

THE METRO INSIDER



GRAND TRAVERSE METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION... GET INVOLVED!

Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department will be hosting the 2nd Annual Fundraising event for St. Baldrick's Foundation. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives. On March 17, 2000, reinsurance executives John Bender, Tim Kenny and Enda McDonnell turned their industry's St. Patrick's Day party into a head-shaving event to benefit kids with cancer. Their 20 "shavee" recruits planned to raise "\$17,000 on the 17th." Instead, they raised over \$104,000! The movement quickly grew into the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising program for childhood cancer research, and today the St. Baldrick's Foundation funds more in childhood cancer research grants than any organization except the U.S. government. Since 2000, more than 189,660 volunteers - including over 17,200 women - have shaved in solidarity with children with cancer at events in dozens of countries and every U.S. state. Thanks to generous friends and family, these shavees have raised over \$117 million for life-saving research, and each is a walking billboard for the cause!

I would like to invite all of the Metro Fire personnel to participate in this year's St. Baldrick's event. Last year our goal was \$10,000 and we exceeded that goal by several thousand dollars. I believe we are capable of reaching at least that amount again this year. The event will be a combined event with North Peak and Kilkenny's on Saturday, March 17th, 2012. This year we are doing teams (Metro Fire team, North

Flight EMS team, and an invite went out to TCFD team). I believe this friendly competition will be fun and well worth the end result. There will be an e-mail sent out as soon as North Peak gets the web page set up on the St. Baldrick's site. Stay tuned and start spreading the word. For more information, please feel free to contact me at comeaux@gtmetrofire.org or check out the St. Baldrick's website at www.stbaldricks.org.

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You heard it right - I'm shaving my head in solidarity with children who have cancer and typically lose their hair during treatment, while raising critical funds for childhood cancer research!

In the US, more children die of childhood cancer than any other disease. Please make a donation on my behalf to support childhood cancer research so that all children diagnosed with cancer will have a better chance for a cure. To make a donation, search for Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept and click on "Make A Donation" or donate by mail or phone. Thank you for your support!



www.StBaldricks.org | Find us on: | 888.899.BALD



Childhood cancer takes **hope for a cure.**



TRAINING

Medical Training

Wednesday February 15, 2012 @ 1900
@ Station 11 Special Programs
(REQUIRED)

Tuesday February 21, 2012 @ 1900
@ Station 12 Medical Skills
(Trauma 1L, 1P) **(REQUIRED)**

Wed February 22, 2012 @ 1900
@ Station 9 Patient Assessment (1P)

Wednesday March 7, 2012 @ 1900
@ Station 11 OB/Gyn (1L, 1P)

Monday March 12, 2012 @ 1900
@ Sta 8 CPR (2P) **(REQUIRED)**

Thursday March 8, 2012 @ 1900
@ Station 1 Medical Skills (Trauma
1L, 1P) **(REQUIRED)**

Wednesday March 28, 2012 @ 1900
@ Sta 9 AED/CPR (no card)

Fire Training

Monday February 20, 2012 @ 1900
@ Sta 8 Ice Rescue (1L, 1P)

Thursday February 23 2012 @ 1900
@ Sta 1 Utility Awareness

Tuesday February 28, 2012 @ 1900
@ Station 1 HazMat Technician
Training Patching/Plugging

Monday March 5, 2012 @ 1900
@ Sta 8 RIT Review/MayDay (1.5P, .5L)
(REQUIRED)

Wednesday March 14, 2012 @ 1900
@ Station 9 Fire Protection Systems
(REQUIRED)

Wednesday March 21, 2012 @ 1900
@ Station 11 HazMat Operations
(1L, 1P) **(REQUIRED)**

MESSAGE FROM ASST CHIEF TERRY FLYNN



Here firefighters from Station 8 are performing high rise evolutions at the Valley View Condominiums.

*** **Communications Reminder**- When communicating with Central Dispatch, it is requested that you first call Central and wait for their response. Then proceed with your message. Example: "Central from Engine 11"..... Central Dispatch: "Go ahead Engine 11." Then proceed with your traffic. I have been hearing some static from dispatchers about Metro members picking up the microphone and starting their traffic. Please try to use courtesy and proper radio etiquette when communicating with Central Dispatch.

