



Cascade Township Fire Department

2019 Annual Report



A Note From Chief Adam Magers



The Cascade Township Fire Department is pleased to submit to you the 2019 annual report. In this annual report you will find general information on stations and vehicles, response statistics and reports from our staff on programs they are responsible for.

2019 was a busy year for Cascade Fire. We responded to 2,165 emergency calls for service that included fires, motor vehicle accidents, HAZMATs, medicals, rescues, alarms, etc. The Cascade Township Fire Department covers over 35 square miles in the Township and is also a mutual aid partner to surrounding townships.

This past year was filled with many victories and triumphs, such as lives saved, goals accomplished and awards received. It also included the most heartbreaking emergency call I have ever witnessed in my fire career with one of our firefighters losing his 7-year-old son to a tragic accident. Ryan Marsman was a great kid who loved the fact that his dad, Andy, was a firefighter. Our hearts go out to the Marsman family as they deal with this unimaginable loss.

Personnel Changes

Captain Ron Rowland retired this year after 33 years of service. Michael Kadish and Michael Lemkuil were hired on as full-time firefighters. Steven Riddle, Joel Baker and Luke McCarthy were hired on as new paid on-call firefighters.

Inspector Doug Poolman was promoted to fire marshal. Lieutenant Jeff Knowles was promoted to captain. Firefighter Josh Dettwiler was promoted to lieutenant and Firefighter Colin Forzley was promoted to inspector.



2019 Achievements

Our goals for 2019 included officer development, professional education, increased water rescue capability, NFPA compliance, live-fire academy participation and an improved ISO rating. Cascade Fire was successful in accomplishing these goals. Captain Todd Stevenson attended the Eastern Michigan University fire staff and command course. Lieutenant Andrew Albright and EMS Coordinator Jim Walker attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Captain Jeff Knowles attended HAZMAT specialist training in Pueblo, Colorado. Firefighters Jon Snyder, Mike Poolman, John Makuch and Lance Korhorn all attended the Fire Department Training Network live-fire academy in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Cascade Fire Department designed and purchased a boat for use on the Thornapple River, which was used in 32 water rescues this year! In October, the department went through an Insurance Service Office inspection. We are still waiting on results but expect noticeable improvement.

2020 Goals

- Improved efficiency with new software programs
- Finalization of a new Fire Station 1 plan
- Implementation of a fire department wellness program
- Increased capabilities with search and rescue

We look forward to 2020 with high expectations of improving our department and keeping Cascade Township safe. It is truly an honor to serve this community!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Magers".

Chief Adam Magers



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Specialty Teams

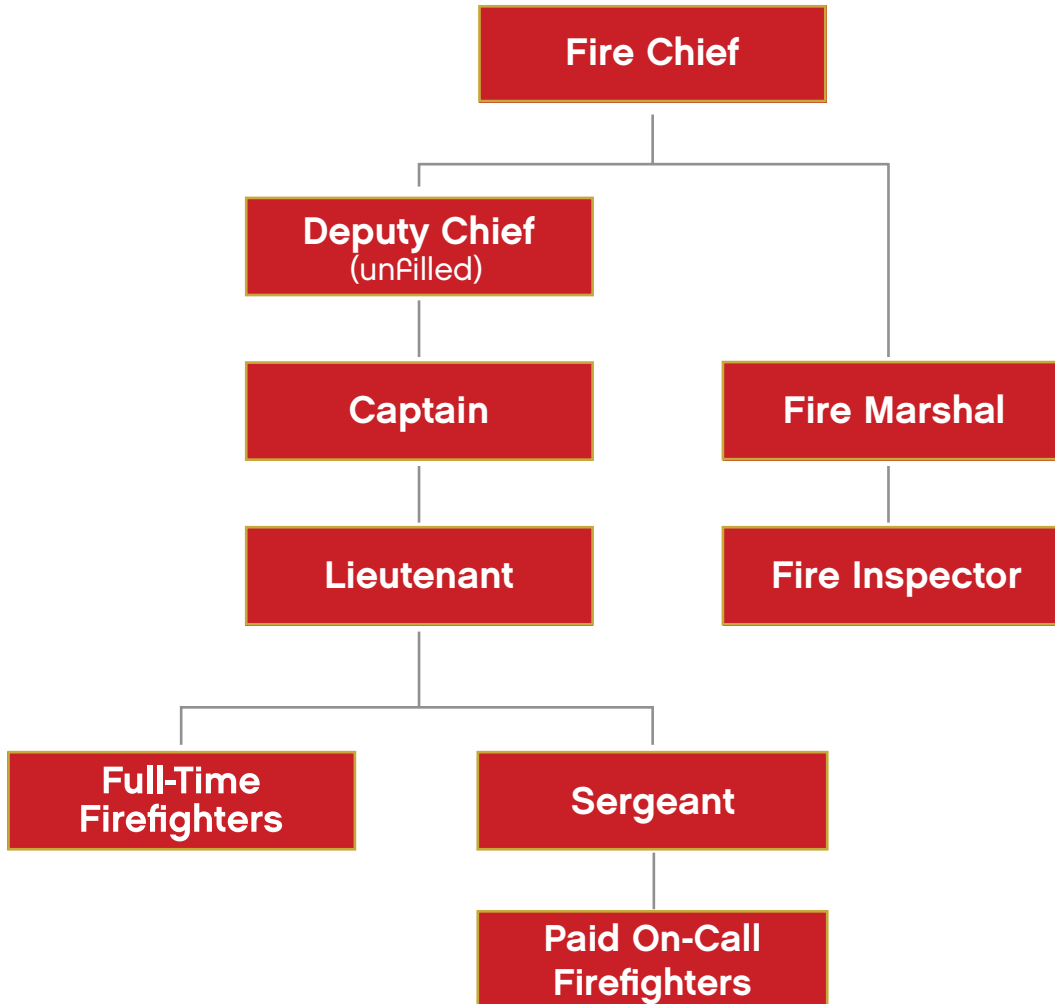
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Department Organization

