



Fire Chief Robert Burdette

2021 End of Year Report

Deputy Fire Chief Kent Maricle



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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's 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.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As a representative of the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department (GBTFD), I am pleased to present our annual report for 2021. This report illustrates our commitment to the residents, visitors, and businesses in our community; it also reflects our dedication to each other as a progressive fire service organization. The exceptional service provided by our officers and firefighters exemplifies our commitment to protecting our community.

The COVID-19 global pandemic continued to provide challenges to staff, but we continued to provide the same level of service to our residents that they have always expected from our members. The GBTFD took the challenges as opportunities to review, refine and polish our emergency services with a continued focus on first responder safety and the efficient delivery of emergency services.

The current year of 2022 will continue to provide our department with new challenges to our daily operations with the expected growth of the community, continued pandemic related issues, and firefighter recruitment.

A project that we look forward to is the planning and construction of fire station 1 and the renovations to fire station 2. In 2019 the main fire station was temporarily relocated to our Township Government building which was upgraded to accommodate around the clock staffing needs.

In 1996 Grand Blanc Township opened a satellite station off Baldwin Rd (station 2) that has served the southern portion of Grand Blanc Township. When built, the department served the community as an on-call department, only staffing the station when answering a call. Because of the pandemic and the requirement for social distancing, the department began staffing this station 16 hours a day. We found that during times the station was staffed, travel times to incidents greatly decreased. With the expected growth of the Baldwin Rd. corridor, Grand Blanc Township has committed to the renovation of the station to accommodate around the clock staffing and upgrades to improve firefighter health and safety.

I would like to thank the officers and firefighters of our department for their professionalism and commitment to the department and the community of Grand Blanc. I wish to also thank our Township Supervisor and the Board of Trustees for their continued support of the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department.

Sincerely

Robert Burdette, Fire Chief

INTRODUCTION

Today, the fire service is asked to perform many duties beyond firefighting. These include tasks such as 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, a full-time deputy chief, a full-time fire chief, and a full-time administrative assistant. We are called upon to deal with situations that need special equipment and large numbers of highly trained individuals.

Firefighters take part in daily training sessions that prepare them for the various and numerous incidents that they respond to. Regular training sessions cover search and rescue, fire suppression, apparatus driving, apparatus operations, and much more. Also, every firefighter takes part in biweekly training sessions that focus on preparing them for specialized events, such as victim extrication from a vehicle, confined space rescue, victim rescue from a trench, and more.

Funding for the fire department comes through the township fire millage, general fund contributions from Grand Blanc Township, and various grants.

	2021 Actual
Property taxes	\$1,389,802.40
Personal property tax	\$1,050.54
Local grant / contribution	\$7,800.00
Township contribution for capital	\$84,039.00
Fire safety inspections	\$2,151.00
Sale of capital assets	\$21,645.00
Miscellaneous	\$14.00
<hr/>	
Total	\$1,506,501.94

ORGANIZATION

Governmental

The fire department operates with the guidance given by the township board. It responds to all incidents in Grand Blanc Township. GBTFD provides fire services under a Joint Fire Operating Agreement (Mutual Aid) to 25 neighboring fire departments that protect 405,813 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.



In 2021 the department hired the deputy fire chief to oversee the department's operations. Along with the part-time battalion chief, they assume leadership roles at incidents and perform firefighting functions when necessary. The captains and lieutenants provide leadership to the firefighting staff at incidents and at the fire station.

