

ANNUAL REPORT



2022



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief's Report

On February 17, 2022 the Bloomfield Township Fire Department was met with one of the biggest challenges in the history of the Department. Personnel of the BTFD were dispatched to an odor of smoke inside the historic Oakland Hills Country Club. In a short period of time that odor had become a raging fire that could not be stopped.

Over the past several years, I have made it a point to show that our neighboring communities are our partners in every aspect of the fire service. They are commonly referred to as the OAKWAY mutual aid organization. Without the communities of Birmingham, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Independence Township, Madison Heights, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak, Southfield, Waterford Regional and West Bloomfield the outcome of this day would have been very different and on this date OAKWAY stood strong. While this fire was occurring the weather in the area was not cooperating. A winter storm was allowing us to experience every season in Michigan over an eight hour period. These conditions proved difficult not only on the fire scene but around the Township as well. Emergency incidents in Bloomfield Township did not stop during the fire. The weather caused a significant increase in the number of additional emergencies that still needed to be mitigated. Responding off duty firefighters and additional Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) personnel from around Oakland County insured that the community maintained emergency operations.

Fire Chief's Report

Recently we have seen a couple of disturbing trends occurring in the fire service. The first one being that recruitment of new personnel has become extremely difficult. Gone are the days of several hundred candidates applying for only a handful of positions. Now it is not unheard of to have one applicant for every two positions. This means that it takes a significant amount of time to replace any open positions. The fire service, state and federal governments are trying to implement programs to attract candidates to the fire service but any success with these programs will likely take years to see any positive effects.

The second trend is for the first time in over a decade fire departments are seeing an increase in fires, especially residential structure. Two driving factors have attributed to this trend. The Covid Pandemic period occurring over the last couple years led to more people being home for longer periods with an increase in cooking fires. The second and more recent attribute is the increasing use of lithium batteries. In recent years these batteries have gone from being located only in cell phones to being in all of our everyday use items. Items such as cars, power tools, hover boards, scooters, bicycles and are used on a daily basis, but a new growing area is the use of home power systems and solar panels for supplemental energy or backup energy when the power goes out. Lithium batteries in their normal operating state are safe, however, sometimes due to a process of poor manufacturing, the quality control has shown to be an issue. When one of these batteries enters into what is called a thermal runaway there are limited means of stopping it. Massive amounts of water are needed to stop the fire and the batteries need to be removed to a safe area because reignition is likely.

Fire Chief's Report

Fire Departments around the country are emphasizing training, safety and tactics in fighting fires of this nature and the Bloomfield Township Fire Department is no different. Perhaps the greatest challenge we face with lithium batteries is the technology is evolving at a rate that fire department training, industry standards and building codes cannot keep up with the new technology.

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department will continue to do everything in our power to combat both of these trends to maintain the safety of the residents of Bloomfield Township.

2022 proved to be one of the most challenging years in the history of the Bloomfield Township Fire Department. The Fire Department had to deal with the loss of a fellow firefighter and the biggest fire in the history of Bloomfield Township over the course of a week. The personnel of the Department met these challenges head on and in the face of adversity performed their duties like professionals. I could not have been more proud of each and every member of this Department!

Respectfully Submitted,
John LeRoy
Fire Chief





Fire Department Administration



Fire Chief
John LeRoy
21 Years of Service



Assistant Fire Chief
Matt DeRousse
23 Years of Service



Fire Marshal
Pete Vlahos
26 Years of Service



EMS Captain
Mike Sova
12 Years of Service



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

Organizational Chart





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Station Information

Station 1-Central Fire

1155 Total Incidents
605 Fire / Other
550 Medical





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Station Information

Station 1

Central Fire Station is located at 1155 Exeter, in Bloomfield Township's Municipal Government Complex. It houses one Paramedic Ladder truck, one Incident Command vehicle, one Water Rescue Boat, one Special Operations and Response vehicle (S.O.A.R.), and 2 utility vehicles.

Central Fire Station serves a mostly residential area in the heart of Bloomfield Township. In addition to residences, Central Fire Station protects many well known structures such as Wabeek Country Club, Kirk in the Hills, and the Bloomfield Township Library to name a few. Central Fire Station also has the job of protecting several condo complexes, some light mercantile, and the major thoroughfare of Telegraph Road.

Central Fire Station is staffed with a Battalion Chief, Lieutenant/Paramedic and 1-2 additional Firefighter/Paramedics. The fire department's administrative staff, including the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, EMS Coordinator, two Fire inspectors and a Administrative Assistant are also located at this station.

Station 1 Service Area





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Station Information

Station 2

1762 Total Incidents
717 Fire / Other
1045 Medical





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Station Information

Station 2

Fire Station 2 is located at 1063 Westview, on the Township's northeast side. This fire station houses a Paramedic Engine and a Paramedic Rescue to protect its district. A Lieutenant/Paramedic and three Firefighter/ Paramedics, are assigned to this fire station.

