

2019 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

2019 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	11
Hazardous Material Incidents	13
Fire Prevention Bureau	
Mission Statement and Bureau Overview	19
Public Education	20
Community Events, Older Adult Outreach	20
On Watch Program	23
Youth Firesetter	24
Safe Neighborhood Smoke Alarm Campaign	26
Inspections	27
Plan Reviews	28
Investigations	28
Program Effectiveness	28
Fire Prevention Summary	30
Community Participation	31
Recognition	33
Organizational Chart	39
Departmental Roster	40

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

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

Cover Photo by Scott Mann: Metro Fire crews on scene of a structure fire at 1359hrs on April 29, 2019 in Garfield Township. Upon arrival crews found the entire house engulfed in flames. Family members made it out safely. Fire crews worked on extinguishing exposure fires to neighboring structures while trying to protect equipment and apparatus from a plethora of falling burning embers that covered a large area. 21 firefighters from 4 Metro stations fought the blaze along with firefighters from Blair Twp, Long Lake Twp, and Green Lake Twp.

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 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 2019 annual report. On behalf of the Metro Authority Board, Officers and the 53 brave men and women of the department, we thank **YOU** the Community for your continued support. Our dedicated employees are the backbone of the Authority. They 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. These dedicated employees find ways to deliver on the challenges faced with tailored solutions to fit any incident. We are your all hazards department. With that, this report cannot possibly capture all their individual efforts but does represent an overview of their collective accomplishments.



As you will read, in 2019 the department responded to 4712 calls for service which is a 4.2% decrease from the previous year. Medical and rescue continue to lead our responses with 72% of the calls. Our community's demographics are changing with an increase in population. Traverse Connect reports that our region is seeing an increase of 33% above the US average of 55 and older adults, along with a decrease of 19% below US average of 20-34-year-old Millennials. Our statistics show that older adults use more of our services, while our delivery model needs more younger adults to provide those services as firefighters and EMT's. Our department will continue to find ways to be resilient and find cost effective ways to respond to emergencies using the risk analysis approach.

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

1. Our Authority Board and Townships approved new Articles of Incorporation that should serve the Authority for many years to come.
2. The department purchased three (3) new Kubota ATV units to replace 23-year-old units. These will serve our wildland firefighting and off-road rescue missions.
3. Station 9 was remodeled to accommodate sleeping quarters. With this project, Metro reinstituted its residency program and we now have a firefighter living at the station.
4. The department also purchased five (5) LifePak 15 monitor/defibrillators. These lifesaving devices also allow our medical personnel to send 12 lead EKG's to the ER as well as monitoring the vitals of our patients.
5. Metro was successful in receiving numerous grants this past year to help improve mission readiness. We received \$30,000 from the Ironman & Firehouse Subs Foundations to purchase three (3) sets of Hurst eDravlic battery powered Jaws of Life tools. We also received a \$9,000 grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for the purchase of a new rescue snowmobile to be used in our many miles of recreation trails. Our insurance carrier the Michigan Township Participating Plan gave us two (2) grants to install cameras in all our front-line engines as well as surveillance cameras in one of the fire stations.
6. With the challenge of recruitment talent, the Authority Board made the investment of adding two (2) new fulltime employees to the ranks. These new fulltime employees will help round out shifts and help alleviate the "browning out" (no staffing) of stations.

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 (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:

2019 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. Steve Duell



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



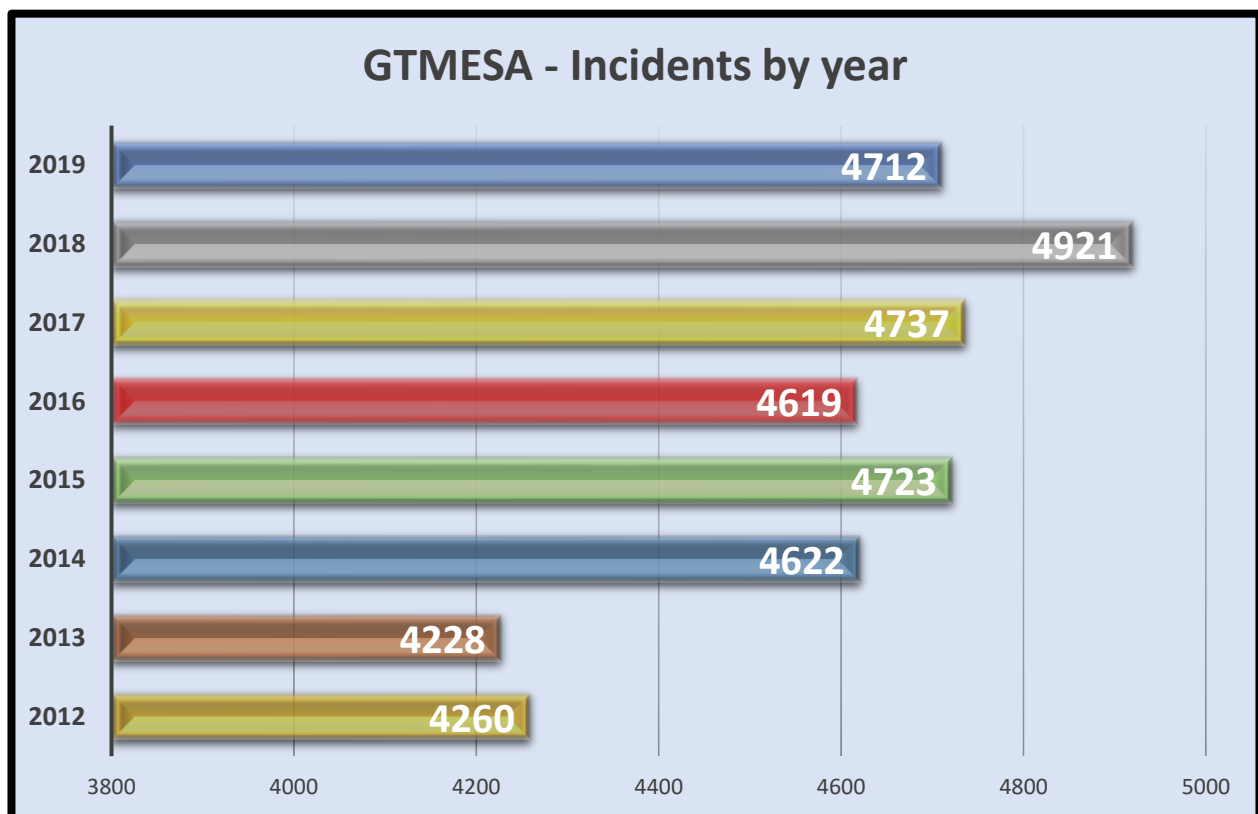
STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Grand Traverse Metro
Emergency Services Authority
responded to

