



# 2008 Annual Report

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

**Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority**  
**2008 Annual Report**

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

On behalf of the 79 men and women of the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department, it gives me great pleasure to submit our annual report. Our department is filled with dedicated individuals 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.

2008 was a year of transition for the department. After many years of hard work, the department became the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority. As a fire authority, we now have a formal framework in which to expand and operate.



On February 1, 2008 we re-opened Station 1 which had been closed for over ten years. This now brings the total stations serving the public to four. This station has improved customer service by reducing response times greatly.

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. We strive in all of our endeavors to perform our jobs safely, so we all can go home to our loved ones. Our motto is “Omnis Cedo Domus”- *Everyone Goes Home.*

We are proud to be your fire department and we stand ready to serve you at any time. We look forward to hearing from you if you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can serve you better. Please contact me at 947-3000 ext. 1235 or at [pparker@gtmetrofire.org](mailto:pparker@gtmetrofire.org). You can also check us out on the web at [www.gtmetrofire.org](http://www.gtmetrofire.org).

We sincerely thank you for your continued support.

Patrick Parker – Fire Chief



## ***THE DEPARTMENT***

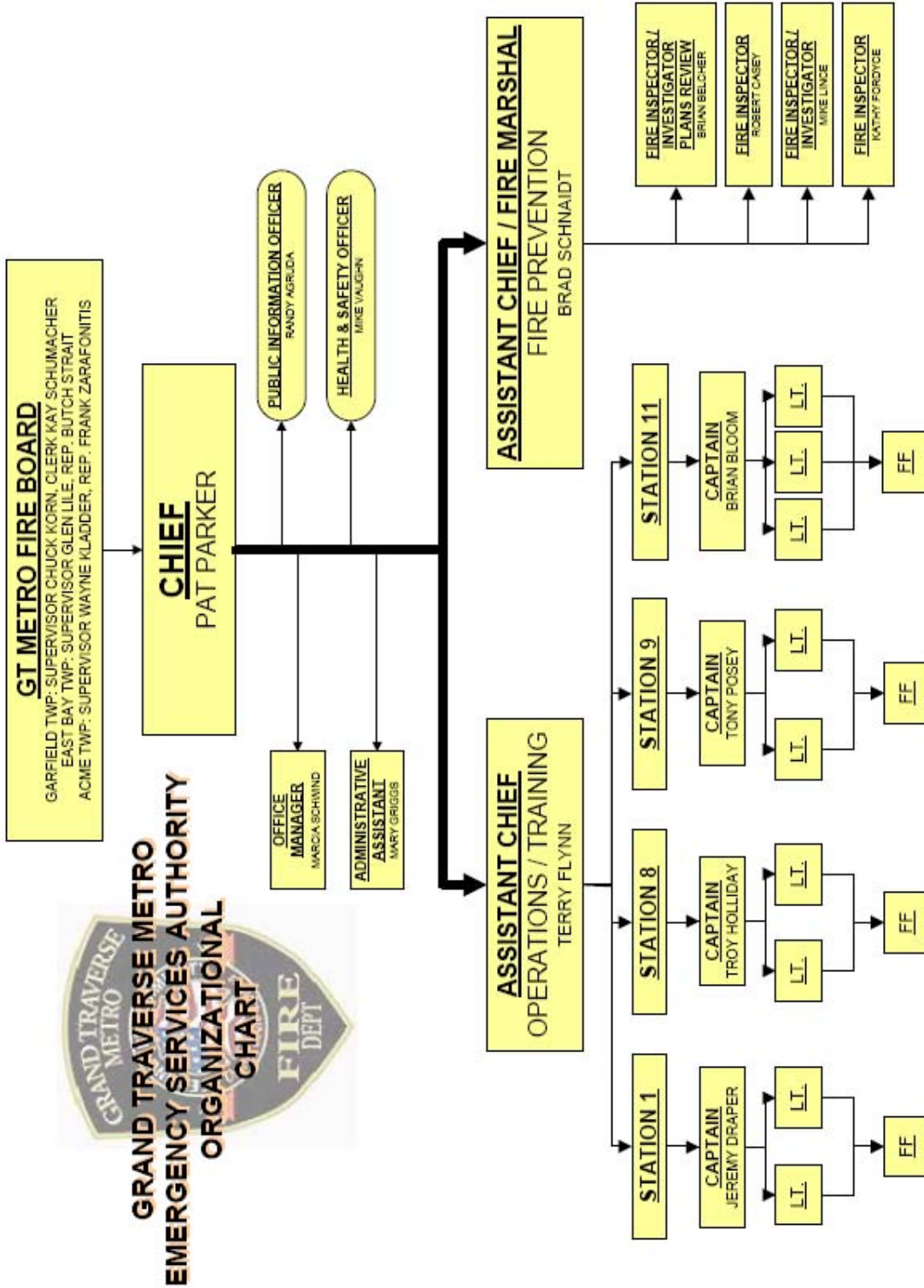
Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department is organized into two divisions: Operations and Fire Prevention. The Operations Division is the largest and is responsible for delivery of all emergency services. Those include such things as suppression, EMS, hazardous materials, water rescue, vehicle extrication, 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 2008





