



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

**GRAND TRAVERSE METRO
EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY**



897 Parsons Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49686

www.gtmetrofire.org

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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Report created by Capt. Troy Holliday with information
received from the Fire Administration.

Check out our monthly newsletter available on our website
at www.gtmetrofire.org for more information about our department.

Photos shown in this document are special to the
Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority.

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.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present to you the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority's 2012 annual report. On behalf of the 92 men and women of the department, we thank you for your continued support. Our department is filled with dedicated individuals who are committed to enhancing safety and the quality of life in the communities of Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships. This report cannot possibly capture all of their individual efforts but does represent an overview of their collective accomplishments.

As you will read, in 2012 the department responded to 4259 calls for service. This is a 6.8% increase over 2011 and is the highest number of alarms in the department's history. Much of this was due to an increase in medical and winter storm related calls. Medical calls continue to lead our responses with 70% of the calls.

The year was filled with many accomplishments and occasions for celebration. We had a full year of our new Fire Station #12 being opened. With the additional resources we have seen a huge improvement on customer service. In July we started a staffing partnership with North Flight EMS to provide Advanced Life Support EMS coverage to Acme Township for 16 hours a day. ISO re-evaluated our department, water system and dispatch this past summer and we are awaiting a hopeful significant improvement which should lead to lower insurance premiums. On August 6th, former New York Mayor Giuliani visited our Grand Traverse 9/11 Memorial Park. He was visibly moved as to the monument we were honoring those who lost their lives on 9/11. On September 11th, we held the 11th anniversary memorial tribute to 9/11. Showcased was the Boy Scouts honoring the day with a sun up to sun down salute at our memorial. With the fall elections, we welcomed three new board members to our authority board. The department has seen impressive outcomes on its responses to emergencies. The training, knowledge and confidence of our responders excelled as we delivered the highest quality services to the citizens we serve.

The department continues to strategically plan for a changing economy and environment that we operate in. We strive to bring value to the citizens we serve. Accreditation and regionalization will continue to be areas that we focus our endeavors in the next year. The department is committed to its mission: "*to care for, protect, and serve the community.*" We attempt in all of our endeavors to perform our jobs safely and efficiently, so we all can go home to our loved ones. Our motto: "*Omnis Cedo Domus,*" Latin for "we all go home!"

We are proud to be your fire department and we stand ready to serve you at any time. We look forward to hearing from you. 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 services to Acme Township, East Bay Charter Township and Garfield Charter Township. Each township supervisor (or designee) makes up GTMESSA Fire Board who governs the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department. On September 11, 2008 former Chairman and Supervisor Lee Wilson (Garfield Twp), Supervisor Glen Lile (East Bay), and Supervisor Wayne Kladder (Acme) adopted Act 57 which created the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority. The three townships believe in the concept of a regionalization and the economies of scale by sharing resources. The Authority creates a business model that could incorporate all modes of emergency services from Police to EMS. Our business will continue to operate as Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department with the Authority as its employer and owner of equipment and property.



GTMESSA Fire Board: From the left: East Bay Township Representative Butch Strait, Garfield Township Representative Bob Featherstone, Garfield Township Supervisor Chuck Korn, East Bay Township Supervisor Glen Lile, Acme Township Supervisor and Board Chairman Wayne Kladder, Acme Township Representative Frank Zarafonitis.

November brought us new representatives from Acme Township: Supervisor Jay Zollinger, Rep. Paul Scott; East Bay Township: Rep: Beth Friend.

No photos available

Metro Fire 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.

MISSION STATEMENT

To Care For, Protect, and Serve the Community

Code of Ethics

- We are committed to the protection of life, property, and the environment.
- We believe that the community is the reason for our presence.
- We will foster and sustain the trust of the community, and will protect that confidence through our attitude, conduct, and actions.
- We believe that all members of the community are entitled to our best efforts.
- We will strive for excellence in everything we do.
- We will serve the community with honesty, fairness, and integrity.
- We will pursue safe, effective, timely, and economical solutions.
- We will provide professional, skilled, and courteous customer service at all times.
- We will be sensitive to the diverse and changing needs of the community.

FIRE STATIONS

Station 1 843 Industrial Circle, East Bay Township



Station 8 6042 Acme Rd, Acme Township



Station 9 110 High Lake Rd, East Bay Township



Station 11 3000 Albany, Garfield Township



Station 12 2025 East Silver Lake Rd, Silver Lake Park
Garfield Township



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department responded to 4,259 incidents in 2012.



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Metro	2,384	2,344	2,935	3,449	3,471	3,783	3,987	4,259
Station 1	-	-	-	652	777	720	767	974
Station 8	326	280	384	366	340	400	508	604
Station 9	586	516	532	318	268	252	219	185
Station 11	1,550	1,548	2,019	2,113	2,086	2,411	2,028	1,628
Station 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	465	868
Acme TWP	274	239	318	318	302	374	434	471
East Bay TWP	600	536	572	658	678	641	623	801
Garfield TWP	1,328	1,479	1,954	2,350	2,420	2,748	2,879	2,949
Out of District	-	-	-	-	68	30	50	39

Statistics for the last 5 years shows our growth of incidents in the Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships.

Photos: Live fire training December 2012 at Northern Lakes Community Church on Herkner Rd.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Of the GTMESA's emergency calls, 73% are for medical response. In 2009, our services upgraded from a Medical First Responder level to 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 responds with members from both East Bay EMS and Metro fire personnel. The other four stations operate rescue units that respond and assist North Flight EMS, an Advanced Life Support agency.

Rescue units at each station respond to all motor vehicle accidents with injuries and are equipped with extrication equipment to free victims from entrapment. In 2012, rescue units responded to 199 motor vehicle incidents, which at least 12 of them required extrication of victims.

SUPPRESSION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012 *by Asst. Chief Terry Flynn*

ACCREDITATION

GTMESA has continued in its quest for accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). The department's status has stalled due to the uncertainty of the upcoming study of the emergency services in the Traverse City metropolitan area. However, many of the principles and guidelines suggested by the CPSE have already been implemented into the department's daily routine including items such as data analysis and the review of the current training. GTMESA hopes to continue on the path toward our goal of accreditation by 2014.

