



Traverse City Fire Department
2016 Annual Report



Traverse City Fire Department Mission Statement

The Traverse City Fire Department is an all-hazards emergency response agency that will provide protection and safety for the public.

Goals to Meet Our Mission

Ensure the taxpayers of Traverse City receive the greatest benefit for the dollars expended in providing emergency services.

Empower members to make appropriate decisions and to perform their duties in a professional, productive, and efficient manner.

Continuously develop plans and train our members in providing effective intervention in all emergency incidences, while keeping life safety the highest priority and property loss to a minimum.

Establish and maintain a feeling of partnership between the Fire Department and the business community in our continued effort to correct life safety and fire hazards identified through the Fire Inspection process.

Create and maintain a plan for the mobilization of resources needed for the safety and expeditious mitigation of all incidents.

Continue to provide Advanced Life Support/Paramedic services to the Traverse City community.

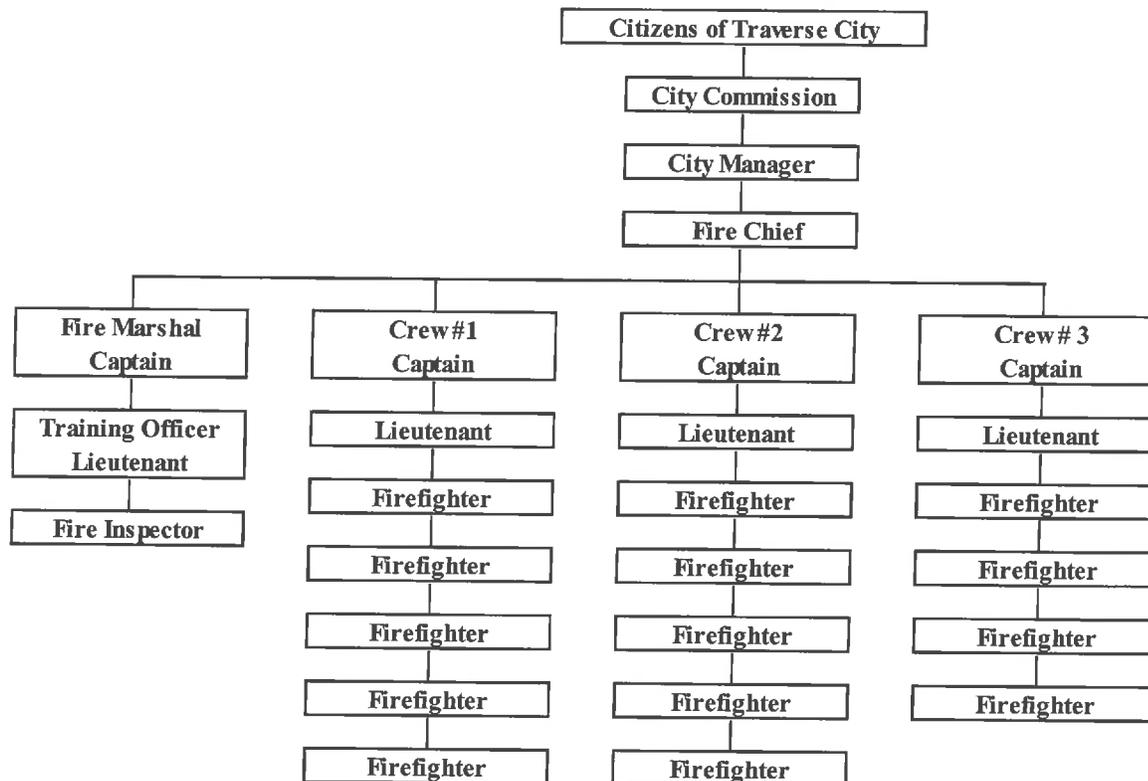
Establish and provide Public Education Programs affording the citizens of Traverse City the tools and knowledge needed in planning for the safety of their family and property against all types of emergencies, thus allowing mutual trust through community partnerships.

Promote partnerships with area agencies to increase all-hazards response capabilities.

Continue training, education and interaction with state and federal agencies to insure effective response coordination and intra-operability.



Organizational Chart



The organizational chart is based upon the Incident Command System (ICS) which is part of the Federal National Incident Management System (NIMS). All emergency service personnel across the country are required to be trained in NIMS and use the ICS during all emergencies.

The Fire Department is a para-military organization in that there is an element of authority and responsibility along with communication from the Fire Officers who are responsible for the Firefighters on their shifts.

