

Cascade Charter Township Fire Department 2015 Year End Report



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To: Benjamin Swayze-Township Manager
Township Board

I want to present to you the Cascade Charter Township Fire Department 2015 Annual Report. It is my pleasure to present this report to you to give you an idea of what your fire department has done during the past year. Your fire department responds to many emergency and non-emergency calls for assistance throughout the year. We operate on millages due to the support we receive from our community. We also receive funds from the general township budget which allows us to offer the level of service our residents have come to expect. Your department operates with both fulltime and paid on call personnel. We have fulltime coverage 365 days a year with supplemental assistance provided by our paid on call staff at both fire stations. We continue to increase our paid on call staff each year and will continue to do this for the foreseeable future to ensure our residents are provided with the outstanding level of service that they have come to expect. Our paid on call staff have full time jobs and they respond to calls when they are available. We are very proud of our paid on call personnel and would not be able to do our job without their dedication and commitment.

This year we had a call volume increase of one percent, or 62 responses, as compared to 2014. We responded to a total of 1,757 requests for service. The calls consisted of fires, medicals, accidents, citizens assist and other types of responses.

We also continued to offer educational and informational programs for the public. We have a child seat program where new parents, grandparents etc. can come in and have their child seats installed properly. This work is done in conjunction with Ada and Caledonia Fire Departments. If a Cascade Firefighter is not available we can send our citizens to one of the other departments. We also provide CPR/AED programs for the public. CPR is critical in saving lives when someone is in cardiac arrest. The sooner CPR is started and performed correctly the better the chance of survival. These public relations programs are critical for us and give our staff the ability to go out into the public to raise awareness and teach fire safety.

We cannot do our job without the support of the community and the Township Board. We want to thank you for your continued support of your department and the community in making our jobs as safe as possible.

Sincerely,

John Sigg
Fire Chief

Administration

Mission Statement

“Cascade Charter Township Fire Department will deliver quality preventive and emergency services to the community.”

As our community continues to grow the requests for service continue to increase. This past year we had the highest call volume we have ever experienced in the department’s history. Some of the highlights from the past year include:

CALL TYPE	EMERGENT LOCATION	MITIGATION RESULT
Machinery Fire	Interior of building	Fire contained to machine
Hotel room Fire	Stove fire	Contained to stove
Garage Fire	Garage	Damage to garage
Semi-truck fire	Engine area of semi	Damage to engine
Machinery Fire	Interior of building	Fire contained to building
Fire in Wal-Mart	Inside store	Damage to toys and smoke throughout store
Car fire under car port	Car port	Damage to multiple cars and car port
Garage Fire	Large garage	Garage total loss

FDAC

FDAC (Fire Department Advisory Committee) met throughout the past year. This committee approves projects within the fire department. Projects are presented, discussed and needed recommended to the Township board thru FDAC. This committee remains very active and regularly meets on a monthly basis.

Changes in Department

We had staffing changes this year in the department. We hired five (5) new paid on call firefighters. They are; Steven Drake, David Lintemuth, Nathan VanOosterhout, Colin Rodriguez and Reid Klein. They are all Township residents and will be a valuable addition to our department. We hired three (3) fulltime staff; two (2) from our paid on call ranks and one from the outside. The two (2) from the paid on call ranks are; Colin Forzley and Jon Snyder. Josh Dettwiler was hired from the outside and he is also a paid on call firefighter with Plainfield Township.

Site Plan Reviews

Throughout the year we review plans for new buildings, private roads and new and existing sub divisions. We continue to work with the Building and Planning departments on the site plan review process. Some of the plans we reviewed this year were:

Lacks Enterprises
Advantage Label
Grooters Warehouse Building
Clean Room International
Cascade Hospital for Animals
Portabella Road

Training

Cascade Charter Township Fire Department (CFD) trains year round. Trainings are conducted twice a month and some weekends. We also have shift trainings that cover fire and medical topics. Our training consists of ongoing education which satisfies our many licensure requirements as well as new training to enhance the knowledge base of our staff. We continue to monitor the progress of our training program by meeting with the Instructors and Officers and make adjustments as needed. We also offer opportunities to our neighboring departments to participate in trainings with us. We utilize several instructors from other departments as well as our staff to conduct these trainings. Due to changing nature of our training, we strive to provide the most up to date training and the most knowledgeable instructors we can. Some of the department trainings we participated in this past year include:

