

June 15, 2009

**Special points of interest:**

- Fire destroys furniture store
- Health & Safety tip
- Training Dates
- Message from Chief Parker
- Information from Chief Flynn
- Call Statistics
- Blood drive information

**Phone Extensions:**

Chief Pat Parker 1235  
 Asst Chief Flynn 1228  
 Asst Chief Schnaidt 1226

Brian Belcher 1232  
 Robert Casey 1233  
 Mike Lince 1238  
 Kathy Fordyce 1236

Robin Ehardt 1227  
 Mary Griggs 1222  
 Marcia Schwind 1221  
 Meredith Hawes 1234

Dave Lather 1229  
 Randy Agruda vm 1240  
 Mike Vaughn 1225

Troy Holliday 1231  
 Brian Bloom vm 1241  
 Tony Posey vm 1242

Admin Fire Office 3000  
 231-947-3000  
 Station One 3814  
 231-947-3814  
 Station Eight \*\*\*\*  
 231-938-9533  
 Station Nine 0299  
 231-947-0299  
 Station Eleven 7682  
 231-941-7682

Juvenile Fire Setter vm 1240

# The Metro Insider...



## Fire destroys business in Garfield Township ...

Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department and Traverse City Fire Department were dispatched to 2801 US 31 South for a furniture store with flames through the roof at 4:30pm on June 3rd. Metro Station 11 was on scene first with heavy smoke and fire on the west end.



Photo by North Flight EMS Helicopter

A plume of smoke filled the skies over Grand Traverse County and could be seen for miles. The smoke came from the building at Wholesale Rustic Furniture.

All six employees that were working in the business at the time of the fire were able to safely evacuate the building. Workers stated they tried putting the fire out with buckets of water but it didn't work. The workers stated that a small fire started in the back room.

Metro Station 11 arrived on scene only 5 minutes after being dispatched. When Metro Station 11 arrived on scene there were flames through the roof and heavy black smoke with main fire on the west end.

One bystander said "As soon as I looked out the window there was smoke billowing out of that and then watched the roof collapse...lots of fire".



Above: FF Hawkins, FF Hall, and Capt Holliday deploy lines for initial attack. Left: TCFD Lt Weber and FF McKerchie survey collapsed section of building.

Information and photos provided by news media on scene.

**Life Safety Initiatives # 4...**

*All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.*

The 2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week (June 14-20) is coming upon us again. This program was created to bring attention to and take a stand against injuries and fatalities in the fire and EMS community. At first, this nationwide program as just based on the fire service, but soon opened up to the medical field. This program encourages not only firefighters, but up the chain of command to the chief officers to get involved. It is to bring to light and focus on what can be done to manage risk and

enhance your own health and safety. This year's theme reflects the need for personal responsibility and accountability within a strong safety culture.

The timing of this program comes together with this month newsletter and the Life Safety Initiative #4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices. You as a firefighter must consider yourself as a safety officer. Even though you don't have a title or rank to it, we are responsibility for your safety and those of your fellow firefighters.

As an example, you and your partner are preparing to enter a working structure fire. As you are following your partner into the doorway, you take note that he is not wearing his hood. What are you going do next? We'll come back to that question.

In the Safety and Health Statement, each level of this department has a responsibility to act and be held accountable to do such. It is the departments' responsibility to recognize the risk and manage it by training

and writing policies. The officers of this department have the responsibility to enforce and enact the policies without judgment or personal regard. They must be accountable for the actions of their crews. As a member of this department you have the responsibility to follow the policies. You will be held accountable for your acts. While we all have responsibilities at some level, we are all accountable for the same. If you refuse to follow a policy for your safety, you or your fellow firefighter can get injured or worse.

