campers inside the hot and warm zones were evacuated at this time, area was approximately 60' x 80'. Recon crew reported that the bottom of the tank had extreme rusting, causing the container material to flake off. It was noted that the affected area of the tank that was leaking appeared to be 8-10" long and 5-6" wide. The tank position on the motor home ran parallel to the sides of the motor home. It was determined that the proper operational area would be from the sides of the motor home.

A safe area was maintained around the incident until City Fire crew arrived with the flare off kit. A report was given to the crew of the findings. Proper placement of the flare off device was determined and the hose / gauge and control valve were secured to the leaking cylinder. At this time flare off operations began. During the flare off operations continual air monitoring was performed. No adjustments to the zones were necessary during these operations. Hazard was mitigated without further incident.



On 9/7/20 Metro's assistance was requested by Paradise Emergency Services for a fuel spill, approximately 50-75 gallons that had entered storm drains. The incident occurred while a semi-tanker was off loading product at a gas station.

Northern A-1 was on scene as a clean-up contractor for the incident. It was noted that the storm drains led to a retention pond on the property, this isolated the incident to the property. There were 5 storm drains connected in series.

Air monitoring was performed in all 5 storm drains and discharge to the retention pond. The area around the scene was also air monitored to confirm levels were not hazardous. Once this was



confirmed, a Vacuum Truck from Northern A-1 was used to back flush and remove the containments. Continual air monitoring was performed during remediation activities.

It was another interesting year for Hazardous Materials incidents for GTMESA. Due to the capabilities and dedication of GTMESA staff, this specialty service is provided to our communities and region. GTMESA takes great pride in providing this service to protect our communities, region, and environment.

GRANT FUNDING

Michigan Township Participating Plan approved our department for various grants for security cameras at our fire stations as well as dash cameras for our vehicles for \$11,642.02. Our department is incredibly grateful for these grants and donations to assist our department to continue to be safe and efficient so we can better serve our community.

GTMESA got a visit from the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile during the tourist season in 2020.



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

BY ASST. CHIEF / FIRE MARSHAL BRIAN BELCHER

MISSION STATEMENT

The GTMESA Fire Prevention Bureau, through education, code enforcement inspections, and community awareness, strives to safeguard the life and property of the citizens of Acme, East Bay and Garfield Townships from the hazards of fire, explosions, hazardous materials, trauma injuries and all other hazards in new and existing buildings, public gatherings, and outdoor venues used for habitation, work, or recreation and through behavior modifications by providing education and awareness training.

BUREAU OPERATIONS OVERVIEW – 2020

The Fire Prevention Bureau continues to be staffed by the Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal, two Fire Inspectors/ Investigators, a Fire Plans Examiner/ Fire Inspector, the Public and Life Safety Educator, and three Youth Fire Setter Program Counselors (as needed).

Our public education programs continue to thrive and are showing positive in-roads with getting into some occupancies that have been difficult in the past. In 2020, we will continue pushing our efforts to expand into these areas. We have expanded programs offered through our schools, senior living facilities and juvenile fire setter offerings. All programs continued for 2020, except for the company inspection program which was suspended to allow company fire officers to catch up on pre plans. Pre plans are surveys and tactical consideration plans for buildings that are conducted so in the event of an incident there is prior knowledge to aid in a safe, efficient response and incident stabilization. It is anticipated in 2020 the company inspection program will once again be active.



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION



Fire and Life Safety Education also known more recently as CRR (Community Risk Reduction) relies on evaluating your community for potential risks. One way of getting a snapshot of what's happening is by reviewing the data that your department collects through responding to calls and analyzing that data to see what areas of risk the community needs to better educate on. Much of this relies on being out in the community to deliver programming for the identified risk areas and interacting at community events, in schools, through meetings, and workgroups. Like all residents and agencies in 2020, we were challenged by riding the waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and adjusting our process of reaching our community members. For public education, this strongly relied on using virtual methods to accomplish our desired outcomes. We began using Zoom and Google Teams for meetings and face-to-face contact with others. It also meant getting creative and utilizing professional development opportunities to learn how to reach students, social media followers, businesses, and residents through methods that a year ago were somewhat foreign to us. In 2020, we began delivering our content via such tools as: Google Slides Virtual Classrooms, custom Bitmojis likened to us, Kahoot quizzes, Canva media creator, the Neighbors app, and more!

