



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## GRAND TRAVERSE METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

*Proudly serving Garfield, Acme, and East Bay Townships*



897 Parsons Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49686

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

# 2016 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 training burn located next to Grand Traverse Academy. This structure was donated to us years ago which allowed us to train many times over the years. Donated structures allow our firefighters to train under real circumstances while maintaining control of the fire. If you have any structures to donate, please contact our Administrative Office.*

*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 2016 annual report. On behalf of the brave 65 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 2016 the department responded to 4619 calls for service which is a 2.3% reduction from the previous year. Medical calls continue to lead our responses with 70% of the calls. We ask a lot of our staff and they always find a way to meet the challenges head on.

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

In April, Grand Traverse County 911 moved to the State 800 MHz digital trunked Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) paid for by 911 surcharge monies. The department took delivery of 70 portable radios and a mobile radio in every fire truck and fire station. Our county was also the first in the country to move to 800 MHz paging. Every firefighter in our department also received this advanced pager. This alone was nearly \$330,000 of equipment just for our department.

A new squad was delivered to Station 11 in Garfield Township replacing a 12-year old SUV. 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.

Station 1 received a new Sea Wolf rescue boat and motor. The Sea Wolf platform is very versatile and can be used in rough waters. This boat will replace the current rescue boat so it can add water rescue capabilities to our west side at Station 12.

Accreditation, an improved ISO Public Protection Classification, and land search for a new fire station in Acme will continue to be an area that we focus our endeavors on again in the new year. Recruitment and retention continue to be a struggle now and into the future. With an improving economy, volunteerism takes a back seat to life, job, and family.

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



## THE DEPARTMENT

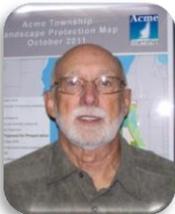
Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (GTMESSA) provides fire and life safety services to Acme Township, East Bay Charter Township and the Charter Township of Garfield since 1980. The GTMESSA Authority Board governs and sets policy for the Department. The board consists of a township supervisor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

### GTMESSA Fire Board:

**2016 Chairman: Beth Friend, Vice Chairman: Jay Zollinger**

#### Acme Township

Supervisor Jay Zollinger



Rep. Paul Scott



#### East Bay Township

Supervisor Beth Friend



Rep. Glen Lile



#### Garfield Township

Supervisor Chuck Korn



Rep. Lanie McManus



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



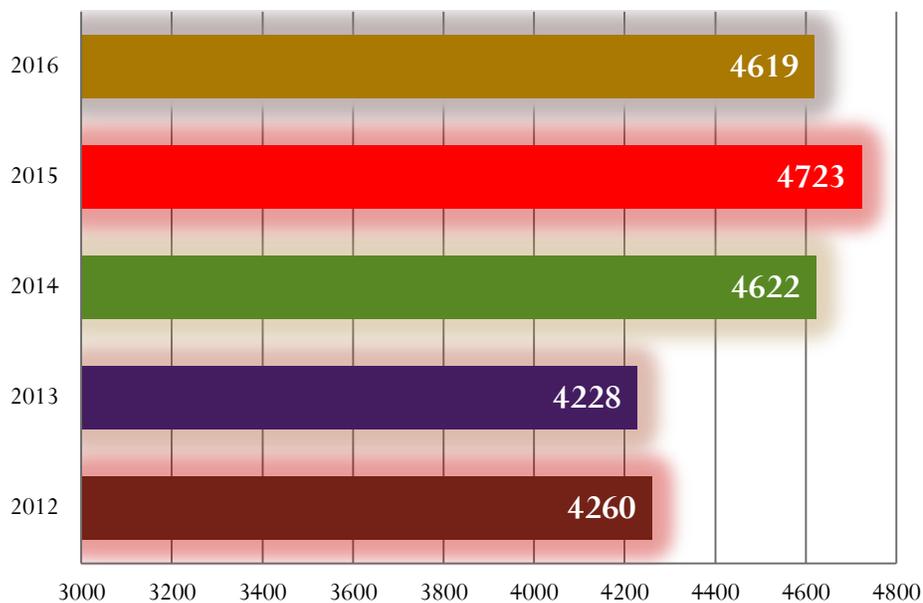
## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department responded to 4,619 incidents in 2016.

A decrease of 2.3% of incidents from 2015.



### Year After Year Incident Comparison

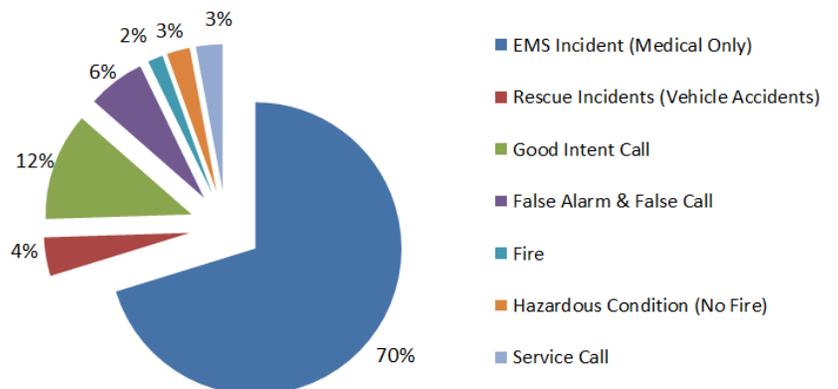


Statistics for the last few years shows our growth of incidents in the Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships.

*\*2015 total represents the high wind storm that created a large amount of incidents in one day.*

