



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes January 9, 2021

Directors Present: Deborah Addy, Craig Baloga, George Covalle, Barbara Crown, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, Harold Stieber, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Susan Bryson, Jerry Freeman, Steve Gartland, Donna Halacoglu, Jim Laethem, David Martin, Melanie Most, Jane Mount, Kathy O'Connor, Dennis Szymanski, Rosemary Wieczorek, Terry Wiggins;

Guests and Members Present: Artie Bryson, Colleen Berger, Dennis Berger, Kurt Marchwinski, Cher Neumann, George Rose, Linda Schoonover, Jim Stieber, Bob Wasil, Linda Wasil.

Craig Baloga brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:30 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The November 2020 meeting minutes were presented. There was no meeting held in December 2020. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to approve the November 2020 meeting minutes, Lois Whipple seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Craig Baloga introduced himself as the new president beginning in 2021, taking over from George Covalle (term ended last year). New directors beginning 2021 stood to introduce themselves to the group one-by-one.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the November 2020 and December 2020 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for December 31, 2020 was \$20,898.48, with total cash on hand being \$85,452.83. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

Lois Whipple made the motion to approve the November 2020 and December 2020 treasurer's reports, Jerry Thiel seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: There was nothing to report this month.

Communications: A thank-you card was received from former HISCFA President George Covalle and former HISCFA Executive Secretary Neva Covalle, thanking the HISCFA for the beautiful gift basket that the HISCFA sent to them as a thank you for their service to the Association over the last three years. An additional thank-you card was received from The Reader's Cove, thanking the HISCFA for their dedicated support and donations.

Browne's Field: The electrical for the pump at the field has now been run from the gazebo to the pond. Now it's a matter of setting up the intake pipe and getting the float switch working properly. With the impending colder weather it might become a challenge to finish this project, but Brian Sears is working diligently to complete this as soon as possible. Harold Stieber mentioned he had already received the invoice for the electrical. Earlier in 2020, the



HISCFA invested around \$5,000 for directional boring to pump the water out of the pond toward the Krispin Drain. This pump is placed below the frost line and it is intended to remain in the ground year-round.

Government Affairs: Craig Baloga stated that there was a Michigan DNR press release that read, "Michigan and Illinois Sign Agreement to Advance Invasive Carp Prevention Project at Brandon Road Lock and Dam." The entire article can be read here: https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79137_79770_79780-549062--,00.html. It is a joint effort between the two states to protect our waters from invasive carp. Asian carp can get scared and jump out of the water and can cause injuries to boaters and fishermen if encountered.

Lois Whipple has been following the COVID-19 situation with the St. Clair County Health Department. She mentioned that the county has been working to get more stations set up to administer the vaccine, but they are not getting enough vaccines to keep up with requests for the applicable groups to be rolled out in phases. It is possible for anyone to go to the health department's website to request the vaccine. Please visit the website for additional information: http://stclaircounty.org/Offices/health/COVID-19_Vaccine.aspx.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson stated he has been a chairperson on the Algonac-Clay Community Foundation for the past seven years or so, but he has now stepped down and has become the vice chairperson. He stated that the great thing about this foundation is that all of the money goes directly back to the community, and several Island organizations (including the HISCFA) has benefitted from it.

The Township has been very busy lately. A grant was received to purchase the property for the kayak launch/park on Harsen's Island near the Schoolhouse Grille. This year \$100,000 has been budgeted towards engineering and development of that property. A plan has to be completed first (including costs / renderings), and it will entail a dock going out to the Krispin Blueway and a good portion of it will be floating to accommodate a handicap entry. There will also be a parking area, nature trail (soft), a restroom, and an observation tower to view the marsh. No word yet on what type of restroom it is going to be (indoor facilities or vault). It is also being discussed to include a trailhead for bicycles in hopes of landing a grant for bike trails on the Island. He is putting together estimates for a cost for inclusion of the Island in the Bridge to Bay bike path that runs from the Blue Water Bridge to the water. There are a couple private grants out there that the Township is going to try to tap into to fill those gaps in the path. Hopefully that money might also lend itself nicely to widening the shoulders of M-154 to make it better for bicycles. If the grant(s) are successfully achieved, Supervisor Bryson hopes to have that task accomplished in the next few years. There is currently one bike trail that begins at the end of Michigan St. in Algonac that goes up to Cottrellville behind the State Park that has been in rough shape (asphalt deteriorating) and also a 450-foot section that has been under water for two years. Supervisor Bryson stated that he received a \$40,000 matching grant to build up the trail in that area which has already been completed, and in the spring it will be repaved (grant courtesy of the Wilson Foundation).

