



Peninsula Township Fire Department
14247 Center Rd.
Traverse City, Michigan 49686
PH: 231-223-4443
fire@peninsulatownship.com



Peninsula Township Fire Department Yearly Report for 2023

2022 Peninsula Township Fire Department 2022



Fred Günzloff Fire Chief



Nick Haines Lieutenant



Kyle Sailer Lieutenant



Brent Strom Lieutenant



Kaley Adams Firefighter / EMT



Grant Blackner Firefighter / EMT



Joe Glemason Firefighter / Paramedic



Fredrick Davidson Firefighter / EMT



Dan Drew Firefighter



Griffin Evans Firefighter / EMT



Harrison Hobson Firefighter / EMT



Kyle Johnson Firefighter / Paramedic



Jordan LaPoint Firefighter / EMT



Jeff Lemm Firefighter / EMT



Paul Lupter Firefighter / Paramedic



William Pasquas Firefighter / EMT



Ethan Pasaniquas Firefighter / Paramedic





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Dear Township Board,

With 2023 in our rear-view mirror, I respectfully submit this report of all fire department activity for the year of 2023. The year 2023 was a year that was slower with calls for responses but the fire department was a lot busier with our public education programs and interacting with the residents of this great township. The department helped with multiple community events such as the work at Bowers Harbor Park and the many events that our library puts on each year. We also lead a Touch A Truck event at our local school that the kids had a blast exploring all the different types of trucks that they see in use on a regular basis.

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. At the beginning of 2023, we had 28 firefighters on our roster. During 2023, we had some full-time and part-time firefighters leave the department to seek other opportunities but were able to replace all the full-time staff that left to get to 15 full-time firefighters. With a couple more full-time staff leaving towards the end of the year, we currently have two full-time positions open and hope to fill in early 2024. We currently have nine members that live in Peninsula Township. Our staff, whether full-time, part-time or paid on-call are dedicated to this department and serving the residents. They work hard throughout the year to be as prepared as possible to respond to every emergency.

The department staffs on a daily basis at least 2 firefighters at station #1 and #2 and 1 firefighter at station #3. With an increase in full-time staff, the department fills all three stations 95% of the time. There are times due to staffing where station 3 is unstaffed. This is where our paid on-call staff become very important to fill the gap. We continue to look for high quality individuals that are willing to serve on the fire department, protect this community and be a part of a great team of dedicated people.

The fire department continued to have a strong focus in 2023 of increasing our amount of time spent training. Residents saw a lot of activity with our vehicles on a daily basis where firefighters were working hard to perfect their craft. For our new full-time hires, each member has to go through an 80-hour orientation process to learn how to do everything that is required



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of a Peninsula Township firefighter. We completed this process for 4 new full-time firefighters in 2023 and have 3 paid on-call members working hard to complete their probationary period and learn all our equipment and develop skills to operate it. This is a team effort where full-time and paid on-call members work together to provide a great service to our residents. In total, the department members completed over 4300 hours of training on a variety of topics.

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 grow in 2023 and with the support of the residents and the Town board, will continue to grow in 2024. The department overall is very young and we are doing everything we can to improve our skill and knowledge to provide a great service to the residents. We continue to look at all the areas of our department that can be improved. We send staff to many trainings to increase their knowledge and experience. We have a great working relationship with surrounding fire departments and train together on a regular basis. We are also a part of an automatic aid responses where we get help and give help. These automatic aid responses help assure that enough firefighters are on scene to work safely and efficiently.

There is still much more work to do for our department. We have ordered another new fire truck that will be here in 2025 to replace a truck that will be 27 years old. Having up to date equipment for the department gives our firefighters the ability to do their jobs and also increases the chances that the equipment will function properly at an emergency scene. The department also needs to replace current fire station 1 as the department has out grown this station and it no longer can house staff and equipment properly. To be honest, it was never designed to have full-time staff housed in it and does not give us the ability to interact with the public or do our jobs to the best of our abilities. The department has done a lot of work in planning for a new building that would serve this department well into the future. My hope is that the township board will work with the fire department to replace this building within the next two years to help us better serve our residents.