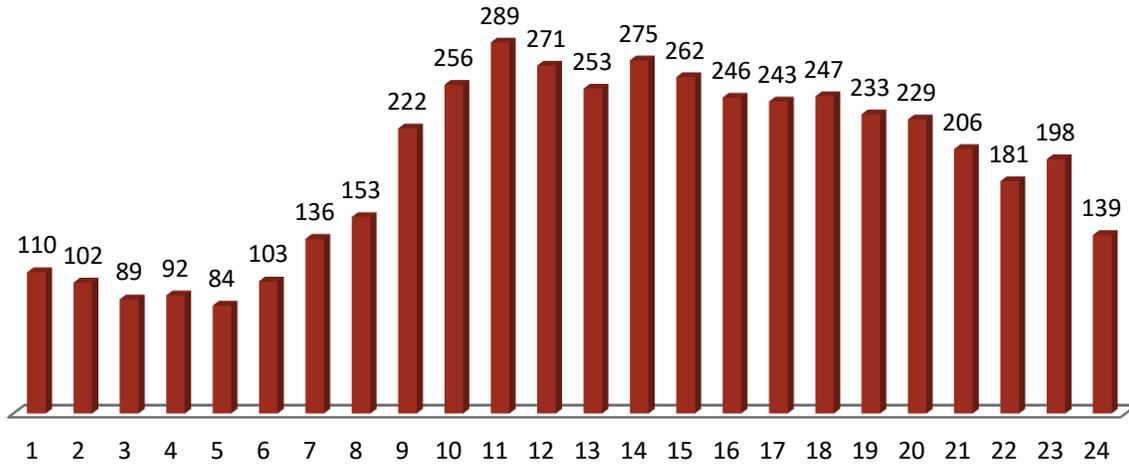
### 2016 Total Incident Percentages

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



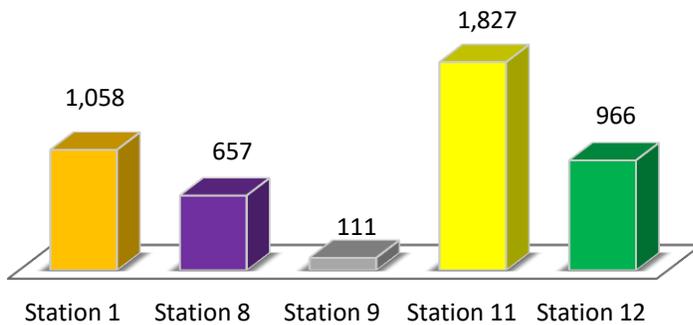
## Total Incidents by Hour of Day

■ Total Incidents for 2016



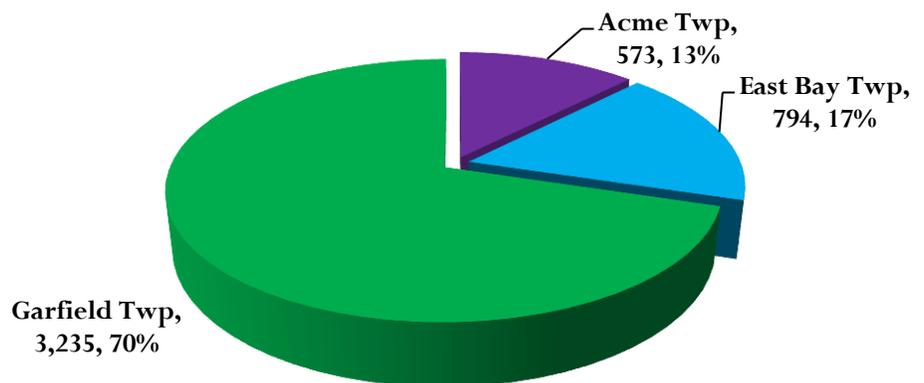
Incidents by Station does not represent assistance to the other stations for additional manpower, apparatus, or to cover for multiple incidents.

## 2016 Incidents by Station



## Total Incidents By Township = 4,619

*Mutual Aid to other Twp = 17 incidents, 0%*



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Of the GTMESA's emergency calls, 70% 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 2016, rescue units responded to 197 motor vehicle incidents, which at least 16 of them required extrication of victims.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians cannot be thanked enough for the grant monies used to purchase LUCAS Chest Compression Systems in both 2014 and 2015. These lifesaving tools have continued to pay dividends to our citizens. Without this generous grant money we would not have resuscitated nearly as many of our patients during their cardiac events.



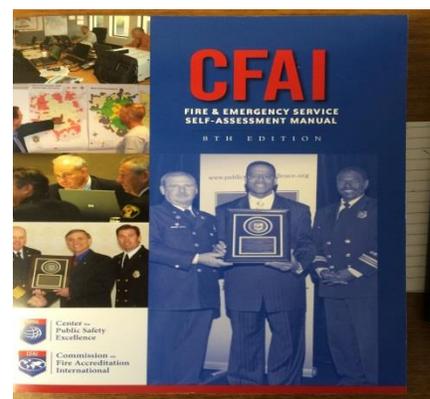
## FIRE SUPPRESSION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016

by Asst. Chief Steve Apostal

This was a year of change in the Operations Division and for the department. Assistant Chief Terry Flynn, who has done many great things in aiding the growth and development of the department retired in July of 2016. I have been honored to replace him, though filling his shoes will be a tough act to follow, I plan on aiding in the growth of and future enhancement of the department and its personnel for many years to come.

## ACCREDITATION

GTMESA has continued in its quest for accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). We have moved to a registered status with the CPSE. 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 saw an improvement in its ISO classification in 2012 from a 6 to a 5. GTMESA has set a goal to receive an even better ISO classification. The department started working with a consultant in identifying areas where we can improve our level of service and further lower our ISO score. This will take up much of 2017 so that we can provide both our residents and business owners with lower insurance premiums and an even higher quality of service.

## **STATISTICS**

GTMESA saw a decrease of 2.3% in its call volume for the 2016 year. Medical calls account for 70% of all calls. Station 11 off Veteran's Drive was again the busiest in the Metro area with 1,827 calls for service.

## **SPECIAL RESPONSE CAPABILITIES**

GTMESA continues to develop our personnel and equipment cache to respond to a multitude of disciplines including hazardous material incidents, search and rescue for missing and lost persons, ice water rescue, and extrication techniques.

The department added an additional marine unit providing for faster responses to our entire district. Both units are on trailers and loaded with needed equipment to aid in quick deployment. Marine 1 responds to the numerous lakes in East Bay Township, the East Arm of Grand Traverse Bay in both East Bay and Acme Township. Marine 12 located on the west side covers Garfield Township's Silver Lake and can be utilized along the Boardman River.

Additional air monitors were added to the department's hazardous materials equipment and response vehicles. Along with a variety of detection equipment, GTMESA is able to identify numerous hazards to provide for the safety of our workers and the community. These instruments require regular maintenance and calibrating which is overseen by Lt Adam Drewery instead of years past when these instruments were required to be sent out to a private party at a higher cost. Grant funding aided in adding four new Level-A Hazardous Material suits. These provide for a high level of safety when entering hazardous environments to identify and control a variety of leaks and spills.

Work continues on the Bay Area Technical Rescue Team with members from GTMESA and surrounding departments developing an annual training plan that will see training throughout the year to enhance the areas first responders for unusual or particularly challenging incidents. A grant was submitted to FEMA's Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) in an effort to increase the equipment available to the team. The equipment would aid tremendously in both trench rescue and structural collapse incidents in Northern Michigan. Word on the grant is expected during the summer of 2017.

## **TRAINING**

GTMESA continues to develop employees with a variety of educational opportunities. Many of our command staff and firefighters attend classes at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The

costs of these programs are minimal to the department, as the cost for the course and lodging is covered by the federal government. In addition, travel expenses are reimbursed for members attending.