The fire marshal 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

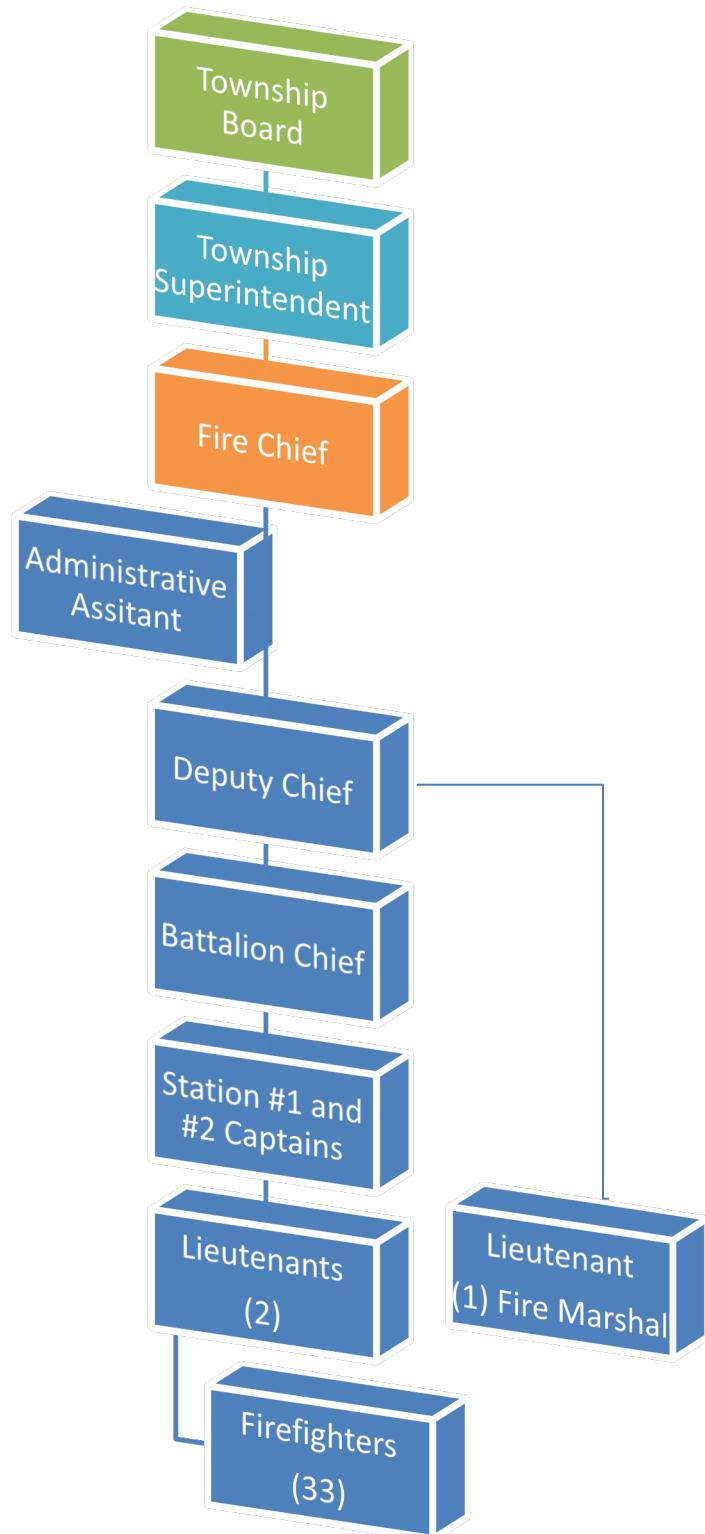
Paul White

Trustee

Dennis Liimatta

Superintendent

2021 FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART



INCIDENTS

(Figure 1,2 and 3)



The fire department responded to **695** incidents in 2021.

Incidents are sorted into six categories by using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFRIS). These categories provide standardization by reporting similar incidents for comparison with other fire departments at

the county, state, and national levels. The six groups are:

FIRE (emergency response)	11% of the total incidents	Incidents, where flames are present before or at the time of arrival, include structures, vehicles, trash, and vegetation fires. Eleven percent of our total incidents are in this category.
RESCUE and EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (emergency response)	2% of the total incidents	Incidents include victim extrication from structures and vehicles and assistance to emergency medical services. Two percent of our total episodes are represented here.
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (emergency and non-emergency responses)	26% of the total incidents	Downed power lines and leaking hazardous materials made up 26 percent of the total.
SERVICE CALLS (non-emergency responses)	17% of the total incidents	Most of the incidents categorized here are for smoke investigations and assisting the public. <u>It does not include public education on fire safety and prevention.</u> Seventeen percent of our events in 2021 called for service.
GOOD INTENT CALLS (non-emergency responses)	19% of the total incidents	Canceled alarms or incidents not found make up 19 percent of our total episodes.
ALARM MALFUNCTIONS (non-emergency responses)	24% of the total incidents	No problems are found, but the alarm system indicates that smoke or carbon monoxide is present. This category represents 24 percent of the total episodes in 2021.

