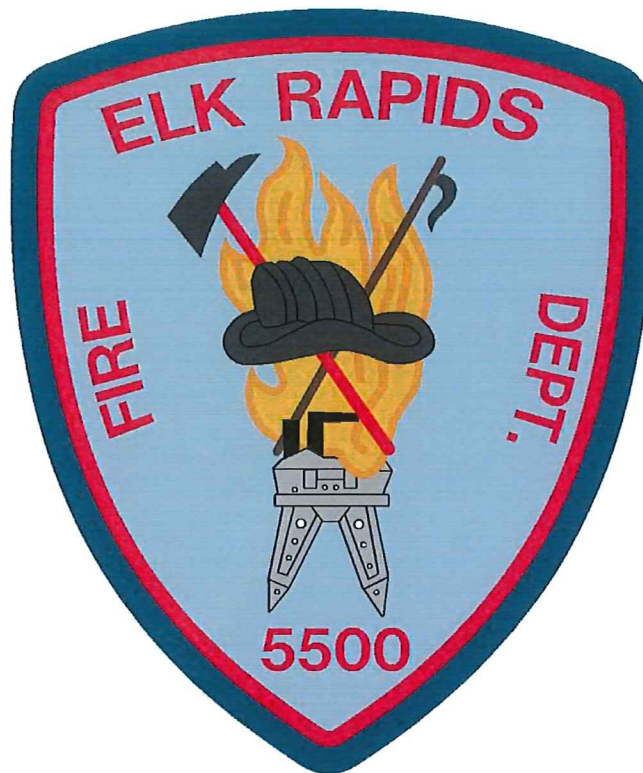


Elk Rapids Township Fire Department
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(231)-264-5161
erfire@elkrapids.info



2021 Annual Report

Elk Rapids Fire Department Mission Statement:

The mission of the Elk Rapids Fire Department is to provide exceptional fire suppression and rescue services, promote public education and fire safety, and to protect life, health, property, and the community under the provisions of Michigan Public Act 207.

Message from the Chief

Enclosed is the Elk Rapids Township Fire Department's 2021 Annual Report. This year again proved to be a challenge for all however, we did accomplish some exciting things even with the pandemic still looming over us.

On behalf of the men and women of the department, we thank our community for your continued support throughout the years. Our department is comprised of dedicated individuals who are committed to enhancing the safety and quality of life of the residents of Elk Rapids Township. This report cannot possibly capture all of the individual efforts given throughout the year but it does represent an overview of the department's accomplishments for 2021. A special thank you is appropriate to our entire staff in remaining steadfast in light of the difficult conditions 2021 presented us.

I want to thank the community for its continued proactive approach and overall awareness of public safety and bringing that to the forefront by participating in the programs that we offer. Our Smoke Alarm program continues to grow in 2021. To date we have installed over 150 smoke detectors in Elk Rapids area homes. ERFD will come out to your home, at no cost to the home owner and test or install or replace smoke alarms if applicable. Our goal is to ensure that each home has working smoke alarms. We also have an active Knox Box rapid entry system program with over 30 business and residences choosing to participate. We would also like to thank those businesses that allowed us to come in and perform Pre-Incident planning evaluations to better be prepared in the event of an emergency at their place of business. We currently have 119 businesses participating in the program.

As you will read further in this report, ERFD responded to a total of 121 incidents in 2021. This was exactly the same number as in 2020. The Pandemic again did not seem to have much of an effect on our call volume. We are very happy to report a 6.26 minute average response time for Emergent incidents in our Township. This number is quite impressive for a volunteer department. Daytime EMS assist calls were 33 last year and 28 this year with 17 additional general calls for our members to assist our EMS service. A new software program for incident reporting was installed that will give us a better snapshot of our call volume for the year and make NFIRS reporting much simpler. A huge shout out to our members for their dedication and response efforts!

2021 again proved challenging to not only us but the entire community but many Elk Rapids business and vendors found ways to overcome some of the obstacles and persevere in light of it all. Event venues were modified to accommodate occupancy restrictions. Harbor Days activities were downsized and Evenings on River Street had their events located outside. Some outdoor events went on as usual such as our Halloween event with MMR and Lakeland Elementary Trunk or Treat. ERFD did manage to still hold an Open House during National Fire Prevention Week in October and we did get to unveil our new Memorial Bench and Honorary Walkway at that event. Those members who have served 15 years or more have their names inscribed on a brick and installed in the Honorary Walkway forever remembering them for their service to this community. Also, we unveiled our new Memorial Bench which serves to remember those firefighters who left us too soon which include Barry Johnson in 1976 and Tom Emerson in 2018. ERFD also presented fire-prevention/ education programs at Lakeland Elementary and Wooden Pony Pre Schools. All these events give us an opportunity to educate the public on fire safety, speak to the public about being a fire fighter and promoting the department. The members are very proud to serve and reach out to the community promoting fire safety and we hope to be able to resume these events in 2022.