ISO RATING

The current ISO rating is at a level 6 for the GTMESA area. In 2012, GTMESA completed an Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluation conducted of its Public Protection Classification (PPC). ISO agreed to conduct a re-evaluation of GTMESA because of the significant improvements put in place since the last PPC evaluation in 2003. We are hopeful that the improvements in training, station staffing, the purchase of additional apparatus and the building of two additional fire stations are enough to warrant a vastly improved ISO PPC grade.

TRAINING

The GTMESA once again increased its training requirements for all personnel in 2012. Because of the increased call volume in the Metro area, new procedures were initiated to provide a more efficient response to fire and medical calls. In 2013 the training requirements will be increased again for the seventh year in a row to bring all members in GTMESA to a higher competency level. The results so far have exceeded expectations. This is also the first year where GTMESA has scheduled a majority its training during the daytime hours which will include the duty shift personnel thereby reducing training costs.



STATISTICS

GTMESSA saw an increase of 6.8% in its call volume for the 2012 year. Medical calls account for 70.3% of all calls while fire incidents account for 29.7% of all calls. Station 11 (Veterans Drive) came in with the most calls in the district with 1628 and this was 403 calls less than last year due to the fact that Station 12 (East Silver Lake Rd) was in operation for the entire year and has taken half of Station 11's response area. Station 8 (Acme) saw a call volume increase of 20% and Station 1 (Industrial Circle) recorded a 27% increase in calls.

Woodchip fire that took over 12 hours to extinguish at Leonardo's Tree Service



STAFFING

GTMESSA has increased the daily staffing in 2012 in an attempt to meet the increased demand for emergency services. GTMESSA has implemented a flexible scheduling method where additional staffing is implemented during peak call times such as special events or inclement weather. We have found this to be a big factor in improving our response capability. Normal business hours are usually the busiest time for call volume and GTMESSA has 17 personnel on duty during this time period. Stations 8, 11 and 12 currently have at least two personnel on duty 24 hours per day as does Station 1 who also adds a third Firefighter/EMT at peak call times during the week. Station 9 has increased its staffing to every Friday-Sunday throughout the year instead of just the summer months as in previous years. We also have Firefighter/Inspectors working Monday through Friday and can augment the station personnel on an emergency if they are needed. There are also three Chief Officers on duty during normal business hours and at least two of them are on call while away from the office. Station staffing will be monitored periodically in order to maintain the most effective and efficient staffing possible. GTMESSA has increased the number of uniformed personnel from 88 in 2011 to 92 at the end of 2012.

COST RECOVERY PROGRAM

GTMESSA at the suggestion of the Fire Board rolled out a new program in 2012 to bring in additional revenue in an attempt to recover those costs associated with certain incidents which are allowed by law. These incidents where costs are recoverable include vehicle crashes, structure fires, vehicle fires, hazardous material releases and calls to down electrical wires. This program is one reason that GTMESSA is able to keep the fire tax millage the same for 2013.

STATION 8 and 9 NEWS... By Capt. Mark Shaul

The big game changer would have to be the daily 16 hour shift that we have North Flight responding to 911 calls out of Station 8. This added service was started on July 15 and allowed not only 16 hours of ambulance service out of Station 8 but also 16 hours of an additional Metro firefighter who acts as the partner to the North Flight paramedic. The benefit for a quicker medical response has also provided a second firefighter for emergency response other than medical. Time on scene is also less for the duty person as North Flight and Metro are many times arriving at the same time. Assessment of the patient and enroute to Munson is being completed in a more timely fashion allowing the duty crew to clear and be available for their next call.

The Metro Board approved the purchase of a new Engine 8 at the January 2013 meeting. The legwork took most of 2012 and the new engine should arrive sometime around the end of 2013.

Station 9 received energy saving lighting in the apparatus bays at the close of 2012. Along with saving energy it allows for better lighting with less eye strain. Station 9 is also the home of East Bay ambulance and many Metro members also participant with East Bay ambulance. In 2012 East Bay ambulance took possession of a new ambulance which has a larger patient care area. As medical calls become a larger part of emergency calls it is great to have the relationship between East Bay ambulance and Station 9.

Station 8 & 9 combined their dispatched tones at the close of 2012 to allow for a single tone dispatch. Our members are scattered around the two townships and the hope is to allow for a better response from both station members. In 2012 we moved the rescue sleds around so we have one at both Station 8 and Station 9. With the rescue sleds located at both stations it will allow for a better chance of having both enroute and on the trails at different entry points quicker.

In 2012 Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority restored the annual Firefighter of the Year awards. Station 8's 2012 Firefighter of the Year is FF Adam Mervau. Station 9's 2012 Firefighter of the Year is FF Tim Newton. Both individuals have contributed to the betterment of their stations and were very deserving of the award. Congratulation to both FF Newton and FF Mervau.

STATION 12 NEWS... By Capt. Troy Holliday

After working out the bugs of a new station and after a full year of operation, we found that some necessary changes were needed to be made to make operations more efficient. A turn-around was added in the parking lot to allow for safer maneuvering of apparatus while backing into the station. We also noticed during the winter months some high utility bills due to the in-floor heating and the snow-melt system in place. Corrective measures this winter have proven effective and efficient where we have cut our bills by over 50%. Our officer's decided upon a Firefighter of the Year for Station 12 and chose FF Greg Walker, who has become a very upstanding dedicated firefighter who is willing to help out whenever needed. Congratulations Greg and thank you for serving for us in the US Navy. I would also like to thank Chris Childers for his years of service as an officer with Metro. He stepped down and Chris Comeaux was promoted to fill his position. Thank you Chris Childers and Congratulations Chris Comeaux.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

by Asst. Chief / Fire Marshal Brian Belcher

MISSION STATEMENT

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau, through education, 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 and all other hazards in new and existing buildings, public gatherings, and outdoor venues used for habitation, work or recreation.

