

Traverse City Fire Department

2022 Annual Report



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

~Mission Statement, Traverse City Fire Department

Forward from Chief Tuller:



Fire Chief Jim Tuller

The following pages represent a snapshot of the many various responsibilities and considerations regarding the all-hazards emergency and non-emergency service we provide to the Traverse City Community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

People are our most important resource, and staffing of the Suppression crews and the Fire Inspection/Prevention section continued to be a challenge in 2022. A retirement and two resignations left us “short” one fire fighter on each of three Suppression crews. In conjunction with the three positions our department was authorized to hire in July 2021, this equates to six total positions needed.

With the engagement of an outside recruiting agency and new hiring provisions in the labor agreement, we are seeing increased interest from individuals who want to begin a career with our department serving the residents of our City. We are hopeful to be able to hire the required personnel in 2023.

The comparison of total call volume from 2021 to 2022 is almost level. However, with plans for the development of more housing, hotel rooms, senior housing, and assisted living centers within the City and nearby, we anticipate an increase in demand for emergency medical Advanced and Basic Life Support Services in the future.

We appreciate the level of support we receive from our citizens and business community, and work hard to provide the level of service expected. Every 24-hour shift we strive to meet expectations through the hard work, commitment, and professionalism our Traverse City Fire personnel bring to the Fire Stations each duty day.

With Best Regards,

Chief Jim Tuller

Personnel and Station Staffing - 2022

Line Staff

- 3 - Suppression Captains
- 3 - Suppression Lieutenants
- 13 – Fire fighter/Paramedics

Administrative Staff

- 1- Chief
- 1- Fire Marshall
- 1- Training Lieutenant
- 1 - Administrative Assistant

Chief Jim Tuller
231-922-4930 ext. 2
jtuller@tcfire.org

Station 1 – 500 W. Front Street

- 1 Captain
- 2 – 3 Fire fighters
- 4 Administrative Staff

Station 2 – 1313 E. Eighth Street

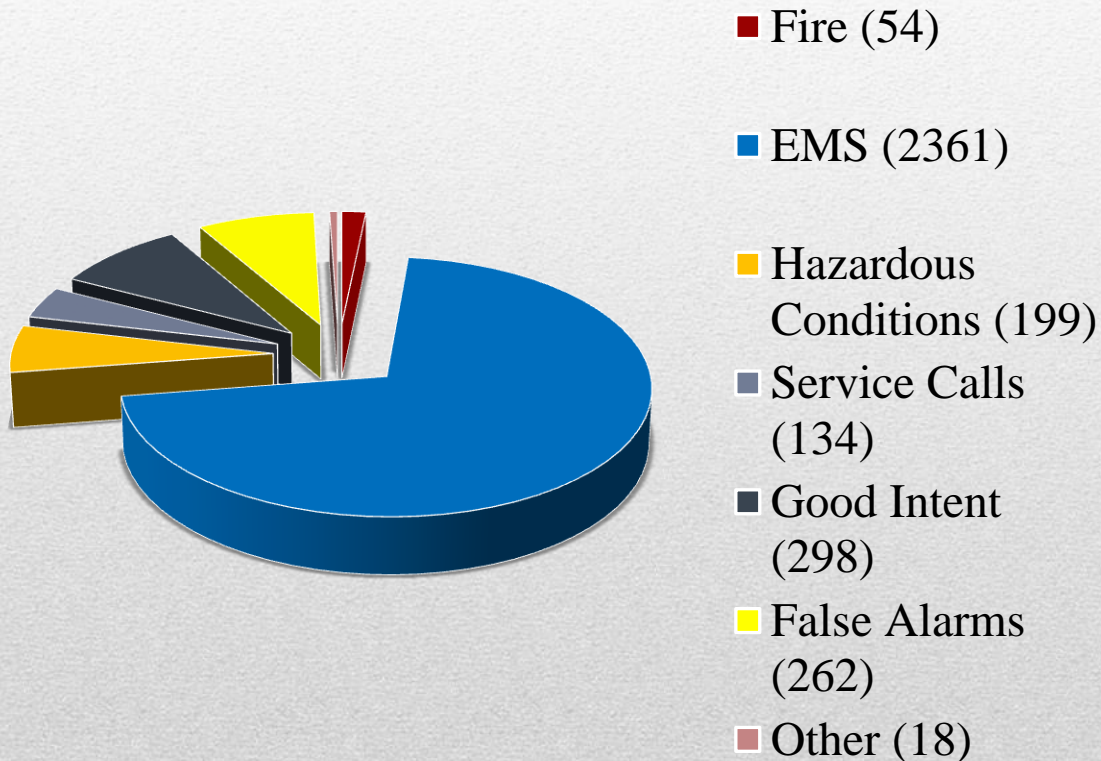
- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Fire fighter