Some other highlights from 2021 include: Air Primer system installed on our second pumper (5521) so each pumper truck now utilizes this superior priming process. Antrim County switched to a new Call Sign system for identification of apparatus and personnel. We are now better aligned with our surrounding mutual aid partners in Whitewater and Grand Traverse counties. We also placed a new air compressor in service to fill our SCBA bottles with help from Milton Township and The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

I am very proud of the members of this department and appreciate all the time and dedication these fine men and women have put in. We have a great team here and are proud to be your fire department. We appreciate the continued support and stand ready to serve our community.

**The Elk Rapids Township Fire Department operates
with the following Chain of Command.**

Fire Chief – Ken Williamson
Deputy Chief – Chris White
Captain – Vince Cooper
1st Lieutenant – Shawn Fitzgerald
2nd Lieutenant and Safety Officer - Kyle Clark

Personnel – 2021

Loretta Burfiend – Joined 2013- FFII, FO II, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR, EMR
Nicholas Carpenter - Joined 2001- FFII, FO III, Fire Instructor 2 Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR
Kyle Clark - 2nd Lieutenant -Joined 2015 - FF II, FO II, Haz Ops, A-Ext – WR, BNA
Vincent Cooper – Captain - Joined 2009 - FF II, FO II, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR, EMR
Erik Edwards Joined 12/2020 - Probationary
Joe Fischer — Joined 2009 - FF II, FO II, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR
Shawn Fitzgerald -1st Lieutenant- Joined 2000 - FF II, FO III, Fire Instructor 1, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR,
Ryan Forfinski – Re-joined 2021- FF I -
David Gildersleeve – Joined 2011 - FF II, FO III, Fire Instructor 1, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR
Neil Harris – Joined 2018- **Support Staff**, WR
Tony Jones – Joined 2018 – FF I- Haz-AW, WR
Donald Marker – Joined 1978 - FF I, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR
Rafael Medina - Joined 2013- FF II, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR
Mathew Rainey – Rejoined 11/2020 FF2, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR
Robert Shugart - Joined 2016- FF II, FO III, Fire Instructor 1, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR
Zack Strine - Joined 2016- FF II, Haz Ops, A-Ext , WR, EMT
Phillip Vandenberg – Joined 2011- FF II, FO II, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR
Christopher White – Deputy Chief, Joined 2009 - FF II, FO II, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR, EMR
Ken Williamson - Chief, Joined 1990 – FF II, FO III, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR, EMR

KEY: FF I = Fire fighter one - FF II = Fire fighter two, FO I = Fire officer one, FO II = Fire officer two, FO III = Fire officer three, CO – Company Officer, Haz Aw= Hazmat Awareness Haz Ops – Hazmat Operations, A-Ext = Advanced Extrication, EMT = Emergency Medical Technician, EMR= Emergency Medical Responder, WR = Water Rescue

Experience Level of 19 Staff :

1 year or less experience: 0 members = 10%
1 – 5 years experience: 7 members = 36%
6 – 10 years experience: 6 members = 31%
11 – 15 years experience: 2 members = 10%
16 – years and over experience: 4 members = 21%

Current Employee Age Range:

21 Under: 2 = 10%
22-29: 4 = 20%
30-39: 5 = 26%
40-49: 3 = 16%
50-59: 0 = 0%
60 + 5 = 26%

Recruitment & Retention

ERFD is happy to report the addition of one new Firefighter to our ranks in 2021. Our roster is at 19 members. Many thanks to Chief Peter Vandenberg who has retired with 35 years of service with ERFD. We have several new prospects we are hoping to recruit as well. As you are aware firefighter numbers are falling to critical levels across the Nation. Finding new personnel is an ongoing process and attracting new members will continue to be a major focus and challenge going forward. State and Federal Laws are ever changing making it very difficult to attract and retain members. 26% of our members are over 60 years of age. The demographics and housing situation in our Township make it extremely hard to attract new members. In 2018 Elk Rapids Fire Department started a Recruitment / Retention retirement incentive program. In 2021 Elk Rapids Township paid \$9750.00 to 13 members who qualified to receive the retirement incentive. Elk Rapids Fire Department is working hard to recruit new and retain its current members. If you are, or know of anyone who may be interested in joining the department please have them contact us.

Department Training

Our training policy requires members to meet a minimum of 35 training hours on an annual basis.

With the Pandemic still looming we did give our members the option of not training together as a group if they were not comfortable in that situation. This did reduce somewhat the number of training hours we were able to perform this year. Additionally, ERFD did not hold a Firefighter certification class in 2020 which also greatly reduced the number of annual training hours for the year. In spite of this, we still were able to record 921 hours of training for 2021, almost 200 hours more than 2020. We do have a FF 1 & 2 class ongoing this year with 1 new member looking to graduate in May 2022

This year our training topics covered several key areas: Pump operations, Roof Ventilation / Chain Saw Operations, SCBA, RIT, Tactical Set-ups, Water / Ice Rescue, Extrication, Ladders, Hazmat, Incident Command and Radio Procedures.