The fire service is very reactive. Standards, laws, and policies are mostly based on an injury or fatality of some sort. If you as a firefighter take responsibility to watch out not only for yourself, but your partner, you may have just saved them from an injury or worse. Back to the question; what are you going to do if you see your partner going into a fire without a hood? Remember, you are empowered to stop unsafe acts, take responsibility so *Everyone Goes Home!!*

*Mike Vaughn, Health and Safety Officer*

**June — July Training Topics**

- June 15th — 1900 hrs (Sta. 8)  
Ropes & Knots—Pt. Handling
- June 17th — 1900 hrs (Sta. 11)  
**REQ:** Hose Streams/Lead Out
- June 17th — 1900 hrs (Sta. 1)  
**REQ:** Pre-Incident Survey  
*Le Grande Vue Apartments*
- June 18th — 1900 hrs (Sta. 1)  
Ropes and Rigging
- June 20th — 0900 hrs (Sta. 1)  
Truck Company Operations
- June 24th — 1900 hrs (Sta. 9)  
**REQ:** Medical: Special Prog
- June 25th — 1900 hrs (Sta. 1)  
**REQ:** Hazardous Materials
- July 1st — 1900 hrs (Sta. 11)  
Medical Training
- July 11th — 1900 hrs (Sta. 9)  
**REQ:** Hose Streams/Lead Out
- Jun 6th–11th — *Cherry Festival*

**Message from the Chief ...**

Now that hockey season is over and our beloved Red Wings did not take the Cup, we have to listen to Chief Flynn boast about his Penguins winning it all. Actually he is a Blackhawks fan, but roots for any team that plays against the Wings. So with that, summer is finally here and with it comes an uptick in business for us. We've recently seen loose buffalo roaming our sub-divisions, a drowning in East Bay, structure fires, grass fires, heart attacks and numerous medical emergencies. I'm proud to say that we performed well and we performed as a team. On top of this activity, we continued to train, maintain our stations and also upgraded our service to BLS non-transporting.

I am extremely proud of the BLS upgrade process. Thanks to all of your hard work in preparing for the State inspection. John King mentioned that he can't remember when a vehicle inspection went as smoothly as ours did. All stations were prepared and ready. I would be remiss if I didn't publically thank Mary from the office who did all the behind the scenes preparation. We sailed right through the agency inspection with just a few hic-ups. In six hours he was gone and we had our upgrade on the first try. Congratulations to all! This upgrade has already paid dividends as Station 1 dropped a King Tube early Monday morning on a code. Awesome job!

Later in this newsletter, you will see a flyer for the Red Cross Battle of the Badges blood drive. I would encourage any of you that are able, to please give blood during this drive. The Red Cross is very good to us and this is a way to give back, plus it's the right thing to do! It is from noon until 5:45 on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center. Let's not let the cops give more blood than we firefighters. There are appointment cards at each station and the admin office. I'll be there, I hope to see you. There will be food and door prizes as well. That ought to get a few of you there!

Metro is co-hosting the teen event on the evening of July 8<sup>th</sup> during the Cherry Festival. It is called "Where there's fire there's heat." We are looking for volunteers to help with admission, security and operations. See the flyer in this newsletter and get with Meredith if you would like to help. If you have always wanted to be a "bouncer" here is your chance!

It's gearing up for a busy summer, so let's be safe out there!

*Pat*

Visit [www.gtmetrofire.org](http://www.gtmetrofire.org) for current training and NEW Public Education calendar.

## Note from Chief Flynn ...

### This is why we do Pre-Incident Survey on Buildings / Occupants:



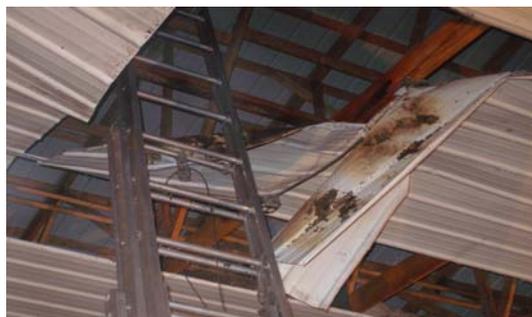
From time to time I drive around the area and see things that amaze me. Here is a picture I took of an example of why we do fire inspections. Do you think you could use this if you needed to? Try to find everything wrong with this picture. Answers will be at the bottom of the newsletter.

Right: This a picture of a Liquid Oxygen leak at Airgas on South Airport Rd. on Monday June 8.