Fire Station 2 protects residential areas, light mercantile areas, and the major thoroughfares of I-75, Woodward Avenue, and Square Lake Road. Some of the notable structures located in Station 2's area are the International Academy, Bowers School Farm, Oakland Community College offices, and Academy of the Sacred Heart.

Station 2 Service Area





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Station Information

Station 3

1937	Total Incidents
798	Fire / Other
1139	Medical





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

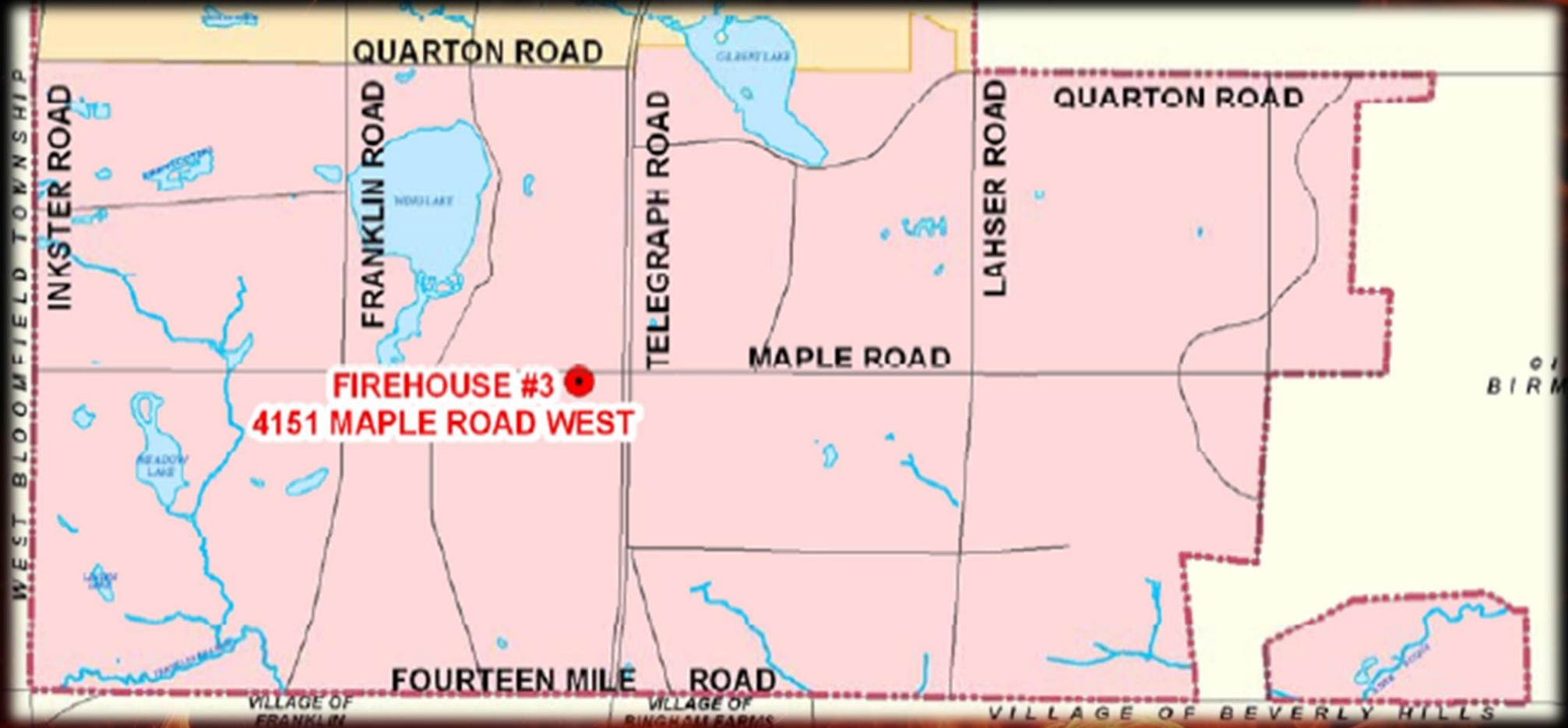
Station Information

Station 3

Fire Station 3 is located at 4151 W. Maple on the Township's southwest side. This fire station houses a Paramedic Engine, a Paramedic Rescue and a reserve Paramedic Engine. A Lieutenant/Paramedic and three Firefighter/Paramedics are assigned to this fire station.

Fire Station 3 serves a mainly residential area, including Bloomfield Village, some light mercantile and the major thoroughfares of Telegraph and Maple Roads. Some of the notable buildings protected by Station 3 are Oakland Hills Country Club, Franklin Cider Mill, Birmingham Athletic Club, Birmingham Country Club, Sunrise Assisted Living (South), and Temple Beth El.

