



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 2024



Dear Township Board,

With 2024 in our rear-view mirror, I respectfully submit this report of all fire department activity for the year of 2024. The year 2024 was a year that saw the department continue to improve on all the services we provide to the community. The department worked hard on looking at ways to improve our services and train our staff. The department continued our visibility in the community by attending and facilitating multiple events throughout the year. We installed smoke detectors, provided public fire safety education to residents, worked with the school and churches to see that their buildings are fire safe, trained teachers in CPR and Stop the Bleed, worked on plan reviews for new buildings, held fire station open houses, read



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to children at the library, drove Santa to multiple events, assisted with helping to upgrade our parks and provide assistance to any resident who needed our help. All of this was accomplished while we maintained our stations, apparatus, training and required certifications to operate as firefighter and EMS providers for our community.

Our firefighters are our greatest asset and I am proud to report after a few years of up and downs, that we had reached our budget goal of 15 full-time positions in 2024 that allows us to staff station 1 and 2 with two people a day and station 3 with one person along with support from our paid on-call staff. The department lost one full-time member in December of 2024 and will seek to replace that position. As a whole, the department now has 24 members with 12 being paramedics, 10 being EMT-B and one just a firefighter. We also had one new member start firefighting school in December of 2024. While I believe our staffing is good, we still would like to increase our paid on-call staff. With the increase in available paramedics, we have seen an increase in the ability to staff our second ALS ambulance.

The fire department continued to have a strong focus in 2024 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 of a Peninsula Township firefighter. We completed this process for 2 new full-time firefighters in 2024 and have 1 paid on-call member 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 4000 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 2024 and with the support of the residents and the Town board, will continue to grow in 2025. 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



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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. A new fire truck 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 has been working hard on plans for a new station 1 which is the department headquarters station and the basic hub for all that we do. The current station no longer provides the department with the ability to house our firefighter and equipment efficiently and does to give us the ability to effectively interact with the public for training classes. A new station, that is planned for future need, will serve this community for 50 to 60 years. My drive for 2025 is to make this great need a reality and give our department all the tools needed for our firefighters to do the job and do it safely while being prepared to handle any emergency. A new station will move us towards that.

Again, I want to thank the community as a whole for their support of the fire department. Over the seven 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 supports us and the wonderful residents of Peninsula Township. I look forward to more improvements for us in 2025 and beyond and wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2025.

Yours in Life Safety,

Fire Chief Fred Gilstorff

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Run Volume

The run volume for the Peninsula Fire Department in 2024 was 658 calls for service. This number is an increase of 10 runs over the 648 calls that were received in 2023. Of the runs in 2024, the break down was 30% fire related and 70% EMS related. Total EMS runs were up by 14. While the increase of runs from 2023 to 2024 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 2024 were 72 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 2023 to 2024. See figure 3 and 4 for a breakdown of the day of week and time that EMS & Fire runs occurred in 2024. 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	2023	2024
100 - Fire	17	19
300 - EMS	442	456
400 - HAZMAT	25	19
500 - Service Call	42	49
600 - Series	40	42
700 - False Alarm	75	69
800 - Natural Disaster	4	3
900 - Special Incident	3	1
Other	0	0
Total	648	658

Figure-1



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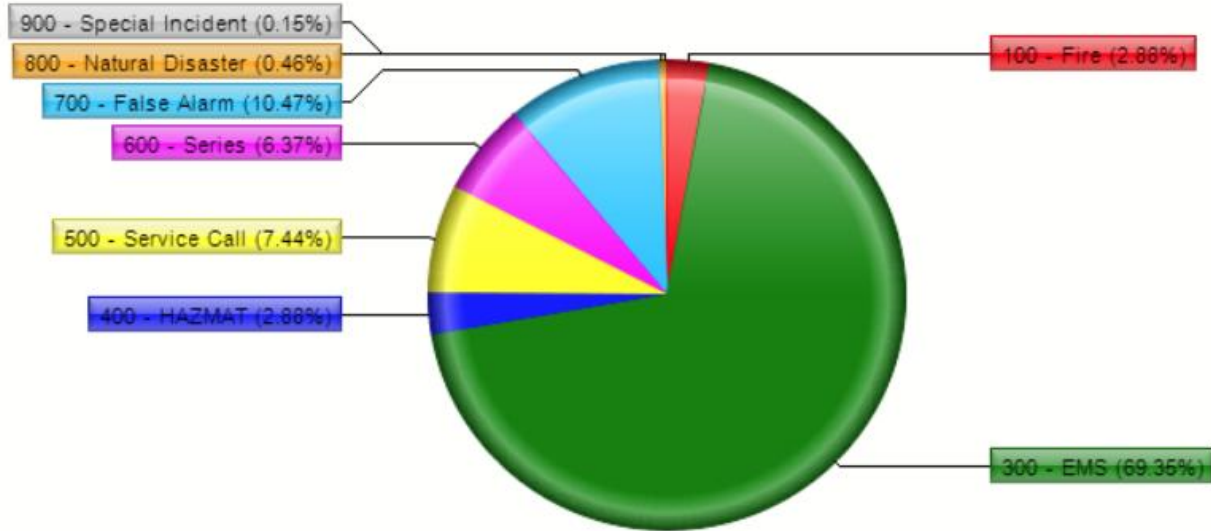