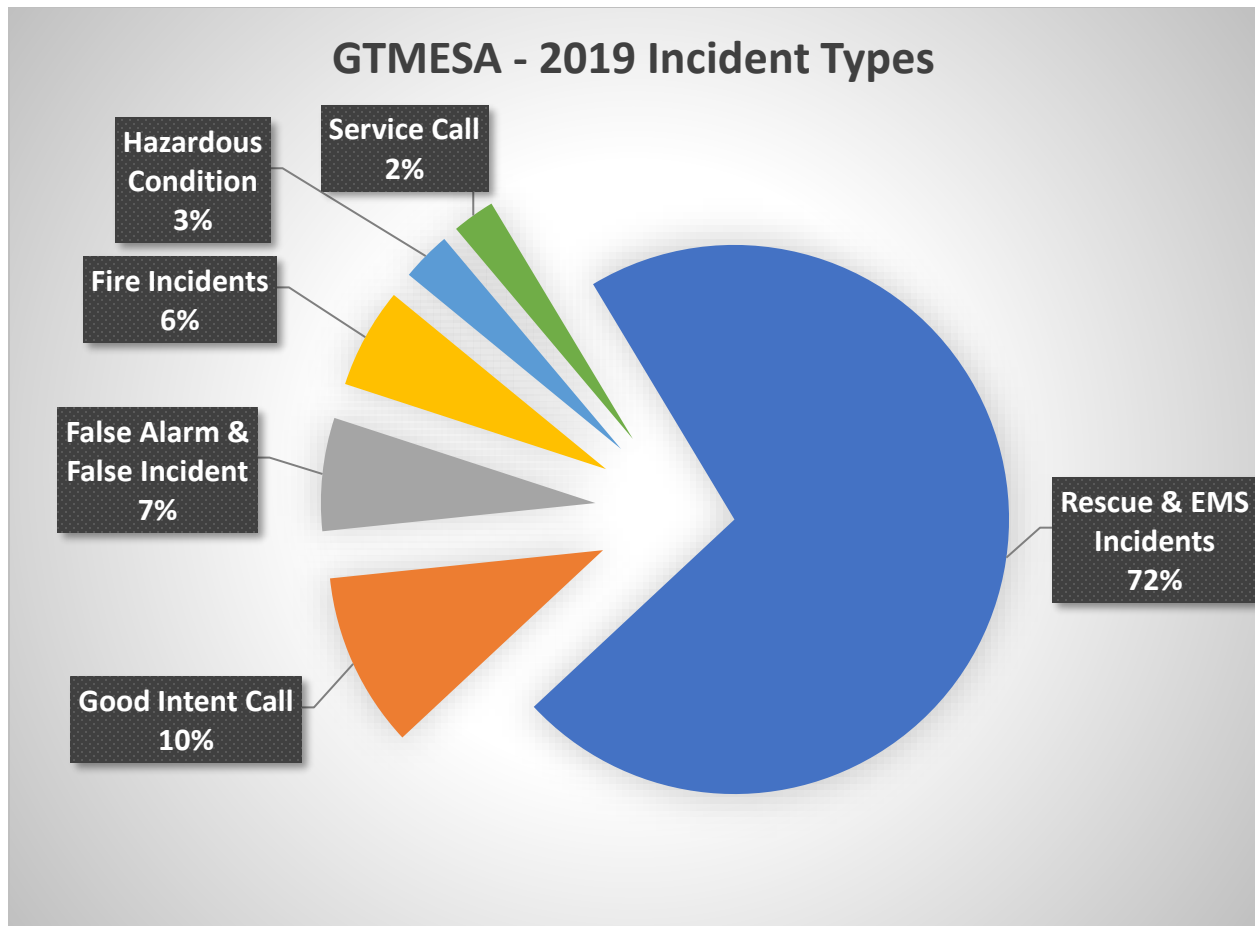
4,712

incidents in 2019.

A decrease of 4.2% of incidents from 2018.

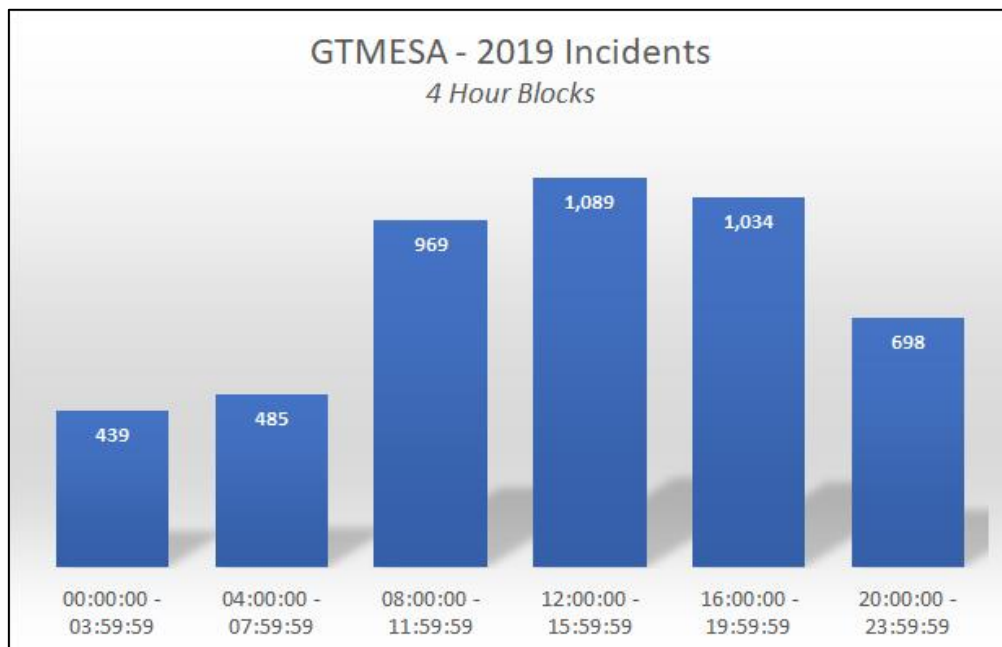


Statistics for the last few years shows our growth of incidents in the Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships.

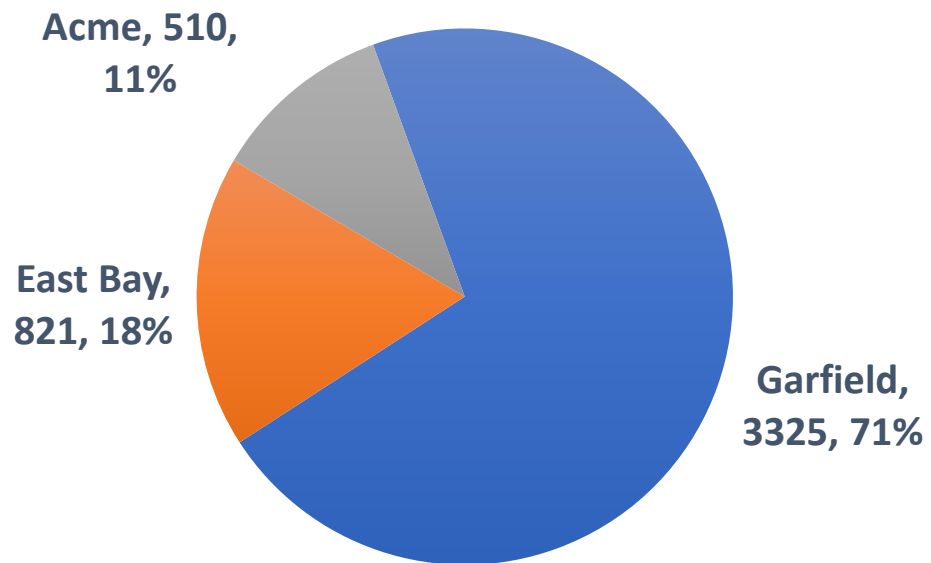


Our busiest time of day appears to be between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm.

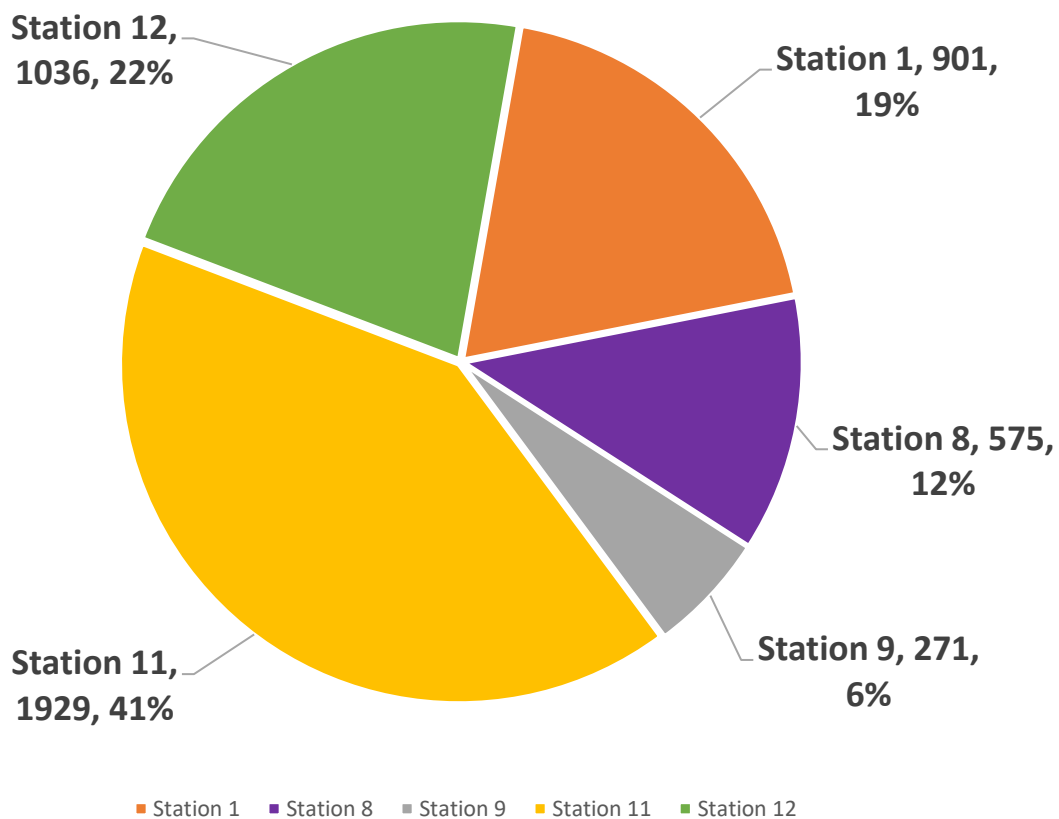
Incidents by Station does not represent assistance to the other stations for additional manpower, apparatus, or to cover for multiple incidents.



