



Peninsula Township Fire Department
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Peninsula Township Fire Department Yearly Report for 2018





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Dear Township Board,

With 2018 in our rear view mirror, I respectfully submit this report of all fire department activity for the year of 2018. Being hired in December of 2017, I was tasked with improving the Peninsula Township fire department in a multitude of ways. The township board hired me to modernize the fire department, bring Advanced Cardiac Life Support services and to improve the overall service that the department provides. The men and women of the Peninsula Township fire department met these challenges head on and with the board's support, we achieved many improvements in the area of service provided to the residents.

Firefighters are the most important asset to a fire department and I will state we have some of the most dedicate people I have ever worked with. When I became chief in 2017, we had 11 firefighters on the department, at this time a year later we now have 22 members. We are still gathering a lot of interest and are working hard to continue to improve the staffing of the department. Gathering interest of township residents to join the fire department is high on the priority list for 2019.

A great improvement to the emergency medical services that the department provides took effect on October 1, 2018. On this date, the department put Alpha 1 in service which is an Advanced Life Support unit. This enhancement gave our certified paramedics the tools to bring greater life saving skills to our residents.

Throughout the attached report, I will go through the major components of a fire department (fire suppression, emergency medical service, fire prevention and public education) and list the improvements in all the areas and plans to continue to improve.

The fire department has made great strides in improving its services in 2018. While good, there is much more work to be accomplished and with the dedicated firefighters and the support of the community, I am confident we will continue to improve our services to the residents and visitors of Peninsula Township.

Yours in Life Safety,

Fire Chief Fred Gilstorff



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Run Volume

The run volume for the Peninsula Fire Department in 2018 was 561 calls for service. This number is an increase of 34% over the 418 calls that were received in 2017. Of the runs in 2018, the break down was 40% fire related and 60% EMS related. The age of the population, activity of new buildings and the increase in tourists activity are a driving component of the increase. The fire department was involved in many public education events that were counted in these call for service. See figure 1 and 2 for a breakdown of the calls for service and the months they occurred. See figure 3 and 4 for a breakdown of the day of week and time that EMS runs occurred in 2018.