Figure 1

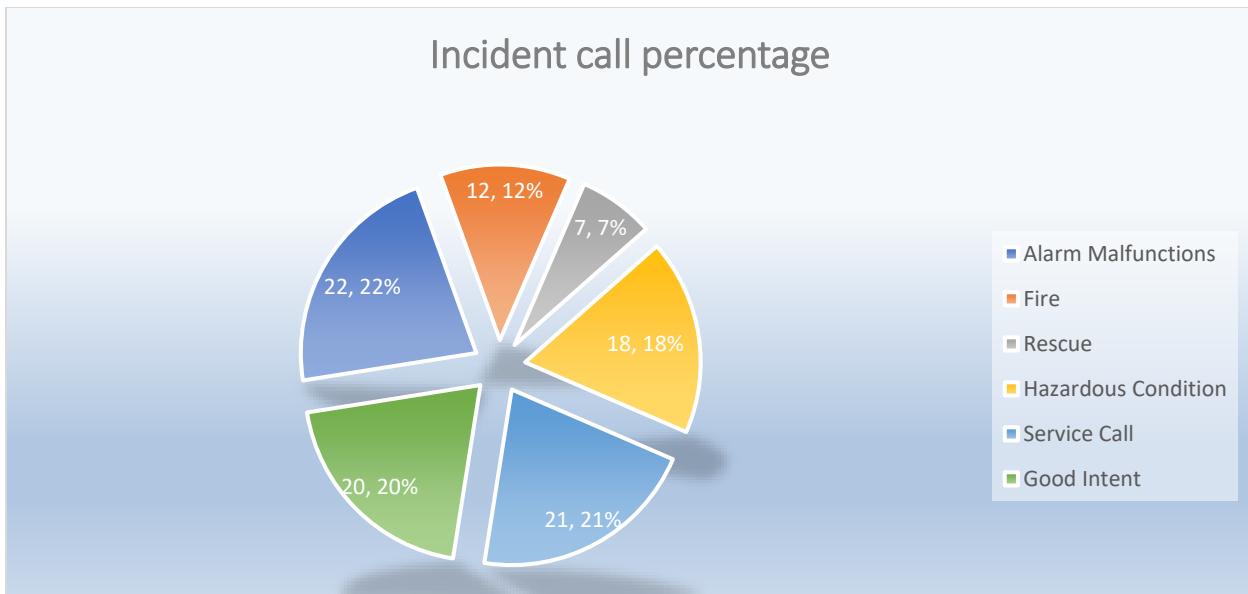


Figure 2

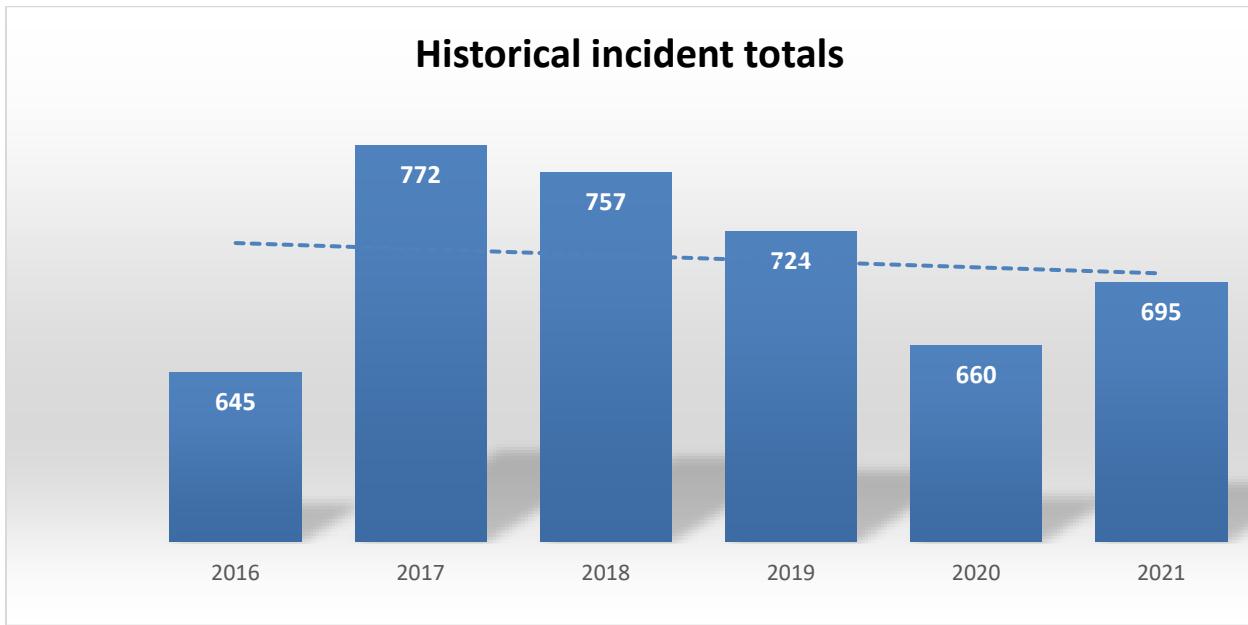


Figure 3

The fire department call volume has slightly decreased over the past six years. The separation of the fire department from the City of Grand Blanc in 2019 contributed to the decrease.



