



Gerrish Township Fire/EMS Department

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May 2020 Monthly Activity Report

The April incident log included a total of **49** requests for emergency services.

<u>EMS Calls</u>		<u>FIRE and RESCUE Calls</u>	
Medical	26	Structure Fire	1
Trauma/Accident	8	Wildfire	0
Medical Assist	6	Powerline	2
Standby	0	Vehicle Accident/Fire	0
Cancelled	3	Gas Leak	0
		Standby	1
		Alarms	1
		Ice/Water/Other Rescue	1
EMS Total:	43	Fire Total:	6

(of those calls 0 were intercepts and 10 were Non-transport)
(of the 49 calls 20 were covering Markey Twp. Due to bridge being out)

Training: 34 person hours of on-line training was provided.

EMS Training: None completed in the month

Fire Training: Annual Safety Training

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. Through Target Solutions we have sent our employees on-line training form Wildfire Suppression and Diabetic Emergencies with two-week deadlines that we will track every month until regular training can be conducted again.

Revenues: The department did not collect reimbursements for services during the month of April due to the offices being locked down during this time.

Community Involvement:

- Maintained and updated communications on our web site and Facebook page to keep our community aware of our changes in operations, provided safety related information and educational material to help keep our citizens safe and aware.
- Chief Fisher has attended several conference calls with Rotary as they look for ways to assist the community during the COVID-19 crisis.

Committees and Meetings:

- Chief Fisher attended the monthly work session and Board meeting.
- All Officers have been attending weekly officers ZOOM web meeting instead of the normal monthly meetings as things have been changing quickly with the COVID-19 response.
- Assistant Chief Gilliam attended regular weekly calls with our Medical Control Authority to stay on top of any changes in EMS response guidelines and protocols due to COVID-19.
- Assistant Chief Rodgers continued to lead the Ambulance replacement committee through the process of awarding the bid and working with the vendor.
- Assistant Chief Gilliam also attended several statewide conferences calls with the Department of Health and Human Services related to the state's EMS response to COVID-19
- Chief Fisher attended several ZOOM web calls with the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs, the state Fire Marshal and others related to the COVID-19 response as well as following up on other plans and projects that have been on-going since before the crisis that include: the Grant NMFC and MIREMS (Michigan Rural EMS) received to look at ways to improve Recruitment and Retention of EMS and Fire personnel, the summer annual conference, providing training opportunities for northern Michigan fire departments and others.

Department Activities:

- The bid for the replacement ambulance was awarded to Emergency Vehicles Plus out of Grand Rapids and the committee has started working with them as they go through the build process.
- 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.
- **225** was placed in service for the spring wildfire season.
- **231** had several repairs to the brake system, leak in the O2 system and a rear scene light replaced.
- The large 600 GPM pump in Station 1 failed and was taken to CSI for repairs. It is unknown yet what the issues are and what the costs will be but we suspect the pump has been intaking debris (sand and small stones) from the water storage tank which caused the bearings to wear out over time.
- The water well for the entire building also failed late in the month with a loss of pressure and little volume. The well piping and pump were pulled and found that all sections of the pipe had holes from age and was losing pressure. The screen was flushed and found to be ok so new pipe and a new pump were dropped back in and the well is now functioning normally.
- Assistant Chief Rodgers is working on a grant application for the Power Load Cot System for the new ambulance.
- Captain Jake Figley through his full-time job with the Department of Natural Resources has been assigned to the Detroit TCF Center (old Cobo Hall) as part of an Incident Management Team supporting the field hospital there. He is assigned as the Operations Section Chief and is on a two-week assignment.

Significant Events:

- We continue to respond to all fire and EMS calls in northern Markey Township due the bridge closer over the Cut River near the airport. As of the end of April we have responded to 186 requests for service as compared to 140 at the same time last year. The additional 46 calls have been in Markey Township but has not affected our ability to respond appropriately in our township. We are also recovering our costs for this service.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic** – Since late February we have been 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've continued with that through April as well. 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. We will continue to observe the governors and state requirements and recommendations and adjust our operations as needed over the next week or months.

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 dry days. Please check the web site for burning permits and restrictions.
- We are hoping as May and June come that we can open up a little, conduct regular trainings and meetings, and get back to seeing each other again. The ability for us to be together when we train is very important so we can be efficient and safe with our on-scene operations. It also helps us be a team, work well together and enjoy our co-workers and friends. We're all in this together and it would be nice to be together soon. Please stay home and stay safe until then.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Fisher, Chief

