



# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

**GRAND TRAVERSE METRO  
EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY**



897 Parsons Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49686

[www.gtmetrofire.org](http://www.gtmetrofire.org)

# 2015 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 taken during a house fire on M 72 and US 31 North where the occupants sustained burns and had to be airlifted out by North Flight Air due to heavy road construction on US 31 North.*

*Access to this department via the Internet has been achieved through the continued use of the fire department website at [www.gtmetrofire.org](http://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](http://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 2015 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 2015 the department responded to 4,723 calls for service which is a 2.2% increase from the previous year. Medical calls continue to lead our responses with 69.52% 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. After more than a decade of poor radio communication, the voters of Grand Traverse County approved a 911 surcharge. With this surcharge, the County agreed to update all emergency responders to the State's Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS). This system is an 800 MHz digital trunked radio that will greatly improve the interoperability of all first responders.
2. A new squad was delivered to Station 1 in East Bay Township replacing a 10 year old Suburban. This ¾ ton pickup is large enough to pull our many trailers, but also fuel efficient to respond to medical calls instead of large fire trucks.
3. We received a grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians for a LUCAS external compression device that replaces manual CPR with mechanical. We also received a grant for a 28 foot enclosed trailer which combines our hazardous materials equipment with our search and rescue equipment.
4. The department continues to seek land for a new Acme fire station. The long awaited Meijer retail and grocery project became a reality in late November which will anchor continued growth on our east side.

Accreditation and an improved ISO Public Protection Classification 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](mailto:pparker@gtmetrofire.org). You can also check us out on the web at [www.gtmetrofire.org](http://www.gtmetrofire.org).

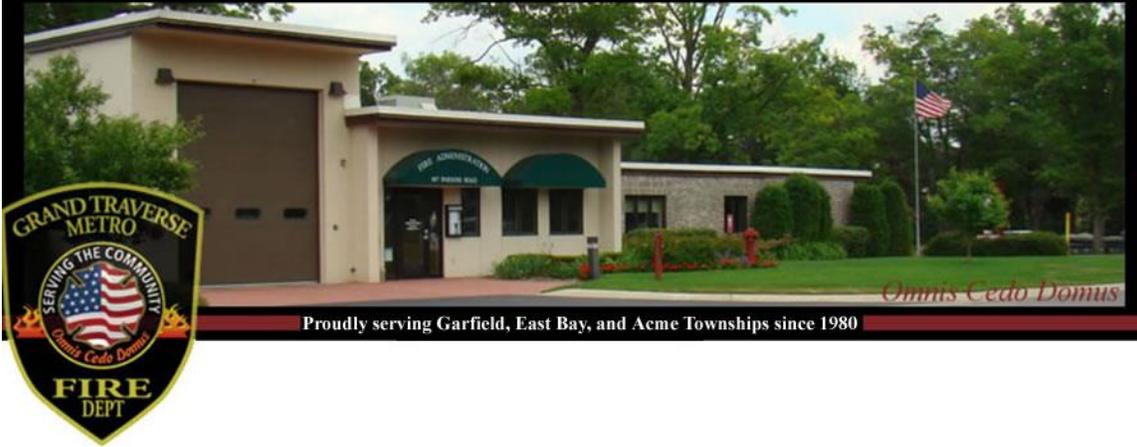
We sincerely thank you for your continued support!

*Patrick Parker* – Fire Chief



# Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department

Chief: Patrick Parker



## THE DEPARTMENT

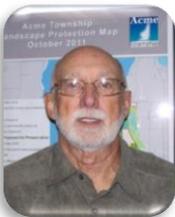
Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (GTMESSA) provides fire and life safety services to Acme Township, East Bay Charter Township and the Charter Township of Garfield since 1980. The GTMESSA Authority Board governs and sets policy for the Department. The board consists of a township supervisor 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:

**2015 Chairman: Beth Friend, Vice Chairman: Glen Lile**

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



## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

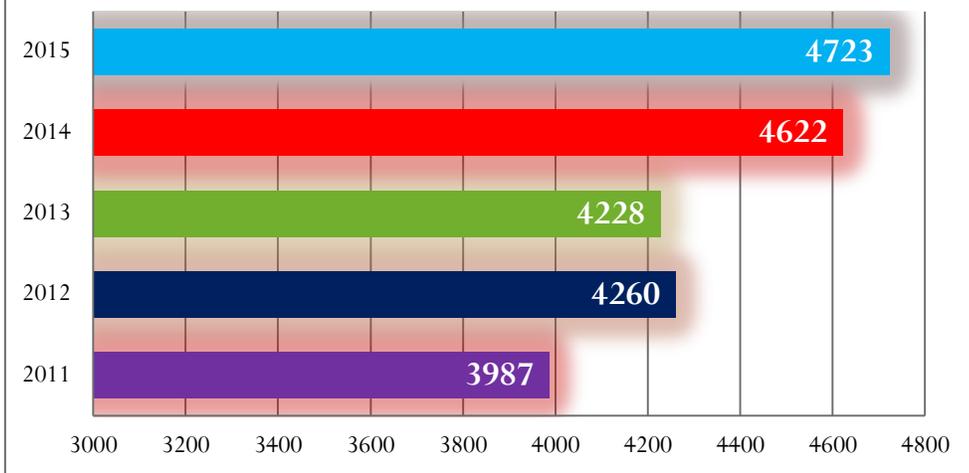
The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department responded to 4,723 incidents in 2015.

An increase of 2.2% of incidents from 2014.

An increase of 24.8% of incidents since 2010.

