

# **COMSTOCK TOWNSHIP**

## **DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & RESCUE**



### **2020**

## **Annual Report**

**Matt Beauchamp**  
**Fire Chief**

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF COMSTOCK

## Department of Fire & Rescue

MATT BEAUCHAMP  
*Fire Chief*

MIKE DYER  
*Assistant Chief*

8700 E. Michigan Avenue • P.O. Box 8  
Comstock, Michigan 49041

Phone: (269) 345-9244 • Fax: (269) 345-8356

DAVID R. WUIS  
*Deputy Chief*

MICHAEL KESSLER  
*Fire Marshal*

February, 2021

2020 was quite a year for everyone. Comstock Fire & Rescue recorded 1,908 incident responses for 2020 which was down 238 calls from the previous year. This was due largely in part to COVID-19. People were not wanting to go to the hospitals due to fear and there was much less vehicular traffic (which result in lower calls for Motor Vehicle Accidents) due to the stay-at-home orders. The department continues to partner with neighboring departments and community partners to provide a high level of service each day.

We strive to serve the residents of Comstock Township and our neighbors in Kalamazoo County with a combination of full time and part time personnel that staff our three fire stations, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, year-round. Thanks to the continued support from our township board and residents, we were able to add 3 additional full-time firefighters to our system in 2020, totaling 12 full-time Firefighters staffing 2 per station 24/7. The department has a top-notch staff that works hard to provide the highest level of training, community risk reduction, fire prevention/public education and vehicle/equipment maintenance to ensure we can handle calls for service. We are truly a service-oriented department that is exploring ways to be a true community partner.

With the increase in full time staffing, training and community risk reduction efforts, we have continued an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating for the township's fire protection service of 3. The lower the rating the better. The rating refers to how much the department meets the prescribed preparedness criteria. This will, hopefully, allow for lower insurance premiums throughout the township.

Due to the diversified call types, we see in and around our township, our personnel stay current by meeting or exceeding fire department related training for fire, hazardous materials, rescue and emergency medical services. The department was able to leap forward in the Capital Improvement Plan by receiving all new mobile and portable radios through a regional grant awarded from FEMA. This instantly modernized our communications ability on emergency scenes. The department continues to seek ways to keep training realistic by exploring opportunities in the township, at the regional training center on Nazareth Rd, throughout the state and beyond.

I want to thank the residents, business owners and the Comstock Township Board for their continued support to the fire department. The members of the Comstock Fire Department are residents as well, and we serve our neighbors with the highest level of training and care. We are exploring avenues of staying proactive with Community Risk Reduction opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,

*Matt Beauchamp*

Matt Beauchamp  
Fire Chief

# COMSTOCK FIRE & RESCUE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Comstock Fire & Rescue Department is to provide the most advanced fire & rescue service with the highest level of trained firefighters committed to deliver that service to our citizens with the utmost loyalty and compassion.



## COMSTOCK FIRE & RESCUE MOTTO

Taking care of those who depend on us.





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*Fire Marshal*

## 2020 Operations

### 2020 Response Information

<b>Total Runs for 2020</b>	<b>1,908</b>
<b>Average Runs Per Day</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Average Response Time</b>	<b>3:43 (minutes)</b>
<b>Overlapping Incidents</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>Fire Loss</b>	<b>\$511,106</b> (fire loss potential saved/pre-incident value = \$7,856,486)

### Aid To Other Departments

<b>Kalamazoo Township</b>	
Station #2	75
Station #3	161
<b>City of Portage</b>	24
<b>Pavilion Township</b>	24
<b>Kalamazoo City</b>	23
<b>Galesburg / Charleston</b>	26
<b>Richland Township</b>	3
<b>Ross / Augusta</b>	1
<b>Cooper Township</b>	4
<b>Texas</b>	1