The water main that runs along M-29 is about 85 years old, and in the next 12 months it will be re-engineered. This aged main is where a majority of the breaks occur. The main runs from Algonac all the way to St. John's Drive. While this is being completed, a second feed to Harsen's Island is also set to be included. The current feed to the Island is only an 8-inch pipe. This new pipe will be a 12-inch pipe and will help increase the water quality and pressure on the Island and provide a loop instead of just a dead-end. The entire project is estimated to cost over four million dollars. The water debt will be rolled over to help pay for this project, but it will remain the same (no increase) on our water bills. The County is keeping an eye on a suitable time to work on Golf Course Road, but that won't happen until the water goes down (and stays down).

Supervisor Bryson stated that the Health Department will have vaccinations available in the middle of next week for residents aged 65 years and over. Currently they are administering vaccinations to health care workers and to teachers shortly. It is difficult to report out on this topic because the changes in direction are occurring very rapidly.



The Health Department is looking at hiring people to keep up with demand, and Supervisor Bryson requested that there be a location available in the southern part of the county (close to or within the township) to administer vaccines.

George Covalle stated that he reported (to 911) an abandoned 30-foot Sea Ray cruiser that had been abandoned out on the Middle Channel that was full of empty beer bottles. Supervisor Bryson stated it was the responsibility of the Coast Guard and DNR at this point. The Township will not be doing anything about it. The CG and DNR will attempt to contact the owner in order to get it taken care of. It's located a little ways down from the Clinton River Boat Club, on the Goose Bay side of the channel in about 20 feet of phragmite. George reported the MC numbers to the dispatch but never received any call back about it.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: During the month of November, Chief Rose stated that Fire Boat #2 was taken out of the water for the winter. A new flagpole was installed at the Island fire department. Only the light installation is remaining for the flag pole. PPE for the fire department and police department was purchased and delivered. No meetings were attended in December. Engine #3 was removed out of service (formerly located on the mainland) due to cracked head or cylinder sleeve; all the equipment was removed. It would have cost more to repair it than what it is currently worth. The CTFD helped to put up Christmas lights in the Clay Township Park, the pavilion, front bushes, and snack bar was decorated. The Clay Township Fire Department hired four new employees: Steven Sherrard FF 1&2 EMT-P, Brian Moran FF 1&2 EMT-B, Jacob White FF 1&2 EMT-B, Tyler Giraud FF 1&2 EMT-B. These four individuals are already trained and can be put to work right away. The CTFD participated with the Goodfellows and assisted with the Pop-Up Pantry at Algonac Fire Department. Fire Boat #1 was pulled out for the year. Work will begin next month (January) on the septic tank at the Harsens Island Station. A line bore was completed from the fire station to the Lions Hall, and hopefully next week it can be working properly. Chief Rose also mentioned that there is a dock outside of the Island fire station that was used during Jobbie Nooner, and he asked whether the HISCFA would like to have it for the pond at Browne's Field. The new airboat for the CTFD is anticipated to begin being built next week and is expected to arrive in March. Chief Rose mentioned that the CTFD assisted the Coast Guard with transporting them out to replace a module in the Maybury Cut light so that it could be illuminated again. The airboat was used to complete this task. The two new fire trucks that are on order should be arriving in either June or July. One will be placed on the Island and the other on the Mainland. Chief Rose mentioned there are additional grants available for the CTFD to purchase things that are not currently within their budget. They are looking at replacing their AED and also two LUCAS machines – one for the Island and one for the mainland. This can also help replace the AEDs on the Island (both churches and at the Lions Hall). There is another grant that is being looked at to replace the radios which is a high-ticket item. For the next budget, it is being looked at to replace the parking lot at the Island fire station. Currently the Island fire station is manned approximately 5 days a week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Browne's Field Restrooms / Fundraiser:* George Covalle stated that Bob Williams had prepared a floor plan and elevation for the proposed building, completed as a donation to the HISCFA. George is going to ask Bob if he can put together enough of a set of plans so that it will be available to obtain a permit by the building department in order to get a quote on the building cost. Once that is obtained, in addition to the drain field (which is already available from the County), then we can get a quotation put together which would drive a target dollar-amount for a fundraiser goal. There is a certain amount of money already earmarked for the permanent restrooms, but the fundraiser will need to achieve the remainder of the final quote amount. George is looking for a volunteer to run a fundraiser and perhaps also someone to apply for a grant for this project.



