



2018 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

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief	4
The Department	5
Mission Statement	6
Fire Stations	6
Statistical Summary	7
Operations Department	
Emergency Medical Services	10
Training	10
Station News	17
Fire Prevention Bureau	
Mission Statement and Bureau Overview	21
Public Education	22
On Watch Program	23
Community Events, Older Adult Outreach	24
Youth Firesetter	28
Safe Neighborhood Smoke Alarm Campaign	29
Inspections	30
Plan Reviews	32
Investigations	32
Program Effectiveness	32
Fire Prevention Summary	33
Community Participation	34
Recognition	36
Organizational Chart	42
Departmental Roster	43

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: Metro Fire crews on scene of a structure fire at 0515 hrs at 2755 N. Arbutus Road in East Bay Township. Upon arrival crews found the front of the house engulfed in flames. Three family members and the family cat made it out safely. Fire crews had the fire under control in about 30 minutes. 15 firefighters from 4 Metro stations fought the blaze.

Chief Patrick J. Parker
Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept

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 2018 annual report. On behalf of the Metro Authority Board and the 52 brave men and women of the department, we thank YOU the community for your continued support. Our dedicated members are the backbone of the Authority who work to ensure competency, positive customer service, and enhancing the safety and quality of life in the communities of Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships. Our staff always finds a way to deliver on the challenges faced with tailored solutions to fit the incident. This report cannot possibly capture all their individual efforts but does represent an overview of their collective accomplishments.



As you will read, in 2018 the department responded to 4,921 calls for service which is a 3.7% increase from the previous year. Medical and rescue continue to lead our responses with 75% of the calls. In 2018, our skills were challenged on some unique special operations that taxed our training and abilities. Our members faced these difficulties with spirit and courage. Our department plans and trains for all our 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 ¾ ton pickup (squad) was delivered to Station 8 in Acme Township replacing a 15-year old SUV. The board approved late in the year for the purchase of a new engine for Station 11 in Garfield Township. This truck replaced a 23-year-old truck that could not meet the stringent safety requirements of emergency vehicles. Both vehicles were a needed asset.
2. After preparing for almost 2 years, we received our ISO (Insurance Services Office) site survey. While the report is not back from ISO, we exhibited to ISO improvements in all areas from communications, water supply and department operations. We are still optimistic of a 3/5 rating.
3. Metro was successful in receiving numerous grants this past year to help improve mission readiness. The two largest were for trench/collapse rescue equipment and ballistic gear to stand up a Rescue Task Force for active assailant calls. We thank our granting partners for this needed help. Read further in the report for more details.
4. The Authority Board made the investment of adding 4 new fulltime employees to the ranks. These new fulltime employees help round out shifts in order to not burn out part-paid firefighters. With a continued improving economy, recruitment and retention of talent has been a challenge.

The department is committed to its mission: *“to care for, protect, and serve the community.”* We do so 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 with an atmosphere of enthusiasm, stewardship, and innovation. Thank you for taking time to review this annual report. We actively seek your input and feedback. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can better serve you, please contact me at the office at 231-947-3000 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:

