

2020 Annual Report

Leland Township Fire & Rescue



www.lelandfiredept.org

Proudly serving the communities of Leland and Lake Leelanau

From The Fire Chief

As I reflect back on 2020 and begin to prepare our 2020 Leland Township Fire & Rescue (LTF&R) annual report I believe that we continued to concentrate our focus on being better prepared to respond when the community calls – whether that is through staffing, training, equipment, or response plans.

In 2020 we concentrated on making sure we continue to meet *and exceed* our self-imposed core values of being **caring**, **compassionate**, **competent**, and **confident** when serving the needs of the communities. Now you are probably thinking “Chief Besson didn’t you mean to use the word community instead of communities?” Well yes...and no. Sure our first concentration in certainly to Leland Township but as statistics will show we responded to 129 calls **outside** of Leland Township in 2020. The neighboring fire chiefs and I understand that calls come in at all hours of the day and night (sometimes at the same time!) and some are more intense than others and require an all-hands-on-deck approach! Fire doesn’t know geographical boundaries so no matter where a structure fire may occur - firefighters from across the county will be called on to help.

The fire chiefs in Leelanau County have made a concerted effort to build a box alarm system that identifies where our help will be coming from long before a 9-1-1 call is made. Systems have been put in place to have departments throughout the county backfill their stations with off-duty firefighters, as an incident intensifies, to provide additional manpower or cover other calls as needed. In 2020, Leland Township entered into an automatic mutual aid agreement with Cedar Area and Glen Lake fire departments too.

On the medical side of things we also look at better ways to provide services. We continue to purchase equipment that will help us do our jobs more efficiently in order to render advanced life support to those patients needing it. By converting an administrative vehicle to an Advanced Life Support non-transporting vehicle (“Echo”) we have instituted a new EMS response procedure when providing services to Centerville and Cleveland Townships – saving wear and tear on our main ambulance.

In April we began staffing our Leland Fire Station on a more regular basis using part-time employees. Although we aimed for a more consistent staffing model we found the overall availability of our part-time employees led to sporadic coverage and was operationally challenging.

As we closed out 2020 we continued to alter the way we trained, responded, cleaned, sanitized, or otherwise operated because of the impacts of COVID-19. Fortunately our crews remained safe.



Fire Chief Dan Besson



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COVID-19 and LTFR

The Leland Township Fire & Rescue (LTFR) forged through during the COVID-19 pandemic like other local and regional emergency services providers.

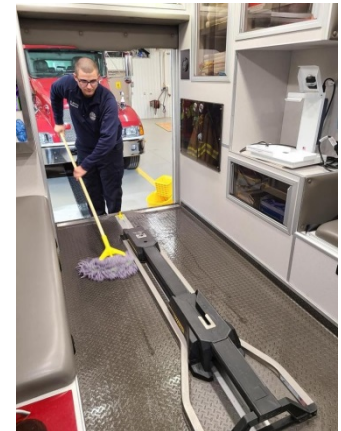
We obtained additional personal protective equipment including masks, gloves, and gowns for our crews – purchasing them when supplies ran out locally. As you can imagine things like surgical masks, N-95 masks, and nitrile gloves ran out quickly forcing agencies to find them from unique sources.

Initially we allowed cloth; homemade masks to be worn as part of our personal protective equipment – leaving the heavily sought-after N-95 masks for those “COVID positive” calls but then the screening of 911 calls to help identify COVID patients stopped and so did the data, from the health department, that we used to identify homes where a positive COVID patient was living. Suddenly all patients were to be treated as COVID positive and the donning of costly protective equipment became standard on nearly every call.

The nitrile gloves that we had been wearing on every single medical call for the past two plus decades were suddenly unavailable – bidding fire and EMS providers from coast to coast against each other for supplies. Rural agencies, like the LTFR, typically do not stockpile most specialized personal protective equipment – having enough supplies on hand to handle about 10% of their annual call volume which, in our case, is 50 calls.

When it came to cleaning and disinfecting – we also found supplies low throughout the United States and had to rely on supplies brought in by county and state agencies and distributed evenly. We were fortunate enough to buy two hand-sanitizer stands and a portable disinfectant system, which uses a ultraviolet light to kill germs, for the fire stations.

Leland Township joined forces with other Leelanau County fire agencies to staff two COVID response ambulances as cases began to hit the county. One of those ambulances was housed at the Leland Fire Station and would only respond on suspect COVID patients.



"The mission of the Leland Township Fire and Rescue is to serve the community by protecting life, property, and the environment through preparation, prevention, and response."

LTFR Mission Statement



Above: Leland Township Firefighters are practicing water supply techniques while drafting water from a water tank, supplied by Tanker 521, into Engine 511 at a training session.



Insurance Services Office Review

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) collects and evaluates information from communities throughout the United States on their structure fire suppression capabilities. This data is then analyzed and compared to best practices, capabilities, and an assortment of other things to assign a community a Public Protection Classification (PPC™). This PPC provides important, up-to-date information about the fire protection services throughout the country. Equipment, apparatus, water carrying capabilities, fire pump capacities, on-duty staffing, on-call response from off-duty firefighters, automatic mutual aid, communications, and designated water supply location all factor into our ISO PPC.

The PPC grade depends on how well, or poorly, the following areas perform:

- Needed Fire Flows (amount of water needed for fire suppression)
- Emergency Communications
- Fire Department equipment, staffing, training, risk reduction efforts, fire losses, preparedness, and infrastructure.

- Water Supply – Including inspection and flow testing of hydrants, available water sources, and supply operations.

In 2015 the ISO awarded Leland Township a Class 6/10 rating depending on where in the township you lived and the response distance/capabilities needed to get to you. The new award of a Class 6 was an upgrade of our previous rating of a Class 8. Even though we appreciated the improved ranking, which indicates we are making improvements, we still feel as though there are areas that we can improve on. The LTFR concentrated our efforts last year addressing the following areas:

- Dry Hydrants – we have established a semi-annual testing and maintenance rotation of our dry hydrants where we operate the hydrant, flush it out, and conduct routine preventative maintenance so the hydrants are ready when we need them. In 2020 we upgraded our water supply capabilities in the southwest part of our township. An agreement was reached with a private land owner on North Manitou Trail (M-22) north of Overby Road to make his pond a year-round water source. LTFR absorbed the costs of making the location suitable to be used for any structure fires in the area where we need to truck water to the scene.
- Pre-Incident Planning – Our 2015 PPC indicated that we received 2.40 points out of a possible 12 for our efforts in conducting a pre-fire planning inspection of each commercial, industrial, institutional, and other similar type of building. We have completed our pre-plans and train on them regularly.
- Leland Public School: Leland School is finishing their major renovation project. At the request of the LTFR the school added a 30,000 gallon underground water storage tank that can be assessed by the fire department 24/7 for use for fires in Leland.
- Community Risk Reduction: Leland Township Firefighters work very hard to be involved in efforts to identify risk, prevent fires, and save lives. One of those efforts is through the installation of smoke alarms in the community – more about that later in this report. Lieutenant Kathryn Dunklow created a virtual GOOGLE classroom to teach fire prevention to at-risk groups during the COVID pandemic. It was a very cool project!