Station 3 – ARFF - Airport

- 1 Fire fighter

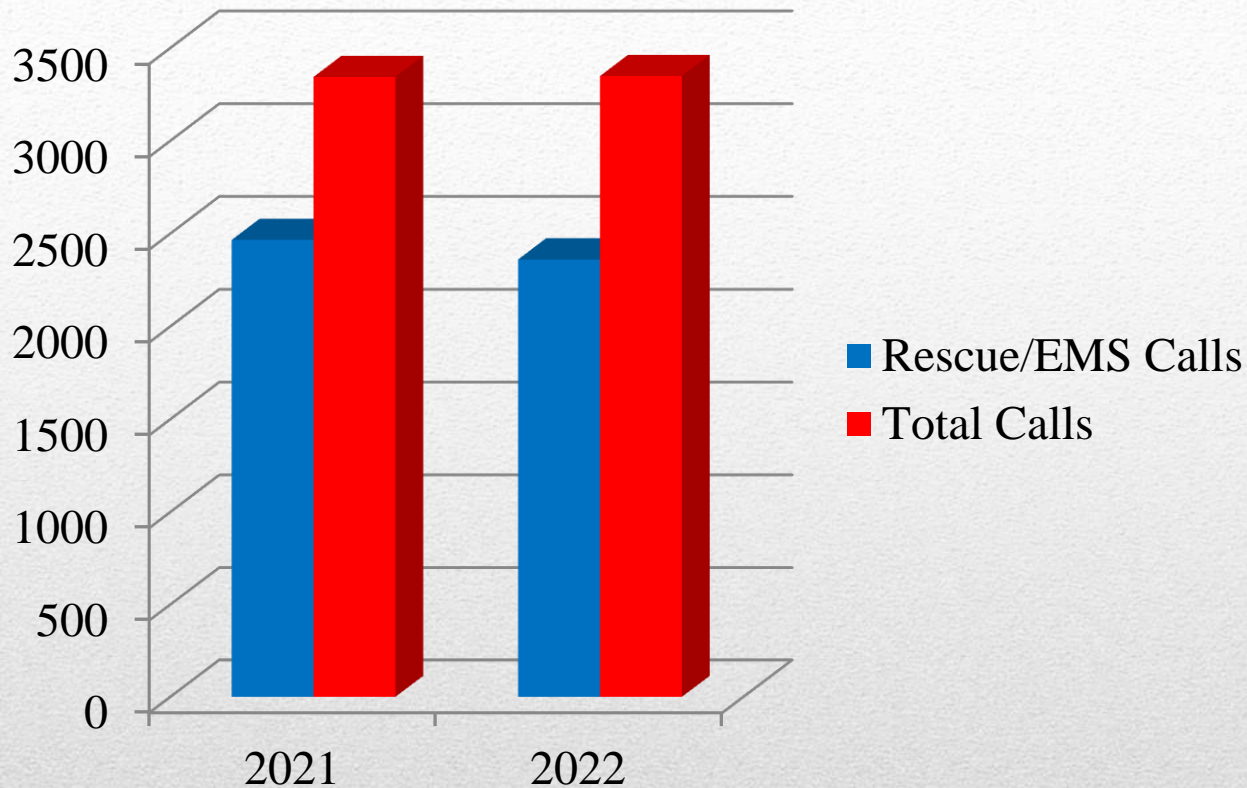
Administrative Assistant to the Chief
Alanna Crouch
231-922-4930 ext. 3
acrouch@tcfire.org

