

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report



Salem Township Fire Department  
January 2023

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

The following is the annual report for Salem Township Fire Department (STFD) for 2023. In 2023 the call volume received was down from the previous 2 years. STFD ended 2023 with 135 calls, down from 149 in 2022. STFD members were on incidents for a total of 743 hours, down from 860 hours in 2022. Of the 35 calls for service, 20 were various fires and the rest being vehicle accidents, downed power lines, carbon monoxide alarms, etc. The fire incidents ranged from vehicle fires, barn fires, to wildland fires. From those fires there was a total of \$73,900 in loses of structures and contents, but \$1,047,900 total saved by actions of STFD personnel. 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 135 fire service calls 96 were in Salem Twp, 23 in Monterey Twp and 16 were in mutual aid fire department's jurisdictions.

While STFD does not respond to medicals, STFD members are part of the Salem First Responder Group for Wayland Area EMS. The Salem First Responder Group ran 168 EMS calls in 2023. This is a combined call volume of 303 total calls for 2023, down from 357 total calls in 2022. The Salem First Responder Group ran 130 medicals in Salem Township and 38 in Monterey Township. WAEMS has 10 townships in their coverage area with many first responders. In 2023 throughout all the WAEMS area, there were 65 CPR calls, which resulted in 12 saves. Of the 12 saves, 4 of them came from the Salem First Responder group assisted by the Salem Township Fire Department and WAEMS.

## Projects

### 1741 Replacement

STFD received the new pumper/tender from Toyne Fire Apparatus in July and put it into service in August. This apparatus is an updated version of the one we were replacing with a few added features. The new truck is built on the bigger Freightliner chassis than that of the previous truck. It has more compartment space and has an added master stream built into the truck. Although we lost one seat position, from three to two seats, the cab of the truck is laid out with operational efficiency in mind. The driver can easily reach and operate all the needed controls. As with the previous apparatus, the new one can also be classified as Type 1 fire apparatus. Meaning that it carries enough water, has a big enough pump, and carries all the necessary firefighting equipment to be the first apparatus on the scene of a structure fire.

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report



The new 1741 while being built by Toyne Fire apparatus in Iowa.

## Updated Nozzles

In 2023, STFD did testing with pressure gauges and flow meters to determine the amount of water we were able to flow with our current nozzles and fire hoses. The testing showed that our main attack lines of 1.5" at 200' of length were only flowing 55 gallons per minute when the pump was at 102psi using an automatic combination nozzle. To get a desired 100 gallons per minute, the pump had to be at 148 psi, which in return is much harder to handle with a single firefighter. In contrast, a newer nozzle similar to the combination nozzles from the old pumper/tender can flow 130 gallons per minute when the pump is at 130psi, allowing our firefighters to put more water on the fire quicker. The nozzles that were on the old pumper/tanker were a combination nozzle (adjustable fog and straight stream) that were 30 years old. The nozzles on our main fire apparatus were an automatic combination nozzle that were very popular and the rage when the truck was purchased in 2010. With the automatic nozzles, the water stream leaving the nozzle has the same reach and look no matter how much water is flowing through it.

Therefore, we updated the nozzles for the new pumper/tender and switched out the nozzles on our main apparatus for better fire control.

## AAA Grant

A AAA Traffic Safety Grant was applied for and received in 2023. This grant allowed STFD to purchase 2 traffic barricades, 2 lighted stop/slow handheld traffic signs, 4 lighted traffic wands, 50 NFPA compliant traffic cones (taller and having a reflective band), and 2 Milwaukee cordless power saws to assist with extrications. The main focus of this grant was on the safety of STFD personnel while conducting traffic control duties at incidents by giving personnel a defined area to operate in and make it more visible. The taller reflective cones are much easier to see for oncoming traffic and the barricades are reflective with available flashing lights. These two items help to define the incident area giving separation between STFD personnel with their patients and the passing motorist. The lighted stop/slow signs and lighted traffic wands, aid in the clear direction for passing motorist. These new pieces of equipment, along with dialing back some of our emergency lights greatly improve the safety of STFD on the roads at night.

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

## ISO Audit

2023 also saw an Insurance Services Office audit of the Salem Township Fire Department. The ISO rating is based on equipment, available water supply, proper equipment inspections, personnel, the amount of training the department receives and other criteria. Water supply is a big area of the audit. As Salem Township does not have any fire hydrants in the jurisdiction, it means that we rely on the water we bring with us and the ability to call mutual aid for more. With the proper maintenance of our and our mutual aid departments apparatus, we earned as many points as we could without having fire hydrants. Another big area is training. Fire doesn't care if you are a full-time firefighter seeing several fires a month or a paid-on call fire fighter that sees several fires a year, the amount of fire training is the same for either firefighter. It takes dedication and commitment from all the personnel on STFD to show the improvement we had in this area. The previous ISO rating was a 6-10, which was an improvement in the 2017 ISO audit. After 2023's audit the Salem Township Fire Department received an ISO rating of 5-10. The lower the number in the rating, a homeowner has a chance to get lower insurance rates on their homeowners' insurance. The 5-10 rating means that homeowners within a 5-mile radius of the fire station receive a 5 and others outside that radius receive a 10.

