

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report



Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

2024 General Summary

The following is the annual report for Salem Township Fire Department (STFD) for 2024. In 2024 the call volume reported was the highest it has ever been for two reasons. The first reason the calls are up, is due to the fact that STFD now gets toned out as a department for all medicals in the coverage area and the other reason is just the fact the call volume was up. STFD ended 2024 with 474 calls, up from the reported 135 in 2023 or a combined fire and medical call volume of 303. STFD members were on incidents for a total of 1,280 hours, up from 743 hours in 2023. Of the 474 calls for service, 16 were various fires, 458 were medicals/ vehicle accidents, downed power lines, and carbon monoxide alarms, etc. The fire incidents ranged from vehicle fires, barn fires, to wildland fires. From those fires there was a total of \$352,250 in losses of structures, contents, and mobile property but \$372,400 was total saved by actions of STFD personnel that would have otherwise been lost. STFD personnel and their mutual aid partners did an excellent job stopping and extinguishing fires that would have consumed more and made for greater losses. STFD covers approximately 49 square miles, 36 square miles in Salem Twp and the north/west corner of Monterey Twp via contract. Of the 474 calls 356 were in Salem Twp, 93 in Monterey Twp and 25 were in mutual aid fire department's jurisdictions.

As stated above, 2024 was the first year that the Salem Township Fire Department was dispatched to medicals as a department. The medical license that STFD operates under is held by Wayland Area EMS, who provides advanced lifesaving coverage in Salem township and the surrounding communities. STFD has always had members that responded to medicals but prior to 2024, these members carried a pager from WAEMS and had to listen to all the call outs that WAEMS had. This meant that these members had a pager that would go off 4,000+/- times and they only had to respond to 225+/- of those calls. Having the opportunity to have Allegan County Dispatch tone out STFD for only our medicals has been a welcomed change. STFD has 13 members that are co-employed by Salem Township and WAEMS. As with every community, EMS calls make up the majority of call volume. In 2024 the first medical response staff of STFD ran 235 EMS calls.

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Projects

2024 saw some technological changes to STFD. We brought on Active Teams Calendar App, Fire Engineering Online Training platform, and tablets in the apparatus with ATT First Net service on them. These updates and projects could not be possible without a supportive board and community. The new additions below will help STFD to better serve our community.

Active Teams Calendar App is an app affiliated with the Active Alert App (Active Alert is used for dispatch to send the fire department incident info and so the fire departments can see/coordinate who is responding.) The Active Teams Calendar and work detail information with date for events. This does two things, allows sure there is enough help, and then also allows the department to post events, training, and time. This also allows firefighters to sign up the department to see who is attending, making sends them a notification of the upcoming event. The information is put in through the website, but everything else is done through an app on our phones.



Fire Engineering Online Training is a web-based training platform that covers all topics in firefighting and EMS. Training is obviously a big part of the department being prepared to help the community and with STFD being paid on call, sometimes members miss training due to family or other life obligations. With Fire Engineering, those that missed the training, can be assigned the same topic, take the online course, pass a short quiz and still get the state required continuing education for firefighting and EMS. This ensures that no will have their firefighter certification or EMS license lapse. Personnel can log in on their phones via the app or on a computer anytime and take any course they want without being assigned.



Tablets in the apparatus. In September STFD started the process of adding iPads in the 5 of the 6 apparatus. The iPads have ATT First Net wireless service. As with everything else these days, the fire service has become very real time information based. These iPads were purchased in preparation of a new software that Allegan County Dispatch will begin to roll out in the spring of 2025. The new software will be used with for real-time updates from dispatch and navigation to the emergency that personnel will be responding too. With that in mind the tablets are mounted



Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Projects, cont.

at the officer seat (passenger side front seat) of the main apparatus. These tablets are also used on longer incidents to start the mandatory incident report that goes to the national reporting system. Personnel have also been able to conduct apparatus checks and inspection via fillable pdfs that are on the iPads. As with most technologies, the longer STFD has the iPads in service, the more uses we will find for them.

Old SCBA. After receiving APAR funding in 2023 from the township, STFD was able to buy new SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus- the air packs a firefighter uses to fight fires). This meant that the department had the old ones sitting in storage. They were old enough, no local departments wanted them. A company was found that was willing to buy them and refurbish them and then get them to where they were needed.

Additional Portable Radios. Additional portable radios were put into service in 2024 after being awarded a state grant in 2023. The radios purchased operate the same as the current radios minus some bells and whistles. This meant STFD was able to get 8 radios instead of 2. These additional radios will fill in open spots on the apparatus to make sure that no STFD firefighter will be without a radio during an incident.



