



**Grand Blanc Township
Fire Department**



2022 Annual Report

Robert Burdette Chief

Kent Maricle Deputy 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'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



I am pleased to present our annual report for 2022. For the past seven years, it's been my pleasure to share your fire department's 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.

In 2022, our department continued meeting the challenges to our daily operations with the expected growth of the community, continued pandemic-related issues, and firefighter recruitment.

In last year's report, I wrote about the renovations being finalized for the Baldwin Road fire station to accommodate operating from the station around the clock. Our goal was not only to operate from the building around the clock but to have it offer protection from the carcinogens found on the firefighters' protective clothing. This is accomplished by having a dedicated area of the building for the decontamination of protective clothing and equipment. The fire station also will have sleeping areas, a fitness room, and a kitchen for firefighters to operate from the building around the clock. We anticipate the building being completed in the fall of 2023.

The department has quickly outgrown the space allotted for us in the township office building. The Fire/DPS building is being constructed on Dort Highway between Saginaw Street and Maple Avenue. The property was formerly an amusement park that the township purchased as part of a long-range campus plan. Beginning in 2022, the township hired a project manager, an architect, and construction management firm to work with us to successfully build the structure. Groundbreaking is planned to occur in the summer of 2023 with completion in approximately one year.

Grand Blanc Township has purchased the highest quality firefighting vehicles, rescue tools, breathing apparatus, and protective clothing necessary to meet our community's needs. We employ firefighters who continue to learn safer and more effective ways to perform their job. The renovations and building of these fire stations display the township's dedication to having state-of-the-art fire protection for its residents.

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 the township supervisor and the Board of Trustees for their continued support of the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department.

Sincerely

Robert Burdette, Fire Chief

INTRODUCTION

Our fire department is a combination department comprised of three full-time firefighters, 30 part-time firefighters, a full-time fire marshal, 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 require special equipment and large numbers of highly trained individuals.



Firefighters take part in daily training sessions that prepare them for various and numerous incidents. Regular training sessions cover search and rescue, fire suppression, apparatus driving, apparatus operations, and much more. In addition, many of the firefighters take part in additional training that is offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the National Fire Academy, or local colleges and universities.

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

	<u>2022 Actual</u>
Total	\$1,311,471.00

ORGANIZATION

Governmental

The fire department operates with guidance given by the township board. It responds to all incidents in Grand Blanc Township. GBTFD provides fire services to Grand Blanc Township, Genesee County, and other communities in Michigan under the Michigan Mutual Aid Agreement.

The fire chief reports to the superintendent regarding employment and union issues, as well as general administrative functions such as accounts payable and major purchases.



The deputy fire chief oversees the department's daily operations and is the incident commander at emergency scenes. The captains oversee their assigned fire station's operation. Lieutenants provide leadership to the firefighting staff at incidents and in the fire station. In 2022, four firefighters were promoted to Sergeant. The new positions provide mentorship to newly hired firefighters and are a starting point toward higher-ranking positions. 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