We continue to send firefighters to the University of Illinois Fire Service Institutes “Light and Fight” training program. This intense training features numerous live fire training incidents that would be difficult if not impossible to recreate in the Grand Traverse area.



With the continued development of both Lieutenants Chris Comeaux and Steve Meek, GTMESA will be able to hold live fire training when the opportunities exist and structures are donated to the department prior to their demolition. This will allow for continued development and reinforce lessons learned in Illinois.

In 2017, the department will continue to enhance the pool of instructors available to teach a variety of courses here. The development of these personnel will aid in the departments growth and succession planning years down the road.

## **STAFFING**

GTMESA continues to utilize a flexible scheduling program to assure staffing during times of increased run volume. 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 one of them is on call while away from the office. The GTMESA roster of fire personnel continues to decrease as in years past. The numbers tend to fluctuate due to members that either seek full time firefighting jobs elsewhere or with improved economic times find other jobs. We continue to bring new members on and aid in providing training in both medical and fire disciplines. In December 2016, we added FF / Paramedic Curtis Walters to our full-time firefighter roster along with Lt. Kyle Clute in summer 2016 that replaced two veteran firefighters that retired. This brought all duty shifts to the same level of full-time firefighters.

## **VEHICLE MAINTENANCE**

A goal for 2017 will be to better determine the needs of our fleet maintenance program assuring that all vehicles are operating at their capabilities providing for safer responses and fire operations when crews are in hostile work environments. We hope this work will extend the life of our fleet and prevent unnecessary breakdowns of equipment all while providing lower operating costs during their expected lifetimes.

## **HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

The physical health, Fitness for Duty, and safety of all personnel are priorities of GTMESA. 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**

Station 1 is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year of operation as a fire station in the Metro District. Station 1 is located in East Bay Township in the Three Mile Industrial Park. Station 1 saw a decrease of 160 calls from 2015 for a total of 1058 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 the central hub 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. We continue to build upon our Hazardous Materials and Technical rescue programs under the direction of our officers.

The continuation of the Safe Neighborhood campaign was again very successful for 2016. We’ve now covered a majority of our first due area speaking with residents and installing alarms. Unfortunately, smoke alarms are often an oversight by most homeowners. We take pride in educating the public and providing

this service to keep everyone safe. We will continue this program into the future until all of our citizens have working smoke alarms. If you are in need of smoke alarms, please visit one of our stations!

The Company Inspection program was a huge benefit to our suppression personnel last year as well. 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. We appreciate the cooperation and understanding of our business owners to not only keep your property and businesses safe, but also to assist in educating our firefighters in the event they have to respond to your building in an emergency.

Station 1 consisted of 17 members in 2016 under the direction of Captain Tony Posey and Lieutenants Andy Doornbos, Adam Drewery, and Steve Meek. One new probationary member was assigned to Station 1 during 2016.

In the Fall of 2016, Metro Fire added its second SeaWolf rescue boat to its fleet. This is a twin boat to the one purchased and put into service in 2010. These rescue boats are critical to the mission of our department, and assist in protecting the multiple waterways in the Metro district. The new rescue boat was placed into service at Station 1 as Marine 1. The old rescue boat was moved to Station 12 and recommissioned as Marine 12 to service the west side of our area.

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

2016 was the year that Station 8 and Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department lost 96 years of experience with the resignation and retirement of Tom Henkel, John Sanborn, and Rob Harvey.

Station 8 is still operating at the same address as previous years. The work continues by Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority to obtain the best location for a new Station 8 with the amenities offered in a modern fire station. Along with the problem of operating in a station that is short on room for both apparatus and personnel, the station does not meet current code for manning 24 hours a day. The personnel had to shower in the apparatus area, share a bathroom with Acme Township, sleep on a roll away cot in the meeting room, and if they wanted to have a hot meal they had to use the gas grill that was located outside or the microwave. Due to code issues related to the manning of Station 8 with personnel, a temporary crew trailer had to be located next to the station. This crew trailer gives the crew a kitchen, a separate bathroom(s) with showers, and sleeping quarters. This allowed for the meeting area in the station to be utilized for a meeting room and the Crew Trailer as an area for the Metro Fire and North Flight crews to have an area to cook, relax, and sleep if able. We are still short on room for our apparatus which causes slower response as vehicles have to be moved to allow other vehicles to respond. This cramped condition plays into safety issues when responding and returning to the station after the incident and repositioning the apparatus so they all fit in the station. Hopefully this will all be resolved in the very near future when land is secured and a new Station 8 will be built.



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

Station 9 is struggling with fire code issues that are very similar to Station 8. Both stations were built when the furthest thought was to have these stations occupied with personnel 24 hours a day. In the case of Station 9, a very successful Residential Program had to be discontinued due to the inability to house firefighters overnight in the station. The Residential Program was developed to allow firefighters to live at Station 9 in exchange for responding to incidents during periods when no other firefighters were available at the station.



Station 9's response area has continued to grow with larger year round homes and developed subdivisions where just a few years ago there was nothing but hay and corn fields and seasonal cottages around the lakes. Commercial development also continues to see larger buildings with diverse occupancies that will require a changed response from GTMESA and Station 9 than in the past. Currently you are seeing our partner, East Bay Ambulance, attempting to move from Basic Life Support to Advance Life Support Service and 24/7 manning. These changes will require alterations in services that are provided and the equipment that we will need. The days of a volunteer firefighter/EMT responding from home or work for an incident isn't gone but it's a fading system that has a hard time performing to the level that the taxpayers expect. Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority is constantly reviewing and introducing new response models for future incident needs. I feel that in the next couple of years this will result in major consideration for the changes needed to meet the challenges of the response area for Station 9.

Please attend the Famous Annual "Station 9 Pancake Breakfast", being held this year on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

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

Station 11 finished out 2016 with 1,827 runs. This is an increase of 145 runs from 2015, and does not include responses into Station 12 or Station 1's area. This equates to almost 40% of GTMESA's total run volume for the year.



Station 11 brought on three new members in 2016:

- Eric Seaburg returned to Metro after a several year hiatus and completed and passed his National Registry MFR.
- Zach Miller came to us with no experience and completed and passed his National Registry MFR. He is currently attending fire school at the RTC.
- Alex Werly came to us with no experience and completed and passed his National Registry MFR. He is currently attending fire school at the RTC.

Lt. Kyle Clute, FF Cory Ellis, FF Matt Adamek, and FF Curtis Walters obtained his Fire Instructor I certifications. With this certification, they will able to teach at the RTC as an instructor during our fire school.