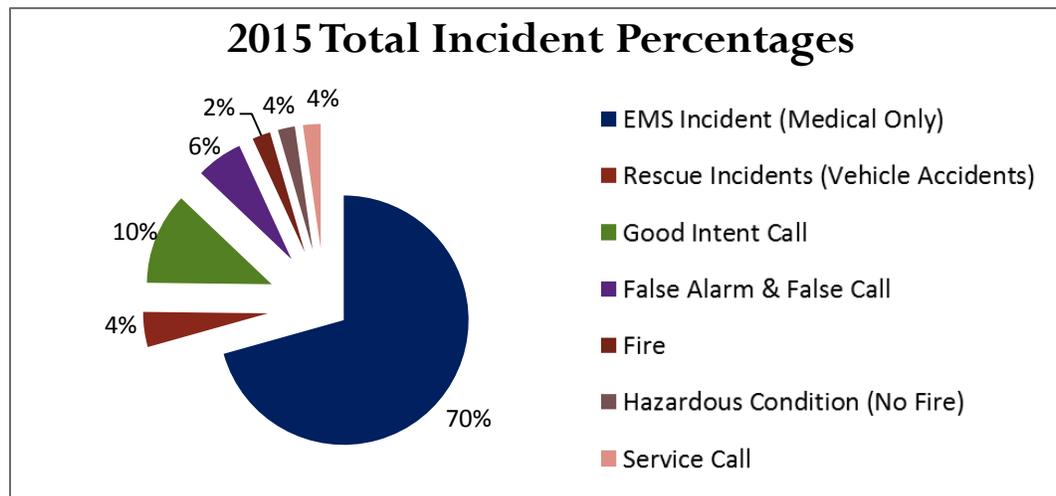


### Year After Year Incident Comparison

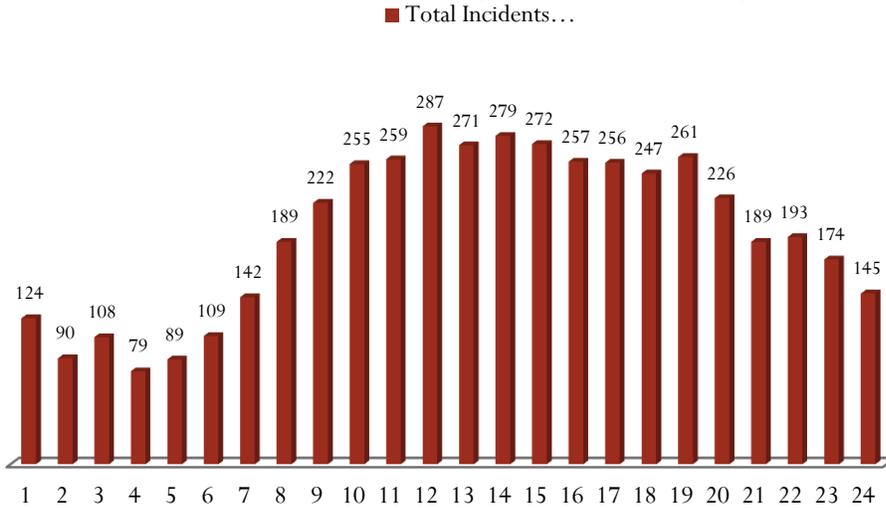


Statistics for the last few years shows our growth of incidents in the Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships.

### 2015 Total Incident Percentages



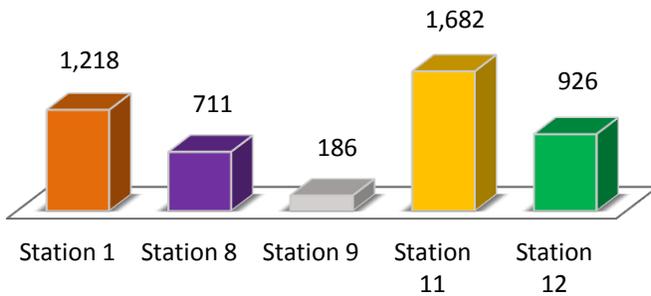
## Total Incidents by Hour of Day



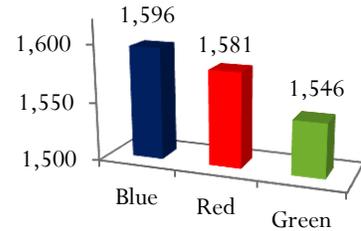
Our busiest time of day appears to be between the hours of 9 am and 8 pm.

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

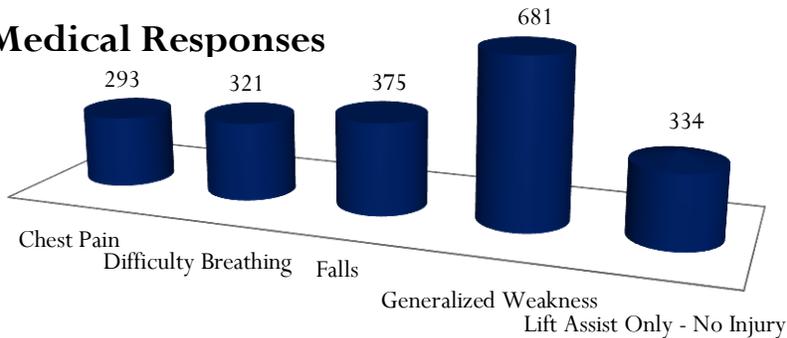
## 2015 Incidents by Station



## Total Incidents By Shift



## Top 5 Medical Responses



**Total Medical Responses for 2015 = 3,281**

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Of the GTMESA's emergency calls, 69.52% are for medical response. Since 2009, our apparatus are licensed at a Basic Life Support level, which allows our members to provide a higher degree of medical attention to the community. Our members have the ability and training to provide basic life support measures to citizens, which include advanced airways, pre-hospital drug administration, and automatic defibrillation. The suppression personnel are certified as Medical First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics. East Bay Township operates a township-operated ambulance service that 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 2015, rescue units responded to 200 motor vehicle incidents, which at least 10 of them required extrication of victims.

In 2015 we received another grant from The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for the purchase of a LUCAS Chest Compression System for Station 1. This allows us to have this life-saving tool at 4 of the 5 stations in Metro. Station 9's area is equipped through East Bay EMS. We appreciate the opportunity to be awarded such grants that allow us to purchase life saving equipment.



## FIRE SUPPRESSION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

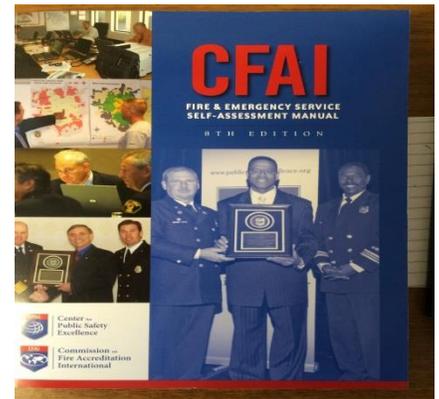
by Asst. Chief Terry Flynn

### ACCREDITATION

GTMESA has continued in its quest for accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). We will attempt to push forward again to move into the Registered status of the process. Many of the principles and guidelines suggested by the CPSE have been established by the department such as data analysis and review of the department's training program. GTMESA hopes to continue on the path toward our goal of accreditation by 2017.