GTMESSA - 2019 Incidents by Township
Total: 4,656 - does not include mutual aid



GTMESSA - 2019 Incidents by Station
Total: 4,712 - includes mutual aid





OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

by Asst. Chief Steve Apostal



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Of the GTMESA's emergency calls, 72% 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 is now an Advanced Life Support agency. 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 2019, rescue units responded to 196 motor vehicle crashes, which at least 18 of them required extrication of victims. Of those 196 incidents, 9 involved pedestrians and 70 motor vehicle crashes had no reported injuries.



ISO RATING

GTMESA saw an improvement in its ISO classification in 2019 from a 5 to a 3. The work required to improve this score took considerable time and effort from all areas of GTMESA staff. The work paid off with a better score which may result in lower insurance cost for some of our residents and business owners.



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 decrease in calls for service for 2019 total of 4,712. Medical calls account for 72% of all responses. Station 11 off Veteran's Drive was the busiest in the Metro area with 1929 calls for service.

Mutual aid (where neighboring departments aid one another) was re-evaluated, and a new system put into place through the Grand Traverse County Central Dispatch. These enhancements have created automatic aid agreements which will dispatch additional resources on confirmed fires, putting additional pieces of apparatus and personnel on scene sooner. This should help all the fire departments in Grand Traverse County and prevent the delays seen in the past when resources were ordered after arriving at a scene. In 2020, that will be our first full year with all of the enhanced responses in place.

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 2019 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.



The department had the opportunity to train in an acquired structure off US 31 near Maple Bay Recreation area that was set for demolition. GTMESA and mutual aid departments all sent crews through this structure. Crews performed a variety of tasks including rapid intervention training for downed firefighters, finding areas of refuge when trapped in a structure, rescuing downed firefighters from a basement, and roof evolutions to simulate vertical ventilation. There were many challenges presented in these evolutions.

Other training at Maple Bay included fire investigation training with the Michigan State Police. After all training was completed the structure was ignited and presented an opportunity to show newer members the stages of fire development in a safe setting. Most of the time, senior members have little time to discuss these stages for fire development or impending collapse due to the chaotic nature of fire scenes.

In 2019, Captain Tony Posey was the first GTMESA member to attend Eastern Michigan University's Fire Staff and Command program. This program brought command officers together one week each month from February through October. This program sees nearly twice as many applicants as openings. Captain Posey sacrificed time away from his family and made the best of his time there. He was awarded Outstanding Research Paper for his project.



RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF)

RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF) is continuing to develop for fire and EMS agencies across the country and Grand Traverse County fire departments. RTF's are utilized in a coordinated fashion with law enforcement when a mass casualty event occurs due to hostile actions of one or more attackers. This could include active shooter, stabbings, car ramming, or use of an improvised explosive device (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.



Area departments performed a large-scale exercise at Cherry Capital Airport to simulate a gunman that traveled through the terminal and took over an airplane parked at the gate. This simulation included numerous victims that needed to be extricated by firefighters working in conjunction with law enforcement officers, to a triage area. Northern Michigan Emergency Response Teams with numerous police officers also participated. A collaborative effort has been developed with GTMESA, Grand Traverse Sheriff's Department, and the Traverse City Fire and Police Departments to enhance our response capabilities.

STAFFING

Staffing continues to be an issue as the department continues to see a loss of its part-time workforce. A review of the last several years found that many people that were trained by GTMESA either leave for other area departments or lose interest in the fire service. The vast majority of our part-time staff work full-time jobs in other vocations and professions limiting their availability. The department has continued to see part-time hours worked go down and overtime hours increase to levels never seen in the past.

The time commitment is one of the main reasons we have people turn down the opportunity to work for GTMESA. A potential firefighter candidate with no formal training needs to attend a medical first responder and firefighter training courses. This training runs from September to May and requires attendance on Monday and Wednesday evenings, along with numerous Saturday's. Most members take an additional 250 to 300 hours of on shift training once they complete the formal training classes before being ready to respond to calls.

EXTRICATION EQUIPMENT

Extrication equipment was a priority for replacement in 2019. An attempt at a federal grant in 2019 was under consideration but not funded. GTMESA partnered up with Firehouse Subs and the Ironman Foundation on a grant that allowed the department to purchase three battery operated extrication tools.

These “Combi” tools have been placed on engines across the district and allow for both spreading and cutting operations with one tool. The benefits of these battery-operated tools are that they are less labor intensive since our crews do not need to have the tool, a gas-powered pump unit, and hoses to move around a crash scene. While dedicated tools perform at the highest levels, the combi tools allow the first due engine to put the tool in service quickly and open vehicle doors for those involved in crashes. These tools are quite capable and work well in a vast majority of extrications.



The department was still in need of a replacement set of extrication tools for more serious crashes involving entrapped patients. In the fall of 2019, a two percent grant was submitted to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for a full set of battery-operated extrication equipment including a cutter, spreader, and ram. This grant was awarded, and tools were ordered in February 2020. We are grateful for these opportunities to improve our equipment and capabilities. This would not have been possible without our partnerships with these fine organizations.



HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENTS

(Submitted by Capt. 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 20 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. This detection equipment includes 4 RKI GX-6000 air monitoring instruments that monitor Oxygen, Methane, Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen Sulfide, Hydrogen Cyanide and an additional 720 chemicals with a built in PID sensor. In 2019 test papers were purchased for all front-line Engines and Special Operations Trailer for added safety of personnel and identification of hazardous atmospheres. The papers identify if the following are in the atmosphere: Fluoride, Acids / Bases & Neutral substances, Strong Oxidizers (Iodine / Chlorine / Peroxides) & Liquid Chemical Agent Aerosols (V & G type Nerve Agents / H, HD, HN & HT Mustard Agents). Grant funding aided in adding the necessary equipment for transferring liquids from one container to another. This equipment includes a transfer pump, transfer hose, airline, regulator, site glasses and stingers.

Employees trained monthly on a Hazmat topic 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. GTMESSA and Traverse City Fire participated in Propane Emergency Training which was hosted at GTMESSA Station 1. This training opportunity provided flare off and water injection procedures and the required equipment to perform these operations is housed at GTMESSA Station 1.

GTMESSA was invited to present at several conferences throughout the year on various Hazmat topics. Captain Drewery presented on Emergency Services Readiness and Response for Spills at the 12th Annual Freshwater Summit in Traverse City. Captain Drewery also presented at the Annual Michigan Emergency Management Association Conference. This presentation covered the response of a Chemical Suicide Incident that occurred in Manistee County involving Sodium Azide.

In 2019, GTMESSA responded to 85 incidents classified as Hazmat. Below is a breakdown of these incidents by category:

- ▶ 5 Gasoline or Flammable Liquid Spill Incidents
- ▶ 38 Carbon Monoxide Incidents
- ▶ 36 Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG)
- ▶ 4 Hazmat Release (Investigation w/no Hazmat)
- ▶ 1 Food Grade Material Spill
- ▶ 1 White Powder Incident (Region 7 Response)

All of these incidents were appropriately mitigated by the team. A superior working relationship has continued with Northern A1 who has provided exceptional remediation and clean-up of these incidents as a specialized contractor. The 2019 cost recovery for 5 major Hazardous Materials incidents has totaled over \$22,000.

★ On January 9th GTMESA responded to a single vehicle rollover accident on North Four Mile Road. Law Enforcement had advised that the vehicle was leaking a large amount of fluids.

Upon arrival, it was noted that the vehicle involved was upside down in the creek on the East side of North Four Mile. It was noted that there was a sheen on the water of the creek. The vehicle had leaked gasoline and fluids from the engine compartment. Grand Traverse County Central Dispatch was requested to expedite the tow company's response to minimize the release of fluids into the creek.

GTMESA crews immediately deployed absorbent booms across the creek near the vehicle to prevent further spread downstream. Additional absorbent booms were placed across the creek at approximately 70', 460' & 700' from the vehicle, downstream. A crew was directed to locate the area where the creek discharged into East Grand Traverse Bay. The area



was located, and additional absorbent booms were deployed across the creek for precautionary measures. It was noted that no sheen was noted at this location.