BUREAU OPERATIONS OVERVIEW – 2012

Under new leadership for 2012 with the promotion of Brian Belcher to Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal, the Fire Prevention Bureau has undergone many changes which will help determine our effectiveness and guide us into areas which require our focus in the future. Significant progress and effort has been made in purging our reporting database of outdated information as well as data for inspection occupancies for past projects that were not within the district. This situation made it difficult to retrieve complete and accurate data. With the program cleaned up we have begun adding other significant data for future use. This will enable us to see trends, track our progress and plan for future program needs based on factual information. One area we are already acting on this information is by devising ways to impact our residential properties. These single and multi-family properties are where the majority of our fires occur. We are addressing this problem through our Safe Neighborhoods door to door smoke alarm campaign to single family homes, and also by reassigning Fire Inspectors and our future company fire inspections to inspect multi-family housing complexes including the individual apartments. Occupants of these structures are subject to the actions of their neighbors where many lives are at risk should a fire occur, and also there is also the responsibility of the landlords to maintain safe living situations. The impact of inspecting these occupancies will reduce the likelihood of fire and/or injury to a large percentage of our population.

Part of the new Fire Prevention Ordinances adopted in late 2011 is the ability of the Chiefs to write ordinance violation tickets for non-compliance issues and other violations to the fire code. This is still in process with our department attorney and the courts for enforcement. It is hoped this will be in place for spring of 2013.

Also new for 2012 as part of our new Fire Prevention Ordinances was the development of a burn permit process which is required when conducting a legal outside controlled burn. This process has proven successful with the applications on the web site and submitted directly to the smart phones of department administration and officers via email; only when an applicant submits for an illegal type fire are they contacted for explanation and denial of the permit. There have been very few complaints of the process however there may be some needed clarification of the rules to eliminate confusion. The goal of this process was to make it simple and user friendly and not a huge deviation from the previous state DNR system.

The Plan Reviewer position remains unfilled as the demand for plan reviews had declined in recent years. It is anticipated that this position will need to be filled in the future as construction increases and our communities continue to grow. With the increase in programs anticipated in the future to make our Metro communities a safe place to work, live and play, a decision will need to be made whether to continue providing plan review and inspection services outside our district and thus the need to fill the vacant Plan Reviewer position. With these services making up almost 40% of the Fire Marshal's time and thus not working on programs for our communities, it must be determined whether the financial cost recovery outweighs the loss of programming to our residents.



The Bureau continues to be staffed by the Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal, three Fire Inspectors, a Fire and Life Safety/ Public Educator, GIS data coordinator (part-time), and two Juvenile Firesetter program educators (as needed). Mid-year 2012 saw a sudden and unexpected retirement of a 12 year Inspector. This did cause a drop off in inspection numbers for 2012. In August Lt. Mike Scanlon was hired as a new Inspector and has fit into the program well.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Of the 34 reported structure fires in district in 2012, 26 occurred in residential occupancies while 8 occurred in commercial properties. These fires resulted in a total loss of \$1,418,353 with reported total property valuations of \$15,136,581. This represents a total percent of property saved at 90.63%. One fire with a loss of approximately \$600,000 for the structure and contents attributed to 40% of the total losses for the year. This fire was a large home which was built with a long, narrow, steep driveway which fire apparatus was unable to climb in icy conditions. The 8 commercial fires resulted in a fire loss of \$83,800 with the largest loss of a warehouse/equipment storage building with a loss of \$60,000. The majority of that loss was related to damaged excavating equipment. Of the 8 commercial fires, 6 occupancies had been inspected in 2012. These 6 fires were all attributed to equipment malfunctions or cooking fires in commercial residential properties. These low loss numbers can be attributed to the investment in the fire prevention bureau and also to the quick, efficient response of suppression crews.

INSPECTIONS

Three Fire Inspectors currently perform inspections on all existing occupancies within the district. There were 1583 total inspection related activities completed in 2012. Of these, 693 annual inspections were performed. Out of these 890 re-inspections were performed, which indicates that multiple re-inspections were required for compliance in approximately 29% of all inspections. Other activities involved witnessing required testing, updating Knox Boxes, meetings with business owners, etc. There are a total of 2100 current occupancies identified within the district which require inspection. This figure does not represent all properties as there are numerous apartment buildings which have not been inspected in the past but will be inspected in the future as we focus on the properties where our highest fire and life safety risks are present. At the current rate it takes slightly more than 3 years to reach all of these occupancies.



Inspectors continue to inspect all assembly, hotel/motel and large box stores on an annual basis. These are the occupancies with large occupant loads where the greatest life safety hazards are present. The remaining occupancies are inspected as time permits. Inspectors maintained their certifications thru continuing education seminars at the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society annual education conference in East Lansing and by attending webinars and other education programs.

PLAN REVIEW

Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Belcher continued to perform all plan reviews and related inspections. Inspector Fordyce has also begun training in this field to help with the increased demand and to provide an alternate person of knowledge in this specialty. The Plan Reviewer position has remained unfilled since the promotion of Asst. Chief/Fire Marshal Belcher. It is anticipated that this position will need to be filled in the future as construction activity increases. A total of 177 plan reviews, not including related inspections were conducted in 2012. Of those 118 (64%) were for in-district projects and 59 (36%) were conducted for out-of-district projects. We have continued our agreement with the Grand Traverse County Construction Code Office for GT Metro's Fire Prevention Bureau to perform plan review and inspections of all fire alarms and fire suppression systems within Grand Traverse County. These reviews/inspections generated approximately \$36,441.75 in revenue in 2012 vs. \$28,873.50 in revenue in 2011. The new plan review fee schedule adopted in late 2011 has produced the desired results with in-district projects no longer subsidizing out-of-district projects. In-district reimbursement was \$50.00 per hour, out-of-district projects reimbursed at a rate of \$93.00 per hour. These numbers can vary based on the complexity and hours spent on each project. We will continue to monitor these fees and adjust in the future as necessary.

PUBLIC EDUCATION (See *Fire & Life Safety Education for 2012 Report*)

2012 saw the Fire and Life Safety Educator become 100% funded by Metro. In the past this position was funded by a partnership with Grand Traverse County. GT County discontinued funding for 2012 and Metro strongly believed in the effectiveness and messages of the Public Education program so the program was funded by the monies of the vacant Plan Reviewer position. An offer was made to the other fire departments in Grand Traverse County to continue to receive these services by paying a percentage of the costs. No other fire departments chose to participate. The Fire and Life Safety Educator strives to prevent all potential injuries based on the life practices of the target audience. This position does not concentrate strictly on fire safety. As an example, much of our call volume is for medical calls to the elderly. Through these specific programs it is hoped to educate this population on best life practices and reduce these calls. There have been many community partnerships formed which have allowed our programs to reach many new audiences who have been identified as being at greater risk to injury and death from fire and other hazards. These partnerships will continue to grow and allow for an expansion of our programs.

