



CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 Annual Report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	From the Fire Chief
5	Health and Wellness Report
6	Chain of Command
7	Fire Department Roster
9	Fire Inspector Report
10	A Shift Report
11	Training Division Report
13	B Shift Report
14	Fire Hydrant Report
15	CPR and First Aid Report
17	Technical Rescue Team Report
19	C Shift Report
21	Community Risk Reduction Report
23	Hazmat Report
25	EMS Report
27	Paid On-Call Report
29	Facilities Report
33	Apparatus Report
34	Firefighters' Association Report
35	Responses 2022
37	Firefighters' Association Charity Hockey Game Photos
41	Training Photos
42	Snapshot of 2022 Incidents
45	Fire Station 1 Progression
49	Fire Station 1 Groundbreaking Photos
51	Fun Photos



FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

ADAM MAGERS



The Cascade Township Fire Department is pleased to share our 2022 annual report with you. In this report, you will find general information about our fire stations, personnel, vehicles and response data as well as updates on the department's programs.

Overall, 2022 was a fantastic year for the Cascade Fire Department, with a lot of progress achieved, goals accomplished, awards received and projects started.

The department responded to 2,453 emergency calls for service – a 9.4% increase from the previous year. These calls included fires, vehicle crashes, hazmat incidents, medical emergencies, rescues, alarms, mutual aid and more.

Our department is comprised of 34 personnel, including four administrative staff, 19 operational staff and 11 paid on-call firefighters.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Our department saw a few familiar faces retire and several more join the team in 2022. Capt. Doug Venema retired after 35 years of service, and full-time Firefighter Bob Norris retired after more than 17 years with our department. New full-time firefighter Brevin Sternberg joined the team along with new paid on-call Firefighters James Krikke, Hannah DeMuth and Isaiah Huempfer.

PROMOTIONS

The following department personnel were promoted in 2022:

- Lt. Michael Bolt to captain.
- Inspector Colin Forzley to lieutenant.
- Firefighter Todd Pell to inspector.
- Paid on-call Firefighter Joel Baker to full-time firefighter.



The department responded to 2,453 emergency calls for service – a 9.4% increase from the previous year.



4

Administrative Staff



19

Operational Staff



11

Paid On-Call Firefighters

2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

- The department was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant for the development of a wellness program.
- Lt. Josh Dettwiler and Firefighter Joel Baker attended the Fire Department Training Network's live burn academy in Indianapolis.
- The following Cascade Fire team members received the Kent County EMS Exceptional Patient Care Award: Capt. Todd Stevenson, Lt. Andy Albright, Lt. Colin Forzley, EMS Sgt. Jim Walker, Inspector Todd Pell and Firefighters Michael Kadish, Matt Milmeister and Mike Poolman.
- Six members of our department received the Kent County EMS Life Saving Award: Lt. Albright, Sgt. Brett Boonenberg and Firefighters Cullen Dodge, Kreigh Deering, Zachery Christian and David Lintemuth.
- EMS Sgt. Walker was honored by Kent County EMS for helping to deliver a baby on the 36th Street off-ramp in Cascade.
- Lt. Albright completed Eastern Michigan University's School of Fire Staff and Command program.
- Approximately \$15,000 was raised by the Cascade Firefighters' Association for local charities.

2022 GOALS AND OUTCOMES

- We celebrated the successful transition of Fire Station 1 operations to the air cargo facility at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport so construction could begin on a new fire station.
- Construction began on the new Fire Station 1 in October and is on schedule for fall 2023 completion.
- The department created a training library where all 37 firefighters have access to mandated fire training.
- We added an online training management system, Target Solutions, that enables our firefighters to access state- and local-mandated trainings from anywhere.
- We increased our department's low-angle rescue capabilities through technical rescue team instruction.
- Due to Cascade's terrain, which features hills, ravines and steep grades, we trained all personnel on ground-based assist rope operations, which is useful on many of our calls.
- The department established a compliant training calendar to adhere to new state continuing education requirements.

2023 DEPARTMENT GOALS

Here's what we have planned in the new year:

- Complete the new Fire Station 1, move in and operate out of it.
- Successfully demobilize the temporary Fire Station 1 at the airport.
- Incorporate pre-fire plan integration into dispatch computers.
- Successfully implement the FEMA grant-funded wellness program.
- Send one or more of our instructors to the National Fire Protection Association 1403 live fire instructor course.
- Make storage upgrades at Fire Station 2.

The future is bright for the Cascade Fire Department! We are looking forward to our new station being a landmark the community can be proud of for generations to come. Our roster is continuously striving to better themselves with training and education. This department prides itself on customer service and promises to continue the high level of care to our residents and other community members in 2023.



FIRE CHIEF ADAM MAGERS



HEALTH AND WELLNESS REPORT

FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT

Capt. Todd Stevenson and Capt. Jeff Knowles successfully secured a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant for a new health and wellness program. The grant totaled \$117,115.75 to support the following programs:

NFPA 1582 PHYSICAL EXAMS: \$48,928.80

Exams to include:

- Urinalysis
- Vision
- Pulmonary function
- EKG
- Audio
- TB
- Chest X-ray
- PSA test
- Quantitative/qualitative fit
- Ultrasound package (doppler/carotid, ABI, AAA, thyroid, liver, pancreas, gall bladder, kidney, pelvic, prostate, testicular)
- Hepatitis ABC
- NMP bladder screen
- Physical fitness programming
- Stress EKG
- Fecal occult screen
- Medical staff accommodations

PHYSICAL TRAINERS: \$17,160.00

This includes third-party occupational rehab athletic trainers for four hours per week for the first year. The trainers will work with staff to develop a sustainable, NFPA 1582 and 1583-compliant fitness assessment/wellness program. Cascade Fire's health and safety officer will coordinate with internal certified fitness trainers as well as occupational rehab trainers to implement policies and standards to maintain and sustain a compliant health and wellness program going forward.