### 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 2.2% in its call volume for the 2015 year. Medical calls account for 69.52% of all calls. Fire calls not including alarms were basically even with last year but the department saw the number of grass/brush fires triple from the year prior. Station 11 off Veteran's Drive was again the busiest in the Metro area with 1682 calls for service.

## TRAINING

GTMESSA once again increased the amount of training each of its personnel completed in 2015. In addition to the hands on medical and fire training at each of the stations, we have expanded our trainings utilizing our program called Target Solutions. This on-line training augments the current training programs that GTMESSA currently provides such as Rope Rescue, Hazardous Materials Response, Water/Ice Rescue in addition to Fire and Medical training. 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. GTMESSA will be expanding the special operations training such as rope rescue, search and rescue, and hazardous materials response to more of the personnel in GTMESSA to bring the state of readiness to a higher level.



## STAFFING

GTMESSA has increased the daily staffing in 2015 slightly to cover the ever increasing calls for service. 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 added 1 Full-Time Firefighter / EMT to our roster which brought all duty shifts to the same level of full-time firefighters.



## **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. In 2015 GTMESSA collected nearly \$60,000 from services provided to citizens and visitors to the three townships. The Cost Recovery Program was instituted by the GTMESSA Fire.

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE**

Although there were no major hazardous materials incidents in the GTMESSA district in 2015, the department increased the frequency of Hazardous Materials training for all members to comply with the new national standard. The HazMat team participated in a full-scale training exercise in Cadillac in 2015 which consisted of a simulated response to a radiological terrorist event. The exercise was another chance for the GTMESSA HazMat Team to work alongside the State of Michigan's 51<sup>st</sup> Civil Support Team. In addition the HazMat Team participated in a series of small simulated chemical release exercises with Tyson Farm. GTMESSA has strongly supported the close relationship between public safety agencies and its large business partners in the community.



## **HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

The physical health, Fitness for Duty, and safety of all personnel are priorities of GTMESSA. Emergency services are a physically demanding profession which requires all personnel to be minimally fit to perform their duties. Minimum fitness for duty and medical requirements have been established for all employees of GTMESSA. The Fitness for Duty component will ensure that all operations personnel can perform those critically essential functions. Our initiatives are broken into 3 categories.

Annual Medical Evaluation – All Metro employees submit to an annual medical evaluation in accordance with NFPA 1582: Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program. The Department’s physician determines if the employee is medically fit for duty and able to wear a respirator in accordance with the Respiratory Protection Plan of the Department.

Wellness Assessment – All full-time and regularly scheduled part-time employees submit to an annual Fitness for Duty assessment by the Wellness Coordinator. All part-time employees are assessed bi-annually. This assessment provides follow-up from the medical evaluation and includes body composition and VO2. This shows the actual fitness level of the employee.

Personal Agility Test – This is a pass/fail evaluation to which each employee is assessed individual stations replicating functions on the fire scene. This is a timed event.

All employees are encouraged to participate in fitness on and off duty. It is our hope that this becomes a lifestyle that employees continue for life. All employees are mandated that they workout 1 hour a day while on duty. It is Metro’s absolute goal to never have a Line of Duty Death contributed to an employee’s poor health and fitness. Our goal is to All Go Home!



### **STATION 1 NEWS... By Capt. Tony Posey**

Once again, 2015 was another year of changes and expansion for Station 1. Adding additional members, an additional officer, planning direction for our Special Operations Group, and new apparatus were some of the highlights. 2015 saw an increase of 183 calls from 2014 for a total of 1,218 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 continuation of the Safe Neighborhood campaign was very successful for 2015. We were able to get in and install many alarms in the south end of our district, and also assist Station 9 with alarm installations in their more rural areas. We will continue this program into the future until all of our citizens have working smoke alarms.

With a year under our belts in the Company Inspection program, it is showing many benefits for not only our department, but also our suppression firefighters. Some of our suppression staff who've been trained in doing fire inspections are out and about inspecting businesses in our first due area. 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 21 members in 2015 under the direction of Captain Tony Posey and Lieutenants Andy Doornbos and Adam Drewery. Two new probationary members were assigned to Station 1 during 2015 and are in various stages of completing their training at this time. Lieutenant Steve Meek was also added as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant at Station 1 at the end of 2015 to assist in getting our Special Operations program off the ground.

In March 2015 we took delivery of the first ¾ ton Squad in Metro Fire. This truck not only carries all of our BLS medical equipment, but it also carries some limited Special Operations equipment as well. It has the towing capacity to tow our new Special Operations trailer, which we took delivery on in late summer of 2015. This new trailer was purchased with a generous donation from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The trailer is set up for Hazardous Materials, Search & Rescue, Confined Space, Trench Rescue, Mobile Air Cascade, etc.

### **STATION 8 NEWS... By Capt. Mark Shaul**

Yes, 2015 was the year of the road construction in East Bay and Acme Township. We had US 31 N. from Three Mile to Holiday Road, M 72 E from Acme corners to Lautner Road, US 31 from Holiday Rd. to the entrance of the Grand Traverse Resort, and the “woods” area of Holiday Hills under construction from April to the beginning of November. There were many days that thorough pre-planning and awareness to the current situation got us through. The County Road Commission, MDOT, Acme Township, North Flight EMS, and contractors all played a hand in keeping us up to date with what was happening that day and what was going to take place in the future. Many incidents had a slower response time because of the traffic congestion that seemed to be unpredictable even with the best information. On September 29<sup>th</sup> our fears came true with a call to a residential structure fire next to the Goodwill store at M72 just east of US 31 N. Because of the heavy road construction a plan was already in place for route of travel into and out of the Acme area. A strategy was also in place due to the delay concerns of transporting by road to Munson to utilize the North Flight helicopter if a medical call of a priority one patient came in. The house had heavy fire showing from the front and the occupant was badly burned laying in the front yard. The old saying of “have a plan and work the plan” couldn't be better said. North Flight transported by helicopter landing and lifting off of M 72 to deliver the patient to Munson Hospital. Engine 8 made a play book attack on the structure fire with Team Elmer's crew clearing a path for



apparatus from Station 1 and Station 9 to assist with the remaining fire. On that day even with the worst road construction the system worked very well and what needed to be accomplished was done.