Station 11's old Suburban, Squad 11, was replaced with a 2016 Ford F-250 crew cab. The bed is equipped with a roll-out equipment rack and carries a full complement of medical equipment as well as our water rescue equipment.

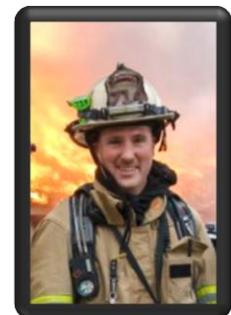
As the busiest Station in Metro, Station 11 has hosted several of the Department's F-2 members to increase their patient contact and run volumes, in turn boosting their confidence to handle calls and assess and treat patients appropriately.



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

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 was a challenge during the 2016 Presidential Election, but with the help of Grand Traverse Road Commission and Grand Traverse Sheriff Officers by providing lower speed signs and cones, it allowed for a safer entrance and exit from the parking lot.

It's always 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. We would like to say "Thank you" to our community for helping keep our areas safe. We have more smoke alarms arriving, so we will be back out to our area to ensure the safety of our citizens.

Garfield Township is growing and we are expecting our call volume to increase in the upcoming years. In 2016 we ended the year with a total of 966 calls.

After having a few non-emergent water rescue incidents at Silver Lake, we have received a new marine unit for the west side of town. A new unit was placed at Station 1 that will be better equipped to handle the rougher waters of East Bay, while the current boat came over to handle Silver Lake. Our crews continue to train and get familiar with water rescue techniques.



# **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 – 2016**

Yes, 2016 was a year of challenges for the Fire Prevention Bureau. With the retirement of a Fire Inspector and the Public Educator moving back to a full time firefighter position much of the year we operated short staffed while trying to maintain the same levels of service. Both positions were filled with Firefighter Eric Chryst hired as the Fire Inspector/ Investigator and Jennifer Ritter hired as the new Fire and Life Safety Public Educator. Both new employees have hit the ground running and have been a great addition to the fire prevention team. 2016 also saw us having to limit our Safe Neighborhood campaign due to a shortage of smoke alarms and funding. Sources of permanent funding are being explored with hopes to continue this vital program.

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 in 2016. 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 Inspectors 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.

With the increased demand for plan reviews, administration of programs and the need for succession planning within the organization, the Plan Reviewer position was filled in 2016 with the promotion of Inspector Kathy Fordyce into this position.

In 2016 we continued our contract with the Grand Traverse County Construction Code Office to provide plan review services of fire protection systems to areas outside our own jurisdiction. 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. Beginning January 1, 2017 the City of Traverse City Fire Department will be taking over all plan reviews within the city limits. This will help us concentrate more on our own programs.

The Bureau continues to be staffed by the Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal, two Fire Inspectors/ Investigators, a Fire Plans Examiner/ Fire Inspector, the Public and Life Safety Educator, two JFS Counselors (as needed) and a GIS data coordinator (part-time).

## PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Of the 37 reported structure fires in district in 2016, 25 occurred in single family residential occupancies while 7 occurred in multi-family/residential rentals and 5 in commercial/ industrial properties. All fires resulted in a total loss of \$1,235,125.00 with reported total property valuations of \$8,446,300.00. This represents a total percent of property saved over 85.4%. Fires in commercial/industrial occupancies (inspected) resulted in losses of \$57,250.00. The largest loss in 2016 was a single family home fire with a loss of \$623,000.00 for the home and the contents. The home was in the very most remote, rural portion of our district and was a total loss upon our arrival on scene. There was significant delay in the fire being reported and was thought to be in another fire district which delayed our response. The fire cause was accidental via the improper disposal of smoking materials.

Cooking and improper disposal of smoking materials were the leading causes of fire in 2016. This follows national trends and shows where our public education messaging needs to focus in the coming year.

In 2016, we saw 0 civilian fire fatalities and 1 civilian injury which was an anxiety attack due to the incident.

These low loss numbers can be attributed to the investment in fire prevention/ public education and also to the quick, efficient response of suppression crews.

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

### Occupancy Type Data - # of Fires

Single Family Residential	25	Garfield Twp	13
Multi-Family Residential	7	East Bay Twp	16
Commercial/Industrial/Retail	5	Acme Twp	8
Assembly/ Restaurants	0		

## INSPECTIONS

Two Fire Inspectors and nine company inspectors currently perform inspections on all 2960 existing occupancies within the district: Acme Twp- 312, East Bay Twp- 423 and Garfield Twp 2225. A total of 1213 annual inspections were performed. Out of these, 1160 re-inspections were required. There were 150 Firefighter Right to Know updates performed in 2016 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 24 public complaints were investigated last year. Other activities involve: 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. We also saw the continuation of 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.

In 2016, the full implementation of the new software program allows all Inspectors to perform the inspections on a Microsoft tablet while out in the field. All reports are emailed directly to the occupants while the Inspector is still on site. This technology allows 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 thru 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

2015 / 2016	ACME		EASTBAY		GARFIELD		TOTAL	
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS	129	105	174	137	960	731	1263	973
RE-INSPECTIONS	129	158	174	176	806	826	1109	1160
FF RIGHT TO KNOW	24	4	15	7	83	109	122	120
PLAN REVIEWS	27	28	36	34	116	139	179	201
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	51	35	57	44	235	207	343	286
SPECIAL EVENTS	4	7	9	10	10	17	23	34
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE (INCLUDES COMPLAINTS)	6	4	2	4	24	16	32	24
COMPANY INSPECTIONS		22		28		190	149	240
TOTAL ACTIVITY	370	401	467	509	2239	2517	3071	3453

## **PLAN REVIEW**

Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal Belcher and Plans Examiner/ Fire Inspector Fordyce continue to perform all plan reviews and related inspections. 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 was continued in 2016 with the exception that Traverse City Fire Department began performing all related field inspections in the city and Metro continued to perform plan reviews for projects within the city. The Plans Examiner/ Fire Inspector position was filled in 2016 with the promotion of Inspector Kathy Fordyce. Inspector Fordyce had been performing the duties since 2015 and this was merely an update of job description to match actual work being performed and to maintain a certain level of redundant knowledge within the organization to insure continued operations in the event of an absence. A total of 294 plan reviews, not including related inspections, were conducted in 2016. Of those, 203 (69%) were for in district projects and 91 (31%) were conducted for out of district projects. These out of district reviews/inspections generated approximately \$25,434.07 in revenue in 2016. In district revenues for plan reviews for 2016 were \$47,583.72. Beginning January 1, 2017 Traverse City Fire Department will take over performing all plan reviews and inspections for projects within the city. In 2016, projects within the city generated \$20,149.07 in revenue. This will be lost in 2017, although not performing these services outside of our district will free up staff time to work on projects, programs and administration of our own district and its residents.