The ISO's PPC follows nationally accredited guidelines, set for by the NFPA and the American Water Works Association, to evaluate a community's fire protection service. Leland Township uses this as a model for improvement and the fire department plans to request an updated PPC review in 2021.

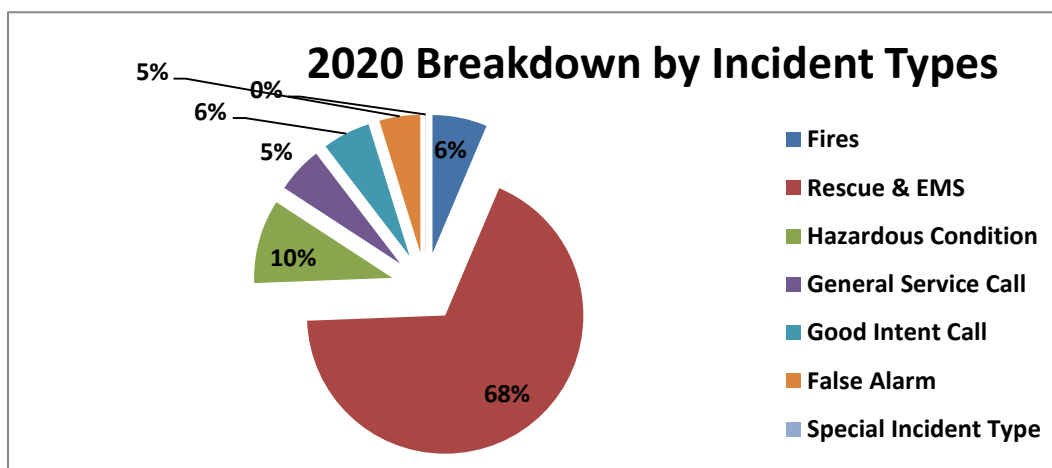
2020 Department Response Statistics

Previously 2018 was our busiest year in our department's history with 481 calls for service but we topped that in 2020 by responding to 500 calls for service.

YEAR	CALLS FOR SERVICE	% Increase from Previous Year
2020	500	11%
2019	450	n/a
2018	481	12.4%
2017	428	15.6%
2016	370	12.5%
2015	329	15%
2014	286	82%
2013	157	6%

Our major incident type breakdown for 2020 is:

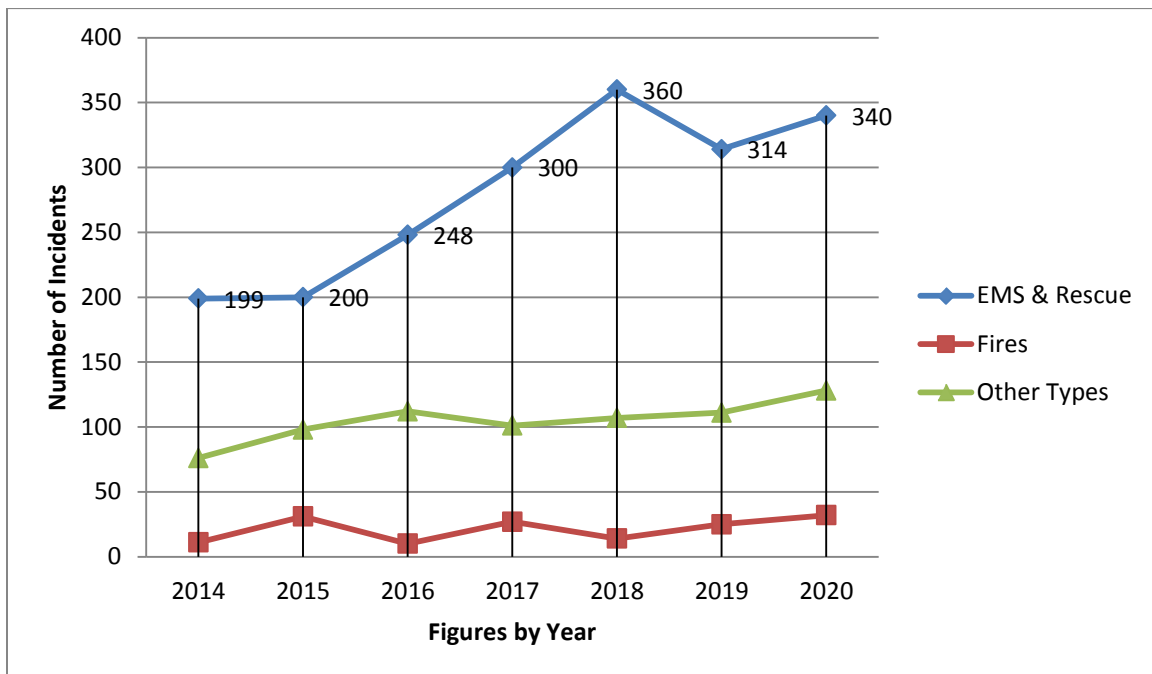
MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# OF INCIDENTS	2019 Calls	% of the TOTAL
Fires	32	25	6.4%
Rescue & EMS	340	314	68%
Hazardous Cond. (non-fire)	49	52	9.8%
Service Call	27	7	5.4%
Good Intent Call	28	34	5.6%
False Alarm & False Call	24	16	4.8%
Special Incident Type	0	2	0%
TOTAL:	500	450	100%



In comparison to 2019 the number of responses to fires increased from 25 to 32 and Emergency Medical Services increased from 314 to 340. We also saw an uptick in service calls and false alarm calls.

Our major incident type breakdown for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 is:

Incident Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fires	10	27	14	25	32
Rescue & EMS	248	300	360	314	340
Hazardous Cond.	51	36	41	52	49
Service Call	3	7	14	7	27
Good Intent	22	10	26	34	28
False Alarm	35	32	19	16	24
Special Incident	1	16	7	2	0
TOTAL:	370	428	481	450	500



The detailed lists of all of our incident types are included in the chart below. This breakdown the broad types of calls (i.e.: fires) and helps indicate how many were structure fires, how many were chimney fires, and how many were brush fires. These breakdowns help us forecast training, equipment, and response needs.