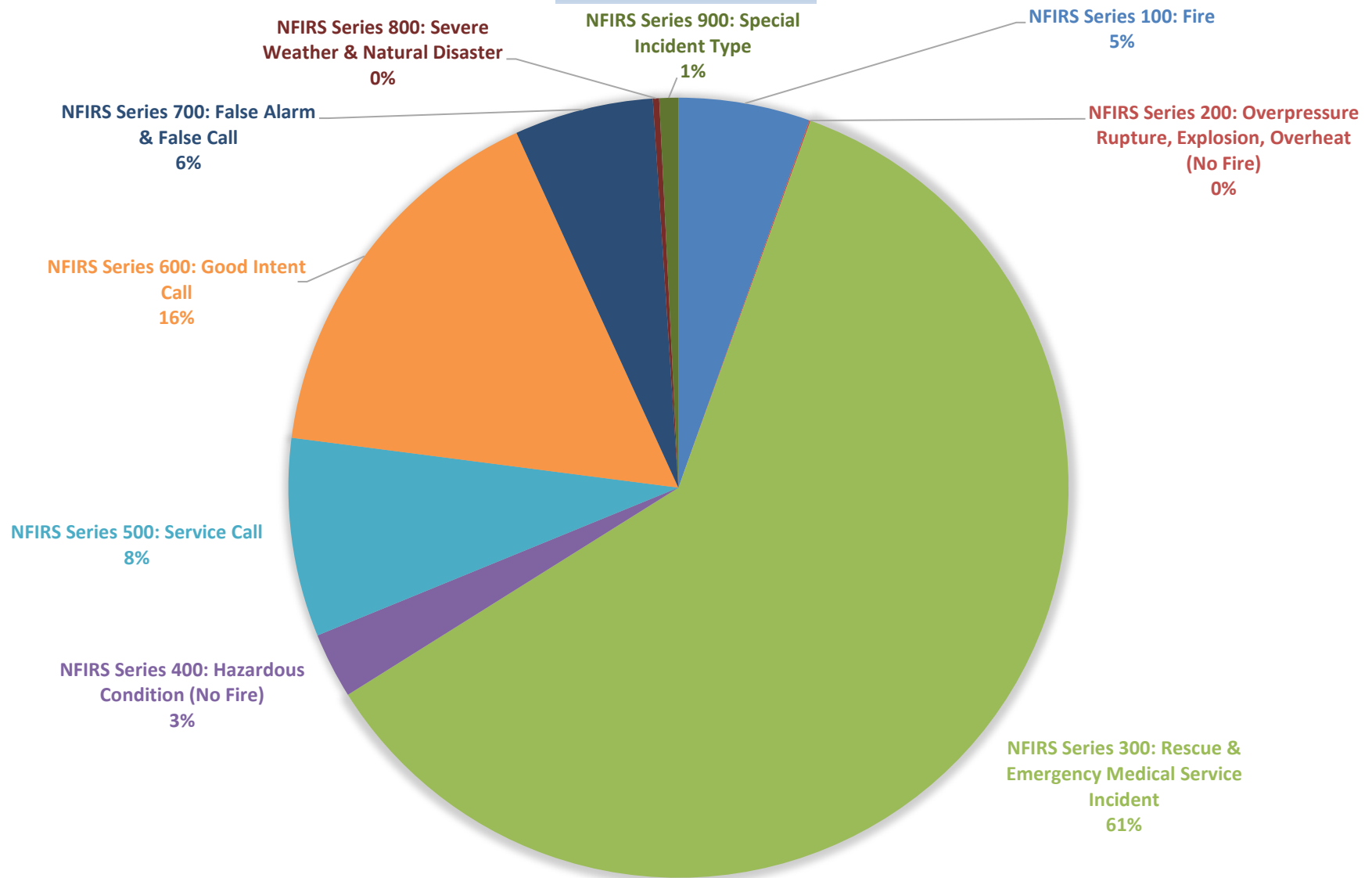
### Aid From Other Departments

<b>Kalamazoo Township</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Galesburg / Charleston</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Kalamazoo City</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>City of Portage</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pavilion Township</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Cooper</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Richland Township</b>	<b>2</b>

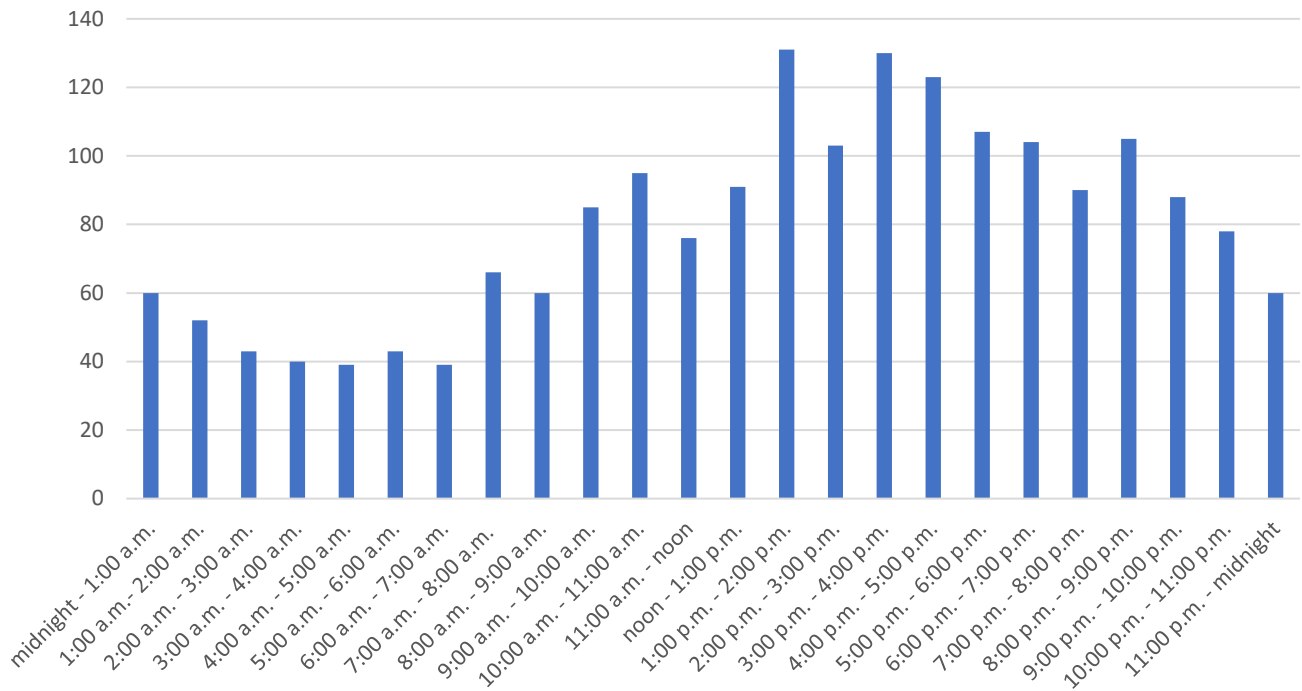
## OUR INCIDENTS BY CALL TYPE:

NFIRS Series 100: Fire	104
NFIRS Series 200: Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	1
NFIRS Series 300: Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	1156
NFIRS Series 400: Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	52
NFIRS Series 500: Service Call	157
NFIRS Series 600: Good Intent Call	308
NFIRS Series 700: False Alarm & False Call	110
NFIRS Series 800: Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	5
NFIRS Series 900: Special Incident Type	15
<b>Total Calls for 2020</b>	<b>1908</b>
Of the NFIRS Series 100 calls, how many are "Structure Fire"	56
Of the NFIRS Series 100 calls, how many are "Vehicle Fire"	24
Of the NFIRS Series 100 calls, how many are "Vegetation Fire"	11
Of the NFIRS Series 300 calls, how many are "Motor Vehicle Accidents"	187
Of the NFIRS Series 300 calls, how many are "Extrications from Vehicles"	0
Of the NFIRS Series 300 calls, how many are "Rescues"	6
EMS-BLS Response Calls	963
Received Mutual Aid	12
Received Automatic Aid	87
Provided Mutual Aid	60
Provided Automatic Aid	141
Mutual and Automatic Aid structure fire responses	49