The chain of command for the Cascade Township Fire Department:



Personnel Leadership



Adam Magers, Chief



Doug Venema, Captain



Todd Stevenson, Captain



Jeff Knowles, Captain



Doug Poolman, Fire Marshal



Andy Albright, Lieutenant



Michael Bolt, Lieutenant



Josh Dettwiler, Lieutenant



Colin Forzley, Fire Inspector

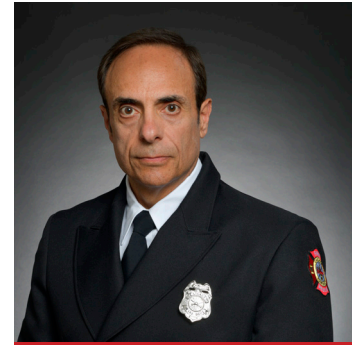
Personnel Roster



Brett Boonenberg, Sergeant



Kreigh Deering



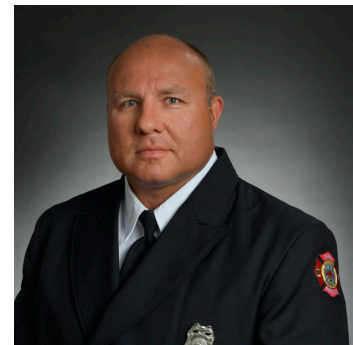
Jeff Rashid



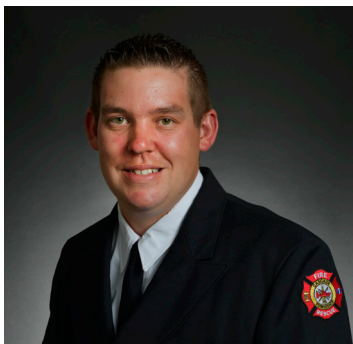
Robert Norris



Andy Marsman



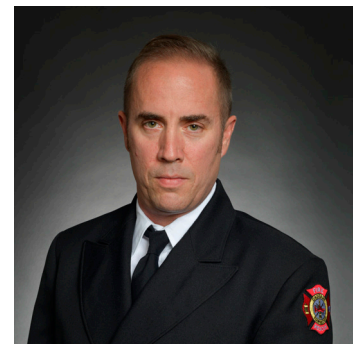
Jim Walker



John Makuch



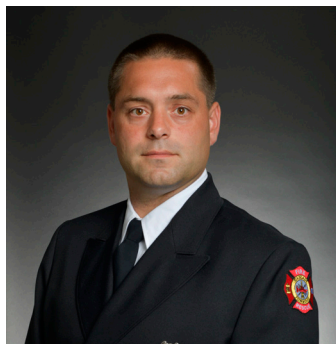
Lance Korhorn



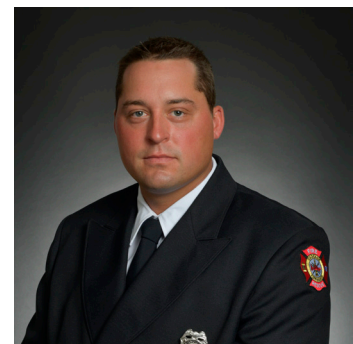
Eric Rodegher



Jon Snyder



Michael Lemkuil



Michael Kadish



David Lintemuth



Colin Rodriguez



Caleb Huggler



Todd Pell



Eric Melse



Todd Hemmi



Richard Raviolo



Mike Poolman



Cynthia Holzhei, Admin.

Not pictured:

Zach Christian

Steven Riddle

Joel Baker

Luke McCarthy



Facilities Information



Josh Dettwiler
Lieutenant

2019 has been a busy year with many new station updates to replace outdated items at Station 2, located at 2990 Buttrick Ave. With the addition of three new lieutenants at Station 2, one each on A, B and C shifts, an office was updated with new furniture. A second office was furnished with matching furniture for the EMS coordinator and our paid on-call staff to work on computer trainings, study for upcoming exams or write EMS/fire reports. The station also had the original carpeting replaced with new commercial carpet squares. In an effort to reduce carcinogen contamination to our bedding and uniforms, rough plumbing for a stackable washer and dryer has been completed. The set will be installed in early 2020. With the rise of cancer being detected in firefighters from fire-related toxins, this will be a welcome addition to the station. Currently, there is only a turnout gear washer available for our firefighters.

In addition, Station 2 has completed the first phase of new landscaping. Numerous trees were added to the front lawn to update the look of the station. Phase two in Spring 2020 will include hardscapes around the flagpole

as well as more low-lying plants. If you get a chance, stop by in December to check out our Christmas lights display on the new trees.

Station 1 will also be undergoing some substantial changes in the future. After numerous meetings and open discussions, Cascade Township has hired Progressive AE to perform a Facilities Study in order to find the best location for a new Station 1. We are very excited about the possible opportunity to build a new station. We have outgrown the station we are currently housed in and look forward to having more space to train and better serve our community.

The Cascade Township Fire Department is a community-first department. Station 2 is used for many community events, including car seat safety checks and installs, CPR/AED classes, 911 Burn Camp and school field trips, to name a few. Station 1 is a popular spot during October for the annual Halloween party. Remember, if you see our bay doors open, please stop by for a fire safety chat and a sticker for your kids.



