



# Cascade Township FIRE DEPARTMENT 2025 Annual Report



PHOTOS BY SOUND OFF SIGNAL



PHOTO BY ASHLEY WIERENGA



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# FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

## ADAM MAGERS

The Cascade Township Fire Department and I are pleased to share our 2025 annual report with you. In this report, you will find general information about our fire stations, personnel, vehicles, and response data, as well as updates on the department's programs.

## Cascade Fire responded to 2,738 calls for service in 2025!

2025 was a record year for the department. Cascade Fire responded to 2738 emergency calls for service. These calls included fires, vehicle crashes, hazmat incidents, medical emergencies, rescues, alarms, mutual aid, and more.

Highlights for the department this year included a brand-new fire engine, officer development program creation, and the implementation of a Fire Department Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. This Strategic Plan was presented and adopted by the Township Board in October. The plan consisted of background, mission statement, department vision and guiding principles, SWOT analysis, citizen input, followed by goals and objectives for the next 3-4 years.



PHOTO BY DARIO LIRIO, REIN AND NEUHOFF

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Life Saving Award

- Captain Jeff Knowles
  - Captain Josh Dettwiler
  - EMS Sergeant Jim Walker
  - Firefighter Kreigh Deering
  - Firefighter David Lintemuth
  - Firefighter Heather Newkirk
  - POC Firefighter Kevin Delapaz
  - Firefighter Charles True
- 
- Senior Firefighter Kreigh Deering earned 30 years of service pin
  - EMS Sergeant Jim Walker earned 20 years of service pin
  - Captain Michael Bolt earned 15 years of service pin
  - Captain Josh Dettwiler earned 10 years of service pin
  - Firefighter Heather Newkirk earned 5 years of service pin

Paid on-Call Firefighters who completed their Black Helmet studies and earned their shield:



FIREFIGHTER AUDREY BAKHUYZEN



FIREFIGHTER NICK AGRILLO



FIREFIGHTER MARK KLOOSTERMAN



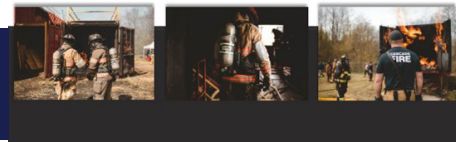


## 2025 GOALS & OUTCOMES

- New Engine 2 was upfitted and placed into service.
  - Completed. In service at Station 2
- Turnout Gear grant implemented/reimbursed. Program operational.
  - Completed. Turnout program compliant
- Fire Marshal Vehicle ordered/upfitted/in service.
  - Completed. In service
- Establish and implement a company officer development program.
  - Completed and operational
- Develop conceptual plan for fire station 2 remodel.
  - Completed. Included in Township CIP. Multi-year phase
- Develop and implement Fire Dept. Strategic Plan
  - Completed. Adopted by Township Board in October 2025



Cascade Township  
Fire Department



The Strategic Plan is available to view on the Township website:  
Fire Department - Strategic Plan.

## 2026 GOALS

1. Training program improvement
2. Hotel Safety and Compliance
3. 1st phase of Station 2 maintenance improvement
4. Deputy Chief vehicle ordered/upfitted/in-service
5. Tender 2 refurbish
6. Emergency weather siren project
7. Fire Dept station location analysis/facilities study
8. Develop and present BLS Ambulance program proposal to the Twp Board

In 2025 Cascade Township introduced several exciting projects in the community. Highlights include the Tassell Park/Verberg concept development, the DDA Strategic Plan, bridge improvements, and more. The Fire Department Strategic Plan took a lot of time and effort to accomplish. Special thanks to the internal committee, citizen input team, Public Safety Advisory committee, and Manager Smith for all the hard work! I am looking forward to these exciting new initiatives in 2026, not only as the Fire Chief but also as a resident. Cascade is a wonderful, safe place to work and live!

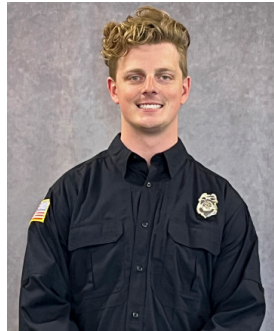
## PERSONNEL

New to the department in 2025 include Paid on-Call firefighters Mike Wouda and Zack Kutchins. Retiring from the department include Paid on-Call firefighters Richard Raviolo and Shane Jordan.

### NEW HIRE PAID ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS



Mike Wouda - FIREFIGHTER



Zack Kutchins- FIREFIGHTER

### RETIRED PAID ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS



Richard Raviolo - FIREFIGHTER



Shane Jordan - FIREFIGHTER



# CASCADE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

## MISSION STATEMENT

Cascade Fire Department is committed to protecting life and property, safeguarding our community with pride and dedication through emergency preparedness, proactive prevention and effective response.

## VISION

We are dedicated to maintaining a safe, equitable, and respectful working environment that upholds the dignity of all individuals and fosters professionalism at every level. We will strive for high levels of proficiency, and the pursuit of progressive, modern techniques and skills, through on-going training and education.

