

# MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT



Station Dedication – June 15, 2002

## ANNUAL REPORT 2002

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The Mason Fire Department responded to 186 incidents in 2002. This represents an increase of 34 total responses from 2001. There was an increase of two responses in the city, an increase of seven in Aurelius Township, and an increase of 13 in Vevay Township. Of these 186 responses, 26 were mutual aid responses to our neighbors, an increase of 12 from last year.

The 2002 response numbers were:

City of Mason	91
Aurelius Township	24
Vevay Township	45
Mutual Aid	<u>26</u>
	186

The 2001 response numbers were:

City of Mason	89
Aurelius Township	17
Vevay Township	32
Mutual Aid	<u>14</u>
	152

The following is a breakdown of these incidents and totals for 2002:

City of Mason	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Structure fires	3	3
Vehicle fires	5	9
PI accidents	5	2
False alarms	25	28
(alarm systems, reported fires unable to locate)		
Carbon Monoxide alarms	6	2
Miscellaneous	28	38
(wires down, fuel leaks, odor investigations, etc.)		
Fires other	17	
(rubbish, unauthorized burning, fires out on arrival, dust collector, garden tractor, etc.)		
Wild land, grass fires	2	3
Severe weather	0	3
Trench rescue	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	91	89

Aurelius Township	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Structure fires	1	2
Vehicle fires	4	1
PI accidents	4	2
False alarms	6	0
(alarm systems, reported fires unable to locate)		
Miscellaneous	1	9
(gas leak)		
Fires other	5	1
(unauthorized burning, fires out on arrival, etc.)		
Wild land, grass fires	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	24	17
Vevay Township	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Structure fires	6	2
Vehicle fires	5	2
PI accidents	6	4
False alarms	9	10
(alarm systems, reported fires unable to locate)		
Carbon monoxide alarms	1	0
Miscellaneous	5	10
(wires down, fuel leaks, odor investigations, etc.)		
Fires other	8	0
(Illegal burning)		
Wild land, grass fires	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	45	32

The Mason Fire Department responded to a variety of incidents in 2002. These ranged from structure and vehicle fires to gas leaks to false alarms and everything in between. The average number of personnel responding to these incidents was again 10, the same as the last two years.

Over 215 actual hours were spent on the scene of these various incidents this past year. Total property losses were approximately: City of Mason \$232,775, Aurelius Township \$24,250, and Vevay Township \$344,300. These figures included not only structure fires but also vehicle fires.

The following are some examples of these responses:

**3-9-2002- 3587 W. Howell Rd., Aurelius Township-** This fire started in the crawl space at this residence. The cause was determined to be the electrical service entering the house at this point. The fire was difficult to reach because of the limited egress to this area. Damage, however, was minimal, estimated to be \$2,000. We responded to this fire with one engine, the tower, two tankers, and the squad. We were assisted by Delhi Fire Department, Mason Area Ambulance, and Ingham County Heavy Rescue.

**6-11-2002- US 127 South of Cedar St., City of Mason-** This was the scene of the largest single property loss in the City. The fire was a transport vehicle, car hauler fire. This was loaded with new vehicles being transported to dealers. The fire quickly extended from the trailer wheels and tires to fully involve four vehicles and damage two more, plus the trailer. We responded with two engines, two tankers and the squad. Time of the call was 11:50 p.m. and we were at this scene for more than 3 ½ hours. Estimated loss was approximately \$175,000.

**5-29/30-2002- Potterville-** We were asked to assist the Potterville Fire Department at the scene of a major train derailment these two days. Our main task was to stand by in full turnout gear, to serve as emergency rescue personnel for the train cleanup crews. Due to the hazardous nature of this operation and high temperatures, these rescue crews had to be rotated every 20-30 minutes. Members also served in the command post during our time there. Over 31 actual hours and 408½ man hours were spent at this scene over these two days. All wages and apparatus fees were reimbursed by Canadian National Railroad.

**6-22-2002- 2368 Coy Road, Vevay Township-** The call was for a house explosion at this location. Arrival found a stone house completely destroyed by the explosion and ensuing fire. We responded to this incident with one engine, the tower, two tankers and the squad. We were assisted by Leslie, Dansville and Delhi Fire Departments, Mason Area Ambulance and Ingham County Heavy Rescue. Approximately 33,000 gallons of water were used at this scene. We were at this scene for over 5½ hours with temperatures in the mid to high 80's.

