



2017 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

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief	.....	4
The Department	.....	5
Mission Statement	.....	6
Fire Stations	.....	6
Statistical Summary	.....	7
Operations Department		
Medical Services	.....	10
Suppression Highlights of 2017	.....	11
Station News	.....	13
Fire Prevention Bureau	.....	18
Mission Statement and Bureau Overview	.....	18
Public Education	.....	19
Risk Watch	.....	20
Community Events, Older Adult Outreach	.....	21
Youth Firesetter	.....	23
Safe Neighborhood Smoke Alarm Campaign	.....	24
Inspections	.....	25
Plan Reviews	.....	26
Investigations	.....	27
Program Effectiveness	.....	27
Fire Prevention Summary	.....	28
Community Participation	.....	29
Recognition	.....	33
Organizational Chart	.....	37
Departmental Roster	.....	38

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: Ret. Chief Wayne Hanna

July 29, 1936 – Sept. 11, 2017

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

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



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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present to you the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority 2017 annual report. On behalf of the brave 69 men and women of the department, we thank you for your continued support. Our department is full of dedicated individuals who are committed to enhancing safety and the quality of life in the communities of Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships. We ask a lot of our staff and they always find a way to deliver on the challenges faced. This report cannot possibly capture all of their individual efforts but does represent an overview of their collective accomplishments.



As you will read, in 2017 the department responded to 4737 calls for service which is a 3% increase from the previous year. Medical calls continue to lead our responses with 71% of the calls. Our department plans and trains for missions using the all hazards approach with priorities identified by risk analysis.

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

1. A new squad was delivered to Station 12 in Garfield Township replacing a 16-year old SUV. This $\frac{3}{4}$ ton pickup is large enough to pull our many trailers, but also fuel efficient to respond to medical calls instead of large fire trucks.
2. Metro spent the year preparing for an ISO (Insurance Services Office) reclassification. Currently Metro enjoys a rating of 5 in the hydrant districts and a rating of 6 in the non-hydrant districts. It is our hope to improve to a 3/5 respectively which will save our citizens and businesses on insurance premiums. ISO will be evaluating us in 2018.
3. Recruitment and retention of employees continues to plague the fire service. Metro made a conscious effort to market our department to potential candidates and we ended the year with a net increase of new employees. With an improving economy, volunteerism takes a back seat to life, job, and family.

International 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. The department is committed to its mission: “to care for, protect, and serve the community.” We attempt in all of our endeavors to perform our jobs safely and efficiently, so we all can go home to our loved ones. Our motto: “*Omnis Cedo Domus*,” is Latin for “we all go home!”

We are proud to be **your** fire department and we stand ready to serve you at any time. We look forward to hearing from you as well. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can better serve you, please contact me at 947-3000 ext. 1235 or at pparker@gtmetrofire.org. You can also check us out on the web at www.gtmetrofire.org.

We sincerely thank you for your continued support!

Patrick Parker – Fire Chief



THE DEPARTMENT

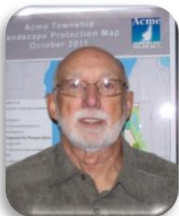
Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority (GTMESSA) provides fire and life safety services to Acme Township, East Bay Charter Township and the Charter Township of Garfield since 1980. The GTMESSA Authority Board governs and sets policy for the Department. The board consists of a township supervisor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



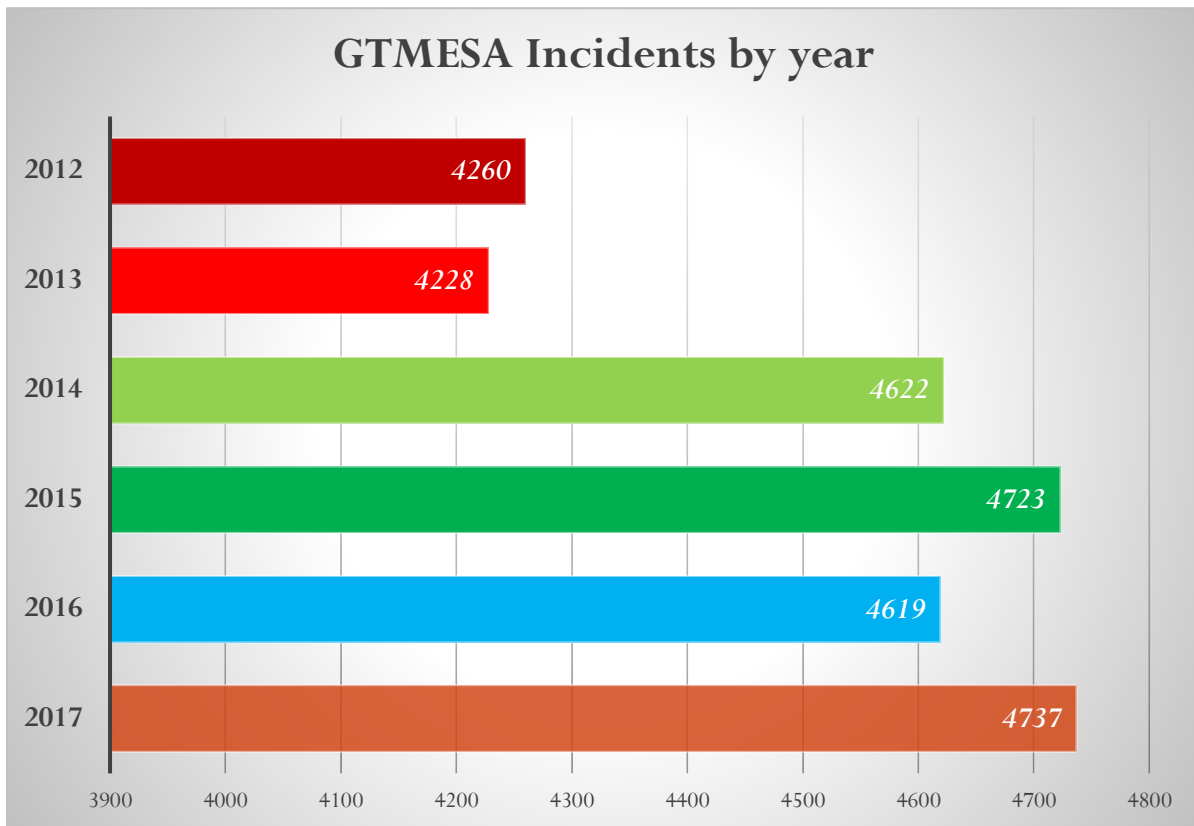
Station 12 2025 N. East Silver Lake Rd, Silver Lake Park, Garfield Township



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department responded to 4,737 incidents in 2017.