Due to the close proximity of the East Grand Traverse Bay, immediate contact was made with Northern A-1 to prevent the fluids from reaching this body of water. Approximately 10 gallons of gasoline escaped from the vehicle along with transmission fluid, engine oil and power steering fluid into the creek. Upon arrival of the tow company, the vehicle was up righted to prevent any additional fluids releasing into the creek. Command contacted the National Response Center and reported the incident. DEQ and EPA contacted command and advised they would follow up as needed, appropriate measures were being taken to clean-up the incident.

Barricades were placed from the Grand Traverse County Road Commission to close the roadway, in order to provide scene safety during clean-up operations. Due to road conditions, being ice & snow covered, the Grand Traverse County Road Commission applied material to the roadway to prevent any hazards around the scene. Upon arrival of Northern A1, additional booms were placed at the location of the spill to prevent any additional lost product. Northern A1 crew then went down stream to find the last visible product

and installed (2) absorbent booms along with multiple absorbent diapers to ensure the spread would not extend. Northern A1 then began installing additional absorbent booms at multiple locations throughout the contaminated creek along with absorbent diapers to begin the clean-up process. All product in the creek was able to be removed using absorbents. Northern A1 also used a hydro excavator to remove the contaminated soil at the spill site. Once the contaminated soil was removed, the creek was able to have a final cleaning. Absorbent booms were left at multiple sites throughout the creek over night to ensure any product that may leach out of the creek banks would be captured and not lost down stream.

The clean-up process was supervised by GTMESA to assure the incident was safely and properly completed. Estimated quantity of recovered materials consisted of (5) 55-gallon steel drums of contaminated absorbents and 1,500 gallons of contaminated soil/water. The recovered materials were removed from the scene by Northern A1.

This incident lasted for 5 hours with a cost recovery amount of \$3,876.

★ On August 8th GTMESA responded to the area of West South Airport Road and Crossing Circle for a substance in the roadway. Grand Traverse County Dispatch (Dispatch) advised that the substance was unknown, it was reported that the substance was sticky in nature and that the roadway was slippery.

Upon arrival, crews investigated the semi-trailer from a safe distance for identification markers. It was noted that no placards were present and that no markings containing a chemical name were present. The trailer resembled a stainless-steel food type container. The driver of the unit approached crew and advised that the substance being hauled was corn syrup.

Upon further questioning of the driver, it was noted that the trailer was loaded with 49,840 pounds of product when he left. The driver stated that he had not delivered any product prior to the incident. The driver estimated that approximately 800-900 pounds had escaped the trailer. The trailer was investigated for the origin of the escaped product. It was noted that the driver had to brake hard to avoid a vehicle that had stopped in-front of him at the stop light. The driver stated that the top dome cover had become

unsecured and opened up, causing the product to escape.

The driver had already put the dome cover back in place. It was noted that the product was spread over the middle of the tank running off onto the roadway. No active leak was noted, just residual. A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) was obtained from online by on-scene command.



At this time Command contacted Northern A-1, clean up contractor, for additional suggestions. It was decided that the best solution would be to utilize pressure washers with temperature-controlled water, 160 degree plus water. A vacuum truck would also be utilized to remove the water and corn syrup. Command contacted the National Response Center and reported the incident. DEQ and EPA contacted Command and advised they would follow up as needed, appropriate measures were being taken to clean up the incident.



The semi was released from the scene and continued to the original delivery site, Sara Lee. The driver was advised to call Command after being weighed at the facility to confirm the amount of product lost. The total amount of product that was spilled was confirmed to be 1,500 pounds. With the conversion factor of 11.6 pounds per gallon, approximately 130 gallons of product escaped.

GTMESSA crews worked with Northern A-1 crews during the clean-up process. Water was supplied to crews as they utilized the pressure washers with temperature-controlled water to remove the substance from the road surface. A total of 2,700 gallons of water was required for the clean-up process.

This incident lasted 6.5 hours with a cost recovery amount of \$3,871.

★ On September 22nd GTMESSA responded to a single vehicle accident on US 31 North. GTMESSA's crews were advised that the vehicle had left the roadway and was 50% submerged in the East Grand Traverse Bay.

GTMESSA crews arrived to find that the occupants had self-extricated from the vehicle and were out of the water. The vehicle had traveled off the roadway and was in East Grand Traverse Bay, approximately 8' from shore. Two GTMESSA crew members donned PFD's. These members entered the water with a rope tagline back to shore. Members confirmed that there were no other occupants in the vehicle and attempted to turn the ignition off. It was noted that the vehicle was leaking fluids from the front and rear of the vehicle, creating an oily sheen on the water.

Crews immediately deployed large absorbent boom around the vehicle and back to shore to contain the fluids from spreading. Crews then applied absorbent pads inside the boomed off area to absorb the petroleum-based fluids. It was noted that the fluids had traveled into the rock embankment along the shore. To prevent further spread into the rocks, additional absorbent booms were secured next to the rocks along with additional pads placed between the rocks.

Command contacted the National Response Center and reported the incident. EPA and US Coast Guard contacted command and advised they would follow up as needed, appropriate measures were being taken to clean up the incident. Immediate contact was made with Northern A-1, a clean-up contractor, to prevent



the fluids from continuing to spread in the body of water. A tow company arrived on scene to remove the vehicle from the water. GTMESA crews talked with the tow company and stressed the safety concerns due to the vehicle having 3/4 of a tank of fuel. The vehicle was removed from the water and moved to the roadway without any further incident.

Northern A-1 crews removed the pads on the waterway and placed them into two 55-gallon disposal drums. It was noted that the sheen was no longer on the water in the boomed off area. It was also noted that there was sheen in the water between the rocks at the shoreline. The booms were re-positioned closer to the shoreline and secured in place. Additional pads were applied between the rocks to prevent the fluids from dispersing back into the open water. Absorbent booms and pads were left in place for the evening. Northern A-1 followed up the next morning and finished clean-up operations.

This incident lasted 3.5 hours with a cost recovery amount of \$5,032.

★ On December 6th GTMESA crews responded to a regional request from Manistee County for a “White Powder” incident. At the time of this report, this incident is under investigation by the FBI.

This incident lasted 6 hours with a cost recovery amount of \$5,247.

It was another successful but busy year for Hazardous Materials incidents for GTMESA. Due to the capabilities and dedication of GTMESA staff, this specialty service is provided to our communities and region. GTMESA takes great pride in providing this service to protect our communities, region, and environment.

GRANT FUNDING

Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority is responsible for delivering emergency services to a population that continues to grow in the Townships of Acme, East Bay, & Garfield in Grand Traverse County. Population figures should rise above 35,000 during the next census and is a large draw for tourists from all over the world. The district varies significantly and comprises of suburban, rural, agriculture, and industrial areas over 100 square miles. The department operates out of 5 fire stations and an administration building to 4,712 calls for service in 2019. Four stations are staffed 24/7 with 2 personnel. Our area is a draw due to our numerous conventions, restaurants, wineries, microbreweries, downhill and cross-country ski trails, mountain bike trails, snowmobile trails, and competitions such as marathons and in 2019 a Half Ironman.



The large draw of tourists and citizens places a strain on our highways and roadways. GTMESA has experienced many high-speed car crashes that require the need for vehicle extrication. This equipment will provide versatility to complete extrication operations in a safe and proficient manner. When extrication operations occur, minutes matter in getting the patient free from a vehicle or machinery. During vehicle accidents, the involved vehicle can be off the roadway causing access issues with stationary mounted



extrication tools. During industrial accidents, access to the patient is limited from the outside of the structure with stationary mounted extrication tools. The battery-operated eDRAULIC Combi Tools, provide unlimited portability to responding crews.

A grant was awarded by Firehouse Subs, in the amount of \$30,051.00 to purchase (3) Hurst e-DRAULICS SC358E2 Combination Tools & AC Power Supply's.



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

by Asst. Chief / Fire Marshal Brian
Belcher



MISSION STATEMENT

The Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority 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 through behavior modifications as well as education and awareness training.

BUREAU OPERATIONS OVERVIEW – 2019

The Fire Prevention 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 Juvenile Firesetter Program Counselors (as needed).

Our public education programs continue to thrive and are showing positive in-roads with getting into some occupancies that have been difficult in the past. In 2020, we will continue pushing our efforts to expand into these areas. We have expanded programs offered through our schools, senior living facilities and juvenile fire setter offerings. All programs continued for 2019, except for the company inspection program which was suspended to allow company fire officers to catch up on pre plans. Pre plans are surveys and tactical consideration plans for buildings that are conducted so in the event of an incident there is prior knowledge to aid in a safe, efficient response and incident stabilization. It is anticipated in 2020 the company inspection program will once again be active.



