



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



## Morton Township Fire & Rescue

8260 100<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
PO Box 2  
Mecosta, MI 49332

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am grateful for the tremendous amount of support given to Morton Township Fire & Rescue by our staff, the township board, residents, community members, and neighboring fire departments. This support has been instrumental in maintaining a solid foundation for our department.

In 2020, we were met with many new challenges. In February, we knew it was a matter of time before we would face COVID-19. As the world, country, and state ramped up cases we maintained. We modified our response protocols, DECON, training, and unfortunately had to close off the fire stations to the public. Our staff met this challenge head on, and the leaders old and new from our department rose to the top. Our trainings progressed into virtual learning sessions, and when face to face, we spent most of our time outdoors.

In 2020 we replaced Rescue 1, the work horse of the department, with a 2019 Ford 550 Mini pumper – Rescue Squad 51 is the new steed at station 1. It is our shift crews primary vehicle for all calls within our primary response area. The vehicle carries all the medical equipment that the old rescue carried and has a 1500 GPM pump. It carries 270 gallons of water and has a 30 gallon foam cell. The township board authorized new battery tools for this vehicle made by Amkus rescue and Dewalt. Those included a spreader (jaws) tool, Reciprocating saw, Cut off saw, and a windshield kit. The department also replaced all the firefighting helmets switching to traditional style with leather fronts.

Our staff is dedicated to serving the community through public education. Unfortunately, the current pandemic put a halt to these types of activities. It is our hope to return to this in 2021 or find new virtual ways to continue this going forward.



As the year closes out, I am thankful for the generosity Morton Twp Fire & Rescue has seen through donations and grants. Our department had use of a Yamaha side-by-side through the kind efforts of Yamaha and Ed Richter at Lakeside Motorsports. This vehicle was used in wilderness / off road situations from rescues to fires and parades. This no cost use has been a great partnership with Lakeside for many years. The Richter's have a great business within our township, and we appreciate them

very much. There were other donations, some anonymous and some we will keep anonymous. We had donations of candy at Halloween, stuffed animals, baked goods, and money to our firefighter's association. We have a great community that appreciates and supports us.

I look forward to a productive year in 2021. It is an exciting time at Morton Twp Fire & Rescue with the department growing and evolving. We are always looking for new members, so if you have an interest in serving the community please feel free to reach out to any of us.

Stay Safe,

Allen D Sutherby  
Chief of Department

## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Morton Twp Fire & Rescue is in the middle of beautiful Mecosta County. It is the only department with two fire stations in Mecosta County. This department is governed by the Morton Township Board of Trustees. They appoint a five-member Fire administrative committee to provide guidance to the department and make purchase recommendations back to the board.

Your 2020 Morton Township Fire & Rescue Admin Committee:

Joe Lanz, Chairman  
Stephanie McNeal Twp Clerk / Board Liaison  
Janice Covey  
Art Diehm  
John Richmond  
John Fields

Morton Township Fire & Rescue is a paid-on call department with part-time and paid on call staff that provide all levels of firefighting, emergency medical services, and technical skills to our community twenty-four hours a day 365 days a year. With our part-time duty crew, we provide Medical First Responders to EMS calls. For those calls that require a higher level of care than we can currently provide, we receive Advanced Life Support from Mecosta County EMS. Fire responses in our jurisdiction are handled with a multitude of specialized equipment including two front-line fire engines, two water tenders, two wildfire trucks, one MFR rescue, and one MFR mini pumper rescue. We also have one 95' Quint ladder truck. These vehicles carry specialized equipment which allow us to handle incidents including structural and wildland fires, vehicle accidents, ice and water rescues, wilderness and other types of technical rescues, and Hazardous Materials incidents. Our department has an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) rating of 6-10. This rating reflects a multitude of criteria that we use to better provide service to our community.

As of the 2010 Census, Morton Twp Fire & Rescue serves 5,833 citizens throughout Morton Township, and including Austin Township a contracted service area for fire protection. Summer residents usually boost our population greatly from Memorial Day to Labor Day which results in our busiest time of the year. Morton Township accounts for 12.5% of the total population of Mecosta County. We cover 75 square miles of land for fire protection and around 110 square miles for MFR coverage within Mecosta County. MFR receives the second highest calls for service in the county.

During non-Covid restrictions!

