



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Department of Public Safety City of Petoskey

Prepared by:

Gina Ellenberger, Office Manager
Adrian Karr, Director
Erik Hoig, Public Safety Officer



Public Safety Command Staff



Director Adrian Karr



Lt Todd Troxel
(Retired July 2025)



Lt David Schultz



Lt Michael Parker



Lt Matthew Mikulski

Public Safety Officers, Serving Since

Hunter Arnold, 2020	Frederick Haalck, 2000
William Bowen, 2018	Erik Hoig, 2017
Benjamin Carlson, 2006	Brock Kimball, 2025
Michael Dolan, 2023	Connor Kish, 2022
Lawrence Donovan, 2001	Adam Klimsza, 2024
John Duch, 2005	Scott Lamont, 2016
Karl Fritz, 2005	Charles Ramirez, 2025
Dallas Givens, 2023	Alexis Steele, 2022
Scott Gosciak, 1998	

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Message from the Director

Welcome to the Petoskey Department of Public Safety 2025 Annual Report. 2025 was another year for the ages. In this message, I plan to hit some of the highlights and lowlights such as the “Icepocalypse” of 2025. Well, being that the Ice Storm took place at the beginning of the year, lets touch on that right now. I have lived in Northern Michigan for 95% of my adult life and have seen some weather events that were difficult to say the least. Trust me when I say I have never witnessed anything like the Ice Storm of 2025. It struck with little warning and without bias. Where a normal weather event is here and gone, the damage took weeks to recover (and in some cases, we are still recovering). The storm devastated our power grid and made emergency response next to impossible. It tested even the most seasoned Michiganders to their breaking point. It also brought out the best in humanity. From small businesses donating what food they had to local warming shelters to neighbors looking out for one another. Despite the hardship it brought, the Ice Storm unified our section of Northern Michigan. The biggest testament to our willingness to help one another was the fact that not one life was lost. This still amazes me to this day!



Enough about that, lets jump to some highlights. Believe it or not, 2025 marked three years from the Department's first Accreditation, which means Re-Accreditation needed to take place. This was accomplished by a small group taking the reins and making it so. Special thanks to Lt. Matthew Mikulski, Lt. William Bowen, Lt. Scott Lamont and numerous other officers who assisted in this daunting task. The Petoskey Department of Public Safety received its Re-Accreditation in June of 2025, which only means the process starts over. Yippie!

I would like to take a second to spotlight Lieutenant Todd Troxel who decided to hang it up in 2025. Lt. Todd Troxel retired in July and accepted a position in Gaylord as the Fire Chief. Lt. Troxel's leadership within our department and his positive impact within this community will surely be missed.

With retirements come new opportunities for others within the department to promote. Stand out candidates, Scott Lamont and William Bowen were both promoted to fill the Lieutenant vacancies. Both are taking on new responsibilities and adjusting to their new roles as administrators. There will be bumps in the road, but I am confident in their abilities to overcome and make positive impacts on the community they serve as their predecessors did before them.

Two new Public Safety Officers were brought on board to fill vacancies made from retirements. PSO Charlie Ramirez, who is a Petoskey High Graduate, chose to apply with us after a short stint with Charlevoix City PD. As much as it pained me to take an officer from a neighboring jurisdiction, I saw the passion PSO Ramirez had for this community and his desire to give back. Further, a familiar face PSO Brock Kimball, reactivated his MCOLES license and was granted an opportunity to return to the department after three years pursuing his Master's Degree while covering the Bay Harbor Fire Station. Both are amazing assets to our department and will do great things!

Lastly, in 2025, I received a grant allowing an opportunity to attend the National Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Denver Colorado. Roughly 17,000 Chiefs from all over the country/world attended this conference. What an amazing experience! I brought home a renewed passion for this position. I will leave you with one take away from speaking with other Police Chiefs from around the globe. My #1 departmental struggle would not even make the top 50 of others. For this, I owe the Men and Women with whom I serve and the confidence and support we receive from this community and its guests. I speak for the members of the entire Public Safety Department when I say thank you for your support! Looking forward to what awaits in 2026!



Photo Credit: Lucky 13 Photography

Mission Statement

The mission of the Petoskey Department of Public Safety is to provide professional community-oriented police, fire and emergency medical services. We are committed to creating and maintaining an active community partnership with those we serve. We are dedicated to protecting lives and property while maintaining order and assuring fair and equal treatment to everyone.

The Petoskey Department of Public Safety is a proactive agency dedicated to excellence through quality customer service. We shall maintain our high level of professionalism through training, education, innovation, and accountability. We shall foster an atmosphere where Department members treat each other fairly, honestly, and equally.

Through commitment to quality service, the Department will meet the public safety needs of the community, recognizing the values of fairness, equality, and respect for human dignity.

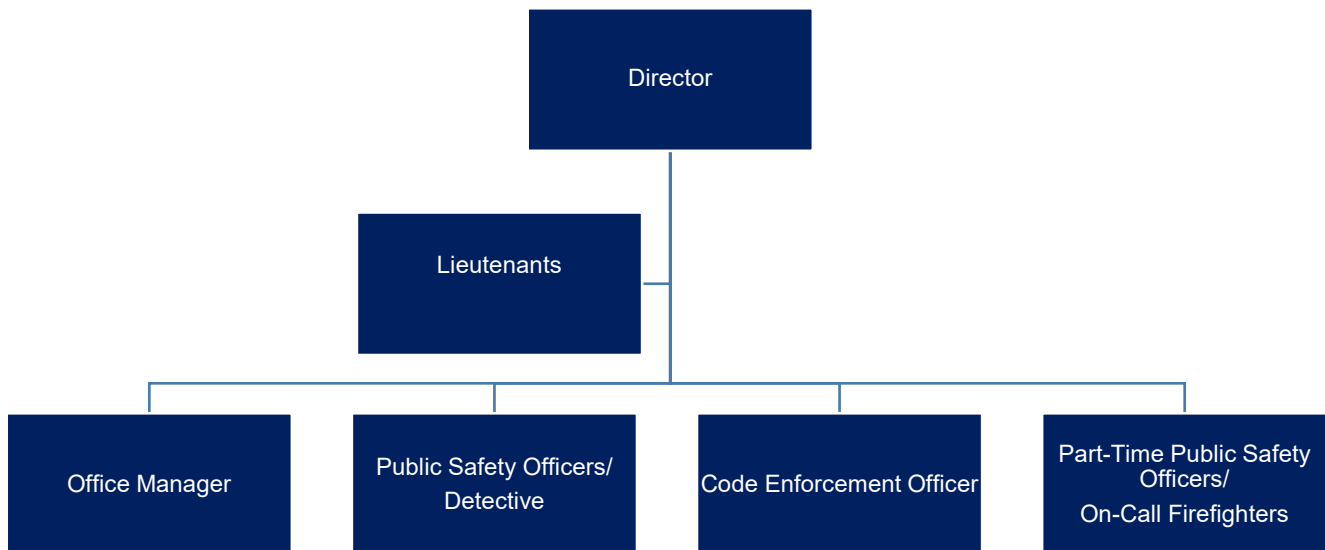
Petoskey Department of Public Safety 2025 Annual Report

The Petoskey Department of Public Safety is committed to providing the best possible service for everyone who lives, works, or visits the Petoskey area. Staff believes in a strong partnership with all members of the community in an effort to keep Petoskey a safe, vibrant city.