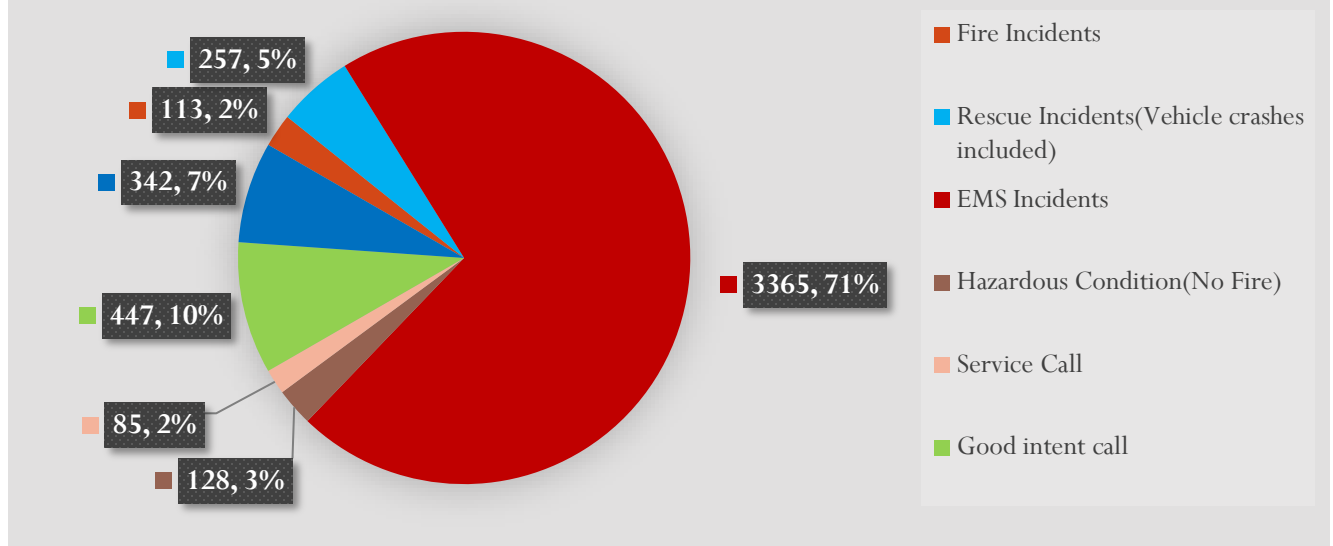
An increase of 3% of incidents from 2016.



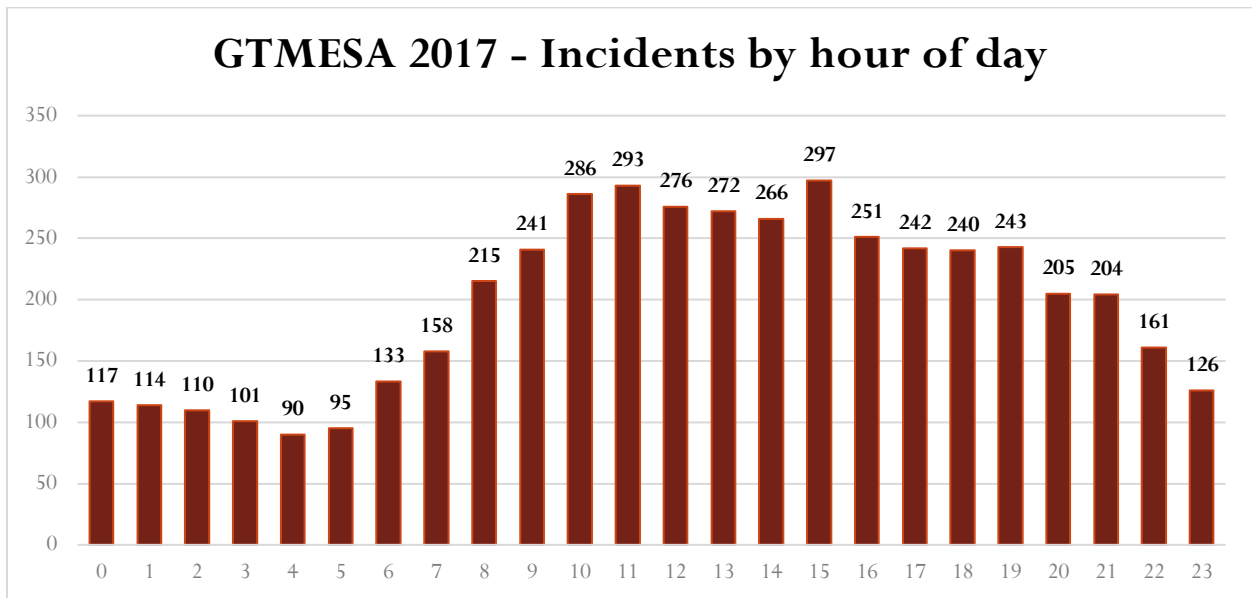
Statistics for the last few years shows our growth of incidents in the Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships.

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

GTMESA 2017 - Incident type percentages



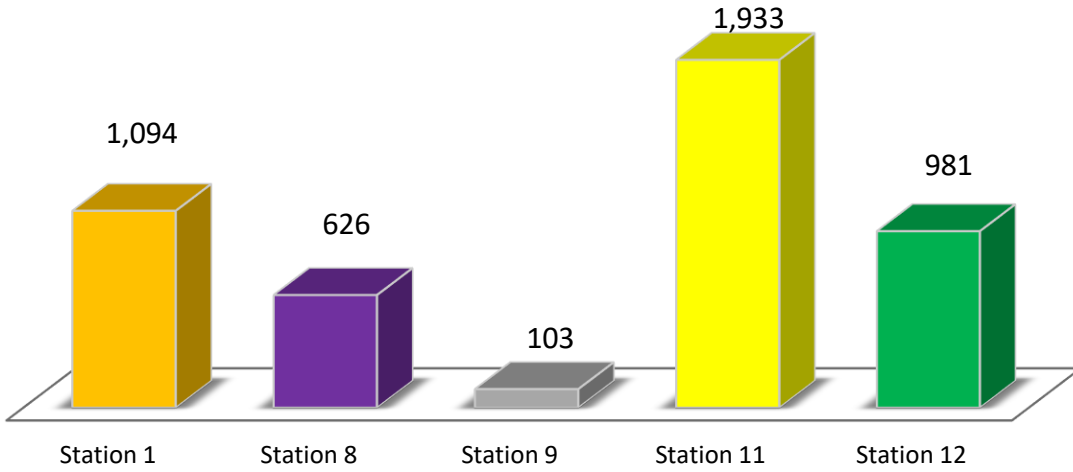
GTMESA 2017 - Incidents by hour of day



Our busiest time of day appears to be between the hours of 9 am and 7 pm.