ICS provides for Command and Control during emergencies to help ensure pathways for clear communication. This in turn provides for the safety of the citizens, fire personnel, and other responders on the scene.



Traverse City Fire Department

2016 Personnel Roster

NAME	POSITION	MEDICAL LICENSE	YEARS OF SERVICE FOR TRAVERSE CITY
Jim Tuller	Fire Chief	EMT Intermediate	26 years, 8 months
Glenn Krantz	Captain	Paramedic	24 years, 5 months
Brian Kuhr	Captain	EMT Intermediate	24 years, 5 months
Brian Snyder	Lt. Training Officer	Paramedic	24 years, 5 months
Mike Sheets	Capt. Fire Marshal	Paramedic	20 years
Chad Rueckert	Lieutenant	EMT Intermediate	18 years, 5 months
Larry Mueller	Captain	Paramedic	17 years, 4 months
Chris Jackson	Firefighter - A.O.	Paramedic	15 years, 2 months
Eric Jackson	Lieutenant	Paramedic	14 years, 10 months
Steve Ball	Lieutenant	Paramedic	14 years, 6 months
Nate McKerchie	Firefighter	Paramedic	13 years, 1 month
Chris Peron	Firefighter - A.O.	Paramedic	12 years, 5 months
James Smielewski	Firefighter - A.O.	Paramedic	11 years, 11 months
Jerry Wojtanowski	Firefighter	Paramedic	10 years, 11 months
Keith Fritz	FF - Fire Inspector	EMT-Basic	10 years, 11 months
Kenny Davis	Firefighter	Paramedic	10 years, 11 months
Eric Moravcik	Firefighter	Paramedic	10 years, 9 months
Tom Thompson	Firefighter	Paramedic	9 years, 11 months
TJ Tyaylor	Firefighter	Paramedic	8 years, 8 months
Ken Funk	Firefighter	Paramedic	3 years, 1 month
Jacob Steichen	Firefighter	Paramedic	2 years, 8 months
Chad Chinlund	Firefighter	Paramedic	2 years, 6 months
Jeff Ballard	Firefighter	Paramedic	2 years, 4 months
Vincent Castaneda	Firefighter	Paramedic	1 month

A.O. denotes Acting Officer. These Firefighters may hold a temporary Lieutenant position upon the absence of the Lieutenant on their crew.

Many personnel that are hired onto the Fire Department have 5 – 10 years previous fire and /or medical service experience before coming to Traverse City. Almost all personnel will have a career spanning 25 years after which they move to a scheduled retirement.



2016 Annual Report

Welcome:

This is the first formal Annual Report produced by the Traverse City Fire Department in some time. Looking back on 2016, we can review the information and statistics and other information points to help us provide for the current and plan for the future.

Last year, Traverse City Fire Department responded to 3,061 emergency “911” calls for service. Almost all of these were within the City limits. A few times we traveled outside of the City to aid our neighboring emergency service agencies.

There is a breakdown on calls per Station and call types provided for in this report.

Of these responses, a total of 2,260 calls were recorded under Rescue and Emergency Medical. The volume of calls in this category is not a surprise. It has been a national trend across our country for several years that fire service-based Emergency Medical Service calls far outnumber other emergency calls including fires.

We saw this trend developing here in Traverse City back in the early 1990’s. In the effort to meet this challenge, we trained current fire personnel to the level of Paramedic and instituted a job condition of hiring that the new candidate firefighter have a Paramedic license to work at the Traverse City Fire Department.

There were 54 fire emergencies in the City in 2016. Again, this follows the national trend. Information furnished through the many fire service science-based institutions are teaching us that though the fires are fewer, they are hotter and much quicker to develop than ever due to the presence of synthetic materials in and about the structure. Learning this new information and with it new strategies and tactics for fire suppression is a constant training effort.



When a fire occurs, there is always a cause; either accidental or intentional. Fire prevention through fire inspections, plan reviews and code enforcement is a pro-active measure to reduce the likelihood of a fire occurring. We were fortunate enough to secure funding in the 2017-2018 Budget to hire a new Firefighter/Paramedic and return our Fire Inspector back to his assignment from Suppression to the fire prevention/inspection section of the fire department.

This will enable us to not only perform many more inspection and plan review activities, but it will also provide for an increased effort in fire prevention education in our City schools and business/commercial locations. Funds brought in from the Plan Review processes will be used to offset the cost of hiring our latest candidate.

Emergency Management and planning for contingencies regarding the provision of emergency services during our many festivals, run/walks, and other events attended by the public is performed throughout the year. This is carried out by the Traverse City Fire Department, the Traverse City Police Department, the Grand Traverse County Office of Emergency Management, and other agencies whose responsibility it is to respond.