2018 Chairman: Jay Zollinger, Vice Chairman: Chuck Korn

Acme Township

Supervisor Jay Zollinger



Rep. Darryl Nelson



East Bay Township

Supervisor Beth Friend



Rep. Glen Lile



Garfield Township

Supervisor Chuck Korn



Rep. Dan Walters



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

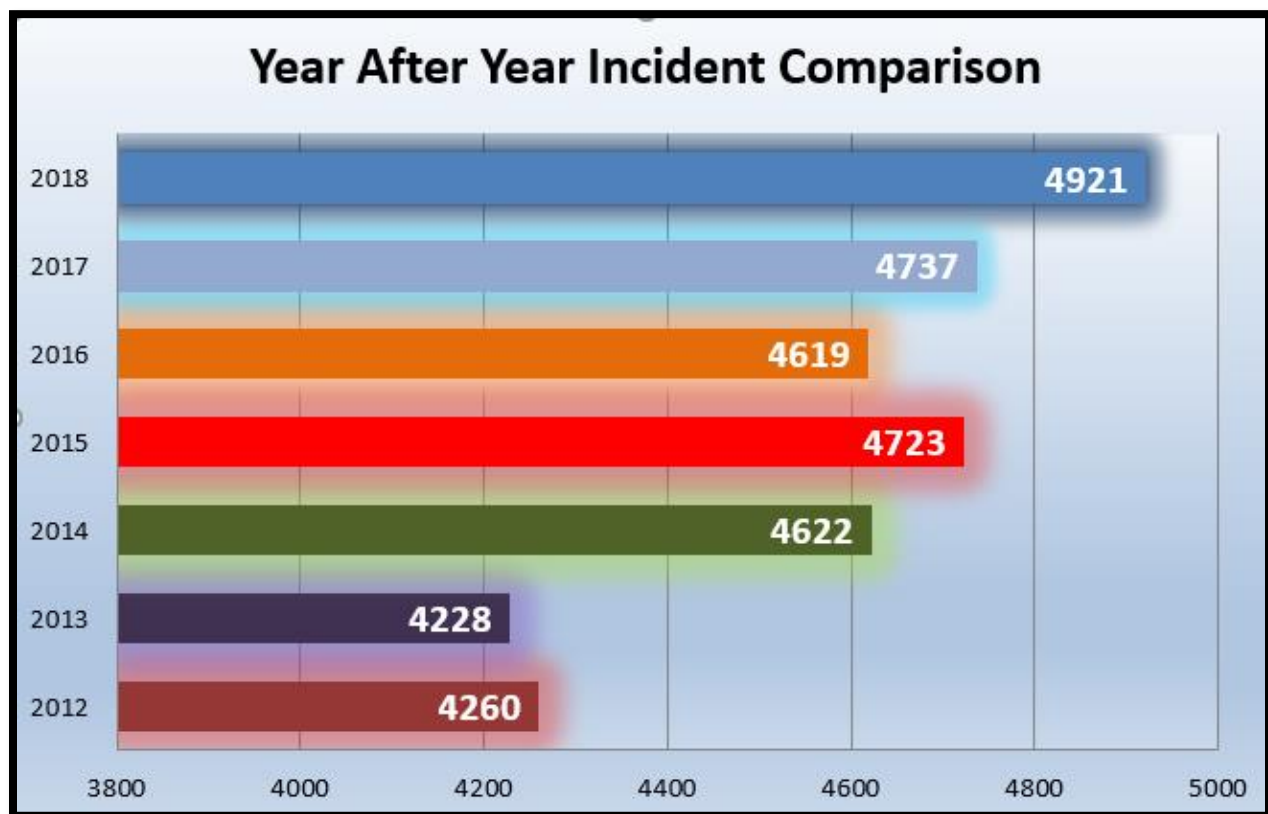




STATISTICAL SUMMARY

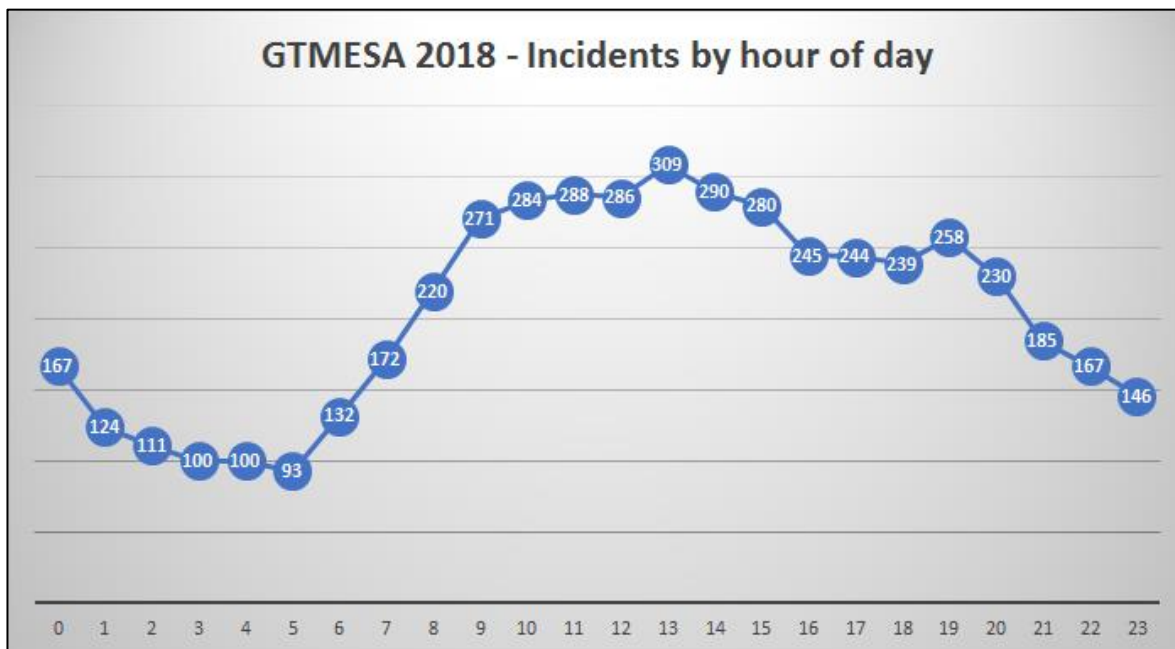
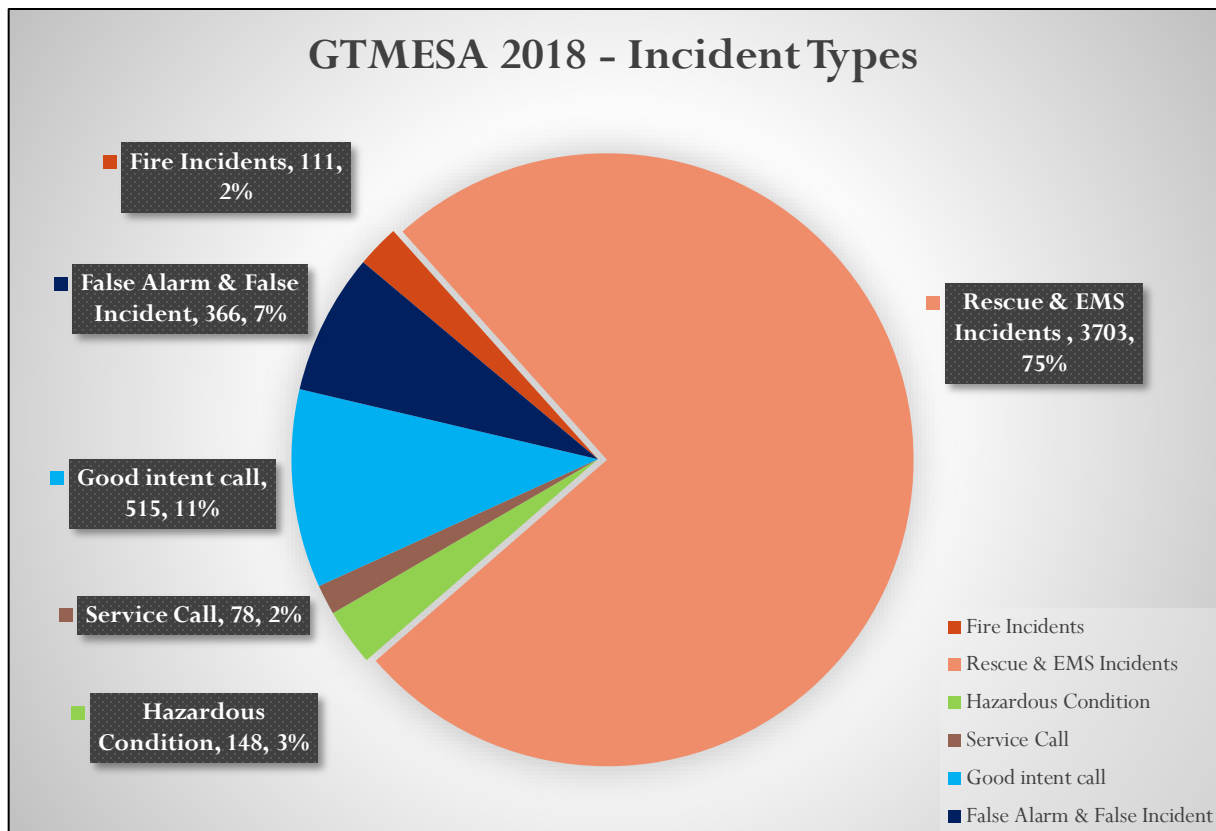
The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department responded to 4,921 incidents in 2018.

An increase of 3.7% of incidents from 2017.



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

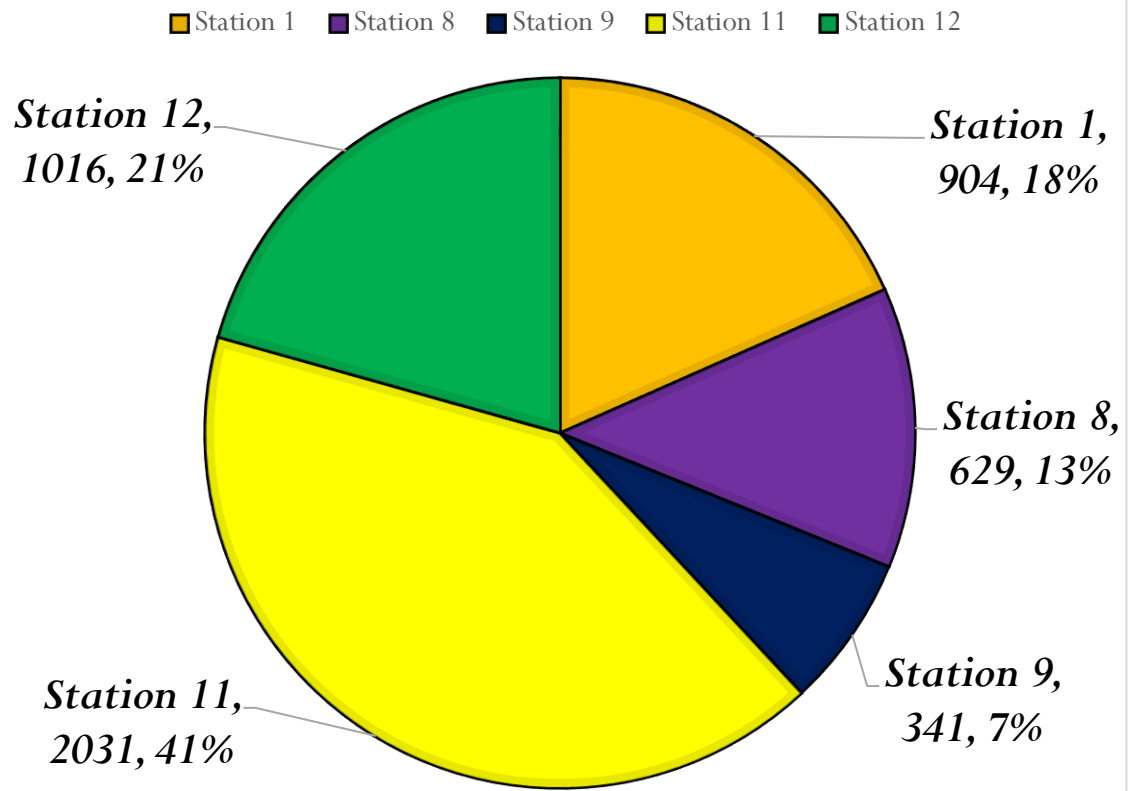
**2015 total represents the high wind storm that created a large number of incidents in one day.*



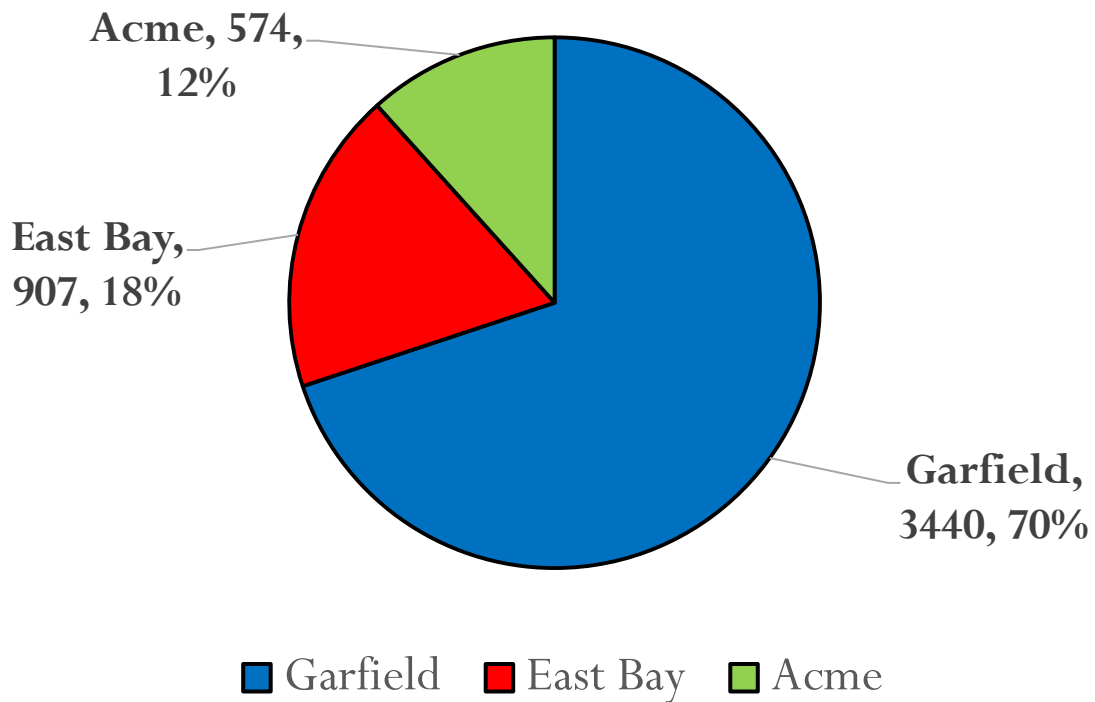
Our busiest time of day appears to be between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm.

