

2023 Annual Report

# Leland Township Fire & Rescue



[www.lelandfiredept.org](http://www.lelandfiredept.org)

Proudly serving the communities of Leland and Lake Leelanau

## From The Fire Chief

As we reflect on the last year, we have continued to follow our department slogan of being better tomorrow than we were yesterday.

Like most agencies, it seems, we have had our share of turnover, but we continue to attract great people to work here. As we completed our negotiations with the Leland Township Professional Firefighters Local 5120 in 2022 – the negotiation teams worked hard to create a competitive collective bargaining agreement that will allow us to attract **and** retain firefighters. This contract strives to encourage our full-time EMTs to want to obtain their paramedic licensure and thank our full-time staff that are already paramedics. In 2023 we sent two full-time firefighter/emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to paramedic school. Zorran VanZandt and Cameron Pehrson will be finishing their class requirement in the summer of 2024. Having a quality crew is a must to meet the needs of the community.

In April (2023) we brought on our ninth full-time duty crew member, which doesn't include the fire chief's position, allowing us to carry three full-time firefighters per shift (we have three shifts), allowing us to keep the Leland Fire Station staffed regularly. We staff two in Lake Leelanau and one in Leland on a normal day. We also initiated a "peak-hour shift" three days a week where we have a fourth person on (part-time) too. See page 5 of this report to see the impacts.

In 2021 we were able to put a plan to put a retiring ambulance in motion. We selected Emergency Vehicles Plus, of Holland, MI, to build us a new Road Rescue® four-wheel drive ambulance. The new rig was expected to arrive in January 2023 but part shortages, increased demands, and a slew of other issues had us in a holding pattern. We were told that it would be here by the end of 2023, but it will arrive in the first quarter of 2024. Ambulances are now being delayed 3+ years forced us to jump right back in line and order another ambulance for 2025/2026.

We have a comprehensive list of goals and objectives. They are located within this annual report. Additionally, the department was re-evaluated for its Insurance Services Office (ISO) review in October 2023. We are waiting on the results.

In 2023, we welcomed Tate Hall (full-time firefighter), Greg Thomas (Community Risk Reduction Coordinator), and Ethan Passalacqua (part-time firefighter). We promoted Lieutenant Chase Schelling from part-time to full-time and we said "Congratulations!" to Tim Eggert who was recognized for 40+ years of service with the fire department. Thanks Tim!

On behalf of the men and women who proudly serve Leland Township - we thank you for your continued support!



Fire Chief Dan Besson



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*” The mission of the Leland Township Fire and Rescue is to serve the community by protecting life, property, and the environment through preparation, prevention, and response.”*

**LTFR Mission Statement**

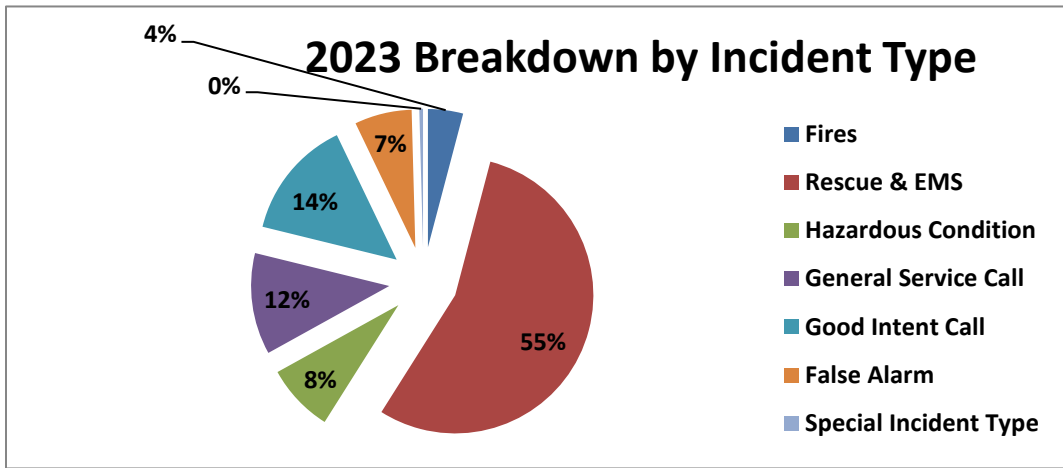
**2023 Department Response Statistics**

In 2022 we responded to 509 calls for service – which 12 fewer than our busiest year in 2021– but it is also *significantly* more than the responded to 10 years ago. The ability to handle those calls has been supported by the community’s continuous support of our millages.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>% Increase from Previous Year</b>
2023	463	n/a
2022	509	n/a
2021	521	4.2%
2020	500	11%
2019	450	n/a
2018	481	12.4%
2017	428	15.6%
2016	370	12.5%
2015	329	15%
2014	286	82%
2013	157	6%

Our major incident type breakdown for 2023 is:

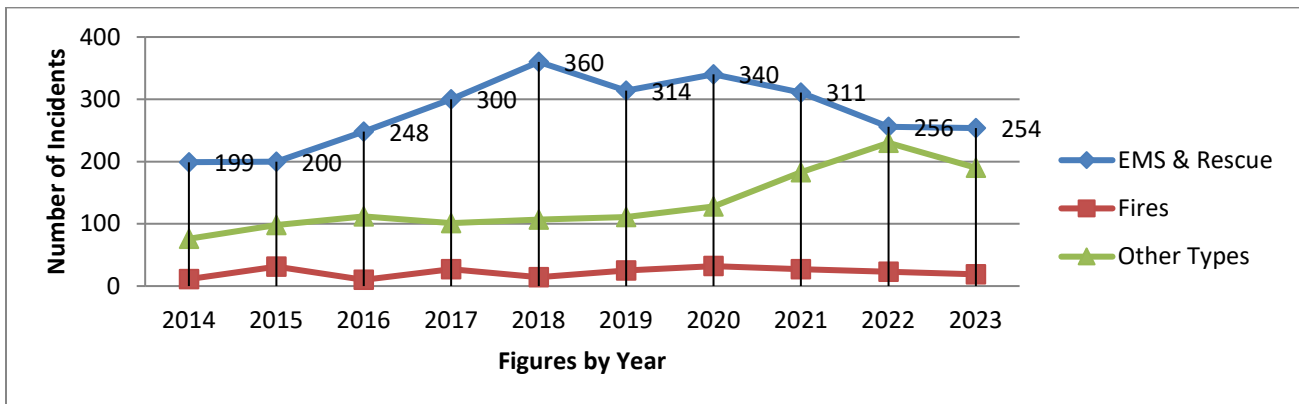
<b>MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE</b>	<b># OF INCIDENTS</b>	<b>2022 Calls</b>	<b>% of the TOTAL</b>
Fires	19	23	4.1%
Rescue & EMS	254	256	54.9%
Hazardous Cond. (non-fire)	37	57	8%
Service Call	55	69	11.9%
Good Intent Call	65	63	14%
False Alarm & False Call	31	32	6.7%
Special Incident Type	2	9	0.4%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>100%</b>



In comparison to 2022 the number of responses to fires decreased from 23 to 19 and Emergency Medical Services decreased from 256 to 254. We also saw an uptick in good intent type calls.

Our major incident type breakdown for 2019-2023 is:

Incident Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fires	25	32	27	23	19
Rescue & EMS	314	340	311	256	254
Hazardous Cond.	52	49	52	57	37
Service Call	7	27	44	69	55
Good Intent	34	28	50	63	65
False Alarm	16	24	34	32	31
Special Incident	2	0	3	9	2
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>463</b>





## The Results of The New Staffing Model

Parameters	April 2022 – Dec 2022	April 2023 – Dec 2023	Difference
<b>Response Time Avg.</b> (minutes/seconds)	<b>7:41</b>	<b>6:35</b>	<b>1:06</b>
<b>Staffing of 2 (# calls)</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Staffing of 3 (# calls)</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Staffing of 4+ (# calls)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Paid On Call Response (# calls)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>First Unit f/Leland</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>First Unit f/Lake Leelanau</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>36</b>

The detailed lists of all our incident types are included in the chart below. This breakdown the broad types of calls (i.e.: fires) and helps indicate how many were structure fires, how many were chimney fires, and how many were brush fires. These breakdowns help us forecast training, equipment, and response needs.

The information follows our reporting standard operating procedures and is classified within the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) standards so the data can be categorized no matter where you are in the United States.



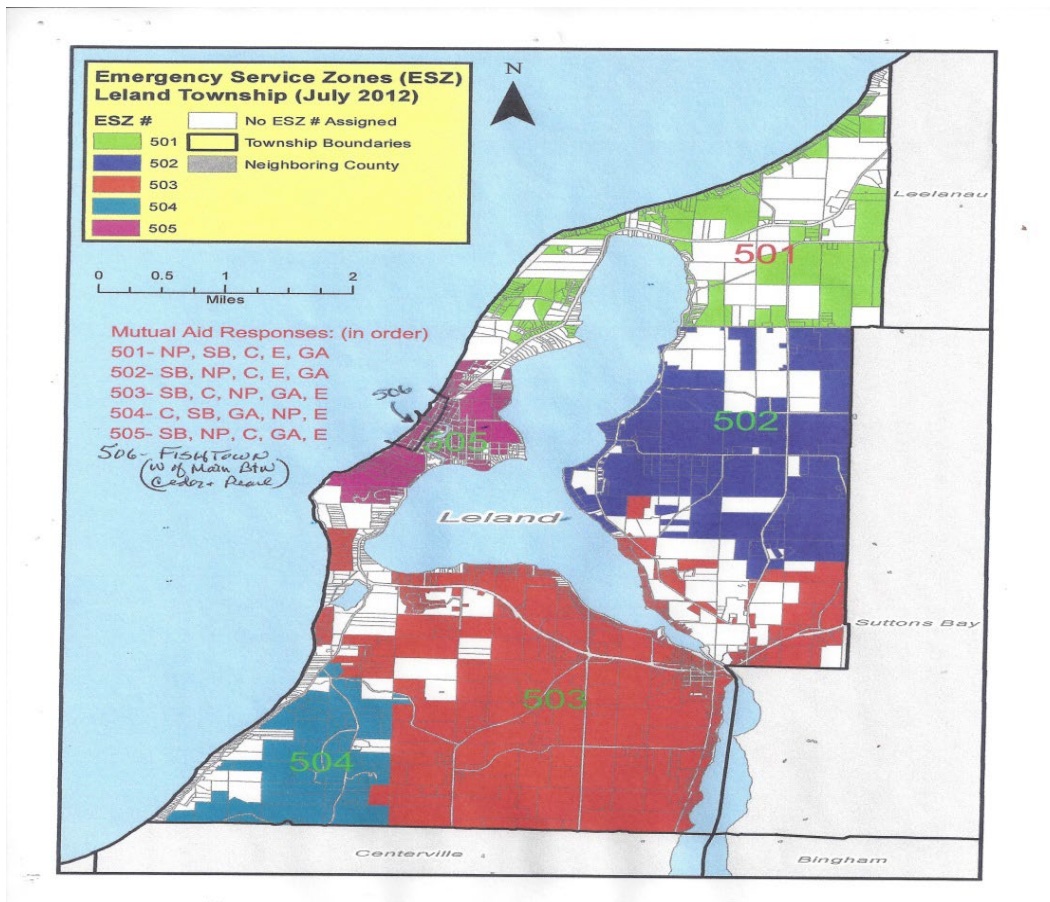
Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
111 - Building fire	7	1.51%
112 - Fires in structure other than in a building	1	0.22%
114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1	0.22%
121 - Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence	1	0.22%
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1	0.22%
141 - Forest, woods or wildland fire	1	0.22%
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	2	0.43%
143 - Grass fire	4	0.86%
162 - Outside equipment fire	1	0.22%
300 - Rescue, EMS incident, other	1	0.22%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	12	2.59%
320 - Emergency medical service, other	10	2.16%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	216	46.65%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	5	1.08%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	6	1.3%
341 - Search for person on land	1	0.22%
342 - Search for person in water	1	0.22%
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	1	0.22%
364 - Surf rescue	1	0.22%
400 - Hazardous condition, other	7	1.51%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	7	1.51%
422 - Chemical spill or leak	1	0.22%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	3	0.65%
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	5	1.08%
444 - Power line down	11	2.38%
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	3	0.65%
500 - Service Call, other	6	1.3%
511 - Lock-out	1	0.22%
542 - Animal rescue	1	0.22%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	30	6.48%
553 - Public service	1	0.22%
554 - Assist invalid	14	3.02%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	2	0.43%
600 - Good intent call, other	2	0.43%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	54	11.66%
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	6	1.3%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	2	0.43%
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1	0.22%
700 - False alarm or false call, other	3	0.65%
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	6	1.3%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	0.22%
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	2	0.43%
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	2	0.43%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	10	2.16%
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	2	0.43%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	4	0.86%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1	0.22%
900 - Special type of incident, other	2	0.43%
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>100%</b>