Through support from the City Manager and City Commission, we were able to purchase a new fire truck (we call them “Engines”) to replace our 1993 Engine 01. Through a 2 ½ year process involving City Fire personnel, staff with the Department of Public Services and the City Garage, we were able to purchase a 2016 Pierce Velocity Rescue Engine that fits the mission of the fire department in meeting the needs of the community. It is a simple design with dependable operational capabilities with a drive-train that will provide for decreased maintenance and service costs compared to other units of its type. The cost of this Engine was close to \$648,000. Through the DPS enterprise fund, it is scheduled to be replaced in 2037. We are already saving funds for this project.



Over this past summer, we and other emergency service agencies switched from a VHF-based radio communication system to an 800 MHz –based system operated by the State of Michigan. Funding for new equipment and training was provided for by Grand Traverse County 911. This enabled us to save the City approximately \$38,000 in projected costs to replace the previous VHF radio equipment.

We provide many “behind the scene” services through the year. Medical standby at Thirlby Field during the fall football season. Medical/Rescue standby during the many festivals and events in the City, especially certain high-use events on the Boardman River. Blood pressure checks at the Senior Center, CPR classes for other City Departments and medical training for the National Ski Patrol at Hickory Hills are just a few of these types of services. Another is the Child Care Safety Seat program. Last year our 3 certified car seat technicians installed a total of 33 car seats in the effort to protect our little passengers when they are on the road with their family.

In looking ahead to 2017, the fire department will continue to be challenged by new developments and information being learned in the area of emergency services. Adjusting to the needs of the Community for protection and service is a constant project.

Changes in housing and other development projects, changes in construction practices and materials affect how we apply personnel, apparatus and equipment during emergencies in a safe and efficient manner.

Changes in medical response needs, particularly in the area of drug abuse/overdoses also affect how we provide emergency medical services.

Our Rescue 01 assigned to Station 01 has the capability to transport patients when other means are not available. This unit is scheduled to be removed to a reserve status in 2018 with the purchase of a new unit. The reserve unit will be assigned to Station 02 to help meet the medical response/transport need on that side of the City when needed.



There are 3 City Fire personnel that are scheduled to retire in 2017. This is not uncommon and is based on the year they were hired. We have a very robust new employee evaluation and probation process. Many of our personnel will work for City Fire for 25 years and leave on a scheduled retirement.

We are currently involved in a grant writing process in an effort to replace our current Marine 01 rescue vessel. Marine 01 was a former (used) US Coast Guard water craft when we received it many years ago. It is nearing the end of its service life. With the heavy use of West Bay by water recreation enthusiasts, we see the need to increase our capabilities for water rescue response and search operations during not only fair weather days, but also during times of storm and rough seas.

Through the Capital Improvement Plan process, we are budgeting for infrastructure improvements to Station 01 and Station 02 to increase the level of safety for City Fire personnel and protection for the equipment housed in the Stations.

Due to a change in the process required to file medical run reports with the State of Michigan, we are currently researching different medical report and fire service software packages as part of the 2017-2018 Budget process.

Content for this report was provided by many City Fire personnel as an assist to the Chief's Office. I am very appreciative of their help and support.

Thank you for taking the time to review this Annual Report.

Best Regards,

Jim Tuller,

Fire Chief



Station 01 – 500 West Front Street

Station 01 was constructed at the location on Front Street in 1974. The previous station located at 118 South Cass (currently Bistro Fou Fou) was built to house horses, steam powered fire apparatus and firefighters.

As the times changed, and the horse teams were replaced with new larger equipment, a new station was needed.

Engine 01, Rescue 1, Ladder 01, Hazmat 01, and Rescue 06 are housed at Station 01. The Administration offices for the Fire Department are at Station 01.

Station 01 daily staffing:

- Fire Chief:
- 24-hour Suppression Crew: 1 Captain, 2 Fire Fighter/Paramedics
- Admin/Support: 1 Captain - Fire Marshal, 1 Lieutenant - Training Officer, 1 – Fire Inspector.





Station 02 – 1313 East 8th Street

Station 02 was constructed at the location on the corner of East 8th and Fair Streets at 1313 East Front Street was constructed in 1968 in response to increased development on the east side of the City, particularly the industry occupancies in the Aero Park Drive area.

Engine 02, Rescue 02 and Engine 03 are housed at Sta. 02.