Editorial - As you know I am a stickler for response times. I am always discussing how valuable it is to the taxpayer for a quick response to a medical or fire call. By getting there quickly and in a safe manner, we can make a difference in an emergency incident. However, there are some critical factors that are required to make this happen. One is that we have **adequately trained** and **physically fit** firefighters arriving with the **right apparatus** and **right equipment** to do the job. We also have to make it **all the way** to the call to create a positive outcome. ISO has outlined some requirements for fire departments to gain essential points to increase the rating score. One of those is the **placement of stations** in locations as to be able to respond in a **timely manner** to all areas within the district. Some of you may be asking why I am ranting on information you already know. I am just stating that there is a reason we put **duty shift** members at **designated stations** to handle the expected **call volume** in our district. If you are out on a call or at pre-approved training that is one thing. To place the duty crew out of position voluntarily, that is another. There is also a reason why we spent extra money **equipping** these stations with adequate **cooking appliances** and **cookware** so those apparatus and personnel will be able to respond to areas of their **pre-defined district**. Just remember the next time you want to take an apparatus out of the station, can you answer why you went.

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF PAT PARKER

I think most of you know that I came out of the volunteer ranks and started as a Firefighter/EMT at Station 9 back in 1983. I got into this business because I did want to help make a difference in my community. Little did I know that this giving of time would turn into a career, let alone becoming Chief. My desire to help others still burns inside me and I hope it does with all of you.

Recently we have had to part ways with a few members. It pains me to see this. With all of these people, they still had that desire to help others. We are in a business that requires a high level of performance each and every time we are called to duty. The public expects this. Because of that expectation, it requires everyone to know their craft and react to

the situation at hand in a matter of seconds. We are in a business that doesn't give many second chances. We only have once to get it right as lives are stake; theirs and ours!

I believe people join our department with the best intentions to offer their time and help people. Not everyone can perform at the level required even if they have the desire. For that, I wish these departed members the best in their future endeavors. For the rest of us, let's continue to train hard, learn from our past experiences, operate safely, and strive to give the best possible service to the citizens we serve.

Until next time, Be Safe out there!



Chief Parker

Smoke Alarm Project

In 1960, fire caused the death of 7,645 people in the United States. In 1969, smoke alarms became available to the average American. In 2010, there were 3,120 fire deaths in the United States. Along with public education, stricter building codes, and fire sprinklers, smoke alarms have helped save many lives. There are still far too many people dying from fires. The fire departments of Grand Traverse County have established a five year goal for every home in the County to have at least two working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms save lives.

Teams of firefighters will come to your home and install or replace your current smoke alarms with dual sensor smoke alarms. This program is supported by grants and donations and there is no cost to participants.

[Click Here](#)

to fill out the appropriate form and then return this to your local fire station or mail to: Grand Traverse Metro Fire Dept. - Administrative, 897 Parsons Road, Traverse City, MI 49686. Please direct any questions to the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department's Fire & Life Safety Public Educator's office (231)947-3000 Ext. 1234

(<http://www.gtmetrofire.org/wordpress/uploaded-resources/pdf/Other-Forms/Smoke-Alarm-Project.pdf>)

Please review your withholding status and if you wish to make any changes, please complete and submit a new Form W-4 for Federal withholding and/or Form MI-W4

for Michigan withholding. Please note that any employee claiming "exempt" status from withholding taxes must annually submit a new W-4 as the current form on file expires February 10, 2012, and withholding will begin after that date. Forms W-4 and MI W4 may be found on the "Client & Employee Services" page of the IPS website at www.ipspayroll.com or at the Admin office.

Please make sure your mailing address is correct on your paystub. This is the address that IPS will be using to mail your Form W-2 in January. Please call the Admin office if it needs updating.

You may also print paystubs and W-2's from Cyberpay on that same website. We would like to go paperless if we can get everyone to get setup with direct deposit.



Statewide Autism Safety Training... with Mr. Dennis Debbaudt



Autism
Risk & Safety
Management

International Autism Safety Expert

On February 7 & 8, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department hosted a **FREE** statewide autism safety training opportunity for individuals in the Grand Traverse Area. This training was in partnership with the **Autism Resource Network of Northwest Michigan (ARN)** and the **Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM)**. With the prevalence of autism increasing an estimated 17-18 percent per year in the U.S., the likelihood of law enforcement, fire/rescue, educators, community members, and others coming into contact with an individual with autism is extremely great. This training offered options for positively managing stressful or potentially dangerous situations with individuals with autism. If you were unable to attend the training, please see some of the important take-aways below!

