



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

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KENTWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

www.kentwood.us/city_services/city_departments/fire

Thank You

The Kentwood Fire Department has had another successful year because of the continuing support of the Kentwood community, Mayor Stephen Kepley, and the City Commission. We have been able to maintain the high quality of services that our citizens deserve and expect.

This report has been compiled in an effort to provide information about your fire department. The members of the Kentwood Fire Department are committed to providing the City of Kentwood the best fire protection and emergency medical services possible. Daily, we strive to meet the City's core values:

- Extraordinary Customer Service
- Integrity
- Equity
- Communication
- Leadership

I am grateful to the members of the Kentwood Fire Department for their dedication and professionalism. They continue to meet the community's high standards. Working together we are able to keep Kentwood a great place to live, work, play and do business. It is a privilege to serve with our highly committed and skilled staff.



Chief Brent J. Looman

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HISTORY



The City of Kentwood celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017. During those 50 years the Kentwood Fire Department, like the City, has undergone considerable growth and change.

According to available historical records, when the City was incorporated in 1967, the Fire Department had two fire stations: Station 2 near 32nd and East Paris, and Station 3 on Kalamazoo north of 44th. Fire fighters were volunteers from the community. Station 2 had two pieces of fire apparatus; Station 3 had three. There was a total of 210 fire calls in 1968, and more than 1/3 (79) were grass fires.

In 1969 the East Paris fire station was demolished and a new station constructed on the same site. The Kalamazoo station was sold to Grand Rapids and construction of a new Kentwood fire station was begun on Eastern near 52nd.

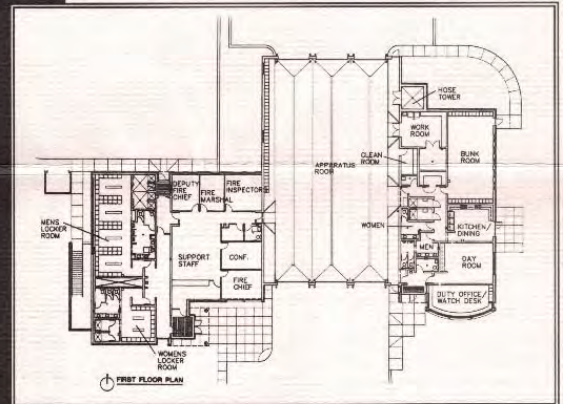
By the early 1970s two paid fire fighters were on duty in each station during weekdays when volunteers were least likely to be available for emergency response. Nights and weekends the community continued to rely on volunteers to respond to fires from their homes or places of employment. Since the volunteers were paid for each call they attended, they were referred to as paid on call (POC) fire fighters.

As Kentwood continued to grow and the availability of volunteer and POC fire fighters declined, full-time staffing increased. By 1992 the Kentwood Fire Department had over 40 full-time employees staffing three new fire stations 24/7/365 and enabling the Fire Department to take over emergency medical response from the Police Department's E-Unit.

Today, the Kentwood Fire Department responds to nearly 5,000 calls for service each year. Details of 2017 activities follows.



The construction of Kentwood Fire Station No. 1 represents the final step in the process of providing 24 hour fire service to the citizens of the City of Kentwood. Over the years, the ability of the fire department to serve the increasing number of citizens and businesses has been seriously strained due to the fact that they were only on duty for 10 hours a day, 5 days a week. The limitations of these hours of service are obvious; in the event of a fire or other emergency outside of regular business hours the firefighters were required to respond to the call from their homes, increasing the department response time by several minutes.



The most important benefit of Kentwood Fire Station No. 1 is the immediate availability of the firefighters to respond to emergencies. Fire personnel are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The location of Fire Station No. 1 is in the geographic center of the city, allowing fire personnel to respond to emergency situations rapidly in any direction. Paid-on-call firefighters will staff the existing fire stations on Eastern Avenue and East Paris Avenue, and will assist the full-time firefighters during major alarms.

It is the hope of the city that this central fire station will become an important part of the community by being available for activities such as fire/emergency education seminars and tours for schools, churches or other groups.

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

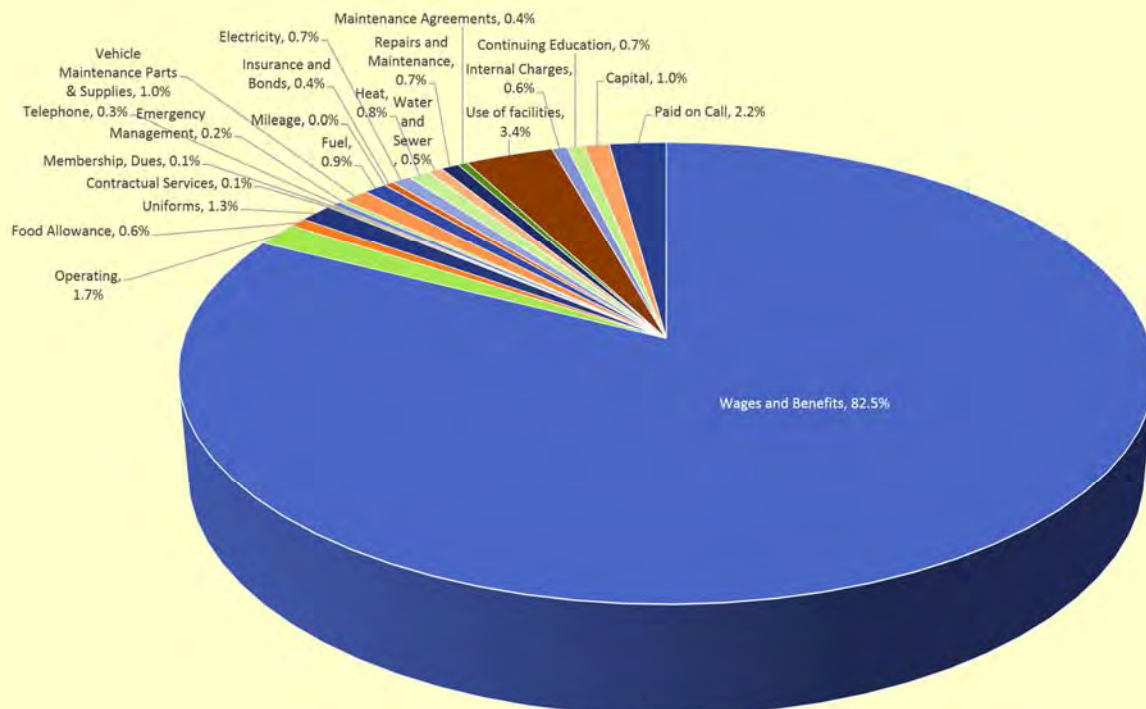
- 1 Fire Chief
- 1 Deputy Chief
- 1 Executive Administrator
- 1 Office Assistant (part-time)