## Staffing

The township board has approved a roster with up to 24 personnel, we currently have 23 personnel. In 2023 we brought on additional probationary firefighters that will attend the 2024 Allegan County Fire Academy.

As it is now, the roster is-

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

11 members of STFD also run for WAEMS as first responders. Of those members, 6 are EMT Basics that require an additional 30 hours of continuing education every 3 years and 5 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

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

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	40 Years, 6 Months, 11 Days,
Mays, Rick	12/07/1987	36 Years, 1 Month, 13 Days,
DenBesten, Bill	05/14/1991	32 Years, 8 Months, 6 Days,
Miller, Robert	10/12/1993	30 Years, 3 Months, 6 Days,
Dykstra, Thomas	11/12/1996	27 Years, 2 Months, 5 Days,
Mays, Adam	10/01/2007	16 Years, 3 Months, 14 Days,
Kipen, Dan	10/01/2007	16 Years, 3 Months, 14 Days,
Peterman, David	07/01/2009	14 Years, 6 Months, 14 Days,
Reinart, Stephen	11/11/2011	12 Years, 2 Months, 3 Days,
Van Norden III, James	03/01/2014	9 Years, 10 Months, 13 Days,
Miller, Jason	03/01/2014	9 Years, 10 Months, 13 Days,
Haverdink, Brandon	01/01/2017	7 Years, 0 Months, 10 Days,
Schut, Jared	01/01/2017	7 Years, 0 Months, 10 Days,
Nyholt, Scott	01/01/2017	7 Years, 0 Months, 10 Days,
Thurston, Roark	02/01/2018	5 Years, 11 Months, 10 Days,
Bareman, Nick	04/01/2018	5 Years, 9 Months, 12 Days,
Jager, Bruce	03/12/2019	4 Years, 10 Months, 1 Day,
Elliott, Josh L	11/04/2019	4 Years, 2 Months, 8 Days,
Smith, Alayna	12/14/2021	2 Years, 0 Months, 27 Days,
Brookhouse, Hunter	12/14/2021	2 Years, 0 Months, 27 Days,
Walters, Levi	10/11/2022	1 Year, 3 Months, 0 Days,
Pols, Tyler	04/01/2023	9 Months, 11 Days,
Miller, Braden	04/01/2023	9 Months, 11 Days,

- As of 1/11/24

## 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, communications, to ropes and knots and everything in between. STFD personnel participate in other trainings with our mutual aid departments and other classes to further our knowledge. In 2023 STFD personnel conducted an astonishing 1,204 hours of training. These hours do not count the hours of continuing education

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

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 trainings allow STFD personnel to be ready, efficient, and provide a high level of skill during an emergency incident.

Grain Bin Rescue in Overisel



Bus Rescue Extrication in Hamilton



Disaster Search with MI TRT-5



Ice Rescue Training

Some of the other trainings members attended are a Bus Extrication Training in Hamilton, a 40 hour Rope Rescue Course, a 3 day drill with the Region 5 Technical Rescue Team on search and rescue after a disaster, Farm Incidents Training held in Ottawa County, Grain Bin Rescue held in Overisel, and Mutual Aid Water Supply- Tanker Shuttle with Hamilton, Overisel, and Saugatuck.



# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

In 2023, STFD sent 3 personnel to the Allegan County Fire Academy that is 6 months long. The academy met twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. They also met every other Saturday for an 8-hour day. Going through the fire academy is a huge undertaking and time commitment. It shows the dedication that new firefighters must have to be able to pass the final written and practical examine.

## Issues

### **Out Grown 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.

### **Medical Pager Tone Fatigue**

As with all the fire departments that operate in the WAEMS coverage area, Salem Twp FD does not carry our own medical license. WAEMS carries and pays for the license for our first responders to operate. This is a unique set up that has operated for decades. With this, however, the STFD does not get toned out for medicals in the STFD jurisdiction. For the first responders, this meant that they would have their pagers set to tone out with WAEMS tones. This again, worked for decades, but as WAEMS has gotten busier (3,973 calls in 2023). The Salem First Responders had to listen to all 3,973 tones to determine if a medical was happening in the STFD jurisdiction, which only happened 168 times. So, this means the first responders listened to the pager go off 3,805 times for calls that were outside their jurisdiction. This caused what is known as pager fatigue. Responders were so used to hearing the tones and it not be in their jurisdiction, that they could sleep through the tones, causing a minimal response by personnel. To remedy this, Salem along with other fire

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

departments and the Allegan County Central Dispatch are conducting a trial period of having separate tones for fire incidents and medical incidents. This trial started on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 and will run for 60 days. By having the separate tones, STFD personnel that do not run medicals are not getting woken up or distracted for calls that they do not need to respond to and the Salem First Responders are able to get better sleep without being woken up many times a night for WAEMS calls in other jurisdictions.