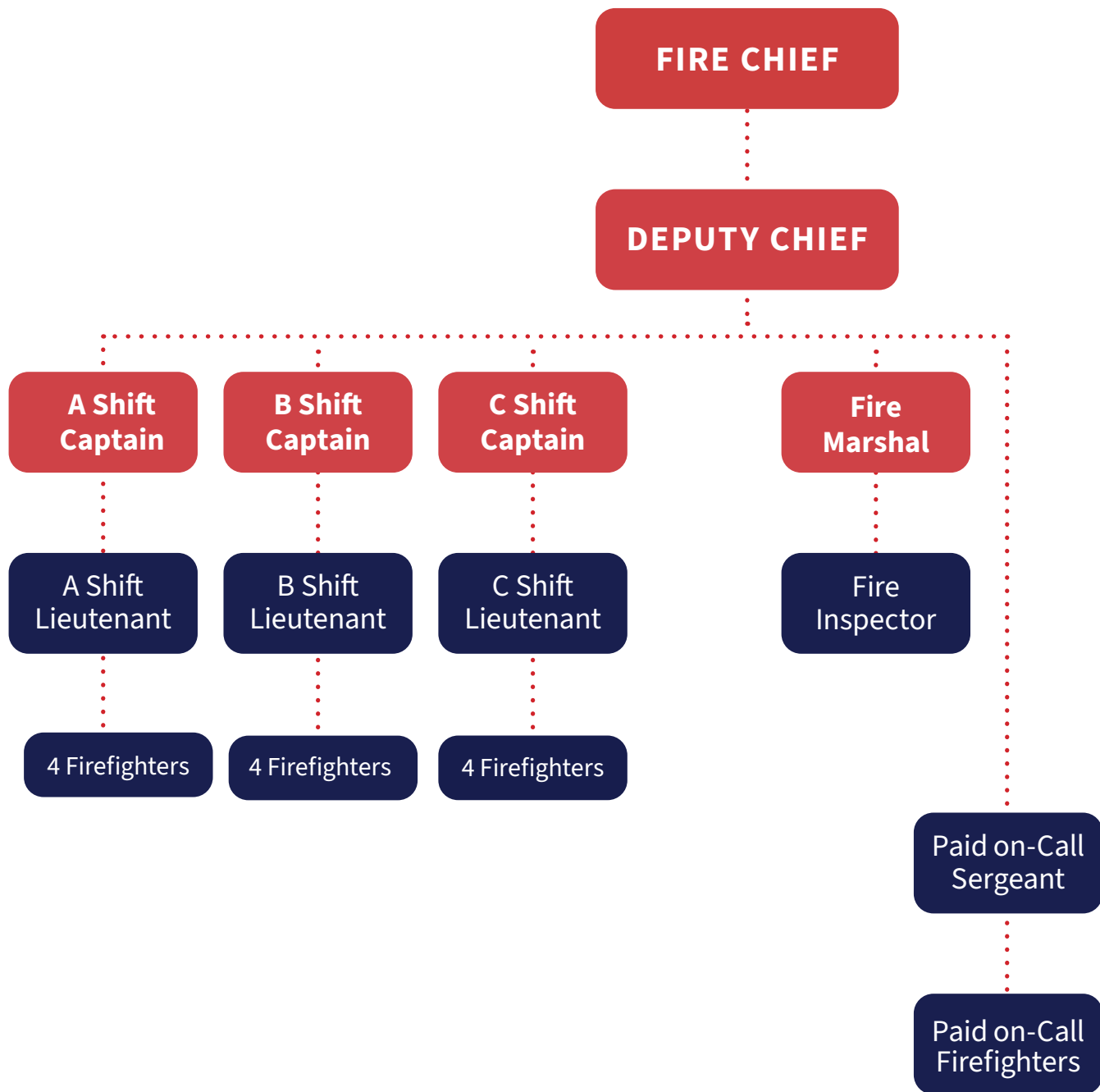
## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Professionalism** – As representatives of Cascade Township, we will maintain a standard of professionalism in all we do.

**Partnership** – We value the relationships and trust we have built and maintain to achieve success in protecting our Township and its citizens.

**Preparedness** – We understand that we do not rise to the occasion but fall to the level of our training. We must always train and prepare as if lives depend on it - because they do!

# CHAIN OF COMMAND



# Cascade Township FIRE DEPARTMENT

2025



**Adam Magers**  
FIRE CHIEF | 11/27/17



**Todd Stevenson**  
DEPUTY CHIEF | 5/14/07



**Jeff Knowles**  
CAPTAIN | 4/26/02



**Michael Bolt**  
CAPTAIN | 12/06/10



**Josh Dettwiler**  
CAPTAIN | 01/12/15



**Brett Boonenberg**  
FIRE INSPECTOR | 10/26/11



**Kreigh Deering**  
04/01/95



**Andy Marsman**  
SERGEANT | 01/14/03



**Jim Walker**  
EMS SERGEANT | 01/24/05



**John Makuch**  
11/24/06



**Heather Newkirk**  
04/09/20



**Matt Milmeister**  
09/17/21



**Hannah DeMuth**  
01/20/22



**Kevin Delapaz**  
01/05/23



**Mark Kloosterman**  
09/27/23



**Nick Agrillo**  
06/20/24



**Michael Wouda**  
03/19/25



**Andy Albright**  
LIEUTENANT | 08/01/94



**Colin Forzley**  
LIEUTENANT | 11/24/06



**Mike Poolman**  
LIEUTENANT | 04/18/18



**Todd Pell**  
FIRE MARSHAL | 05/06/17



**Lance Korhorn**  
07/07/07



**Jon Snyder**  
09/22/06



**Michael Lemkuil**  
10/15/09



**David Lintemuth**  
01/12/15



**Joel Baker**  
09/30/19



**Austin Litchfield**  
11/27/23



**Charles True**  
01/15/24



**Kevin Jones**  
01/15/24



**Kyle May**  
06/17/24



**Audrey Bakhuyzen**  
06/13/24



**Zack Kutchins**  
10/28/2025



**Will Raschke**  
STATION STEWARD



**Cynthia Holzhei**  
ADMIN ASSISTANT



# HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM

**Ken Follett**  
AT, ATC, CAFS, PES

## Is It Worth It?

### Three Years of the Cascade Fire Department Wellness Fitness

When Cascade Fire Department became the first department in the Grand Rapids area to onboard an Athletic Trainer through humATix, it was a forward-thinking move, a commitment to firefighter health, safety, and career longevity. Now, entering our fourth year, the results speak for themselves: it's absolutely worth it.

The Wellness Fitness Initiative (WFI) at Cascade Fire Department, led by Athletic Trainer Ken Follett, was designed to improve firefighter function, fitness, and injury resilience through proactive, hands-on care and education. The program focuses on developing tactical strength, movement efficiency, and injury prevention strategies that transfer directly from the gym to the fireground.

The impact has been substantial. Cascade Firefighters have demonstrated consistent improvements in physical performance testing, movement quality, and agility, while maintaining some of the lowest injury rates the department has seen in recent years. Since program implementation, the department has averaged fewer than five recordable work-related injuries per year, while also achieving a 65% reduction in their liability insurance modifier; a tangible reflection of improved health outcomes and reduced claims.

