

2011



Annual Report

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	Page 2
Letter from the Fire Chief	Page 3
Mission & Vision	Page 4
About the Department	Page 5
Accomplishments for 2011	Page 6
Department Hierarchy	Page 7
Type of Calls (definitions)	Page 8
Incidents by Type	Page 9
Incidents by Response District	Page 11
Total Calls (2009-2011)	Page 12
Responses by day of the week (2009-2011)	Page 13
Responses by time of day (2009-2011)	Page 14
Responses by month (2009-2011)	Page 15
Department Apparatus/Station	Page 16
Goals for 2012	Page 19

January 2012

Dalton Township Board of Trustees

It is with great pleasure I submit the 2011 Annual Report for the Dalton Township Fire Department. I am proud to lead the professional Firefighters of the Dalton Township Fire Department. My vision for this department is to be a professional fire service leader, committed to high performance standards that serves and provides a safe community for all. As you will see in this report, the Fire Department has redefined its mission statement and redesigned the department patch to reaffirm our commitment of providing quality service.

The fire department responded to a total of 556 calls for service, which is a decrease of 48 calls from 2011.

The Department had 51 fire suppression responses, of those 22 were “working” structure fires, of those only 6 were located in our initial response area. This is a decrease of 7 from 2010.

While fire suppression continues to be an essential service, we also provide emergency medical service at the Medical First Responder level. The greatest number of fire department responses is to medical emergencies. The department responded to 351 medical calls in 2011. This accounts for 63% of our total call volume.

We also respond to and provide a variety of services intended to meet the specific needs of our community. The fire department trains and responds to incidents involving hazardous materials, water rescue, ice rescue, confined space rescue and weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the department has begun to conduct inspection of premises throughout the Township for compliance with the fire code.

As we move forward into the new year, the Dalton Township Fire Department will continue to evaluate the services we provide to the community to determine quality and effectiveness. Officer and employee development remains a priority. We are looking forward to new training programs department and countywide. We have improved our medical, fitness, education and inspection programs, but will continue to enhance those programs throughout the upcoming year. Improvement and maintenance of our fire station has progressed well and will continue this year further planned improvements.

The Dalton Township Fire Department, as always, is committed to preserving the life and property of our citizens and to serve the community with honor and loyalty.

Yours in Education and Safety,

Alan R. Styles, Fire Chief

Our Mission...

To serve our community with truth, honesty and dedication, to minimize damage and provide for those in need, to educate both ourselves as well as the community we serve as we continue to grow.

We accomplish this through...

Prompt response to call for service

Recruitment & retention of dedicated personnel

Continuous training with the most up to date information

Public education with community involvement and interaction

Pro-active Code Enforcement in a partnership with our Building Department

Systematic inspections of all Department equipment to insure operational readiness

Utilization of the National Incident Management System and operational use of the Unified Incident Command System.

Our Vision...

Duty is doing it, Pride is wearing it and Tradition is living it

About the Department

The Dalton Township Fire Department was established in 1952 by the township Board, to protect and preserve the lives and property of the citizens of Dalton Township and the Village of Lakewood Club from fire and to assist them in emergency situations. Originally, there were two departments, # 1 & 2 one in Twin Lake and one in the Village of Lakewood Club. In 1995 it was decided to combine Department's 1 & 2 into one department, centrally located in Dalton Township, a new 9700 sq ft station was constructed and house all of the assets of the Dalton Township Fire Department.

It is the duty and responsibility of the department to enforce the laws of the State of Michigan and the ordinances of Dalton Township; which provide for protection of life and property against fire. It is the further duty and responsibility of the department to constantly strive for optimum efficiency in maintenance and operation of its facilities, equipment and personnel for the prevention and extinguishment of fires and to be ready to respond to any emergency whether natural or technological in nature.

The department is lead by the Fire Chief whose duties are to direct and administer all operations and personnel of the department. The chief is appointed by and performs the duties of this position under the administrative guidance of the Township Board. The classified personnel of the department include the Assistant Chief, Captain, Lieutenants, Firefighters, Probationary Firefighter, and Cadets.

