



TOWN OF SHEBOYGAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



2017 REPORT

DESIGNED AND PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF TOWN OF SHEBOYGAN FIRE DEPARTMENT
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ABOUT TSFD

INTRODUCTION

Our fire department is supported 100% by our community volunteers. Volunteering with the TSFD is a rewarding experience impacts the lives of those who we serve. Our members are truly the backbone of emergency services for the Town of Sheboygan.

Since 1942, TSFD has been protecting the Town of Sheboygan and our neighbors in Sheboygan County with firefighting services. In 2002 our department expanded it's services by offering emergency medical services.

From construction workers to information technology, our members come from various backgrounds and expertise that gives our department a leading edge in solving tough situations on calls. As first responders, our community looks to us to solve these issues in hopes of saving their lives, property and memories.

MISSION STATEMENT

SAFETY:	for the community we protect and the personnel that protect it.
EDUCATION:	through programs for our residents and youth.
RESPONSIVENESS:	to the suggestions, influences, appeals or efforts of others.
VISION:	from the past, to the present and into the future.
INSPECTIONS:	investigations and pre-incident plans
COMMITMENT:	to our community, our families, ourselves and each other.
EMPATHY:	for all.

DEPARTMENT VISION

It is the vision of the Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department to meet and exceed the communities expectations as a fire / rescue service towards public safety. The Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department continually develops and maintains a partnership within the community as a resource for education towards public safety.

The vision of the department is dependent on a fiscally sound organization with well maintained apparatus and equipment, as to which we continually strive to exceed. The vision is highly dependent on well trained and educated members whom share the same desire to protect our citizens and the community in which we live and work. As the community grows, so does our mission of ensuring the right resources are in place to maintain proper public protection.

TIME VOLUNTEERED IN 2017

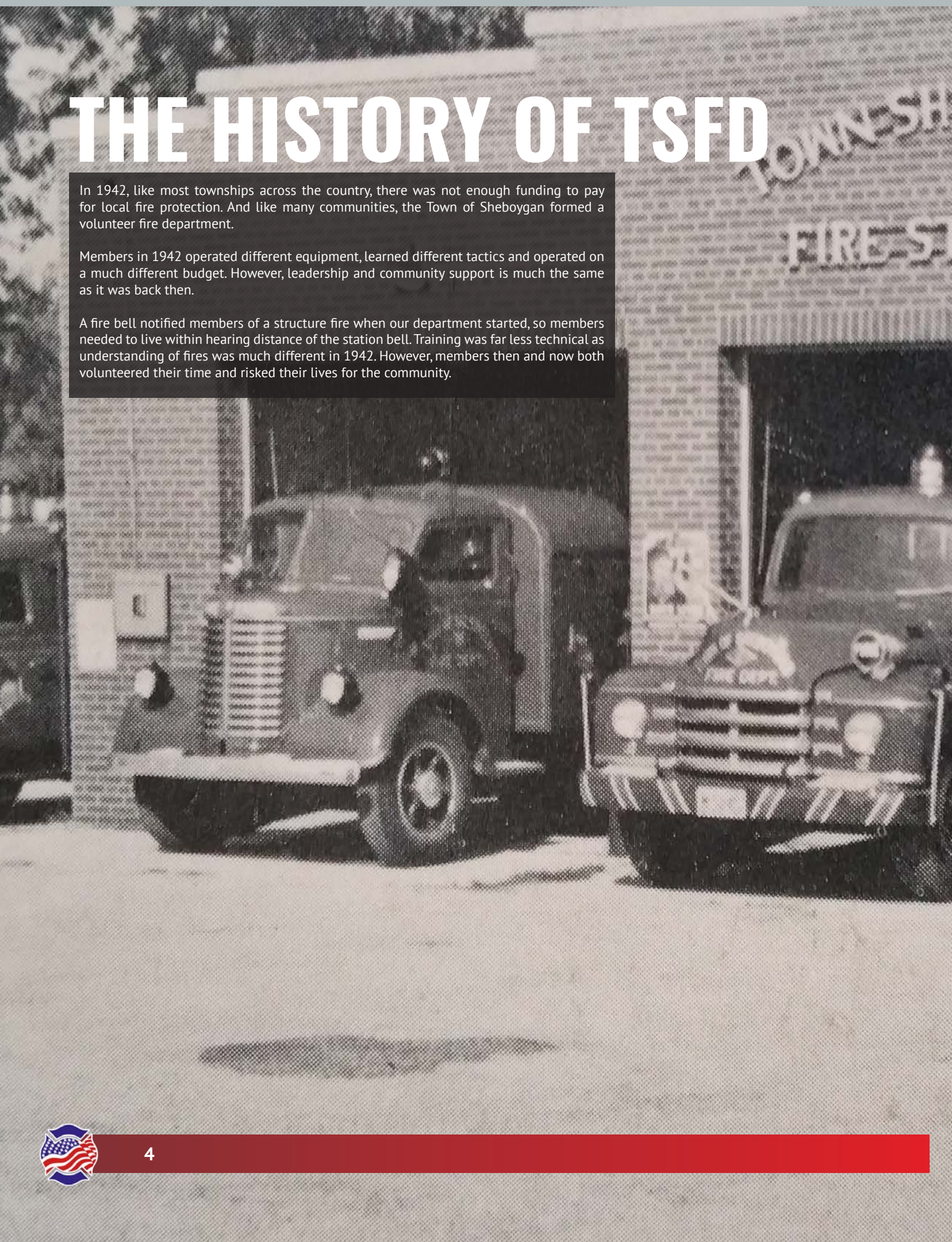
Fire / EMS: Approximately 5,300 hours (excluding outside classes, fund-raisers, meetings and undocumented activities)