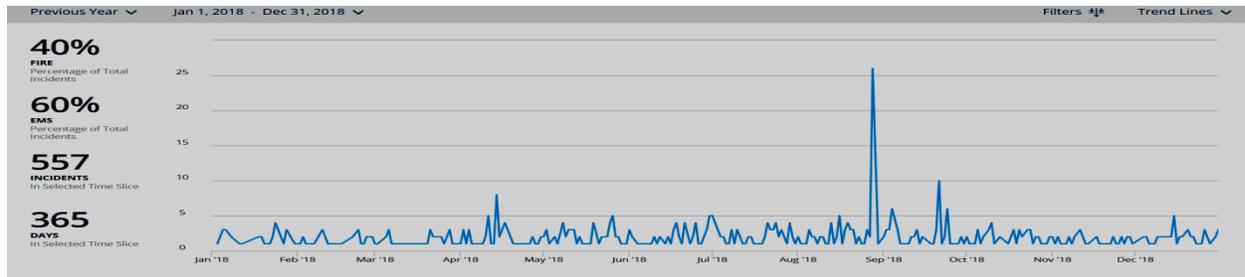


Figure 1

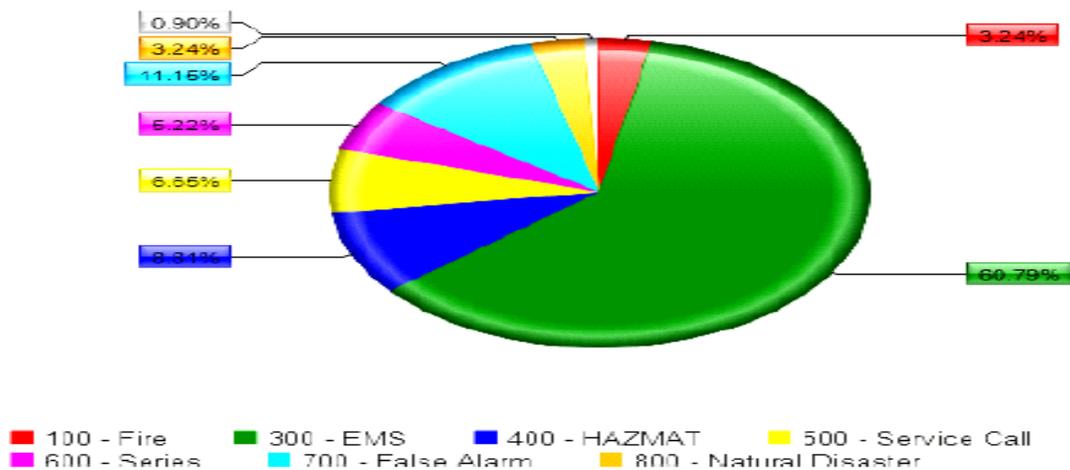


Figure 2



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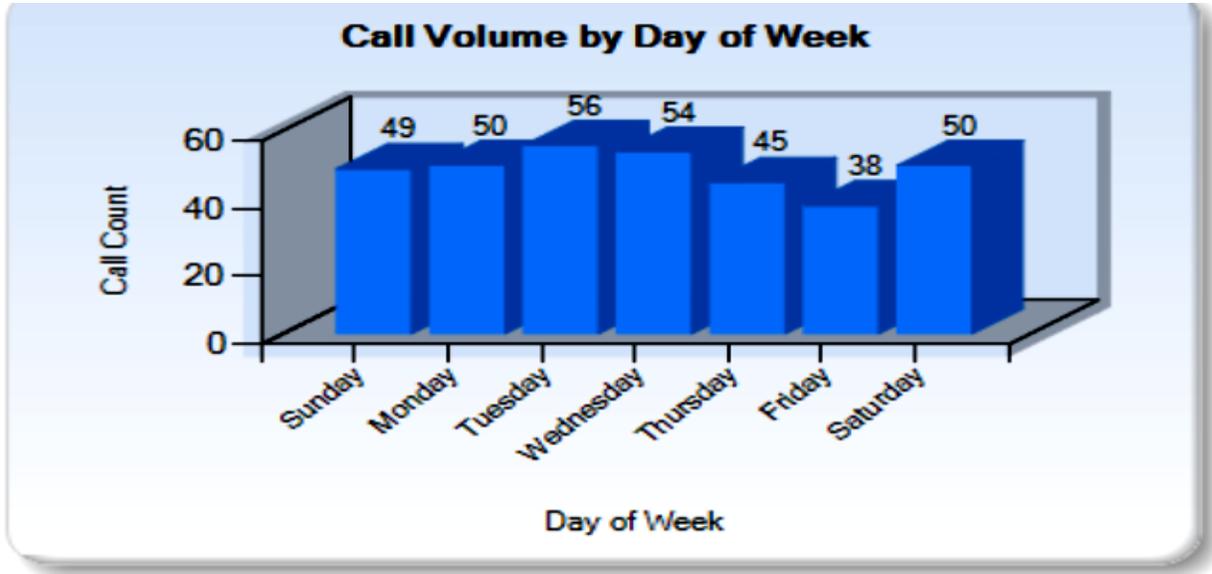