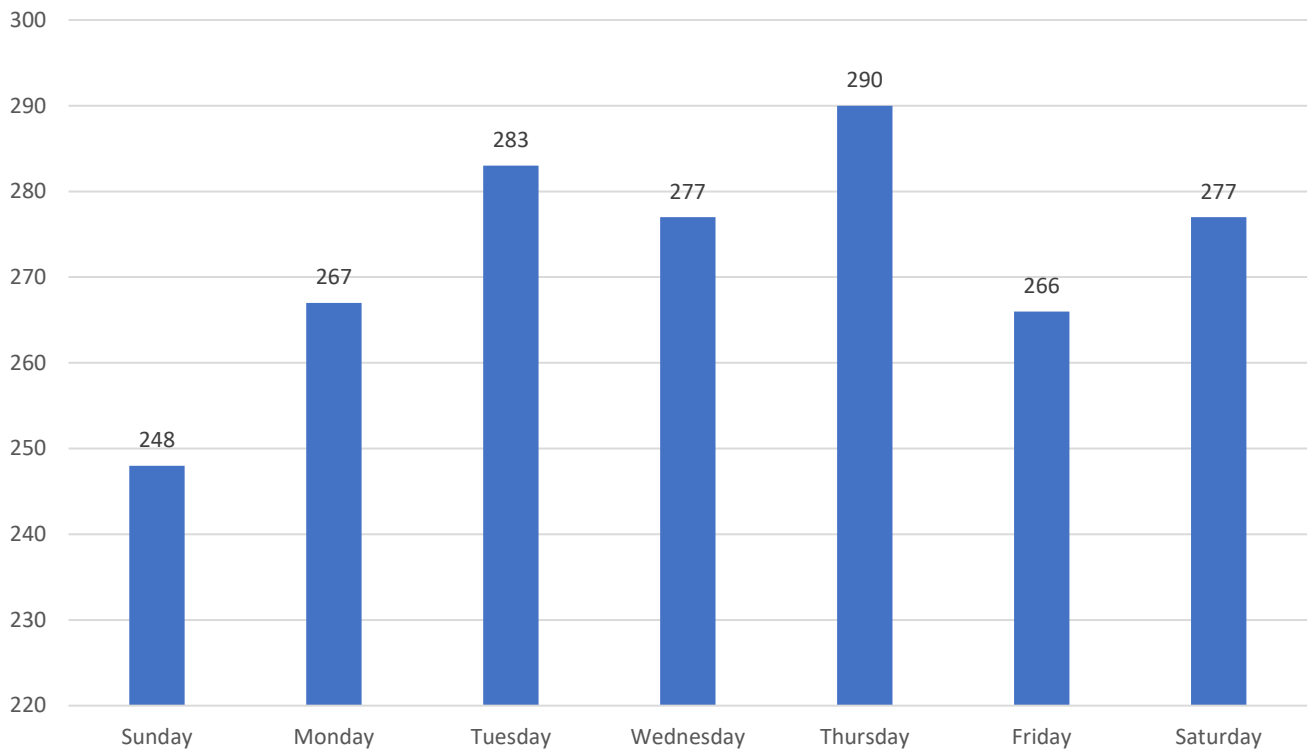
# CALL TYPE



Response number by time of day  
The average busiest hour of the day is 1:00 p.m - 2:00 p.m.



Number of Responses by day of week  
The busiest day of the week was Thursday



# Our Fire Department

Our fire department is a foundation of the community and members work hard to protect lives and property every day. Whether rivers, roads, or rails, they know the nooks and crannies of our service area from corner to corner. The members of our fire department help residents prevent emergencies and they are equipped to respond when the need arises.



**15,858 Population Protected**

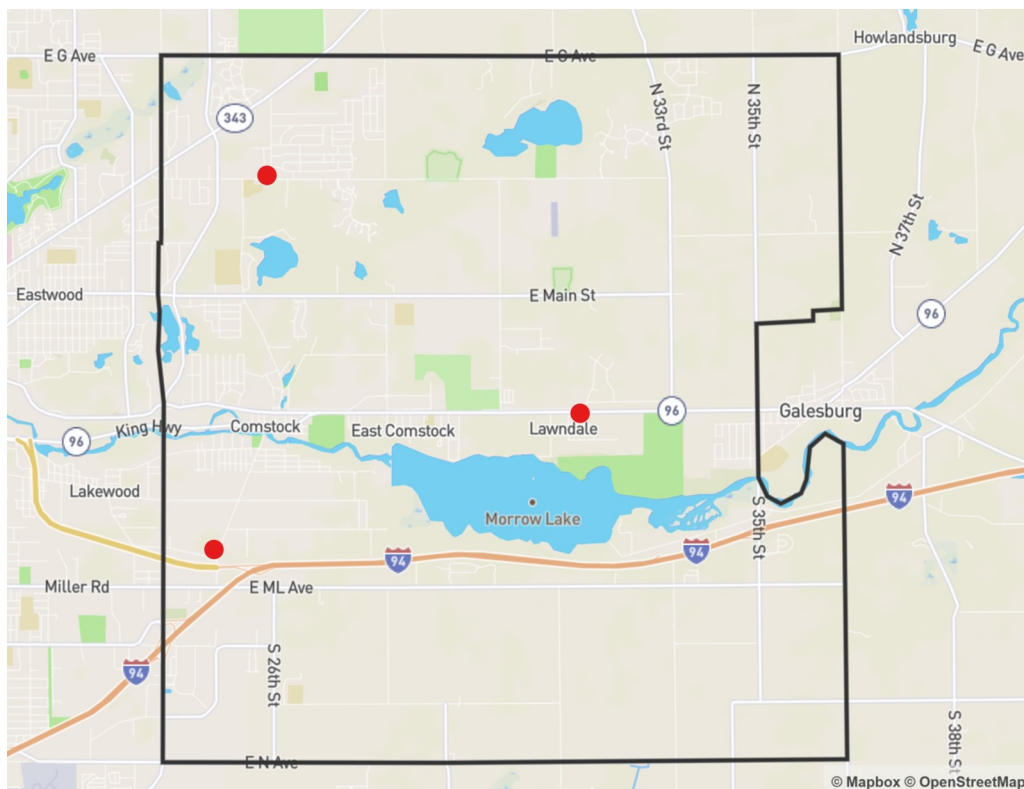


**35 Square Miles**



**3 Stations**

## Area Protected



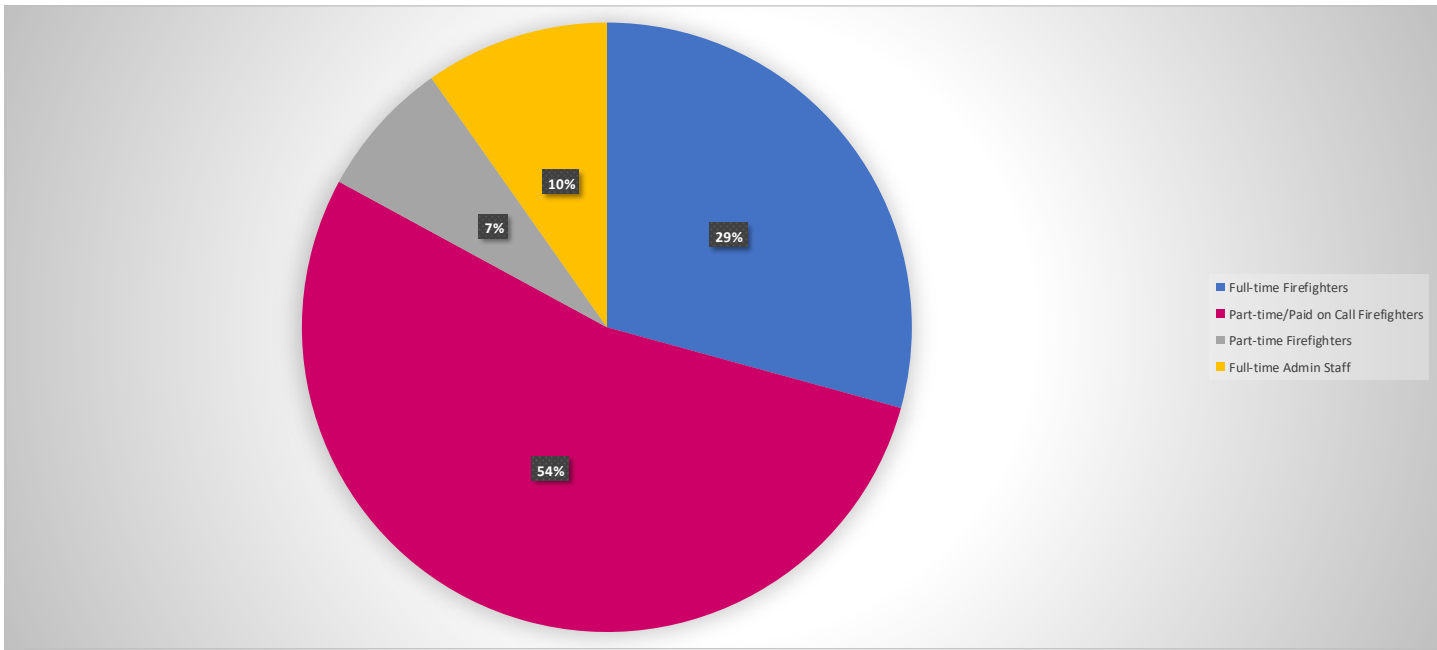
● Fire Stations  
□ Comstock Charter Township County Subdivision, Kalamazoo County, MI