Figure 4

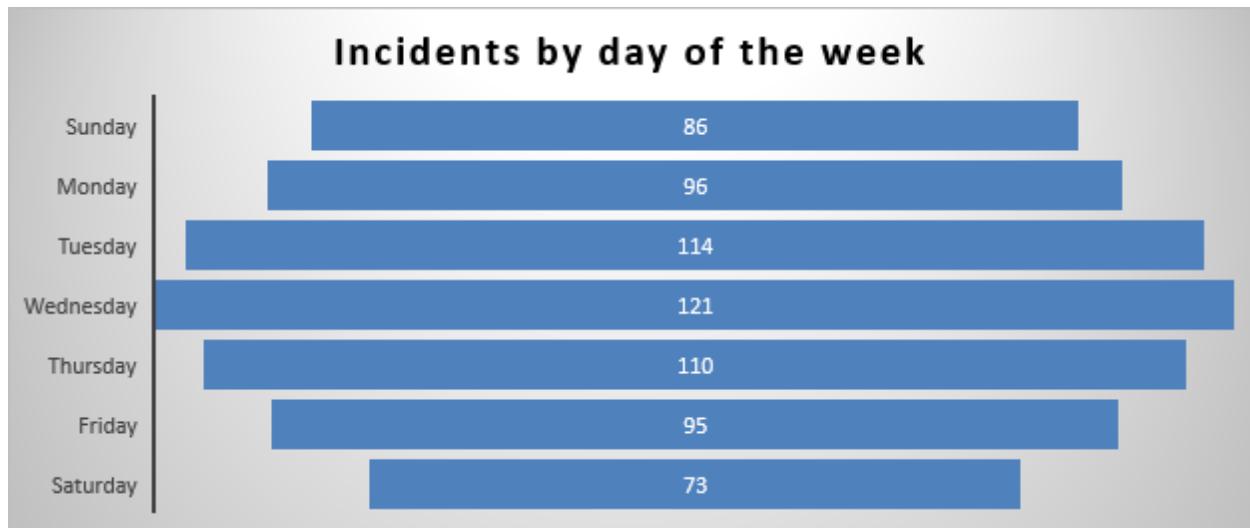


Figure 5

RESPONSE BY MONTH, DAY OF THE WEEK, AND TIME OF DAY

(Figure 4, 5, and 6)

The month of June was the busiest in 2021. A breakdown of the data shows that Wednesday has the highest number of incidents. This one-day accounts for 17 percent of our incident volume, with Saturday being the least busy, accounting for 11 percent of the events.

When the incidents are grouped by time, 86% of the incidents occurred between 8:00 am and midnight. This is the time when both fire stations are staffed with two firefighters. The Baldwin Road station firefighter is transferred to the

Saginaw Road station between midnight and 8:00 am because the station lacks around the clock accommodations.

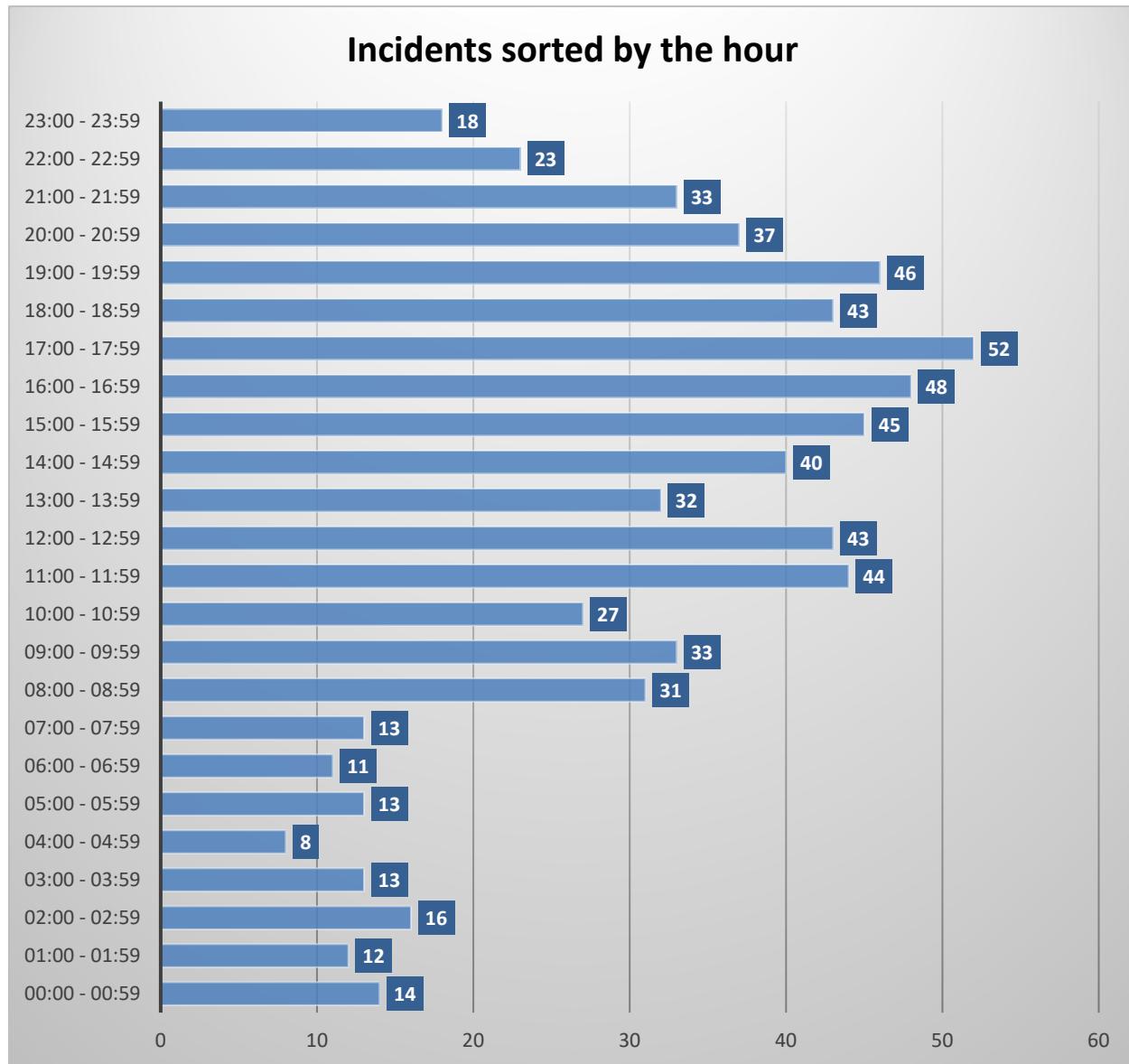


FIGURE 6

MAJOR SAVES AND LOSSES

We were fortunate once again to have only a few fires where significant damage occurred. The fire department saved 97% of the property value that was involved in fires during 2021.