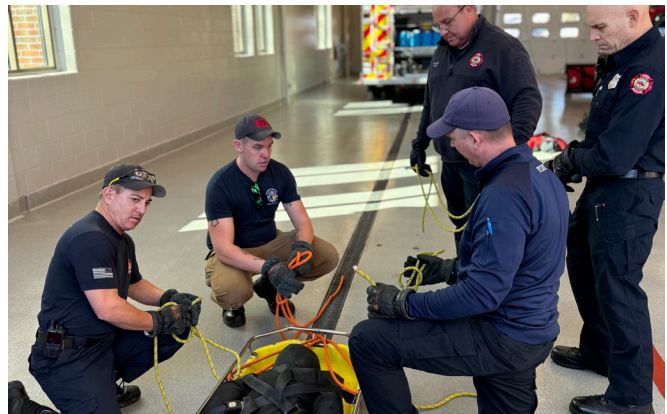
The return on investment is clear. Nationally, 95% of industrial and manufacturing organizations report

a positive ROI from workplace wellness programs (Wellhub), and nearly 99% of HR leaders confirm improved productivity from similar initiatives (Fortune). In the fire service, the benefits extend even further. Departments with structured WFI programs are 42% less likely to have obese members and report higher aerobic capacity (VO2 max), better job satisfaction, and lower rates of hypertension (National Strength and Conditioning Association). These trends align directly with the results seen at Cascade Fire.

Beyond the numbers, this program has fostered a stronger, more confident, and better-prepared firefighting team. Our firefighters are not only healthier but are actively engaged in learning how to manage and optimize their performance. As the embedded Athletic Trainer, it's a privilege to collaborate with these professionals, to learn from their skills, observe their demands firsthand, and apply evidence-based strategies that keep them ready for duty.

The evidence is clear: the Wellness Fitness Initiative in partnership with humATix is not just "worth it", it's an indispensable component of Cascade Fire Department's operational readiness and firefighter well-being. Moving forward, sustaining and expanding these efforts will continue to strengthen the department's most valuable asset: its people.

The evidence is clear: **the Wellness Fitness Initiative in partnership with humATix** is not just "worth it", it's an indispensable component of Cascade Fire Department's operational readiness and firefighter well-being.





# FIRE PREVENTION TEAM REPORT



**Todd Pell**  
FIRE MARSHAL

## TEAM EXPANSION AND TRAINING

2025 was another successful and productive year for the Fire Prevention Team. One of the year's most notable highlights was the addition of Firefighter Heather Newkirk to our prevention team. Heather completed her Fire Inspector I training and is currently working toward obtaining her State Certification. We are excited to have her on board and look forward to her continued growth in this role.

“The Fire Prevention Team remains committed to protecting lives and property through proactive inspection efforts, code enforcement, community outreach, and interagency cooperation. We look forward to building on these achievements in 2026.”



**Todd Stevenson**  
DEPUTY CHIEF

Firefighter David Lintemuth also achieved significant milestones by completing both Fire Inspector II and Plans Review courses. His support—along with others who balance both suppression and prevention duties—has proven invaluable, particularly with large occupancy inspections and hotel compliance efforts.



**Brett Boonenberg**  
FIRE INSPECTOR

## ORDINANCE COMPLIANCE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Fire Prevention Team continued to work closely with township officials in support of the Hotel Ordinance, ensuring all facilities remain in compliance and uphold the highest safety standards. These ongoing efforts help safeguard both occupants and first responders by promoting accountability and hazard reduction.



**David Lintemuth**  
FIREFIGHTER

## INSPECTION GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Fire Inspector Boonenberg and Deputy Chief Stevenson had another outstanding year, once again meeting all performance targets, continuing education, and remaining on pace to set a new department record for annual fire safety inspections. Their consistency and dedication continue to raise the standard for our team.

## FIRE MARSHAL LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Fire Marshal Pell maintains strong interdepartmental collaboration, working closely with the Building Department, conducting fire investigations for multiple municipalities, and continues to work in hand with the fire department. In addition to these responsibilities, he continues to oversee and manage the Community Smoke Alarm Program, ensuring this vital public safety initiative remains accessible and effective.



**Heather Newkirk**  
FIREFIGHTER

The Fire Prevention Team remains committed to protecting lives and property through proactive inspection efforts, code enforcement, community outreach, and interagency cooperation. We look forward to building on these achievements in 2026.





# TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

**Todd Stevenson**  
DEPUTY CHIEF

## OVERVIEW

This year has been one of growth, organization, and continued progress toward maintaining a strong and efficient department that provides the highest level of service to our community. My focus throughout the year was centered on improving staffing efficiency, enhancing emergency management preparedness, supporting department operations, and strengthening interdepartmental collaboration.

## STAFFING AND SCHEDULING

A major component of the Deputy Chief position continues to be the oversight of daily staffing and time-off requests to ensure the department meets minimum operational levels 365 days a year. By streamlining scheduling practices and maintaining proactive communication with officers and crews, shift coverage has remained consistent across all stations. Special emphasis was placed on balancing firefighter wellness with operational readiness, ensuring equitable time-off approvals while keeping apparatus fully staffed and ready to respond.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Management efforts remained a priority in 2025. I coordinated township-wide training exercises designed to strengthen cooperation among township departments, schools, and private partners. Incident Action Plans (IAPs) were developed and



FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS TOUR FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

“The progress made this year reflects the dedication and professionalism of our personnel at every level. Together, we remain committed to protecting life and property while upholding the high standards our community expects and deserves.”

implemented for public events like the Independence Day Parade. These plans provided clear operational direction for emergency response, traffic control, and public safety coordination.

CTFD also continued to participate in county-wide initiatives, including collaboration with Kent County Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), to enhance regional preparedness and resource sharing.

## FIRE PREVENTION AND INSPECTIONS

In support of the Building Department and our Fire Prevention Division, I assisted with commercial fire inspections and pre-incident planning throughout the township. Coordination between divisions has resulted in improved consistency in inspection documentation and follow-up processes. This collaboration ensures our growing business community maintains compliance with fire and life safety codes while supporting the township’s commitment to safe development.

## TRAINING AND OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

The department’s new headquarters and training facilities were fully utilized this year to advance firefighter proficiency. I worked closely with the Training Division to organize hands-on drills, EMS refreshers, and township-wide exercises. Focus areas were 1st Due Tactics along with a more streamlined accountability method. This year our members completed 6800 hours of fire training. Training continues to evolve to meet both NFPA standards and the operational needs of the Cascade Township Fire Department.



**LOOKING AHEAD**

As we move into 2026, with our recently Township Board adopted 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, priorities will include continued development of the department’s training programs, from monthly to more intense quarterly trainings. We have established an EMS committee to update and revamp our EMS trainings along with preparing a board proposal for possible Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance service in the future. Additionally, CTFD will continue its focus on firefighter health, safety, and professional development as we serve the growing needs of Cascade Township.



