

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT



Training Exercise April 2001

ANNUAL REPORT 2001

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The Mason Fire Department responded to 152 incidents in 2001. This was an increase of 28 in total responses for the fire department from 2000. There was an increase of 30 responses in the city, an increase of 4 in Aurelius Township, and a decrease of 6 in Vevay Township.

The 2000 response numbers were:

City of Mason	73
Aurelius Township	13
Vevay Township	<u>38</u>
	124

The 2001 response numbers were:

City of Mason	103
Aurelius Township	17
Vevay Township	<u>32</u>
	152

The following is a breakdown of these incidents and totals listed for 2001.

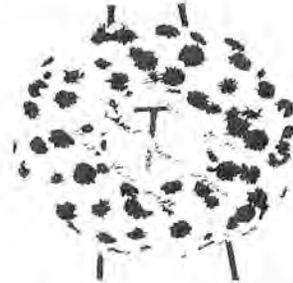
City of Mason	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Structure fires	3	8
Vehicle fires	9	5
False alarms	28	9
(alarm systems, reported Fires unable to locate, etc)		
Mutual aid	14	23
PI accidents	2	0
Carbon Monoxide alarms	2	5
Miscellaneous	38	22
(wires down, gas leaks, odor investigations, etc)		
Severe weather	3	
Wild land fires	3	1
Trench rescue	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>
Total	103	73

Aurelius Township	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Structure fires	2	1
Vehicle fires	2	1
Wild land fires	2	1
Illegal burning	1	
Accidents	2	2
(fuel cleanup)		
Miscellaneous	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	17	13

Vevay Township	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Structure fire	2	5
Vehicle fires	2	8
False alarms	10	5
(alarm systems, reported fires unable to locate)		
Accidents	4	4
(extrication, fuel cleanup)		
Miscellaneous	8	10
Wild land	4	5
Haz mat (diesel spill)	1	1
Drowning	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	32	38

The year 2001 was a traumatic time for the members of the Mason Fire Department. On August 10th, the devastating loss of Jim. He was not only our leader, but a friend and a cherished member of our firefighting family. The department was staggered by his death, but never faltered in the service to the community. I give credit to every member of the department for digging deep and focusing on the task at hand during this crisis. Many times a loss like this would tear a department apart, but as a whole, it brought us closer and made us stronger. I would like to personally thank the membership, our auxiliary members, the city council, the city administrator, all the citizens of Mason, and all the surrounding area for the help and support at the time of Jim's death.

The fire department honored Jim at the annual Firefighters Memorial Weekend, at Roscommon, in September. We placed a wreath in Jim's name at the memorial site on Saturday morning. About 1500 people were gathered to pay respect to the firefighters that had answered their last call. This is a time when firefighters not only from across the state gather but from around the country.

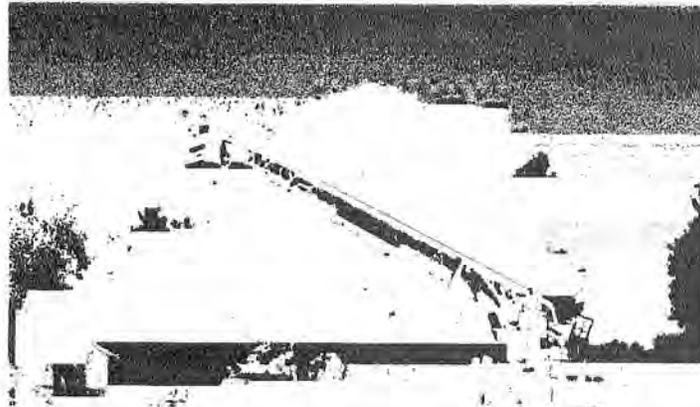


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On September 11, another devastating event occurred. It not only staggered the nation, but the whole fire service with the loss of 343 New York City Firefighters. Altogether more than 3,200 were missing, dead or presumed dead at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Events like this make one question one's mortality, and in particular their fire service vocation. I'm glad to say that through everything that happened last year, we did not lose any firefighters because of these events, but instead added 3 to our ranks.