Station 3 Service Area





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Station Information

Station 4

1531 Total Incidents
667 Fire / Other
864 Medical





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Station Information

Station 4

Fire Station 4 is located at 2389 Franklin Road on the Township's north side. This fire station houses a Paramedic Ladder Truck, a Paramedic Rescue and a reserve Paramedic Engine. A Lieutenant/ Paramedic and three Firefighter/Paramedics are assigned to this station.

Fire Station 4 serves an area of residential, light through heavy mercantile, light industrial and major thoroughfares of Telegraph Road, Square Lake Road, Woodward Avenue, and I-75. Some of the notable buildings in this area include Forest Lake Country Club, Bloomfield Town Square, Carl's Golf Land, and Sunrise Assisted Living (North).

Station 4 Service Area





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

FIRE OPS 101





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Line Personnel

Officers

Battalion Chiefs

Years of Service

Alan VanHeck

27

Kevin Cardinale

26

Ryan Husch

26

Lieutenants

Years of Service

Lieutenants

Years of Service

Tim Cowher

24

Kevin Bailey

21

Joe Chopski

24

Leonard Wineski

21

Bob Gahlau

21

Michael Pucci

19

Nate Keeton

22

Shaun Patterson

17

Ed Lietz

22

Brandon Gainer

14

Kevin Schutte

21