Water and Ice Rescue with neighboring departments
Electrical emergencies
Annual AED/CPR and airway Recertification for the department
Air Pack Training with air management
Fire Fighter Survival
Vehicle Extrication
Annual Drivers Training course and classroom
Annual Incident Command and Unified Command
Water Shuttle Training with Caledonia, Alto and Ada Fire Departments
Medical Continuing Education
Water Streams, Hose Operations, Pumps
Search and Rescue
Hazardous Materials
Annual Blood borne Pathogens
MSDS /LEPC Plans
Annual Respiratory Protection
Building Construction
Fire ground operations, radio operations, fire ground safety
Firefighter Right to Know
<i>This is not an all-inclusive list of our trainings</i>

Shift Training

Listed below are some of the shift trainings we held this year. These are held during shift and paid on call are welcome to come in and participate as they are available.

Ventilation
Health and Fitness
Ladders
EMS Safety
Extrication
Chest and Abdominal Trauma
Drafting, Pump Operations
Driving
Disaster Planning
Fire Sprinklers and Fire Pumps
Pediatric Emergencies
Electrical, gas and hand tools
Firefighter Safety
<i>This is not an all-inclusive list of our trainings</i>

Fire Inspections

In 2015 we conducted many activities in fire prevention. Fire prevention activities help protect properties from devastating loss, the life and safety of our citizens, business owners and employees, and the health and safety of our firefighters.

Many of our local businesses in Cascade rely on our fire department to provide them with fire extinguisher training and emergency evacuation procedures and drills.

363 Re-Inspections
33 Liquour License inspections
285 Business inspections
235 Violations Issued
31 Complaint investigations
37 incidents assisting the duty crew in emergency responses
78 Hours of required department training
72 hours of required continuing education credit hours for fire inspectors
50 hours of required continuing education credit hours for fire investigators
13 significant fires requiring investigation
Participated in plan reviews
Participated in many fire prevention activities in schools, business, and retirement communities

Fire Inspector Poolman obtained the following certifications in 2015:

- Michigan Certified Level II Fire Inspector
- Michigan Certified Plan Reviewer
- Michigan certified Building Code Official for Fire Systems



Community Involvement

Tours and Events

In 2015, we held or attended 30 events with approximately 3000 people in attendance. We attended numerous neighborhood block parties, birthday parties, events at the library, community and business events. We conducted fire safety and gave first aid talks to numerous Boy and Girl Scout groups.

CPR/AED

We taught CPR classes to nurses, citizens, and employees of businesses in the township. This year we had 160 individuals attend CPR/AED classes that our department presented.

Camp 911

Camp 911 was held again this year out at Station #2. This camp is sponsored by Life EMS and is free to children ages 9 to 12. We had a full house again this year, 35 kids. Of all the camps in the area, ours was one of the largest this year. The kids learn basic first aid, CPR, bike safety, fire safety, and also safety around downed electrical wires and household electricity. At the end of the day the kids get to see and learn about our trucks and how they work, followed by a small obstacle course. The obstacle course requires them to put on some of the protective gear we wear, maneuver through some cones to the end of the hose line and then spray water on a target.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day was well attended again this year by 100 men, women and children to honor our veterans. The Forest Hills Jazz band was on hand to play patriotic music for those attending. Also part of the event was the 3rd Michigan Infantry Company F Civil War Re-enactors. The speaker at this year's Memorial Day program was Paul Ryan – Captain, US Navy (Retired).

July 4th

July 4th was another huge success with close to 5,000 people in attendance at the celebration. The rides, games and food always make for an enjoyable day for the community.

Halloween

Halloween attendance this year was well attended by the community. We handed out 800 bags of candy. As always we have food and drinks for those attending. We also have clowns to provide entertainment for the kids.

On-Sites

Our on-site program was active again this year. We visited the following sites: Costco, Wal-Mart, and Cascade Engineering Health Fair. We talked to 150 people and obtained 291 blood pressures. All that stopped by and had blood pressure checks were very thankful that we offer this service to the community.

Child Safety Seat Inspections

As part of our Child Safety Seat Inspection program we inspected 10 car seats for residents. We offer this very important program to our community and for the safety of our small children. We currently have one firefighter that is certified to conduct car seat inspections. We work with Ada and Caledonia fire departments on child seat checks to ensure that someone is always available to do the car seat checks when needed.