Figure 3

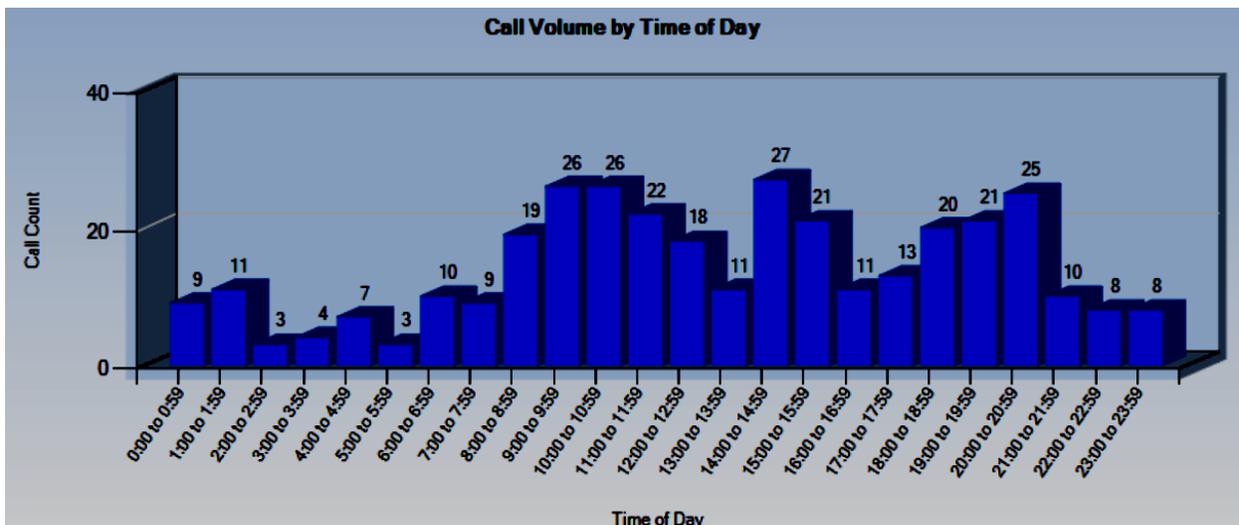


Figure 4



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Training Activity

Training is one of the most important activities that a fire department does to prepare to deliver services to the residents. Multiple skills are practiced throughout the year. These activities include fire suppression, emergency medical, public education, vehicle rescue, water rescue, machinery rescue, driving and apparatus operations and preplanning of buildings in the area just to name a few.

Members are required to complete monthly fire training that is administered on line and in practical hands on trainings. The fire department conducted at a minimum 12 monthly hands on trainings where most members of the department were present. These trainings took place once a month at one of the two fire stations or at a specified training location . Some members attended outside training courses such as an executive fire officer school, EMS continuing education courses and specialized fire training. Each day of the year, firefighters spend a minimum of 2 hours training on various topics that pertain to the fire department.

The department spent numerous hours training with our neighbors. Traverse City fire provided a very in-depth course on hazardous materials where they brought out their Haz-mat truck and taught our firefighters how to use certain equipment and went over all the equipment resources that the truck carries. The fire department relies on help from surrounding communities as they do from us. Joint trainings between us and our neighbors are planned for 2019 as we work to function as one team.

For the year of 2018, members completed over 1700 hours of training.

Upgrades in Service

In 2018, the fire department upgraded the ambulance service from Basic Life Support to Advanced Life Support. This upgrade was accomplished by hiring three fulltime paramedics along with the part time medics that the department has. Prior to ALS, the intercept contract with North Flight was redone. By redoing the contract, there was an increase in EMS revenue as insurances were billed in the appropriate fashion. Cost recovery for fire related runs was put into place for the department to collect money for services that were rendered.

Next to ALS, the biggest upgrade by the department was staffing station two. Firefighters put in many hours to upgrade the building and keep cost down. A open house was held in September on 2018 where nearly 200 people attended and toured the redone station. With station two staffed, the department has seen nearly a 45 second decrease in response times to emergencies. The department expects to see more of a decrease when the station is manned 24/7 365 days of the year. Prior to station 2 being staffed, the average response time was 8.86 minutes. After being staffed, the average



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was down to 8.26 minutes. The added staffing has also helped the department be much more active in the community, we attended nearly 20 events throughout the year.

The fire department has been working on finding more avenues to gather water from the bays incases of fire. Traditionally, the department has used water points throughout the township. These water points are limited and in some cases require increased drive times to get to. Fire department personel have gathered information on more water resources that the department can use. These new water points can be used using a tool called a turbo draft. The department has identified 25 more water spots along the bays. By having more sources throughout the township, it decrease the travel time for department apparatus to move water which helps the firefighters in a fire situation.

Apparatus & Equipment

During 2018, a complete assessment of the department apparatus was completed. A newly outlined maintenance plan was initiated. Department members do a thorough check of each apparatus on a weekly basis. This consists of checking all fluid levels, air pressure in tires, checking underneath the vehicle for issues with shocks, springs or drive shafts. The fire pumps on all apparatus are ran and checked for issues.