Autism - Common situations: Wandering/ Missing person, Misunderstood behavior, Trespassing, Out of control, Victim, Emergency situations

Autism may not be physically obvious; you cannot look at someone and know they have it, but here are some signs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Non-verbal or have very limited speech | May avoid eye contact |
| Prefer to be alone | Have a lack of fear of real danger |
| Apparent insensitivity or high tolerance for pain | Have a difficulty in expressing needs; usually don't use gestures |
| Have difficulty interacting with others | Avoidance of touch |
| Inappropriate laughing or giggling | Sustained unusual responses to lights, sounds, or other sensory input |
| Inappropriate attachment to objects | May have trouble with correct speech volume |
| Appear as if deaf, cover their ears and will look away | Display clumsiness, toe walking or have difficulty running |
| Rock back and forth | Talk to themselves |
| Display fascination with water, lights, reflections or shiny objects | |

Scene assessment and awareness are keys to keeping everyone safe. Remember:

People with autism may be attracted to shiny objects and may actually reach for a badge, radio, keys, belt buckle, or weapon.

Sensory overload may cause flight from or toward lights, sirens, radios, aromas or even a light comforting touch. The person may not react well to changes in routine or the presence of uniformed strangers. They may display "Fight or Flight" reaction when approached or as a reaction to sensory overload.

Assess the scene for sensory influences. Observe the body language of the child or adult. Are they covering their ears and eyes, displaying a fearful reaction to equipment or other sights, sounds or odors on scene? The person's body language may show that they are stressed out.

How to respond: Make sure the person is unarmed and maintain a safe distance because they may suddenly invade your personal space
Talk calmly and softly Avoid figurative expressions. Like "are you pulling my leg?"
Speak in direct, short phrases. Such as "Stand up now" Allow for delayed responses to your questions or commands
Consider using pictures, written phrases and sign language
Model calming body language (such as slow breathing and keeping your hands low)

Tips for EMS: Avoid touching (especially around the shoulders and face) unless necessary for the physical exam. Patient may be oversensitive to touch and cry out or jerk away. Evaluate patient for injury with a thorough secondary exam; they may not report pain or they may have high tolerance for pain. Explain all medical procedures beforehand.

If restraints become necessary, approach from patient's side. They may thrust head and body backwards. This person may not recognize the futility of resistance and continue to struggle. Continue to communicate with the patient. Up to 40% of this population has some type of seizure disorder. Asthma and heart conditions are also common.

For more information on this or related topics, please contact the Metro Fire & Life Safety Public Educator Meredith Hawes - mhawes@gtmetrofire.org or Andrea Hentschel, ARN at 231-492-0631 or autismresourcetc@gmail.com

GRAND TRAVERSE METRO EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

Located in Northern Michigan, Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department is a unique fire department that consists of three former township fire departments outside of the Traverse City area. Metro Fire now operates as one department since 1980.

Metro Fire provides services to Acme Township, East Bay Charter Township and Garfield Charter Township. Each township supervisor (or designee) makes up the Grand Traverse Metro Fire Board who governs the GT Metro Fire Department.

[Station 1](#) in East Bay Charter Township, [Station 8](#) in Acme Township, [Station 9](#) in East Bay Charter Township, [Station 11](#) in Garfield Charter Township, [Station 12](#) in Garfield Charter Township.

Metro currently operates on two social media networks in an effort to better connect with both the public and its employees. Facebook for Metro was initiated so that another form of media could be utilized to better connect with the public entity. Facebook is regularly updated with information pertinent to public safety, community events and other news releases.

The Twitter account was setup as a communication device for Metro to stay in touch with its employees. Twitter is currently utilized to post upcoming training opportunities with the department. The Twitter account is open to the public to also follow, but is only targeted towards employees. You can enlist to follow the Twitter account and sign up for text message alerts and you will be reminded a day before an upcoming training.

All of these updates are free and open to public access and only require a Facebook or Twitter account. "Like" us on Facebook to stay up to date with community events and public safety info. Employees, Follow us on Twitter for upcoming training opportunities.



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Keep checking for the 2011 Annual Business Report from GTMESA on our website.