**CONCLUSION**

It has been an honor to serve as Deputy Chief and to contribute to the continued success of the Cascade Township Fire Department. The progress made this year reflects the dedication and professionalism of our personnel at every level. Together, we remain committed to protecting life and property while upholding the high standards our community expects and deserves.

**EMS COMMITTEE**



**Jim Walker**  
EMS SERGEANT



**Michael Lemkuil**  
FIREFIGHTER



**David Lintemuth**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Joel Baker**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Matt Milmeister**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Hannah DeMuth**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Charles True**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Kyle May**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Josh Dettwiler**  
CAPTAIN



**Mike Poolman**  
LIEUTENANT



**Jim Walker**  
EMS SERGEANT



**Jon Snyder**  
FIREFIGHTER



**David Lintemuth**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Heather Newkirk**  
FIREFIGHTER

# A SHIFT REPORT

A Shift is comprised of Captain Josh Dettwiler, Lieutenant Mike Poolman, EMS Sergeant Jim Walker, Firefighter Jon Snyder, Firefighter David Lintemuth, and Firefighter Heather Newkirk.

We've been fortunate to maintain the same team members over the past two years. This consistency has contributed to strong shift continuity and enhanced teamwork. Our crew trains daily in various fire-related disciplines, and each member plays a key role in making Cascade Fire a well-rounded and high-performing department.

A Shift brings a wealth of specialized skills to the table. Our team includes members involved with the HazMat Team, an EMS Coordinator, a certified Fire Inspector, and a 1403 Live Fire Instructor. These qualifications allow us to develop and lead both shift-level and department-wide training sessions. Additionally, we are encouraged to attend external training courses with other departments. When members return, they share their knowledge with the team, strengthening our collective skillset.

Some of the training topics covered in 2025 include:

- Hazardous Materials Identification
- Lithium-Ion Battery Safety
- Fire Alarm Systems
- Ropes and Knots
- Building Inspections
- Confined Space Entry/Rescue
- Reading Smoke



**CAPTAIN DETTWILER TRAINING FIREFIGHTER  
AUDREY BAKHUYZEN PUMP OPS**



**FIREFIGHTER LANCE KORHORN SAWING TREE OFF**



**965**  
NUMBER OF CALLS  
FOR SERVICE A SHIFT  
RAN



This year, A Shift was on duty for both the Independence Day and Heritage Day events. We always enjoy participating in community parades and engaging with local residents. Thank you to everyone who came out and showed their support for the fire department.

We're proud to report a lifesaving incident that occurred during our shift. A resident suffered a cardiac event in their vehicle while parked in a lot. A Shift initiated CPR, applied an AED, and performed other BLS measures. We successfully restored a sustainable heart rhythm, and the individual made a full recovery.

### FACILITIES

We continue to use our headquarters as our primary training facility. November 2nd marked two years since we moved into the new Station 1. The expanded space has significantly enhanced our training capabilities. We've also welcomed the opportunity to connect with the public through station tours. If we're not on a call or engaged in daily training, we're always happy to offer tours and share fire safety information. We take great pride in our station and enjoy showing it off.

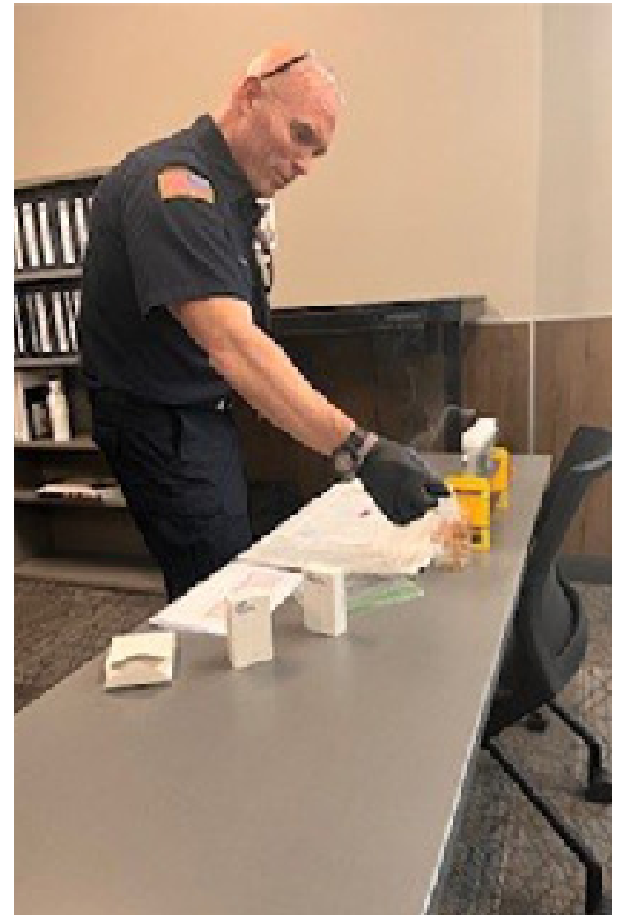
“We’ve been fortunate to maintain the same team members over the past two years. This consistency has contributed to strong shift continuity and enhanced teamwork.”



**A SHIFT LADDER TRAINING**



**LIEUTENANT POOLMAN CONDUCTING PUMP OPS TRAINING WITH NEW ENGINE 2**



**FIREFIGHTER JON SNYDER CONDUCTING HAZMAT TRAINING**

# B SHIFT REPORT



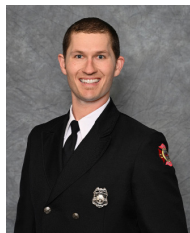
**Michael Bolt**  
CAPTAIN



**Colin Forzley**  
LIEUTENANT



**John Makuch**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Austin Litchfield**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Kyle May**  
FIREFIGHTER



**Kevin Jones**  
FIREFIGHTER

Cascade Fire B Shift is made up of six individuals with different personalities, skill sets, backgrounds, and years of service. Our members have experience in farming, construction trades, and service trades. We combine our unique skills to form a dynamic team. We strive to make each other better every day. John Makuch is the senior Firefighter and is joined by Austin Litchfield, Kevin Jones and Kyle May. Colin Forzley serves as shift Lieutenant and Michael Bolt as Captain.

This past year Kevin and Austin completed the Livestock Emergency class offered by the Michigan State Police in east Lansing. Colin, Austin and Kyle completed the Instructor I class offered by the State of Michigan. John and Mike completed the Live Fire Instructor class offered by the International Society of Fire Service Instructors hosted in Delta Township. All B Shift members completed a Confined rescue awareness class brought to us by SET Rescue.