Benjamin Bradford

14



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

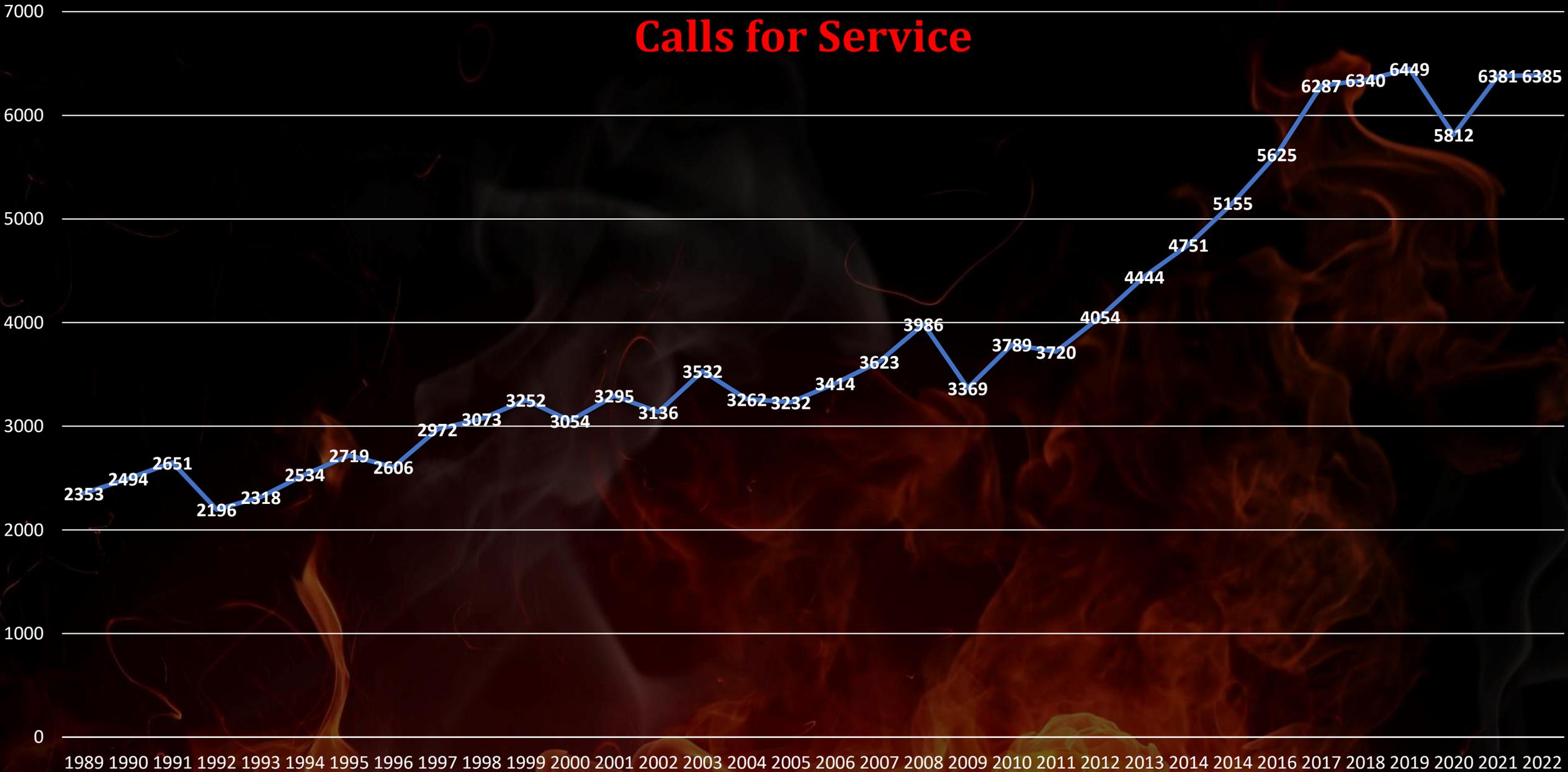
Line Personnel

Firefighter Paramedics

<u>Firefighter</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Firefighter</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Firefighter</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Scott Collins	26	Craig Onderbeke	8	Ian Griffith	3
Jason Grunwald	20	Jacob Piché	7	Aidan Gawura	3
Jeffrey Bartlett	19	Adam Phillips	7	Michael Best	2
Robert Nichols	19	Christian Bertucci	6	Jake Kreutzer	2
Matthew Zsido	14	Chu Yang	6	Travis Smith	2
Jeremy Koziel	14	Patrick Quinn III	6	Ryan Dumsa	1
Joseph McGrail	14	Jason Cloonan	5	Joe Evangelista	1
Andrew Gibson	13	Michelle Martin	5	CJ Dagher	1
Cory VanHeck	12	Andrew Altman	5	Andrew Fleming	1
Christopher Hull	11	Jeffrey Nancarrow	4	Brett Syracuse	1
Ryan Switala	10	Adam Corbley	4	Luke Mackin	<1
Daniel Trudeau	9	Bradley Woodhull	4	Madison VanHeck	<1
Kenneth Edgemon	8	Alec Rie	3		

Incident Metrics

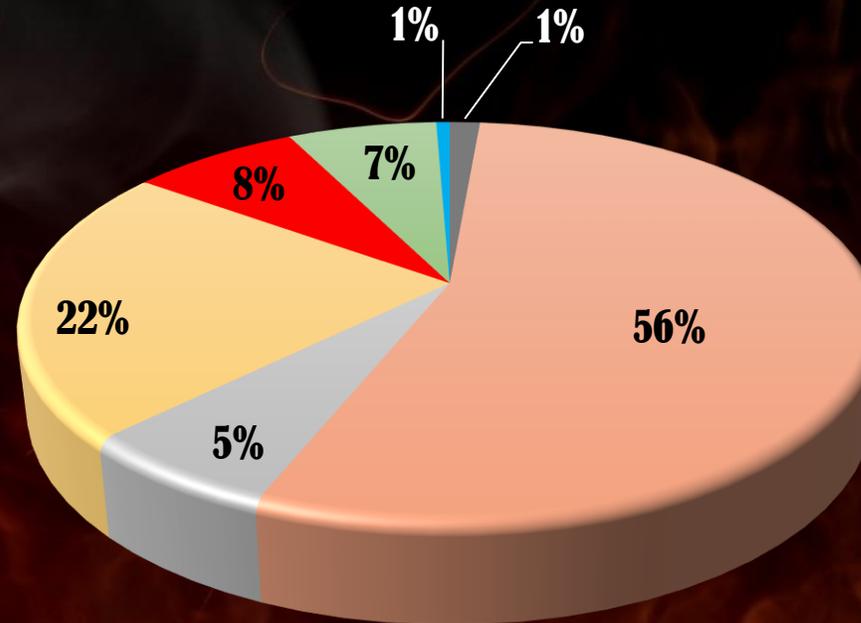
Calls for Service



Incident Metrics

Calls for Service

Fires	86
EMS/Rescue	3617
Hazardous Conditions	314
Service Calls	1450
Good Intent	497
False Alarms	407
Dispatch Error	14
TOTAL	6385



- ▣ **Fires**
- ▣ **EMS/Rescue**
- ▣ **Hazardous Conditions**
- ▣ **Service Calls**
- ▣ **Good Intent**
- ▣ **False Alarms**
- ▣ **Dispatch Error**