THE HISTORY OF TSFD

In 1942, like most townships across the country, there was not enough funding to pay for local fire protection. And like many communities, the Town of Sheboygan formed a volunteer fire department.

Members in 1942 operated different equipment, learned different tactics and operated on a much different budget. However, leadership and community support is much the same as it was back then.

A fire bell notified members of a structure fire when our department started, so members needed to live within hearing distance of the station bell. Training was far less technical as understanding of fires was much different in 1942. However, members then and now both volunteered their time and risked their lives for the community.



SHEBOYGAN

STATION



2017 - 2018 LEADERSHIP

Chiefs

TSFD has three chief officers. The chief is responsible for overseeing all operations of the fire department. This includes daily operations and on scene activities. The chief has a first Assistant and second assistant chief who fulfill the Chiefs duty in the event of his or her absence.

Chief: Roger Benzschawel
1st Assistant Chief: Ed Beiderwolf
2nd Assistant Chief: Josh Lenz

Administrator

The fire department administrator works under the chief and helps take care of day to day operations. These duties include maintenance issues with equipment and the fire house.

Administrator: Joe Stahl

Secretary / Treasurer

Our department has both a secretary and treasurer position that, for a long time, has been held by one person. The duties include keeping records of meetings, financial records and taking care of bills.

Secretary / Treasurer: Tim Ellis

Captains

Like most departments, captains on TSFD are in charge of company operations at a fire scene. These duties include taking command of a fire scene prior to a chief officer, training operations and personnel management. Captains work under the chief officers.

TSFD has two firefighter captains:
Adam Harden
Andrew Stahl



Lieutenants

Lieutenants on TSFD are broken into companies. Their roles are to oversee and command the crews working on either the engine company or truck companies. Lieutenants are in charge of their vehicles and specific training needed for crews to operate at that level. Lieutenants work under the supervision of chiefs and captains.

Lieutenants:

Engine Company: Brian Pittner
Truck Company: Shawn Murphy

EMS Captain

For our emergency medical responder services, the EMS captain oversees the daily operations of the entire medical services division. The EMS captain can also take command of large scale medical scenes. The duties also include administrative functions, training and personnel management. Our EMS captain works under the chief.

