

# Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department 2006 Annual Report



Fire Administration  
897 Parsons Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
<http://www.gtfire.org>



## *TABLE OF CONTENTS*

The Department	3
Mission Statement	4
Message from the Chief	4
Organizational Chart	5
Departmental Roster	6
Statistical Summary	7
Emergency Medical Response	8
Suppression	8
Highlights of 2006	9
Fire Prevention Bureau	9
Mission Statement	9
Structure Fires	9
Investigations	10
Inspections	10
Plan Reviews	11
Summary	13
Public Education	13
Juvenile Fire Setter Program	15



## ***THE DEPARTMENT***

Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department 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 review, inspections, education, and fire investigations.

The department shares with Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department a secretary, operations/system administrator, public educator and a juvenile fire setter intervention specialist.



## ***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.



## ***MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF***

On behalf of all of the men and women of the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department, it is my pleasure to submit our annual report. Our department is filled with dedicated men and women who are committed to enhancing community safety and the quality of life in the communities of Acme, East Bay, and Garfield Townships. This report cannot possibly capture all of their individual efforts but does represent an overview of their collective accomplishments.

2006 ushered in Metro's first new Chief in 25 years. Chief Wayne Hanna retired after 50 years in the fire service and 25 years at the helm of Metro. I as Deputy Chief assumed the position of Chief of the Department. The year has been spent assessing the state of readiness of the department. The department also conducted a Community Risk Assessment to determine training requirements and operational strategies. In October, the department hired an Assistant Chief of Operations. Terry Flynn came onboard from the Traverse City Fire Department. His duties will be to oversee and manage all operations and training for the department.

