



80
YEARS
— Est. 1942 —

DEDICATED TO SERVING YOU





TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Fire Chief.....	3
Department Organization.....	5
Department Roster.....	7
Fire Chaplain Report.....	9
Fire Marshal Report.....	10
New Technology.....	11
Paid On-Call Report.....	12
Community Risk Reduction Report.....	15
Emergency Medical Services Report.....	19
Charities Report.....	21
Apparatus Report.....	23
Hazmat Report.....	24
Health and Wellness Report.....	25
Fire Hydrant Report.....	26
CPR and First Aid Report.....	27
Technical Rescue Report.....	28
Training Division Report.....	29
Facilities Report.....	33
Responses 2021.....	35
Firefighter Association First Annual Charity Hockey Game Photos.....	37
Cascade Fire Department Historic Photos.....	39
A Snapshot of 2021 Incidents.....	43
Fun Photos 2021.....	45



1974

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



The Cascade Township Fire Department is pleased to share our 2021 annual report with you. In this report, you will find general information about our fire stations, personnel, vehicles, response data and updates on the department's programs.

Life has definitely changed over the last couple years with the pandemic. 2021 has in some ways felt like a return to normalcy, but Cascade Fire has seen numerous changes in the way we disinfect/decontaminate, operate, respond and interact with residents and businesses. Our mission is to continue to serve our residents at a high level, while adjusting to – and respecting – the serious issues our community is facing.

2021 saw a significant increase in emergency responses. Cascade responded to 2,242 calls for service this year, resulting in a 15.1% increase over 2020. These emergencies consisted of fires, vehicle crashes, hazmats, 911 medical calls, rescues, alarms, mutual aid and more.

Personnel Changes

Full-time Firefighter Jeff Rashid retired after 25 years of service. New to the department are Paid On-Call Firefighters Owen Gelder, Cullen Dodge, Shane Jordan and Matt Milmeister.

2021 Achievements

Capt. Jeff Knowles completed the Eastern Michigan University Fire Staff and Command course in Ypsilanti. Several members of the department were recognized by Kent County EMS for Life Saving and Exceptional Patient Care awards: Capt. Doug Venema, Lt. Andy Albright, and Firefighters Andy Marsman, James Walker, Zeke Kadish, Michael Lemkuil and Jon Snyder. Firefighter Todd Pell became certified as a fire investigator. Lastly, the Cascade Firefighters Association raised close to \$20,000 for various charities. I am incredibly proud of this amazing group of firefighters!



Recognized by Kent County EMS for Life Saving and Exceptional Patient Care awards

Left to right: FF. Andy Marsman, EMS Sgt. James Walker, Lt. Andy Albright, Capt. Doug Venema, Chief Adam Magers, FF. Michael Lemkuil, FF. Jon Snyder, FF. Zeke Kadish.

2021 Goals and Outcomes

Goal 1: Successfully transition to the 800 megahertz (MHz) radio platform to improve radio transmission locally and statewide.

- Inspector Colin Forzley was instrumental in making this project a success. Radio clarity and operability has never been better!

Goal 2: Implement a new hose plan.

- Under the supervision of Capt. Stevenson, a perpetual, compliant hose replacement plan was implemented. This 10-year process will repeat in perpetuity, keeping all of our fire hoses and nozzles compliant. 2021 saw the update of Engine 1's hose and nozzles.

Goal 3: Hold computer training for command staff.

- In 2021, Cascade Fire brought in a third-party company to train our command staff in modern computer skills. Today's firefighters are required to do much more than respond to emergencies. Quite often, fire personnel are required to navigate numerous software platforms.

Goal 4: Complete several construction projects, including Station 1, Station 2 storage building and Station 2 bunkroom update.

- We learned some lessons this year on construction project dynamics, including supply chain issues, inflation, scheduling and the like. Our goals still remain but were a little too ambitious looking back. Station 1 is proceeding nicely; we are through schematic design and on to bidding. The project is scheduled to break ground this summer. The Station 2 storage building project came back with a higher-than-expected estimate and was tabled after we were able to secure a larger lease space for temporary operations during construction. Space needs will still need to be addressed in the future, but considerable taxpayer dollars were saved by utilizing an alternate plan.

2022 Goals

- Successfully transition Station 1 operations to the Air Cargo facility during construction.
- Break ground on new Station 1 at its current location.
- Create a training library where all 37 firefighters have access to mandated fire training.
- Increase entire department "low angle" rescue capabilities, using technical rescue team instruction.
- Establish a compliant training calendar to adhere to new state continuing education requirements.

I am encouraged by the exciting projects and events that 2022 is scheduled to bring. I could not be happier to work with the outstanding men and women of the Cascade Fire Department. It is our mission to handle 2022 with the utmost professionalism and customer service to our community. We look forward to keeping our residents safe in 2022!

Chief Adam Magers



Left to right: Capt. Todd Stevenson, Lt. Michael Bolt, Chief Adam Magers and Capt. Jeff Knowles