EMS Captain:

Adam Cain

EMS Lieutenant

The EMS lieutenant works under the EMS captain to assist in his or her duties as an officer. The duties are often shared between captain and lieutenant. The EMS lieutenant works under the EMS captain and the chief.

EMS Lieutenant:

Mike Brungraber
Larry Kruger



Town Board

Our fire department is part of the Town of Sheboygan municipal. The Town of Sheboygan owns all of our vehicles, fire station and most of our equipment. The fire department budget is given to our chief each year from the town board.

A long tradition of our fire department is the positive relationship we hold with our town board and it's members. We honor the services given by our town supervisors and board members and continue to work together to offer our residents the best emergency services we can.

FIREFIGHTING SERVICES



The Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department is responsible for delivering direct emergency and non-emergency services for 11 square miles for the Town of Sheboygan. Our department responds to hazardous situations such as fires, vehicle accidents, spills, gas leaks, and other incidents.

Our department has two engines, one ladder truck, one tender, one rescue squad and an off-road UTV.

We also have a set of Hurst extrication tools including: spreaders; cutters; maverick; rams; air bags and other tools necessary to make any type of extrication for a victim.

Services Provided by the Town of Sheboygan Fire Dept.

- Fire Suppression
- Rescue
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Fire Investigation
- Automobile & Industrial Extrication
- Emergency Management
- First Responder Medical Response
- Fire Safety Building Inspections
- Code Enforcement
- Building Plan Review
- Fire Safety Training
- School Fire Prevention Programs
- Special Event Coverage
 - Maywood Bike Ride
 - Lincoln Erdman Color-Run
 - PGA Events
 - Howards Grove Fire Prevention
 - Halloween Trick-Or-Treating



MEDICAL SERVICES



The Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department is responsible for delivering direct emergency and non-emergency medical services for our residents at the emergency medical responder (formally known as first responder) level of care.

Our emergency medical responder unit operates an ambulance that can be used for treating patients on a scene, firefighter rehabilitation services or a safe location for anyone involved in an emergency situation.

Our unit works with local ambulance services while providing emergency medical responder services.



TOTAL ON-CALL HOURS

EMS On-Call Time (in hours)

2,605

TRAINING



**I AM NOT HERE FOR ME
I AM HERE FOR WE
WE ARE HERE FOR THEM**



TRAINING OVERVIEW

TRAINING AS A FIREFIGHTER OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER IS INCLUDED IN MEMBERSHIP TO OUR DEPARTMENT.

From learning how to safely enter a burning building to operating our extrication tools, firefighters learn how to perform all of our life saving services as part of their membership to our department.

Training is paid for by the Town of Sheboygan and firefighters need to complete the required training as defined by our standard operating guidelines. Our members train at Lakeshore Technical College and must complete Firefighter A and B before entering a structure fire. Additional training is always encouraged as there are a lot of courses offered by various schools and organizations.

Our EMS volunteers must complete at least Emergency Medical Responder. This course is offered by Lakeshore Technical College.

Members are required to attend at least 20 department training drills throughout the year.

Our drills are held on the following schedule:

First and third Wednesday: 8am
Second and fourth Wednesday: 6pm

Additional training is held on weekends and other weeknights as needed. As our department offers a wide range of emergency services, thus it's important we train as often as we can.

Our training also focuses on teamwork. Inside a structure fire, a chain of command is vital to the safety of yourself and your crew members. We work diligently on establishing teamwork and command discipline.

The EMS members also train on the third Wednesday of each month. We incorporate firefighter training with our EMS training as there is a lot of situations we respond to that require both services.

TRAINING TOPICS

During 2017, the Town of Sheboygan Fire Department continued with a training program started in 2015.

Our training program focuses on three different levels of operation:

- Personal Skills
- Company Skills
- Department Skills

The changes implemented in late 2015 have had a major positive impact to our skill-set and moral as a department. Firefighters are receiving more individualized instruction while learning how to work as team on a company and department level.

