

# Annual Report



2010

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January 2011

Dalton Township Board of Trustees

It is with great pleasure I submit the 2010 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 604 calls for service. Of this total, 67 were calls to fires. Fortunately, there were no deaths attributable to fire in Dalton Township during calendar year 2010. Of the total fire calls we responded to, 13 were structure fires within our response area. This is a decrease of 1 from the previous year. The structures and contents involved in these fires sustained damage of \$533,250. The pre-incident value of the structures and contents involved in fires is estimated at \$1,174,250. A comparison of value to loss shows the fire department achieved a save rate of 54.59%.

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 364 medical calls in 2010. This accounts for 60% 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 development remains a priority. We are looking forward to new training programs department wide. We have improved our medical, fitness and inspection programs, but will continue to enhance those programs throughout the year. Improvement and maintenance of our fire station has progressed well and will continue this year with planned improvements to it.

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 17 personnel; 1 Fire Chief, 1 Assistant Chief, 1 Fire Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 9 Firefighters and 2 Probationary Firefighters.

For operational purposes, the personnel of the department are divided into three companies, each with a complement of 4 personnel (1 company having only 3) under the direction of a Lieutenant who is responsible to the Captain. 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, and functions as the Fire Chief in his absence.

The department served a population of 8,500 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 900. The Fire Department enjoys an ISO rating of a 6/9.

## Achievements in 2010

- Initiated and completed a search for a new full time Fire Chief with a start day of mid June.
- Revised the Departments mission statement along with the vision and core values, focusing on positive customer service.
- Opened lines of communication within the Fire Department as well as with the Township Board and its employees.
- Began to implement the "Pride and Ownership" philosophy within the department, again challenging the employees with positive values not only to themselves but those we serve.
- Reviewed and implemented Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines and Standard Operating Policies.
- Purchased new Command Truck for duty officer response, thus decreasing over all response times.
- Purchased new communication equipment, thus making Dalton Township Fire Department 100% narrowband compliant (with the anticipated F.C.C mandate for 2012).
- Redesign of Fire Department logo
- Held a successful Fire Prevention Open House with an attendance of over 450 citizens in 2 hours.
- Joined Muskegon County MABAS Division and a founding member and have played an iatrical part in its success.
- Implemented positive public education, including the "Keep the Wreath Red" holiday safety message.
- Received a \$1000.00 grant from State Farm Insurance Co, to be used towards Fire Prevention/Education.