Analysis Report Presentations by Shifts



Shift A



Shift B



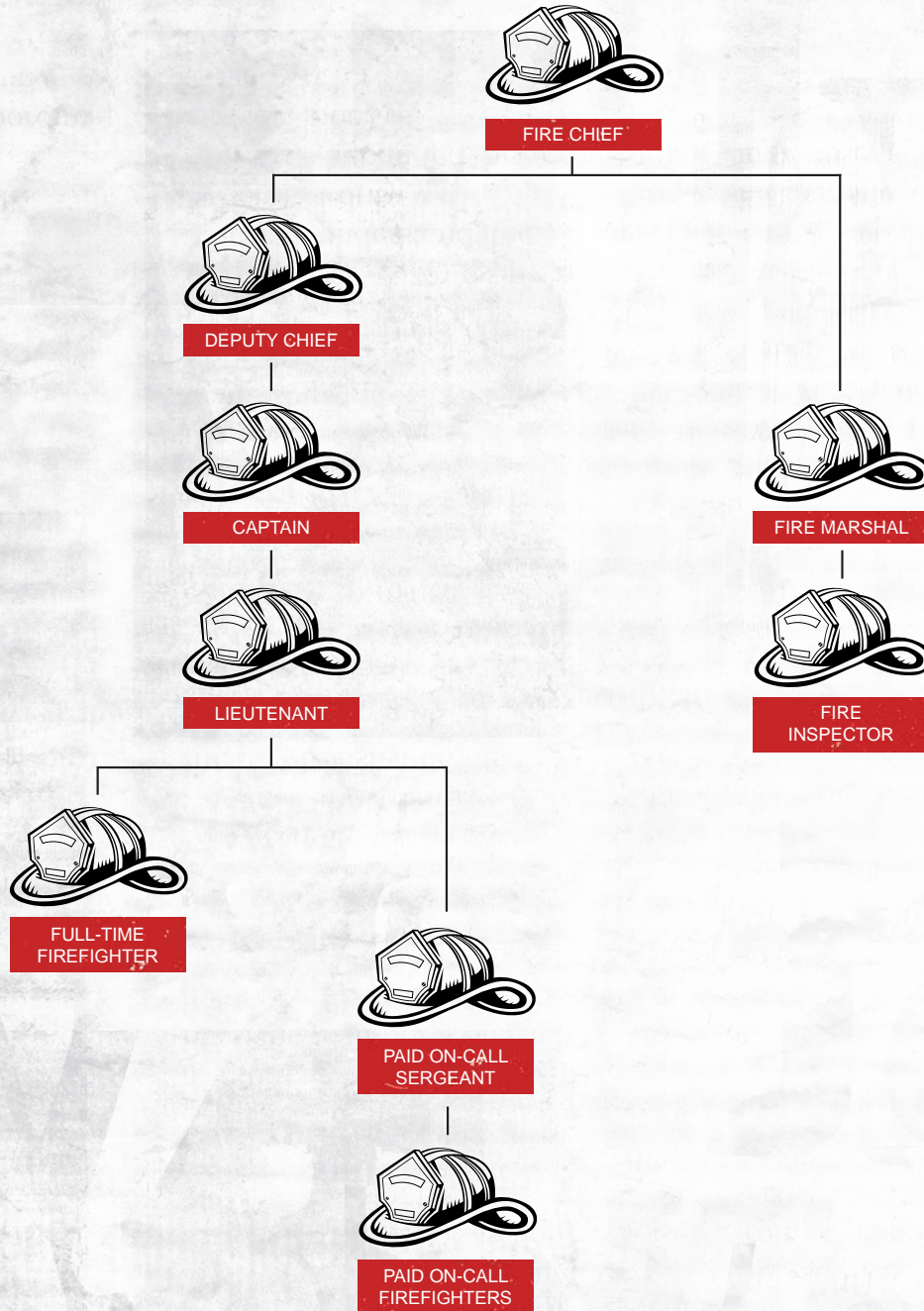
Shift C



Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

The chain of command for the Cascade Fire Department shall be as shown.





YOUR 2021

CASCADE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief Adam Magers 11/27/17

CASCADE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Capt. Doug Venema 3/17/87



Capt. Todd Stevenson 5/14/07



Capt. Jeff Knowles 4/26/02



Lt. Andy Albright 8/1/94



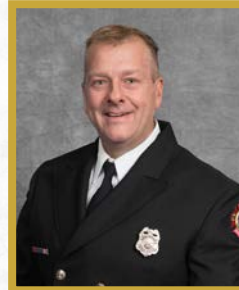
Sgt. Brett Boonenberg 10/26/11



Kreigh Deering 4/1/95



Jeff Rashid 11/20/95



Robert Norris 7/1/00



Andy Marsman 1/14/03



Michael Kadish 4/20/11



David Lintemuth 1/12/15



Colin Rodriguez 10/1/15



Todd Pell 5/6/17



Eric Melse 5/07/17



Joel Baker 9/30/19



Luke McCarthy 12/1/19



Heather Flathau 4/9/20



Jake Lotterman 9/9/20



Cullen Dodge 1/26/21



Lt. Michael Bolt 12/06/10



Lt. Josh Dettwiler 1/12/15



Fm. Doug Poolman 4/18/18



Insp. Colin Forzley 11/24/06



Jim Walker 1/24/05



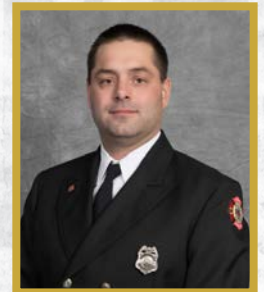
John Makuch 11/24/06



Lance Korhorn 7/7/07



Jon Snyder 9/22/08



Michael Lemkuil 10/15/09



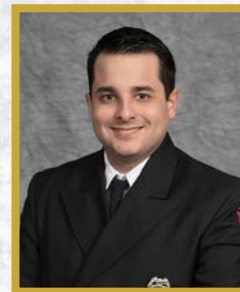
Todd Hemmi 1/22/18



Richard Raviolo 1/29/18



Mike Poolman 4/18/18



Zachery Christian 7/27/18



Steven Riddle 1/15/19



Owen Gelder 4/16/21



Matt Milmeister 9/17/21



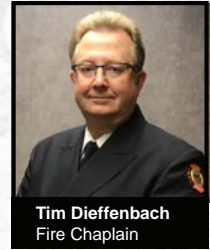
Shane Jordan 9/17/21



Cindy Holzhei

FIRE CHAPLAIN

REPORT



NEW VOLUNTEER POSITION

We hear a lot about the importance of mental health and wellness in the workplace. Providing support and encouragement to our firefighters is one of the primary roles of a fire chaplain. Being physically and emotionally present allows for more positive outcomes of challenging situations that our department responds to throughout any given year.

I have served as a co-pastor of Thornapple Community Church (TCC) for the past 16 years and have 35 years of pastoral experience in Grand Rapids. TCC's church leadership believes this is a significant way our church can contribute to the community to which we belong.

For 22 years, my wife Brenda and I have raised our family in the Cascade community. During this time, I've had the opportunity to get to know many of the firefighters through church life connections and various friendships. Over the last several years, I've assisted with situations that allowed me to use my pastoral

skill set to extend care to our fire firefighters and area families. Some of this has included offering counsel regarding life challenges, participating in the annual Memorial Day service, assisting with support of families in crisis and officiating a wedding in the midst of COVID-19. When Chief Magers asked if I would officially accept the role of volunteer chaplain, I humbly and gladly accepted.

My focus over the last months has been getting to know the names and faces of our crews. This has been accomplished by station visits and showing up at department training events. Foundational to my understanding of ministry is building trusting and lasting relationships. I've also been seeking wisdom from other area fire chaplains, drawing upon their experiences. To continue to grow my skill base, I will be completing a three-day training course with others who work with law enforcement and fire departments. **Assisting Individuals in Crisis and Group Crisis Intervention** are two core classes toward achieving advanced chaplaincy certification.

While we are still shaping the outcomes of this role, I look forward to serving our department and community.

FIRE MARSHAL

REPORT



Doug Poolman
Fire Marshal

2021 continued to bring many challenges for the department and the community. With the ongoing pandemic, the face of our community changed. Many of our businesses struggled and some unfortunately didn't survive. Many businesses continue to have their employees work from home; others had to change or adapt the way they conducted business and the services they provided. All of it certainly changed the dynamics of fire prevention.



As inspectors, we found ourselves challenged by businesses that wanted and needed to modify their operations in order to survive. This included the type of occupancy they operate within and how we protect their employees and customers. Working in conjunction with the Cascade Township Building Department, we were able to put guidelines in place and work with those business owners in creative ways to accomplish their goals while keeping people safe in the process.

Despite the challenges, we were happy to welcome many new businesses to our township this year. Some moved in to existing buildings that were available, and some were new construction. Driving throughout the township, one certainly can recognize the physical changes, as many old buildings have been removed and new ones put up in their place.

Working inside the Building Department brings a big advantage to my work in the Fire Department.

Seeing new or newly remodeled buildings, I learn their characteristics and how the fire and life safety systems are designed and put in place. In 2021, I performed 254 inspections just for the Building Department, as well as dozens of plan reviews for fire and life safety systems.

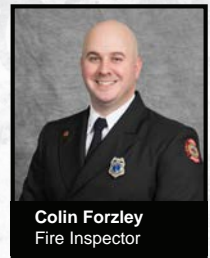
I am fortunate to have Inspector Forzley work beside me to accomplish our goals in the fire prevention bureau. We have three fully trained and certified fire investigators, and one more has passed their training and is currently testing for their certification. Well-trained personnel can smoothly step in to provide seamless services to our residents, businesses and guests when retirements occur.

We look forward to 2022 and to a brighter and stronger community.