Along with the changes made to the style of training, the equipment being used has changed to reflect important scientific studies conducted by the Underwriters Laboratory. These findings on structural firefighting are allowing the Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department to operate with less risk towards our firefighters and a greater service in regards to efficiency and effectiveness towards our community.

With the new style of training, the following topics are covered throughout the year:

- Communications
- Blood-borne Pathogens Training
- Fire Flow Fundamentals
- Vehicle Extrication
- Driver / Operator / Pumping Training
- Stretch Operations for Large Scale Structures
- Water Movement (Shuttle Operations)
- CPR Training

PERSONNEL TIME FOR TRAINING

Fire / EMS

1,880.45

INCIDENT SUMMARY



MUTUAL AID

Aid Given	4
Aid Received	2

PATIENT CONTACTS

817-1	151
Total	151

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME

Fire Department Apparatus (Average)	0:11:64
EMS (Average)	0:05:71

PERSONNEL TIME ON-SCENE

Fire / EMS	723:04
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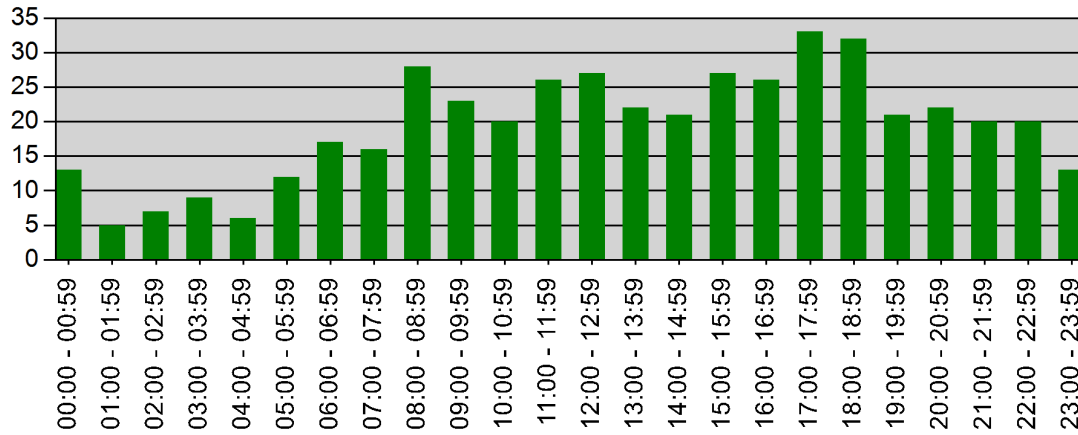
Time counted from time of dispatch to time of scene cleared.