 Grand Blanc Township Fire Department				
2021 Fire incidents	Total Values	Total Losses	Total Saved	Percent Saved
Fire, other	\$ 292,501.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$289,901.00	99%
Building Fire	\$7,787,166.00	\$271,600.00	\$7,515,566.00	96%
 Cooking Fire	\$1,291,543.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$1,280,043.00	99%
 Annual Total	\$9,371,210.00	\$285,700.00	\$9,085,510.00	97%

On March 20, 2021 the fire department was dispatched to a garage fire that was reported as not attached to the home. Apparatus arrived on the scene, shortly after receiving the call, to a fire that had already consumed the garage and had extended to the home, trailers, and cars parked in the driveway. It had started to melt the siding on the adjacent home. The fire was extinguished in seven hours, with major structural damage to the home.

MUTUAL AID (HELP TO/FROM NEIGHBORING DEPARTMENTS)

(Figure 7)

Throughout the year, fire departments assist neighboring departments. The reasons for a request for assistance may include low staffing levels, the size of the event, or the need for a specialized piece of equipment. In the past five years, the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department responded to a request for help 47 times and requested assistance 34 times. Much of this occurred in 2019 when the City of Grand Blanc entered an Automatic Mutual Aid (AMA) agreement with the township. The AMA agreement has expired, but when needed the City of Grand Blanc will assist us and we will assist them.

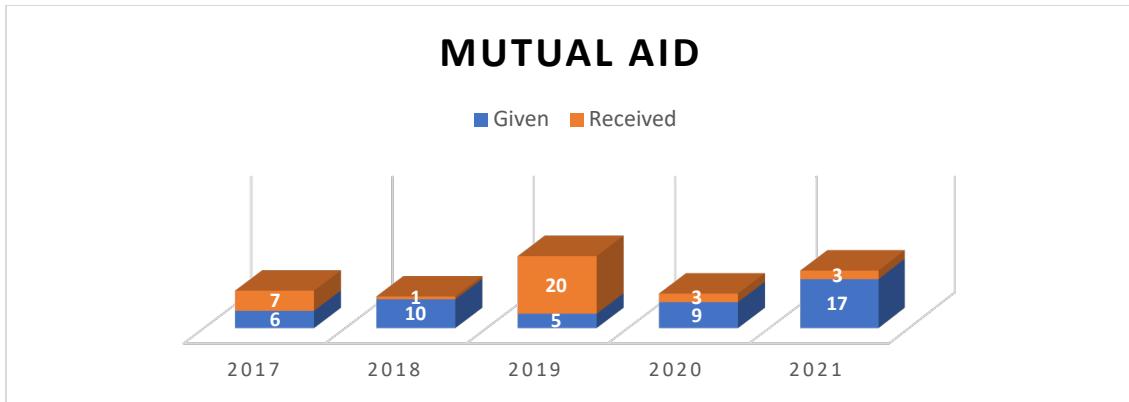


Figure 7



Helping neighboring departments outside of Genesee County is a common occurrence. On Saturday, June 5, The City of Lapeer requested our ladder truck for a fire in downtown Lapeer.

RESPONSE ZONE

(Figure 8)

Separating our response area into zones provides the fire department administration with key information in planning future operations of the department. Grand Blanc Township is separated into four zones, with Grand Blanc and Perry Roads dividing North and South, and Dort Hwy. to I-75 to Holly Rd dividing east and west. Two additional zones were created for responses to incidents that occurred inside the City of Grand Blanc and neighboring communities.

In 2021, Grand Blanc Township responded to **5** incidents in the City of Grand Blanc, and **17** requests for assistance from other departments (mutual aid). In Grand Blanc Township, **168** incidents occurred in the Northeast, **189** in the Northwest, **188** in the Southeast, and **128** in the Southwest.

