



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## Department of Public Safety City of Petoskey

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Prepared by:

Gina Ellenberger, Office Manager  
Adrian Karr, Director



## **Petoskey Department of Public Safety Staff**

### **Director and Lieutenants**



Director Adrian Karr



Senior Lt. Todd Troxel



Lt. David Schultz



Lt. Michael Parker



Lt. Matthew Mikulski

### **Public Safety Officers**

Hunter Arnold  
William Bowen  
Benjamin Carlson  
Michael Dolan  
Lawrence Donovan  
John Duch  
Karl Fritz  
Dallas Givens

Scott Gosciak  
Frederick Haalck  
Erik Hoig  
Connor Kish  
Scott Lamont  
Matthew Mikulski  
Alexis Peacock

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## Message from the Director

Welcome to the Petoskey Department of Public Safety 2023 Annual Report and thank you for taking an interest in our Departmental operations. This annual report will help illustrate our Department's dedication to the safety of our residents and visitors, our continued promotion of community engagement, and our emphasis on being a proactive agency.



In the year 2023, the Petoskey Department of Public Safety began with a change in leadership. Director Matthew Breed decided to call it quits on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, which afforded me an opportunity to try to fill his extremely large and finely polished shoes. I am not going to lie, 2023 provided many struggles along with some triumphs. I realized early in my career that I am just a small piece of a much larger puzzle. I try to emphasize the importance of working through these struggles and celebrate our triumphs together as a Department and community. I am very thankful for the support I have received from Public Safety Staff, City Staff, City Manager, City Council Members and most importantly the Citizens of Petoskey. Please know the Department of Public Safety is always striving to be better than yesterday!

In 2023, the Petoskey Department of Public Safety was once again able to engage with the community through outreach programs such as our annual Citizen's Academy, Open House, STRIVE, Job Fairs and Downtown Events. Further, Department members were active in various community program events such as Fire Prevention Week, YMCA summer camp presentations, the senior Health Expo presented by the Friendship Center, and "Shop with a Hero". Through these opportunities, we hope to continue to build relationships where members of the community know our staff on a more personal level.

This past year has gone by in a flash. As I write this message, I reflect on many interactions I have had in 2023. These interactions include congressmen, local business owners, state representatives, vacationers, sheriffs, chiefs, teachers, joggers, boaters, vacationers, etc. When I say this is truly a unique place to live and work, I realize only those who have the privilege to experience it will understand what I am saying. I feel blessed to work alongside members of this community to assure our community remains a safe destination for all who want to experience what Petoskey has to offer.

Lastly, I would like to leave you with the first paragraph of the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics which the Department of Public Safety officers try to live by and uphold on a daily basis:

*"As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community, to safeguard life and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder, and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice."*

Best to you and yours in 2024 from all of us at the Petoskey Department of Public Safety!

Adrian (Rocky) Karr, Director





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.