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

GTMESSA - 2018 INCIDENTS BY STATION



GTMESSA - 2018 Incidents by Township





OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

by Asst. Chief Steve Apostol



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Of the GTMESA's emergency calls, 75% are for medical response (including motor vehicle crashes).

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 crashes with injuries and are equipped with extrication equipment to free victims from entrapment. In 2018, rescue units responded to 220 motor vehicle crashes, which at least 21 of them required extrication of victims. Of those 220 incidents, 7 involved pedestrians and 81 motor vehicle crashes had no reported injuries.



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. Our official review by ISO was performed in October of 2018 and we await the results, which can take several months.



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 184 calls for service for 2018 with a total of 4,921. Medical calls account for 75% of all responses. Station 11 off Veterans Drive was the busiest in the Metro area with 2,031 calls for service.

TRAINING

Training for Metro firefighters continues to be developed in order to broaden the knowledge and skills of our members. Locating unique and different training venues and partners was moved forward in 2018 to accomplish this goal. Some of the most dangerous responses are those that occur at low frequency but have inherently high risk. These responses cause an unusual amount of the injuries and fatalities in the fire service.

An opportunity to train with the US Coast Guard (USCG) in February in simulated ice rescues scenarios proved a unique experience for members. East Bay's Arbutus 5 park was utilized as a staging location. Two Jayhawk helicopters were used along with USCG rescue swimmers from Air Station Traverse City. In addition, boat crews from Frankfort and Manistee were in attendance for a full afternoon of training.

The Bay Area Technical Rescue team made up of firefighters from area fire departments performed a joint training in June with the National Park Service, Cedar Area and Glen Lake Fire Departments at Sleeping Bear Dunes Pyramid Point. The move to perform joint training occurred after a request for assistance earlier in 2018 when three hikers were stuck on the icy slopes of Pyramid Point. Continued growth of this team will provide the region with a valuable service for these types of events.

The department had the opportunity to train in an acquired structure off Hammond Road that was set for demolition. All crews were sent through this structure as a search and rescue training. Elements of the confidence course built by Metro members were used. Once members successfully made it through the challenges and arrived at the second floor a search for possible "missing occupants" had to be performed and carried out. There were many challenges presented in these evolutions. Some of these included dealing with disorientation, entanglements, hoarding type conditions, and low visibility condition while using our breathing apparatus.

Technical level Swiftwater rescue training was attended by four members in September. This intense four-day course was free of charge thanks to funding derived from the added taxes placed on fireworks sold in the state. With the removal of the Sabin Dam, the last to be removed in Metro's response district, there could be a heightened threat of floods or Swiftwater events. Being able to respond to these dangerous events in a safe manner will benefit the department.

In 2018, Lt. Nick Lemcool, FF Spencer Scanlon, FF Jarod Barber successfully completed their Paramedic Instructor Coordinator course. With the State of Michigan changing EMS training requirements removing hands-on training, these three instructors will be able to deliver hands on continuing medical education to our firefighters on shift. This course takes considerable time and effort and their hard work will be of value to Metro for years to come. FF Curtis Walters and FF Matt Adamek completed their State of Michigan Fire Instructor II certification. Congratulations to all for passing these difficult courses.

RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF)

RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF) is yet another new response for fire and EMS agencies across the country and Grand Traverse County fire departments are moving in that direction. RTF's are utilized in a coordinated fashion with law enforcement when a mass casualty event was to occur due to hostile actions of one or more attackers. This could include active shooter, stabbings, car ramming, or use of an IED. Responses could be to a wide variety of locations including schools, large festivals, places of worship, businesses in Metro's response area or in our mutual aid partners' response area. Traverse City Fire and Police Departments allowed Metro members to attend joint training activities early in 2018.



Metro Fire applied for a 2 percent grant through the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and received funding for 22 sets of ballistic vests and helmets, along with the needed medical equipment carried on the vest. If an event were to occur in the county, fire departments would be able to respond with the necessary equipment to aid victims (that may otherwise succumb to their injuries) with a police escort while having the added protection of this equipment. More training and exercises need to be conducted but this is a positive step

in the right direction in providing the highest level of service to our customers and building relationships with various first responder agencies. Departments receiving vests from the grant include Blair, Green Lake, Long Lake, Peninsula Townships along with additional sets for Traverse City Fire Dept.

STAFFING

Staffing continues to be an issue as the department continues to see a loss of its part-time workforce. Many members have left for other full-time opportunities and some simply moved away from the area. Due to the continuing decline in firefighter numbers, which is an issue with many fire departments across the country and not unique to Metro, the use of mutual aid with neighboring departments has increased the number of requests for assistance from our neighbors.

Staffing during the work week is not usually an issue as we 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.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

The fleet maintenance program continues to improve with our partnership with CSI Emergency Apparatus in Grayling. We have also added Fick and Son's to the vendors we are now utilizing as they are located near CSI. Between the two shops a vehicle that may have to wait for parts for one repair can be serviced for other needs at the other shop keeping downtimes to a minimum. We continue to use local shops for other work that does not require a certified emergency vehicle technician and has a likelihood of a quick turnaround.

Fick and Son's is also performing inspections and greasing various components of our apparatus every four months. This adds to the preventative maintenance of the vehicles by finding small problems before they become a larger more expensive issue. This also helps insure our apparatus can perform as intended during an emergency response.

EXTRICATION EQUIPMENT

Extrication equipment is still a priority for replacement. An attempt at a federal grant in 2018 was under consideration but not funded before monies were exhausted in September. New parameters were issued for these grants for 2019 and may present a better opportunity to be a successful applicant.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENTS

(Submitted by Lt. Adam Drewery, Haz Mat Leader)

GTMESSA provides a specialty team to respond to Hazardous Material Incidents. GTMESSA is also recognized by the State of Michigan as a Hazmat response team for Region 7. GTMESSA has 22 certified Hazmat Technicians, 5 certified Specialists on Highway Cargo Tanks and 1 certified Hazmat Officer.



GTMESSA has a variety of detection equipment to identify numerous hazards to provide for the safety of our workers and the community. In 2018, personal Carbon Monoxide detectors were purchased and attached to the medical jump kits on each stations' Squad for added safety. Various size containment pools, 66, 150 & 250 gallon, were added to the main line Engines for mitigation purposes. Grant funding aided in adding two new RKI GX-6000 air monitoring instruments. These instruments monitor Oxygen, Methane, Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen Sulfide, Hydrogen Cyanide and an additional 720 chemicals with a built in PID sensor.

Employees trained monthly on Hazmat topics and equipment to meet required standards. These trainings cover the capabilities of air monitoring equipment, proper PPE / dress out, required reporting, containment / mitigation operations, decontamination and research. GTMESA and Sara Lee Frozen Bakery participated in an annual scenario. This training opportunity involved a full-scale exercise involving a simulated Ammonia leak inside the facility.

In 2018, GTMESA responded to 83 incidents classified as Hazmat. Below is a breakdown of these incidents by category:

- ▶ 10 Gasoline or Flammable Liquid Spill Incidents
- ▶ 29 Carbon Monoxide Incidents
- ▶ 37 Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG)
- ▶ 1 Toxic Condition (Aquatic Hazard)
- ▶ 5 Hazmat Release (Investigation w/no Hazmat)
- ▶ 1 Chemical Suicide (Region 7 Response)

All of these incidents were appropriately mitigated by the team. A great working relationship has been built with Northern A1 who has provided exceptional remediation and clean-up of these incidents. Small-scale incidents are cost recovered thru Fire Recovery and the large-scale incidents are cost recovered thru Northern A1, a clean-up contractor. Cost recovery for the 2018 Hazardous Materials incidents has totaled over \$18,000.

On June 13th, a significant Hazardous Materials incident occurred on North Garfield Road. Crews were dispatched for a single vehicle rollover with injuries (*Photo right*). When crews arrived on scene, they found a cabover flatbed style commercial vehicle that had traveled thru the guardrail and was laying on its driver's side. The vehicle was located at the bottom of a hill on the west side of Garfield Road, approximately 30' from the roadway. It was noted that the vehicle and contents had landed in a small creek. The vehicle was carrying a total of 5 totes of pavement striping paint and standard optics (glass beads).



- ▶ Each tote of pavement striping paint contained 275 gallons of product, totaling 1,375 gallons.
- ▶ Each crate of standard optics (glass beads) contained 2,500 pounds of product, totaling 5,000 pounds.