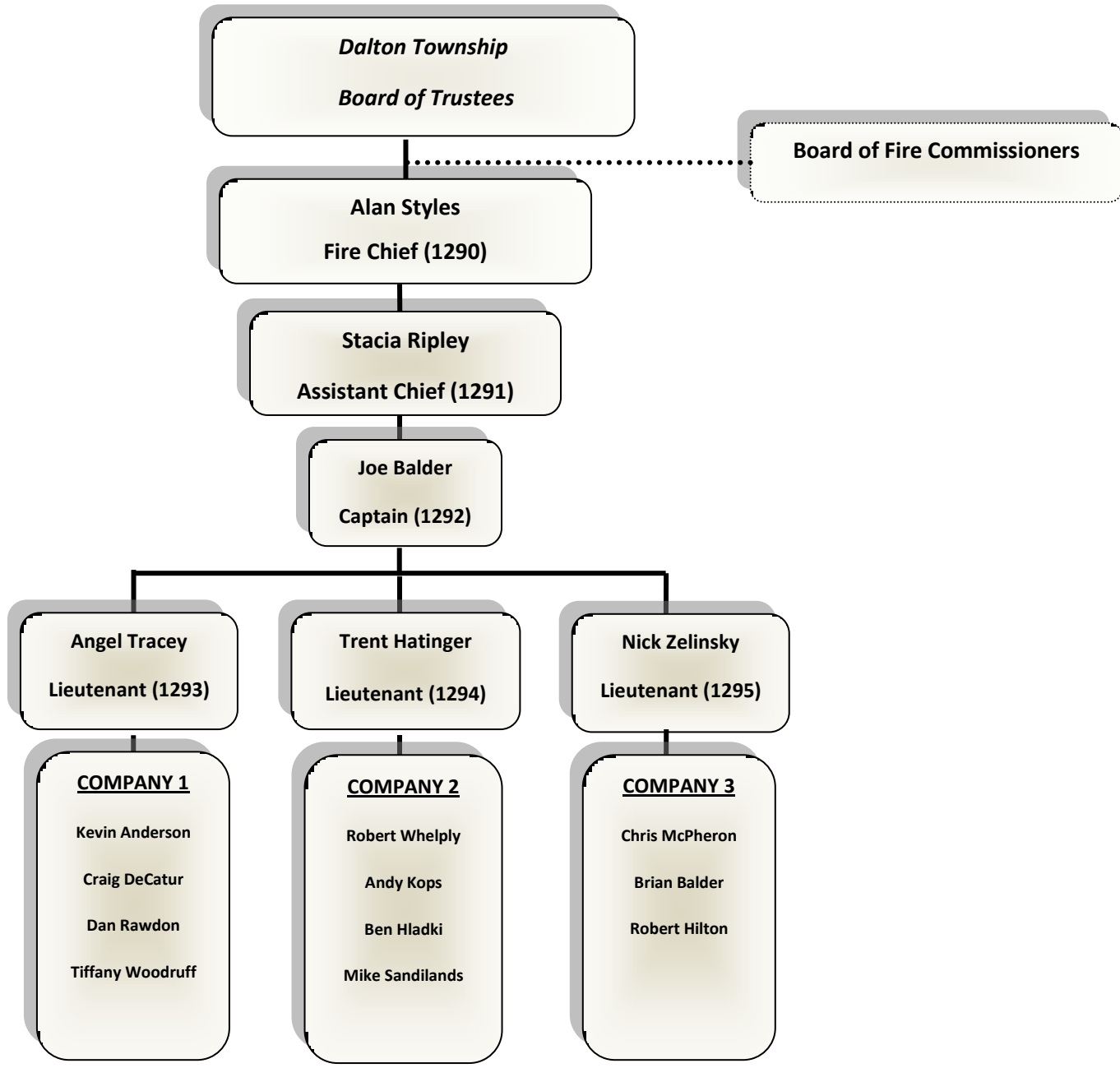
**Dalton Township  
Staff and Firefighters  
2010**



Front row left to right: Lt. Nick Zelinsky, Lt. Angel Tracey, Asst. Chief Stacia Ripley, Fire Chief Alan Styles, Capt. Joe Balder, and Lt. Trent Hatinger

Middle row left to right: FF's Rob Hilton, Tiffany Woodruff, Craig DeCatur, Robert Whepley, and Mike Sandilands

Back Row left to right: FF's Andy Kops, Brian Balder, Chris McPheron, Dan Rawdon, Ben Hladki, and Kevin Anderson





## 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.

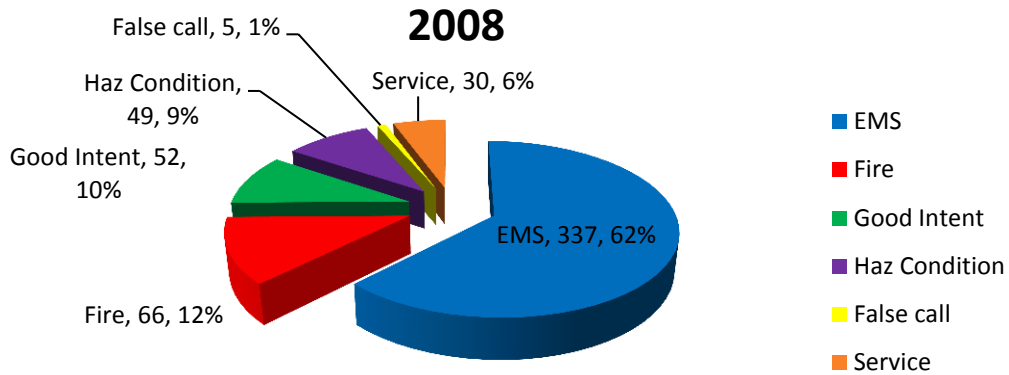
**Hazardous Condition:** Situations of spills or leaks without ignition, excessive heat conditions, power lines down, aircraft emergencies, chemical emergencies and overpressure situations causing pipe or container ruptures.

