

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT
2003

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The Mason Fire Department responded to 163 incidents in 2003. This represents a decrease of 23 responses from 2002. There was a decrease of 16 responses in the city, a decrease of 10 to Vevay Township but an increase of 4 responses to Aurelius Township. Mutual aid responses to assist our neighbors declined 1 in 2003 to 25.

The 2003 response numbers were:

City of Mason	75
Aurelius Township	28
Vevay Township	35
Mutual Aid	<u>25</u>
	163

The 2002 response numbers were:

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

The following is a breakdown of incidents and totals for 2003:

City of Mason	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Structure fires	4	3
Vehicle fires	3	5
PI accidents	1	5
False alarms (alarm systems, reported fires unable to locate)	26	25
Carbon Monoxide alarms	5	6
Miscellaneous (wires down, fuel leaks, odor investigations, etc.)	30	28
Fires other (rubbish, unauthorized burning, fires out on arrival, etc.)	4	17
Wild land, grass fires	0	2
Severe weather	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	75	91

In 2003, within the City of Mason there were 48.5 actual hours spent at these 75 scenes. The property loss was approximately \$155,600 for all incidents, a decrease from \$232,775 in 2002. This includes structure, contents, and vehicle losses. An average of 11.8 firefighters responded to these incidents, an increase from 10 in 2002. The average response time from tone to on scene was 5.38 minutes, a decrease from 5.56 minutes in 2002.

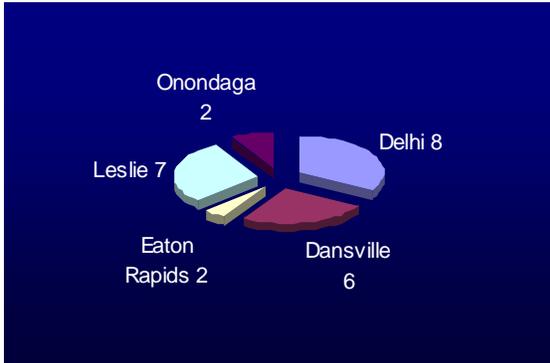
Aurelius Township	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Structure fires	9	1
Vehicle fires	0	4
PI accidents	4	4
False alarms	6	6
(alarm systems, reported fires unable to locate)		
Carbon Monoxide alarms	1	0
Miscellaneous	5	1
(wires down, fuel leaks, odor investigations, etc.)		
Fires other	2	5
(rubbish, unauthorized burning, fires out on arrival, etc.)		
Wild land, grass fires	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	28	24

In 2003, within Aurelius Township, there were 38 actual hours spent at these 28 scenes. The property loss was approximately \$280,200 for all incidents, a significant increase from \$24,250, in 2002. This includes structure, contents, and vehicle losses. An average of 14 firefighters responded to these incidents, an increase from 11.6 in 2002. The average response time from tone to on scene was 9.04 minutes, a decrease from 10.54 minutes in 2002.

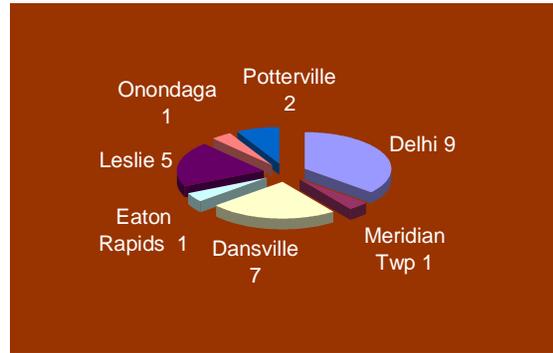
Vevay Township	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Structure fires	1	6
Vehicle fires	3	5
PI accidents	4	6
False alarms	10	9
(alarm systems, reported fires unable to locate)		
Carbon Monoxide alarms	2	1
Miscellaneous	4	5
(wires down, fuel leaks, odor investigations, etc.)		
Fires other	4	8
(rubbish, unauthorized burning, fires out on arrival, etc.)		
Wild land, grass fires	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	35	45

In 2003, within Vevay Township, there were 32.25 actual hours spent at these 35 scenes. The property loss was approximately \$27,400 for all incidents, a significant decrease from \$344,300 in 2002. This includes structure, contents, and vehicle losses. An average of 13.5 firefighters responded to these incidents, an increase from 10.6 in 2002. The average response time from tone to on scene was 8.06 minutes, a decrease from 9.98 minutes in 2002.