In the review for 2015 there was hope that we would have that shovel in the ground for a new modern Station 8. With Station 8's response area starting to witness new construction along with more traffic it is time to play catch up with the facility that will have proper accommodations for equipment and personnel. The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Board is working hard to find that right location to best serve the entire area and to provide the correct facility for our needs of the present and future.

In conclusion, our response to our communities' needs are increasing and how we respond is constantly changing. At Station 8 we will continue to achieve the level of expectation that is set forth by the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Board and Chief of the Department, and also by our community we serve. This will include raising the bar again for 2016 and setting the objectives and goals to perform at that level.

### **STATION 9 NEWS... By Capt. Mark Shaul**

Station 9 continues to outpace the other Metro stations with a 23.0% increase vs. 2014 in incidents response. That in itself is not the objective or goal that we at Station 9 strive for, but it does show that our Residency Program works. Station 9's Residency Program has been discussed in previous annual reviews and still to this day has provided the area with the response that is needed for the area that Station 9 covers. Allowing a member of Metro to trade his time for a dorm like accommodation at the station has allowed Grand Traverse Metro Fire to work more efficiently. The efficiency is allowed when the response comes from Station 9 instead of Station 1 or Station 8. Time is crucial for any incident and if the response is from a closer station it can and does make a difference. Also when the response comes from Station 9 it allows for the other stations of GT Metro Fire to be ready or to respond to the next call.



Station 9 and the entire east side of Grand Traverse Metro Fires response area was hit extremely hard by a powerful storm on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. This wind and rain storm resulted in numerous calls for help as trees and power poles and lines were knocked into homes and fell blocking roads. Metro personnel mentioned that it looked and sounded like a war zone with chain saws noise heard in all directions. Clean up from the storm took months and calls for the fire department to check on low hanging or down wires were received for days until the utilities companies made their way through the area. The previously closed Rasha Road recycling area was reopened and used for a brush drop off site to help deter citizens from burning the downed vegetation.

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire members that are assigned to Station 9 are proud along with the members of the East Bay ambulance service to help with many training and community events that are held at Station 9 throughout the year. One of those events, and which always draws a large number of residents is the annual Station 9 Pancake Breakfast. **The 2016 breakfast will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>** and we all need to mark our calendar so there is no chance to miss this great community happening.

Station 9 along with all the stations of Grand Traverse Metro Fire will strive to answer the call each time with the best response. Our equipment and training is constantly being reviewed and modernized. Nothing broken is left in that condition and if there is a better way we are looking into it. We are here 24/7 to Care For, Protect, and Serve the Community.



## **STATION 11 NEWS... By Capt. Brian Bloom**

Station 11 finished out 2015 with 1,682 runs. This is a decrease of 70 runs from 2014, but this does not include responses into Station 12 or Station 1's area. This equates to 35.6% of GTMESA's total run volume of the year.

During 2015, Lt Lemcool and FF Chryst continued helping the Fire Prevention Bureau complete inspections on the Company level while on duty. This was a program initiated in 2014 and they complete several inspections each month at various businesses.

In May of 2015, FF Cory Ellis attended "Light and Fight" Fire Training at Illinois Fire Service Institute. This training consisted of several evolutions into live fire conditions. Some of these scenarios were:

1. Advancing a 2 ½" hose line upstairs.
2. Advancing a 2 ½" hose line into the first floor of a warehouse.
3. RIT Maze
4. Two separate evolutions into a tenement fire with one scenario being a rescue situation.

Rescue 11's JAWs equipment was upgraded in 2015, with a new pump being purchased to replace a much older model. The decision to purchase a new pump was made after parts for our older unit became obsolete and we could no longer repair the unit. Water Rescue equipment was also added to Rescue 11 in 2015.

Lt. Kyle Clute was hired on full-time on the suppression staff in early 2015. After the untimely death of Randy Agruda, Lt. Clute was hired on as the Life Safety Public Educator for GTMESA in May. Lt. Clute has many responsibilities including working with school aged children, older adults, and functionally challenged individuals.

Station 11 continues to sponsor car seat inspections for proper installation and safety for the child. These inspections are conducted on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month at Station 11 free of charge. If you or someone you know needs their car seat inspected, please call 231-922-4843 for an appointment.



## **STATION 12 NEWS... By Capt. Troy Holliday**

Station 12 ended the year with 20 members with a fluctuating number of probationary candidates throughout the year. Currently, we have four candidates assigned to Station 12 and attending fire school. Station 12 is also the host station for Fire Explorer Post 301 where we have three explorer cadets under the age of 18 years. 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, Sheriff Department Defensive Tactics, 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](mailto:tholliday@gtmetrofire.org).

Station 12 continues to 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! Parking will be a challenge in the upcoming 2016 Presidential Election.

We pushed forward 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 all that we do for 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 2015 we increased by 58 calls for a total of 926 calls.



After having a few non-emergent water rescue incidents at Silver Lake, we have applied for grants that would help fund a water marine boat at Station 12 for quicker response. Lt. Comeaux and Capt. Posey are working hard with the grant writing process. Our hope is to have a water vessel at Station 12 by summer 2016.

# **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 – 2015**

Yes, 2015 will go down as the busiest in Fire Prevention Bureau history with construction activity to almost three times above pre-recession levels, company inspection program implementation, continued push of Safe Neighborhood smoke alarm campaign, redevelopment of the youth fire setter program, refocus of public education programs and the increase of special events within the townships.

As our data shows the one area we need to continue focusing on is the problem of unattended cooking in single and multi-family occupancies. This was again our leading fire cause. 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. The impact of inspecting these occupancies will reduce the likelihood of fire and/or injury to a large percentage of our population. Landlords are required by law to maintain safe living conditions with working smoke alarms. Providing education to this group will help strengthen fire safety in all rental properties.

