



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



## Cedar Area Fire & Rescue

8907 Railroad Ave.  
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Cedar, MI 49621

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

2020 was truly a year that we will never forget. Never did we imagine that we as a world, country, state, and local government would have so many obstacles to overcome that were so out of our control. I would like to thank the public for their unwavering support during these uncertain times. We would not be able to complete our mission without you.

True to form, the members of Cedar Area Fire and Rescue met the challenges of 2020 head on and with the highest degree of professionalism. Our staff along with other community leaders were able to develop and implement a plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as it was happening. Our plan remains fluid and continues to include our partners around the community. One example of collaboration with our community partners was the dedicated COVID-19 response ambulance. Area Fire Chiefs, with the blessing of our Medical Control Authority, provided a “No Boundary” response with ambulances staffed and specifically equipped for potential and confirmed cases of COVID in our area. There were times that our ambulance was in Glen Lake’s station staffed with members of other departments. This effort was truly a remarkable feat in the spirit of what is best for our community.

Even though COVID changed how we did business, the business of moving our department forward never stopped. With the support of our fire and partner township boards we took delivery of a brand-new four-wheel drive rescue engine from Pierce Manufacturing of Appleton, Wisconsin. This new apparatus replaced our old engine when it became apparent that it was no longer feasible to continue to repair it. It is the only known custom cab four-wheel drive engine in the state according to Halt Fire, the vendor that we purchased the engine through. The new engine will allow us to continue to provide exceptional service for many years to come.

When 2020 began I was serving in the capacity of your Assistant Chief of Operations. Throughout the year our membership could not have made me prouder of how they handled all the obstacles that were thrown their way. COVID, cancelled training, new equipment implementation and many more. The one obstacle that none of us saw coming was the sudden announcement of Chief Comeaux’s retirement in September. In the wake of this news the fire board appointed me the Interim Fire Chief in October. Chief Comeaux continued to contribute to our department by serving as a resource for me, which made the transition nearly seamless. During this time, our staff stepped up and again met the challenge of me not being able to be at the station with the same frequency as Chief Comeaux, continuing their unrivaled professionalism and dedication to our community.

I would like to close by expressing my appreciation for Chief Comeaux and the direction he was able to lead our department in. Cedar Area Fire and Rescue has never in its history been in a better place. That is a testament to the leadership that Chief Comeaux provided the department and its members. With those lessons and a deep commitment to our community, Cedar Area Fire and Rescue will move into 2021 with optimism and a promise to continue to provide exceptional service to the citizens of Cleveland, Centerville, Solon and Kasson Townships.

Respectfully,  
Andrew T. Doornbos  
Interim Chief of Department

## FIRE DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue is located in the heart of beautiful Leelanau County. Our single fire station is situated next to Victoria Creek in the Polish historical town of Cedar. On April 1, 2016, the Solon/Centerville Fire Department, owned by Solon and Centerville Townships and serving Kasson and Cleveland Townships by contract, was reorganized as Cedar Area Fire & Rescue. This new department is governed by an interlocal agreement that includes Solon, Centerville, Cleveland, and Kasson Townships as equal partners. This interlocal agreement authorizes a five-member Fire Board to govern the department and includes one representative from each partner township and a citizen at large.

Your 2020 Cedar Area Fire & Rescue board:

Greg Julian, Chairman – Kasson Township  
Rick Royston, Vice Chairman – Cleveland Township  
Dave Wurm, Treasurer – Centerville Township  
Dan Leach, Secretary – Solon Township  
John DePuy – Member at Large

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue is a combination department with full-time and part-time staff that provide all levels of firefighting, emergency medical services and technical skills to our community twenty-four hours a day 365 days a year. With our two-person duty crew, we are able to provide Basic Life Support ambulance transport for EMS calls. For those calls that require a higher level of care than we can currently provide, we receive Advanced Life Support through contracts with North Flight EMS and Leland Township Fire & Rescue. Fire responses in our jurisdiction are handled with a multitude of specialized equipment including a fire engine, water tanker, wildfire truck, and a Kubota UTV. These vehicles carry specialized equipment which allow us to handle incidents including structural and wildland fires, vehicle accidents, ice and water rescues, wilderness and other types of technical rescues and Hazardous Materials incidents. Our department has an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) rating of 9-10. This rating reflects a multitude of criteria that we use to better provide service to our community.