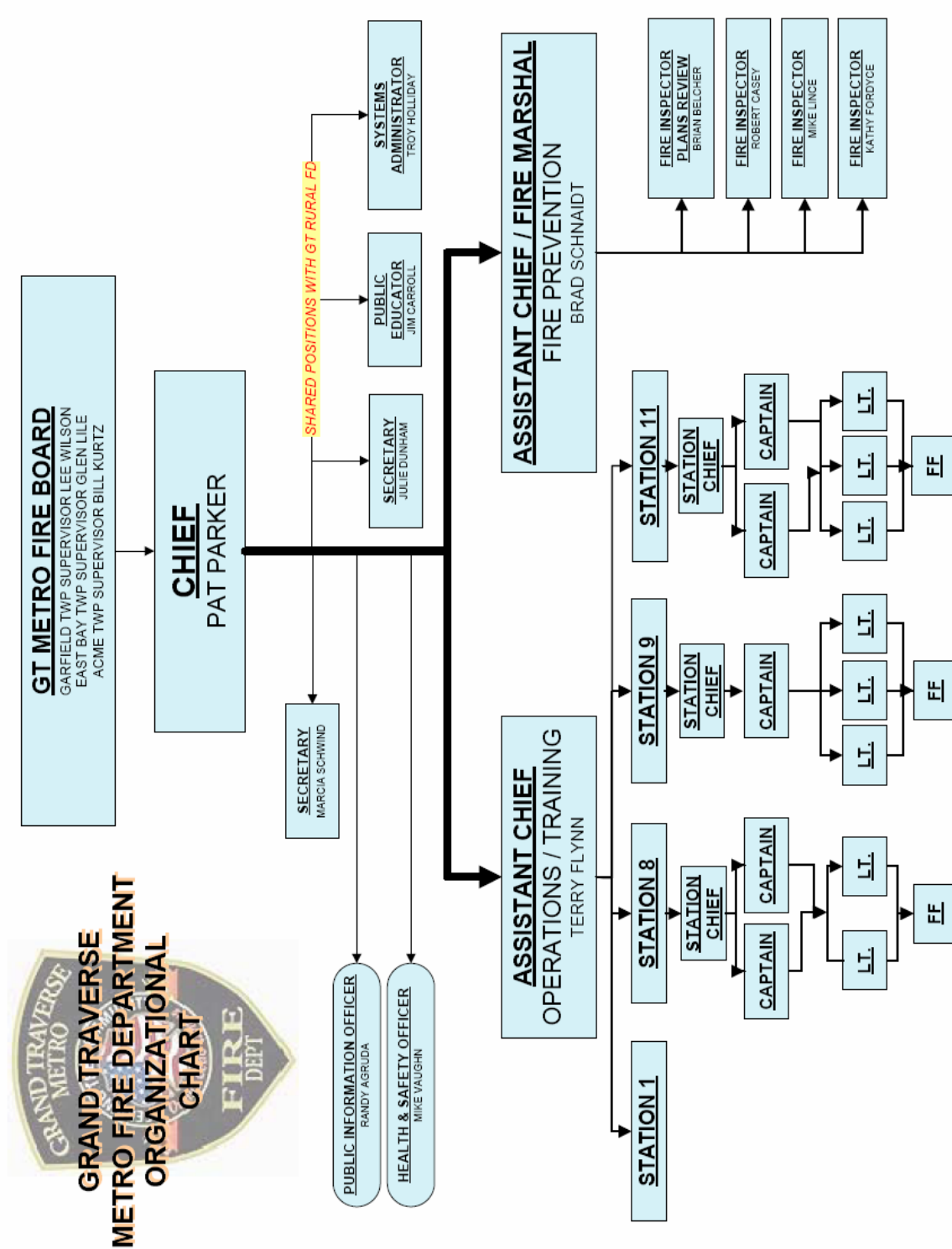


We continue to plan for the future of Metro. Our strategic plan is being updated. Plans are for new stations, personnel and equipment to meet the demands of the growing area.

The department is committed to its mission: to care for, protect, and serve the community. Our dedicated members spend countless hours training and responding to emergencies. As important, is that we perform our jobs safely so we all go home to our loved ones. Our motto is "*Omnis Cedo Domus*"

We are proud to be your fire department and we stand ready to serve you at any time. We look forward to hearing from you if you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can serve you better. Please contact me at 922-4840.

Pat Parker – Fire Chief



DECEMBER 2006





## DEPARTMENTAL ROSTER

### Full-Time Members

### Years of Service

Parker	Patrick	Chief of Department	23
Flynn	Terry	Assistant Chief of Operations	1
Schnaidt	Brad	Assistant Chief / Fire Marshal	15
Schwind	Marcia	Administrative Assistant	15
Dunham	Julie	Administrative Assistant	15
Belcher	Brian	Firefighter / Fire Inspector Plan Reviewer	19
Casey II	Robert	Fire Inspector	8
Holliday	Troy	Firefighter / System Administrator	17
Carroll	James	Public Education Officer	5
Fordyce	Kathy	Fire Inspector	1
Lince	Mike	Firefighter / Fire Inspector	18
Ehardt	Robin	Accountant ( <i>Part-time</i> )	2

