



2007 Annual Report

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

Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department
2007 Annual Report





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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.

We continue to plan for the future growth of the Metro area. Plans are being created for new stations, personnel, and equipment to meet these demands.

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 947-3000 extension 1235 or via e-mail at pparker@gtmetrofire.org.



We sincerely thank you for your support.

Pat Parker
Fire Chief



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 reviews, inspections, education, and fire investigations.

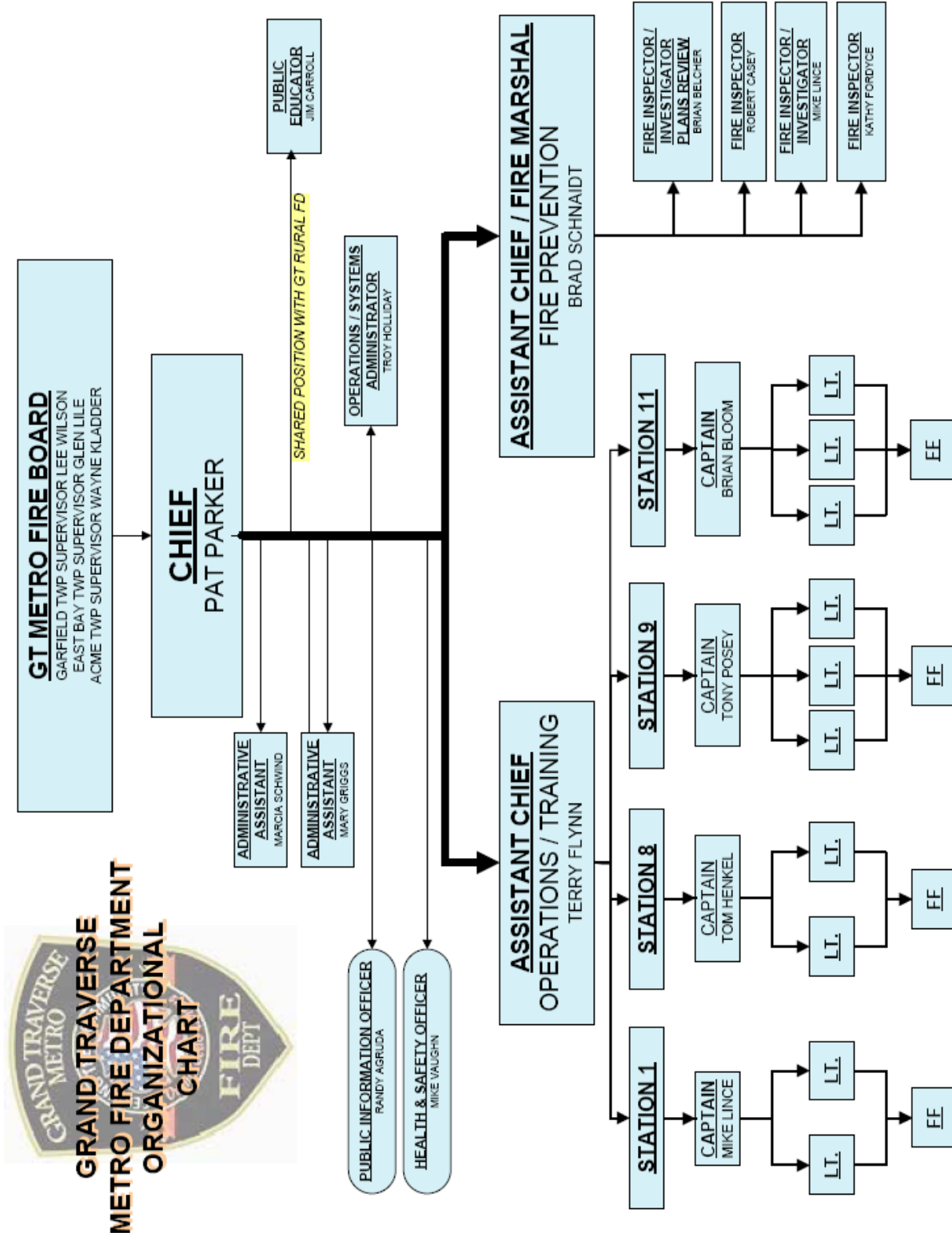


MISSION STATEMENT

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.