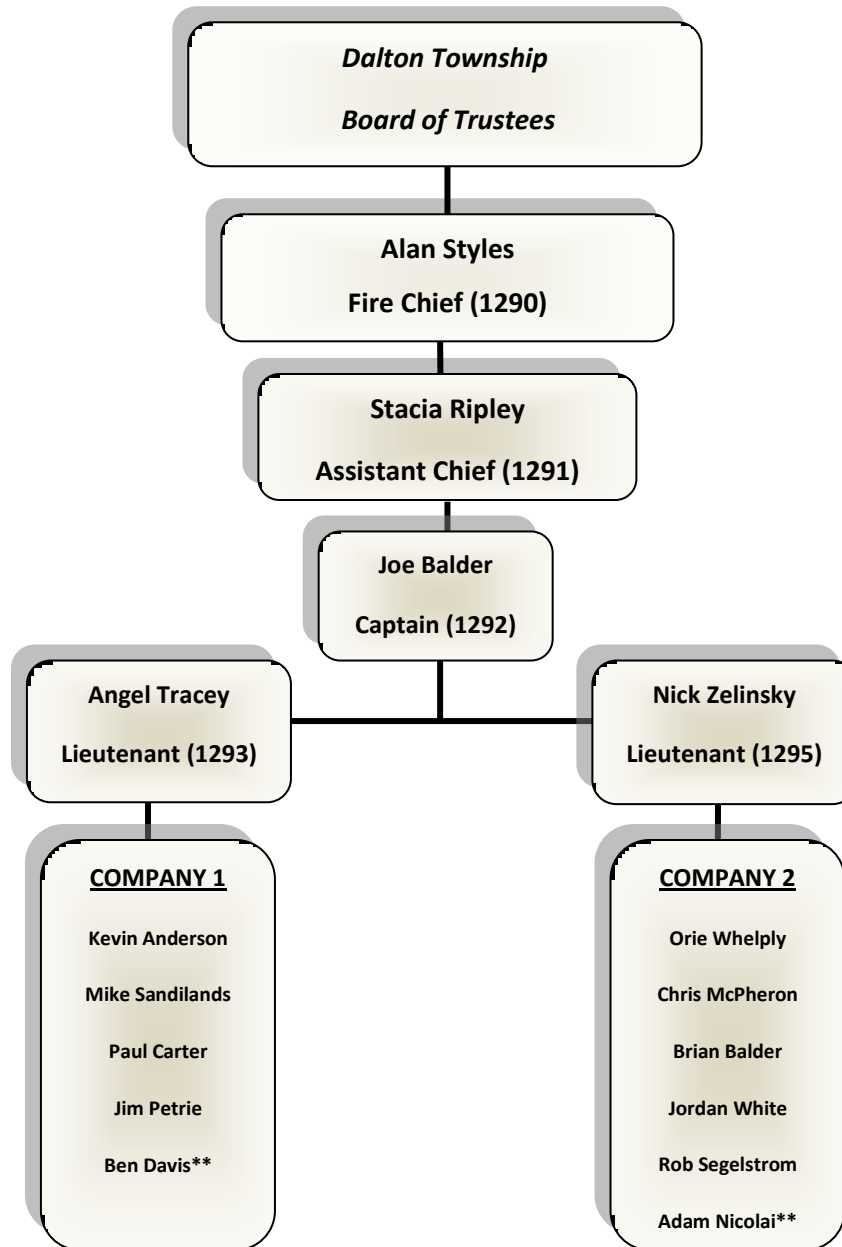
The Dalton Township Fire Department is presently operating with a compliment of 16 personnel; 1 Fire Chief, 1 Assistant Chief, 1 Fire Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 7 Firefighters, 2 Probationary Firefighters and 2 Cadets

For operational purposes, the personnel of the department are divided into 2 companies, each with a complement of personnel under the direction of a Lieutenant who is responsible to the Captain. The Lieutenants are also assigned other "areas of responsibility" within the fire department. The Captain is in charge of the station and is responsible for the maintenance of all station equipment, and facilities. The Assistant Chief also functions as the departments training officer, quartermaster and functions as the Fire Chief in his absence.

The department served a population of 9300 covering an area of 36 square miles. The Fire Department is also contracted to the Cedar Creek Township to provide fire and EMS services to area of 10 square miles with a population of 1000. The Fire Department enjoys an ISO rating of a 6/9.

