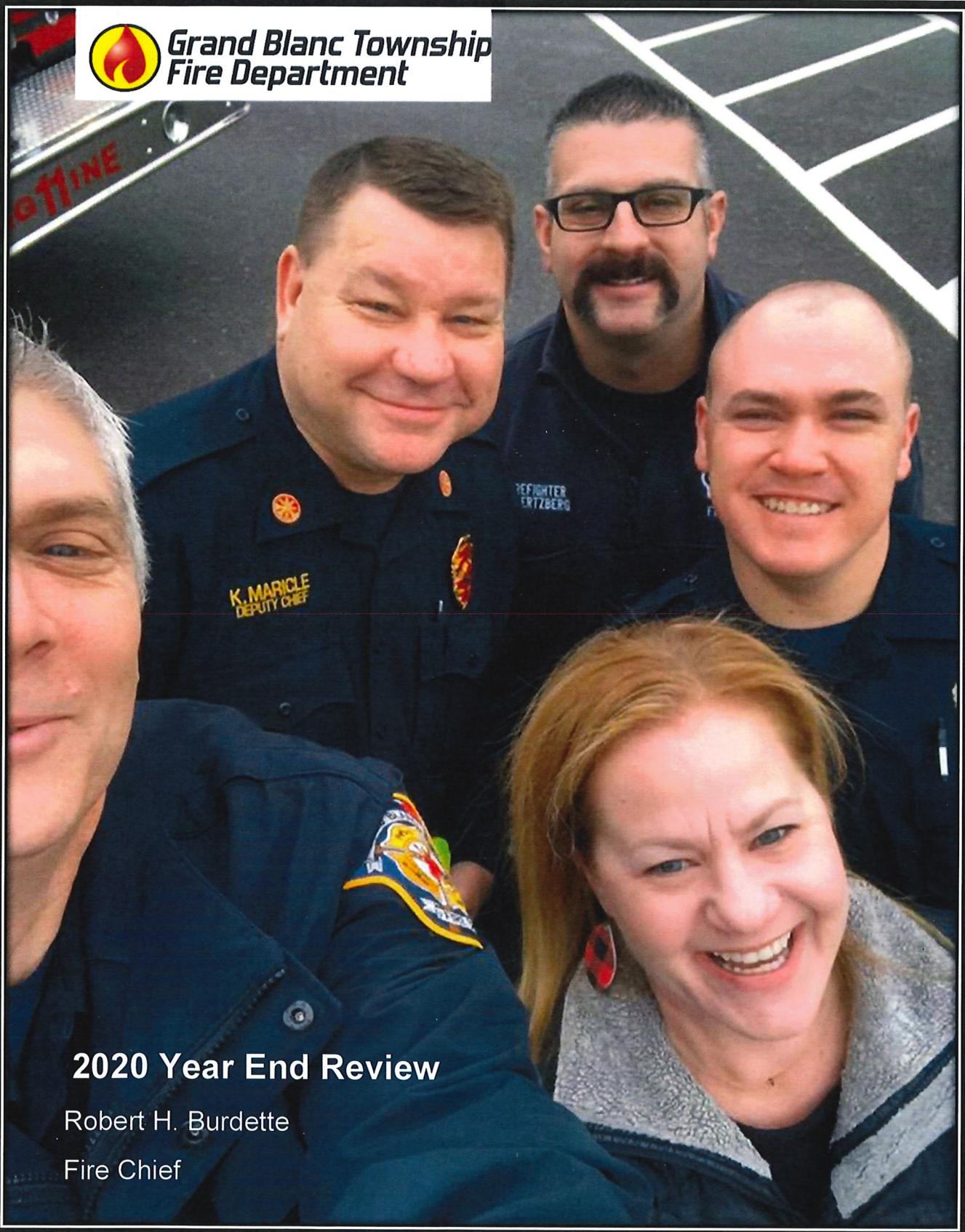




**Grand Blanc Township
Fire Department**



2020 Year End Review

Robert H. Burdette
Fire Chief



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MISSION

Our mission is to mitigate the effects of emergencies, as we continue to improve and grow to meet the community needs, by actively engaging other emergency services, continued specialized training and seeking additional opportunities to serve.



VISION

It is the vision of the Grand Blanc Fire Department to be recognized as the premier provider of rescue services in the region.

INTRODUCTION

Today, the fire service is asked to perform many duties beyond firefighting. These include tasks ranging from complex rescues; hazardous materials spill mitigation, public education, and in some cases, emergency medicine. The vehicles and equipment used are designed to appropriately address each incident and protect the firefighters as they perform the work that exposes them to dangerous environments and chemicals.