DECEMBER 2007





DEPARTMENTAL ROSTER



Pat Parker
Terry Flynn
Brad Schnaidt

Chief of Department
Asst Chief of Operations
Asst Chief / Fire Marshal

Full-time Members

Bloom	Brian	Captain
Belcher	Brian	Fire Inspector / Investigator / Plan Reviewer
Casey II	Robert	Fire Inspector
Lince	Mike	Fire Inspector / Investigator
Fordyce	Kathy	Fire Inspector
Holliday	Troy	Operations / Systems Administrator
Schwind	Marcia	Staff Secretary
Griggs	Mary	Staff Secretary
Draper	Jeremy	Firefighter

Part-time Members

Henkel	Thomas	Captain	Stuber	Mark	Firefighter
Posey	Anthony	Captain	Wilkins	Mike	Firefighter
Mervau	Wayne	Lieutenant	Wolf	Melissa	Firefighter
Scanlon	Mike	Lieutenant	Mosher	Matt	Firefighter
Carpenter	Jeffery	Lieutenant	Drewery	Adam	Firefighter
Agruda	Randy	Lieutenant	Mervau	Adam	Firefighter
Childers	Chris	Lieutenant	Rittenhouse	Randy	Firefighter
Shaul	Mark	Lieutenant	Smith	Donald	Firefighter
Metcalf	Jeremy	Lieutenant	Lamb	Sara	Firefighter
Vaughn	Michael	Health & Safety Officer	Carver	William	Firefighter
Parker	Mikie	Medical Officer	Shafer	Joseph	Firefighter
Ehardt	Robin	Accountant	Doornbos	Andrew	Firefighter
Walters	Glen	Chaplin	Gerkin	Matthew	Firefighter
Collins	Pat	Engineer	Bryan	Michael	Firefighter
Worm	Ed	Engineer	Gibson	Jacque	Firefighter
Sanborn	John	Firefighter	Lemcool	Nicholas	Firefighter
Irvin	Perry	Firefighter	Ellis	Cory	Firefighter
Olson	Terrie	Firefighter	Hawkins	Nicholas	Firefighter
Winans	Dave	Firefighter	Brief	Jon	Firefighter
Robinson	Karen	Firefighter	Clute	Kyle	Firefighter
Osburn	Richard	Firefighter	Ferris	Jack	Firefighter
Wrede	Tim	Firefighter	Savoie	Gregory	Firefighter
Rutherford	Frank	Firefighter	Wilson	Mathew	Probationary Candidate
Harvey	Robert	Firefighter	Doornbos	Chris	Probationary Candidate
Fraser	Marcus	Firefighter	Protsman	Zachary	Probationary Candidate
Seaburg	Eric	Firefighter	Sika	Tyler	Probationary Candidate
Worm	Rick	Firefighter	Monroe	Michael	Probationary Candidate
Haskin	Brian	Firefighter	Kolinski	Christopher	Probationary Candidate
Francisco	Gary	Firefighter	Brief	Nicholas	Probationary Candidate
Ehardt	John	Firefighter	Walker	James	Probationary Candidate
Hintz	Mike	Firefighter	Hall	Terry	Probationary Candidate
Baker	John	Firefighter			



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

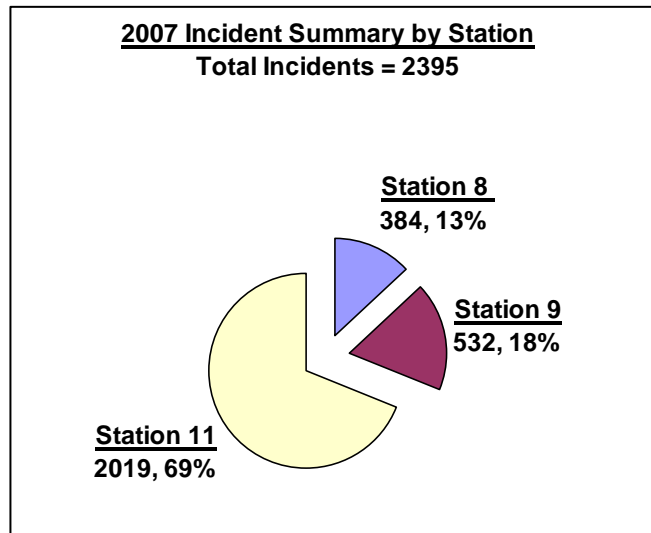
The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department responded to 2,935 calls in 2007.

