

Pentwater Fire Department  
Year in Review  
2005

**Equipment**

**Turnout Gear:** PFD ordered new turnout (personal protective gear) gear for the majority of it's active members. All members received new boots. 18 members were outfitted with a new coat and pants. The coat and pants replace existing gear that is worn and outdated, and in many cases 20 years old. The gear is a significant investment at over \$1300 per firefighter, and was custom fit to each firefighter to maximize overall fit, comfort, and functionality.

**800 MHz Radios:** 4 Apparatus were outfitted with new 800 MHz radio equipment. PFD's main and secondary pumpers and fast-attack pickup received new 800 MHz mobile radios, and PFD's tanker received an 800 MHz portable. The radios were purchased with grant money secured by Oceana County Emergency Management.

**4" Hose:** Several hundred feet of 4" hose were added to PFD's primary pumper. The 4" hose enhances water supply greatly compared to the 2.5" hose that was previously used. On its' very first use on a house fire, it supplied enough water and pressure from a hydrant that pump did little work.

**Personal Development**

**Medical First Responders (MFR):** 7 students began the 66 hour MFR class in October as part of PFD's pursuance of an MFR unit. The class will end in mid January.

**National Incident Management System (NIMS):** fire departments nationwide are now required to train personnel on NIMS, a standard for mutual aid/organization for mass casualty incidents no matter the size or scope. Operations officers were required to complete two classes by fall of 2005. All firefighters are required to complete the training by Summer of 2006.

**Personnel**

**Elections:** effective 4/05, Henry Jobbins was re-elected as Assistant Chief for a two year term. Ray Hasil was re-elected as Secretary for a two year term, and Paul Smith was elected as Caretaker for a two year term.

**Retirement:** Bill Brown retired after 50 years of service to PFD. Bill was presented a Resolution from the Pentwater Village Council and a Special Tribute from the State of Michigan. Paul Duncan and Mark Petersen both moved to retired status as well.

**Title Changes:** Lieutenant/Treasurer Everet Horton was appointed Safety Officer, replacing the position vacated by Bill Brown. Secretary Ray Hasil was appointed Lieutenant, and firefighter John Sayles was appointed Secretary.

**New Personnel:** Crystal Babbins was added to the department roster, and recently moved to the area after serving as a firefighter in the military. Additionally, 6 firefighters were added on probationary status pending completion of firefighter I & II training.

### **Administration**

**By-Laws:** Department by-laws received a complete overhaul and were passed by the Department and Village Council

**ISO Lowered:** the Village's ISO rating was lowered. Contributing to the rating was PFD equipment and many other Department factors.

**MFR Unit:** PFD will be implementing a Medical First Responder unit for 2006. The action comes in response to the 140 calls that Oceana County EMS responded to in 2004. 7 students began class in October of 2005, with training to be completed in January 2006. The unit will go live in 2006 pending state certification of responders, equipment, and apparatus.

### **Department Activity**

**Block System:** all Oceana County fire departments unanimously adopted a 'block system' that automatically tones out the department with the primary area of jurisdiction as well as a second, predetermined department. The block system is designed to get additional help rolling before it needs to be requested, resulting in reduction to risk of life and property in structure fires.

**Annual Events:** PFD continues to be a major presence at annual community events. Homecoming, Halloween, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July were all events that PFD participated in either crowd control, water patrol, and increased presence for public safety. As always, cider, donuts, and glow necklaces were a hit at the fire station on Halloween.

**Deerwood Fire:** PFD assisted Shelby-Benona Fire Department and a number of other area fire departments in extinguishing and overhaul on a grass fire that ran over 1 mile on the Lake Michigan shoreline in the Deerwood subdivision. The fire caused major damage to every walkway leading from houses to the beach, and completely destroyed two lakefront homes. PFD's Compressed Air Foam System on its fast-attack pickup played a major role in stopping the fire before it could cross a fire line that would have made it difficult to stop the quickly moving wildfire.

**Streak Ends:** PFD's 3+ year streak of not having a structure fire in Pentwater Village or Township that required deployment of fire hose ended with the Methodist Church Fire. The church was struck by lightning and thanks to quick detection by Pentwater Police, the Fire Department was able to extinguish the attic fire before it could spread. Consequently, damage was minimal.

**Department Response:** overall, PFD responded to a total of 14 fires in 2005. 10 were in PFD's area of jurisdiction, and 4 were assists to other departments. The breakdown of fire response is as follows:

There were 5 structure fires in PFD's primary area of jurisdiction. Of the 5 fires:

- Methodist Church fire; damaged but extinguished before major loss
- Two residential structures that were a total loss
- One residential that went out itself before spreading
- One chimney/garage fire

Of the 5 fires in Pentwater, three were ignited by lightning. The other two are believed to be wood-stove related.

Overall response is as follows:

35 total runs for 2005

Fire	14	40.0%
HazMat	3	8.5%
False Alarm/Good Intent	6	17.1%
Wires Down	1	2.8%
Water Rescue	3	8.5%
EMS Assist	4	11.4%
Vehicle Accident	4	11.4%