

## Pentwater Fire Department 2003 Annual Summary

**Activity:** There were 30 runs that PFD responded to in 2003. On a positive note, there were no structure fires that took place within our area of coverage for the entire year. Over 20% of the runs were mutual aid to EMS and area fire departments. A fire on Hammett road that burned approximately 10 acres of woods was the most noteworthy of our runs for the year.

**Personnel:** Three new members were added to the roster in May of this year. John Sayles, Paul Smith, and Ted Hebblewhite completed the six month, 152 hour Firefighter I course. Fire Marshall Louis Alvesteffer retired from the department after 38 years of service. Wayne Schlee was appointed as a new Marshall, filling Louis's vacancy. Caretaker Carl Peterson and Asst Chief Henry Jobbins were both re-elected for two year terms in April. Ray Hasil was elected the new Secretary when incumbent Mark Petersen decided not to run. Mark Petersen had been Secretary for 5 years, and is still an active firefighter on the department.

**Equipment:** The Department added a new 3000 gallon portable tank that is stored on our newest pumper, 335. The tank is deployable by a single firefighter, in sharp contrast to the old tanks that take 4-6 to deploy and pinch fingers frequently.

Four new air packs were added to the Department inventory, and updated personal alert safety systems (PASS) were installed on all air packs. The new alarm systems are built in to the normal operation of the air packs. The alarm is activated either manually by the firefighter or automatically when the air pack is motionless for 30 seconds.

Some of the biggest equipment changes were noticed in communications. New pagers were issued by Mason-Oceana 911. The new pagers record when the Department is toned out which allows instant playback in the event that critical information was missed. The new pagers also allow for several different tones to be programmed. This allows for only the Chief and Asst Chief to be toned, or for only the members of the Fire Investigation Team to be toned out.

Over a dozen new portable high-band radios were added to the department. The radios allow inter-department communication as well as communication with all neighboring fire departments and EMS.

A new repeater was installed at the water tower. The repeater allows for clear inter-department communication throughout our entire fire district.

**Education:** Community education events included participation at two Home Depot fire safety events and 'Scottie's Firehouse', a portable smoke trailer and training environment that teaches children fire and life safety. The annual Halloween gathering provided glow necklaces to help Trick-or-Treaters remain visible at night.

Department education saw training on everything from CPR recertification to blood borne pathogen recertification to pumper operation to ice rescue training. Lieutenant/Treasurer Everet Horton completed the Michigan Fire Fighter Training Council (MFFTC) 66 hour Fire Officer I certification. Ray Hasil attended a weeklong class at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Ted Hebblewhite and Paul Smith completed Master Diver certifications, and three firefighters are currently enrolled in the 76 hour Firefighter II certification.