Many issues have been noted in 2018 with the apparatus. These issues have been prioritize and fixed according to the safety concern they present. The annual budget of \$35,000.00 will again be exceeded for budget year 2018-2019. While many major issues have been addressed. the department continues to be proactive with maintenance and is working steadily to have all issues taken care of.

With repair cost for aging apparatus rising, the fire department asked for and received approval to purchase one new fire engine, chief's truck and utility/plow truck. A apparatus replacement plan has been developed with the expectation to replace and condense the fire department fleet over fifteen years (see Appendix A). In this replacement plan is the call for vehicles that will allow firefighters to provide the best service possible by having vehicles that are safe, have updated technology and give the firefighters a high probability of a favorable outcome in an emergency situation.

Fire Stations & Grounds

2018 saw many changes to the fire department stations and grounds. Station 2 was remodeled inside and out. Firefighters spent hours redoing the bathrooms, flooring, apparatus bays and landscaping the outside. At this time the station is waiting on a sprinkler system to be installed along with a separation



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wall for sleeping area. The station is currently staffed till 11 p.m. every day. Once the above stated tasks are completed, the station will be staffed 24 hours a day.

Station 1 has seen modest changes that basically included going through everything and making the station more efficient operationally. The small boat is move to the big john building during the winter months to allow all apparatus to be stored indoors. Station 1 should be looked at in the near future to be replaced.

Firefighters spend 3 hours a week making sure grass is cut and weeds are pulled around both stations during the warmer months. The outside image greatly improved this year as we were more organized and benefited by the donation of a lawn mower by Paula Kelly. This donation allowed firefighters to complete the task in a timely fashion. The department also received a grant from the Garden Club to place shrubs and flowers in front of Station 2 in the Spring of 2019 further beautifying the building.

Fire Prevention & Public Education

Fire Prevention and Public education are high priority activities for the Peninsula Twp. Fire Department. In 2018, the fire department held an open house at fire station 2 where nearly 200 people received tours of the station and fire safety tips. This open house was praised by many citizens who participated in the opening. Also on hand at this event was Michigan Blood who had thirteen people donate blood to the bank. This event was a sign of what is to come for the fire department as the plan is to open the doors and have the public see what we are doing on a regular basis between all the stations.

From the planning side, the fire department has started to do pre-incident planning which entails going to every business within the township and drawing sketches of the buildings that show the layout and location of all the utilities. These sketches and information is loaded into our Active 911 system so it is readily available to responding firefighters through laptops and cell phones. This information is essential to the fire department's ability to have a positive outcome in emergency events. Township residents will see an increase in fire department activity as we continue to gain information about all businesses located in the township.

The fire department has started a life safety inspection program where the fire department will conduct safety inspections on an annual basis. These inspections will look at all fire safety related issues and assisting owners of these businesses to correct issues. The goal of the department is to make every business in the township as fire safe as possible.



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Appendix A

Apparatus Replacement Plan 2018-2032 -10 yr Engine Payments																	
Apparatus	replace	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	Replace in
Engine 1	2018		\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00					2043
Chief Truck	2018	\$34,000.00												\$40,000.00			2031
Bravo 2	2023						\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00				2038
Utility 1	2019	\$42,000.00												\$60,000.00			2030
Engine 2	2024							\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	2048
Tanker 2	2019		43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000					2045
Gator	2028											\$35,000.00					as needed
Tanker 1	2030												\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	7 yrs of payment
Alpha 1	2036																
Turn Out GR																	
Cascade																	
Air Packs																	
Total		\$76,000.00	\$103,000.00	\$103,000.00	\$103,000.00	\$103,000.00	\$143,000.00	\$208,000.00	\$208,000.00	\$208,000.00	\$208,000.00	\$243,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$215,000.00	\$115,000.00	\$115,000.00	
<small>Wild land truck, Rescue truck, Tanker 1 and water supply truck are not included in this plan and will be sold once FD has purchased replacement equip. or they are costing too much to maintain.</small>																	