Message from the Fire Chief

It is my pleasure to present the Spring Lake Fire Department 2018 Annual Report. Within this report, you will find response statistics, division reports and summary of various activities we participated in throughout the 2018 calendar year.

As the Spring Lake area continues to have considerable growth, this also reflects in our overall call volume. Our call volume is up 18% from 10 years ago and up 9% over the last 5 years. We continue to monitor the area trends and adjust our operational and capital needs in a proactive way through our strategic plan.

On behalf of the men and women of the Spring Lake Fire Department, I would like to thank the elected officials from Spring Lake Township and Village of Spring Lake, as well as, the entire community in the continued support of our mission in protecting this community.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Sipe
Fire Chief
Vision Statement

The Spring Lake Fire Department is recognized as providing excellent service by being effective, efficient and safe.

Mission Statement

The Spring Lake Fire Department is committed to providing a high level of service to the citizens, workers, and visitors of Spring Lake Township and the Village of Spring Lake. We protect lives and preserve property through fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire prevention, public education, and disaster management.

Values

Safety

We strive to protect the lives and well-being of our members and community.

Professionalism

We are dedicated, compassionate, and act with integrity.

Respect

We will treat everyone with dignity and empathy.

Innovation

We are open to new ideas and positive change.
Spring Lake Fire Department
Organizational Chart

Brian Sipe
Fire Chief

Pam Suchecki
Admin. Asst.

Jim Koster
Deputy Chief of Administration

John Stalzer
Deputy Chief Of Operations

Scott Smith
Captain
Station 2

Steve Bruneau
Captain
Station 1

Pete Eliopulos
Lieutenant
Station 2

Matt Dilley
Lieutenant
Station 1

Firefighters
Firefighters
Firefighters
Firefighters
Incident Type

- 827, 75%
- 189, 17%
- 37, 3%
- 33, 3%

- Fire
- EMS/Rescue
- Hazardous Condition
- Assist to Citizens
- Good Intent Call
Spring Lake Fire Department

2018 Annual Report

Incident Percentages by District

- West of Bridge: 40%
- East of Bridge: 35%
- Village: 21%
- Mutual Aid: 4%

Incidents Totals by District

- **2014**: 959 Total
  - Out of District: 235
  - Township: 680
  - Village: 221
- **2015**: 993 Total
  - Out of District: 221
  - Township: 719
  - Village: 221
- **2016**: 1079 Total
  - Out of District: 48
  - Township: 802
  - Village: 229
- **2017**: 1111 Total
  - Out of District: 55
  - Township: 792
  - Village: 254
- **2018**: 1110 Total
  - Out of District: 49
  - Township: 825
  - Village: 236
Incidents By Days Of Week

- Sunday: 165
- Monday: 175
- Tuesday: 152
- Wednesday: 169
- Thursday: 142
- Friday: 140
- Saturday: 167

Incidents By Time Of Day

- 12:00am: 39
- 1:00am: 37
- 2:00am: 21
- 3:00am: 22
- 4:00am: 23
- 5:00am: 30
- 6:00am: 37
- 7:00am: 44
- 8:00am: 57
- 9:00am: 66
- 10:00am: 70
- 11:00am: 53
- 12:00pm: 46
- 1:00pm: 75
- 2:00pm: 70
- 3:00pm: 71
- 4:00pm: 64
- 5:00pm: 62
- 6:00pm: 45
- 7:00pm: 44
- 8:00pm: 41
- 9:00pm: 46
- 10:00pm: 29
Firefighter of the Year

This year’s Firefighter of the Year recipient is James Absher. James has demonstrated to be a proven leader and exemplifies our departments Core Values.

James has been with our department for over 3 years and has certifications as Firefighter I & II, Hazmat Operations, Basic EMT and is a mentor in our New Firefighter Orientation Program.

Fire Academy

This year we had two recruits complete the Ottawa County Fire Academy, Jon Fogel and Whitney Zenker. Jon is a Basic EMT and Whitney is a Paramedic. We look forward to their addition to the department and opportunity to serve our community.
Retirement

After 30 years of dedicated service to the Spring Lake Fire Department and our community, Don Zwart retired. Thank you for your commitment and making a difference in our department and within the community.