Station 02 daily staffing:

- 24-hour Suppression Crew: 1 Lieutenant, 1 to 2 Fire Fighter/Paramedics





ARFF Station (03) – 3426 Wright Drive Cherry Capital Airport

Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station at 3245 Wright Drive at Cherry Capital Airport covers the airport property. This includes the airport proper, along with the clear zone approach/departure areas.

Through a contract between the City of Traverse City and the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission (NRAC) the fire department provides 1 firefighter to staff a specialized ARFF rescue truck on a 24/7 basis.

The ARFF building and all property/equipment is owned by the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission.

ARFF Station daily staffing:

- 24-hour Crash/Fire Crew: 1 Fire Fighter/Paramedic
- NOTE: All costs for the provision of a TCFD member to staff the ARFF Station are paid for by the NRAC on a monthly basis.





Engine 01

Make: Kovatch Mobile Equipment (KME)

Model: Custom

Year: 2003

Staffing: 1 Captain and 2 Firefighter Paramedics

Assignment: Station 01

Notes: Carries 500 gallons of water and can pump 1,500 gallons per minute. Engine 01 is also a Basic Life Support non-transport unit

Scheduled replacement: 2024. This may occur sooner based upon increased maintenance and repair costs.





Engine 02

Make: Pierce Manufacturing Inc.

Model: Velocity

Year: 2016

Staffing: 1 Lieutenant and 1 or 2 Firefighter Paramedics.

Assignment: Station 02

Notes: Carries 750 gallons of water and can pump 1,500 gallons per minute.

Engine 02 is an Advanced Life Support non-transport unit.

Scheduled replacement: 2037





Ladder 01

Make: Kovatch Mobile Equipment (KME)

Model: Aerial Cat

Year: 2004

Staffing: Ladder 01 responds with 2-3 personnel to working structure fires or with the first off-duty call in person.

Assignment: Station 01

Notes: Carries 300 gallons of water and can pump 2,000 gallons per minute. The aerial ladder is designed for rescue of persons from an elevated position. The extended length of the ladder is 100'. Ladder 01 is also a Basic Life Support non-transport unit.

Scheduled replacement: 2029





Rescue 01

Make: Wheeled Coach - International

Model: Light Rescue/ Medical Transport unit

Year: 2010

Staffing: Responds with 2 Firefighter Paramedics.

Assignment: Station 01

Notes: Rescue 01 It is an Advanced Life Support Transport Unit. It has the ability to transport patients to Munson Medical Center when North Flight is unavailable. Transport services are billed.

Scheduled replacement: 2018





Hazmat 01

Make: Spartan – Spencer Manufacturing

Model: Hazardous Materials Response unit

Year: 2006

Staffing: Responds with on-duty personnel in and close to the city. Responds with a mix of on duty and off duty personnel to GT Area.

Assignment: Station 01

Notes: Provided to the City in 2006 through a Homeland Security Grant program. Supports Hazardous Materials response in the GT Area through a subscription program. Supports State Region 07 if requested.

Scheduled replacement: 2035





Engine 03

Make: Pierce Manufacturing Inc.

Model: Dash

Year: 1994

Staffing: When active, 1 Captain and 2 Firefighter Paramedics.

Assignment: Station 02 (Reserve)

Notes: Carries 750 gallons of water and can pump 1,500 gallons per minute.

Engine 03 is a reserve unit that is brought up to respond to calls when other Engines are out of service for maintenance.

Scheduled replacement: Replaced in 2016 with the new Pierce Engine 02 assigned to Station 02. Will remain in reserve status until cost prohibitive.





ARFF RESCUE 04



ARFF RESCUE 03





The City of Traverse City encompasses 8.33 square miles of land area, with a jurisdiction of 1 mile north into West Bay. Information available in 2014 showed a resident population of 14,674 and a daytime population of over 33,000. During the summer weekends, the population increases significantly and during our many festivals, it increases dramatically.

There are 7,358 housing units in the City with more being constructed at a steady pace. 31 % (2,280) housing units are in multi-unit structures. There are also a reported 3,469 business/commercial establishments within the City.

In calendar year 2016, the Fire Department answered a total of 3,061 911 calls for service. All calls for service require reporting to the State and Federal Government through the utilization of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).





NFIRS uses 9 different sections to record all of the different types of incidents today's fire service responds to in providing protection to the community. These sections are briefly described below:

1 – Fire: 16 sub-sections. Any type of fires inside or outside structures or mobile property. Cooking fires, chimney fires, passenger vehicle fires, forest, woods, brush and rubbish fires.