Apparatus Report



Doug Venema
Captain

In 2019, we replaced our more than 20-year-old boat that was a 13-foot Zodiac inflatable with a small outboard motor. While this boat served us well, it had several limitations with the often-swift waters of the Thornapple River.

Our new boat, which was delivered in March, is a RescueONE® Connector boat, which is powered by an outboard motor with a jet drive. This allows us to operate in very shallow water and swift currents. The boat

is larger and includes many features the Zodiac did not have. The new boat served us very well in 2019 – we rescued a total of 32 people off the river and recovered a boat for one of our Township residents after it floated off its lift in the heavy spring rains. Some of those rescues were the result of boating accidents, jet skiers who got lost in the dark, struggling triathlon swimmers and stranded tubers during rapid current conditions. Our old boat was acquired by the Caledonia Fire Department, keeping it in the area and accessible to us. We have an automatic aid agreement with Caledonia Fire Department for water and ice rescues. This sends both departments on the initial dispatch to any type of potential water or ice rescue in either township.

All of our vehicles passed their annual DOT inspections

and yearly pump testing this year. We did have to replace brakes on one of our pumpers. We replaced drive tires on one of the pumpers and put new steer tires on our tender. Throughout the year, we also repaired several miscellaneous items, as needed.

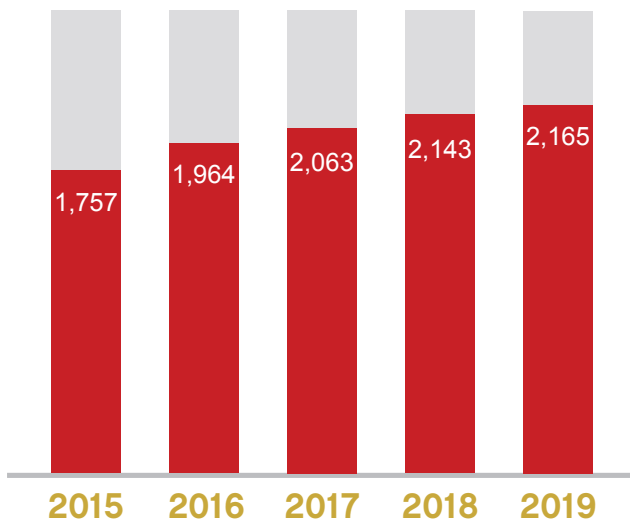
Keeping our fleet ready to go is a top priority. While we can ignore and sometimes prolong repairs on our personal vehicles, that is not an option with emergency vehicles. We are fortunate to work with local companies that assist us in keeping our fleet on the road.

As part of our daily activities, we check the trucks and the equipment carried on them. All trucks are checked every day at the start of our shifts. Each day of the week there is a specific truck that receives a more thorough check. These checks are then documented in our computer system.

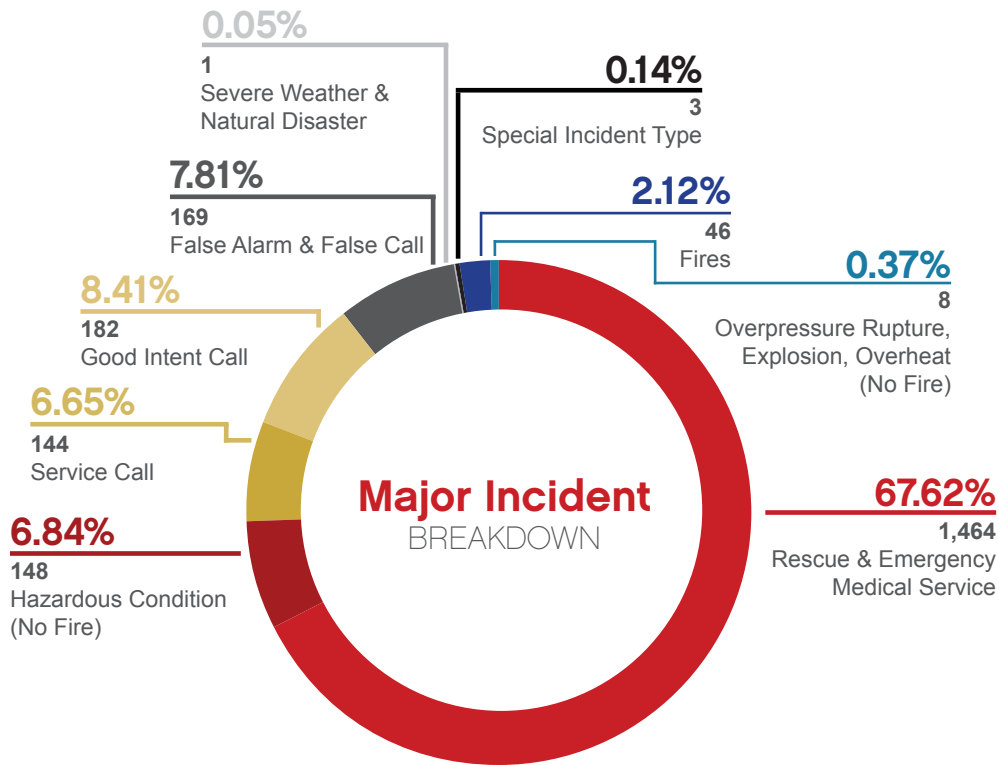
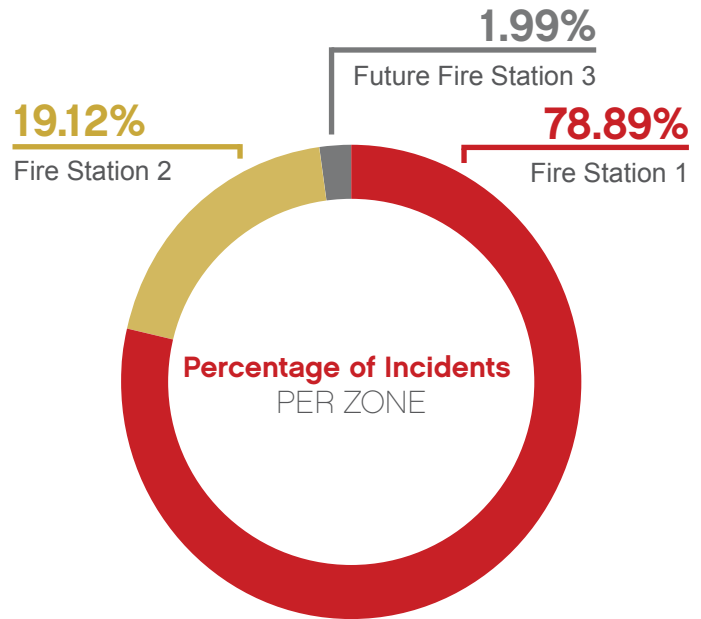
In addition to the vehicles, we also have to maintain and test other equipment per NFPA standards. Our hoses and ladders must be tested every year. This year, all the ladders passed their testing. Our hose testing produced five lengths of hose that failed. They usually fail due to leaks in the jacket or around the couplings. We have roughly 13,775 feet of hose that we test and 206 feet of ground ladders.

