



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Cedar Area Fire & Rescue

8907 Railroad Ave.
PO Box 208
Cedar, MI 49621

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to our citizens for the continued support that Cedar Area Fire & Rescue receives. After being your Chief for the past year I have learned that this community is one of the most caring and neighborly communities that I have ever lived and worked in.

As you will see throughout this report, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue has made progress in 2018, including improving our public education program, replacing and purchasing new capital equipment, and improving our training program. This was all completed by the hard work put in by our seven full-time members, twelve part-time members, and two part-time administrative support staff.

2018 proved to be a challenging year. Our call volume increased by forty-three percent without adding any extra full-time staff. There was also a budget shortfall discovered, which made for some difficult budget cuts throughout the year. With that being said, I would like to thank all our townships for the capital improvement infusion that will total \$360,000 over a two-year period that began in 2018. This infusion will help tremendously as we still need to replace over \$600,000 in vital capital equipment over the next five years.

In 2019, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue will continue our smoke detector installation program that began in 2018. On top of the smoke detector program, our department will also begin a wildland-urban interface fire prevention program called Fire Wise. Given the location of many of our residential, agricultural, and commercial structures this will have a great impact on the community. The third project that will be worked on throughout the next year will be reducing our ISO rating which is currently a 9/10.

I would like to send out a personal thank you to the Friends of Cedar Area Fire & Rescue, Cedar Fire Association, Lions Club, Cedar Chamber of Commerce, and all the residents who assisted in raising funds for the fire department in 2018.

Again, I am proud to be your Chief. I will continue to be committed and keep this department moving forward for all our citizens. For those who have not met me yet, I have an open-door policy. If anyone ever has a question or concern, please stop by the station or call (231) 228-5396 and I will be happy to have a discussion.

Stay Safe,

Christopher M. Comeaux
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 new interlocal agreement permits a five-member Fire Board to provide guidance to the department and includes one representative from each partner township and a citizen at large.

Your 2018 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, snowmobile 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.

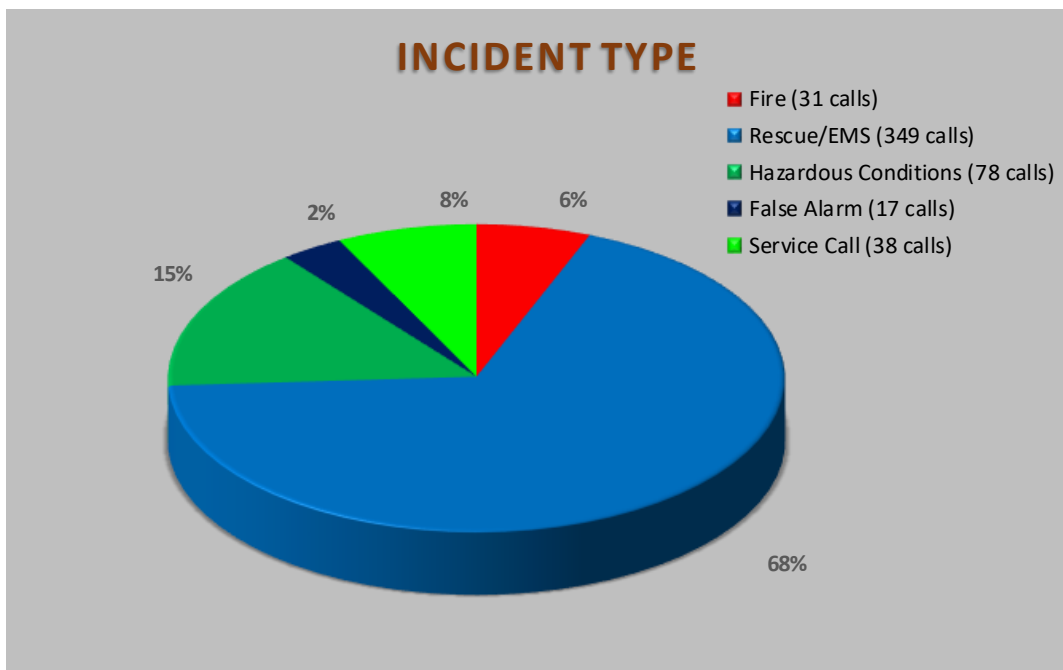
Our Station is open to the public everyday from 8am-4pm and we welcome everyone to stop in and take a tour and meet your firefighters!

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

In 2017, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue ran 358 calls. In 2018, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue responded to 513 calls, which is a 43% increase in year-over-year totals.