- *Water Station:* George Covalle got a quotation for \$400 from Flats Epoxy to refinish the floor in the water station (grind down the floor and apply epoxy). There was already a motion in the October 2020 meeting to include repairs of this nature.
- *Wild Apricot (Membership Software):* Christine Baloga is importing the membership into Wild Apricot and it can all be managed through there. The redirection of the website will be assisted by Todd Brady. This will help the HISCFA maintain a nicer-looking website that will also help be more efficient and effective at maintaining data and contact information, make things more user-friendly, etc. Deployment of the new website and full-time use of this service was set to commence on/around December 1, 2020 but the data is not ready to be imported yet. Christine would like to get a group of key users together to make sure the data is as high-fidelity as possible so that the website is off to as best start as possible. Hopefully that can occur this month. Harold Stieber mentioned that he received nine address changes in the post office box. There was some miscommunication from the former post office clerk to the new clerk as to whether these address changes postcards should be placed, so the new clerk placed them in our box so we could have them, even though they were dated from July 2020. Barbara Crown volunteered to update the changed addresses.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Executive Secretary Replacement:* This position is still open as a result of Neva Covalle's resignation in November 2020, and needs to be filled as soon as possible in order for the training with Wild Apricot to take place. Craig Baloga suggested that he would reach out to new director Jane Mount to see whether she would be interested in taking on this position. Craig and others think she would be a very good fit for this position. Barbara indicated that she (herself) is keeping up with the membership list in the meantime until an Executive Secretary can be named.
- *Annual Membership Letter:* It is necessary to send out this letter by March 1st every year to ensure responses (memberships and dues) are returned in a timely manner. In the past, Barbara Crown has been the driving force to publish this letter year over year. Barb indicated that we can't wait until Wild Apricot is up and going, so we need to take action now. She also thinks it could be a much shorter appeal for membership this year since so many activities did not take place due to the pandemic. Barb indicated she would help get it started, but requested a volunteer(s) to write it. Steve Lawrence volunteered to assist with the letter this year.
- *The Delta News:* This publication is such a huge part of the Association. Barbara Crown stated that she has been working on The Delta News for 20 years, and the current editor (Art Woodford) has been working on it for 20 years himself. He stepped down last year, and this year Barb indicated she may not be around towards the end of the year (because she may be moving out of state) to see it through. Barb would like to get a committee together to break up the work that needs to be done for another successful publication. In an email to directors this week, she got together the production of the publication to describe how it is accomplished each year. It really is sort of formula-based because after all these years it's the editor (the point of contact with the printer), and the coordinator (gets all the articles, feeds the editor) who ultimately get it done. There are many elements that go into it, but it won't be insurmountable if we can get a team together who can choose to fulfill these necessary duties. Harold Stieber pointed out the question, who provides the articles? Barb replied that the articles come from the team's decision as to what the publication will encompass. Many people volunteer articles year over year, and sometimes the publication team chooses a theme and then selects (or authors) articles to fit the theme. It would be the task of the committee to decide which articles would be important to our members for that year's publication. Historical articles can be incorporated, and also ideas can be gathered from previous publications of The Delta News to follow-up from some things from the past. George Covalle asked what Barb thought would be the optimum