## **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.

2016 saw reduced efforts in the door to door aspects of the program due to a lack of smoke alarms. The 1500 alarms received from the Home Depot grant were depleted and 100 alarms were purchased from budget to fulfill the requests received from the public to have alarms checked. Continued work is ongoing to secure funding through grants and reduced pricing in order to sustain the program.

On April 2, 2016 we worked with BC Pizza in Garfield Township to deliver pizzas. Pizza deliveries were conducted with a Metro fire engine. Upon arrival firefighters performed Safe Neighborhood services and checked the residents smoke alarms. If the home had working smoke alarms their order was free. If they did not, firefighters would replace batteries/alarms so they would have working smoke alarms when firefighters left their home. Of the three deliveries in the designated 4 hour timeframe, 2 received their order for free and one did not have any working smoke alarms. This program would not have been possible without the generous donations by BC Pizza.

On April 23, 2016 all five stations conducted a neighborhood smoke alarm blitz where for 4 hours on that day firefighters were out performing Safe Neighborhood activities. During this 4 hour block of time, 131 smoke alarms were installed throughout the district.

2016 fire responses show 18% of homes did not have smoke alarms and that 12% had smoke alarms but they did not function during the fire. Our data from 2015 fire responses shows that 22% of homes with fires did not have any smoke alarms and that 4% had alarms but they did not function during a fire. This equates to 30% of the homes in our area that had fires in 2015 did not have a working smoke alarm; this is still an unacceptable number, although this is down from 2015 where 44% 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 2016 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 2870 homes and either performed the services (checked/replaced batteries or smoke alarms) or left a program door hanger when no one has been home so the occupants may call for services. In 2016, 406 smoke alarms were installed in 160 homes. We had 70 face to face contacts were made with residents during the door to door sweeps (486 in 2015) with 66 door hangers placed if no one was home (728 in 2015), this equals 136 homes that were visited during the door to door Safe Neighborhood campaign in 2016 (1214 in 2015). These numbers are down drastically as our inventory of smoke alarms was depleted and we struggled to find funding for more alarms. We are hopeful 2017 will bring more funding to the program and a return to previous levels of service and homes visited. 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.” 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/ Investigator Mike Scanlon, Inspector/Investigator Eric Chryst and Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal Belcher. 2016 saw a total of 28 investigations performed by Investigators, including both vehicle and structure fires. Of those, 2 fires were intentionally set and resolved with three referrals to the Youth Fire Setter program for one of the fires and the other fire subject was prosecuted for the crime. These do not represent all fires in 2016 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. The Sheriff's Office has two newly trained Investigators that we look forward to working with. 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 2016 four subjects from inside our district and four subjects from outside our district were referred to the program. In late 2016 we instituted a fee schedule for cost recovery of performing these counseling sessions for subjects from outside our district. This fee will be sent to the referring agency for payment. Our Youth Fire setter Counselor positions continue to be filled by Capt. Mark Shaul and Lt. Kyle Clute. Public Educator Jen Ritter is interested in becoming a YFS counselor and can bring a needed perspective to the program when females are attending counseling sessions. We will be looking to send her to training in 2017 to become a counselor. Capt. Shaul recently attended the National Fire Academy for further certification.

## **FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY – PUBLIC EDUCATION ... Jennifer Ritter**



Having a strong and effective Fire and Life Safety Education Program is vital to reducing the risks of injury and death to our communities. This year saw Lt. Kyle Clute choose to return back to his full time firefighter position after 1 year of service in public education. After a scrutinizing hiring process we are lucky to have Jennifer Ritter fill this position. Jen comes to us with over 16 years of injury prevention education in our northern region and was very familiar with our needs and our programming. Jennifer brings with her the Safe Kids USA curriculums. Safe Kids USA is a national program of evidence based

safety programs, resources and funding that is used by local communities to address injury prevention to children. Grand Traverse Metro has signed an agreement with Safe Kids USA to allow us to be a designated Safe Kids host agency allowing us access to these resources.

The Fire and Life Safety Education Program of Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department has provided public education programs for the citizens of Grand Traverse Metro Fire District 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.

By utilizing the concept of community risk reduction where local and national statistical data is compiled, our educational programming targets specific risks to our community. This allows for the development of additional programs and additional target populations served. Utilizing this concept we continued in our effort to reach more citizens with fire safety messages. 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 the 2016 Fire Prevention Week theme *Don't Wait- Check The Date*, November – *Practice Home Safety Today/ Keep Kids 3 Feet Away*, December- *Stuff The Stocking-Not The Outlets*. 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 which local statistics show will only continue to grow. This confirms the importance of our Remembering When program which is geared to fire and fall safety in the home for seniors.



### **RISK WATCH:**

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 by trauma. Each year, unintentional injuries kill more than 6,000 kids and permanently disable more than 120,000. In 2016 Munson Medical Center Trauma Services completed a comprehensive report from historical data on all childhood age injuries that led to emergency room visits. This data was provided to the Risk Watch coalition and changes were made to the type of programs delivered through the Risk Watch program for the 2016/17 school year in order to address the highest risk categories of local injuries.



In 2016 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 seven causes of injuries and deaths of youth according to the Munson Trauma study.

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, Home Town Health, The Grand Traverse Sheriff’s Dept., Safe Kids North Shore, North Flight, The US Coast Guard, The Coast Guard Auxiliary, The Grand Traverse Sail and Power Squadron, Blair Twp. Fire Dept. and the Michigan State Police. Risk Watch continues to be by invitation at the discretion of the school principal, although we continue efforts to expand the program into more area schools



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

In 2016 we were once again very busy with our community outreach programs. These programs cover everything from neighborhood block parties to safety days at area stores, school career days, community festivals, conference expo’s, a CPR class hosted at station 11 and our continued participation in the car seat checks for proper fit and installation. It would not be possible for us to cover so many of these events without the cooperation of our firefighters who perform many of these programs. They do an outstanding job of educating the public and representing Metro Fire in a professional manner at these very visible events.

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PROGRAMS

In 2016 we received a new “live fire” fire extinguisher training tool. Training programs were presented at numerous business and industry facilities within the district and has proven very popular with everyone asking for additional training. Approximately 400 persons from area business and industry were trained in the proper use of a fire extinguisher with this new tool. 2016 also saw the kickoff of our programs to provide emergency evacuation/ emergency planning programs to area business and industry. This has been a requested service for some time and was very well received. This program will be expanding in 2017 with many more requests coming in due to word of mouth and our marketing of the program.



## **OLDER ADULTS – REMEMBERING WHEN**

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 and are a significant portion of the populations of our communities.

