



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

**GRAND TRAVERSE METRO
EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY**



897 Parsons Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49686

www.gtmetrofire.org

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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Report created by Capt. Troy Holliday with information received from the Fire Administration and officers of the department.

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

Cover Photo by United States Coast Guard. Photo was taken during an ice rescue incident on Spider Lake in early December 2014. Two residents were out ice skating and one person fell through the ice and was clinging to the side of the ice, while the other was lying down trying to help them. With the quick response from GT Metro personnel, East Bay EMS, North Flight EMS, Grand Traverse Sheriff Department, both victims were removed from the water in less than 14 minutes. The USCG was already in the air for training and was going to assist with a second rescue swimmer being launched from the Air Station in Traverse City.

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 monthly newsletter available on 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 THE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present to you the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority's 2014 annual report. On behalf of the 84 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 2014 the department responded to 4622 calls for service which is a 9.3% increase from the previous year. Medical calls continue to lead our responses with 70.3% of the calls. Once again it was a challenging year, but our staff rose to the occasion.

The year was filled with many accomplishments and occasions for celebration such as:

1. The long awaited consulting project on the possibility of Metro and the Traverse City Fire Department consolidation was delivered. The report concluded that there were no short term savings, but it should remain a long term goal.
2. A new rescue/engine was delivered to Station 8 in Acme replacing a 20 year old truck.
3. We received two grants from the Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians for three LUCAS external compression devices that replace manual CPR with mechanical. Our success rates have improved.
4. The department is close to choosing a piece of land for a new fire station in Acme. This project passed the budget process and there is hope for a summer of 2015 ground breaking.

Accreditation will continue to be an area that we focus our endeavors on again in the next year. Improved property values and increased construction are helping with the budgetary constraints of the past four years.

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,"* is 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 as well. 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.

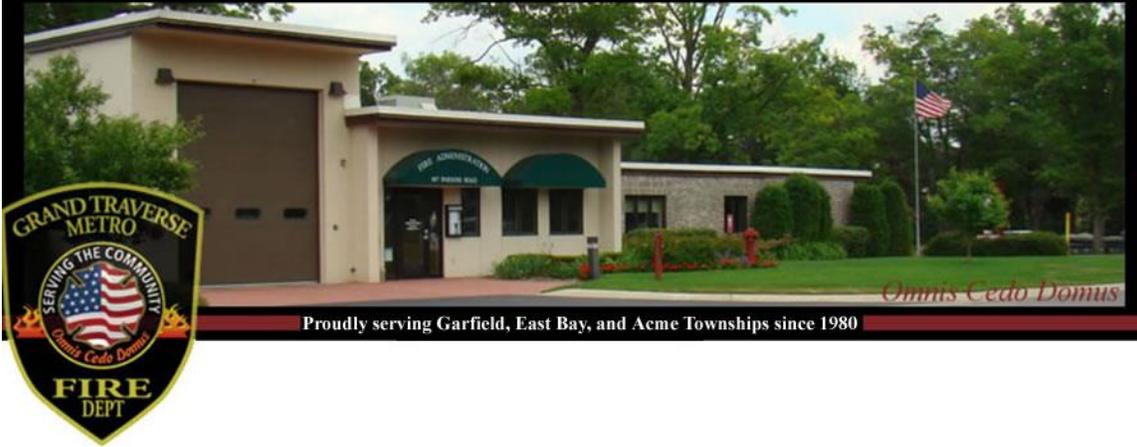
We sincerely thank you for your continued support!

Patrick Parker – Fire Chief



Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department

Chief: Patrick Parker



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 believe 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 with the Authority as the legal body.

GTMESSA Fire Board:

2014 Chairman: Beth Friend, Vice Chairman: Chuck Korn

Acme Township

Supervisor Jay Zollinger



Rep. Paul Scott



East Bay Township

Supervisor Glen Lile



Rep. Beth Friend



Garfield Township

Supervisor Chuck Korn



Rep. Bob Featherstone



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

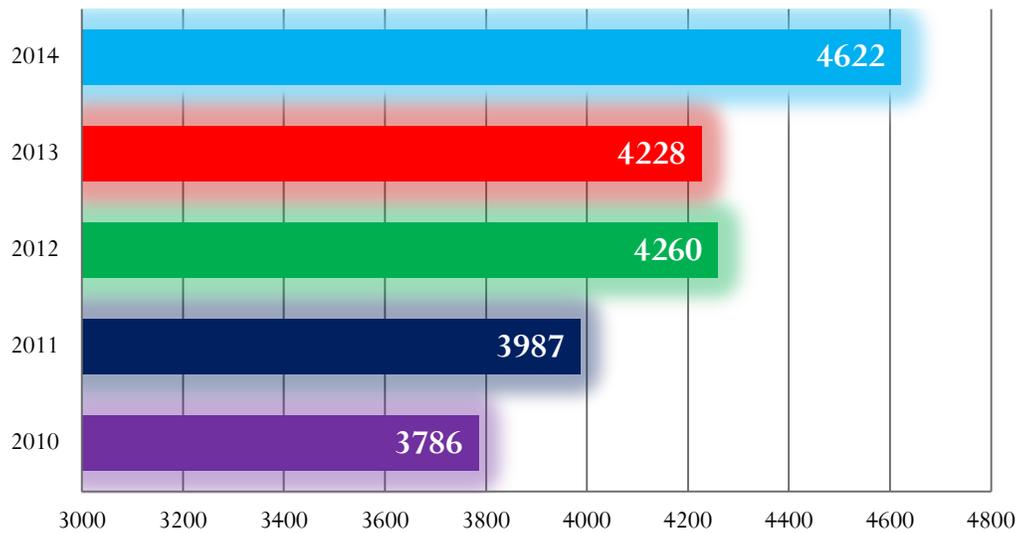
STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department responded to 4,622 incidents in 2014.

An increase of 9.3% of incidents from 2013.

