PARK TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

HISTORY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 1946 a committee was appointed to investigate fire protection for the township. At the February, 1947, election, the Township Board was authorized by the voters to purchase and house firefighting equipment. This station, located on Myrtle Avenue, served the south side of Park Township and the part of Holland Township lying south of 16th Street. The Holland Township Fire Department served the north part of Holland Township and the north part of Park Township. Prior to this time the entire area was served by the City of Holland.

In 1949 an addition was built on the south side fire station. In 1951 a new fire station was built on Ottawa Beach Road for the north side. When the area where the south side fire station was located was annexed to the city in 1959, a new fire station was built in Virginia Park. The station in south Park Township is known as Station #1 and the station in north Park Township is known as Station #2.

In 1996 a new fire station was built in north Park Township at 12 S. 160th Avenue, on the corner of S. 160th Avenue and Perry Street. This station continues to be known as Station #2 and is Central Station.

In 2003 a new fire station was built, jointly between Park Township and the City of Holland, at 644 S. 160th Avenue in south Park Township. This station houses Park Township Station #1 and the City of Holland Station #3 and is known as the Virginia Park Fire Station.
Mission Statement
The Park Township Fire Department is a paid-on-call department of men and women who are dedicated to protect and educate our community to prevent loss of lives and property without unduly risking their own lives and equipment. This mission is to be executed professionally, timely, and with determination to continually improve our quality, while always maintaining a professional and positive customer service attitude.

Core Values

To Our Residents: We owe the residents of Park Township the highest quality of service possible, characterized by responsiveness, integrity and professionalism. We will continually strive for quality improvement.

To Our Fire Department: We owe the Park Township Fire Department our commitment and dedication. We will always look beyond the traditional scope of our individual positions to promote teamwork and organizational effectiveness.

To Each Other: We owe each other a working environment characterized by trust and respect for the individual, fostering open and honest communication at all levels.

To Ourselves: We owe ourselves personal and professional growth. We will seek new knowledge and greater challenges, and strive to remain at the leading edge of our profession.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Park Township is located in Ottawa County in southwest Lower Michigan, along the shoreline of Lake Michigan. The thirty-six square miles are protected by two fire stations, one on each side of inland Lake Macatawa, which divides the township in half. It is a twenty-five minute drive around Lake Macatawa to access each half of the township, traveling through two other jurisdictions.

Approximately fifteen square miles of the township are covered by lakes. The remaining twenty-one square miles of land are primarily zoned residential and agricultural. Park Township has eighteen miles of shoreline between Lake Michigan and Lake Macatawa and we protect land and water.

The Park Township Fire Department also protects multiple critical infrastructures:

- two public water treatment plants which service large cities as far as 60 miles to the east of us,
- an AT&T Communication Transmission Center
- the Wolverine Gas Pipeline.

Park Township Fire Department is first-due response to each of these critical infrastructures. In addition we protect a United States Coast Guard Station located within our jurisdiction and a small, private airport. We have multiple marinas and our area is a summer vacation destination. The majority of our residents work outside of our township. Many of our subdivisions are high-end housing. We have no industry and minimal commercial property, with the exception of marinas.

In addition to fire protection of infrastructures, residences, public buildings, schools, boats, marinas, and wildfires, we respond to medical emergencies, water and ice rescues, CO alarm activations, gas leaks and electrical standbys, smoke and odor investigations, weather related emergencies and extrications from motor vehicle accidents. We have mutual aid agreements with all fire departments in Ottawa and Allegan Counties, as well as participate in state-wide mutual aid agreements. Our most common contribution in a local mutual aid situation is the air refill systems, manpower and apparatus standbys.
**STAFFING**

We are a paid-on-call department consisting of seven Officers, twenty-eight Firefighters, a Chaplain and an Office Manager. Much of our operating budget is payroll for twenty-four hour emergency protection.