Our fire department is a combination department comprised of four full-time firefighters, thirty-three part-time firefighters, one full-time Fire Chief, and one full-time Administrative Assistant. We are called upon to deal with situations that need special equipment and large numbers of highly trained individuals.

Each day, firefighters take part in training sessions that prepare them for the various and numerous incidents that they respond to. Regular training sessions cover topics of Search and Rescue, Fire Suppression, Apparatus Driving, Apparatus Operations and much more. Also, every firefighter takes part in by-weekly training sessions that focus on preparing them for specialized events, such as victim extrication from a vehicle, confined space, Victim Rescue from a Trench and more.

Funding the fire department is through the Township Fire millage and general fund contributions from Grand Blanc Township.

2020 Actual	
Millage-	1,370,747
Township General Fund: Capital Improvements-	500,000
Total	1,870,747

Organization

Governmental

The fire department operates with guidance given by the Township Board and responds to all incidents in Grand Blanc Township. Also, GBTFD provides fire services under a Joint Fire Operating Agreement (Mutual Aid) to 25 neighboring fire departments that protect 315,805 residents living in Genesee County, MI through a Mutual Aid Box Alarm Agreement.

The Fire Chief reports to the Superintendent on employment and union issues, as well as general administrative functions such as accounts payable and all major purchases.

Internally, the organization is separated into three components. Along with their administrative duties, the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and Battalion Chief assume leadership roles at incidents, and when necessary they perform firefighting functions. The Captains and Lieutenants provide leadership to the firefighting staff as lead roles at an event or the fire station. The inspector conducts firefighting functions, safety inspections at businesses, and public education. Firefighters perform fire suppression and assist with fire safety education.