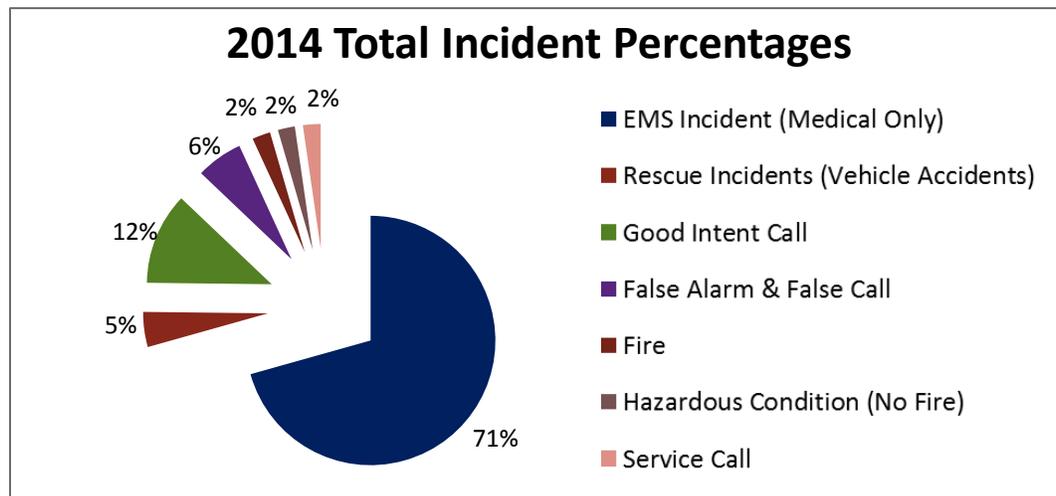


Year After Year Incident Comparison

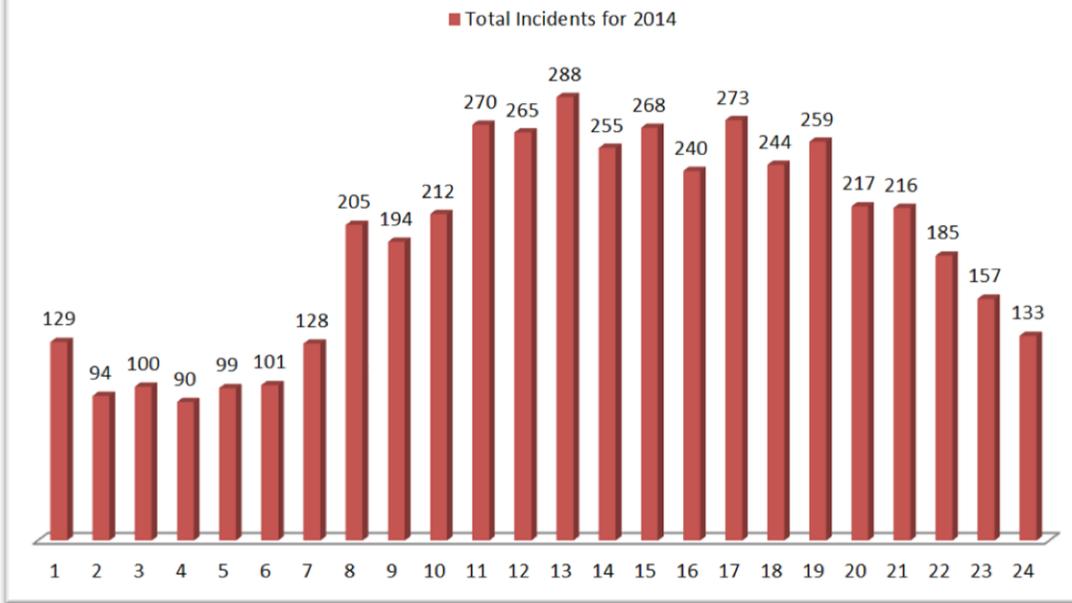


Statistics for the last few years shows our growth of incidents in the Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships.

2014 Total Incident Percentages



Total Incidents by Hour of Day



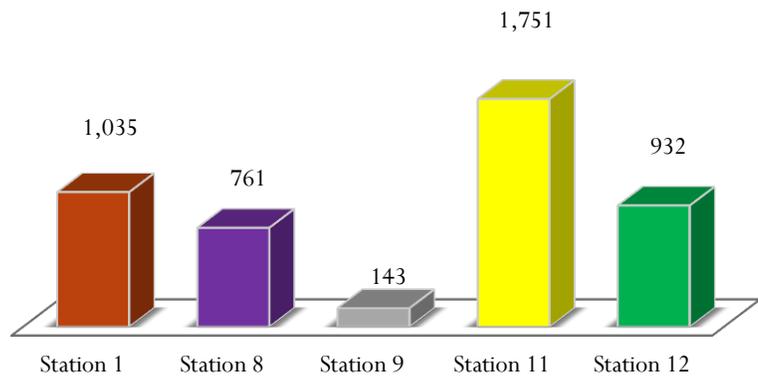
Our busiest time of day appears to be between the hours of 10am and 7pm.

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

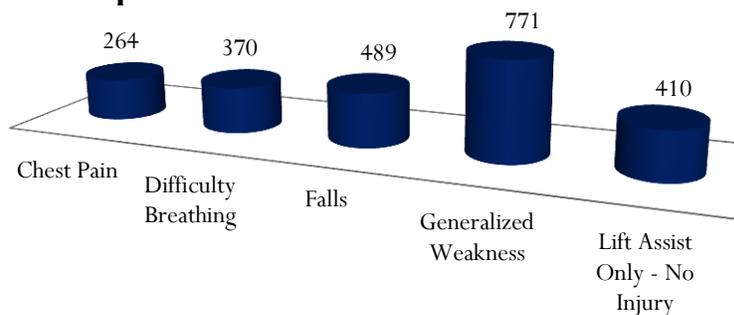
Total Medical Responses for 2014

3,265

2014 Incidents by Station



Top 5 Medical Responses



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Of the GTMESA's emergency calls, 70.3% 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. Three of our stations house a North Flight EMS unit with a paramedic.

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 2014, rescue units responded to 210 motor vehicle incidents, which at least 8 of them required extrication of victims.

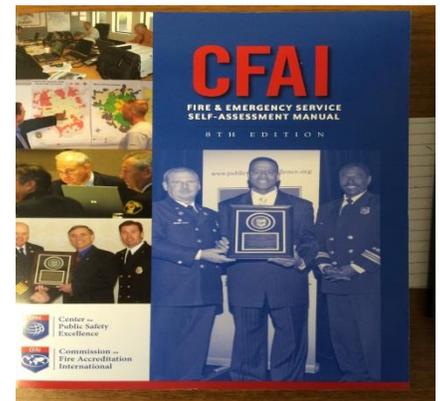
In 2014 we received multiple grants from The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for the purchase of a Lucas Chest Compression System. This allows us to have this live saving tool at 3 of the 5 stations in Metro. Station 9's area is equipped through East Bay EMS which leaves Station 1 the only station without one. We have put in for another grant request at the end of the year for another Lucas device for Station 1.



SUPPRESSION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014 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 ongoing study for consolidation of 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 2016. GTMESA is currently in Registered Status and plans to move through the process during 2015 and is included in the department's Strategic Plan.



ISO RATING

GTMESA has seen an improvement in its ISO PPC classification in 2012 from a 6 to a 5. All building owners should have seen a reduction in insurance premiums due to this improvement. GTMESA plans to petition for a re-evaluation of the ISO classification because of the further improvements made to the department.

STATISTICS

GTMESSA saw an increase of 9.3% in its call volume for the 2014 year. Medical calls account for 70.3% of all calls while fire incidents account for 2.3% of all calls. Station 11 (Veterans Drive) came in with the most calls for service in the district with 1751 incidents. Fire calls not including alarms were up 8 % in the last year at 109.

TRAINING

GTMESSA once again increased its training requirements for all personnel in 2014. Increases in call volume in the Metro area and a tightening budget have dictated a slight change in the level of training across the entire fire district. In 2014, a new training program was developed to provide a uniform and consistent level training across the entire fire district. This new program is a combination of computer based self-study training and hands on fire based evolutions involving multiple stations. This new training is based on national standards and industry accepted practices for the purpose of bringing all personnel to a higher competency level. The results so far have exceeded expectations. This is also the second year where GTMESSA has scheduled a majority of its training during the daytime hours which will include the duty shift personnel, thereby reducing training costs and providing additional efficiencies.

STAFFING

GTMESSA has increased the daily staffing in 2012 in an attempt to meet the increased demand for emergency services. GTMESSA currently staffs the stations with a flexible scheduling method where additional staffing is implemented during peak call times such as special events or inclement weather. This type of scheduling is a big factor in improving our response capability and allows for an increased state of readiness especially in the times of expected stormy weather and busy summer weekends. Normal business hours are usually the busiest time for call volume and GTMESSA has 17 personnel on duty during this time period. Station 8 has increased its staffed station hours and now has 1 personnel on duty 24 hours a day with a night-time on-call member to respond to help out, and 1 duty member on 16 hours during the day 7 days a week. This will be changed to 2 firefighters at all times when the new station is built. Stations 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's roster of fire personnel has decreased to 84 in the past year. In April 2015, we are planning to add 1 Full-Time Firefighter / EMT to our roster.





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 2014.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE

Although there were no major hazardous materials incidents in the GTMESSA district in 2014, the department increased the frequency of Hazardous Materials training for all members to comply with the new national standard. There were several large scale drills held during the year involving the National Guard and area industrial facilities to increase the preparedness of the Metro HazMat team. The team has a large scale event planned in Cadillac for 2016.



STATION 1 NEWS... By Capt. Tony Posey

Metro Station 1 has progressively increased call volume since it's opening in 2008. 2014 saw an increase of 35 calls from 2013 for a total of 1,035 calls for service. This only includes calls within the primary response area of Station 1, and does not include assists to other Metro Stations for medical calls, fire alarms, etc.