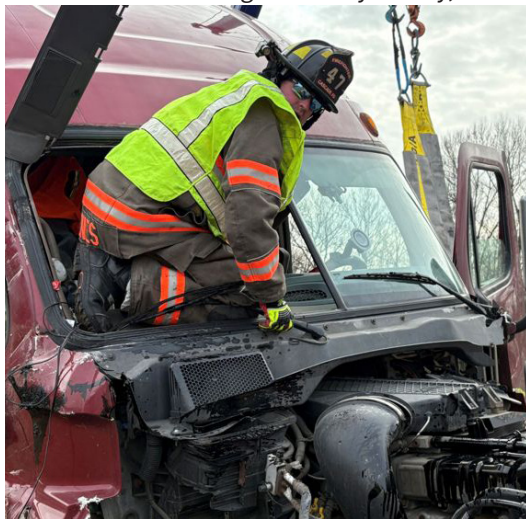
This past year, B Shift completed over 1200 hours of training in Fire suppression, EMS, technical rescue and HazMat. Continuous training throughout the year sharpened our skills and created a stronger team to serve the citizens of Cascade. We responded to 891 calls for service ranging from emergency medicals, fire response, car accidents, citizen assists, CO alarms and technical rescues.

Captain Bolt oversees the CPR training program, CFD is an American Heart Association training center with 21 CPR and First Aid Instructors bringing the training to West Michigan. This past year Kevin, Austin and Kyle completed the BLS Instructor training from the AHA. We have trained 721 individuals in CPR this past year.

Lt. Forzley oversees our Fire PPE program and administered a Grant from the State of Michigan to purchase 18 new sets of Firefighter Gear. We are happy to announce that all 18 sets were received and placed in service this past Spring. By having a second set of turnout gears always ready, it



**FIREFIGHTER MAKUCH DURING ICE RESCUE TRAINING**



**B SHIFT TRAINING**



**891**

**NUMBER OF CALLS  
FOR SERVICE B SHIFT  
RAN**



**1,200+**  
**HOURS SPENT  
TRAINING ON  
MEDICAL AND FIRE-  
RELATED TOPICS**

allows us to quickly get units back in service as we are not waiting on gear to be cleaned. The FF gear is washed after all fires to help remove any chemicals in an effort to reduce our exposure to cancer causing chemicals.

FF Makuch is responsible for our Technical Rescue response. Winter of 2024 was mild compared to years past. This allowed Cascade Firefighters to train for ice. Firefighters prefer to practice ice rescue when the ice is brittle. Using proper equipment (ice rescue suits, ropes, and hand tools), crews were able to train for a technical rescue skill that is crucial when responding to ice rescue incidents.

April led to indoor training opportunities at Station 1, where B Shift practiced confined space awareness skills. Crews used a newly purchased extendable pole that allowed a rescuer to not only enter a confined space but connect a rope to a worker's harness to lift them out of danger. This new tool was well-received by crews and used at training held in conjunction with GRFIA (Gerald R Ford International Airport) firefighters at their new station. The training was provided by CERT, which provides technical rescue training. Many Cascade firefighters participated and learned new skills with various types of equipment. During the beginning of June, CFD provided water rescue support with our water rescue boat during the swim portion at the Grand Rapids Triathlon, and on road course EMS support utilizing our UTV (Brush 6). CFD refreshed water rescue skills at the end of June using Boat 2 on the Thornapple River, and a pool owned by one of our firefighters, to practice removing a victim from a pool.

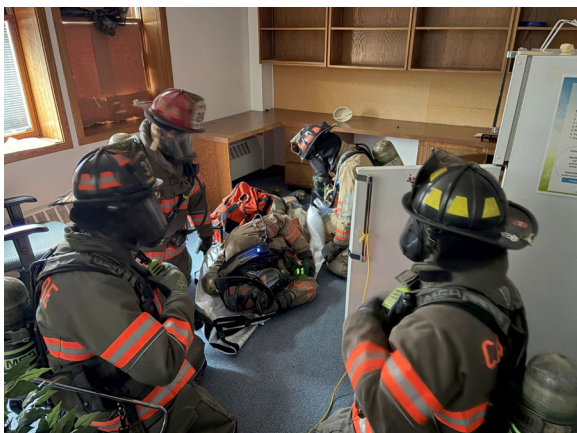
CFD as a department responded to ten (10) technical rescue incidents, six (6) people trapped in a stuck elevator, and four (4) extrications from a vehicle involved in a crash.

Cascade Fire Department technical rescues are often seldom occurring but require a unique set of skills for different incidents. CFD will continue to train often, learn new skills, and expand on our capabilities and equipment to always be ready.

Lt. Forzley also oversees our communication with Kent County Dispatch and CFD has identified areas of weakness and experienced equipment failure with the current weather siren system that was installed in 2005. To help correct failures and provide better advanced warning capabilities throughout the township, Cascade Fire has begun collaborating with Kent County Emergency Management to bring equipment up to date, as well as identifying areas of need with plans to install several new siren sites throughout the Township.

Each member of B Shift brings unique skills to work each day and are ready for every challenge that comes with this job. We look forward to a great 2026!

“Each member of B Shift brings unique skills to work each day and are ready for every challenge that come with this job. We look forward to a great 2026!”



**B SHIFT TRAINING**



**B SHIFT GUYS**

# C SHIFT REPORT



**Jeff Knowles  
CAPTAIN**



**Andy Albright  
LIEUTENANT**



**Kreigh Deering  
FIREFIGHTER**



**Michael Lemkuil  
FIREFIGHTER**



**Joel Baker  
FIREFIGHTER**



**Charles True  
FIREFIGHTER**

Cascade Township Fire Department's C Shift is a dedicated and hardworking team, committed to serving the community and ensuring public safety. Comprised of Captain Jeff Knowles, Lieutenant Andy Albright, Senior Firefighter Kreigh Deering, and firefighters Michael Lemkuil, Joel Baker, and Charles True. The team is known for its professionalism, camaraderie, and ability to handle high-pressure situations. Throughout the year, C Shift responded to over 882 calls, ranging from emergency medical services to fire suppression, demonstrating their versatility and readiness to tackle any challenge that comes their way.