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

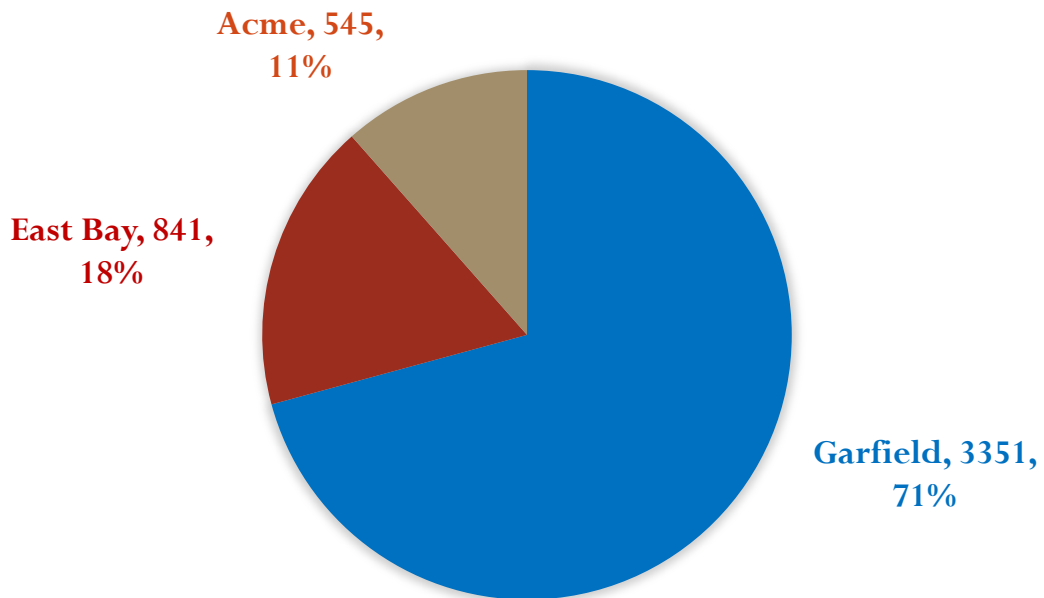
2017 Incidents by Station



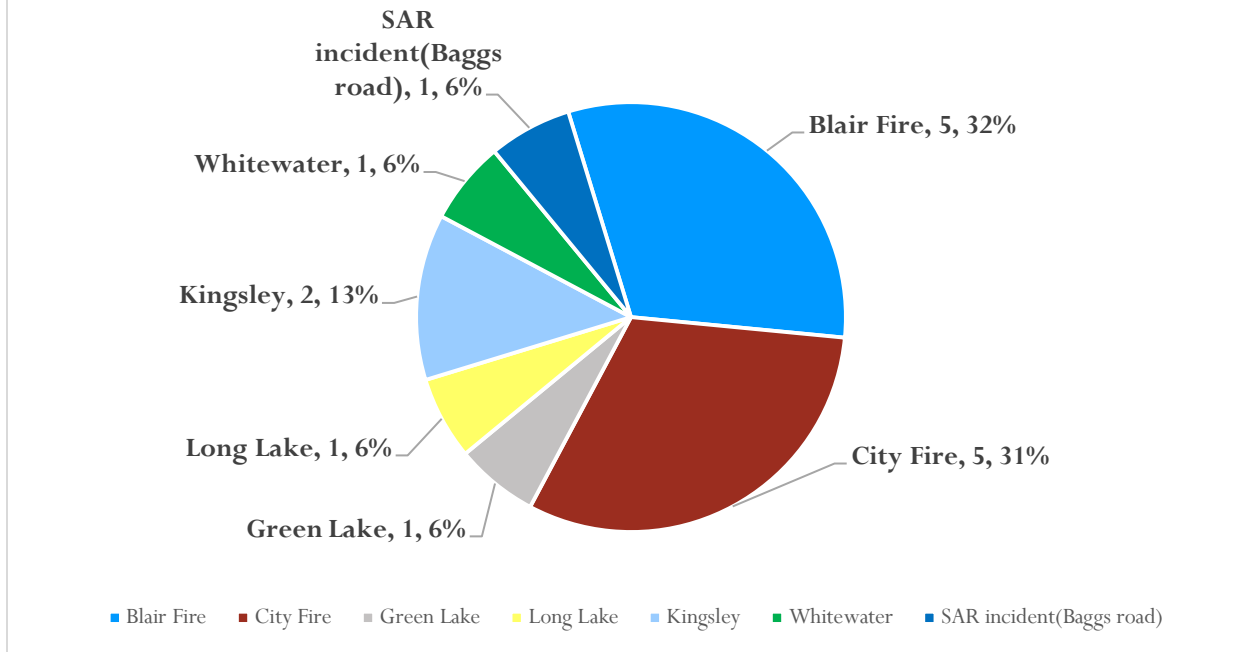
Busiest months per Station:

Station 11	190	August	Station 12	107	December
Station 1	104	March	Station 8	64	June

GTMESA - 2017 INCIDENTS 4,737 TOTAL



GTMESSA 2017 - Mutual Aid given (16 times)



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Of the GTMESSA's emergency calls, 71% 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 2017, rescue units responded to 125 motor vehicle incidents with injuries, which at least 20 of them required extrication of victims. Of those 125 incidents, 11 involved pedestrians. An additional 84 motor vehicle accident with no reported injuries.

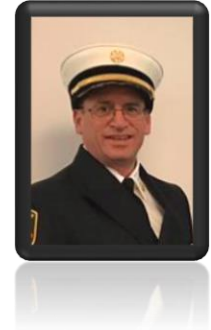
GTMESSA has been working with Physio Control to upgrade our medical equipment with a Life Pak 15 unit that will allow our crews to communicate critical information to Munson Medical Center prior to transporting ALS ambulances arriving on scene. These units are on all our Squads for an 18-month evaluation.



FIRE SUPPRESSION HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017



by Asst. Chief Steve Apostal



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. Considerable work has been accomplished and we hope to have these efforts rewarded in 2018 so that we can provide both our residents and business owners with lower insurance premiums and an even higher quality of service.



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

STATISTICS

GTMESA saw a small increase of 118 calls for service for 2017 total of 4,737. Medical calls account for 71% of all responses. Station 11 off Veteran's Drive was the busiest in the Metro area with 1933 calls for service.

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.

Firefighters involved with the Bay Area Technical Rescue team from Metro will be sent downstate to train with the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue Training Foundation in rope, confined space, and trench rescue disciplines. Scheduled courses in 2017 were canceled due to lack of attendance.

The department had the opportunity to train in acquired structures on a few occasions during the year. One event took considerable preparation for live fire training in a house that was going to be demolished. All flammable surface coverings must be removed or covered with drywall to prevent any unintended fire events during these training evolutions. Crews performed evolutions in initial suppression activities along with rescue of a training mannequin.

Other non-destructive training occurred in businesses that were waiting for demolition. Skills such as forcible entry, hazardous materials detection, and firefighting escape drills were performed.

In 2017, three members Lt. Nick Lemcool, FF Spencer Scanlon, and FF Jarod Barber all started a Paramedic Instructor Coordinator course. When completed in the spring of 2018 these three members will have the knowledge and abilities to teach EMS training and fire related trainings. This course takes considerable time and effort but will provide value to Metro for years to come.

The department has also increased its technical capabilities when performing wide area searches. Software from Terrain Navigator utilizes assigned members' cell phones for tracking search patterns performed and uploads in the

command post in real time. This allows the search manager to assign search grids and determine areas that may have been missed and see where crews are actively searching.

The department also upgraded its capabilities with Target Solutions training software in the last quarter of 2017. This software keeps tabs on all training for the year and had been utilized in prior years for required OSHA annual trainings. It also allows the department to provide training on new items added to the departments equipment cache or areas that may need to be addressed. We expect to assign and track more training using this platform in the coming years.