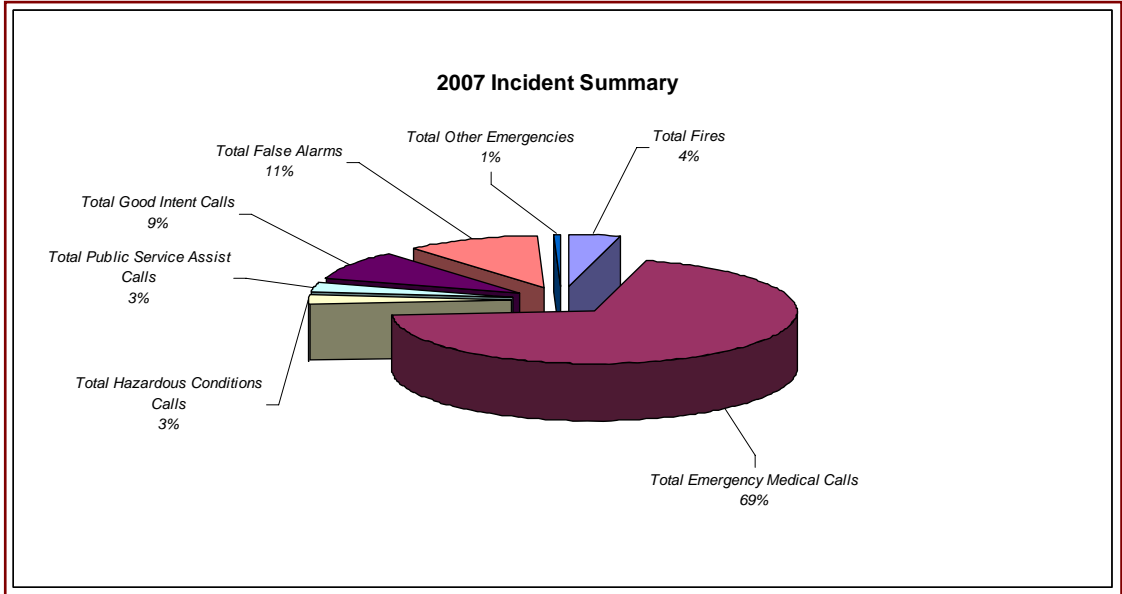
2007 Incident Totals

Total Fires		121
Total Structure Fires	22	
Total Vehicle Fires	13	
Total Emergency Medical Calls		2050
Total Medical Incidents	1845	
Total Motor Vehicle Accidents	195	
Total Hazardous Conditions Calls		83
Total Public Service Assist Calls		86
Total Good Intent Calls		266
Total False Alarms		313
Total Other Emergencies		16