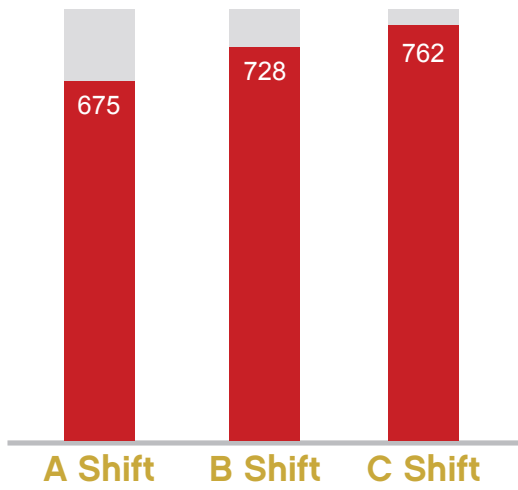
2019 was a safe year for our vehicle fleet. We strive to have 2020 be equally safe.

Responses 2019



 **2,165** | TOTAL CALLS



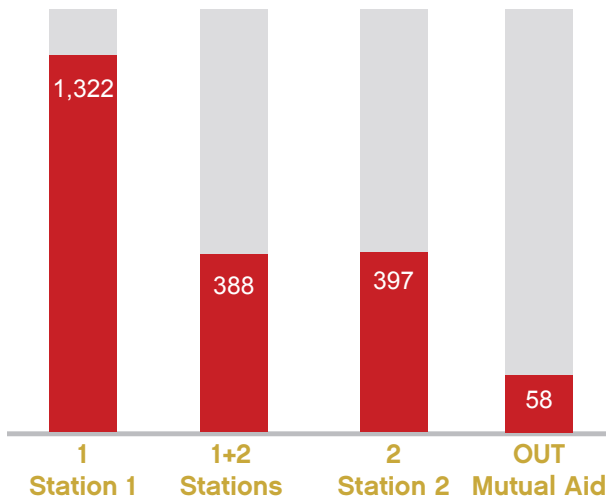


Incidents BY SHIFT

3 MIN **31** SEC
Average Response Time
Dispatch to Arrival

0 MIN **49** SEC
Turnout Time
Dispatch to Enroute

3,876 HRS **39** MIN
Total Agency Training Hours



Incidents BY STATION



Training Report



Todd Stevenson
Captain

Training is an important part of the fire service as it is where we learn from our mistakes so we can improve and become better firefighters. We work hard year-round to make sure we are ready for any emergency for which we may be called. The members of the Cascade Township Fire Department continually show their dedication and commitment to the community by participating in training.

In 2019, the Cascade Township Fire Department logged more than 6,000 hours of firefighting and medical training. While a majority of our training comes from our dedicated in-house instructors, training opportunities are not just limited to the fire station. This year, our firefighters took classes on leadership strategies for community risk reduction and hazardous materials incident management in Maryland at the National Fire Academy. Other locations this year include Colorado for hazardous materials training, Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti for executive leadership training and Indianapolis for three days of intense live fire training.



Training in live fire with high heat and smoky conditions is a valuable experience for our firefighters. This year, we were able to offer our firefighters live fire training by working with the Thornapple Fire Department in Middleville and utilizing their burn facility. Our goal next year is to make this training an annual event.

In 2019, the training department played a major role in preparing the Cascade Township Fire Department for an Insurance Service Office audit. The ISO performs audits on fire departments every three to five years. From these audits, fire departments are given their ISO rating. This can be anywhere from 10 to 1 with a score of 1 being the highest score. For fire departments to receive a

good ISO number, they must have good documentation of their training records. In 2018, the Cascade Fire Department purchased two separate platforms to assist with training documentation.



During this year's ISO audit, those platforms were a valuable tool for the training department. All training documents were downloaded, put into an ISO spreadsheet and given to the auditor. This was the first time the Cascade Township Fire Department was able to give such detailed and accurate training documentation to the ISO auditor.

With the help of platforms such as Target Solutions, the Cascade Township Fire Department will be able to accurately document firefighters' training in a format that can be easily downloaded and put into spreadsheets for anyone to review. This is not only helpful when it comes to ISO audits, but is useful for the training department to monitor each firefighters' training hours, thereby ensuring everyone in the department is meeting their required training.