The administrative staff of the Kentwood Fire Department manage the annual \$6 million operating budget while overseeing all fire operations: fire prevention, fire suppression, training, maintenance, and support activities. They work with other city departments and community partners to provide the highest level of service.

BUDGET

The development and ultimate adoption of the budget involves considerable effort by the members of the Fire Department, the City Finance Department, the Mayor, and the City Commissioners. All but 17.5% of the Fire Department's operating budget goes to employee wages and benefits. The remainder is used for such things as maintenance of the vehicles, stations, and equipment; continuing education; supplies; and uniforms.





In addition, the City uses long-range planning for capital items, such as fire trucks that have a 15-20 year service life. Each year funds are set aside in the Fire Equipment Fund for these major purchases so that when they are due for replacement, money is available. The Fire Department has a dynamic vehicle replacement schedule that is adjusted annually as the condition and maintenance costs are considered.

Six years of anticipated expenditures are shown in the table below.

Exhibit F: Fire Equipment Fund						
Project	Fiscal Year					
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Building Improvements						
Security Camera Upgrades - Stations 1, 2, and :	27,000					
Technology						
Disaster Recovery	37,500					
City-wide Telephone System Replacement	25,000					
Intranet improvements - Fiber Network	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Computer Workstation Replacements	40,000	25,000	22,500	25,000	36,250	25,000
Network Upgrades	31,250	31,250	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
Application Upgrades	31,250	31,250	31,250	31,250	31,250	31,250
Website Upgrades	12,500					
Copier Replacement	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250
Virtual Environment Refresh		150,000				
Vehicles						
Air Compressor Replacement	35,000					
Replace 2008 Impala (C-2)	55,000					
Replace 2009 Suburban (M-51)		60,000				
Replace 2002 Pumper (E-54)		500,000				
Replace 2010 Impala (C-6)			55,000			
Replace 2013 Tahoe (C-1)				60,000		
Replace 2010 Expedition (C-5)					50,000	
Replace 2002 Pumper (E-55)						500,000
Miscellaneous						
Miscellaneous & Contingency	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total	353,250	856,250	180,000	187,500	188,750	627,500



The 2008 car used by the Deputy Fire Chief was replaced with a Chevrolet Tahoe. After delivery in January, Fire Department personnel added emergency lights, siren, radios, and other equipment necessary for an emergency vehicle.

A new fire engine was ordered from Spartan ERV in 2017 for delivery in 2018. The cab and chassis are built at Spartan Motors in Charlotte, Michigan. It will be completed in Brandon, South Dakota.



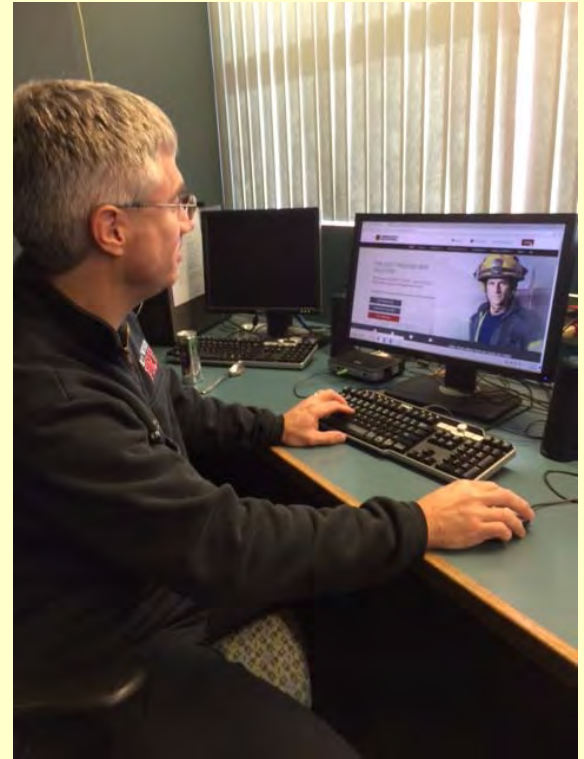
EMERGENCY REPORTING SOFTWARE

A new records management system (RMS) was implemented on January 1st. The City had historically maintained software and data on its own network. However, because of the age and condition of the servers, the number of applications and the amount of data on the network, a web-based solution was sought for the Fire Department records system to improve performance and increase available capacity.

As a result of the bid and evaluation process, Emergency Reporting Software was selected. It is a comprehensive package that includes incident reporting, maintenance records, occupancy and inspections tracking, daily roster, training, and other modules.

Fire fighters have been happy with the ease of use of the system and the ability to access the software away from the fire stations.

The move to the new system met goals and expectations. However, because the system is web-based, we have lost the ability to customize queries and reports. We continue to encourage the company to allow users to create their own reports.



The National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) is the national database that is used to store emergency medical data throughout the United States. NEMSIS is the standard for how patient care information resulting from a 9-1-1 call is collected. It is a collaborative system to improve patient care through the standardization, aggregation and utilization of EMS data. Data from NEMSIS is also used to help benchmark performance and determine effectiveness of clinical interventions.

