

TO: Honorable Mayor Russ Whipple and City Council

FROM: James M. Pelton, Fire Chief

DATE: Friday, January 12, 2001

RE: 2000 Mason Fire Department Activity Report

The Mason Fire Department responded to 124 incidents in 2000. There was decrease of 48 in the total responses for the fire department from what was recorded in 1999. There was a decrease of 25 responses charged to the city, a decrease of 11 responses in Aurelius Twp. and a decrease of 12 responses in Vevay Twp.

The 1999 response numbers were:

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

The 2000 response numbers were:

City of Mason	73
Aurelius Twp.	13
Vevay Twp.	<u>38</u>
Total	124

The following is a breakdown of the incidents and totals listed for 2000.

City of Mason

Structures (Any Incident involved with a structure)	8
Vehicle Fires	5
Commercial	2
False Alarms	9
(Alarm Systems, reported Fires not located)	
Mutual Aid Responses	23
PI Accidents (Extrication)	0
Carbon Monoxide Alarms	5
Miscellaneous	20
(Wires down, gas leaks, odor investigations)	
Wild Land Fires	1
Hazmat Team Response (1 listed as Mutual Aid)	
Total	<u>73</u>

Aurelius Twp.

Structures (Any Incident involved with a structure)	1
Vehicle Fires	1
Commercial	0
False Alarms	1
(Alarm System, reported Incidents not Located)	
Pi-Pin-In Accidents	2
Carbon Monoxide Alarms	0
Miscellaneous	8
(Wires down, gas leaks, Odor investigations)	
Wild Land Fires	1
Total	<u>13</u>

Vevay Twp.

Structures(Any Incident involved with a structure)	5
Vehicle Fires	8
Commercial	0
False Alarms	5
(Alarm Systems, reported Incidents Not located)	
PI, Pin-in Accidents	4
Carbon Monoxide Alarms	0
Miscellaneous	10
(Wires Down, Gas Leaks Odor Investigations)	
Wild Land Fires	5
Hazmat Team Response	1
Total	<u>38</u>

The Mason Fire Department responded to a variety of incidents in 2000, including a number of mutual aid calls in 2000. These incidents ranged from structure fires and grass fires, to Personal Injury- Pin-in Accidents. The Mutual Aid Response is in more use today than ever. Having a multitude of different resources available, such as the County Tanker Task Force, County Hazmat Team, Pumpers and Trucks from neighboring departments, enables the Incident Commander to supervise the mitigation of incidents, quickly and safely. The following is a sample of those responses.

01-15-2000 Mason Fire, along with, Williamston Fire, Stockbridge Fire, Leslie Fire, assisted Dansville Fire Department on a house fire in the Village of Dansville. The house was totally involved with smoke and fire on arrival. One Mason Engine, one Mason Tanker, and the Mason Squad responded to the scene. The incident occurred in the middle of the day. The multi-agency response to this incident is what is now typical of the kind of mutual aid response that Incident Commander relies on to mitigate large scale incidents, especially during the week and during the day. Paid on call, or volunteer departments have trouble with the needed numbers of response personnel available during the work day. Therefore, we rely heavily on Mutual Aid to have the resources needed on scene.

04-18-2000, 410 East Cherry, City of Mason. The alarm was a house fire. The fire was located in the basement of the residence. Basement fires are the most difficult for a firefighter to extinguish. This, due to ventilation of the heat and gasses, is difficult. The firefighter has to descend basement stairs as the tremendous heat and gasses are exiting up the stairs. This fire was controlled quickly. To make sure the fire was out (this is called overhaul) a lot of stored material had to be removed so that a complete extinguishment could be done. The department was assisted by Dansville Fire as a Rapid Intervention Crew and Leslie Fire for added personnel. Due to extreme damage to the floor supports, damage was extensive.