Police, fire, and emergency medical services are provided through a unified Department of Public Safety. The Department staff of 21 sworn officers (crossed-trained as certified law enforcement officer, firefighter, and EMT), six firefighters, one Code Enforcement Officer, and one Office Manager provides a wide range of services to the citizens of Petoskey and Bay Harbor. The Department operates eight pieces of fire equipment, eight police vehicles, and two rescue boats. All public safety vehicles are equipped with emergency medical equipment.

The law enforcement division handles requests for police services involving criminal investigations, civil disputes, traffic enforcement, traffic accident investigations, ordinance violations, and general assistance to the public such as vehicle unlocks. The fire division provides programs involving inspections, fire prevention in area schools, conducts fire station tours, and public appearances at community events.

Public Safety Department Chain of Command



New Officers



PSO Ramirez joins us with 14 months of law enforcement experience from the City of Charlevoix Police Department. He earned his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Finlandia University where he graduated Magna Cum Laude and is also a graduate of Kirtland Community College's 58th Police Academy. Charles was born and raised here in Petoskey and said the following, "I would be honored to bring my dedication and values to your department and continue serving the community I proudly call home".

PSO Kimball was originally hired in the Summer of 2019 as a full-time PSO. However, a few years later, he transitioned to our Bay Harbor part-time Firefighter/EMT position to pursue his Master's Degree in legal study. Since then, Kimball has successfully earned his Juris Master's Degree from Liberty University and was re-hired as a full-time PSO in the Fall of 2025. PSO Kimball also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Law Enforcement from Lake Superior State University.



Promotions



PSO Scott Lamont was promoted to Lieutenant in July of 2025. Lt Lamont has served the City of Petoskey as a full-time Public Safety Officer since 2016. Prior to that, he had served our Department as a part-time PSO as well as the City of Gaylord Police Department. Lt Lamont is one of our Evidence Custodian Supervisors as well a Field Training Officer. He recently completed his three-year rotation as the Department's Detective.

Retirement

After 25 dedicated years of service, Lt Troxel retired from our department in July of 2025. On his last day, he was able to guide the 4th of July parade. Lt Troxel was a highly valued member of our department and will be dearly missed. He continues his extensive knowledge in the field of firefighting as he excels in his new role as the Chief of Otsego Fire Authority.



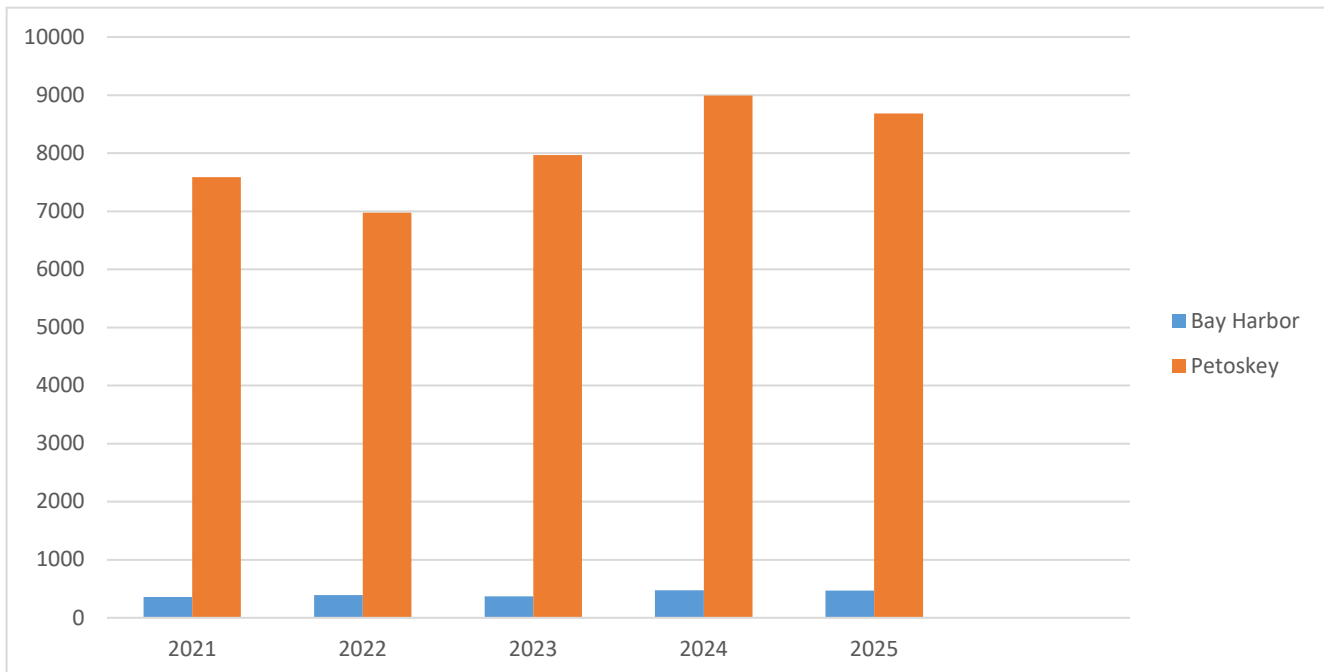
Law Enforcement Calls for Service 2021-2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Bay Harbor	361	393	372	472	471
Petoskey	7,587	6,978	7,968	8,991	8,686
Total	7,948	7,371	8,340	9,463	9,157

Calls for service are generated for activities such as arrests, criminal investigations, health and safety checks, suspicious persons or vehicles, alarms, assisting other agencies, etc. Not all calls for service generate an assigned complaint number.

In 2025, the Public Safety law enforcement division addressed 9,157 requests for service and logged 4,988 complaint numbers. Since the reporting policy for assigning complaint numbers to calls for service has changed this year, the amount of complaint numbers will show a decrease compared to 2024 because the actual report numbers are accounted for differently now.

As a result of criminal complaints and investigations, the Department of Public Safety made approximately 337 arrests in 2025. Of that total, approximately 96 were felony arrests and 241 were misdemeanor arrests.