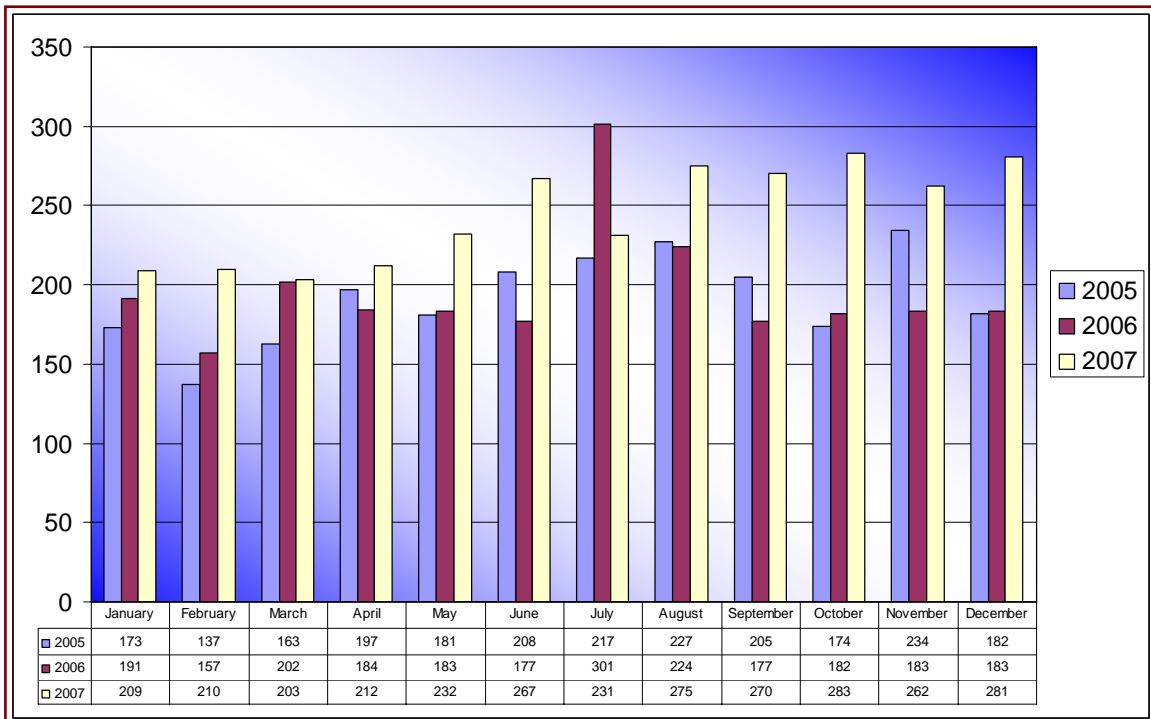


Total Calls **2935**





Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department Call Volume 2005 – 2007





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. Our goal for 2008 is to bring the level of medical response to an EMT level to better serve our citizens. The suppression personnel are certified as Medical First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics. East Bay Township operates a township-operated ambulance service that responds with members from both East Bay EMS and Metro fire personnel. The other 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 2007, rescue units responded to 195 motor vehicle incidents, which at least eight of them required extrication of victims.

SUPPRESSION

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Operation Division consists of three stations housed in the three partnered townships. Station 1 was under construction in 2007 and opened in February 2008.



Station 1

(843 Industrial Circle, East Bay Township)

Station 9

(110 High Lake Rd, East Bay Township)

Station 8

(6042 Acme Rd, Acme Township)

Station 11

(3000 Albany, Garfield Township)



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007

■ ***Training***

The department developed and implemented a new training format for all personnel. The training schedule consisted of all the disciplines of the fire service including a yearly medical training agenda to assist all members' requirements for continuing educational credits. The training is scheduled at different stations throughout the year utilizing the new central station to allow for ease of personnel participation. The new required training has increased the departments' competence and performance standards. Additional hands-on training is given to all members to increase their confidence and the ability to perform those essential functions and obtain those competencies needed on the emergency scene. Through the use of pre-incident surveys developed in the last 17 months, the department has implemented training at each station involving target hazards throughout the Metro Fire district. This will enable all members to get a better understanding and develop an increased knowledge base for the structures they are expected to respond to. OSHA has required that a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) be assembled and ready at every structure fire where firefighters will make entry to ensure life safety. RIT is now a required training and all of our members' competencies have increased in this area.

■ ***National Governors' Conference***

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department had the responsibility to provide fire and medical coverage at the Grand Traverse Resort during this conference in July 2007 and conducted extensive training and planning exercises in order to be able to meet the goals established to satisfy pre-designated goals.

■ ***New Fire Equipment***

G.T. Metro purchased a new Engine (2007 American LaFrance) and it has been placed at Station 9 in East Bay Township. During past training at the Grand Traverse Resort this year, we found that we needed new high rise hose and packs to carry them in the event of a fire at multi-story buildings. New fire gear was supplied to certain members while all old outdated fire gear was destroyed.



■ ***Pre-Incident Surveys***

Pre-incident surveys are an integral component of a fire department's operations and are listed as the number one factor in firefighter safety. Pre-incident surveys allow the firefighters to get familiar with any hazards in occupancies in their response areas in case of an emergency in that facility. There were 35 pre-incident surveys completed in 2007 as compared with 16 in 2006. It is estimated that there are about 175 target hazards that need to be planned.



- ***Hazardous Materials Training***

G.T. Metro has improved their training in the area of Hazmat by instituting joint exercises with the Traverse City Fire Department and has purchased Level B entry suits for use at certain chemical releases in the district. The plan is to increase the level of training and response further in 2008.