2 – Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (no fire): 2 sub-sections. A pressure vessel explosion or a water heater failure would be recorded under this section.

3 – Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident: 13 sub-sections. Includes Priority 01 (Critical) medical, Priority 02 (Life-threatening/serious) medical and Priority 03 (Minor/all other) medical. Also includes all Rescue class: motor vehicle crash, pedestrian vs auto, water rescue, ice rescue and technical rescue calls.

4 – Hazardous Condition (no fire): 21 sub-sections. Flammable liquid spills, electric service wires down, arcing-shortened electrical equipment, biological hazard, aircraft standby are all parts of this section.

5 – Service Call: 13 sub-sections. Water leak, smoke/odor removal public assistance. Provision of assistance/aid where there is little to no sense of emergency.

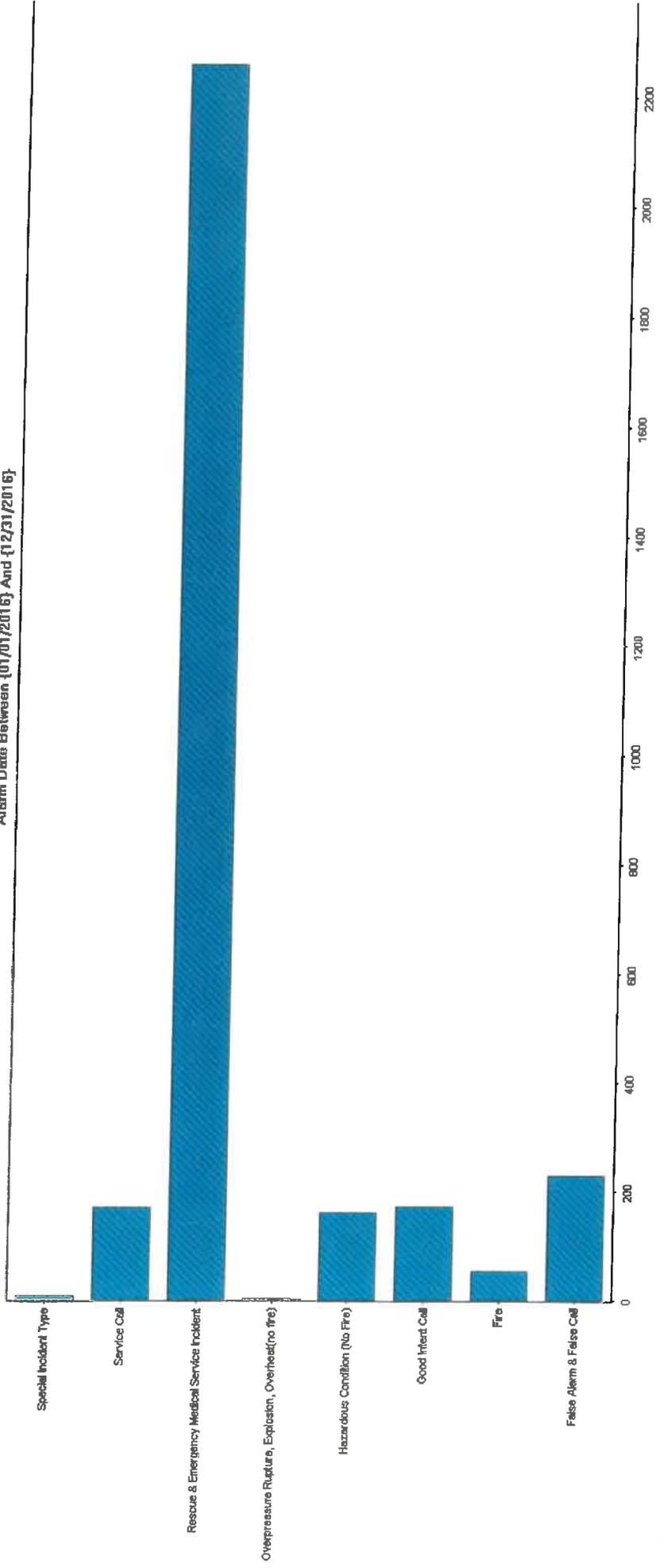
6 - Good Intent Call: 8 sub-sections. Dispatched and cancelled en route, steam mistaken for smoke, smoke scare/odor of smoke.

7 – False Alarm & False Call: 17 sub-sections. Malicious false alarm, accidental false alarm, alarm system malfunction, alarm system activation with no fire, etc.