## 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
Draper	Jeremy	Captain
Posey	Tony	Interim Captain / Firefighter
Holliday	Troy	Interim Captain / Systems Administrator
Belcher	Brian	Fire Inspector / Investigator / Plan Reviewer
Casey II	Robert	Fire Inspector
Lince	Mike	Fire Inspector / Investigator
Fordyce	Kathy	Fire Inspector
Schwind	Marcia	Staff Secretary
Griggs	Mary	Staff Secretary
Harvey	Rob	Firefighter
Doornbos	Andy	Firefighter

### Part-time Members

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

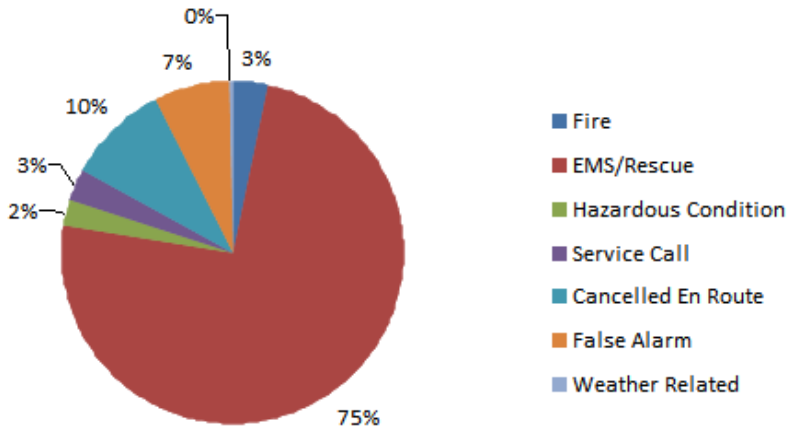


## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department responded to 3,449 calls in 2008.

	Station 1	Station 8	Station 9	Station 11	Metro	
Fire	22	19	18	75	134	3.89%
EMS/Rescue	484	237	187	1,665	2,573	74.60%
Hazardous Condition	15	20	15	43	93	2.70%
Service Call	20	10	18	12	60	1.74%
Cancelled En Route	62	46	50	170	328	9.51%
False Alarm	47	33	23	147	250	7.25%
Weather Related	2	1	7	1	11	0.32%
	652	366	318	2,113	3,449	

### 2008 Call Type Analysis



	2005	2006	2007	2008
Metro	2,462	2,344	2,935	3,449
Station 1	-	-	-	652
Station 8	326	280	384	366
Station 9	586	516	532	318
Station 11	1,550	1,548	2,019	2,113





## ***EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE***

Almost 75% 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 First 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 three 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 with injuries and are equipped with extrication equipment to free victims from entrapment. In 2008, rescue units responded to 194 motor vehicle incidents, which at least seven of them required extrication of victims.

## ***SUPPRESSION***

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Operation Division consists of four stations housed in the three partnered townships with the newest Station 1 that 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 2008

### ■ *Signing of Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority*

How ironic it was that on the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, the Grand Traverse Metro Emergency Services Authority becomes reality. Command Staff and firefighters attended the Garfield Township's bi-monthly meeting where the board held a public hearing on whether to adopt the new articles of incorporation. After a few speakers spoke in favor of the Act 57 authority, the motion passed unanimously. Previous to the Garfield meeting, both Acme Township & East Bay Township had held the same public hearings and they also passed unanimously.