STAFFING

GTMESSA 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 GTMESSA 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. Our full-time staffing decreased with Lt. Chris Comeaux who accepted a Fire Chief position in Cedar, MI. In 2017 we hired Lt. Steve Meek, FF Jarod Barber, and FF Mike Winter. We continue to bring new members on and aid in providing training in both medical and fire disciplines.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

The fleet maintenance program has improved dramatically over the 2017 calendar year with new vendors. A mid-state vendor provided excellent work but found they needed to raise fees for driving to and staying in the area. The operators of CSI Emergency Apparatus in Grayling were met with in May and found to provide quality service and have the added advantage of being able to drop trucks off to their location or have mechanics travel to one of our stations for repairs. We continue to use local shops for other work that does not require a certified emergency vehicle technician.

With increased scrutiny of the fleet, we removed two fire engines from service. One engine, a 1995 Pierce, could not pass a Department of Transportation inspection due to severe rust and corrosion of the frame and suspension members. A 1988 Pierce engine was found to have a fire pump performing so poorly that the vehicle could not pass its annual pump testing. This vehicle was removed from service due to these issues affecting its dependability. Firefighter safety could not be assured with this unit. Federal grant opportunities are being looked at for replacing this engine.

EXTRICATION EQUIPMENT

The department took a hard look at the current extrication equipment and found it to be of considerable age and in need of replacement and upgrades. The Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians aided the department with a generous grant that covered roughly 60 percent of the cost associated with new hydraulic cutter, spreaders, and a ram.

Federal grants are also being looked at in adding battery operated cutter, spreaders and a ram in 2018. Evaluations were performed in the summer of 2017 of five different manufacturers' battery operated jaws of life equipment. This will allow for a central station to have high performance hydraulic equipment and allow two other stations to have battery operated equipment that is quicker to deploy than traditional units which require a power unit, hoses, and tools.



STATION 1 NEWS... By Capt. Tony Posey

February 2018 marks the 10-year anniversary of the doors being opened at Metro Station 1. Station 1 is located in East Bay Township in the Three Mile Industrial Park. In 2017, we saw an increase of 36 calls from 2016 for a total of 1,094 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 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 2017. A residential structure fire in late 2017 in a home which we had installed smoke alarms in proved this. The occupants were alerted to a lower level fire in the home and everyone was able to successfully get out. 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 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. We are now in our 3rd year of Company Inspections. This program is very valuable to us because it not only alleviates some of the inspection load on our full-time inspectors, but it also allows our suppression personnel to get in and preplan some of our buildings in the event of a fire or other emergency. 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 must respond to your building in an emergency.

Station 1 consisted of 15 members in 2017 under the direction of Captain Tony Posey and Lieutenants Andy Doornbos, Adam Drewery, and Steve Meek. Three new probationary members was assigned to Station 1 during 2017.

Station 1 was also the home to East Bay EMS during the overnight 7p-7a hours in 2017. This allowed quicker response to the busier areas of East Bay. The partnership between East Bay EMS and Metro Fire worked well during dorm room renovations at Station 9.

STATION 8 NEWS... By Capt. Mark Shaul

2017 was the year that Station 8 continued to make do with what we have. The crew trailer which was provided at the end of 2016 has provided the area for the fire and EMS crew to cook, shower, and relax in between incidents. Station 8 has also consolidated vehicles and has eliminated one piece of apparatus which has resulted in a safer work area within the station. With less apparatus on the floor it allows for less vehicle movement in responding and returning to the station and more room to work on daily projects. The meeting room at Station 8 has been refreshed in 2017 with new flooring, a new coat of paint that brightens up the room, and early in 2018 we added a new counter and cabinet to finish it off. It had been years since anything had been done with the meeting room since it was an all-purpose space used for meetings, lunches and dinner, and sleeping. It seemed that we never could clear the room out long enough to update it.



Training is still being offered at Station 8 on a regular schedule. Use of the old Acme Laundromat this fall allowed for some much-needed rescue and HazMat scenario training for our firefighters. We also have many firefighters from neighboring departments join in for mutual aid training. For many years we have used the East Bay Marina when the slips are filled with ice instead of boats for training. Ice Rescue training is an annual event for Grand Traverse Metro personnel and the marina offers us a great location to don our Ice Rescue gear and jump in.

Monthly medical training is being offered to allow our members to obtain the continual education credits needed to maintain their medical license. This training is open to any licensed Emergency Medical provider and we see many members from neighboring departments attending these training.

Being adjacent to the Acme Township offices allows the firefighters and EMS personnel to be more accessible to the population that we serve. We would enjoy talking to you about smoke alarms, our response procedures or information about our department, and we are available to take your blood pressure if needed. If you're visiting the Acme Township offices, we are right next door and available.

STATION 9 NEWS... By Capt. Mark Shaul

Station 9 spent 2017 still trying to work through the building code issue that has prevented us from reinstating the successful Residential Program. Hopefully soon, the building will comply to allow firefighters to occupy the building overnight. The Residential Program allows us to place a firefighter(s) at the station to respond to incidents when no one else is available. In exchange they can use Station 9 as their residence 24/7. Until then we will see our response for Station 9 from the firefighter's home, Station 1, or Station 8 during the overnight period. As stated in the 2016 review Station 9 was constructed prior to the time that 24/7 station coverage was even considered. This same building code issue has also forced the overnight East Bay ambulance personnel to move to Station 1 after 7:00 pm returning to Station 9 at 7:00 am the next day.



2017 was another year of partnering with East Bay ambulance to provide the people living or visiting East Bay Township with quality emergency medical care when needed. As the

number of medical incidents continue to see an increase it becomes necessary for Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority to increase its ability to provide the best pre-hospital care. In early 2018 we will see the addition of the Life Pak 15 monitors that will allow us to communicate critical information to Munson Hospital prior to the ambulance arriving on scene. This communication allows Munson hospital to have everything in place when the patient arrives by ambulance to insure the best care and treatment. Training is still being held monthly for Emergency Medical Services continual education at Station 9. Specialized Fire training is also held throughout the year at Station 9. The large parking area on the east side of the station and the close proximity to our lakes allow us to conduct many of the needed training scenarios that allow us to be prepared for the next emergency response.

The Famous Annual “Station 9 Pancake Breakfast” will be held on May 6, 2018. Mark that date on your calendar and bring the family to meet your fire and EMS providers from East Bay Township Ambulance and Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department. The pancakes, sausage, and eggs are “all you can eat” and delicious to boot.

STATION 11 NEWS... By Capt. Brian Bloom

Station 11 finished out 2017 with 1,933 runs. This is an increase of 106 runs from 2016 and does not include responses into Station 12 or Station 1’s area. This equates to 40% of GTMESA’s total run volume for the year.

The Station 11 roster fluctuated throughout the year with some members leaving and others being brought on. Currently we are up a few members.

- Kyle Kurtz comes to us from Lyon Township. Kyle is a State certified FF II and EMT-B
- After briefly leaving us, FF Alex Werly has rejoined Metro
- FF Cory Ellis left Metro to take a new job dispatching in Seattle Washington

Station 11 continues to sponsor car seat inspections for proper installation and safety for the child. These inspections are conducted on the 4th Friday of every month at Station 11 free of charge. If you or someone you know needs their car seat inspected, please call 231-947-3000 ext. 1234 for an appointment.