Metro Station 1 is centered in the Metro Fire District and is counted upon for Special Operations for Metro Fire. Some of those specialty responses include: Hazardous Materials, Ice/Water Rescue, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Heavy Vehicle Extrication, Land Search & Rescue, and Truck Company (ladder) operations. Our assigned staff at Station 1 spends countless hours, both on and off duty, training in these specialty areas while still keeping up on regular training requirements.

The Safe Neighborhood campaign was very successful for Station 1 in 2014. We completed installations of at least two working smoke alarms in a large majority of the residential units in our first due area for those that had no alarms. We also inspected and replaced batteries for those units that had alarms. Our goal is to ensure that every home in the Metro District has at least two working smoke alarms in their home. This is provided through Grant Assistance and is of no cost to our taxpayers. You can contact our administration office for further information.

Station 1 personnel also began an integral role in Metro's Company Inspection program in 2014. Some of our suppression staff who've been trained in doing fire inspections have begun visiting businesses in our first due area to complete inspections. This program is very valuable to us because it not only alleviates some of the inspection load on our full-time inspectors, but it also allows our suppression personnel to get in and preplan some of our buildings in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Station 1 consisted of 19 members in 2014 under the direction of Captain Tony Posey and Lieutenants Andy Doornbos and Adam Drewery. Five new probationary members were assigned to Station 1 during 2014 and are in various stages of completing their training at this time.

Specifications for a new Heavy Duty Squad and Special Operations trailer were written and completed in 2014. Delivery of the new Squad is expected in the first quarter of 2015. Delivery of a new Special Operations trailer is expected in late 2015.

STATION 8 NEWS... By Capt. Mark Shaul

Grand Traverse Metro received a new front line Engine/Rescue this past spring to replace one of its aging vehicles in its fleet. The new engine/rescue is now stationed at Station 8 as the first out apparatus. Training and outfitting the apparatus has been completed. Old Engine 8 which is now Engine 13 has become a reserve engine and will be used to replace our first out apparatus when needed. In the short time that new Engine 8 has been in service it has responded to numerous calls including working commercial and residential fires and has performed flawlessly. Please stop by Station 8 to tour the new engine, if you haven't already, as we are always happy to show off your new Grand Traverse Metro Fire Engine 8.



Along with having new equipment, Station 8 experienced a 12.0% percent increase in incident calls for 2014 vs. 2013. With the new development along the East M-72 corridor many of us are expecting this growth in incidents to continue. Because of the development in the Acme area, Grand Traverse Metro Fire board has been working hard to

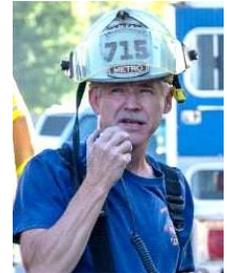
finalize the location for a new Station 8. At the close of 2014 one parcel of land stood out as the front runner for that location. Hopefully by the 2015 annual report we will be announcing the proposed opening date for the new Station 8.

In review of 2014, we witnessed positive changes in Station 8. Lt. Adam Mervau and Lt. Tim Newton concluded their first year in the Lieutenant's position. Training did and will continue to be one of our primary objectives so we are ready for the next incident that we will respond to. It looks like for 2014 many of our Station 8 members did strive to protect their health by participating in GT Metro's Wellness programs as physical fitness is a requirement to doing our job and going home afterwards.

In conclusion, we are mindful of our response to our community needs is increasing and how we respond is changing. At Station 8 we will continue to achieve the level of expectation that is set forth by the GT Metro Chief, GTMESA Fire Board, and by our community we serve. This will include raising the bar again for 2015 and setting the objective and goals to perform at that level.

STATION 9 NEWS... By Capt. Mark Shaul

When reviewing 2014 the most remarkable achievement to note is the percentage of calls that Station 9 responded to vs. 2013. Station 9 had a 49.0% increase in incidents, GT Metro had a 9.3% overall increase in incidents. The reason behind this remarkable increase is not easy to explain and three probable reasons are listed below.



- GT Metro's Residency program at Station 9 has allowed Station 9 to respond to incidents vs. Station 1 or Station 8. This is a fantastic program that helps the entire east side of our response area. Being able to respond out of Station 9 allows better coverage and leaves other stations able to respond to the next incident.
- The number of calls for East Bay Township are increasing. East Bay Ambulance experienced a 19.0% increase in 2014 vs. 2013. In speaking to Manager Newton this trend seems to be continuing into 2015 as East Bay Ambulance responded to 65 calls for the month of January.
- Regarding East Bay ambulance, out of the twenty members on 9A fourteen are also members of GT Metro, this allows for a response of Station 9 apparatus on incidents that happen when the ambulance crew is at Station 9. The ambulance is still available since other GT Metro members will respond to replace that 9A member who is with the apparatus. It's a great shared benefit due to a great relationship between the two organizations.

In 2014 Medical Director Mikie Parker resigned her title with East Bay ambulance. She is still very much a member and plans on staying active in 9A. Tim Newton has been promoted to Manager of East Bay ambulance and will oversee the day to day activities for this organization. Manager Tim Newton is also a GT Metro Lieutenant for Station 8 and very active in helping with GT Metro issues at Station 9. We will continue to look forward to working closely with 9A in 2015.

In 2014, Station 9 became a voting location for East Bay Township. This is just another commitment from GT Metro to be an active member to the community we serve.

On December 5, 2014 Station 9 responded to a low frequency incident in which two East Bay township residents were ice skating on Spider Lake and broke through the ice. Station 9 was hosting an Initial Trauma Management class at the time of the incident and the response was quick. GT Metro's S.O.G.'s were followed and with the cooperation of many departments the husband and wife were rescued and the incident was handled in less than 30 minutes. Many times, similar low frequency calls end up with a lot of confusion and demands for changes because results were not what was expected, in this case everybody involved should be commended for a job well done. GT Metro did review how the water rescue equipment was distributed and changes were made to make it safer for our responders for this type of high risk rescue. It is always nice to make changes due to good results and being proactive for the next incident.

As in the past, please mark your calendar for May 3, 2015 for the next annual Pancake Breakfast at Station 9.



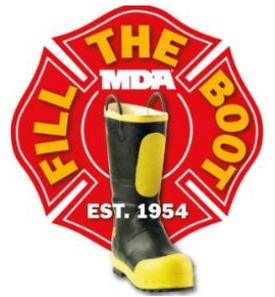
STATION 11 NEWS... By Capt. Brian Bloom

Station 11 finished out 2014 with 1,751 runs. This is an increase of 178 over 2013, and this does not include responses into Station 12 or Station 1's area. This equates to 38% of GTMESA's total run volume of the year.

We had several members have their families grow last year. My daughter (Emmalie Cook) had a daughter Audrielle on February 12, 2014, our first Granddaughter. FF Daren Mansfield and his wife Jessica welcomed a daughter, Finley on August 14, 2014. FF Cory Ellis and his girlfriend Kerrie welcomed a daughter, Makenna on October 4, 2014. Lt. Nick Lemcool and wife Belinda welcomed a son, Aiden on December 10, 2014. Lt. Lemcool also finished and passed his Paramedic program in December.

At the end of 2013, FF Chryst, Lt Lemcool and Lt Clute completed the Fire Inspection program. During 2014, they focused on helping the Fire Prevention Bureau complete inspections on the Company level while on duty.

Over Labor Day Weekend, Station 11 also helped in raising funds for Muscular Dystrophy Association, again with another record breaking year. We helped collect \$7,000 dollars for MDA over two days.



There was new and upgraded equipment added to several pieces of apparatus last year at Station 11. Engine 11 was outfitted with an MDT (Mobile Data Terminal). This piece of equipment allows us to gain access to our Central Dispatch's CAD monitoring. This allowed us to have better call information including greater narratives, hazards, locations, mapping and so much more. Grand Traverse Sheriff's Department also use the same MDT software we are using, allowing us to communicate back and forth if needed, or see the GPS location of a patrol car. It is also utilized for accessing our preplan information. Squad 11 was also outfitted with an MDT later in 2014.