### Part-Paid Members

### Years of Service

### Part-Paid Members

### Years of Service

Francisco	Gary	Station Chief	10	Hintz	Mike	Firefighter	9
Henkel	Thomas	Station Chief	35	Lamb	Sara	Firefighter	2
Childers	Chris	Captain	13	Meis	Roye	Firefighter	21
Mervau	Wayne	Captain	23	Mervau	Adam	Firefighter	2
Miller	Harold	Captain	10	Mosher	Matt	Firefighter	3
Rutherford	Frank	Captain	18	Osburn	Richard	Firefighter	19
Smith	Donald	Captain	2	Pfost	Dayton	Firefighter	1
Vaughn	Michael	Lieutenant / HSO	20	Rittenhouse	Randy	Firefighter	2
Agruda	Randy	Lieutenant / PIO	14	Robinson	Karen	Firefighter	20
Haskin	Brian	Lieutenant	11	Sanborn	John	Firefighter	26
Bloom	Brian	Lieutenant	17	Scanlon	Mike	Firefighter	10
Carpenter	Jeffery	Lieutenant	6	Shafer	Joseph	Firefighter	1
Posey	Anthony	Lieutenant	3	Shaul	Mark	Firefighter	10
Seaburg	Eric	Lieutenant	13	Sheerin	Craig	Firefighter	1
Wilkins	Mike	Lieutenant	6	Stuber	Mark	Firefighter	6
Parker	Mikie	Medical Officer	21	Winans	Dave	Firefighter	21
Irvin	Perry	Safety Officer	23	Wolf	Jeff	Firefighter	14
Olson	Terrie	Safety Officer	21	Wolf	Melissa	Firefighter	5
Olson	James	Engineer	40	Worm	Rick	Firefighter	13
Collins	Pat	Engineer	50	Wrede	Tim	Firefighter	19
Metcalf	Jeremy	Engineer	3	Wagner	Richard	Chaplin	40
Worm	Ed	Engineer	10	Walters	Glen	Chaplin	40
Baker	John	Firefighter	8	Brief	Jon	Probationary Candidate	1
Carling	Chris	Firefighter	27	Bryan	Michael	Probationary Candidate	2
Carver	William	Firefighter	2	Clute	Kyle	Probationary Candidate	1
Doornbos	Andrew	Firefighter	1	Ellis	Cory	Probationary Candidate	1
Draper	Jeremy	Firefighter	17	Ferris	Jack	Probationary Candidate	1
Drewery	Adam	Firefighter	3	Gibson	Jacque	Probationary Candidate	1
Ehardt	John	Firefighter	10	Hawkins	Nicholas	Probationary Candidate	1
Fraser	Marcus	Firefighter	15	Longcore	Jeffery	Probationary Candidate	1
Gerkin	Matthew	Firefighter	1	Saum	Keith	Probationary Candidate	1
Harvey	Robert	Firefighter	10	Wilson	Mathew	Probationary Candidate	1



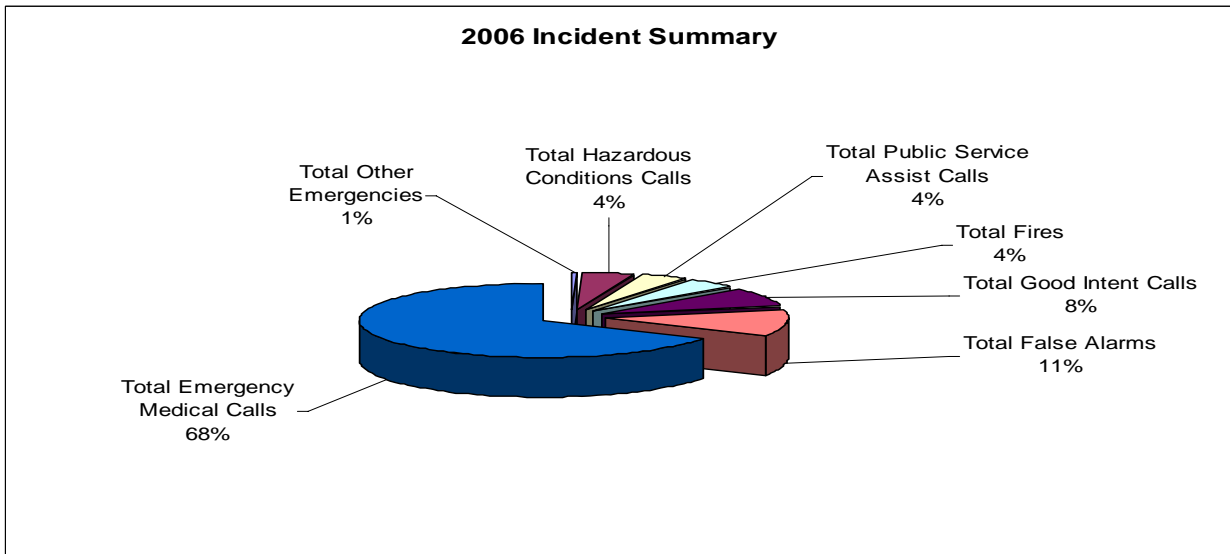
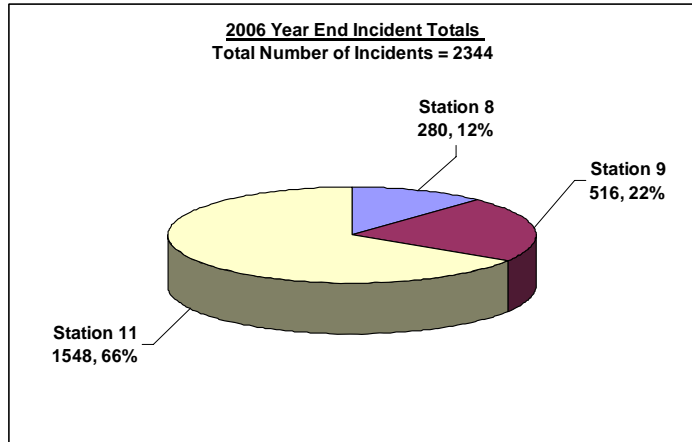


## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department responded to 2,344 calls in 2006.

Total Fires		105
Total Structure Fires	32	
Total Vehicle Fires	21	
Total Emergency Medical Calls		1571
Total Hazardous Conditions Calls		100
Total Public Service Assist Calls		101
Total Good Intent Calls		188
Total False Alarms		265
Total Other Emergencies		14

**Total Calls 2344**







## ***EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE***

Almost 70% of the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's emergency calls are for medical response. The department provides Basic Life Support within our area at a Medical Fire Responder level. The suppression personnel are certified as Medical First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics. East Bay Township operates a township-owned ambulance service that responds with members from both East Bay EMS and Metro fire personnel. The other two stations operate rescue units that respond and assist NorthFlight EMS, an Advanced Life Support agency.

Rescue units at each station respond to all motor vehicle accidents and are equipped with extrication equipment to free victims from entrapment. In 2006, rescue units responded to 200 motor vehicle incidents which 19 of them required extrication of victims.

## ***SUPPRESSION***

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Operation Division consists of three stations housed in three different townships. Station 1 is currently under renovation with hopes to be open and operating in 2007. In 2006, we continued to seek additional properties for future stations in Garfield Township and land for an alternative site for Station 8 located in Acme Township.

**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)**







## ***HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006***

- Hired an Assistant Chief of Operations
- Developed and implemented a department-wide training schedule
- Took delivery of a 2000 gallon American LaFrance tanker
- Re-created identity of Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department
- Developed a fire investigation team in conjunction with the Grand Traverse Sheriff Office
- Continued our Community Risk Assessment
- Performed pre-incident surveys of high risk occupancies
- Restructured departmental leadership
- Developed criteria for firefighter physicals
- Developed active status criteria
- Created job descriptions for station personnel
- Established the position of Health & Safety Officer
- Continued long range strategic planning
- Developed new and revised existing department policies & procedures

## ***FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU***

### ***Mission Statement***

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Prevention Bureau, through education and inspections, strives to safeguard the life and property of the citizens in Grand Traverse County from the hazards of fire, explosion and hazardous materials in new and existing buildings, structures or premises used for habitation, work and recreation.

The Fire Prevention Bureau continued to strive to achieve the goal of *no fires* in inspected occupancies. We had 6 fires in the occupancies that we inspect in the Metro area. This represents an increase of 5 fires from last years' total of 1 fire in occupancies that we inspect.