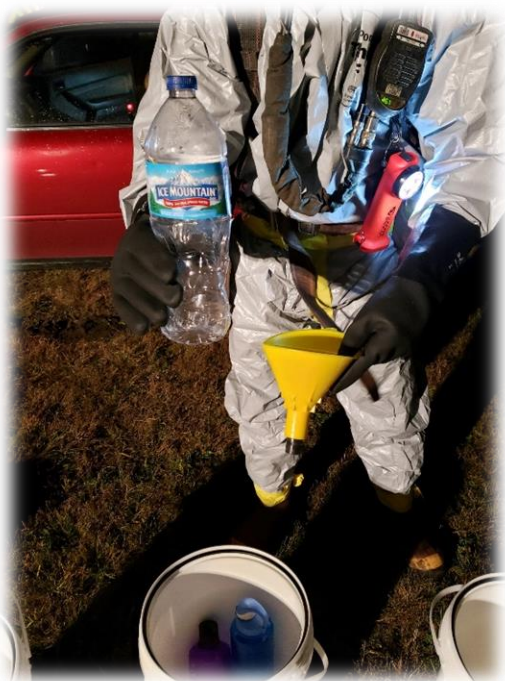
It was determined that all 5 totes of pavement striping paint had been damaged severely and all contents had escaped. The totes had been damaged to the point that plug & patch operations would not be successful. The crates of standard optics (glass beads) were secured to the vehicle but contents had partially emptied from their container.

Research on the spilled product was completed; it was noted that both of the products spilled were toxic to aquatic organisms and may cause long-term adverse effects in aquatic environment. The National Response Center (NRC) was contacted to report the incident.



Officials from EPA & DEQ responded to the scene and were updated on the incident and plan for mitigation and clean-up. Additional resources utilized during the incident included response from the following agencies: GTC Emergency Manager, GT County Road Commission, GTC Health Department, Law Enforcement (State & County) and Northern A1 Environmental Services.

Clean-up operations of the incident continued for a total of three full days. Garfield Road was closed to traffic for the first two days. During the first two days attention was focused on removing wet material at the spill site. On day three, attention was focused on removing contaminants from nearby ponds. A total of nine Vac trucks were utilized during the clean-up process along with two Frac Tanks for storage of contaminants on-site.



On October 28th, GTMESA was requested to respond for a chemical suicide event in the City of Manistee. This was the first requested deployment of the GTMESA Hazmat Team for Region 7. This incident may sound basic but there was a delay in notifying appropriate response teams due to the lack of information on the incident in the early stages. Due to the delay, the potential contamination zone was spread across the City of Manistee along with one location in the town of Benzonia. GTMESA approved Lieutenant Adam Drewery and Fire Fighter Mike Winter to respond with the Special Operations trailer for support at the incident. GTMESA was requested for assistance due to air monitoring capabilities and training that was provided with assistance from grant money. The chemical that was used in this event was Sodium Azide. This chemical is commonly used in small amounts in air bags. Sodium Azide is highly toxic when mixed with water forms Hydrazoic Acid. Sodium Azide also reacts with copper, lead, brass and solder to form a “HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE” compound.

This incident was time intensive, 12.5 hours, working thru the evening into the early morning. GTMESA crew worked hand in hand with the crew from Northern A1 and supervised the entire incident. Immediately crew met with the Emergency Operation Center to gather information on the incident and created an IAP. Safety concerns and further spread of the incident were immediately addressed.

There was a total of 8 locations identified that were possibly contaminated.

- ▶ City of Manistee Police Department
- ▶ Manistee County Sherriff’s Office
- ▶ Manistee County Central Dispatch
- ▶ City of Manistee Fire Department
- ▶ Munson Healthcare Manistee Hospital
- ▶ Van’s Towing



- ▶ Jowett Funeral Home
- ▶ Off duty Firefighter / Paramedic residence

These locations were all visited by Hazmat crews where air monitoring and decontamination of these locations were completed.

A total of 8 emergency response vehicles were quarantined at the Hospital.

- ▶ (1) City of Manistee Fire Department Ambulance
- ▶ (1) Jowett Funeral Home Hearse
- ▶ (1) Michigan State Police Patrol Vehicle
- ▶ (1) LRBOI Tribal Police Patrol Vehicle
- ▶ (2) Manistee County Sherriff's Patrol Vehicles
- ▶ (2) City of Manistee Police Patrol Vehicles



These vehicles were air monitored and decontaminated by Hazmat crew.

A total of 10 emergency responders were decontaminated and medically evaluated at the Hospital.

- ▶ (3) City of Manistee Fire Department Employees
- ▶ (1) Jowett Funeral Home Employee
- ▶ (1) Michigan State Police Employee
- ▶ (1) LRBOI Tribal Police Employee
- ▶ (2) Manistee County Sherriff Employees
- ▶ (2) City of Manistee Police Employees

All of the involved responders' clothing were collected and disposed of by Northern A1. The personal items and duty issued items were decontaminated by hand and air monitored for any possible contamination. The water collected from the decontamination tent was pumped out into waste drums for disposal by Northern A1.

It was an interesting year for Hazardous Materials incidents for GTMESA. Not all Fire Departments have the capabilities to provide this specialty service to their community. GTMESA takes great pride in providing this service to our community and environment.

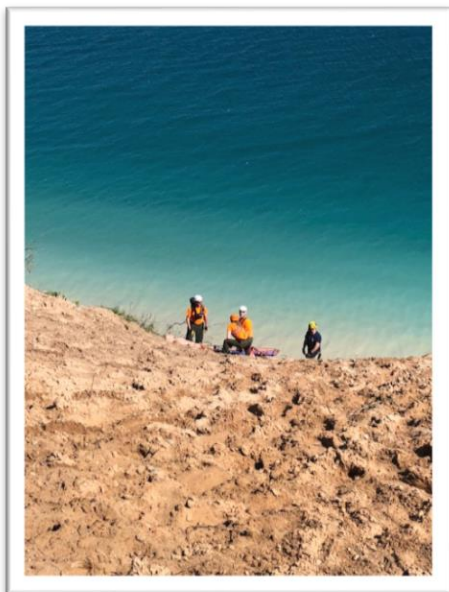
BAY AREA TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM (BATRT)

(Submitted by Lt. Andy Doornbos, Tech Rescue Team Leader)

For 2018, it was another exciting year for the members of the Bay Area Technical Rescue Team. Our current membership includes 15 highly trained personnel from here at GT Metro, Traverse City Fire Department, and Elmwood Township Fire Department. Other area departments have also recognized the importance of trained technical rescuers and have begun to send their members away to get the specialized training needed to be members of our team.

Two major milestones were reached by Bay Area Technical Rescue in 2018. We received our first callout to assist with the rescue of stranded hikers on a bluff along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Leelanau County. The preparation done by the team over the last 8 years resulted in a seamless deployment of resources from here at Metro along with the Traverse City Fire Department. We also received grant funding from the Grand Traverse Band and were able to purchase nearly \$20,000 worth of equipment that no other department has in northern Michigan. This equipment allows us to more rapidly shore trenches and can be used for structural collapse applications also.

Metro team members Lt. Steve Meek, Firefighter Jake Della Pia, Firefighter Jarod Barber, Firefighter Dave Sicotte, Operations Chief Apostol, and I attended a variety of training in 2018. Courses in Confined Space Rescue, Rope Rescue, Trench and Structural Collapse Rescue improved our members skills to further the mission of the technical rescue team and provide the best service possible to the citizens of Garfield, Acme, East Bay and the region.



GRANT FUNDING

ITEMS REQUESTED	AWARDING COMPANY	REQUESTED \$\$	RECEIVED \$\$	
SNOWMOBILE	GT BAND OF OTTAWA & CHIPPEWA INDIANS	\$ 8,666.10	\$ -	DENIED
DASH CAMERAS	MI TWP PARTICIPATING PLAN-RISK REDUCTION	\$ 2,355.33	\$ 2,355.33	GRANTED
ACTIVE ASSAILANT EQUIP.	GT BAND OF OTTAWA & CHIPPEWA INDIANS	\$ 29,619.90	\$ 29,619.90	GRANTED
SMOKE DETECTORS	AAA- AUTO CLUB GROUP	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	GRANTED
TRENCH SHORING KITS	GT BAND OF OTTAWA & CHIPPEWA INDIANS	\$ 15,300.00	\$ 15,300.00	GRANTED
		\$ 60,941.33	\$ 52,275.23	



STATION 1 NEWS... By Capt. Tony Posey

Station 1 is located in East Bay Township in the Three Mile Industrial Park. 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. In 2018, Station 1 responded to 904 incidents just in their response area. This does not account for the numerous second due responses into other station districts or to assist answering multiple calls.

The continuation of the Safe Neighborhood campaign was again very successful for 2018. 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. 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.

Congratulations to FF Mike Winter who was added to the full-time roster in January 2018. Station 1 consists of 13 members in 2018 under the direction of Captain Tony Posey and Lieutenants Andy Doornbos, Adam Drewery, and Steve Meek.