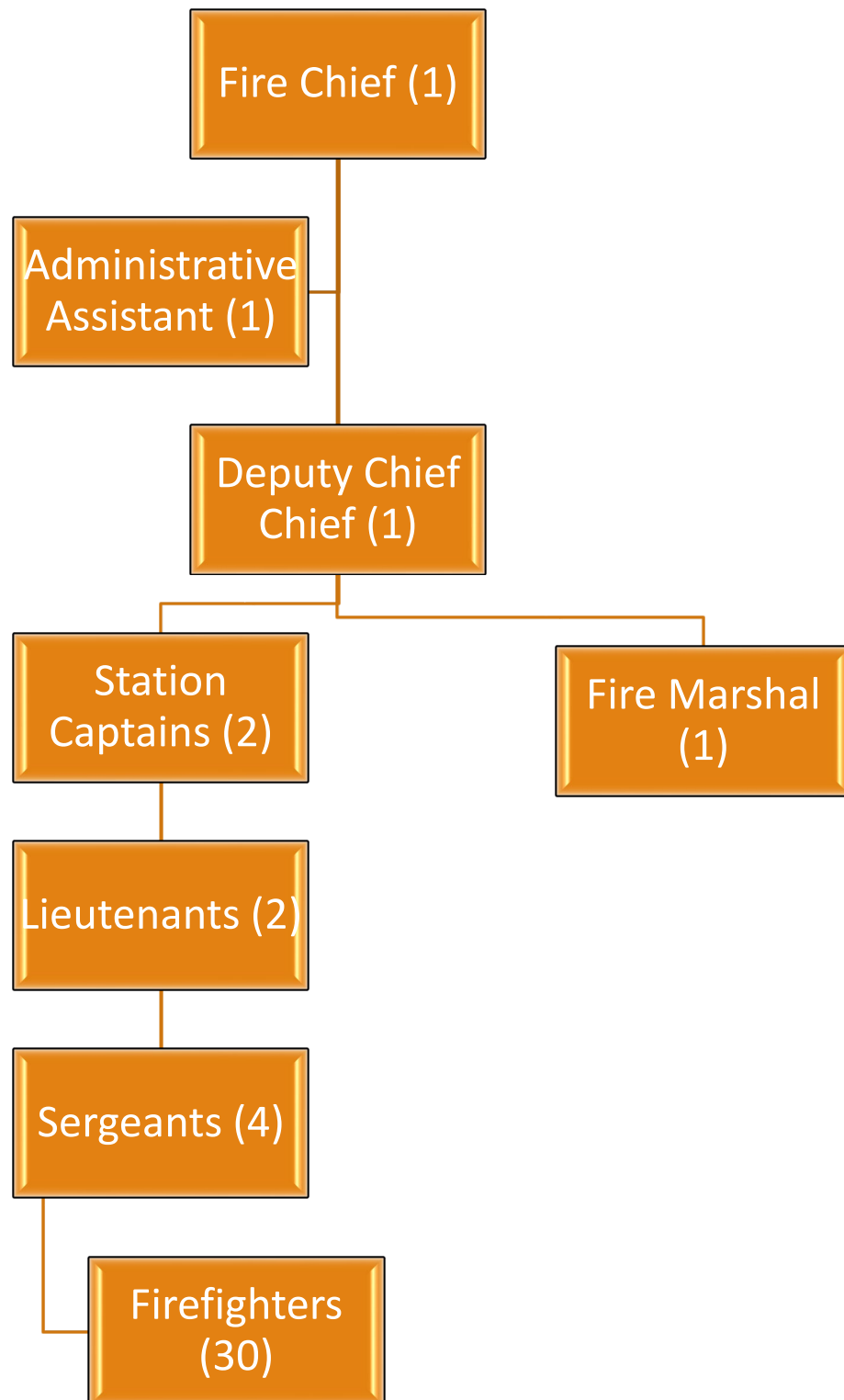
Mark Kilmer
Treasurer

Sarah Hugo
Trustee

Paul White
Trustee

Dennis Liimatta
Superintendent

2022 FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART



INCIDENTS

(Figure 1,2 and 3)



The fire department responded to a total of **680** incidents in 2022.

Incidents are sorted into six categories using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFRIS). These categories provide standardization with reporting similar incidents for comparison with other fire departments at the county, state, and national levels. The six groups are:

FIRE (Emergency response)	9% of the total incidents	Incidents where flames are present before or at the time of arrival, includes structures, vehicles, trash, and vegetation fires. Nine percent of our total incidents are in this category.
RESCUE and EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (Emergency response)	8% of the total incidents	Incidents include victim extrication from structures and vehicles and assistance to emergency medical services. Eight percent of our total incidents are represented here.
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (Emergency and non-emergency responses)	25% of the total incidents	Downed power lines and leaking hazardous materials make up 25 percent of the total.
SERVICE CALLS (non-emergency responses)	16% 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> Sixteen percent of our events in 2022 were service calls.
GOOD INTENT CALLS (non-emergency responses)	18% of the total incidents	Canceled alarms or incidents not found make up 18 percent of our total incidents.
ALARM MALFUNCTIONS (non-emergency responses)	25% of the total incidents	No problems are found, but the alarm system indicates that smoke or carbon monoxide is present. This category represents 25 percent of the total incidents in 2022.