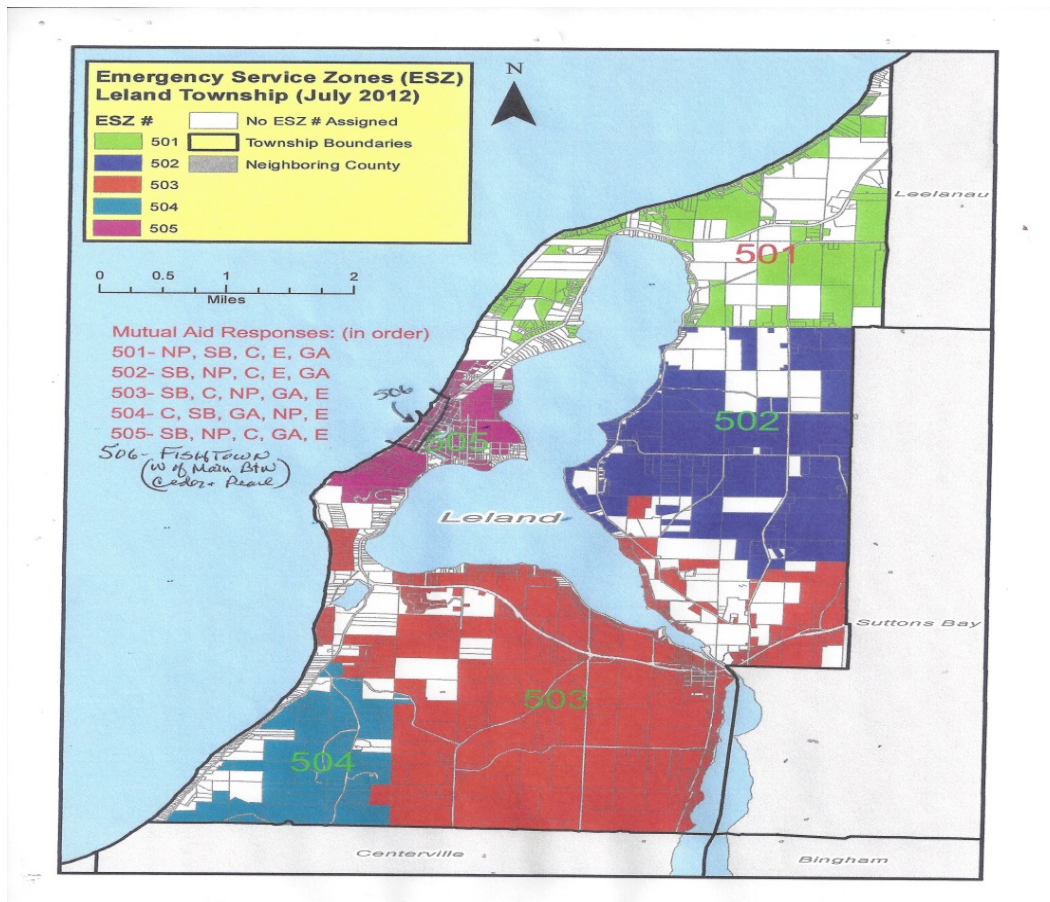
The information follows our reporting standard operating procedures and is classified within the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) standards so the data can be categorized no matter where you are in the United States.

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
100 - Fire, other	1	0.2%
111 - Building fire	14	2.8%
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	1	0.2%
114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	9	1.8%
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	2	0.4%
140 - Natural vegetation fire, other	2	0.4%
143 - Grass fire	2	0.4%
170 - Cultivated vegetation, crop fire, other	1	0.2%
300 - Rescue, EMS incident, other	1	0.2%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	4	0.8%
320 - Emergency medical service, other	100	20%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	222	44.4%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	7	1.4%
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1	0.2%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	2	0.4%
354 - Trench/below-grade rescue	1	0.2%
356 - High-angle rescue	1	0.2%
365 - Watercraft rescue	1	0.2%
400 - Hazardous condition, other	20	4%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	2	0.4%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	2	0.4%
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	7	1.4%
441 - Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	1	0.2%
444 - Power line down	14	2.8%
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	3	0.6%
500 - Service Call, other	2	0.4%
522 - Water or steam leak	1	0.2%
550 - Public service assistance, other	2	0.4%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	13	2.6%
553 - Public service	3	0.6%
554 - Assist invalid	1	0.2%
561 - Unauthorized burning	5	1%
600 - Good intent call, other	2	0.4%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	20	4%
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	2	0.4%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	2	0.4%
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	2	0.4%
700 - False alarm or false call, other	2	0.4%
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	3	0.6%
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	1	0.2%
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1	0.2%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	4	0.8%
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	2	0.4%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	10	2%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1	0.2%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	500	100%

Only REVIEWED and/or LOCKED IMPORTED incidents are included. Summary results for a major incident type are not displayed if the count is zero.

In 2020 our incident count by Leland Township Zone was:

Leland Township Zone	Number of Calls	Difference from 2018
Box 501 – North	65	+24
Box 502 – East	33	0
Box 503 – South (includes Village of Lake Leelanau)	148	+26
Box 504 – South West	12	-18
Box 505 – West (Village of Leland)	103	+28
Box 506 – Fishtown Area	10	+1
Mutual Aid – Outside of Leland Township	129	-11
Total	500	2019 Calls: 450



Mutual Aid Statistics:

We Provided Mutual Aid: 55
 We Provided Automatic Mutual Aid: 56
 We Received Mutual Aid: 10
 We Received Automatic Mutual Aid: 4

Overlapped Calls:

The fire department had multiple calls for service occur at the same time 58 times out of our 500 incidents (11.6%) as compared to 49 (10.8%) times out of our 450 calls in 2019.

Emergency Medical Call Priority Tracking:

We also track the patient priority we are dispatched to as compared to the mode (lights and sirens versus non-emergent) a patient is transported to the hospital (Munson Medical Center in Traverse City). When a person calls 9-1-1 in Leelanau County for medical assistance, the call taker, sitting at the sheriff’s office, processes the information the caller gives and assigns the patient a priority. Some “key words” that a caller may say, such as “chest pain”, has the call taker assign them a “priority one” but after an assessment on scene that patient may be upgraded or downgraded in priority. In our medical control system a “priority one patient” is a high priority patient.

In 2020 that statistical data is as follows:

EMS PATIENT PRIORITY	Dispatched /9-1-1 As	Transported As
Priority 1	157	21
Priority 2	40	115
Priority 3	151	57
TOTAL	348	193

What does this all mean? After calling 9-1-1 county dispatcher compared the call against a prompted question and answer screening. Based on what the caller told the dispatcher the call was given a priority (1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest) and that dictates how the ambulance responds to the call (i.e.: lights and siren versus Normal traffic). Chest pain under most circumstances gets a high priority dispatch. Once the crew arrives on scene perhaps the patient presents more stable and the patient isn’t critical so the patient is taken urgently but without lights and sirens. In comparison patients who slip and fall and need help getting back up off of the floor are typically given a “priority 3” (no lights or siren response) designation but if we assist them off the floor and they are uninjured we are probably not going to transport them so the statistics will look off under priority 3 calls.

