



Peninsula Township Fire Department  
14247 Center Rd.  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
PH: 231-223-4443  
[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)



## Peninsula Township Fire Department Yearly Report for 2019



New Engine 1 - 2020 Spartan S-180



Station 2



Peninsula Township Fire Department  
14247 Center Rd.  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
PH: 231-223-4443  
[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)



---

## Peninsula Township Fire Department Yearly Report for 2019

Dear Township Board,

With 2019 in our rear-view mirror, I respectfully submit this report of all fire department activity for the year of 2019. 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 in 2019.

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, in 2018 we rose the number to 22. Currently in 2019, we have 25 firefighters on our roster. We are still pushing to find more interested people especially those that live on the Peninsula. Finding people to join a fire department as a paid on-call member is an extreme challenge not only for the Peninsula fire department but fire departments across the country. The department tries on a daily basis to have at least 2 firefighters at each station, three full time positions and one part time position. The part time position has been inconsistent as to filling. Typically, there are 10 days each month that the part time position is not filled, we have brought more part time staff on to the department and the hope is to remedy this issue in 2020. Having a minimum of 4 firefighters on duty every day is a goal of the department to be able to deliver a high level of service and to meet guidelines that are set forth by the National Fire Protection Agency standard 1710.

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 unit responded to 403 calls for EMS service in 2019 with many positive outcomes. The upgrade to ALS service in 2018 has provided the department the ability to give residents the highest level of care provided by an Emergency Medical service and continued into 2019. In 2020, it is the plan of the department to upgrade a second ambulance



Peninsula Township Fire Department  
14247 Center Rd.  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
PH: 231-223-4443  
[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)



---

to ALS when staffing allows. This upgrade will allow us to respond quicker with a higher level of service.

In 2019, with the township, the fire department was able to get a contract done with the firefighter's union that is 5 years in length. The township also negotiated a contract with myself for 5 additional years. Having both contracts taken care of gives the department consistency and allows it to focus on service delivered and planning for the future.

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 continued to improve its services above the improvements that were made in 2018. While good, there is much more work to be accomplished such as the building of a new station 3 in the northern portion of the township, having a more consistent staffing model, planning for improvements to station 1 and 2 and continuing to improve every component of service we deliver. With the help of our 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



Peninsula Township Fire Department  
14247 Center Rd.  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
PH: 231-223-4443  
[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)



## Peninsula Township Fire Department Yearly Report for 2019

### Run Volume

The run volume for the Peninsula Fire Department in 2019 was 594 calls for service. This number is an increase of 4% over the 561 calls that were received in 2018. Of the runs in 2019, the breakdown was 33% fire related and 67% EMS related. Total EMS runs have increased by 18% over 2018. The age of the population, activity of new buildings, the increase in tourist's activity are a driving component of the increase along with resident confidence in our EMS system.. The fire department was involved in many public education events that were counted in these calls 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 & Fire runs occurred in 2019.