Calls for Police Related Service

Nature	Petoskey	Bay Harbor
911 Hang Up	585	76
Abandon Vehicle	40	1
Personal Injury / Unknown Accidents	76	18
Property Damage / Car Deer Accident	347	24
Animal Complaint / DNR	273	16
Annoying / Harassing	59	2
Armed Subject	4	0
Assault	31	1
Assist Citizen	385	4
Assist Motorist	109	10
Attempt to Locate Well Being	281	6
Attempt Suicide / Suicide	29	0
Medical Alarm	109	3
Alarm (Panic/Intrusion, Bank)	181	56
Breaking and Entering	11	1
Child Abuse / Neglect	7	0
Civil Dispute	96	1
Criminal Sexual Conduct	14	0
Dead Person	24	2
Disturbance Disorder	110	1
Domestic Dispute	32	2
Fraud	48	6
Health and Safety	151	7
Intoxicated Subject	49	0
Juvenile Matters	57	1
Keys Locked in Vehicle	207	9
Larceny	59	3
Liquor Inspections	28	8
Malicious Destruction of Property	19	0
Mental Health Issues	152	1
Stolen Vehicle	5	0
Suspicious Situations	246	4
Traffic Stop	2,321	347
Violation of Controlled Substance Act	25	0
Minor in Possession	19	0
Misc. Criminal Offense	32	0
Misc. Non-Criminal	212	0
Noise Complaint	44	4

Calls for Fire/EMS Related Service

Nature	
Structure Fire	4
Vehicle / Other Fire	7
EMS / Ambulance	553
Extrication/Rescue / Accidents	21
Combustible / Chemical Spills & Leaks, etc.	19
Electrical Related	76
Public Service Assistance	29
False Alarm / Canceled En-Route	240
Total	949

*Does not include ALL natures / categories of calls for service. This is only a summary.

Public Safety Stations

Fire Station #1

100 West Lake Street

Apparatus assigned to Station #1:

- One 1500 GPM Rescue Engine
- One 100' Aerial Ladder
- Two Support Vehicles
- One 12' Rescue Boat



Photo by Josh Morgan

Fire Station #2 – Station West (Bay Harbor)

3625 Charlevoix Road

Apparatus assigned to Station #2:

- One 1500 GPM Rescue Engine
- One 70' Aerial Ladder
- One 12' Rescue Boat



Administrative Services

The administrative office of Petoskey Department of Public Safety is located within City Hall at 101 East Lake Street. The office processes all criminal paperwork, accident reports, court records, and complaint documentation. Services include fingerprinting, as well as assisting citizens with walk-in complaints or phone calls. Additionally, the administrative office fulfilled 106 Freedom of Information requests along with 85 records related to firearms sales in 2025. The administrative office also provides a Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug (POD) Drop Off location for City residents. In 2025, the Department safely disposed of approximately 552 pounds of medications. We also assisted neighboring counties with their POD disposal, safely destroying a total of 4,498.97 pounds of medication.



Cross-Deputization

Cross-Deputization is a collaboration between two jurisdictions that allows law enforcement officers to enforce laws and assist across jurisdictional lines on emergent calls for service, like domestic disputes, personal injury accidents, etc. This collaboration aids in faster response times from law enforcement thus promoting public safety and further crime prevention.

On October 14th, 2025, City Clerk, Sarah Bek, swore in the Little Traverse Bay Bands Tribal Police. This allows the LTBB Police to assist our department within the City of Petoskey jurisdictional area. Additionally, our department will be sworn in with LTBB Police in January of 2026, allowing us to assist them with emergency calls for service where they have primary jurisdiction, like the Odawa Casino, a few properties inside the city limits that are tribal property, etc.

Petoskey Public Safety Officers were also sworn in with Emmet County Sheriff's Office in 2025. This allows us to assist ECSO's with emergent calls for service in the Emmet County jurisdictional area.



LTBB getting sworn in by City Clerk



PDPS getting sworn in with LTBB

Park Security

Every summer, the Public Safety Department adds Park Security Officers, or Cadets, to our team. The Cadets provide foot, bike, and vehicle patrol of the downtown business district, City parks, the Bear River Trail, special events, etc. They provide assistance to citizens and work closely with Public Safety Officers. In the summer of 2025, we welcomed Cadet Jordan Troxel and Cadet Caitlyn Matelski.



Fire Inspections

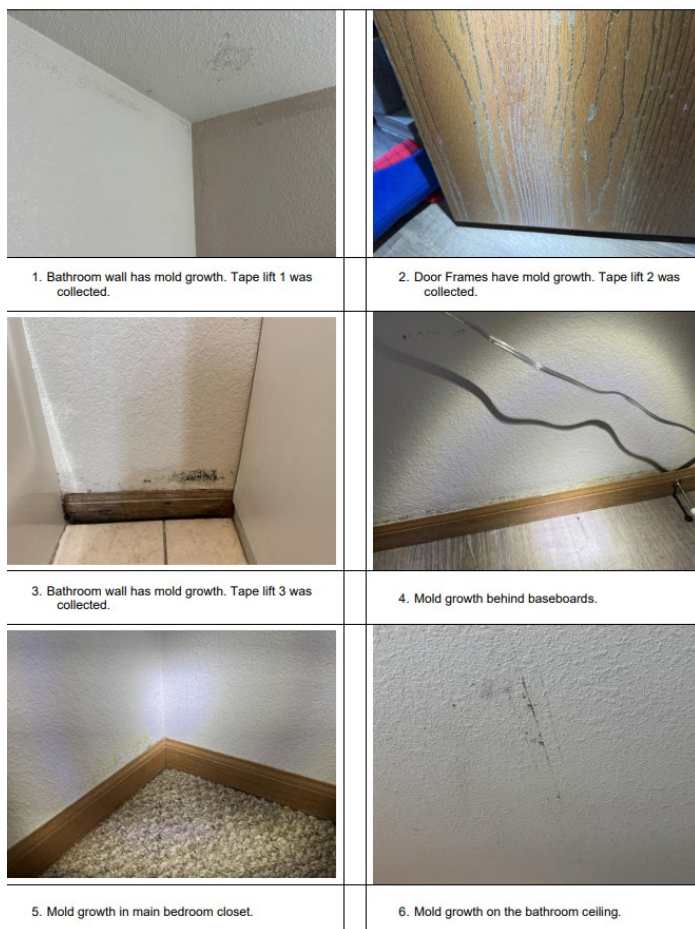
The Public Safety Department has three certified Fire Inspectors. In 2025, they completed a total of 72 fire and life safety inspections. The goal of the inspections is to gain compliance to create a safe environment for everyone.