Fire Station Awards

We were awarded LEED Gold for our newly constructed Fire Station #1 located at 106 N. Fruitport Rd. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), is a program for buildings, homes and communities that are designed, constructed, maintained and operated for improved environmental and human health performance.

To achieve LEED Gold, we implemented various items aimed at achieving high performance in: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. Part of the design includes 149 solar panels that are installed on the roof over the apparatus bays and off sets approximately 60% of the buildings power consumption. Fire Station #1 is only the second fire station in the State of Michigan to obtain a LEED Gold Certification.

In November, our Station #1 was honored by the U.S. Green Building Council of West Michigan as the highest rated LEED Gold commercial building in 2018. This rating is based on high-performing design and energy-efficient features that will provide a quick return on investment.

Accepting the 2018 Certified Green Public Building Award from L to R: Fire Chief Brian Sipe, Township Supervisor John Nash, Township Manager Gordon Gallagher and Project Architect Tom Smith.
ISO Rating

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) periodically evaluates all communities and areas that have public fire protection to assure that existing fire protection is available to individual property owners. This insurance classification number is one of several elements used in developing property insurance premium calculations for many individual properties in our service area. The last survey for Spring Lake Township and Village was in 2012, which resulted in a Class 5 rating. This year ISO re-evaluated our current rating and after much coordinated efforts over the last six years, we were able to achieve a Class 4 rating. This new rating puts our communities in the top 15 percent statewide with a Class 4 rating or below.
Equipment and Maintenance
Jim Koster
Deputy Chief of Administration

Truck Fleet and Equipment

This year we did not add any new vehicles to our fleet and were able to adjust our equipment to fit the needs of our growing Department. Additions to our part time staffing, responses to fire and other emergencies have added to the use of our truck fleet. The new truck purchased last year, is working out well and filled the needs of our personnel. Next year we are looking forward to replacing the current 1770 with a new vehicle to fit in better with our medical and command operations. This year we also reviewed the turnout gear specification for design and technology improvements, protection from the heat of a fire and evaporative cooling needs for protection from overheating. We decided to go with Innotex turnout gear to meet our needs.

1721, 1722

The majority of our repair costs continue to go into these two vehicles. As they age, we will continue to spend more money to maintain them. We continue to do a yearly preventive maintenance and to spot and fix problems before they become downtime issues but valves, pump primers and heating and cooling issues will continue to rise throughout the next few years. The drivetrains and pumps are in good shape and should continue to serve the department into the future.

1723

Our newest pumper continues to work out well as our lead pumper and has been free of major maintenance problems. The service from the manufacturer continues to be exceptional and the truck is fitting in and meeting the needs of department. The warranty time has passed and we have added this vehicle to our preventive maintenance program. We have not experienced any major repairs.

1771

This rescue truck continues to be quite problem free. We are not experiencing any drivetrain problems or major body problems. Our plans still are to replace 1771 when we replace 1722 with a new rescue pumper.

1770, 1772, 1773, 1774

These vehicles continue to be the work horses for the Department, responding to the majority of our runs. 1770 continues to burn oil, and will need to have new tires soon. 1770 is slated for replacement this year. We are currently working on a specification for this truck. 1772, 1773 and 1774 have been problem free except for normal maintenance.
Maintenance and Equipment Continued...

**SCBA** The new SCBA’s are working as expected, we just finished the second year of our five year pre-paid maintenance plan. This year was the first year that parts were not covered by warranty and we have started to spend some money for parts that have worn out. The purchase of the SCBA continues to be a good investment.