MUTUAL AID

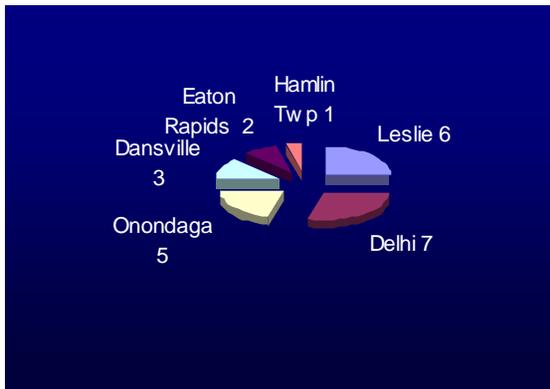


2003 Given

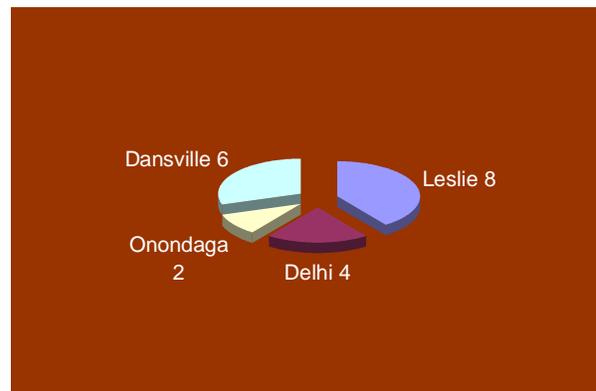


2002 Given

Mutual aid response continues to be a way we help our neighbors and they help us. In 2003, there were 50.27 actual hours spent at these 25 scenes, a decrease from 80.5 hours in 2002. (It is noted these 80.5 hours include 31.5 hours spent over two days at the Potterville Train Derailment incident.) An average of 11.2 firefighters responded to these incidents, an increase from 10.34 in 2002.



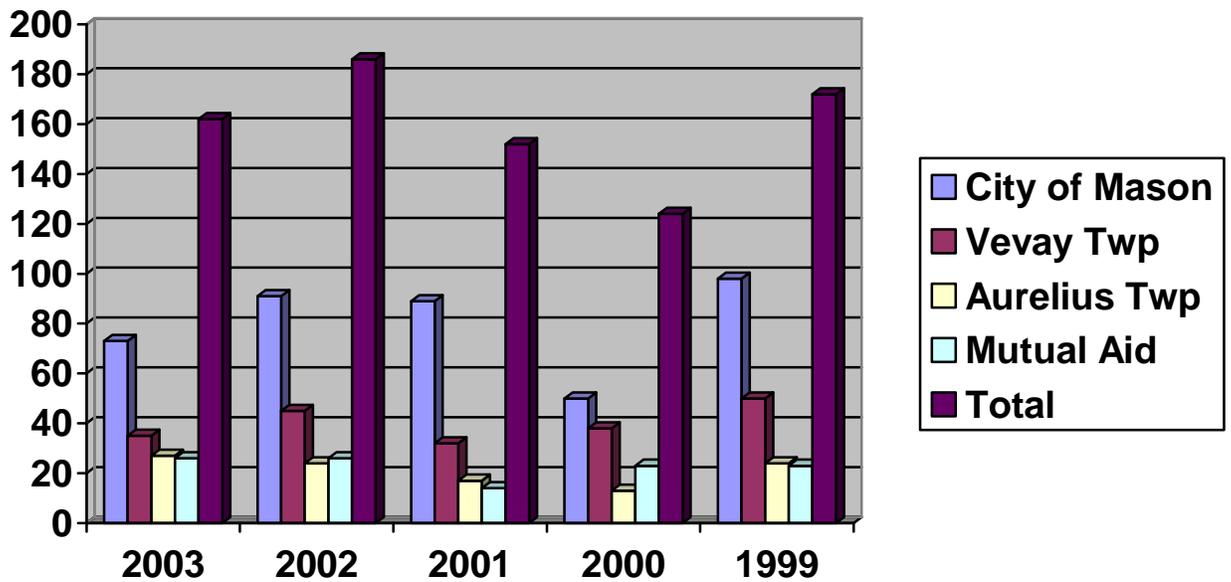
2003 Received



2002 Received

Major events dictate when mutual aid is needed. Property loss and firefighter injuries would both increase without the use of mutual aid. We receive as well as give mutual aid. In 2003 mutual aid was received 24 times from neighboring departments, an increase of 4 from 2002.