number of people on a committee, and Barb stated that probably a solid team of six would be able to do it. One of the larger parts of that is advertising: if we don't have advertisers, we won't have a book. Advertisers are the ones that pay for a huge portion of the cost to print the publications. Barb indicated that if volunteers step forward, she would be willing to head up the committee to provide direction to the volunteers. However, if she ends up leaving the state earlier than when the publication is in process, it may be difficult to do everything remotely. Over the years, the publication has been scaled back (removed color pages, fewer articles, etc.) to cut costs. Basically, The Delta News is an annual report of the Association. Over the years it has developed into a lot more due to Art Woodford making it more comprehensive. If you look back over some of the older publications, it was much more concise. Most people can write an article if asked to contribute. Also, HISCFA Recording Secretary Melanie Most does some impeccable proofreading to make articles presentable for publication. Art Woodford is a writer and author, so his background and skills set lends itself well to editing... but because he has decided to step down, someone else will need to step up. Art will continue to be on the Island and can be available to answer questions. Craig Baloga stated that both he and Christine are willing to assist with the committee for publishing The Delta News this year.

- *Main Water Station (card system updates/facility improvements)*: In the September 2020 meeting, Todd Brady was present to discuss the quotation he received for updating the water station to include Wi-Fi capability as well as other facility improvements to update that card system. Currently, Todd is waiting for a decision from this HISCFA in order to kick off this project.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ No comments.

Next meeting will be Saturday, February 13, 2021 at **9:30 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Jerry Thiel made the motion to adjourn; Lois Whipple seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (November, December, Year 2020)

Proposed (Draft) Clay Township Kayak Launch / Park on Harsen's Island



November 2020 Report

Clay Township Fire & EMS

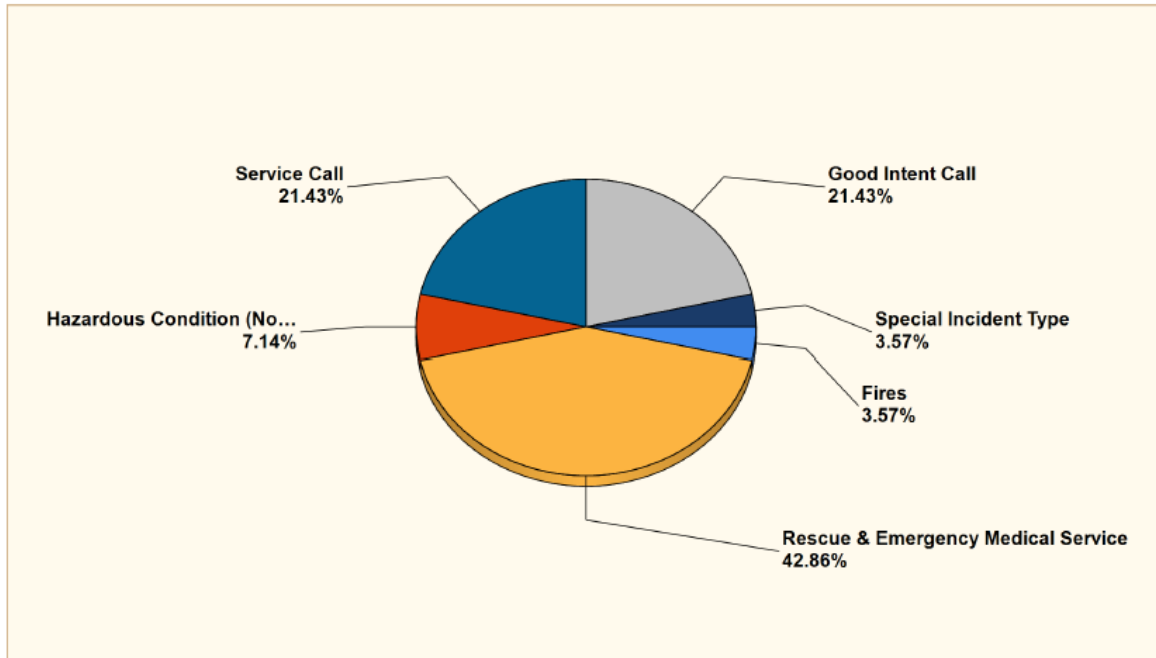
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 11/01/2020 | End Date: 11/30/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	1	3.57%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	12	42.86%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2	7.14%
Service Call	6	21.43%
Good Intent Call	6	21.43%
Special Incident Type	1	3.57%
TOTAL	28	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
143 - Grass fire	1	3.57%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	3	10.71%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	8	28.57%
381 - Rescue or EMS standby	1	3.57%
444 - Power line down	2	7.14%
500 - Service Call, other	5	17.86%
554 - Assist invalid	1	3.57%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1	3.57%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	5	17.86%
911 - Citizen complaint	1	3.57%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	28	100%