**New Radios** All of the fire and police agencies in Ottawa County will be moving to an 800 MHz system. All of our truck portables have been changed out to the 800 MHz units and most of the mobile units have been installed. We are still using VHF at this time but we expect in the next year to be able to switch over to the 800 MHz system completely. The fire paging system will continue on VHF.
## Major Expense Items for 2018

### 1721
- Yearly PM and service: $1,501.13
- Pump Test: $230.00
- Rebuild pump valves and pump primer: $1,374.55
- Repair of air conditioning unit: $2,334.21

### 1722
- Yearly PM and service: $2,583.41
- Pump Test: $230.00
- Primer motor: $376.66

### 1723
- Yearly PM and service: $623.45
- Pump Test: $230.00

### 1771
- Yearly PM and service: $735.00
- Replacement of taillights: $320.44

### 1770
- New battery: $168.95
- LOF: $101.00
- Tire Repair: $25.00
- Headlight repair: $96.30

### 1772
- LOF: $50.50
- Repair Cargo lighting: $120.00

### 1773
- New Battery: $168.95
- LOF and flasher switch: $50.50
- Emergency lighting repair: $305.00

### 1774
- LOF and rotate tires: $140.00
- LOF: $50.50
- Emergency lighting and radios installation: $6,458.56
**Major Expense Items for 2018...**

**1782**  
LOF flasher switch replacement  $160.00

**Breathing Air Compressor**  
Air test and perform test  $570.69  
Air test and perform test  $572.20

**Outdoor Warning Sirens**  
Siren repair  $1,424.05

**Fire Hose and Ground Ladder Testing**  
Annual Testing  $3,130.25

**Turnout Gear**  
Boots  $602.98  
Helmets  $330.14  
Turnout Gear  $8,680.05  
Leather fronts  $803.37  
Hoods  $246.00  
Extrication gloves  $1,217.00  
Structural Fire gloves  $370.09

**Hazmat Team**  
Hazmat Costs  $654.00

**Training Trailer**  
DOT Inspection  $391.68

**SCBA**  
Parts and Labor  $842.40
### Vehicle Replacement Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apparatus #</th>
<th>Vehicle Year</th>
<th>Vehicle Type</th>
<th>Replacement Year</th>
<th>Expected Life Span</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1721</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>2027</td>
<td>20 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1722</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>20 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1723</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>2037</td>
<td>20 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1770</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>10 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1771</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Rescue</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1772</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Pickup Truck</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>10 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1773</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Pickup Truck</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>10 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1782</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Brush Truck</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15 Years</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Training

John Stalzer
Deputy Chief of Operations

Spring Lake Fire Department’s commitment to innovation is lived out every day through the encouragement and support of training programs. This year that commitment was enhanced through the inception of a training committee, the reorganization of department training, and by the full commitment to the Blue Card Command system of running Operations.

The training committee consists of five members and is staffed by the Lieutenant and one Firefighter from each station. These include:

- John Stalzer, Deputy Chief, Operations (Chair)
- Matt Dilley, Lieutenant Station 1
- Pete Eliopoulos, Lieutenant Station 2
- James Absher, Firefighter Station 1 (leaving this spring due to job requirements)
- Scott Hemmelsbach, Firefighter Station 2

This committee is tasked with assisting the Operations Chief in researching training requirements, planning department trainings, streamlining training operations and seeking out industry innovation. This group has already made a large impact on the quality of training and will continue to be an asset in the future.

One of the first challenges taken on by the training committee was to increase the number of training hours for in house training and ensure that every member is hearing a consistent message. This was accomplished by doubling the monthly training opportunities offered to personnel and by creating a consistent format between both stations. Currently, the first Monday of each month focuses on individual and station teamwork. The third Monday then builds on concepts discussed earlier and supports it through department level operation practicals. Although we are early in this process, the response has been favorable.

Over the last two years, Spring Lake Fire Department has researched, trained and become fully vested in running emergency operations under the concepts of Blue Card Command. This concept requires each potential leader to become proficient in a series of basic skills that create a consistency in thinking, analyzation and patterns of execution. The initial training involves a self paced fifty (50) hour online class followed up by a three (3) testing phase. During the testing phase, personnel take turns leading (or following) in scenarios geared to promote consistent leadership and consistent outcomes. The commitment to this training will continue and training will plan a large role in getting members involved in
Training Continued ...

initial training, continuing education and recertification. This year’s in house training included:

- MIOSHA Safety
- Ice Rescue
- Blue Card Deployment and Communication
- Fire Streams
- Water Supply
- Ground Ladders
- Hazardous Materials
- New Radio Training
- Fire Suppression
- Fire Protection Systems

Medical training occurs each month and consist of topics geared to meet the State of Michigan's continuing medical educations requirement. This year included:

- Ambulance Operations
- Obstetrics
- AutoPulse Training (CPR assist device)
- Peds Trauma / Shock
- Updated EMS Protocol Review
- Mass Casualty Triage
- Airway Management
- Cardiac issues

In the commitment for self innovations, personnel continue to complete state certified training programs to increase their knowledge and kill. These include:

- Blue Card Certification
- Drivers Training Certification
- Firefighter I/II
- Fire Officer I/II
- Fire Inspection Ongoing Education
- Hazardous Materials Ongoing Education
- Basic EMT Certification

Through our team's commitment to embrace innovation, they have accumulated over 2600 combined hours of training on 2018. This commitment has allowed Spring lake Fire Department to provide a high level of service and increase the safety of our residents and visitors.
Fire Prevention

Fire Investigations

Inspections

Plan Reviews
### Fire Prevention School Visits 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th># OF ADULTS</th>
<th># OF CHILDREN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holmes Elementary School</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinderkirk &amp; St Mathews Preschool</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Lake Library</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s Preschool</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Hills Preschool</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Hills Elementary School</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Lakers Preschool</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>145</strong></td>
<td><strong>829</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Public Education 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th># of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACE Hardware</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Prevention Open House</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community CPR</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>GH Stamped Products Health &amp; Safety Fair</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American House Family Day</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Run Neighborhood Picnic</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS Helen DeVos Tailgate Fundraiser</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station Visits</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLHS Mock PI</td>
<td>415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weiss Chiropractic Anniversary Community Celebration</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighboring Fire Prevention Openhouses</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2147</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Involvement 2018

Ace Hardware Fire Prevention Community Event  
American House Grandparents Day  
Boy/Girl Scout Station Visits  
Coast Guard Kids Parade  
Coast Guard Grand Parade  
Coast Guard Fireworks  
Community CPR Classes  
Cool School Fund Raiser  
Crusade for Toys  
4th of July Fireworks  
Grand Haven Stamp Products Health & Safety Fair  
Heritage Festival Family Fun Night  
Junior Achievement Job Shadow  
Lake Hills Food Basket Delivery  
Little Lakers Station Visit  
Memorial Day Parade  
Mom’s Club Station Visit  
Neighboring Communities’ Fire Prevention Open Houses  
River Run Neighborhood Picnic  
Shields of Hope  
SLHS Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Tailgate Fundraiser  
SLHS Mock Car Crash  
Water Ball Competition  
Weiss Chiropractic Anniversary Celebration  
Wildwood Springs Community Event
## Personnel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Years of Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brian Sipe</td>
<td>Chief/Paramedic</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Koster</td>
<td>Deputy Chief/EMT</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Stalzer</td>
<td>Deputy Chief/EMT</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Smith</td>
<td>Captain/EMT</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Bruneau</td>
<td>Captain/EMT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thea Dornbush</td>
<td>Lieutenant/EMT</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Dilley</td>
<td>Lieutenant/Paramedic</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Absher</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travis Babcock</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Bennink</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katrina Beyer</td>
<td>Firefighter/Paramedic</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Bloomquist</td>
<td>Firefighter/Paramedic</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Bytwerk</td>
<td>Firefighter/MFR</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>JP DeLass</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
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<td>Kurt Dilley</td>
<td>Firefighter/Paramedic</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Donselar</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troy Edmondson</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pete Eliopulos</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Fogel</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curt Haaksma</td>
<td>Medical Coordinator/Firefighter/RN</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Scott Hemmelsbach</td>
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<td>Dave Hudson</td>
<td>Firefighter/Paramedic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Jackson</td>
<td>Probationary FF</td>
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<td>Brendon O’Hara</td>
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<td>Jeff Olson</td>
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<td>Richard Orling</td>
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<td>Kawika Sanchez</td>
<td>Probationary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Schmitt</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
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<td>Dave Shaw</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
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<td>Brad Stalzer</td>
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<td>Scott Witte</td>
<td>Firefighter/Paramedic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitney Zenker</td>
<td>Firefighter/Paramedic</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Zwart</td>
<td>Firefighter/EMT</td>
<td>30</td>
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</table>