The following chart represents a five year average of responses.



**Mason Fire Department
Structure Fire Analysis
2003**

Date	Address	Structure Type	Loss*
1/12/03	948 S. Cedar St	Apartment	\$25,000
1/18/03	3625 Lyon Rd**	Out Building	\$1,700
2/4/03	4445 W. Columbia Rd**	Dwelling	\$32,500
2/8/03	432 E. Ash St	Dwelling	\$2,500
2/24/03	433 W. Ash St	Dwelling	\$100,000
3/4/03	5351 W. Columbia Rd**	Dwelling	\$50,000
3/4/03	101 S. Ives Rd***	Dwelling	\$17,500
4/7/03	4536 Barnes Rd**	Dwelling	\$6,000
4/16/03	1915 S. Edgar Rd**	Dwelling	\$55,000
5/10/03	4196 W. Columbia Rd**	Dwelling	\$10,000
5/29/03	3543 Kipp Rd**	Dwelling	\$83,500
8/16/03	4047 W. Columbia Rd**	Out Building	\$30,000
8/19/03	3988 Barnes Rd**	Out Building	\$3,500
10/29/03	305 Ann St	Garage	\$25,000

*Loss includes contents **Aurelius Township ***Vevay Township

TRAINING

In 2003, approximately 2,100 man hours were spent at the scenes of various incidents. In addition, approximately 1,150 man hours were spent at regularly scheduled Friday night training sessions. Along with the training sessions, many hours were spent on additional training during the week and often on weekends. There is always something going on for the firefighters to participate in. Examples include training burns, Ingham County Haz Mat Team members that meet the first and third Thursdays, and various Saturdays, Ingham County Tanker Task Force that meets and practices on a regular schedule, Ice Rescue, Fire Prevention activities, Honor Guard activities and practice, etc.

In May 2003, the Mason Fire Department hosted a Firefighter Survival Class. This intense four module class was held on a Saturday and Sunday. This was the first time this type of training was conducted in the area. We have always done extensive training on rescuing citizens and how firefighters working as a team can rescue firefighters in trouble, but this training taught firefighters how to rescue themselves and survive when things go bad.



Module 1: SCBA Emergencies

Firefighters were taught how to survive a breathing apparatus failure, air conservation, out of air emergencies, removal from entanglement, and being lost or disoriented in a structure.



Module 2: Collapse

Firefighters were taught how to survive a floor collapsing on them, communications, void space maneuvers, low profile maneuvers, improvised shoring, and hose slide.



Module 3: Fire Floor Operations

This module included first floor window escape, second floor window escape, hose slide escape, second floor ladder escape, and upper window rope escape.



Module 4: Working Above the Fire

How to arrest their slide on a rooftop utilizing tools at hand; falling through a floor arrest, ascending hose lines, bridging an open space, repelling from a roof top, and wall climbing are all activities the firefighters had to master before leaving this module.

At the end of class on Sunday there were a lot of bruised and very tired firefighters. They all agreed that the knowledge they gained far outweighed their physical discomfort.

In addition to our own firefighters there were members from Onondaga and Delhi. This training is so unique that four firefighters flew in from Miami-Dade Fire Department and one from Detroit Fire Department also joined us. Firefighter Leon Clark was instrumental in bringing this program to Mason, with program funding through a grant from MSU.



Again this year the fire department was offered a house to train with and eventually burn. This house was used for many practice sessions teaching search and rescue, ventilation, rapid intervention, forcible entry, hose line placement, and water supply.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2003

This year a recreational burn permit ordinance was implemented in the city. This allowed residences to have small campfires in their yards. The permit is valid for one calendar year and cost \$25. Approximately 56 of these permits were issued in 2003.

The annual fireworks show continues to draw crowds from near and far. This program is a very popular event that culminates the day's activities celebrating the Fourth of July. Many hours are spent by fire department pyrotechnic personnel to make it the continued success it is.

The Walk of Honor was completed this year. This brick walkway connects the upper and lower parking lots at the Chief James M. Pelton Memorial Fire Station. Every member that has served the Mason Fire Department for five years or more has a brick with their name and service date. The earliest dates are from the 1920's. Many members spent considerable time planning and working on this project. It is a very fitting, permanent record of those who have served the City of Mason and the Mason Fire Department.