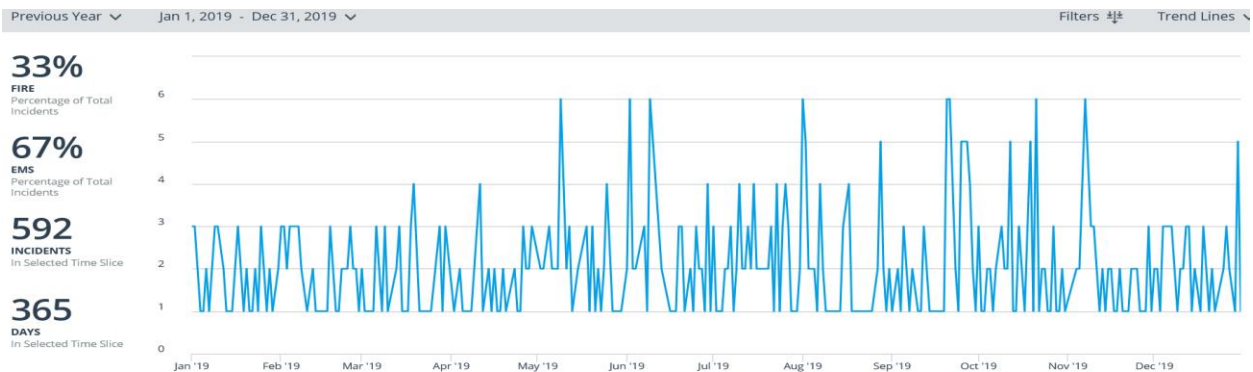


Figure-2

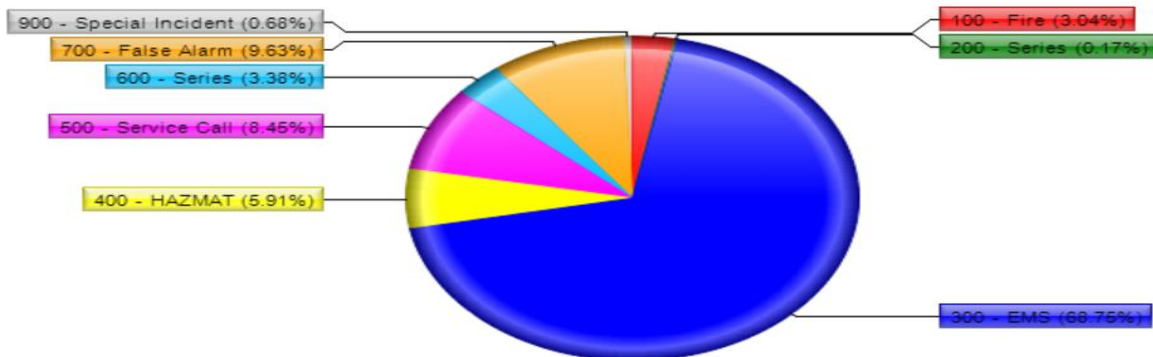


Figure 1



Peninsula Township Fire Department  
14247 Center Rd.  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
PH: 231-223-4443  
[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)