TOWNSHIP BOARD

2020-2024

Scott Bennett
Supervisor

Dave Robertson
Clerk

Joel Feick
Trustee

Jude Rariden
Trustee

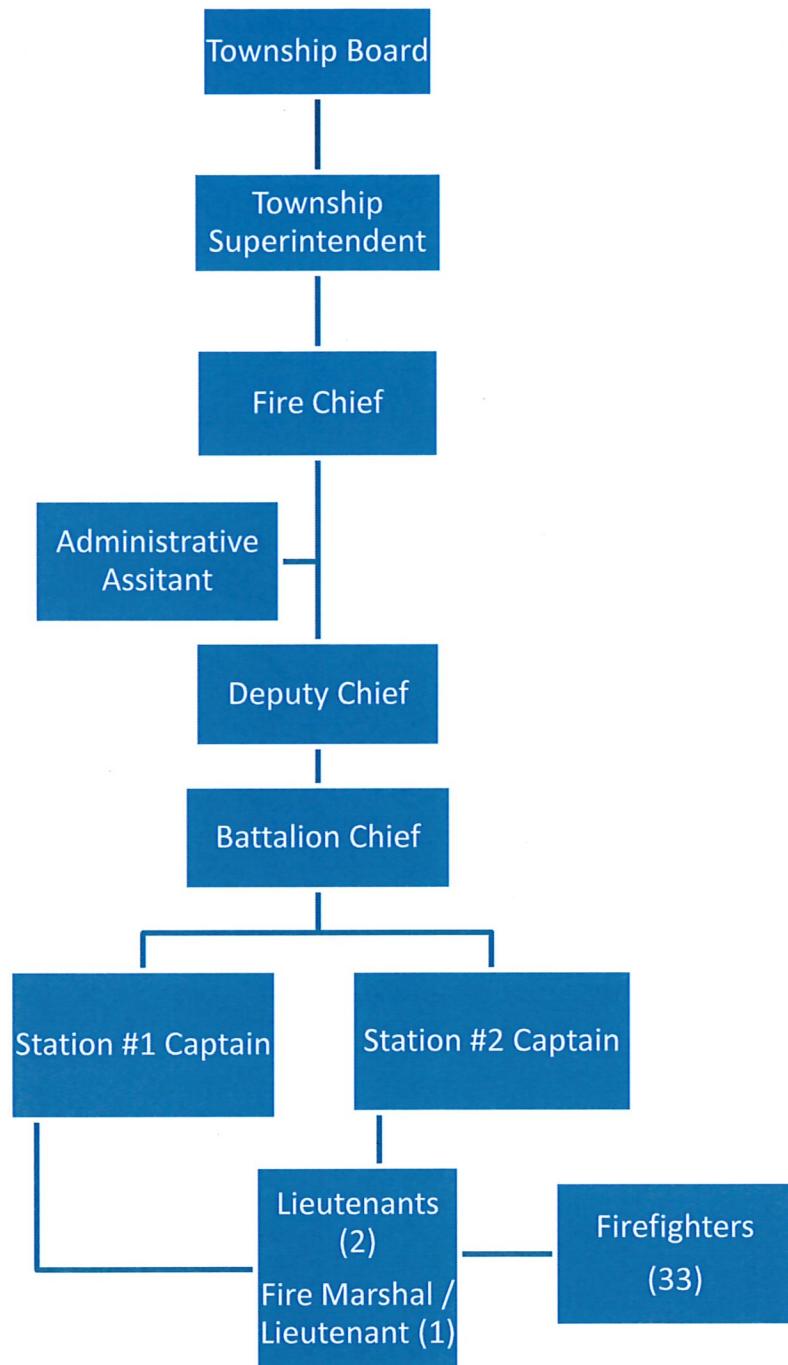
Mark Kilmer
Treasurer

Sarah Hugo
Trustee

Paul White
Trustee

Dennis Liimatta
Superintendent

2020 Fire Department Organization Chart



Incidents

(figure 1)

In 2020, the fire department responded to 660 incidents.

Incidents are categorized into six categories by using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFRIS). These categories provide a system of reporting along comparisons with other fire departments at the county, state, and national levels. The six groups are:

FIRE (emergency response)	12% of the total incidents	Incidents where flames are present before or at the time of arrival, which includes structures, vehicles, trash, and vegetation fires. 12 percent of our total incidents are in this category.
RESCUE and EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (emergency response)	7% of the total incidents	Incidents that include victim extrication from structures and vehicles and assist emergency medical services. 7 percent of our total episodes are represented here.
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (emergency and non-emergency responses)	18% of the total incidents	Downed power lines and leaking hazardous materials made up 18 percent of the total.
SERVICE CALLS (non-emergency responses)	21% of the total incidents	The majority of the incidents categorized here are for smoke investigations and assists the public. <u>It does not include public education on fire safety and prevention.</u> 21 percent of our events in 2020 called for service.
GOOD INTENT CALLS (non-emergency responses)	20% of the total incidents	Canceled alarms or incident is not found makeup 20 percent of our total episodes.
ALARM MALFUNCTIONS (non-emergency responses)	22% of the total incidents	No problems are found, but the alarm system sounds that smoke or carbon monoxide is present. This category represents 22 percent of the total episodes in 2020.

Major Saves and Losses

In 2020, the Grand Blanc community experienced one non-fire-related death. This occurred at a residential house fire on March 6th. Firefighters were called to the address shortly before midnight. When they arrived, heavy smoke was visible from the road. Firefighters found the fire in the basement of the home and were able to extinguish it very quickly. Unfortunately, the fire blocked the exit from the basement.

On February 20, a residential fire occurred at a home on Cold Spring Trail. Firefighters arrived at the home five minutes after receiving the alert, to find a large fire that engulfed a travel trailer, the garage and a portion of the home. Multiple propane canisters, and two vehicles were found inside the garage, along with gas cans, all of this increased the fuel load of the fire. Because the neighborhood was the fire occurred does not have fire hydrants, assistance was requested from neighboring departments to supply water to fight the fire.

A pre-manufactured home (mobile Home) was totally destroyed, when a undetermined fire occurred on May 27. Four minutes after the alert was received at the station, firefighters arrived to a mobile home on Donna Dr that was fully engulfed in fire. The resident was home at the time said that they left the living room for a short time, and was meet by heavy black smoke when they returned to the room. They exited the home through the emergency side exit and called 911. Shortly after the call was made the fire flared and spread very quickly through it. The home next door suffered a small amount of damage when it began to burn also.

A loss of power at a manufacturing facility possible caused a fire at 4146 E. Baldwin Road. The company manufacturers screws and bolts and part of the process is to harden the metal used to make them. When the power was lost, the oil vats used to cool the steel, were not able to cool themselves and eventually the heat increased which caused the exhaust stacks to start the roof on fire. The fire was declared under control 30 minutes after the first firefighters arrived on scene.

Many times the fire department responds to alarm activation to find the monitor is old and must be replaced, but on two occasion this year, dangerous levels of CO gas was found but was not caused by anything in the home.

The gas was being emitted from equipment being used in another area of the home or business. Similar to smoke, CO gas is readily carried through a ventilation system and is found in other rooms, crawl space or attic space.

