

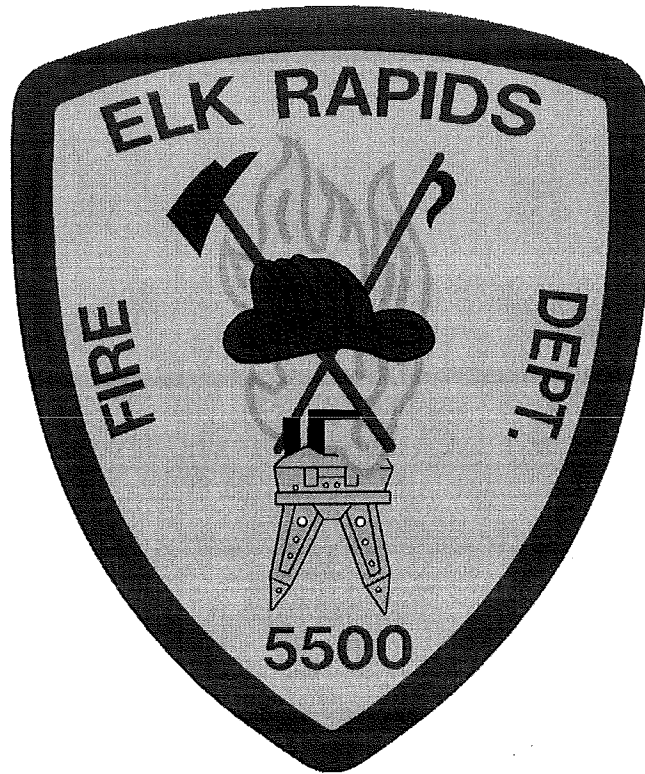
# Elk Rapids Township Fire Department

P.O. Box 502, 209 Bridge St.

Elk Rapids, MI. 49629

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## 2019 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 2019 Annual Report. On behalf of the men and women of the department, we thank you for your continued support throughout the year. 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 or efforts given throughout the year, but it does represent an overview of the department's accomplishments for 2019.

This being my first year as Chief, it has been both challenging and rewarding. I want to thank the community for taking a proactive stance in overall awareness of public safety and bringing that to the forefront by participating in the programs that we offer. The Smoke Alarm program has been very successful and continues to grow. To date we have installed over 90 smoke detectors in Elk Rapids Township homes. Fire fighters will come out to your home at no cost to the home owner, and install or replace smoke alarms. Our goal is to ensure that each home has working smoke alarms. We also have an active Knox Box rapid entry system program with 26 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 113 businesses that are in the program.

As you will read further in this report, in 2019 the department responded to a total of 110 incidents. This was down from 136 incidents in 2018. About half of these were due to reduced number of Daytime EMS assist calls which were 46 last year and 33 this year.

In 2019 our staff was very active in the community. Members participated in several Harbor Days activities, Evenings on River Street, Community Halloween event with MMR, Lakeland Elementary school Trunk or Treat and fire-prevention/ education day at the Elementary School. All these events give us an opportunity to educate the public on fire safety, speak to 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.

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  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant - Joe Fischer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and Safety Officer - Kyle Clark

**Personnel – 2019**

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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
Joe Fischer – 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant – Joined 2009 - FF II, FO II, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR  
Shawn Fitzgerald - Joined 2000 - FF II, FO III, Fire Instructor 1, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR,  
David Gildersleeve – Joined 2011 - FF II, FO III, Fire Instructor 1, Haz Ops, A-Ext, WR  
Neil Harris – Joined 2018- Support Staff, WR  
Curt Johnson – Joined 1990 – Explorer – FFII, Haz Ops, A- Ext, WR  
Tony Jones – Joined 2018 – FFI- 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  
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  
Peter Vandenberg – Joined 1985 - FF II, FO III, Fire Instructor 1, Haz Ops, A-Ext,WR  
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 - FFII, 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 18 Staff**

1 year or less experience: 1 member = 6%  
1 – 5 years' experience: 4 members = 23%  
6 – 10 years experience: 8 members = 47%  
11 – 15 years experience: 0 members = 0%  
16 – Years and over experience: 5 member = 27%

**Current Employee Age Range**

21 Under: 1= 6%  
20-29: 4 =23%  
30-39: 4 = 23%  
40-49: 3 = 18%  
50-59: 0 = 0%  
60 + 6 = 30%

## Recruitment & Retention

Firefighter numbers are falling to critical levels across the Nation. Finding new personnel is an ongoing process of the fire department. Attracting new members will be a major focus and challenge going forward. State and Federal Laws are ever changing, making it very difficult to attract and retain members. Almost 30% 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 2019 Elk Rapids Township paid \$9000.00 to those 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. This is only roughly a third of the hours available for the year. This year we had over 1357 training hours put in from our members. In addition to our regular monthly trainings we offered The Fire Officer series classes and the Pump Operations training classes. Firefighter II series classes are scheduled for 2020.