International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC)

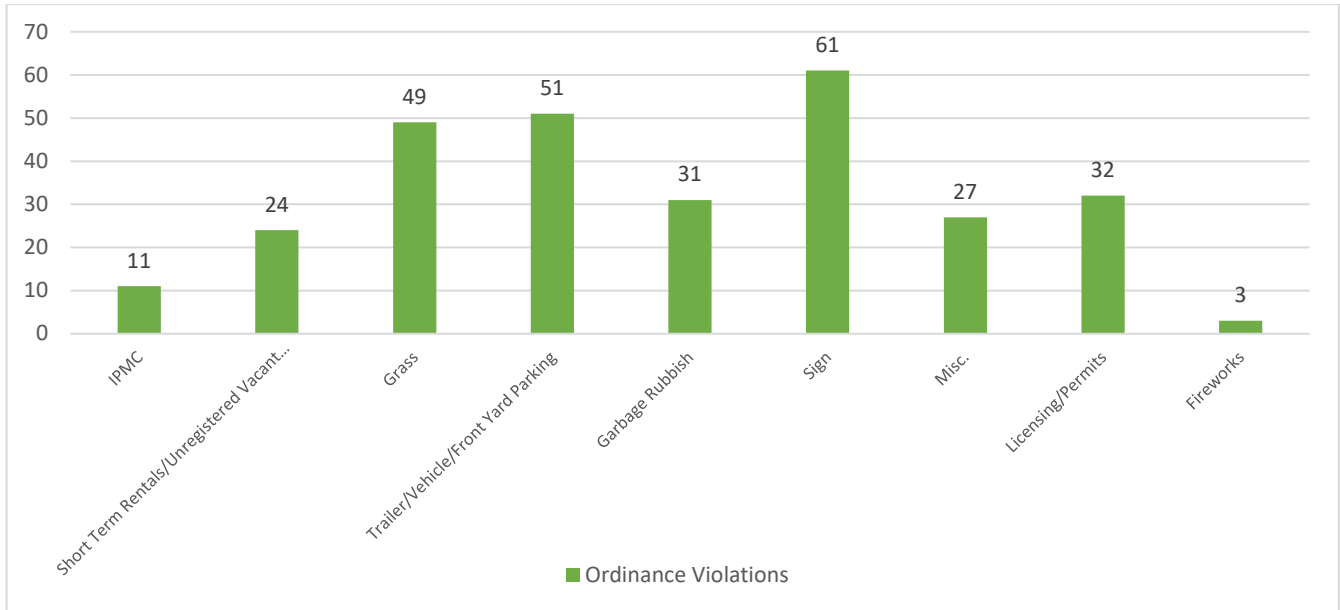
In 2010, the City Council adopted by ordinance the International Property Maintenance Code to regulate and govern the conditions and maintenance of properties, buildings, and structures. The IPMC regulations provide standards that must be met to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary, and fit for occupancy and use. Officer Belmonte works closely with legal counsel and the Emmet County Building Department to address these safety concerns. Voluntary compliance is the goal and enforcement action is only taken in cases where no other alternatives are available.

In 2025, Officer Belmonte addressed eleven IPMC violations.



A building before and after code enforcement involvement.

Code Enforcement



*Miscellaneous violations include noise violations, abandon property, city zoning, city right of way, chickens, and camping.

The City's nuisance ordinances provide the tools needed to address health and safety issues as well as concerns commonly referred to as blight complaints. The ordinances deal with grass, weed, and vegetation issues; garbage/rubbish; trailer violations; unlicensed or disabled vehicles; sign violations; front yard parking; dumpster problems; short term rental and licensing violations; and unsafe or unsecured buildings, among other violations.

Last year, Officer Belmonte played an important role in improving the City's Insurance Rating from 3 to 4. He plans to continue this goal for 2025. Officer Belmonte documents with detailed photos of the exterior of residences so they may be used for training, documentation, and planning in the event of a fire.

In 2025, a total of 289 ordinance violations were investigated and 24 citations were issued. There was a significant decrease in ordinance violations compared to 2024 (414 violations) due to Officer Belmonte spreading awareness and educating citizens and businesses about the City's ordinances.



Safety/Educational Programs

The Petoskey Department of Public Safety is committed to working with the community to educate citizens and assist them in keeping their families safe and secure. Our officers help each year by participating in a variety of community events and functions. Public Safety Officers speak to school children, give station tours, attend job fairs, conduct fire safety demonstrations, and assist area groups with various requests.

OK2SAY



OK2SAY is a student safety program ran by the Michigan State Police that allows students to confidentially report tips on potential harm or criminal activities directed at students, schools, or school employees. Planned school attacks, threats, bullying, or suicidal thoughts are some of the most common types of tips received.

According to the Michigan State Police website, there were 10,777 tips submitted statewide in 2025.

Public Safety Officers received several tips from the OK2SAY program and each tip was investigated thoroughly.

TEAM

We provide a structured TEAM (Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring) program to area students. TEAM is a curriculum developed by the Michigan State Police and is approved by the Department of Education for students of every age. In 2025, SRO Carlson and Donovan presented the law-based program to students and spent time in all local schools. This program deals with a variety of topics such as stranger awareness, firearm safety, bullying, the criminal justice process, fire safety, and homeland security.



National Fire Prevention Week

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored the public observation of Fire Prevention Week since 1922. Fire Prevention Week occurs during the week of October 9, in remembrance of the victims of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. During Fire Prevention Week, the Department is active on social media, sharing tips on how to keep homes safe from fire damage. Officers also visit local schools, speaking with school children about fire safety plans and giving demonstrations of our equipment.

In 2025, PSO Karl Fritz made trips to several different local schools and gave presentations to approximately 585 students.

Community Engagement

The Petoskey Department of Public Safety is committed to building and enhancing community relationships. Community relationships that focus on partnerships are imperative to reducing crime and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Officers enjoy being able to interact with the community and can often be found at events throughout the year.



SRO Donovan (above, right) and SRO Carlson gave a presentation on fire operations to local elementary school children. Students were able to check out our trucks up close as well as see some of the gear that firefighters wear to keep themselves safe.



Officers were invited to play a game of softball with the Challengers, a Petoskey Little League team adapted to accommodate players with a physical or intellectual challenge. We have had the privilege to play with the team in previous years and everyone involved has a great time.



Several communities, including the City of Petoskey, were heavily affected by the ice storm in late March. Petoskey City Hall served as a warming shelter around the clock, in which Officers assisted citizens in need of transportation. Additional warming shelters nearby included Bear Creek Township Office and the Odawa Casino, in which Officers also assisted with those in need of a ride. To an even further extent, Officers went door to door in the community to make contact with residents to offer assistance, resources, and ensure well-being in each household. During the ice storm, we received over 200 calls for service in relation to power / cable lines down, notice of power outages, attempt to locate well beings, request for transportation to warming shelters, alarms caused by power outage / power being returned on, etc. This is an immense spike in call volume compared to a normal day to day basis.



SRO Carlson and Donovan worked together with the Petoskey Public School Administration to present ALICE based training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) to all staff and students. In previous years, this was only presented to staff, however, SRO's recognized the need for all grades to have an age-appropriate program put together as well.

This training was presented to approximately 2,400 students and over 200 staff members.



