

Cascade Charter Township Fire Department



2009 Annual Report

Our Mission Statement

"Cascade Charter Township Fire Department will deliver quality, preventive and emergency services to the community."

Cascade Township Fire Department responds to many emergency and non-emergency calls for assistance throughout the year. We operate on millages and funds from the general township budget to offer the level of service our residents expect. This year we started working on automatic aid agreements with our neighboring departments. These agreements are for structure fires only and help to have additional apparatus and personnel on scene sooner. With automatic aid the neighboring department is dispatched the same time we are so there is less delay for them to respond to structure fires. We will continue to work with other departments to have more agreements in place and cover more of our township. Our department operates with fulltime and paid on call personnel. We have fulltime coverage 365 days a year with assistance from our paid on call when they are available to respond. We continue to increase our paid on call staff each year.

We cannot do our job without the support of the community and the township board and we want to thank you for your continued support in the Cascade Fire Department to make our jobs as safe as possible.

This year we responded to 1,418 calls. This is a decrease of 92 calls from 2008. A few of our responses from this year were:

- Fire in the Condominiums on Archtrave. The fire started in the attic of one unit and then traveled and caused damage to three (3) condominiums. There was substantial damage to two (2) of the condos and smoke and water damage to the third.
- House fire on Thornapple River Drive that was started in the breezeway and caused damage to the house and garage.
- HI Lo fire inside a warehouse on Air Cargo. Fire was extinguished prior to fire extending into the building.

TRAINING

Cascade Charter Township Fire Department (CFD) trains throughout the year. Our training consists of ongoing education to satisfy our many licensure requirements as well as new training to enhance the knowledge base of our members. This year we conducted two (2) training sessions each month. The first training of the month is our full department training and all staff attends. Our second training of the month is the shift that is on duty and our paid on call staff. We continue to monitor the progress of our training program and make changes as needed. If we feel more training is needed we may have all staff attend both trainings. For some of our trainings we offered neighboring departments an opportunity to participate in the training at our station. We also participated in training with neighboring departments and will continue to do more of this type of training. We utilized several instructors from other departments as well as outside props for our trainings this year. Some of the trainings we participated in this year are:

- Cold weather operations
- Traffic Awareness

- Annual AED/CPR recertification for the department
- Incident Response to Bombings
- Collapse Building Awareness
- Vehicles Extrication and Air Bag operations
- Drivers Training
- Flash over Simulation
- Tanker Training with Caledonia and Dutton Fire Departments

Members of the CFD continue to actively train beyond the physical boundaries of the Township. Some of the additional seminars and training CFD staff attended are as follows:

- Department Officers attended training on Incident Command System 300 and Incident Command System 400 which are requirements from Homeland Security
- MIOSHA training
- Reading Smoke
- Forcible Entry
- Fire Inspector and Fire Investigation training
- Rope training
- Hose, ladders and interior attack
- Several seminars on overall suppression operations from outside instructors

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire prevention has multiple responsibilities within the fire department. The focus is on prevention of fires, education and providing for the safety of our citizens. This is accomplished through public relations, education and inspections. Some of the educational programs we worked on this year were fire extinguisher training for township businesses, fire prevention talks, fire inspection classes to businesses, weather safety talks for employees, safe at home fire safety talks at the local schools and assisting businesses with developing emergency evacuation plans. We also performed fire drills for businesses and schools in the township. Other items we continue to work on are installation of Knox Boxes on buildings in the township, gates, chemical surveys of all businesses, and more education of businesses, employees and citizens on fire prevention and fire safety. We also had two (2) site plan reviews which dealt with a new office/health club building at Watermark Country Club and reworking the entrance to the Watermark Housing Development off Spaulding Avenue. This year we contracted our fire inspections on a part-time basis. For the year, 1,238 fire inspections, re-inspections and other fire safety related items dealing with inspections were performed with the majority of the violations being found related to housekeeping, storage of items, extension cord, emergency lights and overall maintenance. We complete as many businesses as possible and are working on

having staff perform re-inspections and certified inspectors do annual inspections which will improve our inspection program. We work with business owners to correct any fire hazards and educate them in fire safety. We feel with proper inspections, training and education we can help reduce the number of fires and increase the safety of these businesses.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

In 2009, we attended 63 events with approximately 2,300 people in attendance. We attended numerous neighborhood block parties, birthday parties, community and business events. We held fire drills with the schools located in our township. We gave fire safety and first aid talks to numerous Boy and Girl Scout groups. We held more events in schools located in the township which involved the Forest Hills Schools, pre schools at churches and private schools. We taught 18 CPR, first aid and bloodborne pathogen trainings to individuals, and employees of businesses in the township with 115 people attending these trainings. We attended the Kent County Sheriff Department child ID program at the East Precinct. We held classes for local businesses dealing with fire evacuation procedures and fire extinguisher training.

