Spring Lake Fire Department
Annual Report

2020
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Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

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

Mission

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.
In a year filled with uncertainty and change, the spirit of community service remains strong with the members of the Spring Lake Fire Department.

This report contains information describing how the Spring Lake Fire Department lives out its mission, vision and core values. Incident response statistics, activity reports and committee summaries will benchmark areas of focus and define our strengths and weaknesses. This report will also outline key events that occurred over the year that had an impact on our community, department and team members. This includes the department’s response to COVID-19, record high water levels, a change in leadership, the landmark celebration of individual service and the department’s preparation to introduce full time firefighter personnel.

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1165 incidents in 2020. This was down 3% from 2019, but a 3% increase over the last five-year average. 70% of request for service were EMS related and more than 50% of all calls occurred during the hours of 8am-5pm. Finally, 75% of all calls occurred within Spring Lake Township, 22% in the Village of Spring Lake and 3% involved assisting other agencies.

Spring Lake Fire Department’s high-level of response and service to the citizens, workers and visitors of Spring Lake Township and the Village of Spring Lake would not be possible without the support and commitment of our local officials and community. We acknowledge and thank you in supporting our mission.

John Stalzer
Fire Chief
Department Organization

Fire Chief

Deputy Chief of Administration

Deputy Chief of Operations

Administrative Assistant

Captain Station 1

Lieutenant Station 1

Firefighters Station 1

Captain Station 2

Lieutenant Station 2

Firefighters Station 2
# Personnel Roster

## Administration
- **John Stalzer**
  - Fire Chief/EMT
  - 16 Years
- **Jim Koster**
  - Deputy Chief/EMT
  - 50 Years
- **Pam Suchecki**
  - Admin. Assistant
  - 14 Years

## Station 1
- **Steve Bruneau**
  - Captain/EMT
  - 28 Years
- **Pete Eliopoulos**
  - Lt./EMT
  - 13 Years
- **Travis Babcock**
  - FF/EMT
  - 20 Years
- **Scott Bennink**
  - FF/EMT
  - 10 Years
- **Dave Bytwerk**
  - FF/MFR
  - 21 Years
- **Patrick Curran**
  - Prob. FF
  - 0 Years
- **JP DeLass**
  - FF/EMT
  - 26 Years
- **Andrew Donselar**
  - FF/EMT
  - 5 Years
- **Samuel Florea**
  - Prob. FF/EMT
  - 0 Years
- **Jon Fogel**
  - FF/EMT
  - 3 Years
- **Scott Hemmelsbach**
  - FF/EMT
  - 8 Years
- **Dave Hudson**
  - FF/Paramedic
  - 3 Years
- **Dave Shaw**
  - FF/EMT
  - 21 Years
- **Jeffrey Vollmer**
  - Prob. FF
  - 0 Years
- **Scott Witte**
  - FF/Paramedic
  - 23 Years

## Station 2
- **Scott Smith**
  - Captain/EMT
  - 19 Years
- **Matt Dilley**
  - Lt./Paramedic
  - 13 Years
- **Ryan Bloomquist**
  - FF/Paramedic
  - 2 Years
- **Kurt Dilley**
  - FF/Paramedic
  - 10 Years
- **Curt Haaksma**
  - FF/Paramedic
  - 16 Years
- **Larry Jackson**
  - FF
  - 2 Years
- **Drew Klassen**
  - Prob. FF/MFR
  - 0 Years
- **Jeff Olson**
  - FF/EMT
  - 15 Years
- **Brad Stalzer**
  - FF/EMT
  - 2 Years
Incident Statistics

Incident Totals By Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Incident Statistics

Incident Percentages By District

36% West of Bridge
39% East of Bridge
22% Village
3% Mutual Aid

Incident Totals By District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Out of District</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Village</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>852</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Apparatus Report

Apparatus

This year we replaced our existing 1770, a 2006 Suburban, with a new 2020 Silverado 2500 pickup truck. Although this vehicle replaced a retiring vehicle, it also added to our medical capabilities and acts as a command vehicle for fires and other non medical events.