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 very near future as construction increases. With the increase in programs we have implemented 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. In 2015 these services consumed 33% 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, a Public and Life Safety Educator, two JFS Counselors (as needed) and a GIS data coordinator (part-time).

## PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Of the 37 reported structure fires in district in 2015, 22 occurred in single family residential occupancies while 8 occurred in multi-family/residential rentals and 7 in commercial/ industrial properties. All fires resulted in a total loss of \$891,213.00 with reported total property valuations of \$112,137,096.00. This represents a total percent of property saved over 99%. Fires in commercial/industrial occupancies (inspected) resulted in losses of \$21,260.00. The largest loss in 2015 was a single family home fire with a loss of \$250,000.00. This home was valued at more than \$470,000.00. The fire cause was a wood burning stove.

There were 16 cooking related fires in 2015. This is our leading fire cause which follows national trends. This shows where our public education messaging needs to focus in the coming year.

2015 saw 2 civilian fire fatalities and 2 civilian injuries with one being critical life altering burns. Contrary to trends both fire fatalities occurred in residences with working smoke alarms. At the time these fires occurred both victims were incapacitated. An elderly male by disabilities and middle aged male by alcohol consumption. The critical injury victim occurred in a building converted from a single family residence to a commercial office building but was being rented as a residence with no smoke alarms. The building appeared as a residence from the exterior thereby missing the inspection which would be required of a commercial building.

The only remedy that would have prevented these injuries and deaths is the installation of residential sprinkler systems.

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	3	0
Civilian	2	2

### Occupancy Type Data - # of Fires

Single Family Residential	22	Commercial/Industrial/Retail	5
Multi-Family Residential	8	Assembly/ Restaurants	2

## INSPECTIONS

Three Fire Inspectors currently perform inspections on all 2265 existing occupancies within the district. A total of 1,263 annual inspections were performed, of which 1,109 required re-inspections. There were 122 Firefighter Right to Know updates performed in 2015 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 32 phone-in public complaints were investigated last year. Other activities involved witnessing required testing, updating Knox Boxes, meetings with business owners etc. 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. In 2015, we also saw an increased focus on inspecting multi-family apartment buildings. Historically these are where a majority of our fires occur other than in single family dwellings.

2015 saw the full implementation of the company inspection program where fire suppression crews perform inspections of the smaller occupancies. The software program which allows these inspectors to conduct the inspections from an iPad has shown to be troublesome and required continual IT support. Because of the software troubles company inspectors were not able to conduct as many inspections as program goals, however a solution will be in place in 2016. Early in 2016 a new inspection software program will be implemented which will allow all inspectors to use a Microsoft tablet to complete inspections in the field. This will afford more efficiency and less drive and travel times for the inspectors. These tablets are the same tablets which are being used for the Mobile Data terminals in the apparatus preventing additional costs of purchasing new hardware. It has been a long process but one which will yield excellent long term results.

Inspectors maintained their certifications through continuing education seminars at the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society annual education conference in East Lansing and by attending webinars and other education programs.

## INSPECTION DATA

2014 / 2015	ACME		EASTBAY		GARFIELD		TOTAL	
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS	66	129	62	174	868	960	996	1263
RE-INSPECTIONS	66	129	105	174	816	806	987	1109
FF RIGHT TO KNOW	2	24	0	15	162	83	164	122
PLAN REVIEWS	25	27	0	15	139	116	164	158
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	27	51	12	57	137	235	176	343
SPECIAL EVENTS	5	4	4	9	8	10	17	23
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE (INCLUDES COMPLAINTS)	6	6	8	2	11	24	25	32
<b>TOTAL ACTIVITY</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>2141</b>	<b>2234</b>	<b>2529</b>	<b>3050</b>
COMPANY INSPECTIONS	67	149	ANNUAL INSPECTIONS					
	38	113	RE-INSPECTIONS					

**Company Inspections all performed in Garfield in 2015 due to occupancy density**

## PLAN REVIEW

Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Belcher and Inspector Fordyce continue to perform all plan reviews and related inspections. 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 259 plan reviews, not including related inspections, were conducted in 2015. Of those, 179 (66%) were for in-district projects and 89 (33%) were conducted for out-of-district projects. These out-of-district reviews/inspections generated approximately \$29,724.48 in revenue in 2015. In-district revenues for plan reviews for 2015 were \$40,964.87. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, we will provide plan review and permit issuance for Traverse City projects and the Traverse City Fire Department will perform all inspections and acceptance testing of projects in the city. The Metro fee schedule was amended in December 2015 to include Traverse City projects in the 30% discount rate as we will not be performing the inspection work.

## 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 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. In addition, 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.

In 2015, our fire responses showed 22% of homes did not have smoke alarms and that 4% had smoke alarms but they did not function during the fire. 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.

As you can see this program is making a difference along with our other increased public education efforts in regards to smoke alarms. These numbers for 2015 are an improvement but they still show over one quarter of our homes that had fires did not have working smoke alarms. We will continue this program and focus our efforts in order to make sure every home has working smoke alarms.

Since the inception of the program in 2013, crews have contacted 2,550 homes and either performed the services (checked/replaced batteries/replaced smoke alarms) or left a program door hanger when no one has been home so they may call for services. In 2015, 532 smoke alarms were installed in 281 homes.

There were 486 face to face contacts made with residents during the door-to-door sweeps with 728 door hangers placed if no one was home, this equals 1,214 homes that were visited during the door-to-door Safe Neighborhood campaign in 2015. These are awesome numbers and ones which our entire department can be proud of. One of these visits may save a life, either thru our installation of smoke alarms or a resident reading the door hanger, checking or installing smoke alarms on their own or being more safety conscious. In 2016, we will work to raise the percentage of homes contacted vs. number of alarms installed/checked. The Fire Prevention Bureau continues organizing the paperwork, compiling the data, 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!” 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. In 2015, we saw a total of 41 investigations performed by Investigators, including both vehicle and structure fires. Of those, 2 fires were intentionally set and resolved with one referral to the Youth Fire setter program and another prosecuted for the crime. These do not represent all fires in 2015 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 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.