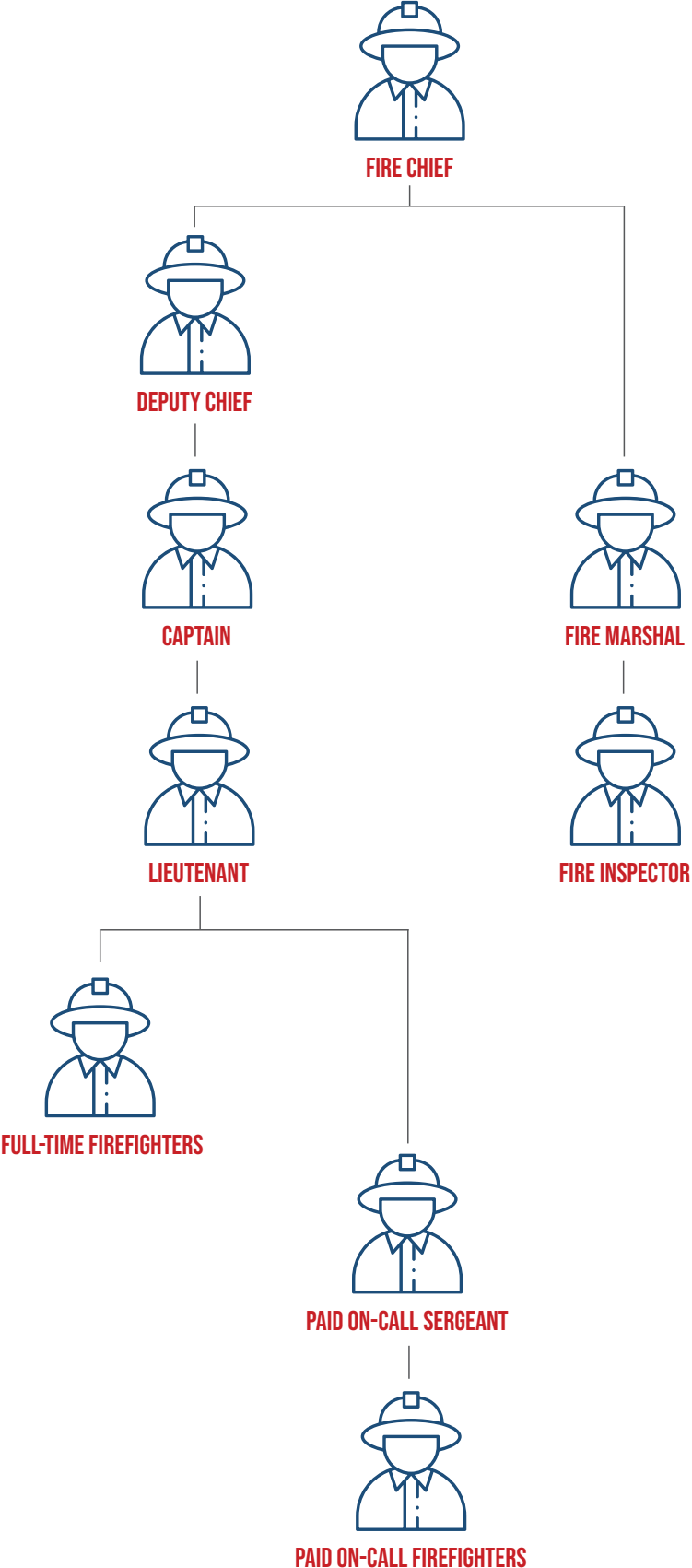
EXERCISE EQUIPMENT: \$56,882.74

Commercial gym-quality equipment will be delivered and installed at each Cascade fire station. This equipment is needed to implement fitness assessment initiatives and provide members a safe, compliant and standardized place to complete physical fitness training required under the NFPA 1583 program. Each station will receive a treadmill, step mill, dumbbell set/rack, spin bike, flat bench and cable system.

Keeping our responders healthy and safe while they keep the community safe is a top priority for Cascade Township. We are looking forward to implementing this new program in 2023. I am incredibly proud of our team for the effort put into this initiative!

FIRE CHIEF ADAM MAGERS

CHAIN OF COMMAND





Chief Adam Magers 11/27/17

CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT



Capt. Todd Stevenson 5/14/07



Capt. Jeff Knowles 4/26/02



Capt. Michael Bolt 12/06/10



Lt. Andy Albright 8/1/94



Sgt. Brett Boonenberg 10/26/11



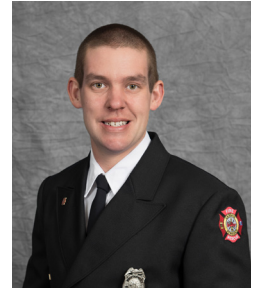
Kreigh Deering 4/1/95



Andy Marsman 1/14/03



Jim Walker 1/24/05



John Makuch 11/24/06



Colin Rodriguez 10/1/15



Eric Melse 5/07/17



Richard Raviolo 1/29/18



Mike Poolman 4/18/18



Zachery Christian 7/27/18



Shane Jordan 9/17/21



Hannah DeMuth 1/20/22



Brevin Sternberg 4/18/22



Lt. Josh Dettwiler 1/12/15



Lt. Colin Forzley 11/24/06



Fm. Doug Poolman 4/18/18



Insp. Todd Pell 5/6/17



Lance Korhorn 7/7/07



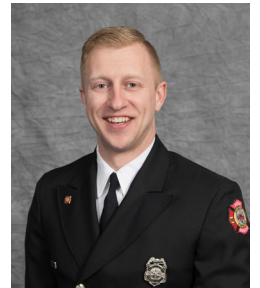
Jon Snyder 9/22/08



Michael Lemkuil 10/15/09



Michael Kadish 4/20/11



David Lintemuth 1/12/15



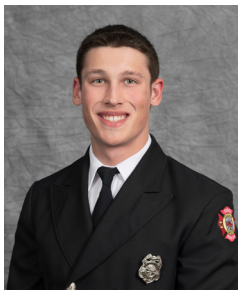
Joel Baker 9/30/19



Luke McCarthy 12/1/19



Heather Newkirk 4/9/20



Cullen Dodge 1/26/21



Matt Milmeister 9/17/21



James Krikke 5/10/22



Isaiah Huempfner 7/29/22



Cindy Holzhei

FIRE INSPECTOR REPORT



The Cascade Fire Department's prevention team experienced some big changes in 2022. Fire Marshal Doug Poolman went on a planned medical leave for most of the year, Inspector Colin Forzley was promoted to lieutenant and Firefighter Todd Pell was promoted to fire inspector.

By mid-March, Inspector Pell was already in classes for certification through the National Fire Protection Association and state of Michigan. Over the summer, he completed the classes, exams and certifications for NFPA Fire Inspector I, State of Michigan Fire Inspector, NFPA Plan Reviewer and NFPA Fire Inspector II. These qualifications also granted him certification as a Fire Protection Systems Inspector and Fire Protection Plan Reviewer with the state, so he is able to work with the Cascade Building Inspections Department on new fire alarm and sprinkler systems inspections and building plan reviews for fire protection systems.

We also were fortunate to add dedicated fire marshal and fire inspector vehicles to our fleet. They previously served as the fire chief vehicle and as a medic vehicle. Both vehicles are properly equipped with fire inspection and investigation equipment as well as medical equipment, including automated external defibrillators in the event we can assist with an emergency incident.

Also new in 2022, we added two part-time certified fire inspectors to assist with building fire safety inspections when Inspector Pell or Marshal Poolman are not available. Capt. Stevenson and Sgt. Boonenberg completed NFPA Fire Inspector I class in October, so congratulations are in order for them! They are not on a fast-track schedule, but they should have their Inspector I certification by the end of 2023.

Business is booming in Cascade again, and we are excited to be a part of the growth and safety of the community.

INSPECTOR TODD PELL

We also were fortunate to add dedicated fire marshal and fire inspector vehicles to our fleet.”





A SHIFT REPORT



Cascade Township Fire Department members work a 24.25-hour shift in a rotating schedule throughout the year, which averages out to be 53 hours a week. The three shifts that work this rotating schedule are A, B and C. I am fortunate to be the captain on A shift, which saw its fair share of transition in 2022.

In October during a typical year, department members – based on seniority – bid the shift they want to work the following year. The new shifts then begin in mid-January. In 2022, however, the new shifts did not begin until mid-April because we were already short a firefighter, Capt. Doug Venema had retired after 30-plus years with the department, a new captain had to be promoted and a couple of firefighters needed to be hired.

Once the new shifts started, A shift began training on hose-line advancing and various fire attack trainings to get used to everyone's style and skill level. As the weather began to warm up, we shifted some of our training focus to boat operation and water rescue. All members of A shift practiced backing the boat trailer down the boat launch as well as boat operation in the Thornapple River.

Near the end of the summer, due to medical leave on another shift, A shift saw some major changes. We lost one of our firefighters to another shift so he could be its temporary lieutenant. That left us short one member, so a paid on-call firefighter was moved to

temporary firefighter. A shift members did an excellent job transitioning to this change of personnel midyear. As the year progressed, we lost our lieutenant to an injury and welcomed a firefighter from another shift as a temporary lieutenant on A shift. All the personnel moves made during the year were based on promotional ranking from earlier in the year.

The department had its highest call volume in 2022, with A shift responding to 806 calls. One of these included an EMS call where five people had overdosed on fentanyl. At one point during our response to this call, we were doing CPR on two patients and assisting breathing on the other three. All Shift A members did an excellent job during this very stressful call. Another call involved a commercial fire in a large trash compactor connected to a large warehouse wooden pallet. Due to quick action by A shift members and our mutual aid departments, we were able to contain the fire to the compactor with little damage to the building.

Adding to the busy year was our move to a temporary station at the Ford Airport as well as the temporary officers and firefighters on our shift. However, throughout all of this, everyone who was a part of A shift did an excellent job providing high-quality service to our community and residents. I want to recognize and thank everyone: Lt. Josh Dettwiler, temporary Lt. and Firefighter Mike Poolman, temporary Lt. and Firefighter John Makuch, Sgt. Jim Walker, Firefighter Jon Snyder, Firefighter Zeke Kadish and temporary Firefighter and paid on-call Firefighter Heather Newkirk.