Smoke Alarm Installs. Since 2014 STFD has partnered with the state of Michigan Fire Prevention in the MI SAFE (Smoke Alarms For Everyone). Through this program, the state supplies STFD with smoke alarms for free installation. The public may contact older than 10 years, or even if they are STFD come out for a consultation. In the just be handed out, they have to be detectors come with a 10-year battery 10-year life expectancy of the detector. In 2024, STFD visited 12 homes in the jurisdiction and installed 45 smoke detectors and 14 carbon monoxide detectors for free. For more information, visit the township website- <https://salem township.org/fire>



STFD when they have smoke alarms unsure of the age, to have members of program, the smoke detectors can not installed by a member of STFD. The that never needs to be changed for the

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Staffing

The township board has approved a roster with up to 24 personnel, we currently have 22 personnel.

At the end 2024, the roster was-

- 1- Fire Chief- Dan Kipen
- 1- Assistant Chief- Tom Dykstra
- 1- Captain- Adam Mays
- 2- Lieutenants- David Peterman & Steve Reinart
- 15- Firefighters
- 2- Probationary firefighters.

13 members of STFD are medical first responders. Of those members, 6 are EMT Basics that require an additional 30 hours of continuing education every 3 years and 6 are Medical First Responders (MFR) that require 15 hours of continuing education every 3 years. Salem FD also has 2 members that are part of the Region 5 Technical Rescue Team that attend 4 hours of training every quarter to cover Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Building Collapse.

Personnel Length of Service

<u>Personnel Name</u>	<u>Employment Date</u>	<u>Length Of Service</u>
Goodman, Todd	07/11/1983	41 Years, 6 Months, 7 Days,
Mays, Rick	12/07/1987	37 Years, 1 Month, 9 Days,
DenBesten, Bill	05/14/1991	33 Years, 8 Months, 2 Days,
Miller, Robert	10/12/1993	31 Years, 3 Months, 2 Days,
Dykstra, Thomas P	11/12/1996	28 Years, 2 Months, 1 Day,
Mays, Adam	10/01/2007	17 Years, 3 Months, 10 Days,
Kipen, Dan	10/01/2007	17 Years, 3 Months, 10 Days,
Peterman, David	07/01/2009	15 Years, 6 Months, 10 Days,
Reinart, Stephen	11/11/2011	13 Years, 1 Month, 29 Days,
Van Norden III, James	03/01/2014	10 Years, 10 Months, 9 Days,
Miller, Jason	03/01/2014	10 Years, 10 Months, 9 Days,
Haverdink, Brandon	01/01/2017	8 Years, 0 Months, 6 Days,
Schut, Jared	01/01/2017	8 Years, 0 Months, 6 Days,
Nyholt, Scott	01/01/2017	8 Years, 0 Months, 6 Days,
Thurston, Roark	02/01/2018	6 Years, 11 Months, 6 Days,
Bareman, Nick	04/01/2018	6 Years, 9 Months, 8 Days,
Jager, Bruce	03/12/2019	5 Years, 9 Months, 28 Days,
Elliott, Josh L	11/04/2019	5 Years, 2 Months, 4 Days,
Brookhouse, Hunter	12/14/2021	3 Years, 0 Months, 23 Days,

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Personnel Length of Service Cont.

Walters, Levi	10/11/2022	2 Years, 2 Months, 27 Days,
Pols, Tyler	04/01/2023	1 Year, 9 Months, 7 Days,
Miller, Braden	04/01/2023	1 Year, 9 Months, 7 Days,
*As of January 6 th , 2025		

Trainings

STFD has a once-a-month mandatory training/meeting and another optional training once a month. Monthly trainings range from search & rescue, fire attack, ventilation, vehicle extrication, ice rescue,



Ice Rescue Gear Review

communications, to ropes and knots and everything in between. STFD personnel participate in other training courses with our mutual aid departments and other classes to further our knowledge. In 2024 STFD personnel conducted an astonishing 1,210 hours of training. These hours do not count the hours of continuing education attended by the STFD on their own for their medical certification. This is a lot considering that every STFD personnel has a full-time job elsewhere and a family to spend time with. These training courses allow STFD personnel to be ready, efficient, and provide a high level of skill during an emergency incident.

Some of the other trainings members attended are: Career Survival and Mental Health by 2 The Rescue, Reading Smoke fire tactics, 2 separate seminars are EV fire response, Water supply with Dorr, and a Wildland Fire refresher hosted by the DNR.



Vehicle Extrication Training

There were also many hours devoted by the department to get our probationary firefighters ready to test off probation. Once a firefighter is hired by STFD, they go to the county academy to earn their State of Michigan Firefighter Certifications. Once you have passed the academy, the firefighters remain on partial probation, they can go interior to fight fires, but they cannot drive the fire

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report



apparatus with the lights and siren on. They first must log 10 hours of drive time per apparatus and be able to operate the apparatus's pumps. The final test is based off 3 fire ground scenarios with driving in between. With that much work, the whole department has a hand in helping the probationary firefighters get ready for their final test.