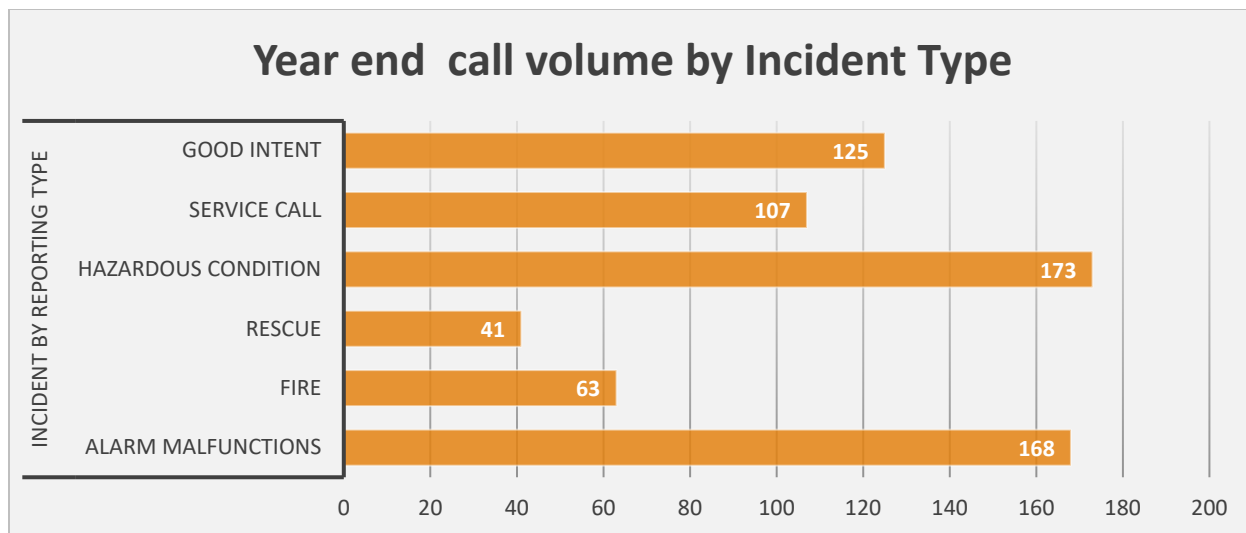


Figure 1

Figure 2

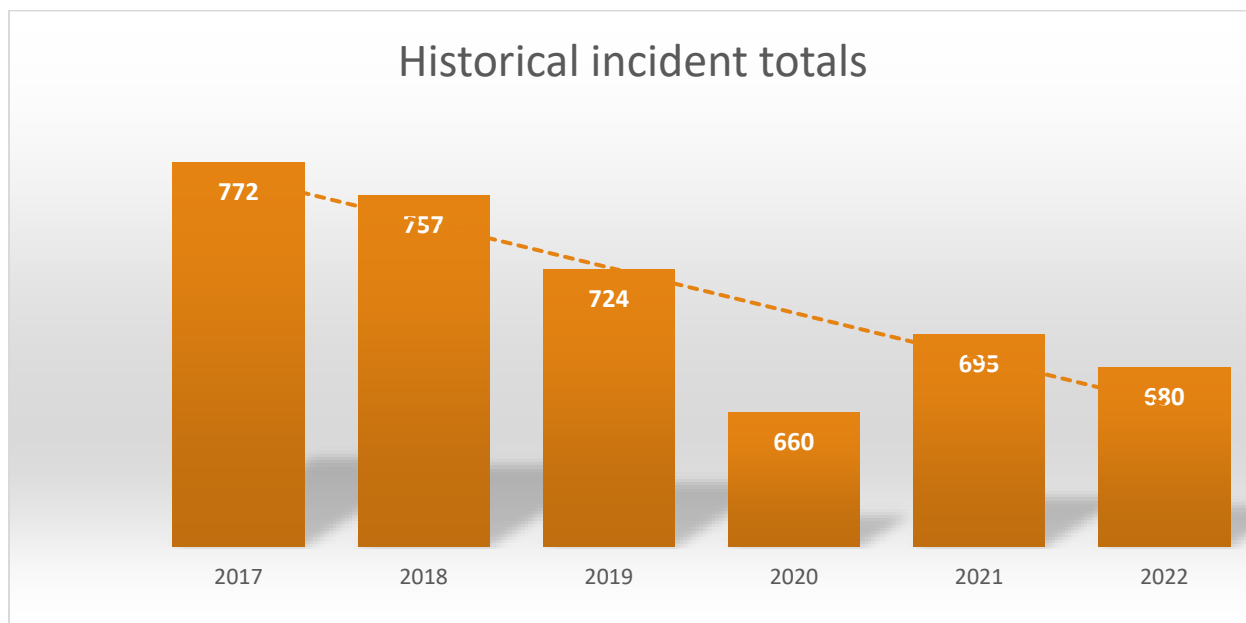


Figure 3

The fire department call volume has slightly decreased over the past six years. This is attributed to decreasing activity levels in all the incident categories, except for hazardous conditions, which have a 38% increase.