We were fortunate once again to have only a few fires where significant damage occurred. The fire department saved 91% of the property value that was involved in fires during 2020.

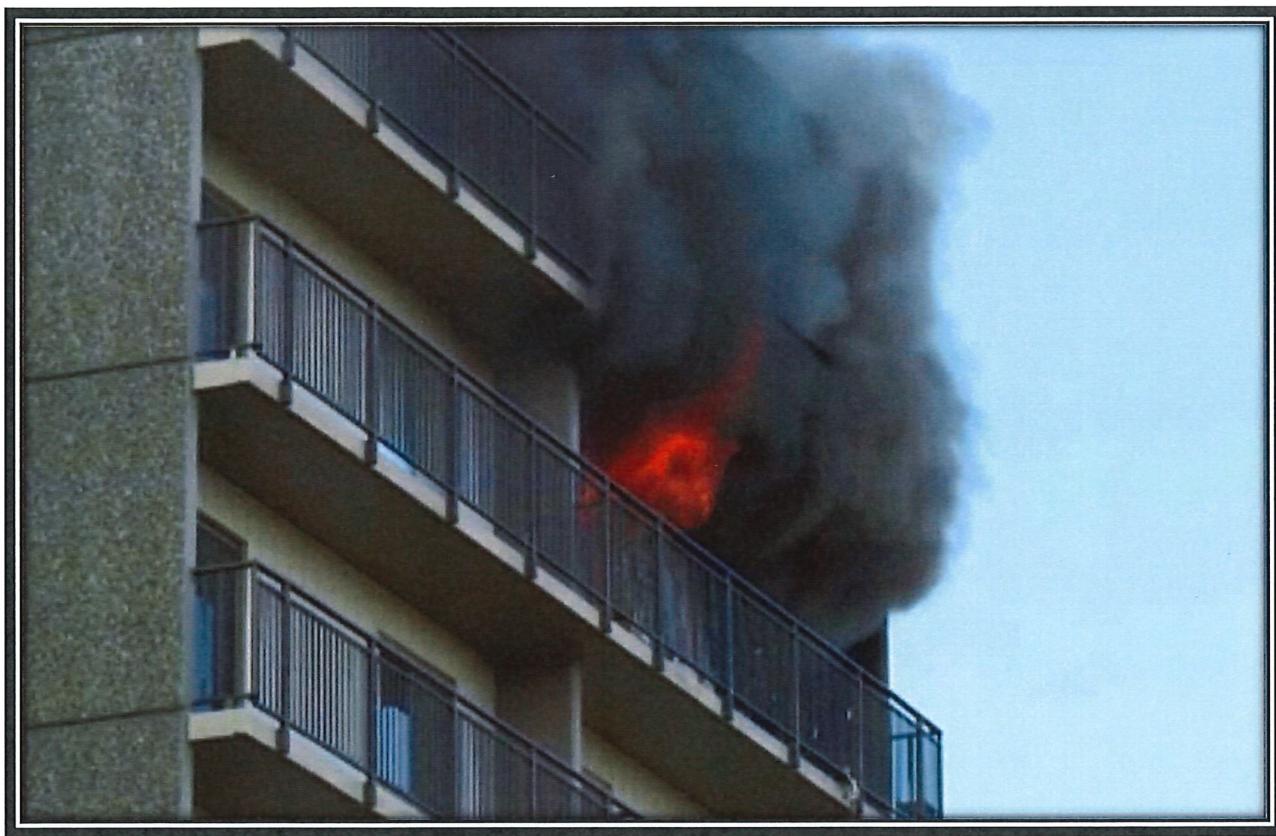


**Grand Blanc Township
Fire Department**

2020 Fire incidents	Total Values	Total Losses	Total Saved	Percent Saved
Fire, other	\$ 3,557,200	\$ 106,300	\$3,450,900	97%
Building Fire	\$12,218,060	\$1,080,360	\$11,137,700	91%
Mobile Property (vehicles)	\$ 329,300	\$ 201,299	\$ 128,001	39%
Cooking Fire	\$260,050	\$ 4,050	\$256,000	98%
Annual Total	\$16,364,610.00	\$1,392,009.00	\$14,972,601.00	91%

Mutual Aid (help to/from neighboring departments)

Throughout the year, fire departments help neighboring departments at incidents. Reasons for assisting another department may include, low staffing at the time of the event, the size of the event, or a need for a specialized piece of equipment. Grand Blanc assisted neighboring departments 10 times and received help four times in 2020.