Station 1 was also the home to East Bay EMS during the overnight 7p-7a hours in 2018. 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

Station 8 responded to 629 incidents in 2018. Station 8 is manned 24 hours, 7 days a week with one Grand Traverse Metro firefighter and a second firefighter 16 hours (07:00am to 11:00pm), 7 days a week. The second firefighter is responsible to respond to medical incidents as the driver of the North Flight ambulance that is housed at Station 8 during the 16 duty hours. The North Flight ambulance is equipped as an Advanced Life Support unit



and is manned 16 hours a day (07:00am to 11:00pm), 7 days per week with a North Flight paramedic. This ambulance responds primarily to 911 medical incidents in the Acme area but also will respond to 911 incidents in Grand Traverse, Antrim, and Kalkaska counties.

During the hours of 11:00pm to 07:00am when only one firefighter is at Station 8, there is an on-call position that if filled is a Grand Traverse Metro firefighter. This firefighter may be at Station 8 in the crew trailer or at home if it is within an acceptable response distance. (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). If a medical incident occurs during this time, an ambulance responds from the North Flight base on Hastings Street in Traverse City. The North Flight ambulance at Station 8 is out of service during the overnight period and cannot respond.

January of 2019 witnessed the end of the 6-month memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Grand Traverse Band Fire Department of Peshawbestown for Station 8 to respond to medical and fire incidents at the Turtle Creek Casino property that is in Whitewater Township. During that period Station 8 responded to 35 medical and fire incidents.

The 2018 Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority annual open house was held on October 13th at Station 8. Demonstrations and displays from GTMESA and our community partners were part of the day's events. Along with the demonstration and displays the public was able to tour the station including the temporary crew's quarters and the children enjoyed the ability to dress as firefighters and participate in the firefighter agility course.

Also, in 2018 Station 8 received a new 2018 F250 Ford pick-up to replace the aging Squad 8. Along with the new Ford F250 Squad 8, Station 8 also has under its roof Engine 8, Tanker 8, Brush 8, Mule 8, and during the year when snow is on the ground the Metro snowmobile.

Station 8 roster includes – Jake Della Pia (Full-Time), Brian Haskin (Part-Time), Wayne Mervau (PT Support), Charlie Starkey (Part-Time), Joe Voiles (Part-Time), Lieutenant Gary Francisco (Full-Time), Lieutenant Adam Mervau (Part-Time), Captain Mark Shaul (Full-Time).

STATION 9 NEWS... By Capt. Mark Shaul

Station 9 responded to 341 incidents in 2018. Station 9 is the only Grand Traverse Metro Fire Station that has no scheduled manning. Past history included an 8-hour duty shift for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and also a residency program with firefighters that give them housing opportunity in exchange for duty and response coverage. Currently we are attempting coverage for vehicle maintenance and vehicle and medical equipment checks. Due to issues with coverage at other Metro stations, Station 9 can only be covered when all other station duty shift requirements are met. Renovations that will allow overnight shifts that are currently not allowed at Station 9 are in the works and will be concluded early 2019. This will allow Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority to reinstate our Residency Program. With the conclusion of

the overnight dorms construction, this will also allow East Bay Ambulance personnel to relocate to Station 9 for the overnight period of their shifts. Station 9 is the home base for East Bay Township Emergency Medical Service and when manned at night responds from GTMESA Station 1 due to the overnight situation at Station 9.

Station 9 has a long and unique list of apparatus under its roof. Squad 9, Engine 9, Metro Reserve Engine, Tanker 9, Brush /Wildfire 9, Mule 9, and the famous Water Supply 9. The fire apparatus that is called Water Supply 9, which is the only water supply unit in the GTMESA fleet and was designed by the legendary Station 9 members of Jim Olson and Glen Walters. Those two men and along with Ret. Chief Wayne Hanna were known as WHO Engineering and when all three worked on a project there wasn't much they couldn't concoct and build.

Station 9 roster includes - Matt Adamek (Full-Time in Jan 2019), Tim Newton (Part-Time), Rick Osburn (PT Support), Lieutenant Nick Lemcool (Part-Time), and Captain Mark Shaul (Full-Time).

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Station 9 Pancake Breakfast that will be held May 5th.

STATION 11 NEWS... By Capt. Brian Bloom

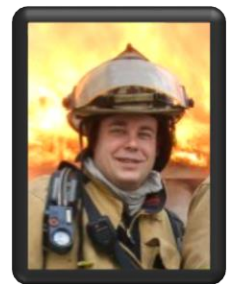
Station 11 finished out 2018 with 2,031 runs. This is an increase of 98 runs from 2017 and does not include responses into Station 12 or Station 1's area. This equates to 41% of GTMESA's total run volume for the year.

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 child passenger seat inspected, please call 231-947-3000 ext. 1234 for an appointment.

Station 11 was a host Station throughout the year for different agencies, including doing extrication demonstrations for the Munson Medical Center (MMC) Paramedic Students, the MMC EMT Students and for one of the local Boy Scout Troops.

A new Engine was purchased for Station 11 in the last half of 2018 to replace the 2010 Spartan Gladiator. New Engine 11 is a Pierce Impel. This new Engine has a very similar design and set up as the old Engine. It has an all LED light package as well as other upgraded features. Old Engine 11 was sent to Station 12 to replace their Engine.

Station 11 roster did fluctuate in 2018, with some members leaving to take full-time positions with other Departments.



STATION 12 NEWS... By Capt. Troy Holliday

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 (now 7 years old) was right around the corner and didn't realize the services we perform to ensure their safety. I 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 making sure you have working smoke alarms.



Garfield Township is growing, and we are expecting our call volume to increase in the upcoming years. In 2018 we ended the year with a total of 1,016 calls.

Congratulations are in order for the following members that are stationed here at Station 12:

- FF Chase Schelling passing his Paramedic licensing. A lot of work goes into these courses and they are not easy! Good job Chase!
- FF Spencer Scanlon for receiving his Paramedic Instructor/Coordinator license in 2018. Congrats to Lt. Nick Lemcool and FF Jarod Barber who also became IC's. Together they will be hosting a wide range of medical continuing education courses for all of our members.
- Additionally, FF Scanlon was also hired full-time as our System Administrator / Firefighter position where he will be working a 40hr/week in our Administrative Office and filling in on the suppression side when staffing levels fall low.
- Lt. Josh Sprenger was also promoted to the full-time staffing. Lt. Sprenger is also the department's Health and Safety Officer and has taken over the management of our ever-aging vehicle fleet Metro wide. They are both a welcome addition to the full-time staffing.
- FF Mike Thomas, along with FF Erin Fluharty and FF Austin Miner for passing their EMT course.
- Our new probationary members Avery Pucelik and Nate Saldanha for passing their EMT course just prior to joining our department. They are currently involved in fire school and expected to be done in May 2019. Also, probationary member Austin Caldwell for passing his fire school. He will be starting an EMT class in 2019.

Station 12 continues to host numerous events around the station (i.e. Birthday parties, Cub Scout tours, lost and found puppies, MHSAA Basketball Referee meetings, 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 training.

BUREAU OPERATIONS OVERVIEW – 2018

This was a year where we were able to expand several of our existing programs and 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.

A new fire hydrant location and information mapping tool was introduced which allows responding personnel to see on apparatus tablets or their cell phones the location and capacity of hydrants nearby the incident. We also introduced a program to have pre-plan information kept on site of occupancies of significant hazard or size. These pre-plans will assist officers with vital information. Upcoming in 2019 will be to upload this information onto tablets located in apparatus which will automatically provide viewable information to the officer upon dispatch.

In 2018, we focused our efforts on reducing our leading fire cause from 2017 which was unattended cooking. As you will see in the included data our efforts were effective and reduced our unattended cooking fires to a low of only three fires and the third leading cause behind electrical/equipment malfunctions and improper disposal of smoking materials in 2018.

Residential properties are where 79% of fires occurred in 2018. We continue to focus on the residential fire problem through our Safe Neighborhoods door-to-door smoke alarm campaign to single family homes, by reassigning Fire Inspectors and our Company Fire Inspections to inspect multi-family housing complexes including the individual apartments. Along with the increased presence of our Fire and Life Safety programs delivered to multi-family occupancies and the business community, which translates to increased knowledge by employees who take that knowledge to their home and change behaviors to increase safety.

Occupants of multi-family 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. AC/FM Belcher and Public Educator Ritter presented a fire safety/

landlord responsibility program to the Northern Michigan Rental Property Association in late 2018. Continuing our efforts of education to this group will help strengthen fire safety in all rental properties.

In late 2017 the Metro Townships (Garfield, East Bay, Acme) adopted new Fire Prevention Ordinances which adopted the 2015 International Fire Code. These ordinances became effective in early 2018. The adoption of the 2015 International Fire Code keeps the townships congruent with the adopted current edition of the 2015 Michigan Building Code.