For 2020, we will have Cascade firefighters taking various leadership classes, such as officer I & II, along with sending a firefighter to Eastern Michigan University for a nine-month executive leadership fire staff & command class. A group of firefighters will be going to Colorado to become hazardous-material technicians. There will be live fire training during 2020 that will help Cascade firefighters build upon their skills. During this upcoming year, we will have access to some acquired structures – such as houses that are to be demolished – that will be used to practice search and rescue skills. The Cascade Township Fire Department training instructors are excited about this upcoming year and are dedicated to helping our members be prepared when the call comes to assist those in the community.



Paid On-Call Report



Brett Boonenberg
Sergeant

It has been an honor to serve as sergeant of the Cascade Township paid on-call firefighters these past two years. In my nine years of service to the Cascade Township Fire Department, I have seen many positive changes.

There are many responsibilities placed on a paid on-call firefighter, and at times it can be quite a challenge balancing civilian life with the responsibilities of the department.

I am very fortunate to be the leader of hardworking and dedicated firefighters who, at the drop of a hat, may be called to an emergency situation.

Cascade Fire is a combination department made up of approximately 22 full-time firefighters and 11 part-time or paid on-call firefighters. Cascade has two stations that are occupied 24/7 with full-time firefighters. In the event of a structure fire, car accident, medical situation, hazardous material or any other call that requires extensive personnel, qualified firefighters are dispatched from both stations.

The moment the call comes in, paid on-call staff are notified via pager to report to their assigned stations. Once they arrive to the station, they will be assigned to pull another vehicle or remain at the station to prepare for the next emergency call. All qualified paid on-call staff have been through a rigorous six-month firefighting training course, consisting of both class time and practical training. At the conclusion of that course, they must pass a state-approved exam before receiving their firefighter badge. Once the firefighter portion of training has been completed, they move into a six-month medical class and must pass another state exam before receiving an emergency medical technician license.

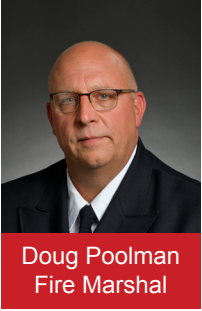
These are the minimum requirements to work as a paid on-call firefighter in Cascade Township. Ongoing

training is required to meet our accreditations, state and national requirements and, most importantly, to ensure we have highly trained personnel. I am very proud of this dedicated group of men who all easily surpassed the call numbers that we require of them.

It's been an exciting year with many changes, especially within the paid on-call roster. I'm happy to report we have added Joel Baker, Luke McCarthy and Steven Riddle to the roster after we lost the service of two paid on-call firefighters due to their relocation to other communities. I am optimistic about these three additions and look forward to them being fully qualified by 2020. In addition, three well-trained, paid on-call firefighters moved up to the ranks of full-time firefighter positions for the Cascade Township Fire Department. Michael Kadish, David Lintemuth and Michael Lemkuil were hired through a competitive interviewing process to fill these available full-time positions. I am so proud of these gentlemen and the paid on-call program that prepares them for this next step. At this time, we have 11 hardworking and devoted paid on-call firefighters.

In addition to regular training, the paid on-call firefighters participate in the annual Touch a Truck program held at the Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library. This event allows children to climb inside a firetruck to see what makes them work, meet firefighters and ask them questions. Another program the paid on-call firefighters participate in is Project Night Lights. On the second Wednesday of every month during this program, the paid on-call firefighters bring a firetruck to Michigan Street outside of Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and shine its lights. The shining lights represent hope, encouragement and the willpower to keep fighting. We are proud to participate in this community event and support patients and their families.

It truly has been an honor to represent the Cascade Township Fire Department. I am looking forward to serving our community in the years to come.



Doug Poolman
Fire Marshal

Fire Prevention Report



Fire Prevention

The purpose of fire prevention education is to provide information, lessons and practices to promote fire and life safety for our citizens, business and guests. Many of our local businesses in Cascade rely on our fire department to provide them with CPR/AED training, fire extinguisher training and emergency evacuation procedures and drills. We also spend a lot of time in our two elementary schools, teaching fire and life safety to young students who then, in turn, bring that information home to their families.

Fire Inspections

In 2019, we performed in many facets of fire prevention. Fire prevention activities help protect properties from devastating loss as well as the life and safety of our citizens, business owners, employees and firefighters.

Fire Investigations

Post fire investigations are another vital part in the overall picture of fire prevention. Not only are we mandated by law to investigate the cause and origin of any significant fire, but in doing so we can learn about trends in the cause of fires and can then develop the tools and education to prevent similar fires in the future. Our fire investigation team is part of a larger countywide team within Kent County with which we can receive or provided assistance within our communities in fire cause determination.

Pre-Incident Surveys/Planning

Part of a commercial business inspection is to identify hazards as well as document the characteristics of the building and the processes the business is involved with. This is vital information for our responders to have when responding to these properties. A lot of our focus for 2019 was to prepare for ISO to visit us in the fall. Part of those requirements are to have updated information and pre-incident surveys on all commercial properties. These consist of more than 900 addresses and well over 1,000 businesses within those addresses. This was a huge undertaking, which kept us busy preparing for the ISO visit and audit.



In 2019...

179 | BUSINESS INSPECTIONS

83 | SITE SURVEY INSPECTIONS

22 | COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS

37 | INCIDENTS ASSISTING THE DUTY CREW IN EMERGENCY RESPONSES

120 | HOURS OF REQUIRED DEPARTMENT TRAINING



72 | HOURS OF REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS FOR FIRE INSPECTORS

72 | HOURS OF REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT HOURS OF FIRE INVESTIGATORS

6 | SIGNIFICANT FIRES REQUIRING INVESTIGATION

DOZENS | PLAN REVIEWS PARTICIPATED IN

DOZENS | PRE-INCIDENT FIRE SURVEYS FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES DEVELOPED



Andy Albright
Lieutenant

Community Risk Reduction

2019 was another year of learning and growth for the Cascade Township Fire Department and our community risk reduction programs.