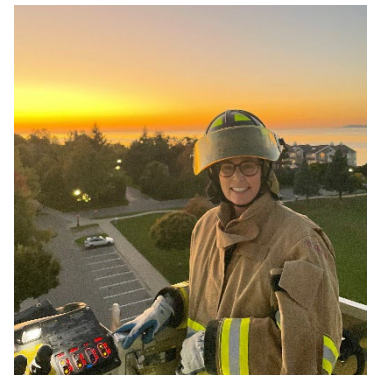
In 2025, Officers were part of many community events including:

- General community assistance during the ice storm
- Career Fairs
- Provided 7-week Citizen Academy to area residents.
- SRO Reward activities such as donut rewards and rides to and from school in a police car.
- Attended Thin Blue Line Bike Race
- Director Karr assisted in Rotary spaghetti dinner serving hundreds of area residents.
- Director Karr was the Keynote speaker for the Petoskey Middle School Career Fair
- Presented awards at City Council for meritorious service by PSOs and Citizens
- Little League Challenger softball game
- Led parades including the Senior, 4th of July, Veterans, and Holiday Parades
- Hosted Public Safety Open House
- PSO Fritz gave fire safety presentations for Fire Awareness Week
- Officers passed out candy at Halloween events including Trunk-or-Treat, as well as residential and Downtown Trick-or-Treat
- Attended Bay Harbor Balloon Festival
- Officers participated in Shop with a Hero events
- SRO Carlson teaches and presents Stop the Bleed to students and staff
- SRO Carlson and Donovan presented TEAM
- Donated vouchers for free rides in a fire truck to Rotary, Women's Resource Center, and Sports Boosters for auction
- Attended Downtown Open House
- Offered free smoke detectors to City residents
- Completed numerous individual and group tours for private citizens as well as schools
- PSO Fritz presented a fire extinguisher training for several high school Robotics teams
- And many more!

Citizen Academy

Every year, our department hosts a program called the Citizen Academy to engage with and teach the public about what it is like to be a Public Safety Officer. The program is hands-on oriented and is free and open to community members ages 18 and up. Certain topics are covered, to which include criminal law, interviews, and interrogations; firearms simulator; investigations and crime scene processing; fire operations; emergency medical services and extrications; 90th District Court and Prosecutors Office; Little Traverse Bay Bands Tribal Police; and presentations from the Emmet County Sheriff's Office including their drone and K9. Additionally, each citizen is provided the opportunity to ride along with a Public Safety Officer!

If you are interested in the Citizen Academy, please submit your application by stopping in to the City Hall or accessing it on our website.



Open House

Our 15th Annual Open House was held in June of 2025. We were very fortunate to have sunny and warm weather this year! Officers and other local first responders were on hand to show off our equipment and share more about each of their agencies. We grilled hot dogs and handed out refreshments as well as some gifts such as coloring books, firefighter helmets, and sticker badges.

We were joined by American Red Cross, CCE Central Dispatch, Emmet EMS, Emmet County Sheriff's Office, Lake Effect Restoration, Little Traverse Bay Bands Tribal Police, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Foster Care Awareness, North Flight Aero Med, Northern Michigan Mutual Aid Task Force, Office of Emergency Management, and Resort Bear Creek Fire Department.



Detective Position



PSO William Bowen was selected as the Department's new detective and his term began in January 2025. The Department has one full-time detective that handles all follow-up investigations from complaints taken by officers as well as a variety of other duties. The detective works directly with the courts, other law enforcement agencies, and outside departments. The detective is on a three-year rotating schedule to allow numerous officers the opportunity to serve and learn more about the investigative process.

Please see below for Detective Bowens End of Year Summary.

2025 Detective End of Year Summary

<i>Total Original Complaints:</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Supplemental Reports Written:</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>Search Warrants:</i>	<i>25</i>

Criminal Sexual Conduct: 2

- ❖ One case ended in a juvenile disposition and the other was closed due to insufficient evidence for prosecution.

Violation of Controlled Substance Act: 4

- ❖ The same individual was arrested on four different occasions in the City of Petoskey. On two occasions, he was in possession of various illicit drugs.
- ❖ On June 4th, 2025, Officers Steele, Arnold, and Dolan were dispatched to a suspicious subject believed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. A subsequent investigation led to, what is believed to be, the largest single methamphetamine case in Petoskey's Road Patrol history. Nearly four ounces of meth were seized along several other controlled substances, which included Xanax, Oxycodone, Buprenorphine, Clonazepam, Cocaine, and LSD. Almost \$1,000 in cash was also seized and forfeited as drug profits from the individual.

Domestic Violence: 6

- ❖ A male subject was arrested on June 4th, 2025, for 1st Degree Home Invasion, Domestic Violence 3rd, Aggravated Stalking, and Interfering with Electronic Communications. He subsequently took a plea deal and was sentenced to prison.
- ❖ On August 22nd, 2025, officers were dispatched to a residence for an unknown domestic incident. Upon arrival, officers determined a female subject had stabbed her male roommate in the neck with a knife. The female was arrested and aid was rendered to the victim. She was subsequently charged with Assault with Intent to Commit Great Bodily Harm and Aggravated Domestic Assault.

Child Sexually Abusive Material: 1

- ❖ Five search warrants were executed and it was determined that young juveniles were involved.

Child Abuse/Neglect: 2

- ❖ Two separate cases were investigated and three total adults were criminally charged after their very young children were found wandering around outside after leaving their homes.

Assist Other Agency:

- ❖ Det. Bowen was investigating a complaint involving stolen tools in February 2025. When interviewing a possible suspect, information was provided as to the location of a possible stolen camper from Grand Traverse County. Additional interviews were conducted and an address was located in Cheboygan County. Upon checking the address, the camper was located and confirmed stolen out of Grand Traverse County from 2023. The information was turned back over to Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office for their investigation.

Fraud:

8

- ❖ In January 2025, three subjects purchased over \$5,000 in instant lotto tickets with stolen credit cards. One of the individuals was identified and an arrest warrant is currently outstanding.
- ❖ A local business owner found out his identity had been stolen and several thousand dollars had been withdrawn from his bank account held in Minnesota. Investigation identified the suspect and the case was turned over to the local police department in Minnesota for criminal prosecution.
- ❖ Another local business owner had his federal IRS refund changed to a check which was intercepted in the mail. An investigation identified a suspect and determined the check had been deposited into a fake account in New Jersey. The case was transferred to the local police department in New Jersey, where the suspect was criminally charged and arrested on December 28th, 2025.

***Fraud cases are generally our agency's most prevalent type of reported felony case. These cases are often difficult to investigate and / or prosecute. Offenders are often not in Michigan and some cases occur overseas. Offenders generally utilize technology and software that masks their identity and / or law enforcement's ability to track their location.

Overall, there were a minimal amount of cases needing investigative assistance from the Detective Bureau in 2025. This is outlined by Petoskey being an affluent area with a low crime rate. A review of 2025 criminal cases show the Detective was involved in roughly 10% of these cases.

However, this does not discredit the need for a detective to handle certain investigations. The Detective position requires over hundreds of hours' of work, which includes interviewing individuals, writing search warrants, reviewing search warrant material, and conducting other follow-up.