INCIDENT RESPONSES BY TYPE

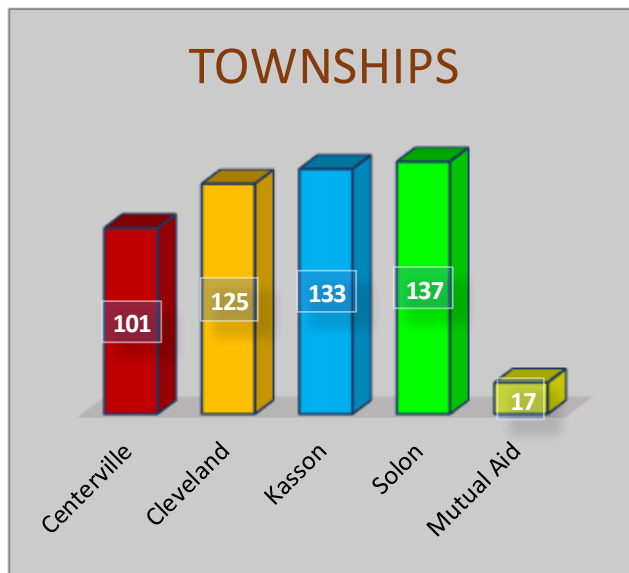
Incident Type	# of Incidents	% of Total
Fires	31	6.04
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	349	68.03
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire)	78	15.20
Service Calls & Good Intent Calls	38	7.41
False Alarm & False Call	17	3.31
Total	513	100%



INCIDENT RESPONSES BY TOWNSHIP

Township	# of Incidents	% of Total
Centerville	101	19.69
Cleveland	125	24.37
Kasson	133	25.93
Solon	137	26.70
Mutual Aid Calls	17	3.31
Total	513	100%

Kasson Township had the greatest number of fires at 9, followed by Centerville at 8, and Solon and Cleveland at 3 each. Solon Township had the greatest number of rescue & EMS calls at 110, followed by Kasson at 91, Cleveland at 78 and Centerville at 66. Other calls during the year included road hazards, carbon monoxide or fire alarm checks, downed power lines, water rescues, hazardous materials releases, technical rope rescues, and wildland search and rescue.



STAFFING AND TRAINING

In early 2018, full-time chief Chris Comeaux joined the department. CAFR 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 2018 with 11 part-time personnel and one firefighter candidate, who assist the department by filling open shifts and assisting with calls that need additional personnel.

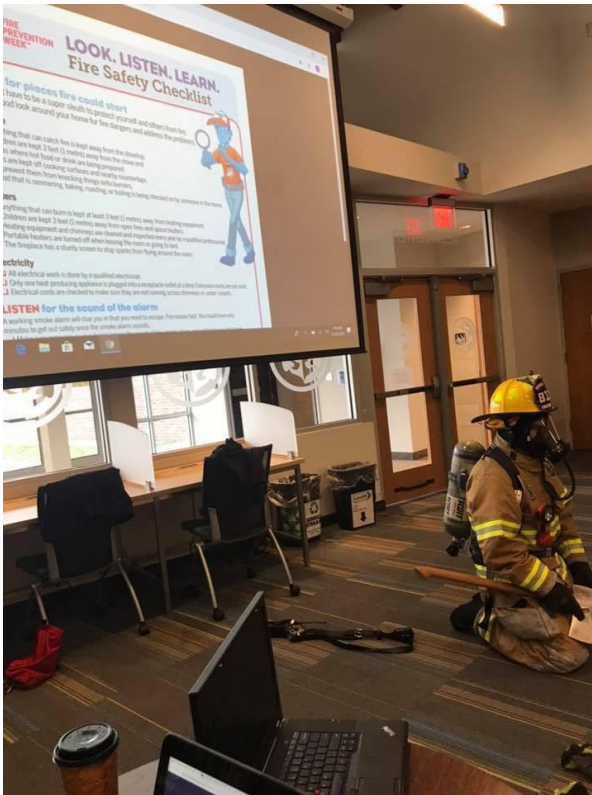
CAFR conducts training in several ways, including online, in-station, in cooperation with other local departments, and by sending personnel to training facilities in and out of state. In 2018, CAFR worked with Leland Township Fire & Rescue on several trainings covering various aspects of fire operations. CAFR participated in a sand-dune rescue training session that included the National Park Service, the Bay Area Technical Rescue Team (with representatives from Traverse City Fire Department and Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department), Glen Lake Fire Department and Leland Township Fire & Rescue. The department also participated in a county-wide disaster drill that included Leland Area Fire & Rescue, Grand Traverse Band Fire & Rescue, Leland Public Schools & the Leelanau County Sheriff's Department. Personnel from multiple local departments, including CAFR, participated in SCBA technician training at Elmwood Fire Department.