Again, I want to thank the community as a whole for their support of the fire department. Over the six years that I have been here as the Fire Chief, we have made so many improvements, many of which could not have been done without our dedicated firefighters, a Town Board that



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supports us and the wonderful residents of Peninsula Township. I look forward to more improvements for us in 2024 and beyond and wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2024.

Yours in Life Safety,

Fire Chief Fred Gilstorff



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Run Volume

The run volume for the Peninsula Fire Department in 2023 was 448 calls for service. This number is a decrease of 12 runs over the 660 calls that were received in 2022. Of the runs in 2022, the break down was 30% fire related and 70% EMS related. Total EMS runs were down by 23. While the decrease of runs from 2022 to 2023 is minimal, the department believes we should see increases in run volume as the population age increases, activity of new buildings increases, the increase in tourist's activity as more wineries come in, along with resident confidence in our EMS system in 2024. Our responses out of the township for 2023 were 54 responses to assist other departments and communities. These out of township responses are part of our mutual and auto aid responses which benefits us and the other communities by providing resources and equipment in a timely fashion, as well As keeping firefighter safety high.

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 call's totals and percentage of each type of calls, figure 1 shows the difference in responses from 2022 to 2023. See figure 3 and 4 for a breakdown of the day of week and time that EMS & Fire runs occurred in 2023. Figure 5 shows responses for each of the three districts that correlate with each station's primary response area.

Incident Type Details 2022/2023

Click Row for Breakdown	2022	2023
100 - Fire	21	17
300 - EMS	465	442
400 - HAZMAT	35	25
500 - Service Call	43	42
600 - Series	35	40
700 - False Alarm	55	75
800 - Natural Disaster	5	4
900 - Special Incident	1	3
Other	0	0
Total	660	648

Figure-1



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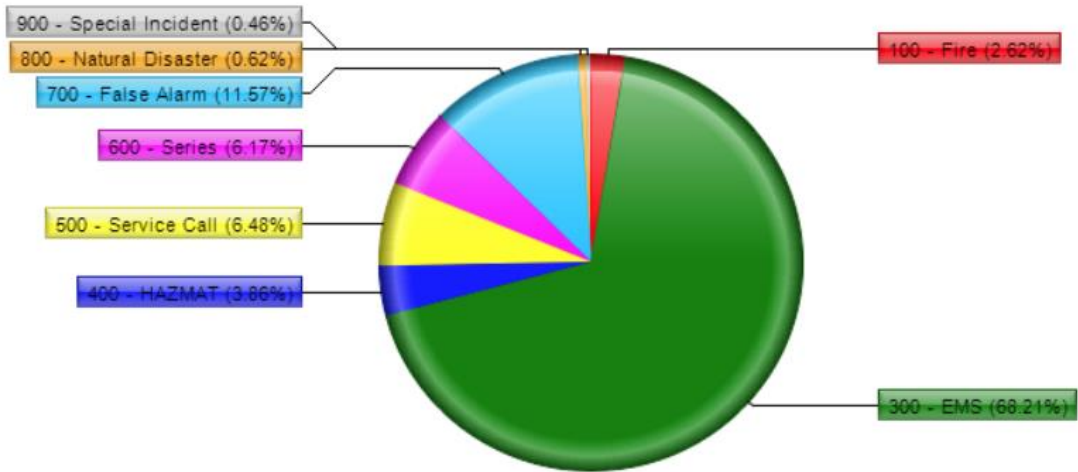