Probationary Firefighter Testing/Evaluation



Forcible Entry Training with the County Dorr Prop



Hazmat Training- Training on decontamination on a large group of people

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Issues

Outgrown Current Station

While STFD can still operate and serve the community out of the current station, it is lacking some needed amenities. To start with, the station has no more room for storage of supplies or equipment. When we need to spec out a new apparatus it has to meet a shorter length requirement, which is a challenge. To make the length work, the apparatus has had to be made taller with a higher center of gravity.

Another issue is the lack of restroom/locker rooms. Currently STFD has to use the restroom in the township hallway or the rental hall area. Lack of locker rooms is an issue that has to do with cancer. Cancer is a hot topic in the fire service, basically all fires that firefighters fight have major carcinogens in the smoke. As firefighters are fighting fires, the smoke and carcinogens get deposited on the firefighter's skin and can enter the body. Best practices have been shown to decon as soon as possible. Without locker rooms STFD members must go home and shower there, which in turns brings the carcinogens with them to their homes and families.

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Apparatus Inventory

Salem Township Fire Department has 6 apparatus that run to calls of service. All vehicles get an annual MDOT inspection and service. The pumpers also receive annual pump testing to assure that the pumps continue to flow the required gallons per minute designated by the manufacture.



2023 Toyne/Freightliner pumper/tender- 1500gpm pump, 3000gal water tank, 2-person cab. First apparatus out for automatic aid on structure fires. This truck was put into service in August 2023 and is equipped with everything needed to be a front-line pumper.



2019 HME WUI2- 4x4 pumper/rescue- 1500gpm pump, 750-gallon water tank, 4-man cab. Main rescue for vehicle accidents, planned apparatus for fill sites and 3rd apparatus out for wildland fires



2010 Crimson/Spartan pumper- 1250gpm pump, 1250-gallon water tank, 6-person cab. First out for STFD structure fires and back up rescue.



2003 Spencer/Freightliner tender- 300gpm trash pump, 2300-gallon water tank, 3-person cab

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report



1994 Chevy S10 ZR2 brush truck- bean high pressure pump, 90-gallon water tank, 2-man cab



2016 Spencer/F550 brush truck/squad- 200gpm pump, 250-gallon water tank, 5-man cab. First apparatus out for wildland fires, vehicle accidents, also used as a squad for first response medical runs.

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Projected Equipment Replacement

STFD apparatus are on a 25-year expected replacement cycle. As the apparatus ages, whether it is running a lot of calls or just a few, maintenance costs go up and reliability comes down. With appreciation to the community, STFD has been able to keep the 25-year replacement going and pay for the new apparatus without the need for a loan. The average cost of a pumper apparatus has gone from \$500,000.00 to around \$1,000,000.00. In the past 2 years, like most everything else, fire apparatus has seen a drastic increase in cost.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) that firefighters wear is required by NFPA to be replaced every 10 years. This is with an average cost of \$3,800.00 per firefighter (coat, pants, helmet, boots, etc). This too comes out of the milage.

Below shows the projected replacement for apparatus and PPE. With the increase in cost of fire apparatus, the money that was planned to be set aside for part of the cost of a new station has been dispersed to the fire apparatus replacement.

<u>Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Projected replacement</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
2024		110,000		325,000
2025		115,000		440,000
2026		115,000		555,000
2027		115,000		670,000
2028	PPE	115,000	10,000	775,000
2029	PPE	115,000	10,000	880,000
2030		115,000		995,000
2031		115,000		1,110,000
2032	Tanker-1740	115,000	500,000	725,000
2033		115,000		840,000
2034		115,000		955,000
2035	Engine-1712	115,000	1,000,000	70,000
2036		120,000		190,000
2037		120,000		310,000
2038	PPE	120,000	15,000	400,000
2039	PPE	120,000	15,000	520,000
2040	Brush Truck -1732	120,000	250,000	390,000