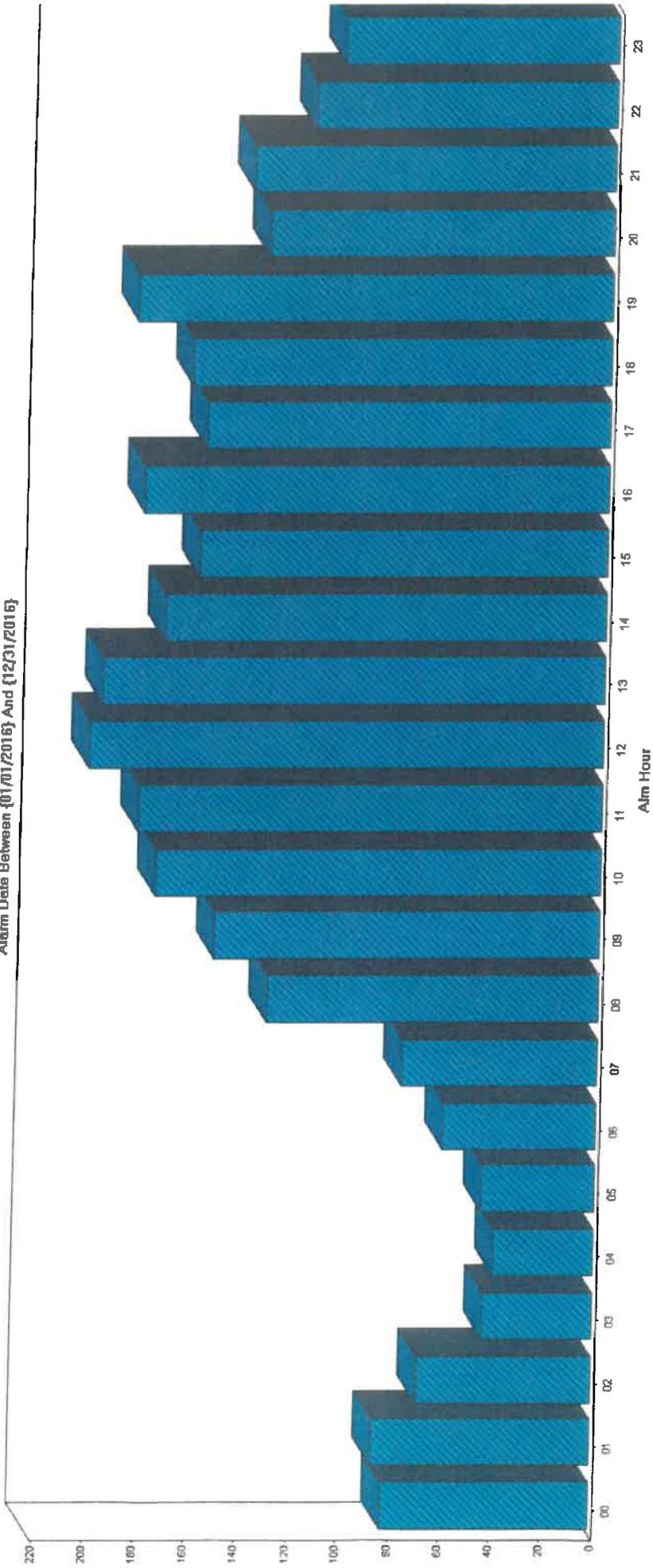
8 – Severe Weather and Natural Disaster: 5 sub-sections. Earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and other major impact weather related emergency causes.

9 – Special Incident Type: 1 sub-section. Complaints and/or code violations.

Incident Type Summary
Alarm Data Between {01/01/2016} And {12/31/2016}



Count of Incidents by Alarm Hour
Alarm Date Between {01/01/2016} And {12/31/2016}





2016 Incidents – Responses by Station

NFIRS INCIDENT SECTION	Sta 01	Sta 02	Sta 01 & 02	Sta 03	2016 Total
Fire	17	18	19	0	54
Overpressure, Rupture, Exp	2	0	0	0	2
Rescue & Emergency Med	1399	843	7	11	2260
Hazardous Cond (no fire)	80	54	10	18	162
Service Call	118	51	3	0	172
Good Intent Call	99	65	8	1	173
False Alarm/Call	79	42	105	4	230
Severe Weather	0	0	0	0	0
Special Incident	4	4	0	0	8
Totals per Station	1798	1077	152	34	3061

The East West dividing line for emergency responses is the (roughly) north-south line of Woodmere Avenue and Railroad Avenue.

The primary response district for Station 01 is west of the Woodmere/Railroad line.