The State of Michigan required all Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers to upgrade reporting to NEMSIS version 3 by January 1, 2018. As the largest user of Emergency Reporting Software in the area, the Kentwood Fire Department became a beta test site to make sure the software was compliant with the Michigan data elements. NEMSIS 3 requires a significant amount of additional information, and it took time to set up, test and train on the system. The Kentwood Fire Department successfully transitioned to NEMSIS 3 in October. With lessons learned from our experience and information we were able to share, other area fire departments met the deadline as well.



FIRE SUPPRESSION DIVISION

3 Battalion Chiefs
9 Lieutenant/Inspectors
9 Engine Operators
18 Full-Time Fire Fighters
10 Paid on Call Fire Fighters
1 Fire Marshal
1 Fire Inspector

The Fire Suppression Division is responsible for immediate on-scene management of emergencies. They are fire fighters and emergency medical technicians, but what they do daily involves much more than putting out fires and helping the sick and injured. They train constantly to be able to mitigate the wide range of situations they encounter daily. Simply put, members of the Kentwood Fire Department are problem solvers.

Kentwood personnel assigned to the Fire Suppression Division work an average 52.5 hour week or 2,730 hours per year. They work three 24.5-hour days in a nine day duty cycle (on/off/on/off/on/off four days).

In addition to emergency response, fire fighters have other duties and responsibilities, including training, vehicle, equipment and building maintenance, inspections, public education, hydrant checking, hose testing, paperwork and more.

2017 MAJOR INCIDENT TYPES

NO. OF INCIDENTS

Fires	115
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	3
Rescue and Emergency Medical Service	3196
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	169
Service Call	258
Good Intent Call	531
False Alarm and False Call	316
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	3
Special Incident Type, Other	4
TOTAL	4595

*A DAY IN THE LIFE...

0645 On duty, in uniform. Exchange information with personnel going off duty.

Inspect all vehicles and equipment to make sure they are ready to respond: e.g., batteries are charged, fuel is sufficient, water tank is full, radios function, equipment is in place.

0730 Shift meeting. Outline expectations for the day.

0800 Clean station.

0900 Fire Training
Special projects
Work details

1200 Lunch

1300 EMS Training
Business inspections
Pre-incident response plans
Public education (talk, tour)
Errands

1700 Dinner

1800 Physical fitness

1900 Training
Relaxation

2100 Wash vehicles

2200 Bedtime

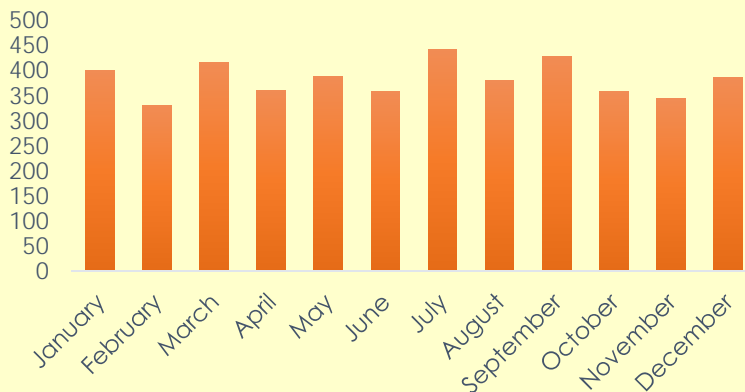
**Plus emergency response.*



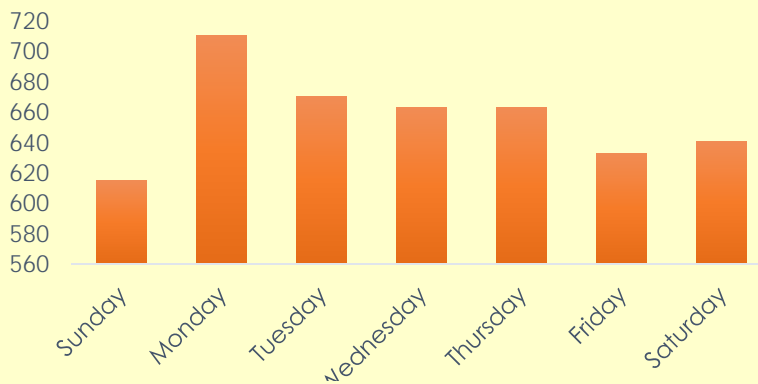
FIRE OPERATIONS

Daily operations are handled by personnel assigned to the fire stations. They are always ready to respond to calls for emergency assistance. Calls can and do come at any time and any place.