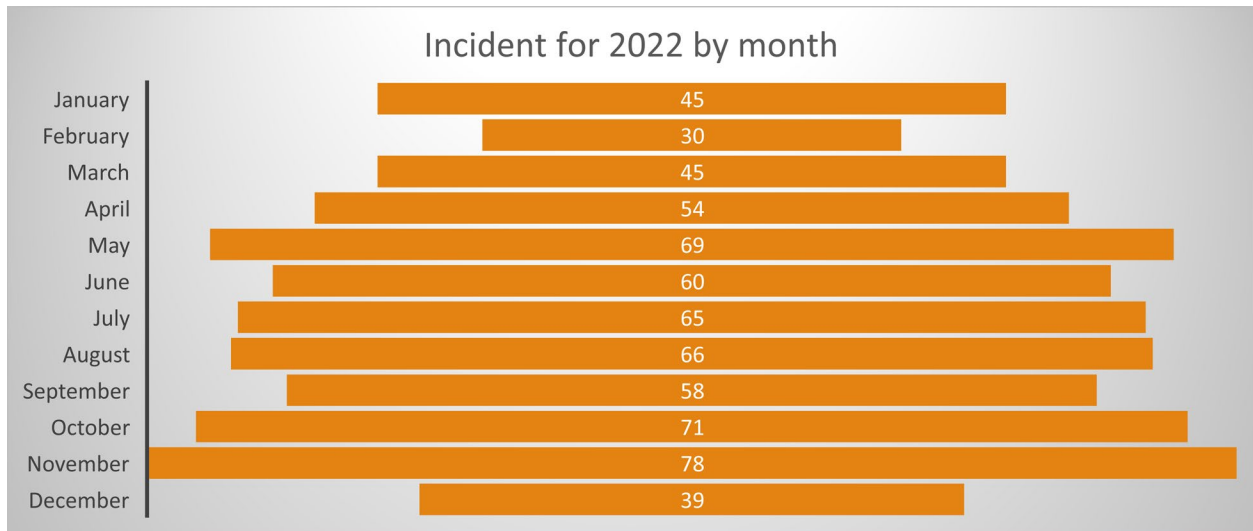


Figure 4

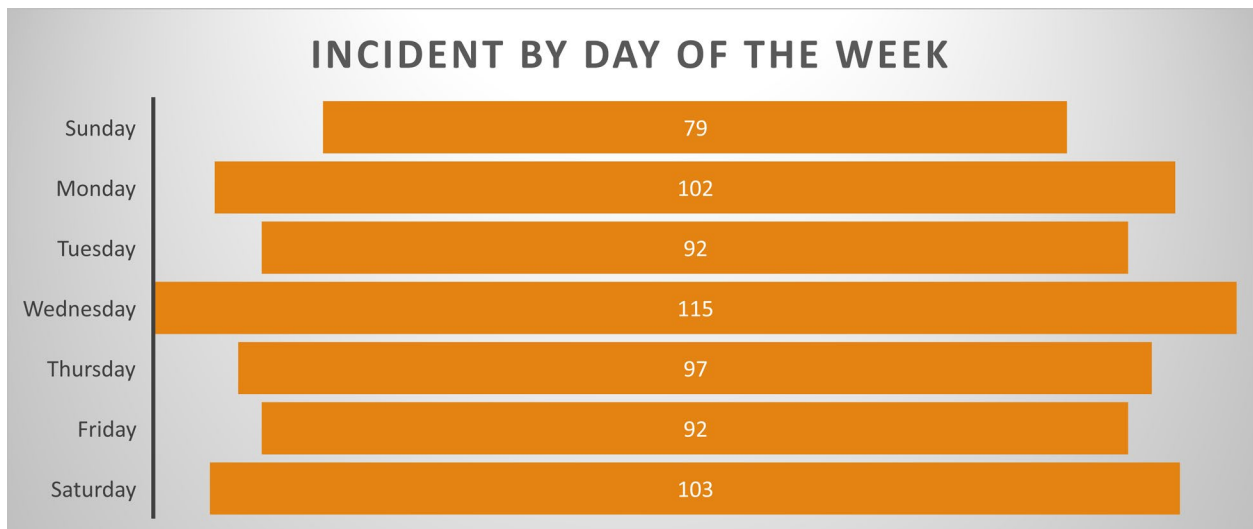


Figure 5

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

(Figure 4, 5, and 6)

The month of November was the busiest in 2022. A breakdown of the data shows that Wednesday has the highest number of incidents. This single day accounts for 17 percent of our incident volume, with Sunday being the least busy, accounting for 12 percent of the events.

When the incidents are grouped by time, 85% of the incidents occurred between 8:00 am and midnight. This is the time when both fire stations are staffed with two firefighters. After midnight, the Baldwin Road Fire Station is not staffed because it presently lacks accommodations.

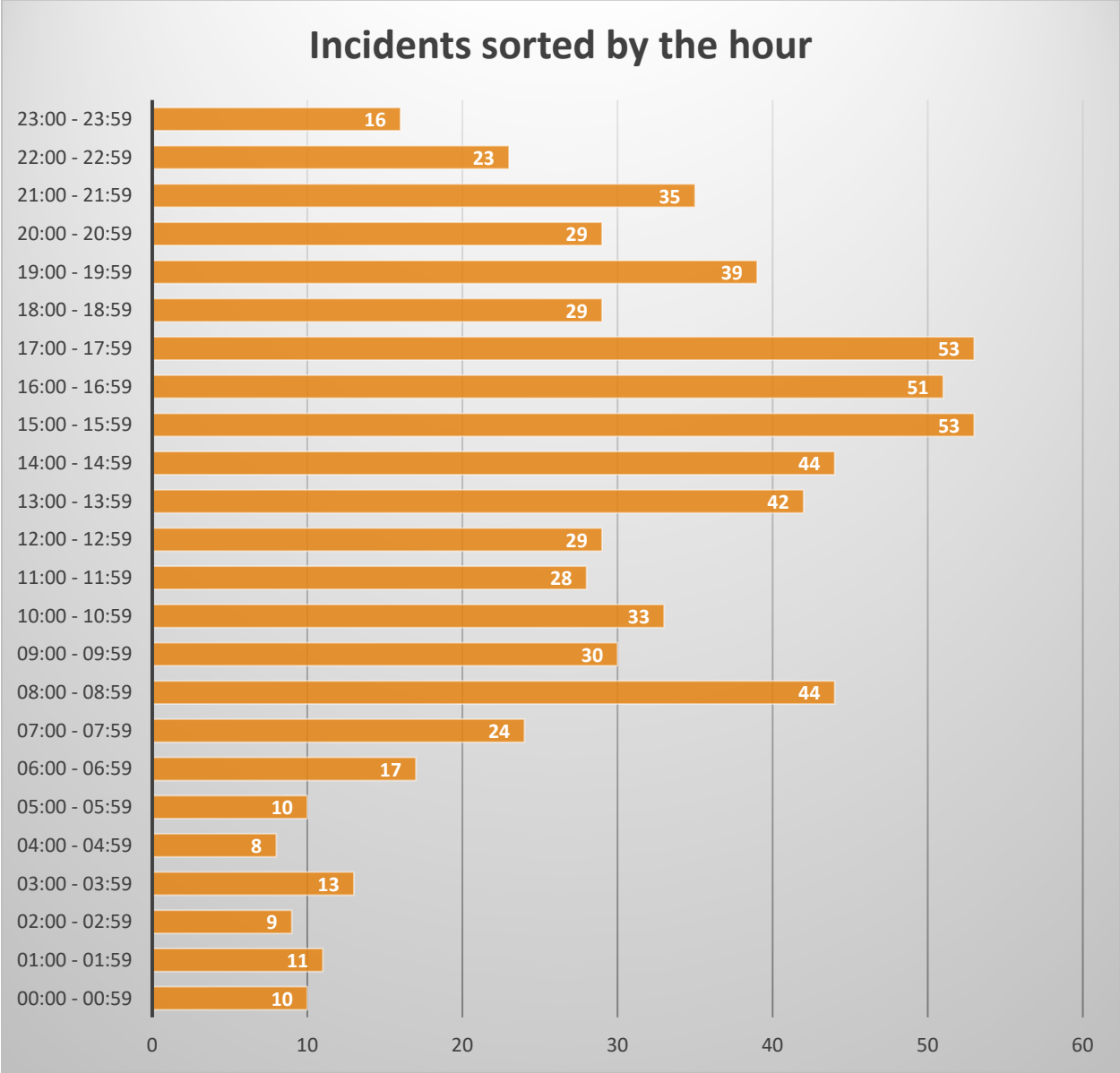



FIGURE 6

MAJOR SAVES AND LOSSES

We were fortunate once again to have only a few fires where significant damage occurred. The fire department saved 68% of the property value that was involved in fires during 2022.