In our effort to reach more citizens with safety messages a partnership with Traverse City Fire Department enabled us to provide (4) one week safety messages on the five electronic billboards across our district. These messages were shown during the holiday seasons with appropriate safety messages. Each message was displayed a minimum of 416 times each day across the five billboards in the district.

Smoke alarms are the first line of defense in preventing injury and death from fire. Our data from the last two years show that 15% of homes with fires did not have any smoke alarms and that 21% had alarms but they were not functional. This equates to 36% of the homes in our area we have had fires at did not have a working smoke alarm. This number could be even higher due to poor data collection in the past. This is an area we need to concentrate our efforts by the entire department thru awareness and education marketing campaigns. As a result of this data a free smoke alarm project was started in late 2011 with the goal being at least two smoke alarms in every home. This program has continued in 2012 with approximately 300 alarms installed. While not widely publicized until a secure source of funding could be established through grants etc., this program has gotten off to a very successful start. Late 2012 saw a boost to this program via a large donation by Home Depot of 2,500 smoke alarms to be shared with Traverse City Fire Department; 66% came to Metro, 33% to the city based on population. This represents a donation of almost \$45,000. This donation will allow us to expand the program to reach those who may be unaware of the program. Lowes also provided a large donation of batteries to support our program. Early 2013, our on-duty firefighters will begin performing door-to-door neighborhood sweeps to check for working smoke alarms, repair/replace as needed and leave the occupants with home fire safety checklists for them to utilize to check their homes for fire and life safety hazards. We have named this program our Safe Neighborhoods campaign. The Fire Prevention Bureau will continue organizing the paperwork, acquiring the alarms and providing assistance to the suppression crews. These programs are only a small part of the programs offered through our Public Education office. Please see the separate Public Education year-end report for a comprehensive list of all of these services.

INVESTIGATIONS

Fire investigations are performed by Inspector Mike Lince and Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal Belcher. Inspector Mike Scanlon has also completed his initial 80 hour State Police School and will also be performing investigations in the future. 2012 saw a total of 20 investigations performed by Investigators. 16 structure fires and 4 vehicle fires. These do not represent all fires in 2012 as some fires were investigated by the duty officer or responding Chief. Investigators are not called out to every fire if the damage is limited and the origin and cause are easily identified. Fire Investigations can be a very labor intensive job which must only be performed by trained, competent personnel. Investigators continue the partnership formed with the Grand Traverse Sheriff's Office which allows a fire investigation trained Sheriff's Office Evidence Technician to work with Fire Department Investigators to determine origin and cause. This partnership allows for a very effective, seamless investigation culminating in several successful prosecutions in recent years.

JUVENILE FIRE SETTERS PROGRAM

Two Juvenile Prevention Specialists work as needed to deliver this program to area juveniles involved in fire setting activities. They are referred to the program by area law enforcement, parents and the juvenile courts. There were no children counseled in 2012. This is outstanding and I would like to believe that our fire safety and danger messages are reaching our youth and preventing the "curiosity" fire setters from acting out.

FIRE PREVENTION SUMMARY

2012 was a very busy and challenging time in the Fire Prevention Bureau. With the need to replace an Inspector and the implementation of several new programs, our fire prevention team faced a challenge which they overcame with flying colors. We continue to strive to deliver our fire 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 die or be injured by fire and that we continue to inspect those places in our community which could have the largest impact on fire or injuries due to the number of persons who occupy these structures and events. It is imperative that a strong fire prevention program be in place and be effective in today's fire service. Fire prevention impacts not only those whose fire or injury is prevented but also those who must respond into these unknown structures and place themselves in danger when an emergency occurs. Fire prevention leads the way by giving our firefighters the inside knowledge of these buildings and educating our communities on proper prevention methods and procedures to follow should an emergency occur.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY – PUBLIC EDUCATION by Meredith Hawes



The Fire and Life Safety Education Program of Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department has provided public education programs for the citizens of Grand Traverse County, by working in collaboration with community safety agencies and in partnership with the areas five departments. Cooperation and community partnerships continue to ensure success through utilization of existing programs, area fire personnel/resources, and established communication pathways.

Target groups continue to include: youth ages 4-14, people within the retirement ages of 60 and over, and the disabled. Further expansion within each target group has allowed for the development of additional programs and additional populations served. Statistical response information indicates that these population segments are “at risk” target groups for fire and life safety education. The fire service continues to emphasis both fire and life safety as 70% of emergency calls are medically related.

Youth Outreach:

While burns and fire-related death are 2 times more likely for a child under the age of 5, for children ages 14 and under, the number-one health risk is injuries. Each year, unintentional injuries kill more than 6,000 kids and permanently disable more than 120,000.

Pictured are Grand Traverse County Commissioner Rob Hentchel, Traverse City Area Public School Superintendent Steve Cousins, GTMESA Board Member Chuck Korn, American Red Cross Executive Director Kevin Bavers and Meghan Walls all attending the Risk Watch/TCAPS Montessori Teacher Training held in August 2010 at the Traverse City Country Club, thanks to Michelle London and Hub International Insurance.



The Fire and Life Public Educator has served to coordinate the unintentional injury prevention program of Risk Watch as presented by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The curriculum is divided into five age-appropriate teaching modules (Pre-K/Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6, and Grades 7-8), each of which addresses the following topics:

- **Fire and Burn Prevention**
- **Motor Vehicle Safety**
- **Falls Prevention**
- **Firearm Injury Prevention**
- **Water Safety**
- **Bike and Pedestrian Safety**
- **Choking, Strangulation, and Suffocation Prevention**
- **Poisoning Prevention**