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.



In 2023 our incident count by Leland Township zone was:

Leland Township Zone	Number of Calls	Difference from 2022
Box 501 – North	37	-24
Box 502 – East	32	+12
Box 503 – South (includes Village of Lake Leelanau)	121	-35
Box 504 – Southwest	28	n/a
Box 505 – West (Village of Leland)	151	+37
Box 506 – Fishtown Area	8	-5
Mutual Aid – Outside of Leland Township	86	-31
<b>Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>2022 Calls: 509</b>



**Mutual Aid Statistics:**

We Provided Mutual Aid: 41  
 We Provided Automatic Mutual Aid: 39  
 We Received Mutual Aid: 8  
 We Received Automatic Mutual Aid: 3

Mutual aid played a factor (received or given) on 19.65% of our calls in 2023 as compared to 27.5% of our calls in 2022 and 33.2% of the calls in 2021.

### Overlapped Calls:

The fire department responded to 463 calls for service in 2023. We had multiple calls for service occur while handling other calls 43 times (9.3%) as compared to 70 times out of our 509 incidents (13.75%) in 2022.

### Emergency Medical Call Priority Tracking:

We also track the patient priority we are dispatched to as compared to the mode (lights and sirens versus non-emergent) a patient is transported to the hospital (Munson Medical Center in Traverse City). When a person calls 9-1-1 in Leelanau County for medical assistance, the call taker, sitting at the sheriff's office, processes the information the caller gives and assigns the patient a priority. Some "key words" that a caller may say, such as "chest pain", has the call taker assign them a "priority one" but after an assessment on scene that patient may be upgraded or downgraded in priority. In our medical control system, a "priority one patient" is a high priority patient.

In 2023 that statistical data is as follows:

EMS PATIENT PRIORITY	Dispatched /9-1-1 As	Transported As
Priority 1	109	24
Priority 2	46	82
Priority 3	115	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>189</b>

What does this all mean? After calling 9-1-1 county dispatcher compared the call against a prompted question and answer screening. Based on what the caller told the dispatcher the call was given a priority (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest) and that dictates how the ambulance responds to the call (i.e.: lights and siren versus normal traffic). Chest pain under most circumstances gets a high priority dispatch. Once the crew arrives on scene perhaps the patient presents more stable, and the patient isn't critical, so the patient is taken urgently but without lights and sirens.

### Special Incident Responses:

ALS Intercepts to Cleveland or Centerville Township: 15 (compared to 42 in 2022 and 90 in 2021)  
Lift Assist/Assist Disabled from the floor or ground: 16 (compared to 30 in 2022 and 20 in 2021)  
Evidentiary Blood Draw Request from Law Enforcement: 31 (compared to 20 in 2022 and 17 in 2021)

### Type of Pre-hospital Care Provided:

Basic Life Support: 49 (compared to 40 in 2022)  
Advanced Life Support: 172 (compared to 169 in 2022)

## Who Was the Busiest?

Red Shift	106
Green Shift	139
Blue Shift	218

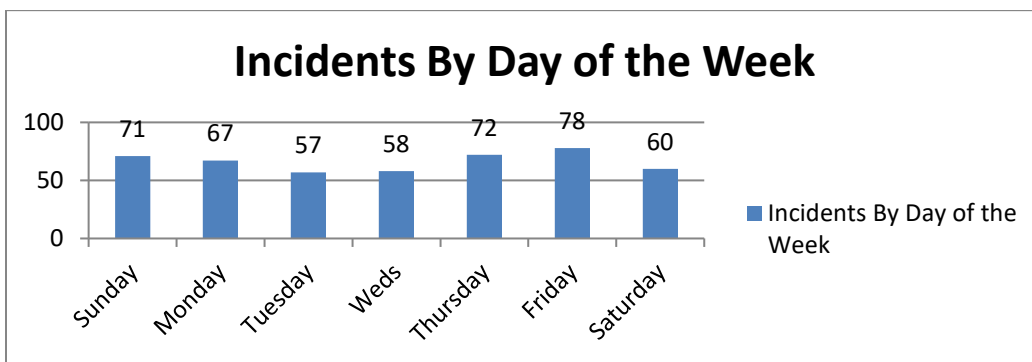
## When Were We the Busiest?

We use statistical data to help us add additional staffing needs or plan our training schedule. For instance, when it came to staffing the Leland Fire Station, in 2017, we used our historical data to predict the peak times of season to expand our staffing model and will use it for peak times in 2023.