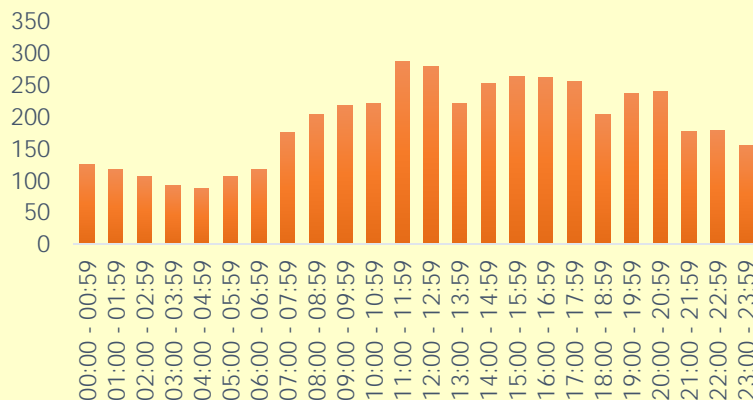
Incidents by Month



Incidents by Day of Week

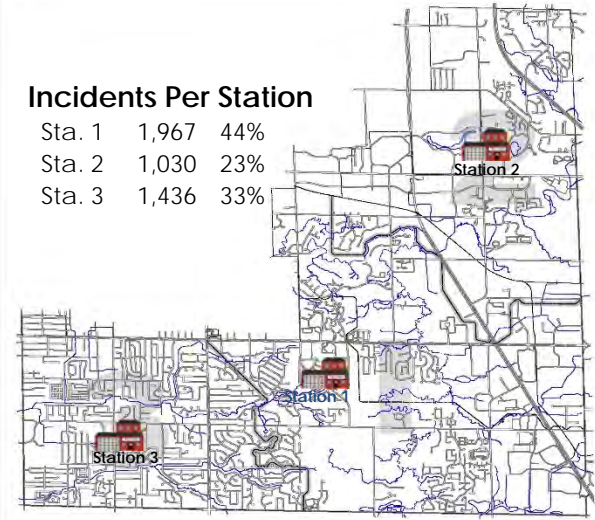


Incidents by Hour of Day



Incidents Per Station

Sta. 1	1,967	44%
Sta. 2	1,030	23%
Sta. 3	1,436	33%



INCIDENTS BY LOCATION TYPE

■ Home/Residence

■ Health Care Facility
(clinic, hospital,
nursing home)

■ Industrial Place and
Premises

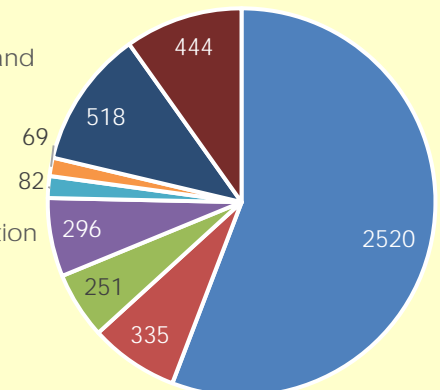
■ Other Location

■ Place of Recreation
or Sport

■ Public Building
(schools, gov.
offices)

■ Street or Highway

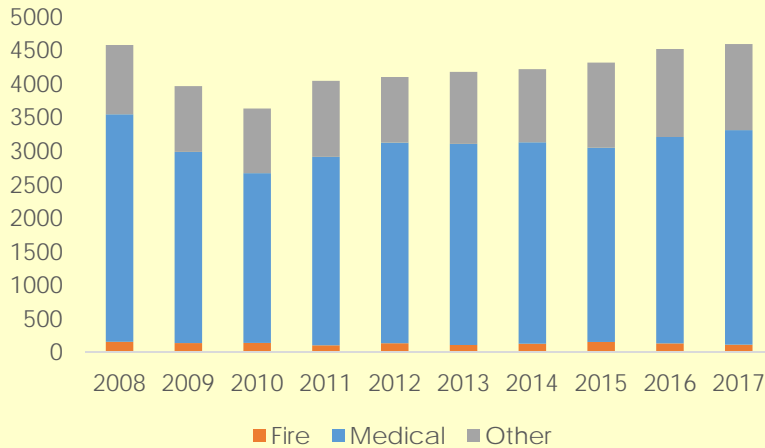
■ Trade or service
(business, bars,
restaurants, etc)





TEN YEAR CALL VOLUME COMPARISON

In late 2008, due to financial constraints, the City of Kentwood was forced to lay off three full-time fire fighters. To make better use of limited resources, the Kentwood Fire Department stopped responding to non-life-threatening medical calls (Med 3s). Since that time, call volumes have continued to increase, and by 2017 had returned to the 2008 level.



TOP TEN RESPONSE LOCATIONS			
Greentree 4320 Kalamazoo	117	Woodland Mall 3195 28th St.	53
Elmcroft of Kentwood 4352 Breton	116	Tamarisk 4520 Bowen	53
Wellington Woods 4550 N. Breton Ct.	76	Breton Ridge 2772 Pfeiffer Woods	48
Breton Woods 2500 Breton Woods	72	Bailey's Grove Retirement 5252 Bailey's Center	30
Summer Haven 4740 Breton	68	Knight's Inn 3524 28th St.	28

Nearly all the places to which there are frequent calls for service are senior citizen facilities.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The Kentwood Fire Department provides emergency medical services under the direction of Kent County Emergency Medical Services (KCEMS), a non-profit organization not part of Kent County government. KCEMS is the medical control authority designated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to supervise, regulate, and coordinate licensed life support agencies and personnel within Kent County.

EMS in Kent County is a two-tiered system. Response to 9-1-1 calls for emergency medical assistance are handled by both public first responders (Basic Life Support [BLS]) and private ambulances (Advanced Life Support [ALS]). In most cases the BLS unit is based in a fire department and, because it is closer to the emergency, reaches the patient first. The BLS personnel begin medical care and stabilize the patient so ambulance personnel can perform advanced procedures and transport the patient to the hospital, if necessary.

The Kentwood Fire Department is licensed by the State of Michigan as a Basic Life Support Agency. All full-time uniformed Kentwood Fire Department personnel are licensed as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) or higher.

As Kentwood's population continues to grow and age, it becomes more dependent on the emergency medical care provided by the fire department. As the volume of EMS calls increases, so does the potential for overlapping calls, and available fire fighters may have to respond from farther away—increasing critical response times. In 2017, there were over 1,400 overlapping incidents.

COMPLAINT	NO. OF INCIDENTS
Abdominal Pain/Problems	45
Allergic Reaction/Stings	21
Animal Bite	1
Assault	31
Back Pain	27
Breathing Problem	543
Burns	1
Cardiac Arrest/Death	25
Chest Pain	310
Choking	8
Convulsions/Seizure	91
Diabetic Problem	97
Drowning	1
Eye Problem	1
Fall Victim	372
Headache	21
Heart Problems	27
Heat/Cold Exposure	2
Hemorrhage/Laceration	34
Industrial Accident	1
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion	35
Pregnancy/Childbirth	27
Psychiatric Problem/Suicide Attempt	52
Sick Person	112
Stab/Gunshot Wound	6
Stroke/CVA	52
Traffic Accident	242
Traumatic Injury	67
Unconscious/Fainting	201
Unknown Problem Person Down	196



IT'S ALL ABOUT TIME!