**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.

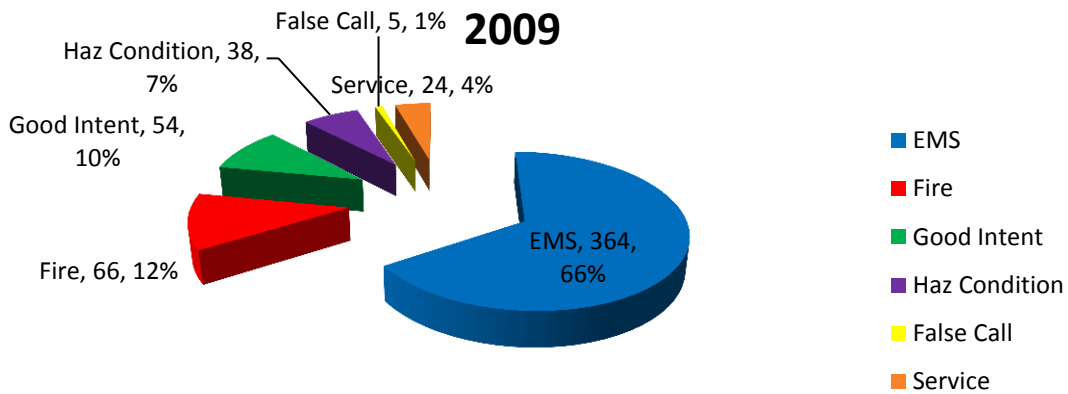
**False Alarm:** Alarm calls where no emergency situation exists such as malicious mischief, a bomb scare, alarm system malfunction and unintentional alarms.

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

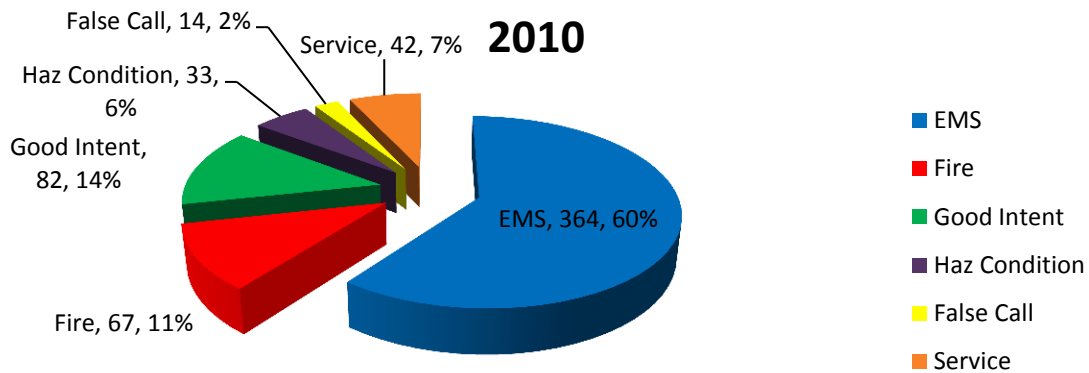
**Total calls for 2008 = 539 (1.48 calls per day)**