Figure 2

Monthly Breakdown of Incidents

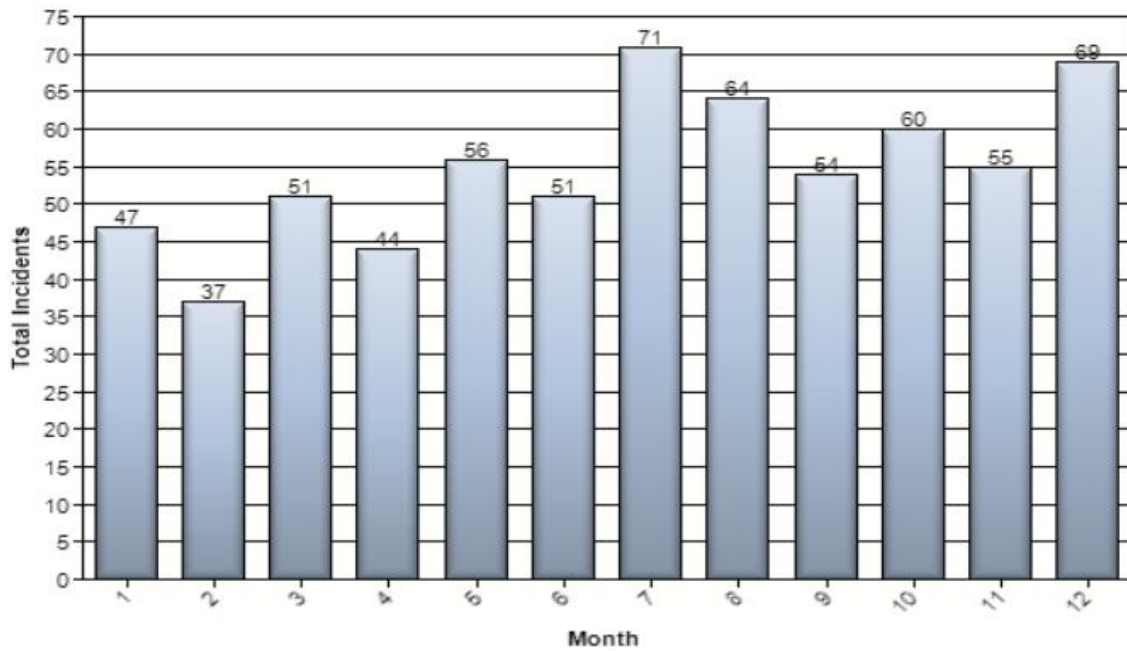


Figure 3



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Hourly Breakdown of Incidents