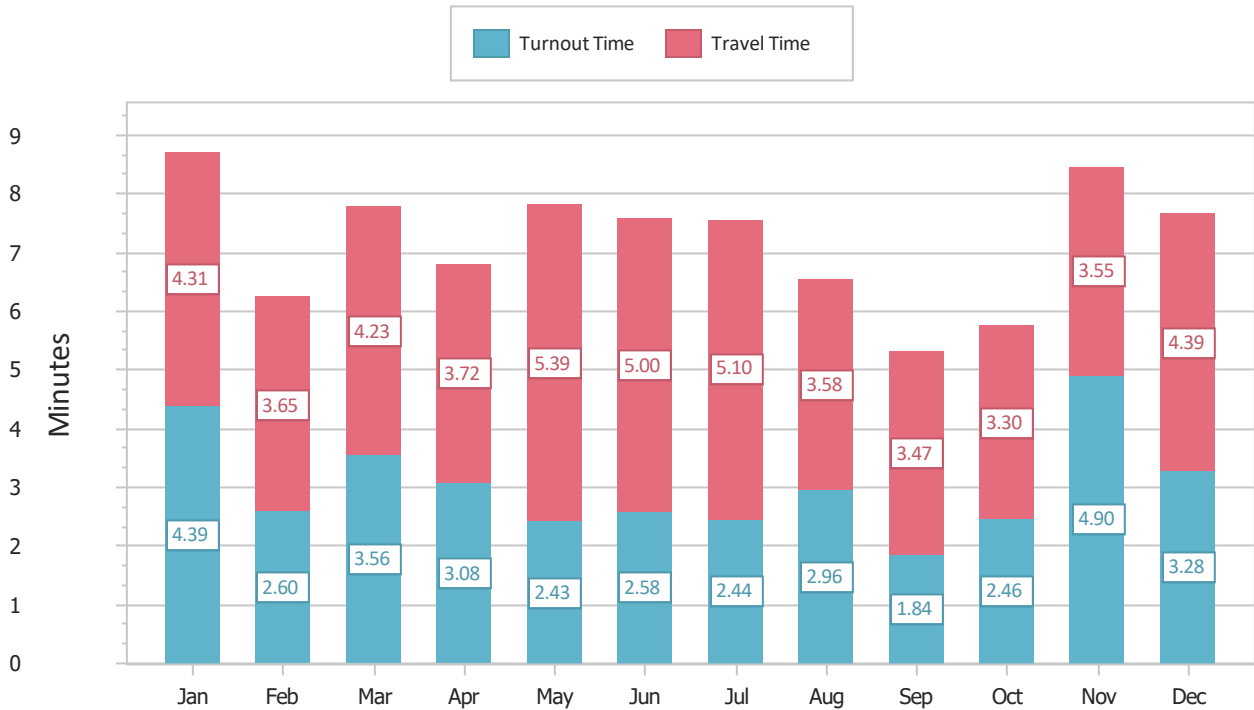
Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Call Statistics

Below are some charts that will show the breakdown of the calls that STFD responded to.

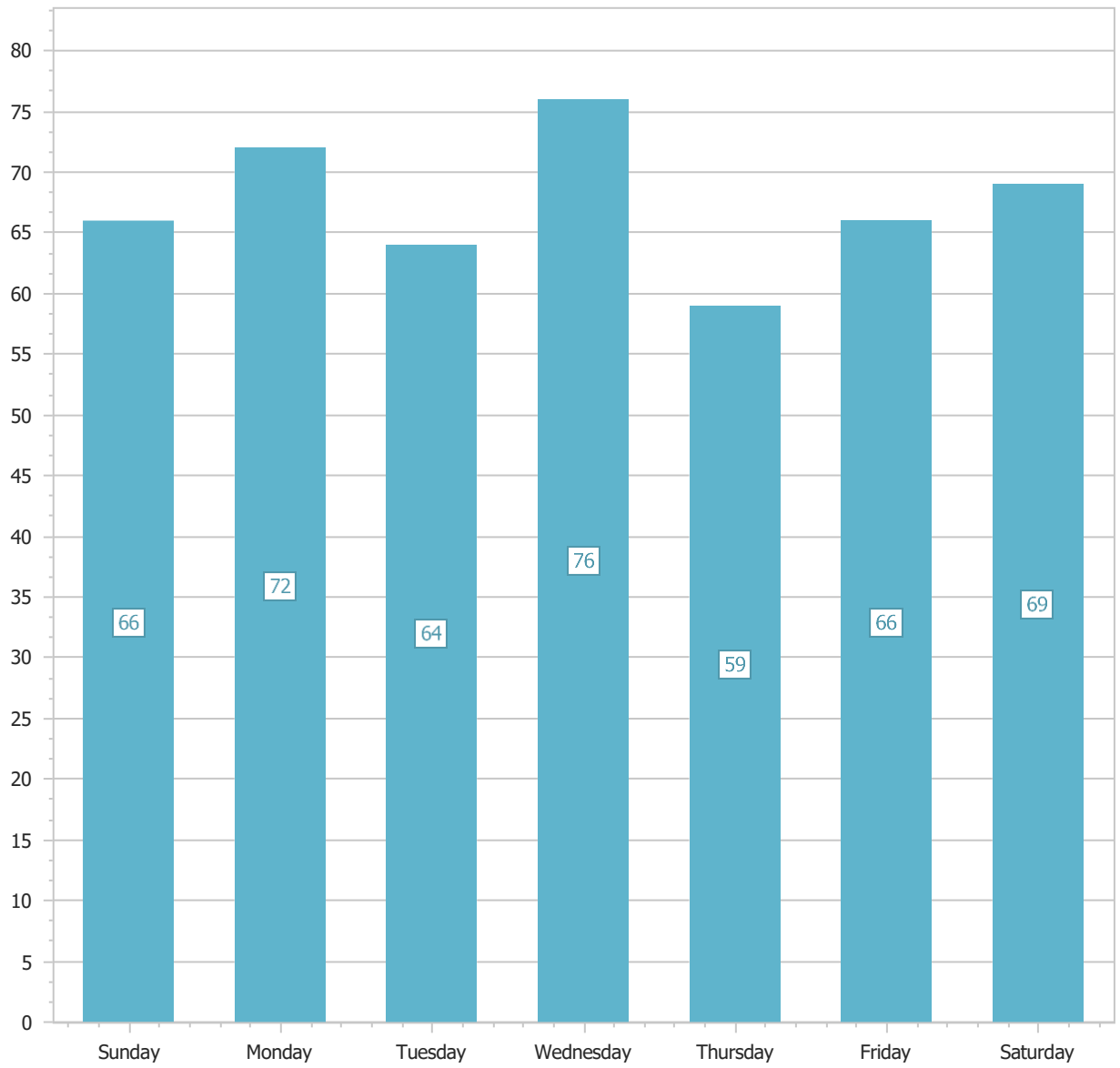
Department Response Time Chart by District, Monthly Average