Response Zones

(figure 1)

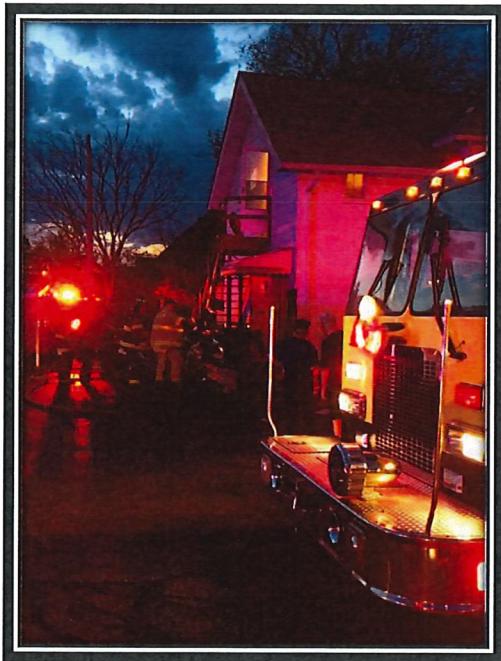
A feature of our new incidents reporting software is the creation of response zones. Separating our response area into zones provides the Fire Department Administration key information in planning future operations of the department. Grand Blanc Township is separated into four zones, by using Grand Blanc and Perry Roads as a divider for North and South, and again separating those zones into East and West using Dort Hi-way to I-75 to Holly Road. Two additional zones were

created for responses to incidents that occurred inside the City of Grand Blanc and to neighboring communities.

In 2020, **4** incidents were responded inside the City of Grand Blanc Zone, **11** requests for assistance (mutual aid) were answered, **170** incidents occurred in the Northeast, **217** occurred in the Northwest, **136** in the Southeast and **122** in Southwest zones.

Response Times

(figure 2)



Every month the fire chief reports the apparatus response times to the Board of Trustees. The firefighters have a goal of the apparatus being in route within two minutes of dispatch and on the scene in seven minutes. For 2020, the fire department arrived to an incident on average within the 7.33-minute goal. This is significant because the figure is the response time to non-emergencies and emergency incidents.

(figure 3)

Grand Blanc Twp. Fire Department

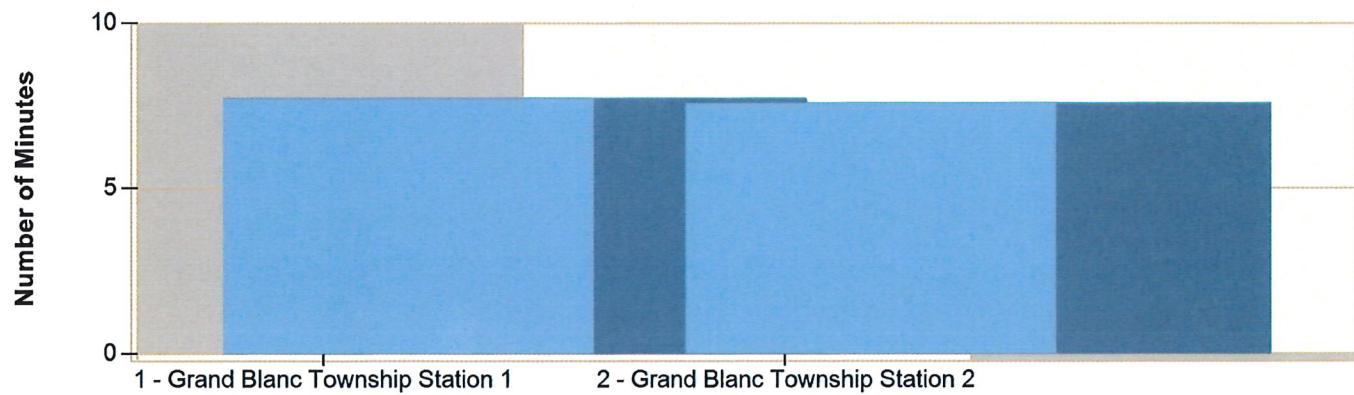
Grand Blanc, MI

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Average Response Time per Station for Date Range

Start Date: 01/01/2020 | End Date: 12/31/2020



STATION	AVERAGE RESPONSE MM:SS (Dispatch to Arrived)
1 - Grand Blanc Township Station 1	7:43
2 - Grand Blanc Township Station 2	7:34

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME calculated from the average time difference between DISPATCH and ARRIVED times on Basic Info 4. Only REVIEWED incidents included.