# Firefighters

The members of our fire department are dedicated first-responders. They are experts in their craft, caretakers of the community, and trusted resources for everyone doing their part to keep homes, schools and businesses safe.

## Career and Part-time/Paid-on-Call Firefighters



- 1 Full-time Fire Chief
- 1 Part-time Deputy Chief
- 1 Full-time Assistant Chief
- 1 Full-time Administrative Assistant
- 1 Full-time Fire Marshal
- 12 Full-time Firefighters
- 22 Part-time/Paid-on-Call Firefighters
- 3 Part-time Firefighters

\* 2 (Full-time) Firefighters per shift per Station

# ≡ Fire Station Information

## Station 9-1

1960 River St  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
(269) 345-2113

Built in 2009, Station 9-1 is the largest of the three stations. It was built in its current location, moving from the old station which was located near Merrill Park on Comstock Ave. The station features three large drive-thru apparatus bays. It is home to the pride of the fleet, a 1943 Seagrave fire engine. The station also contains the offices of the Deputy Fire Chief, Assistant Chief and Fleet Mechanics, as well as houses a large classroom which serves as the primary training location for firefighters. In addition to serving Comstock Township, this station covers all 9-1-1 requests for service in the Lakewood (Kalamazoo Township) area as well as provides mutual aid to Pavilion Township, the City of Portage, the City of Kalamazoo and the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport.



Total Responses for 2020: 873

## Station 9-2

5947 E H Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
(269) 349-5282

Built in 2014, Station 9-2 is the newest of the three stations. The station features three drive-thru apparatus bays and two additional traditional bays. In addition to serving Comstock Township, this station provides mutual aid to Eastwood (Kalamazoo Township), the City of Kalamazoo, Cooper Township and Richland Township.



Total Responses for 2020: 736

## ≡ Fire Station Information

### Station 9-3

8700 E Michigan Ave  
Galesburg, MI 49053  
(269) 381-0804

Built in 2002, Station 9-3 is the oldest of the three stations. It was constructed in order to improve response times to Comstock residents and businesses located in the eastern portions of the township. It is also the smallest of the three stations, with only two drive-thru apparatus bays. This station also serves as the administrative office for the Comstock Township Department of Fire & Rescue. It contains the offices of the Fire Chief, the Fire Marshal and the Administrative Assistant. In addition to serving Comstock Township, this station provides mutual aid to neighboring Galesburg/Charleston Township and Augusta/Ross Township.



Total Responses for 2020: 299

### Personnel:

The men and women of Comstock Fire & Rescue provide 24/7 essential fire suppression and investigation, education, rescue, and emergency medical services to over 15,000 residents and visitors, responding to nearly 2,300 requests for service on average each year. Our department consists of a full-time Fire Chief, Part-time Deputy Chief, Full-time Assistant Chief, Full-time Fire Marshal, Full-time Administrative Assistant, 12 Full-time firefighters, and 25 Part-time/Paid on Call firefighters.



# COMSTOCK FIRE & RESCUE

## 2020 SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### GRANTS (Awards):

- \$74,000.00 – AFG/FEMA grant for Health and Wellness
- \$330,000.00 – The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County received a grant for its Highway Safety Improvement Program. This will purchase GPS devices for 15 vehicles and upgrade 20 traffic signals in Comstock Township.

### FIRE VEHICLES:

- Purchased 2020 Ford F-150 (New Fire Chief Vehicle). This replaced the F-250 which will be used by Assistant Chief Dyer.

### TRAINING/CERTIFICATIONS:

- 4,400 hours of department training including officer training.
- 4 personnel attended the Nozzle Forward Training
- 4 personnel attended the Pump Operations class in Oshtemo
- 3 personnel completed training and promoted to Apparatus Operators and completed Relief training.
- 2 personnel attended FDTN's Fire Officer development course.
- 2 personnel graduated from Firefighter I & II Academy.
- 3 Probationary FF's graduated from Kalamazoo County MFR class
- 6 personnel completed Blue Card Incident Command Training (50 hours each)
- 10 personnel attended a joint water supply training hosted by Portage Fire Department
- 2 personnel obtained their Fire Inspector 1 certification
- 9 personnel helped with the WMED Capstone event for 1<sup>st</sup> year medical students during their Medical First Responder course.

### ADMINISTRATION:

- Hired 7 probationary firefighters
- 3 Personnel hired on as Full-time Firefighters.
- Probationary FF's Hearld, Cooper & McGruder completed probationary training.
- 2 personnel retired.
- Promoted 1 Captain; J. Steeby (Station 9-3)
- Fire Chief Beauchamp became certified as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) through the Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC). Chief Beauchamp becomes one of only 1,498 CFO's worldwide.

### COMMUNITY RISK REDUCITON:

- Conducted a Car Seat Checkup Event in February.
- Held our annual Fire Prevention Open House virtually on Facebook with a week-long series beginning October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual countywide "Keep the Wreath Green" campaign.
- Over 300 Pre-Incident Surveys completed
- Over 50 Fire Safety Inspections completed.
- 20 home safety surveys were conducted.
- Installed 120 smoke alarms.
- Performed 10 car seat checks.
- 10 CPR and First Aid classes were held in the community.

## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**January 4, 2020** - Comstock Fire & Rescue was dispatched around 9:44 p.m. Friday evening to a working structure fire on Cass St. near Higgins St. We arrived on scene 2 minutes later to find flames throughout the structure. The house appeared to be abandoned. Crews were unable to enter as the structure was starting to collapse soon after arrival. The fire was under control within an hour then extensive overhaul was conducted. Our Fire Marshal investigated the fire. No cause was determined. Kalamazoo Township Fire Department assisted on scene while Portage Department of Public Safety - Fire Division, Kalamazoo Dept. of Public Safety and Galesburg Fire Dept. back filled our stations.