In addition to the MDT being added to Squad 11, a Lucas device was also introduced to Squad 11 in early 2014. This device was made possible by a grant awarded by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. This life saving device is a safe and efficient tool that standardizes chest compressions in accordance with the latest scientific guidelines. It provides the same quality for all patients, independent of transport conditions or rescuer fatigue. By doing this, it frees up rescuers to focus on other life-saving tasks and creates new rescue opportunities. Performing manual chest compressions of high quality is both difficult and tiring, and impossible in certain situations. Studies have shown this device increases blood flow to the brain and heart compared to manual CPR. We have already experienced several saves by utilizing this device.

Rescue 11's vehicle extrication equipment was upgraded in 2014 with CORE technology hydraulic hoses. This allows us faster tool switch over as needed.

In 2014, an F-2 position was added to Station 11 and Station 1. This position allows newer inexperienced members an opportunity for additional training and call volume they may not experience at their respective home stations. This also provides a 3rd Firefighter on duty at Station 11 or Station 1. With this extra staff, we have the ability to split crews and handle multiple calls out of one station.

STATION 12 NEWS... By Capt. Troy Holliday



Station 12 ended the year with 14 members with a fluctuating number of probationary candidates throughout the year. Currently, we have zero candidates assigned to Station 12 but we are continuously training other members as they come over to the west side to learn our equipment and area. Capt. Holliday, Lt. Chris Comeaux and Lt. Mike Scanlon worked numerous hours, along with many other dedicated firefighters to ensure our probationary candidates and rookie firefighters are adequately trained and ready to provide all of the services we provide for our community.

Station 12 continues to host numerous events around the station (i.e. Birthday parties, Cub Scout tours, corporate parties at the park with a station tour and education for their employees, Medical First Responder and EMT classes, and elementary students holding book clubs). We welcome any outside public events to be held here, just contact Captain Troy Holliday at tholliday@gtmetrofire.org.

I would like to congratulate FF Lee Bailey and wife Jessica, who welcomed their third daughter Lila Sue on August 5, 2014. Another warm welcome and congratulations goes out to FF Cody Lipe and his wife Emily with the birth of their son Logan on December 9, 2014. Cody has also successfully passed his Paramedic Program and is working towards being a licensed Medic. More congratulatory high-fives goes out to FF Chase Schelling who completed his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class and FF Austin Groesser who completed Fire School and is currently working through his EMT class. FF Rick Worm received his 20 years' service award for GT Metro FD. Way to hang in there Rick! Along with that was FF Hoffman who received his 5 years.

In 2013, Metro decided to award a Firefighter of the Year department wide. Each station nominated a member from their respective stations. Our nomination for 2014 was for FF/SO Josh Sprenger, which he was selected and was awarded to him by Chief Parker at our Recognition Awards Ceremony. He has spent numerous hours training new and current members, along with spending extra time devoted to his new position as Assistant Safety Officer. Thank you FF/SO Sprenger for your hard work and dedication to Station 12 and all the members working here.

In 2014, Station 12 is now the host for Precinct #1 Voting for Elections in Garfield Township. The election crew that volunteered the entire day deserves recognition for their hard work in making sure your vote counts!

We pushed forward through with a large number of smoke detector installations in our response area. It was a pleasure to meet the citizens we serve on a non-emergent basis. A lot of people didn't even realize the new station was right around the corner and didn't realize the services we perform to ensure their safety. Many gave us compliments on the new station and all that we do for them. We are here for them, because of them... We would like to say "Thank you" to our community for helping keep our areas safe.

Garfield Township is growing and we are expecting our call volume to increase in the upcoming years. In 2012 we responded to 868 calls (just in our response area, not including assisting Station 11). In 2013 we

increased by 20 calls for a total of 888 calls. For 2014, we increased it by another 44 calls for a total of 932.

As with Station 8 and Station 11, we too were the recipient of the Lucas 2 Chest Compression System. A lifesaving tool that has helped increase our successful resuscitation efforts.

After having a few non-emergent water rescue incidents at Silver Lake, we have decided to look into some grants that would help fund a water marine boat at Station 12 for quicker response. Lt. Comeaux, Meredith Hawes, and Capt. Posey are working hard with the grant writing process. Our hope is to have a water vessel at Station 12 by summer.

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 – 2014

Since 2011 the Fire Prevention Bureau has undergone many changes which are helping determine our effectiveness and guide us into areas which require our focus in the future. 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 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 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.

2014 saw the first enforcement ticket issued for non-compliance to the East Bay Twp. Fire Prevention Ordinance. This business was over the allowable limit on hazardous chemicals. The courts assessed a fine, court costs and required the removal of all hazardous materials.

2014 also saw the 2nd appeal to the Acme Township Fire Prevention Ordinance asking for an alternative to the required water supply for firefighting purposes. After two hearings of the Fire Code Board of Appeals, the appeal was granted based on several contingencies in addition to the proposed alternative.

The Plan Reviewer position remains unfilled as the demand for plan reviews had declined during the recent recession. With the continued growth of our communities it is anticipated that this position will need to be

filled in the near future as construction increases. 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. In 2014 these services consumed 29% of the Fire Marshal's time. This equates to time not spent on programs for our communities, it must be determined in the near future 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, two JFS Counselors and a GIS data coordinator (part-time).

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Of the 44 reported structure fires in district in 2014, 31 occurred in single family residential occupancies while 13 occurred in multi-family/commercial/industrial properties. All fires resulted in a total loss of \$2,049,145 with reported total property valuations of \$19,322,912. This represents a total percent of property saved at 91%. The 13 fires other than single family resulted in a fire loss of \$1,877,120. The largest single loss which was \$1,755,000 of an auto parts manufacturer that was caused by the failure of a \$20 box fan left on overnight. Of the 13 commercial fires, 10 occupancies had been inspected in 2014 with fire losses of \$122,120. Four fires occurred in multi-family apartment buildings. Eleven fires were all attributed to equipment malfunctions or cooking fires in commercial residential properties. Two fires were incendiary in cause (arson) and are under investigation. These low loss numbers can be attributed to the investment in fire prevention and also to the quick, efficient response of suppression crews.

<u>All Fires</u>	<u>Injuries</u>	<u>Fire Related Deaths</u>
Firefighters	1	0
Civilian	2	0

Occupancy Type Data - # of Fires

Single Family Residential	31	Commercial/Industrial/Retail	4
Multi-Family Residential	5	Assembly/ Restaurants	4

INSPECTIONS

Three Fire Inspectors currently perform inspections on all existing occupancies within the district. A total of 996 annual inspections were performed. Out of these, 987 re-inspections were performed. There were 164 Firefighter-Right-to-Know updates performed in 2014 by the Fire Inspectors. Firefighter-Right-to-Know is a law which requires businesses to report any hazardous chemicals used or stored on the property. These are required by law to be updated every 5 years so this number can vary widely from year to year. A total of 25 phone-in public complaints were



investigated last year. 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. Inspectors continue to inspect all assembly, hotel/motel, target hazards (tier 2) and large box stores on an annual basis. These are the occupancies with large occupant loads where the greatest life safety hazards are present. 2014 also saw an increased focus on inspecting multi-family apartment buildings. Historically these are where a majority of our fires occur that are not in a single family dwelling.

With a goal to reach more businesses sooner than our current three year timeframes, we have started a fire company inspection program where the fire suppression crews in the stations perform fire inspections of certain assigned occupancies. This not only speeds up the inspection schedules but also allows the crews to see the layout and operations of buildings they may be responding to and allows the Fire Inspectors to concentrate on the more difficult and hazardous occupancies. A total of 10 suppression personnel have been trained to perform these inspections. These Company Fire Inspectors slowly began making their way into the field. Our current software program which allows these Fire Inspectors to conduct the inspections from an iPads has shown to be troublesome and require continual IT support. We are currently evaluating new software programs to alleviate the issues and hope to implement to all Fire Inspectors in 2015, streamlining the process with more efficiency. It has been a long process but one which will yield excellent long term results.