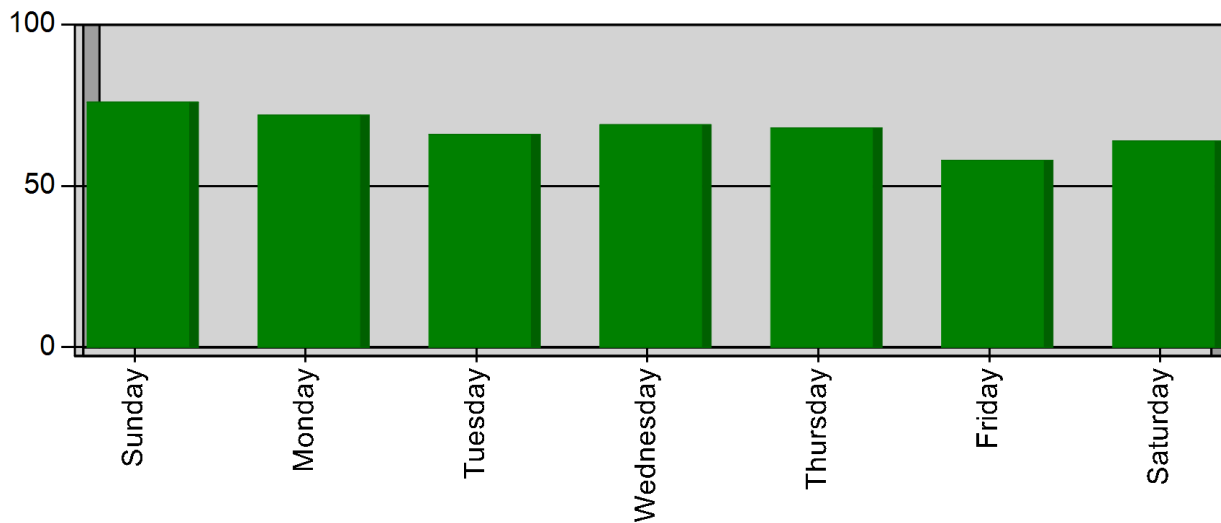
INCIDENT STATISTICS

			# Civilian Fire Casualties	
	FIRES IN STRUCTURES BY FIXED PROPERTY USE (OCCUPANCY)	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	DEATHS	INJURIES
1	Private Dwellings (1 or 2 family), including mobile homes (FPU 419)	4	0	0
2	Apartments (3 or more families) (FPU 429)	0	0	0
3	Hotels and Motels (FPU 449)	0	0	0
4	All Other Residential (dormitories, boarding houses, tents, etc.) (FPU 400, 439, 459-499)	0	0	0
5	TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES (Sum of lines 1 through 4)	4	0	0
6	Public Assembly (church, restaurant, clubs, etc.) (FPU 100-199)	0	0	0
7	Schools and Colleges (FPD 200-299)	0	0	0
8	Health Care and Penal Institutions (hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, etc.) (FPU 300-399)	0	0	0
9	Stores and Offices (FPU 500-599)	1	0	0
10	Industry, Utility, Defense, Laboratories, Manufacturing (FPU 600-799)	0	0	0
11	Storage in Structures (barns, vehicle storage garages, general storage, etc.) (FPU 800-899)	0	0	0
12	Other Structures (outbuildings, bridges, etc.) (FPU 900-999)	0	0	0
13	TOTAL FOR STRUCTURE FIRES (Sum of lines 5 through 12)	5	0	0
14a	Fires in Highway Vehicles (autos, trucks, buses, etc.) (IT 131-132, 136-137)	5	0	0
14b	Fires in Other Vehicles (planes, trains, ships, construction or farm vehicles, etc.) (IT 130, 133-135, 138)	2	0	0
15	Fires outside of Structures with Value Involved, but Not Vehicles (outside storage, crops, timber, etc.) (IT 140, 141, 161, 162, 164, 170-173)	1	0	0
16	Fires in Brush, Grass, Wildland (excluding crops and timber), with no value involved (IT 142-143)	2	0	0
17	Fires in Rubbish, Including Dumpsters (outside of structures), with no value involved (IT 150-155)	1	0	0
18	All Other Fires (IT 100, 160, 163)	2	0	0
19	TOTAL FOR FIRES (Sum of lines 13 through 18)	18	0	0
20	Rescue, Emergency Medical Responses (ambulances, EMS, rescue) (IT 300-381)	384	0	0
21	False Alarm Responses (malicious or unintentional false calls, malfunctions, bomb scares) (IT 700-746)	23	0	0
22	Mutual Aid Responses Given	4	0	0
23a.	Hazards Materials Responses (spills, leaks, etc.) (IT 410-431)	6	0	0
23b	Other Hazardous Responses (arcing wires, bomb removal, power line down, etc.) (IT 440-482, 400)	5	0	0
24	All Other Responses (smoke scares, lock-outs, animal rescues, etc.) (IT 200-251, 500-699, 800-911)	34	0	0
25	TOTAL FOR ALL INCIDENTS (Sum of lines 19 through 24)	474	0	0