In January, I attended a National Fire Academy class held in Muskegon County. The class title was building organizational support for community risk reduction. As I stated last year, community risk reduction is not a one-person job, it is a department-wide effort to make our community a safer place.

In September, I traveled to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to take the leadership strategies for community risk reduction class. This weeklong class focused on how to put programs in place that add value to the community while reducing the risks and severity of the events that do happen. It was a special week to be on the campus as it was the week of September 11. I was fortunate to participate in the 9/11 memorial service while there.

Last year, the Cascade Township Fire Department identified the young and elderly populations in Cascade as our greatest risks. The young don't possess enough life experience, and the elderly often lack the agility they used to have. For these reasons, education and training for these groups was made a priority in 2019.

In 2019, we continued teaching our elementary and preschool students fire safety. In addition, Cascade Fire worked with Forest Hills Public Schools to better educate our firefighters with building layouts and emergency plans. I attended walkthroughs of three buildings in Ada Township that Cascade Fire would be called to for mutual aid during a large-scale incident. All officer staff toured the three FHPS buildings in Cascade Township to familiarize our staff with layouts and emergency plans. Additionally, all firefighters participated in our online training program created for the two elementary schools.

Cascade Fire is also participating in and assisting the two elementary schools with fire drills. During each school year, the elementary schools are required to hold five fire drills. During the drills, Cascade Fire assists with making sure evacuations are efficient, doors to classrooms get closed to slow fire spread and exits are closed off to simulate fire and the need to use alternate routes.



In September, Chief Magers, Fire Marshal Poolman and I held two Town Hall meetings for residents at a senior housing facility. Items covered included a follow up to a recent incident at the facility, emergency procedures and why they are done this way, as well as a question and answer session. We feel it is very important to explain and teach the residents on why we do what we do so future events will have as positive an outcome as possible.

In 2020, the Cascade Township Fire Department will continue to train our firefighters on these facilities as well as work with the facilities to train their staff to have the best possible outcome if an event should occur.

In 2019, the Cascade Township Fire Department rolled out our new fire extinguisher training program. Firefighter Eric Melse runs this program and will come to your business and teach your employees how to use the extinguishers in your building. To date, Firefighter Melse has been to more than 20 businesses and taught approximately 1,200 people. We look forward to continuing this program and making more businesses and people safe in our community.

2019 Summary

6 | FIRE PREVENTION
EVENTS FOR KIDS

37 | PUBLIC
RELATIONS EVENTS

28 | PUBLIC
EDUCATION EVENTS

6 | STATION
TOURS

Car Seat Events Held at Station 2

2 | EVENTS
SPRING AND FALL

26 | FAMILIES
EDUCATED

34 | KIDS
RIDING SAFER

16 | SEATS
DISTRIBUTED

With the help of Helen
Devos Children's Hospital

Outside of these two events, we have
educated and helped install seats in another
families' vehicles

10

2020 Goals

- Update and upgrade our fire prevention program for schools and train our firefighters on teaching young people the same consistent fire safety message
- Continue to work and grow fire safety practices in our schools and assisted living facilities
- Finish and install our river response matrix
- Work to bring a smoke alarm program to the Cascade Township Fire Department and our residents
- Attend more schooling on community risk reduction





Jim Walker
EMS Coordinator

EMS Report

Department Summary

In 2019, some new personnel were hired from within the paid on-call staff to bolster the full-time roster. Captain Ron Rowland retired, which made room for two promotions and the hiring of Firefighter Michael Lemkuil. Two more probationary firefighters are currently working on their firefighter certifications and will then move on to EMS training after that. The Cascade Township Fire Department is comprised of 33 members – 22 full-time firefighters that are also emergency medical technicians, and 11 paid on-call members whose skill sets vary from medical first responders to emergency medical technicians. The Cascade Township Fire Department provides emergency medical services to a 35-square-mile area containing various commercial and industrial developments, medium to high concentrations of residential developments, some agricultural areas as well as assistance to the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

The Cascade Township Fire Department maintains six vehicles that are licensed by the state of Michigan as basic life support units. Three of them are fire engines (Engines 5/6/8), one Suburban (M-11), one pickup truck (M-7) and one medium-duty rescue (Rescue 7). These vehicles are inspected annually on site by the state of Michigan to ensure their requirements for basic life support vehicles licensure are met.

Department Calls

In 2019, The Cascade Township Fire Department responded to more than 2,165 calls for service. Of those total calls, EMS units responded to 1,464 calls for EMS services. These calls varied from simple lift assists to complex rescue services with basic life support interventions. A total of 19 cardiac incidents were recorded for the year.



 **1,464** | EMS CALLS

Department EMS Training

Trainings for the Cascade Township Fire Department that involved basic life support, medical or trauma topics are considered EMS training. This training is coordinated and conducted by Captain Todd Stevenson and Firefighter Jim Walker, along with other subject matter experts from within the department training committee staff.

In 2019, the department trained at least once a month as an entire group on EMS topics. Each individual is required to maintain between 15 and 30 EMS continuing education hours for their medical licensure (15 CEs for medical first responders and 30 CEs for emergency medical technicians). In 2019, the Cascade Township Fire Department was able to supply 22 of these continuing education hours through regularly scheduled department trainings. Topics varied from automotive extrication, basic cardiac life, forcible entry, driver's training and medical complications all the way to emergency preparedness. For the emergency preparedness training, we worked with members of the Secret Service and the Ada Fire Department to offer a joint terrorism awareness class. This class was opened to area fire departments at no cost.