We held "Camp 911" again this year with 25 kids attending this program. This is a program put on by Life EMS and our department. It teaches classes dealing with medical emergencies, fire extinguisher use, fire related material and bike safety. We also participated in several community events including the Memorial Day program at the Township Library, 4th of July celebration, River Beat Concert series and the Halloween celebration at the Fire Station. We feel these are very important to our community and the public relations events we do help us stay connected with our community.

Our on-site program was held again this year. We visited the following sites: Costco and Cascade Engineering Health Fair. We talked to 260 people and obtained 180 blood pressures.

As part of our Child Safety Seat Inspection program we inspected 38 car seats for residents. We offer this very important program to our community and for the safety of their small children. We currently have two (2) firefighters that are certified to conduct car seat inspections.

We continue to assist the Township with projects. We keep the snow plowed at the township offices and station 2. We cut grass at the township offices and station 2 as well as locking and unlocking different township owned properties. We participated in the Ada/Cascade clean up day.

APPARATUS

Below is a list of our apparatus and their station locations.

Fire Chief	2007 Chevrolet Suburban
Fire Inspector	2001 Chevrolet Impala – Station 1
Tanker 4	2005 International Tanker / 3,000 gallons of water – Station 2
Engine 5	1990 American Eagle Pumper / 1,000 gallons of water – Station 1
Engine 6	1992 American Eagle Pumper / 1,000 gallons of water – Station 1
Engine 8	1992 American Eagle Pumper / 1,000 gallons of water – Station 2
Rescue 7	1999 F-550 Ford Rescue Vehicle – Station 1
Medic 7	2001 Chevrolet Suburban – Station 2
Medic 11	2005 Chevrolet Suburban – Station 1
Truck 9	1998 Ford Expedition / Utility Vehicle – Station 1
Truck 10	2005 Chevrolet Pick up / Grass Truck – Station 1
Boat 1	Recovery Boat – Station 2

PERSONNEL

In 2009, we hired one (1) paid on call firefighter. We continue to look at ways to recruit and retain paid on call firefighters. These are very important positions in our department and community. Our department consists of one (1) full-time Fire Chief, one (1) paid on call Deputy Chief, one (1) part-time Fire Inspector, sixteen (16) full-time Firefighters and 16 paid on call firefighters. Our full-time Firefighters operate three (3) shifts consisting of six (6) personnel on one (1) shift and five (5) personnel on two (2) shifts. They operate out of both stations and the stations are staffed 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

A list of department employees as of 12/31/2009 is listed below according to their original hire date.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Title</u>
John Shipley	12/02/1970	39	Deputy Chief
John Sigg	01/01/1985	24	Fire Chief
Ron Rowland	06/01/1986	23	Lieutenant
Doug Venema	03/17/1987	22	Lieutenant
Phil Monterusso	03/08/1990	19	Fire Fighter
Stephen Korhorn	08/01/1990	19	Fire Fighter
Steve Bennett	01/21/1991	18	Fire Fighter
John Porter	02/04/1991	18	Fire Fighter
Matt Groesser	03/22/1993	16	Fire Fighter
Andrew Albright	07/18/1994	15	Fire Fighter