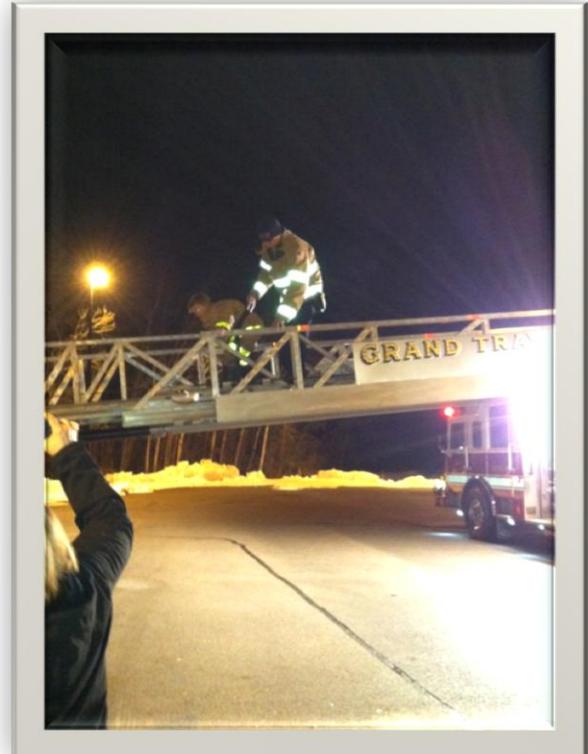
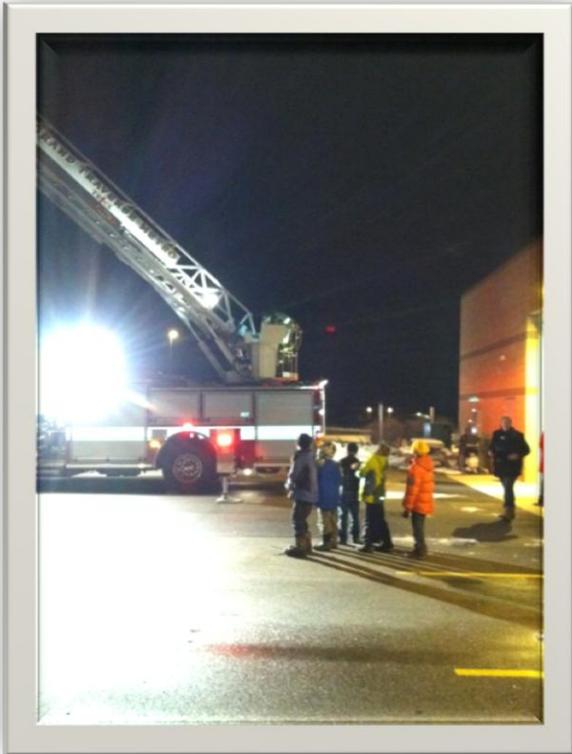


This program is a comprehensive, school-based program, intended for classroom delivery by the teacher with supplemental support by community “Risk Experts”. This program serves to expand the scope of unintentional injury education and prevention among young people grades pre-K through grade 8 by providing a safety platform by which community organizations and agencies can provide expertise in their subsequent areas. A Grand Traverse Risk Watch Coalition has been developed and includes the following agencies:

Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept, The American Red Cross, T.A.R.T., The Prescription Shops, The Grand Traverse Sheriff’s Dept, Safe Kids North Shore, Elk Rapids Police Department, North Flight, Traverse City Fire Dept, Grand Traverse Rural Fire Dept, Peninsula Twp. Fire Dept and Blair Twp. Fire Dept.



The end of 2012 marks the third year of the Risk Watch program implementation in the area schools of; Blair Elementary School, Cherry Knoll Elementary School, Kingsley Elementary School, and Traverse City Montessori Elementary School. Approximately 2000 students have received both classroom lesson delivered by their teachers and supplemental presentations from Risk Experts on a different safety topic each month throughout the year. The Grand Traverse Risk Watch Coalition continues to provide participating schools with a Teacher Refresher presentation each fall, and in 2012 a presentation was delivered to the Blair Elementary Parent Teacher Organization.



Above: Kids watch a ladder demonstration at Station 1 during a birthday party and Captain Tony Posey walks the birthday boy across the ladder. Metro donates 2-3 birthday party certificates to organizations each year for auction. This lucky 8 year old had a party he will never forget according to his parents.

In conjunction with the on-going development of the Risk Watch programs, fire and burn safety prevention education has been provided in many other schools, daycares, youth-serving organizations, local businesses, and neighborhoods. In 2012 approximately 5,325 children were served in the following locations:

Grand Traverse Academy, Blair Elementary School, Courtade Elementary School, Kingsley Elementary School, Long Lake Elementary School, Cherry Knoll Elementary School, Traverse City Christian School, Traverse Bay Christian School, Old Mission Elementary, Fox Motors – Kids Day, Silver Lake Recreation Center, YMCA, National Cherry Festival, A Little School House, Head Start, TCAPS Summer Programs, Alphabet Soup, and East Bay, Garfield, and Acme neighborhoods.

Older Adult Outreach

At age 65, older adults are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires or falls compared to the population at large. Thirty percent of people age 65 and older are involved in falls each year, the leading cause of death from unintentional injury in the home. In the U.S. and Canada, adults age 65 and older make up about 12 percent of the population – and are the fastest growing segment of the population.



The Fire and Life Safety Public Educator continues to coordinate the delivery of the Remembering When Program as presented by the NFPA and the Center for Disease Control. Remembering When is centered around 16 key safety messages – eight fire prevention and eight fall prevention – developed by experts from national and local safety organizations as well as through focus group testing in high-fire-risk states. The program was designed to be implemented by a coalition comprising of the local fire department, service clubs, social and religious organizations, retirement

communities, and others. Coalition members can decide how to best approach the local senior population: through group presentations, during home visits, and/or as part of a smoke alarm installation and fall intervention program.

GTMESSA continues steady outreach to the elderly through the Remembering When Program and reached approximately 1,950 older adults in the Grand Traverse County in 2012.



On the left, Metro provides a booth at the 2012 Grand Traverse Area Parkinson's Annual Summer Forum where over 500 people attended. Above, Fire & Life Safety Public Educator Meredith Hawes provides a Remembering When Program for Senior Center attendees through the Comfort Keepers.

Outreach to Disabled



Hearing, sight, mobility, and cognitive impairments all increase the layers of fire and safety risks for the disabled. By raising the level of fire and life safety awareness for the disabled community, and for the surrounding population, we can eliminate many risks.

Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department continued its work in 2012 to increase Fire and Life Safety programs specifically for people with disabilities through its Customized Outreach Program. The Customized Outreach Project is a fire and life safety public education initiative which focuses customized fire and fall prevention messages and home escape plans for those facing the obstacles of mobility impairment, hearing loss or deafness, sight impairment or blindness, and/or cognitive impairments. The program recognizes that the typical and traditional fire safety messages that are delivered through public education do not always reach or fit every audience.