Department Accomplishments

In October, the Kent County Emergency Medical System honored members of the Cascade Township Fire Department at its annual awards dinner. 12 Cascade Township Fire Department members' awards fell under the exceptional patient care and/or lifesaving awards categories.

New Equipment

Igel™ Supraglottic airway devices are being transitioned into service in place of the King LTSD™ supraglottic airway. These advanced airways help support respiratory efforts to maintain a patient airway in the event of a patient losing their ability to breathe on their own. The Igel™ airway allows for an unimpeded flow of blood through the jugular veins and carotid arteries.

CPR and First Aid Report



Michael Bolt
Lieutenant

This past year, our Cascade American Heart Association Training Center has trained more than 800 individuals in CPR and the use of an AED. We have had the opportunity to bring this training to schools, businesses, church groups, medical professionals and homeowner associations. We have added one new instructor to the Fire Department staff and have a total of 26 instructors within our training center.

In 2019, the Cascade Township Fire Department was involved with six medical calls where the patient was unresponsive and in need of CPR. Local citizens began CPR before first responders arrived. With the help of local citizens, Cascade Fire and Life Ambulance, these three individuals had heartbeats restored on scene and were transported to the hospital. The patients made full recoveries and are alive today due to the initial reaction of these local citizens and the work of the Cascade Township Fire Department and Life Ambulance.





Jeff Knowles
Captain

HAZMAT Report



A material that poses an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of people and the environment if it is not properly controlled is considered a hazardous material. More than 80,000 chemicals are registered for use in commerce in the United States, with an estimated 2,000 being introduced annually. The Cascade Township Fire Department responded to 47 hazardous materials incidents in 2019. However, in October, we responded to one of our SARA Title 3 facilities for smoke in the area. We found a large tank full of nitrogen was leaking from a bad valve. Nitrogen is an inert gas with hazards of displacing oxygen and being extremely cold, which poses a contact hazard. Members from Cascade Fire, with the assistance from Kentwood Fire, were able to make entry with positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus and turnout gear. They were then able to thaw the broken valve and turn it to the “off” position, which mitigated the problem. After the incident, we did have to replace some turnout gear, but no serious injuries occurred during the incident.

The Cascade Township Fire Department has been a part of a Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, which also includes the City of Kentwood Fire Department and the Dutton Fire Department, called Tri-Com HAZMAT Team. The team consists of 14 active members and the three fire chiefs. All active members are trained to the technician level. In January, I was appointed to be the team leader for Tri-Com HAZMAT Team and lead the team for future growth and improvements. Tri-Com hosted two trainings this year at the Kentwood Fire Department.

Our first training was “What’s in the Drum,” presented by Schoolcraft Community College. This class was a great refresher on packages and what contents may be inside. Our second training was a HAZMAT command class, presented by Michigan State Police HAZMAT instructors. This was a class that will assist our members in being

in the incident command role for a hazardous materials incident. We also became familiar with the required forms needed for reimbursement at a hazardous materials incident.

Cascade Township currently has 16 occupancies that fall under the SARA Title 3 ACT. This is the Emergency Planning and the Community-Right-to-Know Act. These facilities have certain hazardous chemicals, or a quantity of a chemical above the reportable quantity threshold limits which requires them to report all hazardous chemicals on site. In addition to the facilities we have in the Township, we also are unique in the sense that we have a major interstate, a railroad and an international airport that transport all types of hazardous materials daily.

Michigan State Police has upgraded its 80-hour hazardous materials technician class, which is now Pro Board® recognized. I was asked to attend the pilot class and give feedback for any changes that may improve the class in the future. We were able to offer great feedback to improve the class for the future. One of the main things I got out of the class was the equipment that the state of Michigan has to offer if we request it. It is also always great to refresh your skills and knowledge by learning from different instructors with different experience.

I was also fortunate enough to attend a 40-hour rail car specialist class in Pueblo, Colorado, in November of this year. This was a Federal Emergency Management Agency-funded class, which was instructed by some of the most experienced members in the rail and emergency response industry. We learned about all types of cars on the rail, how to identify them and their contents, hazards they may pose and how to mitigate those hazards. This class was full of hands-on experience and exercises. The knowledge has made me extremely comfortable in an area I felt I was not strong in prior to taking the class.

2020 Goals

- Quarterly training with our entire TriCom HAZMAT Team
- Increase our technician level personnel by a minimum of four members

Technical Rescue Team Report



Michael Bolt
Lieutenant



This past year, I was tasked with developing a technical rescue team within the Cascade Township Fire Department. Our team consists of nine firefighters within our department. Our goal is to develop a team that can provide technical rescue, including trench rescue, high-angle rescue, swift-water rescue and building collapse rescue. The team is led by Cascade Firefighter Bob Norris. He currently serves with the Michigan Region 6 Technical Rescue Team. Most of our team members already have training in many of the specific technical rescue disciplines, but we need to have all members trained in all fields to make the unit cohesive and able to handle any emergency at any time.

This past year, we were approached by the National Weather Service to provide the technical rescue ability to remove an employee from the radar tower located at 4900 Tim Dougherty Drive. We took this opportunity on and are ready for this challenge. We anticipate performing this scenario with them sometime in 2020. This needs to be accomplished when the weather allows for the radar to be turned off.

Over the next year, we look to bring in instructors to teach new firefighters the basics of rope rescue. In the past, our department has hosted classes through Michigan Region 6 and we look to do that again in 2020. Finally, we are looking to host a swift water rescue class this summer. We don't know what the new year will bring but look forward to any challenge!