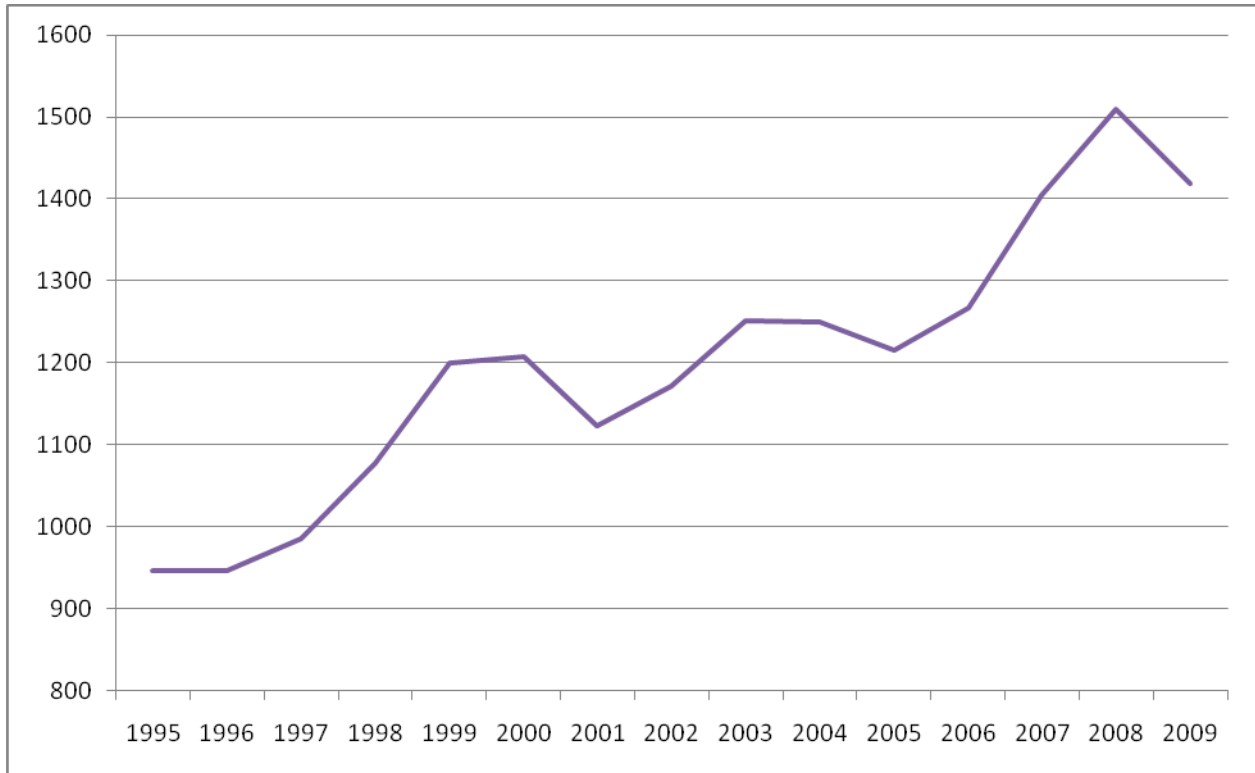
Kreigh Deering	04/01/1995	14	Fire Fighter
Jeff Rashid	11/20/1995	14	Fire Fighter
Mike Buys	01/11/1999	10	Fire Fighter
Rick Toppel	06/01/1999	10	Fire Fighter
Douglas Poolman	03/15/2000	9	Fire Fighter
Robert Norris	07/01/2000	9	Fire Fighter
Brian Currier	10/01/2001	8	Fire Fighter
Jeff Knowles	04/26/2002	7	Fire Fighter
Andrew Marsman	12/01/2002	6	Fire Fighter
Randy Hoffman	08/11/2003	6	Fire Fighter
Dan Lucas	11/01/2003	6	Fire Fighter
Jim Walker	01/24/2005	5	Fire Fighter
Larry Moore	02/09/2005	4	Lieutenant
Colin Forzley	11/24/2006	3	Fire Fighter
John Makuch	11/24/2006	3	Fire Fighter
Todd Stevenson	05/14/2007	2	Fire Fighter
Lance Korhorn	07/01/2007	2	Fire Fighter
John Kirk	07/28/2008	1	Fire Fighter
Shawn Gaskin	07/28/2008	1	Fire Fighter
Eric Rodegher	07/28/2008	1	Fire Fighter
Jon Snyder	09/22/2008	1	Fire Fighter
Michael Lemkuil	10/15/2009	2 months	Fire Fighter

STATISTICS

Fire Alarms	170
Aircraft Alerts	14
Bomb Threats	0
Carbon Monoxide Alarms	24
Check Welfare	1
Dumpster Fires	1
Service Calls	24
Fires	16
Grass Fires	8
Hazardous Incidents	5
Illegal Burns	23
Lock Outs	8
Lift Assists	45
Lightning Strike – No Fire	1
Medicals	867
Medical Alarms	7
Mechanical Failure	6
Mutual Aid	13
Gas Leaks	7
Odor of Smoke	14
Odor Investigation	11
Personal Injury Accidents	82
Property Damage Accidents	30
Stand By	1
Smoke in Area	3
Searches	1
Trees Down	0
Technical Rescue	1
Unknown Accidents	1
Vehicle Fires	18
Wires Down	13
Wash Downs	<u>3</u>

TOTAL **1,418**

Years in Comparison (Total calls for the year)



In 2010 we will continue to look at increasing our paid on call staff, look at automatic aid with neighboring departments and how we can work more efficiently to provide the highest level of service at the lowest cost to our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Sigg
Fire Chief