The Emergency Sign Language and Communication classes were once again presented to Metro Firefighters, along with attendees from other affiliated departments or agencies such as: Elmwood Fire Department, Munson Medical Center, Benzie Emergency Services, the American Red Cross, CASA, Summer Tree Adult Residential Center, Bay Side Docs, NMC, and Quota Club International. In November, a specialized Heating and Holiday Safety education series was presented at Station 11 with support for captioning through the Disability Network and sign language interpreters through Northwestern Michigan College and Grand Traverse Industries. Additionally, the Emergency Sign Language and Communication Resource Book and outreach were presented in cooperation with Grand Traverse Industries, to the ReCon Conference and Expo held at the Grand Traverse Resort in November.



Through outreach to the Grand Traverse Area Parkinson's Support Groups, the Disability Network, South Creek Woodside, and Grand Traverse Industries, approximately 840 disabled individuals were served in 2012.



Above, the booth display at the ReCon Conference and Expo (formerly known as the Michigan Rehabilitation Conference). Metro's Customized Outreach for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing was presented to over 250 attendees from across the State.

Community Outreach

Community outreach was provided throughout the year to include Fire Prevention Week activities, The Grand Traverse County Wellness BBQ, Sam's Club, Meijer, Home Depot, Lowes, The Cherryland Center, Boride, Oryana, UPS, the Grand Traverse Nature Conservancy, Kmart, Area Agency on Aging staff, Sara Lee Bakery Co/Hillshire Farms, TOPS, Old Navy, Safe Kids – "Celebrate My Drive" event, East Bay Calvary Church, Meals on Wheels staff, the Goodwill Industries and Inn staffs, the Zonta Festival of Trees, and The National Cherry Festival. On average community events reach over 1,400 individuals with fire and life safety messages.

The volunteer program continues to be steady and included 2 part-time volunteers for the Fire & Life Safety Public Education Program. Volunteers were both community members and part of the Experience Works program. Tasks ranged from clerical to program delivery with hours from 2 to 20 per week.



Spectators (including Board Member Glen Lile) watch the dramatic side-by-side sprinkler demonstration at the National Cherry Festival. The side-by-side demonstration was exhibited 3 times in 2012, including the Fire Prevention Week Open House at Station 11 in October.





Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department takes 3rd Place in the 2012 Zonta Festival of Trees with the theme of "The Most Dangerous Time of the Year" within the Whimsical category. Along with the tree entry, Metro provided Holiday Fire Safety door hangers to attendees.



Above: Metro firefighters and Sparky participate with the Great Lakes Burn Cam at the Coast Guard. Left: Truck One is featured in the Cherry Royale Parade.

Below, hundreds of local teens attend the Heat event coordinated with the National Cherry Festival, Traverse City Fire Department, Third Level Crisis Center, Safe Kids, 106 KHQ, Volcom Entertainment, Northern D.J. Connection, and Bayview Restaurant. Teens participated in distracted driving simulation, home escape exercises, and firefighter agility tests.



Marketing and community public relations through the media also provided exposure for the Fire & Life Safety messages. Metro was featured in and on: The Grand Traverse Insider, The Record Eagle, Up North Live interviews and television coverage, WTCM AM 580, 95.5 Modern Rock the Zone, 106 KHQ, and Lamar billboards. In total in 2012, Metro Fire & Life Safety messages were featured 20 times in local print, television, and radio.



Above one of the 4 Fire & Life Safety Public Education messages featured on a Lamar billboard in 2012

The Smoke Alarm Project

In 2012, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department embarked on a large scale smoke alarm campaign to ensure that every home within the Metro response area had at least 2 working smoke alarms. Through local support through: Rotary Good Works, Lowes, Home Depot, and Kidde, approximately 300 alarms have been installed. Metro firefighters work weekly to schedule installations. Door to door canvassing of “high risk” areas is the goal of 2013.



Above Sparky receives a box of batteries through Lowes and the Rotary Good Works grant to support the Smoke Alarm Project. Later in 2012, Home Depot and Kidde contributed nearly \$45,000 in smoke alarms to Metro and Traverse City Fire Department.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Thank you to Wayne Kladder, former Board Chairman for the Metro Fire Board for his years of service as a board member and Chairman, along with Butch Strait and Frank Zarafonitis.



Loss of a Fellow Brother... Frank Rutherford

On May 6th, 2012 we lost one of our own in a fatal accident on E M-72. Frank Rutherford had 48 years of fire service across multiple departments and was indeed a great firefighter, mentor, leader and teacher. Frank was a man that always had a heart of gold and was willing to do anything for anyone both in the public and within the department. Frank was known as a gentle giant. He carried a smile and a kind word for all he met, and he has touched countless lives in the community. Through his work as an emergency responder, he saved lives, soothed hurts, and calmed fears. His family would like to express their gratitude for all the support that has been shown over the last few days. To celebrate the memory of Frank, they invited those who attended his visitation and memorial service to participate in a video tribute by sharing their own “Frank Stories” and memories. A memorial service was held Monday, May 14, 2012 at New Hope Church in Acme.

Frank will be missed, but never forgotten...



RECOGNITION AWARDS

Life Saving Award

On May 14, 2012, the Department responded to a structure fire on Farmington Dr., Assistant Chief Brian Belcher was the first to arrive and he reported moderate smoke. While putting on his fire gear he could hear the screams of a lady inside the building crying for help. Without hesitation and at great risk to his own safety, Assistant Chief Belcher crawled on the floor in dense smoke and found a handicapped woman disoriented and confused. Conditions in the house had deteriorated at this time and the lady's bedroom was fully involved with flames showing outside the building. Chief Belcher carried the woman to an outside porch door and passed her to other firefighters on the porch and to safety. Because of this heroic action, a citizen is alive today.

Because of this unselfish act of bravery, the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department bestows the Department's Lifesaving Award to Firefighter and Assistant Chief Brian Belcher.



