

February 15, 2008

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Mary Griggs 1222
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The Metro Insider...



The Hydrant Connection

by Dave Lather

Last January I began this job by sorting through books, drawings, charts, maps, and flow data that has been accumulating in one form or another, for many years. My task is to assemble this information into an easily accessible data base, for use by Metro Fire Department. Early into the process, I discovered the existing water main/hydrant maps were not entirely accurate, finding hydrants that were shown but not installed, and installed but not shown on the maps.

copy so they can complete the final corrected water map.

In the process of physically



The Garfield Township maps are in the process of being corrected and the East Bay Township maps have been corrected and reprinted. Nearly three hundred hydrants are yet to be verified in Garfield Township, before I give Gourdie Fraser the corrected field

visiting every hydrant we have been able to identify and stake/sign/number all the hydrants that lacked either stakes, signs or numbers. A byproduct of this effort resulted being able to identify all the hydrants that were missing numbers, on the

Department of Public Works, Hydrant Maintenance Schedule. Those lists too, have all been updated.

In Summary:

East Bay Township has a up-to-date water main/hydrant map. All 419 hydrants have signs and numbers and have been located by a global positioning system. Grand Traverse County Department of Public Works has a complete and up-to-date Hydrant Maintenance Schedule for East Bay Township.

Garfield Township has an interim updated version of a water main/hydrant map that will be finalized when I physically verify the remaining 300 hydrants, to see if any are missing. In total there are

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Fitness Facility and Wellness Program

Thanks to all of you who filled out a Wellness Survey. Your input will help determine how the program will be developed. The goal is to put the program together so that members and employees will be motivated to live a healthy lifestyle.



The Fitness Facility and the Wellness program will be available to reach this goal. Information will be available soon on how to use the Fitness Facility and/or enroll in the Wellness Program.

The Metro Insider...

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The Hydrant Connection... continued

905 hydrants in Garfield Township, with 300 of those yet to be verified.

Between the two townships we have flow data on 149 hydrants going back to 1996. It is my intention to strengthen the lack of flow data included in this database this coming year.

On a closing note – All hydrant data is stored in Fire House software and anyone with authority to access it, can view this information. Hopefully this data can provide planners with a real time snapshot of their infrastructure with its strengths and weaknesses.



Biography: Dave Lather

Graduated from TC Central High School and Michigan State University, with a degree in Construction Management. Dave managed Structural Systems, wall panel and truss manufacturing plant until 1983 before becoming the Director of Construction Codes for Grand Traverse County, retiring from Grand Traverse County in 2000. He also served for twenty years each, the Traverse City Housing Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Served on State Building Code Review Committee from 1984 to 2000 and was appointed to Michigan State Construction Code Commission from 1990 to 2003. Dave also served on State of Michigan Building Officials Advisory Board.



February–March Training Topics

Feb 20th – Ice Rescue
(Fire Training – Sta. 9)

Feb 21st–Pre-Incident Survey
Pacific Lumber/Wilbur Ellis/Traverse Bay Truss

Feb 21st – Medical (TCFD)
Gynecology (1P) - 0730 hrs

Feb 25th – Medical (Sta. 8)
Well Being of EMS Provider (1P)

Feb 27th – Medical (Sta. 9)
CNS Injury / Spinal Injury (1L 1P)

March 5th – Medical (Sta. 11)
Poison (1P)

March 10th – Medical (Sta. 8)
CPR Recert (1L 1P) *Required*

March 12th – Wildfire Planning
(Sta. 9)

March 13th – Responding to
Illicit Drug Labs (Sta. 11)

Required Training

March 18th – RIT / Mavday /
Emergency Evacuation
Time Change: 1000 hrs

March 19th – RIT / Mavday /
Emergency Evacuation
Time Change: 1830 hrs

Training News from Asst Chief Terry Flynn...

Special thanks to Jim Olson who conducted a training session involving fire pumps, apparatus operations, friction loss and the use of supply hose. Jim has helped Metro members in this field for many years and we appreciate his help in this training. Jim believes that the GT Metro Fire Department needs some of its members to step up and become very proficient in the operation of selected apparatus especially those with fire pumps and become mentors for the younger firefighters.

There has been a change in the training schedule. The pre-plans for February and March will be switched. The Pre-Incident Survey for February 21st will now be in Acme at Pacific Lumber, Wilbur Ellis, and Traverse Bay Truss. The Pre-Incident Survey on March 25th will be at the Grand Traverse Academy.