**January 6, 2020** - Congratulations to Probationary FF Will Cooper on his graduation from KVCC's Firefighter I & II Academy.



**February 1, 2020** - Comstock Fire held a Car Seat Checkup Event at Station 9-1.

**February 2, 2020** - Comstock Fire participated in the Parks and Recreation's Winter Warm up event held at Robert Morris Park. Events included s'more making, kids crafts, games and even a visit from some favorite Disney characters.





# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**February 5, 2020** - Rescue/Brush Fire Unit 951 was placed in service at Station 9-1. This vehicle will primarily respond to EMS and Brush/Grass Fires in Station 9-1's district. (Pictured on the right). It is identical to our Rescue/Brush Fire Unit 953 (pictured on the left) that went in service Sept. 2018 at Station 9-3.

The new 951 is replacing the old Rescue 951 (2009 Chevrolet Tahoe) and Brush Truck 972 (1990 Dodge Pickup). Both vehicles will be used as utility vehicles and renamed 983 and 982.



**March 27, 2020** - Around 4:00 pm today Comstock Fire & Rescue was dispatched to a canoer stuck in the mud in Morrow Lake approximately 100 yards from the shore. Comstock Fire was assisted by Cooper Fire Department's air boat to rescue the canoer. No injuries. Reminder to please stay safe and stay away from Morrow Lake while the dam is being repaired and the water levels are back up.



**March 28, 2020** - Comstock Fire & Rescue participated in the "Birthday Drive By's along with our neighboring departments to help serve the children in our community. Times like these were difficult for everyone, but they can be especially difficult for children. It makes matters even worse when a child's birthday occurs during the Stay Home, Stay Safe orders. Comstock Fire & Rescue brought a fire engine out to homes and stopped outside with lights and sirens activated for a few moments so the children could see the truck from a distance.

# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**April 14, 2020** - Congratulations to Captain Dale Beauchamp on his retirement.

Capt. Beauchamp (aka DB) had served on the department for over 30 years. Most of these years in a formal leadership role as a Lieutenant then Captain as well as acting Asst Chief. It has been a pleasure working with DB over the many years. A ton of hard work, sleepless nights and time away from the family was put in.

Capt. Beauchamp responded to many emergency scenes making a significant impact on public safety within the community and surrounding area. He was an integral part of countless fires, rescues and EMS operations. His "can do" attitude and leadership has taken the department forward in many aspects. DB's many years of experience will be missed for sure.

Chief Matt Beauchamp shared..."It was a true pleasure to be able to work with my father in this profession for so many years". There is something special about being in the fire service and there is definitely something special about being able to share those experiences with your father. He's a true inspiration and thankful he encouraged me to join the department.

Appreciate all the hard work and dedication, DB! Enjoy retirement."



**June 9, 2020** - Thank you to The Salvation Army- Kalamazoo for the Sweetwater's Donut Mill donuts to celebrate National Donut Day. We appreciate all the support each year.



## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**June 9, 2020** - Thank you Progressive Insurance for partnering with The Rooster's Call to support local small businesses and first responders with your "Meals for Heroes" program and for bringing our crews breakfast. We really enjoyed it and appreciate all the support from our community.



**June 17, 2020** - Monday and Tuesday's training was held at McDonald's Towing to sharpen our skills on vehicle extrication.



**June 18, 2020** - Trees were planted by Forget-Me-Not Landscape and Nursery this other week at the Comstock Township Firefighter's Memorial.





# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**June 26, 2020** - Lt. Rick Mack and Lt. Mike Flick I attended FDTN's hands on fire officer development course in Indianapolis, IN.



**June 30, 2020** - Comstock Fire attended the large water flow operation training at Portage Fire along with other departments in the County.



**June 30, 2020** - Search and Rescue training this week was held at the Kalamazoo Regional Fire Training Center (SIM City).



## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**June 30, 2020** - Comstock Fire & Rescue was dispatched to a reported structure fire at Oak Terrace Apartments at 8:24 p.m. Arrived to find smoke conditions in a lower apartment unit, unknown if occupied at the time. Crews proceeded interior to locate a small fire in the kitchen and located an unresponsive occupant in the bedroom. The occupant was safely removed from the apartment and the fire was extinguished. The cause of the fire was unattended cooking. There were no working smoke alarms in the apartment unit or common hallway area. Quick action by fire crews helped save a life and minimize property loss. Comstock Fire worked with management to ensure working smoke alarms were installed.

REMINDER: Close bedroom doors when sleeping. Working smoke alarms save lives!

Comstock Fire installs smoke alarms for free to Comstock Township residents

**July 3, 2020** - A few of our personnel took advantage of this hot day and did some boat training on the Kalamazoo River.



**July 15, 2020** - The benches at the Comstock Township Firefighter's Memorial went in this week. The final touches are being done on the memorial.





## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**July 27, 2020** - A crew from Comstock Station 9-1 assisted Pavilion Township Fire Department on scene of a structure fire on Piccadilly Drive. The fire was quickly extinguished and no injuries reported.



**August 11, 2020** - A few of our Probationary Firefighters took part in Boat Operations training on Morrow Lake.



**August 13, 2020** - Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) and Mayday training this week at SIM City.



# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**August 21, 2020** - Comstock Fire was dispatched just before 1:30 pm for a boater stuck on Morrow Pond near the Rosemont Boat Launch area. We were assisted by Cooper Fire Dept. with their air boat due to very shallow water. As a reminder, all watercraft please avoid Morrow Pond between S. 35th St and the Morrow Dam while repairs are being made on the Dam. Repairs are not expected to be completed until next year.



**September 1, 2020** - Today we had new hire orientation at Station 9-1 where we swore in 6 new probationary firefighters. Welcome to the department.



**September 21, 2020** - This morning before training we held a Badge Pinning ceremony at the Comstock Township Firefighter's Memorial for FF Will Cooper, FF Evan McGruder and FF Tim Heard, who completed their 1-year probationary training. These 3 men put in a lot of hard work, dedication and many hours over the last year. Congratulations and keep up the great work!



# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**September 28, 2020** - Comstock Fire was dispatched to a car and semi-truck accident on E. Michigan Ave and Morrow Street at 2:00 pm. Driver in car needed extrication from vehicle and reported serious injuries.



**October 5, 2020** - It's Fire Prevention week! This year due to Covid-19 we unfortunately could not hold our annual "Open House", but we were able to share Fire Prevention tips on our social media pages each day. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen™".

**October 13, 2020** - Today we welcomed Probationary FF Ben Doorlag to the department. He is currently attending the Kalamazoo County MFR class and will be starting the Fire Academy in January.