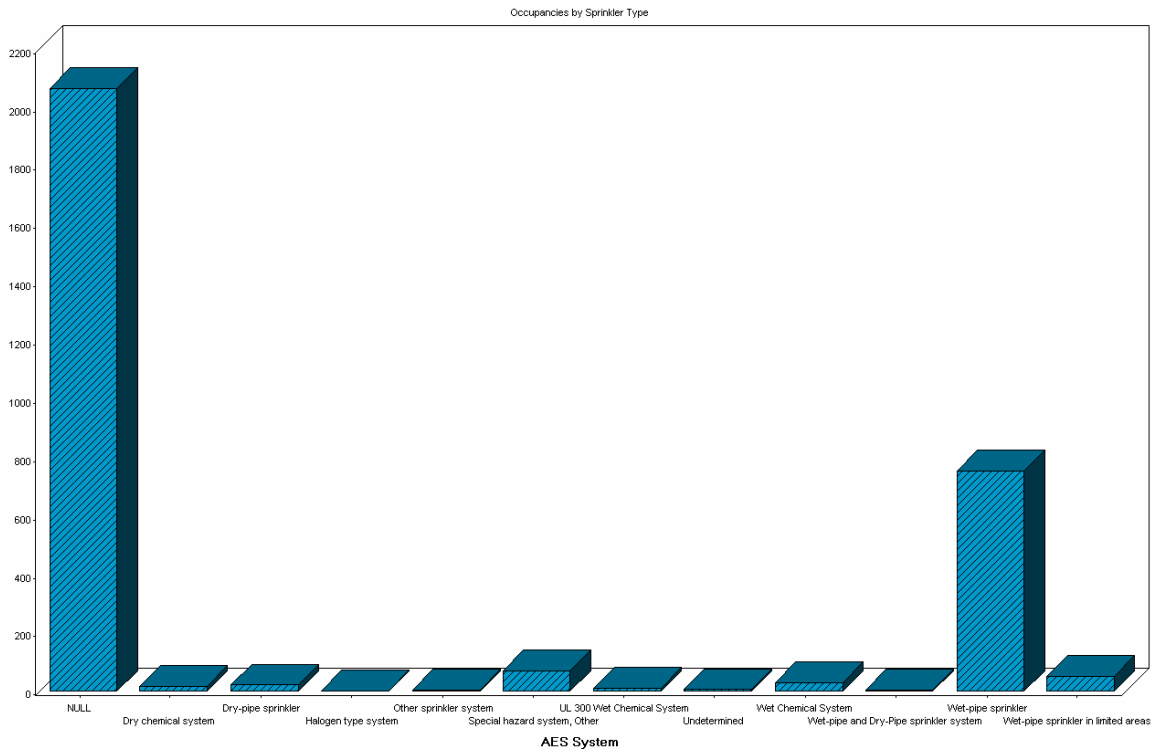
### ***Structure Fires***

There were 2344 reported incidents in 2006 in the Metro area, with 32 being actual structure fires. This represents a 1.7% increase in reported incidents over 2005 and an increase of 15 structure fires over 2005. To compare over the last 15 years, in 1992 we experienced 143 structure fires as opposed to the 32 that were experienced in 2006, which results in approximately an 80% decrease in structure fires. The structure fires in 2006 resulted in \$773,650.00 in losses and \$3,704,550.00 saved in a total value of \$4,478,200.00. The total percentage lost was 17.28% and the total percentage saved was 82.72%.