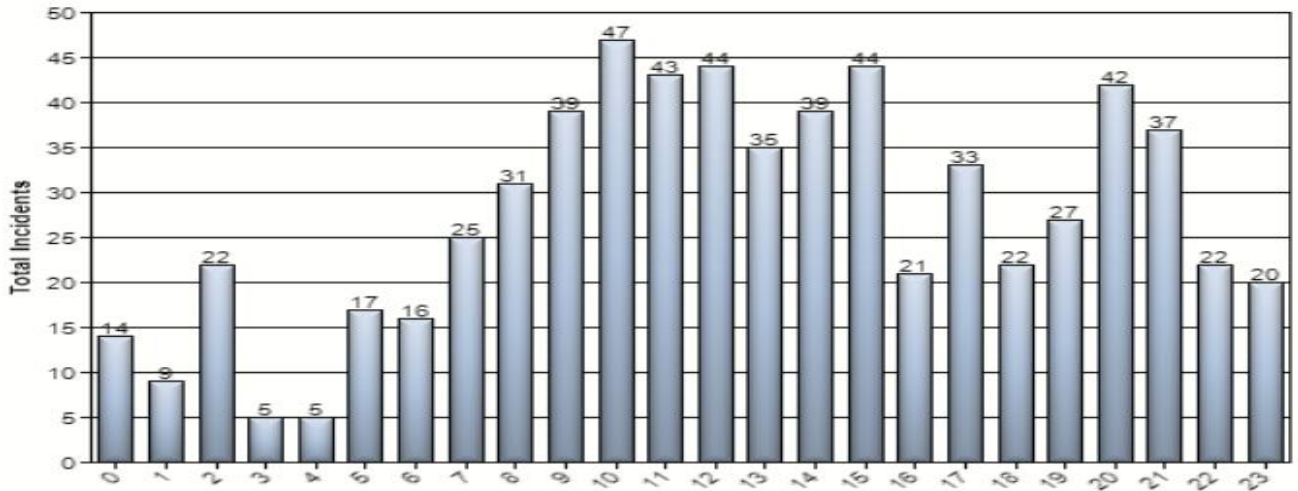


Figure 4

Total Calls by District

District	2024-01-01	2024-02-01	2024-03-01	2024-04-01	2024-05-01	2024-06-01	2024-07-01	2024-08-01	2024-09-01	2024-10-01	2024-11-01	2024-12-01	Total
District 2 (City Limits - Carrol Rd)	26	13	29	28	33	27	30	25	30	28	28	36	333
District 3 (Ladd Rd - Lighthouse)	3	4	7	4	5	6	8	10	5	4	1	6	63
Out of Township	8	4	3	1	6	4	14	7	7	5	4	9	72
District 1 (Carrol Rd - Ladd Rd)	10	16	12	11	12	14	19	22	12	23	22	18	191
Total	47	37	51	44	56	51	71	64	54	60	55	69	659

Figure 5

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.



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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 24 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 twice 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, communications classes and complete 12 on-line training courses of varying topics each year.

2024 was a very busy year for the department with sending staff to outside training classes. The department had 2 full-time staff pass the Paramedic program at Mobil Medical Response. Both members also passed the National Registry test for paramedic and are now certified and working with seasoned paramedics to hone their craft. We had one new member start the Firefighter 1 and 2 school in December of 2024. This is a 240-hour class on firefighting which when completed will be a certification in firefighting. We did joint trainings with Traverse City FD on Hazmat responses. Lt. Sarber put on a water rescue swimmer class where 4 of our members became certified in water rescue swimmer techniques. Members completed required radio operator training. Members completed National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) 100, 200, 700 and 800 courses. Members attended pump operator classes. Many hours were spent in area familiarization with members. Two new full-time members completed 80-hours of orientation and are working to complete their probationary task book with varying topics of all fire department related activities. One new paid on-call member started working on firefighting knowledge and department knowledge. Each new member has a yearlong probationary period where they have to demonstrate the abilities needed to be a firefighter and emergency medical technician.

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 an outside instructor from Kalkaska. 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 improve knowledge. The department spends a lot of time and money to make sure staff are trained properly and can function within the medical control authority. Many members renewed or obtained certification in Pre-Hospital Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Life Support.



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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 fire investigations and court testimony. 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 2024, members completed over 4000 hours of training of fire training. This amount of time averages out to almost 11 hours a day for the year.

Upgrades in Service

In 2024, the fire department continued to see improvements made in response times for all emergency calls. In 2023, response times average 6:43 minutes from the time of dispatch to the time we arrived on scene. We typically get year-end reports for response times from Grand Traverse 911. This year the county computer system was hacked and at this time, we are unable to get that report for 2024. Response times vary for multiple reasons one of which is long runs into other areas or jurisdictions for mutual aid, 72 responses for 2024, taking these long responses into account, the department did improve response times from 2023. On average, it took crews 1 minute and 38 seconds to receive the call and be on their way to the run. The department prides itself on responding quickly to every call.

In 2022, the fire department had 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 5 people assigned and one shift 4 while we actively try to recruit for a new full-time member. We did reach our 15 full-time members in 2024 but had one person leave for a different opportunity. 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. We also have two new people in firefighter 1 and 2, which once complete will bring paid on-call staffing to eight. I believe this staffing model will provide very good coverage for the whole Peninsula and allow us to operate safely and efficiently.

With the hiring of more paramedics in 2024 and staff completing the paramedic program, the department went from seven paramedics to eleven. This increase allowed us to place station 1's ambulance in service on a regular basis when staffed with 5 people for the day. We also will move ALS equipment to the fire engine at station 1 when we are short staffed and there is a paramedic at station 1. This move, allows for us to still provide ALS service while waiting on our ambulance from station 2,



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which means better service for the person calling 911. In 2024, the township and full-time union agreed to a new 3-year contract that greatly effected our ability to retain our current staff and recruit new staff.