AHA Training Center

Cascade Fire Department has been an American Heart Association (AHA) training center for the last 16 years. We are a training center for AHA (American Heart Association) and have 40 instructors that work under our center. We also have training sites at the Gerald R Ford International Airport, Grattan Township Fire Department and KCMRC (Kent County Medical Reserve Corp) through Kent County Emergency Management. Each of those sites has also taught an estimated 230 people CPR/AED and First Aid.

School Fire Safety

Once again this year we taught Fire Safety/Prevention at the two elementary schools in the township. Firefighter's Albright and Knowles worked with principals Mike Lareau of Pine Ridge and Greg Shubel of Thornapple to teach approximately 900 kindergarten-fourth grade students important lessons on fire safety, fire prevention and what to do should they have an emergency.

Topics Covered:

Firefighters Are Your Friend
Smoke Detectors
Home Escape Planning
Crawl Low Under Smoke
Get Out/Stay Out
911 Usage
Stop, Drop, Roll

In addition to fire safety, we continue to offer assistance to the schools in the form of fire drills and any other assistance they may require.

Apparatus

Below is a list of our apparatus and their station locations.

Fire Chief 2007 Chevrolet Suburban
Inspector / Utility 9 2001 Chevrolet Suburban – Station 1



Tender 4 - 2005 International Tender/ 3,000 gallons of water – Station 2. This vehicle is used to haul water to our non-hydrant areas as well as on automatic and mutual aid calls to other communities.



Boat 1 - Recovery Boat – Station 2. We use our boat for any water emergency as well as assisting other communities.



Medic 7 - 2012 Chevrolet Suburban – Station 2. This vehicle responds to medical emergencies in station 2 district which is East of the Thornapple River.



Engine 8 - 2012 Rosenbauer Pumper / 1,000 gallons of water – Station 2. This is the main pumper out of Station 2.



Engine 6 - 2015 Rosenbauer Pumper / 1,000 gallons of water – Station 1. This is the first out apparatus on fire calls.



Rescue 7 - 1999 F-550 Ford Rescue Vehicle – Station 1. This vehicle is first out on accident calls.



Brush 10 - 2005 Chevrolet Pickup / Grass Truck – Station 1. This is our main vehicle for grass or unauthorized burns.



Medic 11 - 2015 Chevrolet Suburban – Station 1. This is the main vehicle for all medical emergencies West of the Thornapple River.



Engine 5 - 2010 Rosenbauer Pumper / 1,000 gallons of water – Station 1. This is the second engine out of station 1 and is usually staffed with Paid on Call staff.

Apparatus Maintenance

All of our vehicles had their annual DOT inspections, pump testing and routine maintenance again this year. Most of the repairs that were required resulted from normal usage.

We have annual inspections and testing of our equipment. Those annual testing and inspections are:

- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) packs
- All Ladders on our apparatus
- All of our fire hose
- All of our Fire Extinguishers
- General Maintenance on vehicles

Station Maintenance

We completed general maintenance on our stations this year. We had no major repairs or improvements.

Fire Stations



Station #2 is located at 2990 Buttrick SE. Full time staff man this station 24 hours a day. Paid on Call Firefighters respond to calls when available and fill shifts for fulltime staff.



Station 1 located at 2865 Thornhills. Fulltime staff man this station 24 hours a day. Paid on Call Firefighters respond when available to calls and fill in shifts for fulltime staff.

Personnel

In 2015, we hired five (5) paid on call firefighters and three (3) full time firefighters. Two (2) of the fulltime staff were hired from within the department and the third was hired from the outside. Our department consists of one (1) full-time Fire Chief, one (1) paid on call Deputy Chief, one (1) full-time Fire Inspector, 15 full-time Firefighters and 17 paid on call firefighters. Our full-time Firefighters operate three (3) shifts consisting of five (5) personnel on duty each shift. They operate out of both stations and are staffed 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

Listed are your fire department staff as of 12/31/2015 and years of service to the community.