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

Fire and Life Safety Education is a key component to help reduce the risks of injury and death in the community. Through using data revealing local injury trends we continue to offer programming to the community in key focus areas. GTMESA has also been the host agency for Safe Kids North Shore, a direct coalition of [Safe Kids USA](#) for over three years. Safe Kids Worldwide is a nonprofit organization working to help families and communities keep kids safe from injuries. Most people are surprised to learn preventable injuries are the #1 cause of death in kids in the United States. Safe Kids has been in existence for 32 years and earned its reputation as the leader of childhood injury prevention. There are more than 400 coalitions in the United States and have partners in more than 30 countries to reduce traffic injuries, drownings, falls, burns, poisonings and more.

Life safety messaging and risk reduction efforts do not fall solely on the Fire Prevention Bureau. “Community Risk Reduction” is not just a buzz phrase, but a concept that is being adapted by fire departments across the country. All members of the department are constantly evaluating, implementing and educating on ways our community members can prevent unintentional injury to themselves. This may happen on a call, at a community event or after a serious event or when a phone call comes in. GTMESA’s Fire and Life Safety Program can take these isolated instances a step further and provide direct, targeted educational programming for the people who both live and work in our district. We deliver programming in collaboration with partnering public safety agencies, fire personnel, local business and other established networks.

In 2019, we provided direct programming to over 12,000 persons in our community.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each year our department is honored to be invited to be a part of numerous community events. These include health fairs, safety days, event kick-offs, community block parties, community breakfasts and more. These events allow us to bring not only a truck and crew, but also a specific educational component most fitting to each event. For instance, we were invited to a block party in a neighborhood where a child had recently been hit by a car while riding his bike. At the block party, we were able to fit 26 children with bike helmets. These are the types of events where we can interact with the public, hear their concerns and provide some education in the process. Sometimes the public comes to us. We often host Station Tours and/or Truck Tours to groups that request to visit us in hopes of learning about something. We conduct group tours for persons of all ages and educate on topics such as: fire safety, how a fire station operates, what a day in the life of a career firefighter looks like, what careers exist in the fire service and more. In 2019, we directly interacted with over 4,200 community members at these types of events.



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PROGRAMS

Fire Extinguisher use and Emergency Action Planning services continued to be offered to business and industry facilities in our district. These programs have proven popular with some businesses adding them to their annual training calendar. Training consists of a classroom portion in which we discuss the site's fire evacuation policy, emergency action plans and fire extinguisher use. This is followed by hands-on training utilizing our live fire training simulator. Employees consistently enjoy this training and gave us positive feedback. We also will assist businesses with their fire drills. These drills are set up with their management and happen at a time unbeknownst to the employees. We provide several fire personnel on scene to observe the actual evacuation, followed with a truck arriving as it would for a real call. Finally, we debrief with all staff to provide feedback regarding what was observed, both positive and negative, and areas that could use improvement.

Approximately 400 employees from 13 businesses attended fire extinguisher training in 2019. We also assisted 2 businesses in Mock Fire Drills per their request.

OLDER ADULTS – REMEMBERING WHEN

Approximately 72% of GTMESA's calls are medical calls, often involving our senior population. In 2019, Munson Medical Center (MMC) admitted 566 patients 65 and older that had ground-level falls as a mechanism of injury. While both the youth and middle age populations are growing in the Grand Traverse area, neither of those demographics are increasing to the extent the senior population is.

GTMESA continues to utilize the [Remembering When](#) curriculum, a program of NFPA that brings 16 fall and fire safety messages to seniors in efforts of making them aware of changes they can make to their environments or practices in order to reduce the risk of the becoming a fire or fall statistic.

Fire and Fall messages were communicated to 186 senior residents through various formats of presentations, breakfast and lunch discussions and trivia games. This is an area we are striving to get our messaging to reach as more residents are aging in place and not necessarily in our assisted living facilities where it is easier for us to reach them.

VEHICLE / PASSENGER SAFETY

In 2019, GTMESA crews responded to 196 motor vehicle crashes in our district. In 2018 (2019 data not published yet) there were 6,132 drivers involved in 3,665 motor vehicle crashes in Grand Traverse County. Of those crashes, 6 were classified as fatal and an additional 844 persons were injured (www.michigantrafficcrashfacts.org). According to Safe Kids USA, correctly used child safety seats can reduce the risk of death by as much as 71 percent.

Grand Traverse Metro Fire continues to hold Car Seat Fitting Stations twice each month for the community. Through Safe Kids North Shore, these twice a month stations have been open for 18 years. The 2nd Friday of each month is held at our partner, Traverse City Fire Department Sta 2 and the 4th Friday is held at Metro Station #11 with Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office contributing a Child Passenger

Safety Technicians (CPST) to this event. The stations are staffed not only by Metro's 4 Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST's), but by CPST's that come from agencies all over Northern Lower Michigan. By working an event with our CPST-Instructor/Public Educator, they earn credit towards maintaining their certification, which allows them to continue to offer services in their own communities. GTMESA's CPST's will also see people by appointment at our stations, as time allows. We also operate a car seat program, in which persons referred by a Health Department nurse or DHHS worker can qualify to receive a new seat along with a 30-minute education about its features, harnessing the child correctly and installation into the vehicle. These seats are provided by a grant through the Michigan Office of Highway and Safety Planning.

In 2019, 776 caregivers/children were directly reached through this program, 314 car seat checks performed, 38 car seats distributed through referral program and 260 volunteer CPST hours from other Northern Lower MI agencies were donated.

Other traffic safety programming included Driver Choices presentations to both teens and adults. Also, each year we provide an update to case workers that work with children regarding child passenger safety awareness, highlighting misuse they can recognize when they are working with clients and their children. Finally, each year we hold a CPST CEU training day in order for our local CPST's to obtain their required CEU's needed for their recertification.

This program reached 205 persons in 2019.



ONWATCH FOR SCHOOLS

OnWatch prevention programming is available to our local schools. OnWatch is a toolkit of programming that is applicable to our local youth, driven by local injury/trauma data received from Munson Medical Center Emergency Room admission information. This program is meant to ease a small part of lesson planning on teachers as subject matter experts from local agencies present the topics for them. This fall we took the topic risk areas and correlated them to the Michigan Model for Health to determine the topics/messages required for each grade level and to streamline the number of presentations for the schools. Several local partners deliver these programs, to include: Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office, MHC, USCG Air Station Traverse City, Grand Traverse 911 and MDOT. We are hoping to reach further with this program in the future to include additional partner agencies that can offer programming to more schools within our district.

2,964 students in the GTMESA district received this program through our partner schools Cherry Knoll, Courtade, Silver Lake, Traverse City Christian and Grand Traverse Academy. Not all schools choose to have all topics presented. Our goal is to have all topics presented at all schools in GTMESA's fire district.

GRADE	MI MODEL OF HEALTH AREAS OF FOCUS	LESSONS	ONWATCH PRESENTATIONS
K	SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trusted Adults Who Can Help 911 Pedestrian Safety 	Firefighters are Friends What's an Emergency? Pedestrian Safety
	ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & OTHER DRUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicines/Poisons 	Medication Safety
1st	SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire/Burn Safety Fire Emergency Trusted Adults Who Can Help Emergencies/911 	Firefighters are Friends Home Escape Planning What is an Emergency?
	ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & OTHER DRUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicines Diff Between Medicine/Illicit Drugs Poisonous Household Products 	Medication Safety
2nd	SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheeled Recreational Equipment Safety Water Safety 	Wheeled Sports Safety Water Safety
3rd	SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Belts, Booster Seats & Back Seats When & How to Get Help Unsafe Situations 	In & Around Cars What's an Emergency?
	ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & OTHER DRUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicines Poisons 	Medication Safety
4th	SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire/Burn Safety Home Escape Planning Home Safety 911 Home Alone Safety 	Fire & Home Safety Home Escape Planning What's an Emergency?
5th	SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 911 Home Alone Safety Water Safety 	What's an Emergency? Water Safety