Achievements in 2011

- Evaluated response efficiency and it was found we could sell our mini pumper and reallocate the “Duty Officers” vehicle to be the 1st response unit for medical calls, the mini pumper was sold for \$72,000 to a northern New York Fire Department.
- Continued open lines of communication within the Fire Department as well as with the Township Board and its employees.
- Joined in a collaborative purchase with other Muskegon County Fire Departments to purchase new SCBA’s, the purchase was made possible with the sale of the mini pumper.
- Reviewed and implemented Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines and Standard Operating Policies.
- Purchased a new Duty Officer response vehicle, and a new vehicle for the Fire Chief thus decreasing over all response times and operating costs, with the vehicles being identical, except for the year, it has allowed us to begin a replacement plan for the future.
- Allocated funding to upgrade the lights in the apparatus bay area, thus saving money with a more energy efficient system. Also programmable digital thermostats were purchased to again save funds.
- Assisted in the development, implementation & training of a new countywide incident accountability system.
- Joined in the Muskegon Area Training Cooperative Group; this is a number of Fire Departments in Muskegon County who have chosen to begin offering and participating in joint training programs at no cost to the departments involved.
- Redesign of Fire Department logo
- Held a successful Fire Prevention Open House with an attendance of over 450 citizens in 2 hours.
- Developed a plan that requires employees to “buy into” our organization and become more responsible for our equipment and its up keep.
- Completed the “Keep the Wreath Red” holiday safety programs 2nd year with no incidents.
- Received a \$2450.00 matching grant from State of MI DNR, to be used towards personal protective equipment.



***Denotes cadet*

Type of Call Definitions

The following are Types of Calls as used in this report. These call types are based on the National Fire Incident Reporting system (NFIRS).

Fire/Explosion: All calls concerned with actual burning or explosions. This category includes fires in buildings and vehicles as well as brush fires refuse fires and fires in spilled fuel.

Rescue: Calls are related to removing people from dangerous situations including extrication from crushed vehicles or machinery, removal from the water or ice, searching for lost persons and assisting people who are locked in a structure or vehicle.

Medical: Emergency medical situations, for example heart attacks, strokes and lack of respiration or occasions where people need a medical assist such as a fall without injury but need help in getting up.

Hazardous Condition: Situations of spills or leaks without ignition, excessive heat conditions, power lines down, aircraft emergencies, chemical emergencies and overpressure situations causing pipe or container ruptures.

Service: Calls involving people being locked out of structures, removing water from structures, assisting the police, checking unauthorized burning, smoke/odor investigations and steam or other vapor mistaken for smoke.

False Alarm: Alarm calls where no emergency situation exists such as malicious mischief, a bomb scare, alarm system malfunction and unintentional alarms.

Other: Calls not otherwise classified, these are usually responses discontinued before arrival on the scene.

INCIDENT TYPE	COUNT	% OF INCIDENTS
Fire		
Fire, Other	1	0.18%
Building Fire	22	3.96%
Cooking fire, contained to container	1	0.18%
Chimney fire, or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	5	0.90%
Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1	0.02%
Passenger vehicle fire	8	1.44%
Self-propelled motor home or recreational vehicle	1	0.18%
Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire	1	0.18%
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	2	0.36%
Natural vegetation fire, other	1	0.18%
Forest, woods or wildland fire	5	0.18%
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1	0.18%
Grass fire	1	0.18%
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1	0.18%
	<u>51</u>	<u>9.17%</u>
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (no fire)		
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	2	0.36%
	<u>2</u>	<u>0.36%</u>
Rescue & Emergency Medical Incident		
Rescue , EMS incident, other	2	0.36%
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	95	17.09%
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	228	41.01%
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	22	3.96%
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	2	0.36%
Extrication of victim (s) from vehicle	2	0.36%
	<u>351</u>	<u>63.13%</u>

Hazardous Condition (no fire)

Hazardous condition, other	1	0.18%
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	7	1.26%
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1	0.18%
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	1	0.18%
Overheated motor	1	0.18%
Power line down	24	4.32%
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1	0.18%
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	36	5.76%