 Grand Blanc Township Fire Department				
2022 Fire incidents	Total Values	Total Losses	Total Saved	Percent Saved
Fire, other	\$ 736,134.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$721,134.00	98%
Building Fire	\$4,168,206.00	\$2,223,287.00	\$1,944,919.00	47%
Cooking Fire	\$2,105,280.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$2,085,280.00	100%
Annual Total	\$7,009,620.00	\$2,258,287.00	\$4,751,333.00	68%

The fire that occurred at the Fairways at Woodfield apartment complex off South Saginaw Road in late November was the single highest contributor to the property loss for a building fire. This one fire accounted for 88% of the total loss recorded in 2022. The cause and origin of the fire remain under investigation.

MUTUAL AID (HELP TO/FROM NEIGHBORING DEPARTMENTS)

(Figure 7)

Firefighting is very labor demanding and resources intensive. Grand Blanc Township Fire Department is fortunate that assistance from neighboring communities is rarely asked for. However, we are active members of the Genesee County mutual aid agreement and the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm (MABAS) card system. These two agreements offer us the availability of additional resources for large incidents at no additional cost. Because of these two agreements, neighboring communities are welcome to ask for our assistance when they feel it's needed.

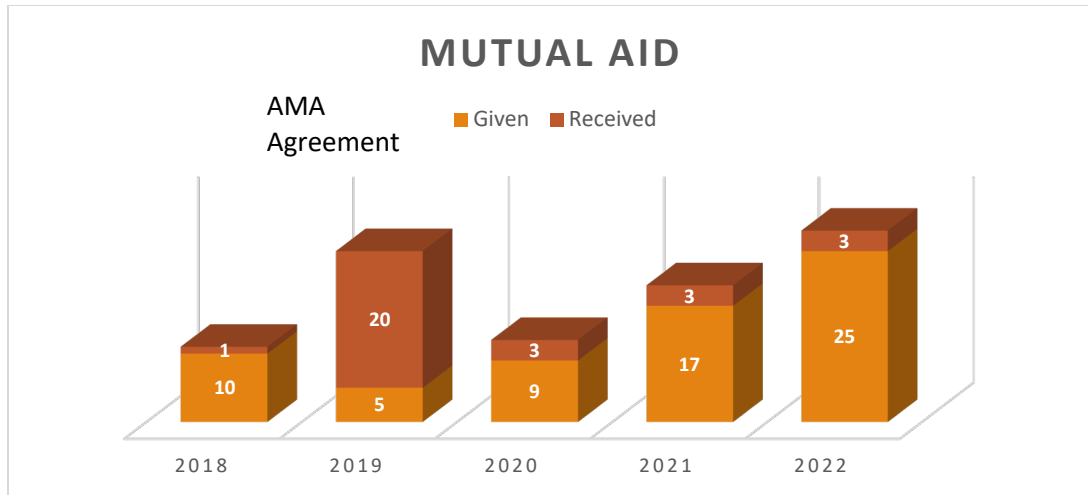


Figure 7



Helping neighboring departments outside of Genesee County is a common occurrence. This past summer the Village of Holly experienced a devastating fire in the downtown area. The fire destroyed three businesses and devastated the historic Holly Hotel. Nineteen fire departments from throughout Oakland and Genesee counties responded to their request for help.

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 Highway to I-75 to Holly Road dividing east and west. Two additional zones were created for responses to incidents that occurred inside the City of Grand Blanc and neighboring communities.



Incidents that occurred inside the City of Grand Blanc and neighboring communities.

In 2022, Grand Blanc Township responded to **0** incidents in the City of Grand Blanc, and **24** requests for assistance from other departments (mutual aid). In Grand Blanc Township, **188** incidents occurred in the Northeast, **183** in the Northwest, **164** in the Southeast, and **118** in the Southwest.

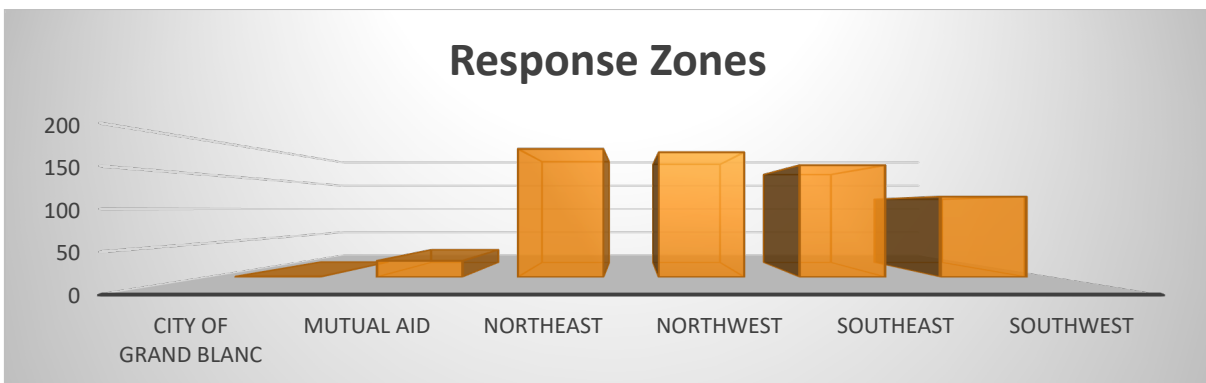


Figure 8

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 eight minutes for emergency calls. In 2022, the firefighters recorded an average reaction time of 2 minutes and 15 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 2022, the average arrival time was 7 minutes and 49 seconds. These figures represent the average times for all incidents.