Every year, all of our larger apparatus require annual DOT inspections, pump testing, and yearly preventive maintenance. This was performed in house by Spencer Manufacturing, who found and repaired some minor problems. All repairs and services are documented for future reference. Our smaller equipment is serviced by a local garage, as necessary, and is documented in our service records.

There were no unforeseen major repairs this year as our yearly preventive maintenance helps keep us aware of upcoming problems. Because of this maintenance program, we have avoided major repairs and have been able to push the purchase of a new pumper back 2 years. However, as the fleet continues to age, repairs could become expensive. We need to keep this in mind as we plan for the future.

Our fleet is housed in two stations and consists of three pumpers with 1500 GPM pumps and 1000 gallons of water, one heavy duty rescue, one brush truck and four command/medical and service vehicles.

**Apparatus Repair Expenses:** $15,450.00
Equipment Report

Equipment Maintenance

This year, most of the equipment purchased was put on the new 1770. Additions included a stair chair, storage for our Auto Pulse (automatic CPR machine), ice and water rescue suits, Personal Flotation Device for quick water entry, fire ground staging cones and a new set of Genesis battery powered rescue tools. Also, added to the command area, was a second radio for better control of radio traffic in fire command, a computer for quick access to fire data, preplans and other emergency information, IPad for report writing and for use by our inspectors, and a dashboard camera to record fire scene activities and our emergency driving.

Our 60 SCBA bottles along with 16 DOT bottles that are in our station and trucks, were Hydro-tested. This test will not need to be done for another 5 years. We conduct yearly testing of all our hose, ladders and SCBA’s to make sure they are safe and reliable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment Maintenance</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCBA and DOT bottle testing</td>
<td>$3,861.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladders and Hose Testing</td>
<td>$3,367.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesis Rescue tools and equipment</td>
<td>$34,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice rescue and cold water suits</td>
<td>$5,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New command vehicle cabinets and equipment</td>
<td>$42,375.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stations

A lot of work was done to Station #2 this year. The roof was showing signs of wear and minor leaks. It was inspected, repaired and is now expected to last a few more years. Several years ago, we started adding the Station 2 roof to our capital expenditures so that when necessary, we would have the funds to replace it. Several of the entry doors were giving us problems and were replaced. All of the doors and building trim was painted on the outside. Through a Consumer Energy grant, all of the offices and apparatus bay lighting was replaced with new efficient LED bulbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roof repairs</td>
<td>$3,330.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Door replacement and painting</td>
<td>$3,950.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement lighting costs</td>
<td>$2,060.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Training Report

Training

Spring Lake Fire Department is committed to innovation. This passion for learning is demonstrated through the Firefighter’s participation in the department’s fire and medical training programs. These programs, developed by the training committee, create many opportunities for personnel to work on individual and team skills.

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

- John Stalzer, Fire Chief (Chair)
- Matt Dilley, Lieutenant Station 2
- Pete Eliopulos, Lieutenant Station 1
- Scott Witte, Firefighter Station 1
- Ryan Bloomquist, Firefighter Station 2

In house training is the backbone for proficient and safe operations. Spring Lake Fire Department conducts two fire related training sessions per month. The first training focuses on individual skill proficiency. This generally occurs at the station level in smaller groups while utilizing local tools and equipment. The second training takes the concepts covered on the personal level and expands it into an operations level training or scenario. This training may take place at the station 2 drill grounds or at an offsite location. This graduated training has resulted in not only a better prepared firefighter but more efficiency on the emergency scene.
**Fire Training** included the following topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Subject Hours</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Officer Continuing Education</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighter Certification</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighter Continuing Education</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>93</strong></td>
<td><strong>1122</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Medical training occurs once each month and consists of topics geared not only to meet the State of Michigan's continuing medical education requirements but focus on up to date skills in emergency medicine. This year topics included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Subject Hours</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics Trauma</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics Airway &amp; Assessment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Assessment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>272</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the spirit for self-innovation, personnel continue to complete outside department training to increase their knowledge and skill. These include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Subject Hours</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMS Certification</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Continuing Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Inspector Continuing Education</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazmat Continuing Education</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>182</strong></td>
<td><strong>188</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Through our team's commitment to embrace innovation, they have accumulated over 1582 combined hours of training in 2020. This commitment has allowed the Spring Lake Fire Department to provide a high level of service and increase the safety of our residents and visitors.
Recruitment & Retention Committee