The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Standard 1710 establishes minimum criteria to "ensure safe and effective fire and emergency medical response." It applies the science of fire behavior and emergency medicine to determine sufficient and effective resources to control incidents and protect lives and property.

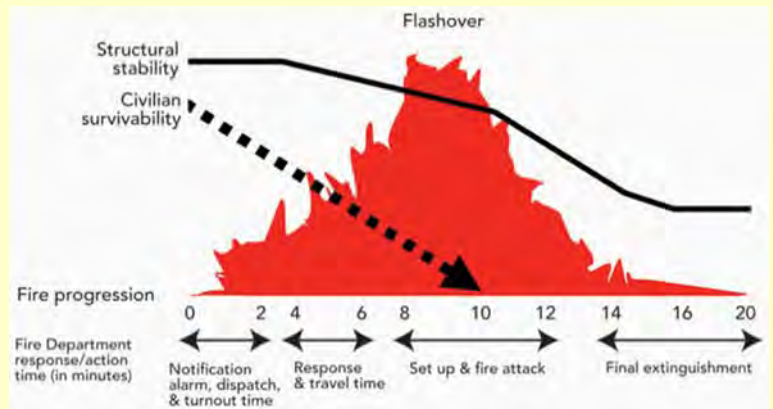
Fire

The NFPA response time standard for fires is:

- Initial Response (minimum of 4 personnel): 4 minutes or less, 90% of the time
- Full Alarm Assignment (15-17 personnel): 8 minutes or less, 90% of the time

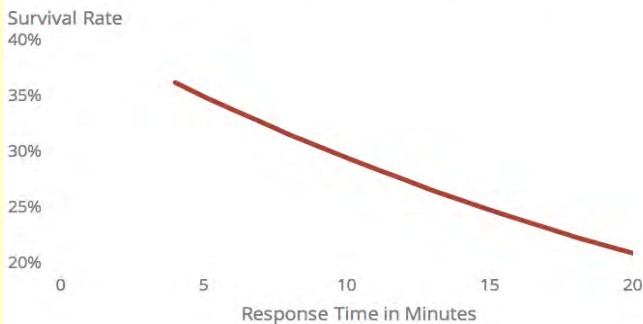
The Kentwood Fire Department response time standard is 5 minutes and 20 seconds.

- Average emergency response time for fire calls in 2017 was 4:45.



Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The Survival Rate Drops ~1% Every Additional Minute in Response



The NFPA response time standard for medical incidents is:



Basic Life Support 4 minutes or less, 90% of the time



Advanced Life Support: within 8 minutes, 90% of the time

The Kentwood Fire Department, licensed at the BLS level, has established a response time standard of 5 minutes and 20 seconds.



Average emergency response time for EMS calls in 2017 was 4:25.



The American Heart Association estimates that more than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of hospitals every year. Seventy percent (70%) of these occur in homes. Studies have shown that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the time of collapse and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) can significantly increase chances of survival.

According to several recent studies, medical drones for delivery of AEDs to a bystander may be the future of public cardiac care.

Prototype medical drones may fly as fast as 62 mph and can find a victim's location using a cell phone GPS.

Further, 9-1-1 dispatchers may be able to use a drone's camera to visually assess a victim and support bystander CPR and AED application.





BETTER TOGETHER



As demands for services continue to grow, we recognize that we cannot meet all challenges alone. One way to provide emergency services efficiently and effectively is through cooperative agreements with neighboring departments. All communities in Kent County have signed a mutual aid agreement and many also have automatic aid agreements for specific calls. In addition, there are joint agreements for special services. To maximize resources, the Kentwood Fire Department participates in all three types of agreements.

MUTUAL AID

Mutual aid is an agreement among emergency response communities to assist across jurisdictional boundaries for a specific incident **upon request**. This may be due to an incident that exceeds local resources, such as a large structure fire or tornado. Mutual aid may also be requested if there are no units available to respond or if available units cannot make a timely response and another community is closer to the emergency scene.

AUTOMATIC AID

In contrast, under an automatic aid agreement a neighboring community's units are dispatched **automatically** to assist. The City of Kentwood has automatic aid agreements with Grand Rapids, Cutlerville, and Dutton for structure fires in designated geographic areas adjacent to the city limits to ensure an adequate and timely response of personnel and apparatus. There is also an automatic aid agreement with the Gerald R. Ford International Airport.

	GIVEN	REC'D
Byron Twp	2	
Caledonia	9	
Cascade	13	4
Cutlerville	32	25
Dutton/Gaines	12	9
Grand Rapids	22	20
GR Ford Airport	7	
GR Township	1	
Grandville	1	
Wyoming	35	1
TOTAL	134	59



JOINT AGREEMENT

The City of Kentwood, Cascade Township and Gaines Township (Dutton) have a special services agreement for a joint hazardous materials response team.

To facilitate the cooperation among fire departments, Kentwood fire units meet several times a year with units from Grand Rapids, Cutlerville, Dutton, Cascade, Wyoming, and Caledonia to become more comfortable with the personnel, apparatus, and equipment that they could be working with.



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

1 Fire Marshal
1 Fire Inspector
9 Suppression Lieutenant/Inspectors



The Kentwood Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for ensuring public safety through plan review, fire code inspections and public education.

PLAN REVIEW AND INSPECTIONS

Through construction plan reviews, annual business inspections, and code enforcement, fire inspectors strive to maintain a safe environment for property owners, patrons, and emergency responders. They enforce the 2015 International Fire Code that was adopted, with amendments, in June as the City's Fire Prevention Code.

Fire code officials evaluate site plans for new developments and buildings to verify adequate emergency vehicle access and water supply for fire suppression. They review and approve construction plans (new and remodel projects) during planning, construction and pre-occupancy phases.