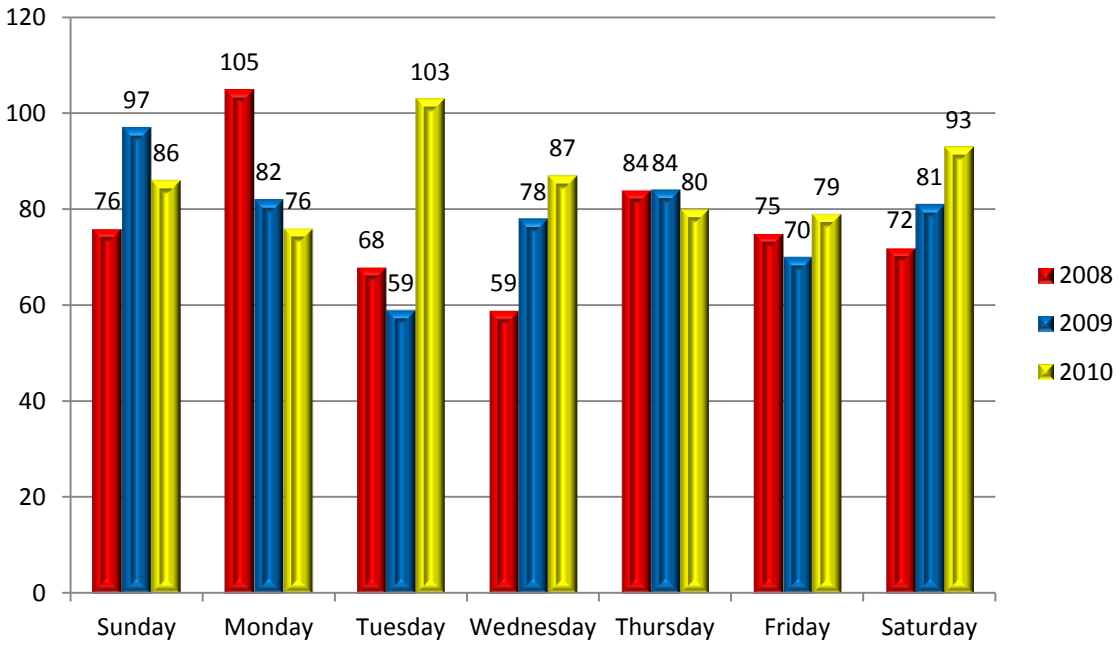
**Total calls for 2009 = 551 (1.51 calls per day)**