The Spring Lake Fire Department is committed to firefighter’s engagement and well-being. The Recruitment and Retention Committee is tasked with understanding what compels someone to join the service and what keeps them there.

The Committee consists of:
- Scott Smith, Captain
- Pete Eliopulos, Lieutenant
- JP Delass, Firefighter
- Andrew Donselar, Firefighter
- Travis Babcock, Firefighter
- Mike Grzyb, Retired Firefighter

Heading into 2020 the committee was tasked with improving the department in three areas. Leading with our Vision, Mission and Values, this committee has been very successful though research and surveying our members.

Recruitment:
1. Recruiting new firefighters including advertisement, the hiring process and member orientation
   - Hired 4 new part-time firefighters
     - Added one of the newest firefighters to the interview panel, which allowed for potential hires to fully understand what the first year and a half consists of
     - Improved the mentoring program which tied an officer and a firefighter to the new recruit
     - Revamped our on-boarding process to include allowing new recruits to be active day 1 in the “cold & warm” zones verses waiting for completion of their training
     - Implemented a new physical agility process (working cross functionally with the safety committee)

Retention:
2. Service Awards such as events that go above and beyond, lengths of service, and specialties
   - Developed a service award standard for tenure
     - We demonstrated this by honoring DC Koster for his 50 years of service
     - We will continue to work on a special recognition standard or “shout outs” in 2021
     - Chief Stalzer is already actively giving “shout outs” in his weekly email updates (C.A.N. Report)
3. Recognition of members at retirement and ways to allow them to continue service in other ways
   - Developed recognition standard for retirement
     - We demonstrated this new standard as we honored Chief Sipe’s retirement

In 2021, we will be keen to focus on our recent transition to a combination fire department. We believe this starts with a Culture inclusive to all, which have a passion to Serve each other and our community.
The Fire Prevention Committee meets quarterly to plan for community events. This year, due to COVID, Fire Prevention activities looked much different than in years past. Most large group events were cancelled. This included our annual Fire Prevention Open House. The department was able to improvise and overcome, and provide community prevention services that made an impact on our community. The Fire Prevention Committee is looking forward to the coming year and hopes to use the lessons learned to make our services even better.

Birthday/Celebration Drive Bys

Our Teams participated in an uplifting service project in which our teams went out with fire trucks and conducted birthday celebration drive-bys. We also provided an appreciation drive by for a WWII Veteran. In all, 31 families were touched by this experience.

School Visits

Firefighters went to five schools in the community. Using social distancing, they gave talks about fire safety and showed the kids the trucks. The group was also able to start getting our message of fire safety out utilizing social media.

Crusade for Toys

The department participated in the annual Crusade for Toys again this year. It was a record year for the amount of toys and money that was contributed by our community! This is an event that we look forward to every year.
Health & Safety Committee

The Health and Safety Committee meets quarterly and more often as issues or projects come up that require special attention. We are committed to making sure the department is following the latest standards that NFPA publishes. This is done by reviewing the standard and incorporating it into the overall operation of the Spring Lake Fire Department.

One of the major processes the Health and Safety committee worked on was our Primary and Secondary Decontamination Process. There is statistical data that shows the cancer rate in the fire service is higher than in the general public. The steps that we take to help protect our firefighters are driven off that data. In March of 2020, we were able to finalize this SOG and put into action the decon process at fire events where firefighters get contaminated with products of combustion. We have used this method roughly 20 times during the year.