We directly provided education to approximately 2,500 persons this year. Though we were not able to reach as many people in person, as in years past due to ever changing constraints of the pandemic, we were forced to step out of our box and learn methods that did allow us to deliver public education. Most of our newfound methods will benefit us and give us a variety of education delivery methods in the future. We also began doing Birthday Drive-Bys and delivering supersized birthday cards signed by the crew members delivering it. 91 total birthday drive by celebrations were performed in 2020.

Seniors	Youth	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remembering When: Fire/Falls presentations• Harbor in Place presentations• Quilt Presentation to First Responders• Labor Day Parade for senior living facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OnWatch Virtual programs• Virtual Car Seat Checks• Delivery of Fire Prevention Week bags to our schools and daycares• Youth Fire Intervention & Education sessions• Station Tours pre-covid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safe Neighborhood Smoke Alarm program• Public Educator trained as CPR Instructor• Facebook• Neighbors Ring App• Training about virtual tools to reach the community in new ways



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PROGRAMS

Fire Extinguisher and Fire Evacuation Planning services were on hold in 2020 due to COVID-19-restrictions, businesses not being open or businesses not having enough employees to conduct training sessions. When Inspectors resumed their annual inspections, they started compiling a list of businesses that are interested in public education for 2021, to include fire extinguisher training, fire evacuation planning and/or CPR training. Once normal business activities resume, they will be contacted for scheduling.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Though it has always been assumed that car seat checks must be done in person, COVID-19 challenged Safe Kids USA to adapt and create a way for Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST's) to conduct seat checks virtually. We were one of the first agencies in the state that embraced this, as babies were still being born and still needed to be transported safely.

While we look forward to returning to our twice a month in-person Car Seat Fitting Stations we will keep the virtual checks as an option for those who have a newborn or immune compromised child/parent or other situations that may arise. Combining in-person and virtual, we performed 124 car seat fittings in 2020.



ONWATCH FOR SCHOOLS

OnWatch prevention programming is available to our local schools. OnWatch is a toolkit of educational lessons that are applicable to our youth, as it is driven by local injury/trauma data. The beginning of 2020 we presented Chill Out for Winter Safety to 345 students.

- The new school year from September to December. we delivered virtual lessons to approx. 1,000 students.
- In February we started presenting Fire Prevention and the Misconceptions Regarding Youth and Fires to TC East Middle School, as this is our target youth fire setter demographic. This presentation was given to 508 middle schoolers.



Chill Out for Winter



Fire Prevention & Misconceptions Regarding Youth and Fires



YOUTH FIRESETTER INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Youth Fire Intervention and Education (YFIE) program focuses on working with youth and their families if the child has been involved in a fire incident, whether it was intentional or not. GTMESA has three personnel trained as counselors who participate in the program. In 2020 the team provided services to 6 area youths and expanded the local team which consists of several other area fire departments.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD SMOKE ALARM CAMPAIGN

While 2020 was a challenge, we did continue our Safe Neighborhood Program of checking and installing smoke alarms in homes. We did switch to a pre-screen system to check for any potential COVID-19 symptoms and to relay our expectations of safety for residents and firefighters. During peak COVID-19 outbreak times, only those without any smoke alarm protection or issues with existing alarms received services. All others had services performed later.



In 2020, we visited 95 homes where 47 alarms did not function, and 53 homes had alarms older than 10 years. We installed 192 smoke alarms, 1 disability smoke alarm, 18 carbon monoxide alarms and replaced 116 batteries. This compares to 492 homes and 629 smoke alarms installed in 2019. These numbers do not include smoke alarms that were provided by the homeowners and needed assistance with installation.

In 77% of fires in 2020, the homes had smoke alarms and the 71% of those operated and alerted the occupants, 29% of those fires there were no occupants, or the occupants did not respond to the alarms. This means 23% of homes that experienced a fire in 2020 did not have working smoke alarms.

Since the inception of this aggressive program in 2012 we have installed 4160 smoke alarms, 587 batteries and have **7 documented lives saved** by smoke alarms installed by the program throughout the district.

**We will continue this program and
focus our efforts to make sure
every home has working smoke alarms!**



CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTIONS

Code enforcement inspection numbers were also down in 2020. We did manage to inspect most of the occupancies which receive annual inspections such as: public assemblies, hotel/motel, and our big box retail stores. Code enforcement, plan review and permit inspection data numbers are shown below.