**6-30-2002- 1345 Jackson Street, Dansville-**

We were called to assist the Dansville Fire Department at the scene of a house explosion and fire. We responded with the tower, a tanker and manpower. This fire resulted in fatal injuries to one occupant. We were at this scene from 9:50 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. the next morning.



**8-3-2002- 1355 South College Road, Vevay Township, 2:30 a.m.-** This was the scene of a well involved house fire. The structure was at least 60% involved with fire when the first apparatus arrived. Quick attack by the first firefighters saved the rest of the structure, but the damage was already done. Heat and smoke damage made this a total loss, estimated at \$95,000 to the structure and \$30,000 to the contents. The Mason Fire Department responded with one engine, the tower, two tankers and the squad. Leslie and Onondaga Fire Departments assisted with water and manpower. Approximately 6,000 gallons of water were used at this scene in the 4½ hours we were there.

**8-3-2002- 2275 Rolfe Road, Vevay Township, 2:07 p.m.-** This was another house fire. First responding apparatus found smoke and fire coming from the front north and east corner. This fire was quickly knocked down by the first attack crew. The fire was confined to the room of origin with heat and smoke damage throughout the house. Estimated loss for this fire was over \$50,000. We responded with one engine, the tower, two tankers and the squad, using approximately 1,800 gallons of water to extinguish this fire. We were assisted by Leslie, Dansville, and Delhi Fire Departments. Mason Area Ambulance was on the scene for firefighter safety and Ingham County Heavy Rescue assisted by refilling air cylinders.

These are just a few of the 186 incidents the Mason Fire Department responded to last year. Total man hours spent at these scenes was 2,616. The average man hours per scene was over 14. It must be noted that mutual aid was present at every major incident. Not only were the departments listed utilized, but Lansing-Mason Area Ambulance and Ingham County Heavy Rescue are an automatic call for any structure fire.

Current equipment inventory:

- #806 1984 1,000 GPM Grumman Pumper. Primary use is vehicle fires, grass fires, and is the secondary engine on structure fires. This apparatus carries 1,000 gallons of water and any equipment needed for any type of fire.
- #807 1984 500 GPM pumper-tanker combination. This apparatus carries 3,000 gallons of water and is our primary tanker. This unit is housed at Station 2.
- T-808 2001 Pierce 100 foot platform. Pump capacity is 2,000 GPM, and carries 300 gallons of water. This apparatus has attachments for the platform to perform rescue operations.
- #809 1990 1,250 GPM Grumman Pumper. This is still the department's workhorse. This apparatus can carry 10 personnel, carries 1,000 gallons of water and can pump 1,250 GPM. This unit is the first dispatched on mutual aid, extrication, and any structure fires.
- #810 1992 Dodge ½ ton 4 x 4 pickup truck. The primary job of this unit is brush and wild- land fires. This carries 100 gallons of water and a small pump to fight these off road fires.
- #811 500 GPM tanker. This tractor-trailer rig carries 2,800 gallons of water, and is housed at Station 2.
- #814 1992 Chevrolet ½ ton truck. This unit is used to transport the Fire Safety House and as a utility vehicle.
- #815 1992 Chevrolet. This unit is used for rehab., carries our ice rescue equipment, extrication equipment, and other special equipment, and is used to transport personnel.
- L-818 1973 Ford chassis with a 50 foot Tele-Squirt. This apparatus carries 500 gallons of water and pumps 750 GPM.
- 1999 Jeep. This vehicle was purchased from the motor pool and was a police vehicle. It is considered the command unit, and responds first to any scene.

All response units are in good to excellent condition. There were no major repairs needed on any of these vehicles this year. Both the platform, T-808 and the ladder, L-818, underwent annual ladder testing this year, and no defects were found. It should be noted, as our vehicles approach and pass the 20 year mark, the need to replace them will have to be addressed.

This past year was a busy one. Not only were over 2,600 man hours spent at various incident scenes but another 1,275 man hours were spent at regular Friday night training meetings.