- ***Staffing***

In 2007, there was full-time staffing at Station 11 in Garfield Township. Brian Bloom was promoted from Lieutenant to full-time Captain. Jeremy Draper was also hired as full-time Firefighter. Both members started in the late 1980's as junior firefighters known as Fire Explorers. Congratulations to both Captain Bloom and Firefighter Draper.

Plans for 2008 include staffing at various levels at all stations within the G.T. Metro Fire district.

- ***Personnel ID Numbers***

In 2007, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept has changed its identifying numbers to include the 700 range. All Metro fire personnel will now have their own separate number system that will be used on the radio and in reports.

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 4 fires in the occupancies that we inspect in the Metro area. This represents a decrease of 2 fires from last years' total of 6 fires in occupancies that we inspect.



Structure Fires

There were 2935 reported incidents in 2007 in the Metro area, with 27 being actual structure fires. This represents a 24.2% increase in reported incidents over 2006 and a decrease of 5 structure fires over 2006. To compare over the last 15 years, in 1992 we experienced 143 structure fires as opposed to the 27 that were experienced in 2007, which results in approximately an 81% decrease in structure fires. We attribute this reduction in losses directly to the investment in fire prevention. The structure fires in 2007 resulted in \$1,663,200.00 in losses and \$1,866,050 saved in a total value of \$3,524,250.00. The total percentage lost was 47.05% and the total percentage saved was 52.95%.