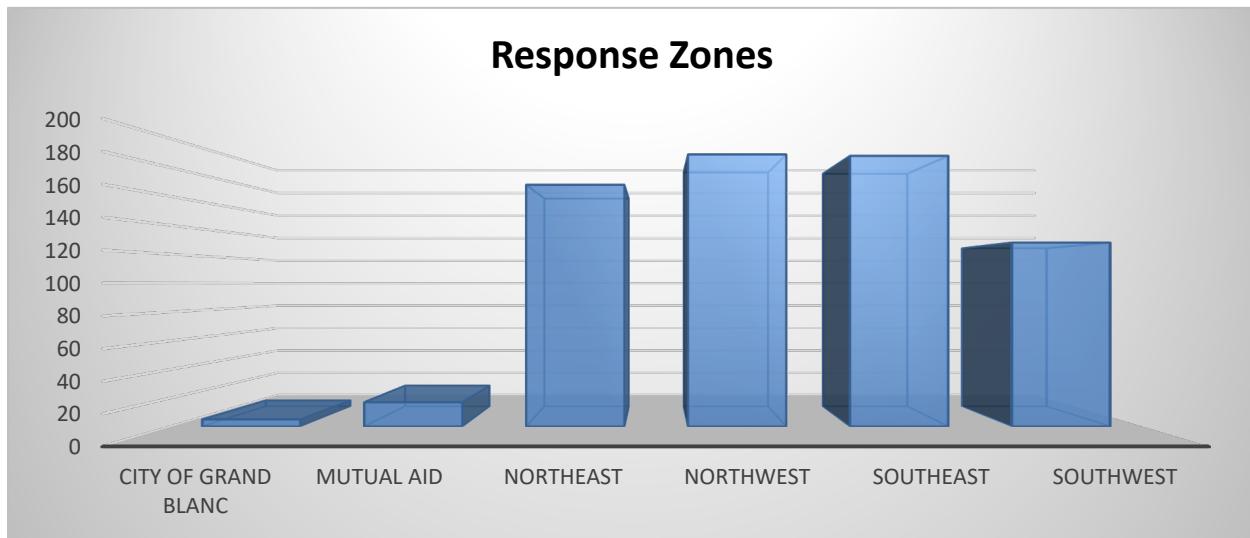


Figure 8

Response Times



Every month the Fire Chief reports the apparatus response times to the Board of Trustees. The firefighters have a goal to be en route within two minutes of dispatch and on the scene within seven minutes for emergency calls. In 2021, the firefighters recorded an average reaction time of 2 minutes and 37 seconds, which represents the time it took firefighters to board the apparatus and depart the station. The travel time represents the time the apparatus left the station until they announce over the radio that they have arrived on the scene. For 2021, the average arrival time was 7 minutes and 48 seconds. These figures represent the average times for all incidents.

Responding Station	Reaction Time
Grand Blanc Township Station #1	2:15
Grand Blanc Township Station #2	2:59
Average Turnout Time	2:37
Travel Time	
Grand Blanc Township Station #1	7:56
Grand Blanc Township Station #2	7:36
First on Scene Average Response Time:	7:48
Average Time on Scene	
All stations	44:50

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

(Figures, 9, 10, 11, and 12)



Over the past years, The State of Michigan has compiled statistics for fire related deaths. Michigan has one of the highest death rates occurring in residential fires. The Bureau of Fire Services reported that Michigan's 2022 fire related death rate has increased 144% over the first 34 days of 2021. To date, 22 deaths have occurred in Michigan homes.

Many of the fires occurred during the evening hours, started in the living room, and were related to smoking material. Heating equipment (space heaters, wood stoves, and fireplaces) was next, with cooking fires being last.

Smoke alarms were reported as being present and working in only 40% of the residents where a fire occurred.