The crew on C Shift works seamlessly together, with each member bringing a unique skill set and perspective to the team. Captain Jeff Knowles leads the shift with experience and expertise, ensuring that all operations run smoothly running the shift out of Station 1.

Lieutenant Andy Albright supports the team with his experience as the longest serving member within the

department. Lieutenant Albright is the department's Community Risk Reduction Officer, which keeps us engaged in the community, schools, assisted living facilities, churches, etc. Lieutenant Albright completed his Instructor I certification which is a 40-hour course through the State of Michigan. Lieutenant Albright also was a key member of the SWOT analysis and Citizen Committee which helped us identify areas we were strong in and areas we could improve and better serve our community.

Firefighter Deering is the second longest serving member within the department and is our uniform quartermaster for the department.

Firefighter Lemkuil is one of our drone operators, a Car Seat Technician, and a member of our EMS committee.

Firefighter Baker was a member of our Engine 2 truck committee, and is currently a member of our Training committee, and our EMS committee. While completing his Probationary Instructor hours, Joel assisted our paid



**882**

**NUMBER OF CALLS  
FOR SERVICE C SHIFT**



**HAZMAT TRAINING**



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

on-call cadets who recently attended the fire academy, by going over the skill sheets and answering any questions they had each week to help them succeed. Joel is also the Vice President of our Firefighters' Association.

Firefighter Charles True was a member of the SWOT analysis committee, and is currently a member of our EMS committee, and a part of our BLS transport group, which is exploring the idea of transporting non-emergent patients to the hospital. Firefighter True is also in the middle of his EMS IC certification course which will be a huge accomplishment when he finishes. Currently, we only have one EMS IC in the department so adding a second would greatly benefit us.

Captain Knowles is also in charge of everything related to hazardous materials for the Cascade Fire Department. A few of those duties are SDS sheets for both stations, calibrating monitoring equipment, creating and teaching hazardous materials training, and being the Cascade Fire Department representative on the Tri-Com Haz-Mat Team.

As the Community Risk Reduction Officer, Lieutenant Albright is responsible for public relations, community involvement, public and department education, as well as large event planning such as the Independence Day parade and Halloween. This year Cascade Fire Department did between 60 and 70 events involving our

community. These events included birthday parties, block parties, fire extinguisher training, business association presentations, charitable giveaways to aid elementary PTOs, fire drills and firefighter education on high-risk buildings.

In previous years, Cascade firefighters toured high-risk buildings such as elementary schools and assisted living facilities. These tours allow us to learn each facility's emergency plans, special hazards, evacuation routes, and utility shut offs. In an emergency when seconds count, familiarity can make an emergency response faster and safer. This year, Cascade Fire Department officers along with Ada Fire Department toured three schools in Ada Township. Cascade Fire Department would be automatic aid to Ada Fire on a large scale emergency.

While C Shift is known for its hard work and commitment to the community, they also know how to balance the intensity of the job with some well-deserved downtime. A highlight of the year for the team was our overnight ice fishing trip to Firefighter Baker's cabin. This trip not only provided an opportunity for the team to bond and unwind but also strengthened the camaraderie that makes C Shift so effective in the field. The outing was a reminder that while their work is serious, building relationships and supporting one another is just as important in fostering a cohesive and successful team.

**“Cascade Township Fire Department’s C Shift is a dedicated and hardworking team, committed to serving the community and ensuring public safety.”**



**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**



**CASCADE FIREFIGHTERS ON A FIRE CALL**



**CAPTAIN KNOWLES WITH CHILDREN**



**FIREFIGHTER CHARLIE TRUE**



# PAID ON-CALL REPORT

**Andy Marsman**  
POC SERGEANT

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A TOUR OF THE STATION, STOP BY DURING BUSINESS HOURS AND SOMEONE WILL SHOW YOU AROUND!**

The Cascade Township Fire Department’s Paid on-Call (POC) team remains a critical pillar of our emergency response system. Our members respond from home and work, day and night, to ensure our community receives rapid and professional service when emergencies occur.

### TRAINING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 3 academy graduates successfully completed Fire Academy and entered operational service
- 3 new hires will begin EMT training in January
- Monthly POC training sessions are completed in addition to all department-wide requirements
- Over 5,000 hours contributed through training and service

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Over 1,000 calls for service answered by POC members
- Responded from home to support fire, EMS, and technical incidents
- Maintained rapid response capability and operational readiness

### SPRING STORM RESPONSE

During the severe storms this past spring, POC and career staff worked as one team to protect and support the community. Efforts included clearing trees and debris from major and neighborhood roadways, assisting with resident evacuations from damaged homes, and supporting extended operations alongside utilities and public works.

### COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Cascade Township’s Paid on-Call firefighters exemplify dedication, teamwork, and professionalism. Their continued service strengthens the department and ensures the safety and resilience of our community.

We remain committed to recruiting, training, and developing POC personnel in the coming year to support our mission of protecting life and property in Cascade Township.



**PAID ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS**

**FRONT FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Craig Blumengold, Matt Milmeister, Nick Agrillo, Hannah DeMuth, and Audrey Bakhuyzen.  
**BACK FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Sergeant Andy Marsman, Mike Wouda, Lance Korhorn, Kevin Delapaz, Mark Kloosterman, and Zack Kutchins





**Mike Poolman**  
**LIEUTENANT**

## VEHICLE MAINTENANCE REPORT

“These additions to the fleet reflect Cascade Fire Department’s commitment to enhancing its capabilities and ensuring the safety and well-being of the community it serves.”

In 2024, Cascade Fire Department implemented significant enhancements to its fleet. The department proudly welcomed the arrival of the new Fire Engine E2, a Spartan Metro Star equipped with a Toyne Fire apparatus body and powered by a Cummins 525HP ISX12 engine. This custom-built apparatus boasts a 1,000-gallon water capacity, a 1500 GPM pump, and a comprehensive array of tools essential for responding to various emergencies, including medical incidents, fires, and car accidents. Engine E2 was meticulously designed to cater specifically to the needs of Cascade Township.

Additionally, the department acquired a 2025 Chevy Tahoe, which underwent customization with an emergency warning package from Sound Off Signal, a reputable emergency warning manufacturer based in West Michigan. This vehicle is utilized by the Fire Marshal, who plays a crucial role in enforcing fire codes, approving pre-plans, and conducting investigations to determine the causes of fires.

These additions to the fleet reflect Cascade Fire Department’s commitment to enhancing its capabilities and ensuring the safety and well-being of the community it serves.