Responding Station	Reaction Time
Grand Blanc Township Station #1	2 min 38 sec
Grand Blanc Township Station #2	1 min 53 sec
Average Turnout Time	2 min 15 sec
	Travel Time
Grand Blanc Township Station #1	7 min 59 sec
Grand Blanc Township Station #2	8 min 23 sec
First on Scene Average Response Time:	7 min 49 sec
	Average Time on Scene
All stations	32 min 08 sec

Community Involvement



In February of 2022, three firefighters received special recognition for their lifesaving efforts. While on a weekend snowmobile trip, Firefighters Lyle Knopf, Dave Bechtel, and Sergeant Adam Frank performed Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on three individuals who were at the same resort. The CPR was successful, as all three were revived and transported by ambulance to a local hospital.

Every year, the fire department takes part in many events that occur in Grand Blanc and the county. The firefighters are very proud that we are asked each year to be a part of the community's events.



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 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 improperly discarded 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.

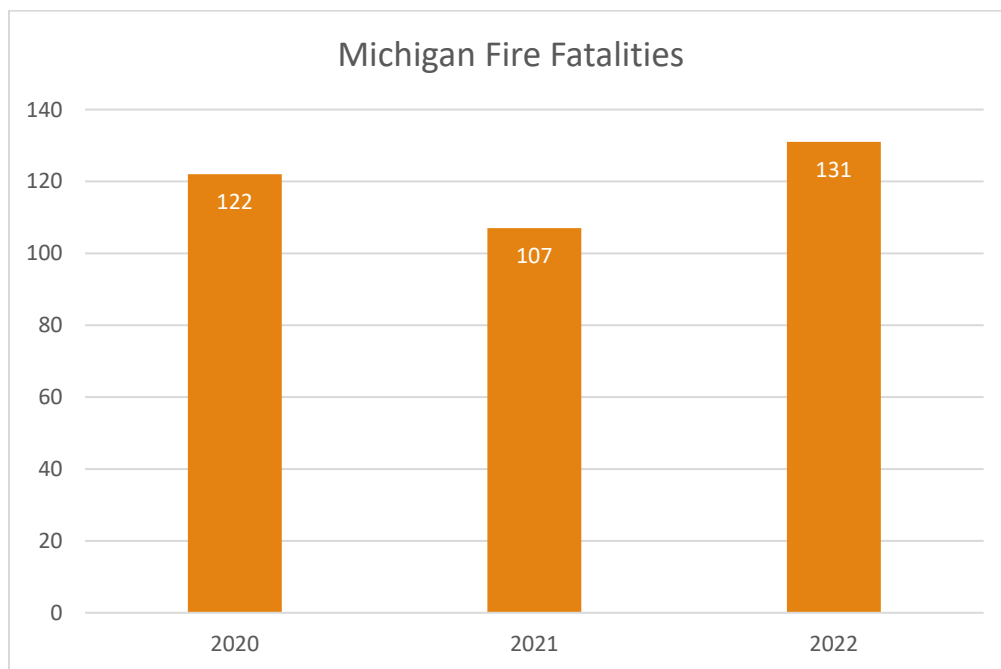


Figure 9

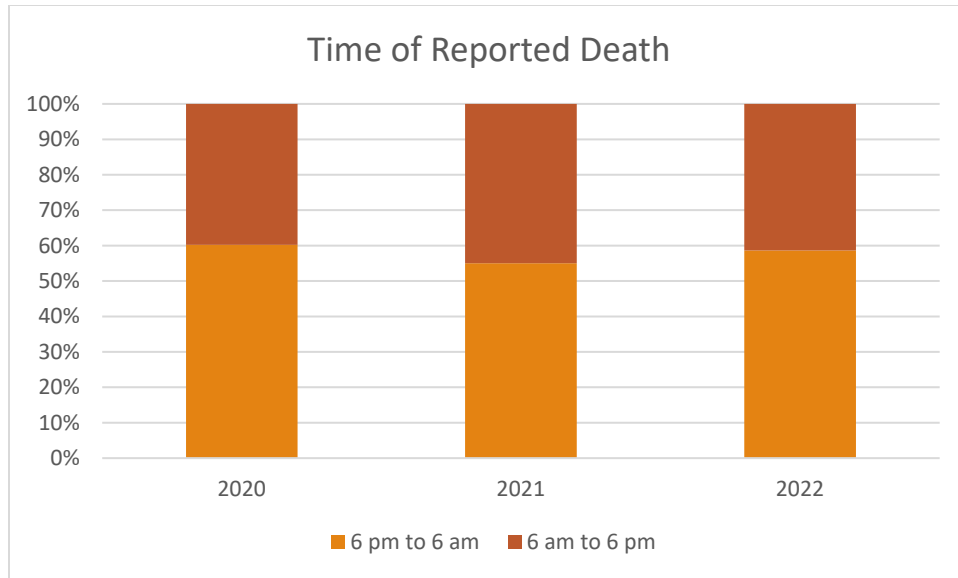


Figure 10

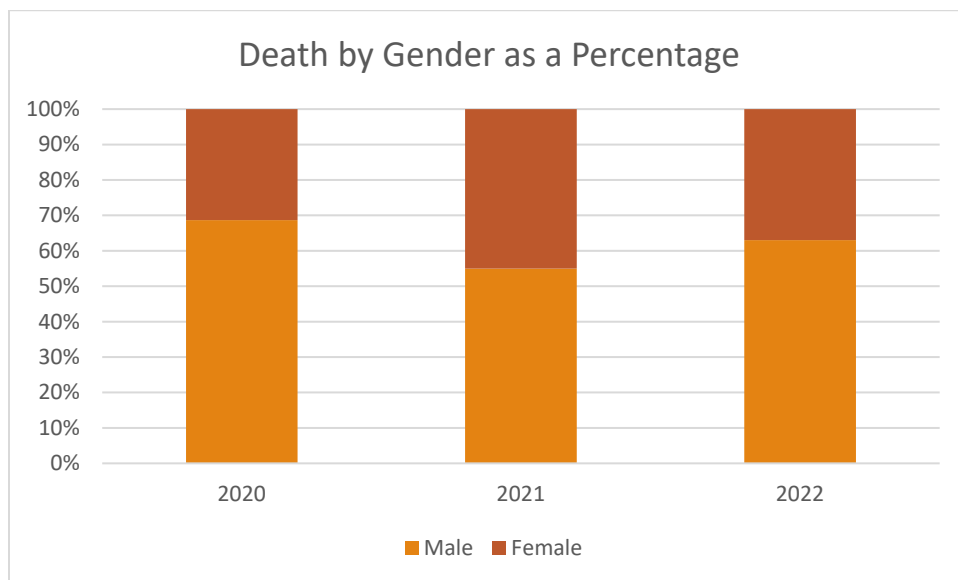


Figure 11

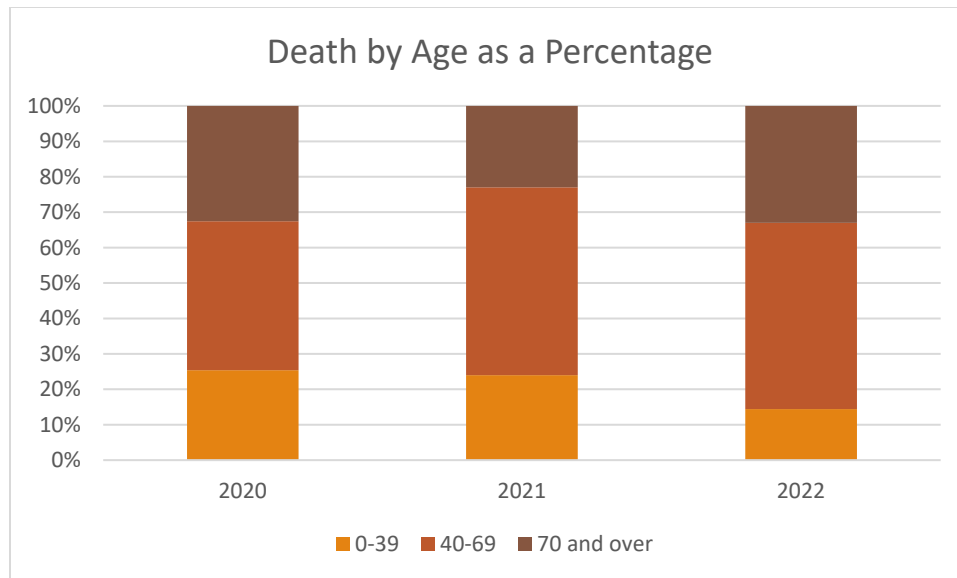


Figure 12

The 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.

The key to surviving a house fire is early detection along with rapid evacuation from the structure. You have only a couple of minutes to escape a fire. Practicing your escape route regularly is essential.

THE FIRE MARSHAL'S MINUTE

Lieutenant Christopher Keller, Fire Marshal

Fire Inspections



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This year, the number of general inspections performed increased to 182. The increase was a result of changes implemented to the inspection program to streamline operations. One of the major changes was the frequency that occupancies were inspected. Instead of trying to inspect every occupancy every year, inspections will be performed according to the hazard of the business. High-risk businesses, such as assembly occupancies, will be inspected annually while low-risk businesses, such as business offices, will be