Incident Metrics

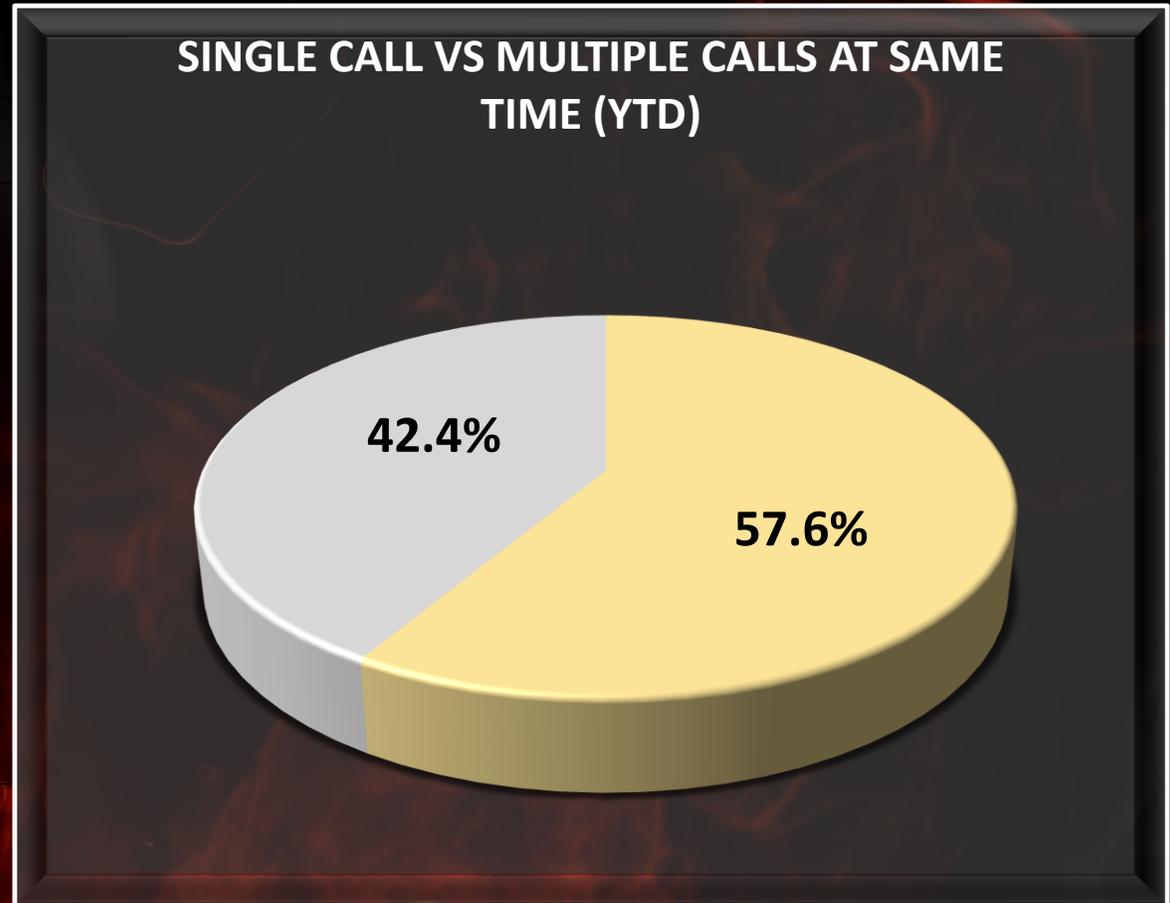
Incident/Time of Day Breakdown (YTD)





Incident Metrics

<i>Number of Concurrent Incidents</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1 INCIDENT OCCURRING	3682	57.6%
2 INCIDENTS OCCURRING AT SAME TIME	1662	
3 INCIDENTS OCCURRING AT SAME TIME	624	
4 INCIDENTS OCCURRING AT SAME TIME	263	
5 INCIDENTS OCCURRING AT SAME TIME	79	42.4%
6 INCIDENTS OCCURRING AT SAME TIME	26	
7+ INCIDENTS OCCURRING AT SAME TIME	49	



42.4%

OF THE TIME THIS YEAR THE BTFD IS ON MULTIPLE CALLS FOR SERVICE AT THE SAME TIME



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Training Report

In 2022, firefighters completed over 14,000 hours of training. The importance of this training cannot be overstated. When the residents of Bloomfield Township call for help, they deserve and expect to get the very best from us when we respond. Many years ago, the Bloomfield Township Fire Department made high level training a priority and it has now become a part of our culture. The purpose of our training is to ensure that we can provide the best service possible to our community. Again, this year, fire related training accounted for the largest percentage of overall training time (50%). This statistic remains important to the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of our firefighters. EMS training comes in second with our firefighter/paramedics participating in medical training 20% of the time. Fire officer development accounted for over 1,500 hours of training in 2022. The purpose of this training is to prepare the senior firefighters for their next role as company officers. This training also provides the education and tools necessary for our current officers to grow into leadership positions within the department. The Bloomfield Township Fire Department will experience a significant loss of leadership and experience in the next few years due to retirements so officer development training remains a training priority. Additionally, our firefighters spend a significant amount of time participating in specialized training such as; technical rescue, HazMat, Professional Emergency Management and training deployments with the Michigan Task Force Team.



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Training Report

Firefighters also spend many hours participating in physical fitness training. Our firefighters recognize that a consistent physical fitness program and good nutrition will help them increase their endurance and decrease their risk of injury on emergency incidents.

The members of the BTFD are more than willing to do the work in order to provide the residents with the highest level of service and commitment.

"Don't train till you get it right; train till you can't get it wrong!"