Figure 2

Monthly Breakdown of Incidents

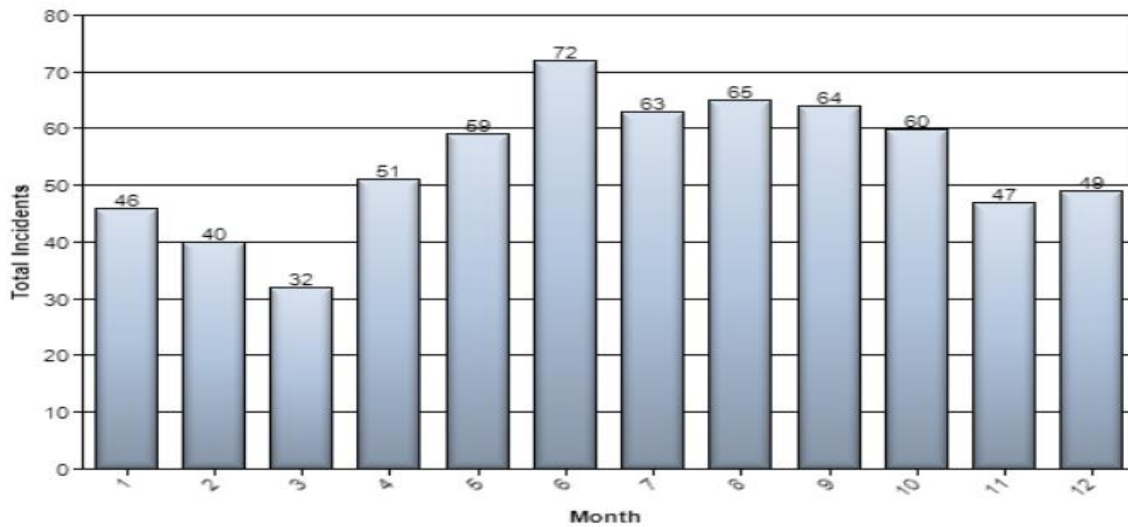


Figure 3



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Hourly Breakdown of Incidents

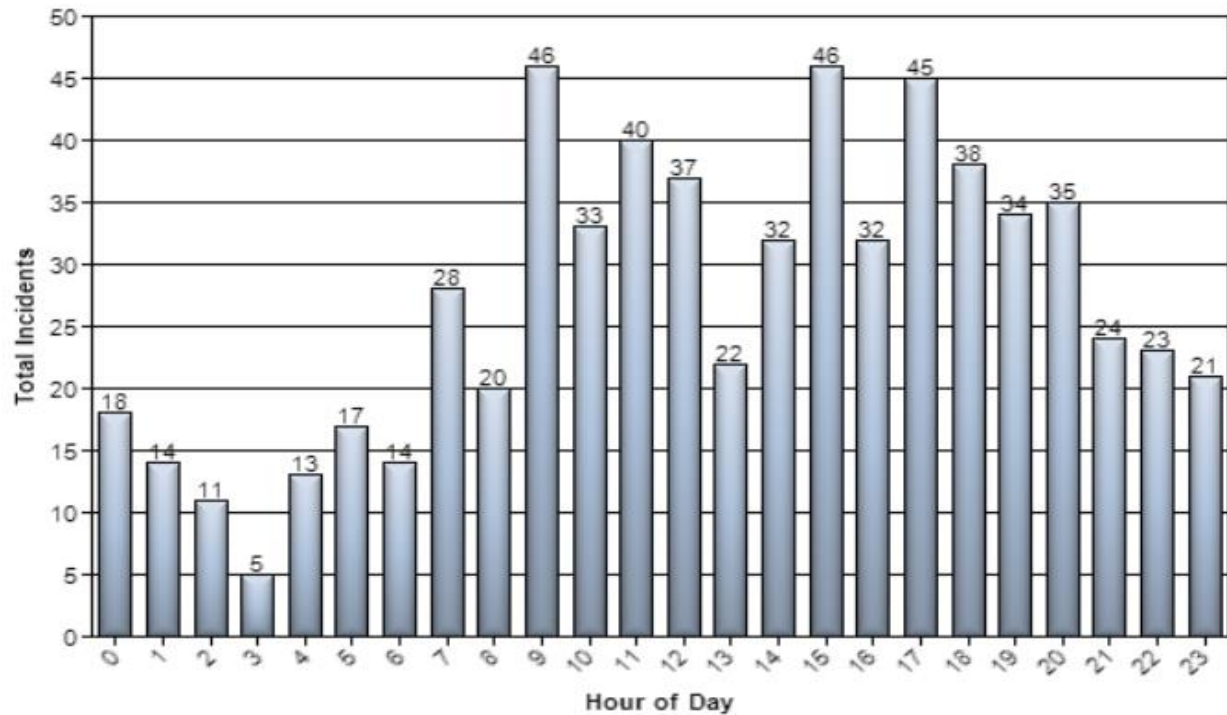


Figure 4

Total Calls by District

District	2023-01-01	2023-02-01	2023-03-01	2023-04-01	2023-05-01	2023-06-01	2023-07-01	2023-08-01	2023-09-01	2023-10-01	2023-11-01	2023-12-01	Total
District 2 (City Limits - Carrol Rd)	21	21	23	32	35	43	30	42	33	29	27	34	370
District 1 (Carrol Rd - Ladd Rd)	13	10	5	13	15	10	20	14	18	19	11	11	159
District 3 (Ladd Rd - Lighthouse)	4	6	1	3	3	8	10	6	7	6	7	4	65
Out of Township	8	3	3	3	6	11	3	3	6	6	2	0	54
Total	46	40	32	51	59	72	63	65	64	60	47	49	648