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To allow the firefighters to properly practice social distancing themselves from each other during the pandemic, the Baldwin Road Fire Station began being staffed by 2 Firefighters 16 hours each day. As a result of doing this, we improved the apparatus response times to incidents in the Southern zones by lowering it one minute.

Response by Day of the Week and Time of Day

(figure 4 and 5)

Analysis of data from 2020 shows that Wednesday has an increased number of incidents. This one day accounts for 19% of our incident volume. Thursday is the least busy, accounting for 12 percent of the events.

The majority of the incidents occur during the hours that the station has four firefighters. From 8 AM to 4 PM, 40 percent of our total calls happened during this time, from 4 PM to 12 AM, about 45 percent of the calls occurred, and between 12 AM to 8 AM, 15 percent of the incidents occurred.

Grand Blanc Twp. Fire Department

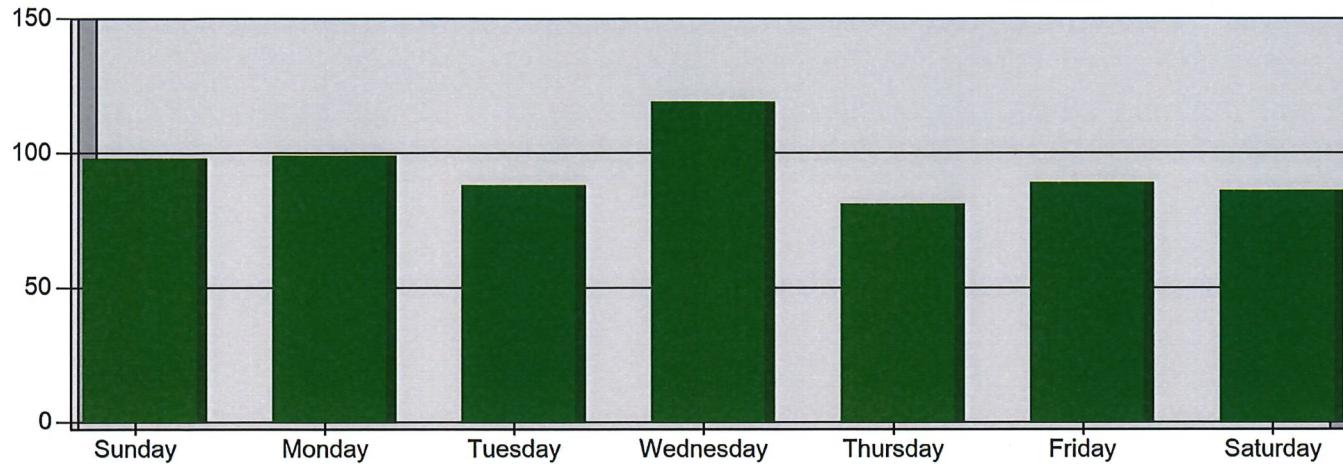
Grand Blanc, MI

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Incidents by Day of the Week for Date Range

Start Incident Type: 100 | End Incident Type: 911 | Start Date: 01/01/2020 | End Date: 12/31/2020



DAY OF THE WEEK	# INCIDENTS
Sunday	98
Monday	99
Tuesday	88
Wednesday	119
Thursday	81
Friday	89
Saturday	86
TOTAL	660

Only Reviewed incidents included.



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Grand Blanc Twp. Fire Department

