



The Metro Insider

PROUDLY SERVING ACME, EAST BAY AND GARFIELD TOWNSHIPS SINCE 1980

Volume # 8
Issue # 5

Patrick J. Parker ~ Fire Chief

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**Metro will host
their open house
October 10th at
Station 11.
Come Join Us!**



Smoke Alarm Install

Metro Firefighters will inspect and replace (if needed) or install new smoke detectors for any and all homes within our response area. See page 3 for more info.

From the desk of Fire and Life Safety
Public Educator Kyle Clute...

BEEP... BEEP... BEEP...

Each year the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) decides what the message for Fire Prevention Week will be and along with other agencies offers guidance to fire departments across the country to spread the fire safety message. The fire safety messages are taught at open houses in fire stations, in schools, at events held at businesses and in neighborhoods throughout the community during the week that October 9th falls in. So what is Fire Prevention Week? What does it mean to all of us here at Metro?

The History of Fire Prevention Week starts in the evening of October 8th 1871 in Chicago Illinois, a fire broke out that would forever be known as the Great Chicago Fire. The fire killing 250 people, destroying more than 17,400 structures and burning over 2000 acres, the fire burned into and did most of its damage on October 9th. However it was the second deadliest fire that day in October. While most of Chicago was burning, a fire known as the Peshtigo Fire in Northeast Wisconsin was claiming 1.2 million acres, killing almost 1,200 people and claiming 17 towns including the small town of Peshtigo which the fire completely destroyed in under an hour. On the 40th anniversary of these tragedies the Fire Marshals Association of North America (now known as the International Fire Marshals Association) decided instead of a day of remembrance and festivities that the day would be spent keeping the public informed of the importance of fire safety and fire prevention. Since 1925 Fire Prevention Week always covers the Sunday through Saturday week that October 9th falls in, making it the longest public health and safety observance on record.

This year's theme "Hear the Beep where you sleep", every bedroom needs a Working Smoke Alarm, highlights the importance of smoke alarms in sleeping areas. With half of home fire deaths occurring while most people are asleep between the hours of 11pm and 7 am. More than 1/3 of home fire deaths occurred in homes without smoke alarms, and 1/4 of the fire deaths were in homes where the alarms failed to operate. The most common failures in these smoke alarms are missing, disconnected or dead batteries.

So what's does this all mean? How does it relate to Metro Fire and our community? It means that Fire Prevention Week gave us the direction of where the fire problem in the country is headed.

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It also issues a challenge to both the fire service and the communities across the country. Here at Metro we have an answer to this challenge, we have in place a Safe Neighborhood Campaign. Metro Firefighters canvas neighborhoods to ensure the homes within the community have working smoke alarms within them. Grants from both Home Depot and Lowes have provided us Kidde Smoke Alarms with ten year batteries to install in homes where no alarms are present. We've also teamed up with Energizer's Change your Clock Change your Battery program, they have provided hundreds of 9 volt batteries for use in home where alarms are missing batteries or they are found to be dead. Both Kidde Smoke Alarms and Energizer Batteries are carried on our trucks so alarms can be checked with the home owner any time our trucks go out.

To our Firefighters I would like to thank you for your dedication to the Safe Neighborhood Campaign and ask that you continue your efforts in ensuring our communities can rest easy knowing they have working Smoke Alarms.

To our other readers I would like to challenge you to check and maintain your smoke alarms. Check they work every month and change those batteries twice a year, and replace your alarms every ten years.

Lastly I would like to invite everyone to join us in wrapping up our Fire Prevention Week efforts at our Open house on Saturday October 10th at our Station 11 at 3000 Albany St. Not only will we have activates for the kids, the trucks will be out for you to see and food will be provided. We will have information tips for keeping your family safe year round, as well as all the fire and life safety programs we offer.

For more information on our Safe Neighborhood Campaign, Fire Prevention Week as well as our other educational programs please visit our website www.gtmetrofire.org or like us on Facebook.