Special Incident Responses:

ALS Intercepts to Cleveland or Centerville Township: 71

Lift Assist/Assist Disabled off of the floor or ground: 34

Evidentiary Blood Draw Request from Law Enforcement: 24

Type of Pre-hospital Care Provided:

Basic Lie Support: 32

Advanced Life Support: 200

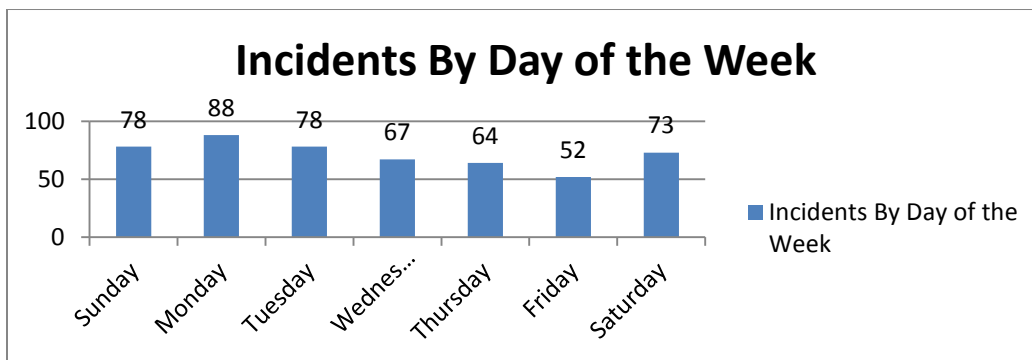
When Are We The Busiest?

We use statistical data in order to help us add additional staffing needs or plan our training schedule. For instance, when it came to staffing the Leland Fire Station, in the summer of 2017, we used our historical data to predict the peak times of season to expand our staffing model.

By Hour of the Day (blocks):

Hour Block of the Day	2020 - #of Incidents	2019 - # of Incidents
00:00 – 06:00	68	51
06:00 – 12:00	117	109
12:00 – 18:00	160	168
18:00 – 00:00	155	122

By Day of the Week:



By Month:

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TTL
2018	38	26	24	32	41	38	62	63	47	48	33	29	481
2019	21	30	29	29	44	29	50	51	45	44	41	37	450
2020	33	31	27	35	44	52	59	48	42	35	57	37	500
Difference 2019-2020	12	1	-2	6	0	23	9	-3	-2	-9	16	0	+50

Busiest Quarters of the Year:

Quarter (Busiest to Least)	Total Calls For Service	Difference from 2018
July – September	149	+3 (146)
April – June	131	+29 (102)
October – December	129	+7 (122)
January – March	91	+11 (80)

Fire Department Staff

The Leland Township Fire & Rescue Department currently has 31 employees - 7 full-time, including the fire chief, and 24 part-time/paid-on-call firefighters. We had 29 employees at the end of 2019.

The command staff is comprised of Fire Chief Besson, Assistant Chief Geoff Niessink, Deputy Chief Andrew Stander, Lieutenant Russell Korson, Lieutenant Kathryn Dunklow, Lieutenant Chase Schelling, and Lieutenant Chris Herman.

Our staffing is (as of December 31, 2020):

Full-Time

Fire Chief Dan Besson (Paramedic I/C)
Lieutenant Russell Korson (Paramedic)
Lieutenant Kathryn Dunklow (Paramedic)
Lieutenant Chase Schelling (Paramedic I/C)
Firefighter Greg Johnson (Paramedic I/C)
Firefighter Jared Ornelas (Paramedic)
Firefighter Brandon Morse (EMT)

Part-Time

Assistant Chief Geoff Niessink (EMT)
Deputy Chief Andrew Stander
Lieutenant Chris Herman (MFR)
Firefighter Tim Eggert
Firefighter J.P. VanRaalte
Firefighter Darryl Herman
Firefighter Jeff Plamondon (EMT)
Firefighter Alex Gilland
Firefighter Mike Ball (Paramedic)
Firefighter Shane Dunklow (EMT)
Lieutenant Kyle Dunklow (Paramedic)
Firefighter Dan Kreft (Paramedic)
Firefighter Nate Gooden (EMT)
Firefighter John VanRaalte (EMT)
Firefighter Abbigail VanRaalte (EMT)
Firefighter Rachel Zemanek (Paramedic)
Firefighter Tim Newton (Paramedic)
Firefighter Nick Bierschbach
Firefighter Harley Dunkin
Arielle Booher (Paramedic)
Amy Fairchild (Paramedic)
Katie Ross (EMT)
James Howard (EMT)
Firefighter Garrett Fairchild (Advanced EMT)

Department Medical License Credentials:

EMS Instructor Coordinator: 3
Paramedic: 13
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician: 1
Emergency Medical Technician: 9
Medical First Responder: 1

Top 10 Busiest Responders (based on calls for service):

1. Chase Schelling – 185
2. Greg Johnson – 166
3. Jared Ornelas – 162
4. Russell Korson – 157
5. Kathryn Dunklow – 148
6. Dan Besson – 111
7. Chris Herman – 105
8. Kyle Dunklow – 66
9. Nate Gooden – 49
10. Darryl Herman – 46



Fire Department Apparatus

The fire department maintains a fleet of 2 fire engines, an aerial ladder truck, 2 fire tankers, 2 brush trucks, 2 Advanced Life Support ambulances, an Advanced Life Support non-transporting vehicle, a water hydrant truck, a boat, a John Deere Gator, a snowmobile, and an administrative fleet vehicle.

The following charts identify the station assignment for our apparatus and their mileage use for 2019.

Top 5 Busiest Apparatus (based on calls for service):

1. Ambulance 591 – **352** (245 in 2019)
2. Ambulance 592 – **153** (130 in 2019)
3. Engine 511 – **71** (81 in 2019)
4. Engine 512 – **57** (23 in 2019)
5. Chief 501 – **50** (66 in 2019)

Training & Certifications

In 2019, fire department personnel were busy training to be the best. We train in several formats – on duty, as a department, in small group learning formats /scenarios, fire and EMS continuing education classes, and finally, through certification / licensing courses (such as Firefighter I/II).