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 continues to perform all plan reviews and related inspections. Inspector Fordyce also has been trained in this field to help with the increased demand and to provide an alternate person of knowledge in this faculty and is doing an excellent job. 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. 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 near future as construction activity increases. A total of 244 plan reviews, not including related inspections, were conducted in 2014. Of those, 172 (71%) were for in-district projects and 72 (29%) were conducted for out-of-district projects. These out-of-district reviews/inspections generated approximately \$22,055.00 in revenue in 2014. In district revenues for plan reviews for 2014 were \$37,135.63. 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 \$93.23 per hour, out-of-district projects reimbursed at a rate of \$126.02 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.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD SMOKE ALARM CAMPAIGN

Smoke alarms are the first line of defense in preventing injury and death from fire. This is an area we need to concentrate our efforts by the entire department through awareness and education marketing campaigns. Our Safe Neighborhoods campaign is aimed to reduce injury and death by fire. This program requires on duty firefighters to perform 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. Each of our fire stations is required to spend a minimum of 2 hours per week performing these door-to-door visits.

Our data from 2014 fire responses show that 26% of homes with fires did not have any smoke alarms and that 18% had alarms but they did not function during a fire. This equates to 44% of the homes in our area that had fires in 2014 did not have a working smoke alarm! This is an unacceptable number which is up from 2013 and 2012 where 36% percent did not have working smoke alarms. With our GIS database we will locate these properties and determine if this is a potential trend and how we can affect these numbers. Whenever a home is encountered without smoke alarms on an emergency call it is policy for responding crews to install working alarms before leaving the property. Since the inception of the program, crews have contacted 1619 homes and either performed the services (checked/replaced batteries/replaced smoke alarms) or left a program door hanger when no one has been home. In 2014, 198 smoke alarms were installed in homes. The Fire Prevention Bureau continues organizing the paperwork, acquiring the alarms and providing assistance to the suppression crews. The response to this program has been overwhelmingly positive with a majority of the comments heard from residents are “you mean you do this for free?” or “nobody ever did this where I used to live, thank you so much.” Many of our residents have even called our township offices asking if the program is for real. This program not only provides for the safety of our residents but also provides a positive public image and great public relations for our department.

INVESTIGATIONS

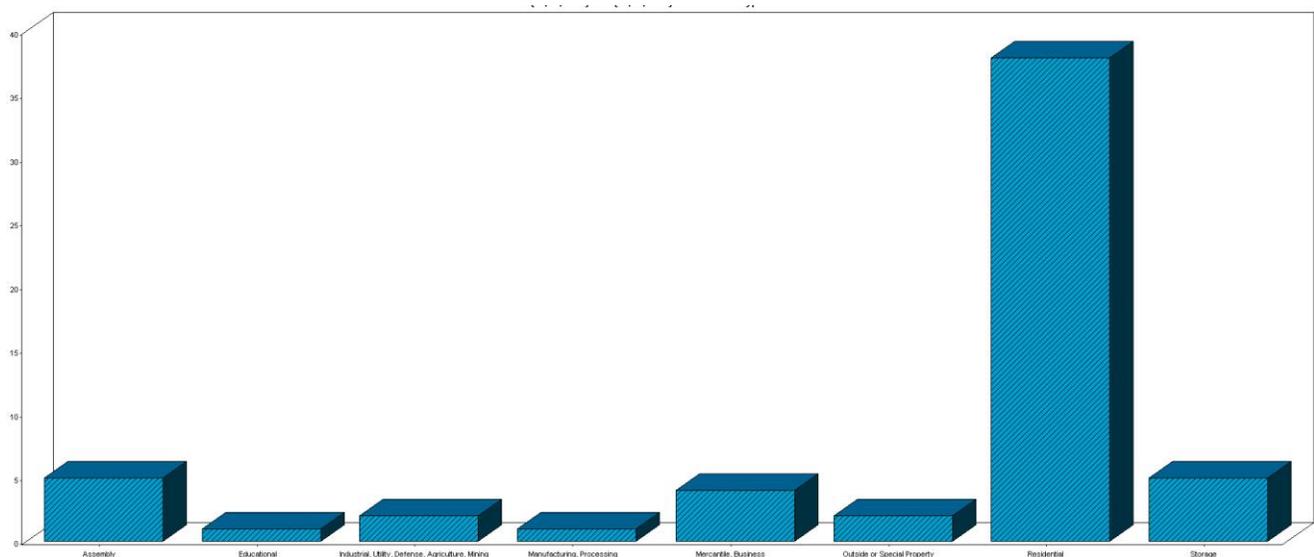
Fire investigations are performed by Inspector Mike Lince, Inspector Mike Scanlon and Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Belcher. 2014 saw a total of 29 investigations performed by Investigators, including both vehicle and structure fires. Of those, 4 fires were intentionally set and are still under investigation in cooperation with the GT Sheriff’s Office and GT Prosecutor’s Office. These do not represent all fires in 2014 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 as accidental. Fire investigations can be a very labor intensive job which requires specific technical knowledge and must only be performed by trained, competent personnel. Investigators continue the partnership formed with the GT 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

This program provides counseling services to juveniles and their families who have a juvenile firesetter in the home. They are referred to the program by area law enforcement, parents and the juvenile courts. In 2014 one child was referred to the program. The intervention counseling was performed in a cooperative effort with Traverse City Fire Department as our new counselors are awaiting training. We have filled our Juvenile Firesetter Counselor positions with Capt. Mark Shaul and Lt. Kyle Clute. They are both currently in training and I expect them to fulfill their roles without assistance within the year.

INSPECTION DATA – 2014

	<u>ACME</u>	<u>EASTBAY</u>	<u>GARFIELD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ANNUALS	66	62	868	996
REINSPECTIONS	66	105	816	987
FF RIGHT TO KNOW	2	0	162	164
PLAN REVIEWS	25	8	139	172
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	27	12	137	176
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE (INCLUDES COMPLAINTS)	6	8	11	25
SPECIAL EVENTS	5	4	8	17
COMPANY INSPECTIONS (TOTAL FOR DISTRICT)				
67 ANNUALS		38 REINSPECTIONS		



Graph above depicts the number of fires for 2014 in the different property use groups, with the majority being listed in the residential property use group with 38 incidents.

FIRE PREVENTION SUMMARY

We continue to strive to deliver our fire 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 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 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, area non-profits, and local businesses. Cooperation and community partnerships continue to ensure success through utilization of existing programs, participating fire personnel/resources, and established networks.

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 emphasize both fire and life safety as 70% of emergency calls that Metro responds to are medical calls.

Also, in our effort to reach more citizens with safety messages, the partnership with Traverse City Fire Department started in 2012 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.



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.

In 2014 The Grand Traverse Risk Watch Coalition formally partnered with Safe Kids North Shore to better use local and national resources to support the Risk Watch program. The curriculum remained consistent and continues to be 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** – *GT Metro Fire Dept, Blair Twp Fire Dept, GT Rural Fire Dept, and TC Fire Dept*
- **Motor Vehicle Safety** – *Safe Kids North Shore*
- **Falls Prevention** – *North Flight*
- **Firearm Injury Prevention** – *GT Sheriff's Dept, and Michigan State Police Dept*
- **Water Safety** – *GT Sheriff's Dept, Grand Traverse Sail & Power Squadron,*
- **Bike and Pedestrian Safety** – *T.A.R.T., and the Cherry Capital Cycling Club*
- **Choking, Strangulation, and Suffocation Prevention** – *American Red Cross*
- **Poisoning Prevention** – *Home Town Pharmacy*
- **Chill Out - Winter Safety** – *Safe Kids North Shore*



Pictured above are 2nd graders from Cherry Knoll Elementary School as they participate in Risk Watch. “In and Around Car Safety” is presented by Safe Kids North Shore with the assistance of Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department. Students (and teachers) learn about blind spots as 18 students sit in a row behind a SUV and their teacher is unable to see any of them while relying on her side and rear-view mirrors.