In December, Jim's successor, Chief David Scutt, was named and new officers were elected. The officers for 2002 are Assistant Chief Kerry Minshall, Captain Mark Howe, 1st Lieutenant Mike Buckner and 2nd Lieutenant Steve Armstrong. It was both an honor and a privilege to have been chosen to continue the leadership of the fire department by being named chief.

The year 2001 also found us taking delivery of Tower 808. After many long months of planning and a couple of trips to the factory, we took possession in February. It is a tremendous piece of equipment and has been used 7 times for major structure fires in both the city and in the surrounding communities. This valuable apparatus was funded through the Local Development Finance Authority.



Mason Fire Department also took possession and placed into service a new set of Hurst extrication tools. This equipment will be vital in freeing people trapped in auto accidents. This equipment was purchased through a grant from AAA. Total cost was \$15,940, which only \$140 came from the fire department budget.

The Mason Fire Department responded to a variety of incidents in 2001. These ranged from structure fires to grass fires, severe weather watches to a trench rescue. The average personnel responding to these incidents was 10. This is the same personnel response per incident number as last year.

The following are some examples of these responses.

1/09/2001- 275 North Aurelius Road, Aurelius Township- This fire was reported by a passerby about 7:30 PM. Our arrival showed a fully involved house fire. This was difficult to fully extinguish because multiple roofs had been added over the years trapping the fire between them. We were at this scene approximately 4 hours, with a temperature of about 20 degrees. We were assisted at the scene by Delhi Township Fire Department.

3/05/2001- 5970 Curtice Road, Aurelius Township- This was the scene of a major barn fire. The structure was approximately 85% involved upon arrival. The main focus was not only extinguishment but protecting the surrounding exposures. There were 70,000 gallons of water used, being supplied not only with our tankers but also Eaton Rapids Township, Onondaga Township and Delhi Township. These departments also provided manpower to fight the fire. There was a loss of some cattle and an outside agency was called to pull piles of hay apart for final extinguishment. Approximately 7 hours were spent at this scene.

6/12/2001 City of Leslie- The Mason Fire Department assisted Leslie at the scene of the Northside Restaurant fire. We sent a tanker, the tower and manpower to assist along with units from Dansville and Onondaga. We were at this scene roughly 5 hours.

7/11/2001- 2463 Hull Road, Vevay Township- The alarm time was 4:30AM for a fully involved house fire. Immediate assistance was requested from Leslie for a tanker, pumper and manpower and Dansville for Tanker and manpower. Delhi is requested to respond and stand by our station for response to any other calls. Soon a body was discovered next to the porch. This factor immediately turns the fire ground into a crime scene. After further investigation it was found that the victim had been murdered and the fire set. There were



approximately 26,000 gallons of water used at this fire. The department was initially at the scene 8 hours, and then returned at various times throughout the day to assist police with the investigation.

12/06/2001 Eden and Kipp Roads, City of Mason- The call reported a man buried in a trench due to collapse. Only one hand of the victim was visible upon arrival of the Mason Police Department. They immediately dug down enough to uncover his face, but he was still buried to his neck upon our arrival. Lansing and East Lansing Fire Departments were called to the scene to assist with shoring the unstable walls and extrication of the victim. The going was still slow due to unstable conditions and safety of personnel operating in the trench. The victim was removed approximately 1 ½ hours after the initial call. A helicopter transported him to a local hospital with severe leg and back injuries.

12/12/2001 528 Middlebury Street, City of Mason- Fully involved garage fire attached to the house. The fire extended into the house causing an estimated \$130,000 damage. The owner was attempting to start his car when it malfunctioned causing the fire. He then attempted to put the fire out himself before calling the fire department. This delay resulted in more damage to the structure. We were assisted by Delhi, Dansville and Leslie departments. We were at this scene approximately 4 hours and had 2 minor injuries, one burn and one back injury.



These are just a few of the 152 incidents we responded to last year. It must be noted that mutual aid was present at every major incident. Not only were the departments listed utilized, but Lansing-Mason Ambulance and Ingham County Heavy Rescue are an automatic call for any structure fire.