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

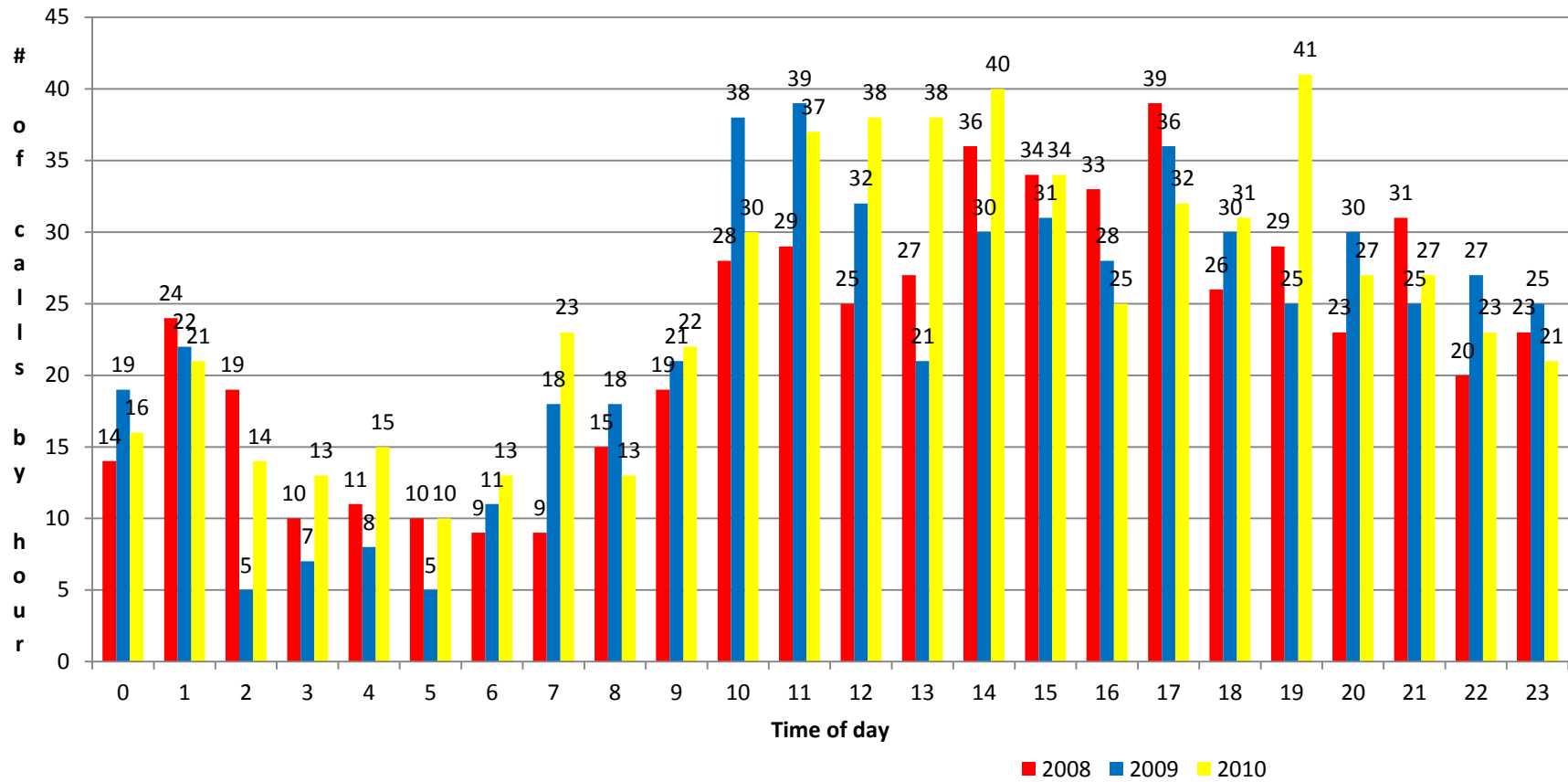


### Responses by day of the week



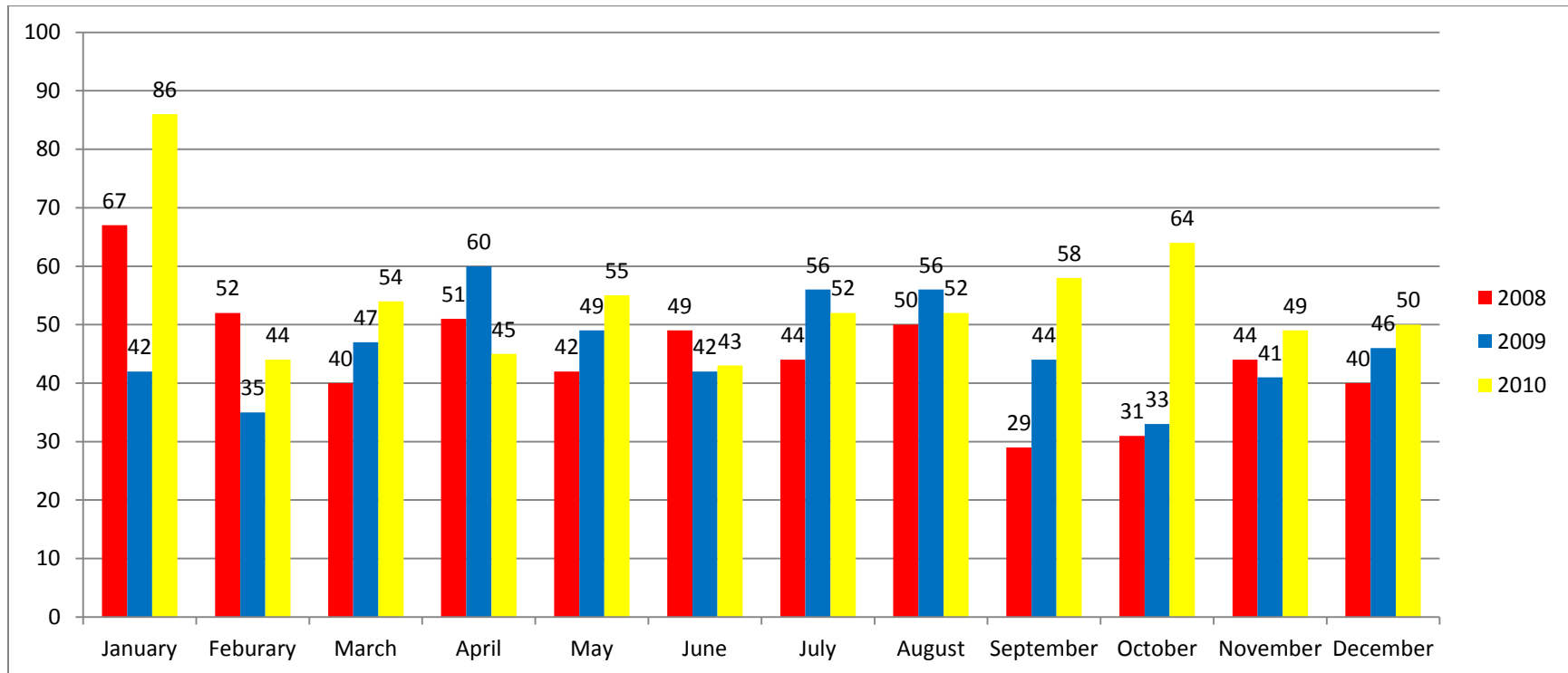
*This graph represents the number of response by day of the week, per year.*