Asst. Chief Brian Belcher after receiving a Life Saving Award for rescuing a woman from a house fire

Yearly Recognition Awards

40 Years—FF Tom Henkel, Station 8

35 Years—Chaplain Glen Walters, Sta. 9

30 Years—FF John Sanborn, Station 8

25 Years—FF Karen Robinson, Station 9

20 Years—Capt. Brian Bloom, Station 11

20 Years—Capt. Troy Holliday, Station 12

20 Years—Lt. Mike Scanlon, Station 12

20 Years—FF Rob Harvey, Station 8

20 Years—FF Jeremy Draper, Station 12

20 Years—Marcia Schwind, Admin

15 Years—Capt. Mark Shaul, Station 8 / 9

15 Years—Lt. Gary Francisco, Station 9

15 Years—FF Hal Miller, Station 1

15 Years—FF Brian Haskin, Station 8

15 Years—Chaplain Jude Younker, Admin

15 Years—FF Jeff Carpenter, Station 9

10 Years—Lt. Scott Allman, Station 1

10 Years—FF Mike Wilkins, Station 9

5 Years—Chief Terry Flynn, Admin

5 Years—Mary Griggs, Admin

5 Years—Robin Ehardt, Admin

5 Years—Inspector Kathy Fordyce, Admin

5 Years—Inspector Mike Lince, Admin

5 Years—Lt. Kyle Clute, Station 11

5 Years—Lt. Nick Lemcool, Station 11

5 Years—Lt. Andy Doornbos, Station 1

5 Years—FF Michael Bryan, Station 8

5 Years—FF Jack Ferris, Station 9

5 Years—FF Matthew Gerkin, Station 9

5 Years—FF Chris Kolinski, Station 9

5 Years—FF James Walker, Station 1

Firefighter of the Year—2012

Station 1—SO Joe Byrne

Station 8—FF Adam Mervau

Station 9—SO Tim Newton

Station 11—FF Eric Chryst

Station 12—FF Greg Walker

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

9/11 MEMORIAL

The 9/11 Artifact that Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department retrieved from New York City in 2011 will be 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. Below is a picture of the location for the artifact before construction has begun. More information can be found at www.gt911artifact.com.



The Ground Breaking Ceremony took place for the 9/11 Artifact at Grand Traverse Metro Fire Administration Office at 897 Parsons Rd on July 16th, 2012. Come see where the artifact is available for the community members to view, reflect, and remember in a peaceful and tranquil setting.



Thanks to Ridge Run Landscaping for taking the lead and coordinating the construction of the 9/11 Memorial Park.

9/11 MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Thanks to the dedication and tireless hours of many firefighters, directed by Capt. Tony Posey and Lt. Andy Doornbos, the memorial is completed.



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? Captain Tony Posey and Captain Troy Holliday are our certified technicians for Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department through Safe Kids Worldwide and the National Child Passenger Safety Seat Program. Station 11 hosts a monthly car seat check station for the community through the Safe Kids North Shore coalition program. Approximately 100 car seat checks were completed and corrected at Station 11 alone for 2012.

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department continues to help out with the Toys for Tots program every year at Meijer's making sure children have a merry Christmas.

Over 50 bicycles were assembled by our firefighters for the Toys for Tots program.

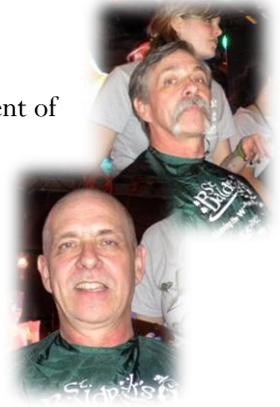




ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION – Childhood Cancer Research

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department held a fundraising event for the St. Baldrick's Foundation for the 2nd year. All of the donations raised will go to the research and treatment of childhood cancer. Participants shaved their heads in support of the children that lose their hair during radiation and chemotherapy treatments. Both males and females including children participated in this event on March 17, 2012. Our goal was set at

raising \$10,000 as a department, and we exceeded that as a community by raising over \$12,000.



The event raised over \$500 that night just for Fire Inspector Mike Lince to shave his mustache that has been growing since 1968. Way to go Mike! Good job to all participants who helped raise money to find a cure for children.

Left: Grand Traverse Academy Students Riley Dowling and Matthew Holliday raised over \$700 to show their support as well. Firefighters came to show support for Riley and Matthew who couldn't attend the event on Saturday. Way to go guys!!

Please reference the St. Baldrick's web site for further information about the fundraiser and search for Metro Fire. <http://www.stbaldricks.org>. Look for us again on March 12, 2013 at Sleder's Restaurant when we hold the fundraising event again.

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.



Station 1 personnel gave these cub scouts a tour of Station 1 along with the trucks. The common used phrase for the whole tour from the boys was "this is awesome".

Capt. Posey on left, FF Mark Bulger on Right



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS Photos by various photographers...

Photographer Terri Newton, Chief Pat Parker, Asst. Chief Terry Flynn, Capt. Troy Holliday



Left: Down powerline near Sara Lee Bakery during snow storm



Brush fire at Kings Court... 4 hours to extinguish with the help of Elmer's.



Right: Car fire on US 31 South and Silver Pines, quickly extinguished.



March 2012 Snow Storm that dumped over 2 feet of snow in one night... Gone within 1 week...



Below: House fire on Ridge View Ct, Garfield Twp.
Right: House fire on 5 Mile Rd, East Bay Twp.