**NEW ENGINE 2**



**NEW ENGINE 2**

PHOTO PROVIDED BY SOUNDOFF SIGNAL



**FIRE MARSHAL'S TAHOE**



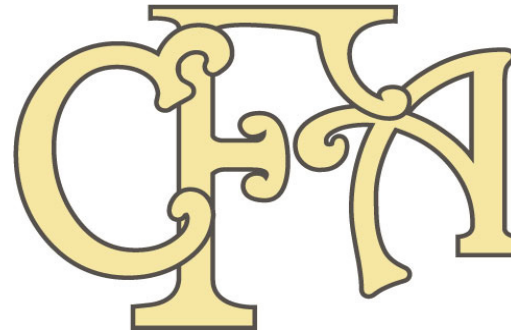
**ABOVE & RIGHT PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SOUNDOFF SIGNAL**





# **FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION REPORT**

**Joel Baker**  
**FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**



The Cascade Firefighters' Association has had a great year filled with camaraderie, tradition, and new opportunities to connect with our community. This summer, members gathered for a fantastic party hosted by Fire Inspector Boonenberg, where families, friends, and fellow firefighters came together to enjoy good food, laughter, and time off the clock. Events like this remind us how important it is to strengthen our bonds outside to celebrate the people who make our department what it is.

Another highlight of the year is our annual Retiree Breakfast, bringing together both current and former members of the Cascade Township Fire Department. This event is always a special occasion, giving us the chance to reconnect with those who helped lay the foundation for the department we're proud to serve today. Hearing old stories, learning from past experiences, and sharing a meal with the men and women who paved the way keeps our department's traditions alive and strong.

Looking ahead, the Association is excited to host our first-ever Fowling fundraiser. This new event will take the place of the charity hockey game we've proudly organized for the last four years. While the format is changing, our mission remains the same—to support local causes, build community engagement, and have some fun along the way. The Cascade Firefighters' Association continues to grow and evolve, driven by a shared commitment to service, teamwork, and giving back to the community we're honored to protect.

“The Cascade Firefighters Association continues to grow and evolve, driven by a shared commitment to service, teamwork, and giving back to the community we're honored to protect.”





**CASCADE  
FIREFIGHTERS'  
ASSOCIATION**

# RETIREE BREAKFAST

**DECEMBER 5, 2025  
STATION 1  
8 AM**

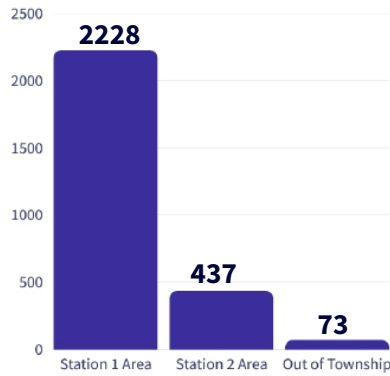


**MENU  
PANCAKES  
EGGS  
BACON  
SAUSAGE**

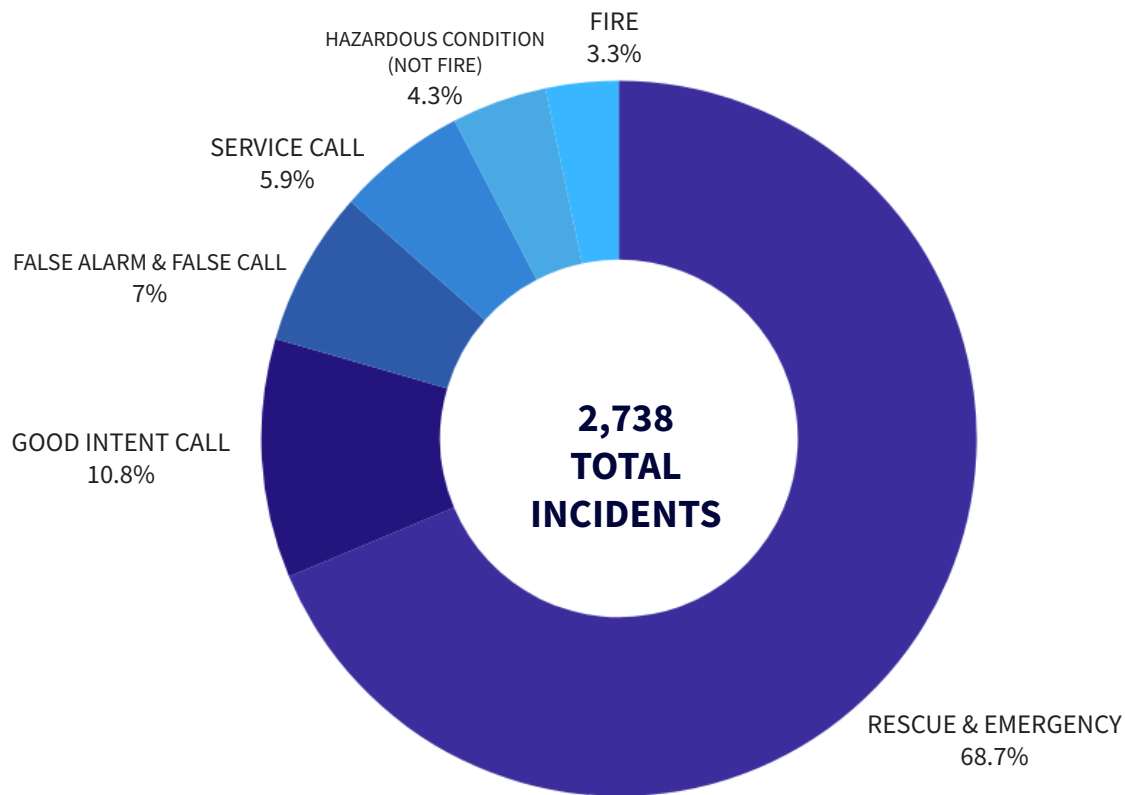
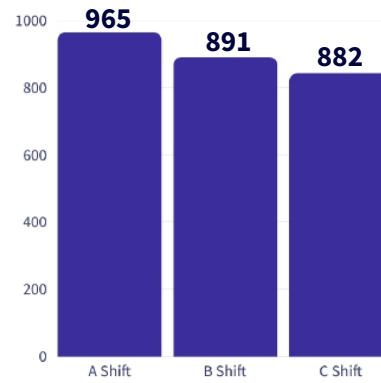