Lt. Kyle Clute continued his education in a few different fields. He attended and passed the NFPA Certified Plans Reviewer course. Also, in 2017, he became a Certified Car Seat Technician through Safe Kids Worldwide. Lt. Clute also attended a Youth Firesetter Conference to further his education and expand upon the program that helps children who are involved with setting fires.



Lt. Nick Lemcool is finishing up his Paramedic Instructor Coordinator certification through the State of Michigan. He has also completed his Bachelor of Applied Science through Sienna Heights University.

FF/Inspector Eric Chryst continues to perform several inspections of businesses in the Metro District every week. He has also attended several conferences throughout the year to further his knowledge such as Fire Pattern Recognition and Arson Investigators Conference.

Towards the end of the year it became very cold for the members staffing Station 11 due to a broken roof top heating unit. Average temperature inside hovered around 50 degrees until this unit could be replaced.

Other improvements to the building included painting all the bathrooms and upgrading the lighting in the bathrooms to LED fixtures to help with electrical costs. Upgraded lockers were also installed.

Members working out at the Station now have a new stationary bike to utilize. Work-out equipment now consists of a Smith Machine, stationary bike, elliptical, treadmill and dumbbells ranging from 5-50lbs. There are also barbells with various sized weight plates.

As the busiest Station in Metro, Station 11 has hosted several of the Departments F-2 Rookie 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



At the end of the year, my two Lieutenants retired from GTMESA to pursue new life challenges. Lt. Mike Scanlon (*pictured left*) stepped down as my Lieutenant and retired from his full-time position of Fire Inspector/Investigator to take time and travel. Mike has spent over 20 years with GTMESA and I would like to wish Mike the very best in his travels and to tell him I am greatly appreciative of all his colorful words of wisdom over the years. For the 30+ years that I've known Mike, he has been a great officer, firefighter, mentor, and friend! God speed Brother!



Lt. Chris Comeaux (*pictured right*) spent last year completing his Bachelors in Fire Science through Lake Superior State University. Chris has resigned with GT Metro as he has accepted a full-time position with Cedar Fire Department as their Fire Chief. I would like to personally thank Chris for all his hard work and dedication to Metro over the last 10+ years. He has made a huge impact on numerous firefighters in their training and well-being for GTMESA. This is a great opportunity for Chris and I know he will do well with Cedar Fire Dept. God speed Brother!



Lt. Josh Sprenger, who is also the Health & Safety Officer for GTMESA, became my Lieutenant at Station 12 and will take over the workload from Lt. Scanlon and Lt. Comeaux.

In 2017, Station 12 took delivery of a new Squad 12 that replaced a 1991 Chevy Suburban. A ¾ ton Ford pickup will allow for hauling Marine 12 and the other trailers that GTMESA has in its fleet and is more fuel efficient than driving our engines on medical runs.



Congratulations to Firefighters Mike Thomas, Hannah Steed, and Jordan Query who completed their probationary requirements and have moved up to working shifts for us. Hannah and Jordan completed their EMT-B licensure while Mike completes his in 2018. All three of them have worked hard to complete their requirements.

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 2017 we ended the year with a total of 981 calls.

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.



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, trauma injuries and all other hazards in new and existing buildings, public gatherings, and outdoor venues used for habitation, work or recreation and thru behavior modifications thru education and awareness.

BUREAU OPERATIONS OVERVIEW – 2017

This was a year where we were able to expand several of our existing programs or provide additional tools and support to programs. This was possible thru the continued use of technology, streamlining operations and the continuity of employees throughout the year. In 2017 our Safe Neighborhood campaign was back in full swing with the award of two grants which funded the purchase of smoke alarms. 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 one/two family and multi-family occupancies. This was again our leading fire cause in 2017. These residential properties are where 78% of fires occurred in 2017. We are addressing this problem through our Safe Neighborhoods door to door smoke alarm campaign to single family homes and 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. Continuing our efforts of education to this group will help strengthen fire safety in all rental properties.

In 2017 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 took over all plan reviews within the city limits. This will help us concentrate more on our own programs.

Inspector/Investigator Mike Scanlon retired effective 12/31/17 and headed south to warmer climates. With his 90 day notice we were able to hire Randy Rittenhouse, former Chief of Peninsula Township Fire Department and former GTMESA firefighter. Inspector Scanlon was able to train Inspector Rittenhouse for 60 days prior to his departure which was a tremendous benefit to insure continuity.

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, and a GIS data coordinator (part-time).



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

Having a strong and effective Fire and Life Safety Education Program is vital to reducing the risks of injury and death to our communities. Grand Traverse Metro continues striving towards reducing our incidence of accidental injuries in our communities. We do this by providing educational programs and community awareness that address our local injury trends. Munson Medical Center performed a community injury/death analysis and provided those results to area agencies in order to provide direction for programs. Grand Traverse Metro is also a designated host agency for Safe Kids USA, which is a national program of evidence-based safety programs, resources and funding that is used by local communities to address injury prevention to children. The host agencies have access to these resources and funding which aid the delivery of programs to our communities.

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 programing targets specific risks to our community. This allows for the development of additional programs to reach the target populations. 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 2017 Fire Prevention Week theme “*Every Second Counts, Plan Two Ways Out*”, November: “*Close Before You Doze*” in regard to closing your bedroom door, 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.

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 to address the highest risk categories of local injuries.

In 2017 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 schools within our district.

Currently the program is delivered in Courtade Elementary, Cherry Knoll Elementary, Grand Traverse Academy, Traverse City Christian and Silver Lake Elementary.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

In 2017 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, 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. Some examples of these community events and attendance are: 7 fire station tours, 202 persons; 3 birthday parties held in a fire station, these are usually certificates auctioned off at community fundraisers; Safety Days, Health Fairs, Festivals, 1,135 persons; two fire station open houses, 400 persons; safety presentations to civic groups, 121 persons; bike helmet safety event, 48 persons; water safety day at Acme Bayside Park, 100 persons; Chill Out for Winter Safety at Cherry Knoll, 269 persons; kiosk at the GT Mall during the holidays with safety messaging.



We also visited all the elementary schools in our district during Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme was "2 Ways Out" stressing the importance of knowing and practicing two ways out of every room. We contacted 2,507 children during this week.

We also provide various driving and traffic safety programs which address distracted driving, safety around cars, backing issues etc. There were 551 attendees to these classes in 2017.

Metro Fire has four Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (car seats). Metro provides a check station at Station 11 once a month and participates once a month at a station at the GT County Jail. Those that cannot make those times schedule individual appointments with our technicians to have their seats checked or installed. In 2017, over 1,086 car seats were installed/checked by our crews.