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> tanker to respond within our response area. 1220 holds 2000 gallons of water. Cost per hour for this unit = \$239.25. This vehicle is due for replacement in 2028 (without 3 years in reserve).

### 1222

1997 Freightliner 4 person Engine, this is our 1<sup>st</sup> response to all structure fires. This vehicle holds 1000 gallons of water & all fire suppression equipment. Cost per hour for this unit is \$ 230.91. This vehicle is due for replacement in 2017 (without 3 years in reserve).

### 1251

2009 Chevy Silverado, 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 = \$28.75. This vehicle is due for in 7 to 8 years (mileage is a factor).

### 1260

2000 Freightliner Tanker, this 2000 gallon tanker is our 1<sup>st</sup> response tanker to our primary response area, but is available to neighboring departments if requested. Cost per hour for this unit = \$226.56. 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 = \$283.09. 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 = \$49.13. (Replacement time is based on usage.)

### **1274**

2006 Ford F550 Light Squad, 1274 is our 1<sup>st</sup> response vehicle to all medical calls; it carries a full complement of EMS equipment, including an AED, additionally because it too has a fire pump & water it can also respond to smaller fires, enabling DTFD to keep our larger vehicles in service. 1274 also carries various rescue and firefighting equipment. Cost per hour for this unit = \$181.45. This vehicle is due for replacement in 2021 (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 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. 1282 is a Dodge Ram Brush truck that is owned outright by the DTFD. Cost per hour per unit = \$84.18. 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 = \$70.23 Brush vehicles are typically replaced in 15 year (with an additional 3 years in reserve).

### **1290**

1999 Dodge Durango 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 = \$28.75. This vehicle was due to be replaced in 2007, (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 2011

- ❖ 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 10-11, 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.
- ❖ Research and implement a new hiring process along with a yearly employee evaluation process, in order to maintain positive recruitment and retention of the employees.
- ❖ Begin to draft a long term operational philosophy, which will include new capital purchases including but not limited to apparatus, SCBA's, turnout gear, etc. This plan will encompass the next 1, 3, 5, and 10 years, thus allowing us to remain current with the ever changing mandates that are set for the Fire Service as a whole.
- ❖ Maintain an open and honest communication line with the staff, Board and those we serve.