Along with changing to medical tones, another change in operations for our first responders is the request from WAEMS to limit the number of responders going to calls. In our volunteer/paid on call department, the number of responders can vary depending on time of day and other commitments. There are times that there might be only 1 first responder going to a call and then times that there might be 6 that arrive on scene. WAEMS made their request to limit responder to assist with their budget and to avoid overwhelming patients and their families with a large group showing up. The Salem First Responder Group is continuing to work with WAEMS by having personnel volunteer their time and not get paid if there are more personnel on scene than WAEMS requested. Also, some personnel will remain outside in a support role, shoveling sidewalks, waving in the ambulance and helping get the stretcher ready. Salem First Responders are committed to providing the best care and help to anyone in the community and will continue to work with WAEMS to assist with any operational needs.

## 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.

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report



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



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



**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 3<sup>rd</sup> apparatus out for wildland fires



**2000 Chevy S10 ZR2 brush truck-** bean high pressure pump, 120-gallon water tank, 2-man cab

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

**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.

After putting the new 1741 into service it was time to say good bye to the old 1741. STFD was able to work with a third-party sales company and sell the old truck. This money went back into the fire department fund to help support the purchase of new equipment.

The truck found its new home on the east side of Michigan with Gibson Twp Fire Department.



## 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 cost goes 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.

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

<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

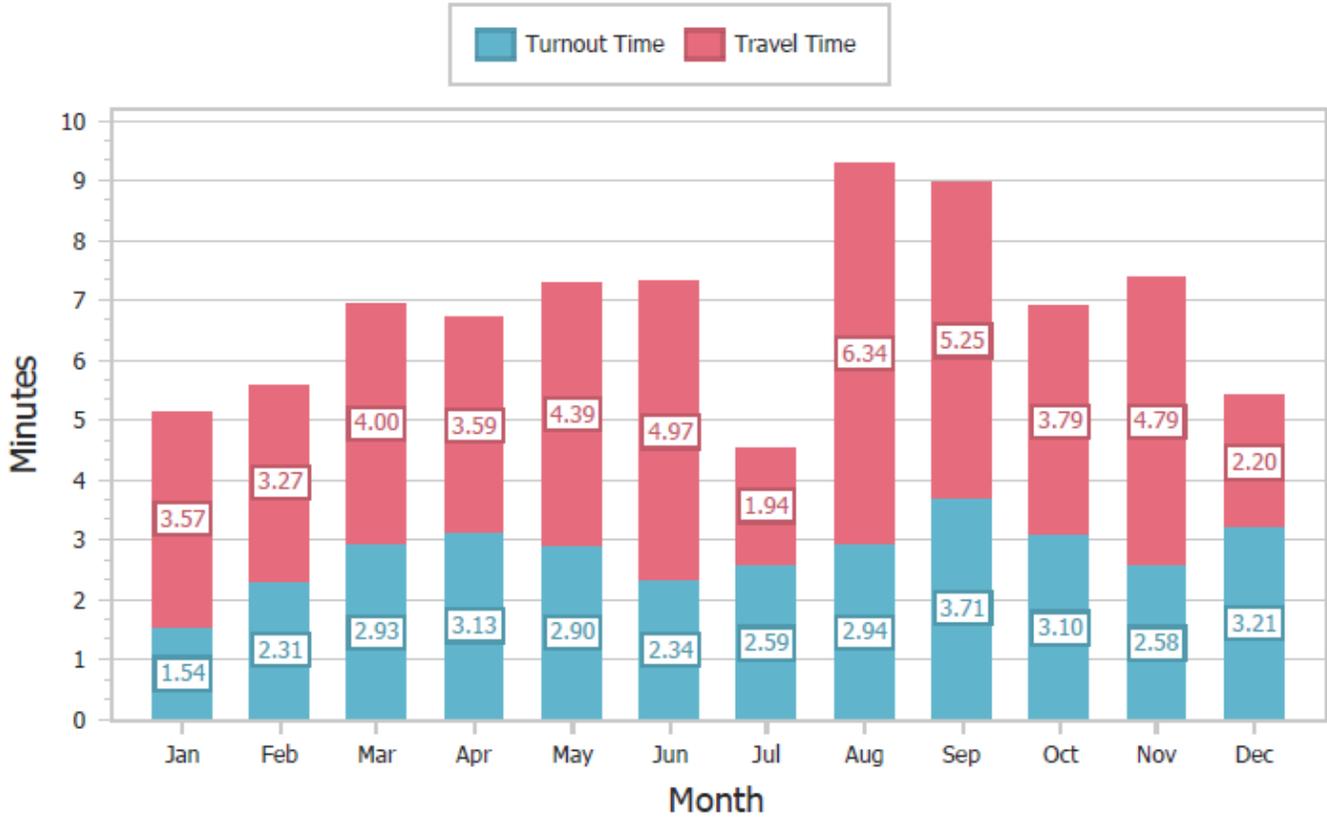
## Call Statistics

Below are some charts that will show the breakdown of the calls that STFD responded to. These do not include medical calls ran by the Salem First Responders Group.