Fire Chief John Sigg
31 years of service



Deputy Chief John Shipley
45 Years of service



Lieutenant Ron Rowland
29 Years of service



Lieutenant Doug Venema
28 Years of service



FF John Porter
24 Years of service



FF Andrew Albright
21 Years of service



FF Kreigh Deering
20 Years of service



FF Jeff Rashid
20 Years of service



FF Mike Buys
17 Years of service



FF Rick Toppel
16 Years of service



Fire Inspector Doug Poolman
15 Years of service



FF Robert Norris
15 Years of service



FF Brian Currier
14 Years of service



FF Jeffrey Knowles
13 Years of service



FF Andy Marsman
13 Years of service



FF James Walker
11 Years of service



FF Colin Forzley
9 Years of service



FF John Makuch
9 Years of Service



LT Todd Stevenson
8 Years of service



FF Lance Korhorn
8 Years of service



FF Eric Rodegher
8 Years of service



FF Michael Lemkuil
7 Years of service



FF Jon Snyder
7 Years of service



FF Clem Bell
5 Years of Service



FF Michael Bolt
5 Years of service



FF Michael Kadish
4 Years of service



FF Brett Boonenberg
4 Years of service



FF Josh Dettwiler
1 Year of service



FF Steven Drake
1 Year of service



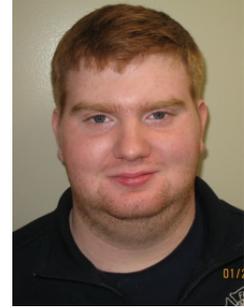
FF David Lintemuth
1 Year of service



FF Nathan VanOosterhout
1 Year of service



FF Colin Rodriguez
6 months of service



FF Reid Klein
6 months of service

Staff Activities

Throughout the year staff performs many duties while not responding to calls of assistance from the community. Some of the duties completed are as follows:

Summer months:

• Mowing lawns at Township Offices and Buttrick Fire Station
• Trainings – Shift and Department trainings
• Locking and unlocking Township properties – Cemeteries and parks
• Block parties, birthday parties, church events, etc.
• CPR classes
• Child seat checks and installations
• Assist with building issues
• Boy Scout and Girl Scout safety talks
• Household Waste Clean-up day at Buttrick Fire Station
• July 4 th Parade and Celebration
• Halloween
• Ada/Cascade Clean-up days

Winter Months:

• Hydrant clearing
• Plowing snow at Township offices and Library
• Salting Township Properties
• Trainings – Shift and Department trainings
• Locking and unlocking township properties – Cemeteries and parks
• CPR classes
• Child Safety seat checks and installations
• Boy Scout and Girl Scout safety talks

Automatic and Mutual Aid

We continue to work with our neighboring departments on mutual and automatic aid. We currently have a mutual aid agreement with all Fire Departments in Kent County. We currently have automatic aid agreements with Ada, Alto, Caledonia, Lowell, Kentwood and the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. Automatic Aid agreements provide additional predetermined resources to respond to an emergent incident within a specific geographic location in Cascade by dispatching those resources at the same time Cascade is dispatched ensuring additional resources will arrive sooner at the scene. This also pertains when we respond to a neighboring department for a request for aid.

Mutual Aid is defined by FEMA as – “agreements between agencies, organizations, and jurisdictions that provide a mechanism to quickly obtain emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials, and other associated services. The primary objective is to facilitate rapid, short-term deployment of emergency support. Mutual Aid is not guaranteed, it is always dependent upon the availability of personnel and apparatus. Automatic Aid is when a fire department is initially dispatched outside of their response area to assist another department.”

Listed below are the numbers and types of mutual and automatic aid we responded to last year. Also listed are a few of the incidents we used mutual and automatic aid.

Ada Fire Department	
Mutual Aid Given	1
Mutual Aid Received	1
Automatic Aid Given	4
Automatic Aid Received	8

Bowne /Alto Fire Department	
Mutual Aid Received	5
Automatic Aid Received	1

Gerald R Ford International Airport	
Mutual Aid Received	1
Mutual Aid Given	2

Kentwood Fire Department	
Mutual Aid Given	8
Mutual Aid Received	9
Automatic Aid Received	2
Automatic Aid Given	1

Grand Rapids Fire Department	
Automatic Aid Given	1

Grand Rapids Township	
Mutual Aid Given	2

Lowell Fire	
Mutual Aid Given	1
Auto Aid Given	1

Caledonia Township Fire Department	
Mutual Aid Given	14
Mutual Aid Received	3
Automatic Aid Received	2
Automatic Aid Given	7