The second annual Mason Cares event was held on September 11th. Over 250 people from the community participated in this event. They arrived ready to work. All our apparatus were washed and waxed plus police and heavy rescue vehicles. Community businesses and citizens donated materials, time, food, and money to make this a huge success. Many members took time from their regular jobs to participate.

In September, Chief Scutt traveled to the National Fire Academy in Maryland for a 48 hour course in Advanced Safety Operations and Management. This six-day course was directed toward personnel with health and safety responsibilities within their department and focused on strategies to manage the risks associated with all fire department operations.

In October four members from the Department Honor Guard traveled to Emmitsburg, Maryland, home of the National Fire Academy, to participate in the annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend. This special event brings together families and fire departments that have lost a firefighter in the line of duty the previous year. This is the second time the Honor Guard has participated in this solemn ceremony. This trip was sponsored by the Mason Firefighters Association.



The annual Fire Prevention Open House continues to be a great success. This is held every year in October in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week. Approximately 500 adults and children were in attendance this year. They are given very important fire safety information to help them prevent fires and escape their homes in the event of fire.

Assistant Chief Minshall, Captain Howe, and Lieutenants Buckner and Armstrong were all certified by the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council to Fire Officer III. At this time this is the highest Fire Officer Certification offered in Michigan. They each spent approximately 288 hours on weekends to attain this certification. This was a huge commitment that has spanned approximately two years.

In December, Chief Scutt attained certification for Fire Inspection from NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency). This consisted of 80 hours of classroom training in Roscommon on weekends and a 4 hour written test. After this was completed 7 inspections were required before certification was granted. A fire inspection program will be instituted in the city in 2004.

PERSONNEL

This year we had several changes in personnel. Those leaving the department for various reasons were Jeff Nash, Tom Sherwood, Blaine Anderson, Dennis Novello, and Ben Hiebert. The new members who are in trainee status and have a one year probation period are Dan Kennedy, Jeff Nock, Scott Preadmore, Paul Tuttle, and Matt Wood. We welcome these new members to our organization

Honorary Firefighters Stan Jordan and Larry Howe continue to be intricate parts in our organization. Stan is our radio person at the station while we're operating at scenes and assists by doing our monthly SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) checks. Stan additionally repairs our small equipment. Larry is the person who does anything we ask of him. He assists at almost every practice in some form, from helping to set up various scenarios to refilling SCBA cylinders. Larry also works at almost every incident by running our firefighter rehab.



On December 14th, 2003, Engineer Dennis Whipple was named as the Firefighter of the Year. Over the 40 years he has served, Dennis has been instrumental in saving two of his fellow firefighters and sustained severe injuries at the Mason Elevator fire. In 2003, he spearheaded the Walk of Honor at the fire station. Dennis has always done the job with little or no recognition. We wish to congratulate Dennis on this well deserved honor.

MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ROSTER

David Scutt, Chief (24 yrs)

Kerry Minshall, Assistant Chief (23 yrs)

Mark Howe, Captain (21 yrs)

Michael Buckner, 1st Lieutenant (15 yrs)

Stephen Armstrong, 2nd Lieutenant (29 yrs)

Jerry Adams, Firefighter (16 yrs)
Brian Ball, Firefighter (3 yrs)
Leon Clark, Firefighter (24 yrs)
Andrue Combs, Firefighter (1 yr)
Scott Etzel, Firefighter (1 yr)
Dennis Howe, Firefighter (25 yrs)
Jim Jones, Firefighter (16 yrs)
Larry Martin, Firefighter (28 yrs)
Art Moul, Firefighter (9 yrs)
Rob Ottke, Firefighter (3 yrs)
Dave Reid, Firefighter (8 yrs)
John Sabbadin, Firefighter (8 yrs)
Debra Scutt, Firefighter (18 yrs)
Aaron Smith, Firefighter (3 yrs)

Norman Austin, Engineer (31 yrs)
Jim Hays, Engineer (20 yrs)
Don Gailey, Engineer (14 yrs)
Leon Langridge, Engineer (19 yrs)
Don Parsons, Engineer (25 yrs)
Dennis Whipple, Engineer (40 yrs)
Russ Whipple, Engineer (14 yrs)
Bob Woodland, Engineer (8 yrs)

Dan Kennedy, Trainee
Jeff Nock, Trainee
Scott Preadmore, Trainee
Paul Tuttle, Trainee
Matt Wood, Trainee

APPARATUS



Tower 808 is a 2000 Pierce Dash 100 foot platform. It is powered by a 500hp Cummings diesel, with a 2000 gallon per minute pump. This unit is second out for any structure fires. It has an AMPS 10k hydraulic generator, 300 gallon water tank, a full compliment of ground ladders, and 1,000 feet of large diameter supply line. The cab will hold 6 personnel and has air supplied to the platform.