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

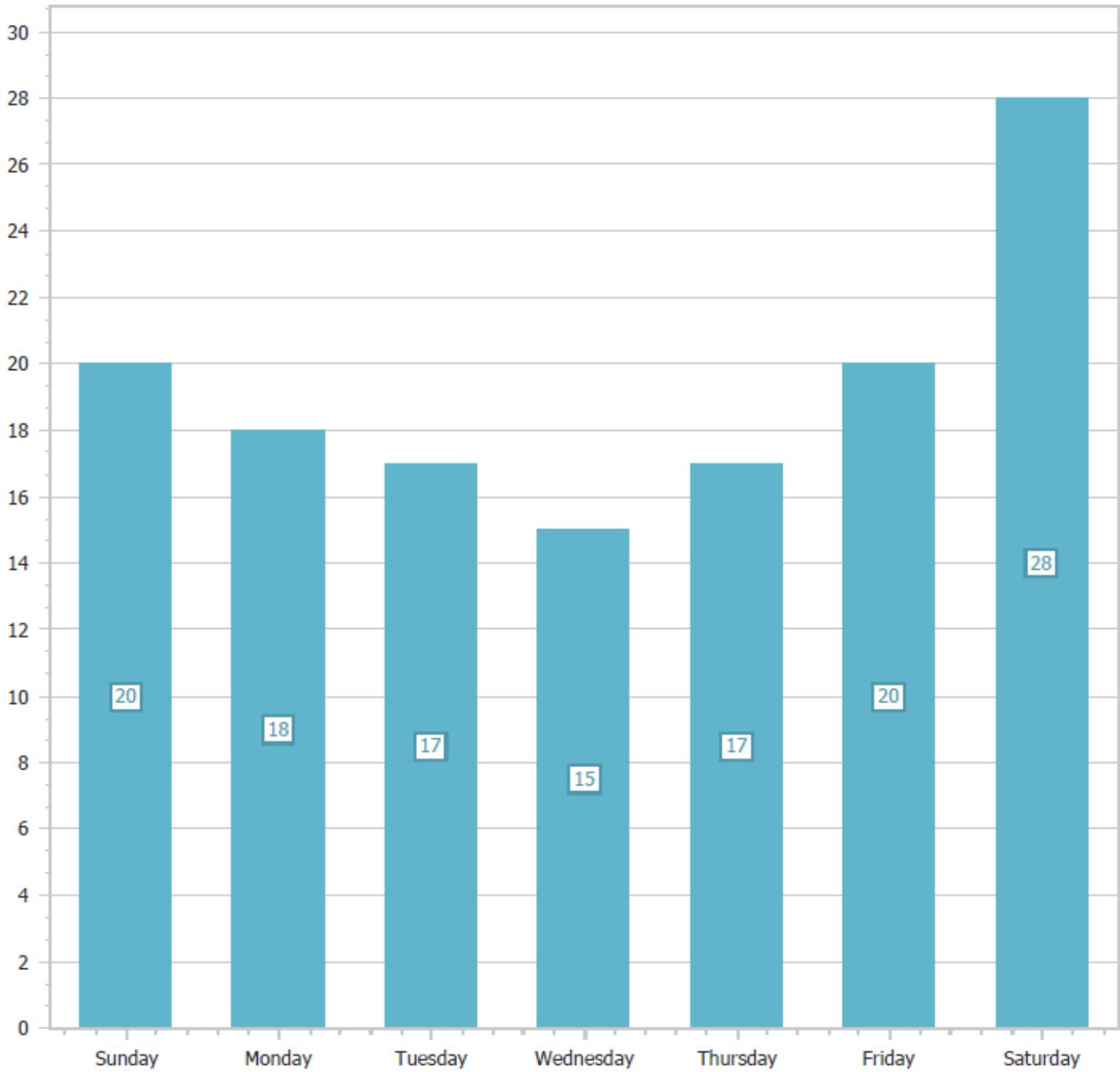
## Department Response Time Chart by District, Monthly Average