December 2020 Report

Clay Township Fire & EMS

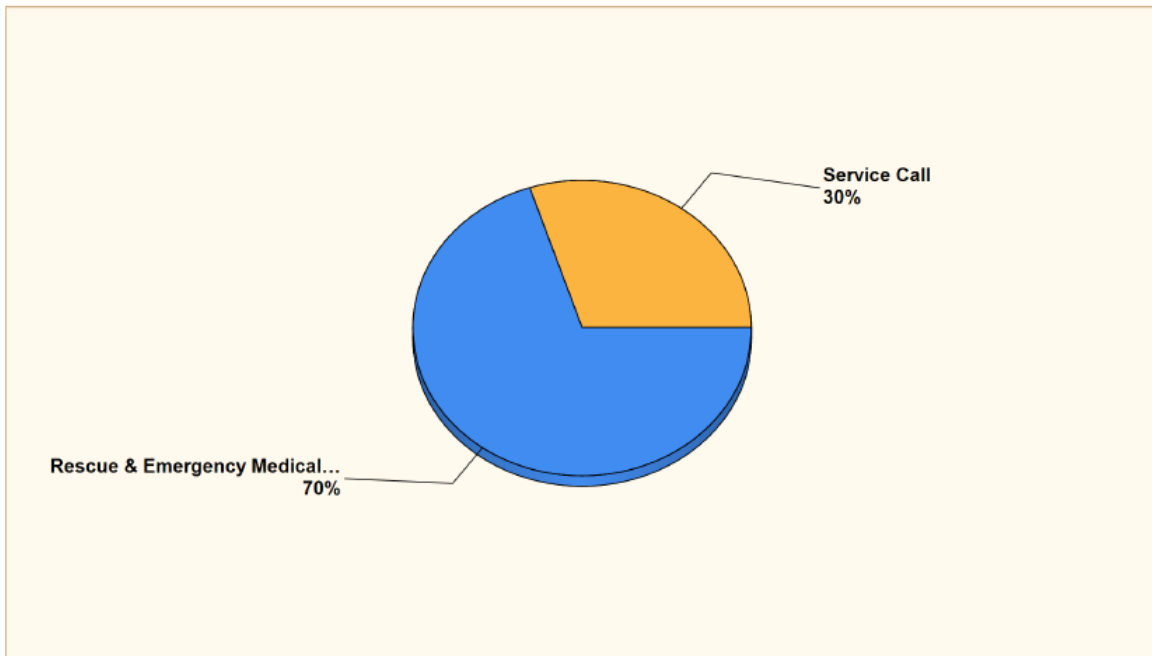
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 12/01/2020 | End Date: 12/31/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	7	70%
Service Call	3	30%
TOTAL	10	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	3	30%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	2	20%
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	1	10%
381 - Rescue or EMS standby	1	10%
500 - Service Call, other	1	10%
561 - Unauthorized burning	1	10%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	10%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	10	100%