inspected every 3 years. The changes will allow inspectors to focus on occupancies where there is a greater risk of fire or loss of life more frequently to ensure fire and life safety codes are being complied with.

Again, this year, using the full-time staff who are certified fire inspectors to assist in doing general inspections continues to prove helpful in completing inspections, with approximately 70% of the inspections being completed by the engine companies. 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 few of the most common violations noted this year included:

- Exit signs are not lit or functioning correctly.
 - Emergency lighting not functioning.
- Fire extinguishers requiring annual service.



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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, which 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 19 plan reviews and performed 11 inspections for new construction projects.

COMPLAINTS

This year, the number of complaints received decreased dramatically with only 2 complaints being received. One of the complaints received was due to the lack of fire extinguishers in the common areas of an apartment complex. Working with management, fire extinguishers were installed, and the complaint was resolved. However, due to the actions of resolving the complaint, a fire was quickly extinguished utilizing one of the fire extinguishers installed, which may have prevented a much larger fire.

SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION PROGRAM

Grand Blanc Township Fire Department continues to offer installation of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in residents' homes who do not have any, free of charge through the MI Prevention program. This year, 60 smoke alarms equipped with a 10-year lithium battery were installed. Additionally, 13 carbon monoxide alarms were also installed in residents' homes. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are provided through MI Prevention which obtains the alarms through grants.