### All Districts



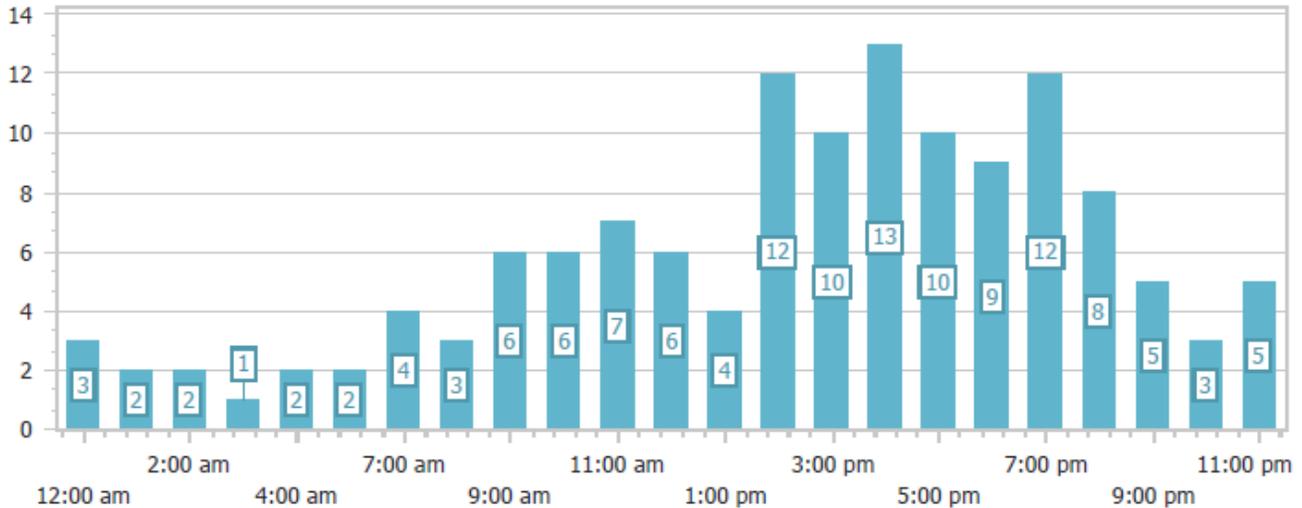
# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

## Incident Reports by Day of the Week, Detailed



# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

## Incident Reports by Time of Day, Detailed



## Mutual Aid by Agency and Type, Summary

All fire departments in Allegan County have a signed agreement to provide aid at any time and any area in the county if requested. STFD also has automatic aid agreements with Dorr, Overisel, Hamilton, and Hopkins Area Fire Departments. Automatic and mutual aid assures that every department will have help coming from other department to make sure that there is adequate personnel and apparatus on scene. Below shows aid given to other departments and aid given to STFD from other departments.

### **Dorr Twp FD**

Automatic aid received 4  
 Mutual aid given 2  
 Automatic aid given 2

### **Hamilton FD**

Automatic aid received 1  
 Automatic aid given 2

### **Hopkins Area FD**

Mutual aid received 1  
 Automatic aid received 2  
 Mutual aid given 1  
 Automatic aid given 3

### **Jamestown FD**

Mutual aid received 1  
 Automatic aid received 1  
 Mutual aid given 3

### **Overisel FD**

Mutual aid received 1  
 Automatic aid received 2  
 Automatic aid given 1

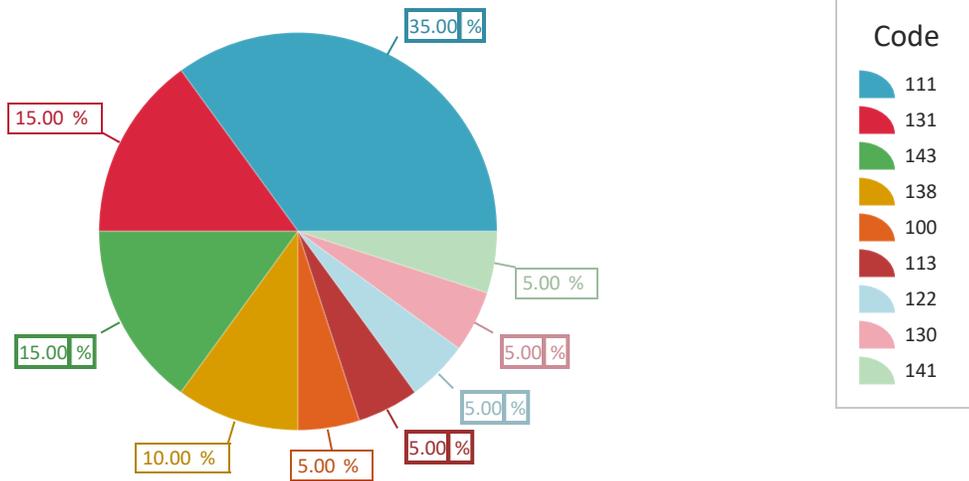
# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

SALEM TWP. FIRE DEPT.