04-29-2000, 341 South Eifert Road, Aurelius Township. The Alarm was house struck by lightning with possible fire. Lightning had struck the house completely destroying the electrical Maypole. The lightning had energized the complete house. The lightning blew off siding and down spouts. There was a small fire in the overhang, where the lightning had ignited the paper on some insulation. The house was valued at over \$150,000. Damage to the house and any electrical appliances, due to being completely energized, was extensive. The residents were home at the time of the incident.

11-23-2000, Intersection of Barnes Road and Hawley Road. Alarm was a multiple Pin-in accident with fire. On arrival of first unit, passerby people had removed one victim from underneath a vehicle and there was one vehicle that had two persons trapped. Extrication was accomplished by Ingham County Rescue and Mason Fire personnel. This was a major three vehicle accident, and there could have been multiple pinned victims. As the Mason Area continues to grow, accidents of this nature will be all too common. That is why over this past year, the fire department personnel have all been state certified in vehicle extrication. The department members will continue to upgrade extrication skills, through continued training, to enhance their skills that will compliment the County Team that is already well trained and available to the entire Ingham County. It is this Chief's goal to acquire more extrication

equipment along with some basic equipment that we now have.

The average number of fire personnel responding to incidents in 2000 was 10. The highest ratio was in 1993 (my first year as Chief), which was 11.3 and the lowest was in 1999 at 9.4.

Current equipment inventory:

- #804 1992 Chevrolet ½ Ton Truck (this unit is used to transport the Fire Safety House and as a utility vehicle)
- #805 1992 Chevrolet , Command , Special Equipment and Squad for personnel transport.
- #806 1984 1000 G.P.M. Grumman Pumper. Primary use is for vehicle and grass fires. The unit carries all equipment needed for any type of fire.
- #807 1984 500 G.P.M. Pumper-Tanker combination. Carries 3000 gal of water and can pump 500 G.P.M. (Housed at Station 2)
- #808 1973 750 G.P.M. Truck. Equipped with a 50ft ladder and can pump 750 G.P.M. (will be replaced with our new Pierce 1000ft, 2000 G.P.M. Platform Truck, sometime in March 2001.)
- #809 1990 1250 G.P.M. Grumman Pumper. This is the department's workhorse. The unit has cab that can carry 10 personnel, carries 1000gal of water and can pump 1250 G.P.M. This unit also carries our extrication equipment. This unit is the first dispatched on Mutual Aid, Extrication and any Structure Fire response.
- #810 1992 Dodge ½ Ton , 4X4 Brush-Wild Land Fire response unit. The unit is equipped with small pump and water tank.
- #811 500 G.P.M. Pumper-Tanker combination. Carries 3000gals. This unit is a tractor-trailer rig.

All response units are in good response condition. The department looks forward to the replacement of our 1973 Truck with a new advanced and larger unit. The need to replace 806 1984 Pumper and 807 A 1984 Tanker in the next five years will have to be considered by administration.

The past year was a busy year for the department even though our incidents were down from last year. The following is a list of just some of the extra activities the department participated in.

1. For 6 months, a committee worked many hours drafting specs for the new Truck.
2. A weekend Training Live Burn in Leslie.
3. A weekend Training session for Extrication
4. Fourth of July Fireworks Program (some persons committed many hours)
5. All day Saturday Fire Prevention Open House.
6. Evening tours and Fire Safety lectures.
7. Flag Poles installed on west side of building (paid for by the Firefighters Association).
8. CPR and First Aid certification and update.
9. Hazmat Team meetings.
10. Ice Rescue weekend training sessions.

When you add 26 regular meeting -training nights into the schedule, it made for a busy year.

In summary, the City can be proud of the 32 dedicated, aggressive fire suppression personnel on the Mason Fire Department. The department has just added three Trainees, in November, to our team. These young men will become as proficient in every aspect the department participates in, with the veteran leadership on the department guiding them.

My thanks to the other City Departments, Staff at City Hall and Marty Colburn for their assistance in my duties as Fire Chief.