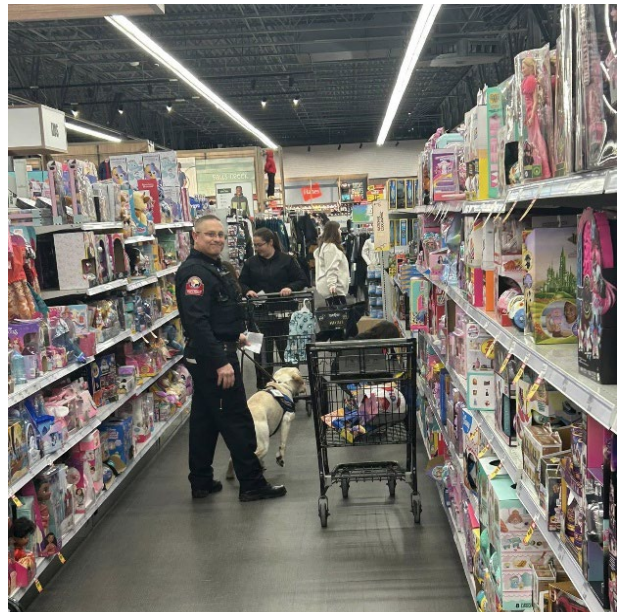
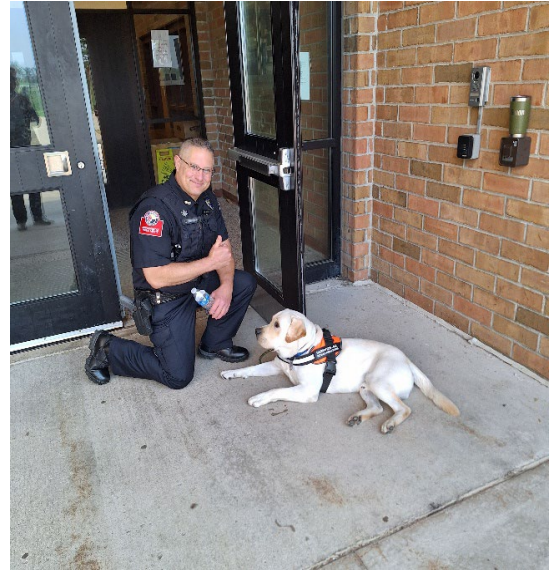
School Resource Officer Benjamin Carlson

In the summer of 2021, Petoskey school administrators recognized there was a need for the increased presence of a School Resource Officer within the school district. An agreement was made between the City of Petoskey and the Petoskey School District to place an SRO in the schools. SRO Carlson has been working in the schools full-time since January of 2023 and has made a lasting impact with staff, students, and parents. SRO Carlson has served the Public Safety Department since 2006 and is a fully trained and certified School Resource Officer, law enforcement officer, firefighter, and EMT. He has earned several Departmental awards over the years for his dedication to the Department and citizens of Petoskey. He can be found primarily at the High School and assists in the elementary schools as well. SRO Carlson is also on the board for SEPLA (School, Educator, Police Liaison Association). SEPLA is a statewide group that hosts annual training conferences.



School Resource Officer Lawrence Donovan

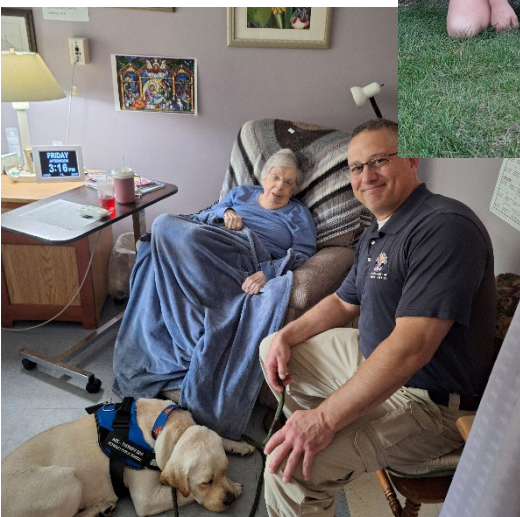
In May of 2024, the City of Petoskey and Petoskey Public Schools reached an agreement to implement a second School Resource Officer. SRO Donovan is primarily stationed in the Middle School but also assists in the elementary schools. He has been with the Public Safety Department since 2001 and is a certified law enforcement officer, School Resource Officer, EMT, and firefighter. He had previously served as our Detective and has completed numerous specialized training making him a highly trained member of our Department. Donovan has over thirteen years of experience as an Operator on the Regional Emergency Response Team. Additionally, he serves as a certified trainer for responding to active assistant responses. In 2025, he attended the 8th Annual North American Active Assailant Conference, Forensic Interviewing of Children, and a SEPLA (Schools, Education, Police Liaison Association) Conference. SRO Donovan has also earned many Departmental Honors Board Awards for his service to the Department over the years including multiple Public Safety Citations and Lifesaving Awards.



Meet Ace



Ace officially began his duties as the Petoskey Middle School's therapy dog in 2025. Ace is a Labrador Retriever and his partner is SRO Donovan. Therapy dogs have been shown to provide several benefits to schools, which include emotional support, academic engagement, and fostering social connections. Petoskey Harbor Springs Community Foundation funded through. Ace is now eligible to go to assisted care homes to visit with residents as well!



2025 Honors Board of Review Recipients

The Petoskey Department of Public Safety Honors Board of Review consists of the Director, Senior Lieutenant and Union Steward. The Board meets once a year to review requests for recognition of meritorious service or actions. These requests for awards are submitted by Department members who wish to have fellow Department members, public safety personnel from other departments, or citizens recognized for outstanding service to the community or to the Department. The Honors Board of Review consists of Director Adrian Karr, Sr. Lt. David Schultz, and PSO Hunter Arnold.

Lifesaving Award:

PDPS Staff:

Lt. Michael Parker

Cadet Caitlyn Matelski

PSO Benjamin Carlson

Fire Fighter Cameron Wise

EMS Staff:

Calvin Pennfold

Joe Behling

Benjamin Slocum

Aaron Maltby

On June 22nd, 2025, at approximately 9:20pm, officers were dispatched to a residence on Jefferson Street for a person not breathing. Upon arrival, the patient's wife directed the officers to the bedroom where the patient was found unresponsive. Officers immediately carried the patient to the floor and started CPR. An AED was applied and an I-Gel airway was inserted. Several shocks from the AED were delivered. A short time later, EMS crews arrived on scene and assisted with lifesaving care. Due to the cooperation between Public Safety Officers and Emmet EMS, the patient regained a pulse. The patient was transported to the emergency department in McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital for advanced care. We were advised that after a short stay, the subject made a full recovery.

For their combined efforts on this day, which resulted in a life spared, Public Safety staff and Emmet County EMS are awarded the Lifesaving Award.