## **YOUTH FIRE SETTERS PROGRAM**

This program provides counseling services to juveniles and their families who have a youth fire setter in the home. They are referred to the program by area law enforcement, parents, the juvenile courts and responding firefighters. In 2015 two children were referred to the program. We have filled our Juvenile Fire setter Counselor positions with Capt. Mark Shaul and PE Kyle Clute. Both counselors completed their training this year in order to conduct interventions without assistance. PE Clute attended both in state and National Fire Academy training. Capt. Shaul attended in state training and is awaiting acceptance to the National Fire Academy. This program continues redevelopment in cooperation with the Traverse City Fire Department YFS counselor.

## FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY – PUBLIC EDUCATION by Kyle Clute



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.

By utilizing the concept of community risk reduction where local and national statistical data is compiled our educational programing targets specific risks to our community. This allows for the development of additional programs and additional populations served. For example, utilizing this concept we continued in our effort to reach more citizens with fire safety messages. Utilizing a partnership with Traverse City Fire Department started in 2012 enabled us to provide four safety messages on the five electronic billboards across our districts. These messages were shown during the months of September, October, November and December and incorporated both holiday appropriate safety messages and what were determined to be high risk community hazards. These included Fire Prevention Weeks theme (*Hear the Beep Where You Sleep*), Halloween safety (*Be Seen Be Safe*), cooking safety (*Stand by your Pan*) and candle safety (*Put Them Out*). Each message was displayed a minimum of 416 times each day across the five billboards. While all fire safety messaging is important, statistical response information in the fire service continues to emphasize both fire and life safety. Seventy percent (70%) of emergency calls that Metro responds to are medical calls the majority of those involving the senior population. This confirms the importance of our Remembering When program which is geared to fire and fall safety in the home for seniors.

By combining our Public Information Officer and Fire and Life Safety Educator positions this past year, Metro Fire was able to reach a larger audience as well as build a strong relationship with our local media.



Using the community risk reduction concept we were able to not only report to the public our news worthy stories but also were able to incorporate educational messaging into each interaction with the media. These interactions allowed for timely and appropriate release of information to the public. They were well received and appreciated

by both the public and media. This relationship also lead to numerous on air appearances including several fire prevention week messages, holiday safety advice and tips as well as a special report on the hazards responders face while driving to emergencies. We look forward to working with our local media in 2016 and already have plans to reach a larger audience with our messages.

## 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 2015 The Grand Traverse Risk Watch Coalition continued its partnership 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 top eight causes of injuries and deaths of youth across the country.

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, and Blair Twp. Fire Dept., and the Michigan State Police.



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, and the International School – formerly known as Bertha Vos.

In 2015 approximately 3,400 children were served in various locations. Some of which include: Grand Traverse Academy, Courtade Elementary School, Cherry Knoll Elementary School, the International School and several day cares. Not only were we asked to provide education on fire safety in these environments but we here at Metro were able to participate at numerous community events such as: Lowes, Home Depot's safety days, Acme Fall festival and the National Cherry festival. These events not only provide an educational aspect to children but they allow for fire and life safety conversations with their parents. Throughout 2015 almost 1500 adults were reached and engaged in these conversations.



We even provide Santa a ride to Meijer's for Toy's For Tot's.



## 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 coordinates 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.

In November of 2015 Metro Fire and The Grand Traverse Commission on Aging were awarded a scholarship to attend the Remembering When conference in Orlando Florida presented by NFPA. At the conference Public Educator Kyle Clute and former COA Director Georgia Durga were taught the program by NFPA staffers as well as others who present the program successfully in their communities. After arrival home in early November from the conference and through steady outreach through the Commission on Aging the Remembering When program has been presented to over 250 older adults in Grand Traverse County. Audiences were reached at some of the following locations or venues: The Grand Traverse Senior Center, The Acme Senior Center, The Northwest Michigan Area Agency on Aging, The Fife Lake Senior Center, The Kingsley Senior Center and of course the Grand Traverse Commission on Aging. The Commission on Aging provides an in-home service with seniors, by incorporating Remembering When's messaging into these visits the conversation on how to avoid fire or fall injuries took place with over 100 seniors while in their homes. The program continues to grow in popularity and other presentations and venues are already scheduled for early 2016 and will continue throughout the year.

## Special Programs and Presentations

### Hoarding

In 2015 Metro continued its participation and partnership with the Traverse Bay Area Hoarding Task Force. The task force was able to coordinate two separate clean-ups in 2015. By providing counseling, support and education several other families have begun their own cleanup efforts and continue to make progress.



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.

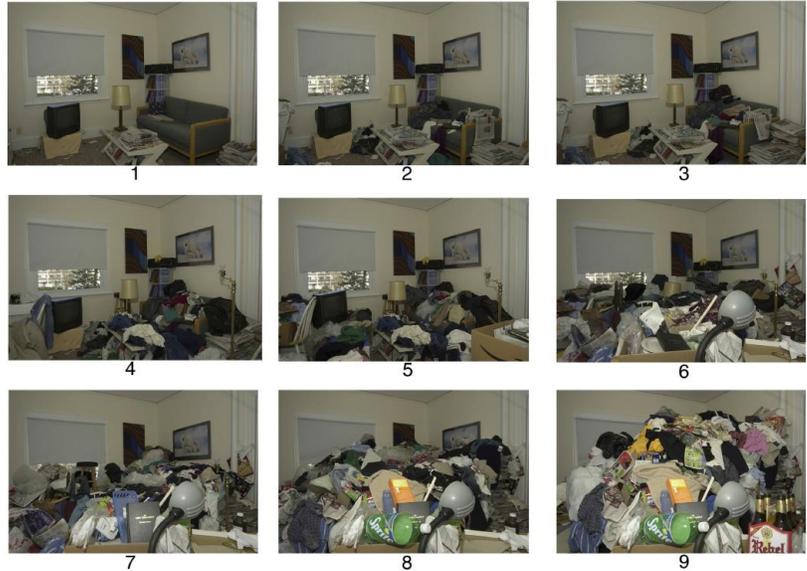
Hoarding homes contain an abnormally high fuel load, that not only increases the chances of a fire occurring, but it also increases the fire intensity and extreme fire behaviors should one happen. In addition it creates many other potential dangers such as: blocked ingress and egress for firefighters 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.