Last year Leland Township firefighters spent **2279** hours in classroom training (some courses in Emergency Medical Services, like Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic, are not included in these totals) and an additional **2215** hours of training online. The fire department typically meets twice a month to conduct in-house training as a group but we were hampered by the effects of the state's Executive Order regarding COVID-19. Our 2020 training topics included:

- Tour of Leland Public School Construction Project
- Performance Evaluation – Tanker Operations
- CPR & AED Refresher
- Ice Rescue Refresher
- Fire Hose Loads & Deployment Techniques.
- N-95 and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Fit Test & Operations
- Leland Harbor Standpipe operations
- Water Rescue Operations
- Marine 571 Boat Operations
- Pump Training
- Large Single Family Home Fire Debrief (Cedar Area)
- Live Fire Training
- NFPA 1670 – Rope Operation
- Engine 511 Pumping Operations
- Ladder 531 Pumping and Aerial Operations.
- Vehicle Extrication
- Wilderness Search & Rescue (Clay Cliffs)
- Leland School Walk-through
- Physical Agility & Assessment standards
- Employee Assistance Plans
- Haz-Mat refresher

Training Hours - Personnel

The fire department uses two different platforms to assign, perform, and record training for our personnel. *Emergency Reporting* is used to document in-house training such as department training, skills sheets performed on-duty, probationary training, continuing education, required classes, and apparatus checks. *Target Solutions* is our online platform that we use for specific training topics.

Employee	Emergency Reporting	Target Sol. (Online)	2020 Training Hours (Total)
Ball	3.5	82	85.5
Besson	150.25	102	252.25
Bierschbach	218.25	1	219.25
Booher	64	17.5	81.5
Dunkin-Stevenson	276.5	10.5	287
Dunklow, Kathryn	121.25	208	229.25
Dunklow, Kyle	97.75	181.5	279.25
Dunklow, S	17.5	65	82.5
Eggert	30.25	25.5	77.75
Fairchild, A	64	19	83
Fairchild, G	24.75	1.5	26.25
Gilliand	23.5	42.25	65.75
Gooden	54.25	98	152.25
Herman, C	73.25	129	202.25
Herman, D	43	37.25	80.25
Howard	65	6.75	71.75
Johnson	49.25	175.75	225
Korson	50.75	199	249.75
Kreft	17	55.5	72.5
Leon	70.5	0	70.5
Lewis	68	0	68
Morse	15.5	31.25	46.75
Newton	9	0	9
Niessink	35.75	55	90.75
Olosky	158.5	0	158.5
Ornelas	132.75	252	384.75
Plamondon	10.5	22	32.5
Ross	46.75	0.5	47.25
Saksewski	2.5	3	5.5
Schelling	94.75	223.75	318.5
Stander	38.25	27	65.25
VanRaalte, Abbigail	49	24	73
VanRaalte, John	46	24	70
VanRaalte, J.P.	25.5	56.5	82
Zemanek	20	52	72

New Vehicles Placed In-Service

In October *Echo 595*, a non-transporting Advanced Life Support (ALS) response vehicle, was placed in-service. This vehicle was the fire chief's administration car and converted over in order to respond to ALS intercept requests in Centerville and Cleveland Townships. It carries the same critical equipment you would find in an ambulance. This concept saves wear and tear on the ambulances and allows us to keep a fire & EMS provider in Leland Township for a second call. The fire department purchased a Dodge Ram (*Utility 585*) pick-up for day to day administrative use and to haul equipment and gear to and from incidents as necessary.



Echo 595 – is a state licensed advanced life support vehicle. It is designed to meet a Basic Life Support ambulance that is on scene of a critical or very sick patient. It carries a cardiac monitor, IV supplies, advanced airways, trauma gear, and an ALS medication bag. Pictured bottom right is Lieutenant Chase Schelling and Cedar Firefighter Matt Maus after checking some of the equipment it carries. Pictured bottom left is *Utility 585* – working at the scene of a vehicle crash on M-22 south of M-204.

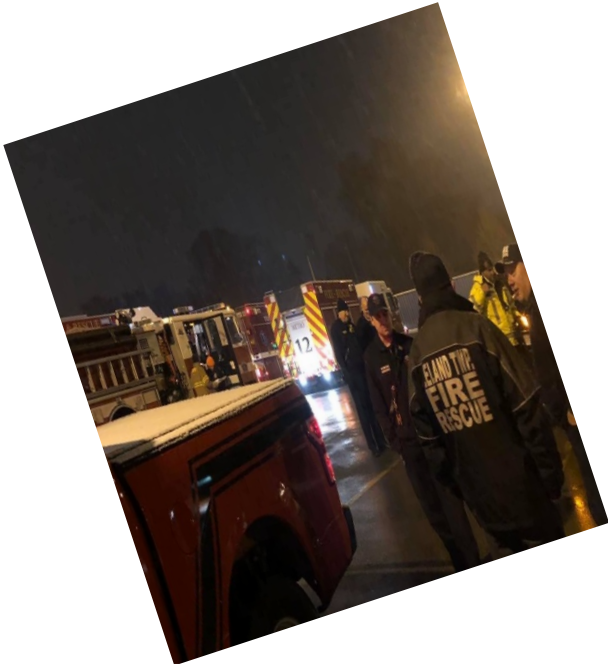


←Leland Township Firefighters work to establish a water supply from Tanker 521 to Engine 512 at “structure fire” scenario. Crews work to meet or exceed established guidelines.

In Leland Township we need to bring water to any fire incident with us and refill the tanks at a dry hydrant or other water source.

2020: Our Year in Pictures





Leland Township Fire & Rescue is part of a statewide mutual program known as MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System). This system can systematically deploy resources to major incidents that are expected to last days or weeks where local resources can easily get tapped out.

In February LTFR and other local departments participated in a drill where we practice meeting at a departure point and prepare to deploy to a “major incident” (scenario) downstate.



New Delivery: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

Leland Township Fire & Rescue (LTFR) served as the fiduciary for a FEMA grant through their Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. Chief Besson submitted a regional grant on behalf of the LTFR, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue, Blair Township Emergency Services, and Leelanau Township Emergency Services departments.

The grant application successfully passed all phases of the approval processes and the \$341,000 grant was awarded. The grant replaced self-contained breathing apparatus that was exceeding the National Fire Protection Association standard life cycle. The grant replaced 52 air packs, 104 air bottles, and 135 air masks. These packs are what we were at the scenes of structure fires, chemical exposures, and other hazardous materials incidents.



It Is Game Time! Well almost...



←Leland Township Fire Chief Dan Besson challenged Blair Township Fire Chief Bill Parker to a fundraising basketball game for the Kreft family. Gabriella Kreft, the daughter of part-time firefighter Dan Kreft, was born with a heart defect that required a heart transplant. Dan works full-time for Blair Twp. We are happy to report that Gabriella is doing awesome!

Unfortunately the game was postponed due when the state shut down the schools (venue). It has not been rescheduled yet.

*Hoops &
For
Gabriella*

First Responder Appreciation

After the COVID pandemic started the LTRF was shown much appreciation from the community for being essential workers.