MONTH	TOPIC	GRADE/AREA OF FOCUS	PRESENTATION	COMMUNITY EXPERTS
OCTOBER	Fire Safety	K Trusted Adults Who Can Help 1st Fire/Burn Safety Fire Emergency Trusted Adults Who Can Help 4th Fire/Burn Safety Home Escape Planning Home Safety	K Firefighters are Friends 1st Firefighters are Friends Hot/ Not Hot/Sometimes Hot Home Escape Planning 4th Home Escape Planning, Home Safety/Fire Prevention	Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept.
NOVEMBER	Emergencies/911	K 911 1st Emergencies/911 3rd When & How to Get Help Unsafe Situations 4th 911/ Home Alone Safety 5th 911/Home Alone Safety	K What's an Emergency? 1st What's an Emergency? 911/Who Can Help 3rd 4th 9-1-1, Home Alone Safety 5th 9-1-1, Home Alone Safety	Grand Traverse 911 and/or Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office Grand Travers Metro Fire Dept.
DECEMBER/ JANUARY	Winter Safety	K 2nd 4th <i>This is not in the MI Model for Health, but was added due to local trauma numbers</i>	K Chill Out for Winter Safety 3rd Chill Out for Winter Safety 5th Chill Out for Winter Safety	MHC USCG Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept.
FEBRUARY/ MARCH	Poison Prevention	K Medicines/Poisons 1st Medicines Diff Between Medicine/Illicit Drugs Poisonous Household Products 3rd Medicines/Poisons	K Poison Prevention Medication Safety 1st Poison Prevention Medication Safety	Hometown Pharmacy Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept. *(poss MHC Pharmacy Resident program)
APRIL	Wheeled Sports/Pedestrian Safety	K Pedestrian Safety 2nd Wheeled Recreational Equip/Safety	K Pedestrian Safety 2nd Wheeled Sports & Pedestrian Safety	Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept. MDOT Grand Traverse Sheriff's Office
MAY	Motor Vehicle Safety	3rd Safety Belts, Booster Seats & Back Seats	3rd In and Around Cars	Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept. Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office
JUNE	Water Safety	2nd Water Safety 5th Water Safety/Sun Safety	2nd Play it Safe in the Water	*(? USCG and or Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office)

MORE SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

In addition to the OnWatch programs, we have other opportunities to work with students. Examples of these would be Career Days and The Kasey Fire Dog Program that we invite from Indiana. The Kasey Program is a program that is free of charge that teaches children fire & life safety skills by using Kasey, a black labrador retriever, and her handler Jeff. This was the 2nd year that Jeff and Kasey joined us and the feedback from both staff and students is always overwhelmingly positive! Together they reiterate the fire safety skills that we teach students earlier in the year, through music and skills (tricks).

3,831 students participated in this program in 2019.

OTHER

As a partner of the Play it Safe in the Water Network we distributed Water Safety brochures/brochure holders to all interested hotels along East Grand Traverse Bay to educate the guests to our region about safe water practices. In conjunction with Traverse City Fire Department and Peninsula Township Fire Department we again utilized local billboards to display relevant fire safety messaging during the months of October, November and December.

YOUTH FIRESETTER INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Youth Fire Intervention and Education (YFIE) program focuses on working with youth and their families if the child has been involved in a fire incident, whether it was intentional or not. The YFIE team consists of trained personnel from neighboring departments and agencies who meet monthly to share thoughts, difficulties and cases (no confidential information is shared). The purpose of the team is one of networking and collaboration of resources. Metro has three personnel trained as counselors who participate in the program. Personnel involved with this program have attended training at either the Specialist or both the Specialist and Manager level that is taught through the National Fire Academy (NFA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA). There is also a third level class that puts everything from the Specialist and Manager together to gain better understanding of what successful programs look like.

Youth can be referred to the program in many ways, to include but not limited to: self/family referral, courts/law enforcement, fire crews, etc... The youth and their caregiver go through an intake assessment which allows staff to gain more information about the family, the child and the fire. Based on the assessment the youth is then assigned a level of risk: Some, Definite or Extreme. Once the risk level is determined, the YFIE team determines an intervention path for the child. For youth that score as a "Some" or "Definite" risk, they will go through several educational sessions that focus on five main topic areas. The five topic areas include: Fire Safety, Responsibilities/Decision Making, Fire Science, Consequences and Personal Responsibility. If the youth scored as "Extreme" they are immediately referred to a mental health specialist with the intention of them first receiving mental health assistance before progressing to the educational component of the program.

We were grateful that the State Fire Marshal's Office hosted 2 Youth firesetter focused trainings in Traverse City, per our request. The first was a 2-day training in September covering successful programming. It featured two seasoned speakers on the topic: Karla Klas from the U of M Trauma and Burn Center and Kathi Osmonson from Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office. Noelle Moeggenberg Grand Traverse County Prosecuting Attorney also presented insightful information regarding legalities around this topic and how they pertain to youth. In December the MI Fire Marshal's Office hosted the NFA Youth firesetter Specialist class, also held in Traverse City, allowing 25 attendees (mostly from the surrounding area) to attend the training. Our Youth Fire Intervention & Educations Counselor positions continue to be filled by FF Mark Shaul, Lt. Kyle Clute and Public Educator Jennifer Froehlich.

- We held 3 informational presentations to raise awareness about this issue amongst those that work with the offending demographic.
- The YFIE Team has expanded to include partners from:

PineRest	Northern Lakes Community Mental Health
DHHS	13 th Circuit Court Family Division
Paradise/Blair Fire & EMS	Cadillac Fire Department
Leland Fire Department	Long Lake Fire Department
U.S. Forest Service	

In 2019, our Youth Firesetter counselors assisted 5 children as well as their siblings and parents from GTMESA's district. The majority were reported by our firefighters due to fire incident with a few self-reporting. These children were primarily male between the ages of 7 to 14 but most often 12 or 13, making most in the 6th to 8th grade. The month of May had the most cases as one incident involved 4 children and another had two. In 2019, most of our youth lit their fires with an acquaintance. Tuesday and Friday afternoons were the busiest time of day, however several others did participate in fires in the late evenings as well. A few fires were lit in or near the home however the majority are lit in vacant fields or wooded properties where the children often played or frequented. Thus, most our fires, are lit using a grass, brush or a leafy mixture. Almost all our 2019 fires were lit using a disposable cigarette lighter, found outside the home. 38 % of our cases did live with a smoker in the home. We were fortunate that in only two cases minor injuries (cuts, burn, blisters) were mentioned however no one was treated as a result of these fires. One fire did cause some damage to a home and their garage estimated to be less than \$2500 worth of damage.

In all of our cases where contact is made, our children receive an in-depth comprehensive fire safety education. Our program evaluates each child and family to categorize the child into a typology and risk level. Based on this result, following the FEMA guidelines to which all our councilors are trained, our counselors use educational materials that fall in line with the child's fire incident. Each family creates and discusses at length their family's home escape plan including checking their smoke alarms. To this date our program has yet to see a child repeat as a fire setter.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD SMOKE ALARM CAMPAIGN

Smoke alarms are the first line of defense in preventing injury and death from fire. Our Safe Neighborhood Campaign is a program where district residents can have their homes checked for proper working smoke alarms. Residents can request service through an application available on our website, calling the office or as we conduct door to door blitz days. If the residents are in need and cannot afford alarms, we will install new smoke alarms throughout the home as needed. Currently all smoke alarms installed are 10-year sealed battery type alarms which do not require battery replacement. At the end of the 10-year lifespan new alarms are needed to be installed. This is a convenience factor as well as a safety factor as batteries cannot be removed due to a nuisance alarm or to use the batteries for other devices in the home.



In 2019, our Safe Neighborhood Campaign installed 629 smoke alarms, 3 hearing impaired alarms and 45 batteries. We visited 492 homes and left 288 door hangers for those not at home. These numbers do include the number of smoke alarms installed that were provided by the homeowners. This is due to a new reporting form instituted in late 2019 which will track those separately in the future. It should be noted this new online form automatically plots all Safe Neighborhood services performed on a map available to all personnel on their smart devices.

In 2019, the Michigan State Bureau of Fire Services was awarded a \$535,000 grant to be used to purchase smoke alarms to be distributed throughout the state to fire departments to install. We were awarded 435 smoke alarms and 72 carbon monoxide alarms in May with a deadline of August 1 for installation which we met.

In December, an order was placed for 246 smoke alarms and 50 carbon monoxide alarms to support the program paid for by a grant money received for fire prevention resources.

Of the 32 residential fires that GTMESA responded to in 2019, 6 homes did not have working smoke alarms (18.75%). This is a great improvement over prior years (44% 2018, 32% 2017). We hope to continue that trend.

As of December 2019, the Safe Neighborhood Campaign has installed 3968 smoke alarms and 471 batteries throughout the district since program inception in 2012. We have also documented **7 lives saved** where occupants were alerted to a fire by smoke alarms installed by our program.

**We will continue this program and
focus our efforts in order to make sure
every home has working smoke alarms!**

INSPECTIONS

Two Fire Inspectors and seven company inspectors currently perform inspections on all 2,390 existing occupancies within the district:

Acme Twp. – 248 East Bay Twp. – 272 Garfield Twp. – 1,865

All inspection data numbers can be found in the Activity Data chart shown below.