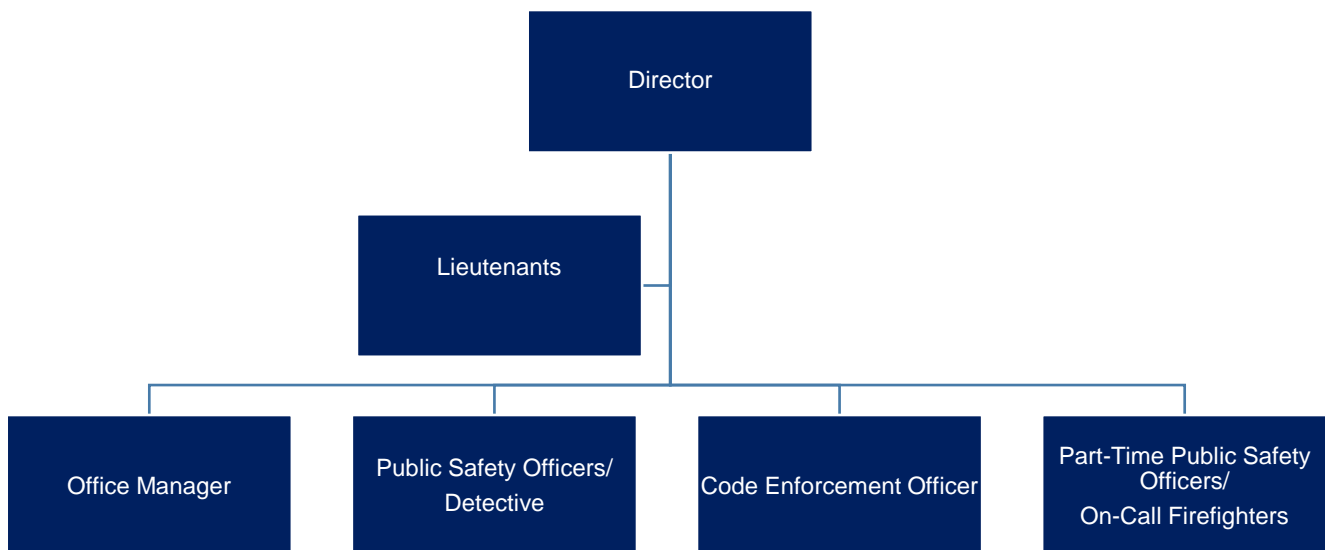
## **Petoskey Department of Public Safety 2023 Annual Report**

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 20 sworn officers (crossed-trained as certified law enforcement officer, firefighter, and EMT), five part-time Public Safety Officers, one on-call firefighter, 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**



## Law Enforcement Calls for Service 2019-2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Bay Harbor</b>	335	389	361	393	372
<b>Petoskey</b>	8,621	7,074	7,587	6,978	7,968
<b>Total</b>	8,956	7,463	7,948	7,371	8,340

Complaint numbers are generated for activities such as arrests, criminal investigations, health and safety checks, suspicious persons or vehicles, alarms, and assisting other agencies. Other activities are logged, but not assigned complaint numbers. Usually these events do not require follow-up by an officer such as administrative tasks, assisting citizens, and court appearances.

In 2023, the Public Safety law enforcement division handled 8,340 requests for service and logged 7,200 complaint numbers. This is an increase of 969 calls for service and 1,027 complaint numbers from 2022.

As a result of criminal complaints and investigations, the Department of Public Safety made approximately 390 arrests in 2023. Of that total, approximately 56 were felony arrests and 334 were misdemeanor arrests.



Photo Credit: Josh Morgan

## Log of Complaints

Incident	Petoskey	Bay Harbor
911 Hang Up	154	3
Abandoned Vehicle	56	3
Accidents	406	26
Alarms	133	65
Animal Complaint	145	3
Assault/Domestic Violence	42	0
Assist Ambulance	674	25
Assist Other Agency	298	5
Attempt to Locate/Wellbeing Check	155	2
Breaking and Entering	6	0
Civil Matters/Disputes	185	9
Damage to Property	11	1
Death	12	0
Disorderly Conduct	28	0
Embezzlement	1	0
Family-Neglect/Non-Support	5	0
Fire/Fire Related Services	68	13
Forgery/Fraud	17	0
General Assistance	359	9
General Non-Criminal	547	28
Health and Safety	0	0
Juvenile Complaint	77	0
Larceny	34	1
Liquor Violations	16	0
Lost and Found Property	148	2
Mental Health	94	0
Miscellaneous Criminal	33	0
Misdemeanor Traffic Offense	49	1
Missing Person	5	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	0
Noise Complaint	42	5
Obstructing Justice	27	0
Obstructing/Resisting Officer	11	1
Operating While Intoxicated	57	3
Ordinance Violation (Including IPMC/IFC)	419	0
Overdose	2	0
Parking Violation	77	4
Property Inspection	135	9
Public Relations	81	4
Sex Offense	13	0
Stalking/Intimidation	9	0
Suspicious Situations	618	16
Traffic Stops	1,416	72
Trespass	12	0
Unlock	193	7
Violation of Controlled Substance Act	6	1
Weapons Offense	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,882</b>	<b>318</b>