The primary response district for Station 03 is east of the Woodmere/Railroad with the exception of the properties located on the east shore of Boardman Lake.

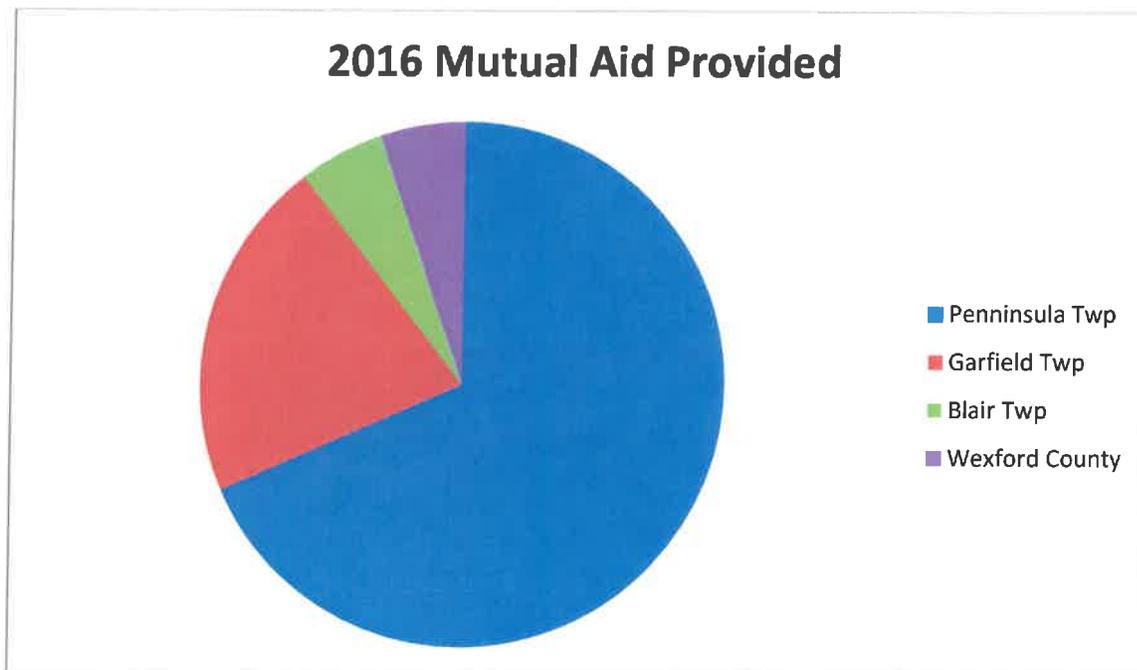
The primary response area of the ARFF Station 03 – Airport Station is the secured area (inside the fence) of Cherry Capital Airport.

Working structure fires, some fire alarms and multiple vehicle accidents are some of the times when City Fire units will travel to the area of the other Station to assist. Many aircraft alerts received at Cherry Capital Airport will involve both Stations responding to assist the ARFF personnel.



Mutual Aid Responses

Providing aid or assistance to neighboring fire departments has been a hallmark of the fire service from the beginning. The graph below represents the times that City Fire was requested to respond to emergencies outside of the City.



Peninsula Twp. FD: 7 building fires, 1 other type fire, 1 cooking fire, 1 hazardous condition, 1 accident-other, 1 public service assistance, 1 good intent call

GT Metro FD: 2 EMS calls, 1 electrical equipment failure, 1 cancelled en route.

Blair Twp. FD: 1 building fire.

Wexford County Em. Mgmt.: 1 biological hazard suspected.

NOTE: Values regarding the times Mutual Aid came in and assisted the City were not available at the time of the report. Best estimates are GT Metro FD 4, Peninsula Twp. FD 4, Elmwood Twp. FD 4. We appreciate their assistance. We will have an accurate report on mutual aid to the City in 2018.



Training

City Fire personnel participate in some type of training during each of their 24-hour shifts. Whether it is a hands-on practical skill evolution, a demonstration of new equipment or rescue techniques, lectures or on-line training, it is a never-ending process. The need to stay abreast of new information and best practices in the different disciplines that today's Firefighter Paramedics are trained in is carried out through a structured training program and through support through the General Fund. The areas of training are described below:

- **Fire Suppression** – Personnel are trained in all aspects of fire suppression including: industrial, commercial, residential, aircraft, chemical, vehicle, boat and wild lands.

- **Medical/Advanced Life Support** – 20 of our 24 personnel are serving as Paramedics, providing to our Community the highest level of pre-hospital care available in the nation. With Rescue 01, we can treat and transport patients to Munson Medical Center when North Flight is unavailable.