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., Home Town Health, The Grand Traverse Sheriff’s Dept, Safe Kids North Shore, North Flight, The Coast Guard, The Coast Guard Auxiliary, The Grand Traverse Sail and Power Squadron, Grand Traverse Rural Fire Dept, and Blair Twp. Fire Dept. 2014 welcomed new partnerships with the Michigan State Police and their assistance with Firearm Injury Prevention, and the Cherry Capital Cycling Club and their assistance with the Bike and Pedestrian Safety program.



Risk Watch continues to be by invitation and has maintained program relationships with the following area schools; Blair Elementary School, Cherry Knoll Elementary School, Kingsley Elementary School, Traverse City Montessori Elementary School, the International School – formerly known as Bertha Vos. In 2014 the Coalition welcomed the addition of three new schools; Traverse Heights Elementary School, Central Grade School, and Kingsley Middle School! Approximately 3200 students have received both classroom lessons delivered by their teachers and supplemental presentations from Risk Experts on a monthly basis over the past year.



Pictured above are members of the Grand Traverse Sail and Power Squadron delivering a Water Safety lesson complete with blue plastic water and personal flotation devices for the kids.

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 2014 approximately 3,425 children were served in following locations: Grand Traverse Academy, Courtade Elementary School, Cherry Knoll Elementary School, the International School, The Foundation Christian Academy, the National Cherry Festival, A Little School House, Central Day Care, Pathways Preschool, and several home day cares.

Below, on left Captain Tony Posey, FF Steve Meek, and FF Curtis Walters demonstrate the uses of the ladder on Truck 1. On right the same crew guides a preschool visit through Station 1.



Below Captain Tony Posey takes time out to work with 2 little ones visiting Station 1 during the tour of Station 1.



Older Adult Outreach

At age 65 and 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, or during home visits.

Through steady outreach through the *Remembering When* program approximately 1,680 older adults in Grand Traverse County were served over the 2014 year. Audiences were reached at some of the following locations or



venues: The Village at Bay Ridge, South Ridge and Wood Creek Living Facilities, The Grand Traverse Senior Center, The Acme Senior Center, The Northwest Michigan Area Agency on Aging, the Bay Area Senior Advocates & Senior Expo, Glen Eagle, Hope Village, Grand Traverse Commission on Aging, Benzie County Commission on Aging, Meals on Wheels of Northwest Lower Michigan, and The Aging and Disability Resource Collaborative.



Above, attendees receive information as they listen to a Remembering When presentation at the Grand Travesre Senior Center.



Outreach to Disabled

“One Size Does Not Fit All”

In 2014, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department continued its work 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.

An invitation was extended in 2014 for Meredith Hawes and Sign Language Interpreter Leanne Baumeler to co-present the model for the Customized Outreach program for the Michigan Fire Instructor’s Conference held at the Park Place Hotel on October 19th. Fire Instructors from around the state attended the 3 day conference.



Additionally Fire and Life Safety outreach was provided to the Grand Traverse Area Parkinson’s Support Groups and Annual Summer Forum, and the Disability Network, approximately 615 disabled individuals were served in 2013.

Above, Meredith Hawes, Fire and Life Safety Public Educator is pictured with Sign Language Interpreter Leanne Baumeler, and Fire Instructor Kymberly Pashkowsky who co-presented Customized Outreach for people who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing at the 2014 Michigan Fire Instructor's Conference.

Community Outreach

Community outreach was provided throughout the 2014 year to include Fire Prevention Week activities, along with community events at: Meijer, Home Depot, Lowes, the Acme Fall Festival, Northwestern Michigan College, The Mom's Club at Fellowship Church, Kmart – Cherryland, Kmart – Acme, Northern Michigan Area Agency on Aging, Goodwill Industries and Inn, Grand Traverse Industries, Great Lakes Community Mental Health, North Shore Safe Kids, The National Cherry Festival, King's Court, the Station 9 Pancake Breakfast, Grand Valley State University, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, Up North TV, Grand Traverse Mall, and individual station tours.

In 2014 Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Fire & Life Safety Education Program received \$9,500.00 in support through a grant from the Schmuckal Family Foundation. Fire and Life Safety Education was also featured as a regular monthly program entitled "Safety Talk" on WTCM AM 580. In addition, Metro Public Education Programs provided 10 Community Press Releases, and provided 10 additional radio interviews and/or public service announcements, 3 newspaper articles, and 8 television news interviews on seasonal topics throughout the year. Overall community events reach over 3,400 individuals with fire and life safety messages in 2014.

Special Programs and Presentations

Hoarding

In 2014 the **Traverse Bay Area Hoarding Task Force** took shape through the coordination of the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Public Education Program leadership. Over 30 agencies and 50 individuals came together to focus on reducing deaths and injuries related to Hoarding.

Homes that are filled with too many possessions can often lead to rooms that can no longer be used as they were designed, or a home that is so overloaded that everyday life is compromised. These characteristics combined with a person's strong urges to save items, or distress when discarding items, may be more than signs of a messy or extremely cluttered home, they may be symptoms of the condition recognized by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as Hoarding.



An estimated 3 percent to 5 percent of Americans suffer from Hoarding. But the impact of hoarding extends beyond the afflicted individual and relatives in the home, as the behavior can also put immediate neighbors at risk by creating perfect conditions for explosive house fires, and infestations of insects, rodents, and disease.

Hoarding homes contain an abnormally high fuel load, that not only increases the chances of a fire occurring, but it also increases the fire intensity and extreme fire behaviors should one happen. In addition it creates many other potential dangers such as: blocked ingress and egress for firefighters and first-responders, blocked exits for the residents, disorientation for firefighters while fighting the fire or searching for occupants, and falling or caving of possessions on both the residents and firefighters or first-responders during an emergency of any type.

Across the country, there is a new trend in the approach to assisting individuals and families living in hoarding conditions. Through task forces such as the newly formed Traverse Bay Area Hoarding Task Force, agencies can collaborate, gain knowledge and insight into the problem of hoarding behavior, share case information, and develop strategies. Some groups even serve as the intervention/response mechanism for hoarding situations. Coordinated and collaborative interventions are more likely to bring about positive outcomes than individual agencies that are working alone, or working in conflict.

The Traverse Bay Area Hoarding Task Forces is made up of mental health providers, building representatives, community service providers, faith based organizations, emergency agencies, public health representatives, and even family members. Through a multifaceted approach utilizing multiple resources, including local and surrounding fire departments, the goal is to stave off catastrophes and to help people who hoard to turn their lives around. The goal is not “house beautiful”, the goal is “house functional”, and this teamwork can play a huge part in effectively changing this often dangerous behavior.

Clutter Image Rating: Living Room

Please select the photo below that most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in your room.



Above: A Clutter Image Rating Scale, as pictured above, aids in the identification and classification of homes with hoarding conditions.



Left: Hoarding Task Force consultant Inspector Darren Johnson from Orange County California delivers a presentation on Hoarding to community members while visiting the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department and the Traverse Bay Area Hoarding Task Force.

Chinese

In response to a local fire in 2013, two special presentations were provided at the International School for individuals in our community who speak Mandarin as their first language. Chinese teacher Xiling Liu served as an interpreter for the presentation.

1. 油炸食品或者用油或油脂烹饪时，切勿离开厨房。



Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians asked for a partnership in 2014 to fulfill grant objectives as part of a public education outreach initiative. The Grand Traverse Metro Fire & Life Safety Public Educator provided three community presentations aimed at both the youth and elders at the Grand Traverse Band's Educational Center.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Jason Dorval visited the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department in 2014 through a FEMA Grant, and provided Autism Education for all Metro Firefighters. Jason has been a member of the fire service and an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic for over 15 years, and he is also a certified Public Fire and Life Safety Educator. He became a member and instructor of the Autism and Law Enforcement Education Coalition (ALEC) in 2007. He is the father of 4 children including a 12 year old son who has Down syndrome and Autism.