Pictured (right) are Leland Paramedics Chase Schelling and Greg Johnson received a significant supply of hand sanitizer in order to keep our crews safe.



Fire Academy Graduation



The Fire Academy started with five Leland Township candidates in November (2019) but only two made it to graduation day.

Congratulations to Firefighters Harley Dunkin and Nick Bierschbach!



May was our Dry Hydrant Spring Maintenance Month!

Twice a year our dry hydrants are primed, flushed, cleaned, inspected and maintained. In May our duty crews visited each one and did just that to each dry hydrant. It is important that we do these to make sure we can achieve an adequate prime in order to get water from them and verify the screen isn't clogged with zebra mussels, sand, algae, or other forms of underwater obstacles. This month each dry hydrant was identified with a record keeping number and maintained in accordance with ISO and NFPA standards.



Above: During the process of upgrading our water supply for the southwest part of the township we secured a dry hydrant on a private land on M-22 north of Overby Road. The upgrade was paid for out of the fire department's normal operating budget.

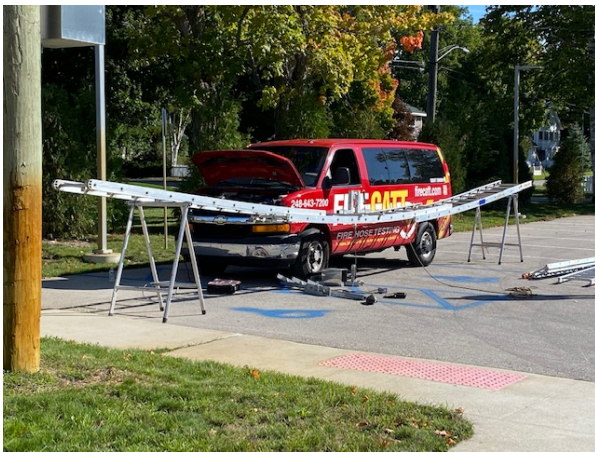


Above: The Duty Crew connecting to a dry hydrant in order to obtain water from a water source. They measure the amount of time it takes to draw water and its pressure to confirm proper operations. The crew will also flush and maintain the hydrants too.

Annual Equipment Testing and Maintenance

Every year the fire department has its apparatus and major equipment tested to make sure they operate correctly and meet the standards set forth by the Department of Transportation (DOT), Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Insurance Services Office (ISO) and other governing or overseeing entities. Some of the equipment that goes through rigorous testing or preventative maintenance includes:

- Fire Trucks (brakes, frame, suspension, tires, engines, tank durability, and pumping capabilities)
- Fire hoses
- Ground ladders
- Aerial ladder
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (air packs)
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Vehicle Extrication Equipment
- Medical Equipment (LUCAS CPR device, Cardiac Monitors, and etc.)



Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician Brandon Morse hired full-time!



In October we hired Firefighter/EMT Brandon Morse full-time. Brandon comes to us from Northflight EMS (now MMR) where he was a full-time EMT in Traverse City. Brandon also works for Almira Township part-time where he holds the rank of Lieutenant.

He is currently in the testing process for his Paramedic license and joins his dad (Lieutenant Jay Morse at the Glen Lake Fire Department) as the second “Morse” working full-time in Leelanau County.

Brandon was hired to fill Lieutenant Kyle Dunklow’s spot when Kyle accepted a full-time position at the Suttons Bay-Bingham Township Fire Department.

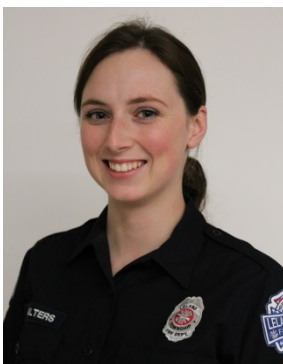
Welcome Aboard Brandon!

Full-time Lieutenant Promotions Announced!

Following a rigorous testing process where the candidates had to produce a Public Service Announcement video, prepare and present a fire or EMS topic, and participate in a professional oral board assessment, consisting of internal and external chief officers, three full-time firefighters were promoted to Lieutenant. Congratulations to Lieutenant Russell Korson (Training Officer), Lieutenant Kathryn Dunklow (Fire & Life Safety Coordinator), and Lieutenant Chase Schelling (EMS Coordinator)!



Lt. Korson



Lt. Dunklow



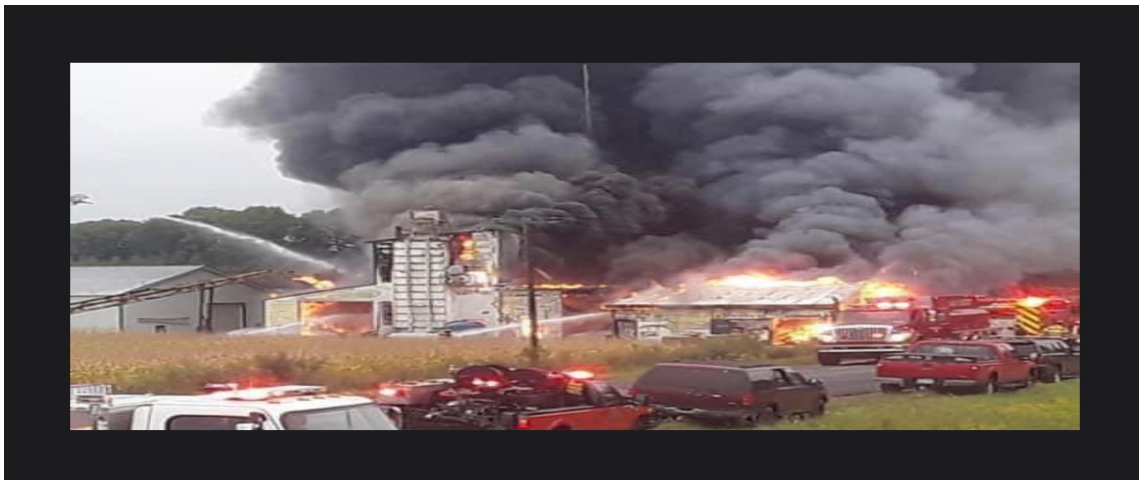
Lt. Schelling

Neighbors helping Neighbors at Fire Incidents...

REDI-MIX PLANT; Kasson Twp.