We are committed to making sure every firefighter has two sets of gear so they can be ready for service immediately after a fire incident. This also helps to reduce the chances of our personnel encountering the products of combustion by having to wear contaminated gear. Two sets of gear are just one step that we have taken to protect our firefighters. We currently have 12 firefighters that have two sets.

Spring Lake Fire Department also offers health exams to its members. We split the group in half, giving half the personnel a physical each year. Bio Care came in with their mobile testing unit to do our health physicals. This year we had 12 firefighters get physicals through this service.

The last item of business that was worked on in 2020 was our Physical Agility Test. This test is used for new hires as well as on certain training nights. It consists of 8 stations that is meant to simulate the progression a firefighter may have to do on the fire ground. There is an 85 foot walk between each one of the stations which include a 3-minute stair climb, hose drag, equipment carry, ladder raise, forcible entry, search drill, manikin drag, and ceiling breach and pull. The required time to complete this test is 11 minutes, with the average time for the department being between 9.5 to 10 minutes.
Fire Prevention & Public Education

51 Smoke Alarms Installed

31 Community Events

7 School Visits

Fire Safety Presentation

7180 Sand Bags Distributed

8 CO Alarms Installed

36 People Attended Fire Station Visits

25 People Trained in CPR

15 Plan Reviews

9 Inspections
Firefighter Recognition

Celebration of Jim Koster 50 Years

50 Years = 18,250 Days / 438,000 Hours / 26,280,000 Minutes

On Monday October 12th, the Fire Department along with the Township Board of Trustees, held a surprise 50 Years of Service with the Fire Department award presentation for Deputy Chief Jim Koster. Jim has made numerous contributions over the years and Spring Lake Fire Department is fortunate to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable person on our team. We than Jim for his many years of service!

Jim’s Time Line

- Hired - 4/1/1971
- FFI: I Phase 6/1974
- Il Sequence: 3/16/1976
- Firefighter Sequence III – 1979
- Jim Becomes a Captain 5/19/1982 (11 years’ service)
- Bill will retire one year later
- Dive Rescue I - 7/15/1988 (17 years’ service)
- Jim becomes MFR - 5/1/1991
- State of Michigan Drivers Training - 1995
- Jim Becomes a DC - 6/1/1996
- Jim finished FFII - 2/7/1997
- Jim becomes an EMT - 7/1/1998 (27 years’ service)
- Fire Officer I - 3/20/2002
- Jim Receives Blue Card Certification - 5/21/2018

Qualifications

Firefighter I/II, FOIII, HSO, ISO, Education and Instruction, NIMS & ICS, FF Safety and Survival, Wildland FF, Vehicle Extrication, Pump Operator
Firefighter Recognition

Firefighter of the Year—Jon Fogel

- Hired as an on call paid Firefighter 08/11/2017
- He lives on Oak Ridge Drive (just off 152nd) and is on the Station 1 Crew (Fruitport Rd Station).
- Jon is certified as a Firefighter I/II, EMT and has specialized training in areas such as Ice Rescue and Incident Command.
- Jon responds to a high volume of calls and has also been active in community events, especially Fire Prevention activities.

Comments by Peers:

- He is always enjoyable to be around and willing to learn new things.
- He has done a lot with Fire Prevention and is always willing to pitch in.
- Jon was very well received and fit right in to this department from day one.
- His dedication and commitment to this department and our community since joining has been outstanding, and his positive, happy-go-lucky attitude is a very good inspiration to all.
- He treats patients and their families with respect.

As you can see by the comments, Jon is highly respected by the members of Spring Lake Fire and demonstrates attributes of our core values of Safety, Professionalism, Respect and Innovation.
Firefighter Recognition

Personnel
New Part Paid Firefighters begin their service December 1st.

Jeffrey Vollmer
Jeff lives on 144th Ave near State Rd. He currently works for Gentex as a Supplier Quality Engineer. He is new to the fire service but has previous experience as a Field Medic in the United States Army, including tours of duty in Iraq. He will be attending Fire Academy in January 2021.

Samuel Florea
Samuel lives on 148th near State Rd. He is currently a Community Care Worker and has a passion for helping those with physical and mental challenges. Samuel has no prior fire related service and will be attending Fire Academy in January 2021.