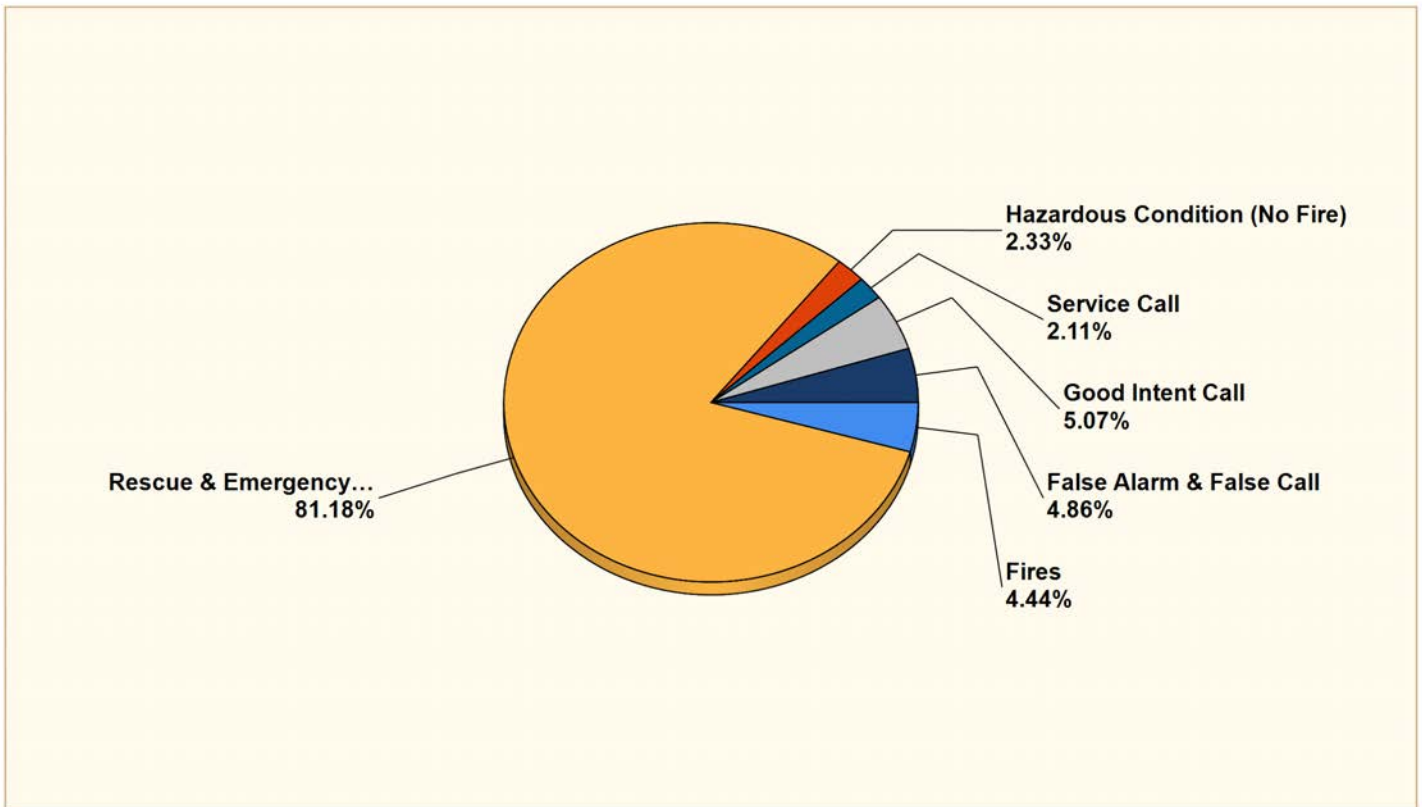
INCIDENTS BY HOUR FOR 2017



INCIDENTS BY DAY OF THE WEEK FOR 2017



INCIDENTS BY CATEGORY FOR 2017



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	21	4.44%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	384	81.18%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	11	2.33%
Service Call	10	2.11%
Good Intent Call	24	5.07%
False Alarm & False Call	23	4.86%
TOTAL	473	100.00%

PUBLIC OUTREACH





FIRE PREVENTION

Every year, hundreds of people die in home or business related fires in the United States. In an effort to reduce the loss of life, injury or property loss in the Town of Sheboygan, the Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department is committed to providing a quality fire prevention program within our community.