From Left Standing: Chief Parker, FF Harvey, Lt Drewery, Capt Bloom, FF Belcher, Lt Scanlon, Chief Flynn, Chief Schnaidt  
From Left Sitting: Acme Supervisor Wayne Kladder, East Bay Supervisor Glen Lile,  
Garfield Supervisor Lee Wilson, Garfield Clerk Kay Schumacher, Photo by Capt Holliday

We would like to thank everyone who came out to support this issue over the past three and a half years. Yes, it has taken that long! Especially, we would like to thank Assistant Chief Brad Schnaidt for his leadership and vision on this project. It also could not have been done without the direction of Wayne Kladder and Frank Zarafonitis from Acme, Glen Lile and Beth Friend from East Bay, and Lee Wilson and Joe McManus from Garfield. There have been countless meetings and drafts of agreements over the past years. We can't say enough for the time commitment that these people have made to provide emergency services to the citizens of these three townships.

What this means for this department is that we now have a legal framework in how we operate. The three townships of Acme, East Bay, and Garfield believe in the concept of a regionalization and the economies of scale by sharing resources. Our board goes from three to six members with two elected officials from each township serving. We now have a uniform millage rate for all three townships. There are continued controls on the budget and spending and it makes it harder for townships to leave the authority. It creates a business model that could incorporate all modes of emergency services from police to EMS. As a note, there are no current plans or talks to bring police or EMS into this authority. If other fire departments wanted to join the authority, it should be easy to do so.

We plan on continuing to do business as Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department. The authority will become the employer and the owner of the equipment and property. Other than that, it should be business as usual. We look forward to a great working relationship with all.



▪ *Metro Fire Board Expands*

With the signing of Act 57, the Metro Fire Board now expands from a three-member board to a six-member board comprising of two members from each township. We welcome each new member of the board and look forward to working with them in the years to come.



From the left: Garfield Township Clerk Kay Schumacher, Garfield Township Supervisor Chuck Korn, Acme Township Representative Frank Zarafonitis, East Bay Township Supervisor Glen Lile, Acme Township Supervisor and Board Chairman Wayne Kladder, East Bay Township Representative Butch Strait.

▪ *Long term member retires:*

LET IT BE KNOWN, That it is a great pleasure to join with his colleagues, family, and the people of Traverse City in saluting Patrick Collins in recognition of his exemplary career as a member of the Acme Volunteer Fire Department and the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department. As one of the recent retirees from the department, he has earned the respect of the entire city as a professional who has contributed greatly to the community's safety over the years.



IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, Therefore, A State of Michigan document is signed and dedicated to commend and thank Patrick Collins for his many years of steadfast commitment as a member of the Acme Volunteer Fire Department and the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department. We extend to him best wishes for a long and well-deserved retirement.

Signed and sealed on July 26th, 2008 by: Jason Allen, State Senator; Howard Walker, State Representative; and Jennifer Granholm, Governor.





- ***Station 8 Captain honored***

At the June Metro Board meeting earlier this month, Chief Parker presented Tom Henkel a plaque containing his Battalion Chief's badge and words of thanks for his 28 years of leadership to the Department and Station 8. Tom has been with the Metro Fire Department for nearly 36 years and has been in leadership positions for all but 5 of those years. Tom recently retired as Station 8's Battalion Chief / Captain and has moved into his new position as a firefighter and safety officer.



Tom was interested in the fire service at age 16. Tom became an auxiliary volunteer with the Franklin Volunteer FD in Southfield Township. After his family moved North, Tom landed in the Acme area and soon joined Acme Volunteer Fire Department. Tom has been with the department ever since.

We thank Tom for his many years of service and we look forward to many years of future service.

- ***Training***

The training for 2009 has been vastly improved. The required training for all members of Grand Traverse Metro has been increased from 8 required training dates to 11 including a Medical Skills night. These additional training dates were added in order to improve the department's competencies.

- ***Station 1 Opening***

The opening of this new station has increased the response capabilities greatly. This station is manned with full-time personnel 24 hours a day and has been a big factor in reducing response times within the Metro fire district.

- ***ISO Rating***

The efforts put forth in 2006 and 2007 toward improving the Insurance rating for the GT Metro area have taken greater bounds in 2008. With the increase in personnel, improved training, and the addition of new apparatus, the ISO evaluation scheduled for 2010 should produce an improved Insurance rating from the current grade of 6 for the area building owners.



▪ *New Fire Equipment*

- G.T. Metro sold Tower 11 in order to purchase a new ladder truck (2008 Pierce 75' aerial ladder). It has been placed at Station 1 in East Bay Township as "Truck 1".



- Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department in association with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians received funding to assist in overcoming a fire department budget shortfall. The purchase of 14 portable radio units replaces one third of the radios now in use (18 year old equipment). The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians approved the distribution of 2% gaming revenue funds at the February 2008 Tribal Council meeting.

▪ *Staffing*

The staffing of personnel at the four stations has been increased with a combination of full-time and part-time positions to augment the paid on call and volunteer members of the department. In 2008, we added more full-time staffing at Station 11 in Garfield Township. Firefighter Andy Doornbos and Rob Harvey were hired as full-time Firefighters at Station 11. Jeremy Draper was promoted from full-time Firefighter to Captain and assigned to Station 1. Captain Tony Posey was offered the full-time Firefighter position at Station 1 where he stepped down temporarily as Captain of Station 9. In September, FF Posey was placed back into an Interim-Captain position at Station 9 where he will take over full-time in January 2009. Station 8 Captain Tom Henkel stepped down after many decades of leadership. FF Troy Holliday was placed into an Interim-Captain position for Station 8 with the planning of his full-time transfer from the administrative office to Station 8 Captain. In January 2009, all four stations will have a full-time Captain managing their stations.



- ***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. The department has continued in its attempt to preplan all target hazards in the townships. There were 20 multi-station preplans were completed during the year. Each member participated in at least one preplan in the Metro district during 2008.

- ***Hazardous Materials Training***

Hazardous Materials response capabilities have been improved in the department. Four full-time personnel have completed HazMat Technician training at the Homeland Security training center in Lansing. In the future, the department hopes to have at least 12 HazMat Technician level trained personnel.

- ***New Radio Frequency***

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department has identified a need for our own dispatch radio frequency. With the increase in number of calls within the county fire and medical community, the safety of firefighters has shown to be decreasing and the need for an additional radio frequency is warranted.

- ***Injury Statistics***

No civilian deaths related to fires in the Metro jurisdiction were recorded in 2008. No firefighter line of duty deaths occurred in 2008. There were 3 firefighters injured throughout the year, all of which have returned to active duty status.

## ***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 3 fires in the occupancies that we inspect in the Metro area. This represents a decrease of 1 fire from last years' total of 4 fires in occupancies that we inspect.



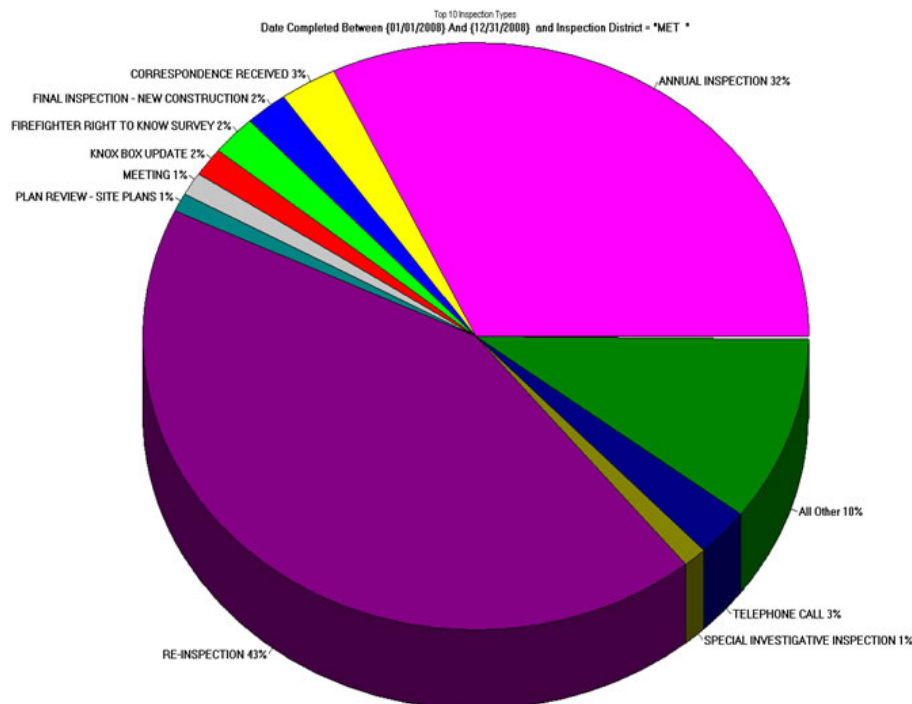
**Structure Fires**

There were 3386 reported incidents in 2008 in the Metro area, with 33 being actual structure fires. This represents a 14.5% increase in reported incidents over 2007 and a decrease of 4 structure fires over 2007. To compare over the last 15 years, in 1992 we experienced 143 structure fires as opposed to the 33 that were experienced in 2008, which results in approximately a 77.5% decrease in structure fires. We attribute this reduction in losses directly to the investment in fire prevention. The structure fires in 2008 resulted in \$627,745.00 in losses and \$1,920,200 saved in a total value of \$2,584,945.00. The total percentage lost was 25.72% and the total percentage saved was 74.28% as compared to 2007 when we had a 47% loss and 53% saved average.