Service Call

Person in distress, other	1	0.18%
Smoke or odor removal	1	0.18%
Public service assistance, other	2	0.36%
Assist police or other governmental agency	8	1.44%
Police matter	1	0.18%
Public service	1	0.18%
Assist invalid	17	3.06%
Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	0.18%
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	32	5.76%

Good Intent Call

Good intent call, other	48	8.63%
Dispatched & cancelled en-route	21	3.78%
Authorized controlled burning	1	0.18%
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	1	0.18%
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	4	0.72%
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	75	13.49%

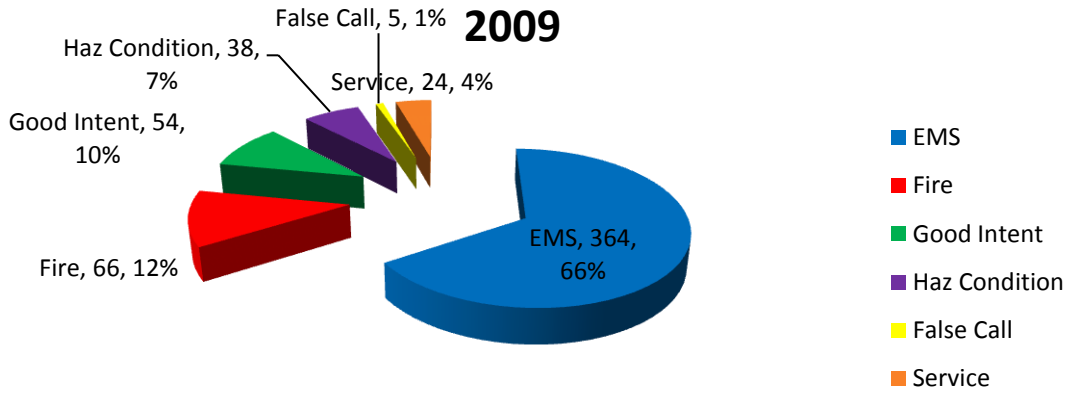
False Alarm & False Call

False alarm or false call, other	3	0.54%
System malfunction, other	3	0.54%
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	3	0.54%
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	9	1.62%

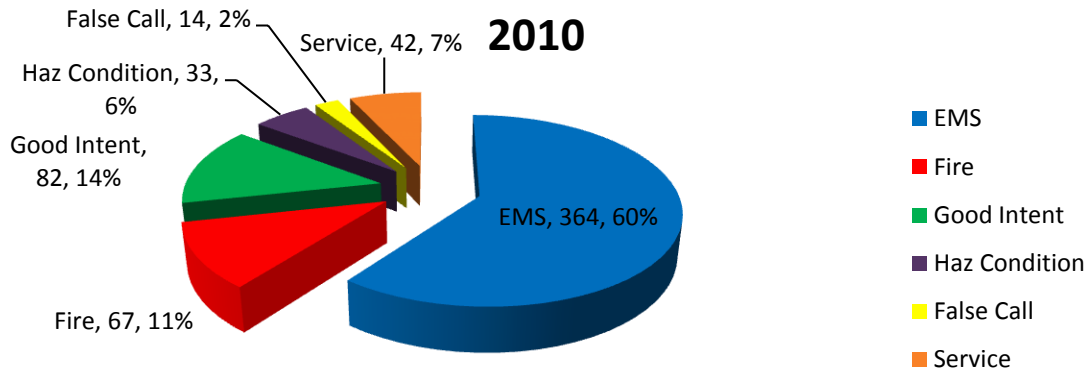
TOTALS **556**

District	False	Fire	Good Intent	Haz Cond	Overpressure	EMS/Rescue	Service Call	Total
Dalton Twsp	8	22	52	30	2	271	21	406
Cedar Creek	0	3	4	1	0	28	2	38
Lakewood Club	0	1	4	4	0	51	1	61
Mutual Aid	1	25	15	1	0	1	8	51

