



Gerrish Township Fire/EMS Department

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April 2020 Monthly Activity Report

The March incident log included a total of **53** requests for emergency services.

<u>EMS Calls</u>		<u>FIRE and RESCUE Calls</u>	
Medical	24	Structure Fire	0
Trauma/Accident	11	Wildfire	0
Medical Assist	6	Powerline	0
Standby	1	Vehicle Accident/Fire	2
Cancelled	2	Gas Leak	0
		Standby	0
		Alarms	6
		Ice Rescue	1
EMS Total:	44	Fire Total:	9

(of those calls 2 were intercepts and 15 were Non-transport)
 (of the 53 calls 16 were covering Markey Twp. due to bridge being out)

Training: 73 classroom and practical training hours.

EMS Training: Medical Pediatrics Assessment
 Blood Borne Pathogens Safety

Fire Training: Driver Operator
 Driver safety Orientation

In late March the Governor issued the Stay Home order which restricted our ability to hold meetings and training so the Annual Safety Training was conducted via distance learning using our Target Solutions platform, but some training has been cancelled at this time. Where possible we will conduct training through Target Solutions or other distance learning methods until the order is lifted and we are comfortable resuming normal operations.

Revenues: The department collected:

\$8,645.22	Ambulance Revenue
\$1,650.00	Intercepts
\$0	Miscellaneous
\$0	Reimbursements
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\$10,295.00	Total for Month

Community Involvement:

- Assisted two residents with their Fire/Smoke Alarm Bed Shakers (Grayson's Gift Alarms) that they were having trouble operating.
- Chief Fisher has been accepted into the Roscommon Rotary representing the Township and has attended several conference calls as Rotary looks for ways to assist the community during the COVID-19 crisis.

Committees and Meetings:

- Assistant Chief Rodgers attended the monthly work session Board meeting.
- All Officers attended the monthly officers meeting.
- Assistant Chief Gilliam attended the 911 Technical Board meeting.
- Assistant Chief Rodgers attended the monthly county Fire and EMS meetings.
- Assistant Chief Gilliam attended the Medical Control PRSO/Advisory Meeting.
- Assistant Chief Gilliam and 2nd LT Hill attended a webinar from Image Trend (our ambulance reporting program) concerning COVID-19 procedures.
- Chief Fisher met a couple of times with Clerk Patchin to finalize the end of the year budget and start to new year budget. He also reviewed the upcoming budget with the officers to get their input on how it is distributed and where we need to look at supporting programs.
- Chief Fisher attend several conference calls with the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs related to the state requirements for patient transfers and for the Grant NMFC and Michigan Rural EMS (MIREMS) received to look at ways to improve Recruitment and Retention of EMS and Fire personnel. One call was with Senator Stamas expressing our concerns for the possible mandatory patients transfers required by the state.

Department Activities:

- Continuing to write policies and this month several EMS related policies were written and approved by the officers. These policies will replace a couple of Chief Orders that were needed to complete our ambulance licensing requirements for the state.
- The Ambulance replacement committee met several times completing the development of the specifications for a replacement ambulance. The specs were approved and sent out for bids to be returned prior to the next township board meeting.
- **220** had an electrical issue in the foam system that was repaired. 220 repairs are still under warranty.
- **225** our brush fire truck was taken out of storage and placed in service now that the snow is melting and we'll start responding to wildfires.
- Chief Fisher returned on Friday March 13th and appreciates all the staff that continued to carry out the departments mission and especially Assistant Chief Gilliam and Rodgers who picked up the bulk of my work.
- Assistant Chief Rodgers represents the county EMS agencies on the County Emergency Management Team and has been active assisting in the Emergency Operations Center with EMS supply distribution.

Significant Events:

- This past month GTFD, the Township, and the Patchin Family lost a great man in Past Fire and EMS Chief John Patchin. Our sympathies go out to Scott, Greg, Jennifer, and Kathleen as we all remember John during this difficult time. I often think how would John have handled the current COVID-19 Crisis as our Chief and it reminds me to stay calm, communicate well with everyone, trust that we will all do the right things, be

supportive and have some fun even if it's not a great time. Unfortunately, we cannot get together at this time so we'll remember John later in August when this is all over.

- GTFD is responding to all fire and EMS calls in northern Markey Township due the bridge closer over the Cut River near the airport. This essentially splits their township in half meaning some of their responder live on the other side of the bridge so we are supporting them until the road is opened back up. By the end of March last year, we had responded to 109 Fire and EMS requests for service, this year by the end of March we have now responded to 137. Most of those additional 28 requests for service were in Markey township.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic** – In late February we started receiving more formal information related to the COVID-19 (C-19) Pandemic then through March that communication from the state and our Medical Control Authority (Grayling Hospital) greatly increased as did the treat from the virus. We have been receiving daily briefings from Med Control; communicating with our EMS partners, Central Dispatch, and Emergency Management; regularly updating and adjusting our response and patient care protocols; acquiring and updating needed equipment and supplies; cleaning and recleaning equipment and facilities; training and communicating regularly with EMS and Fire staff; and trying to carry on with regular activities and administrative duties. At times this crisis communications and activity seems overwhelming but our crews are handling it great, are taking precautions as communicated, are treating patients appropriately and working well with others. I am very proud of each them and am glad we have such a great team. As we continue to plan and react to this situation, we expect it will continue through April and we hope everyone stays safe and observes the orders and rules to limit the spread of C-19.

Upcoming Events or Activities:

- Wildfire season (spring and late summer) always presents us with a few fires in the township and we hope everyone stays aware of the weather and fuel conditions and doesn't burn or have campfires on windy and dry days. Please check the web site for burning permits and restrictions.
- With the ice leaving the lake we know summer and boating season are near. We expect to put the rescue boat (229) in service soon and as soon as we can we'll get it out on the hoist at the marina, otherwise it will be available for response from Station 3.
- The ambulance bids have been received and will be opened at the next board work session. The committee will then review those and make a recommendation to award the bid at the following board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Fisher, Chief