It seems weekly that a new news article is released in the fire service reporting an incident occurring in a home affected by hoarding and the problems responders faced. Awareness on hoarding across the country has skyrocketed. Departments are teaming up and forming task forces including several this past year in the state of Michigan. Despite hoarding being around for hundreds of years, the fire service has traditionally been reactive to the problem. The concept of being proactive by helping identify and help these families, while protecting first responders is a relatively new one.

Metro Fire has evolved from a leadership role in the Traverse Bay Area Hoarding Task Force to one of reporting, protecting responders and providing education to both responders and those families affected by hoarding. The task force is currently rewriting its mission and redrafting policies to better establish itself as a resource for the county in 2016. However, a plan is in place to provide first responders with key information when they have been dispatched to a home with a possible hoarding concern. This system should be running in the first quarter of 2016.

### 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.

## RECOGNITION

In 2015, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Fire & Life Safety Education Program received almost \$3,500.00 in support from The American Legion and the family of the late Randy Agruda. These donations were to be used towards the education of the youth of the area. With these donations Metro was able to purchase a Stop, Drop and Roll inflatable. This inflatable was used at community events throughout 2015 and has already helped over a thousand children understand when it's appropriate to Stop, Drop and Roll as well as give them a fun way to practice. It has a life expectancy of over 20 years and will be utilized yearly, potentially providing generations of children a fire safety education, something Randy Agruda had a passion for. His grandson Memphis was the first to use the inflatable.



## **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 dies or is injured by fire. 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. 2016 will be another year of continuing to expand our fire prevention programs and insure we are reaching our most vulnerable residents. We will continue to steward partnerships with our business community for the protection of lives and assets. We will not rest on our success but continue to strive to prevent injury and death in our communities.

## **Firefighter Class of 2015**

New firefighters Jordan Morgan, Joe Sondreal, Cody Carlson, stand with Chief Parker and Chief Flynn after their graduation at Mt. Zion Church.

Congratulations!



## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

### *Lt. Randy Agruda*

After serving Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department for over 22 years, accepted a full-time position as the Fire and Life Safety Public Educator on May 14, 2015. He was extremely excited over his decision to start a new journey with his fire department family.

Later that night, he left us to be with his heavenly father.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, family and friends celebrated the life of Lt. Agruda and said goodbye to a true friend.

### *Final Call...*

“Lt. Randy Agruda, 723... answered his final call after twenty two years of serving others. Lt. Agruda has joined his heavenly father and is out of service and back at quarters forevermore. May his soul rest in peace.”

*#723forever*



# Randy J Agruda

August 12, 1958 - May 14, 2015

Beloved Father, Son, Friend, and Firefighter

"The best way to find yourself is to lose  
yourself in the service of others."

~ Mahatma Gandhi



## 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](http://www.gt911artifact.com).



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

Our firefighters 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!



Huge thanks to Tony Posey and crew who put down the memorial walkway. It is beautiful and is a great remembrance of those who gave their lives that day. Tony will be cutting in the names yet this fall and continuing the pathway out to the TART Trail. Thanks to all that helped.



## 9/11 MEMORIAL SERVICE

On September 11, 2015 the Metro Fire Department hosted the 14th Anniversary Memorial of the attacks on our Country in New York, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA. Over 75 people attended the event which was carried live on WTCM AM & FM. Our speaker was the brother of our own Firefighter Tim Wrede. Pastor Bill, as we call him, is a Lutheran Pastor and ministered to firefighters and citizens alike on September 11, 2001. He then worked on the pile for the next 7 months helping bring hope to those working. Pastor Bill's message was one of hope and remembrance. He painted a picture for us of what he saw and heard that had us all riveted. We can't thank him enough for traveling here from St. Louis, MO to be with us. He has written a paper called, "Grace at Ground Zero" that will be available to read on our web site soon. It is a must read.



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.

## 2015 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.

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for the purchase of our final LUCAS Chest Compression Devices for approximately \$11,930.

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for the purchase of our Special Operations Trailer for \$9,278.



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

## 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...

### **No Fried Chicken....**

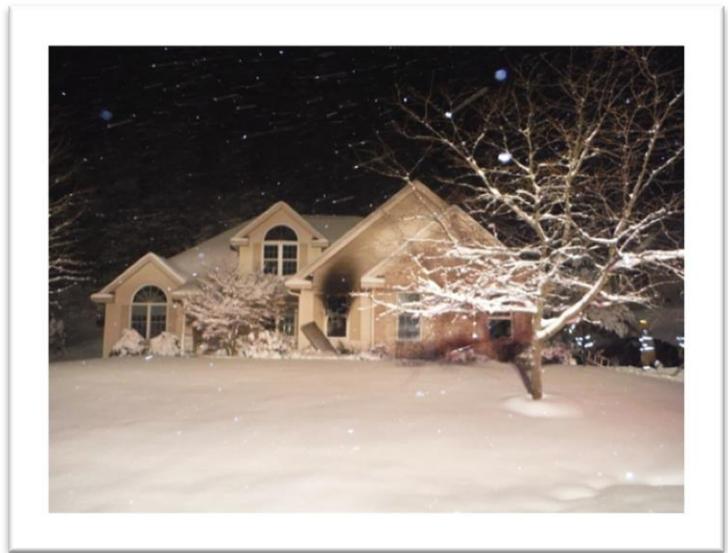
*Crews responded to a Chicken Coop on fire. Even Chickens practiced their fire evacuation plans and safely got out uninjured.*





*Crews responded to a working vehicle fire with explosions in the parking lot of Target. There was minor damage to vehicles next to the burning vehicle.*

*Right: Residential garage fire during a snow storm. A quick response and fire attack extinguished the fire quickly.*