The department continued our AED program during 2024. Fire department staff continue to provide yearly refresher training to staff in businesses that have an AED (Automatic External Defibulator). 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. In 2024, we help two organizations with purchasing and placing two AED's. Having AED's and people who are trained to use them, increases the chance of a positive outcome for a person having a cardiac event.

The fire department continues to try and improve our marine services. We sent one member to a water rescue class in Maine in 2023. In 2024, this member taught a swimmer's class to 4 of our members and we now have the ability to enter the water to perform a rescue. We check all of our boats on a regular basis to make sure their electronic devices are up dated along with other equipment on our vessels. Our goal is to be the best water rescue team in northern Michigan. In 2025, residents will see us on a regular basis defining our skills in the water, we will train more swimmers and enhance our boat operations in any feasible way we can to provide a better service.

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 which will happen in the next two to three years.

The fire department takes preventing firefighter cancers very highly. The department trains on preventable measures and has put policies in place to limit exposure and use best work practices to limit the chances of being contaminated. Yearly physicals are preformed and have a cancer screening that all members go through. In 2024, the department received a grant through Michigan Treasury to purchase an extra set of turn-out gear for all our full-time members to use in case they contaminate their primary set. We regularly clean the turnout gear to remove contaminants to reduce exposure.

Apparatus & Equipment



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During 2024, 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 some issues that had to be dealt 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 2024 with the apparatus. These issues were prioritized and fixed according to the safety concern they present; this process will continue into 2025. 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 2024, the department spent a good amount of money on engine issues with engine 3, front suspension on Engine 1 and engine head gasket, various pump valves were replaced on multiple vehicles, all pumps were tested, electrical issues on Alpha 1 and pump gauges on tanker 2. Engine 3 was out of service for a total of 3 months while repairs were being done. The department was able to borrow a fire engine from Traverse City FD at times during this period and are very thankful to them. In 2025, a new fire engine will arrive which will allow us to use our older fire engine as a reserve to help when we have other truck repair issues. 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 \$250K put as a down payment. The department is looking at changing our apparatus plan and replacing Engine 3 before Tanker 2 in the next couple of years to improve our ability to deliver service.



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Fire Stations & Grounds

In 2024, 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 2024, we had very little new issues with our fire stations with the exception of garage door openers having issues from time to time and floor drain issues at station 2 and station 1. 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. In 2024, the department along with the town board started the process of getting drawings for a new station 1 completed and out to bid. The plan was to place the building on township property just north of current township offices. The fire chief worked with the architect and Gordie Frasier for engineering. Initial plans were completed and it was found that cost for site work was going to be 700K over what was initially budgeted. Due to this cost increase, the fire chief and Township Supervisor agreed to look for other property options. As of this writing, the fire chief has found one option but is waiting for a cost of the property to come back to bring more information to the board. It is the fire chief's desire in 2025, to finalize plans and secure funding to move this project forward. This project is vital to the fire department's future and the people it serves along with the members of the fire department. See potential rendition of new station 1 on the next page.



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Fire Prevention & Public Education

Fire Prevention and Public education are high priority activities for the Peninsula Twp. Fire Department. In Michigan for 2024, there were 96 deaths from fires. Michigan has worked hard to educate residents and install smoke detectors over the last few years and have seen a decrease in deaths of 19 percent from 210-2023 data. The department performed fire safety inspections in all our businesses in 2024. The fire chief performs these inspections. As in previous years, we have continued to do these inspections every year and 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 2024, the fire department spent over a hundred hours doing fire safety inspections and plan reviews for new projects. The fire chief works closely with the Township planner, County Building Codes and Town Board on new projects presented to the township.

The department is happy to announce that in 2024, we had no deaths or injuries to civilians due to fire. We pride ourselves in getting out many public safety messages and spending time with families to assure they have escape plans and know what to do in the case of a fire. The department will upon request, do home safety inspections to help make sure that a resident's home is as fire safe as possible.

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



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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 2024, 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 has become an annual event. The teachers at the school had refresher training in Stop the Bleed and CPR, we do this yearly for the staff that we entrust to teach our children.

In 2024, the department sent one member to become a certified car seat technician. This certification allows the member to check car seat installations and install car seats properly for our residents. This ability allows us to make sure our kiddos are traveling safely every day.

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 2024, 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. We were able to raffle off a firefighter Halloween costume that was donated by a resident. The smile on the child’s face that won was priceless.

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 2024, we assisted many residents with smoke detector installs or changing their detector batteries. Residents are encouraged to reach out to us if they have any questions or need any assistance.



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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
Alpha 1															
Wildland											\$ 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.