Fire department personnel visit established commercial and industrial facilities to determine code compliance and work with the owners and/or tenants to resolve fire safety issues. The goal is to provide education about fire prevention and safety and achieve voluntary compliance with code requirements. Some common issues noted on inspections include general housekeeping, blocked exits, non-functioning emergency lighting, improper extension cords, and portable fire extinguishers that have not been serviced.

It takes approximately 18-24 months for inspectors to complete reviews of all businesses. Inspections are not generally scheduled in advance, but inspectors try to accommodate business needs and minimize disruption of operations.

Fire inspectors in Michigan are not authorized to inspect residences, although apartment offices and common areas may be checked.



PLAN REVIEWS	NO.
New Construction	13
Remodel	136
Sprinkler	70
Site Plan	42
Fire Alarm	67
TOTAL	328

INSPECTIONS	NO.
Annual Business Inspections	1486
Initial	1012
Reinspections	471
Occupancy Capacity Checks	170
Certificate of Occupancy Insp.	44
Not Ready	3
Walk Through	21
Tent Inspections	2
Protection/Detection Systems	57
Complaint Investigation	18
TOTAL	1801

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Kentwood Fire Department provides a variety of educational programs to children, youths and adults.

In October Kentwood Fire personnel present an educational program to pre- and elementary-school students. Basic fire safety tips are discussed, including:

- ☛ Dial 9-1-1 for help in an emergency
- ☛ Home exit drills
- ☛ How to test smoke alarms and what to do if they sound an alarm
- ☛ Stop, Drop, and Roll
- ☛ Avoid matches and lighters



Fire Department personnel read to students during National Reading Month.



Chemistry of Fire is taught to middle school classes in the spring. Students in science classes are introduced to principles of fire science, such as chemical properties, pyrolysis, exposure limits, flash point, specific gravity, vapor density, and fire extinguisher classifications and use.



	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Fires Involving freely burning materials. For example wood, paper, textiles, and other carbonaceous materials.	Fires Involving flammable liquids. For example petrol, and spirits. Not Alcohol Or Cooking Oil	Fires involving flammable gases. For example propane & butane.	Fires involving flammable metals. For example magnesium and lithium.	Fires involving electrical equipment. For example photocopiers, fax machines & computers.	Fires involving cooking oil and fat. For example olive oil, maize oil, lard & butter.
Water	✓					
Foam	✓	✓				
ABC Dry Powder	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Dry Special Powder				✓		
CO2 Gas		✓			✓	
Wet Chemical	✓					✓



Programs for adults include:

- 🔥 Fire extinguisher use
- 🔥 Kitchen/cooking safety
- 🔥 Fall prevention
- 🔥 Home fire prevention



People of all ages are welcome to visit any Kentwood fire station to tour the facilities, see the vehicles and equipment, meet the fire fighters, and learn about fire fighting as a career.





The Kentwood Fire Department is pleased to work with special populations. In partnership with Kent County and other area agencies, the fire department was involved in inclusive preparedness training for people of diverse abilities. Participants in the fire safety module toured fire station 1 and learned how to prevent fires, what to do in case of fire, and how to use a fire hose and extinguisher.



Reports from all participants were positive—and everyone had fun!



Throughout the year the Kentwood Fire Department participated in special events hosted by the city.

Touch a Truck (June):



The Fourth of July Parade:





Celebrate Kentwood (August):



Trunk or Treat (October):



EVERY DAY IS A TRAINING DAY



The aim of the Kentwood Fire Department is to ensure that everyone performs effectively and makes it home safely. With the wide range of emergencies to which members respond, training is essential to developing and maintaining diverse skills and abilities. All personnel are involved in training, with everyone accepting responsibility for teaching and learning.

Training is conducted through a variety of means. Internet-based training allows personnel to complete classes in their stations while remaining available in their districts for emergency calls. However, hands-on and instructor-led training must also be conducted for fire fighters to remain proficient. Most of the training is done by department members who are certified instructors or who have specialized knowledge. Periodically, members attend outside training or experts are brought here to teach.

As call volume increases, there are fewer hours available for training. And as incidents become more complex, training becomes more challenging. In addition to the ongoing education requirements for fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire inspections and investigations, hazardous materials and technical rescue response, fire fighters face new dangers, such as hybrid vehicle technology, alternative fuel sources, lightweight building construction, proprietary chemical compounds, and other hazards. Safe and successful mitigation of these issues requires a comprehensive and continuous training program.

During the year nearly 400 classes were taken with over 2,700 staff hours spent in training. Below are illustrations of some of the specialized training.



CLASS CATEGORY	NO. OF CLASSES
Administration	16
Apparatus	17
Building	1
Continuing Education	9
Driving	5
Electrical	1
EMS	109
Evolutions	3
Fire Officer	6
Fire Suppression	116
HazMat	21
Incident Command	1
Fire Fighter Training Council	11
Records & Reports	6
SCBA	3
Special Bus rescue and extrication	44
Tech Rescue	21