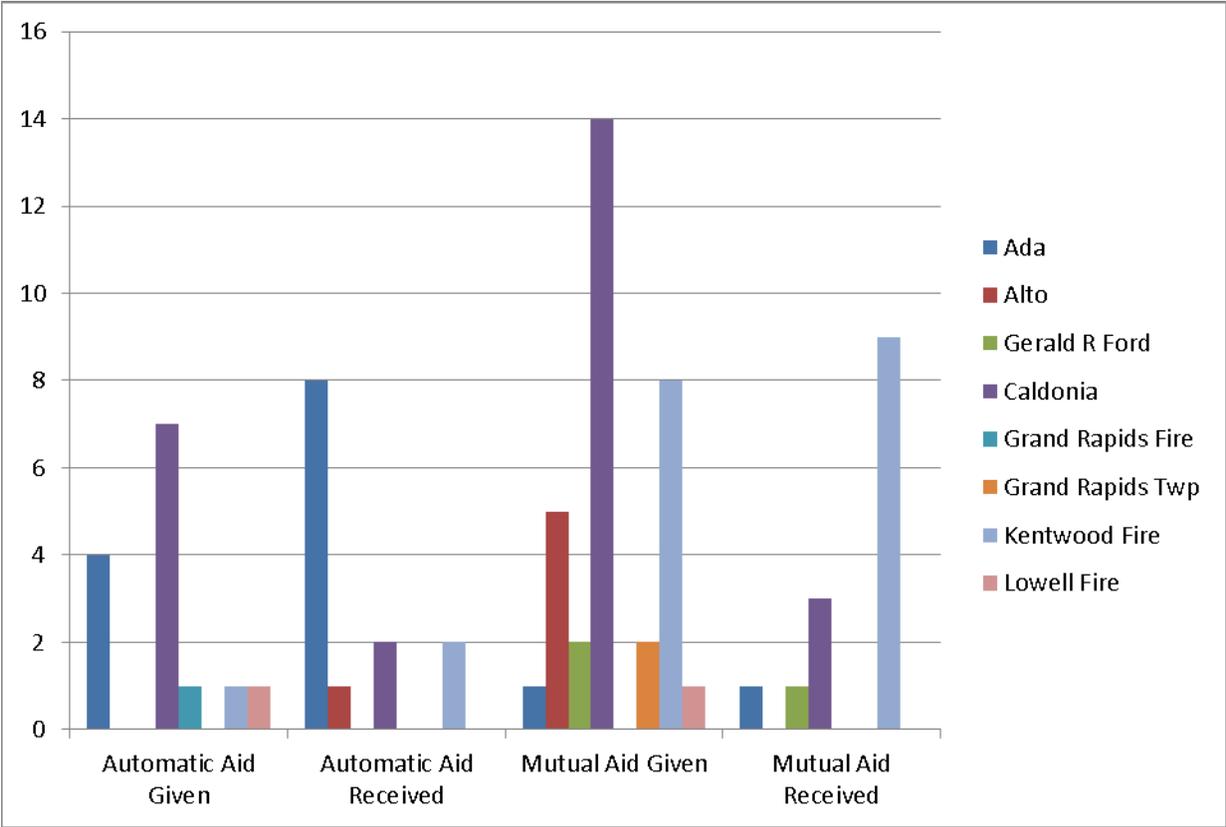
Listed below are some of the mutual and automatic aid responses we had this year.

Department	Call Type	Aid Type
Ada Fire	House Fire	Mutual Aid Received
Caledonia and Kentwood Fire	Building Fire	Mutual Aid Received
Alto and Caledonia Fire	Barn Fire	Mutual Aid Received
Ada Fire	Building Fire	Automatic Aid Received
Caledonia Fire	Building Fire	Automatic Aid Given
Caledonia Fire	Building Fire	Mutual Aid Given
Kentwood Fire	Building Fire	Automatic Aid received
Ada and Alto Fire	Building Fire	Mutual Aid Received
Grand Rapids Township	House Fire	Mutual Aid Given
Ada, Alto, Caledonia and Kentwood Fire	Garage Fire	Automatic Aid Received