Three citations were issued in 2019 for noncompliance which resulted in formal court hearings. These three citations were all for the same property.

The number one violation found in 2019 was exit signs and/or emergency egress lighting which did not function properly. These safety components are vital to lead occupants out of a building in event of an emergency. The number two found violation was the lack of proper maintenance for fire extinguishers.

Inspectors continue using wireless tablets to record and report all inspections. Reports are emailed directly to the occupants resulting in more efficient reporting with less drive time delivering paperwork.

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

INSPECTION DATA

2019	ACME	EAST BAY	GARFIELD	TOTAL
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS	73	90	634	797
RE-INSPECTIONS	167	165	953	1285
FF RIGHT TO KNOW	1	4	26	31
PLAN REVIEWS	40	30	156	226
PERMIT INSPECTIONS	36	24	245	305
SPECIAL EVENTS	2	5	17	24
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE (INCLUDES COMPLAINTS)	3	6	2	11
COMPANY INSPECTIONS	9	7	41	57
TOTAL ACTIVITY	330	316	2124	2736

*Not all activities are included in the above chart. The total of all inspection (code enforcement) activities for 2019 is 3,463. Company Inspections currently on hold.

PLAN REVIEW

The Fire Prevention Bureau conducts plan reviews and issues permits for projects from concept to completion, these include new or remodeled building life safety reviews, all fire protections systems, special hazard systems and site plan reviews for proposed developments. These reviews are completed by our Plan Reviewer/ Fire Inspector Kathy Fordyce and Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal Brian Belcher. Plan review fees generated \$60,314.00 of revenue for 2019 which \$8207.86 were for out of district reviews completed per our contract with Grand Traverse County Construction Code Office as a third-party review agency for projects outside GTMESA's district and within Grand Traverse County Construction Code Office jurisdiction. There were 241 plan reviews performed in 2019 with 226 plan reviews conducted for in district projects (\$52,106.14 billed) and 15 reviews for out of district projects (\$8207.86).

This is an increase from 197 reviews for in district and 22 for out of district in 2018.

INVESTIGATIONS

Fire investigations are performed by Inspector/ Investigator Randy Rittenhouse, Inspector/Investigator Eric Chryst and Assistant Chief/ Fire Marshal Brian Belcher.

Investigations were performed on 33 fires in 2019. 24 fires were classified as accidental with the remaining 9 as undetermined cause. The most common fire causes in 2019 for all occupancies was 6 cooking fires, 5 smoking related fires, and 6 electrical or equipment malfunction fires. These are similar trends as 2018. There were no fires classified as incendiary in 2019. There was one fatality in 2019. This fire cause could not be determined although it is suspected to be a careless smoking incident. These do not represent all fires in 2019 as some fires are investigated by the duty officer or responding Chief. A 2018 incendiary fire with arrest was resolved in 2019 with a conviction for 2nd degree arson with a sentence of 7-20 years in prison.

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

Residential properties comprised 87% (30) of building fires with 13 % (4) being in commercial properties. Of those 26 were one- and two-family dwellings, and 6 multifamily occupancies. There was a total of 69 actual fires in 2019 which includes buildings, vehicles, wildland and dumpster/trash fires. All building fires resulted in total losses of \$1,750,340.00 for structures and \$933,670.00 for contents. Pre incident property values for all buildings were \$6,548,724.00 and contents \$2,053,320.00. This is a combined fire

loss of \$2,684, 401.00 in properties with a value of \$8,602,044.00. This results in a loss vs. value percentage of 69% of values that were saved by the fire department response. While this number is lower than previous years there were several significant fires in 2019 including one residential fire which was a total loss of all contents and structure. This incident was unusual as firefighters were unable to provide any suppression efforts due to a law enforcement incident at the same address. This fire alone was a \$943,804.00-dollar total loss. Other significant incidents included an auto repair facility with a large loss and another complete loss at a residential fire which also damaged two neighboring homes. I should warn that loss and value figures may not be 100% accurate as we are awaiting final figures from insurance companies for a couple of incidents at the time of this report.

There was 1 civilian fire fatality, 1 civilian fire injury and 6 firefighter injuries in 2019. None of the firefighter injuries were serious. The fire fatality occurred in an older modular home used for multiple tenants. The fatality was a person who had a history of careless smoking and was in fact rescued from a burning apartment by GTMESA's firefighters in 2016.

Occupancy Type Data - # of Fires

1 or 2 Family Residential	26
Multi-Family Residential	6
Commercial/Industrial/Retail	4
Assembly/ Restaurants	0
Assisted Living / Nursing Homes	3
Acme Twp. – 2	
East Bay Twp. – 10	
Garfield Twp. – 18	



Photo: NW Silver Lake residential house fire with residential exposure fire

We continue to focus our efforts on the residential fire problem through our Safe Neighborhoods smoke alarm campaign in single family homes, by reassigning Fire Inspectors and our company fire inspections to inspect multi-family housing complexes and 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. In a couple of instances in 2019 a fire incident at a home was mitigated by the occupants who had attended a program presented at their place of employment by using a fire extinguisher and evacuating the residence. Inspectors also continue to inspect all public assembly, target hazard, big box stores and hotel/motel occupancies every year in addition to inspections of all other occupancies as time permits. Currently, it is an average of 2 ½ - 3 years to reach all occupancies within the district.

FIRE PREVENTION SUMMARY

We continue to strive to deliver our fire prevention and injury 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. 2020 will be a year of continuing to ensure our fire prevention programs are reaching our most vulnerable residents. With the current rate of projected growth putting us further behind our goals and inspection schedules, the future may include requests for additional inspection staff, however that is not anticipated for 2-3 years depending on availability of company inspectors and the growth of our district with high occupancy, higher risk populations that require annual inspections and public education messaging(assisted living facilities, hotels, marijuana facilities). We also hope to expand our offerings in 2020 to include a community hands only CPR class. This will be taught by GTMESA firefighters and be offered through community classes as well as our business and industries within GTMESA's district.

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 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 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.

Firefighter Class of 2019

New firefighter Nathan Saldahna and Avery Pucelik at their graduation at Mt. Zion Church.



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Chief Pat Parker giving Jay Zollinger an appreciation award after serving 7 years on our Metro Fire Board. All of us firefighters want to thank you for your leadership on our board and the dedication serving as Chairman.

Thank You to Captain Mark Shaul who retired in October 2019 after 27 years of service to our department. Although retirement didn't look good on him, so he returned as a part-time firefighter to help us fill needed openings.



Also, in 2019 we saw some long-time members retire from GT Metro Fire to further their career in the Paramedicine field at neighboring departments. Our gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and devotion to our department over the many years go out to our brothers Daren “Digger” Mansfield on Red Shift, Nick Lemcool and Curtis Walters on Green Shift.





Congratulations to Captain Tony Posey who completed a 9-month program that requires commitment to grow as a command officer through Eastern Michigan University.

ICE RESCUE TRAINING: Metro crews train to rescue victims that fall into the ice.



FROM ICE RESCUE TO WATER SUPPLY DRAFTING: Our crews find time to train all over the area and with different types of equipment to ensure we are ready for anything. Water Supply Drafting with Water Supply 9 allows firefighters to draft water from a lake or pond to supply water to Tankers or Engines in areas where there are not fire hydrants readily available.



Drafting is also part of our training utilizing 2,500 gallon drop tanks where Tankers can unload their water into the tank and then respond to either the Water Supply or another source of water to fill up again. This is called Water Shuttle and is part of the criteria that gives us points in our ISO rating.