Emergency Response Calls



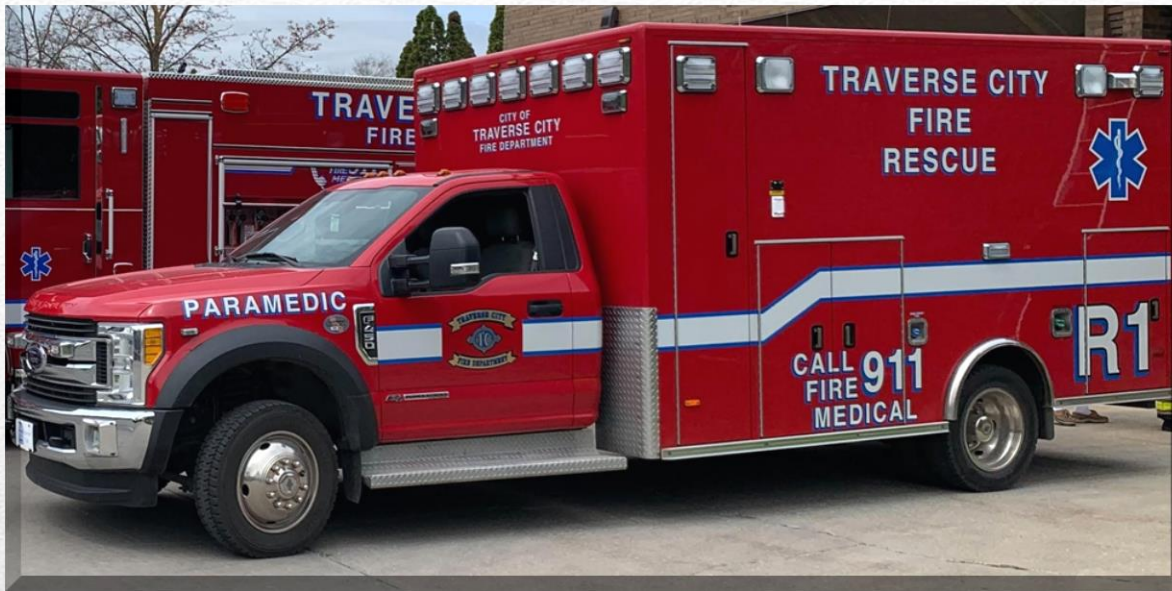
- 2022 saw 3349 total recorded 911 calls where the Traverse City Fire Department was dispatched and responded.
 - This is very close to 2021's total recorded calls dispatched and responded to - 3344 in all.
 - Numbers continue to show that 70% of our total calls are Rescue/EMS related.
-

Side by Side: A look at the last two years



- | | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------------------|------|------|
| ▪ Rescue and EMS/Medical | 2466 | 2361 |
| ▪ Total calls for year | 3344 | 3349 |
- **70% of our responses are Rescue/EMS.**
-

Rescue 1 Transport Record



City Fire Rescue 01 is an Advanced Life Support unit that transported **135** patients to the Munson Medical Center Emergency Department in 2022, **145** patients in 2021, and **31** patients in 2020. Of the **135** transports in 2022, **27, or 20% of total transports** originated from 911 calls outside the City Limits of Traverse City.

In the Fall of 2019, City Fire and City Staff began the process of working with consultant TriData, LLC to study the feasibility of City Fire becoming the primary transport service to the citizens of Traverse City. In the Fall of 2022, a City Commission Ad Hoc Committee was formed to continue this study.

Work continues to provide an answer to the question “Is it feasible for Traverse City Fire Department to hire additional personnel and purchase two additional transport units to provide this ALS transport service 24/7 within the City limits?”

2022 Mutual Aid: Meeting Needs Together

Mutual Aid Given for Fire Services:

40 Incidents

Mutual Aid Received for Fire Services:

15 Incidents

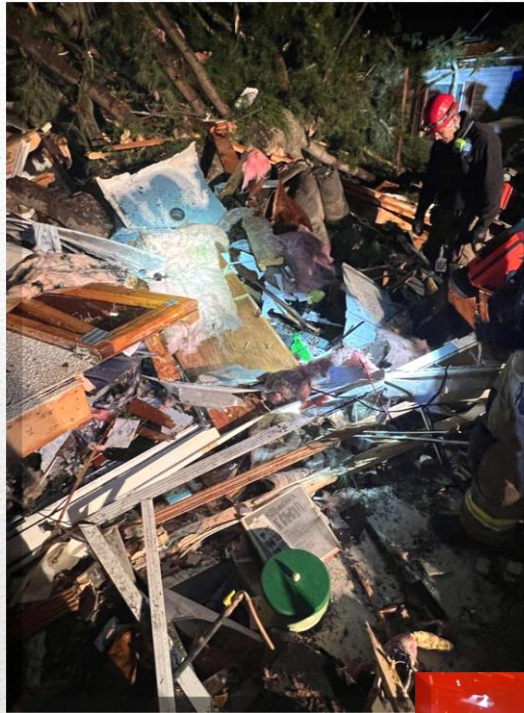
Mutual Aid creates a network of care to help meet the immediate needs of our neighbors with the shared understanding that we can meet those needs together.