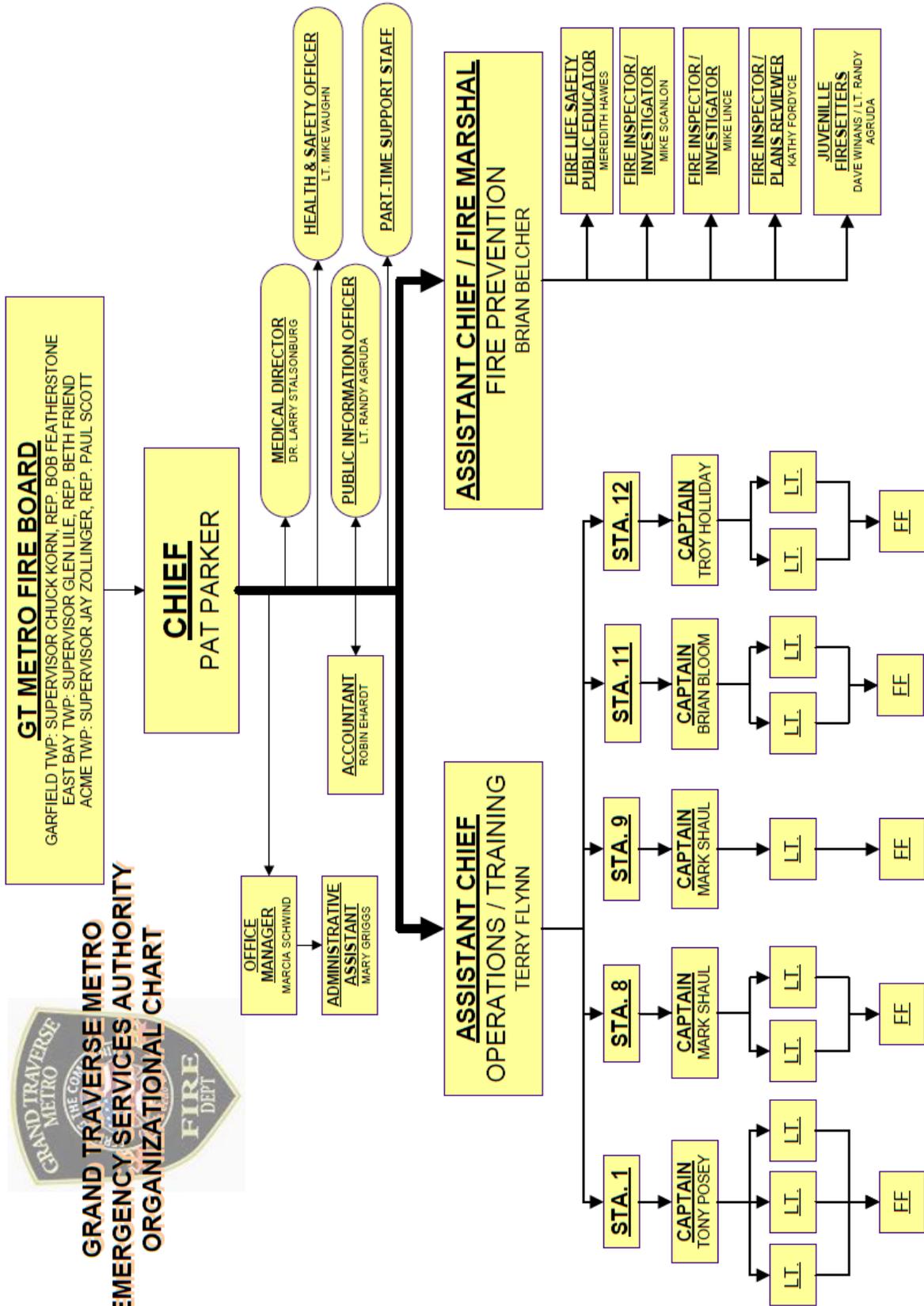


Bottom: House fire on Highlake Rd, East Bay Twp.





**GRAND TRAVERSE METRO
EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



DEPARTMENTAL ROSTER

at end of year

Full-Time – Administration

Fire Chief Pat Parker	Office Manager Marcia Schwind	Public Educator Meredith Hawes
Asst Chief – Operations Terry Flynn	Administrative Asst Mary Griggs	Accountant Robin Ehardt (part-time)
Asst Chief – Prevention Brian Belcher	Insp. / Investigator Mike Lince	Cartographer Dave Lather (part-time)
Medical Dir. Dr. Larry Stalsonburg	Insp. / Investigator Mike Scanlon	Admin Support Curt Holliday (part-time)
Lt. /HSO Mike Vaughn (part-time)	Inspector Kathy Fordyce	Photographer Terri Newton (part-time)

Full-Time Suppression

Captain Brian Bloom (Sta. 11)	Lieutenant Gary Francisco (Sta. 9)	Lieutenant Chris Comeaux (Sta. 12)
Captain Tony Posey (Sta. 1)	Lieutenant Andy Doornbos (Sta. 1)	Firefighter Jeremy Draper (Sta. 11)
Captain Troy Holliday (Sta. 12)	Lieutenant Adam Drewery (Sta. 1)	Firefighter Rob Harvey (Sta. 8)
Captain Mark Shaul (Sta. 8 & 9)	Lieutenant Nick Lemcool (Sta. 11)	

Fire Department Chaplains

Glen Walters	Jude Younker	Wayne Kiser
Vicki Lyon	Steve Dodd	

Part-Time – Suppression and Support Members

STATION ONE

Lt. Scott Allman	FF Lucas Mitchell	FF Dan Watkins	Probationary Jarod Barber
FF Joe Byrne	FF David Sicotte	FF Curtis Walters	Probationary Greg Bird
FF Stephanie Day	FF Shawn Stinson	FF Michael Winter	Probationary Jacob Garriss
FF Hal Miller	FF James Walker	FF Joe Wood	

STATION EIGHT

Lt. Wayne Mervau	FF Ryan Deering	FF Tom Henkel	FF John Sanborn
Lt / PIO Randy Agruda	FF Adam Grammer	FF Heather Hess	Probation Matt Morrison
FF Mike Bryan	FF Shawn Fitzgerald	FF Adam Mervau	
FF Mike Courson	FF Brian Haskin	FF Frank Rutherford(RIP)	

STATION NINE

FF Jeff Carpenter	FF Chris Kolinski	FF Mike Wilkins	Probation Joe Ruthkowski
FF Jack Ferris	FF Tim Newton	FF Karen Robinson	
FF Matt Gerkin	FF Rick Osburn		

STATION ELEVEN

Lt. Kyle Clute	FF Mark Bulger	FF Daren Mansfield	Probationary Isaiah Moger
FF Eric Chryst	FF Chris Doornbos	FF Steve Meek	Probationary Jordan Rife
FF Shaun Beady	FF Cory Ellis	FF Brent Strom	
FF Keith Bugai	FF Bryan Ferguson	Probation Eric Gustafson	

STATION TWELVE

	FF Eric Clone	FF Josh Sprenger	FF Amanda Yancho
Lt. Mike Scanlon	FF Anthony Hoffman	FF Monte Rindlisbacher	Probationary Russ Fryске
FF Lee Bailey	FF Cody Lipe	FF Greg Walker	Probationary Joe Lambert
FF Bill Brodin	FF Josh Salyer	FF Rick Worm	Probationary Chase Schelling
FF Chris Childers	FF Spencer Scanlon	FF Tim Wrede	