CAPT. TODD STEVENSON

TRAINING DIVISION REPORT



The year 2022 was definitely an exciting time for the Cascade Fire Department. With the approval of a new Fire Station 1 to be built – on the same location as the previous one – we had to find a temporary home for our equipment and personnel. We were fortunate to find a place less than 2 miles away at the Gerald R. Ford International

Airport. While moving and starting up operations in a place not designed as a fire station had its challenges, it also gave us some very unique training opportunities.

Once we vacated our old station, we had a few weeks to do training in the empty building. We were able to do roof operations that included cutting holes into the roof as well as wall breaching, which is when a firefighter uses an axe to open up a wall and then crawl through the 2-inch-by-4-inch framing wood into the next room. A smoke machine was used in rooms and hallways to give firefighters an opportunity to train in a low-visibility situation. We even had our new neighbors from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Fire Department over to train with their new ladder truck.

Training with the airport's fire department was not limited to our old fire station – we also utilized our temporary fire station at the airport. Ford Airport Fire Chief Tony Gutierrez assisted us with making a training video covering security and travel on airport property, and personnel on all three shifts trained with members of the airport's fire department. The training included water shuttle, vehicle extrication and airport familiarization.

Additionally, crew members trained in different locations throughout the state and country. Lt. Andy Albright spent one week a month for nine months at Eastern Michigan University to become the fourth officer from our department to graduate from the School of Fire Staff and Command program. Team members

also traveled to Brighton, Kalamazoo, Traverse City, Indianapolis and Alabama for training conferences, inspector classes, officer training and hands-on training workshops. Our fire department is very fortunate to have strong support for training from our Township Board and fire chief.

For our live fire training, we incorporated a challenging smoke-filled maze for our members to complete, helping to build confidence while working in a hot and smoky environment. Not only do we get great experience during our live fire trainings, we also get to work with various neighboring departments, which included the Lowell and Thornapple fire departments in 2022.

Training is always an ongoing process – and would not be possible without our training committee and fire instructors. I would like to recognize Capt. Jeff Knowles, Capt. Mike Bolt, Lt. Josh Dettwiler, EMS Sgt. Jim Walker, Sgt. Brett Boonenberg and Firefighters John Makuch and Mike Poolman for their dedication, which resulted in 6,017 hours of training completed by our members in 2022.

Looking ahead, the training committee plans to continue annual live fire trainings in 2023, sending members to various trainings and instructors to conferences for continuing education as well as preparing for the opening of our new station, which will have built-in training areas that will enable us to use ladders and climb to a simulated window to practice searching. The training areas also will feature a hose tower with stairs and standpipes, enabling us to practice firefighting operations above the first-floor level. Of course, our main focus will be to provide our members with training and education to ensure we provide the best service possible to residents and our community.

CAPT. TODD STEVENSON



LOWELL CONTROL BURN TRAINING



RESCUE TRAINING AT PARK



**TRAINING WITH GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL
FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT**



TRAINING AT OLD FIRE STATION 1



LIVE FIRE TRAINING

Crew members trained in different locations throughout the state and country.



EXTRICATION TRAINING

B SHIFT REPORT



Photo courtesy of Dan Sundahl



It was a year of change for B shift. Lt. Michael Bolt was promoted to captain to lead this group, and Inspector Colin Forzley was promoted to lieutenant, making the transition back to a 24-hour work schedule from an 8-to-5 workweek. Brevin Sternberg joined our

department as a full-time firefighter after serving as a paid on-call firefighter in Georgetown Township and an EMT with LIFE EMS. He then continued his education with LIFE EMS and completed the paramedic program. Congratulations, Firefighter Sternberg! Lance Korhorn is our senior firefighter and local historian, John Makuch is our technical rescue leader and Eric Melse is a firefighter who has brought us our mascot: three piranha fish.

In 2022, B shift completed 1,152 hours of training, responded to 792 calls for service and had unknown hours of laughter. In addition to Firefighter Sternberg's accomplishment, Makuch completed the rope rescue technician class hosted by the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue Training Foundation and Firefighter Korhorn was accepted into the Cascade Historical Society.

It is our honor to serve this community in the job we love.

CAPT. MICHAEL BOLT



1,152

Hours of Training



792

Calls for Service



UNKNOWN

Hours of Laughter

FIRE HYDRANT REPORT



The City of Grand Rapids Water Department provides Cascade Township with our drinking water along with the water supply the Fire Department uses to fight fires. That

water comes to the Township from Lake Michigan through 25 miles of piping that flows into two water reservoirs in the Grand Rapids area. From there, it is pumped to various smaller reservoirs surrounding our Township and then to our hydrants and homes.

Every year, the Water Department tests a select number of hydrants throughout the Township for pressure and volume. The Cascade community on average uses 26.3 million gallons of water each day, with peak summertime consumption of 74.9 million gallons per day.


There are 1,347 fire hydrants in Cascade Township, and the Fire Department spent 335 hours this past year making sure these hydrants were ready in case of an emergency. In the spring, we flush out the hydrants to remove any sediment that may have collected during the winter. In the fall, we pump out the water trapped in the hydrants so they do not freeze during the winter.

We ask residents to follow Township ordinance by helping us keep fire hydrants on their property clear of vegetation and snow so we can access them quickly during a residential fire. If residents see any issues with fire hydrants, they are asked to contact the Cascade Fire Department at 616.949.1320 so we can address them.

CAPT. MICHAEL BOLT


**BE A HYDRANT HERO
HELP OUR FIREFIGHTERS**

**KEEP FIRE
HYDRANTS
CLEAR**



**In an emergency,
every second counts.**


- Remove any snow and ice from the hydrant.
- Clear about 3 feet in each direction.
- Clear a path from the hydrant to the street.




**CASCADE TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**
Dedicated to Serving You

Station 1
2865 Thornhills Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(Currently Under Construction)
Phone: 616-949-1320

Station 2
2990 Buttrick Ave SE
Ada, MI 49301
Phone: 616-259-7020





**CASCADE
TOWNSHIP
FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

FIRE HYDRANT ETIQUETTE



Obstructed Example

Fire Hydrant Etiquette

If you have a fire hydrant on or near your property, the Cascade Fire Department requests your assistance in maintaining the required clearance. Please keep bushes, trees, landscape plants trimmed, and remove any obstructions from around the hydrant. The Fire Department must be able to easily connect hoses and equipment to hydrants during routine maintenance and emergency situations. In the event of a fire, every second counts!



We like to advise residents that we have a pretty good idea of where the hydrants are, but we don't always know EXACTLY where they are. If the fire department is responding to an incident in your neighborhood and they have to clear the area around the hydrant before they can use it, precious time is lost.

Hydrant flushing is necessary to maintain and ensure that hydrants are in proper working condition in the event of a fire.



Obstructed Example


Cascade Township adheres to the International Fire Code (2015 edition). The code states the following:


2015 IFC 507.5.4 – Obstruction.
Unobstructed access to fire hydrant shall be maintained at all times. The fire department shall not be deterred or hindered from gaining immediate access to fire protection equipment or fire hydrants.

2015 IFC 507.5.5 – Clear space around hydrants.
A 3-foot clear space shall be maintained around the circumference of fire hydrants, except as otherwise required or approved.





 **1,347**
Hydrants

 **26.3 MILLION**
Gallons of Water a Day (Average)

 **335 HOURS**
Maintaining Hydrants

CPR AND FIRST AID REPORT



The Cascade Township Fire Department is proud to partner with the American Heart Association and serve as one of its regional training centers. We offer basic life support training as part of our CPR training with the use of an automated external defibrillator, Heartsaver® CPR and first aid. Our training center has 37 instructors, including four on staff at the Cascade Fire Department, who bring this education into their communities throughout West Michigan.