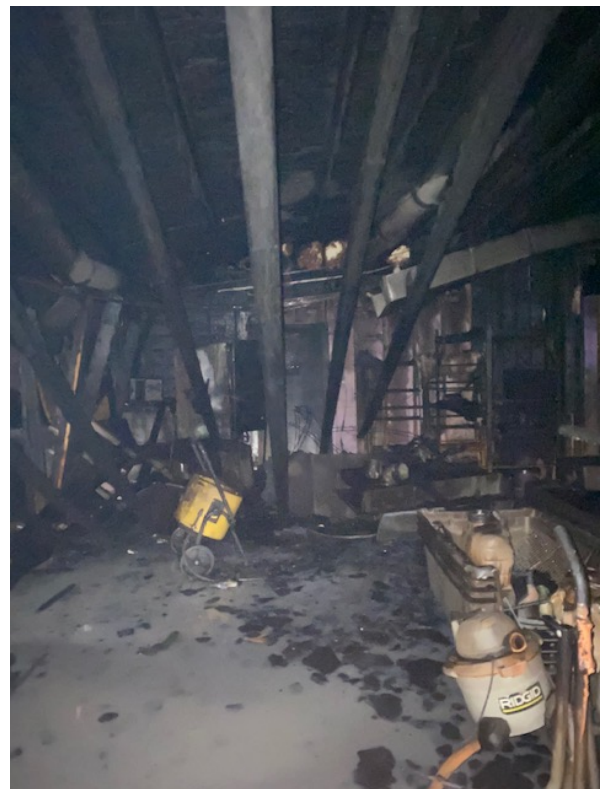
On September 12th Leland Township Fire & Rescue was dispatched to assist the Cedar Area Fire & Rescue Department with a fire at the Leelanau Redi-Mix in Kasson Township. LTFR sent Ladder 531 and Hydrant 581 along with 4 personnel to assist. Ladder 531 was the only aerial device on scene and performed flawlessly as it continued to provide an aerial water stream for hours and hours.

This fire escalated to three alarms and required the use of 9 tankers, 3 fire engines, 1 ladder truck, 1 ambulance, and 1 portable water hydrant/supply truck – responding from three counties.



LTFR Assists Cedar Area Fire & Rescue with a Large House Fire near Maple City

On Friday May 15th, Leland Township and Glen Lake Firefighters assisted the Cedar Area Fire Department with a structure fire on S. Maple City Road. During the course of suppressing the fire a partial ceiling collapse occurred on top of the suppression team, which included a Leland Firefighter, blocking part of their egress path. The incident was upgraded to a second alarm which brought additional fire resources to the scene. The firefighters were able to get out after a few tense moments. The firefighters were evaluated by a Leland Township ambulance crew and were determined to be uninjured. A debrief of the incident took place later that month with policy changes in mind. LTFR units that responded were Tanker 522, Tanker 521, Ladder 531, Alpha 591, and Chief 501. Ladder 531 and Alpha 591 are shown working on scene in the picture below.



Collapse
Collapse

Chimney Fire; Sugarloaf Condos – Cleveland Township

On October 1st – LTFR was dispatched as part of an automatic mutual aid agreement to the Sugarloaf Condos for a chimney fire. Ladder 531 and Chief 501 responded to the call and assisted Cedar Area Fire & Rescue by gaining access to the roof for fire suppression and inspection of a fire in the chimney.

No damage was noted outside of the flue and crews cleared shortly after putting the fire out. The homeowners agreed to not use the fireplace until they could get it professionally cleaned and received the okay to use it again.



Large Grass Fire; Kasson Township

On November 4th – LTRF was dispatched to help the Cedar Area Fire & Rescue Department with a large 5 acre grass fire off of West Baatz Road. Brush 542 joined units from Cedar Area, Almira Township, and the Glen Lake Fire Departments to extinguish the fire. Crews were on scene for about an hour and were assisted by a landscaping company that cut a fire stop line with a front-end loader.



Leland Township Incidents

Transformer Fire; Fishtown

On October 23rd – LTFR responded to a transformer fire near West River & Main Street in the village of Leland. Power was lost in Fishtown and its' immediate vicinity. Engine 511, Engine 512, and Alpha 591 responded to the call and stood-by until the utility company could make the repairs and restore power.



Fire in a Structure; Village of Leland

On August 24th – LTFR was dispatched to a structure fire at the Effie’s Assisted Living on South Grand Avenue. Crews arrived to find smoke coming from the corner of the building. Staff members stated there was a fire above the fan in a bathroom of one of the bedrooms. Crews investigated and found that the fire had travelled above the fan and worked to extinguish the fire and remove the smoke. Crews moved the displaced residents to the Leland Fire Station until they could be turned over to family or moved to a temporary site. 4 residents were turned over to family and 4 were transported to another facility – Effie’s crew made the arrangements. Crews were on scene for several hours and were assisted by the Cedar Area Fire Department, Suttons Bay-Bingham Fire Department, and the Leelanau Township Emergency Services.

House Fire; North Lake Leelanau Drive

October 3rd – At 1:33am LTFR was dispatched to a reported chimney fire which was spreading to the roof in the 1500 block of North Lake Leelanau Drive. Leland Township Engine 511, Tanker 521, Tanker 522, Hydrant 581, and Brush 542 responded to the call and upon arrival Engine 511's crew discovered a working house fire. Additional units were requested from neighboring departments throughout the night as conditions worsened and crews needed relief. Crews spent over 9 hours on the scene extinguishing hot spots – clearing at 10:55am – and returning to the station for an extended clean up.

Departments assisting LTFR were Suttons Bay-Bingham Fire Department, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue, Glen Lake Fire Department, Leelanau Township Emergency Services, Elmwood Township Fire Department, Traverse City Fire Department, and the Grand Traverse Tribal Band Fire Department. 12 LTFR firefighters and 15 mutual aid firefighters responded to the call. The fire caused about \$950,000 worth of damage.



Garage Fire; East Blue Spruce Lane

November 12th - At 7:08am LTRF was dispatched to a reported structure fire in the 5000 block of East Blue Spruce Lane. Dispatched information indicated there was a fire in an attached garage that was possibly spreading to the house. Upon arrival Engine 511's crew discovered that that garage was not attached to the home but had fire in the attic of it. Crews stretched a hose (hand line) off of Engine 511 and began to suppress the fire and made a ventilation cut in the roof. Leland Township Engine 511, Tanker 521, Tanker 522, Hydrant 581, Ladder 531, Alpha 591, Alpha 592, and Chief 501 responded to the call. Neighboring departments responded to the call as part of the automatic mutual aid box card system. Crews were on scene for less than two hours.

Departments assisting LTRF were Suttons Bay-Bingham Fire Department, Cedar Area Fire & Rescue, Glen Lake Fire Department, and the Grand Traverse Tribal Band Fire Department. 11 LTRF firefighters and 7 mutual aid firefighters responded to the call.