- **Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting** - On-site staffing at Cherry Capital Airport. Rescue and fire suppression operations involving the various types and sizes of aircraft that move through Cherry Capital Airport.

- **Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Teams** – Every firefighter is HazMat and WMD trained. Due to financial support received through a subscription fee process, the HazMat team responds to HazMat incidents in the GT Area. We will support State Region 07 if requested.



Training

- **Technical Rescue** – Personnel are cross-trained in varying aspects of technical rescue. This includes: Confined Space Rescue, High Angle Rope Rescue, Water and Ice Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Vehicle Extrication.

Water rescue has been a focus of training for City Fire over the past 2 years. The increase realized in the use of the Boardman River and areas of West Bay for all of the non-motorized forms of water recreation required an adjustment in this particular rescue discipline to accommodate this development.

To enable us to meet this need, through the support of the Training Budget; we have sent City Fire personnel to a Pro-Board approved and certified Train-the-Trainer ice rescue training program.

These personnel then in turn train the other City Fire members.

This enables us to realize a savings in the area of food, lodging, wages and other expenses for 21 additional personnel to travel out of the Traverse City area to attend training. Training our own locally also enables the transfer of training and education in a timely and standardized manner.

When it is cost prohibitive to send several members out of town for training, we can realize a savings by bringing the instructor to Traverse City and train several fire personnel at one time in one class series.

In 2016, 2 City Fire personnel were sent out of state to a certified Public Safety Rescue Swimmer course. Favorable reports on this program led to the same course being brought to Traverse City to train 5 additional personnel. This process will continue for 2017.



Medical Training





Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting – ARFF Training





Hazardous Materials Training





Technical Rescue Training





Fire Prevention and Education

The goal of the Fire Prevention Division is community risk reduction through: fire code enforcement, inspections and plan reviews, and fire and injury safety education.

Fire prevention inspections and plan reviews allow the Fire Prevention Division to educate business owners on safe practices, and fire prevention. Over the course of 2016 the Fire Prevention Division has completed 592 various inspections and plan review.

As of January 01, 2017 the Fire Prevention Division resumed responsibility for the performance of Building plan reviews, and Fire protection plan reviews. Since 2009, these processes were contracted to Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department. To help offset the additional work load of the plan review process, the Fire Inspectors position was refilled on December 12th. The Fire Inspector position had been vacant since October 10, 2010.

Along with fire inspections and plan reviews, the Fire Prevention Division also completes various public education activities, including: the Fire Department Open House, fire extinguisher trainings for local businesses, and fire and safety education in the schools. The Fire Prevention Division educated approximately 1200 people through these efforts in 2016.

The Fire Prevention Division has been facilitating a grant-based program for a residential smoke alarm project since 2011. This project consists of a home safety inspection focusing on the placement, age, and functionality of smoke detectors. If deemed necessary new smoke detectors are installed at no cost to the resident. In 2016, 23 homes were visited and 90 smoke alarms were installed.



Inspections and Plan Reviews

The International Fire Code and the City Fire Prevention Code are 2 of the several resources utilized to ensure the safety of the Community. Working with other City departments, property owners, developers, event organizers and the public in general to keep the Community safe is an on-going process. Some statistics relating to Inspections and Plan Reviews are listed below:

Type of Inspection

Annual Fire Prevention	121
Special Event	36
Tourist Home	12
Liquor License	10
Construction	105
Fire Protection/ acceptance Test	63
Total	347

Plan Reviews

Building	98
Fire Protection	56
Special Event	64
Liquor License	12
Tourist Home	14
Total	244



Conclusion

There are many people, entities and agencies that help the fire department throughout the year.

Our firefighters who are committed to provide the best protection possible for the community from many of the different hazards and dangers that today's fire service is tasked with.

Our families and friends who understand the path we have chosen to serve our community and the time spent away at work, on emergency calls, and attending trainings and classes.

The citizens and local businesses that donate time, food and coffee at emergency scenes and throughout the year at the fire stations that helps to support us all year long.

The Honorable Mayor Carruthers and the City Commission for their continued support of the Traverse City Fire Department.

City Manager Marty Colburn for his continued commitment to the emergency services in the City of Traverse City.

Thanks to city staff and to the other city departments who help and support in many ways throughout the year.

It remains an honor and a privilege to serve as Fire Chief for the City of Traverse City. I look forward to the challenges the upcoming year will bring.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Tuller,

Fire Chief