**Investigations**

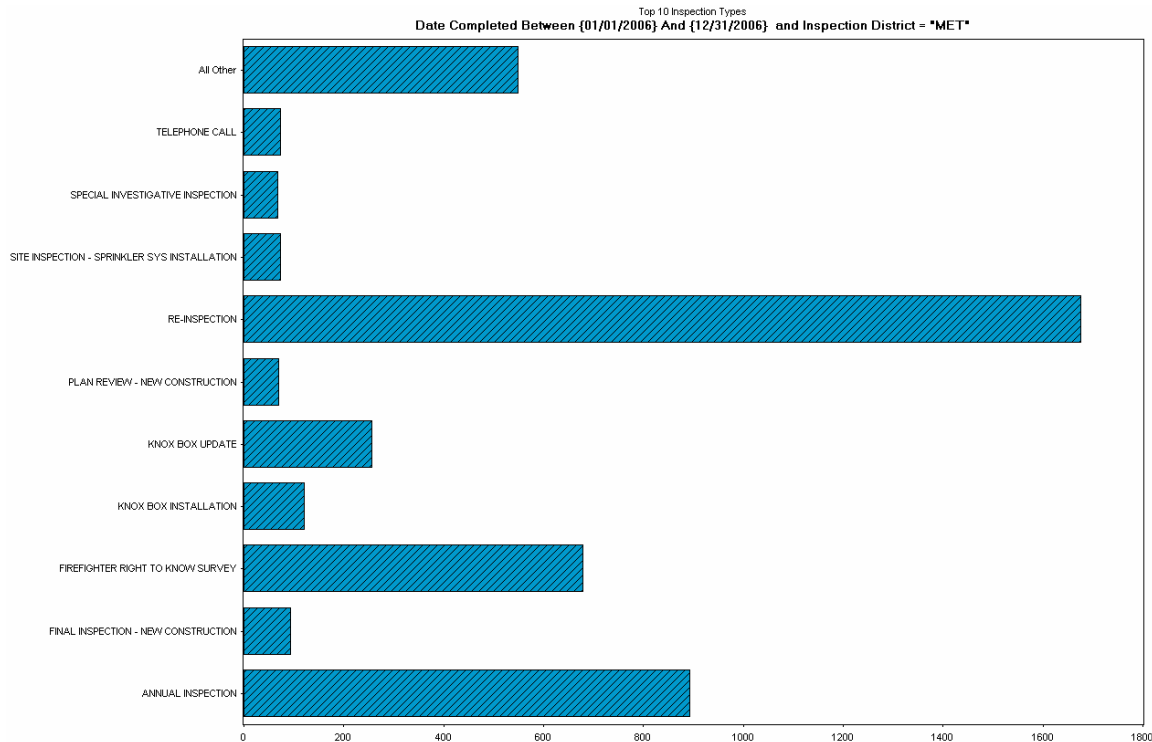
Of the 6 fires that occurred in inspected occupancies, three were intentionally set, one was from careless discarding of smoking materials, one was an overheated bath fan and one was a fire on an exterior balcony. Two of the fires were in sprinklered structures and the fire sprinkler systems extinguished the fire prior to the arrival of firefighting forces.



One civilian death related to fires in the Metro jurisdiction was recorded in 2006. That death occurred in a single-family residence and was a result of a propane explosion from a water heater that the occupant had been trying to repair. No firefighter line of duty deaths occurred in 2006.

**Inspections**

A total of 4555 inspection activities were performed on occupancies, with an average of slightly more than 1.4 hours per inspection, which includes travel time, as well as the time for inspection of the premises. A total of 18,802 violations were reported and 11,265 violations were corrected. The most numerous violations noted were use of extension cords in place of permanent wiring, exit/emergency egress lighting malfunctions, means of egress obstructions, lack of required fire safety plans and evacuation plans, Knox Box infractions, electrical wiring hazards and violation of fire-rated assemblies. There were 2376 occupancies identified in the Metro database for 2006.



***Plan Reviews***

Site and building plan reviews totaled 153. This was up from 151 in 2005. Fire suppression system and automatic fire sprinkler system plan reviews totaled 43. Fire alarm system plan reviews totaled 24. Since June 1, 2006, 81 plan reviews were performed for projects in the City of Traverse City. A total of 407 new construction inspections were completed in 2006. Of these, 30 were in the City of Traverse City. These inspections included fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, other suppression system inspections, fire pump installations and acceptance tests, and means of egress and exiting inspections.