Chief Comeaux attended the National Fire Academy, in Emmitsburg, MD, for further training in subjects related to his position as our chief. Two full-time members were sent to south-east Michigan for rope operations training, and the department also sent one full-time member to fire apparatus engineer training at University of Illinois in Champaign, IL.

FIRE PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2018, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue began a smoke alarm inspection and installation program in homes throughout the four-township service area. In collaboration with the American Red Cross, which provided free smoke alarms to the fire department, CAFR was able to install over 200 alarms over the course of the year. CAFR plans to continue this program throughout 2019.



During the year, CAFR initiated planning for a wildland-urban interface public education program that will begin in 2019. This program will educate our citizens about property management methods that can help protect their homes in case of wildfires.

Every October is Fire Prevention Month. During this month, an open house was held to allow the public to tour the fire station, examine the apparatus, and meet the staff. In addition, duty crew members taught a class in identifying fire hazards, listening for signs of fire, and practicing escape plans, titled "Look, Listen, Learn: Fire Can Happen Anywhere" to K-8 students at Glen Lake Schools. In 2018, CAFR also held a CPR class for community members at the fire department.

APPARATUS

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue operates with the following apparatus:

- Two Basic Life Support Ambulances
- One 2,000 gallon water tanker
- One 1,000 gallon, 4 wheel drive fire engine
- One wildland brush truck
- One echo unit/mobile command vehicle
- One 2002 Arctic Cat Snowmobile with rescue sled
- 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 2018, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue purchased two new pieces of equipment, ordered a third, and sold three older pieces of equipment.

A new truck was purchased to replace the existing 1984 wildland brush unit, which was showing extensive signs of wear. The new truck was fully outfitted for use as a wildland firefighting apparatus, as well as for use removing road hazards and monitoring downed power lines. It will also be used to pull the trailers for the snowmobile and ORV, depending on the season.



A new echo unit/mobile command vehicle was also purchased. This truck will be used by the chief or acting commanding officer in the absence of the chief. This vehicle is in the process of being licensed to be used as a non-transporting medical response vehicle, as well as a mobile command vehicle for use at large incidents.

A new ambulance, meant to replace the 1997 unit currently used as a backup, was ordered in late 2018. It has a projected delivery date of mid-2019. Once the new ambulance is received, the 1997 ambulance will be sold and the 2012 unit currently used as a primary response vehicle by the department will be moved to backup status.

In 2018, the department also sold our 1986 tanker and 1994 ladder truck. Both pieces of equipment were rarely used, and costly to maintain. These pieces of equipment will be replaced as needed and as funding becomes available.

GRANTS

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

In 2018, grants and donations received included:

- The National Park Service funded a grant for seven sets of wildland fire turnout gear. This would have cost the department approximately \$3,500 to purchase.
- A \$15,500 grant was received from the Grand Traverse Band for a powered cot to install in the primary ambulance; this grant had been applied for in 2017 and was received in 2018.
- Approximately \$1,000 worth of hand tools were donated to the department by Fire Axe, Inc. in California.
- Fire Hooks, Inc. in New York also donated hand tools worth approximately \$600.

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 12/31/2018)

ADMINISTRATION
Chief Chris Comeaux

FULL-TIME STAFF
Lt. Tim Johnson
Lt. Herb Sudemann
Lt. Kevin Mikowski

FF/EMT Bobby Handa
FF/EMT Ronnie Dubois
FF/EMT Cody Carlson

PART-TIME STAFF
FF/EMT Peter Bean
FF/EMT Andy Doornbos
FF/Paramedic Jeff Friend
FF Brent Garvin
FF Ryan Gembarowski
FF/Paramedic Daren Mansfield
FF/EMT Don McMullen
FF Austin Novak
FF/EMT Jake Strait
FF/Paramedic Curtis Walters
FF/EMT Rachel Zemanek

FF Candidate Matt Maus

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
Bookkeeper David Milliron
Administrative Assistant Dana Boomer



Fire Chief Dan Petroskey and several other long-time members of the department retired in 2018. We would like to thank them for their dedication to Cedar Area Fire & Rescue over the years.

Thank you for your service!