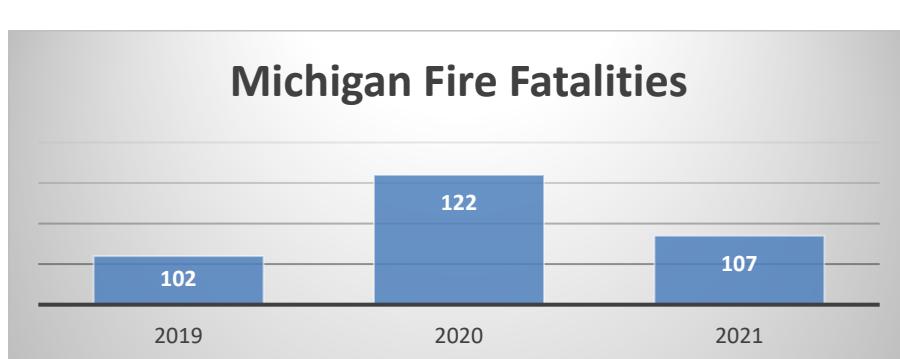


Figure 9

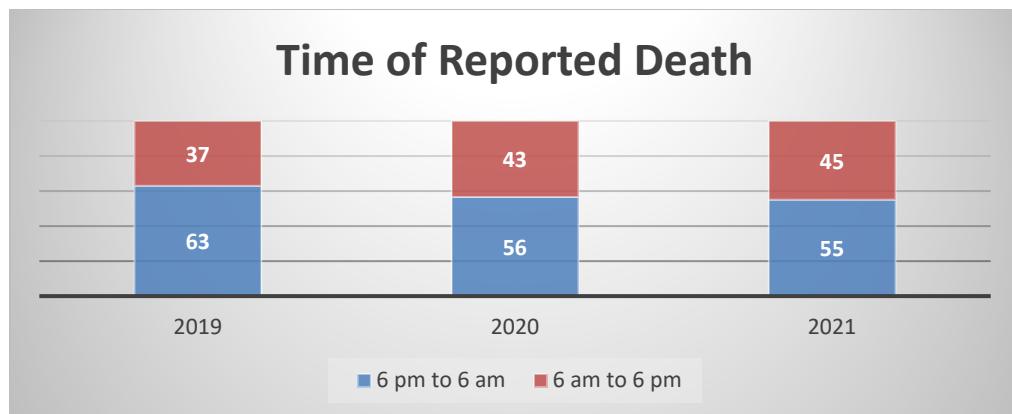


Figure 10

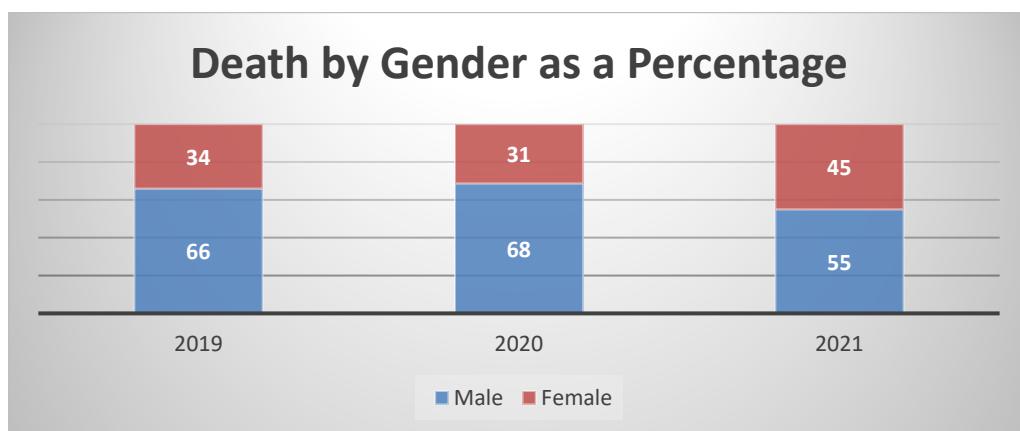


Figure 11

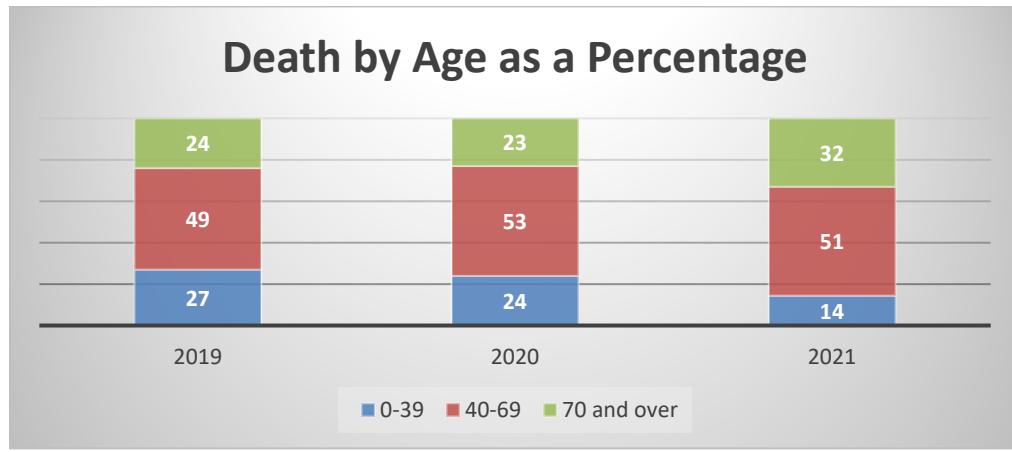


Figure 12

Our fire department has regularly provided and installed smoke and carbon monoxide alarms throughout our community, free of any cost. **Residents only need to contact the fire department to receive the service.** Alarms are received

from the State of Michigan's MI PREVENTION program or The American Red Cross.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed a program that educates about Fire Safety and Fall Prevention for older adults. The program called "Remembering When" educates older adults on identifying risks of fall and trip hazards that hinder one's ability to quickly exit the home. Every second counts when escaping smoke and flames

THE FIRE MARSHAL'S MINUTE

Lieutenant Christopher Keller, Fire Marshall

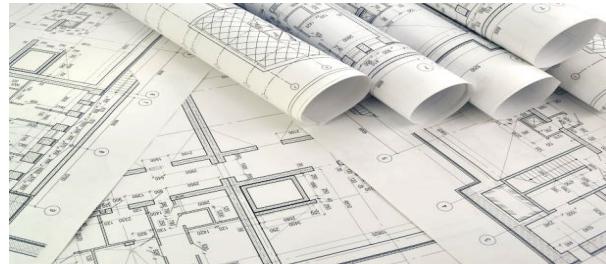
FIRE INSPECTIONS



This year, 76 general occupancy inspections were performed. Of those, 85% of the inspections were performed by engine companies assisting the fire marshal. A benefit of having the engine companies assist with performing inspections is that it allows firefighters to become familiar with what hazards are associated with a business and the layout of buildings before an emergency.