**Reports in Firehouse-** The training reports being entered into Firehouse are getting very good. Rosters are complete and objectives are very descriptive. We now have to improve on our narratives for fire calls. Please give the best description of what happened at the scene (Please refrain from one sentence narratives). I will get phone calls here at the Administration office periodically from business owners or insurance agents about an incident I did not respond to and I need the most information possible. An example happened earlier this month when Battalion 3 and Station 8 were dispatched to a possible fire in a storage building. Battalion 3 wanted to cancel all Metro units to this storage building on M-72, which is in Metro's response area. I responded non-emergent and recorded all pertinent information. On Monday morning the owner of the storage units living downstate wanted to know about the incident. These taxpayers deserve and demand our service and it is our responsibility and duty to respond. Although other fire departments assist, it is not the responsibility of GT Rural or TCFD or Blair Twp. Fire for incidents inside the GT Metro area.

**Lessons from the Street** -From time to time I would like to share some interesting items we find across the Metro fire district at the various incidents. This one comes after the All-Call fire at Wholesale Rustic Furniture on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reports as early as 1900 hrs. were that the building to the south has small amounts of smoke coming from the eaves. Investigations found no evidence of smoke and at midnight it appeared that there was indeed smoke coming from the building to the south of the fire building. After forcing entry, calling the Sheriff's Dept. and Station 11, I investigated the source of the smoke. With the help of the Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC), Inspector Belcher and I found some unusual heat patterns in the middle of the ceiling over the storage area. Lt Childers and FF Harvey arrived and used an extension ladder to gain access to this attic area above the storage area. There we found smoldering cellulose insulation above the tin ceiling which may have been cause by fire brands coming from the original fire. **This fire was very unusual and we would have not found it without the use of the TIC.**



**The Metro All-Call** activated 38 Metro personnel for the fire at the Wholesale Rustic Furniture. Personnel responded to the scene as well as back-filled the other stations to help with other calls. While other units were fighting the fire, Engine 13 moved up to Station 11 and responded to a minor accident on US 31 South so that units on the fire scene could continue suppression activities.

Right: Metro Fire was requested to assist Traverse City Fire Department on this single family residential house fire. Crews from Station 1 and 9 answered the call during a busy night of incidents. Great job everyone!



## An Interesting Fact . . .

**At five minutes and six seconds after 4 a.m.  
On the 8th of July this year,**

**The time and date will be: 04:05:06 07/08/09.  
This will never happen again this year.**

Answers: 1. Not accessible to shut off; 2. Not secured; 3. Indicator not visible; 4. Painted brown to match building and posts.

# Battle of the Badges

*Saving lives on and off the job*



1-800-GIVE-LIFE | givelife.org



## Civic Center

1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City

**Monday, June 29, 2009**

**12:00 PM to 5:45 PM**

*Sponsored by the Civic Center, 92.9 The Breeze, 101.9*

*Sunny Country, Party Giant & Fox Motors.*

Please call Sarah Brown at 231-947-7286 for info or appt.

Walk-ins are also welcome.

*All presenting donors can enter to win some great prizes!*



Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health and provide a valid photo ID upon donation. © 2008 The American National Red Cross 11/08AP966

**The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood.™**

2009	January	February	March	April
Metro	274	272	302	294
Station 1	62	59	48	57
Station 8	27	29	27	28
Station 9	25	22	16	26
Station 11	160	162	211	183
Acme TWP	18	20	23	26
East Bay TWP	61	58	44	54
Garfield TWP	177	188	227	207



# July 8th 2009

Inside Out Gallery

\$5 Exclusively Ages 16-20

8-11pm

Where there's smoke...

there's **HEAT**

**JTX**

**D.J.Beats**

The National Cherry Festival,  
Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept.,  
Modern Rock the Zone, and  
Pepsi bring the HEAT.

In partnership with  
One Up Web, Mt. Holiday,  
Third Level Crisis Center, and  
Hybra Advance Technology, Inc.

**Doors open at 7:30pm**

[www.myspace.com/479578634](http://www.myspace.com/479578634)

for info: [heatzone@rocketmail.com](mailto:heatzone@rocketmail.com)