Figure 5



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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 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, if member was not present, they are required to make up the training. These trainings took place once a month at one of the three fire stations or at a specified training location. Daily duty crews complete daily training on a variety of topics. 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. It is a goal of the fire department to have each member attend 192 hours of training a year per ISO, OSHA and MIOSHA requirements. Officers of the department are required to attend multiple management style trainings.

2023 was a very busy year for the department with sending staff to outside training classes. We sent 4 people to Firefighter 1 and 2 at the regional training center. This class is 240 hours long and teaches basic firefighting to students. This class is a must to be a firefighter on our department. The department had 2 full-time staff pass the Paramedic program at Munson Educational Center. One member passed the National Registry test for paramedic and one other continues to try and pass the test. We have 2 more full-time staff in the paramedic program that started in April of 2023 and one other member started paramedic school in October of 2023. Two other members took and passed the Basic EMT class, these members were from our paid on-call staff. We did joint trainings with Traverse City FD on Hazmat responses. Lt. Sarber attended a week-long water rescue instructor class in Maine. He is now certified to teach water rescue to our staff and staff in surrounding communities. Members completed required radio operator training. Members completed National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) 100, 200, 700 and 800 courses. Officers and acting officers completed 15 officers of officer specific training. Members attended pump operator classes.

On the EMS side of training, members completed 20 hours of continuing education to maintain their current EMS licensure. Members completed training on the use of a portable ultrasound device for use in the field with medical control doctor. Members completed training on use of IV pumps for medication distribution. Many mock scenarios were set up throughout the year for staff to practice their skills and



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improve knowledge. The department spends a lot of time and money to make sure staff our trained properly and can function within the medical control authority.

The fire chief attended multiple county chief meetings. The fire chief is the Vice-President of the Area Chief's Association. Attended a 16-hour course on investigation report writing. The chief taught multiple classes at the regional fire school and is a member of the board for the Northwest Regional Fire Training Center. Chief attended a 3-day seminar for fire instructor and a 3-day seminar on fire inspections. The fire chief also completes all required fire and EMS training throughout the year.

For the year of 2023, members completed over 4300 hours of training of fire training. This amount of time averages out to almost 12 hours a day for the year.

Upgrades in Service

In 2023, the fire department continued to see improvements made in response times for all emergency calls. Response times average 6:43 minutes from the time of dispatch to the time we arrived on scene. We saw a slight increase in the response times from 2022 which was 6:36. Response times vary for multiple reasons one of which is long runs into other areas or jurisdictions for mutual aid, taking these long responses into account, the department did improve response times from 2022. On average, it took crews 1 minute and 17 seconds to receive the call and be on their way to the run. The department prides itself on responding quickly to every call.

In 2023, the fire department budgeted to hire additional full-time staff to solve the problem of staffing station 3 and to bring total full-time staff to 15. We currently try to have 5 people on duty every day. Two shifts have 4 people assigned and one shift 5. We did reach our 15 full-time members in 2023 but had to terminate one and another left for a different opportunity. We will be hiring two more full-time in 2024 to get each shift back to 5. Our remaining part-time (currently 3 people) staff will work 48 hours each a month which will give us 6 people on the days the part-time staff are schedule to work and be able to fill in when full-time staff is low for the day. We have 6 paid on-call staff that live in the township who respond when available to assist residents in need. I believe this staffing model will provide very good coverage for the whole Peninsula and allow us to operate safely and efficiently.

Once we have more staff trained at the paramedic level, we will be able to have our second ALS ambulance staffed properly when using the above stated staffing model. Which will provide better EMS service to our residents in the middle and northern section of the township on a more consistent basis. We will have at least 2 more paramedic staff in the upcoming spring of 2024 that have completed the paramedic class and one other will complete in the fall. Currently the department has 8 paramedics.