NEW TECHNOLOGY

REPORT



We have gone digital! 2021 was another year of communication advances for not only Cascade Fire, but all emergency service providers in Kent County. A voter-approved 911 surcharge in 2016 laid the groundwork for a \$25 million multi-year 800 MHz radio project led by the Kent County Dispatch Authority that began in 2017. The two main objectives of this project were to make advancements to an aging VHF radio system that had been in use for decades, and to increase interoperability between agencies.

The new 800 MHz system is a local expansion of the existing Michigan State Police radio system that provided expanded coverage along the freeways and major highways throughout the state. To extend coverage throughout Kent County, and not just along the freeways, six new towers were constructed, bringing the total number of communications towers to 12. This greatly increased signal strength in areas that previously did not have any radio coverage on the old VHF system. Switching to the 800 MHz platform allows local, state and federal agencies to operate off the same system and will allow easier and faster communication of broad geographic emergencies such as natural disasters.

Countless hours went into the planning, development, user training, and implementation of this system, and as of June 2021, all fire departments in Kent County have migrated to the new 800 MHz radio system. The overall coverage of the new 800 MHz system far exceeds the coverage and capabilities of the old VHF system, and we look forward to the continued benefit of the new system as we bring our alert paging and other responding agencies online with the new system!



PAID ON-CALL REPORT



It is my honor to be the paid on-call (POC) sergeant for such a hardworking and dedicated group of men and women. There are many responsibilities and requirements placed on a POC firefighter. At times, it can be quite challenging to balance civilian life with the duties of the department.

The Cascade Fire Department is a combination department made up of roughly 20 full-time firefighters and 15 part-time or paid on-call staff. Cascade has two stations that are occupied 24/7 with six full-time firefighters. In the event of a structure fire, vehicle accident, hazardous material incident or any other call that requires extensive labor, both stations are depleted of qualified firefighters. The moment a call comes in, POC staff are notified via pager to report to their assigned stations. Once arriving at the station, POC staff are assigned to either pull another vehicle or to remain at the station to prepare for the next emergency call. All qualified POC staff have been through a rigorous six-month firefighting training course consisting of both class time and practical training. At the conclusion of that course, they must pass a state exam before receiving their firefighter badge. Once the firefighter portion of training has been completed, they move into a six-month EMT medical class. Then they must pass another state exam before receiving an EMT license. These are the minimum starting requirements to work as a POC firefighter in Cascade Township. Once hired as a POC, the firefighter has 24 months to learn the protocol for Cascade Fire and then pass a test to become a fully qualified "black helmet" POC firefighter. Once qualified, the firefighter is eligible to work shifts or fill in for full-time firefighters when they are off. This saves the taxpayers money by not having to pay overtime to full-time employees.

Training is a huge part of being a firefighter in Cascade Township. Firefighters are required to attend evening department trainings twice a month for approximately three hours each. POC firefighters also are required to obtain a minimum of 192 hours of classroom instruction and practical testing annually, to meet MIOSHA standards. POC firefighters spent over 8,000 hours of their time serving Cascade Township this year. This included participating in more than 40 community events

such as Project Night Lights and Touch A Truck, as well as responding to over 1,000 emergency calls. 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.

It's been an exciting year with many changes within the POC roster. We have added two qualified POC firefighters who passed our rigorous "black helmet" testing which allows them to fill shifts with the full-time firefighters. A big congratulations to Owen Gelder and Joel Baker for a job well done. In our cadet program, we have added Cullen Dodge, Matt Milmeister, Shane Jordan, Nick Rodriguez and Hannah DeMuth. I am very optimistic about these five cadets and look forward to them being fully qualified "black helmets" in 2022. Our fully POC are well-trained and sought-after by many departments hiring full-time firefighters. Jake Lotterman will be taking the next step in his life and has taken a full-time firefighting job with the City of Wyoming. We wish Jake much success, and his presence will be missed here in Cascade.



It's an honor to serve on the Cascade Fire Department. I look forward to improving our level of service in the years to come.



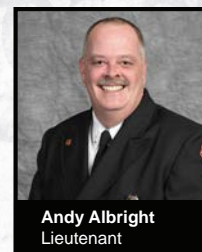


PHOTOGRAPH OF CASCADE FIRE MEN IN FORMATION

From left to right: Jack Buys, Ron Reitsma, Clare Snyder, Bill Johnson, Floyd Atchinson, John Kwekel, Lee Norton, Keith Wager, Bill Pretzel, Tom Carpenter, Clare Atchinson, Jake Klein, Don Winters, Julius Boersma, John Wood, Cal Loper and Grover Buttrick.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

REPORT



2021 saw a bit of normalcy return to Cascade Fire. Community risk reduction is best delivered in person, which was virtually impossible during 2020 and the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are a few ways we made the return to normal at Cascade Fire while still taking precautions to keep everyone safe.

Fire Prevention/Fire Safety Education

Fire prevention can best be taught through education. This year, we were able to get back into some of our preschools and early child development centers. We teach age-appropriate material on topics such as smoke alarms, changing the batteries, what to do when the smoke alarm sounds, closing your bedroom door at night (also known as Close Before You Doze), home escape planning, crawling low under smoke, having a meeting place, calling 911, stop drop and roll, and – maybe most importantly – Firefighters Are Your Friends. This is so very important because when the Fire Department arrives for a fire, the firefighters can sometimes look scary with all of their protective gear on. We combat that fear by dressing up a teacher or classroom assistant in firefighter gear. To the children, this is a trusted person. Seeing their trusted person wearing firefighter gear makes them feel safe, makes firefighters safe and teaches them not to hide from a firefighter when there is an emergency. This is very important because it may save their life!



Fire Drills

Every year, the two elementary schools, in conjunction with the Kent County emergency manager, provide the Fire Department with fire drill dates and times. Barring any emergency calls, the Fire Department attends these drills to make sure they are running smoothly and efficiently. This also gives school personnel the chance to ask any questions they may have.

Fire Extinguisher Training

The Cascade Fire Department is proud to offer fire extinguisher training to businesses and their staffs, general residents, boy/girl scout groups and other community groups. We have a video screen and laser extinguisher to provide year-round, indoor training.

New Partnership

Cascade Township is proud of the 20+ miles of pedestrian pathway that residents and guests use to ride their bikes, jog, walk the dog or take a family stroll. This year, the Cascade Fire Department has partnered with Grand Valley Metro Council and its "Stay Visible. Be Seen" campaign that distributes bike lights, reflective jogging belts and reflective snap bracelets. These items are made to keep those who wear them safe and seen! These items are now in our fire safety packets, Halloween bags and also are available at Station 1. Stop by to get yours soon!



Parties and Get-Togethers

Every year, we get many requests to attend block parties and other get-togethers. Some may just see it as a fun activity for the small kids, which it is. Every kid likes a fire hat, coloring book, stickers and other fire safety materials. However, we often find it is a great time for our firefighters to educate the adults on the Fire Department apparatus, station coverage, staffing and even how they may be able to save money on their homeowners insurance because of a better Insurance Services Office rating their Fire Department achieved.



Birthday Drive-By Parties

Prior to 2020, your Cascade firefighters would attend children's birthday parties, show the fire truck and spray water. Post-2020, the birthday parties have turned into birthday drive-by parties! This is great fun for the birthday kiddo! Some families have even turned it into a parade for family and friends led by the shiny fire truck with lights on and siren blaring.