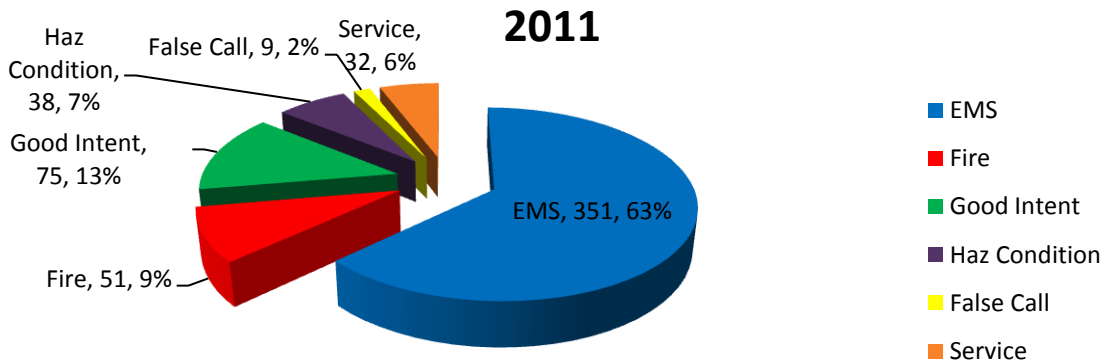
Total calls for 2009 = 551 (1.51 calls per day)



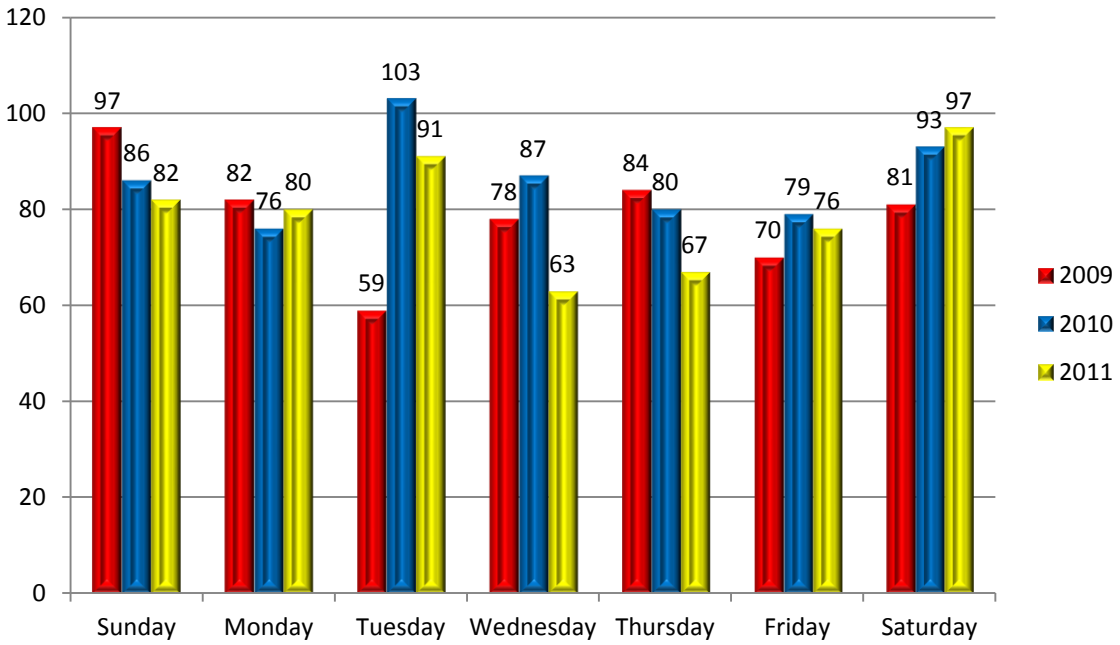
Total calls for 2010 = 604 (1.65 calls per day)



Total calls for 2011 = 556 (1.52 calls per day)