Our program includes demonstrations and activities at our public schools within the township, as well as hands on demonstration for our business owners and their employees. The skills taught by our fire department are the same skills taught across the county by many other volunteer and career departments.



One of our programs which started in 2015, involves a fire safety contest within the elementary schools in which children could win a chance to have a ride to or from school. This program was a major success for the children, the school and the community.

Fire prevention is a core element in the Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department's mission statement. Our programs are vital to the success of our mission.

The Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department will continue to offer free home fire inspections under the direction of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This program continues to enhance our public outreach to support our mission.



This year, members were present during the townships Halloween celebrations to meet with children in certain neighborhoods.

2017 PUBLIC SERVICES

Fire Extinguisher Training Program

Throughout the year, members of the fire department conduct fire extinguisher demonstration courses to the businesses and their employees within the Town of Sheboygan.

This service is vital to reducing the risk of a fire for a business. Proper use of a fire extinguisher can not only mean saving a structure from fire, but keeping the occupants safe.

The courses offered to our businesses not only help staff members become more familiar with the proper use of fire extinguishers, it also allows our firefighters to meet and interact with the business owners around the township.

Parades

Firefighters and first responders actively participate in parades within our community and our neighboring communities. This participation builds pride within our membership as well as showing the community we are a dedicated fire department that is willing to do what it takes to ensure the safety of our residents and businesses.

Fire Inspections

As mandated by state statute, the Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department inspects all businesses and residential facilities of three family or larger for potential fire violations and general safety concerns. The fire inspections are conducted by members of the fire department and is coordinated by Chief Roger Benzschawel, a certified fire inspector with the State of Wisconsin.

Fire inspections are conducted twice a year. Fire inspections are also performed on new structures during and after the completion of the project. The Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department works closely with building contractors to ensure the correct fire suppression systems are installed and the meets or exceeds local and state fire codes.

This service also helps familiarize our firefighters with the structures within the township. Our firefighters also are made aware of specific building layouts which helps them make better decisions on the fire ground.



Station Tours

Firefighters always enjoy giving tours of the firehouse, the equipment and apparatus that we use. From scheduled tours to walk-ins from citizens at the park, we never turn away someone that wants a tour!



Fire Investigation

It is the responsibility of the fire department to determine origin and cause of each structure fire within the township. The Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department works closely with the Sheboygan County Fire Investigation Unit (SCFIU) on any structure fire we respond to.

Currently, three members of our fire department are active arson investigators on the SCFIU. Each of these members responds to numerous structure fires throughout Sheboygan County, bringing vital experience on the fire ground and for investigations.

In the event any criminal activity is suspected, the Wisconsin Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation (or DCI) is notified. Our investigators work closely with DCI to ensure the proper measures are taken place should the fire be suspicious in nature.

Members also work closely with insurance investigators on various incidents including fire, auto or personal injury.

Fire investigators for the Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department are:

- Chief Roger Benzschawel
- 1st Assistant Chief Ed Biederwolf
- Captain Adam Harden
- Secretary / Treasurer Tim Ellis
- Firefighter Jon Cvetan

There were zero fatalities due to a fire in 2017 within the Town of Sheboygan.



APPARATUS



**“FIREFIGHTERS SAVE MORE THAN HOMES,
THEY SAVE HEARTS, MEMORIES AND DREAMS”**



APPARATUS OVERVIEW

The Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department offers a wide range of fire and rescue services for the residents and businesses that reside in the township.