**October 31, 2020** - Happy Halloween 🎃 🧛 🧛

Our crews were out passing out candy in some of the nearby neighborhoods. We hope all the little ghosts and goblins enjoyed this beautiful fall evening out.





## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**November 3, 2020** - Comstock Fire is assisted Galesburg-Charleston Fire Department along with Climax Fire on a semi-trailer fire at the 87.5-mile marker eastbound I-94. Eastbound was completely closed due to this.



**November 28, 2020** - Comstock Fire once again participated in “Keep The Wreath Green” Campaign, a national program that we have participated in the last few years. Starting on Thanksgiving and running through midnight New Year’s Day every time we responded to a structure fire, we replaced a green light with a red light. There is one white light that represents a fallen firefighter.



**December 29, 2020** - Comstock Fire was dispatched early this morning to 725 Azuba for a well-involved structure fire. The home was believed to be vacant. Kalamazoo Township and Galesburg Fire Departments assisted on scene.



# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES

**December 31, 2020** - Our Green Wreath ended the year with 9 red bulbs which represented each time we responded to a structure/cooking fire. "Keeping the Wreath Green" campaign is a great reminder to keep your home fire safe. With winter just getting started we want to remind everyone to be diligent with the things that can cause a house fire. Cooking fires, alternative heating sources, and unattended candles are some of the most common causes of a house fire. Working smoke alarms save lives.



**In 2020 we recongnized:** - Before training we held our "2020 Years of Service Recognition" at Station 9-1. We recognized the following for their years of service and dedication to the department:

FF B. Brewer - 5 years  
FF C. Crabtree - 5 years  
FF D. Rogusta - 5 years  
FF T. Gray - 5 years  
FF J. Slager - 10 years  
FF C. Martensen - 10 years  
LT D. McLiechey - 10 years  
LT/FM M. Kessler - 25 years  
Fire Chief M. Beauchamp - 25 years  
Deputy Chief D. Wuis - 30 years

Our "Service Pinning" looked a little different due to COVID, but we didn't want to miss the opportunity to also recognize and thank their families that have supported them throughout the years. We know many family moments and milestones are missed so they can perform their duty on the department.





# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS/ACTIVITIES



FF B. Brewer – 5 years



FF C. Crabtree – 5 years



FF D. Rogusta – 5 years



FF T. Gray – 5 years



FF J. Slager – 10 years



Lt. D. McLiechey – 10 years



Lt. M. Kessler – 25 years



Chief M. Beauchamp – 25 years



DC D. Wuis – 30 years



# Community Risk Reduction

## Community Risk Reduction

Capt. Kevin Thompson & FM/Lt. Mike Kessler

Community Risk Reduction (often referred to as “CRR”) is defined as a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact. When properly applied, CRR coordinates emergency operations with prevention and mitigation efforts throughout both the community and at the fire station level. The fire service has a long standing tradition of being the first people that our residents call when they have an emergency. The idea of Community Risk Reduction is to go beyond that call and attempt to keep the emergency from ever happening, or to minimize the negative outcome of it. This in turn creates a much safer community for all residents and visitors.

The Comstock Fire Department has embraced this idea of prevention for many years. Our Fire Marshal has been very active in the schools and community with education on prevention of fires. The department has even responded to incidents where young children alerted other residents to a fire in the home and helped them exit the building safely. This is one example where the outcome could have been completely different if it was not for the education given during one of the fire prevention activities offered by the Fire Marshal.

Our department’s motto is “Taking Care Of Those Who Depend On Us”, and the implementation of a robust Community Risk Reduction plan helps to reinforce the idea that we are truly living up to our communities expectations. Through continued trainings on the topic of risk reduction and vigilance while in the community we hope to make our township as safe as possible. Some of the changes could be small, for example noticing a trip hazard in a hallway of a home. But those changes could also be as large as a neighborhood wide drive to ensure every home has working smoke alarms. With both examples we are reducing the risk to both ourselves as firefighters, and to the residents of the township.



# Community Risk Reduction

Fire Marshal/Lt. Mike Kessler

## **Fire Safety Inspections**



The main goal of a Fire Safety Inspection is to promote and encourage a community safe from fire. A second goal is to improve community relationships between the fire department and the business community through professional, kind, and courteous interactions outside of a typical emergency situation.

Fire inspections help identify any potential problems of fire hazards. This way they can be corrected and people can be educated on how to identify them as well as how to respond. Sometimes property owners get lax about maintenance but regular fire inspections help ensure that the owners ensure that the building stays compliant.

In Comstock Township, over 150 Fire Safety Inspections were completed in 2020. Comstock businesses are very willing to have the inspection and correct any deficiency that they may have. The owners and managers understand that it is very important to make their business a safe place for the employees and customers that are in their buildings.

## **Fire Prevention Education in Schools**



Comstock Fire is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year presenting the *Safe at Home* program in the Comstock Elementary Schools which includes 300 students. This program is a fire safety education curriculum developed by the State Fire Marshal's Office, in conjunction with the Michigan Public Fire Safety Education Committee. This program focuses on fire safety in the home – for everyone in the home.

*Safe at Home* addresses basic fire safety messages from pre-kindergarten through 4th grade. CFD conducted the classes at Comstock Elementary, and Comstock STEM Academy. The program is a 1/2 hour session held once a month throughout the entire school year. The curriculum includes "Fire Fighters are My Friends", "Reporting an Emergency 9-1-1", "What is Fire?", and other fire safety messages.

## **Station Tours**



As part of the *Safe at Home* Program we normally have about 150 Comstock Kindergarteners come through our Station 9-1 and participate in activities such as a tour of the fire trucks , spraying water at a mock house fire, view a movie in the Fire Prevention trailer, escape from a simulated smoke filled house and proceed to call 911 after their escape and a few other activities with our EMS partners at PrideCare. However, due to COVID-19 we could not safely have them participate this year.



## Community Risk Reduction

### **CPR Training**



About 92 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital, but statistics prove that if more people knew CPR, more lives could be saved. Immediate CPR can double, or even triple, a victim's chance of survival. This program will teach participants critical skills and knowledge needed to perform CPR and use an AED in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest and manage an emergency in the first few minutes until emergency medical services (EMS) take over. Comstock Fire has also added two more CPR instructors to our roster of 9 instructors to 11.

10 CPR classes were conducted for:

16 Comstock School Coaches



CPR Training

### **Fire Prevention Week – Open House**



Our Fire Station Open House was held virtually this year on our Facebook page due to COVID-19. We normally have it at Station 9-1 and in the past has always been very successful and enjoyed by the community. We really missed seeing everyone in 2020. Although we couldn't get together in person we were able to provide tips and important information during Fire Prevention week (October 4th—10th) on fire safety and fire prevention via our Facebook page. We are very hopeful that we will be able to resume our annual open house in 2021.