In 2018 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. The workload of this agreement is monitored and currently does not produce significant strain on the department. With the increase in programs we have implemented to make our Metro communities a safe place to work, live and play and if our neighboring communities see significant growth a decision may need to be made whether to continue providing plan review and inspection services outside our district.

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 three Youth Firesetter Program Counselors (as needed).



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. In 2018 our direct programming reached nearly 9,500 persons in our community. These are people who live and work in our district. The knowledge and awareness gained filters throughout the community and affects the homes and places of employment found in our district and hopefully reduces the potential incidents of fire, injury or death within our community.



Target groups continue to include: youth ages 4-14, people within the retirement ages of 60 and over and the disabled. *(Photo right: Chief Belcher at Station 8 Open House Fire Prevention Week)*

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 in order 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;

October: Close Before You Doze and Have Working Smoke Alarms

November: CO Alarms and Be Looking When You're Cooking

December: Clean Your Chimney and Safe Heating



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 the need for both fire and injury prevention messages.

ON WATCH:

Burns and fire-related deaths 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 2018 **The Grand Traverse On Watch Coalition** (formally Risk Watch) 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 a Munson Healthcare 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 On Watch Coalition has been developed and includes the following agencies: Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept., Grand Traverse 911, Munson Healthcare, Home Town Pharmacy, GT Bay Americas Boating Club, Michigan Department of Transportation, Safe Kids North Shore, and the US Coast Guard. On 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.

- 77 5th graders and 4 adults @ Cherry Knoll for *What is an Emergency? And What Do I Do?* Presentation
- We visited 8 schools and or daycares for Fire Prevention Week in October, programming to 1,455 students and 72 adults.
- We re-visited those schools in April to re-iterate our fire messages with *Kasey the Fire Dog* as our guest. This time we saw 1,202 students and 49 staff.
- *Chill Out for Winter Safety* was taught at Cherry Knoll to 245 students and 12 staff members.
- Cherry Knoll welcomed us to teach *In and Around Vehicles* to 213 students and 8 staff members.
- *Water Safety* was brought to 1,273 students

Currently the program is delivered in the following Metro Fire District schools; Courtade Elementary, Cherry Knoll Elementary, Grand Traverse Academy, Traverse City Christian, Montessori Children’s House and Silver Lake Elementary.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



In 2018, 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 expos, 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:

- 505 people reached at community events such as: Shop with a Hero, Flag Raising, Heroes Helping Heroes, Toys for Tots Kick Off and Dream Team Baseball game.



- Other community events where community fire safety information was present included: Acme Fall Fest, the Pancake Breakfast at Sta. 9, the Spaghetti Dinner in Acme
- We conducted 11 *Fire Station Tours*, to include an education segment, for groups such as: cub scouts, schools and church groups. We also hosted one birthday party that was purchased as a silent auction item that we donated to Cherry Knoll's school carnival.
- We highlighted our department, gear, firefighters and education at 12 community events that we were invited to for a "Truck Touch". These often are held at festivals, socials, block parties and picnics.
- Other safety presentations were carried out on various topics depending on the receiving audiences. These presentations included: cooking safety, fall prevention, fire safety for landlords, fire safety for merit badges and general programming overviews.

We also visited 8 elementary schools and daycares in our district during Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme was "Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware. Fire Can Happen Anywhere". We contacted 1455 children and 72 adults during this week.

We also provide various driving and traffic safety programs which address distracted driving, safety around cars, backing issues etc.

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 2018, 262 car seats were installed/checked by our crews, 356 parents/caregivers received education and 39 new car seats were distributed. New car seats are provided to those without the means to purchase. These seats are provided thru grant funding by the Michigan Office of Highway and Safety Planning.

These types of events are great tools we use to reach our residents in order 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 un-documented 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 503 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.



OLDER ADULTS – REMEMBERING WHEN

Roughly seventy-five percent (75%) 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 prevention, 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.

In the past the Commission on Aging provided 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 in senior homes. Turnover at the Commission on Aging caused this program to be put on the back burner however we will revisit with the COA in 2019 to re-implement the program. We will also look to provide training for our senior housing staff members who have direct contact and already visit these living spaces on a daily basis.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Numerous times throughout the year we were featured in stories, impromptu interviews at incidents or stories related to incidents from other areas. We enjoy media coverage and our ability to reach so many households with safety messages. These are not only a platform for safety messaging they are also a great way for our residents to see who Metro Fire is and what all we do in our communities.

In August we were invited by 7&4 News to be featured monthly to discuss a timely topic of safety on their new UpNorthFamily segment airing on their 29&8 affiliate.

August	UpNorthFamily 7&4	1 segment	Back to School/School Bus Safety
September	UpNorthFamily 7&4	2 segments	Booster Safety/Car Seat Misuse
October	UpNorthFamily 7&4	2 segments	Chimney Safety/Close Before You Doze
November	UpNorthFamily 7&4	2 segments	CO/Cooking Safety
December	UpNorthFamily 7&4	2 segments	Safe Holidays/Safe Heating

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.

In February of 2018 we worked out the details with the Prosecutor's office to have our YFS program recognized by them as a Diversion program where youth accused of setting fires can attend the required counseling sessions vs. criminal charges and court penalties. Information regarding the YFS program has been presented to Probate Court staff, Grand Traverse Sheriff's Office CPO's, caseworkers with Child and Family Services and DHHS has been made aware of it. We were also invited to staff an informational table at the Governor's Task Force for Child Abuse and Neglect conference, where we received kudos from a local judge and were able to directly answer questions from case workers. The YFS program was presented for the youth enrolled in the court's New Vision Academy as an educational tool for behavior correction.

Families are referred to the program by area law enforcement, parents, the juvenile courts and responding firefighters. In 2018 two subjects from inside our district and six subjects from outside our district were referred to the program. Of these eight subjects, five of them attend schools in our district. Once completing our program, the recidivism rate is minimal.

In late 2016 we instituted a fee schedule for cost recovery of performing these counseling sessions for subjects from outside our district. This fee is sent to the referring agency for payment. In 2019 we will revisit whether this fee is necessary as more of Metro's neighboring jurisdictions have added trained counselors and the program has become a more regional coalition which Metro provides support and advice vs. performing the counseling sessions. We are hopeful additional jurisdictions will join the efforts. In 2019 we will be renaming the program to eliminate the negative connotations in the current name and reflect the regional efforts. Our Youth Fire Setter Counselor positions continue to be filled by Capt. Mark Shaul, Lt. Kyle Clute and Public Educator Jen Ritter.

A summary of this year's cases shows that the youth that is most often participating in this program is a white male, between 11-14 years of age, in 6th-8th grade living with biological parents, with the mother most often as the primary caregiver. They have started fires both while in the care of their parents and when left unattended. Several have ADHD and the majority currently are having issues at school or have had issues there in the past. Their family has often had a prior history of some sort with law enforcement. They have been referred by both the fire service and the courts. More than half have lit fires 5 or more times. Half of them caused a fire that caused damage. Saturdays and Wednesdays were the most common days of the week for these fires to occur and more heavily in the months of April, June and October. The fires occurred between 9am-7pm, most often at home, but occasionally at a vacant lot or yard. Almost always lighters were used that the youth acquired in or around their home. Accelerants weren't always used, but when they were it was gasoline, lighter fluid or hairspray. The majority of these youth acted alone. Only one youth reported to vape/smoke, however, most of the youth lived in homes with smokers.

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 are required to spend a minimum of 2 hours per week performing 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 2018 firefighters contacted 804 residences, installed 548 smoke alarms and replaced 133 batteries in homes, 406 door hangers were left, 136 homes denied the request for service and 242 homes accepted services. Continued work is ongoing to secure funding through grants and reduced pricing in order to sustain the program.



On May 19, 2018 Metro coordinated an area wide Smoke Alarm Blitz Day. Several area departments in Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties participated in the event. State of Michigan Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier (*photo left*) drove up from Lansing to participate in a media press conference to kick off the event. All five Metro stations conducted the 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 210 homes and 125 smoke alarms were installed throughout the district.

We continue to utilize the 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.

In 2018, we saw an increase in the number of homes that experienced a fire that did not have working smoke alarms in comparison to previous years (see below). In 2018, 29% of homes did not have any smoke alarms present, nearly 15% had alarms that did not function. This equals 44% of homes that experienced a fire in 2018 did not have working smoke alarms! Due to difficulty with funding in 2018 the program was scaled back to focus more on education and encouraging those with the means to purchase their own alarms and Metro would assist with installations. Regardless of the shift in focus Metro never denied a service request or the installation of the program alarms. 2019 will bring a refocus of our efforts in hopes of bringing this number down.

Our 2017 fire responses showed 22% of homes did not have smoke alarms and that 10% had smoke alarms but they did not function during a 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.

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 4,460 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. 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 many 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.