Dorval has instructed educators and responders alike all over the country on teaching and interacting with individuals on the Autism Spectrum. His goal has been to help foster a deeper understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders among public safety officials, and help them develop tools to use in assessing the risks of emergency situations.



Above; Autism Awareness instructor Jason Dorval poses with Grand Traverse Metro's Fire & Life Safety Public Educator Meredith Hawes, and Fire Chief Patrick Parker

Mandated Reporting

Grand Traverse Metro Firefighters also had the opportunity to receive specialized training for mandated reporting through the Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center in 2014. Metro partnered with the TBCAC to help reinforce awareness for both abuse and neglect of children and adults, as well as review the proper channels for reporting abuse and neglect.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

It is with great honor to announce this year's Metro Firefighter of The Year Award to:

Safety Officer Josh Sprenger

Josh has been with Metro for almost 3 years. Prior to coming to Metro, he spent numerous years with Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department resigning from Station 10 as their Assistant Chief. He has taken on the added responsibility of Safety Officer and does so with a smile! He is



willing to go above and beyond what is expected of him. We never have to ask him twice to complete tasks or to find extra duties to perform. He makes things happen with his energetic personality. We foresee Josh growing with our department. Congratulations Josh!!!

Firefighter Class of 2014

New firefighters stand with our officers at the Hagerty Center after their graduation.



YEARLY SERVICE AWARDS

FF Wayne Mervau—30 years of service

FF Rick Worm—20 years of service

FF Josh Morgan—5 years of service

FF Mike Courson—5 years of service

FF Daren Mansfield—5 years of service

FPB Meredith Hawes—5 years of service

FF Mike Lince—25 years of service

FF Chris Childers—20 years of service

FF Bryan Ferguson—5 years of service

FF Anthony Hoffman—5 years of service

Lt. Tim Newton—5 years of service

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

One of our stories shared at our Fire Prevention Week Open House held at Home Depot this year was that of the Tester family whose 3 year old daughter Elonica was pulled unconscious from a lake early this summer. Reviewing the 911 tape of the call will send a shiver down anyone's spine as the listener hears the babysitter and the 911 dispatcher working expeditiously together to resuscitate "Ellie" while our Metro Firefighters and North Flight crews were on their way. Thankfully Ellie was resuscitated that day, made a full recovery, and celebrated her third birthday just a week later.

We are grateful to the Tester family for joining us at the Fire Prevention Week Kick-off Event at Home Depot, and for sharing their story and their beautiful daughter Ellie with us. See Katie Tester's story below and for more stories visit our web site at www.gtmetrofire.org.

A MOM'S STORY..... By Katie Tester

Words cannot begin to describe my feelings in this situation. God's hand in the day of the accident is so evident. To say that we are thankful that our babysitter Audrey knew CPR and was prepared in the face of an emergency is a gross understatement. I have read other's words lots of times in situations like this, but it's true "you never think it will happen to you" ..and I never thought something like this would happen to my daughter. Fortunately, when it did happen, God had an amazing and prepared gal ready and in position. I remember leaving that morning to go to my work appointment, just saying good-bye like it was another normal day...never knowing that less than an hour later Audrey would use what she had learned to save my daughter's life.

Since that day I have gone back and gotten re-certified in my CPR. I also asked my current babysitter to be certified. How ridiculous would it be for me to be unprepared should a situation like that ever happen again? CPR is something everyone should know, and hopefully never use.

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department was amazing and we are so thankful for their quick response time and for doing what they do. Their response time was amazing and the care that they gave to us was the best.

What I would like people to take away is this: Become trained in CPR. Know what to do if you are faced with an emergency situation. It's like wearing your seat belt- you don't put it on every day knowing you will be in an accident....but you wear it every day nonetheless. Learn CPR, not because you know you will need it, but because if by chance you ever do need it - it could be the difference in the outcome for your story.



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



Our firefighters will begin 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!



9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department hosted the 13th anniversary 9/11 memorial ceremony on Wednesday, September 11, 2014 at 8:30 am. The Memorial included a flag raising by the Metro Honor Guard, bell ceremony, inspirational speech by Fire Chief Peter O’Leary with the Fond du Lac Fire Department, and other words of remembrance.

Also in conjunction with the Memorial, local Boy Scouts from the President Ford Council honored the day with a 9/11 perpetual Scout Salute from sun up to sun down.



2014 GRANTS AWARDED

A special thank you goes out to the following agencies for awarding GTMESA with grant monies for needed equipment for the successful operation of our department.

- Art & Mary Schmuckal Foundation \$9,500 for an Inflatable Fire House
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for the purchase of three LUCAS Chest Compression Devices for approximately \$36, 000.



Above: LUCAS Chest Compression System that performs chest compressions on patients that are in cardiac arrest.

Left: The new Inflatable Fire House is pictured.

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 Bikes for Tikes program.



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? Our certified technicians for Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department through Safe Kids Worldwide and the National Child Passenger Safety Seat Program are Captain Troy Holliday, Captain Tony Posey, and FF Rob Harvey. This allows us to have a certified technician ready to help every shift, every day.

Station 11 hosts a monthly 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 Ritter at 231-922-4843 for an appointment.

Approximately 100 car seat checks are completed and corrected at Station 11 alone each year.



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.

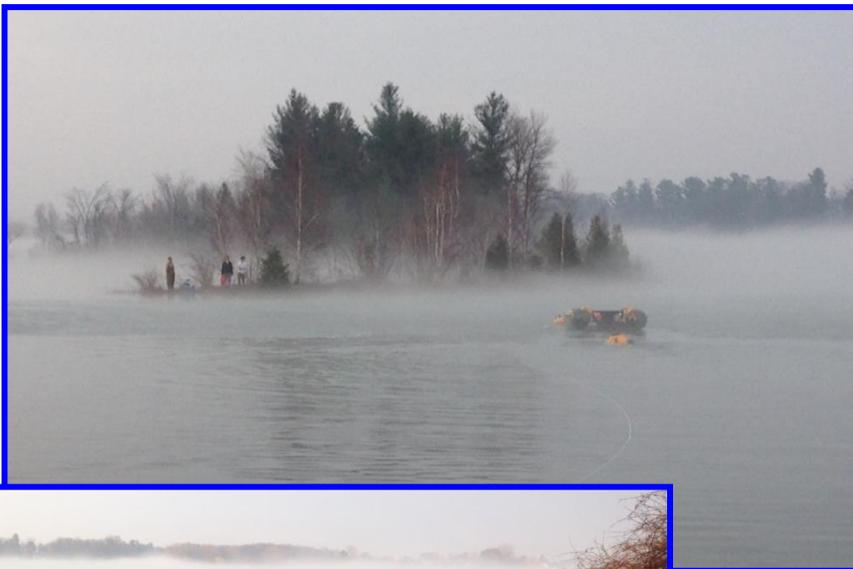
They could be the frightened children whose parents are being transported to the hospital after a tragic traffic accident. Firefighters are trained and able to deal with the varied emergency crisis in our modern world. Fire chaplains are equipped and called to deal with the people being affected by those same events. The fire chaplain is a spiritual presence in the world of fire department and emergency services.



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS Photos by various photographers...



Crews train on East Bay with Marine 1 Water Rescue Boat performing rescue techniques.



Crews responded to two teenagers that were trapped on the island on Silver Lake with Marine 1 Water Rescue Boat. Their canoe started taking on water while they were trying to break away the ice. No one was injured.



Right: Commercial fire at Smith Bros Leasing on Cass Rd. A quick response and fire attack extinguished the fire quickly.



Crews work on techniques for forcible entry at the old Horizon Outlet Center. The building was being torn down and our firefighters were able to spend an enormous amounts of training hours performing tasks such as live fire attack, fire suppression systems, Rapid Intervention Training, forcible entry, ventilation on the roof, etc.



