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## CITY OF MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT



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TO: Honorable Mayor Russ Whipple and City Council  
FROM: James M. Pelton, Fire Chief  
DATE: January 11, 2000  
RE: 1999 Mason Fire Department Activity Report

The 1999 year showed an increase in responses for Mason firefighters. There was an increase of 14 responses in the City of Mason, an increase of 7 responses to Aurelius Township, and a decrease of 8 responses in Vevay Township.

1998 response numbers were:

City of Mason	84
Aurelius Twp.	17
Vevay Twp.	<u>58</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>

1999 response numbers were:

City of Mason	98
Aurelius Twp.	24
Vevay Twp.	<u>50</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>

The following is a breakdown of the incidents and totals for 1999 listed above:

City of Mason:

Structures	10
Vehicles	12
Commercial	2
False Alarms	17
(Alarm systems, reported vehicle fires not found, etc.)	
Mutual Aid Responses	22
P.I. Accidents	3

Carbon Monoxide Alarms	2
Miscellaneous (Wires down, gas leaks, odor investigation)	27
Wild Land Fires	1
Hazmat Team Response	<u>2</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>

Aurelius Twp.

Structures	4
Vehicles	2
False Alarms	6
P.I. Accidents	3
Miscellaneous	2
Wild Land Fires	<u>7</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

Vevay Twp.

Structures	6
Vehicles	2
Commercial	1
False Alarms	5
P.I. Accidents	5
Miscellaneous	14
Wild Land Fires	11
Illegal Burns	<u>6</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

The Mason Fire Department responded to many different incidents in 1999. The following is a sample of some of those incidents:

On February 21, 1999, at 1624 hours, at 720 Aurelius Road, an alarm came in as a chimney fire which was quickly upgraded to a structure fire. The wall behind the fireplace had ignited. Part of the wall board had to be removed to extinguish the fire. Also, some of the outside siding had to be removed. The estimated damage was \$20,000 to an estimated \$150,000 home. Part of the damage was due to smoke damage in home. The department was assisted by Eaton Rapids Township Fire Department.

On March 17, 1999, at 1442 hours, at 4047 Toles Road, the department responded to a structure fire. The main body of the fire was contained in the kitchen area. There was smoke and intense heat damage to the interior. The value of the home was more than \$100,000. The estimated damage to the property and its contents was \$40,000. The fire started from a defective refrigerator. There was no one home at the time of the alarm.

On September 16, 1999, at 1247 hours, at 1083 Tuttle Road, we experienced one of the two major fire losses of 1999. This was a large two story house. The structure was fully involved, with fire exiting the windows of the structure on arrival of the Chief in his personal vehicle. The structure was a complete loss, estimated at \$140,000 with contents. Assisted by Leslie, Onondaga, Delhi, Dansville, and Eaton Rapids Township, mostly for water supply.

On October 1, 1999, at 1419 hours, the one major loss to the city was at 210 S. Jefferson, a 4-unit apartment house. When the first Mason Fire Unit arrived, heavy dense smoke was emitting from the second story of the structure. Fire attack teams started suppression efforts on the second floor where they had to advance lines through dense smoke and extreme heat to the third story bedroom area. The house was heavily damaged. The estimated damage was more than \$150,000 to the structure and its contents. Mason Fire was assisted by Leslie, Dansville, and Delhi Township Fire Departments.

Structure fire fighting is one small part of the department's general responses. A general response could be one or two firefighters checking out a carbon monoxide alarm at a residence, working at a pin-in accident scene, suppressing vehicle fires, investigating downed wires that are posing a safety hazard, assisting in the search for a missing person, or helping rescue a trapped worker at a cave-in.

The average number of personnel responding to incidents was 10.3 up from last year at 9.38. This was the first time there has been an increase in several years. My hope is that this trend will continue.

The Ingham County Hazmat team, which includes six members from Mason, continues to be a valuable resource to all of the out county fire departments in the mitigation of hazardous material spill incidents. Mason has the most member representation on this team.

The Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Programs that the Mason Fire Department members promote continue to be a vital part in the enhancement and education of fire safety to the youth and citizens of the Mason community. Many tours of the Safety House and lectures at the station were conducted by me and other members of the department. Many Cub Scout and Girl Scout groups, preschool and school-aged children were introduced to the ways of fire safety in their lives. To list every time a firefighter did a lecture on fire safety, or to put together a fire extinguisher use demonstration, would take more paper than the Mason City Council would like to read. The Mason Fire Department's Fire Prevention Program is just part of what should be involved in fire safety in the community. For a total effective program, it takes community and city government involvement to promote and propagate fire safety rules for the community.

The new Mason Fire Station is a great asset to the community. Our training room is well-known throughout the Ingham County area. The mezzanine, of which the carpet was paid for by the Fire Fighters Association and which the Mason Fire Department members provided labor to finish, is a great structure that is the envy of many fire departments. The Fire Department members are proud of what the community has provided for them.

Equipment updates for the Department:

- #804 1992 Chevrolet ½ Ton Truck (used to pull the Fire Safety House, bought from donations)
- #805 1992 Chevrolet Command-Equipment Vehicle
- #806 1984 1000 G. P.M. Grumman Pumper
- #807 1984 500 G.P.M. 3000 gal Tanker (based at Station 2)
- #808 1973 750 G.P.M. 50 ft. combination ladder truck
- #809 1990 1250 G.P.M. Grumman Pumper
- #810 1992 Dodge ½ Ton Truck, 4x4 Brush Rig
- #811 500 G.P.M. 2,800 gal. Tractor Trailer Tanker, (based at Station 2)

All equipment is in good working condition. There is a continuing concern on my part about the ladder truck. I look forward to the day this unit is replaced.

In summary, the City of Mason should be proud of the 31 dedicated, professional firefighters that serve their community. Many firefighters and officers spend a lot of their personal time going to special training classes and participating on the different specialty teams that are a vital part the Mason Fire Department. Their continued dedication to providing professional service to the community is something the city can be proud of. The year 2000 will be my eighth year as Mason Fire Chief. I look forward to helping the officers of the department, and leading the department into the next millennium.

Special Note: I would like to thank the staff at city hall and the City Manager, Marty Colburn for assisting me in my duties as Fire Chief.