**Inspections**

A total of 2113 inspection activities were performed on occupancies, with an average of slightly more than 1.8 hours per inspection which includes travel time, as well as the time for inspection of the premises. A total of 3060 violations were reported which is a reduction of 324% over the number of violations noted in 2007. 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 2631 occupancies identified in the Metro database for 2008. Approximately 2061 were in Garfield Township, 287 in East Bay Township, 289 in Acme Township and the remainder in the City of Traverse City and the Rural Fire Department area of Grand Traverse County.





### *Investigations*

Of the 3 fires that occurred in inspected occupancies, one was from grease build-up in the cooking ventilation equipment in a restaurant, one was from food left on a cooking surface in a restaurant, and one was a fire in a welding ventilation system in a manufacturing building. One of the fires was in a sprinklered structure and the fire sprinkler system did not activate because the fire was extinguished by other means.

### *Plan Reviews*

Site and building plan reviews totaled 112. This was down from 340 in 2007. Fire suppression system and automatic fire sprinkler system plan reviews totaled 15. Fire alarm system plan reviews totaled 11. Nine plan reviews were performed for projects in the City of Traverse City. A total of 205 new construction inspections were completed in 2008. Of these, 101 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 2008. A minimum point total of 20 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, Code Officials Conference of Michigan seminars in Lansing and Traverse City, numerous National Fire Sprinkler Association on-line seminars, the IAAI seminar in Grand Rapids. The National Fire Sprinkler Association on-line seminars are quite advantageous because they allow for 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.

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department and Fire Prevention Bureau continued a contractual agreement with the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners to serve as the plans review and inspection agent for all fire-related requirements that are referenced in the State of Michigan Building Code.

A continued down-turn in the economy led to a reduction in new construction activity and site plan review work in 2008. Large projects that were completed in 2008 included the Munson Medical Center renovations and additions, Turtle Creek Casino, Grand Traverse Commons, and Wilderness Crossing. This current development trend is expected to continue at the same or slightly decreased pace for 2009.

The project to map out the fire hydrant locations in the Metro area and install a numbering system for the hydrants has been completed in 2008. 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. To date, approximately 10,200 blue print pages have been scanned and entered into our database. The project is approximately 65% complete and 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.





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 review and inspection of new construction and fire protection systems. Brian Belcher and Mike Lince have completed training as fire investigators and are currently sharing the fire investigation duties to determine origin and cause. This training will continue into 2009, concentrating on fire suppression systems, fire investigations and fire prevention bureau management.

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.

## ***PUBLIC EDUCATION***

The Metro Board has endorsed and accepted the proposal and goal of hiring a full-time Fire and Life Safety Public Educator for 2009 and to implement and develop prevention education programs that target the elderly, the infirm and the school-age children in our community. 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). Sparky the Fire Dog and Fishbait the Fire Clown also present fire prevention lessons by way of skits to children. They also attend station open houses and occasional birthday parties.



## ***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? Captain Troy Holliday is the only certified technician for GT Metro Fire Department through Safe Kids Worldwide and the National Child Passenger Safety Seat Program. Station 11 hosts a monthly car seat check station for the community through the Safe Kids North Shore coalition program. Approximately 100 car seat checks were completed and corrected at Station 11 alone for 2008.



## ***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. 2008 saw a drop with only 13 fires involving 9 juveniles with an approximate dollar loss of \$128,600. 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 3 of these cases were from the Metro Fire jurisdiction in 2008.

Lieutenant / Public Information Officer Randy Agruda joined the program in the fall of 2007 and received the Intervention Specialist I certification. In 2008, Lt Agruda completed the Intervention Specialist II certification at the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, MD.

## ***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.



*Access to this department via the Internet has been achieved through the continued use of the fire department website at [www.gtmetrofire.org](http://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.*