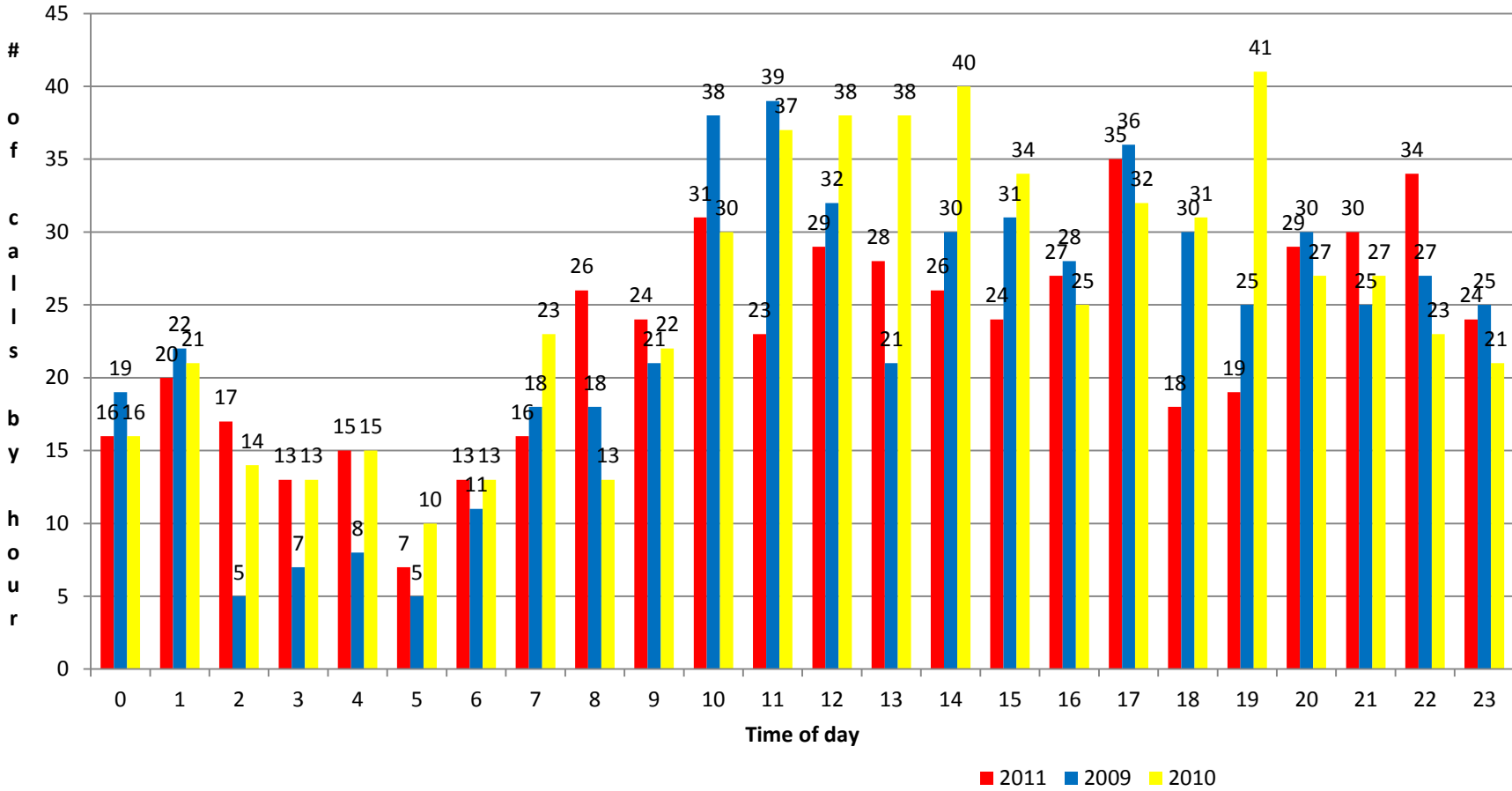


Responses by day of the week



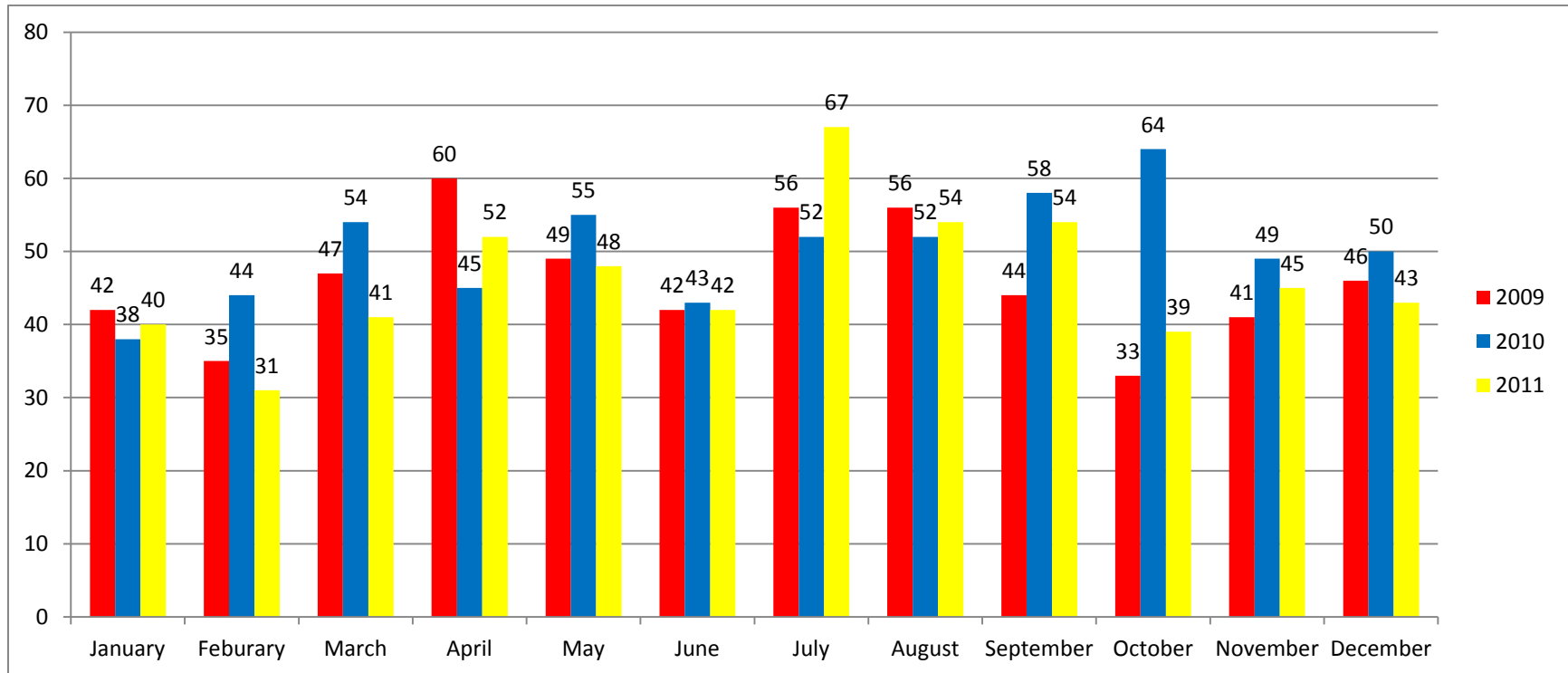
This graph represents the number of response by day of the week, per year.

Responses by time of day



This graph represents the number of calls by time of the day, per year

Reponses by Month



This graph represents monthly responses by year.

Department Apparatus

1220

2008 Peterbilt Pumper/Tanker, this vehicle is our engine that responds to our neighboring departments for fires, it is our 2nd tanker to respond within our response area. 1220 holds 2000 gallons of water. Cost per hour for this unit = \$222.35. This vehicle is due for replacement in 2028 (without 3 years in reserve).

1222

1997 Freightliner 4 person Engine, this is our 1st response to all structure fires. This vehicle holds 1000 gallons of water & all fire suppression equipment. Cost per hour for this unit is \$ 276.63. This vehicle is due for replacement in 2017 (without 3 years in reserve).

1254

2005 Chevy Colorado, this is the duty officer's vehicle, each week one of the FD Officers is assigned to this vehicle & responds to all calls, to ensure a rapid response to calls for service. This unit also carries basic EMS equipment and an AED. Cost for this unit per hour = \$24.68. This vehicle is due for in 7 to 8 years (mileage is a factor).