Of course the department is always happy to show off our equipment. We participated in the Mason Light Parade in November and the Leslie Light Parade in December. Many hours were spent putting almost 1000 lights on Tower 808. It was a truly impressive addition to both parades.



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. Also carries ice rescue equipment and the new Hurst extrication equipment.
- #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)
- L808 1973 750 G.P.M. Truck. Equipped with a 50ft ladder and can pump 750 G.P.M.
- T808 2001 Pierce 100 ft platform. Pump capacity is 2000 gallons per minute, and carries 300 gallons of water. This apparatus also has the capacity to hook a winch, a ladder and rescue basket directly to the platform.
- #809 1990 1250 G.P.M. Grumman Pumper. This is the department's workhorse. The unit has a cab that can carry 10 personnel, carries 1000gal of water and can pump 1250 G.P.M. This unit also carries some of 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. Tanker . Carries 3000gals. This unit is a tractor-trailer rig. (Also housed at station 2)

All response units are in good to excellent condition. One major repair was made to tanker 811 last year. The engine that drives the pump had to be replaced, at a cost of \$5,600. The need to replace both the 1984 tanker and the 1984 pumper will need to be addressed in the next 4 or 5 years.

This past year was again a busy one. In addition to the 2043 man hours spent at incident scenes and another 934 man hours spent at regular training, here is a list of some of the extras we do outside our regular firefighting activities.

- A large two story house on South Jefferson Street was offered to the department for training. Many months were spent using the house for search and rescue, ladder, and ventilation practices. Mason offered the house to the surrounding departments to use for their training and almost everyone took advantage of this offer. The final training exercise was a live burn in April. Individual rooms were set on fire and small groups were sent in to practice suppression skills. The day ended by burning the structure to the ground. WLNS, Channel 6 sent a film crew out and they spent the day. We actually dressed them in full turn out gear and let them fight one fire. The day they spent with us was shown on television as a four part segment about firefighting.
- Fourth of July fireworks. Much hard work goes into putting on the fireworks show every year. A few evenings are spent getting pyrotechnics fused and the day of the 4th is spent setting up, shooting and teardown.
- Several firefighters are members of the Ingham County Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team, meeting every other Tuesday. Several of us were recently certified to the technician level.
- The ice rescue team trains at least once a month from September through March.
- Fire Prevention Week Open House is an all day event. Approximately 350 people visit the station the first Saturday in October. This is an opportunity to open the station to the public and teach them about fire safety.
- Tours of the station by pre schools, cub scouts, day cares, etc are done almost weekly. With the fire safety house already set up in the station it's easy for one or two people to teach these smaller groups about fire prevention.
- The Ingham County Fire Chiefs host annual training in the fall. This years training was a weekend school bus extrication class. Several Mason Firefighters took time to attend and learn specialized rescue techniques.
- Many members belong to and are active within community organizations. Some of these organizations are Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, American Legion, community churches, local government and various youth groups.

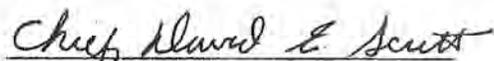
In summary, the Mason Fire Department is comprised of 31 dedicated, hard working and loyal members. There is a total of 511 years of service among these members. This is an average of 16 ½ years per person. This is a close knit family that is deeply seeped in tradition and values. The new members that were added last year have become a valuable asset to the department and the community.

The year 2001 was as I said, a tough one. My heartfelt thanks to the other city departments, especially the staff at city hall and City Administrator Marty Colburn for all the assistance these past few months. Without all of the help, this job would have been so much more difficult.

The department received many condolence letters at the time Jim was killed. I would like to end this report with a quote from one of them. It comes from an essay "So you want to be a firefighter"

"Your family becomes ours; and ours becomes yours. In our breed, you will experience a strange sense of humor, and you'll develop pride. Not boastful, bragging, cocky pride; rather an inner pride known only by those who have worn the gear. You will develop a respect for your coworkers across the nation, and their job that exists in no other profession. It is often said that firefighting gets in your blood. That's not true. If you become one of us, it gets in your heart"

Respectfully submitted, March 4, 2002


Chief David E. Scutt
Mason Fire Department