Special Events

Every year, there are a few special events your Cascade Fire Department either organizes or is asked to participate in. Although we were not able to put on the July 4th parade and street fair this year, we are hopeful that it will make a return in 2022. Other events that we did participate in included Metro Cruise Warm-Up, National Night Out, Heritage Day and Halloween.



Metro Cruise Warm-Up

Your Cascade firefighters set up a tent to hand out fire safety materials, showed off the fire truck and took pictures with the kids. This is always a fun event with classic cars, a band, food vendors and other community partners.



National Night Out

Another great community event put on by the Kent County Sheriff's Office, National Night Out brings together agencies from law enforcement, fire, EMS, military and even Aero Med air ambulance. This is a great way for families to interact with all of these fantastic public servants.



Heritage Day

2021 was the first year for Heritage Day. The day began with a 5K run, including participation by a few of our firefighters (one ran in full turnout gear and SCBA pack!) The 5K was followed by activities for the kids, with pony rides, inflatables and games. At the same time, a competitive cornhole tournament was played. As day turned into night, there was a live band, food vendors and a beer tent. Besides enjoying a day with the community, the Fire Department provided emergency services the whole day along with the command post.



Halloween

Halloween and the Fire Department are a tradition in Cascade. Just like last year, the firefighters brought Halloween to four different neighborhoods. Firefighters and Ember The River Otter arrived in fire trucks to hand out fire safety packets and candy to all the little ghosts and goblins.

Ember

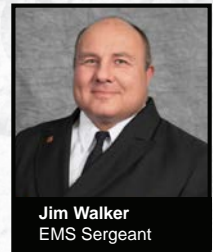
Last year, we introduced you to Cascade Fire Department's newest member and mascot, Ember The River Otter. As you can see, Ember had a very busy year attending all kinds of events! Now that Ember is no longer a rookie, she will be out at as many events as possible this coming year. Look for her, give a thumbs up and get your picture taken.



Contact Us

We are always looking for new ways to interact and educate. If you have a new idea or would like to schedule a visit from the Fire Department, please contact Lt. Andrew Albright at 616. 949.1320 or AAlbright@cascadetwp.com.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Jim Walker
EMS Sergeant

REPORT

Each year brings new and varying challenges to the Emergencies Medical Services. Whether it be the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic or simply the availability of basic personal protective equipment for EMS providers, we at Cascade Fire have met and risen above many of these types of challenges. Some of the key factors to overcoming these challenges have been improving the quality of training, maintaining high standards of care with regulatory compliance and keeping an eye on the future can help us to better improve our service to the residents of Cascade Township.

In 2021, Cascade Fire Department helped to develop, conduct and evaluate over 18 trainings related to EMS topics. These trainings resulted in the accumulation of 34 continuing education (CE) credits in the past year. The topics ranged from cardiac emergencies, what to deal with hazardous and infectious materials, all the way from how to the importance of why writing a quality EMS report matters. These CEs are required for maintaining individual licensure as either a medical first responder or emergency medical technician within the state of Michigan, by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Trauma Preparedness. The department was also fortunate enough to win a grant for \$4,895 to pay for a new trauma manikin from the Bureau of Emergency Trauma Preparedness (BETP). This manikin is used in training to increase the realism so responders can build skills to effectively treat various traumatic injuries. Being equipped and properly trained helps all the personnel meet and exceed the set levels of patient care as outlined in emergency medical protocols.

Maintaining high standards of patient care has always been a hallmark the Cascade Fire Department has striven for. Some of this year's high points have been the saving of a person that suffered a cardiac arrest while at work, the rescue of an individual from a dangerous situation by the Cascade Dam and the successful delivery of a baby with the assistance of Cascade Fire personnel. Maintaining regulatory compliance with state standards for EMS care and EMS agency licensure keeps us ready to serve whenever calls for help come in.

In 2021, the Cascade Fire Department responded to well over 1,539 EMS and EMS-related calls for help. This number of calls is steadily increasing and keeps us looking to the future so we can be responsive to the needs of the residents and community of Cascade Township.

With an eye on the future and the adaptability of different vehicle platforms helps to keep the motor pool of the Cascade Fire Department up to date and ready to respond when and wherever needed. The new medical response unit, Medic 1, is a look at that future and the adaptability of the pickup truck platform to the needs of those providing EMS services. In the past, we have used Suburbans, which are good, but the adaptive of a pickup truck better suits the needs of EMS equipment storage, increased durability and compartment adaptability.

In 2021, the Cascade Fire Department responded to over 1,539 EMS and EMS-related calls for help.



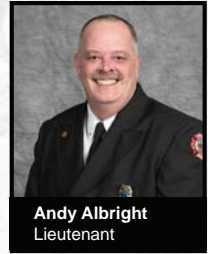


Cascade Township Fire Department (1948)

Names include Alfred Scott, Ken Mercer, Pete Kulbakas, R.A. Phillips, Ray Oostenhouse, John Kleinheksel, Bob Van Lewen, Lester Antonides, Bill Blain, Lawton Cole, Herm Heemstra, Bernie McDiarmod, Grover Buttrick, Peter Buys, Charlie Buttrick, Alex Rosak, Gerrit Baker, and Jack Buys.

CHARITIES

REPORT



How We Help

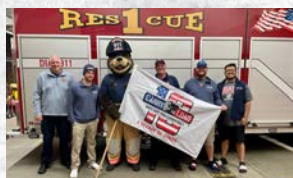
Fire departments and their members are by nature, giving, helping, generous institutions and people!

There are two ways the Cascade Fire Department and its firefighters can help and support local, state and national charities.

Cascade Fire Department

The Cascade Fire Department gives to charities through non-monetary support. Support is given by being a destination and providing meals, hot showers and fellowship.

In 2021, for the second year in a row, Cascade Fire Station 2 was the destination for #WalkForTheRed140. During this time, Macomb Township Firefighter Joe Warne walks 140 miles in full turnout gear from Macomb Township to Grand Rapids to raise money and awareness for Michigan firefighters and their families affected by cancer. This year, three Cascade firefighters joined Joe and his crew for the final four miles from the Lowell/Cascade Township line to Station 2. Joe was also joined in the final quarter-mile by a Grand Rapids Fire Department Pipes & Drums bagpiper playing Amazing Grace. Joe was greeted at Station 2 by the community, fire trucks lined up with lights on, a hot meal and a place to rest before heading home.



Once again in 2021, Station 1 was a resting point for Carry The Load. Carry The Load was founded by U.S. Navy Seals veteran Clint Bruce and Stephen Holley. Carry The Load started as a mission to restore the true meaning of Memorial Day. Today, the Carry The Load mission has expanded.

The Cascade Fire Department provides the Carry The Load crew with hot showers, a good meal and camaraderie before they head down the road to their next stop.

Cascade Firefighters Association

Cascade Firefighters Association is made up of members of the Cascade Fire Department. Cascade Firefighters Association is able to raise funds to support its association as well as other local charities.

Early on in 2021, a Cascade Fire autism awareness shirt was designed and sold. In the month of April, firefighters were encouraged to wear the shirts while on duty. In mid-April, association member and Cascade Fire Chief Adam Magers presented a check to ASK-Autism Support of Kent County from the proceeds raised by the shirt sales.