Engine 809 is a 1990 Grumman with a 1250 gallon per minute pump. This engine carries 1,000 gallons of water and 1,000 feet of large diameter supply line. This engine is the first out for any structure fire and vehicle fires during inclement weather. This engine has seating for 8 in an enclosed cab. This unit also carries some extrication equipment to respond to vehicle accidents.



Engine 806 is a 1984 Grumman with a 1000 gallon per minute pump and a 1,000 gallon water tank. This engine is the first out for vehicle fires during good weather and third out for structure fires. We can carry 5 personnel, three in the open back and two in the cab.



Tanker 807 is a 1984 3,000 gallon apparatus with a 500 gallon per minute pump on a Ford chassis. This tanker is housed at Station 2 on Curtis Street. It is the first tanker out when water is needed in the townships. This tanker is also part of the Ingham County Tanker Task Force and will go anywhere in Ingham County or the eastern part of Eaton County if needed.



Tanker 811 is a 1983 International tractor with a 2,800 gallon 1947 water tank. It carries a 650 gallon per minute pump driven by its own diesel engine. There has been a lot of hard work done on this unit by our own members to make this a very dependable tanker. This is second tanker out for water supply in the townships.



Ladder 818 is a 1973 Joyce on a Ford Chassis. This apparatus started out as an engine and in 1980 a 50 foot Snorkel was added. Ladder 818 has a 750 gallon per minute pump and carries 300 gallons of water. This is considered a reserve unit, but is still maintained and in service for response.



Brush 810 is a 1993 Dodge four wheel drive pick-up with a 100 gallon water tank and a 9 gallon per minute pump. This unit is used only for brush and wild land fires. Equipment carried includes portable water back packs, brooms, pitch forks, shovels, and a 5,000 lb winch and brush guard.



Squad 815 is a 1992 Chevrolet 3500 with an ambulance type box. This unit is used to haul specialty equipment such as Surface Ice Rescue, Hurst Extrication Equipment, and Confined Space Rescue Equipment. We also carry extra air cylinders to be used at fire incidents. This unit responds to every working fire with extra personnel, is used at the scene for firefighter rehab, and responds first to any vehicle pin in accident.



The Command Vehicle is a 1999 Jeep. This started out as a police vehicle and when it was retired the fire department bought it from the motor pool. This unit responds directly to the fire scene and Incident Command is established and directed out of this vehicle.



814 is a 1989 Chevrolet pick-up. This vehicle belonged to the Department of Public Works. This unit was acquired to pull the Fire Safety House to various locations and is used for other fire prevention duties.

The apparatus fleet continues to be in fair to excellent condition. Ladder 818 needed over \$2,800 in repairs this year. The clutch and flywheel had to be replaced and some engine work was done. Parts for this unit are extremely hard to find adding to the cost of repairs.

Other repairs:

Tanker 807- Primer valve and rebuild kit, \$446.
Rebuild tank to pump and main drain valves, \$537.
Repair electrical problems, \$625.

Engine 806- Rebuild pump valves and replace pump packing, \$961.

Engine 809- Rebuild pressure relief valve system, \$607.
Replace brake air line, \$605.

The 3,000 gallon water tank on 807 continues to have a leaking problem. This has been an ongoing problem caused by pin holes rusting through. This problem has been addressed at least three times in the past, with the problem reoccurring. It is time to look into replacing this tank in the near future.

Tower 808, and the Ladder 818, underwent annual ladder testing this year with no defects found. Engines 809 and 806 and Tower 808 underwent annual certified pump testing this year, and no defects were found.

Engine 806 and Tanker 807 reach the 20 year mark this year. Replacing tanker 807 and moving it to back up status is closer to becoming a reality. Ladder 818 should be sold if not needed for ISO rating, as will be determined in 2004.

SUMMARY

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many dedicated members of the Mason Fire Department for their generous donations of time and effort, and their willingness to respond whenever called upon, and the families for their continued support.

For all the assistance that has been provided by the Mason Police, the Ingham County Sheriffs Office, Ingham County Heavy Rescue, Mason Area Ambulance, the Department of Public Works, and the rest of the City Staff, I would also like to say "Thank You".

Respectfully submitted February 2, 2004

Chief David Scutt