INSPECTION DATA

2020	ACME	EAST BAY	GARFIELD	TOTAL
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS	57	62	443	562
RE-INSPECTIONS	106	141	689	936
FF RIGHT TO KNOW	0	0	9	9
PLAN REVIEWS	23	39	144	206
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	30	33	144	207
SPECIAL EVENTS	1	2	1	4
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE	0	3	9	12
(INCLUDES COMPLAINTS)				
TOTAL ACTIVITY	217	280	1439	1936

*Not all activities are included in the above chart. The total of all inspection (code enforcement) activities for 2020 is 2,132.



PLAN REVIEW

Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department conducts plan reviews and issues permits for projects from concept to completion, these include new or remodeled building life safety reviews, all fire protections systems, special hazard systems and site plan reviews for proposed developments.

In 2020, there were 215 plan reviews completed. There were 206 for In-District projects and 9 for Out-of-District projects in accordance with a contract with the Grand Traverse County Construction Codes Office for reviews of fire protection systems in townships outside the Metro district.

Plan reviews generated \$42,278.49 in revenue for 2020. In-District projects totaled \$39,723.49 while \$2,555.00 was for Out-of-District projects.

INVESTIGATIONS

Fire investigations are performed by Inspector/ Investigator Randy Rittenhouse, Inspector/Investigator Eric Chryst and Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal Brian Belcher.

Fire investigators performed 21 fire investigations for 2020. Not all fires require an investigator, and the company officer may determine the cause if readily apparent. As you can see, cooking is the most common fire cause for 2020, followed by chimney fires. There were four intentionally set fires in 2020. Three of those cases have been solved with arrests with the fourth case under investigation.

Cooking – 8

Chimney - 7

Improper disposal smoking materials – 4

Incendiary (Intentional)- 4

Occupancy Type Data - # of Fires

1 or 2 Family Residential	30
Multi-Family Residential	5
Commercial/Industrial/Retail	5
Assembly/ Restaurants	0
Assisted Living / Nursing Homes	0



PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Residential properties comprised 95% (36) of building fires with 5 % (2) being in commercial properties. Of those 30 were one- and two-family dwellings, 4 multifamily dwellings and 2 boarding house/shelter occupancies. There was a total of 85 actual fires in 2020 which includes buildings, vehicles, wildland, and dumpster/trash fires. All building fires resulted in total losses of \$1,857,850.00 for structures and \$1,044,700.00 for contents. Pre incident property values for all buildings were \$12,683,602.00 and contents \$4,331,671.00. This is a combined fire loss of \$2,902,550.00 in properties with a value of \$17,015,272.00. This results in a loss vs. value percentage of 83% of values were saved by the fire department response.

There was 1 civilian fire fatality, 2 civilian fire injuries and 6 firefighter injuries in 2020. None of the firefighter injuries were serious.

Although 2020 brought challenges to go out and reach our community, we continued to focus on the residential fire problem through our Safe Neighborhoods smoke alarm campaign to single family homes. We reassigned Fire Inspectors to inspect multi-family housing complexes, increased presence of our Fire and Life Safety programs delivered to multi-family occupancies and the business community, which translates to increased knowledge by employees who take that knowledge to their home and change behaviors to increase safety.

FIRE PREVENTION SUMMARY

As much as 2020 brought us struggles, we continue to strive to deliver our fire prevention and injury prevention messages to our communities in new, innovative, and cost-effective methods which address the trends and statistics which show where our focus must be placed. It is our goal that nobody in our community dies or is injured by fire or other preventable trauma.

We are fortunate to have such well-rounded and effective fire prevention and public education programs that reach so many within our communities. This is all due to one simple fact: our employees! They are passionate, hardworking individuals whose teamwork cannot compare. They are selfless in the mission of providing the best possible prevention and education to our residents and taxpayers. The GTMESA Board and the townships of Garfield, Acme and East Bay should be proud of the fact that they have one of the best, most comprehensive fire prevention and injury prevention programs found anywhere. We will continue to steward partnerships in the community for the protection of lives and assets. We will not rest on our success but continue to strive to prevent injury and death in our communities to the best of our abilities.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

9/11 MEMORIAL

The 9/11 Artifact that Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department retrieved from New York City in 2011 has been permanently placed behind the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department Admin Office at 897 Parsons Rd, Traverse City MI 49686. This is located at N Three Mile Rd/Parsons Rd in East Bay Township of Grand Traverse County. More information can be found at www.gt911artifact.com.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony took place for the 9/11 Artifact at Grand Traverse Metro Fire Administration Office on July 16, 2012. The artifact is available for the community members to view, reflect, and remember in a peaceful and tranquil setting.