1260

2000 Freightliner Tanker, this 2000 gallon tanker is our 1st response tanker to our primary response area, but is available to neighboring departments if requested. Cost per hour for this unit = \$129.75. This vehicle is due for replacement in 2020 (without 3 years in reserve)

1272

2000 Freightliner Heavy Squad, this vehicle responds to all auto accidents as well as special rescue calls. It carries a full complement of extrication equipment (Jaws of Life), along with EMS equipment & other special rescue tools. 1272 also has an extra advantage it has a fire pump and water tank, making this a multi-purpose use vehicle. Cost per hour for this unit = \$202.50. This vehicle is due for replacement in 2015 (with no reserve).

1273

2007 Polaris Ranger 6x6 is an added specialty to our fleet. Since DTFD covers a large portion of the Manistee National Forest, along with numerous miles of horse trails throughout our Township, the 6x6 can go places other normal vehicles can't. It has the ability to transport 1 patient from a remote area, as well as act as a recon vehicle on large woods or forest fires. Cost per hour for this unit = \$10.50. (Replacement time is based on usage.)

1274

2009 Chevy Silverado, 1274 is our 1st response vehicle to all medical calls; it carries a full complement of EMS equipment, including an AED, 1274 also carries various rescue and firefighting equipment. Cost per hour for this unit = \$181.45. This vehicle is due for replacement in 7-8 years, mileage is a factor (with no reserve).

1275

The 14ft Zodiac boat is used for all water emergencies, our staff trains with the boat & water operations on a consistent basis due to the 5 lakes that are located in our primary response area. Cost per hour for this unit = \$28.11. Replacement of this unit is based on usage.

1281 & 1282

These are two (2) of our Brush trucks, these vehicles respond to all brush/woods fires. DTFD received 1281 & 1282 from the MI DNR as a revolving truck program; this allows us to have used state owned vehicles at a fraction of the normal cost & allows us to replace it on an as needed basis. Cost per hour per unit = \$17.18. Brush vehicles typically are replaced in 15 yrs (with an additional 3 years in reserve).

1284

1284 is also a MI DNR vehicle, the “jeep” is yet another piece of equipment that can go into so very “tight” places yet gives us the ability to fight fire on a big scale along with its towing ability it too is a vital part of our fleet. Cost per hour for this unit = \$10.84 Brush vehicles are typically replaced in 15 year (with an additional 3 years in reserve).

1290

2011 Chevy Colorado this vehicle is assigned to the Fire Chief; it carries vital equipment for management of emergency incidents, along with basic EMS equipment, including an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Cost per hour for this unit = \$23.18. Replacement in 5-7 years, (mileage/usage does play a factor).

DTFD Station 1

Built in 1995, the Fire Station has 4 double deep or “drive thru” bays, it also has a large training room equip with a computer and A/V equipment for state of the art trainings and meetings, there is also a small conference area/ study room that the firefighters can use as well. There are offices for both the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief respectively. A kitchen and “dayroom” area is connected so that the firefighters have the home like atmosphere when they are doing duty. It has a full bathroom/shower/locker area for the firefighters along with two bunk rooms (sleeping quarters). The station was recently modified to become “green” this has given us the ability to have our lights within the station to be on sensors, saving the department money.

Apparatus replacement plan (life expectancy definition)

Although there are no standards that give recommendations as to how long a given piece of apparatus should remain in service, but one can compare life expectancy based on other organizations. When doing so several factors were taken into account including but not limited to; frequency of use, engine hours, type of usage, preventive maintenance programs, maintenance records, odometer readings, technology changes in current apparatus, and general condition.

Goals for 2012

- ❖ Continue to maintain the highest level of service possible to those we protect. This will be accomplished through positive customer service, strong public education, training and remaining vigilant to our mission, core values and focus.
- ❖ Remain fiscally responsible with budget planning for FY 12-13, this will be accomplished with active budget planning and implementation of a balanced budget and remain within the constraints of the budget.
- ❖ Continue to find ways to maintain service on a limited budget
- ❖ Actively pursue any and all available grants to help supplement the budget.
- ❖ Continue to improve the overall operation function of the Department.
- ❖ Prepare and implement the FCC mandate of narrowband radio communication.
- ❖ Begin to draft a long term operational philosophy, which will include new capital purchases including but not limited to apparatus, turnout gear, station maintenance, etc.
- ❖ Maintain an open and honest communication line with the staff, Board and those we serve.