Continuing education requirements for all of the inspectors were on-going in 2006. A minimum point total of 20 credits per year are required and all inspectors met this requirement to apply toward qualifying for re-certification as fire inspectors. Seminars attended included the 4-day Fall MFIS seminar in Lansing, various NMCOA seminars in Gaylord and Traverse City, numerous National Fire Sprinkler Association on-line seminars, and the IAAI seminar in Grand Rapids. The National Fire Sprinkler Association on-line seminars are quite advantageous because they allow several people to attend and only one registration fee is required. The seminars are given on-line and we can project them onscreen in the conference room, thereby eliminating travel time and lodging expenses. Two of the Metro Inspectors and the Assistant Chief have achieved Fire Inspector II certification through the International Code Council. The Assistant Chief has also achieved Fire Inspector II Certification through the National Fire Protection Association.



There has been continued involvement by the Assistant Chief at the state level on the *IFC as State Code* committee. This committee has met over the last four years with the purpose of getting the IFC adopted as the Fire Prevention Code of Michigan. Progress has been steady, but slow toward achieving this goal. The Assistant Chief has also been a member of a task force created by the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs for the purpose of getting Appendix P of the State of Michigan Residential Code 2006 adopted on a state-wide basis. Appendix P would require that all new residential structures in the state be built with an approved residential fire sprinkler system. If this endeavor succeeds, it will be the single most progressive and successful life safety method that has ever been mandated.

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department and Fire Prevention Bureau entered into a contractual agreement with the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners to serve as the plan reviews and inspection agent for all fire-related requirements that are referenced in the State of Michigan Building Code. This necessitated that the Metro Fire Prevention Bureau also perform plans review and inspections on projects in the City of Traverse City that are under permit through the County Construction Codes Department. The contractual agreement included a fee paid by the County of \$350.00 for each plan review and \$50.00 for each inspection that is performed on projects permitted by the County Codes Office. At years end, this contractual revenue resulted in a 100% + increase over the budgeted revenue for plan reviews and inspections for 2006. The additional workload that has been created by the projects in the City is being performed by the Assistant Chief.

A downturn in the economy led to a reduction in new construction activity and site-plan review work in 2006. Large projects that were completed or underway in 2006 included the Goodwill Inn, the Tamarack Lodge, Sugar Beach Villas, Village Glen Apartments, Village at Bayridge Assisted Living and Senior Residence, Peninsula Shores Condos, Munson Medical Center, and The Opera House. This current development trend is expected to continue at the same or slightly accelerated pace for 2007.

The two part-time fire inspector positions have been vacated and are not planned to be filled at this time. One of the part-time inspectors resigned and the other was hired as the Metro Assistant Chief of Operations.

Job performance evaluations were performed on the fire inspectors and all employees had excellent reviews. Work ethic and morale was high. No major issues or complaints were received from the employees. Brian Belcher continues in a training capacity with the Fire Marshal to learn plan reviews and inspection of new construction and fire protection systems. The training will continue into 2007, concentrating on fire suppression systems and fire investigations.



The townships each have the International Fire Code adopted as a local ordinance and the County Prosecutor has agreed to enforce the individual ordinances. Several issues for enforcement have been sent to the Prosecutor during 2006 and no enforcement action has been taken on any of the issues.

This office has had significant success in persuading various occupancies to install automatic fire sprinkler systems throughout their new buildings even if the building code did not require them to be installed. We continue to strive for this voluntary installation of suppression systems in order to provide the best fire protection service to the citizens at the lowest possible expense.

Access to this department via the Internet has been achieved through the continued use of the fire department website at [www.gtfire.org](http://www.gtfire.org). The site has pages posted for the Metro and Rural administration, Metro and Rural operations, for the fire prevention bureaus, contact information and battalion pages. 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 easily learn who we are and what our fire department is all about.