### By Hour of the Day (blocks):

Hour Block of the Day	2023 - #of Incidents	2022 - #of Incidents	2021 - # of Incidents
00:00 – 06:00	56	44	56
06:00 – 12:00	122	150	139
12:00 – 18:00	154	184	172
18:00 – 00:00	131	131	154

### By Day of the Week:



### By Month:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TTL
2019	21	30	29	29	44	29	50	51	45	44	41	37	450
2020	33	31	27	35	44	52	59	48	42	35	57	37	500
2021	32	33	50	26	46	47	70	71	30	32	40	43	521
2022	32	32	38	26	37	49	61	53	39	69	35	38	509
2023	34	25	33	35	23	44	75	41	52	37	29	35	463
Difference 2022 to 2023	+2	-7	-5	+9	-14	-5	+14	-12	+13	-32	-6	-3	-46

### Busiest Quarters of the Year:

Quarter (Busiest to Least)	Total Calls For Service	Compared to 2022
July – September	168	153
April – June	102	112
October – December	101	142
January – March	92	102

\* - Tied (if applicable)

# **Fire Department Staff**

The Leland Township Fire & Rescue Department has 27 employees - 10 full-time, including the fire chief, and 17 part-time/paid-on-call firefighters. In 2023 we welcomed Firefighter Tate Hall and Ethan Passalacqua to our roster.

The command staff is comprised of Fire Chief Besson, Assistant Chief Geoff Niessink, Deputy Chief Andrew Stander, Lieutenant Chase Schelling, Lieutenant Chris Herman, and Community Risk Reduction Coordinator Greg Thomas.

## **Full-Time**

Fire Chief Dan Besson (Paramedic I/C)  
Firefighter Greg Johnson (Paramedic I/C)  
Firefighter Brandon Morse (EMT)  
Firefighter Zorran VanZandt (EMT)  
Firefighter Randy Rosselle (Paramedic I/C)  
Firefighter Cameron Pehrson (EMT)  
Firefighter Anthony Calappi (Paramedic)  
Firefighter Brian Rossdeutcher (Paramedic)  
Firefighter Tate Hall (EMT)  
Lieutenant Chase Schelling (Paramedic I/C)

## **Part-Time**

Assistant Chief Geoff Niessink (EMT)  
Deputy Chief Andrew Stander  
Lieutenant Chris Herman (MFR)  
Community Risk Reduction Coordinator Greg Thomas (Paramedic)  
Firefighter Tim Eggert  
Firefighter J.P. VanRaalte  
Firefighter Darryl Herman  
Firefighter Alex Gilland  
Firefighter Kyle Dunklow (Paramedic)  
Firefighter John VanRaalte (EMT)  
Firefighter Abbigail VanRaalte (EMT)  
Firefighter Tim Newton (Paramedic I/C)  
Firefighter Garrett Fairchild (Advanced EMT I/C)  
Firefighter Sasha Moore (Paramedic)  
Firefighter Scott Moore (EMT I/C)  
Firefighter James Howard (Paramedic)  
Firefighter Ethan Passalacqua (Paramedic)

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

**Department Medical License Credentials:**

EMS Instructor Coordinator: 7  
Paramedic: 12  
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician: 1  
Emergency Medical Technician: 8  
Medical First Responder: 1

**Top 10 Busiest Responders (based on calls for service):**

1. Randy Rosselle – 142
2. Greg Johnson – 139
3. Tony Calappi – 129
4. Brian Rosseutcher – 122
5. Brandon Morse – 120
6. Tate Hall – 117
7. Dan Besson – 96
8. Zorran VanZandt – 95
9. James Howard – 93
10. Chase Schelling – 51



Total number of individual responses: 1376

Average number of LTFR personnel per call (463 calls): 3





# Fire Department Apparatus

The fire department maintains a fleet of 2 fire engines, an aerial ladder truck, 2 fire tankers, a brush trucks, a utility pickup, 2 Advanced Life Support ambulances, an Advanced Life Support non-transporting vehicle, a water hydrant truck, a boat, a John Deere Gator, a snowmobile, and an administrative fleet vehicle. Engine 511 and Ladder 531 had extensive work completed on them in 2023 – roughly \$35,000 combined.

## FIRE:

Engine 511  
Engine 512  
Ladder 531  
Tanker 521  
Tanker 522  
Brush 542  
Hydrant 581

## EMS:

Alpha 591  
Bravo 592  
Echo 595

## ADMIN:

Chief 501

## SPECIAL OPS:

Utility 585  
Gator 582  
Snowmobile 583

## Top 10 Busiest Apparatus (based on calls for service):

1. Alpha 591 (Ambulance) – **248** (54% of the incidents)
2. Bravo 592 (Ambulance) – **194** (42%)
3. Engine 511 – **77** (17%)
4. Engine 512 – **75** (16%)
5. Chief 501 – **68** (15%)
6. Echo 595 (EMS SUV) – **44** (10%)
7. Utility 585 – **44** (10%)
8. Ladder 531 – **34** (7%)
9. Brush 542 – **12** (3%)
10. Utility 583 (Gator ORV) – **6** (1%)



# Training & Certifications

In 2023, fire department personnel were busy training to be the best. We train in several formats – on duty, as a department, in small group learning formats /scenarios, self-directed online/virtual, fire and EMS continuing education classes, and finally, through certification / licensing courses (such as Firefighter I/II).



Last year, Leland Township firefighters spent **2354+** hours in classroom training (some courses in Emergency Medical Services, like Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic, may not be included in these totals) and additional hours of training online (those totals are not available at the time of this report). The fire department typically meets twice a month to conduct in-house training with our paid-on-call staff.