These types of events are great tools we use to reach our residents to teach them safety but also to show them who Metro Fire is and the services we offer. While these numbers are impressive they do not tell the entire story of the number of undocumented eyes and ears we have reached with our messages.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PROGRAMS

Training programs were presented at numerous business and industry facilities within the district and has proven very popular with continued increased requests for additional training. Approximately 423 persons from 14 area businesses and industries were trained in the proper use of a fire extinguisher with our live fire training simulator. We helped 12 businesses develop fire/ emergency evacuation plans and witnessed the performance of these plans in action. This has been a requested service for some time and was very well received. This program will be expanding in 2018 with many more requests coming in due to word of mouth and our marketing of the program.



OLDER ADULTS – REMEMBERING WHEN

Seventy-one percent (71%) 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.

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 preventions, developed by experts from national and local safety organizations as well as 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 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.

YOUTH FIRESETTER INTERVENTION PROGRAM

This program provides counseling services to juveniles and their families who have a youth who has been involved in setting a fire. The youths may be just curious about fire, acting out in rebellion, seeking attention or the fire may have been accidental due to careless behavior. The local program is based on a national model program endorsed by the National Fire Academy and the United States Fire Administration. Families are referred to the program by area law enforcement, parents, the juvenile courts and responding firefighters. In 2017, one subject from inside our district and one subject from outside our district were referred to the program. Once completing our program, the recidivism rate is non-existent. 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 Firesetter (YFS) Counselor positions continue to be filled by Capt. Mark Shaul, Lt. Kyle Clute and Public Educator Jen Ritter. Jen completed her trainings in 2017 to become a counselor and program manager and can bring a needed perspective to the program when females are attending counseling sessions. This program is done with a cooperative effort with Traverse City Fire Department to provide continuity of content across our jurisdictions.

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 2017 firefighters installed 725 smoke alarms and replaced 122 batteries in homes, 383 door hangers were left, 136 homes denied the request for service and 267 homes accepted services totaling 786 homes contacted. Our ability to once again be aggressive with the program was due to \$15,000 in grant monies from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and State Farm Insurance to purchase smoke alarms. This allowed crews to once again go door to door checking alarms and making contact with our public. We also received approximately \$1,300 in funds from the Quota Club to be used for specialty alarms for the disabled. Continued work is ongoing to secure funding through grants and reduced pricing in order to sustain the program.



On April 29, 2017 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, we visited 49 homes and 119 smoke alarms were installed throughout the district.

Also new this year is a mapping tool that shows every address where we have performed Safe Neighborhood services. This map can be accessed via a computer or smart phone in the field. This allows our crews to check the status of homes as they perform the neighborhood door to door checks. It prevents redundancy while also insuring we are making contact with all of our residents.

This was also the year that saw our first human life save due to this program. In November 2017 a fire broke out in the basement of a home which was occupied by four persons including persons with disabilities. Three persons were asleep and were awakened by a smoke alarm in the basement and evacuated the home as quickly as possible. Metro Fire crews had installed the alarms in this home one year prior to the fire. Although three persons were hospitalized for smoke inhalation as a precaution due to existing medical conditions, the outcome of this fire would have been tragic if not for the smoke alarms our crews installed.

In 2017, fire responses show 22% of homes did not have smoke alarms and that 10% had smoke alarms but they did not function during the fire. Our data from 2016 fire responses shows that 18% of homes with fires did not have any smoke alarms and that 12% had alarms but they did not function during a fire. This equates to 32% of the homes in our area that had fires in 2017 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 regard to smoke alarms. These numbers for 2017 show over one third of our homes that had fires did not have working smoke alarms. We will continue this program and focus our efforts to make sure every home has working smoke alarms.

Since the inception of the program in 2013, crews have contacted 3656 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. There were 70 face-to-face contacts 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. The Fire Prevention Bureau continues organizing the paperwork, compiling the data, acquiring the alarms and aiding 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.



INSPECTIONS

Two Fire Inspectors and nine company inspectors currently perform inspections on all 2,256 existing occupancies within the district: Acme Twp.- 246, East Bay Twp.- 247 and Garfield Twp. 1,763. A total of 1,279 annual inspections were performed. Out of these, 1,614 re-inspections were required. There were 1,099 Firefighter Right to Know updates performed in 2017 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 30 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. 2017 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 2017, we were able to expand our use of the features of the new software program we started up in 2015. The ability to use additional functions allows for increased scheduling of inspections, switching

occupancies among inspectors for a new set of eyes performing the inspections and lessen the likelihood that an occupancy could be overlooked when due for inspection. This 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

2017 / 2016	ACME		EAST BAY		GARFIELD		TOTAL	
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS	162	105	127	137	967	731	1256	973
RE-INSPECTIONS	201	158	199	176	1187	826	1587	1160
FF RIGHT TO KNOW	143	4	105	7	828	109	1076	120
PLAN REVIEWS	23	28	23	34	146	139	192	201
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	14	35	34	44	206	207	254	286
SPECIAL EVENTS	5	7	7	10	11	17	23	34
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE (INCLUDES COMPLAINTS)	5	4	8	4	17	16	29	24
COMPANY INSPECTIONS	6	22	27	28	227	190	260	240
TOTAL ACTIVITY	559	401	530	509	3589	2517	4678	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 2017 with the exception that Traverse City Fire Department is performing all plan reviews and inspections within their jurisdiction. A total of 232 plan reviews, not including related inspections, were conducted in 2017. Of those, 213 (92%) were for in district projects and 19 (8%) were conducted for out of district projects. These out of district reviews/inspections generated approximately \$9700.00 in revenue in 2017. In district revenues for plan reviews for 2017 were \$54,084.61.

INVESTIGATIONS

Fire investigations are performed by Inspector/ Investigator Mike Scanlon (now Randy Rittenhouse), Inspector/Investigator Eric Chryst and Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal Brian Belcher. In 2017, we saw a total of 30 investigations performed by Investigators, including both vehicle and structure fires. Of those, 5 fires were intentionally set where 3 of them have been resolved and cases closed, and the other 2 are still open cases under investigation. These do not represent all fires in 2017 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.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Of the reported structure fires in district in 2017, 20 occurred in one or two family residential occupancies while 9 occurred in multi-family/residential rentals and 4 in commercial/ industrial properties. All fires resulted in a total loss of \$1,155,610.00 with reported pre-fire valuations of \$8,170,300.00. This represents a total percent of property saved over 86%. Fires in commercial/industrial occupancies (inspected) resulted in losses of only \$5,500.00. The largest loss in 2017 was a large agricultural barn with a loss of \$275,000.00 for the structure and contents. The barn was fully involved upon our arrival on scene, crews worked to save adjacent buildings including a business.

Cooking continues to be the leading cause of fire in 2017. This follows national trends and shows where our public education messaging needs to once again focus in the coming year.

There was 1 civilian fire fatality and 6 civilian injuries in 2017.

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

<u>All Fires</u>	<u>Injuries</u>	<u>Fire Related Deaths</u>
Firefighters	0	0
Civilian	6	1

Occupancy Type Data - # of Fires

1 or 2 Family Residential	20	Garfield Twp.	24
Multi-Family Residential	9	East Bay Twp.	8
Commercial/Industrial/Retail	4	Acme Twp.	5
Assembly/ Restaurants	1		
Assisted Living / Nursing Homes	3		

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. 2018 will be a year of continuing to insure our fire prevention programs 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.