*Left: Open House crew at Station 11...*

*Right: Crews work on techniques for extinguishing vehicle fires.*



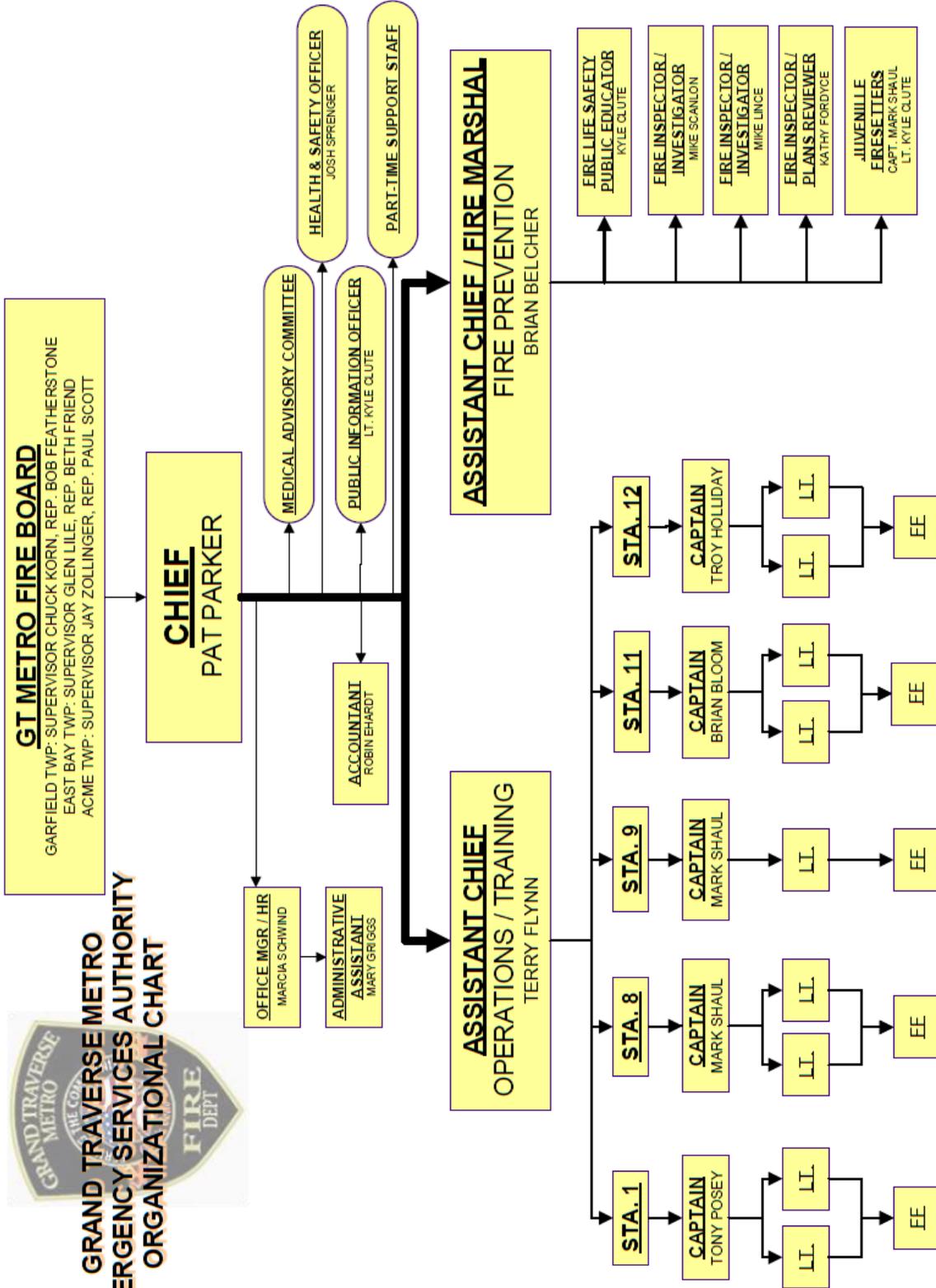
*Left: Nine firefighters participated in a “Light-and-Fight” live fire training at the Illinois Fire Service Institute to gain experience on advancing hose lines in a high rise, search and rescue of victims, and forcible entry under extreme heat and fire conditions.*

*Right: Units responded to a residential fire on M72/US31. Crews lead a quick fire attack to extinguish the fire, even though there was heavy congestion on US 31 due to road construction.*





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



OCT 2015

## **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/HR Marcia Schwind  
Administrative Asst Mary Griggs

Insp. / Investigator Mike Lince  
Insp. / Invest. Lt. Mike Scanlon (Sta. 12)  
Inspector Kathy Fordyce  
Public Educator Lt. Kyle Clute (Sta. 11)

### ***Part-Time – Admin***

Medical Dir. Dr. Larry Stalsonburg  
Lt. /HSO Josh Sprenger  
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)  
Firefighter Jake Della Pia (Sta. 8)

### ***Fire Department Chaplains***

Jude Younker  
Vicki Lyon

### ***Part-Time – Suppression and Support Members***

#### **STATION ONE**

Lt Steve Meek	FF Jacob Garris	FF Shawn Stinson	Probation John Flynn
FF Jarod Barber	FF Hal Miller	FF Curtis Walters	Probation Bill Krukowski
FF Chris Doornbos	FF Jordan Morgan	FF Michael Winter	
FF Erin Fluharty	FF David Sicotte	Probation Cody Carlson	

#### **STATION EIGHT**

Lt. Adam Mervau	FF Jacob Della Pia	FF Tom Henkel	FF John Sanborn
FF Mike Bryan	FF Adam Grammer	FF Heather Hess	FF Charles Starkey
FF Mike Courson	FF Brian Haskin	FF Wayne Mervau	Probation Joseph Voilles

#### **STATION NINE**

Lt. Tim Newton	FF Jeff Carpenter	FF Rick Osburn	
FF Matt Adamek	FF Jack Ferris		

#### **STATION ELEVEN**

FF Eric Chryst	FF Bryan Ferguson	FF Josh Morgan	
FF Cory Ellis	FF Daren Mansfield	Probation Mike Sherman	

#### **STATION TWELVE**

FF Lee Bailey	FF Spencer Scanlon	FF Tim Wrede	Explorer Matthew Holliday
FF Austin Groesser	FF Chase Schelling	Probation Amanda Brown	Explorer Riley Dowling
FF Anthony Hoffman	FF Josh Sprenger	Probation Hannah Steed	
FF Cody Lipe	FF Greg Walker	Probation Mike Thomas	
FF Gene Mayo	FF Rick Worm	Explorer Jordan Query	



*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!**