

Marine on Saint Croix Fire and Rescue Department



2019 Annual Report

Fire and Rescue Department History

The Marine on Saint Croix Fire and Rescue Department is one of the oldest departments in the state, being founded in 1886 with the purchase of its first hand pumper.

The department serves the City of Marine on Saint Croix and portions of May Township. The department has one fire station in the City of Marine covering the 4.2 square miles of the city along with approximately 11 square miles of May Township. The department also provides auto aid to the City of Scandia and mutual aid to other fire departments in the county upon request.

We are thankful for the support from the community, council and city staff who worked alongside us in 2019. We invite everyone to visit the department and meet the wonderful people who make it all happen.

Personnel

The members of the department are a proud professional team of volunteers that provide fire suppression and emergency medical first response until an ambulance arrival.

The department finished the year with 29 members trained for fire and medical calls. 2019 saw the retirement of both deputy chiefs. Gordon Skamser II retired at the beginning of the year with 18 years of service while Richard T. Johnson retired at the end of December after 41 years of proud service.

Members created a recruitment brochure which was mailed out in spring. The brochure has been incorporated into the "Welcome to the City Packet" provided to new residents.

Daytime responders remain an area of concern. The city's two public work's employees for the city continue to assist. We continue to partner with Scandia Fire Department for response to events needing larger resources. The departments continue to provide auto aid response for structure fires 24/7 and to daytime auto accidents. This arrangement benefits both communities.

Vehicles

Department vehicles continue to be maintained in working order. The department maintains two fire engines, one tender, two grass/wildland vehicles and one medical first response unit. The vehicles are checked every month by department members whom continue to volunteer their time to make minor repairs. With the age of vehicles, it is anticipated that our vehicle maintenance costs will continue to increase.

The following is a list of vehicles and capabilities:

Vehicle	Year, Make, Model	Pump Capacity (gallons/minute)	Water Capacity	Personnel Carried
Brush One	2000 Ford/Custom, F-350 4WD	200	300	3
Brush Two	Polaris ATV	30	N/A	6
Engine One	2003 Spartan/Custom chassis	1500	1000	6
Engine Two	1993 Freightliner/Custom chassis *Carries Auto Extrication Equipment	1200	1000	5
Medical First Response	2012 Chevy 2500HD 4WD	N/A	N/A	5
Tender One	1998 Freightliner/Custom chassis	200	2000	3

Two members took the initiative to reorganize the equipment compartments on Engine Two. Mounts were installed providing greater room and organization.

Before



Equipment

The department continues to maximize the life of equipment as long as practical balancing needs and use with financial responsibility.

The self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) used by the fire department will reach its useful life in 2021 and planning has commenced for its replacement.

Training

The initial training for volunteers consists of 140 hours for firefighting and 40 hours for the first responder course. Traditionally both are completed by the new volunteer traveling to the metro area on weekly basis.

2019 was the first time a home study firefighter course with condensed hands-on training was offered in Minnesota. Central Lakes Community College offered an at home study course with two intensive three-day weekends at Camp Ripley. We had one volunteer with varying work schedule which did not allow them to attend the locally

offered course. Our volunteer successfully completed the course and we will use this as a tool in the future to recruit and train volunteers with non-traditional work schedules.

We have enrolled two of our personnel in an emergency first responder course which utilizes videos and text reading completed at home and a three-day classroom where the member practices their medical skills and tests out.

The department continues providing two trainings a month for members, one focused for the fire suppression and the second for medical emergencies.

The department traveled to the Stacy-Lent Fire tower in October giving members training under realistic conditions in search and rescue, forcible entry to buildings, and fire suppression.

Regions Hospital provides quarterly medical training to personnel to supplement our own in-house training.

ISO Survey

Every five years the fire department's equipment, training, and personnel are reviewed by the ISO (Insurance Services Office). The ISO is an organization that tracks property and casualty insurance risk and also evaluates and rates a community's ability to handle fires.

In the ISO rating scale, a lower number is better: One is the best possible rating, while a ten means the fire department did not meet the ISO's minimum requirements. The department has retained its rating of five.

Events

The department hosted several events for the year. Fundraising events included the annual street dance and art fair. The department participated in fire prevention week activities with visits and lessons to Red Bridge Pre-School and River Grove Elementary. The department also hosted an open house for the public.

Significant Incidents

In September of this year, part of the City of Scandia was hit by a tornado. Marine on St. Croix Fire Department was called to assist in searching the area for anyone injured, determine areas of damage and clearing roads for emergency vehicles. We also sent a crew to the Scandia Fire hall to standby to assist in answering any emergency calls not related to the tornado for the remaining part of the city. The department logged three calls during this period.

Run Summary

2019 was a busy and productive year for the department. Members responded to 93 calls for service in 2019. This statistic is much more than a number to us. It represents the many times when someone experienced a situation that led them to call for our assistance. We understand the loss and pain that is often associated with an incident that requires our service and it is my hope that we provided, along with the professional response necessary to mitigate these emergencies and the appropriate level of compassion to support the individuals involved in these situations.

There were 45 medical emergencies which was slightly below the average for last seven years of 48. The department responded to 15 mutual aid and auto aid calls including Stillwater Fire Department on three structure fires, Scandia Fire for calls ranging from the tornado incident previously mentioned, a building fire and brush fire.

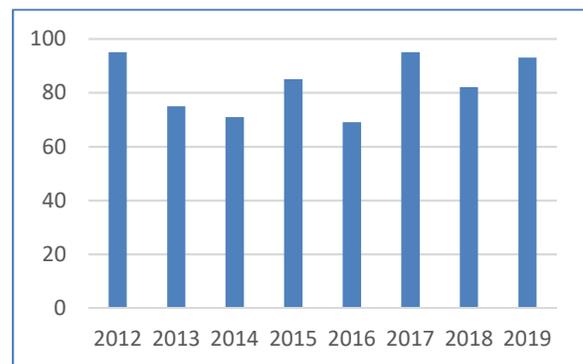
Excluding mutual aid and auto aid calls, the department responded to 37 calls in May Township while 41 were in the city of Marine on Saint Croix.