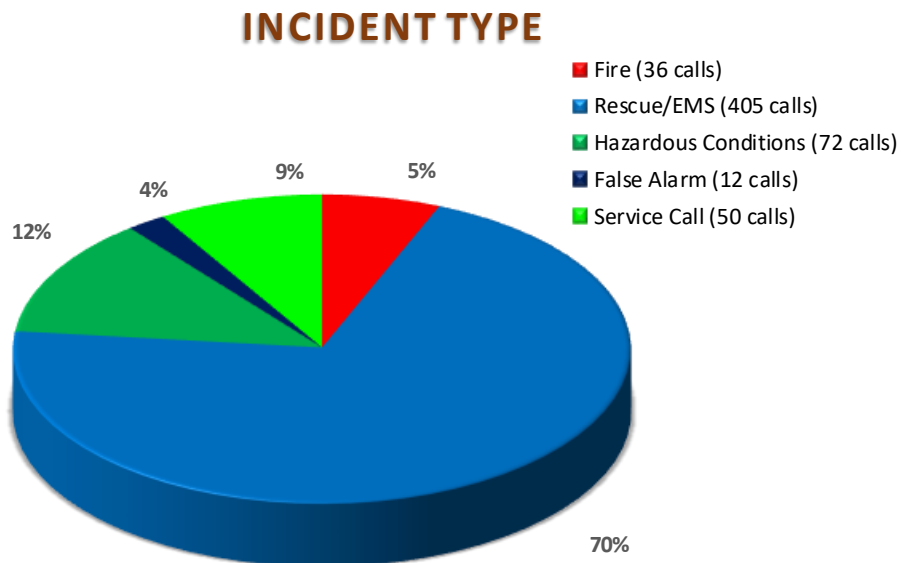
As of the 2010 Census, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue serves 5,531 citizens throughout our four townships. Summer residents and a healthy local tourism industry boost our population greatly from Memorial Day to Labor Day which results in our busiest time of the year. Centerville, Cleveland, Kasson and Solon Townships account for 25.42% of the total population of Leelanau County. We cover 121.1 square miles of land and 45.8 square miles of water totaling almost 167 square miles of response area (72.5% land & 27.4% water). This area equates to 21% of Leelanau County, and is the largest coverage area of any department in the area. CAFR receives the second highest calls for service with the lowest operating budget in the county.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

In 2020, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue responded to 575 calls. This was a substantial increase from the 510 calls run in 2019 and 513 calls run in 2018.

### INCIDENT RESPONSES BY TYPE

Incident Type	# of Incidents	% of Total
Fires	36	6.26
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	405	70.43
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire)	72	12.52
Service Calls & Good Intent Calls	50	8.70
False Alarm & False Call	12	2.09
Total	575	100%



Of the 405 rescue and EMS calls, there were 239 patients transported. In 2020, 189 calls involved Advanced Life Support, with intercepts from Glen Lake, Leland, or Northflight/MMR. Aid was given to other departments 17 times, and received 84 times. These calls included aid given and received for fires, and overlapping calls where other agencies covered calls for us. Overall, CAFR had an average time of 2:28 from the time we were dispatched until the time that equipment left the station, and an average response time of 12:20 to the scene.

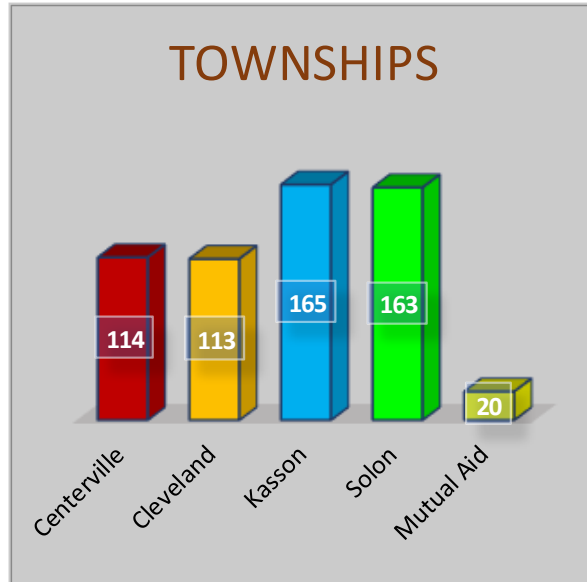
## INCIDENT RESPONSES BY TOWNSHIP

Township	# of Incidents	% of Total
Centerville	114	19.82
Cleveland	113	19.65
Kasson	165	28.70
Solon	163	28.35
Mutual Aid Calls	20	3.48
Total	575	100%

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue responded to a wide range of calls in 2020. The majority of the calls were EMS and rescue calls, throughout the four townships and as mutual aid to other departments.

The department responded to a substantial number of motor vehicle accidents in 2020, including 4 in Cleveland Township, 1 in Centerville Township, 16 in Solon Township, 8 in Kasson Township, and 1 in which CAFR aided another department. Overall, fire calls

were up throughout the service area, with 6 in Cleveland Township, 3 in Centerville Township, 6 in Solon Township, and 13 in Kasson Township. In addition, CAFR responded to 8 in other service areas through mutual aid.



CAFR drew on the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) during an August incident which involved a major commercial structure fire in Kasson Township. In addition to aid from other Leelanau departments, Cedar received a “strike team” of five tankers from Grand Traverse and Benzie County departments to assist with water supply and manpower during this incident, which involved crews being on scene for approximately 14 hours.