Photo: Children practice making a Home Fire Escape Plan at our open house at Station 12 in October during Fire Prevention Week.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

9/11 MEMORIAL

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

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

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



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. In 2017, we welcomed Lt. Kyle Clute to the list of technicians for GTMESA. 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.

Safe Kids North Shore presented their Child Passenger Safety Techs of the Year awards to Senior Tech Jennifer Ritter, Grand Traverse Sheriff Deputy Josh Wood, Traverse City Police Officers Pete Simerson and Adam Verschaeve, and Blair Fire Chief Jim Carroll

(Chief Carroll passed away Aug 24, 2017, he will be missed).



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

In Loving Memory of Fire Chief Wayne Hanna

Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department
July 29, 1936 - September 11, 2017

Remember The Firefighter



*Brother, when you weep for me
Remember that it was meant to be
Lay me down and when you leave
Remember I'll be at your sleeve
In every dark and choking hall
I'll be there as you slowly crawl
On every roof in driving snow
I'll hold your coat and you will know
In cellars hot with searing heat
At windows where a gate you meet
In closets where young children hide
You know I'll be there at your side
The house from which I now respond
Is overstaffed with heroes gone
Men who answered one last bell
Did the job and did it well
As Firemen we understand
That death's a card dealt in our hand
A card we hope we never play
But one we hold there anyway
That card is something we ignore
As we crawl across a weakened floor
For we know that we're the only prayer
For anyone that might be there
So remember as you wipe your tears
The joy I knew throughout the years
As I did the job I loved to do*

I pray that thought will see you through.



"FAITH - FAMILY - FIREHOUSE"

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday
The Munson Nursing Staff
Caring for Life

Wayne Hanna was born in Acme, MI, to Alfred and Lillie Hanna on July 29, 1936, and was the youngest child of eight children (Henry, Richard, Audrey, Vernice, Jack, Alice, Eugene) and yet he focused on being a son of God. He was a 1955 graduate of Central High School and was recognized for his achievements in football, Superintendent's Council, Student Council, Junior President, baseball, and Future Farmers of America. He married his high school sweetheart, Joanne Eaton (daughter of Ward and Ruby), in December of the same year. In their 61 years of marriage, they had 6 children (Sheryl, Kelley, Natalie, Kyle, Kevin, Stacey), 14 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.



After growing up on the family farm which was a working cherry orchard where Grand Traverse Resort and Spa now stands, and after working with his father in their commercial Acme-based fishing business, he founded Acme Welding Company with Harry Fox in 1966. They ran the successful welding company until Wayne became Assistant Fire Chief for Grand Traverse County. While Wayne celebrated countless achievements during his 50 years of fire service with accolades including: Chief Emeritus of Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department, Michigan Fire Chief of the Year 2004, President of the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs Association, creating one of the safest communities in the country, and leading and mentoring countless firefighters in their craft; his true joys in life were his relationship with God and his family.

In his free time, he enjoyed woodworking, fishing, sharing knowledge, and creating an environment where there were consequences and rewards for behaviors. He was an example of doing the right thing even if no one else was looking while encouraging those around him to reach for more and to be more. He enjoyed country, bluegrass, and gospel music and sang the Lord's praises throughout his life. A truly humble man, he dismissed praise and was quick to pass the credit onto others. Wayne set expectations of those around him to be equal to his own expectations of himself. He asked for much because he gave much. His mantra in life was, "Faith. Family. Firehouse." He believed that if he kept those priorities in order; life would work out well. He passed that mantra on and is an eternal part of his legacy.



After the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in August, he focused on the opportunity for everlasting life with his Heavenly Father while his children banded together and worked together on their parents' home so Wayne could rest in peace. He joined his Heavenly Father with open arms on September 11, 2017.

Wayne's celebration of life with Fire Department Honors was held at Grand Traverse Metro Fire Station One on Sunday, September 17th. Services were held by Reynolds-Jonkhoff.

Obituary from Reynolds-Jonkhoff and additional photos and video of service available at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/obituaries/Wayne-Hanna/>

EDUCATIONAL RECOGNITION

Congratulations Lieutenant Chris Comeaux! Chief Parker presented Lt. Comeaux his Managing Officer (MO) Program Certificate from the National Fire Academy. The National Fire Academy's Managing Officer Program is a multi-year curriculum that introduces emerging emergency services leaders to personal and professional skills in change management, risk reduction and adaptive leadership. 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. Lt. Comeaux and Capt. Holliday were in the inaugural program and are among less than 50 MO candidates across the country to receive their certificate thus far. *Picture: Dr. Kirby Kiefer, Acting Superintendent NFA and Lt. Comeaux*

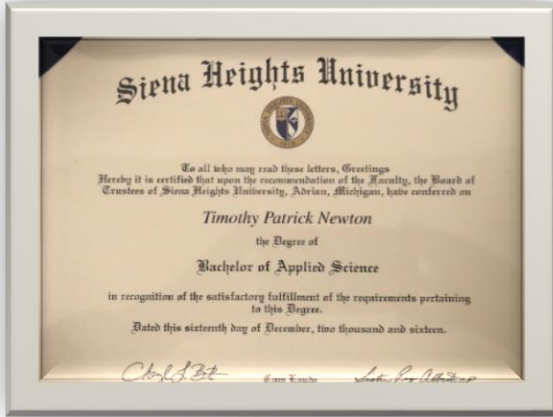
Lt. Comeaux also completed his Bachelor of Fire Science degree through Lake Superior State University in December 2017.

After 8 years, Lt. Comeaux retired with Metro to accept a Fire Chief position at Cedar Fire and Rescue.



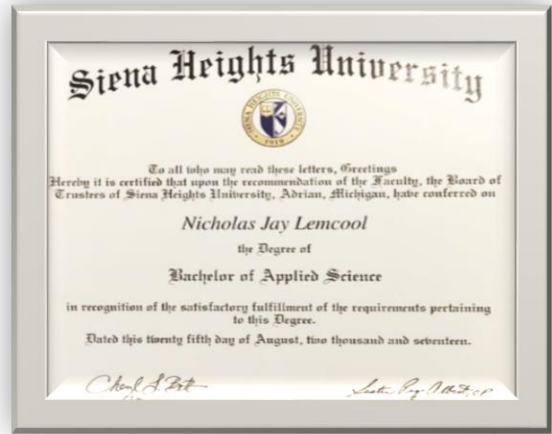
Congratulations Captain Troy Holliday!

In 2017, Capt. Holliday completed his Fire Officer designation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He also completed his Bachelor of Fire Science degree through Lake Superior State University in December 2017.



Congratulations Lieutenant Tim Newton who completed his Bachelor of Applied Science degree through Sienna Heights University. Tim is continuing his college education working towards his Master's in Public Health Care degree. Due to time constraints, Tim stepped down as Lieutenant to focus more on his studies and other activities.

Congratulations Lieutenant Nick Lemcool who completed his Bachelor of Applied Science degree through Sienna Heights University. His degree study is Public safety with a minor in Healthcare Management. Lt. Lemcool is also nearing the completion of his Paramedic IC licensing.