## Incident Reports by Incident Type Series, Summary

Incident Type: 1 - Fire



100 - Fire, other 1

111 - Building fire 7

113 - Cooking fire, confined to container 1

122 - Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle 1

130 - Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other 1

131 - Passenger vehicle fire 3

138 - Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire 2

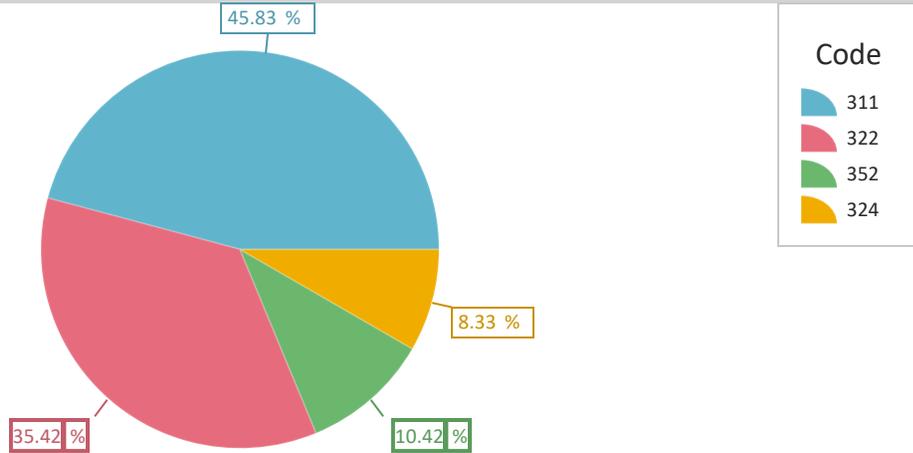
141 - Forest, woods or wildland fire 1

143 - Grass fire 3

**Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 20**

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

**Incident Type:** 3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident



311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew 22

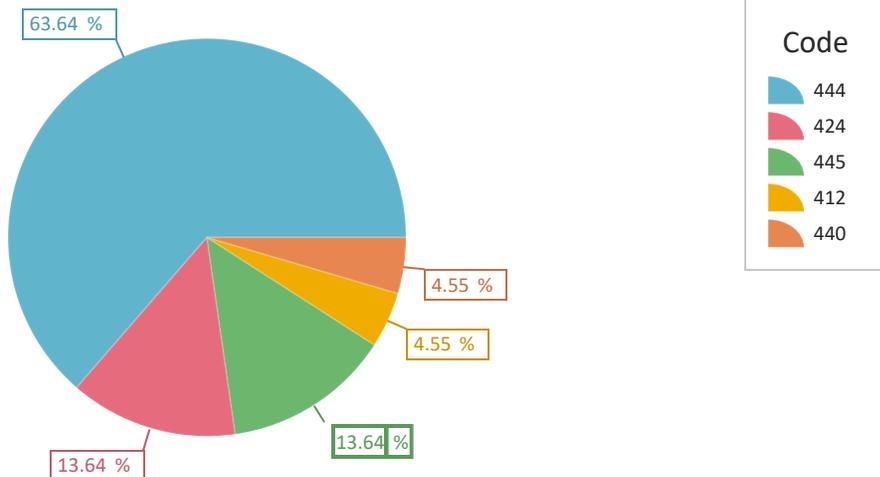
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries 17