Out of area Mutual Aid calls:

In May 2022, a devastating EF-3 tornado ripped through Gaylord, MI, killing 2 and injuring over 40. TCFD, along with several other agencies, traveled to Gaylord to assist in search and rescue efforts

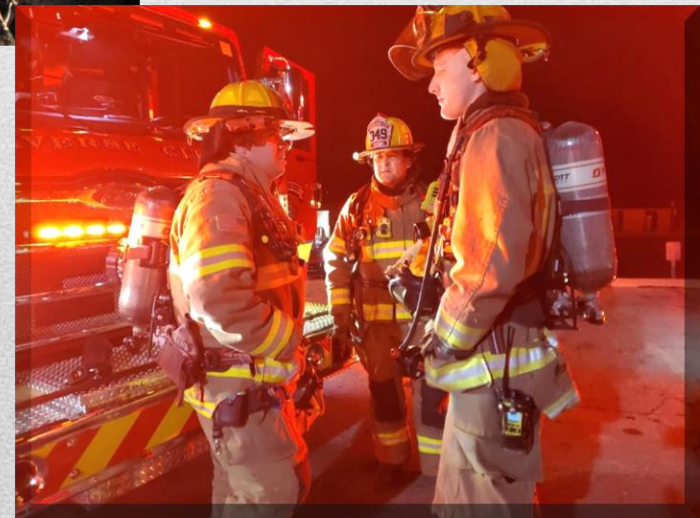
In October 2022, a large paper mill warehouse in Menominee caught fire and a State of Emergency was declared. TCFD joined crews that traveled from throughout the state to assist. No fatalities or injuries were reported.

We stand ready throughout the year to assist our neighbors and know they do the same for us. Communities are stronger that work together to support each other.



Left: Crews sift through wreckage following the tornado in Gaylord.
Above: Crews, including TCFD Captain Ball, far right, discuss their next course of action during the search and rescue efforts in Gaylord.

Right: Fire Fighters Hamilton, Funk and Snay working together at the scene of a structure fire in a neighboring township.



Training: Staying current in ever changing times

- Over 5,840 total department training hours logged were for 2022.
 - Each fire fighter is required 228 hours of Fire related training. This does not include their paramedic license renewals/certification and training in other emergency service disciplines.
 - Fire Suppression (Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Wildland)
 - Driver's training – all City Fire apparatus.
 - EMS – Advanced Life Support
 - Hazardous Materials response and stabilization
 - ARFF (Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting)
 - Ice Rescue – Water Rescue (open water and swift water)
 - Active Shooter/Assailant - Mass Casualty Incident
 - High Angle Rope/Confined Space Rescue
 - Mental & Physical Resiliency/Peer Support
 - Incident Commander Certification Training
 - In-house programs delivered individual Continuing Education Credits
-

"Drain the Bay" Collaborative Training

For the 2nd annual Drain the Bay, 30 fire fighters from 12 Fire Departments joined forces with a goal of increasing efficiency in water application with a variety of hose and nozzle combinations. This is helpful to departments that are struggling with staffing issues, as they can learn how to apply more water with less manpower.

Traverse City Fire Department provides the education for this event, which is hosted by Suttons Bay/Bingham Fire & Rescue at the North Park boat launch in Suttons Bay. Because these departments, which are mutual aid partners with TCFD, have potential to provide and receive mutual aid with each other, the goal is to create a common methodology for practical use.