MABAS 3603

MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) is another mutual aid agreement that is supported with the vast majority of departments in Kent County. Kent County is MABAS Division 3603. Ottawa, Muskegon counties are also MABAS divisions as well as the majority of departments on the West side of the state. As a MABAS member agency, every community has the same agreement as the signatories -- all agreeing to send predetermined resources to assist a stricken community. Without a formal written mutual aid agreement, a request for mutual aid assistance becomes a voluntary act, putting the Fire Chief and the employing community sending the resource, at great risk should equipment be damaged, or if a fire fighter is injured or killed in the line of duty. By joining MABAS with other fire departments in our region, there is increased protection from a catastrophic event and litigation

Automatic and Mutual Aid



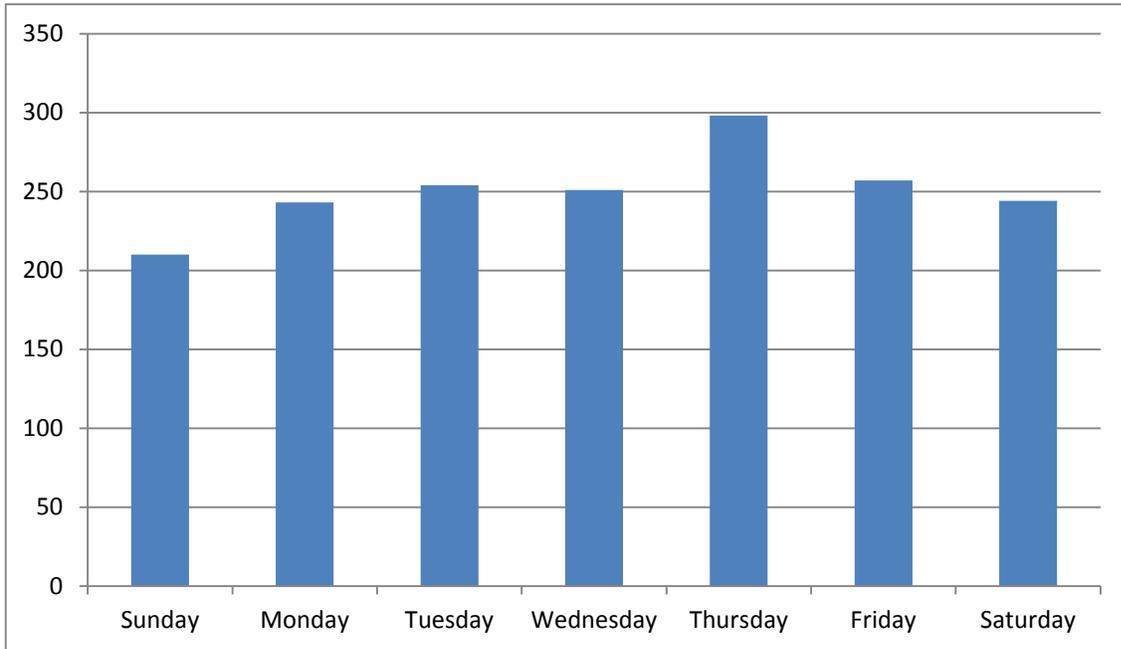
STATISTICS

Fire Alarms	182
Auto Aid	12
Aircraft Alerts	5
Bomb Threats	0
Carbon Monoxide Alarms	21
Check Welfare	0
Dumpster Fires	2
Service Calls	18
Fires	12
Grass Fires	14
Hazardous Incidents	9
Illegal Burns	23
Lock Outs	26
Lift Assists	22
Lightning Strike – No Fire	1
Med 1	566
Med 2	219
Med 3	355
Medical Alarms	20
Mechanical Failure	2
Mutual Aid	21
Gas Leaks	12
Odor of Smoke	6
Odor Investigation	10
Personal Injury Accidents	83
Property Damage Accidents	50
Stand By	5
Smoke in Area	6
Searches	0
Trees Down	4
Technical Rescue	1
Unknown Accidents	0
Vehicle Fires	22
Wires Down	24
Wash Downs	4
TOTAL	1,757

Years in Comparison (Total calls for the year)

2015	1,757
2014	1,695
2013	1,686
2012	1,602
2011	1,586
2010	1,432
2009	1,418
2008	1,510
2007	1,404
2006	1,267
2005	1,216
2004	1,249
2003	1,252
2002	1,172
2001	1,123
2000	1,207
1999	1,199
1998	1,077
1997	986
1996	946
1995	946

Incidents by Day of Week



Incidents by Month