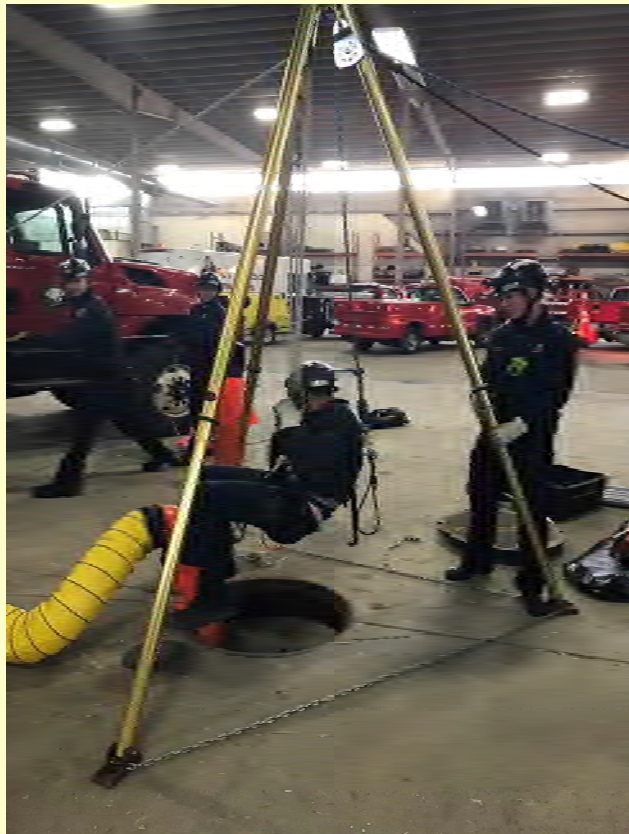


Ice Rescue



School Bus Stabilization and Extrication





Specially trained personnel are assigned to the Technical Rescue Team. One of their responsibilities is to serve as the designated confined space rescuers for Kentwood Public Works personnel when they work underground in manholes, sewers, trenches, etc.



Kentwood and Caledonia Fire Departments worked together during high rise training at Davenport University dormitories.



One of the major focuses of training in 2017 was cancer awareness and prevention. Two recent studies conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) concluded that fire fighters face a 9% increase in cancer diagnoses and a 14% increase in cancer-related deaths compared to the general population in the United States. Sadly, Kentwood fire fighters have suffered from cancer, and it proved deadly in some cases.

Kentwood has taken steps to reduce risks through decontamination policies and procedures that include personal hygiene; and isolation, disinfection and sanitization of equipment and PPE. At the incident scene fire fighters clean as much skin as possible with baby wipes and shower upon return to the fire station. Gear is hosed off and bagged at the scene to remove gross contamination and then properly washed at the station. This requires each fire fighter to have two sets of PPE to be ready to respond to the next incident. We are grateful for the support of the Kentwood City Commission that makes this possible.

PERSONNEL HIGHLIGHTS

The Kentwood Fire Department's greatest strength and most valuable asset is its employees. The Department works hard to hire the best people and strives to retain them. The average longevity of current career staff is over 15 years.

Nevertheless, there were changes in employment in 2017. The following personnel ended their employment with the City:

Nicholas (Nico) Damsteegt

Nico Damsteegt, a long-time Kentwood resident, joined the Kentwood Fire Department on August 2, 1979 as a Paid-On-Call Fire Fighter. He was hired full-time on October 7, 1991 when the department began 24-hour operations. He retired on October 9, 2017.





Timothy O'Connor

Tim O'Connor had been a paid-on-call Fire Fighter in Dutton before he was hired in Kentwood for the same job on March 21, 1996. On January 10, 1998 Tim joined the full-time ranks and served until his retirement on August 21, 2017.



Robert (Bob) E. Peterson, Jr.

Bob Peterson left Plainfield Township Fire Department to become a full-time Kentwood Fire Fighter on November 17, 2000. During his Kentwood career, Bob was promoted to Engine Operator and, later, to Fire Inspector. Bob left the City of Kentwood on October 4, 2017.



Michael Abbott

Mike Abbott had also been in Plainfield Township before his employment with the Kentwood Fire Department. Mike was hired September 26, 2002 and served as a fire fighter until his promotion to Acting Officer on January 1, 2016. He ended his employment with the department on March 24, 2017.



Nick Bonstell

Nick Bonstell had considerable fire service experience when he accepted a fire fighter position in Kentwood on September 7, 2015. Nick had been a paid-on-call fire fighter in Zeeland, had held several full-time positions with the Grand Rapids Fire Department, and had served as fire chief in Iowa before returning to West Michigan. His last day with the Kentwood Fire Department was March 25, 2017.





Lucas Parshall

Luke Parshall was hired as a paid on call fire fighter on January 11, 2011. He responded to fire station 3 on Eastern until his resignation on December 11, 2017.

Michael Wroblewski

Mike Wroblewski became a Kentwood paid on call fire fighter on September 29, 2015. He had been a paid on call fire fighter in other communities in which he lived and continued serving in Kentwood until he moved out of the area on October 2, 2017.





Retirements and resignations provided opportunities for new full-time hires. Applicants on the eligibility list from the 2016 process were re-interviewed when positions became available. Following successful completion of a physical agility test, background check, psychological and medical evaluations, new fire fighters were put to work.



Brian Johnson fulfilled his dream of becoming a Kentwood Fire Fighter on July 8, 2017. Brian is a graduate of East Kentwood High School. He earned his Associate Degree in Fire Science from Kalamazoo Valley Community College and attended the Great Lakes EMS Academy for his Emergency Medical Technician training. He has also received fire service leadership and officer certifications. Prior to his employment with the Kentwood Fire Department, Johnson was a full-time Fire Fighter in Cutlerville and Muskegon.



Kevin Maday became a Kentwood Fire Fighter on July 9, 2017. Maday graduated from Jenison High School before attending the Quad Cities Fire Academy in Wyoming and the Great Lakes EMS Academy. He is also a certified fire officer and Michigan Fire Inspector 1. Maday had worked part-time or paid-on-call for the Plainfield, Georgetown, and Grandville Fire Departments before coming to Kentwood.



Paul Schemper began his Kentwood Fire Department career on September 2, 2017. A graduate of Calvin Christian High School in Grandville, Schemper successfully completed the Wyoming Fire Academy and earned a Paramedic license from the Life EMS Education Centre. Subsequently, he received his Associate Degree in Nursing from Lansing Community College. He has worked at the Grandville Fire Department as a Fire Fighter/EMT, at AMR as a paramedic, and as a registered nurse, most recently at Metro Health Hospital.



Dean Krueger started as a Kentwood Fire Fighter on October 28, 2017. He graduated from high school in Ida, MI, and earned fire fighter certification from the Plainfield Fire Academy and EMT certification from the Grattan EMS Academy. He is also a certified fire officer. Before joining the Kentwood Fire Department, Krueger was a paid on call member of the Lowell Area Fire Department, serving as a Lieutenant Training Officer. Dean has nearly 20 years' experience in building construction.