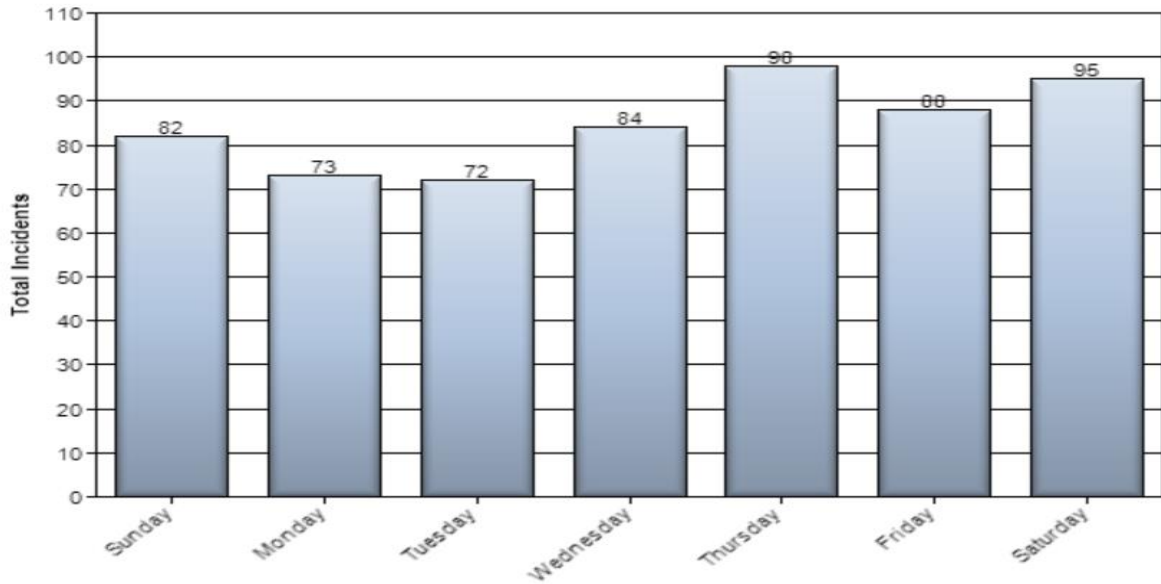


Figure 2

### Hourly Breakdown of Incidents

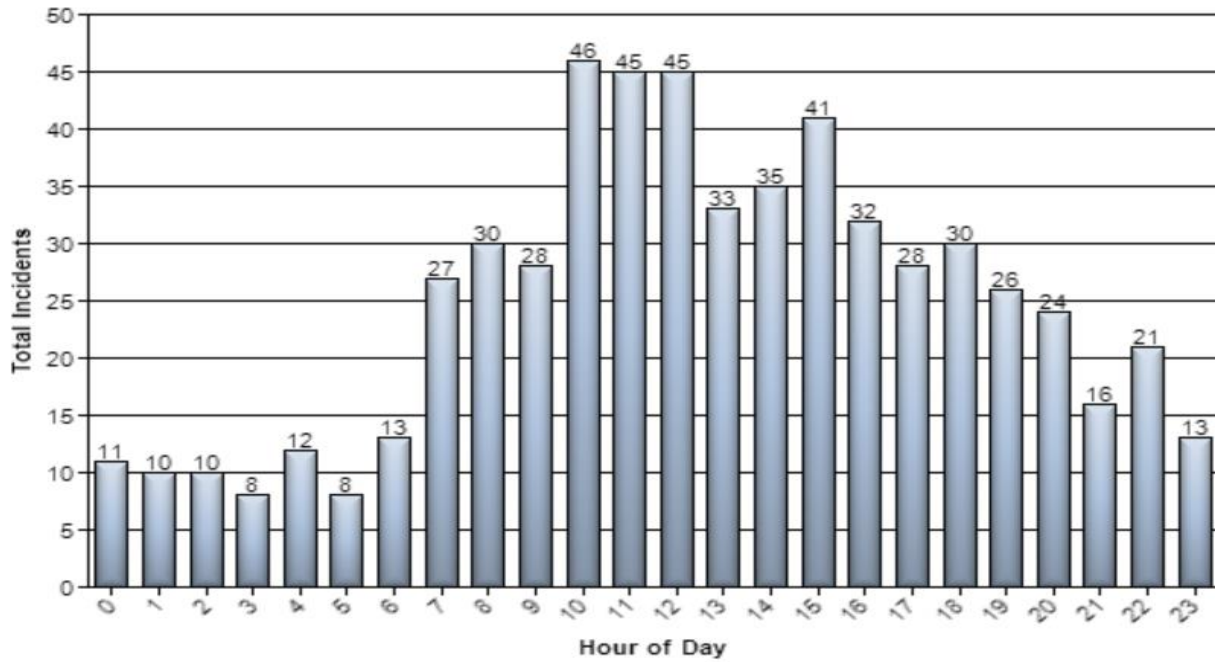


Figure 3



Peninsula Township Fire Department  
14247 Center Rd.  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
PH: 231-223-4443  
[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)



### 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 township 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 classes, EMS continuing education courses, fire investigation, juvenile fire setter, rope rescue, water rescue, boat operations and other specialized fire training. Each day of the year, firefighters spend a minimum of 2 hours a day 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. Another haz-mat operations course was taught by an instructor from down state which was paid for by a grant that Munson Regional EMS education received and shared. The fire department relies on help from surrounding communities as they do from us. Joint trainings between us and our neighbors are planned for 2020 as we work to function as one team.

For the year of 2019, members completed over 3000 hours of training.

### Upgrades in Service

Next to ALS in 2018, the biggest upgrade by the department was staffing station two which occurred full time on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Firefighters put in many hours to upgrade the building and keep cost down. An 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 a slight 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 was down to 8.45 minutes. While the decrease is slight, the driving factor is that in the beginning of 2019 station 2 was only staffed till 11 pm each day. There were multiple runs



Peninsula Township Fire Department  
14247 Center Rd.  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
PH: 231-223-4443  
[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)



where the crew came from station 1 to respond to the south end, in some cases the response time were over 15 minutes. In 2020, the department will get a realistic grasp on how response times have improved with the staffing increase and the building of station 3. The goal of the department is to respond in less than 8 minutes 90% of the time. Currently, the department responds in less than 8 minutes 50% of the time. The added staffing has also helped the department be much more active in the community, we attended nearly 20 events throughout the year and are providing numerous fire safety classes and first aid classes. The department was able to help place 7 Automatic External Defibrulators (AED) in multiple public spaces.