In August, Cascade Firefighters Association hosted the inaugural charity hockey game. Association member Luke McCarthy brought this from idea to fruition. Rosters for the two teams consisted of current and former professional, semi-pro, college and local hockey players. In the beginning, the goal was to raise a couple thousand dollars for charity. In the end, through ticket sales, donations, sponsorship and fifty-fifty raffles, close to \$13,000 was raised.

Gilda's Club Grand Rapids was presented a check for \$4,500 to support its mission to ensure no one has to face cancer or grief alone.

Riding for Ryan, a charity near and dear to the Cascade Fire family, was created following the tragic accident that took the life of Ryan Marsman, son of Association member and Firefighter Andy Marsman and his wife, Stacie. Ryan was involved in a bicycle/truck accident on June 13, 2019. Riding for Ryan distributes high-visibility bike flags free of charge to families with children. This supports the mission and purpose of Riding for Ryan, which is to promote the safety of young bike riders through visibility and awareness. Riding for Ryan also received a check for \$4,500 that will go toward having more flags made to keep young riders safe.

The Cascade Fire Department and Cascade Firefighters Association will continue to do good work to support local, state and national charities.



In 2021, Cascade Firefighters Association raised more than \$24,000 for local charities.

APPARATUS

REPORT



Doug Venema
Captain



2021, like any other, was very busy as far as vehicle maintenance is concerned. We always hope that our fleet of vehicles will remain trouble-free. The reality is, they don't.

Our vehicles are always subjected to hard driving. While they often accrue fewer miles per year than a normal vehicle, the miles are under harsher conditions. At home, we can start our vehicles and let them warm up before we hit the road. In the fire service, we don't have that luxury. Even though most of our vehicles are kept in a climate-controlled environment, they still go from "cold" to active driving in a matter of seconds. Over the life of a vehicle, this can lead to problems. We try to keep issues that result from this to a minimum through our preventive maintenance. All of our larger trucks are subject to a yearly Department of Transportation inspection and pump testing. The smaller vehicles receive routine inspections at the same time they receive oil changes.

This year, we did have one major repair to one of our pumper trucks. The generator on Engine 2 had to be rebuilt. These generators run all the scene lighting, light towers and electrical outlets on the truck. Unfortunately, even with routine repairs and inspections, these types of failures happen. Predicting them is nearly impossible.

We were fortunate to replace two of our smaller vehicles in 2021; the command vehicle (Chief Magers' truck) and our medic unit that responds out of Station 1. Both vehicles are 2022 Ford F-250s, quad cab, four-wheel drive. We took delivery of the vehicles in the fall. After receiving them from the dealer, we sent them out to have all the emergency lighting, radios and graphics done. Both vehicles are officially in service, and we are very happy with them. The two vehicles that were replaced will be passed on to the fire marshal and fire inspector. We also sold our oldest Suburban in the fleet at auction earlier this year.

Firefighter Zeke Kadish has been assisting me all year with vehicles. He oversaw the purchase of the new vehicles and all of their equipment fitting. Going forward, he will oversee all of our department vehicles. I am retiring on March 17 after 35 years with the Cascade Fire Department, and I am confident that I am leaving our vehicles in good hands. You can look forward to year-end reports from Firefighter Kadish starting with the 2022 annual report.

Thank you to all the residents of Cascade Township for your support over the years.

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 a hazardous material. More than 80,000 chemicals are registered for use in commerce in the United States, with an estimated 2,000 being introduced annually. The Cascade Township Fire Department responded to 68 hazardous incidents in 2021. However, most of these incidents include natural gas incidents, carbon monoxide incidents, as well as fuel spills.

The Cascade Township Fire Department has been a part of a regional hazardous materials response team – which also includes the City of Kentwood Fire Department and Dutton Fire Department – called Tri-Com Hazmat Team. Our team consists of 14 active members and the three fire chiefs. All active members are trained to the technician level. We also have a few new members who will be trained in 2022.

Cascade Township currently has 16 occupancies that fall under Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), the Emergency Planning and the Community-Right-To-Know Act of 1986. These facilities have certain hazardous chemicals, or a quantity of a chemical, above a particular threshold which requires them to report all hazardous chemicals on-site. In addition to these facilities located in our township, we have a major interstate, a railroad and an international airport that transport all types of hazardous materials daily.

Tri-Com is part of Region 6 in the state of Michigan. Our region was awarded a grant for new Level A hazmat

suits. These suits are used in situations that require the highest level of protection from a chemical coming into contact with our body. Our previous Level A hazmat suits were old and have exceeded their expected life span. Our new suits are now the same brand as all teams in Region 6. Tri-Com has also reached out to Grand Rapids Fire Department to coordinate annual testing of Level A suits.

Tri-Com participated in the Northern Exposure simulation exercise with Kent County Emergency Management as well as the 51st Army Hazmat Team. Tri-Com was tasked with coordinating fuel transfer to emergency vehicles from a Crystal Flash fuel truck. Our main objective was to ensure no fuel was spilled, or that it be properly cleaned up, as well as provide security to ensure no unauthorized vehicles were allowed fuel.

Goals for 2022 include:

- Conduct quarterly hands-on training with our entire Tri-Com Hazmat Team.
- Send new members to Hazmat Tech class.
- Establish a plan to purchase outdated equipment.

If you have any questions regarding our Hazardous Materials Response Team or the 16 occupancies covered under SARA Title 3, please feel free to contact me at any time at Station 1 616.949.1320.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

REPORT



The Cascade Township Fire Department has been very proactive in health and wellness. Most people probably think the leading cause of death among firefighters is fires. It's actually heart-related issues.

Firefighter line-of-duty deaths have been decreasing prior to COVID-19, but this infectious disease has been increasing the number of firefighter deaths once again. 141 firefighter fatalities were recorded for 2021.

The Cascade Township Fire Department has provided its firefighters with the proper equipment to help prevent these tragedies in our department. Each fire station is equipped with a treadmill, elliptical machine, various free weights and benches. Station 1 has a row machine and other additional equipment due to an increase in space. The Cascade Fire Department Policy requires each firefighter to perform a one-hour workout per shift. Workouts do get interrupted to respond to emergency calls.



review and revise the MIOSHA Part 74 General Industry Standards for Firefighting. I am truly honored to be placed on this committee and feel that I am making a positive change to firefighter safety in Michigan. We finalized our report in September 2021. We made many changes that we hope will be approved by state congress to ensure departments are safe and adequate measures are taken for firefighter safety.

Chief Magers, Capt. Stevenson and I worked collaboratively and submitted an AFG Grant for approximately \$126,000. If awarded, we will get new fitness equipment to replace outdated equipment, add personal trainers to assist members of the department to reduce injury and improve physical health and increase our annual physicals to test for multiple different cancers. I feel this would be one of the most important grants we have ever applied for. Firefighters are at a 250% higher risk of cancer than non-firefighters. If awarded, this grant could potentially diagnose a member with cancer they may not know they had. These would be diagnosed by ultrasounds of vital organs, in which firefighters have increased risk of developing cancer. Some departments already perform these tests and have caught cancer early for members.

Goals for 2022

In 2022, we also will start the process to become NFPA 1500 compliant. NFPA 1500 is the standard that covers the health and safety of members on and off from the fireground. Cascade Fire does a great job at keeping the firefighters safe, but NFPA 1500 just gives us some checkboxes to ensure we are doing our absolute best at following safe practices.