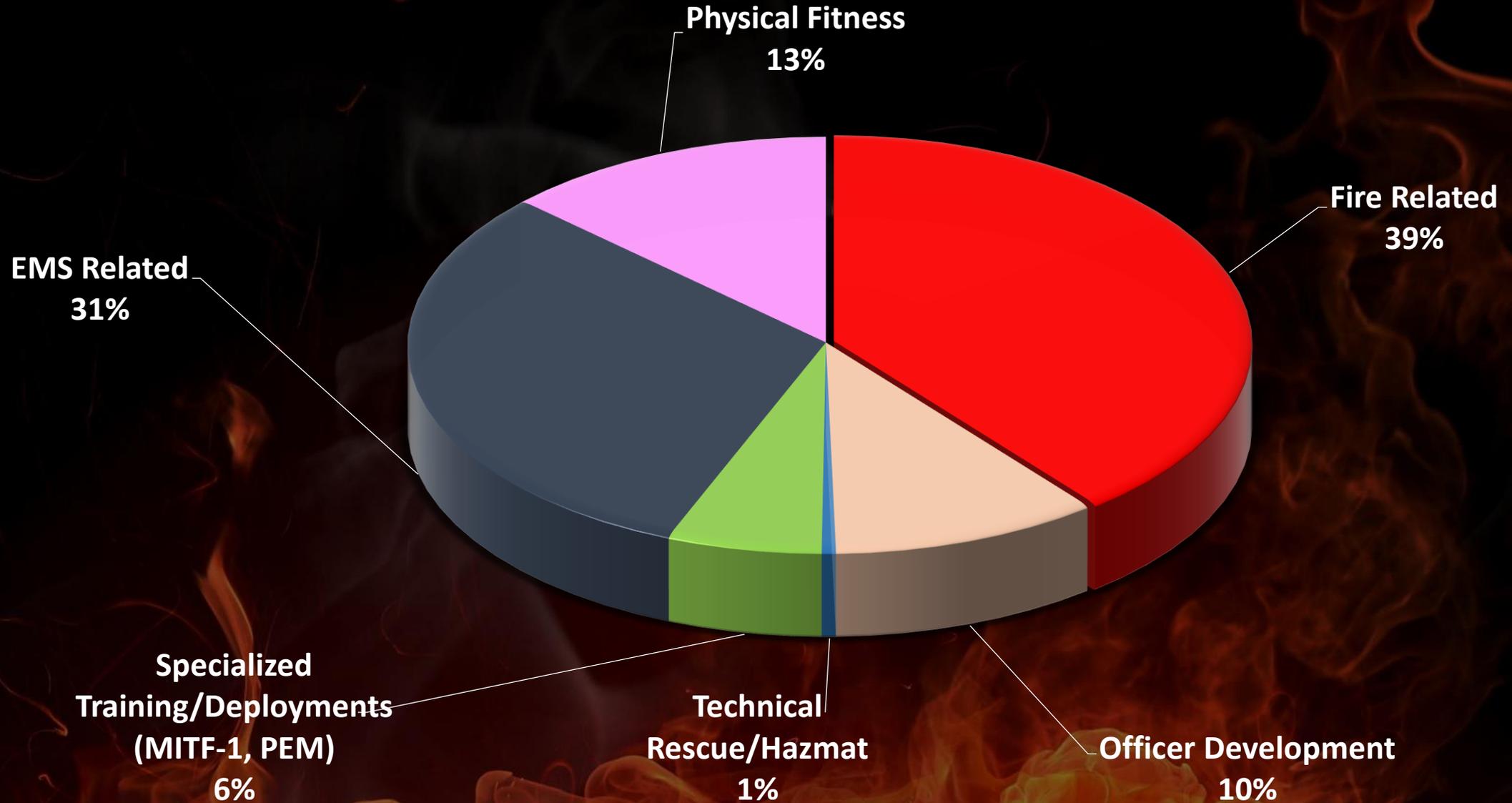
Respectfully,

Matt DeRousse
Assistant Chief



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Training Hours





BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT





**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



Fire Marshal Report

This past year was a productive one for the Bloomfield Township Fire and Life Safety Division (FLSD). We worked constantly to meet the demands of the rapidly changing community while providing the highest level of customer service to our residents and business owners.

Bloomfield Township FD promoted the 2022 National Fire Protection Agency's fire prevention campaign. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Fire won't wait, plan your escape," helps people better understand the importance of creating an escape plan and practicing it with your family.

Key messages for "Fire won't wait, plan your escape" include:

- Identify two ways out of each room in your home.
- Plan and practice an escape plan with your family.
- When a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide (CO) alarm sounds, respond immediately by exiting the home as quickly as possible.
- Test all smoke and CO alarms monthly. Press the test button to make sure the alarm is working.

This year also marked our 16th year for the fire safety and injury prevention school program in the Bloomfield Hills School District. The program teaches second graders the importance of making safe choices and preventing injuries caused by accidents.