This year we also had Live Burn training opportunities at Camp Maplehurst in Milton Township and Maple Bay in Grand Traverse County. These trainings are extremely beneficial to the newer members as structure fire numbers continue to decline. It also gives us opportunities to work with our Mutual Aid partners.

This year our training topics covered several key areas: Pump operations, SOP review, Roof Ventilation / Chain Saw Operations, SCBA, RIT, Wildland Training, Tactical Set-ups, Water / Ice Rescue, CPR / AED, Search and Rescue, Extrication, Tools & Equipment, Ladders, Fire Suppression, Salvage and Overhaul, Hazmat, Incident Command and Radio Procedures, Farm Rescue, Bus Extrication and Flashover training. We also trained with US Coast Guard, Grand Traverse Metro, Traverse City Fire, Torch Lake, Whitewater and Milton Townships on various occasions this year.

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.

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 receive and 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 2019:

Torch Lake Fire Dept. - 5  
Milton Elk Rapids Fire Dept. - 4  
Whitewater Township - 2  
Grand Traverse Metro Fire – 1  
United States Coast Guard -1

The Fire Chiefs from Elk Rapids, Milton and Torch Lake continue to meet a few times per year to strive 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 Private donations. In 2019 ERFD received a matching \$700 grant from Mobile Medical Response – for the purchase of a new AED. We also received a donation of over \$12,000 for upgrades to our Wildland / Rescue uniforms.

## 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](mailto: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 - Phil Vandenberg

Secretary – Tony Jones

Treasurer – Neil Harris

## Elk Rapids Fire Department Run Summary - 2019

| Description                    | Nov<br>2019 | 2019<br>Prior | 2019<br>Total | 2018<br>Annual |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Elk Rapids Township            | 3           | 40            | 43            | 56             |
| Elk Rapids Village             | 6           | 50            | 56            | 66             |
| Acme Township                  | 0           | 0             | 0             | 0              |
| Milton Township                | 0           | 4             | 4             | 7              |
| Torch Township                 | 0           | 5             | 5             | 1              |
| Whitewater Township            | 0           | 2             | 2             | 5              |
| Other Mutual Aid               | 0           | 0             | 0             | 1              |
| Total                          | 9           | 101           | 110           | 136            |
| Structure Fire                 | 0           | 5             | 5             | 9              |
| Vehicle Fire                   | 0           | 0             | 0             | 2              |
| Grass / Woods Fire             | 0           | 2             | 2             | 1              |
| Other Fire                     | 0           | 4             | 4             | 2              |
| EMS Assist                     | 0           | 11            | 11            | 8              |
| EMS Daytime Assist             | 2           | 31            | 33            | 46             |
| Rescue, Auto Accident          | 1           | 10            | 11            | 15             |
| Water or Ice Rescue            | 2           | 1             | 3             | 6              |
| Rescue, Other                  | 0           | 4             | 4             | 1              |
| Electrical Hazard              | 2           | 10            | 12            | 15             |
| Hazardous Condition, Other     | 0           | 7             | 7             | 12             |
| Complaint, Investigation       | 0           | 0             | 0             | 2              |
| Service Call, Roadway Hazard   | 1           | 16            | 17            | 12             |
| Fire Alarm: Malicious False    | 0           | 0             | 0             | 0              |
| Fire Alarm: System Malfunction | 1           | 2             | 3             | 2              |
| Fire Alarm: Unintentional      | 0           | 8             | 8             | 3              |

## **Future Plans**

- Recruiting new members & retaining current members.
- Make the Fire Station more energy efficient.
- Promoting our department's community programs.
- Community Carbon Monoxide Detector Program
- Expand existing Training Center with live burn building.
- Water Rescue Boat replacement
- SCBA Compressor replacement