In 2020, CAFR responded to fires involving property with a pre-incident value of \$2,025,493. In total, losses totaled \$1,103,493, with saved property valued at \$922,000.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

In March 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting much of Michigan, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue, like departments across the state, changed staffing and response procedures. The department was unfortunately closed to the public, and staff members instituted strict health checks, equipment disinfection protocols, and the wearing of additional personal protective equipment (PPE) on every call.

Leelanau County departments also developed and staffed a program with two ambulances dedicated to responding to and transporting known or potential COVID-positive patients. CAFR staff assisted with the staffing of a COVID-dedicated ambulance stationed at the Leland station and responding to calls in the northern and eastern portions of the county, while the CAFR backup ambulance was stationed at the Glen Arbor station as a COVID-dedicated ambulance covering the southern and western portions of the county.

The staffing of dedicated COVID-positive patient ambulances was discontinued in May, but the program remains ready for re-activation in case of a spike in COVID-positive transports. CAFR staff continue to wear additional PPE on every call, as well as performing additional disinfection protocols after patient contacts.



## STAFFING AND TRAINING

In 2020, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue was led by full-time chief Chris Comeaux, assisted by part-time assistant chief Andy Doornbos. The department operates with a full-time staff of six firefighter/EMTs, providing 24/7 coverage to the service area. The full-time staff are represented by the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 4953. The department ended 2020 with ten part-time personnel, who assist the department by filling open shifts and responding to calls that need additional personnel.

CAFR conducts training in several ways, including online, in-station, in cooperation with other local departments, and by sending personnel to training facilities in and out of state. In 2020, two firefighter candidates began training for Firefighter I and II, which will add two more firefighters to the department roster. These candidates will be attending classes in all aspects of firefighting, including HazMat Operations and Vehicle Extrication. One full-time member and three part-time members completed their EMT training in mid-2020.

In March, CAFR, along with members from multiple Leelanau departments, conducted live-fire training at a residential structure slated for demolition. This training covered fire extinguishment, ventilation, search and rescue, and post-fire overhaul. Two members of the department completed ice rescue operations and technician training, and later in the year completed agricultural rescue operations training. One member of the department completed officer-level training. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple other in-person trainings were cancelled.



## APPARATUS

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue operates with the following apparatus:

- Two Basic Life Support Ambulances
- One 2,000 gallon water tanker
- One 750 gallon, 4 wheel drive fire engine
- One wildland brush truck
- One echo unit/mobile command vehicle
- One ORV with firefighting and rescue capability

All apparatus is maintained and inspected weekly by the full-time duty crew. These inspections ensure that the apparatus and equipment is functioning and ready for any emergency at any time of the day. All employees train and operate the apparatus extensively for proficiency in emergency situations.

## NEW APPARATUS

In 2020, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue received one new piece of equipment and sold one older piece of equipment.

A new engine, meant to replace the 2004 unit that was at that time serving as the primary engine, was ordered in late 2019. It was delivered and put into service in September 2020. Soon after the new engine was ordered, inspections showed extensive frame damage to the existing 2004 engine. Originally, this unit was planned to be placed in reserve status, but it was instead sold in early 2020. A loaned apparatus from Glen Lake Fire & Rescue was used until the new engine was received.





## FIRE PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2020, the fire prevention and community outreach programs conducted by Cedar Area Fire & Rescue were severely curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The department hopes to continue smoke detector, wildland-urban interface inspections, and National Fire Prevention Month activities in 2021, dependent on the progression of the pandemic.

The department also began preparation for conducting pre-planning of commercial, industrial, and public buildings in the service area in 2021. These pre-plans will allow department members to have advance knowledge of major buildings to allow for more efficient responses to fire, EMS and hazardous materials calls.



## GRANTS

CAFR frequently applies for grants to purchase needed and useful equipment, both large and small.

In 2020, grants and donations received included:

- In January 2020, CAFR was awarded \$20,000 from the Grand Traverse Band for the purchase of new cordless extrication equipment. Costing \$30,000 in total, these new tools will allow for better, faster, safer extrication of patients from motor vehicles.

Grants and donations are a vital source of equipment funding for the department, and we will continue to apply for new grants as they become available.



## DEPARTMENT ROSTER

(As of 12/31/2020)

### ADMINISTRATION

Chief Chris Comeaux

Assistant Chief Andy Doornbos

Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant Dana Boomer

### FULL-TIME STAFF

Lt. Tim Johnson

Lt. Kevin Mikowski

Lt. Joe Voiles

FF/EMT Jake Garris

FF/EMT Avery Pucelik

FF/EMT Matt Maus

### PART-TIME STAFF

FF/Paramedic Jeff Friend

FF/Paramedic Kyle Montieth

FF/EMT Peter Bean

FF/EMT Don McMullen

FF/EMT Ken Fritz

FF/EMT Eric Clone

FF/EMR Chance Gallagher

FF Austin Novak

Probationary FF/EMT Zorran

VanZandt

Probationary FF/EMT Julie

Davidson