Update from Chief Parker...

Hello everyone, it is truly great to be alive! Thank you to all who have prayed or kept me in their thoughts. I was watched over by all of my guardian angels as well as used up a few of my 9 lives. Life is so short and it can pass you by so quickly. Those thoughts were going through my mind as I was in the back of Bay Ambulance running hot from the hospital in L'Anse to the hospital in Marquette. Everything was in my favor from Roye, John & Tony taking care of me on scene, to the archaic 5 watt bag phone of the logger's that finally got a cell signal, to the radiologist in L'Anse who found the aortic dissection, to the Paramedics from Bay Ambulance, to the skilled surgeons at Marquette General who fixed the tear, to the team at North Flight who took good care of Mikie and my mother, to God and all my friends and family who prayed for my life. All I can say is that I am overwhelmed with the out pouring of your love and support.

I am at home getting stronger everyday. I have lost my voice (I hope temporarily) but I'm told that it is getting stronger. I am under the care of Doctor Mikie and she has been great taking care of me. I see the thoracic surgeon this week and he will give me some direction on the speed of my recovery. I have been told to walk every day. Mikie has taken me to Station 1 & 9 to do laps. I hope to venture out to Station 8 & 11 sometime for walks.

It is my hope that I can spend some half days at the office starting February 18th. It may be a couple of months before I can be 100%. It is still my goal to participate in the Iceman bike race this fall, but only time will tell.

Thanks to all for staying focused on our mission. I am so happy to hear that Station 1 is finally open. I have been listening to the scanner and it pains me to be on the sidelines. I am proud of the job that you all are doing. Keep up the good work.

Pat (wounded 701)

Mayday Policy Update... from Asst Chief Terry Flynn

Current Mayday Policy will be updated to include a section for firefighter actions /responsibilities in calling a Mayday. The January edition of Fire Rescue magazine has an article discussing when to call a MayDay. The author is a current Ladder Company captain in FDNY. He believes that most firefighters will not call a MayDay because they will be labeled a chicken or too soft to be in the service. This far from the truth and the article should be read. Here are some of the reasons that he lists for calling a MayDay. They are similar to our new policy.



- 1) You are out of air.
- 2) You are low on air and can't find an exit.
- 3) You are searching with a partner, become separated and cannot contact him/her.
- 4) You are lost in a fire building.
- 5) You are disoriented and aren't sure where you are during the fire operation.
- 6) You become caught or entangled while operating at a fire.
- 7) You experience a drop in the level you were working at in a fire. (fall, collapse)
- 8) You are covered by falling debris during the fire.
- 9) You or a member of your team is in trouble.
- 10) You have an equipment failure that puts you or your team in risk.

computer tips

Have you ever clicked send on a message and then remembered that you forgot to attach that important file, or realized you put the wrong time down for a meeting? Outlook allows you the option of recalling a sent message. Here's how:

For Outlook 2003:

1. Go to the **Sent Items** folder.
2. Find the message you want recalled and double-click it.
3. Go to the **Actions** menu and select **Recall This Message**.
4. **To recall the message:** Select **Delete unread copies of this message**.
(**Note:** the recipient needs to have Outlook opened for the message to be deleted) **To replace the message:** Select **Delete unread copies and replace with a new message**, click OK, and type your new message. **To be notified about the success of the recall or replacement:** Check the **Tell me if recall succeeds or fails for each recipient** check box.
5. Click OK.



Captains and Firefighter interviews for full-time positions will be moved to March.

UPDATE: How To Recall a Sent Message in Outlook 2007:

1. Click on **Sent Items**.
2. Find the message you want recalled and double-click it to open.
3. Go to the **Ribbon**.
4. In the **Actions** section, click **Other Actions** and select **Recall This Message**.
5. Select **Delete unread copies of this message**.
6. To be notified about the success of the recall, check the **Tell me if recall succeeds or fails for each recipient** checkbox.
7. Click OK.

<http://www.worldstart.com/>

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. There were 2904 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. 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%.



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 and the fire sprinkler systems and the 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.

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. A total of 9,438 violations were reported which is a reduction of 50% over the number of violations noted in

2006. 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.

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. 124 plan reviews were performed for projects in the City of Traverse City. 416 new construction inspections were completed in 2007. 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, 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.

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.