Jeff Knowles
Captain

Health and Wellness Report



The Cascade Township Fire Department has been very proactive in health and wellness. Many people feel that firefighting is a dangerous job, which is correct. Most of those people, if asked what the leading cause of death amongst firefighters is, would jump to the conclusion that firefighters mostly die in fires. However, this is far from the truth as the leading cause of death amongst firefighters is heart-related issues. In 2018, 82 firefighters died in the U.S. in the line of duty and 33 of those were heart attacks. This is a slight improvement from 2017, and 2019 is looking to improve even more. The Cascade Township Fire Department has provided its firefighters with the proper equipment to help prevent these tragedies in our department.

Each fire station is equipped with a treadmill, elliptical machine, various free weights and benches. Fire Station 1 additionally has a row machine and other additional equipment due to an increase in space. Cascade Fire Department Policy requires each firefighter to perform a one-hour workout

per shift. Workouts do get interrupted to respond to emergency calls.

Chief Magers brought the firefighter fitness challenge to our department this year. This is a 12-week challenge where each member must achieve the goal of 2,500 minutes of exercise, which was used in his former department. This was a great challenge because it enforced working out along with friendly competition. Most members of the department participated and most who started the challenge were able to successfully complete it.

In addition to making efforts to prevent heart-related issues, Cascade Fire made steps toward preventing another serious concern for firefighters: cancer. In 2019, we replaced all firefighters' protective hoods with a new hood that blocks out 99% of cancer particulates. These hoods are not inexpensive, but the benefit is well worth the money spent to protect our firefighters.

2020 Goals

We are bringing yoga to the fire department in 2020. We have agreed to 12 weeks of professional yoga instruction, which will take place every Wednesday at 6:30 a.m. at Fire Station 1. Our goal is to increase flexibility and reduce future injuries amongst our firefighters.

We will be having another fitness challenge in 2020 and hope to have 100% participation and completion. We are also utilizing a new paid on-call firefighter who is a professional fitness trainer. Firefighter Riddle is going to introduce new movements and workouts to assist our members to achieve their fitness goals with the equipment we have accessible to us.

Hydrant Report



Michael Bolt
Lieutenant



In October, the City of Grand Rapids provided the Cascade Township Fire Department an overview of the water supply system that supplies our Township with drinking water. We see the yellow fire hydrants that dot our neighborhoods and take for granted the water that comes from our faucets. On average, Cascade Township consumes 26.3 million gallons of water on a daily basis, with peak summertime consumption of 74.9 million gallons per day. That water comes to our Township from the Lake Michigan Filtration Plant through 25 miles of large diameter supply pipes into two water reservoirs in the Grand Rapids area. From there, it is pumped to various smaller reservoirs surrounding our Township and then to our hydrants and homes.

There are 1,336 fire hydrants in Cascade Township. In

2019, The Cascade Township Fire Department spent 330 hours making sure these hydrants are ready for use in case of an emergency. In the springtime, we flush out the hydrants to remove any sediments that may have collected during the winter months and mark them red. In the fall, we pump out the water that is trapped in the hydrant so it will not freeze during the winter and mark them blue.

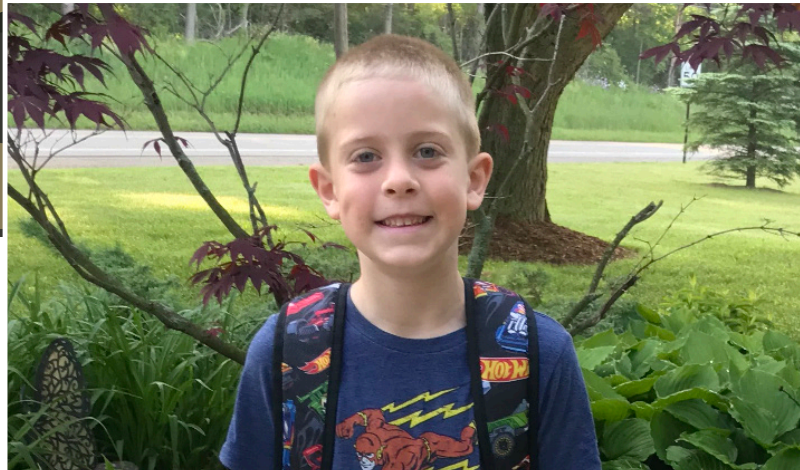
We ask the Township residents to comply with Township ordinance to keep vegetation and snow piles clear of any fire hydrants on their property. Hydrants are there to provide fire protection for their property and that of their neighbors. If residents see any issues with the fire hydrants, please contact the Cascade Township Fire Department so we can have them addressed.

Thank You

Thank you for reading our 2019 annual report. For more information and updates year-round, please visit cascadetwp.com



Celebration OF LIFE



Ryan Andrew Marsman
June 18, 2012 – June 13, 2019

We celebrate the way Ryan lived. We cherish the years of happy memories he gave us.

RIDING FOR RYAN

On June 13, 2019, five days before his seventh birthday, Ryan died from injuries sustained in a bicycle-truck accident. He was riding his bike through the crosswalk along Cascade Road when a driver did not see him crossing the street.

In an effort to turn this tragedy into something positive, bicycle safety flags have been made and given to children around the area. Safety flags are often seen on burley carts or tag-alongs; however, the child is always connected to an adult. Young independent bicyclists are more prone to harm given their lack of height and visibility. The goal of this organization is to help bring more visibility and awareness of young bicyclists while riding.

For more information about Riding for Ryan and how to receive a flag, please visit [Facebook.com/RidingforRyan/](https://www.facebook.com/RidingforRyan/).





Cascade Township Fire Department

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