Congratulations Asst. Chief Steve Apostal who completed his Master of Science degree through Eastern Michigan University. Chief Apostal is currently finishing up his Executive Fire Officer through the National Fire Academy.

Firefighter Class of 2017

New firefighters Alex Werly and Zach Miller at their graduation at Mt. Zion Church with Chief Parker and Asst. Chief Apostal.



Congratulations!

Firefighters from Metro Fire attended Light and Fight hands on training at the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign, IL in May 2017. This is an excellent opportunity for our newer firefighters to train with senior officers in multiple live fire situations.

Pictured Left: Capt. Posey, FF Sicotte, Capt. Bloom, FF Thomas, FF Query

Pictured Below: FF Stinson, FF Adamek, FF Steed, Lt. Francisco



Pictured Below: Lt. Drewery, FF Scanlon, FF Adamek, Lt. Clute

June 2017, we had the opportunity to train with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security as well as Otsego County EMS and Rescue. Using firefighter turnouts as well as chemical suits, our crews and theirs were able to successfully mitigate scenarios that included air monitoring, leaks and even some live chemical reactions.



Pictured below: FF Chase Schelling, FF Jake Della Pia, and FF Daren Mansfield – Paramedic 2017



These three members of our department completed the 2017 Paramedic program and working towards completing their state testing to be licensed.





Pictured: Capt. Tony Posey, FF Jordan Query, FF Jon Flynn, Lt. Steve Meek, FF Dave Sicotte participated in the Warrior Dash in Flint, MI in July 2017 to raise awareness on the importance of Firefighter Fitness. These Metro firefighters were proud to represent the Metro Fire Department



Below: Thank You Quota Traverse City for your support of our Safe Neighborhood (smoke detector) program and Child Passenger Safety programming!

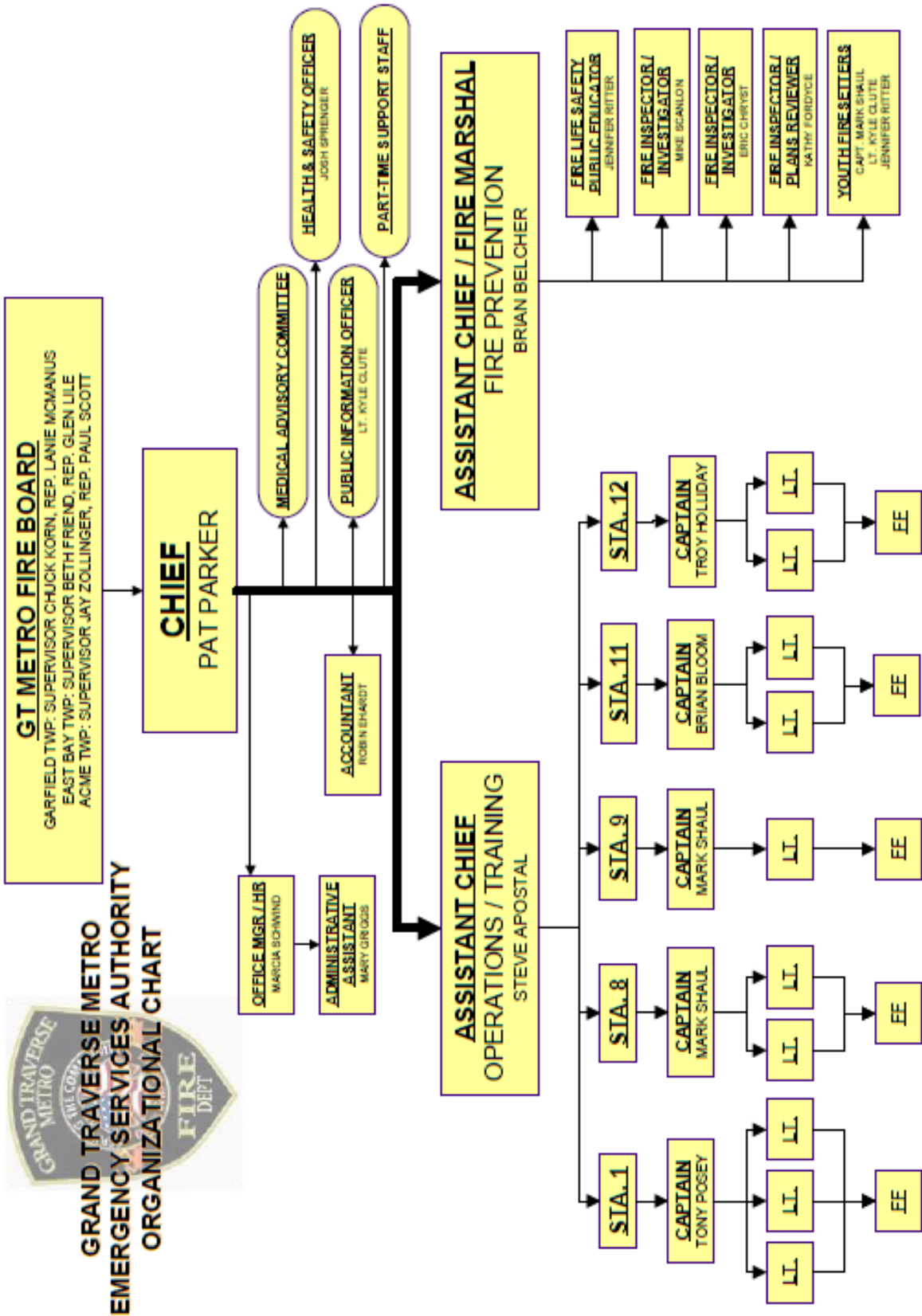


Challenge Coins for Sale



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

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



**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. Eric Chryst
Insp. / Invest. Randy Rittenhouse
Inspector Kathy Fordyce
Public Educator Jennifer Ritter

Part-Time Administration

Medical Dir. Dr. Larry Stalsonburg
HSO Josh Sprenger
Accountant Robin Ehardt
Cartographer Dave Lather

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 Steve Meek (Sta. 1)
Lieutenant Nick Lemcool (Sta. 11)
Lieutenant Kyle Clute (Sta. 11)

Fire Department Chaplain Jude Younker

Part-Time - Suppression

Lt. Adam Mervau	FF Bill Krukowski	FF Chase Schelling	Probation Adam Caldwell
Lt. Josh Sprenger	FF Cody Lipe	FF David Sicotte	Probation Austin Caldwell
FF Matt Adamek	FF Daren Mansfield	FF Charles Starkey	Probation Madison Dean
FF Lee Bailey	FF Wayne Mervau	FF Hannah Steed	Probation Kyle Kurtz
FF Grant Blackmer	FF Hal Miller	FF Mike Thomas	Probation Austin Miner
FF Jeff Carpenter	FF Tim Newton	FF Joe Voiles	Probation Alex Pajkowski
FF Bryan Ferguson	FF Rick Osburn	FF Michael Winter	Probation Eric Seaburg
FF Erin Fluharty	FF Jordan Query	FF Rick Worm	Probation Jacob Strait
FF John Flynn	FF Spencer Scanlon	FF Tim Wrede	Probation Alex Werly
FF Brian Haskin			



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!**