We had several new full-time and part-time employees in 2023 – accounting for additional training hours to get them through the orientation, on-the-job, and shadowing training phases. Our training topics included:

- Scene Size-up
- Performance Evaluation – Mutual Aid relay pumping with Hydrant 581 and Ladder 531
- CPR & AED Refresher
- Ice Rescue Refresher
- Roof and Saw Ventilation
- Fireground Communications
- Vehicle Extrication
- Hose-load Deployments and Operations
- Turbo Draft Operations
- Tabletop Exercises & Scenarios
- Quick Fire Attack Drills
- Hazardous Material Operations (refresher with the Haz-Mat team)
- Fire Investigations
- Traffic Incident Management
- Drafting with Engine 511, Engine 512, and Hydrant 581
- Chimney Fire Responses
- Vent, Enter, and Search for victims.
- Pre-incident Plans (walk-through familiarizations and scenarios)
- Health and Wellness
- Aircraft Emergency Responses
- Lithium Ion Battery, Energy Storage System, and Electric Vehicle Incident Responses



## Training Hours - Personnel

Employee	2023 Training Hours (Classroom or Practical)
Besson	243.25
Bierschbach	18.5
Calappi	123.75
Dunklow, Kyle	2
Eggert	31.25
Fairchild, Amy	9
Fairchild, Garrett	14
Gilland	31
Gooden	7
Hall	92.25
Herman, C	39.25
Herman, D	27
Howard	75.25
Johnson	120
Korson	79
Moore, Sasha	31.5
Moore, Scott	100
Morse	73.75
Moyer	2
Newton	19.5
Niessink	37.75
Passalacqua	15
Pehrson	340.5
Rossdeutcher	133.5
Rosselle	127.75
Schelling	140
Smith	9
Stander	6
Thomas	13.5
VanRaalte, Abbigail	24.5
VanRaalte, John	17
VanRaalte, J.P.	25.25
VanZandt	322.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2354.25</b>

# Department Division Updates

## *Lieutenant Chase Schelling; EMS Coordinator:*

LTFR's EMS Division is led by Lieutenant/EMS Coordinator Chase Schelling and Green Shift Commander Randy Rosselle who serves as the Assistant EMS Coordinator. Lieutenant Schelling reports to Fire Chief Dan Besson. Lieutenant Schelling, Shift Commander Rosselle, and Chief Besson are licensed Paramedics and licensed as Instructor/Coordinators.

LTFR is proud to provide EMS Advanced Life Support services to our community. Each year, EMS calls make up roughly half of our annual calls for service. LTFR personnel strive to provide care that is compassionate and skilled. Over the past several years, we have continued to emphasize training and education, modernize equipment, update operational practices, and keep up with the ever-changing landscape of emergency medicine to provide the best service possible.

Below are several highlights from 2023:

- As part of our 2023 Strategic Action Plan, four EMS Training Days were held during 2023 and were instructed by our Instructor/Coordinators. These training courses allowed our providers to earn their required Continuing Education Credits in-house while also building teamwork and camaraderie. These training days were well-reviewed by those who attended and will continue in 2024.
- Two of our full-time EMTs are currently enrolled in Paramedic School and are scheduled to graduate in 2024. Once completed, this will place a minimum of 2 Paramedics on each shift.
- Added tablets and laptops to our main EMS vehicles, along with Wi-Fi receivers and routers, to improve our response, gathering pre-arrival information, patient care reporting, and contacting the hospital via Pulsara (see below).
- Began using an App called Pulsara for all communications with Munson Medical Center. This App replaces radio reports as the primary method of notifying Munson of an incoming patient. Additionally, this App allows us to securely transmit EKGs, photos, and patient demographic information to the hospital and allows them to expedite the registration process and allows for specialized services to be activated as needed for high acuity medical or trauma patients in a quicker fashion.

EMS Operational Data and Facts:

- 66% of our calls for service resulted in transport to Munson Medical Center by ambulance.
- 28% of our calls for service resulted in treatment and no transport.
- 6% of our calls for service resulted in "other disposition" (cancelled, no patient found, medical alarm activations, transported by law enforcement, pronounced deceased on scene, etc.)
- 11% of patients were transported to Munson Medical Center with emergency lights and sirens - which is typically reserved time-sensitive and serious injuries or illnesses.
- Our busiest month for EMS calls was August.

- Our busiest times for EMS calls between 7am and 8pm with a peak at 10am
- Our busiest day for EMS calls was Sunday.
- Our #1 Medical Complaint in 2023 was Generalized Weakness
- Our #1 Trauma Complaint in 2023 was fall-related.
- EMS Clinical Data and Facts:
- LTFR Providers obtained a Blood Sugar Reading on 100% of Stroke Patients – which is a requirement of Munson Medical Center’s certification as a Stroke Center, our Medical Control Authority, and national guidelines.
- Advanced notification was given to Munson Medical Center for 100/% of Stroke Patients that LTFR treated and transported - which is also a requirement of Munson Medical Center’s certification as a Stroke Center, our Medical Control Authority, and national guidelines.
- 100% of Chest Pain patients had a 12-lead EKG obtained within 10 minutes as required by our Medical Control Authority. Our average time from patient contact to having a 12 Lead EKG complete was 5 minutes and 42 seconds.
- 133 medication pushes were administered by LTFR Paramedics in 2023 (this does not count Oxygen or Normal Saline)
- 2 advanced airways were placed by LTFR Paramedics this year in patients who required who were not breathing on their own and required ventilation.
- 143 IVs were started by LTFR Paramedics this year.



I am extremely proud and honored to work beside and help lead Leland’s EMS personnel. In observance of our established department core values (being confident, caring, compassionate, and competent) we strive to meet the expectations of others, and ourselves, every call. It starts with the basic premise of treating others like we want to be treated, being well trained, and bringing the best equipment we can to your door. I am confident that the highest level of care is provided to each patient. Just as important as clinical standards, though, I am proud of our providers and the personnel touch that is applied to patient care. I know that our providers treat each patient as if it was a member of their family. The year 2023 brought big changes to LTFR and our EMS operations and we have the personnel and tools to be successful for years to come and continue to advance our practice as EMS clinicians.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and for your continued support!

