

Pentwater Fire Department  
Year in Review  
2004

**Equipment**

**Dive/Rescue Boat:** A boat in dire need of repair was donated to the Department in fall of 2003. The boat was worked on through the winter of 2003 and into 2004. Chief Terry Cluchey and Firefighter Paul Smith gutted and re-constructed the interior. Firefighter and Dive Team Leader Craig Lewandowski repaired the engine and drive. The boat was in service for the first time on July 3, 2004, and was used by the dive team for training, and also responded to water emergencies throughout the summer. So dramatic was the transformation that it was featured in an article in the January 2005 issue of Lakeland Boating. Water rescue responses represented 10.5% of our total call volume this year.

**800 MHz radios:** Five new portable 800 MHz radios were put into service, with the majority of funding through Mason-Oceana 911. Two additional mobiles and a portable were ordered with grant monies through Oceana County Emergency Management.

**Dry Hydrant/Motel:** A new dry hydrant was installed at the new Best Western motel located at US Business 31 and PM Highway. Materials were purchased by Riverton Fire Department and Pentwater Fire Department performed the installation.

**New Turnout Gear:** With the majority of the department using coat and pants that are 20 years old and older, new turnout gear was needed. Administrative members attended a firefighter expo in Grand Rapids to speak with a variety of vendors and sample the many different styles and materials. A demo set was purchased at half price and field tested. By the end of 2005, most of the department will have new gear.

**Personal Development**

**Training:** In addition to training on basic firefighting techniques, the department conducted and/or participated in the following specialized training for 2004:

- Surface Ice Rescue
- Ice Diving Training
- CPR/AED
- Fireworks Safety
- Controlled Burn
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- County HAZMAT Team

**National Fire Academy/Emmitsburg, Maryland:** In June, 3 members attended classes at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. With the exception of a meal ticket, the weeklong classes were fully funded by the Academy's Volunteer Incentive Program. Fire Chief Terry Cluchey and Secretary Ray Hasil attended the Leadership & Administration class; firefighter Paul Smith attended the Community Education & Leadership class.

**Diving Team:** PFD added two Divemasters to its' Dive Team. Firefighters Paul Smith and Ted Hebblewhite both completed PADI Divemaster training. They are the only two Divemasters on the team.

### **Maintenance**

**Station Painting:** A fresh coat of paint, as well as a new look was added to the station this year.

**Asphalt driveway:** An asphalt driveway and apron was added.

### **Personnel**

**Elections:** Fire Chief Terry Cluchey and Treasurer Everet Horton were both re-elected to two-year terms in March.

**Retirement:** Safety Officer and former Fire Chief William Brown is retiring after 50 years of service.

### **Administration**

**Grant Application:** For the first time, PFD applied for grant money available to fire departments nationwide for specific equipment. Although it is not believed that we will receive monies on this first try, significant information on grant writing was obtained from grant reviewer classmates at the National Fire Academy. The information identified areas of improvement for future grant application writing.

**By-Laws:** A major overhaul of the Department By-Laws is now complete and ready for council approval. The changes were made with the Village, Township, Organization, and Individual in mind.

**Millage:** The PFD millage was successfully renewed this year for a period of 5 years.

### **Incident Response**

PFD proudly continues a streak of nearly 3 years without a structure fire. While we have been activated for many fire related incidents and to assist other departments on structure fires outside our primary area of jurisdiction, there has not been a structure fire that required deployment of a water hose in Pentwater Village or Township since May 5, 2002.

There were a total of 40 incidents for 2004. Response can be broken down into the following categories:

|                         |    |       |
|-------------------------|----|-------|
| Fire                    | 11 | 27.5% |
| HazMat                  | 6  | 15.0% |
| False Alarm/Good Intent | 8  | 20.0% |
| Wires Down              | 4  | 10.0% |
| Water Rescue            | 4  | 10.0% |
| EMS Assist              | 6  | 15.0% |
| Vehicle Accident        | 1  | 2.5%  |