Gas Leak; East Ryan's Way

December 9th - At 2:59pm a phone call was received in the fire station alerting crews to a strong smell of natural gas in the 5800 block of East Ryan's Way. Additional information, provided by the caller, indicated there was a work crew in the area and it appears that they had struck a gas main. Engine 512, Tanker 521, and Alpha 592 responded to the call. Upon arrival crews confirmed that a main gas line had been severed by a crew that was installing pipe. The foreman reported that they had already contacted Miss Dig and believed that there were no hazards in the area when they started digging. Leland crews stood by in a safe distance, with a hoseline, in the event of a fire until DTE could arrive on scene. The scene was determined to be safe by DTE and LTFR crews cleared at 5:40pm.



The Leland Township Fire & Rescue Department Welcomes Two Future Leland Township Firefighters to the family!

These two lovely ladies enjoy being wrapped around their dad's fingers!

On January 20th, Firefighter/Paramedic Greg Johnson and his fiancée Jessica welcomed Miss Piper Ann Johnson into the world. Piper is their second daughter. The family of six seems complete now!

Greg works for LTFR full-time.

Photo: Johnson Family



On September 15th, Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Dunklow and his wife, Kacey, welcomed their first daughter into their family! Miss Taylor Ann Dunklow was born a wee bit early – weighing 6 pounds 4 ounces – but is doing great!

Kyle works for LTFR part-time.

Photo: Dunklow Family

LTFR Wedding Bliss!

Congratulations to two new married couples! LTFR Firefighter Shane Dunklow and Firefighter Kathryn Walters got married on September 5th and Firefighter John VanRaalte and Firefighter Abbigail Thon were married on September 12th.

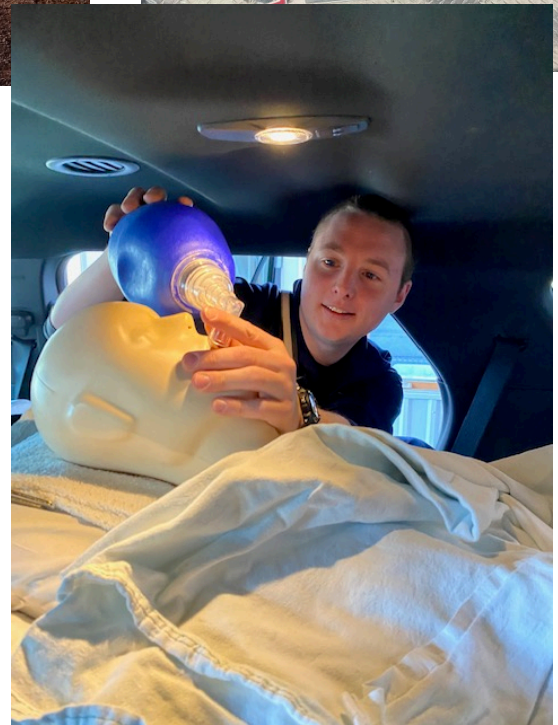
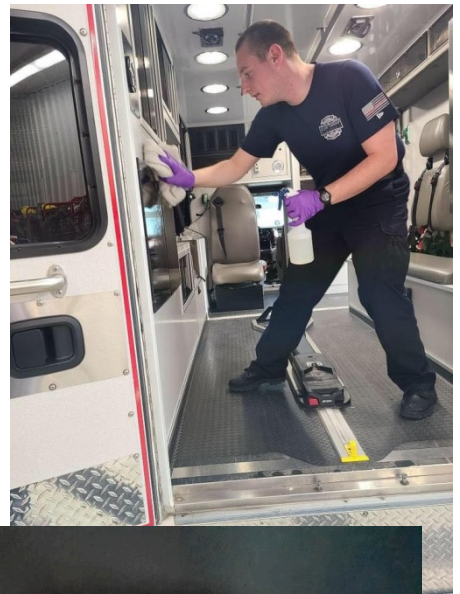


Mr.& Mrs. Dunklow

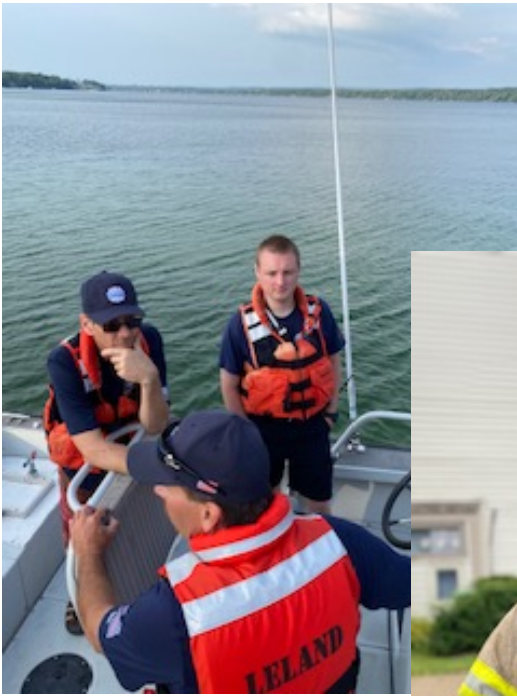


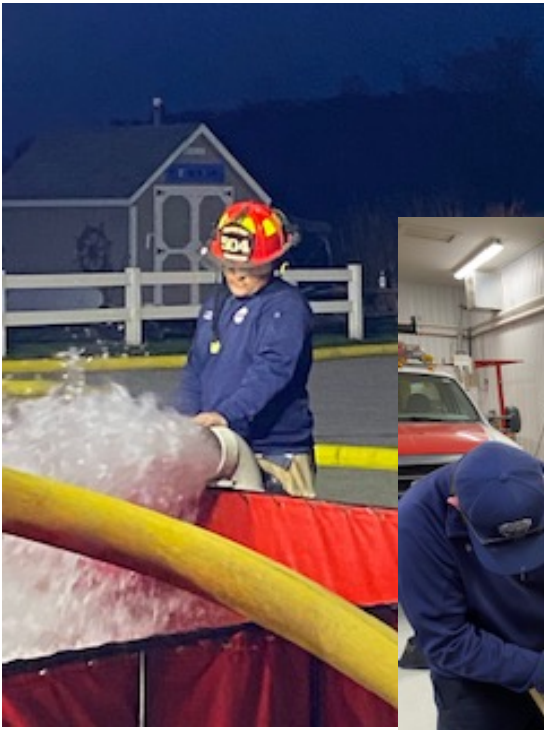
Mr.& Mrs. VanRaalte











Thank You!

Leland Township Fire & Rescue would like to thank the community the Leland Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) Association for its continued support!

We'd also like to give a special thanks to Golden Fowler Furniture in Traverse City for the donation of two recliners for the fire station. They replaced some pretty worn pieces of furniture.



Above: Chief Dan Besson and Paramedic Arielle Booher check out two new recliners at the Leland Fire Station that were donated by Golden Fowler Furniture in T.C.