**2018 Roster**

**Administrative**
Scott Gamby, Fire Chief/FOIII/EMT-B  
Andy Slagh, Administrative/Safety Lieutenant/CO/EMT-B/FOIII  
Karen Pfeiffer, Office Manager  
Bob Carlton, Chaplain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station #1 - Virginia Park Station</th>
<th>Station #2 - Central Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Gamby, Captain/CO/MFR</td>
<td>Scott Heerema, Captain/CO/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Stokes, Lieutenant/CO/EMT-B</td>
<td>Bill Smalldon, Lieutenant/CO/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cole Middlecamp, Lieutenant/CO/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Nelson, FF/MFR</td>
<td>Dave Bekken, FF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Woodall, FF/EMT-Basic</td>
<td>Bob Cooke, FF/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Lovell, FF/EMT-Basic</td>
<td>Todd Garvelink, FF/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Martinez, FF/EMT-Basic</td>
<td>Ron Greendyke, FF/EMT-Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Reilly, FF/MFR</td>
<td>Tom Baumann, FF/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Givens, FF/EMT-Paramedic</td>
<td>Curtis Redder, FF/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jon DeMaat, FF/MFR</td>
<td>Andrew Van Til, FF/EMT-Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Van Huis, FF</td>
<td>Tim Vogelzang, FF/EMT-Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sienna Echols, FF/EMT-Paramedic</td>
<td>Paul Sam, FF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy Kassion, FF</td>
<td>Jon Clausing, FF/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ken Lothschutz, FF/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drew Schrotenboer, FF/EMT-Paramedic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ryan Van Putten, FF/EMT-Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike DeWaard, FF/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colin Staat, FF/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eric Kramer, FF/MFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Angela Badran, FF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description of Certifications:**

- **CO:** Company Officer  
- **FF:** Firefighter  
- **MFR:** Medical First Responder  
- **EMT-Basic:** Emergency Medical Technician-Basic  
- **EMT-Paramedic:** Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic
2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Personnel Accomplishments and Special Certifications

In addition to two required evening training meetings per month many of our firefighters attended educational seminars. The Ottawa County Fire Academy is an intensive State certified training for new personnel. Probationary firefighters attend four hour classes two nights per week plus one Saturday a month for nine months. The Ottawa County Fire Academy and the medical license classes are required to be a member of the fire department; the rest of the seminars were elective as our personnel desired to be better prepared to react to emergencies.

New Hire:
Station #2 - Angela Badran

2018 Firefighter I & II Fire Academy:
Station #1 - Troy Kassion
Station #2 - Eric Kramer

2018 Medical First Responder:
Station #2 - Eric Kramer

2018 EMT School:
Station #2 - Angela Badran

2018 Company Officer I & II:
FF Tom Baumann

Pipeline Emergency Response & Awareness Class - February 2018, attended by Captain Pat Gamby

State Park Emergency Response Scenario - May 2018. Participated in training scenario with Holland State Park and DNR where we evaluated their response to various emergency situations that could occur at the State Park. Other agencies that participated in this event were the U.S. Coast Guard, Ottawa County Sheriff and AMR.
Community Involvement and Fire Prevention

Park Township firefighters and equipment were very involved in our community during 2018. In addition to fire calls and training we attended thirty-four community events staffed by 90 personnel, introducing our department to over 15,000 people.

Some of the events included:

- hundreds of preschool and elementary school children visited our fire stations to learn about fire safety, tour the station and have hands-on time with our equipment
- visiting elementary school classrooms to teach children fire safety
- hosting clubs like Boy Scouts and Cadets at the stations
- providing medical coverage during the springtime Blessing of the Bikes event at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds
- spraying water for last day of school at Great Lakes Elementary
- attending the Holland State Park Fall Festival
- spraying water on children following area soccer camps
- providing medical coverage for the MS Society Bike Tour
- providing fire standby for VanAndel’s fireworks over Lake Michigan on the 4th of July
- spraying water on children at a local neighborhood 4th of July parade
- providing medical coverage for various company picnics held at Ottawa County Fairgrounds
- attending the Summer Harvest Celebration at Bowerman’s Blueberries
- providing fire and medical coverage each day at the Ottawa County Fair and participating in Kids Day at the Fair
- attending area organization’s events like the Firelight Festival at Benjamin’s Hope, Bethany Christian Services Back to School Event, Harderwyk Church Kick Off to Fall, and the DNR Fall Festival
- providing medical coverage for the Park2Park race in September
- providing medical coverage for Hope College’s “The Pull” event
- providing medical coverage and fire standby for Fall Mud runs at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds
- sending apparatus to the Fire Prevention Parade in Holland in October
- sending apparatus to Trick-or-Treat night at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds
- welcoming local children to our Halloween Open Houses
Departmental Projects Accomplished During 2018
We replaced another one of the thermal cameras that we purchased in 1996 with a new Bullard T3X. This new camera has state-of-the-art technology and enhanced LCD color graphics picture display. A thermal camera allows you to see an object’s heat radiating off itself. Thermal cameras more or less record the temperature of various objects in the frame, and then assign each temperature a shade of color, which lets you see how much heat its radiating compared to the objects around it. It allows us to detect heat inside walls, ceilings, etc. without doing damage to the whole room.
This year we purchased a Lifeline Arm Automated Chest Compression (ACC) device manufactured by Defibtech. This device is intended to perform mechanical chest compression to victim suffering from a heart attack. Effective CPR requires a high level of excellence in order to have an impact on the survival rate of a cardiac arrest victim. This is very difficult to achieve manually when fatigue can occur in as little as 1-2 minutes while trying to maintain at least 2 inches depth compressions at a minimum rate of 100 compressions per minute. It takes about 30 seconds to set up and can continue chest compressions to the hospital ER room. Our goal over the next 3 years is to purchase one of these devices for all of our rescue apparatus.
The Office of Emergency Management falls under the Fire Department’s responsibilities. One of the projects that we, (as Emergency Management) implemented this year were the installations of two (of nine) Outdoor Warning Sirens, these two are located in our most populated areas.

- (1) Located on the corner of 168th/Ottawa Beach Rd.
- (1) Located just west of 168th/Lakewood Blvd.

The sirens are mounted on 30 ft. poles and rotate multi directionally to warn the public of imminent dangers (not just tornados) i.e. severe storms, chemical hazards/hazardous material incidents, extreme winds, or biological hazards. Ottawa County Emergency Management is responsible for activating the sirens during these events. The sirens are tested on the first Friday of the month at noon from April through October.
Quadrant (2018)

- Quadrant 1501 - 49 Calls
- Quadrant 1502 - 112 Calls  
  Station 1 Calls = 82
- Quadrant 1503 - 56 Calls
- Quadrant 1504 - 24 Calls  
  Station 2 Calls = 199
- Quadrant 1505 - 6 Calls
  Mutual Aid - 10 Calls

*Does not include interdepartmental mutual aid responses*
Medical Responses vs. All Other Responses (2008-2018)
Responses (Medical vs. All Others) per Year, by Station

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Series1</th>
<th>Series2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Engine 1524 (Formally 1521)

Station #2

- Year: 1995 Pierce Saber Pumper
- Engine: 300 Horsepower Detroit Diesel Engine
- GPM (Gallons per Minute) Pump: 1,500
- Water Tank: 625 Gallons
- Foam System: Class “A” Foam System
- Number of Seats: 6
- Primary Duties: Reserve Engine for Fire Suppression
Engine 1521
Station #1

- Year: 2018 Pierce PUC Enforcer Pumper
- Engine: 400 Horsepower Cummins Diesel Engine
- GPM (Gallon per Minute) Pump: 1500
- Water Tank: 1000 Gallons
- Foam System: Class “A” Husky 12 Foam System
- Number of Seats: 4
- Number of Air packs: 10
- Primary Duties: First Out Engine; Fire Suppression
Engine 1523
Station #1

- Year: 2006 Pierce Enforcer Pumper Engine
- Engine: 350 Horsepower Cummins Diesel Engine
- GPM (Gallons Per Minute) Pump: 1,500
- Water Tank: 550 Gallons
- Foam System: Class “A” Foam System
- Number of Seats: 4
- Number of Air packs: 10
- Primary Duties: First Out Engine for Fire Suppression; Second Out Engine for all other responses; SCBA Air Bottle Refill System
Command/Rescue Vehicle 1571