324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries. 4

352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle 5

**Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 48**

**Incident Type:** 4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)



412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG) 1

424 - Carbon monoxide incident 3

440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other 1

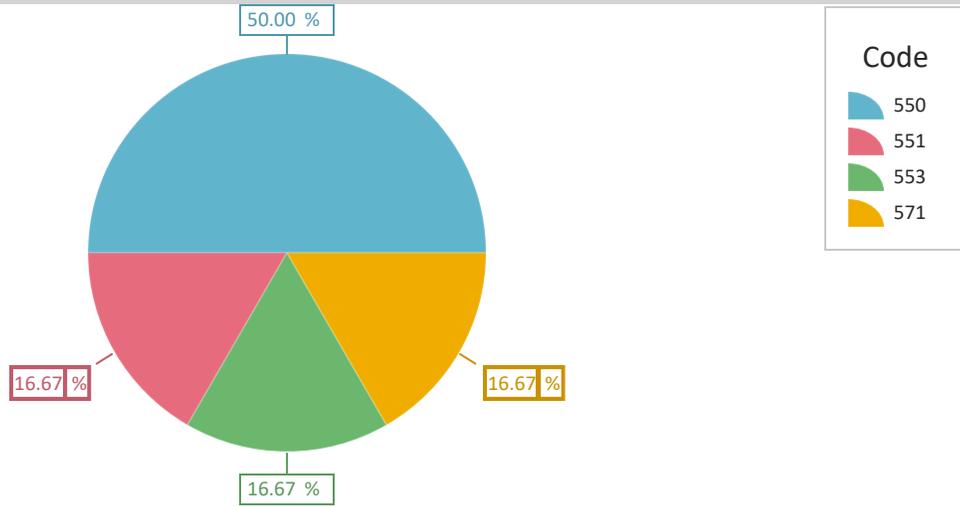
444 - Power line down 14

445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment 3

**Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 22**

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

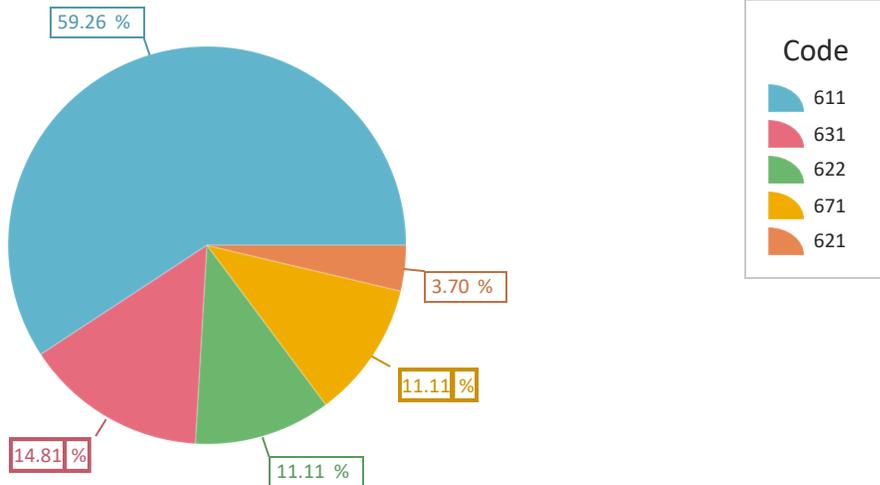
## Incident Type: 5 - Service Call



- 550 - Public service assistance, other 3
- 551 - Assist police or other governmental agency 1
- 553 - Public service 1
- 571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup 1

**Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 6**

## Incident Type: 6 - Good Intent Call

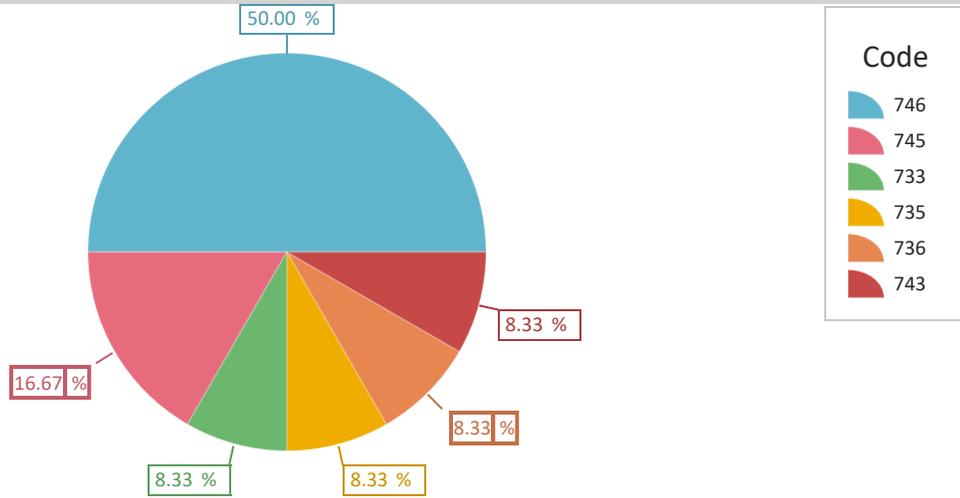


- 611 - Dispatched & canceled en route 16
- 621 - Wrong location 1
- 622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address 3
- 631 - Authorized controlled burning 4
- 671 - HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat 3