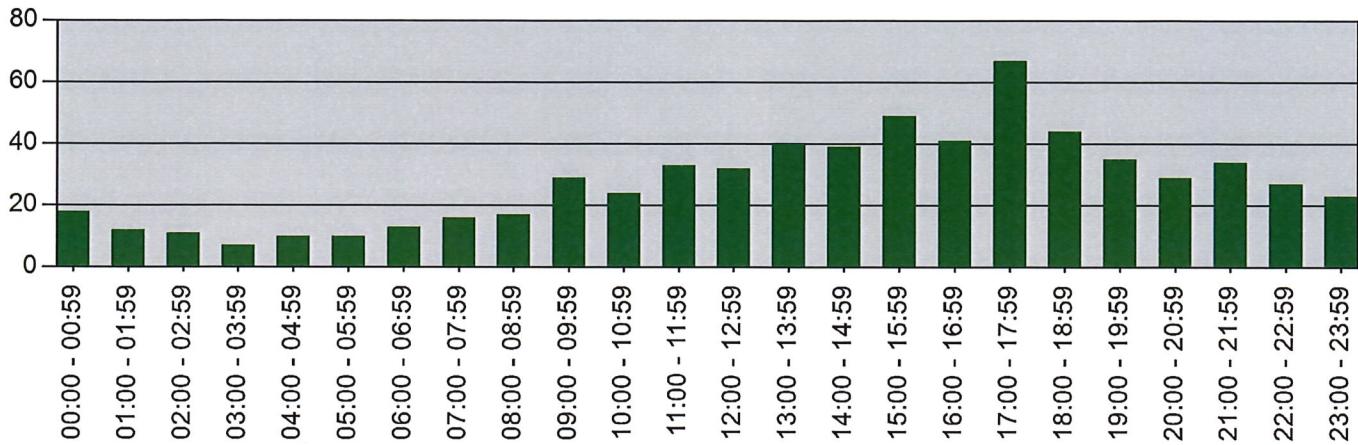


Grand Blanc, MI

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Incidents by Hour for Station for Date Range

Station: All Stations | Start Date: 01/01/2020 | End Date: 12/31/2020



HOUR	# INCIDENTS
00:00 - 00:59	18
01:00 - 01:59	12
02:00 - 02:59	11
03:00 - 03:59	7
04:00 - 04:59	10
05:00 - 05:59	10
06:00 - 06:59	13
07:00 - 07:59	16
08:00 - 08:59	17
09:00 - 09:59	29
10:00 - 10:59	24
11:00 - 11:59	33
12:00 - 12:59	32
13:00 - 13:59	40
14:00 - 14:59	39
15:00 - 15:59	49
16:00 - 16:59	41
17:00 - 17:59	67
18:00 - 18:59	44
19:00 - 19:59	35
20:00 - 20:59	29
21:00 - 21:59	34
22:00 - 22:59	27
23:00 - 23:59	23

Only REVIEWED incidents included.



Fire Inspections

2020 was another successful year with 154 general inspections performed.

(154) Occupancy Inspections Total Performed

Performed by the Engine Company – 137

Performed by the Fire Marshal – 9

Performed by the State of Michigan Facilities – 8

Even with the restriction of Covid-19, numbers are not down that much in regards to inspections. Additionally, a major undertaking we faced this year was the updating of the lock box lids due to the existing lids which utilized a key pad to unlock no longer being supported by the manufacturer. Approximately 50 lock box lids had to be changed out with the cooperation of the business owners to allow us to still be able to utilize the boxes to gain access to the structure in the event of an emergency.



New Construction Inspections/Plan Reviews

2020 also proved to be another busy year with new construction projects. With each new construction project, a New Construction Acceptance Test/Inspections is performed of New Life Safety Systems that include Fire Alarms and Fire Suppression Systems.

Before a project can begin, it must go through a plan review process. Most projects begin with a site plan review then followed by additional plan review for different aspects of the job. This year the Fire Prevention Division completed Thirty plan reviews.



Complaints

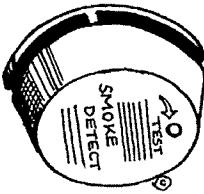
The number of complaints the Fire Prevention Division received from concerned citizens and residents decreased to only 10 this year. Many of the complaints were easily resolved through education or investigation with the complainant or business owner.



Child Safety Seat Inspection Program

Unfortunately, our partnership with Genesys Health Systems ended because the hospital was unable to renew the service. However, we continue assisting families with education on the proper installation of child safety seats. In total, 4 child seat inspections were performed over the course of 2020.

By appointment only, a certified child safety seat installer will review and educate families on their car seat's installation.



Smoke Alarm Installation Program

This year the partnership with the American Red Cross, to provide free smoke alarms to the residents of Grand Blanc continued. The smoke alarms are equipped with a ten-year lithium battery, so there is no need for the resident to worry about changing the battery twice a year. If a resident does not have a working smoke alarm, they could receive up to 3 alarms installed. If the resident already has a working smoke alarm, they could receive an additional two that are installed by the fire department. This year only 26 smoke alarms were installed. Supply issues from the American Red Cross caused delays with some installations. This issue has since been corrected, and we have a goal to double the amount installed for the 2019 year.

(211) Smoke Alarms Installed – Smoke Alarms provided by Red Cross, State of Michigan, or through the CDBG Program.

(66) Carbon Monoxide Detectors Installed – Provided by State of Michigan and through the CDBG Program.

As always, we intend to provide a safe environment for the businesses in the community, as well as for the residents. We will continue to improve the inspection program, making it easier for the business owners to receive a fire safety inspection, and continue to provide education to our community through public education programs.