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. The Fire and Life Safety Public Educator coordinates the delivery of the Remembering When Program with the local 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.

## **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 or other preventable trauma. 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. 2017 will be another year of continuing to expand our fire prevention programs and ensure we are reaching our most vulnerable residents. Many of these programs would not be possible without the support and cooperation of our firefighters in the fire stations. They are the ones who attend and deliver so many of these programs in such a professional manner. I hope this level of cooperation will continue in the future so we may continue to deliver such a wide variety of programs and prevention services to our residents and business owners. We are fortunate to have such well-rounded and effective fire prevention and public education programs that reach so many within our communities. This is all due to one simple fact; our employees! They are passionate, hardworking individuals whose teamwork mentality cannot compare. They are selfless in the mission of providing the best possible prevention and education to our residents and taxpayers. The GTMESA Board and the townships of Garfield, Acme and East Bay should be proud of the fact that they have one of the best, most comprehensive fire prevention and injury prevention programs found anywhere. We will continue to steward partnerships in the community

for the protection of lives and assets. We will not rest on our success but continue to strive to prevent injury and death in our communities to the best of our abilities.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### 9/11 MEMORIAL

The 9/11 Artifact that Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department retrieved from New York City in 2011 has been permanently placed behind the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department Admin Office at 897 Parsons Rd, Traverse City MI 49686. This is located at N Three Mile Rd/Parsons Rd in East Bay Township of Grand Traverse County. More information can be found at [www.gt911artifact.com](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 began construction on the memorial walkway in the spring of 2015. Brick pavers memorializing all 343 firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11/2001 will be installed, so we NEVER FORGET!



## 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 Senior Technician Jennifer Ritter. 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 231-947-3000 ext 1234 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.



## IN REMEMBRANCE

GTMESSA lost long time board member Bob Featherstone due to a long illness. Bob was a Korean War veteran and local businessman. He served on the Metro board for 6 years and was on the oversight committee for the construction of Station 12. Bob, R.I.P. you will be missed.



## RECOGNITION AWARDS

(some awards from past years being presented)

### LIFE SAVING AWARD

On December 18<sup>th</sup> of this past year, off duty FF Cody Lipe and his family were driving on 31 South with ice cream as their destination. Cody witnessed a mini van driven by James Soper crossed 4 lanes of traffic and careened down a 50-foot embankment. He initiated the 911 system with the help of his wife Emily. He made his way down to the vehicle in his street clothes in 9 degree blowing snow conditions. With the vehicle locked and with an unresponsive subject, he forced entry to the driver's side window and found a patient in full cardiac arrest. He dragged Mr. Soper out of the vehicle and initiated CPR on the victim. Law Enforcement and GT Metro personnel soon arrived. FF Lipe continued to direct responders to the situation at hand which increased the successful outcome that was achieved. With CPR continuing, an AED was placed on the victim and a shock given in the snow next to the vehicle in the field. A stokes basket was lowered and the victim was dragged up to US31 S where it was noted that he was breathing on his own. FF Lipe never backed off from the situation and was with Mr. Soper as he was loaded into the back of NF 11. From all accounts, Mr. Soper would not be here today if it were not for the quick actions and skill of off duty FF Cody Lipe. The Grand Traverse Metro FD is proud to bestow a Lifesaving Award to FF/EMT Cody Lipe. Present is James Soper himself and Sheila Pickard and his mother who would like to personally thank FF Lipe and present the Lifesaving Award to Cody.



*Picture: Mr. Soper gives FF Lipe the Life Saving Award*

### **LIFE SAVING AWARD**

On July 13, 2014 Engine 11, Truck 1, Engine 12, and 702 were dispatched to a possible residential unit on fire. Neighbors could hear smoke alarms and smoke showing from the apartment on Feiger Lane. Alpha 5 and Engine 11 arrived on scene with nothing showing. After a quick discussion with neighbors and smoke alarms ringing, Lt. Clute & FF Sprenger determined that the apartment was on fire and called for a second alarm. After assuring that backdraft conditions were not present, Lt. Clute made entry and found brownish black smoke banked within a foot of the floor. With the help of a TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera) and shouting for occupants, Lt. Clute found a 53-year-old male on the floor semi-conscious. Lt. Clute crawled into the bedroom and then dragged the victim from the bedroom, down the hallway and outside to the awaiting EMS crews. Due to his quick action and selfless courage, the victim was transported to MMC for severe smoke inhalation where he made a recovery. The GTMFD would like to bestow a Lifesaving Award to Lt. Kyle Clute and a Unit Citation to his partner Josh Sprenger.



### **LIFE SAVING AWARD**

On October 25, 2012 at 15:45 in the afternoon, Metro was dispatched to the Pinestead Reef along with North Flight and the Sheriff Marine Division for 3 people in a kayak that need assistance. While enroute, dispatch notified us that one person was in the water and had lost contact with his kayak and two others were holding onto the kayak. This Fall afternoon was not the greatest kayaking weather as the temperature was a cold 45 degrees with the wind out of the SW at 11 mph with gusts to 28 mph. Dressed in exposure suits, Lt. Francisco and FF Joe Byrne launched Metro Marine 1 into the moderate chop of East Bay with 2 foot waves. With help from shore personnel, Francisco & Byrne were able to locate and pull the 2 female kayakers onto Marine 1. It was obvious that the male victim was in distress as they witnessed him go under water numerous times. None of the victims were wearing life jackets and had been in the water for 20 minutes. Francisco and Byrne knew they didn't have much time. With Lt. Francisco at the helm, he brought the victim down the starboard side of the boat where FF Byrne hooked the patient's arm and they both hauled him onto Marine 1. The male victim was exhausted and told Metro crews that he had given up and was ready to die. All three victims were transported to MMC where they were treated for severe hypothermia. Due to the quick action, skill, and training of these firefighters, three citizens are alive today. The GTMFD is proud to bestow on Lt. Gary Francisco and FF Joe Byrne the Lifesaving award.