Patrick Curran
Patrick recently purchased a home on Fruitport Rd. He has previous experience with Blue Lake Township Fire Department and has all the fire certifications and EMT license. Patrick Currently works for Muskegon County Public Health as a Environmental Health Officer.

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Drew Klassen
Drew lives near 168th and Taft St. and is a welcomed addition to the Station 2 Crew. He has previous experience with Walker Fire Department and is fire certified including Medical First Responder. Drew works for Dri-Design in Holland as an estimator and will be attending EMT school in February 2021.
Celebration of Chief Brian Sipe

This year marked the departure of Chief Brian Sipe. With over twenty-one (21) years of service, including seven (7) as Fire Chief, Brian has left a distinguished mark on the Spring Lake Fire Department. Although too numerous to report, some of his accomplishments include building a new fire station, establishment of a new department mission, vision and core values, purchase of updated apparatus, and initiating the legacy of full time Firefighters by submitting and approval of a federal three-year SAFER Grant. Spring Lake Fire Department has been truly blessed by his leadership.

Appointment of Chief John Stalzer

With Brian leaving, John Stalzer, Deputy Chief of Operations and Training, was appointed Fire Chief. John has been with the fire department since 2004 and has thirty-six (36) years of experience in the Fire Service. He has an Associates of Applied Science degree (in Fire Science) from Kalamazoo Valley Community College, has many state certifications including Firefighter I/II, Fire Officer three (3), Fire Instructor II and is an EMT Basic Emergency Medical Technician. His previous non-department career involved working for Mercy Health for twenty six (26) years, including the last ten (10) as a Manager for the Durable Medical Equipment department. John has been married to Jennifer for seven (7) years, has two (2) children Morgan and Jonathon and a step daughter Emily.
COVID

Spring Lake and the surrounding communities began to feel the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in early March of 2020. As information came forward about COVID-19, most business and community activities came to a halt. People were instructed to stay home and social distance. These actions were not an option for emergency services. Even though the Spring Lake Fire Department continued to respond to requests for service, the overall operation was dramatically impacted by the pandemic. The Fire Department quickly adapted to new protocols, precautions and adjusted operating guidelines.

Personnel responding to incidents limited exposure to each other and patients by controlling access into homes, social distancing when possible and by using expanded universal precautions. When equipment and supplies were used, everything was cleaned and sanitized before it was put back into service.

The fire department scaled back or discontinued many public activities due to the pandemic. Fire inspections were performed only when necessary. The Fire Department did not have the Annual Fire Prevention Open House, but personnel did provide limited outside safety talks for schools. The department also conducted birthday “drive-bys” for our younger community members in the hopes of brightening their day. Personnel began attending virtual training and staff meetings whenever possible to limit group contact.

Personnel were required to self-screen and monitor for COVID symptoms. During the year four of our firefighters tested positive and self-quarantined. When a member was stuck at home, the remaining personnel pitched in and delivered a self-care basket containing wellness items, magazines and snacks. Thankfully their symptoms were not severe.

Near the end of 2020, Fire Personnel were some of the first offered vaccinations. This was voluntary and many took advantage of this opportunity.

Spring Lake Fire Department participated in weekly Ottawa County Emergency Operation COVID meetings. Information regarding COVID’s impact was disseminated and resource information was shared to all of the local municipalities, schools and hospitals. The department participated in reporting weekly personal protective equipment supply totals to the regional medical control authorities. This process helped insure all agencies had an adequate amount of equipment to respond to local outbreaks.

As we enter into a new year, the COVID pandemic continues to have an impact on the department’s response and operations. What has not changes is our personnel’s commitment to serving our communities, guests and each other.
Safety, Professionalism, Respect & Innovation

Dear SL Firefighters,

Thank you for coming to Jeffer's to talk to us about fire safety. We liked seeing the fire truck and learning about all of the tools on it. We also love our new fire hats!

Thanks again!

Mrs. Taylor's Kindergarten Class