The officer staff remained the same as last year: Chief David Scutt, Assistant Chief Kerry Minshall, Captain Mark Howe, Lieutenant Mike Buckner, and Lieutenant Steven Armstrong.

The Assistant Chief, Captain and both Lieutenants spent six weekends in Fire Officer Classes this past year. These classes started in 2001 and will end in March of 2003. When completed, they will be State Certified 1 and 2 Fire Officers. This was a long, time-consuming commitment they made, not only to themselves but to the department.

Last year the Board of Officers implemented 12 mandatory training subjects. These subjects ranged from ice rescue, confined space rescue, self-contained breathing apparatus, water supply, apparatus placement, rapid intervention teams, etc. If a member missed a mandatory training session it had to be made up. If these sessions were not made up in a six month period the member would be placed on suspension. In all of last year no member fell behind enough this discipline needed to be implemented

This year we had one individual, Brian Ball, travel to New Mexico to attend a bomb school. This was a four day class that was sponsored by and paid for with federal money. This was a Train-the-Trainer School, and when Brian returned he taught a class, not only to the fire department but also to the police department.

Two officers, Captain Howe and Lieutenant Armstrong, attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland for a weekend class, dealing with wild fires.

Again this year a house was offered to the department for live fire training. The house, located on West Howell Road, was used for a Saturday morning training session. Other area departments were asked to participate in this training that covered rescuing a downed firefighter, water supply, and extinguishing room and content fires. WLNS participated again this year with us and turned this training session into a four part series shown on television.

Our Fourth of July Fireworks program was another success this year. Under the direction of Assistant Chief Minshall this program continues to draw crowds from everywhere. Many hours are spent putting this show on for the community, and many positive comments are forwarded to the department each year.

The Fire Prevention program continues to flourish under the direction of Engineer Bob Woodland. With much participation from the whole department family, the Fire Prevention Open House in October is a huge hit with the community. In 2002, over 600 people visited the station during this Saturday.

During the year there are many school groups and scout groups that tour the station during the week. Bob always finds time to host them and give them fire prevention tips. During the school year fire prevention material is taken to every school, grades K through 5. This task also falls on Bob's shoulders.

On June 15th, the fire station was dedicated as the Chief James M. Pelton Memorial Fire Station. This was a fitting tribute to Chief Pelton and the Pelton family. This dedication ceremony was attended by many from the community and surrounding fire departments.

On September 11 the department opened its doors to the community in an event called "Mason Cares". The response was overwhelming - over 200 people arrived throughout the day to show their appreciation to the fire department. They washed and waxed the vehicles, painted, and did general cleanup around the station. This was a great opportunity to have the citizens become a part of their fire department. Many of the members took time off work to be here that day and work with these people.

In October, eight department members, plus the Pelton family, traveled to Washington, D.C. to the annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, where Chief Pelton was honored along with 446 fallen firefighters from 2001. Saturday night we attended a memorial service at the Basilica, Sunday was the "Walk of Honor" down Constitution Avenue, and the main ceremony held at the MCI Building.

The Mason Fire Department's Honor Guard, under the leadership of Engineer Norm Austin, participated in both the "Walk of Honor" and the ceremony at the MCI Building.

This was truly a remarkable, awe inspiring, and humbling weekend.

In October we added two trainees to the roster. One, Scott Etzel, came to us from Scio Township Fire Department, and the other, Andrué Combs, has no fire fighting experience. He immediately started schooling to attain his firefighting one and two certification.

In November we said goodbye to Don Evans who retired after serving the community and the fire department for 35 years.

I've mentioned a few members by name, and just want to note that every member of this department participates in these extra activities, with little or no recognition from anyone but their peers.



I am very honored and privileged to be the Fire Chief of the Mason Fire Department. This department is composed of an outstanding and talented officer staff. In addition, the department is extremely fortunate to have dedicated and well-trained engineers, firefighters, and support members who give so much to their community.

2002 found the Mason Fire Department serving the Mason community for 135 years. The department is steeped in tradition, but looks eagerly to the future.

Respectfully submitted March 3, 2003

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Chief David Scutt

### Mason Fire Department 2002 Response Numbers

<u>Response Type</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
City of Mason	89	91
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Vevay Township	32	45
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<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>186</b>