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The department continued our AED program during 2023. Fire department staff continue to provide yearly refresher training to staff in businesses that have an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). We are continuing to look at businesses that will benefit from having an AED and working with them to obtain a device. We also work to make sure their devices are up to date.

The fire department continues to try and improve our marine services. We sent one member to a water rescue class in Maine. This member will now be able to train our staff in rescue swimming and water rescue. All of our boats are having their electronic devices up dated along with other equipment on our vessels. Our goal is to be the best water rescue team in northern Michigan. In 2024, residents will see us on a regular basis defining our skills in the water.

Improving our Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating for the department has been a goal which we achieved. We continue to make sure we are staying up to date with tactics and equipment to improve our score the next time we are evaluated. The ISO score is based on a scale of 1 to 10 with ten being the worst was done initially in 2020. We made many improvements that pertain to how we respond to fires, our ability to gather water from the bays, the amount of people responding and the equipment we carry on the trucks. The new scores that went into effect in September of 2022 were as follows: Hydrant area was rated a 3 and the rest of the township a 4. These current scores rate us very well when compared to other departments that have the same demographics. Our goal will be to improve these scores on our next evaluation.

Continued improvement was made in the mental health of our staff. One of the full-time members is a peer support trained individual and has given us the ability to have a trained person that is available to help any of our members if they are dealing with any kind of mental issues. Having this ability allows us to hopefully recognize and assist a member before having serious issues. Improved mental and physical health is a major goal of the department. All members receive an annual physical to assess them and catch any possible health issues and get them the help they need quickly. Members are also pushed to do physical exercise while on duty to stay physically sharp. Station 1 has a host of exercise equipment that is used on a regular basis. On the mental side of things, members are trained to look out for each other and report any possible issues so we can get our members the help they need whether just having an avenue to talk through things or if needed, get professional help.

Apparatus & Equipment

During 2023, the department continued its focus to have a well-maintained fleet of vehicles and boats. Maintenance was completed on a regular basis and weekly checks were done on all vehicles. While an upgraded maintenance plan has helped with keeping vehicles in a ready state, there were still



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some issues that had to deal with quickly. The department has partnered with many repair shops for quick and reliable service to decrease down time of vehicles. 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. All this information is readily available to staff so they can use if issues arise.

Many issues had been noted in 2023 with the apparatus. These issues were prioritized and fixed according to the safety concern they present; this process will continue into 2024. While many major issues were addressed in 2021, such as replacement of worn tires and pump issues on older trucks, the department continues to be proactive with maintenance and is working steadily to have all issues taken care of. In 2023, the department spent a good amount of money on electrical issues with engine 3, front suspension on Engine 1, various pump valves were replaced on multiple vehicles, all pumps were tested, tanker 2 had many minor issues that were fixed, Engine 2 had radio and electrical issues that were fixed and many little issues with emergency lights on all vehicle were taken care of by staff. I am happy to report that no major damage was done to vehicles by accidents. While these costs are high, some are expected as wear and tear. The department is aggressive in getting our apparatus repaired quickly, however, we still deal with many delays due to the availability of parts and labor shortages causing a delay in putting the apparatus back in service quickly.

Aggressive maintenance on the department vehicles has put the department in a position that allows our members to trust our vehicles and feel safe while operating. The department will continue to use our vehicle checks and apparatus repair form to assure that our vehicles are getting fixed in a timely manner so we do not hinder our ability to respond to all emergencies and apparatus are safe for use.

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). The department ordered a new fire truck to replace engine 2 in late 2023, the new engine should arrive in May of 2025. The cost of the new vehicle will be financed over a 10-year period with \$300K put as a down payment. The next vehicle to replace will be Tanker 2 in 2030. Our current average year of our vehicles will be 2016 when new truck is delivered in 2125. Making our average age of vehicles 9 years in 2025.