Even though all these new hires are experienced fire fighters, they were put through a rigorous orientation program before being assigned to a regular shift. Some of the classroom subjects and practical skills covered in this initial training include radio procedures, SCBA cylinder safety, vehicle checks, apparatus driving and pumping, streets and maps, incident report writing, right to know, medical protocols and equipment use, incident scene operations, and cancer prevention procedures.





A new position of Acting Officer became effective on January 1, 2017. Fire Fighters or Engine Operators with at least four years seniority with the Kentwood Fire Department were eligible to test for the promotion. On each shift one Acting Officer is permanently assigned to Medic 51 and one rotates among stations to serve as officer in the absence of a Lieutenant. This ensures that a qualified person is available to make decisions when needed.

The following Fire Fighters were selected as the initial Acting Officers:



Mike Abbott



Phil Autsema



Todd Bacon



Jim Hosier



Kurt Nuffer



Kevin Tammens



Nick Harkes became an Acting Officer on April 29th following Mike Abbott's departure.



Bryan Lynch, Fire Fighter of the Year



Bryan Lynch has been a member of the Kentwood Fire Department since January 8, 2002. On July 23, 2006 he was promoted to Engine Operator. Bryan has many talents and has been willing to assist, particularly in vehicle maintenance; and pre-incident planning, including uploading building drawings and hazard information in the dispatch software so both fire fighters and police officers are alerted to potential dangers before they arrive at an incident scene. He has used his welding skills to fabricate physical fitness equipment for fire fighter use, as well as a hazardous materials leak trainer. Congratulations, Bryan!





UNION COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Full-time fire fighters are represented by the Kentwood Professional Fire Fighters Union (KPFFU). In addition to supporting its members, the KPFFU supports the Kentwood community. This year the KPFFU again provided coats to students and holiday dinners to families.



The Union partnered with Operation Warmth, whose mission is to "provide brand-new winter coats to children in need, helping improve self-confidence, peer acceptance, school attendance, and overall wellness."

The Union and its members donated \$800 and 59 complete Christmas dinners to families at Kelloggsville Schools.





NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS



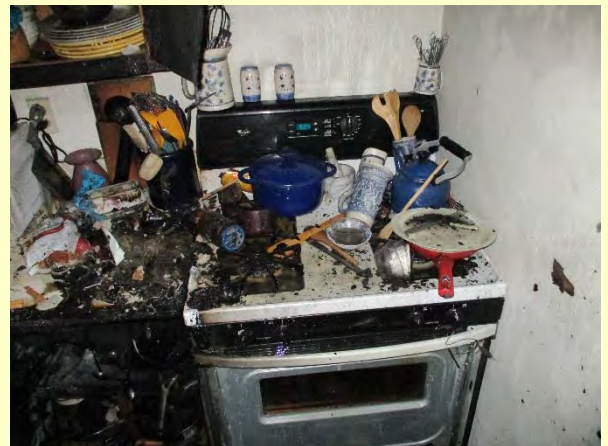
January 6 – East Paris & Lake Dr. – Fire Dept. not at fault, but extensive damage to Engine 52.



January 6 – 4701 East Paris – Improper chemical use caused an explosion.



January 13 – 4692 Burton – car fire extended into duplex. Car destroyed; extensive damage to home.



January 14 – 2135 Willow Shore – kitchen fire in apartment; resident injured.



January 19 – 1409 60th – fire in the façade; no interior damage.



February 6 – 4679 Kimball – fireplace ashes placed on deck burned through the threshold of the slider and into the interior of the home.



February 27 – 3341 Pine Meadow – upon arrival and after fire extinguished. The carport and five vehicles were damaged.





February 28 – Plaster Creek near 32nd – leaking fuel tanks upstream caused pollution. Clean up required; fines levied.



March 1 – 4069 60th – icy roads; 3 car accident; 3 injuries.



March 7 – 2011 52nd – Detached garage with fire already through the roof when the first fire unit arrived.



May 10 – 3949 28th – Smoke-producing fireworks at rear of fireworks store. Sign reads “No Smoking Within 50 Feet of Building.”



May 7 – 5400 block of Kalamazoo – 1 car accident; 1 patient extricated.



June 10 – Gentian – unlicensed marijuana grow operation.



June 11 – 924 Hardwick – some of the damage in the duplex.



July 9 – 4460 44th – damage to computer equipment; year's highest dollar loss fire.



August 22 – Burton & Rowland – rollover accident; all patients refused treatment/transportation.



September 9 – 6450 Hanna Lake (Dutton) – chemical explosion and fire damaged building.



October 20 – 3061 Shaffer – trash fire in semi trailer; also damaged loading dock.



November 10 – 4445 Breton – one example of a vehicle/building conflict. There were several during the year.








December 4 – 28th & Radcliff – car versus power pole; assisted uninjured driver from vehicle.



WE WANT YOU!

The City of Kentwood is accepting applications for Paid On Call Fire Fighters. Visit our website at <https://kentwood.workbrightats.com/jobs/218085.html> for details.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

-  Live within the City of Kentwood or 3.1 road miles of a Kentwood fire station
-  Be at least 18 years old
-  Have a high school diploma or GED
-  Have a valid Michigan driver's license
-  Have no felony convictions

No previous experience is needed. The Fire Department provides all training.

The hiring process includes an oral interview, background check, physical agility test that simulates fire fighting skills, and medical exam, including drug screen.

Notes: No smoking is allowed on duty or in City/Department facilities or vehicles.
No beards, ponytails, or facial jewelry are allowed for safety reasons.

After hire:

-  Fire Fighter Academy if not already certified. Classes are usually two nights per week and many Saturdays. The course runs approximately 6-7 months.

Serving as a paid on call fire fighter requires a major commitment and dedication.

Do you have what it takes to join our team?



THE END !

Foldable Fire Truck