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



Fire Marshal Report

Additional duties of the FLSD include conducting various types of fire inspections and construction plan reviews. While performing inspections the FLSD takes the opportunity to educate the community on many different fire safety issues.

We are also responsible for the investigation of all structure fires, incendiary fires, and fires resulting in injury and/or death. In February of 2022, Oakland Hills Country Club caught fire. Bloomfield Township Fire Investigation Team, along with Oakland County Sheriff's department, investigated the cause and origin.

The FLSD is continuously striving to develop and promote the most innovated public education programs possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Fire Marshal Peter G. Vlahos



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

EMS Report

2022 was an exciting year for EMS at the local level. Due to the extraordinary hard work of Battalion Chief Ryan Husch and Lieutenant Ben Bradford we were awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for \$257,956. This allowed us to purchase 7 new LifePak 15 cardiac monitors. These devices perform field EKGs, defibrillation, cardiac pacing and assess vital signs. They wirelessly transmit important EKG data directly to the hospital allowing for doctors to immediately see life threatening conditions even before the patient arrives at the hospital. They will also incorporate these readings into the patient care reports, which become a permanent part of patients' medical records. The previous versions were end-of-life and becoming irreparable. Having reliable, state-of-the-art equipment is essential to positive patient outcomes and safety of both our patients and providers.

In May the Bloomfield Township Fire Dept hosted a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) training for many local agencies. MCI's are incidents that overwhelm the resources available in the Township and will require assistance from other agencies throughout Oakland County. MCI's could include mass shootings, railway accidents or a large multiple vehicle accident. With the dramatic increase in the number of mass casualty incidents around the world, insuring that we are prepared to respond with our partners: local Police Departments, Fire Departments, Private EMS Agencies as well as our local hospitals is the highest priority. No community will ever be totally prepared for this type of incident but we will ensure we are as prepared as we can be to respond.

Cardiac Monitor Grant Award



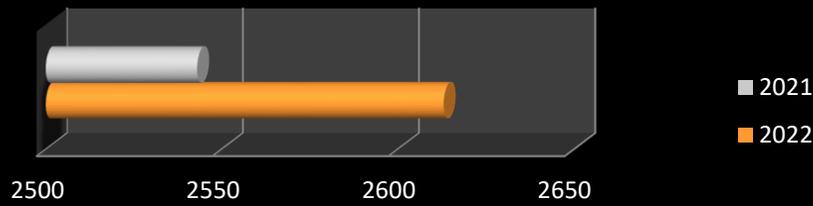


**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

EMS Metrics

Transport Breakdown

2022/2021 Transport Comparison



2022 Transport Revenue:
\$1,141,966





Village Fire Department Report

The residents of Bloomfield Village are in a unique situation as they are protected by a volunteer fire department, The Bloomfield Village Fire Department (BVFD), as well as the Bloomfield Township Fire Department (BTFD). Our volunteer Firefighters live in the village, are state certified, can respond to calls, and are able to participate in training throughout the year. In addition to the 10 volunteers, we have 2 part time Lieutenants on the department who oversees the day to day operations of the village fire station. The Bloomfield Village Fire Department budget is authorized by a special assessment district. These monies are billed by Bloomfield Township in the winter tax statement to all properties located within Bloomfield Village.

Mike Cummings and Ron Nancarrow, both BTFD retirees, oversee the day-to-day operations of the Bloomfield Village Fire Department. Their duties include responding to any emergency runs in the village, as well as providing training to the village volunteers. The BVFD has one fire engine and one 4-wheel drive emergency vehicle that provide service to the community.

The Bloomfield Village Fire Station is located at 3595 Bradway Boulevard.

Respectfully,
Chief Geoff Hockman



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Emergency Management

In 2022, the Bloomfield Township Emergency Management Division continued to serve its residents, businesses and visitors by working to ensure that the emergency response personnel, and the employees of Bloomfield Township, would be prepared to minimize the impact of any natural or man-made disaster incident.

Under the authority of the Michigan Emergency Management Act (Public Act 390 of 1976, as amended), each county is required to appoint an emergency management coordinator. In addition, some Michigan communities have municipal emergency management coordinators. Bloomfield Township is a one of five municipalities in Oakland County that has its own Emergency Management Coordinator and program.

The Emergency Management Division has been active in training events throughout the year. Some of our training highlights for 2022 included:

- Professional Emergency Management (PEM) training through the Michigan state Police. Bloomfield Township currently has four PEM certified personnel that coordinate and manage the Township's emergency management program.
- Active Assailant training with our police department.