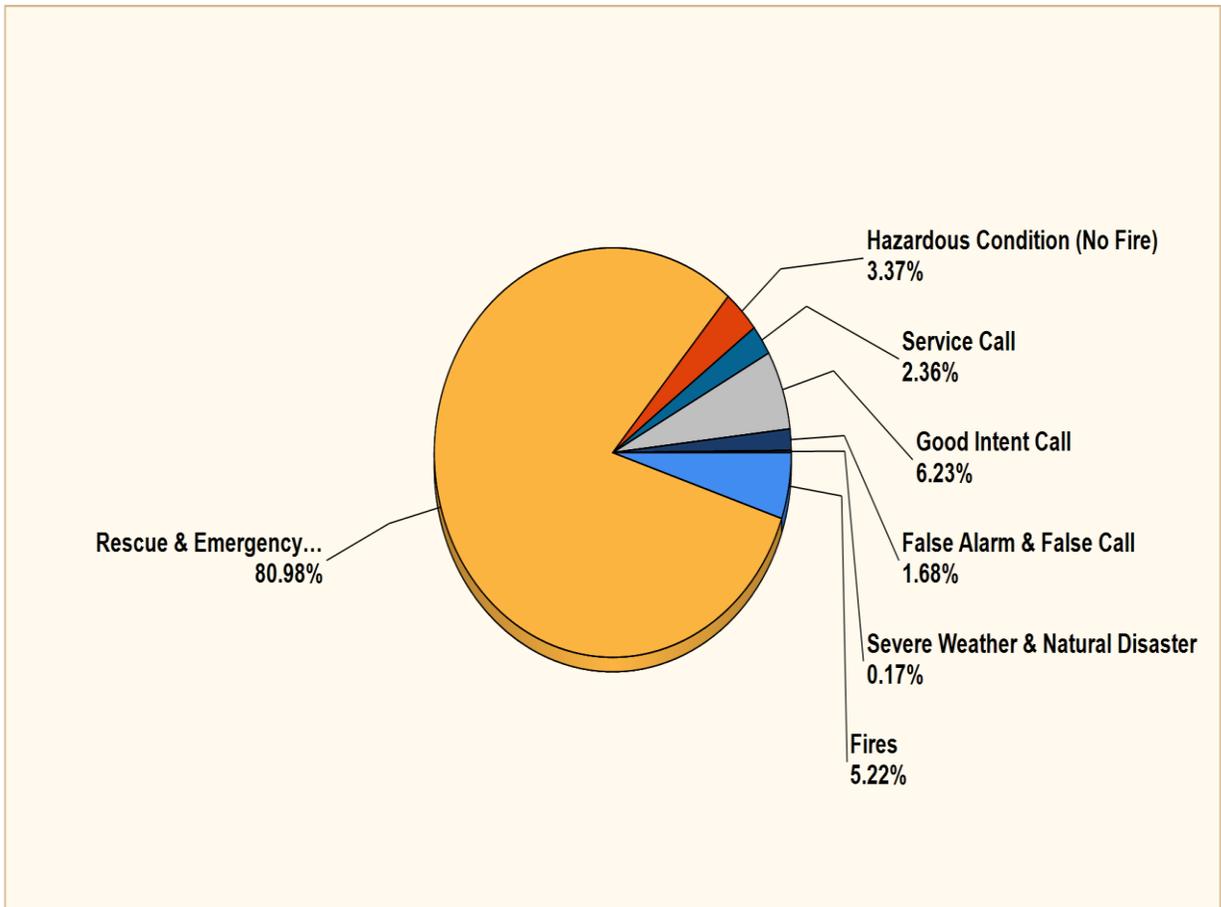
Our Station is open to the public Weekdays from 8am-4pm and we welcome everyone to stop in and take a tour and meet your firefighters!

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY

In 2020, Morton Twp Fire & Rescue responded to 594 calls, a decrease from the 652 calls run in 2019.

### INCIDENT RESPONSES BY TYPE

Incident Type	# of Incidents	% of Total
Fires	31	5.22
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	481	80.98
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire)	20	3.37
Service Calls & Good Intent Calls	51	8.59
Severe Weather Incident	1	.17
False Alarm & False Call	10	1.68
Total	594	100%