Cascade Fire has had a few members put their personal physical health as a top priority in 2021. Firefighter Deering lost 93.5 lbs., Firefighter Makuch lost 76 lbs. and Lt. Albright lost 45 lbs. I want to congratulate them all on their hard work and dedication to their personal and professional health improvements.

I was asked to apply for the MIOSHA Part 74 Committee in 2021 and elected to be a voting member. This committee is made up of firefighters and code and standard experts, along with MIOSHA members to

FIRE HYDRANT REPORT

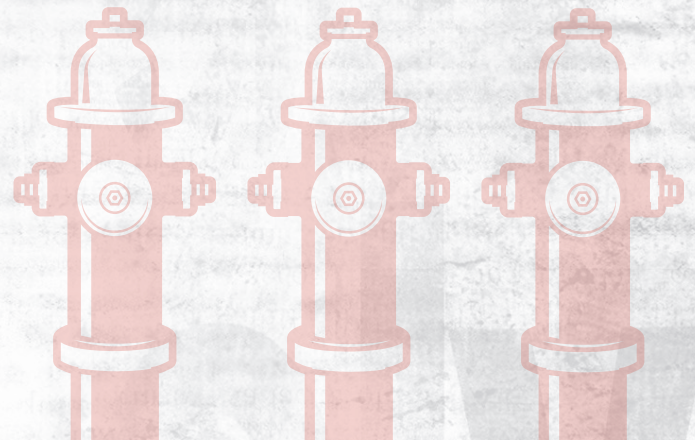


The City of Grand Rapids Water Department provides Cascade Township with drinking water along with the water used by the Fire Department to fight fires. That water comes to our township from the Lake Michigan Filtration Plant through 25 miles of large-diameter supply pipes into two water reservoirs in 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. On average, Cascade Township consumes 26.3 million gallons of water on a daily basis, with peak summer consumption of 74.9 million gallons per day.

There are 1,347 fire hydrants in Cascade Township. The Fire Department spent 335 hours in 2021 making sure these hydrants are ready for use in case of an emergency. In the spring, we flush out the hydrants to remove any sediments that may have collected during the winter months. In the fall, we pump out the water that is trapped in the hydrant so it will not freeze during the winter. We ask residents to please comply with Township ordinances and keep vegetation and snow piles clear

of any fire hydrants on your property. Fire hydrants are there to provide fire protection for your own property and that of your neighbors. If you see any issues with the fire hydrants, please contact the Cascade Fire Department so we can have them addressed.



**There are 1,347 fire hydrants
in Cascade Township.**

CPR AND FIRST AID

REPORT



Cascade Township Fire Department is proud to be associated with the American Heart Association and serve as a regional training center. We offer basic life support training in CPR with the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Heartsaver® First Aid. This was the second year we worked under the COVID-19 restrictions set forth by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Many students used the online classes offered by the American Heart Association to complete the classroom portion and then scheduled a one-on-one class with one of our instructors to complete the testing.

In 2021, we trained over 680 individuals in CPR/AED and Heartsaver® First Aid. We have had the opportunity to bring this training to businesses, church groups, medical professionals and charity organizations, while abiding by the restrictions put in place by the MDHHS and with careful sanitation of our facility and equipment.

While this year brought many challenges, our instructors found creative ways to continue to provide this education.



TECHNICAL RESCUE REPORT

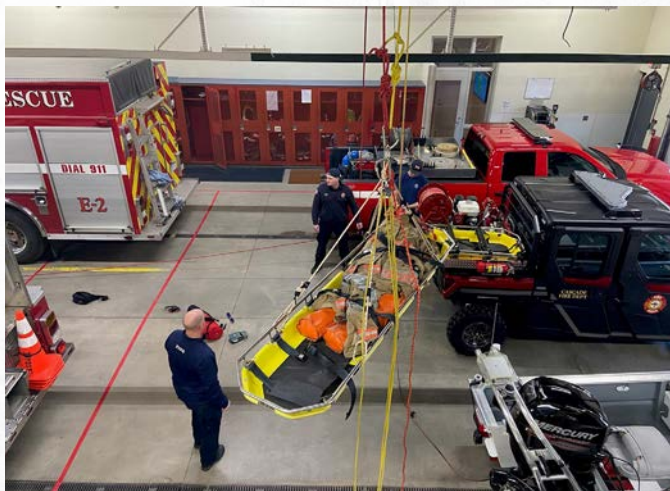


Michael Bolt
Lieutenant

In 2021, the Cascade Fire Department actively increased its ability to respond to rescues requiring a more technical approach. Multiple members of the Tech Rescue Team took classes outside of Cascade and brought that knowledge back to the department. Firefighters John Makuch and Lance Korhorn attended a Swift-Water Rescue Boat Operation class hosted by Grand Rapids Fire Department. Firefighters John Makuch and Michael Lintemuth attended a Swift-Water Technician class hosted by the Thornapple Kellogg Fire Department. Firefighter Jim Walker attended the Rope Rescue Technician class hosted by the Grand Rapids Tech Rescue Team. Firefighter Makuch also attended the Rope Rescue Technician class hosted by the Southfield Fire Department. Lt. Bolt attended the Confined Space Rescue class hosted by the Caledonia Fire Department. Each firefighter who attended a class was able to pass on the information they learned to the rest of the Cascade Fire Department Tech Rescue Team.



In 2021, the Cascade Fire Department responded to three incidents involving people stuck in a stalled elevator. We had two calls for Boat 2 to respond to people requiring a water rescue. Our Polaris off-road vehicle, Brush 6, responded to eight emergency calls. While calls for technical rescue are rare, our department continues to train to be ready in the event an emergency calls for technical skill.



TRAINING DIVISION

REPORT



Todd Stevenson
Captain

With the beginning of 2021, we started to see more opportunities to get together and train than we did with the previous COVID-19 year of 2020. We started training again with the whole department coming together to attend fire and medical classes. As the training officer, it was nice to get some normalcy back into our trainings.

One of the important trainings we were able to resume this year was our live fire training. When we do live fire trainings, we have our members go into a specially designed burn building with active fire inside. This allows our members to work in a high heat-and smoke-filled environment, just like that of an actual structure fire. This type of training is invaluable. A structure fire is a high-risk, low-frequency event. This means they do not happen very often, but when they do, they can be very dangerous. Preparing for these types of events is the foundation of our training division.

Our trainings were not limited to just a smoke- and heat-filled building, we also got outside in the cold. Ice rescue training is something we schedule every winter once the local ponds start to freeze. We have a member/victim go out in the ice, then we use our ice suits and rescue equipment to safely remove them from the frozen pond.

With the lifting of some of the COVID-19 restrictions, we started doing joint training with our neighboring departments. The Caledonia Fire Department brought its ladder truck to our Station 2, giving us some great hands-on experience. Members got to climb the 100-foot ladder and practice spraying water from the aerial. Also, training with Gerald R. Ford International Airport Fire Rescue Department resumed, allowing us to go to the airport where we jointly trained on water shuttle operations and water supply skills.

Along with practical training opportunities opening up this year, we also were able to send a number of our members to various classes. Lt. Josh Dettwiler and Firefighters John Makuch and Mike Poolman successfully completed the Michigan State Fire Instructor I course and became state-certified instructors. Firefighter Todd Pell completed the Michigan State Police Fire Investigator I class. Capt. Jeff Knowles

completed the nine-month Eastern Michigan University Fire Staff and Command Executive Leadership Program, making him the fourth person in our command staff to graduate from EMU Fire Staff & Command. We are very fortunate to have the support of the Township Board to be able to have such great training opportunities for our officers and firefighters.