The following charts provide visualization of the type of calls by year and trends:

Yearly Run Comparison

The statistical information below compares the total count of runs by the department in the previous years.

Year	Runs
2012	95
2013	75
2014	71
2015	85
2016	69
2017	95
2018	82
2019	93



2019 Incidents by Type and Location

The statistical information below shows the breakdown of incidents responded to by the department by type and location.

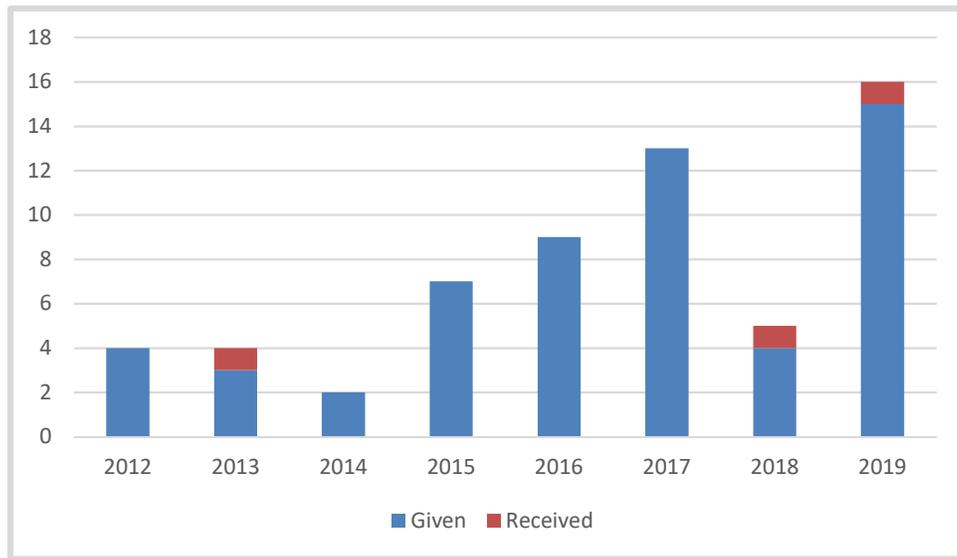
Type of Call	Marine on Saint Croix	May Township	Auto Aid/Mutual Aid for Scandia Fire	Mutual Aid for Stillwater Fire	Total
Alarm (including CO)	5	5	0	0	10
Arcing, electrical, power line down	5	3	0	0	8
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	2	1*	1	0	4
Building Fire	0	0	1	3	4
Dispatched and cancelled en route	1	4	4	1	10
Medical	26	18	1	0	45
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	2	3	0	0	5
Search for person on land	0	1	0	0	1
Smoke, odor, gas leak	0	2	0	0	2
Standby at Fire Hall	0	0	2	0	2
Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment	0	0	2	0	2
Total	41	37	11	4	93

*Auto Aid received from Scandia Fire

Yearly Analysis of Mutual Aid / Auto Aid Calls

The statistical information below display the number of aid calls for the department in an eight year period.

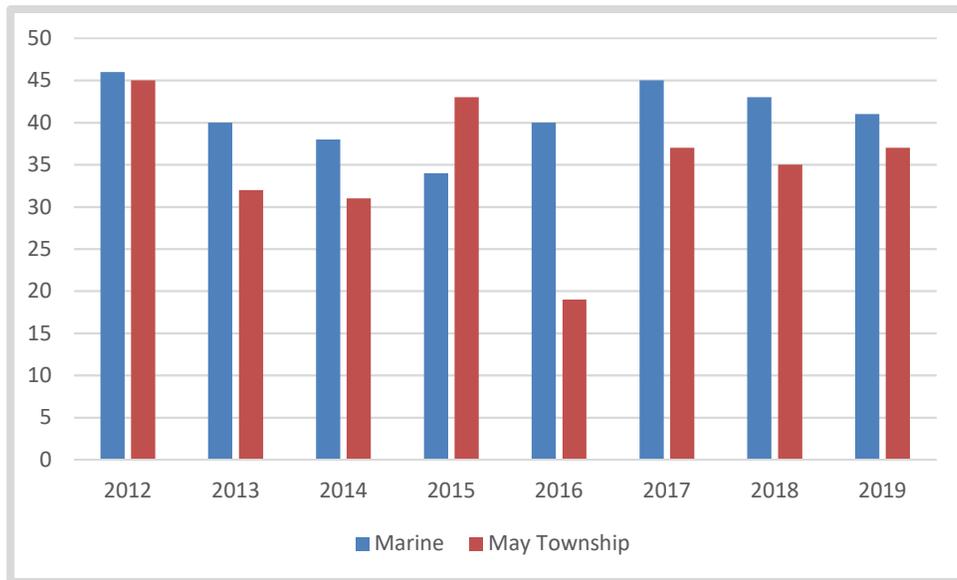
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Grand Total
Given	4	3	2	7	9	13	4	15	57
Received	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Grand Total	4	4	2	7	9	13	5	16	60



Location of Incident Over the Years

The statics and graph show the break down of calls to the City of Marine on Saint Croix as compared to May Township for the year. This data excludes auto aid and mutual aid calls.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Marine	46	40	38	34	40	45	43	41
May Township	45	32	31	43	19	37	35	37
Total	91	72	69	77	59	82	78	78



Respectfully submitted,

Dan Malmgren
Fire Chief
February 11th, 2020