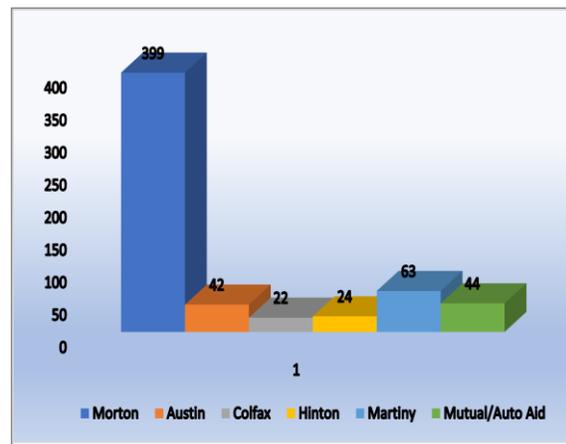
## INCIDENT RESPONSES BY TOWNSHIP

Township	# of Incidents	% of Total
Morton	399	67.17
Austin	42	7.07
Hinton	24	4.04
Martiny	63	10.61
Colfax	22	3.7
Mutual Aid Calls	44	7.41
Total	594	100%

Morton Twp Fire & Rescue responded to a wide range of calls in 2020. Most of the calls were EMS rescue calls, throughout the five townships.

This was an average year with nothing significant from our perspective.

Morton Township Fire Rescues protection area is of the highest State Equalized Value for Mecosta County.



Of the 3 residential structure fires in our primary response area, all three fires were contained to the room of origin. The value of the 3 homes totaled around 1million or slightly above. Less than \$50,000.00 damage total. This is all because of training, knowing our community roads, response times, and the great team that we have!

## STAFFING AND TRAINING

Morton Twp Fire & Rescue is led by Chief Allen Sutherby, assisted by deputy chief's Justin Todd and Tim Visser. The department operates with a part-time staff of three firefighter/EMTs, providing coverage to the service area Monday through Friday 7AM-4PM. The department ended 2020 with 27 paid on call personnel, who assist the department by filling open shifts and responding to calls during off shift times.

MTFR conducts training in person and on-line. A total of 75 hours in 2020 were allotted to scheduled training for our staff. Two of our members passed the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training in 2020 and passed their National Registry exams for certification.

Five members of the department received lifesaving awards in 2020. Four of them were present to receive the awards with the person saved.



Community activity for 2020 unfortunately was stifled by the COVID-19 pandemic. The department continued our Memorial weekend kickoff with the Friday before Memorial lights and siren parade. By the time the recent holidays were approaching the company who decorates the Township buildings didn't have enough employees due to Covid. The department along with support from Township Board members decorated the three buildings to try and bring some holiday cheer for all.



## FIRE PREVENTION

As usual the spring always affords us the opportunity to educate on the dangers of open burning.



Every October is Fire Prevention Month. This year, the hopes were to make a video to share with our schools and AFC homes. Unfortunately, that is when cases of Covid spiked in our area and pushed the pause button again!

We always encourage everyone to know your plan and Practice Your Escape". Have a meeting spot. Check your detectors and replace batteries when the time change happens in spring and fall.

## APPARATUS

Morton Twp Fire & Rescue operates with the following apparatus:

- One 95' Platform Ladder Truck
- Two 3,500 gallon water tenders
- Two 1,000 gallon, class A fire engines
- Two wildland brush trucks
- One Mini-pumper Rescue Squad
- One MFR rescue truck

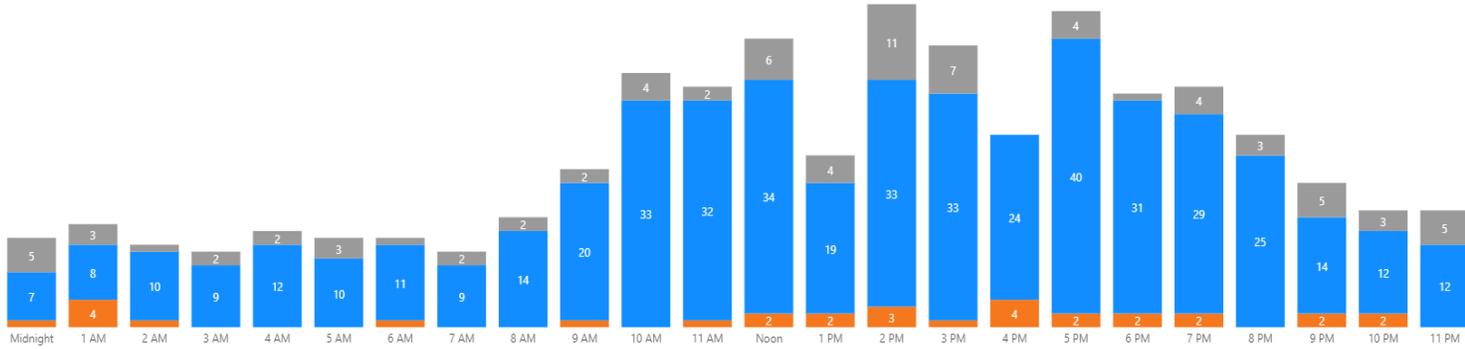
All apparatus are maintained and inspected weekly by the part-time duty crew. These inspections ensure that the apparatus and equipment is functioning and ready for any emergency at any time of the day. All employees train and operate the apparatus for proficiency in emergency situations.