# Community Risk Reduction

## Smoke Alarms Installed



The Comstock Fire Department continues to see many homes in which smoke alarms were removed or are not operating. All homes need working smoke alarms. The fire department recommends that one alarm be placed on each floor of your home and one in each bedroom and/or sleeping area. CFD believes smoke alarms are a key factor in preventing fire-related deaths.

Through our Smoke Alarm Program, Comstock Fire has installed 120 smoke alarms, and 20 carbon monoxide alarms in 20 homes, and each home receives a smoke alarm safety survey. This survey has shown that 89% of the homes in Comstock Township had an inadequate number of working smoke alarms, as a result 6 smoke alarms on average were installed per home. 100% of the homes did not have a carbon monoxide alarm, as a result each home received a carbon monoxide. Smoking is the leading known cause of residential fire fatalities in Michigan. 85% of the homes with a smoking had no working smoke alarms.

Install the smoke alarms also gave the fire department personal to educate the homes owners on the importance of a fire escape plan and sleeping with the bedroom door closed. We were also able to point out the fire hazards in the home and how to correct the problem.

## Reflective Address Signs



With the help of the Comstock United Way Comstock fire personal has been able to pursue the green address for home owners. By having address number on the home CFD will be able to respond to the needs of the residence quicker because of less confusion. When a home owner request an address sign CFD person will install it free of charge.

## Car Seat Safety



Comstock fire now has 7 child passenger safety technicians who are car seat experts that have taken a 40-hour class with curriculum written by NHTSA in collaboration with National CPS Board and Safe Kids Worldwide. During the class they have learned the ins and outs of car seats, installation options, vehicle differences, harnessing procedures and more.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for all children. Child restraints, or car seats, reduce the risk of injury by 71% to 82% and reduce the risk of death by 28% in comparison to children in seat belts alone.

Research has shown that using age- and size-appropriate child restraints (car seats, booster seats, and seat belts) is the best way to save lives and reduce injuries in a crash. ... Only 2 out of every 100 children live in states that require car seat or booster seat use for children age 8 and under.

The department has started to the car safety checks in August of 2019, the seat checks on done on the second Friday and forth Saturday of the month. Each technician spends about 45 minutes with the care giver teaching how to install the seat correctly.

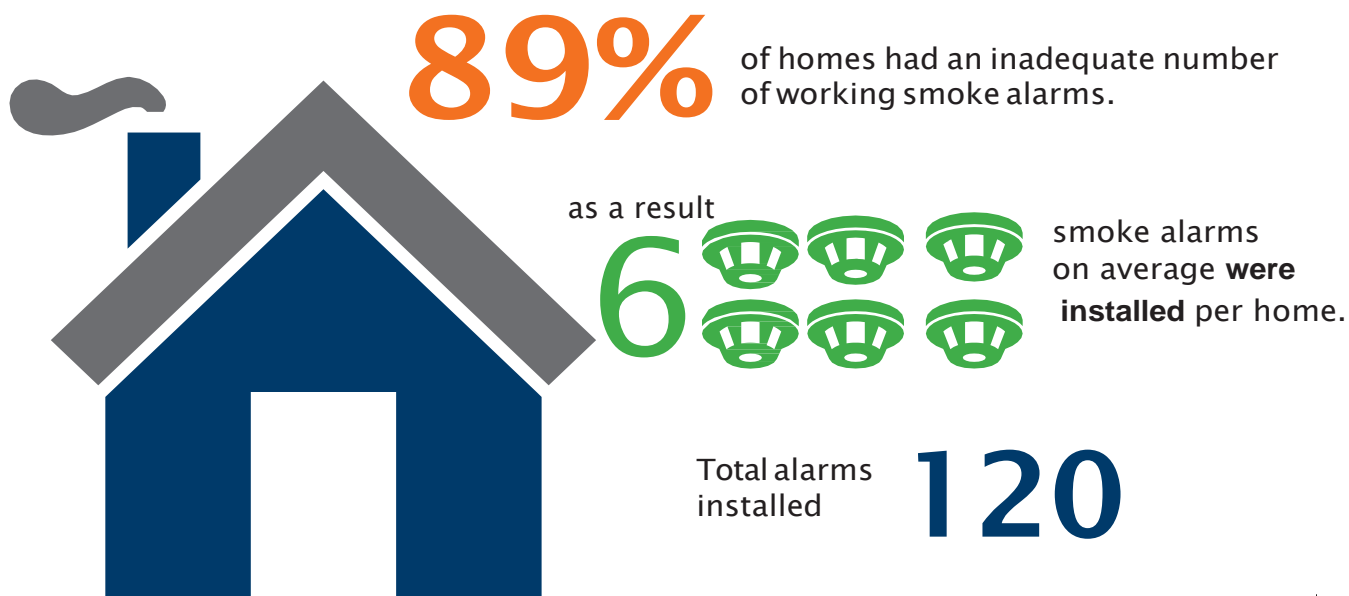
In 2020 CFD has done a total of 10 seat checks and have given away 9 seats. This number is down from 2019 due to COVID-19





# SMOKE ALARM SAFETY SURVEYS BY THE NUMBERS

**20** home safety surveys were conducted in Comstock Township and found...



FACT



**SMOKING** is the leading known cause of residential fire fatalities in Michigan.



**5**

of surveyed homes had at least one smoker.

**85%**

of homes with a smoker **had an** inadequate number of working smoke alarms.

FACT



**DISABLED PEOPLE** have a higher risk of dying in a residential fire.



**1**

of surveyed homes had a **physically or mentally disabled person**.

**10%**

of homes with a disabled person **had an** inadequate number of working smoke alarms.

## WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES



Install a smoke alarms on **EVERY LEVEL** and in **EVERY BEDROOM** of your home.



Test each smoke alarm **EVERY MONTH**.



Change batteries every **SIX MONTHS** and replace smoke alarms every **TEN YEARS**.

# 2020 TRAINING DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

*Training Officer/Captain Kevin Thompson*

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In 2020, the Training Division continued to provide the highest level of training for our personnel by staying current while the modern fire service is evolving. This year presented many unique challenges with the ongoing pandemic and the limitations set forth for in person meetings. By utilizing our online training platforms, we were able to continue training on important firefighting topics while ensuring the safety of all personnel. MIOSHA training and Medical continuing education requirements were met, as well as, department required training topics which allowed our personnel to meet professional qualifications. This also helps with our ISO rating which was given great initial reviews after meeting with the auditor on our training.