The fire department has been working on finding more avenues to gather water from the bays for firefighting. 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 personnel 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 and with the new vacuum tanker. 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. National Fire Service Office completed a drought study of both bays for our ISO rating. The study showed there is significant amounts of water for fire suppression and we have the ability to gather it. The ISO (Insurance Service Office) completed their inspection of the department in November 2019 and as of the writing of this report, we are waiting for the results.

### **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 had been noted in 2018 with the apparatus. These issues were prioritized and fixed according to the safety concern they present, this process continued into 2019. The purchase of a new chief truck, utility truck, fire engine and tanker were accomplished in 2019. The replacing of older vehicles helped to reduce maintenance cost as the budget for maintenance was reduced by \$5000.00 in 2019 compared to 2018. 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.



Peninsula Township Fire Department  
14247 Center Rd.  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
PH: 231-223-4443  
[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)



An apparatus replacement plan was developed in 2018 with the expectation to replace and condense the fire department fleet over fifteen years (see Appendix A). In 2019, the department sold an old engine, chief truck, utility truck, tanker truck and water supply truck. 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

2019 saw continued changes to the fire department stations and grounds. Station 2 remodel inside and out was completed. Firefighters spent hours redoing the bathrooms, flooring, apparatus bays and landscaping the outside. A sprinkler system was installed along with a separation wall for sleeping area. The station is now staffed 24 hours a day. The department received a grant from the Flower Club and the landscaping in the front of the station was improved. An emergency generator was installed at station 2 to help assure operations are able to continue in the event of the loss of power. 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. Stations 1 and 2 were evaluated for structural and operational efficiency by the Spicer Group. A report was completed and an analysis was completed on replacing station 1 and renovating station 2 with additional apparatus bays. Projected cost is included in the report for future planning. The report will be present to the township board in early 2020. Both stations are in need of upgrades and will be addressed in future planning.

Station 3 in the northern part of the township has been approved. The station will be located on Center Road just north of Swaney. This station is projected to be completed in the summer of 2020. This station will house a fire truck and have storage for other department seasonal equipment. Fire department staff spent hours with township officials gathering information about the building. The township hired Gordie Frasier in December on 2019 to oversee the project.

#### Fire Prevention & Public Education

Fire Prevention and Public education are high priority activities for the Peninsula Twp. Fire Department. In the fall of 2019, the fire department held an open house at fire station 1 where nearly 150 people received tours of the station, fire safety tips and a Jaws of Life demonstration. This open house was praised by many citizens who attend the event and enjoyed food made by the firefighters. 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





**Peninsula Township Fire Department**  
14247 Center Rd.  
Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
PH: 231-223-4443  
*[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)*



---

public see what we are doing on a regular basis between all the stations. The fire stations belong to the community and firefighters enjoy showing the residents how we operate and the equipment we use.

From the planning side, the fire department has completed 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 and hazards. These sketches and information are 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 favorable 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 plans for 2020 are to start looking at the farms and gathering information about them. Many farms store chemicals for the farming process, when firefighters know what is in a building, we develop appropriate plans of dealing with potential situations that could happen.

The fire department started a life safety inspection program in 2018, where the fire department conducted safety inspections on an annual basis. In 2019, inspections were completed. These inspections looked at all fire safety related issues and assisted 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. These inspections will be done every year.



Peninsula Township Fire Department  
 14247 Center Rd.  
 Traverse City, Michigan 49686  
 PH: 231-223-4443  
[firechief@peninsulatownship.com](mailto:firechief@peninsulatownship.com)



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
Engine 1	2019		\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000			
Chief Truck	2018	\$ 34,000												\$ 40,000	
Bravo 2	2023						\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000		
Utility 1	2019	\$ 42,000												\$ 60,000	
Engine 2	2024							\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
Tanker 2	2019		\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000			
Gator	2028											\$ 35,000			
Tanker 1	2030													\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Alpha 1	2036														
Wildland	2032														
Turn Out GR	As needed														
Cascade															
Air Packs															
<b>Total</b>		\$ 76,000	\$ 103,000	\$ 103,000	\$ 103,000	\$ 103,000	\$ 143,000	\$ 208,000	\$ 208,000	\$ 208,000	\$ 208,000	\$ 243,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 215,000	\$ 115,000

Rescue truck 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.