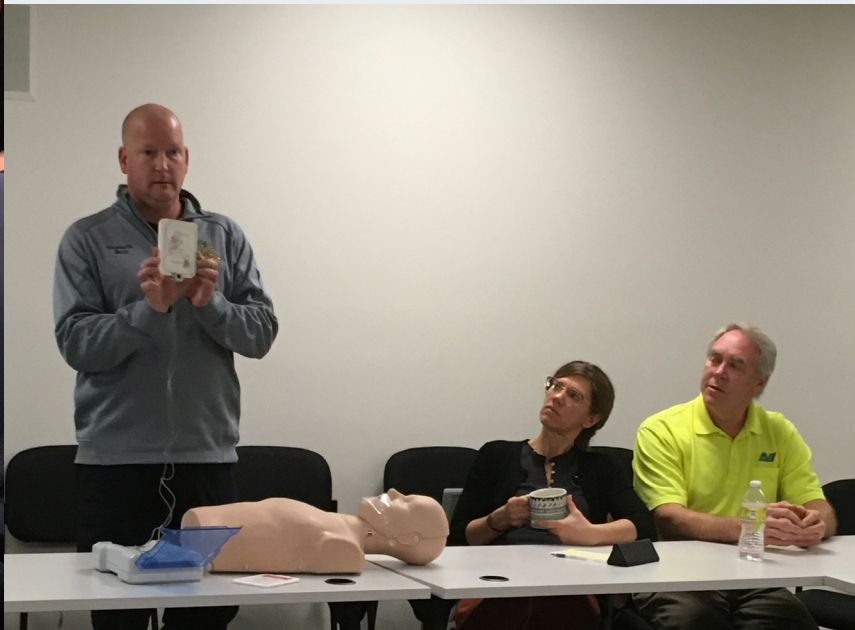
In 2022, we added instructors from the Alto, Ford

International Airport and Lowell fire departments to our training center. Many students use the online classes offered by the American Heart Association to complete the classroom portion and then schedule a one-on-one class with one of our instructors to complete the testing. This past year, we trained over 800 individuals in CPR/AED in certified CPR courses and hundreds more in non-certified classes. We have had the opportunity to bring this training to businesses, church groups, medical professionals and nonprofit organizations.

CAPT. MICHAEL BOLT



This past year, we trained over 800 individuals in CPR/AED in certified CPR courses and hundreds more in non-certified classes.





TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM REPORT



In 2022, the Cascade Fire Department responded to 16 technical rescue incidents and two water rescue standbys. The 16 calls for service included individuals trapped in a stalled or stuck elevator, a person unable to exit a building, several individuals trapped in a vehicle after a crash that required extrication and several water rescues.

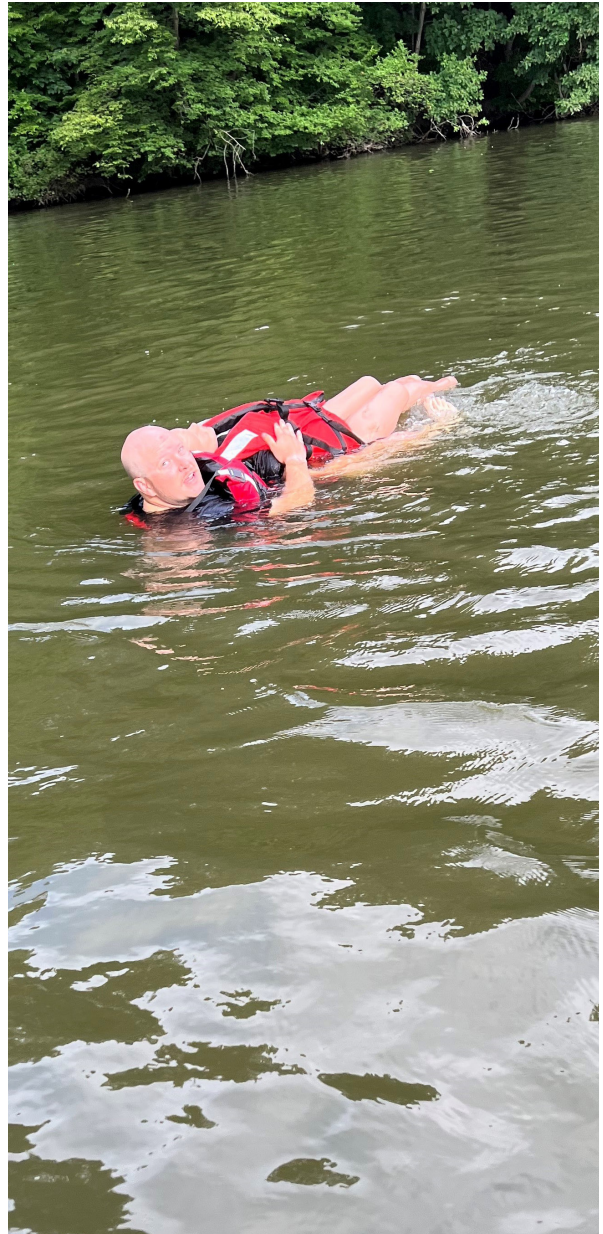
16 TECHNICAL RESCUE INCIDENTS **2** WATER RESCUE STANDBYS

Our team was placed on standby for the Grand Rapids Triathlon, which takes place throughout Cascade and Ada fire departments' response areas. This event offers us a great opportunity to be out in the community with trained rescuers who are equipped with basic lifesaving equipment and Cascade Fire Department's Boat 2.

During the swim portion of the triathlon, Boat 2 and crew provided fast response to tired swimmers and fast transportation back to shore for anyone who could not complete the course. The department's Polaris utility terrain vehicle, Brush 6, was on the bike and running courses for any athlete who may have experienced a medical emergency.

Boat 2 and Brush 6 were purchased in the past five years and have proven to be vital in quick responses in Cascade Township and neighboring communities.

Due to the complexity of technical rescues, our personnel need to be ready for any type of incident. In 2022, department members spent hundreds of hours refreshing skills and tactics for technical rescue. Topics covered in training included navigating the Thornapple River and responding to water rescue incidents both on moving water and ice, basic ropes and knot review and implementing a ground-based rope assist method to aid our rescuers in safer patient movement.



Boat 2 and Brush 6 were purchased in the past five years and have proven to be vital in quick responses in Cascade Township and neighboring communities.



LOOKING AHEAD

The past year's goal was to increase our capabilities as a department for ground-based rope operations. Our team, with advice from Michigan Urban Search and Rescue Region 6 members, developed a way for all members of our department to use ropes to move a patient who may not be able to walk up a steep incline, such as someone who stumbles down a ravine. This method allows for safer movement of patients. Since this method is new to our department, we continue to train on how it works.

Additionally, we are in the process of replacing some older, outdated equipment with newer state-of-the-art equipment.

FIREFIGHTER JOHN MAKUCH



GOALS FOR 2023

- Identify target hazards within our community that may have an increased potential of needing technical rescue.
- Develop response plans for providing technical rescue.
- Replace outdated equipment for water, ice and rope rescues.
- Train more members in technical rescue, including water, rope and confined spaces.



C SHIFT REPORT



The past year was a great one for C shift. It was a year of change, adapting and learning.

In late 2021, Capt. Jeff Knowles had back surgery and was expected to take six months to heal before returning to active duty. Six months turned into a year and, on

Nov. 28, 2022, after passing all the requirements for returning, Capt. Knowles rejoined his crew.

A few months later, Lt. Andy Albright began Eastern Michigan University's School of Fire Staff and Command Program, which is an executive leadership class designed to prepare professional fire officers for effective management of their fire agencies. In October, Lt. Albright graduated from the program and was honored to have Chief Adam Magers, Capt. Knowles, and longtime friend and firefighter Kreigh Deering attend the ceremony.

In April, C shift welcomed Firefighter Joel Baker, who had been a paid on-call firefighter with our department for about two years before being hired full time. Firefighter Baker is spending his first year with us learning, taking classes and training to best serve the community.

Midsummer brought more change. After learning Capt. Knowles would be off duty for an extended period of time, Chief Magers and Township officials decided to promote an interim captain and lieutenant to C shift. Lt. Albright was promoted to interim captain and Firefighter Mike Poolman was promoted to interim lieutenant. Lt. Poolman moved from A shift and immediately went to

work in his new role, providing great leadership. Lt. Poolman was a welcome addition and fit right in.

In early fall, the department's Station 1 moved into a temporary facility at Gerald R. Ford International Airport. All of our crews worked to make the transition seamless, and demolition of Station 1 began to make way for the new one. This time has given our crews extra training time with the airport's fire team, which will benefit both departments in the future.