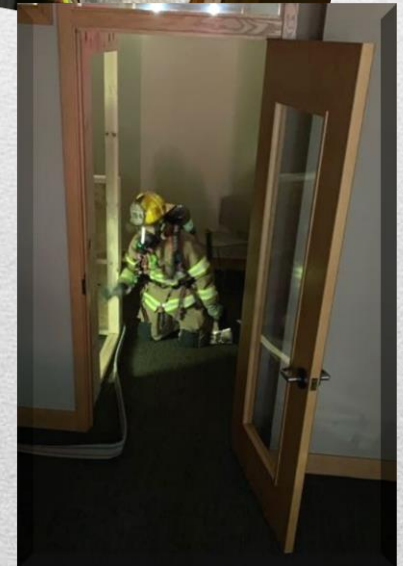
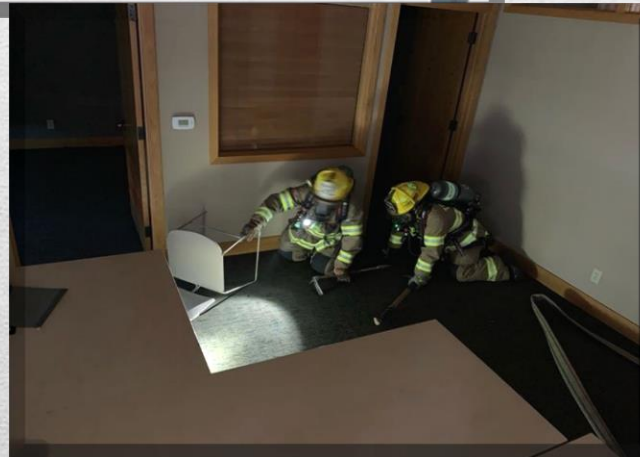
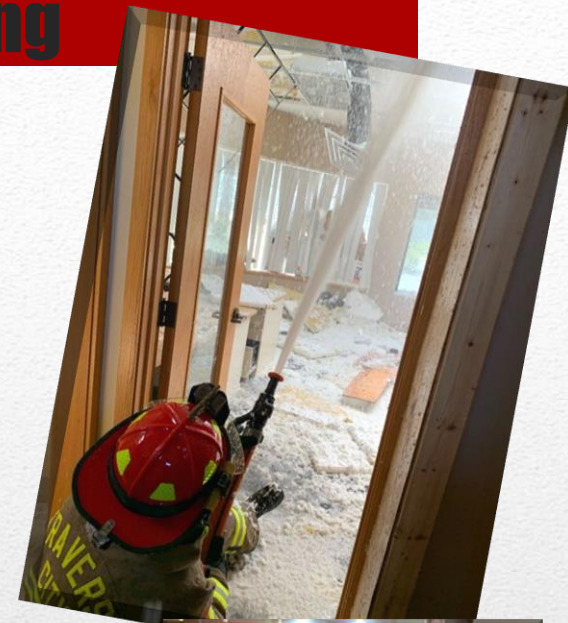
Elkhart Brass, a division of Safe Fleet, sponsored this event, and provided equipment and technical education on products and best practices for fire tactics.

The participating fire fighters and departments represented the Northwest Lower Peninsula of Michigan.



Vacant Building Fire Training

TCFD has been very fortunate to have had access to two commercial buildings to train in during 2022. Vacant buildings afford the opportunity to perform training in Search and Rescue, Hose Line Advancement, Water Flow Techniques, and Forcible and Non-Forcible Entry. This page shows training performed at a bank building prior to its demolition.



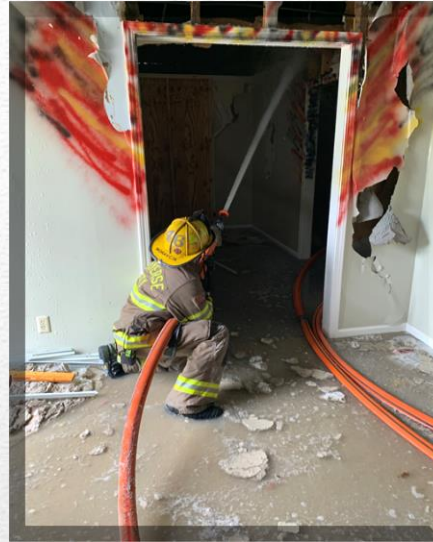
For more information on donating a structure for training use, please visit:

<https://www.traversecitymi.gov/vacantbldg.asp>

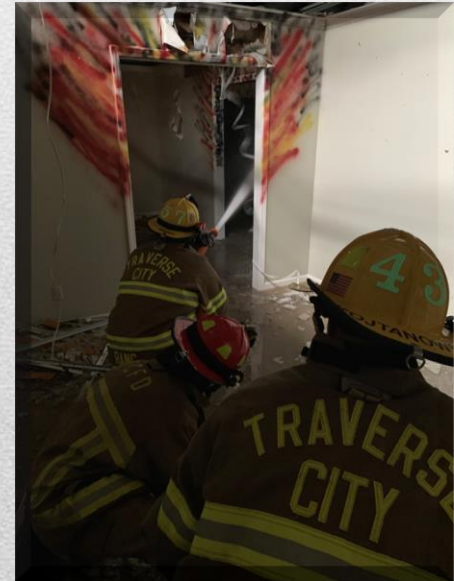
Vacant Building Fire Training



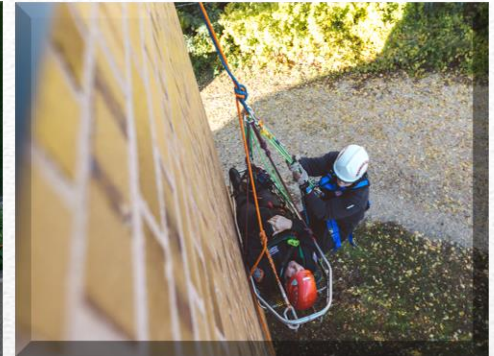
Imagine crawling through a smoke-filled room in pitch black conditions, trying to find someone during a fire. Lt. Smielewski performs a search and rescue for an infant in this simulation. Top: A manikin of an infant on a bed in lighting similar to a fire. Bottom: Our thermal imaging cameras (TICs) provide help in locating people during a fire that we cannot always see in a smoke-filled environment.



This former furniture store with several rooms provided the perfect opportunity for advanced search and rescue training as well as hose line advancement and water flow. FF Wojtanowski, (left & bottom right), FF Rang, (bottom left & right) & Lt. Smielewski (bottom left) work as a team to advance hose line and flow water through the rooms.



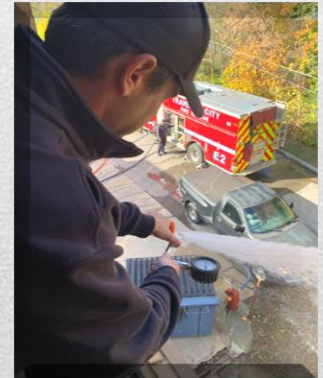
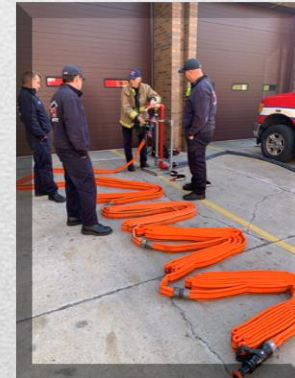
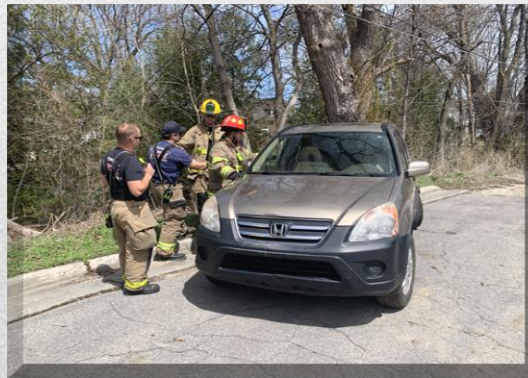
Specialized Training



Above: Crew 03 training on Technical Rescue, which includes rappelling. Captain Ball and FF's Snay and McKerchie assist FF Steichen with his harness and ropes (left) as he prepares to descend a 3-story structure. (Center). When a patient needs to be taken to safety, a Stokes basket is used to safely secure them to be lowered to the ground from upper stories. FF Funk rappels down our hose tower alongside Captain Ball in the Stokes basket. (Right).



Top Left: Crew 01 FF's Taylor and McMahon practice loading FF Thompson onto a FAST board – designed for rapid removal of an injured Fire Fighter from a dangerous situation. Bottom: Lt. Smielewski, FF Taylor, and FF Chinlund practice lifting the FAST board with FF Thompson secured.

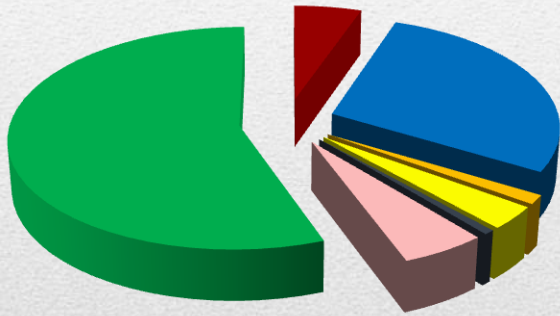


Crew 02 practices using extrication tools such as cutters and spreaders to safely remove a patient from a simulated car accident. FF's Bajtko, Moravcik and Derhammer observe as Lt. C. Jackson breaks the window and begins cutting into the SUV. (Left). Lt. Smielewski uses a standpipe valve training prop to demonstrate technique to FF's Bajtko, Moravcik and Rang. (Center). FF Moravcik checks the flow rate from the hose tower. (Far right). Many buildings in Traverse City have a standpipe system for water access in case of a fire.