All Districts



Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Incident Reports by Day of the Week, Detailed



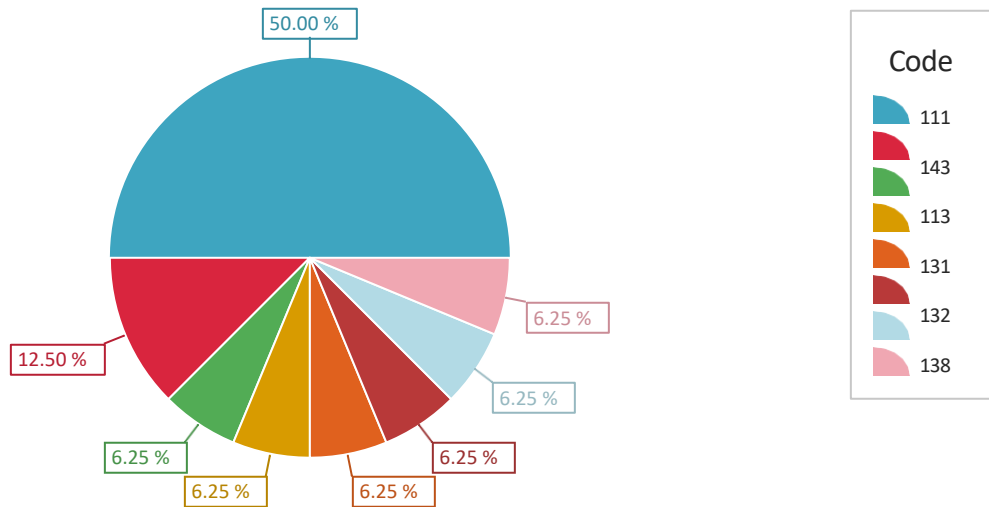
Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

SALEM TWP. FIRE DEPT.



Incident Reports by Incident Type Series, Summary

Incident Type: 1 - Fire

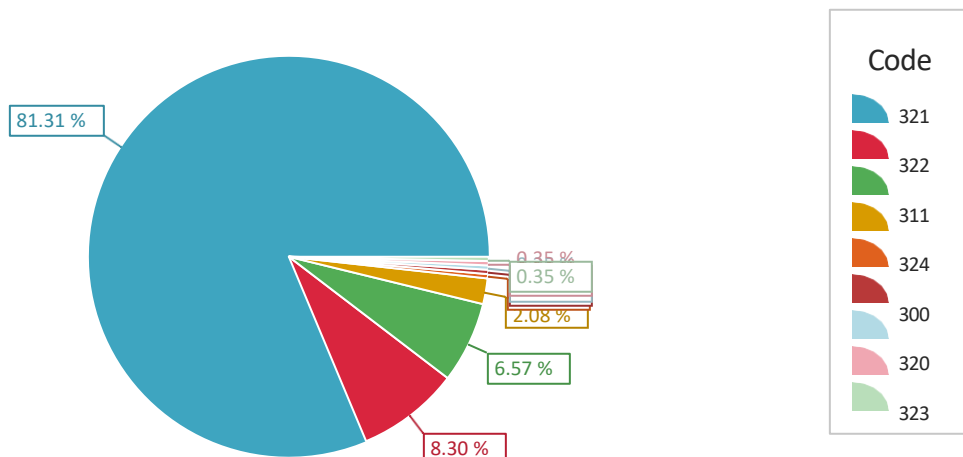


111 - Building fire	8
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	1
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	1
132 - Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1
138 - Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	1
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1
143 - Grass fire	2
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1

Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 16

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Incident Type: 3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident

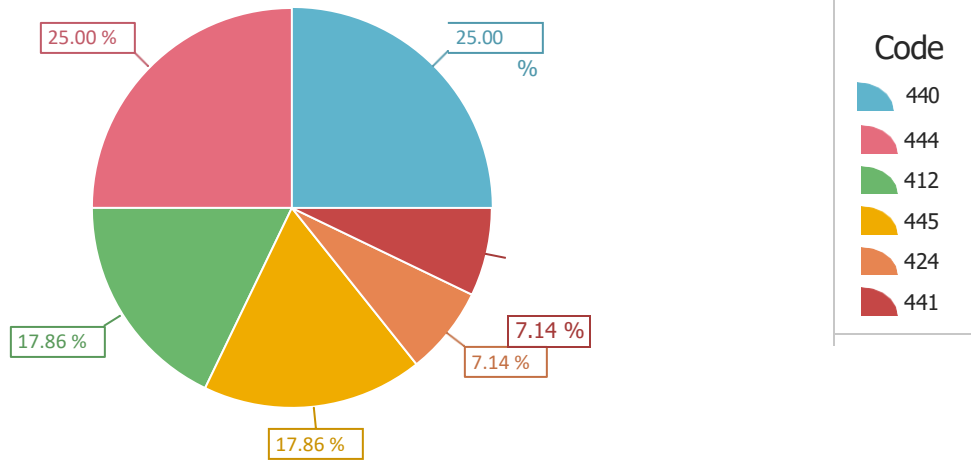


300 - Rescue, EMS incident, other	1
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	19
320 - Emergency medical service incident, other	1
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	235
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	24
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	6
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	1
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	1

Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 289

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Incident Type: 4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)

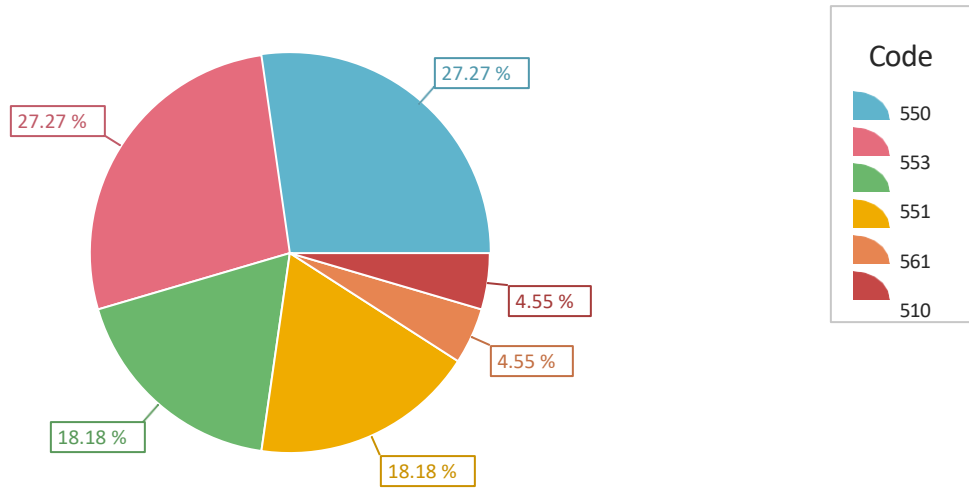


412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	5
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	2
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	7
441 - Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	2
444 - Power line down	7
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	5

Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 28

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Incident Type: 5 - Service Call

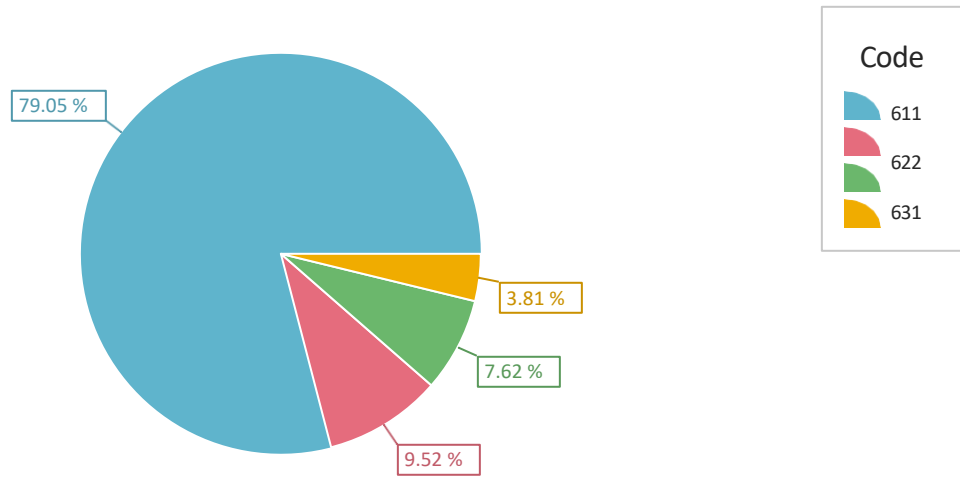


510 - Person in distress, other	1
550 - Public service assistance, other	6
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	4
553 - Public service	6
561 - Unauthorized burning	4
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1

Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 22

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

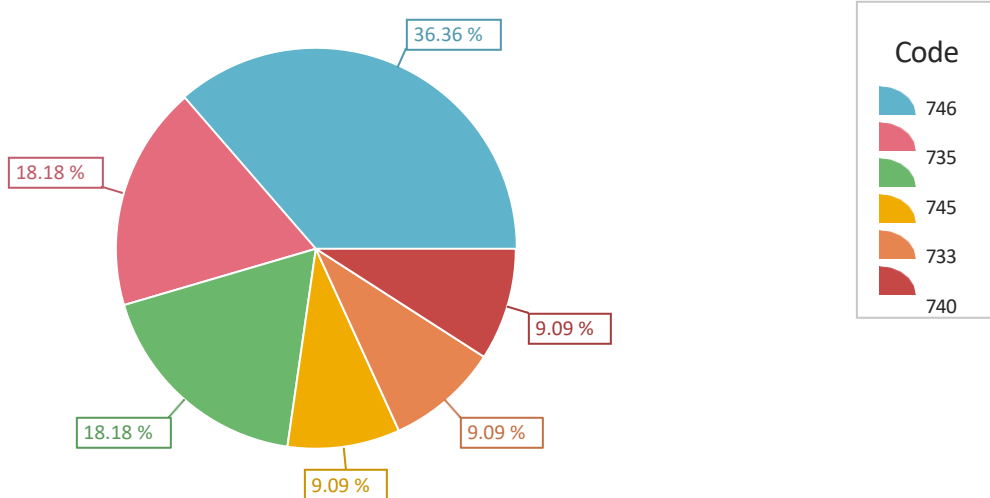
Incident Type: 6 - Good Intent Call



611 - Dispatched & canceled en route	83
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	10
631 - Authorized controlled burning	8
671 - HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	4
Total Number of calls for this Major Category:	105

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Incident Type: 7 - False Alarm & False Call

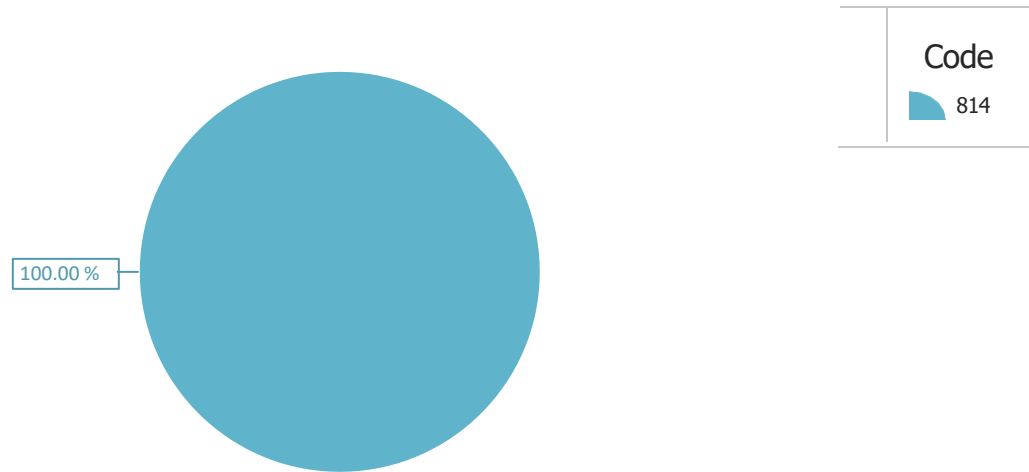


733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	1
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	2
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	2
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	4

Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 11

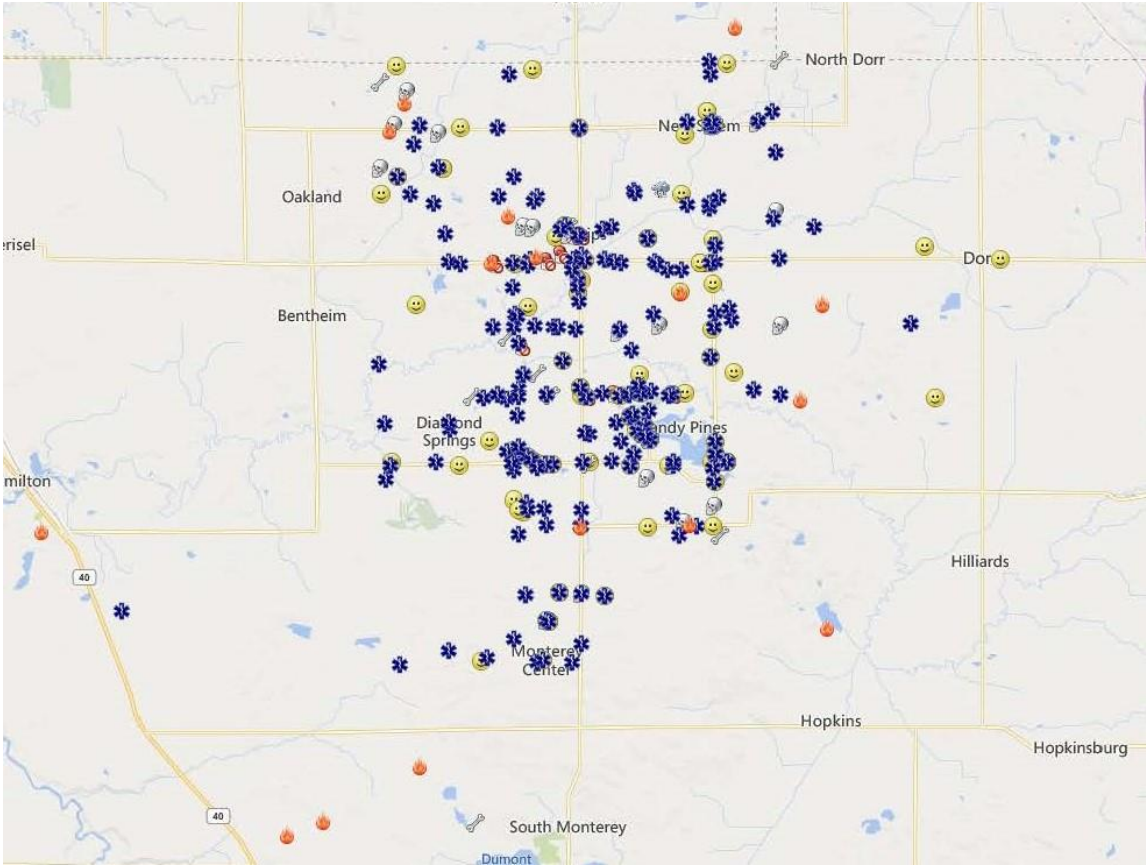
Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Incident Type: 8 - Severe Weather & Natural Disaster









814 - Lightning strike (no fire)	1
Total Number of calls for this Major Category:	1

Incident Mapping



MAP Key

	EMS/ Vehicle Accident
	Structure Fire/Car Fire/ Grass Fire
	Fire Alarm
	Dis-regarded/Canceled Call
	Downed Wire/Gas leak
	Public Assistance

Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Community Events

As STFD is a paid-on call/volunteer fire department, our members are people that live in the community, most of them have lived here our whole lives. It is only fitting then, that another big part of what makes this a great department is the community events that we are a part. Whether it is an event to raise money for charity, fire prevention, or just simply to say thanks to the community for supporting us, we have members ready and willing to be at these events. Below are some of the events we attended.

Cruise in For Burn Camp Car Show



STFD assisted Firefighter Bill DenBesten with hosting the car show that benefits the Great Lakes Burn Camp. The money raised at this car show goes to help pay for children that have been burned to go to a camp for burn survivors. The 2024 car show raised \$12,538.28.00 to send to the Great Lakes Burn Camp, most raised since STFD has been hosting the car show. This is \$3,000+ our previous highest amount raised.



Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

Concerts in the Park

During the summer months, Salem Township hosts a free concert in the township park once a month. STFD members run the concession stand during the concerts to provide refreshments to the concert goers.



Sandy Pines Christmas in August

To help Sandy Pines celebrate their Christmas in August, STFD personnel take some apparatus and equipment into Sandy Pines for a display. Children of all ages are allowed to try on firefighting gear, look at the equipment and ask questions about the apparatus. They are even allowed to, probably the most popular thing, spray water from a fire hose that is being pumped by a STFD pumper out of Lake Monterey.

Christmas in August

Reading to Preschoolers

In October each year, STFD members are asked to join the Salem Township Library in reading books about firefighters and fire safety to preschool aged children. The library hosts the children and STFD members will read a few books and talk with the children about fire safety at their home. Afterwards the children are invited outside to do a walk around and check out a fire truck and the equipment on it. STFD also has teamed up with other Allegan County First Responders when the Salem Township Library hosted a touch a truck event. Giving children the chance to see and touch fire trucks, police cars and ambulances.



Salem Township Fire Department 2024 Report

St Mary's Visitation School Fire Prevention



October each year is fire prevention month and as such, each year members of STFD conduct a fire safety presentation for the children of St Mary's Visitation School. 2022 STFD went to the St Mary's School building and provided a fire safety presentation. The presentation features a movie about fire safety by the beloved Timon and Pumba, further discussion on fire safety in the home, and equipment demonstrations with personnel at a fire truck outside.

Salem Township Christmas Tree Lighting. 2024 saw the first year the Salem Township Community had a Christmas Tree lighting event. STFD partnered with community churches and businesses to host the event. STFD members had an experience they will never soon forget when hanging the lights on the 60' tree next to the station. After overcoming some equipment issues and weather conditions, after 6 hours, the tree had lights strung around it from top to bottom. But, since we live in Michigan, the two weeks the lights were up prior the lighting event, saw two high wind events, pulling apart some of the strands. Even with the missing strands, the community came out in a big fashion and it was a true success.