***Firefighter Brandon Morse; Fire Department Health and Safety/Co-Department Training Officer:***

In 2023, I continued my work as the health and safety coordinator. We continued our efforts towards endorsing health and wellness efforts for our employees through the annual NFPA-certified firefighter physicals and our employee assistance program. Additionally, I review any employee injury or near-miss reports, as well as any motor vehicle collisions involving our apparatus, to find ways to minimize our risks. Our pledge is to have everyone go home at the end of the call/after their shift.

With the retirement of Captain Korson, in the summer of 2023, I, along with Firefighter Greg Johnson, was assigned the role of co-department fire training officers. We are responsible for developing training plans to comply with required training topics/credits through governmental entities (i.e.: OSHA, MiOSHA, NFPA, the State of Michigan, the Office of Firefighter Training, etc.). We have improved our shift-training topics so that all three shifts are training on the same topics and have the same operational plans, so we all work well together no matter who is on duty.

We have produced training that has been offered to other firefighters regionally. The most recent example of that is in December when we hosted a training night covering electrical storage systems, lithium-ion battery fires, and electrical vehicle fires. Chief Besson and Community Risk Reduction Coordinator Thomas taught the class and, in addition to Leland Township Firefighters, it was attended by members of the Leelanau Township Fire Department, Elmwood Township Fire Department, and the Leelanau County Sheriffs Office.

### ***Greg Thomas; Community Risk Reduction Coordinator***

Training Community Risk Reduction for the LTFR Annual Report – General Comments:

The Community Risk Reduction Coordinator position was filled in the middle of October 2024. The primary objective of this role is to analyze, reduce, and mitigate “realized and potential hazards” that could adversely affect the community at large, its first responders, business owners and guests. To approach these challenges, the coordinator will leverage a background that includes public outreach, state licensure and national certification in areas that include fire inspection/building plans examination, certifications in fire investigation, professional instruction, and fire related educational program development.

#### *Reaching Out to the Community 2023:*

A priority of the community risk reduction office was to analyze current public safety programs, build relationships with community stake holders, and have a more visible presence throughout the township. One of the most tried and true programs that community fire departments offer is a “community-wide free smoke alarm program.” In the past, individual fire organizations had to seek charitable funding, grants, and commercial partners to generate a supply of smoke alarms to distribute to the community. Given that these devices only have a shelf life of 10 years with suggested battery changes every six months, it was difficult to track when alerting devices, installed by the local fire department, were expiring or in need of attention. In many cases, when residents were provided free home smoke alarms, the responsibility for general upkeep and battery replacement was placed on their shoulders. Given that the smoke alarm program was heavily utilized by our aging population, the responsibility of checking the units (climbing up and down a ladder) could be a daunting task. This would often lead to the alarms being removed from service or having the batteries die without replacement. Ultimately, national risk analysis studies would prove that many of the free alerting devices supplied by local fire departments were often rendered obsolete due to lack of routine maintenance. Having realized this problem, Leland Township Fire and Rescue secured a supply of alarms engineered as “sealed units” (require no battery change) that only need replacement every 10 years of service. Suppliers for these devices were the American Red Cross and the State of Michigan. Having smoke alarms of this type eliminates the need for residents to replace alarm batteries every 6 months and instead only requires the old device being

replaced with a new one for free when it gives off a 10-year alert signal or when LTFR notifies residents that their previously installed free alarm is nearing expiration. This equates to a risk reduction win as the alarms are more reliable and residents would require fewer trips up a ladder for battery replacement. Moving these newer types of alarms into the community was successfully undertaken by fire department staff through a community “blitz” campaign. However, while a more “secure” method of maintaining a supply of detectors was realized, fire organizations statewide lacked proven methods for program oversight and management. We’ve secured the alarm inventory, have fire department members completing the installations for free, but lacked a “management system” for tracking and replacing the devices as they approach the 10-year expiration.

A close examination of the LTFR community-wide free smoke detector program found that while the initiative was well received by the community, management of the program needed some added attention. The priority was to maintain a dependable supply of alarms. With this knowledge in hand, the Community Risk Reduction Coordinator (CRRC) was able further strengthen its partnership with the Michigan Bureau of Fire Services (MIBFS) as a sole supplier of free alarm devices. Additionally, LTFR has now taken advantage of a free smoke alarm program digital management platform in partnership with the MI-Prevention initiative. This program provides a method to order additional inventory and has an accompanying digital application that can be utilized to record every alarm installation as well as provides fire crews with visual teaching tools that can be relayed to citizens in the areas of carbon monoxide detection, fire escape plans and best practices for maintaining general fire/life safety. Perhaps the best aspect of having a partnership with the MI-Prevention program is that there is no associated cost to the municipality. Access to the MI-prevention free digital platform has allowed our CRRC office to build a sustainable standard operating policy (SOP) to address training of departmental employees with implementation and management of the community-wide free smoke alarm program well into the future. LTFR now can install free alarms, maintain an adequate inventory of devices, and collect important demographic data via direct engagement with participating community members. LTFR looks forward to its continued promotion and better management of our Community-Wide Free Smoke Alarm program in 2024.

Another initiative undertaken by the LTFR CRRC office was to meet with community business leaders at the December Leland Chamber of Commerce meeting. During this meeting LTFR goals for promoting safer commercial properties were presented. These initiatives call for an increased fire department presence about fire safety consultations and exploring the eventual adoption of a “model fire code.” Fire Chief Besson highlighted in his 2023 “Strategic Action Plan” a goal of having a fire inspector on every shift or a part-time employee certified in fire inspection available to implement a building safety program. This goal has been met and LTFR is in the process of developing plans to beta test a company fire inspection model approach in 2024.