### *Summary*

The progress that this bureau has achieved in the past year is exemplary. The goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to have no fires in occupancies that are inspected. This is very close to being achieved but more work is necessary to make the goal a reality. The on-going support of the Metro Fire Board has been the most important key to the success of the Bureau. Without this continued support, the success that has been achieved would not have been possible. It is hoped that the bureau can continue to receive the support of the Metro Board, so that the goals of no fires in inspected occupancies and continued public education can be achieved.

## ***PUBLIC EDUCATION***

The Grand Traverse Metro and Grand Traverse Rural Fire departments, through a shared Public Education Officer, delivers fire prevention messages throughout Grand Traverse County. We provide fire prevention lessons in seven elementary schools, day care homes, girl scout and boy scout groups, senior activity centers, senior assisted living centers, independent living homes, and many retail health and safety fairs. Our Public Education Officer sits on the North Shore Safe Kids Coalition board. This organization provides child passenger seats, education as well as bicycle helmets, and other child injury prevention education.



Our Public Education Officer has been certified to install child passenger seats and participates in car seat check events throughout the county. He also represents us on the Public Safety/Protective Services committee at the T.B.A. Career Tech. Center. This program provides junior and senior high school students with an opportunity to experience the fire service in more depth at an earlier age. We assist them with their mission and we are offered possible members who are at an ideal age to learn.

We offer station tours and participate in station open houses with our robots, Sparky and Pluggie, who are both fully functional with the ability to communicate with the children. We also operate an obstacle course that teaches home fire escape plans. We offer a fire safety trailer (our lessons are based on the Safe at Home curriculum developed by the State of Michigan). We offer Sparky the Fire Dog and Fishbait the Fire Clown who present fire prevention lessons by way of skits to children. They also attend station open houses and station Halloween parties. In summer weather, we provide bicycle rodeos to after school programs. We use the AAA format, which teaches many different skills while providing a fun atmosphere for the children. Our program has partnered with area fire safety retailers to provide fire extinguisher training to adults.



Our Public Education Officer submits several grant requests each year. Two of these are to the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant. Many other local requests are also granted.







## ***JUVENILE FIRE SETTERS PROGRAM***

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Juvenile Fire Setter (JFS) Program was created in 1985 and combines family intervention sessions with information on burn injuries and the consequences of fire setting. The JFS Program is a regional program consisting of cases in Grand Traverse and adjoining counties. Children of all ages are referred from local schools, courts, agencies and by parents. Since its inception, over 500 families have participated in the program.

In 2006, the JFS Specialists intervened with 26 juveniles involved in 68 fires. Approximately 2/3 of the juveniles were handled with an educational meeting and were of little concern while the other 1/3 had a definite concern and required educational and psychological intervention. Only 4 of these cases were from the Metro Fire jurisdiction.

On Tuesday, October 24, 2006, the U-M Trauma Burn Center's Injury Prevention Team presented the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department with the Leland Gayheart Fire Safety & Prevention Award, in recognition for their efforts in fire prevention and education.



Each year, the Trauma Burn Center supports the work of Michigan firefighters by presenting the prestigious Leland Gayheart Fire Safety and Prevention Award. The award recognizes outstanding creativity and innovation in fire prevention and education programs and is named in honor of a young firefighter who lost his life after a devastating burn injury. This year the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department and the Marquette Fire Department are both recipients of the award.

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Juvenile Fire Setter Program was chosen as the 2006 recipient of the Leland Gayheart Award because of its proven impact on the community and the department's commitment to updating and evaluating the program to meet the changing needs of children and families.

The family of Leland Gayheart established this endowment to provide an honorarium of \$500 to be awarded each year to a Michigan fire department that is leading the way in community fire safety and education. The Trauma Burn Center's Injury Prevention Office accepts nominations for the award and presents the honor each fall to a recipient whose outreach efforts in fire prevention demonstrates commitment and innovation, as well as advances the community's level of fire safety awareness.