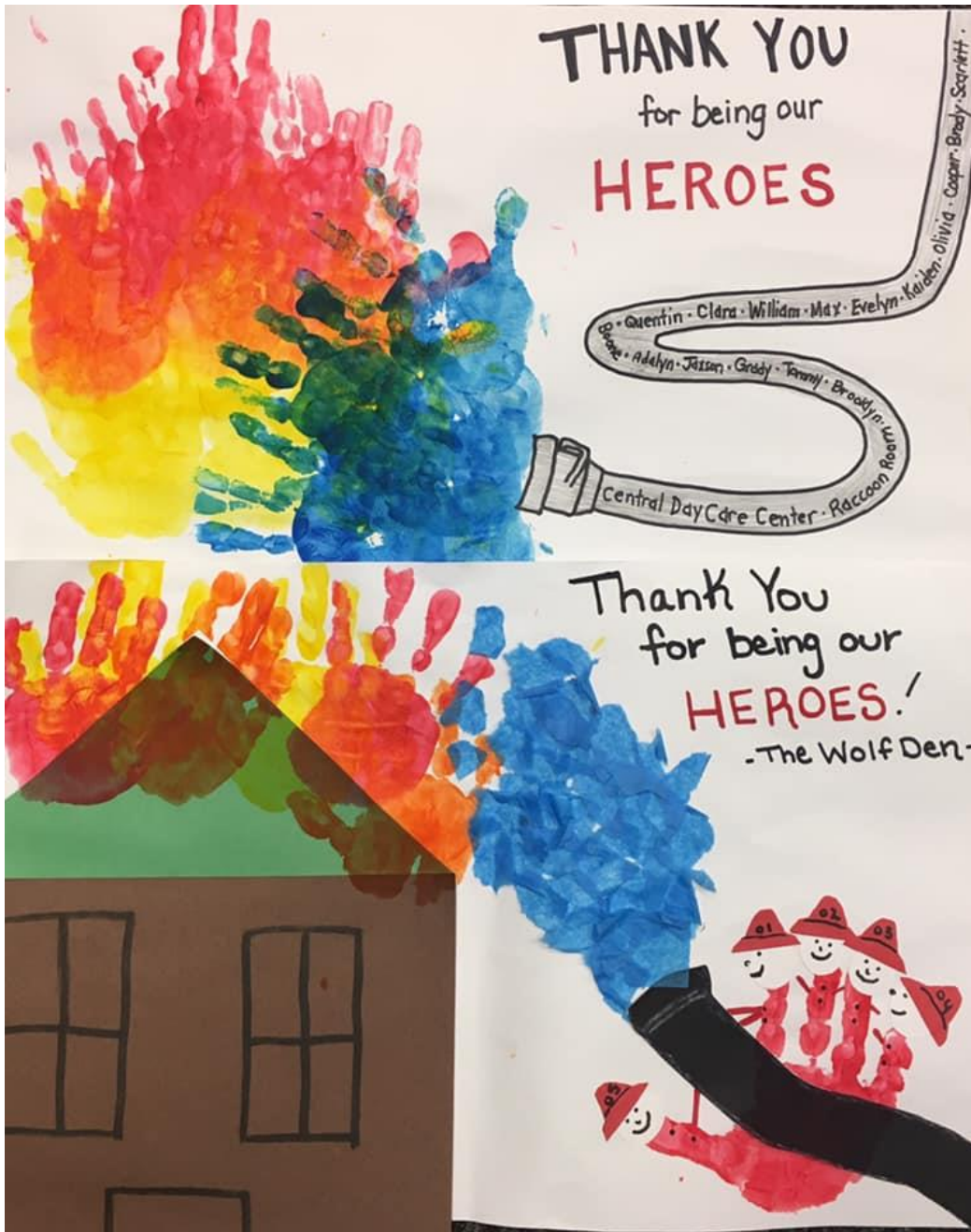
2019 – Badge Pinning Ceremony for new members that completed probationary period for part-time and full-time positions.



Pictured Above from Left: FF Austin Miner, FF Jordan Query, FF Cory Snyder, FF Nathan Saldahna, FF Avery Pucelik, FF Michael Stone, FF David Ginebaugh, FF Peter Bean



Hero Run 5k – pictured Lt. Steve Meek, Chief Pat Parker, Capt. Tony Posey, FF Mike Winter

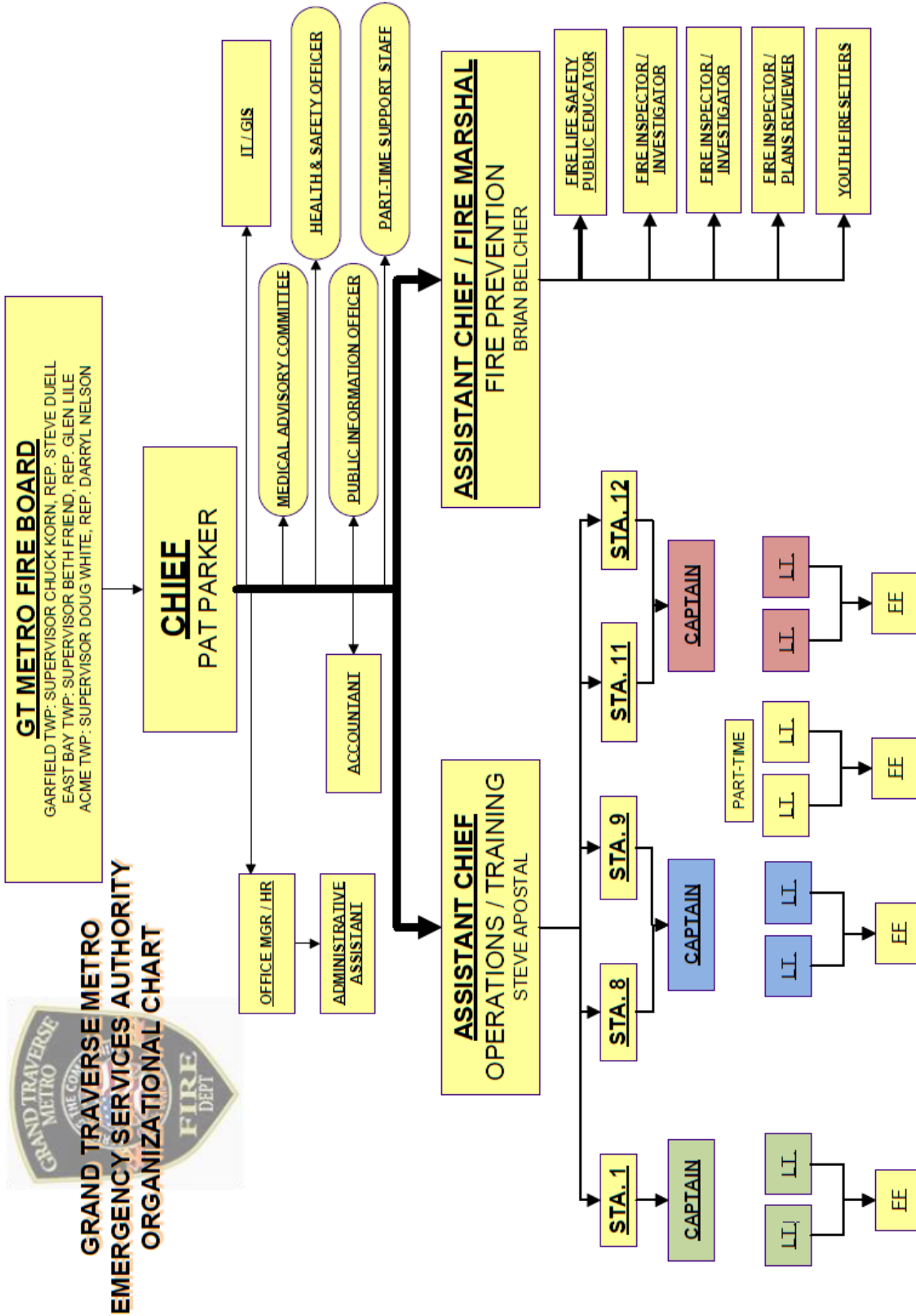


Challenge Coins for Sale



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 Director *open position*
Accountant Robin Ehardt

Full-Time - Suppression

Red Shift

Captain Troy Holliday
Lieutenant Adam Drewery
Lieutenant Kyle Clute
Firefighter Brian Bloom
Firefighter Matt Adamek
Firefighter Cody Lipe
Firefighter/IT Spencer Scanlon

Green Shift

Captain Tony Posey
Lieutenant Gary Francisco
Lieutenant Josh Sprenger
Firefighter Mike Winter
Firefighter Mike Stone
FF Austin Miner

Blue Shift

Captain Mark Shaul
Lieutenant Andy Doornbos
Lieutenant Steve Meek
Firefighter Jake Della Pia
Firefighter David Ginebaugh
Firefighter Jarod Barber
Firefighter David Sicotte

Fire Department Chaplain

Jude Younker

Part-Time - Suppression

Lt. Adam Mervau	FF Hal Miller
FF Peter Bean	FF Tim Newton
FF Grant Blackmer	FF Avery Pucelik
FF Keith Bugai	FF Jordan Query
FF Brian Haskin	FF Nate Saldahna
FF Bill Krukowski	FF Spencer Scanlon
FF Nick Lemcool	FF Chase Schelling
FF Wayne Mervau	FF Trevor Schick

FF Corey Snyder
FF Charles Starkey
FF Jacob Strait
FF Mike Thomas
FF Joe Voiles
FF Jon Williamson
FF Michael Winter
FF Rick Worm
FF Tim Wrede

Probation Alex Gulow
Probation Weston Willoughby



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