In November of 2023, LTFR had the honor to host the Leland Women’s Civic Group for an afternoon of fire safety and medical emergency response demonstrations with “hands on” fire extinguishment training utilizing stovetop fire blankets and hand-held extinguishers. Consequently, this instruction and training was well timed in preparation for the holidays as kitchen stovetop fires moved into the third leading “reported area or origin” for home fires statewide.

This training was very well received and propelled us to come up with new ways to interact with the community with the goal of reducing fires and risk.

December 2023 brought an even greater level of LTFR community interaction. The CRRC was given the privilege of having a “public safety” table at the St. Mary’s Holiday Market. This event gave LTFR the ability to deliver our fire safety message to upwards of 500 to 1,000 citizens. Great conversations were had with many citizens regarding home fire safety, access to the community-wide free smoke alarm program and other LTFR life-safety initiatives. Additionally, in mid-December LTFR had the privilege of hosting nationally published pyro-scientist and fire investigator Dr. Elizabeth Buc of the Fire and Materials Research Laboratory for “Ladies Burn and Learn.” A day of fire and life safety education regarding issues most experienced by women. This compelling presentation included hands on extinguisher training, awareness of current fire trends, and insight into the world of fire investigation. Community feedback from this presentation was excellent and Dr. Buc has offered to bring the program back to Leland Township in the future.



Anticipating the marked population increase typically seen during the summer months in Leland Township, as well as, the many great “experiences” offered by our valued community organizations, LTFR recognizes the public safety challenges that can arise with large gatherings of people. The CRRC will be offering a safety training presentation for outdoor large-scale public events for organizers and volunteers. Along with the training presentation, LTFR now offers organizers a “guide” to assist community groups when planning for events along with one-on-one planning assistance. The office of Community Risk Reduction looks

forward to having a stronger and more collaborative presence with our 2024 local events.

#### *CRR Meeting the Needs of our First Responders 2023:*

As part of the CRRC portfolio of responsibilities, special focus is directed towards assisting and improving the abilities of our firefighters to effectively react to a vast array of emergencies and safely manage fire

incidents with skill and efficiency. Part of the Risk Reduction Coordinator’s position requires the ability to develop educational and training programs for our valued fire/EMS crews. New challenges to the fire service have arisen with the advent of lithium-ion battery powered vehicles and home solar power and energy storage systems. Batteries involved in these various systems can fail and cause highly localized, “high energy” fires that cannot be mitigated with traditional techniques. Recognizing this emerging threat to our first responders, the LTFR Fire Chief, with assistance from the CRRC, has begun to introduce measures to address this problem that is occurring on a national level. Fires involving lithium-ion batteries have increased five times since 2016. In 2023, this emerging challenge caused 270 individual fires, injured 150 and killed 18 U.S. citizens. LTFR is leading the county in developing presentations and policies to address this fire safety and response challenge and looks forward to working closely with the County Building Safety Department and sheriff’s office to stay out ahead of this emerging threat. This is but one example of the CRRC’s efforts to assist the fire chief in developing training opportunities and educational materials for our first responders not only for 2024 but well into the future.

## **Insurance Services Office Review**

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) collects and evaluates information from communities throughout the United States on their structure fire suppression capabilities. This data is then analyzed and compared to best practices, capabilities, and an assortment of other things to assign a community a Public Protection Classification (PPC™). This PPC provides important, up-to-date information about the fire protection services throughout the country. Equipment, apparatus, water carrying capabilities, fire pump capacities, on-duty staffing, on-call response from off-duty firefighters, automatic mutual aid, communications, and designated water supply location all factor into our ISO PPC.

The PPC grade depends on how well, or poorly, the following areas perform:

- Needed Fire Flows (amount of water needed for fire suppression)
- Emergency Communications
- Fire Department equipment, staffing, training, risk reduction efforts, losses, preparedness, and infrastructure.
- Water Supply – Including inspection and flow testing of hydrants, available water sources, and supply operations.



fire

In 2015 the ISO awarded Leland Township a Class 6/10 rating depending on where in the township you lived, and the response distance/capabilities needed to get to you. Our previous rating was Class 8.

Since 2017, we have continued to improve our water supply locations/capabilities by adding, renovating, or repairing dry hydrants. Each dry hydrant is opened, flushed, and maintained twice a year. Additionally, these locations are used as a training site several times a year – allowing our department members to become familiar with each one. The fire department also plows the water point sites in the winter. We also have greatly increased the number of training scenarios we participate in with mutual aid departments. We are excited to share with ISO all the hard work the department has done, with the community’s support, and, hopefully, earn a better score – reducing our risk factor. We were audited/reviewed in October 2023. We are waiting for those results.



# Strategic Goals & Objectives/Equipment Replacement

It is important for the department to create goals and objectives for itself. How can we improve? How will we get there? How long will it take? It is also important to establish an apparatus and equipment replacement guide. What kind of equipment do we expect needing to buy? What is the timeline for that. The following two pages contain our 2024 Strategic Action Plan – Goals and Objectives and our 10-year apparatus equipment replacement guide (2018-2028) which are updated every year. The goals and objectives are broken down into the five “E’s” of community risk reduction – Educational Influences, Enforcement Interventions, Engineering, Economic Influences, and Emergency Response.

## LELAND TOWNSHIP FIRE & RESCUE 2024 Strategic Action Plan – Goals & Objectives

### Mission:

The mission of the Leland Township Fire Department is to serve the community by protecting life, property, and the environment through preparation, prevention, and response.



### Core Values:

Caring – Compassionate - Competent - Confident

### Department Slogan:

Being better tomorrow than we were yesterday!

### Educational Interventions

Influences behavior by raising awareness and providing information and knowledge.