We are thankful for another great year doing the best job in the world and providing high-level emergency services to our community and those who visit.

In 2023, Firefighter David Lintemuth is moving to A shift, where we wish him well. Firefighter Brevin Sternberg is joining C shift, and we are looking forward to working with him and learning from his extensive medical knowledge.

C shift wishes everyone all the best in 2023!

LT. ANDY ALBRIGHT



We are thankful for another great year doing the best job in the world and providing high-level emergency services to our community and those who visit.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION REPORT



The Cascade Fire Department's community risk reduction program is multifaceted, focusing first on high-risk groups: the youngest and oldest members of our Township. It's important we educate children on how to avoid an emergency as well as what to do during an emergency. For our older residents, it's often as

simple as assisting them with the things they used to do for us.

Cascade Township has two schools and four assisted living facilities, both of which require special training for our firefighters. Building construction phases, utilities, evacuation plans and emergency planning are trained for so our firefighters are prepared to handle an emergency at these facilities.

The past year offered the opportunity for our firefighters to see a new assisted living facility being built from the ground up. Our firefighters spent many days onsite touring as construction progressed, enabling us to train for the many different "what if" scenarios.

Community is at the core of community risk reduction. It is of utmost importance to me as the department's CRR officer that Cascade firefighters are active and involved in the community. We do this in many ways, including school visits, the Township's annual July 4th Celebration, birthday neighborhood visits, Halloween, Touch-A-Truck, CPR and fire extinguisher training, car seat installation and much more.

children's events, such as Pokémon, Legos and RC cars, read books to kids and participated in adult programs, such as Let's Talk Vinyl and Awesome Adults. We look forward to continuing this partnership into the future.

In the new year, two firefighters will assist me in enhancing the CRR program. Firefighter Michael Lemkuil will take on the task of preparing for and training for emergencies at schools and assisted living facilities. Firefighter Joel Baker will assist with event planning and scheduling as well as expanding our social media presence. Firefighter Baker also will assist in developing a new fire safety program to take to our elementary schools and educate the youth.

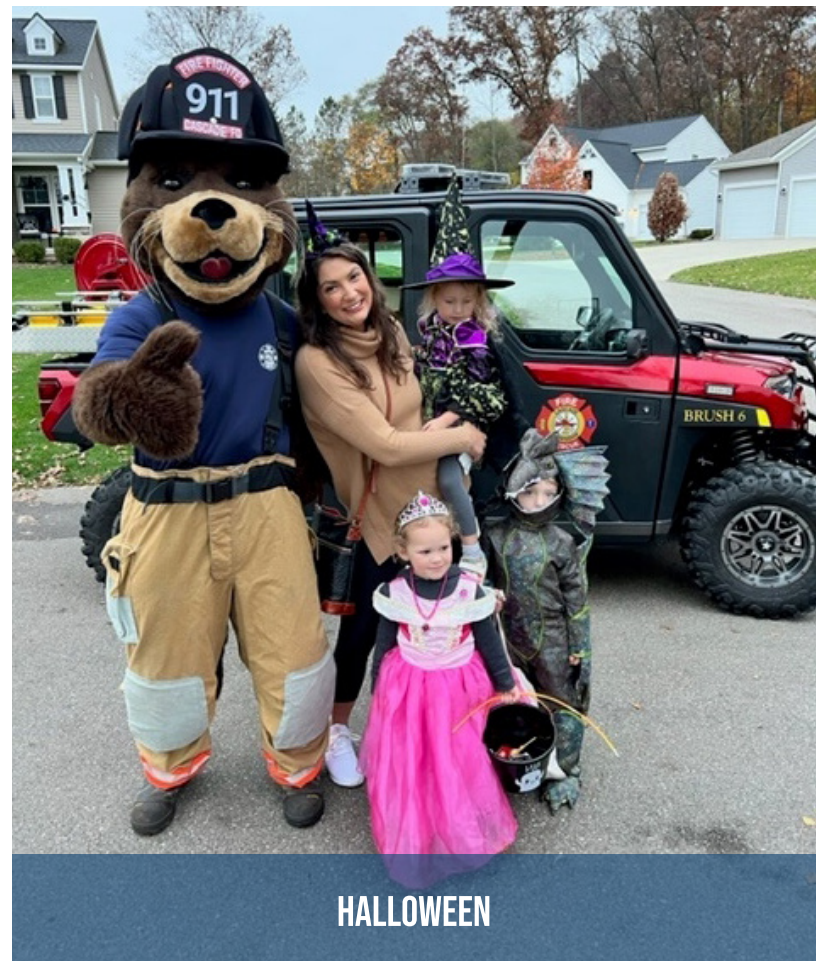
In closing, I would like to thank the Cascade community for always working with us to make the Township a safer place to live, work and play.

LT. ANDY ALBRIGHT



FF. MICHAEL LEMKUIL | STORYTIME AT KDL

In 2022, the department partnered with Kent District Library – Cascade Township Branch on their community outreach programs. Our firefighters participated in



HALLOWEEN



HALLOWEEN



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



FF. JOHN MAKUCH | RANGER RALLY



CARRY THE LOAD



HAZMAT REPORT



A material that poses an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of people and the environment if it is not properly controlled is considered hazardous. More than 80,000 chemicals are registered for use in commerce in the U.S., with an estimated 2,000 introduced

annually. The Cascade Township Fire Department responded to 29 hazardous incidents in 2022. However, most of these incidents included natural gas, carbon monoxide and fuel spills. We did not have any major hazardous materials incidents.

Our Fire Department has been a part of a regional hazardous materials response team – Tri-Com Hazmat Team – that also includes the Kentwood and Dutton fire departments. The team consists of 14 active members and the three fire chiefs of the participating departments. All active members are trained to the technician level. A few new team members will be trained in 2023.

Cascade Township currently has 16 occupancies that fall under the SARA Title III Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. These facilities have certain hazardous chemicals or a quantity of a chemical above the reportable quantity threshold limits that requires them to report all hazardous chemicals onsite. In addition to these facilities, our community also has a major interstate, railroad and international airport that transport all types of hazardous materials daily.

If you have any questions about our hazardous materials response team or the 16 occupancies covered under SARA Title III, please feel free to contact me at 616.949.1320.

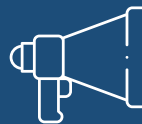
CAPT. JEFF KNOWLES



GOALS FOR 2023



Quarterly hands-on training with our entire Tri-Com Hazmat Team.



Send new members to hazmat tech class.



Establish a plan for purchase of outdated equipment.

EMS REPORT



The Cascade Fire Department's commitment to quality emergency medical services continues to move forward. We have picked up and moved forward from the pandemic with more knowledge and awareness about communicable diseases and the personal protection equipment that can mitigate their effects.

In 2022, we saw an increase in the number of calls as well as variation in the types of calls. These calls varied widely from drug overdoses and cardiac arrests to vehicle extrications and infield baby delivery.

The types of calls and the way they are tracked are changing. The state of Michigan has moved forward with changes in reporting compliance to gather more specific and timely data. This data is used as a basis for grant-funded research in cardiac response efforts, timely training and education of medically licensed EMS personnel.

Our dedication to quality training has not waived and will continue with both in-house and public education commitments. In 2023, our EMS personnel will see some slight changes to state EMS protocols, which cover everything from how and when a patient is to be assessed and treated to where and when they should be transported. EMS protocols are vigorously reviewed and updated every few years by the Division of EMS and Trauma as directed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. These protocols direct patient care efforts by the more than 28,000 EMS providers and 819 life support agencies across the state.

For in-house trainings in 2023, the department will look at hosting ones focused on assisting individuals who are autistic as well as scenario-based trainings focused on soft tissue and orthopedic injuries.

The standards of care were met or surpassed in all 1,729 EMS calls we responded to in 2022. Our response to these calls were bolstered by monthly EMS trainings conducted by certified EMS instructors and EMS subject matter experts both inside and outside our department. The trainings varied from emergency medication administration to emergency preparedness for active assailant-type events.

These trainings enabled our personnel to earn 26 state-approved continuing education credits, which are

required for anyone wishing to maintain EMS medical licensing in Michigan.