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Emergency Management

- Local planning team (LPT) meeting and EOC orientation and activation for employees.
- Severe weather training tabletop exercise (TTX)
- Michigan Incident Command Incident Management System (MICIMS) training.
- Trainings offered by Oakland County and the Michigan State Police, such as Incident Command System (ICS), National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses, and damage assessment training

As we look forward to 2023, Emergency Management continues to be one of the most important services that Bloomfield Township provides to its residents. Our local planning team (LPT) will continue to plan and facilitate future exercises for the Township. We are also participating in other municipalities training events to better prepare ourselves in handling any all types of disasters or unexpected events. With the uncertainty of an ever-changing world, Bloomfield Township will continue to train and prepare for any potential disaster that may come our way.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter G. Vlahos
Fire Marshal



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Technical Rescue

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department Technical Rescue Team (TRT) consists of ten (10) members that are trained to the technician level in the following disciplines: rope rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, structural collapse rescue, as well as additional training in machine rescue, wide area search, advanced vehicle extrication, and other urban search and rescue techniques.

All members of the TRT are also members of the OAKWAY TRT, and train at least four times a year with the other OAKWAY Departments. Five members of the TRT are also members of Michigan Task Force 1 (MITF-1). MITF-1 is an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team that consists of over 100 personnel from more than 30 Fire Departments from across the State. BTFD's members of MITF-1 have responded to incidents both locally and throughout the eastern United States.

Lieutenant Mike Pucci
Technical Rescue Coordinator



BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

HAZMAT

The Bloomfield Township Fire Department HazMat team is made up of 13 HazMat technicians and specialists. They undergo many hours of specialized training to mitigate any Hazardous Materials emergencies in the township. BTFD HazMat Team is also part of the OAKWAY HAZMAT Team which is a regional response team. The HAZMAT Team participates in monthly training to stay current on railcar, pipeline, and any other incidents that could occur in Bloomfield Township.

Throughout the year the team members have handled numerous HAZMAT calls. Many of these calls are carbon monoxide incidents, fuel spills, and natural gas leaks. While many HazMat calls are relatively minor in nature, some are complex requiring BTFD to have members staffed each day to provide HAZMAT expertise and ensure the safety of Bloomfield Township and its OAKWAY partners.

Respectfully Submitted
FF Chris Hull
HAZMAT Coordinator



**BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

BTFD Charities

2022 was a return to normalcy for the BTFD Charities and Benevolent fund. We once again sold out our annual golf outing at The Wabek Country Club and had a successful event thanks to all of our sponsors and the generosity of all those that joined us for the day. We held our annual Muscular Dystrophy Fill The Boot event and once again raised the most money in our district and we were in the Top 5 fundraisers for the entire state. BTFD Charities joined the BTPD Benevolent Fund this year for the 2022 gift card drive. Thanks to the generosity of our residents and businesses we collected enough gift cards to provide meals and gifts that helped the holiday experience for four families in the Township. Moving forward into 2023 we will continue to find more ways to expand our community outreach and are looking to adding events as well find more charitable partners.

Respectfully Submitted,
FF Chris Hull
BTFD Charities President

Frequently Asked Questions

- What is a “Lock Box” & where can I obtain one?

A Lock Box is a secured locked box that is placed on the front of a building/house and contains keys to the building or residence. The fire department keeps a key that opens the Lock Box locked and secured on their vehicles. This allows the fire department easy access to a home or business even when the building may be secured, i.e. after hours or when occupants have limited mobility. Information to purchase a “Lock Box” can be obtained by calling the Bloomfield Township Fire Department at 248-433-7745.



Frequently Asked Questions

- **If my Carbon Monoxide detector activates, what should I do?**

Carbon Monoxide (ALSO KNOWN AS THE SILENT KILLER) is a colorless/odorless gas that is created by the incomplete combustion of carbon based fuels. It also connects to blood cells at a rate 200 times faster than oxygen. It is recommended that you install a Carbon Monoxide detector on each level of your home and if a detector activates, call 911 and leave your home. The fire department will come to your home and check the level of Carbon Monoxide (if any).

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What are the dangers of lithium batteries?**

Lithium batteries have many hidden dangers from poor quality, disposal issues and charging issues to name a few. For more information about lithium please visit the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/LithiumIonBatterySafety.ashx>

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is it legal to burn brush or tree branches in Bloomfield Township?**

No, it is not legal to have any open burning in Bloomfield Township. Only approved containers (Recreational Fire Pits) are allowed. See the Township's website for further information.

<https://www.bloomfieldtwp.org/Services/Fire-Department/Burning-Ordinances.aspx>

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What should I do with HOT fireplace ash?**

DO NOT remove hot ashes from the fireplace immediately. Wait up to 2-3 days and let the ashes cool completely in the fireplace until there are no remaining hot embers before removing them. Place cool ash in a metal container and store outside away from the home and all combustibles.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What should I do with cloth rags used for staining materials?**

DO NOT dispose of the cloth rags in the garbage. Stain and Linseed oil may heat up and combust over time. Place the cloth rags outside away from the home to air out and dry. Once the stain on the cloth rags is dry it may be placed in the garbage