- Work NIMS into training sessions
- Encourage organized shift training
- Response-area site visit and familiarization
- Encourage higher education for Command Staff personnel (i.e., NFPA CFO, Staff & Command, or College Degree)
- Continue “EMS Skill Days”
- Promote Paramedic training (EMT)
- Identify and train on target hazards
- Create Incident Action Plans for high hazard/target hazards.
- Enforce annual performance & attendance standard -no shows
- Expand Electric Vehicle Extrication & Firefighting Training
- Promote Training Officer/Committee approach

### Enforcement Interventions

Interventions include passing, strengthening, and enforcing ordinances, laws or regulations

- Adopt local Fire Prevention Code
- Have a fire inspector on each shift or dedicated part-time employee.
- Consider CRR Coordinator expansion to have Fire Marshal duties.
- Develop Inspection Program - encourage compliance not enforcement.
- Develop Juvenile Firesetter and other prevention programs
- Continue to streamline cost-recovery efforts as outlined in cost recovery ordinance.

### Engineering

Changes in the physical environment: design, development, manufacturing or technology

- Expand Response technology improvements (i.e.: tablets, laptops, computer screen, Wi-Fi, etc. to receive incident alerts in the station & apparatus)
- Continue to develop water point locations.
- Tablets, computer screen, etc. to receive incident alerts in the station & apparatus.
- Replace 10+ year old equipment with newest technology (i.e.: battery extrication tools)
- Station Camera/Security System
- Front line Apparatus GPS/Dash Cam

### Economic Incentives

Used to influence behaviors positively or negatively. Use incentives to maintain fiscal responsibility.

- Improve marketability
- Continue involvement in local, regional, and federal grants
- Participate in Insurance Service Office (ISO) Fire Protection Classification Assessment. (Waiting on results)
- Improve outreach with community (encourage feedback)
- Improve payroll process
- Develop risk reduction program and staffing models that help reduce risk (insurance incentives).

### Emergency Response

Interventions used to mitigate risk or have the capabilities meet community risk and expectations through a risk assessment process.

- Staff 4<sup>th</sup> FF during peak times based on data
- Receive new ambulance (“592”)
- Develop a Community Risk Reduction program
- Promote FT lieutenants – command officer on each shift for interoperability/consistency
- Create a list of MABAS deployment eligible FFs (streamline deployment process)
- Regular review of operations via command staff meetings
- Visit farms (Tier II) and sites ref Haz-Mat chemical storage.
- Tanker replacement – better suppression capabilities

• Categories created based on the five “E’s” of Community Risk Reduction  
 • Created with input, suggestions, and feedback of full-time & command staff members.  
 • Posted on: 03/31/24

The 10-year replacement guide is based on projected needs, which may change, based on new trends in the fire service, the rising cost of vehicles and/or materials, and vehicles lasting longer, or shorter, than we projected in 2018. In 2024 we will have a new ambulance "Alpha 593" placed in service and will begin the process of replacing Tanker 521 and Tanker 522 with one vehicle. This vehicle will place more water on scene than either Tanker 521 or Tanker 522 carry. It will also be designed with significant safety upgrades, which were not available in 2004, and have more firefighting capabilities. Tankers 521 and 522, essentially, just carry water and have very limited fire suppression capabilities.

Leland Township Fire and Rescue												
Equipment Apparatus and Training Fund												
2018 - 2028 Expense Forecast and Breakdown												
Proposed	YEAR											
Fund Balance on 4/1/2024	\$607,000											
Apparatus	Unit #	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	
2014 Ford Explorer	501					\$ 17,501				\$ 70,000		
2014 Rosenbauer Pumper	511			Not scheduled for replacement until after 2027								
2012 Ford/HME Mini-pumper1	512			Not scheduled for replacement until after 2027								
2004 Kenworth/CSI Tanker	521							\$ 500,000				
2004 Kenworth/CSI Tanker	522											Replace two tankers with one vehicle
<del>2006 Ford F450</del>	<del>544</del>					\$ 20,000						Upgraded Utility 585 to Brush Truck. Brush 541 was sold in 2022
2012 Chevy Brush	542											
2002 Ford Hydrant	581											
2016 Ford Ambulance	591						\$ 34,000			\$ 306,000		
2012 Dodge Ambulance	592											Not scheduled for replacement as of 4/2024
2015 Gator	583											Delivered!
2001 Boston Whaler Boat	571											Not scheduled for replacement as of 4/2024
2011 SkiDoo Snowmobile	582											Not scheduled for replacement as of 4/2024
2020 Dodge Ram Pickup	585			\$35,000								Not scheduled for replacement as of 4/2024
2018 Ford Explorer EMS Echo	595	\$ 30,000										
2004 Pierce Aerial Truck	531	\$ 31,271	\$ 60,400	\$ 60,816	\$ 60,359	\$ 60,381	\$ 60,464					
Annual Equip/other Costs		\$ 93,000	\$ 72,925	\$ 413,044	\$ 140,700	\$ 149,000	\$ 231,436	\$ 93,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 96,000	
Annual Training Costs		\$ 40,000	\$ 52,100	\$ 41,500	\$ 45,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
Line Item Transfer		\$ 0	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Annual Costs		\$ 194,271	\$ 235,425	\$ 550,360	\$ 246,059	\$ 288,882	\$ 360,900	\$ 638,000	\$ 445,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 141,000	
Additional Revenue (Grants/Sales)			\$ 28,751	\$ 332,286		\$ 30,000		\$ 100,000				
Annual Millage Revenue		\$ 227,300	\$ 231,000	\$ 231,000	\$ 247,000	\$ 256,362	\$ 278,236	\$ 301,455	\$ 301,455	\$ 301,455	\$ 301,455	
Fiscal Year End Fund Balance		\$492,126	\$516,452	\$ 529,378	\$ 530,319	\$ 527,800	\$ 607,000	\$ 270,455	\$ 126,910	\$ 288,365	\$ 448,820	

# 2023: Our Year in Pictures



Leland Township Fire & Rescue's mission includes serving the community by protecting life, property, and environment through preparation, prevention, and response.

The following pages demonstrate the commitment of our fire & EMS crews to fine-tune their craft through training – whether it be online, in the classroom, at the fire academy, or out in the community.