The entire department did an excellent job of training in 2021. Our members have different opportunities to get their training hours. We have hands-on practical trainings, classroom lectures and computer platforms. As the training officer, I rely on my training committee to come up with new and better ways we can train our members. Our members logged 8,115 hours of training in 2021.

Our goals for 2022 are to continue with our many training programs: computer-based, live fire, hands-on, classroom and neighboring department training. We plan to start filming our trainings and make a library our members can use whenever they want to arrange a training.

Hopefully as the new year progresses, restrictions will continue to lift and more opportunities to expand our training will occur. No matter what happens or what obstacles are in the way, rest assured that the members of the Cascade Township Fire Department will continue to train and improve our skills to be ready for any emergency that arises.

*We don't rise to the level of
our expectations, we fall to
the level of our training.*

— Archilochus







FACILITIES

REPORT



2021 has started to bring some normalcy back to the department. We are still disinfecting daily and taking all precautions necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19, but we were able to open the stations back up for car seat checks and visitors. It was great to be able to host events like Walk for the Red and the Ranger Walk at Station 2 again.

Cascade Fire is happy to announce that we have partnered with Williams Architects to design our new Station 1 at its existing site, 2865 Thornhills Ave SE. We had our kick-off meeting this summer and have continued with site planning, schematic design, design development and many other meetings to keep this project on track. We truly appreciate the support of our Board members and our community.

Station 1 equipment and personnel will be relocating to 6450 Air Cargo Drive SE during the demolition and construction phases of the new building. After looking at numerous options to house our engines, this location will suit us best. We will be doing a small amount of remodeling to the facility to add a kitchen, to convert storage rooms into bedrooms, to update the electrical system along with painting and carpet. This work will allow us to run our daily operations more efficiently.

We look forward to breaking ground on Station 1 in 2022! This new station will allow for department growth and will be more efficient in both energy and workspace. Some training elements have been incorporated into the plans, including a hose tower on the front of the building that can be used for high rise and standpipe training. The mezzanine in the bays will also include anchor points to train on rope rescue and ladders.

The current site will need extensive infrastructure updating to meet the newly adopted Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan. This will create some engineering challenges to place stormwater runoff holding tanks and filtration systems underneath the property. We are committed to meet this new standard in order to help keep our rivers clean.

To make the entry ramps more user-friendly onto Thornhills Avenue, the site will need to have some major elevation changes done as well. These elevation changes will not only make it easier to enter and exit the property with our larger vehicles, but it will make the sidewalks up to the station handicapped-accessible.

Station 2 is now going on its 24th year as a fire station. We will continue to upgrade existing heating and cooling units to more energy-efficient systems. Our storage building that was planned for Station 2 came in with considerably higher bids than expected. Due to the increased cost of materials, that project was put on hold. We will be able to use the space at Air Cargo to house all of our equipment until our new station is built.

Stay tuned to the Township's website and social media for more information about future engagement opportunities as the Fire Station 1 project progresses. We'd like to thank the project team who have worked so hard to develop a facility that meets our department's needs now – and for decades to come. We'd also like to thank residents who have shared their feedback and asked good questions throughout the process.



1974

RESPONSES 2021

05:36

Average Response Time
Dispatch to Arrived



01:01

Average Turnout Time
Dispatch to Enroute

Incident Count for All Calls
All Statuses

2,242



1,539

Incident Count for EMS Calls
All Statuses

Incident Count for Fire Calls
All Statuses

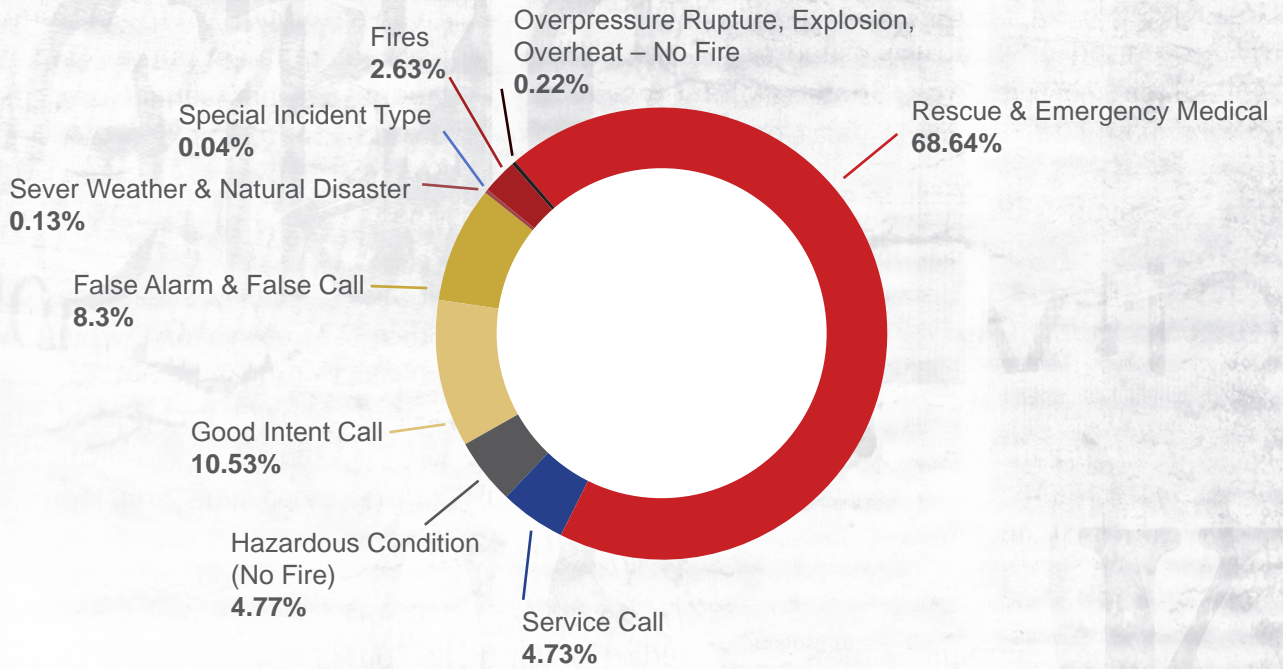
703



8,115.02

Total Training Hours

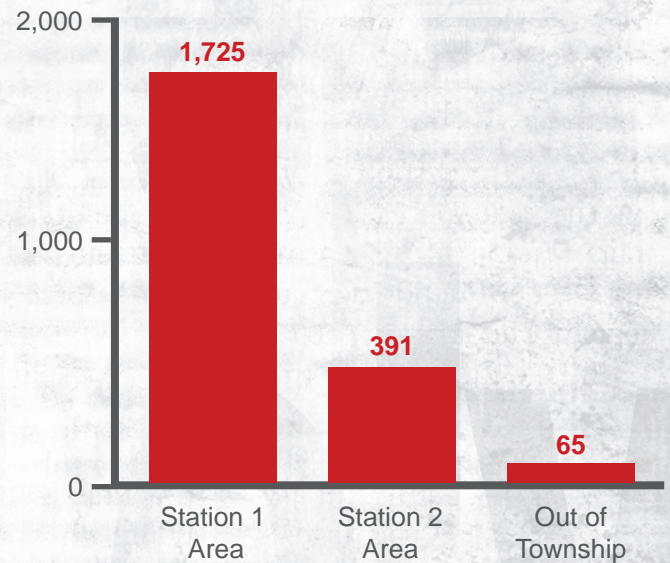
BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR INCIDENT TYPES