Community Events



Firefighters are

asked regularly to take part in various community events. In 2020, the Grand Blanc Firefighters were invited to attend 17 celebration drive by's during the lock down restrictions of COVID-19. These drive by's were performed multiple times a week for birthdays, retirements, and special occasions that were not able to be celebrated due to the lockdown. This year Fire Prevention Week was held virtually via our Facebook page. Each day we covered a different topic through a short video and were able to reach more than just our normal elementary students. The fire department assisted at this year's lights drive thru event. Every year the fire department helps the Salvation Army with ringing the bell, for the Red Kettle campaign. We also, aided the FISH program, in delivering Christmas baskets to needy families in our community.

Training



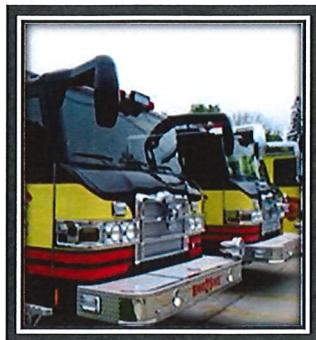
As stated in our mission statement, The Grand Blanc Fire Department is committed to continued training. In 2020, We were constricted on in person training. We implemented a new training program, Target Solutions that housed thousands of training videos for our firefighters to continue their education.

Vehicles and Equipment



Pierce 2001, 100' Aerial Platform

2000 GPM pump



Pierce 2009, 2010 and 2012 Pumpers

1500 GPM pump



Sutphen 2019 Ladder

2000 GPM pump



Pierce 2014, Pumper / Rescue

1500 GPM pump and breathing air cascade system



John Deer Gator (ATV)

In addition to the vehicles shown above, the fire department also uses two utility trailers (15 and 20 feet) to store all of the Urban Search and Rescue equipment. The department also utilizes one pickup to support operations and two SUVs for the Chiefs use.

Staff

The firefighters are the key to the success of our fire department. Whether full time or part time, they respond to incidents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As in many combination employment fire departments, our firefighters will answer the call for help even when they are off duty. Leaving events, meals, and jobs to answer the call.

This past year, Captain Gerald Knopf retired after 39 years on the department. Captain Knopf's laugher hard work will be missed. Along with Captain Knopf's departure, we wish to welcome five new firefighters, Al Perry joined the department in 2019 and began he began his firefighter training in September, Bobby Handa

To become a firefighter in Grand Blanc, each candidate must complete an application for employment. Applicants must then complete an entrance examination, which is followed by one or two interviews given by a panel of chief officers from our department or neighboring departments, and a physical agility test. If they are selected, the candidate will receive a pre-employment physical, drug screen and background check.

Those selected that are not state certified will then be enrolled in the county fire academy for formal training and serve a probationary period. Candidates who have already received state certification will begin serving their probation period.

Our extensive employment process ensures that only quality firefighters are answering calls. When residents need help, we can send highly qualified and trained firefighters to assist.



Staff List

Name	Title	Years of Service
*Robert Burdette	Fire Chief	39
Kent Maricle	Deputy Fire Chief	35
Troy Brancheau	Battalion Chief	33
*Christopher Keller	Fire Marshal/Lieutenant	14
*William Larsen	Captain Station #1	30
Bradley Hutchison	Captain Station #2	24
Christopher Hyde	Lieutenant Station #2	28
*Jeremy Oxford	Lieutenant Station #1	8
Ben Baran	Firefighter	18
Scott Altheide	Firefighter	14
Lyle Knopf	Firefighter	14
John Tomasini	Firefighter	12
Stephanie Throop	Firefighter	11
Chad Kehn	Firefighter	11
Ryan Brancheau	Firefighter	10
Michael Hocken	Firefighter	10
David Yeo	Firefighter	10
Jacob Sifferman	Firefighter	9
Adam Peterson	Firefighter	9
Suzanne McKay	Firefighter	9
*Michael Hertzberg	Firefighter	9
Jake Haller	Firefighter	7
Adam Frank	Firefighter	7
Anthony Grainger	Firefighter	6
Brandon Bartkowiak	Firefighter	5
Javon Johnson	Firefighter	5
Martin Sorenson	Firefighter	5
Michael Dalrymple	Firefighter	4
Patrick Popadich	Firefighter	4
Clint Wilson	Firefighter	3
Sean Blakemore	Firefighter	3
Ryan Jeltema	Firefighter	3
David Bechtel	Firefighter	2
Alfred Perry	Firefighter	1
Bobby Handa	Firefighter	1
Frank Getz	Probationary Firefighter	6 Months
Alex Krajniak	Probationary Firefighter	6 Months
Nicholas Perry	Probationary Firefighter	6 Months

* Full-time staff