Fire Service and the Friendly Skies - ARFF

At Cherry Capital Airport is the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station, which is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with one Traverse City fire fighter. In 2022, 149 incidents were responded to and covered, which included EMS services aircraft incidents/potential incidents, system malfunctions, false alarms, smoke/odor reports, and combustible/flammable liquid conditions. A hot re-fuel is when the US Coast Guard refuels an aircraft while it is still in use, and the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter at the airport stands by.

Airport Service Calls



- Aircraft Alerts (8)
- EMS (42)
- Hazardous (2)
- False Alarm (5)
- Good Intent (1)
- Other (8)
- Hot Refuel (83)



Upper Right: R3 stands by for training during a perfect day at Cherry Capital.



Right: Captain Ball trains a fire fighter to use a rescue saw to simulate entry into an aircraft.



Bottom Left: Lt. Smielewski addresses a group of fire fighters in training on R4.

Bottom Right: The US Coast Guard awarded Cherry Capital Airport staff and administration in recognition of support provided through the year to the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City and their rescue operation. The Cherry Wings held by Chief Tuller were given to be put on the ARFF trucks, and are the same Cherry Wings sported by the Coast Guard aircraft.



Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting – Hot Drill



FAA Regulations require each fire fighter who works at the airport to participate and be certified in an annual “Hot Drill” – a practice simulating both an aircraft fire and fire on the runway. Each fire fighter must operate ARFF trucks in a “pump and roll” fire attack, and utilize the bumper and roof mount water nozzles to extinguish the flames. This valuable training keeps us prepared for an aircraft incident.

Top Left: FF’s Steichen and Snay practice water flow from Rescue 5, a new vehicle to the airport. Top Right: The roof mount nozzle reaches the airplane simulator.

Bottom left: Although it was a windy day, fire fighters got water onto the flames of the simulated fuel fire quickly. Bottom Right: A photo from the air traffic control tower gives a better view of Rescue 5 extinguishing the flames on the aircraft simulator.



Partnering up: Agencies TCFD coordinates with

- FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Association
 - USFA – United States Fire Administration
 - NFA – National Fire Academy
 - MiOSHA – Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 - MSPFIU – Michigan State Police Fire Investigation Unit
 - FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - DHS – Department of Homeland Security
 - MPSCS – Michigan Public Safety Communication System
 - UL – Underwriters Laboratories
 - NFPA – National Fire Protection Association
 - EGLE – Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
 - EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
 - FAA – Federal Aviation Administration
 - USCG – United States Coast Guard
 - DNR – Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 - MDHHS – Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
 - Munson Occupational Health and Medicine
 - FCSN – Fire Fighter Cancer Support Network
 - MPFFU – Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
 - MDOT – Michigan Department of Transportation
 - GTSO – Grand Traverse Sheriffs Office
 - MSP – Michigan State Police
 - MSP-EMHSTC – Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training Center
 - APS – Adult Protective Services
 - ATS – Addiction Treatment Services
 - TCPD – Traverse City Police Department
 - TCLP – Traverse City Light and Power
 - DTE Energy
 - Lambda Energy Resources
 - Michcon – Michigan Consolidated Gas Company
 - GTCEM – Grand Traverse County Office of Emergency Management
 - GTC911 – Grand Traverse County 911/Central Dispatch
 - TCAPS – Traverse City Area Public Schools
 - GTACS – Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools
 - Northwest Education Services
 - Montessori Schools
 - NSP – National Ski Patrol
 - ARC – American Red Cross
 - Goodwill of Northern Michigan
 - Safe Harbor of Traverse City
 - Traverse Bay Area Tash Force on Hoarding
 - MFSIA – Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
 - MFIS – Michigan Fire Inspector Society
 - MI-IAAI Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
 - Michigan MABAS – Mutual Aid Box Alarm System
 - MTF1 – Michigan Task Force 1
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Fire Prevention Services



- Fire Extinguisher Trainings : 12
- Public Education Events: 13
- Plan Reviews: 115
- Vacation Home/Tourist Home Inspections: 152
- Regular Inspections*: 150

*this includes: Construction, Code Compliance and Special Events.