Training is the utmost of importance for our agency to thrive. It fosters teamwork and guides us in honing our skills and learning new tactics. The more we train the more we are able to perform our core goals of Life Safety, Incident Stabilization, and Property Conservation. We are hoping 2022 allows us to return to our usual training schedule.

The department continues to strive to train all of our personnel to NFPA, MIOSHA, and Training Council Standards. We continue to make this department be the best it can be and provide the best service we can to our community that we serve.

Mutual Aid

We provide mutual aid services to Milton, Whitewater, and Torch Lake Townships on a regular basis and occasionally Grand Traverse Metro Fire and the United States Coast Guard.

We have an automatic aid agreement with Milton and Torch Lake Townships for Structure Fire responses within Elk Rapids, Milton and Torch Lake Townships. This ensures a 3 station response to all structure fires that occur within the 3 Townships.

The following is a breakdown of Mutual Aid Responses for 2021:

Torch Lake Township Fire Dept. - 1
Milton Township Fire Dept. - 3
Whitewater Township Fire Department- 3
Grand Traverse Metro Fire – 1

The Fire Chiefs from Elk Rapids, Milton and Torch Lake try to meet several times per year to find ways for the three departments to continue to work together, interoperate better and be more proficient. The three departments have adapted various ways to meet these goals. Training together several times per year helps keep the inter-departmental communication flowing smoothly.

Grants and Donations:

ERFD has been very fortunate in the past receiving grants and donations from many sources such as Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, The Department of Natural Resources, Mobile Medical Response and The Elk Rapids Rotary as well as some private donations. In 2021 ERFD did receive a \$17,000.00 grant from The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to replace our 25 year old Air Compressor which we use to fill our SCBA bottles. Milton Township pitched in \$5000 as well as we fill their SCBA bottles also.

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ISO

ISO collects information on municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes data such as response times, available water supply, manpower, equipment, department records, number of stations in comparison to response area, and the different types of apparatus. They then assign a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria. The number rating system is used by most home owner's insurance companies to determine rates charged to customers based upon the community they live in.

ISO looks at a four areas when calculating scores to come up with the final overall rating. First area is to determine a department's ability to provide adequate water supply. A department must be capable of flowing a minimum of 250 gallons per minute upon arrival uninterrupted for duration of 2 hours this accounts for 40% of the overall score. They also look at the Communications Center and evaluate how a department is dispatched for emergencies, this accounts for 10% of the overall score. Finally, they look at the fire department as a whole with special focus on records of the department, from response times, training records, maintenance records, apparatus, and equipment. The Fire Department section makes up the remaining 50% of the grading scale. Each section is evaluated on a point system. ERFD had our most recent ISO test in 2018. Our ISO rating improved by 2 points to a 5 in the Village and Township. This improvement was due mainly because of the upgrades to the municipal water system, better communication systems and upgraded fire protection equipment and increased fire prevention activities including Pre-incident planning and reduced response times.

Check with your homeowner's insurance carrier and see how much your premium is and if our lowered rating has saved you money on your premium. If your insurance company needs something in writing have them contact the Fire Chief via email at erfire@elkrapids.info or call the fire station at 231-264-5161.

Elk Rapids Fire fighter's Association

The fire fighter's association is made up of members of the fire department. The association supports the fire department throughout the year in various capacities. A portion of each firefighters run pay is donated to the association and this funds our monthly business meetings, Summer Picnic, Annual Awards Banquet and various other community activities.

The Elk Rapids Fireman's Association
operated with the following officers.

President – Joe Fischer

Secretary – Tony Jones

Treasurer – Neil Harris

Elk Rapids Fire Department Run Summary - 2021

Description	2019	2020	2021
Elk Rapids Township	43	55	56
Elk Rapids Village	56	56	57
Acme Township	0	01	0
Milton Township	4	4	3
Torch Township	5	2	1
Whitewater Township	5	3	3
Other Mutual Aid	0	0	1
Total	110	121	121
Structure Fire	5	4	5
Vehicle Fire	0	1	2
Grass / Woods Fire	2	0	4
Other Fire	4	3	3
EMS Assist	8	12	17
EMS Daytime Assist	33	37	28
Rescue, Auto Accident	11	12	19
Water or Ice Rescue	3	8	4
Rescue, Other	4	1	3
Electrical Hazard	12	4	5
Hazardous Condition, Other	0	9	9
Complaint, Investigation	0	2	0
Service Call, Roadway Hazard	10	10	6
Fire Alarm: Malicious False	0	0	0
Fire Alarm: System Malfunction	3	8	14
Fire Alarm: Unintentional	8	7	2

Future Plans

- Recruiting new members & retaining current members.
- New 800 Paging / Notification system for dispatch of events.
- Community Carbon Monoxide Detector Program.
- Replacement of our aging Rescue Vehicle.