Fire Stations & Grounds

In 2023, the department worked hard to make sure all 3 stations were operational and presentable. Department members check the stations on a daily basis and do detailed inspections on a monthly basis. During 2023, we had very little new issues with our fire stations with the exception of



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garage door openers having issues from time to time and floor drain issues at station 2. The fire department did replace garage doors and openers at station 2 in 2023 along with two entrance doors. At station 1, we replaced the garage door openers. Stations 1 and 2 still need to be planned for replacement and renovations as we still have multiple operational issues with the following:

- We do not have a dedicated training room for training staff and the public.
- We have to place some equipment outdoors during the summer to be accessible.
- Crew quarters and office space are insufficient at station 1 and 2.
- Both stations are over 40 years old and lack space to adequately house our equipment and staff which has grown over the years. The two stations were not designed to house staff around the clock.
- Lack of proper quarters for personnel at station 1. Day room is in a converted garage bay.
- Safety at station 1 is compromised due to the closeness to the road, high voltage lines over main drive and in the fall zone of the cell tower.
- Many of the mechanical functions at station 1 are becoming dated and will need to be fixed.

The above stated concerns are just the start of issues with the fire stations. The fire department has been working on concept plans for station 1 replacement in 2023 and have the concepts complete, see photo below. The department is also looking for land to place this station on. This has been a very hard task as much of the land that could be used is either under PDR or Conservancy rights. It is imperative that in 2024 the township and fire department start the process of starting the project of replacing station 1. The fire department believes the primary focus should be replacing station 1 and developing a plan for station 2 in the future years.





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Fire Prevention & Public Education

Fire Prevention and Public education are high priority activities for the Peninsula Twp. Fire Department. The department performed fire safety inspections in nearly all our businesses. As we have continued to do these inspections every year, we are seeing less and less violations. The business community has been very receptive to our inspections and state they appreciate us doing them yearly. In total for 2023, the fire department spent over a hundred hours doing fire safety inspections and plan reviews for new projects. The department was able to send another member through the fire inspector course and now have three staff members that have completed the course.

The department continues to do Pre-Incident Surveys of businesses as well. The department gathers contact names, layout of buildings, location of utilities, chemicals housed, special hazards and water needed in case of fire. This information provides us great assistance for emergencies and allows us to have it on our phones where it can be accessed easily. The department reviews these pre-incident surveys on a yearly basis to make sure all information is accurate.

The department visit the school this year many times to deliver fire safety messages. The department also was involved in many other events where we delivered a fire safety message to adults and children. In 2023, the department led an event at the school called "Touch A Truck" where multiple organizations brought work vehicles that the kids could look at and climb on. The event was well received and will become an annual event. The teachers at the school were trained in Stop the Bleed and CPR, we do this yearly for the staff that we entrust to teach our children.

The department made many visits at the request of residents to allow children to see our fire equipment and give us a chance to relay a fire safety message. We participate in the annual 4th of July parade in Old Mission and provided medical standby for all the foot races on the peninsula.

During 2023, the department was able to hold an open house for station 1. Nearly 40 residents came to see the station. Residents were treated to food, seeing our trucks and equipment and meeting Sparky the fire dog. Fun was had by all.

A big component of our public education and prevention program is to make sure residents have working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. The department has smoke detectors that we can install when residents need them. The detectors come from the State Fire Marshal's office. We are also available to assist with changing detector batteries and developing escape plans for residents. During 2023, we assisted many residents with smoke detector installs or changing their detector batteries.



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Appendix A

Apparatus Replacement Plan 2018-2035 -10 yr Engine Payments

Apparatus	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Engine 1	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000							
Chief Truck										\$ 70,000					
Alpha 2	\$ 40,493	\$ 40,493	\$ 40,493	\$ 40,493	\$ 40,493	\$ 40,493	\$ 40,493	\$ 40,493							
Utility 1												\$ 90,000			
Engine 2					\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435	\$ 80,435
Tanker 1	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000							
Gator															
Tanker 2									\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
Alpha 1															
Wildland											\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Turn Out GR															
Cascade															
Air Packs															
Total	\$ 103,000	\$ 143,493	\$ 143,493	\$ 143,493	\$ 223,928	\$ 223,928	\$ 223,928	\$ 223,928	\$ 80,435	\$ 145,435	\$ 215,435	\$ 225,435	\$ 315,435	\$ 225,435	\$ 225,435

Id once FD has purchased replacement equip. or it is costing to much to maintain.