Our firefighters began construction on the memorial walkway in the spring of 2015. Brick pavers memorializing all 343 firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11/2001 will be installed, so we NEVER FORGET!



CHILD PASSENGER SEAT SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of accidental deaths among persons living in Michigan between the ages of 1 – 24 years old. Did you know that 9 out of 10 child passenger seats for children are installed incorrectly?

GTMESSA provides a car seat check station for the community through the Safe Kids North Shore coalition program that is free of charge to the public. You may contact Jennifer Froehlich at 231-947-3000 ext. 1234 for an appointment.



WELLNESS / FIT FOR DUTY INITIATIVES

With NFPA findings of heart attacks as a top death cause for firefighters, GT Metro took advantage of grant monies provided to build their programs and facilities around Fitness for Duty.

In 2007, that marked the beginning of GTMESSA's Wellness/Fitness for Duty Initiatives. Medical physicals transitioned to 100% completion through Munson Health Systems Occupational Medicine Department. A Wellness Coordinator was contracted to oversee and monitor member health and fitness risk factors, as well as guidance in methods of safe and effective training. And an annual PAT (Physical Agility Test) was enacted to measure member Fitness for Duty of fire scene functional capabilities.

Much like the General Safety Rule of "3 Points of Contact" for injury prevention and fall protection, GTMESSA has a 3-pronged approach within its wellness programming for overall health and fitness:

Are your Medically Fit (Annual Physicals)?

Are you Physically Fit (Annual Wellness Assessments)?

Are you Fit for Duty (Annual Physical Agility Test)?



In 2021, this will mark GTMESSA's 14th year of Fit for Duty initiatives. The evolution has been consistent and strong in emphasizing a positive approach to providing education, knowledge, guidance, support, assistance, tools, and resources to maintain and improve health and fitness markers to meet the high-level demands of emergency first responders.

With initial participation as voluntary in 2007/2008, quickly transitioning to mandatory for full time members, to present day mandatory participation of all members; fully equipped gym areas at each station, a GTMESSA member inter-department fitness trainer, on duty work-out time requirements, and a Well-Watch program to assist members with at risk health markers, have been added through 2020. All efforts toward fulfilling GT Metro's motto: *Omnis Cedo Domus — Everyone Goes Home*



FIRE CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

When firefighters respond to a burning building and focus attention on saving life and protecting property, the fire chaplain responds alongside but is focused on ministering to the needs of the firefighters and the needs of the crisis victims. Victims of an emergency crisis may be the family who has just been burned out of their home, or the scared and confused spouse of a heart attack patient. They could be the frightened children whose parents are being transported to the hospital after a tragic traffic accident. Firefighters are trained and able to deal with the varied emergency crisis in our modern world. Fire chaplains are equipped and called to deal with the people being affected by those same events. The fire chaplain is a spiritual presence in the world of fire department and emergency services.



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

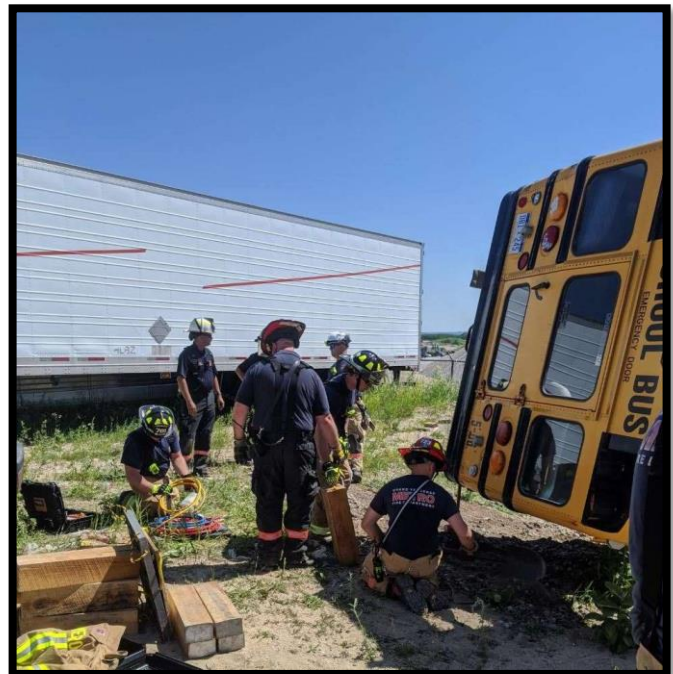
March 2020 – GTMESA took delivery of a new Pierce Engine to be housed at Station 1 and it almost appears to be a sister engine to Engine 11 that was just purchased 2 years prior. Engine 1 will assist us in filling out Station 1 by increasing our quick response to surrounding areas. Having an engine at Station 1 will also assist in maintaining our ISO requirements to ensure proper equipment is ready to respond.