On one particular day, Cascade Fire Department personnel saved four people from life-ending circumstances. These heroic efforts were noticed and awarded by Kent County Emergency Medical Services, which is the governing body for EMS providers in Kent County and helps to educate and elevate the levels of patient care within the county.

Additionally, EMS Sgt. James Walker was recognized and received an award for his efforts and those of LIFE EMS medics in the delivery of a healthy baby girl. These and other stories of dedication and service are what make this department exceptional and this community a great place to live and elevate the lives of others.

EMS SGT. JAMES WALKER





PAID ON-CALL REPORT



What an exciting time to be involved with the Cascade Township Fire Department. In October, we finally broke ground on a much-needed Station 1 replacement. It is quite satisfying that the Township Board listened to and supported the fire station design input from both the full-time and paid on-call perspective.

The Cascade Fire Department is a combination department made up of roughly 19 full-time firefighters and 11 part-time or paid on-call staff. Cascade has two stations that each are occupied 24/7 with six full-time firefighters per shift.



POC CREW HARD AT WORK WAXING ENGINES

All qualified paid on-call staff have been through a rigorous firefighting training course consisting of both class time and practical training. At the conclusion of the course, they must pass a state-approved exam before receiving their firefighter badge. Once the firefighter portion of training has been completed, they move into a six-month emergency medical training class. They then must pass another state exam before receiving an EMT license. These are the minimum

starting requirements to work as a paid on-call firefighter in Cascade Township. Once hired, a paid on-call firefighter has 24 months to learn the department's protocols and then test out to be a fully qualified "black helmet" paid on-call firefighter.

Paid on-call firefighters participate in over 1,300 hours of classroom instruction and practical testing to meet Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. Ongoing training is required to meet our accreditations, state and national requirements and, most importantly, to ensure we have highly trained personnel to serve the residents of Cascade.

In 2022, paid on-call firefighters spent over 7,000 hours serving Cascade Township, including responding to over 1,800 emergency calls and participating in 40-plus community events, such as Project Night Lights and Touch-A-Truck. They also spent 4,500 hours filling shifts for full-time firefighters, which provides significant savings for the Township by not having to pay overtime to full-time firefighters.

It was a busy year, with many changes within the paid on-call firefighter roster. We added two qualified paid on-call firefighters who passed our rigorous "black helmet" testing, which now allows them to fill shifts with the full-time firefighters. A big congratulations to Cullen Dodge and Matt Milmeister for a job well done. In our cadet program, we added James Krikke, Hannah DeMuth and Isaiah Huempfer. I am very optimistic about these three cadets and look forward to them being fully qualified "black helmets" by 2023.

Our fully qualified paid on-call firefighters are well-trained and sought after by many departments hiring full-time firefighters. This past year, we had three very skilled firefighters take the next step in their careers and become full-time firefighters. Jake Lotterman joined the City of Wyoming, Owen Gelder joined the City of Grand Rapids and Joel Baker joined the full-time rank right here in Cascade Township. We wish them much success, and Firefighters Lotterman and Gelder will surely be missed here in Cascade.

It is an honor to serve on the Cascade Fire Department. I am looking forward to improving our level of service in the years to come.

SGT. BRETT BOONENBERG



POC CREW



NEW PAID ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS



BLACK HELMET | FF. CULLEN DODGE



HANNAH DEMUTH 1/20/22



JAMES KRIKKE 5/10/22



BLACK HELMET | FF. MATT MILMEISTER



ISAIAH HUEMPFNER 7/29/22

FACILITIES REPORT



Whenever they rebuild an old building, they must first of all destroy the old one. ~Rumi

The past year was a whirlwind of new projects and old ones coming to completion. The biggest project in Cascade Township history is the building of a new fire station. After years of research and vetting the project, it has begun! We are excited to see the progress of our new Station 1 Fire Department Headquarters – a process that was behind-the-scenes planning and developing for



three years. Now, weekly progress can be seen at the construction site at 2865 Thornhills Ave. SE.

To get to this point in the project, we spent months and hundreds of hours of preparation. Our first challenge

was to secure temporary housing for Station 1, which included moving all apparatus, fire personnel and administrative staff. That process included looking at every available piece of property in the Township that could fit a fire engine and house fire personnel for 24 hours seven days a week. It was ultimately decided that the property at the northeast corner of Gerald R. Ford International Airport would fit all of our department's needs.

Our temporary station is located at 6450 Air Cargo Drive SE. Before we could move in, fire crews had to build a kitchen and design and build a bunk room, day room, watch office and workout area. The building also had to be brought up to code for vehicles to be parked indoors and for members to sleep in the building. Because the rear doors open onto the secured airfield, every member of the department went through a badging process with airport security and was trained on how to secure the building and enter and exit through the secured gates. Due to the security restrictions of this facility, anyone requiring non-emergency help or requesting a fire department tour should seek assistance at the Buttrick Station, 2990 Buttrick Ave. SE.

We took advantage of the opportunity to train at the old fire station before it was demolished. We did joint training with Ford Airport Fire Department crews that included using their ladder truck for roof operations. We also trained on search and rescue techniques, forcible entry, hose advancement, rapid intervention crew training, down firefighter rescues, ventilation and many other creative trainings the crews came up with on shift.





01

Before the old fire station teardown began, underground wiring and water lines had to be located and marked. The surrounding landscape was taken down and turned into wood chips and removed.



02

Next, the demolition team came in and recycled any materials they could, including wiring, doors and cabinets, among other items.



03

The large heavy equipment was moved in and demolition started. The site was totally cleaned of any debris in preparation for site work to begin.



04

Site work began by removing all of the parking lot material and driveways.



05

The Township adopted the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds ordinance to support the need to keep our waters clean. In order to follow this new ordinance, construction crews laid new underground filtration systems to catch the run-off water and filter it before it made its way into the watersheds.



06

The next step was to prepare the land for footings that support the structure from the ground up. Construction crews started by laying cement forms and placing miles of rebar in a particular pattern designed by engineers.



The concrete footings were pumped into place by a line of cement trucks while the cement crews put the finishing touches on it.

07

Masonry blocks were laid in December to start the walls of the hose tower and surrounding building. The entire project is scheduled to be completed in fall 2023. We can't wait to watch the progress continue for our new station.



Station 2, our Buttrick Station, will also undergo renovations in 2023. The department applied for and was awarded the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Grant, which will enable us to upgrade and purchase new workout equipment for both fire stations. More information on this grant can be found in Chief Adam Magers' report.

The current weight room will be relocated to accommodate the new equipment. The current weight room will be converted into a CPR training room with storage to hold the needed props to teach CPR to the public. This room will also have a conference table that will be used for CPR training and department meetings.

Without the continued support of the Township Board and Cascade residents, these projects could not happen. We want to thank you all for being our supporters and for helping make Station 1 our new headquarters in 2023.

Without the continued support of the Township Board and Cascade residents, these projects could not happen. We want to thank you all for being our supporters and for helping make Station 1 our new headquarters in 2023.

LT. JOSH DETTWILER

APPARATUS/VEHICLE MAINTENANCE REPORT



The past year was full of change within the fleet and vehicle maintenance program. With the retirement of Capt. Doug Venema, I was fortunate enough to take over the program and make it my own.

A well-maintained fleet is crucial to the success of any fire department, with our vehicles being called upon to respond in any sort of weather at any time of day. With that in mind, I began the year by doing an overall assessment of our fleet. Looking back at the past three years of expenses, I was able to identify trends, including which vehicles cost the department the most to operate, and forecast the need for costly items such as tires, brakes and common repairs. I also looked at all of our current vendors and expanding our list of service providers in order to minimize any downtime of our fleet.

Like any other year, we were faced with some hefty repairs to a few of our apparatus. Engines 2 and 5 had to have emissions-related repairs, replacing plugged and ineffective diesel particulate filters. These repairs are costly, with each filter nearly \$4,000, but are essential to the proper operation of the vehicle. On top of these repairs, we had several valves rebuilt or replaced on Engines 1, 2 and 5 to fix pump leaks due to wear and age, tires replaced on several vehicles and brakes replaced on both Engines 1 and 2.