These services require a large set of tools and vehicles, also called apparatus, to accomplish our mission objectives successfully.

Our department currently has the following firefighting apparatus vehicles:

- Engine 1 - Initial Attack Fire Apparatus
- Engine 2 - Initial Attack Fire Apparatus
- Tender 5 - Mobile Water Supply Fire Apparatus
- Truck 1 - Quint Fire Apparatus (Ladder / Pumper)
- Rescue 3 - Air / Light Rescue Fire Apparatus
- UTV 1 - Wild-land Fire Apparatus
- 817-1 Basic Life Support Capable Ambulance
- Pickup - General Purpose Fire Department Vehicle

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The future of our apparatus is vital as each vehicle supports our mission in regards to effectively performing our duties. With this, comes the responsibility to maintain the vehicles and plan for future repair and replacement issues.

As of 2018, our two oldest vehicles are Rescue 3 and Engine 2.

Engine 2 has been in service for over 20 years. While we strive to keep Engine 2 in service, the age of the vehicle and the pump are starting to show. Funding to keep the engine up to minimum National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards is becoming more costly each year.

A plan should be developed to replace Engine 2 in the next five to ten years.

Rescue 3 has been in service for over 15 years. Like Engine 2, the age of the vehicle has started to impact the maintenance budget with the department.

A plan should be developed to replace Rescue 3 in the next ten years.

One alternative would be to combine a new rescue unit with a new engine, commonly known as rescue pumpers.

This type of vehicle would eliminate one apparatus from the department by combining Engine 2 and Rescue 3 into one vehicle, decreasing the overall budget and maintenance burdens.

DEPARTMENT OUTLOOK



MANAGING GROWTH

Our township continues to grow at a rapid pace. New multifamily, single family and commercial structures are being added every year. It's our responsibility to protect those within the structures and to protect the structures themselves.

Part of this responsibility is to respond to calls in a timely and effective manner. Per our 2017 report, the response times for our fire rescue calls only meet or exceed the National Fire Protection Associations guideline roughly 80% of the time.

Response time is a key factor in saving a life or their property. In a recent Underwriters Laboratory study on fire growth and development, the average room and contents fire grows from a single flame source to an explosive situation called a flashover, where everything in the room reaches a combustion temperature at the same time due to a heat source within the room.

*"The overall finding of UL's fire testing is that the changes in the modern home create fires that reach flashover more than eight times faster than homes built 50 years ago. This much more rapid progression to flashover gives residents, firefighters and other first responders much less time to react, creating significant hazards to health and property." (Kerber, 2012)**

As we look forward towards the future, it is the mission of the fire chiefs to find ways to improve the over-all response times for the fire department.

A long-term potential solution includes changing the department from a volunteer agency to a combination paid-volunteer department. This transition should be considered for the future of the township within the next five to seven years.

The first step in this process is to put in place a full-time fire chief and a full time EMS division chief. This type of position would greatly enhance the capability and response for our fire department. After these positions are in place, a combination department should be considered.

Aside from a safety standpoint, moving towards a combined department, the residents and businesses will benefit as it will improve the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) score. When the fire department that protects your home or business improves its ISO rating, your insurance premiums will decrease. This rating has many factors including the number of personnel on duty, training level of personnel, the amount of water the fire department can flow to a fire, response times and equipment in which we operate.

Currently, the Town of Sheboygan Volunteer Fire Department is rated at a four out of 10. A score of one is the highest (and best) score a department can receive. The closest fire department with a rating of one is the Fond Du Lac Fire Department.

The benefits from an improved ISO score include lower insurance premiums for our residents and businesses. The insurance industry heavily relies on these scores for premium factorization.

REFERENCES

Kerber, S. et al., "Improving Fire Safety by Understanding the Fire Performance of Engineered Floor Systems and Providing the Fire Service with Information for Tactical Decision Making," 2009 NIST AARA Compilation Report by UL, March 2012.

DOCUMENT NOTES

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