2020 – Below: Crews received many donations including face masks and other personal protection equipment (PPE), hand-sanitizer, food, gift certificates, and more from various businesses to help us fight the COVID-19 pandemic responses for our first responders. Thank you to all the businesses and community support!



School bus training: Metro crews train with other departments to rescue victims that may become trapped inside of school buses.





November 2020 – A fire broke out in the Community Center at New Hope Church in Acme Twp. Crews responded to find light smoke in the building and a fire in the attic space. No injuries reported. Crews were required to pull the ceiling down due to the amount of cellulose burning in the attic space.



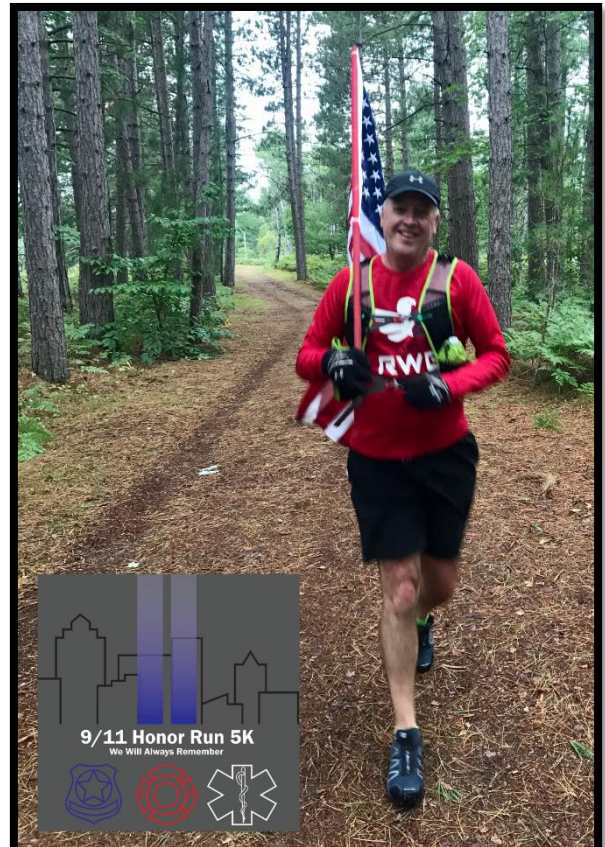
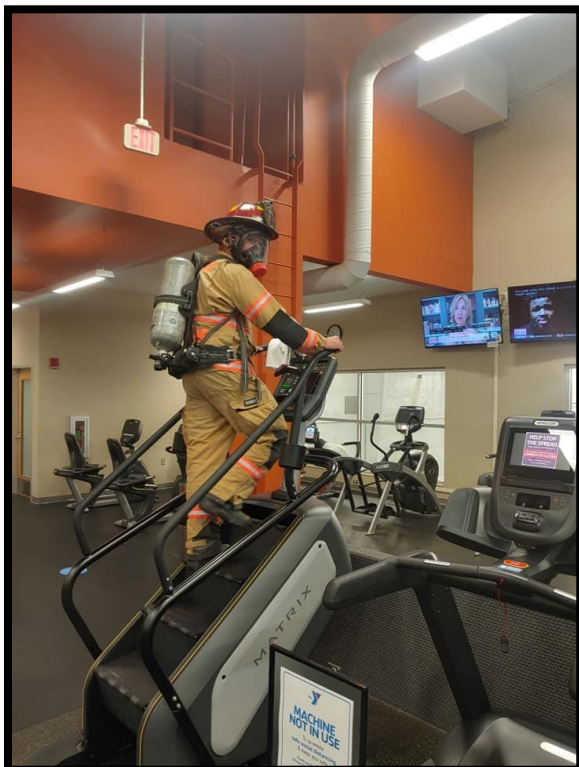


Hose lead-outs, hydrant operation, and nozzle control is also part of our training. Our Red Shift crew training with LSSU Intern Caden Crotteau on a blistery hot day.