\*Statistics are organized by most serious offense



## Ordinance Enforcement

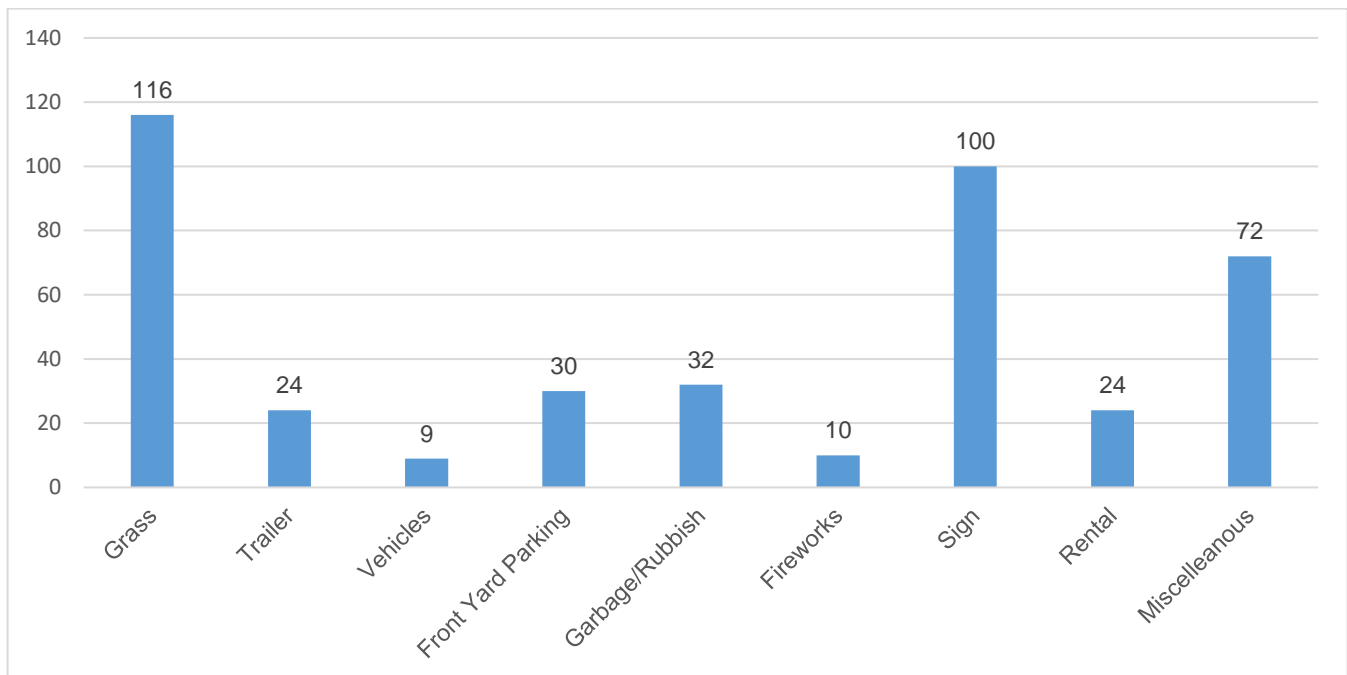
The City's nuisance ordinances provide the tools needed to address health and safety issues as well as concerns commonly referred to as blight complaints. The Department of Public Safety has taken the lead in enforcement of these ordinances. The ordinances deal with grass, weed, and vegetation issues; garbage/rubbish; trailer violations; unlicensed or disabled vehicles; sign violations; front yard parking; dumpster problems; and unsafe or unsecured buildings, among other violations.



Code Enforcement  
Officer Belmonte

Until this year, Public Safety Officers were tasked with addressing nuisance concerns. In May, the City hired a full-time Code Enforcement Officer dedicated to addressing all ordinance violations. Officer Tony Belmonte works closely with Public Safety and other City departments to identify and address ordinance complaints. In 2023, Officer Belmonte investigated 417 ordinance complaints. The majority of these complaints were closed with voluntary compliance. Officer Belmonte issued 24 citations for violations related to short term rentals, tall grass, garbage/rubbish, and zoning.