There were no new vehicle additions to the fleet in

2022, but we were able to complete some upgrades to lighting on a few vehicles. This included adding more green light modules to the rear of the trucks for added visibility and swapping the halogen headlights for Fire Tech LED headlights to Engine 2, which have gotten rave reviews from department personnel.

For 2023, I have set several goals for the program. Working with Kleyn Mobile Repair, we have built a quarterly maintenance program in which they will come onsite and service each large truck, change the oil, function the pumps and make any necessary adjustments. The goal is to build a more proactive approach to our maintenance, getting in front of potential problems before they lead to a truck being taken out of service. In addition to quarterly maintenance, we have also obtained quotes to make necessary corrections to any paint chips and blemishes in an effort to keep our fleet visually appealing and time-tested against harsh winter conditions.

The past year was a great learning experience for me. We made some great strides within the vehicle maintenance program, and I look forward to continually improving upon the level at which we service and care for our vehicles. Thanks again to Chief Magers and our leadership for tasking me with such a pivotal program in the department's operations.

FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL KADISH



FIREFIIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION REPORT



The Cascade Firefighters' Association is a nonprofit organization comprised of both full-time and paid on-call firefighters employed by the Cascade Fire Department. It is dedicated to fire safety and awareness through public education in our community.

The CFA receives funding through membership dues, fundraisers, T-shirt sales and donations from community members and local organizations. Two of our most widely advertised fundraisers are the sale of reflective address markers that can be seen displayed next to driveways throughout the Township and our annual charity hockey game. This event has been a huge success, enabling the CFA to make generous donations of up to \$11,000 in support of other local nonprofits, such as Riding for Ryan, Brody's Be Café, Gilda's Club, Carry the Load, Walk for the Red and the American Cancer Society.

In addition to making contributions to other nonprofits, the CFA also buys books for members enrolled in classes not funded by the Township, creating display boxes for fire personnel retirements and sending flowers or gift baskets to members' families for hospitalizations or deaths.

If you would like to learn more about the Cascade Firefighters' Association, please follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/CascadeFirefightersAssociation.

LT. COLIN FORZLEY
VICE PRESIDENT, CASCADE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION



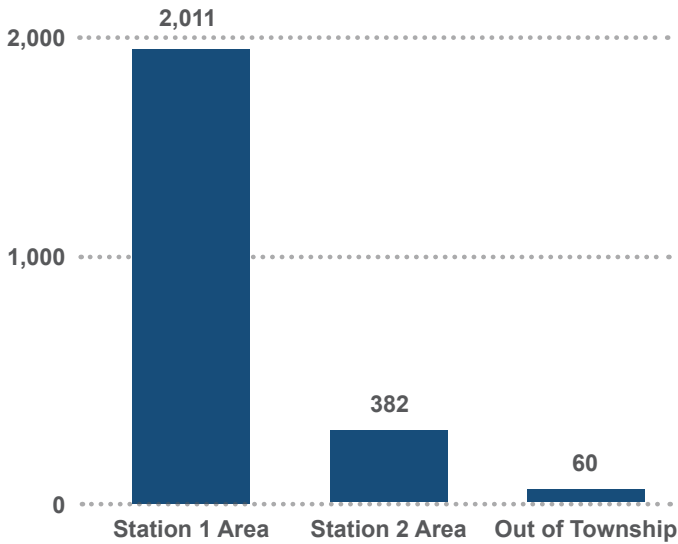
BRODY'S BE CAFÉ



RIDING FOR RYAN

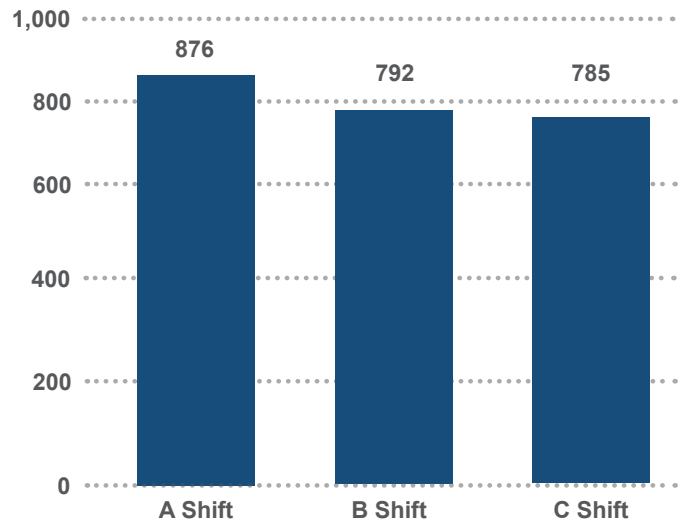
RESPONSES 2022

INCIDENT COUNT PER ZONE



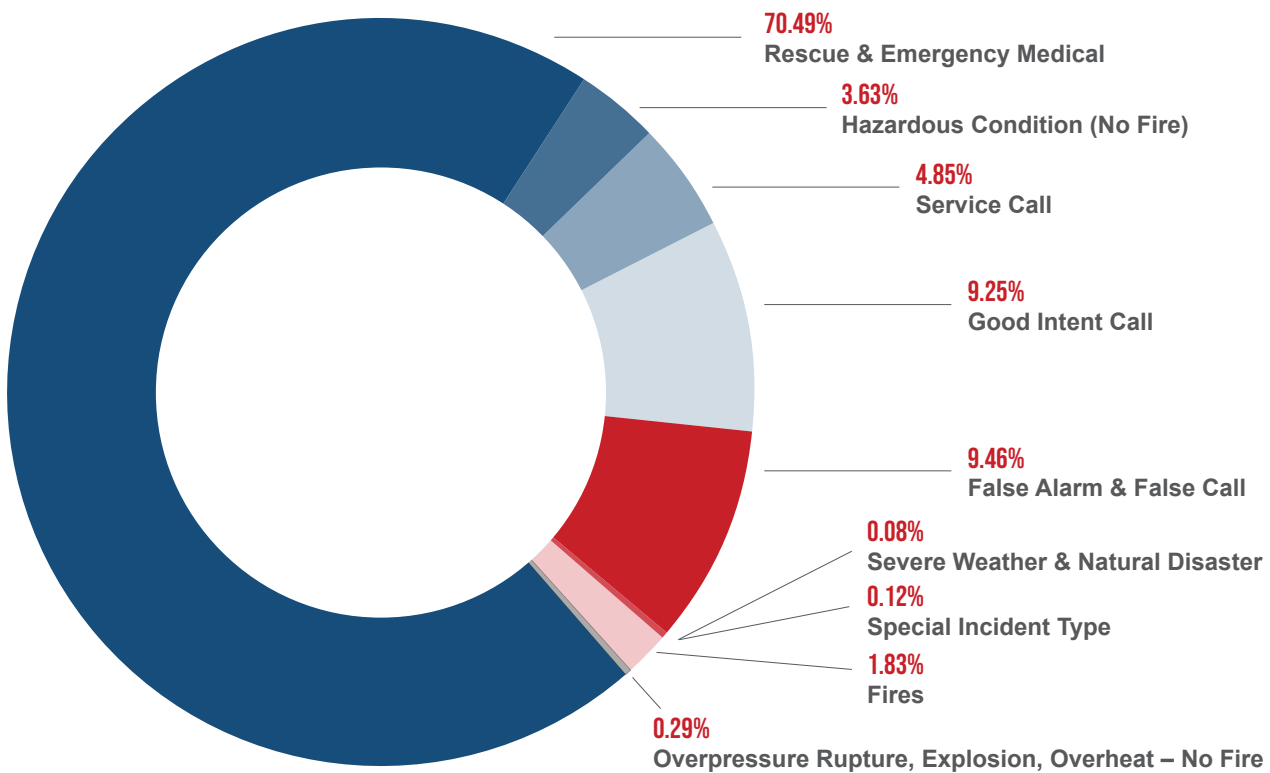
TOTAL: 2,453

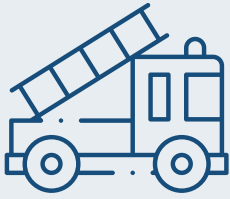
INCIDENTS BY SHIFT



TOTAL: 2,453

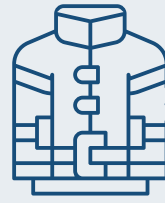
BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR INCIDENT TYPES





**AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME
(DISPATCH TO ARRIVAL)**

0:06:48



**AVERAGE TURNOUT TIME
(DISPATCH TO ENROUTE)**

0:02:01



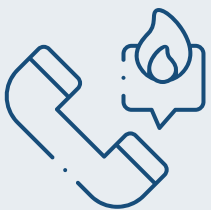
**INCIDENT COUNT FOR EMS
CALLS (ALL STATUSES)**

1,729



**INCIDENT COUNT FOR FIRE
CALLS (ALL STATUSES)**

724



**INCIDENT COUNT FOR ALL
CALLS (ALL STATUSES)**

2,453



MUTUAL AID

**50 AID GIVEN
57 AID RECEIVED**



TOTAL TRAINING HOURS

6,050



FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION



CHARITY HOCKEY GAME







2022 TRAININGS



TRAINING WITH GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT



LIVE FIRE TRAINING



TRAINING AT OLD FIRE STATION 1



EXTRICATION TRAINING



CONTROL BURN TRAINING, LOWELL



TRAINING AT FF. LANCE KORHORN'S HOME BEING DEMOLISHED

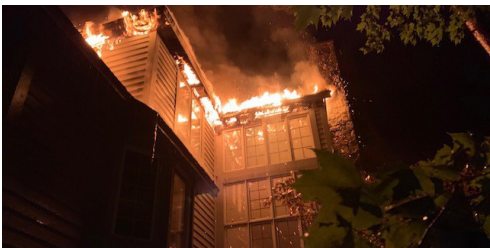


TRAINING AT STATION 2



FIRE TRAINING, INDIANAPOLIS

SNAPSHOT OF 2022 INCIDENTS





WINTER BLIZZARD INCIDENT, CAR FIRE



SAVING DUCKLINGS THAT FELL IN THE DRAIN



AIRPORT ASSIST INCOMING PLANE

FIRE STATION 1 – PROGRESSION



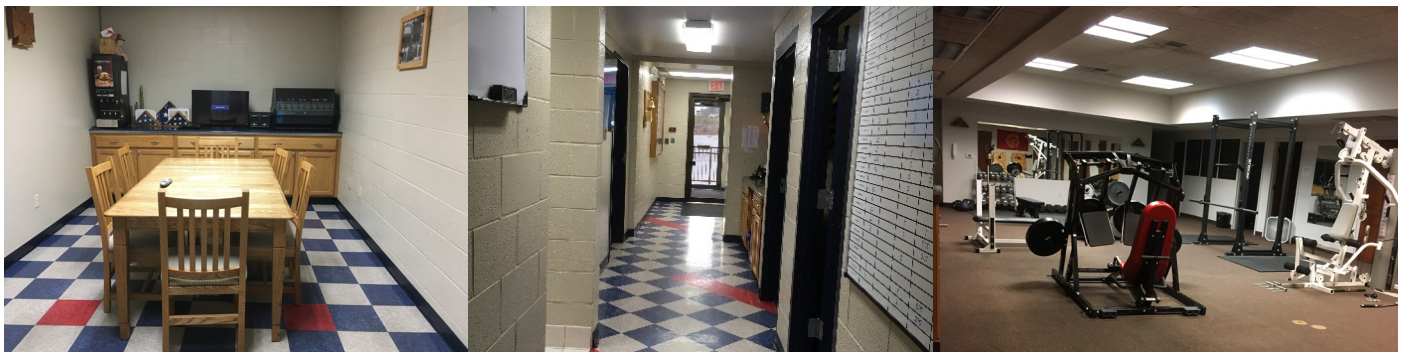
FIRST FIRE STATION – 1948 | ORIGINAL LOCATION: 6865 CASCADE ROAD SE, GRAND RAPIDS MI



OLD FIRE STATION 1 AT 2865 THORNHILLS AVE. SE

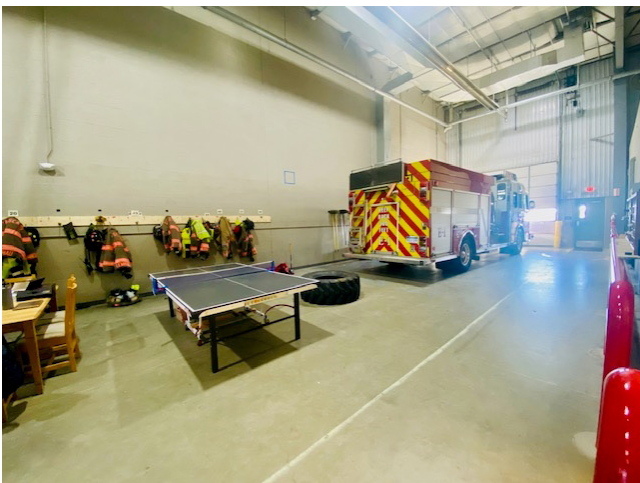


CONT. OLD FIRE STATION 1 AT 2865 THORNHILLS AVE. SE





TEMPORARY STATION AT AIRPORT





NEW FIRE STATION 1 RENDERINGS | CURRENTLY BEING BUILT AT 2865 THORNHILLS AVE. SE



FIRE STATION 1 GROUNDBREAKING

We held a Fire Station 1 groundbreaking ceremony on Nov. 2022. Fire Station 1 has been a long-held ambition by past and present fire chiefs, firefighters, Township members and Cascade residents.

Some of the outstanding and much-needed qualities of this new Fire Station 1 will include a training tower, rated tornado shelter, state-of-the-art alerting and dispatching system and training room. For the health and wellness of the Cascade firefighters, the new station will include a decontamination area, fitness area and more.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: TREASURER KEN PEIRCE, TRUSTEE JIM KOESSEL, TRUSTEE JOHN SHIPLEY, CLERK SUE SLATER, TRUSTEE TOM MCDONALD, TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR GRACE LESPERANCE, TOWNSHIP MANAGER BEN SWAYZE, PREINGNEWHOF ENGINEER JOHN VERPLANK, FIRE CHIEF ADAM MAGERS, TRIANGLE ASSOCIATES BRIANNE PITCHFORD, KYLE MAY AND NICK BALLOU





FUN PHOTOS



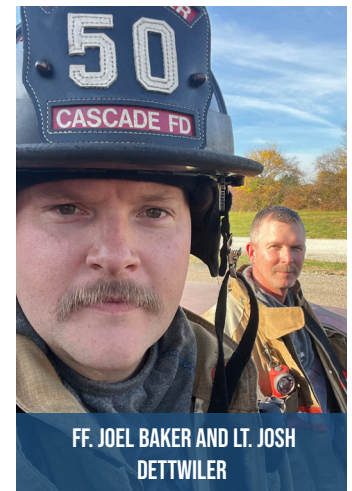
FF. JOHN MAKUCH, CAPT. DOUG VENEMA AND INSP. TODD PELL ENJOYING A GAME OF POOL



TRIATHLON | LT. ANDY ALBRIGHT, FF. MATT MILMEISTER AND EMS SGT. JIM WALKER



FF. KREIGH DEERING AND FF. JOEL BAKER IN BOAT



FF. JOEL BAKER AND LT. JOSH DETTWILER



TOMMY'S EXPRESS CAR WASH OPENING DAY | CASCADE CREW AND TOMMY'S EXPRESS CREW



FF. HEATHER NEWKIRK AND EMS SGT. JAMES WALKER ENJOYING A LITTLE COOKING



FF. JON SNYDER DIRECTING TRAFFIC



CHICK-FIL-A OPENING DAY



DETROIT COOKIE COMPANY, COOKIE EATING CONTEST



CASCADE PAID ON-CALL FF. ISAIAH HUENPFNER



SANTA CLAUS WITH CASCADE FIRE DEPARTMENT CREW



HALLOWEEN | CREW WITH PASTOR TIM DIEFFENBACH AT THORNAPPLE COMMUNITY CHURCH



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



CHIEF ADAM MAGERS FLIGHT WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS





CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

2865 Thornhills Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-7192
616.949.1320 (Non-Emergency)