Lifesaving Award:

Lt. Matthew Mikulski

Lt. William Bowen

PSO Adam Klimsza

On March 19th, 2025, at approximately 1:32pm, officers were dispatched to an address on Emmet Street for a report of a male believed to be unresponsive in the bathroom.

Upon arrival, Lt. Bowen attempted verbal contact with the male through the door, however was unsuccessful. Lt. Bowen forcefully removed the door from its hinges and found the patient unresponsive and not breathing. Lt. Bowen observed drug paraphernalia, to which included an uncapped needle located in the vicinity of the patient. One dose of Naloxone (Narcan) Nasal Spray was administered. A bag-valve mask was utilized in order to assist the patient's respiratory function. A short time later, the patient regained consciousness and became alert and oriented. The patient was then transported to McLaren Northern Michigan emergency department for advanced care.

The swift actions of Lt. Bowen and the teamwork amongst officers provided a favorable outcome for this patient. For these actions Lt. Matthew Mikulski, Lt. William Bowen, and PSO Adam Klimsza are hereby awarded a Lifesaving Award.

Citizen Award:

Prudence Whistle
Karen D'hondt
Tamira Emmons

On July 8th, 2025, at approximately 4:05pm, PDPS officers and Emmet EMS were dispatched to the bike path near Townline Road for a report of a bicyclist down and CPR in progress. Upon arrival, medical staff observed the three ladies, who are mentioned above, performing CPR on the unresponsive patient.

It was later learned that Prudence, Karen, and Tamira were biking when they came upon a bicyclist down. The three ladies acted promptly and proceeded to conduct CPR and call 911. This is a textbook response. EMS staff was able to regain the patient's pulse and the subject was transported to the emergency room for advanced care. Unfortunately, the subject passed several days later due to the cardiac event. However, the family was extremely thankful for the opportunity to say their goodbyes.

For their efforts on this day, Prudence Whistle, Karen D'Hondt and Tamira Emmons deserve recognition for their efforts and are hereby awarded a Citizen Award.

Public Safety Citation:

Lt. David Schultz
PSO Adam Klimsza
Fire Fighter Cameron Wise
Lt. Fuller Cowell
Sgt. Cole Brady
Sgt. Alex Babcock
Deputy Jessie Shaw
Corrections Officer Noah Gosciak
Deputy Mark Hazen
Trooper Patrick Harrington
Tribal Officer Jake Guenhart
Trooper Adam Brown

On March 30th, 2025, at approximately 11:04pm, officers received information that the McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital generator had failed due to a faulty fuel valve and doctors and nurses were attempting to care for patients on limited battery power. Officers began compiling a plan to provide temporary power until the generator could be restored.

Officers jumped into action by rounding up supplies such as flashlights, handheld radios, and generators. Meanwhile, the troopers responded to Walmart and demanded the employees open the doors so they could purchase extension cords with their own money. Other officers keyed into the City DPW to grab other necessary supplies to provide power. Several generators were located by local officers to which the nurses placed outside the ICU. The generators were used to power the machines necessary to keep patients alive. Knowing there might be a delay in power, officers began calling off-duty personnel to respond from their home residences in case more hands were needed for life saving efforts.

Eventually one hundred gallons of fuel, which was meant for the City of Petoskey's waste water plant generators, was rerouted to the hospital in order to restore the generator. While officers and hospital staff worked with their iPhone flashlights to provide care, power was ultimately restored through the generator fuel supply.

The quick actions taken by these officers during these emergent out of the ordinary circumstances deserve recognition. For their outstanding efforts and teamwork on this night, these officers are awarded a Public Safety Citation.

Mayors Award:

Shane Horn

In late March of 2025, Northern Michigan was forced to endure what some people are calling the “100-year storm”. All of Emmet County and several of our surrounding counties were affected by a severe ice storm where trees were toppled, power poles were sheered damaging our power grid, and travel was nearly impossible. This particular severe weather event came without warning and without bias. Everyone in the area was affected for an extended period of time, some up to several weeks without power. This was a community leader’s worst nightmare. Concerns of warmth, food, and limited communications were suddenly a reality.

While electric crews, officers, hospital staff, and EMS were dealing with the emergency side of the ice storm, City Manager Shane Horn was attempting to help the citizens of Petoskey in any way he could. Knowing that City Hall was hooked to generator power, Shane opened the doors as a warming center and overnight shelter, which also served as a charging station for the public’s electronic devices. This transformed into good Samaritans bringing in crockpot meals and became a place for the public to feel welcome and endure fellowship with others. As the saying goes, “misery loves company”!

Shane did his very best to keep the public updated through the City website and Facebook, all while trying to maintain calm under the most serious set of circumstances. The extremely small amount of sleep Shane received was mostly on the floor in his office, as he rarely left the building.

The leadership and care for his community City Manager Shane Horn displayed in the face of this crisis deserves recognition. For his actions during the Icepocalypse of 2025, City Manager Shane Horn is hereby awarded the Mayors Award.

Citizen Award:

Eric Kennedy

On June 25th, 2025, at approximately 7pm, an adult male was picking up supplies for his employer behind a local business. While this subject was loading sheets of steel onto a flatbed trailer by himself, the decking under him gave way causing the male to fall onto a piece of a jagged 2x6. This caused a large penetrating wound to the man’s upper thigh.

The man miraculously pulled himself off of the impalement, however began experiencing severe blood loss from a possible artery as blood spurting from the wound. The injured man was able to get to the cab of his truck and call for help. However, he then observed another truck pull into the parking lot, who was driven by Eric Kennedy. Eric was checking on a cement job he had done for the business earlier in the day.

The injured man began honking his horn repeatedly to get Kennedy’s attention. Kennedy went over to the man’s truck and immediately began applying intense direct pressure over the wound while helping the patient keep his leg elevated until help arrived. While Kennedy continued to maintain pressure on the wound, a responding public safety officer applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. The patient was then turned over to EMS for treatment and transported to McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital where he successfully survived the event.

For Mr. Kennedy’s selfless actions on this day, in which he potentially saved another man’s life, he is hereby rewarded a Citizen Award.

Public Safety Commendation:

PSO Hunter Arnold
PSO Alexis Steele

On June 5th, 2025, at approximately 5:29pm, PSO Steele was dispatched to a driving complaint in the area of McDonalds (South). The reporting party witnessed a possible intoxicated driver in this area and provided a vehicle description. PSO Steele located the vehicle parked within the area and found two subjects standing outside the vehicle with the vehicle hatch up. PSO Steele made contact with the two subjects who behaved in a manner that raised PSO Steele's suspicion of narcotic use. PSO Arnold, who is a licensed Drug Recognition Expert, arrived on scene and confirmed these suspicions as well.

Consent to search the vehicle was provided by the vehicle owner and officers ended up seizing more than nine hundred dollars in cash along with nine different types of controlled substances. These substances included LSD, Cocaine, Oxycodone, Fentanyl, and Xanax to name just a few.