**Total Number of calls for this Major Category: 27**

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

**Incident Type:** 7 - False Alarm & False Call



733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction 1

735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction 1

736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction 1

743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional 1

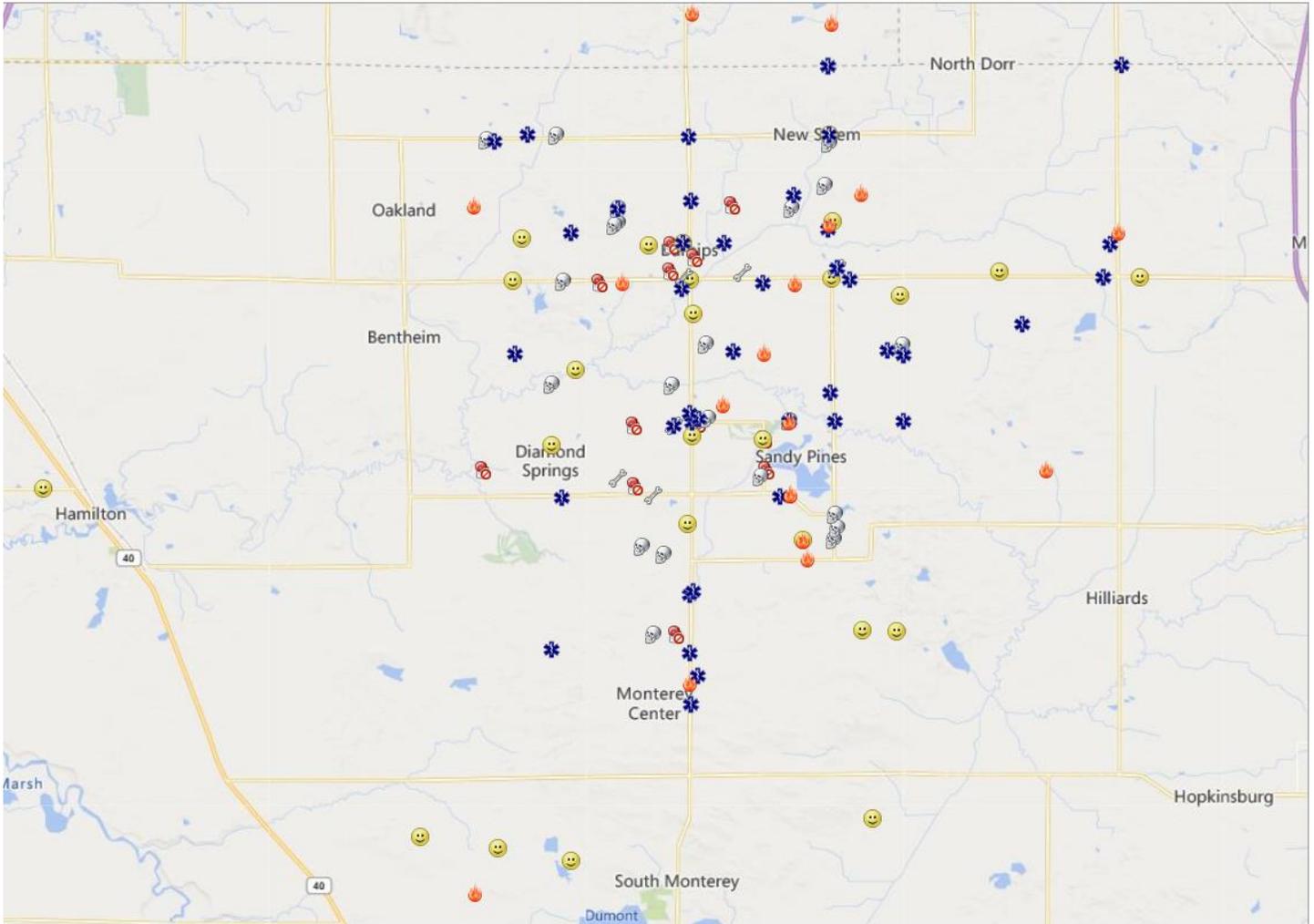
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional 2

746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO 6

**Total Number of calls for this Major Category:12**

# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

## Incident Mapping



## Community Events

### 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 2023 car show raised \$9,270.00 to send to the Great Lakes Burn Camp, most raised since STFD has been hosting the car show.

*Waving to the kids on their way to camp- 140<sup>th</sup> Ave overpass.*

### 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.

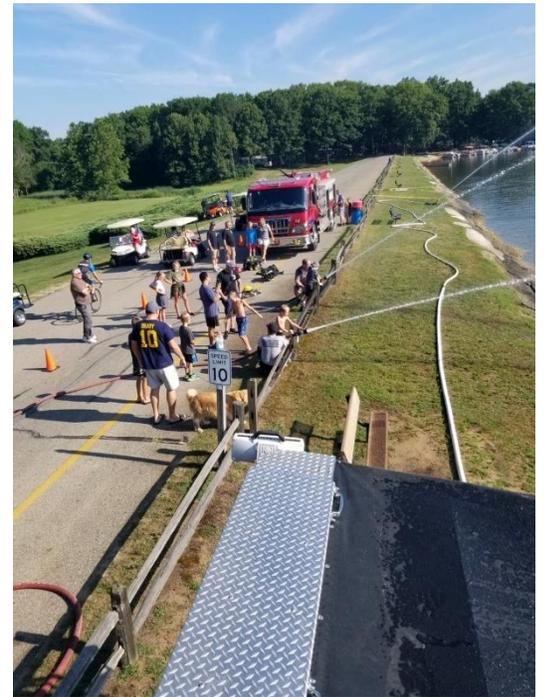
# Salem Township Fire Department 2023 Report

## 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.

## 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.



## 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.