### **UNIT CITATION**

On the morning of June 6, 2016 Metro's tones dropped for a PIA with entrapment in front of the Hampton Inn on US 31 North. Truck One, Rescue 1, and Engine 8 were dispatched. 701 & 703 arrived first on scene with 701 assuming command. A black Buick Lacrosse was on its side into a Chevy van driven by Mr. Dale Thornburg. Rescue 1 & Truck 1 arrived with Lt. Doornbos and FF Krukowski and they placed the rescue into oncoming traffic as to protect responders on scene. Both vehicles were stabilized. *PLEASE NOTE THIS*, 701 & 703 used rescue tools to access the Buick where they realized the driver was deceased. The driver of the Chevy van was pinned by the steering wheel and door of his vehicle. Because both cars were intertwined and any movement would cause undo tamponade to Mr. Thornburg. Through the collaboration of North Flight EMS, Brickyard Towing and Metro, Mr. Thornburg was finally freed after almost 1 hour of very technical and deliberate actions by all. With all my 34 years of thinking I've seen it all; I've never seen an incident where crews threw the entire "kitchen sink" at the incident in order to have a positive outcome. Because of this, The GTMFD would like to bestow a Unit Citation to the crew of Run # 1896 for their quick actions, team effort, determination, and a can-do attitude for the positive outcome of the extrication of Mr. Thornburg. Our hearts go out to the family of the victim of the Buick Lacrosse. Would Lt. Andy Doornbos, FF Shawn Stinson, FF Bill Krukowski, FF Matt Adamek, Lt. Mike Scanlon, FF Jon Flynn, Capt. Mark Shaul, Lt. Adam Mervau, Cody Lipe, Asst. Chief Belcher, Chief Parker, and North Flight Paramedics Osburn & Mervau, please come forward to accept the GTMFD's Unit Citation for a job well done!



### **UNIT CITATION**

On July 27, 2016 at 15:46 hours, Station's 1, 8, & 9 were dispatched to a cabin that was struck by lightning and was now on fire. Station 1's squad and truck were at Station 9 for training and responded with Tanker 9. Squad 1 and Lt. Francisco arrived to learn that the cabin was on what is known as Huckleberry Island which is in the middle of Lake Arbutus. Fire crews commandeered pontoon and fishing boats to take firefighters and tools over to extinguish the fire. When crews arrived on the island they found a rustic cabin with moderate smoke and flames showing on the southwest corner of the cabin. Lightning had struck a pine tree next to the cabin and traveled to the well pump located in the kitchen. A successful suppression attack was made by using water extinguishers and simple hand tools. When Marine 1 finally arrived with the float pump and 1 inch wildland hose the fire had been knocked down and all that was needed was to extinguish hot spots and mop up. This was an incredible save due to the extraordinary conditions that had to be overcome. Due to the quick action, training, ingenuity, and commandeering skills, the 80-year-old family island cabin will be around for their fun for many years to come. The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department would like to give unit citations to Capt. Shaul, Lt. Francisco, Lt. Newton, Lt. Lemcool, FF Sicotte, and FF Stinson. Gentlemen, job well done!





### **EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR**

This is a new award that will be given out annually. As nearly 70% of our calls are medical, we felt that EMS excellence should be rewarded.

The recipient of this award is a 5-year veteran of the department. He came to Metro as a very shy unaggressive person. We sure have corrupted him because he isn't that now! This recipient has become a very capable caring and compassionate EMS provider. He has his patients' best interests at heart and isn't afraid to perform interventions that many are intimidated to do. This person recently completed his studies as a National Registered Paramedic. Please congratulate the 2016 EMS Provider of the Year, Paramedic Jarod Barber.

### **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

The recipient of this award has never used the words "No can do!" There isn't a more positive person. Captain Shaul writes in his submission: This awardee has the spirit and passion that makes the difference every time. He is the one that tries to be part of a solution to the problem before you even hear there is a problem. He shows up for duty ready to get at whatever is in front of him without any hesitation. He has the respect of everyone that comes in contact with him. He raises the output of the people around him to work harder and to be more professional. He makes mistakes and screws up, but he learns from those incidents and researches ways to avoid making the same mistake in the future. I don't see him as a maintainer, I see him maturing into one of our leaders for the future of the department. He is currently a mentor for our newer members and will always take the time to discuss an issue. He will explain how he feels their actions might be better received or have a different result by doing it slightly different. He has many peers but for this year I feel he's the best of the best. Captain Shaul, no one could have said it better. The 2016 Firefighter of the Year is FF and now Paramedic Spencer Scanlon.



## RETIREMENT OF SERVICE



We lost over 145 years of service in 2016 with the retirement of 5 long time members of our department.

Assistant Chief **Terry Flynn** retired after 30+ years in the fire service, 10 years with GTMESA. Chief Flynn moved mountains within our department and we would like to wish him the best of luck with his retirement. *Photo: Left*

It was February 5, 1981 when **John Sanborn** joined Red 9 as a firefighter. John has been a member of Station 9 and Station 8 and even Station 1 when it operated out of the Parson location. John was also one of the original members of the Metro SAR's team. John has resigned from Grand Traverse Metro Fire, but not from the fire

service. He has moved up to Drummond Island and has joined their Fire Department. *No photo*

Metro also saw 27 year veteran **Mike Lince** retire in 2016. Mike came to us from the Resort/Bear Creek FD in Petoskey and rose through the ranks to Battalion Chief of Station 1. Mike became a full time inspector with Metro in 2005 and worked hard to achieve his Inspector & Investigator credentials. Mike gave great leadership to the opening of the "new" Station 1. In 2016 the International Association of Arson Investigators – Michigan Chapter recognized Mike with their Lifetime Achievement Award. We wish Mike the best in his retirement and we thank him for his many years of service! *Photo: Right*



After 46 years of dedication to the fire service **Tom Henkel** has decided this past year to hang up his helmet for the last time. His retirement from GT Metro was effective on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Tom's contribution to the fire service for northern Michigan will continue to touch the ones that will follow for years. Thank you Tom Henkel for your passion and enthusiasm and for the difference you made for the one that came after you. *No photo*



**Rob Harvey** started with Metro Fire 25 years ago and worked his profession into a full time position with Metro Fire until his decision to relocate down state. *Photo: Right*



Firefighter **Jeremy Draper** retired after 25 years of service to Metro Fire. He was hired full-time in 2007 at Station 11. *Photo: Left*

## **MANAGING OFFICER PROGRAM**

Congratulations Captain Holliday!

At the Tuesday August 23, 2016 GTMESA board meeting, Chief Parker presented Captain Troy Holliday, along with his family, his Managing Officer Program Certificate from the National Fire Academy. The National Fire Academy's Managing Officer Program is a multiyear curriculum that introduces emerging emergency services leaders to personal and professional skills in change management, risk reduction and adaptive leadership. Troy was in the inaugural program and is one of only 10 MO candidates across the country to receive his certificate thus far. The MO program is a multi-year commitment of two weeks of time each year and at the end, a capstone written project is due. Captain Holliday, the department is proud of your accomplishments and we look forward to great things from you. We wish you the best on finishing your bachelor's degree and becoming an Executive Fire Officer (EFO) in the future.



## **Firefighter Class of 2016**

New firefighters Hannah Steed, Jordan Query, Amanda Brown, Mike Thomas, Jon Flynn, and Brian Crawford at their graduation at Mt. Zion Church.