Regards,
Kyle Clute - Fire and Life Safety Public Educator





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Safe Neighborhood

A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether you're awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert, scanning the air for fire and smoke. According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

Through the Safe Neighborhood Campaign Grand Traverse Metro Firefighters are working door-to-door, and by request, to check and change batteries in smoke alarms, check and/or provide and install smoke alarms in homes that are in need, and provide local coupons for the purchase of additional smoke alarms. This program is supported through the generosity of local and national businesses such as; Home Depot, Kidde, the National Fire Protection Association, Ace Hardware, Gilroy's, DeWeese Hardware, Lowe's, Roy's General Store, Northern Fire & Safety, and the Rotary Good Works. There is no cost to participants.



Recent Fire Calls



Units were on scene of this fire within 1 minute of dispatch and 1 occupant was transported for burn injuries via helicopter.



Units had this fire under control within 8 minutes from dispatch. No exposure damage.

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From the desk of Chief Parker...

Wow! Where did the summer go? Where did September go? It's been a busy one and we have been thrown a little bit of everything this summer. Our training has paid off and we all should be proud of our accomplishments! We unfortunately had a fatal fire this summer a couple of weeks ago and my heart goes out to those who attempted a rescue but was thwarted by the heat, smoke, and fire. Your efforts and bravery are duly noted.

We have an extremely busy fall season facing us. We have a new special program involving a 12 lead EKG called ReadyLink and a new drug called Narcan which will reverse the life threatening effects of an opiate overdose such as heroin. These were mandatory and all members have been properly training on the new equipment. The ReadyLink 12 lead have already been placed into service on the medical response Squads. The Narcan is still on it's way but will be available to our responders the first part of October. During September we also did hose testing, pump testing and ladder testing along with a large scale haz-mat training in Cadillac

that we participated in. The Red Wings were in town along with the obnoxious Blackhawks fan. Metro and East Bay EMS folks had things under control.

Friday September 11th was the 14th anniversary of the terrorist attack on our country. Thanks again to all who participated in the event. Big thank to Tony Posey and crew who laid the Memorial Walkway in. We look forward to cutting in all of the 343 names.

I will leave you with a thought until the next newsletter. I recently read a quote about success by General Colin Powell. It reads, "Any time you tolerate mediocrity in others, it increases your mediocrity." We must train everyone in our organization to be peak performers because that is what is expected of us. If we don't follow our own guidelines and give it our all, mediocrity slips in and becomes the new norm. Let's keep raising the bar a little bit every day.

Until next time, Be Safe Out There!

-Chief Parker

9/11 Ceremony Event - 2015

On September 11, 2015 the Metro Fire Department hosted the 14th Anniversary Memorial of the attacks on our County in New York, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA. Over 75 people attended the event which was carried live on WTCM AM & FM. Our speaker was the brother of our own Firefighter Tim Wrede. Pastor Bill as we call him, is a Lutheran Pastor and ministered to firefighters and citizens alike on September 11, 2001. He then worked on the pile for the next 7 months helping bring hope to those working. Pastor Bill's message was one of hope and remembrance. He painted a picture for us of what he saw and heard that had us all riveted. We can't thank him enough for traveling here from St. Louis, MO to be with us. He has written a paper called, "Grace at Ground Zero" that will be available to read on our web site soon. It is a must read.

A huge thanks to Tony Posey and crew who put down the memorial walkway. It is beautiful and as great remembrance of those who gave their lives that day. Tony will be cutting in the names yet this fall and continuing the pathway out to the TART Trail. Thanks to all that helped.



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9/11 Memorial Park Update



The 9/11 Memorial Park is nearly completed. The walkway is in place and the names are continuing to be cut into the stones of the 343 who lost their lives from the September 11th terrorist attack.



Members attended the yearly remembrance of lost brothers and sisters in Roscommon at the Michigan State Firefighters Memorial. Jack Bloom, Randy Agruda and Frank Rutherford were among those remembered.