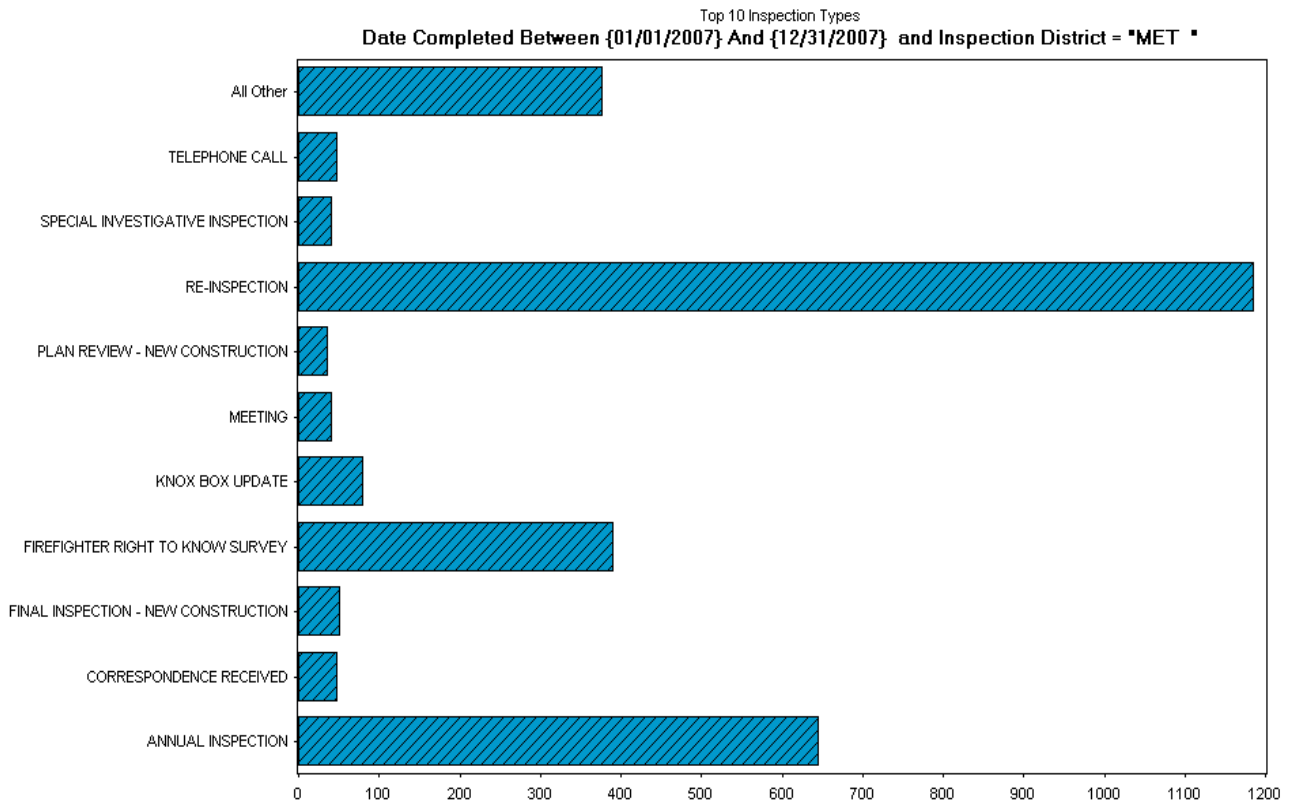
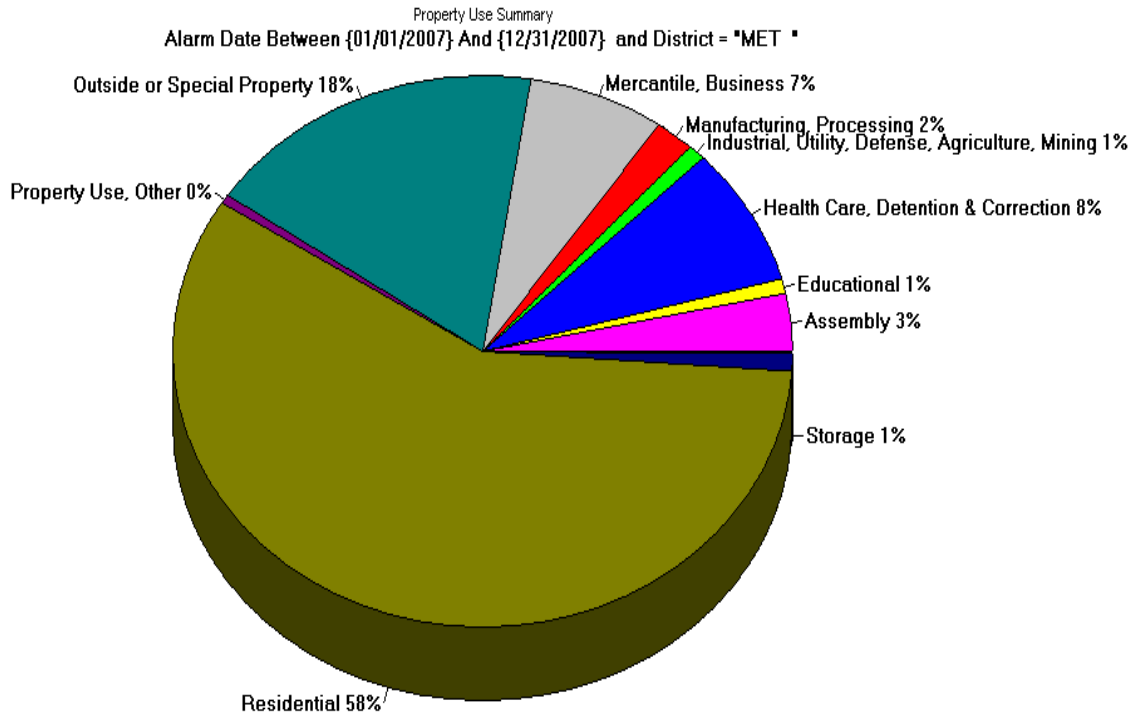


Investigations

Of the 4 fires that occurred in inspected occupancies, one was from careless use of a sterno can in a restaurant, one was an electrical fault in a forklift in a recycling building, one was a fire on the cooking equipment at a Chinese restaurant that was extinguished by the fire suppression system and one was a fire from overfilling the cooking oil of a deep fryer in a fast-food restaurant. Two of the fires were in sprinklered structures, however, the fire sprinkler systems did not activate because the fires were extinguished by other means. No civilian deaths related to fires in the Metro jurisdiction were recorded in 2007.

Inspections

A total of 2936 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. 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 2520 occupancies identified in the Metro database for 2007. Approximately 1500 were in Garfield Township, 250 in East Bay Township, 220 in Acme Township, and the remainder in the City of Traverse City, and the Rural Fire Department area of Grand Traverse County.





Plan Reviews

Site and building plan reviews totaled 340. This was up from 153 in 2006. Fire suppression system and automatic fire sprinkler system plan reviews totaled 63. Fire alarm system plan reviews totaled 39. There were 124 plan reviews performed for projects in the City of Traverse City. New construction inspections completed in 2007 totaled 416. Of these, 201 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.