Left: Seven firefighters participated in a “Light-and-Fight” live fire training at the Illinois Fire Service Institute to gain experience on advancing hose lines in a high rise, search and rescue of victims, and forcible entry under extreme heat and fire conditions.



Right: Units responded to a residential fire on Buttercup Lane. The occupant and her dog got out safely. Crews lead a quick fire attack to extinguish the fire.



We had the opportunity to participate in a full scale drill with the 51st Civil Support Team at the Regional Training Center. The drill was an exercise testing the capability of the fire departments in the area to handle an emergency involving hazardous chemical by terrorists. The drill tested the ability of the Grand Traverse Metro Fire HazMat Team and the Otsego County HazMat Team.



*Right: Vehicle fire at Kohl's parking lot...
Engine 11, Tanker 12, Chief Flynn responded.*

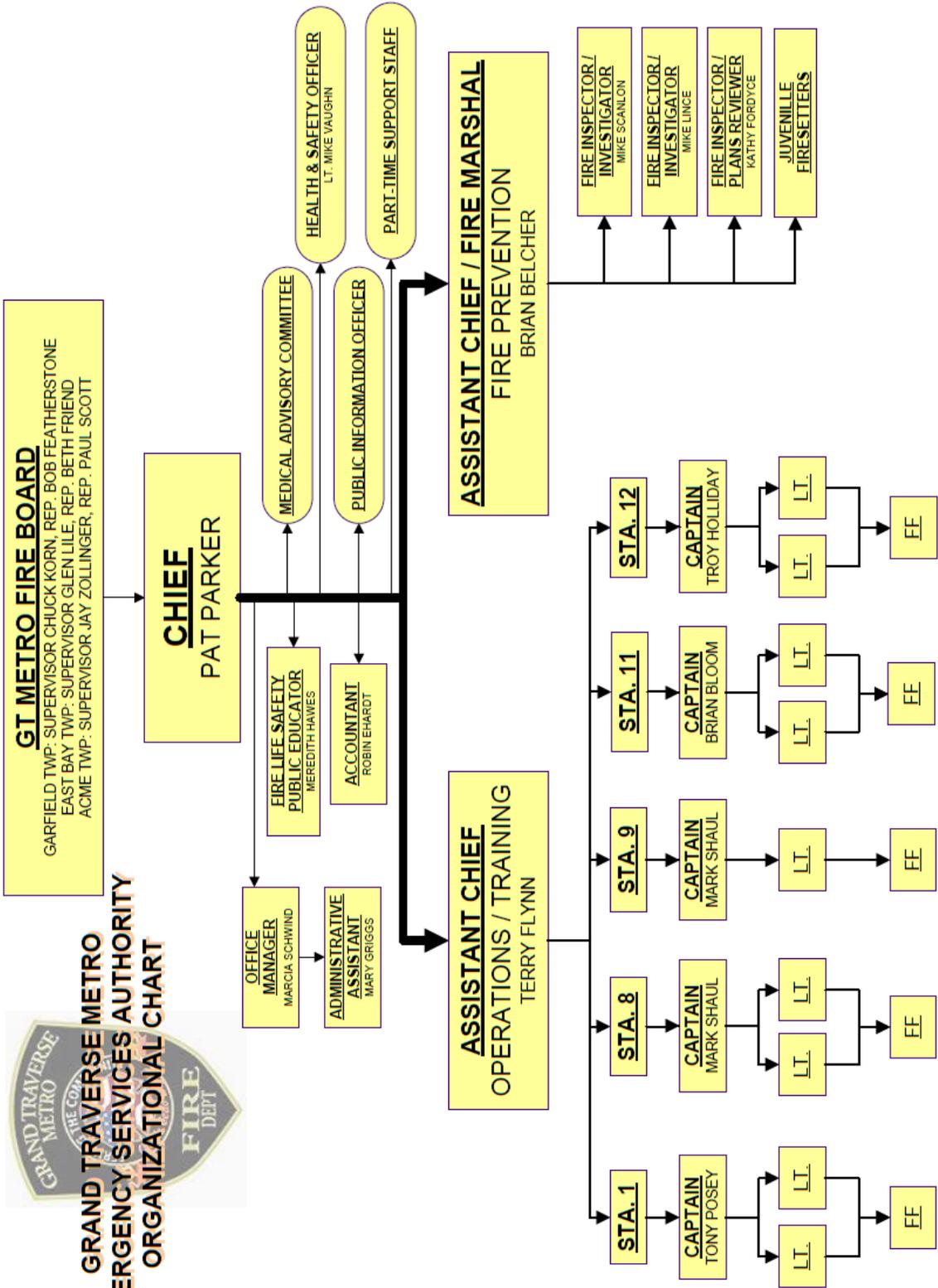


Below: Panaramic View of a Bio-Detection System (BDS) Drill at the USPS on Garfield Road.





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



DEPARTMENTAL ROSTER

at end of year

Full-Time – Administration

Fire Chief Pat Parker
Asst Chief – Operations Terry Flynn
Asst Chief – Prevention Brian Belcher
Office Manager Marcia Schwind
Administrative Asst Mary Griggs

Insp. / Investigator Mike Lince
Insp. / Invest. Lt. Mike Scanlon (Sta. 12)
Inspector Kathy Fordyce
Public Educator Meredith Hawes

Part-Time – Admin

Medical Dir. Dr. Larry Stalsonburg
Lt. /HSO Mike Vaughn
Accountant Robin Ehardt
Cartographer Dave Lather
Admin Support Curt Holliday
Photographer Terri Newton

Full-Time Suppression

Captain Brian Bloom (Sta. 11)
Captain Tony Posey (Sta. 1)
Captain Troy Holliday (Sta. 12)
Captain Mark Shaul (Sta. 8 & 9)

Lieutenant Gary Francisco (Sta. 9)
Lieutenant Andy Doornbos (Sta. 1)
Lieutenant Adam Drewery (Sta. 1)
Lieutenant Nick Lemcool (Sta. 11)

Lieutenant Chris Comeaux (Sta. 12)
Firefighter Jeremy Draper (Sta. 11)
Firefighter Rob Harvey (Sta. 8)

Fire Department Chaplains

Jude Younker
Vicki Lyon Steve Dodd

Part-Time – Suppression and Support Members

STATION ONE

FF Jarod Barber	FF Hal Miller	FF Michael Winter	Probation Derek McMullen
FF Stephanie Day	FF David Sicotte	Probation Cody Carlson	Probation Jordan Morgan
FF Chris Doornbos	FF Shawn Stinson	Probation Erin Fluharty	Probation Joseph Sondreal
FF Jacob Garris	FF Curtis Walters	Probation Brandon King	

STATION EIGHT

Lt. Adam Mervau	FF Ryan Deering	FF Brian Haskin	FF John Sanborn
Lt. Tim Newton	FF Jacob Della Pia	FF Tom Henkel	FF Charles Starkey
FF Mike Bryan	FF Shawn Fitzgerald	FF Heather Hess	
FF Mike Courson	FF Adam Grammer	FF Wayne Mervau	

STATION NINE

FF Matt Adamek	FF Chris Childers	FF Rick Osburn	
FF Jeff Carpenter	FF Jack Ferris	FF Mike Wilkins	

STATION ELEVEN

Lt. Kyle Clute	FF Cory Ellis	FF Daren Mansfield	FF Josh Morgan
FF Eric Chryst	FF Bryan Ferguson	FF Steve Meek	FF Jesse Thomas

STATION TWELVE

FF Lee Bailey	FF Anthony Hoffman	FF Spencer Scanlon	FF Greg Walker
FF Austin Groesser	FF Cody Lipe	FF Chase Schelling	FF Rick Worm
	FF Gene Mayo	FF Josh Sprenger	FF Tim Wrede



Photo from March 2011 at Live Burn training at hotels in Acme Township. Largest group photo taken.

**From all of us, Thank You
for allowing us to
serve our community!**