In addition, crews also assisted a family with deaf members by installing bed shakers provided through MI Prevention. A bed shaker is a fire safety device for the deaf or hard of hearing that is placed under the pillow or mattress and vibrates when the smoke alarm goes off, helping to wake someone who cannot hear the alarm.



Public Education



This year we were able to visit schools to celebrate Fire Prevention Week. In total, firefighters spoke with over 700 children 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 the Grand Blanc Township Fire Department also took part in the annual National Night Out event. Again, this year we were able to

borrow a fire safety trailer from the Davison-Richfield Fire Department to provide 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.



The fire department is regularly asked to speak at homeowner events. The Del Web community requested we present a brief fire safety program to their residents.

The fire department places great value on educating the residents on fire safety. Many are surprised to hear what could happen when a simple cooking fire occurs and they react improperly, which may cause the fire to spread in a matter of seconds, rather than confidently knowing that by simply covering the pan the fire is contained and goes out.



Training / Education Events

Lieutenant Jeremy Oxford



The Grand Blanc Township Fire Department is committed to providing highly trained firefighters to protect our community. In 2022, the fire department continued to expand training opportunities. Additional training equipment was added, including a forcible entry-training door and a new training mannequin. Firefighters continued to train in all aspects of fire ground operations, such as forcible entry, search and rescue, ladder rescue, extinguishment, and vehicle extrication. The fire department hosted Oakland Community College (OCC) CREST phase 1 and 2 flashover trailers, giving the members a full day of intense flashover

recognition and survival training. This training exposed the members to realistic dangerous heat and fire conditions we could face on any fire and gave them the tools to survive. Other specialized training included ice water rescue training and confined space training. Firefighters have a set amount of required annual training hours to perform by the state. The Grand Blanc Township Fire Department continues to train beyond the minimum standard to maximize Insurance Service Office (ISO) audit points.



Lieutenant Chris Keller, fire marshal for Grand Blanc Township, completed and received certification from the Eastern Michigan University School of Fire Staff and Command Executive Leadership Program.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT



2001 Pierce, 100' Aerial Platform
2000 GPM pump



2009, 2010 and 2012 Pierce Pumpers
1500 GPM pump



2019 Sutphen Ladder
2000 GPM pump



2014 Pierce, Pumper / Rescue
1500 GPM pump and breathing air cascade system.



John Deere Gator (ATV)

In addition to the vehicles shown above, the fire department also uses a utility trailer to store additional rescue equipment. The department also utilizes one pickup to support operations and two SUVs for the chiefs' use.

FIRE STATIONS



The firefighters are excited to share the architects renderings of the renovated Baldwin Road fire station (fire station #2). Construction is planned to commence in March of 2023 and be completed in September of 2023. The present station lacks accommodations for staff to operate from it 24 hours a day. It also has very few safety features to address carcinogens from fires. Once construction commences, updates to the construction will be posted on our Facebook page.

Our replacement station is being combined with the Department of Public Works Services (DPS) building and will be off Dort Highway between Maple Avenue and South Saginaw Street. The building will have a shared lobby and public meeting area, but the fire station and DPS are in separate areas. The planned building will have living and fitness areas, with equipment decontamination away from the living areas. Four apparatus, along with two support vehicles, are assigned to this station. This is our main fire station and will also have the fire department administrative offices.

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 eight firefighters to

continue in the service. Although we say goodbye to them, we are happy to have gained six new part-time firefighters.

During this past year, four firefighters were promoted to a Sergeant position. The position is a step toward advancement to a higher position in the department. The focus for these individuals is being a mentor to our recruits. We are confident these individuals will instill the values that this department has in all our firefighters.

To become a firefighter in Grand Blanc Township, 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 during their 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 highly trained, professional firefighters. 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-time 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 develop tools to combat the problem.



2022 ROSTER

Staff List

Name	Title	Years of Service
*Robert Burdette	Fire Chief	41
*Kent Maricle	Deputy Fire Chief	37
Meghan Delano	Office Administrator	7
*Christopher Keller	Fire Marshal/Lieutenant	16
*William Larsen	Captain Station #1	32
Bradley Hutchison	Captain Station #2	30
*Jeremy Oxford	Lieutenant Station #1	10
*Michael Hertzberg	Sergeant	10
Jake Haller	Sergeant	9
Adam Frank	Sergeant	7
Martin Sorenson	Sergeant	7
Ben Baran	Firefighter	19
Scott Altheide	Firefighter	16
Michael Hocken	Firefighter	11
Ryan Brancheau	Firefighter	12
Michael Hocken	Firefighter	11
Jakob Sifferman	Firefighter	11
Adam Peterson	Firefighter	11
Sue McKay	Firefighter	11
Javon Johnson	Firefighter	7
Michael Dalrymple	Firefighter	6
Patrick Popadich	Firefighter	6
Clint Wilson	Firefighter	5
Ryan Jeltema	Firefighter	5
David Bechtel	Firefighter	5
Alfred Perry	Firefighter	3
Frank Getz	Firefighter	2
*Nicholas Perry	Firefighter	3
Zachary Pruett	Firefighter	1
Jeremy Jones	Firefighter	1
Sean Blakemore	Probationary Firefighter	6 months
Jonah Tetmeyer	Probationary Firefighter	3 months
Kurt Stuart	Probationary Firefighter	3 months
Lauren Simpson	Probationary Firefighter	3 months
Travis Strubel	Probationary Firefighter	3 months
Ryan Goodyear	Probationary Firefighter	2 months
John Tap	Probationary Firefighter	1 month

* Full-time staff