In 2017 four lives were saved when a fire occurred in the basement of a home where our crews had installed alarms in 2015. Also, in early 2019 a fire occurred with four occupants in a home. Three occupants were alerted to the fire by smoke alarms installed by our program. Unfortunately, a fatality also occurred in the room of origin due to a fast-growing fire and possible incapacitation of the occupant.



INSPECTIONS

Two Fire Inspectors and seven company inspectors currently perform inspections on all 2,295 existing occupancies within the district:

Acme Twp. – 234 East Bay Twp. – 270 Garfield Twp. – 1,791

A total of 971 annual inspections were performed. Out of these, 1,490 re-inspections were required. There were 369 Firefighter Right to Know updates performed in 2018 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 23 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 (restaurants, churches, etc.), 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. 2018 also saw the continuation of an increased focus on inspecting multi-family apartment buildings. Historically these are where most of our fires occur other than in single family dwellings.

We continue using the new software purchased in 2015 which 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

In 2018 one citation for non-compliance was issued which resulted in a formal court hearing and was concluded with compliance.

The number one violation found in 2018 was inoperable exit signs/emergency lights. These are vital in the event of an emergency to guide occupants out of a structure. The second most found violation was fire extinguishers not being properly maintained and serviced yearly.

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 / 2018	ACME		EAST BAY		GARFIELD		TOTAL	
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS	162	66	127	87	967	812	1256	971
RE-INSPECTIONS	201	132	199	124	1187	1228	1587	1484
FF RIGHT TO KNOW	143	25	105	47	828	294	1076	366
PLAN REVIEWS	23	6	23	19	146	116	192	141
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	14	8	34	17	206	173	254	198
SPECIAL EVENTS	5	4	7	5	11	3	23	12
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE (INCLUDES COMPLAINTS)	5	1	8	6	17	16	29	23
COMPANY INSPECTIONS	6	27	27	35	227	177	260	239
TOTAL ACTIVITY	559	269	530	340	3589	2819	4678	3428

*Not all activities are included in the above chart. The total of all inspection (code enforcement) activities for 2018 is 3,702.

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 2018 with the exception that Traverse City Fire Department is performing all plan reviews and inspections within their jurisdiction. A total of 219 plan reviews, not including related inspections, were conducted in 2018. Of those, 197 (90%) were for in district projects and 22 (10%) were conducted for out of district projects. These out of district reviews/inspections generated \$9324.75 in revenue in 2018. In district revenues for plan reviews for 2018 were \$51,485.34.

INVESTIGATIONS

Fire investigations are performed by Inspector/Investigator Randy Rittenhouse, Inspector/Investigator Eric Chryst and Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Belcher. 2018 saw a total of 21 investigations performed by Investigators, including both vehicle and structure fires. Of those, 3 fires were intentionally set. One of these has resolved and case closed with a 2nd degree arson conviction. An arrest was made in another case and pending prosecution. One case is still an open case and under investigation. These do not represent all fires in 2018 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, forensic knowledge and must only be performed by highly trained, competent personnel.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Of the reported structure fires in district in 2018, 16 occurred in one- or two-family residential occupancies while 7 occurred in multi-family/residential rentals, 6 in commercial/industrial properties and 2 in shed/outbuildings. All fires resulted in a total loss of \$1,461,096.00 (property and contents) with reported pre-fire valuations (property and contents) of \$24,326,730.00. This represents a total percent of property saved at 94%. Fires in commercial/industrial occupancies (inspected) resulted in losses of \$210,541.00 with the largest being a self-storage building in which a unit was occupied for a living space. This resulted in a \$150,000.00 loss. The largest loss in 2018 was a single-family home with a loss of \$400,000.00 for the structure and contents.

Electrical/equipment malfunctions was the leading fire cause in 2018 with improper disposal of smoking materials a close second and unattended cooking third. This shows where our public education messaging needs to once again focus in the coming year.

There was 1 civilian fire fatality and 6 firefighter injuries in 2018. The fatality occurred in a residential type garage with an upper level which had been converted to a residential living unit and was not constructed with the protections intended for a living/sleeping space nor were any smoke alarms present in the space. The increase in firefighter injuries is due to new reporting guidelines and are not limited to fireground injuries as previously reported.

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	6	0
Civilian	0	1

Occupancy Type Data - # of Fires

1 or 2 Family Residential	16
Multi-Family Residential	4
Commercial/Industrial/Retail	6
Assembly/ Restaurants	0
Assisted Living / Nursing Homes	3
Garfield Twp.	17
East Bay Twp.	7
Acme Twp.	5



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. In the upcoming year, 2019 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 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.

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, Lt. Kyle Clute and Senior Technician Jennifer Ritter.

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.



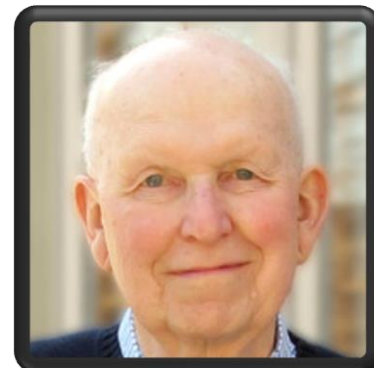
FIRE CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

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

(Courtesy of Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home)

J. David Lather, 83, of Traverse City, passed away Sunday, October 14, 2018 at his home in the presence of his loving family, after a battle with cancer. Dave was born in Traverse City and graduated from Traverse City Central High School in 1953. David continued his education at Michigan State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management in 1957. On July 6, 1957, he married the love of his life, Pauline Yvonne Brigham at Traverse City Central United Methodist Church.



David began his career with Hobart Lumber Company in Hobart, Indiana, a position he held from 1957 until 1958. It was at that time that David entered the U. S. Army, serving in Nike Hercules Guided Missile Electronics. He was discharged to the U. S. Army Reserves, finishing that enlistment in 1964. David returned to Hobart Lumber and worked there from 1960 until 1963. While there, he and Pauline designed and built their first home. It was during this time that their two children, Brantley and Lori were born. David had a long career in the construction industry, a career influenced by his grandfather who built several, now historic buildings in Traverse City, including the first public library, the downtown post office, and Central United Methodist Church. In 1963, David returned to Traverse City, where he and Pauline designed and built their family home, where he raised his family and lived until his passing. He accepted a position with Red Mill Lumber in downtown Traverse City. He later became the manager of Structural Systems, the truss plant division of Red Mill, a position he held until 1980. In 1983, David accepted the position of Director of the Grand Traverse County Construction Code office. He held that position until 2000 when he retired.

Coming out of retirement, he went to work for Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department as an information analyst. Dave was the behind the scenes guy working diligently to produce geographical data for Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department.

A Celebration of Life took place on October 20, 2018 with friends and family.

Obituary and photo from Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home used with permission.

Firefighter Class of 2018

New firefighter Austin Caldwell and Explorer Cadet Mariah Rubin at their graduation at Mt. Zion Church.

Back Row: Capt. Posey, FF/Insp. Chryst, FF Fluharty, Lt. Clute, FF Tim Wrede, FF Curtis Walters, FF Chase Schelling, FF Tim Newton



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Firefighters from Metro Fire attended flashover hands on training at the Oakland Community College in May 2018. This is an excellent opportunity for our newer firefighters to train in multiple live fire situations as well as forcible entry techniques.

Pictured Left: FF Spencer Scanlon, FF Erin Fluharty, FF Curtis Walters

Pictured Right: FF Scanlon, FF Fluharty



Thank You to one of our neighbors, Nora, from Woodland School! Nora recognized that sometimes kids need some happiness in their day! She wrote a proposal at school and collected stuffed animals with the intent of our emergency responders having a few on the trucks. Now when they arrive at a call and there's a child on scene they can pass on a "stuffed friend" thanks to Nora and all those who donated to her project! Thanks Nora!

Acme Fall Festival held at Flintfields in August 2018

Pictured Below: Capt. Mark Shaul



ICE RESCUE TRAINING: Metro crews train to rescue victims that fall into the ice. This training was also in participation with US Coast Guard rescue personnel.



FROM ICE RESCUE TO SWIFTWATER RESCUE TRAINING: A technical level 4-day course to train our firefighters for a high-risk potential with the removal of Sabin Dam in GTMESA response area.