## NEW APPARATUS

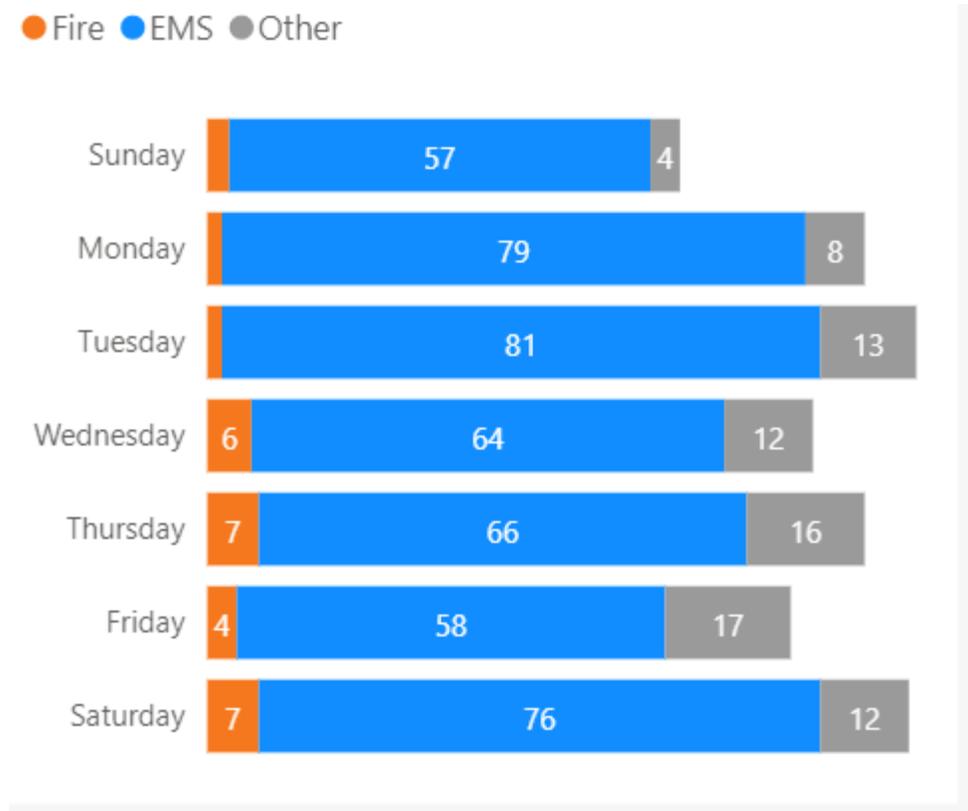
In 2020, Morton Twp Fire & Rescue purchased one new piece of equipment and sold one old piece of equipment.

A new Mini-Pumper Rescue, meant to replace the 2002 unit, was ordered in late 2019. It was delivered and put into service in February 2020. Once the new Squad was received, the 2002 Rescue was sold.





2020 Calls by time of day



2020 Calls by day of the week

**DEPARTMENT ROSTER**

(As of 12/31/2020)

**ADMINISTRATION**

Chief Allen Sutherby  
Deputy Chief Justin Todd  
Deputy Chief Tim Visser

**PART-TIME STAFF**

Capt. Jeff Harvell  
Capt. Patrick Overzet  
FF/EMT Shawn Fuller

**PAID ON CALL**

Capt. Cosme Monsivais  
Rescue Lt. Jill Ray  
FF/EMT Chuck Ames  
FF Calvin Alston  
FF Bob Burgess  
FF John Burnell  
FF Cecil Demott  
FF/MFR Joe Edwards  
MFR Michelle  
Edwards  
FF Josh England  
FF Dan Gettings  
FF James Kopetchney  
EMT Elle Lalonde  
FF/EMT Levi Luce  
EMT Jeremy McNamara  
FF/MFR Ethan McNeal  
FF/EMT Ron Ray  
FF Don Rebain  
FF Dominic Richmond  
EMT Tiffany Smith  
FF/MFR John Snider  
FF/EMT Samantha  
Spring  
EMT Karen Todd  
FF Mike Yeager