Some of the highlights of 2020 were;

- ◆ 4,400 Hours of documented training
- ◆ 7 additional new hires began the probationary requirements
  - 3 attended Medical First Responder (MFR)
- ◆ Began “company level” training for on-duty personnel to help cover more topics in depth.
- ◆ 4 personnel attended Pump Operator Academy in Oshtemo
- ◆ 3 personnel completed apparatus operator/relief training
- ◆ Basic Life Support (CPR and AED) recertification training
- ◆ Several Hands-On topics at the Training Tower Complex on Nazareth Rd. including live burns
- ◆ 4 personnel attended the Nozzle Forward Training.
- ◆ Vehicle Extrication training at McDonald’s Towing.
- ◆ HelpNet – Counseling services
- ◆ 6 personnel completed Blue Card Incident Command Training (50 hours each)
- ◆ 10 personnel attended a joint water supply training hosted by Portage Fire Department
- ◆ 2 personnel obtained their Fire Inspector 1 certification
- ◆ Continue to have monthly Officer’s meeting/training
- ◆ Added additional EMS continuing education training opportunities
- ◆ 2 personnel attended FDTN’s Fire Officer development course in Indianapolis, IN.
- ◆ 9 personnel attended the WMED Capstone event to help train 1<sup>st</sup> year medical students during their Medical First Responder course.

# 2020 TRAINING DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



Lt. Mike Flick I and Lt. Rick Mack attended FDTN Fire Officer Development Course  
June 2020



Extrication training at McDonald's Towing  
June 2020

## Comstock Fire Department – 2020 Training Schedule

Dates	Topic	Mandatory	EMS Credits	Primary Instructor(s)
Jan. 13/14	Computers/Communications			Thompson
Jan. 21	Officer Training/Meeting			
Jan. 27/28	ICS/Traffic Mgmt.		Ops. Em. Prep.	Steeby
Feb. 4	Officer Training/Meeting			
Feb. 10/11	CPR/AED Written Test	Yes	BLS	Kessler
Feb. 24/25	Elevators			Thompson
Mar. 3	Officer Training/Meeting			
Mar. 9/10	Ice Rescue Classroom			Flick 1
Mar. 23/24	UL FSRI Online Assignment			Thompson
<del>Mar. 30/31</del>	<del>Apparatus Operator Training (Classroom)</del>			(Cancelled COVID)
Apr. 6/7	Hose Management (TS Videos)			Flick 2/Wright
Apr. 14	Officer Training/Meeting			
Apr. 20/21	Hoseline Positions (TS Videos)			Elkhart Brass
<del>Apr. 27/28</del>	<del>Apparatus Operator Training (Classroom)</del>			(Cancelled COVID)
May 4/5	Air Monitoring (TS Video)			Steeby
May 18/19	Hose Deployment/Low-Angle Ropes			Flick 1&2, Mack, McLiechey
May 26	Officer Training/Meeting			
June 1/2	Cribbing/Lifting/Stabilization			Steeby
June 9	Officer Training/Meeting			
June 15/16	Extrication			McLiechey
June 22/23	Apparatus Operator Training (Hydrant)			Dyer/McLiechey
June 29/30	Ladders/VEIS/S&R @ SIM City	Yes		Flick 1&2

Training is at Station 9-1 unless otherwise posted. Monday's @ 0900hrs and Tuesday's @ 1830hrs.



## Comstock Fire Department – 2020 Training Schedule

Dates	Topic	Mandatory	EMS Credits	Primary Instructor(s)
July 6/7	Apparatus Operator Training (Hydrant)			Dyer/McLiechey
July 13/14	Crew Leader Development/FF Survival	Yes		
July 21	Officer Training/Meeting			
July 27/28	HazMat (Foam)	Yes		Steeby
Aug. 10/11	RIC @ SIM City	Yes		
Aug. 18	Officer Training/Meeting			
Aug. 24/25	Hose Deployment/Extended			Mack
Sept. 7/8	Vehicle Fires			McLiechey
Sept. 14/15	Apparatus Operator Training (Drafting)			Dyer/McLiechey
Sept. 21/22	I-Gel/Bldg. Const		Airway	Crabtree/Watson
Sept. 29	Officer Training/Meeting			
Oct. 5/6	Fire Prevention/Fire Alarms			Kessler/KT
Oct. 13	Officer Training/Meeting			
Oct. 19/20	Utilities (High Voltage Recognition)	Yes		
Oct. 26/27	Apparatus Operator Training (Drafting)			Dyer/McLiechey
Nov. 2/3	Extrication (New Tools?)	Yes	Operations	
Nov. 10	Officer Training/Meeting			
Nov 16/17	Bldg Const./Size-up	Yes		
Nov. 30/Dec 1	Diversity/Soc. Media			Helpnet
Dec 14/15	Report Writing			
Dec 28/29	PPE/Awards			

Training is at Station 9-1 unless otherwise posted. Monday's @ 0900hrs and Tuesday's @ 1830hrs.

# PRIDE CARE Ambulance

## Response Time Compliance Report 2020



## Comstock Twp 2020 Response Time Compliance Report

MONTH	# OF Calls	# Late Calls	Compliance %
<b>January 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	49	6 (4)	87.8%
Priority 2 - 14 min	20	2	90.0%
Priority 3 - 20 min	59	2	96.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>		
<b>February 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	56	7 (2)	87.5%
Priority 2 - 14 min	18	1(1)	94.4%
Priority 3 - 20 min	40	0	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>		
<b>March 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	45	5 (1)	86.7%
Priority 2 - 14 min	13	1	92.3%
Priority 3 - 20 min	48	0	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>		
<b>April 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	44	5	88.6%
Priority 2 - 14 min	13	0	100.0%
Priority 3 - 20 min	47	0	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>		
<b>May 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	39	6	84.6%
Priority 2 - 14 min	11	0	100.0%
Priority 3 - 20 min	55	1	98.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>		
<b>June 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	49	4	91.8%
Priority 2 - 14 min	18	3	83.3%
Priority 3 - 20 min	63	0	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>		

## Comstock Twp 2020 Response Time Compliance Report

MONTH	# OF Calls	# Late Calls	Compliance %
<b>July 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	68	8	88.2%
Priority 2 - 14 min	21	1	95.2%
Priority 3 - 20 min	62	1	98.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>		
<b>August 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	59	7	88.1%
Priority 2 - 14 min	22	1	95.5%
Priority 3 - 20 min	58	0	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>		
<b>September 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	46	6	87.0%
Priority 2 - 14 min	11	0	100.0%
Priority 3 - 20 min	46	0	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>		
<b>October 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	62	7	88.7%
Priority 2 - 14 min	21	3	85.7%
Priority 3 - 20 min	61	0	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>		
<b>November 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	73	7	90.4%
Priority 2 - 14 min	27	1	96.3%
Priority 3 - 20 min	58	1	98.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>		
<b>December 2020</b>			
Priority 1 - 10 min	57	6	89.8%
Priority 2 - 14 min	15	2	86.7%
Priority 3 - 20 min	56	0	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>		