These officers utilized their training and experience to make one of the largest drug seizures in the department's history. For these efforts, PSO Arnold and PSO Steele are hereby awarded a Public Safety Commendation.

Public Safety Commendation:

PSO Frederick Haalck

On September 17th, 2025, at approximately 11:42am, officers were dispatched to McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital Emergency Department for a male patient that had damaged a room and was currently crawling around in the ceiling.

Upon arrival, PSO Haalck identified himself as a police officer and yelled for the patient to come down from the ceiling. The patient refused and began breaking through a drywall barrier in the ceiling and made his way further down the hallway. PSO Haalck climbed up into the ceiling and began pursuing the male patient. PSO Haalck had to navigate his way through a maze of water/drainage piping, air handling ductwork, and powerlines. Ultimately, PSO Haalck was able to catch up to patient and found him, now, completely naked.

The patient acknowledged that PSO Haalck was obviously not going to give up his pursuits and made the decision to give up. The patient was assisted down a ladder, handcuffed, and returned to a more secure room within the emergency department.

PSO Haalck risked his own safety to resolve this rapidly evolving incident. For his actions PSO Haalck is awarded a Public Safety Commendation.

Citizen Award:

Tony Presley

On May 5th 2025, Mr. Presley was driving his infant daughter around in his vehicle waiting to pick up his wife from her shift at McLaren Hospital. Mr. Presley drove by Kaufman's Furniture Store and observed a man on the ground tangled up in his E-Bike. Unbeknownst to Mr. Presley, Mr. Bradford Flemming had wanted to take an evening bike ride and had left his apartment riding towards Bay Harbor. Mr. Flemming struck a small concrete culvert and flipped over his handlebars breaking his C3 vertebrae causing him to have paralysis. Mr. Flemming reported he had been in that spot for over two hours until Mr. Presley came by and summoned help. Mr. Presley stayed with Mr. Flemming until medical staff arrived, providing comfort and reassurance that help was on the way.

Emmet EMS and Petoskey DPS officers arrived and took over medical care of Mr. Flemming. EMS protocol for a spinal emergency began on scene and continued at the McLaren Emergency Department. Mr. Flemming's care was transferred to a downstate hospital where he spent several months in rehab learning to walk and care for himself again.

Mr. Presley's attentiveness and actions on this night may just have saved Mr. Flemming's life. For this, Mr. Presley deserves recognition and is hereby awarded a Citizen Award.

Training

Each year, Public Safety Officers receive important training in a variety of areas including firefighting, emergency medical services, and law enforcement. Below are listed a few examples in which one or more officers participated in this year. Some trainings occur annually and some are new trainings. Officers receive continuing education training in firefighting on a bi-weekly basis. EMS trainings are done throughout the year to which include categories like Preparatory, Airway/Ventilation, Patient Assessment, Medical, Trauma, Special Considerations, Pediatrics, Operations, and Emergency Preparedness.

- Law Enforcement
 - Advanced Roadside Interview Techniques for Patrol Officers
 - SEPLA (Schools, Education, Police Liaison Association) Conference
 - Defensive Tactics / Less-Lethal
 - AR-15 Armorer's Course I & II, Basic Firearms Instructor
 - Anti-Bias
 - Child Forensic Interview: *The Next Step*
 - The Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogation
 - Addressing Homeless Populations
- Firefighting
 - Courage to Be Safe
 - VFIS Driver Training
 - HAZMAT

We also had the unique opportunity of attending a training simulation at North Central Michigan College in which smoke generators were used to simulate a fire drill through the underground tunnel complex. There was a large turnout of participants which included the NCMC Emergency Planning and Security Officer, NCMC Physical Plant personnel, Emmet County / LTBB Emergency Management, Harbor Springs FD, Resort Bear Creek FD, Harbor Springs Public Schools UAS Instructor, Emmet County Sheriff's Office, Sault Ste. Marie Fire Chief, and CCE 911 dispatchers.



Ice Rescue Training



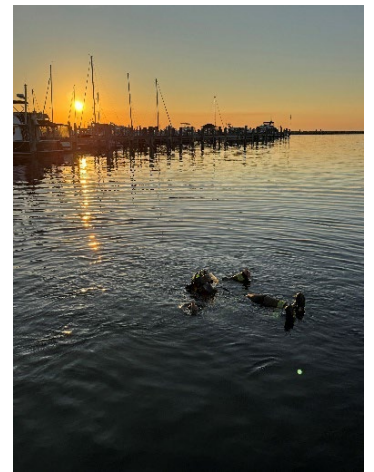
In Michigan, we are never more than six miles from a natural water source. Thus, we sought it to be critical to participate in Ice Rescue Training in February of 2025. Our equipment includes rescue rope, cold weather immersion suits, and a personal flotation device. We coordinated with the Emmet County Dive Team to receive the proper practical training.



Firefighter Safety Training



Since the Petoskey has multiple natural water sources nearby, we found it to be important to host our own practical firefighter safety training. Each firefighter wore their full turnout gear, including an SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) and emerged themselves in and under water. This situation simulated a firefighter falling into the river, lake, or other water source while conducting fire operations. We found it important to maintain a calm demeanor and to not take off our gear while in the water. Surprisingly, our turnout gear allowed us to stay afloat for several continuous minutes!



Practical Training

We had an amazing opportunity offered to our department in which we were able to simulate fire operations on a house. The owner of the house was going to conduct a full demolition anyways, so the opportunity was afforded for our use first, before it was torn down. We were able to use a smoke machine to simulate a real house fire and its conditions. We trained on roof ventilation, search and rescue, fire ground operations.



Fire and EMS Calls for Service

The Department responded to 949 fire and emergency medical calls for service in 2025. Of these calls for service, 396 were classified as a fire response and 553 were a medical response.



Emergency Medical Services

In 2025, approximately 58% of the calls for emergency medical or fire services were medical in nature. The Department of Public Safety operates under licensing issued by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Petoskey is the only fire department in Emmet County operating at the “basic-non transport” level. This license is one level below the paramedic level.

We are often the first medical unit on scene at priority calls and all officers hold at minimum a basic EMT license with some officers also holding paramedic licensing.



MDHHS (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) launched an EMS Naloxone Leave Behind Program recently, to which our BLS equipped Fire Apparatus' are now equipped with. Each Officer completed the *Leave Behind Naloxone Kits: An EMS Harm Reduction Strategy* course. Each Naloxone Leave Behind Kit includes the Naloxone (Narcan) medication, instructions for use, and additional resources on addiction treatment and support services. Naloxone is a medication that reverses non-fatal opioid overdoses. The goal in participating in this program is to reduce the stigma on addiction and empower communities to take action in emergency situations.

**2025 Petoskey Department of Public Safety
Summary of Activities**

Law Enforcement Calls for Service

Bay Harbor	471
Petoskey	8,686
Total Calls for Service	9,157

Fire and EMS Calls For Service

EMS Calls	553
Fire Calls	396
Total Calls for Service	949



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