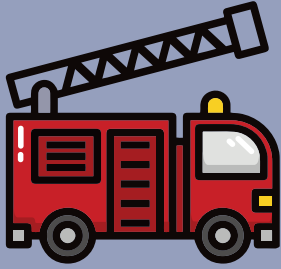
# RESPONSES 2025

## INCIDENT COUNT PER ZONE



## INCIDENTS BY SHIFT





**AVERAGE  
RESPONSE TIME**  
*(Dispatch to arrival)*

**04:12**



**AVERAGE  
TURNOUT TIME**  
*(Dispatch to En route)*

**01:10**



**INCIDENT COUNT  
FOR EMS CALLS**

**2,026**



**INCIDENT COUNT  
FOR FIRE CALLS**

**712**



**INCIDENT COUNT  
FOR ALL CALLS**

**2,738**



**MUTUAL AID**

**72** CALLS FOR  
AID GIVEN

**49** CALLS FOR  
AID RECEIVED



**TOTAL TRAINING HOURS**

**6,800**

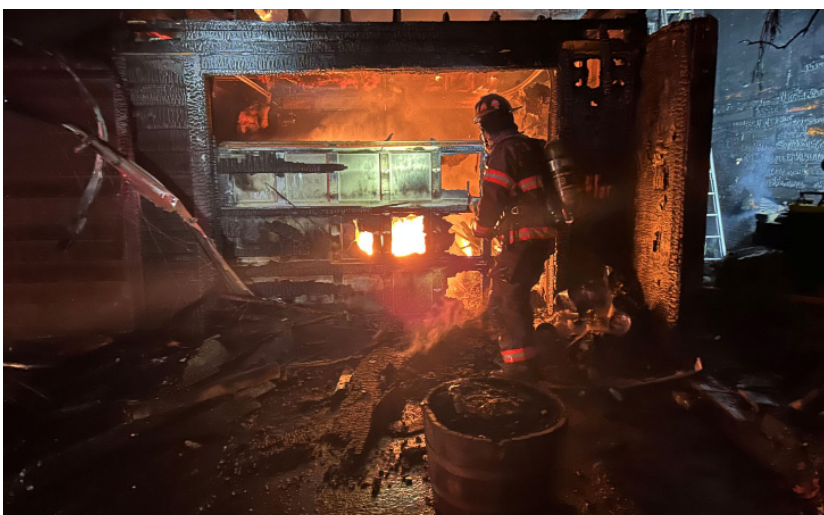


# LIVE FIRE





# TRAINING





# 2025 TRAININGS



ICE RESCUE TRAINING



HOUSE FIRE TRAINING



HOSE TRAINING





**HAZMAT TRAINING**



**HAZMAT TRAINING**



**HAZMAT TRAINING**



**ELECTRIC VEHICLE FIRE TRAINING**



**PUMP OPS TRAINING**



**PUMP OPS TRAINING**



# FUN PHOTOS



**HAPPY 31ST BIRTHDAY FIREFIGHTER CHARLES TRUE - C-SHIFT CREW**



**FIREFIGHTER AUSTIN LITCHFIELD**



**FIREFIGHTER KEVIN JONES - HYDRANT PUMPING FOR WINTER TO PREVENT WATER FREEZING**



**METRO CRUISE  
FIREFIGHTER KREIGH DEERING, LIEUTENANT ANDY ALBRIGHT,  
FIREFIGHTER JOEL BAKER, POC SERGEANT ANDY MARSMAN  
AND POC FIREFIGHTER MIKE WOUDA**



**ENGINE WITH LAB DOG**



**POC FIREFIGHTER MARK KLOOSTERMAN**



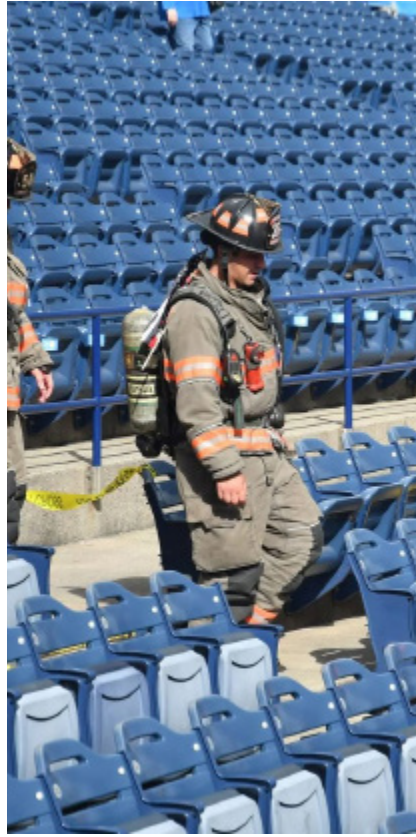
**LEFT TO RIGHT: POC FIREFIGHTER KEVIN DELAPAZ, CAPTAIN JEFF KNOWLES, LIEUTENANT ANDY ALBRIGHT, FIREFIGHTER KREIGH DEERING (WITH GRANDDAUGHTER REMINGTON), FIREFIGHTER JOEL BAKER AND FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL LEMKUIL**



**LIEUTENANT ANDY ALBRIGHT AND MAX BAKER**



9.11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB - LMCU



9.11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB - LMCU



9.11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB - LMCU



LEFT TO RIGHT: FIREFIGHTER DAVID LINTMUTH AND POC FIREFIGHTER KEVIN DELAPAZ



LEFT TO RIGHT: POC FIREFIGHTER LANCE KORHORN, FIREFIGHTER JOEL BAKER, FIREFIGHTER KYLE MAY, FIREFIGHTER DAVID LINTMUTH AND POC FIREFIGHTER KEVIN DELAPAZ



FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS TOUR FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



RANGER RALLY AT STATION 2 FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: FIREFIGHTER CHARLES TRUE, DEPUTY CHIEF TODD STEVENSON, CHIEF ADAM MAGERS, FIREFIGHTER JOEL BAKER AND FIREFIGHTER AUSTIN LITCHFIELD



CHIEF MAJORS AND FELLOW FIREFIGHTERS TOURED THREE FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS





## ***DEDICATED TO SERVING YOU***

### **STATION 1**

2865 Thornhills Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
616-949-1320 (Non-Emergency)

### **STATION 2**

2990 Buttrick Ave. SE  
Ada, MI 49301  
616-259-7020 (Non-Emergency)