INCIDENTS PER SHIFT



INCIDENT COUNT PER ZONE



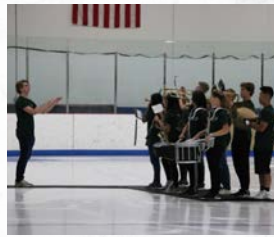
TOTAL: 2,242



FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION



FIRST ANNUAL CHARITY HOCKEY GAME



CASCADE FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORIC PHOTOS





July 4, 1974



July 4, 1974



1948



July 4, 1974



July 4, 1974

Virginia
This house
repeatedly
repeated to
6/7/78
4/17/79

Cascade Fire Department

Why ^{and when} the department was started. In 1936 or 1937 when Beuten's house burnt on Buttrick Ave. the Godwin Heights Dept. of Paris Twp. was the closest and responded to the ~~first~~ call; of course the house burnt to the ground. So the people started ^{talking and} working towards getting a truck which finally appeared when Kent County placed trucks in various County Stages. Ours of course was in Ada and ~~that~~ also ~~had~~ covered Ada, Cascade and Vergennes Twp. This was in Dec 1940. This also was very unique as it was the first such setup in the U.S. Then the townships organized their own departments to man the equipment. The County did hire one man to drive the truck.

Our first fire Chief was Alfred Scott who had the job 1942 to 1951 when he retired after a heart attack. Communications to get the other men to a fire was by the Chief's wife calling each individual. In 1943 Cascade had a bad fire when an oil tanker came down 28th St and turned over on the corner of Cascade and Orange St. This was at 1:15 AM. When the Chief's wife first called all she could say was "Fire Fire Fire" and then she hung up the phone. She soon collected herself and then called the men plus some other trucks from other places. Many places were on fire and ~~in 1944~~ some lost. Fire even traveled

Highway Dept

1943 FIRE



1980

A hybrid of the house became Chief in 1951 thru 1965

down the river towards Ada. In 1944 Chief Scott with help from some of his volunteers started construction of a tanker truck which consisted of a coal truck chassis and an oil tank from Cornello Oil Company in Lowell. This truck was housed at Chief Scott's Gas Station ^(1910 Cascade St) outside and then each winter it would have to be drained. In 1946 Chief Scott built a 3 bay garage so then the truck was kept in there. In 1947 the Township bought the property where the station now stands and the men moved a single stall garage on to the property to house their truck. In March, 1948 the Firemen solicited for funds and pledges to construct a new station and another truck. ^{new station was built at that time.} The reason for this ^{additional} was that the one county truck had to many twps. and area to cover and the firemen wanted faster response. Dedication of the new fire station was done at a Pancake Supper. The cost at that time was 7,000.00 for the truck. In 1950 the protective wall was built by volunteers because a car had knocked part of the station down when being constructed. The wall is 4' wide and at least 4' deep underground, 30" wide and 3' high above ground, with lots of reinforcements. In Sept. 1956 the Legion and Fire Dept.

Had the Mills Brothers Circus here to help raise money for rescue equipment. They did have one piece of emergency equipment which was donated May 30, 1954 by the Cascade Trail Scout Troop. The 2 girls who presented the first oxygen insulator set were Karen Durham & Linda Fellows. The money raised at the circus was matched with CD funds and at this time the first station wagon was purchased for a Rescue Unit. Charles Weston equipped the First Aid Box. This Rescue Unit was also a first in the County - go Richard Washburn and Keate & Vining had a write up in "Prairie Farmer Magazine". In 1958 the station wagon was replaced by a Hearse donated by Springs Funeral Home in Grand Rapids then the Kent County Sheriff's Dept. First Aid Unit. About 1965 a trucking company in Grand Rapids donated a Chev Van to replace the Hearse. In 1973 the Chev Van was replaced with a new van which they have today.

Back when the dept. started getting too large for the Chief's wife to do all the calling it was divided up, so to speak, like a chain reaction ~~with~~ she called so many and each of them would call others. In 1951 we had Fire Cards printed and with the help of the Boy Scouts each promo was given a card. If you had 2 phones you received



July 4, 1974

2 cards. In 1962 the first 2 way radio system was used plus 10 monitors were placed in different ~~homes~~ firemen's homes. Today all firemen have a monitor in their home and some have them in their cars. Pocket monitors help those who are working ~~at~~ away from home.

Trucks

1957 International	\$16,300	received in 1958
1969 Ford pumper	\$31,000	" 1970
1970 Tanker (International)	\$23,034	" 1971
1955 Jeeps from DNR	purplis equipment	1972
1955 - bought a chev ^{van} to replace gas truck		

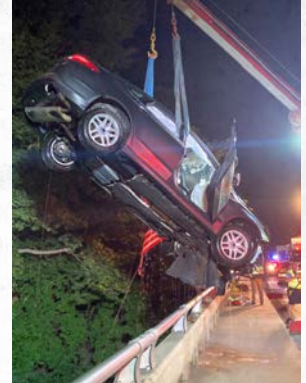
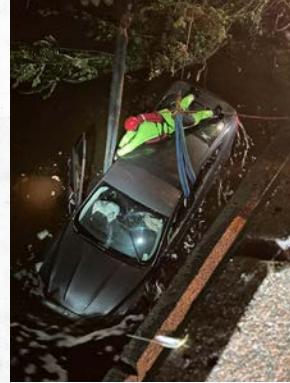
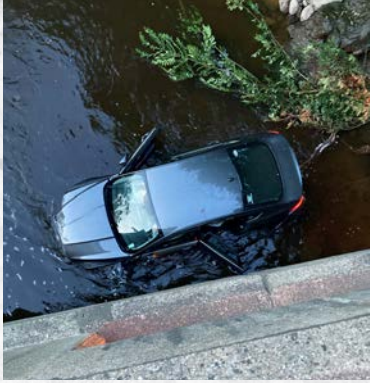
Fire truck accidents

Aug. 5-1959 - The gas truck forced into the Thornapple River bayou on Burger returning from a grass fire.
no injuries
 3 firemen on truck, driver Lee Norton; passenger inside Grover Buttrick and outside Earl DeFechugen, Sr.

Sept. 2-1961 - International was scorched at a Turkey Barn fire on Snow Ave. when it got stuck in a sand covered pit.

Nov. 5-1973 - Van was rammed on 28th St. while Donald Winters and Grover Buttrick were checking a fire hydrant. This was before the van ~~had~~ was equipped.
injuries

A SNAPSHOT OF 2021 INCIDENTS





FUN PHOTOS 2021

National Night Out



Ember and Deputy Dieppa



FF. Jon Snyder



Lt. Albright and guest



Sgt. Boonenberg and guest

EMU Staff and Command Alumni Golf Outing



Lt. Michael Bolt, Capt. Todd Stevenson, Capt. Jeff Knowles and Chief Magers

Metro Cruise Warm-Up



FF. Owen Gelder with some of our biggest fans at Metro Cruise

Grand Rapids Triathlon



Sgt. Boonenberg, FF. Makuch, POC FF. Baker on the river with Boat 2



Lt. Albright, FF. Baker, FF. Lotterman





CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

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