Right: Hero Run 5k – Firefighter Jon Williamson

Below: 9/11 stair climbing – Lt Steve Meek



The



Grand Traverse Academy Class of 2021 donated a basket of goodies in appreciation of all we do for our community to help keep us safe. *Thank you GTA Seniors, good luck in your future!*



November 2020 – A fire broke out on the outside of a residence in East Bay Twp that extended into a residence causing significant damage. No injuries reported on this fire. Paradise Firefighters and Blair Fire assisted Metro on this fire. Crews were able to save the guinea pig in a cage in the basement.
(Photos by GT Sheriff Deputy Flitton)



Sept 2020 – Crews battle a major residential house fire in Garfield Twp. during the late night hours causing extensive damage to the home. Flames were reported through the roof and in the basement. No reported injuries. Metro fire crews were assisted with mutual aid from neighboring departments Long Lake Fire and Rescue, Traverse City Fire Dept, and Blair Fire Dept. *(Photos taken by EMS crew on standby)*



Early 2020, GTMESA and neighboring fire departments started to spread joy to those having birthdays but could not celebrate due to COVID-19 pandemic. Pictured below is one of the first “Birthday Drive-Bys” with GTMESA, TCFD, Police Officers, and North Flight EMS. Birthday Drive-By requests came pouring in and our crews went out... serving our community during the shut-down of 2020.



Congratulations on the Recent Promotions of Captain Adam Drewery and Lieutenant David Sicotte



CHALLENGE COINS FOR SALE



Our department challenge coins are available for purchase for \$10/piece from the public. You may purchase these Monday-Friday, normal business hours from the Administration Building located at 897 Parsons Rd. The excess funds are used for purchasing replacement coins in the future.

If you would like to make a purchase and are out of the area, message us and we can make arrangements. Contact the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department Administration Building.