Year 2020 Report

Clay Township Fire & EMS

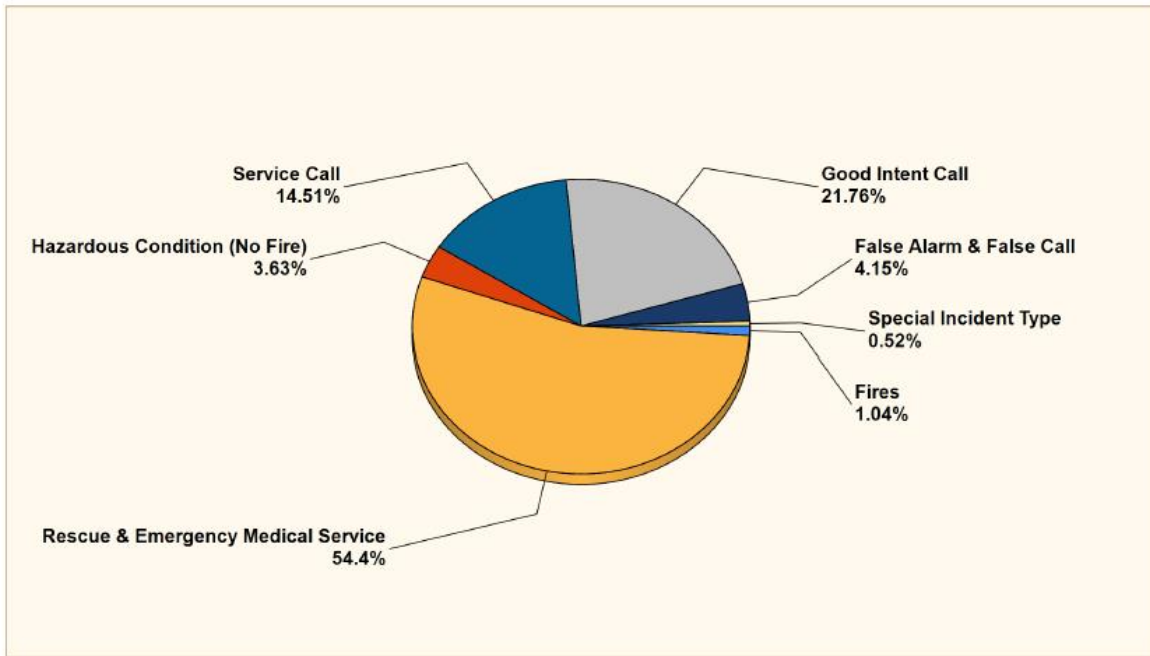
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 01/01/2020 | End Date: 12/31/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	2	1.04%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	105	54.4%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	7	3.63%
Service Call	28	14.51%
Good Intent Call	42	21.76%
False Alarm & False Call	8	4.15%
Special Incident Type	1	0.52%
TOTAL	193	100%

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Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	1	0.52%
143 - Grass fire	1	0.52%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	23	11.92%
320 - Emergency medical service, other	1	0.52%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	70	36.27%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	1	0.52%
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	2	1.04%
381 - Rescue or EMS standby	8	4.15%
400 - Hazardous condition, other	1	0.52%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1	0.52%
444 - Power line down	5	2.59%
500 - Service Call, other	11	5.7%
550 - Public service assistance, other	1	0.52%
552 - Police matter	1	0.52%
554 - Assist invalid	2	1.04%
561 - Unauthorized burning	3	1.55%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	10	5.18%
600 - Good intent call, other	1	0.52%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	5	2.59%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	25	12.95%
661 - EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency	10	5.18%
671 - HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	1	0.52%
700 - False alarm or false call, other	1	0.52%
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	3	1.55%
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	1	0.52%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1	0.52%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	1	0.52%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	1	0.52%
911 - Citizen complaint	1	0.52%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	193	100%