Station #1

- Year: 2014 Ford Expedition EL 4X4 XL
- Engine 8-5.4L-FI
- VHF and UHF mobile radios
- Command Center
- Medical Response Unit
- Number of seats: 5
- Number of Air packs: 1
- Primary Duties: Command, Medical and Support Vehicle
Ranger 1531
Station #1

- Year: 2008 Polaris Ranger Utility Vehicle (UTV)
- Engine: 700 CC Engine Six-Wheel Drive
- GPM (Gallons Per Minute) Pump: 65
- Water Tank: 95 Gallons
- Foam System: 5 Gallon Class “A” Foam System
- Number of Seats: 3
- Number of Air packs: 0
- Primary Duties: Wildfires, Medical Transports In Remote Areas, Search and Rescue Along Our Shorelines
1533 Insulation Vacuum

Station #1

- Year: 2014
- Trailer: Sure-Trac Utility
- Vacuum: Versa-Vac os
- Engine: 18HP Kohler V-Twin 2cyl. 12V Electric Start
- Primary Duties: This equipment will be used to remove the exposed insulation that could contain “hot spots” from an attic fire. Instead of using water/foam to soak down the area and causing a lot of water damage we will be able to remove the affected area.
Engine 1522

Station #2

- Year: 2018 Pierce PUC Enforcer Pumper
- Engine: 400 Horsepower Cummins Diesel Engine
- GPM (Gallon per Minute) Pump: 1500
- Water Tank: 1000 Gallons
- Foam System: Class “A” Husky 12 Foam System
- Number of Seats: 4
- Number of Air packs: 10
- Primary Duties: First Out Engine; Fire Suppression
Engine 1562

Station #2

- Year: 2002 Pierce Freightliner Pumper-Tanker
- Engine: 450 Horsepower Cummins Diesel Engine
- GPM (Gallons Per Minute) Pump: 1,500
- Water Tank: 2,500 Gallons
- Foam System: Class “A” Foam System
- Number of Seats: 2
- Number of Air packs: 4
- Primary Duties: Water Supply Including a 3,000 Gallon Dump Tank
Engine 1572

Station #2

- Year: 2009 Pierce Saber Rescue
- Engine: 365 Horsepower Cummins Diesel Engine
- GPM (Gallons Per Minute) Pump: NA
- Water Tank: NA
- Foam System: NA
- Number of Seats: 4
- Number of Air packs: 4
- Primary Duties: Medicals, Extrication, Ice and Water Rescues, SCBA Air Bottle Refill System
Brush Truck 1582
Station #2

- Year: 2012 GMC Sierra Heavy Duty K-3500, One Ton, 4 Wheel Drive Pickup Truck
- Engine: 6.0 litre, 322 Horsepower V-8
- GPM (Gallons Per Minute) Pump: 520 From C.E.T. Pump in Skid Unit
- Water Tank: 250 Gallon Poly Tank With a 10 Gallon Foam Cell
- Backup Camera, Provisions for Portable Front and Rear Winch
- Number of Seats: 2
- Number of Air packs: 0
- Bed of Truck Has a C.E.T. Slide In Firefighting Skid Unit
- Primary Duties: Wildfire Extinguishment; Snow Plowing During Winter Months
- With a 8’ 5” Fisher V-Plow
Ranger 1532

Station #2

- Year: 2008 Polaris Ranger Utility Vehicle (UTV)
- Engine: 700 CC Engine Six-Wheel Drive
- GPM (Gallons Per Minute) Pump: 65
- Water Tank: 95 Gallons
- Foam System: 5 Gallon Class "A" Foam System
- Number of Seats: 3
- Number of Air packs: 0
- Primary Duties: Wildfires, Medical Transports In Remote Areas, Search and Rescue Along Our Shorelines
Community Involvement (CI) Trailer
Station #2

- 2012 5x8 Hauling Utility Trailer
- Led Lights
- 24” side door
- Rear ramp door
- 32” Samsung TV mounted inside
- Insignia sound bar with Bluetooth