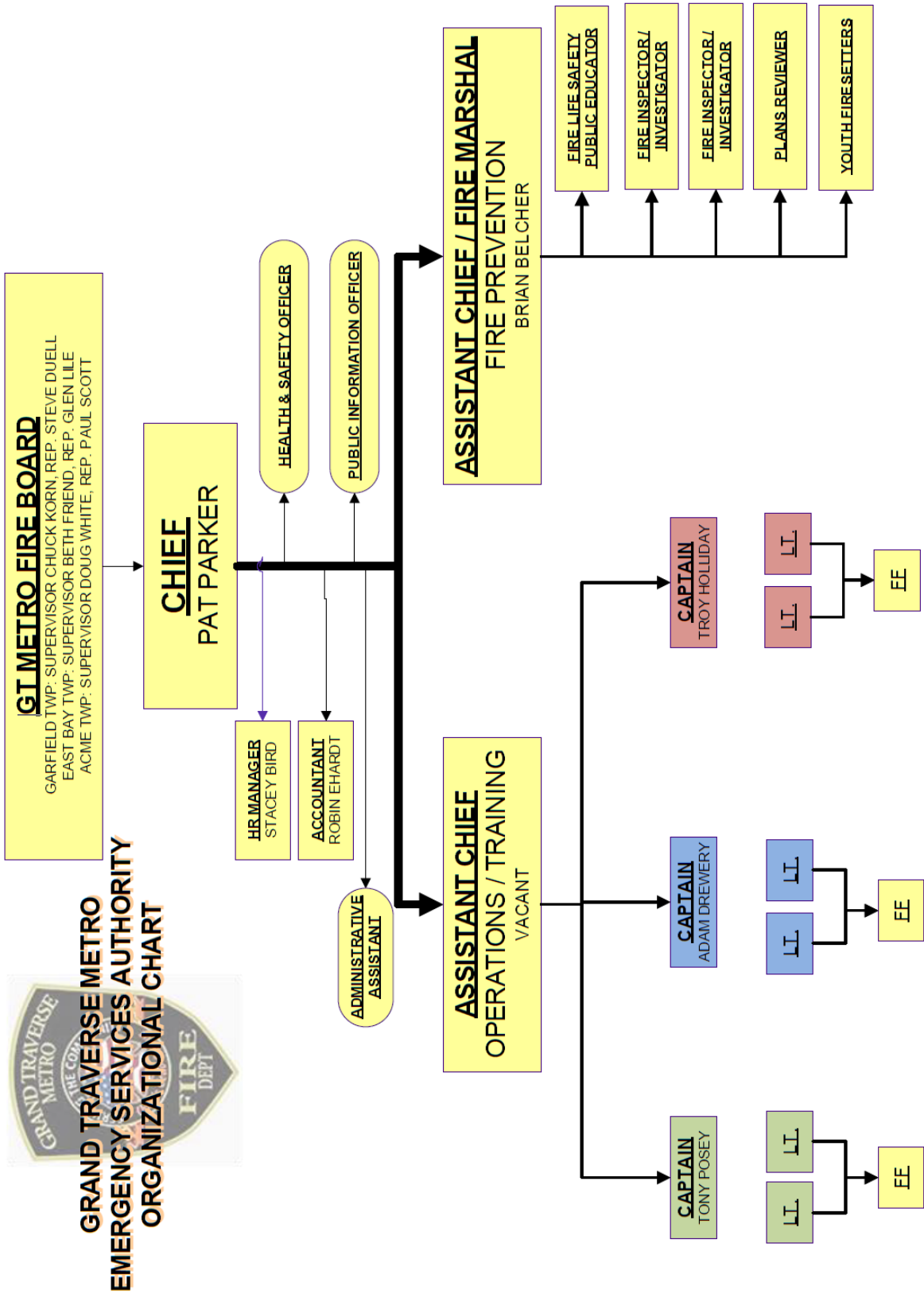


Pass These Campus Fire Safety Tips on to Your Student

- * Smoke outside and not when you are tired or intoxicated
- * Keep your cooking area clear and don't walk away from what you're cooking
- * Do you have enough outlets? Use surge protectors vs. extension cords
- * Make sure you have working smoke alarms and an escape plan that will work

WWW.GTMETROFIRE.ORG





DEPARTMENT ROSTER

End of 2020

ADMINISTRATION

Fire Chief Pat Parker	Insp. / Invest. Eric Chryst	<u>Part-Time Administration</u>
Asst Chief – Operations <i>Vacant</i>	Insp. / Invest. Randy Rittenhouse	Accountant Robin Ehardt
Asst Chief – Prevention Brian Belcher	Inspector Kathy Fordyce	Chaplain Jude Younker
Human Resource Mgr. Stacey Bird	Public Educator Jennifer Froehlich	
Administrative Asst Mary Griggs	Medical Director Spencer Scanlon	

FULL-TIME FIRE SUPPRESSION

RED SHIFT

Captain Troy Holliday
Lieutenant Kyle Clute
Lieutenant David Sicotte
Med. Dir. Spencer Scanlon
Firefighter Cody Lipe
Firefighter Austin Miner
Firefighter Mike Thomas
Firefighter Cory Snyder

GREEN SHIFT

Captain Tony Posey
Lieutenant Steve Meek
Lieutenant Josh Sprenger
Firefighter Brian Bloom
Firefighter Mike Winter
Firefighter Mike Stone
Firefighter Jon Flynn

BLUE SHIFT

Captain Adam Drewery
Lieutenant Andy Doornbos
Lieutenant Gary Francisco
Firefighter Matt Adamek
Firefighter David Ginebaugh
Firefighter Weston Willoughby
Firefighter Peter Bean

PART-TIME FIRE SUPPRESSION

FF Trevor Alworden	FF Adam Mervau	FF Mark Shaul
PC Brett Baines	FF Hal Miller	FF Charles Starkey
FF Grant Blackmer	FF Caleb Nygren	FF Joe Voiles
FF Keith Bugai	FF Jordan Query	FF Jon Williamson
FF Brian Haskin	FF Nate Saldahna	PC Tyler Young
PC Nathan Leigeb	PC Evan Schnabele	





New Pierce Engine 1 - 2020

From all of us at Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department,
Thank You for allowing us to serve your community!