Congratulations!



Illinois Fire Service Institute – 2016  
Light-n-Fight Metro Team



In January 2016, our department purchased 36 new S.C.B.A. (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) to replace our outdated S.C.B.A. from 2000.

We now have 10 more Ice Rescue Technicians to help respond to water rescue incidents in GTMESA area.



FF David Sicotte trains on High Angle Rescue at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. *Photo: Left*

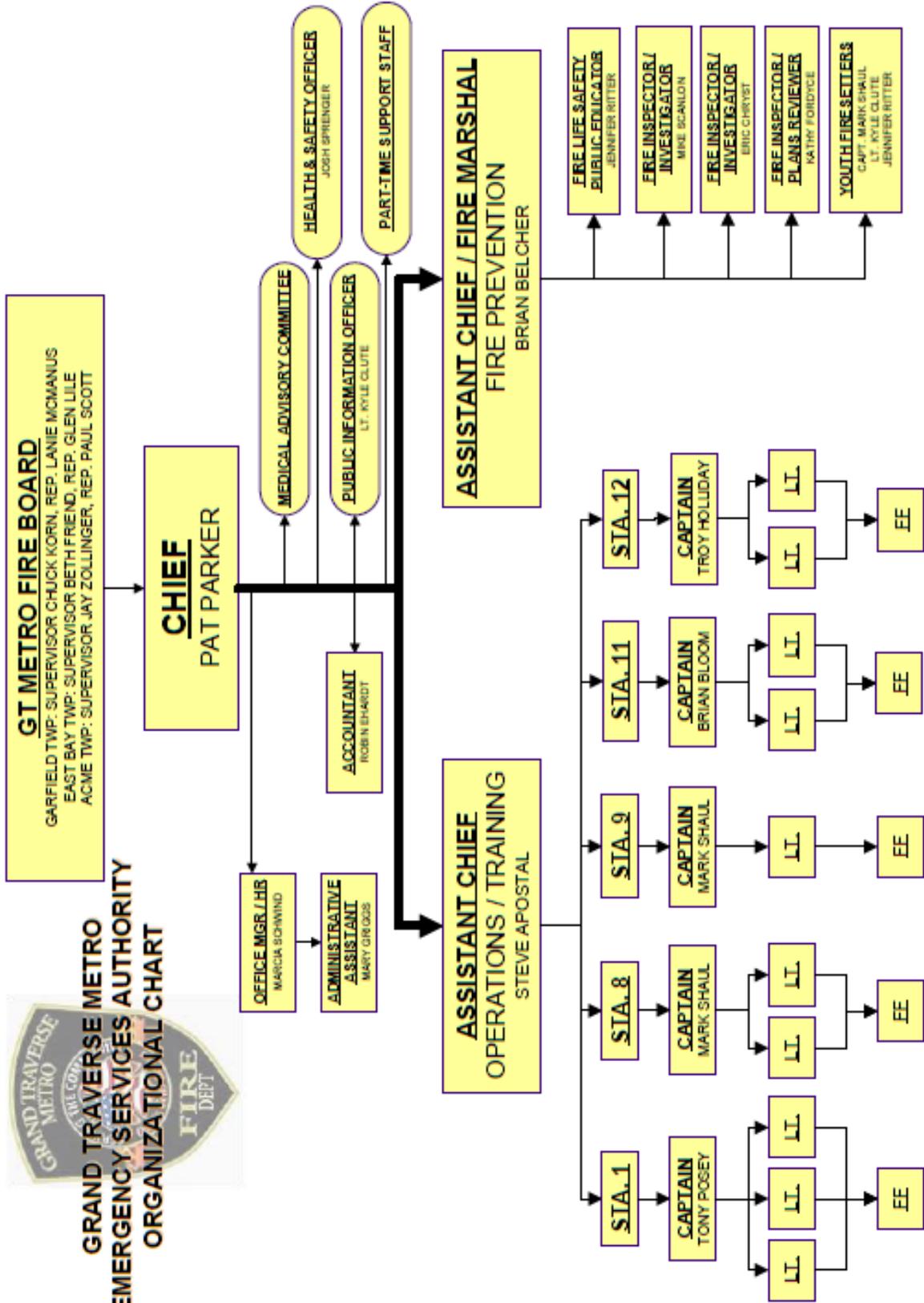
FF Erin Fluharty and FF Curtis Walters warm up by shoveling out fire hydrants at Station 1 before going out and finding other hidden hydrants that may be detrimental if we can't find them.

*Photo: Right*





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



## **DEPARTMENTAL ROSTER**

*at end of year*

### ***Full-Time - Administration***

Fire Chief Pat Parker  
Asst Chief – Operations Steve Apostal  
Asst Chief – Prevention Brian Belcher  
Office Manager/HR Marcia Schwind  
Administrative Asst Mary Griggs

Insp. / Invest. Lt. Mike Scanlon  
Insp. / Invest. Eric Chryst  
Inspector Kathy Fordyce  
Public Educator Jennifer Ritter

### ***Part-Time Admin***

Medical Dir. Dr. Larry Stalsonburg  
HSO Josh Sprenger  
Accountant Robin Ehardt  
Cartographer Dave Lather  
Admin Support Curt Holliday

### ***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)  
Lieutenant Kyle Clute (Sta. 11)  
Firefighter Jake Della Pia (Sta. 8)  
Firefighter Curtis Walters (Sta. 1)

### ***Fire Department Chaplain***

Jude Younker

### ***Part-Time - Suppression***

Lt. Adam Mervau      FF Erin Fluharty  
Lt Steve Meek        FF John Flynn  
Lt. Tim Newton      FF Adam Grammer  
FF Matt Adamek      FF Austin Groesser  
FF Lee Bailey        FF Brian Haskin  
FF Jarod Barber      FF Bill Krukowski  
FF Jeff Carpenter    FF Cody Lipe  
FF Chris Doornbos    FF Daren Mansfield  
FF Cory Ellis         FF Wayne Mervau  
FF Bryan Ferguson    FF Hal Miller  
FF Jack Ferris        FF Rick Osburn

FF Spencer Scanlon  
FF Chase Schelling  
FF David Sicotte  
FF Josh Sprenger  
FF Charles Starkey  
FF Shawn Stinson  
FF Joe Voiles  
FF Greg Walker  
FF Michael Winter  
FF Rick Worm  
FF Tim Wrede

Probation Grant Blackmer  
Probation Anthony Jack  
Probation Zach Miller  
Probation Sunil Nair  
Probation Jared Ornelas  
Probation Eric Seaburg  
Probation Hannah Steed  
Probation Jordan Query  
Probation Mike Thomas  
Probation Alex Werly





*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!**