A total of 48% percent of the businesses inspected required follow-up inspections to ensure violations were corrected. A few of the most common violations noted included:

- Exit signs not lit or functioning correctly
 - Emergency lighting not functioning
 - Fire extinguishers requiring annual service
- Use of extension cords in place of permanent wiring
 - Means of egress obstructed by storage



NEW CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS/PLAN REVIEWS

In addition to general occupancy inspections, the fire marshal performs plan reviews of life safety systems and site plans for any new construction projects. With each new construction project, a New Construction Acceptance Test/Inspection is performed on 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 followed by an additional plan review for different aspects of the job. This year, the fire marshal completed 17 plan reviews and performed 21 inspections for new construction projects.

COMPLAINTS

The fire department received a total of 16 complaints this year involving fire code violations. Many of the complaints were easily resolved through education or investigation with the complainant or business owner.



(Examples of blocked emergency exits)

SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION PROGRAM

Grand Blanc Township Fire Department has continued its partnership with the American Red Cross to provide free smoke alarms to the residents. 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. If a resident does not have a working smoke alarm, they may receive up to 3 alarms. If the resident already has a working smoke alarm, they could receive an additional two that are installed by the fire department. A total of 16 smoke alarms were installed through the partnership with the American Red Cross.



Public Education



This year we were able to visit the schools again to celebrate Fire Prevention Week. In total, firefighters spoke with over 700 children in the schools during October.

Crews also assisted the Grand Blanc Township Police Department with Camp Safety which allows firefighters to interact with kids from the community while teaching them fire safety skills.

This year Grand Blanc Township Fire Department also took part in the annual National Night Out event. We were able to borrow a fire safety trailer from the Davison-Richfield Fire Department for the evening. The safety trailer provides a realistic and interactive scenario in which participants can practice what to do in the event of a fire. Throughout the night, over 500 children, along with their parents, were able to go through the safety trailer. In addition to the safety trailer, fire apparatus was on display for the community to look at and firefighters performed an extrication demonstration.



TRAINING TIME

Lieutenant Jeremy Oxford



The Grand Blanc Township Fire Department is committed to providing highly trained firefighters to protect our community. In 2021, the Fire Department continued to expand and revamp its training program. The State of Michigan instituted a continuing education requirement for all officers and firefighters in 2021. The Grand Blanc Township Fire Department was already prepared for this change by transitioning before the rule went into effect. The training program focuses on improving skills and maximizing credit to improve our Insurance Safety Office (ISO) rating, all while increasing opportunities and creating flexibility for the firefighters. With the increased demands placed on firefighters and their personal lives, we must continue to adapt and be flexible to accommodate our valued firefighters.

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 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.

The ever-increasing time necessary to be a part-time firefighter is an enormous commitment. Regrettably, it was too great for four firefighters to continue in the service. Although we say goodbye to them, we are happy to have gained two new part-time firefighters.

To become a firefighter in Grand Blanc, each candidate must complete an employment application. 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. A physical agility test is also performed. 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 send highly qualified and trained firefighters to assist.

The Grand Blanc Township Fire Department is very lucky to retain the highest trained, most professional firefighters that we can. The average employment with our department is 12.3 years. Our officers have 210 years of combined experience, with 203 years of experience in the firefighting staff.

The demands that are asked of full and part-time firefighting staff are enormous. Hiring a qualified person to send to training academies is becoming harder each year. This problem is occurring across the United States. Fortunately, national organizations like the International Fire Chiefs Association, National Volunteer Firefighter Council, and others, are helping in developing tools to combat the problem.

2021 ROSTER

Staff List

Name	Title	Years of Service
* Robert Burdette	Fire Chief	40
* Kent Maricle	Deputy Fire Chief	36
Troy Brancheau	Battalion Chief	33
Meghan Delano	Office Administrator	6
* Christopher Keller	Fire Marshal/Lieutenant	15
* William Larsen	Captain Station #1	31
Bradley Hutchison	Captain Station #2	29
Christopher Hyde	Lieutenant Station #2	29
* Jeremy Oxford	Lieutenant Station #1	9
Ben Baran	Firefighter	19
Scott Altheide	Firefighter	15
Lyle Knopf	Firefighter	15
Stephanie Throop	Firefighter	12
Chad Kehn	Firefighter	12
Ryan Brancheau	Firefighter	11
Michael Hocken	Firefighter	11
Jacob Siferman	Firefighter	10
Adam Peterson	Firefighter	10
Suzanne McKay	Firefighter	10
* Michael Hertzberg	Firefighter	9
Jake Haller	Firefighter	8
Adam Frank	Firefighter	7
Anthony Grainger	Firefighter	7
Brandon Bartkowiak	Firefighter	6
Javon Johnson	Firefighter	6
Martin Sorenson	Firefighter	6
Michael Dalrymple	Firefighter	5
Patrick Popadich	Firefighter	5
Clint Wilson	Firefighter	4
Ryan Jeltema	Firefighter	4
David Bechtel	Firefighter	3
Alfred Perry	Firefighter	2
Frank Getz	Firefighter	1
Nicholas Perry	Firefighter	1
Zachery Pruett	Probationary Firefighter	8 months
Jeremy Jones	Probationary Firefighter	7 months

* Full-time staff