Community Involvement: Career Exploration



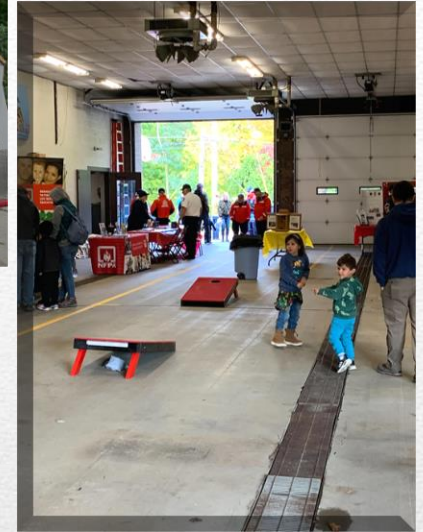
Above: Lt. Peron demonstrates CPR technique to students at the Career Fair held at the Civic Center. Below: Lt. Peron and FF McKerchie observe as a student practices CPR. Career Fairs are a great way to interact with those interested in Fire Fighting and EMS as a job path.



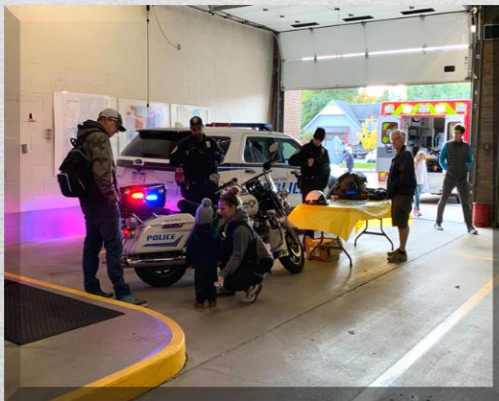
Upper Left: FF Thompson adjusts the fit of a helmet for a student visiting from Kingsley High School for a Career Exploration Day. Upper Right: Lt. Smielewski guides a student in an intubation using a training manikin. Students from Kingsley High School visited Fire Station 01 to learn more about Fire/EMS service, to include aspects of patient care, firehouse living, physical fitness and equipment used in both Fire and EMS. Fire Fighters assisted the students in gear try-on, running our in-house designed physical agility test, learning how to intubate a patient and also splint a fracture. The students were able to sit down and discuss the details of being in the Fire Service and the personal and family sacrifices it can entail. TCFD is committed to being involved with our community, especially our youth, and actively recruiting to find future Fire Fighter Paramedics for our team. Bottom right: Kingsley High School students pose with Crew 01 and Ladder 01.



Community Involvement: 2022 Open House



The Traverse City Fire Department was very excited to bring back the Open House in 2022. The community was able to engage with Fire Fighters, City Police, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and National Fire Protection Association, as well as try out an obstacle course, learn about EMS and HAZMAT services, and look through our Fire Engines and Ambulance! We encourage a strong connection between our community and our First Responders.



Community Involvement: Christmas Toy Program



The Christmas Toys for Kids program was another success in 2022. Originated in the 1940's by the local fire fighters as a way to help local families in need during World War II, this tradition remains strong with the Traverse City Fire Fighters.

Toys are donated by students of Immaculate Conception and Central Grade Schools, as well as private donors.



Looking Ahead - 2023 TCFD Aspirations

- City Fire primary ALS response and transport project.
 - Regular local live fire training to meet ISO requirements.
 - Develop Special Team response with area fire departments.
 - Complete replacement timeline for current City Ladder 01.
 - Complete replacement timeline for current City Marine 01.
 - Maintain ISO classification 03 status.
 - Further research into Firefighter Cancer Awareness/Prevention.
 - Increase collaborative efforts with City schools and the furtherance of Fire and Hazard education.
 - Utilize City connectivity platforms in aiding the local business community in required Tier 2 and Bulletin 9 reporting to the Fire Department.
 - Further research into First Responder peer support solutions.
 - Continued evaluation of new information regarding physical health, wellness, and training for fire fighters.
 - Continue participation in GT Area Youth Fire-Setter mitigation group.
 - Increase joint training exercises with GT Area fire departments.
 - Development of internal Company Officer training program.
 - Foster working partnerships with local higher education institutions to develop Fire and EMS job opportunities
 - Increase outreach and education efforts with residential and business community.
 - Station accommodation modifications
 - Continue participation with other City departments in maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of the public with regard to new infrastructure projects.
 - Continue evaluation of current operations with respect to the City's continued commitment to eco-friendly solutions.
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TRAVERSE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

**A proud tradition in service
for 146 years**