A down-turn in the economy led to a reduction in new construction activity and site plan review work in 2007. Large projects that were completed or underway in 2007 included the Munson Medical Center renovations and additions, Turtle Creek Casino, Great Wolf Lodge Conference Center, Grand Traverse Commons, and Wilderness Crossing. This current development trend is expected to continue at the same or slightly accelerated pace for 2008.

A part-time person was employed to map out the fire hydrant locations in the Metro area and install a numbering system for the hydrants. This information is being coordinated with the DPW to create a complete inventory list of all the fire hydrants in Metro and includes their flow tests. This project is on-going in the clement weather. This same person is also responsible for scanning in all of the stored blueprints for the business files that we have in order to create electronic files. This will allow us to keep this data on the computer database and free up actual file storage of the paper goods. This project is also on-going. The goal is to eliminate all storage of paper blueprints and have all prints submitted for review by electronic media in the future.

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.

Summary

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. Without the continued support of the Metro Fire Board, the success that has been achieved would not have been possible.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

We provide fire prevention lessons in 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. Approximately 85-90 events in the Metro area are scheduled every year.

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.

Child Passenger Seat Safety Program



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? Firefighter Troy Holliday became a certified technician by Safe Kids Worldwide through the National Child Passenger Safety Seat Program to install child passenger seats and participates in car seat check events throughout the county. Station 11 hosts a monthly car seat check station for the community through the Safe Kids North Shore coalition program. Approximately 90 car seat checks were completed and corrected at Station 11 alone for 2007.

Pet Oxygen Masks Donated

Fire departments throughout Grand Traverse County received a donation that will help prevent pets from falling victim to smoke inhalation due to fire.

Invisible Fence of Northern Michigan donated 14 oxygen recovery mask kits for pets to the Grand Traverse Metro, Traverse City, and Grand Traverse Rural Fire Departments the evening of September 11, 2007 at the monthly Fire Chiefs Association meeting held at the East Bay Fire Station.

"We hope that by donating oxygen mask kits that we will contribute to saving more pets and hopefully protect pet owners that may risk their own life to save a pet in a fire," said Dave Hoxsie, owner, Invisible Fence of Northern Michigan.



It is estimated that in 2006, more than 40,000 pets died in fires; most succumbed to smoke inhalation. In most states, emergency responders are unequipped to deal with the crisis. The donation of these specially designed and potentially lifesaving animal oxygen mask sets will enable Grand Traverse County first responders to efficiently administer oxygen to a stricken animal.

Above Right: Dave Hoxsie, co-owner, Invisible Fence of Northern Michigan, demonstrates the specially designed masks on his dog. Red. Above Left: Randy Agruda, Public Information Officer, GT Metro Fire Department; Scott Scanlon, co-owner, Invisible Fence of Northern Michigan; Dave Hoxsie, co-owner, Invisible Fence of Northern Michigan; Pat Parker, Fire Chief, GT Metro Fire Department; and our



canine friend Red Hoxsie.

"We want to thank Invisible Fence for their generosity and believe that these kits will help us save more pets; we can all recall a fire from the past where these kits would have helped save a pet," said Pat Parker, Fire Chief, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department.

The mask kits come with small, medium, and large masks. In addition to cats and dogs, these masks can help save smaller pets such as ferrets, hamsters, and birds.

Invisible Fence of Northern Michigan also plans to donate oxygen recovery mask kits to fire departments in Leelanau, Charlevoix, and Emmet Counties this month.

Invisible Fence first learned about the mask kits while attending an Invisible Fence Brand Dealer Meeting at their headquarters in Knoxville. They felt strongly about supporting the program and felt it was a way they could give back to northern Michigan and to communities throughout the Midwest.

Article and photos by Laurie Wright, JGB Distributing, Inc. / Invisible Fence Brand (www.invisiblefence.com)

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. In 2007, the JFS Specialists intervened with 23 juveniles involved in 73 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 6 of these cases were from the Metro Fire jurisdiction in 2007.

Roxan Haessnaur (TCFD) and Dave Winans attended the 17th Annual Juvenile Arson Seminar in Mt. Pleasant, MI and received Intervention Specialist II certification.

Lt/PIO Randy Agruda joined the program in the fall and has received the Intervention Specialist I certification.



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, and station 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 learn who we are and what our fire department is all about.