Photo Below: House fire on 4 Mile Rd



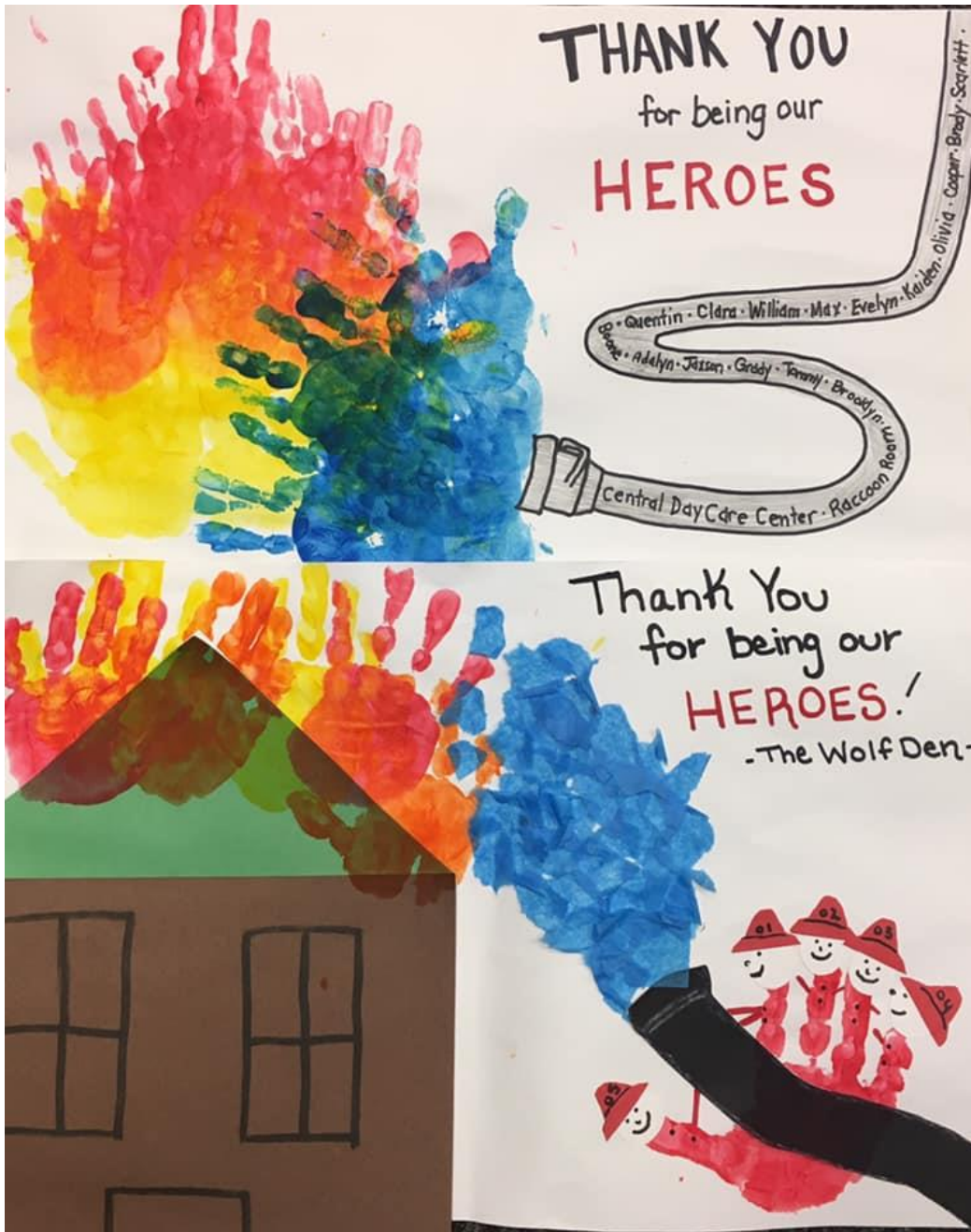
Photo: Storage unit fire, involved 5 units.



Toys for Tots – at Meijer Traverse City

Asst. Chief Steve Apostol, Jen Ritter, FF Spencer Scanlon, FF Erin Fluharty, Lt. Nick Lemcool, Lt. Josh Sprenger, Lt. Kyle Clute, FF Curtis Walters



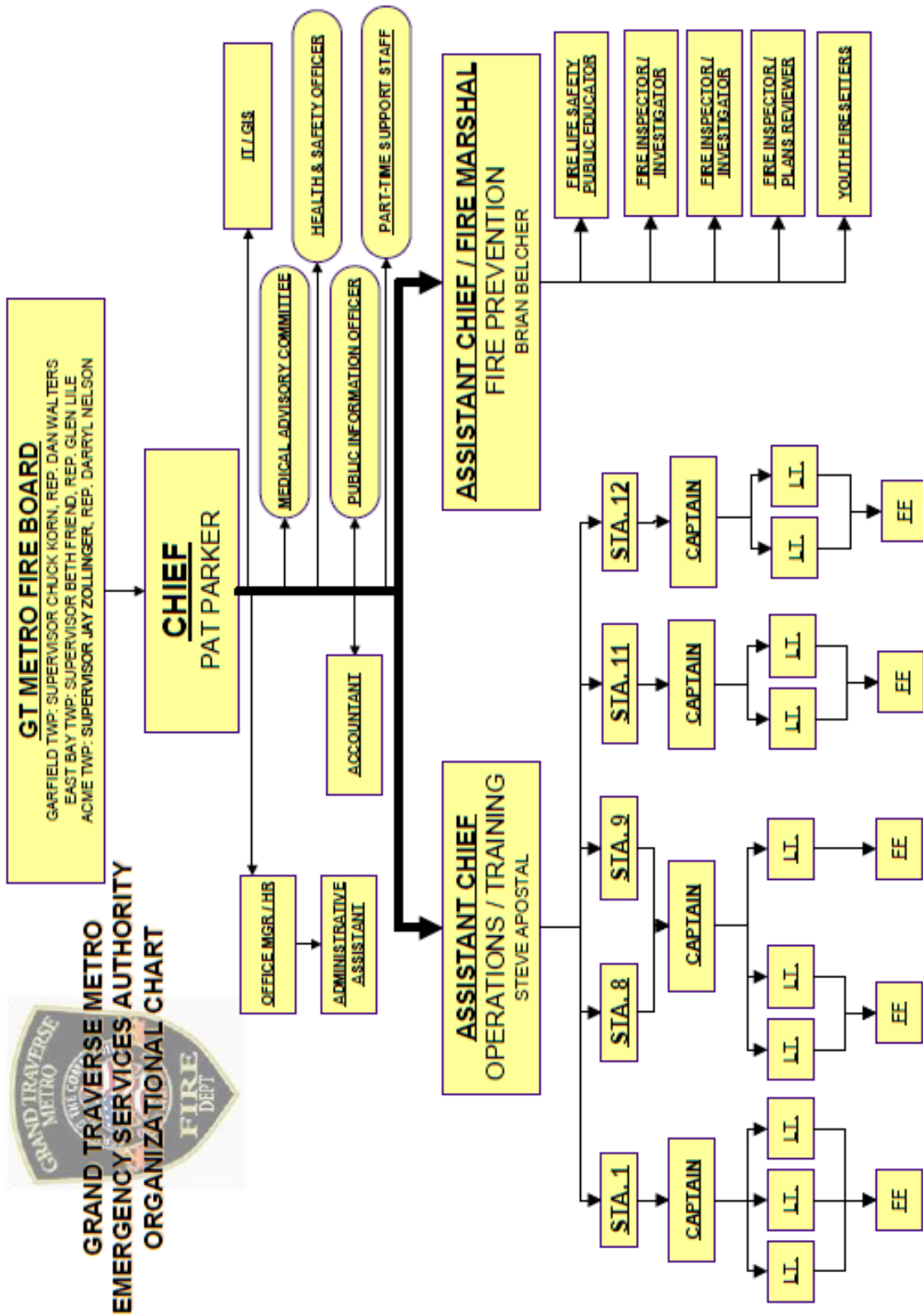


Challenge Coins for Sale



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.



DEPARTMENTAL ROSTER

at end of year

Full-Time - Administration

Fire Chief Pat Parker
Asst Chief – Operations Steve Apostol
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
Accountant Robin Ehardt

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 Josh Sprenger (Sta. 12)
Lieutenant Kyle Clute (Sta. 11)

Firefighter Jake Della Pia (Sta. 8)
Firefighter Curtis Walters (Sta. 1)
Firefighter Jarod Barber (Sta. 1)
Firefighter Mike Winter (Sta. 1)
Firefighter Daren Mansfield (Sta. 11)
Firefighter Matt Adamek (Sta. 9)

Fire Department Chaplain

Jude Younker

Part-Time - Suppression

Lt. Adam Mervau FF Wayne Mervau
FF Lee Bailey FF Hal Miller
FF Grant Blackmer FF Austin Miner
FF Erin Fluharty FF Tim Newton
FF Jake Garris FF Rick Osburn
FF Brian Haskin FF Jordan Query
FF Bill Krukowski FF Spencer Scanlon
FF Mike Lince FF Chase Schelling
FF Cody Lipe FF Trevor Schick

FF David Sicotte Probation Austin Caldwell
FF Charles Starkey Probation Madison Dean
FF Jacob Strait Probation Bobby Handa
FF Mike Thomas Probation Nate Saldanha
FF Joe Voiles Probation Avery Pucelik
FF Michael Winter
FF Rick Worm
FF Tim Wrede



New Pierce Engine 11 - 2018

**From all of us at
Grand Traverse Metro Fire
Department,
Thank You for allowing us to
serve your community!**