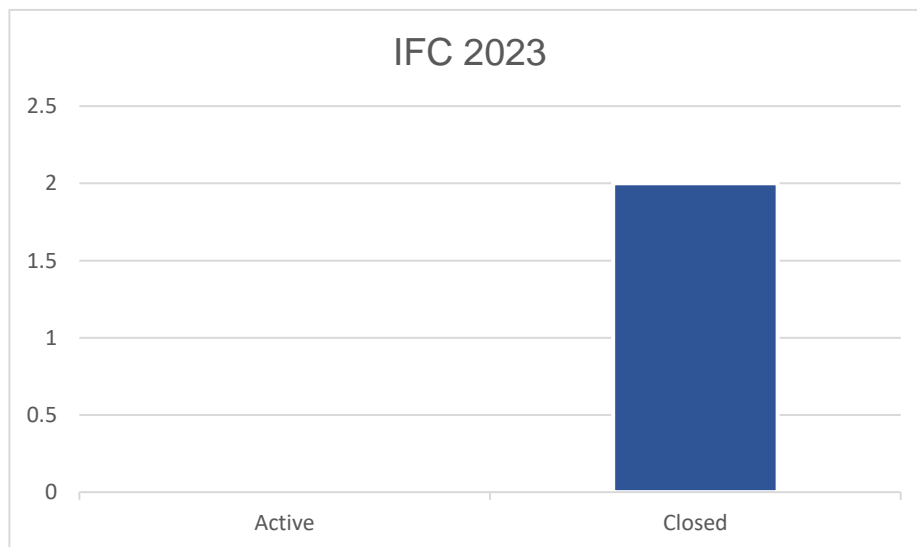
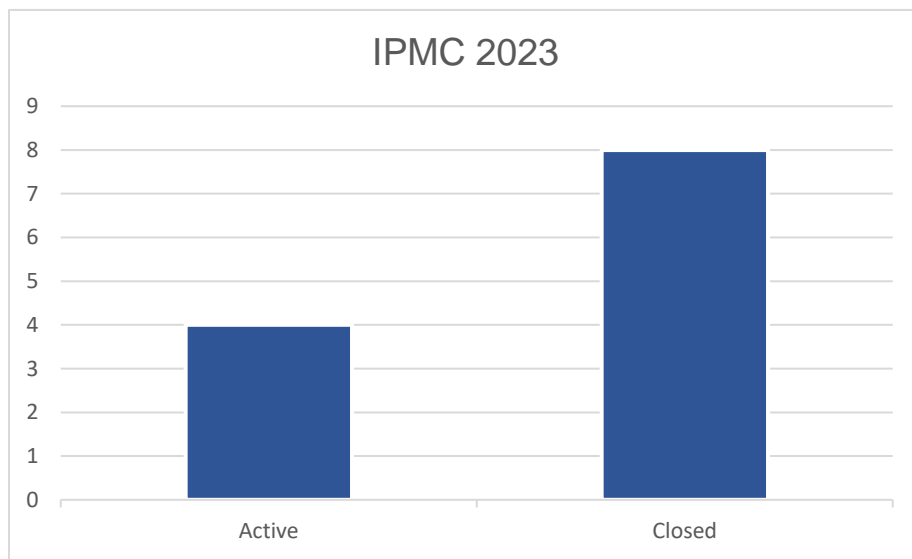
## Common Ordinance Violations 2023



## International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) International Fire Code (IFC)

In 2010, the City Council adopted by ordinance both the International Property Maintenance Code and an updated version of the International Fire Code. These codes were adopted to regulate and govern the conditions and maintenance of properties, buildings, and structures. These codes provide standards that must be met to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary, and fit for occupancy and use.

The Petoskey Department of Public Safety enforces these ordinances through inspections and investigations conducted by our fire inspectors. The main focus of the Department is to identify problem areas, isolate the violations, and then work with the property owners to correct the situation. Voluntary compliance is the goal, and enforcement action is only taken in cases where no other alternatives are available. In 2023, officers investigated twelve International Property Maintenance Code violations and two International Fire Code Violations.



## 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.



In 2023, School Resource Officer Carlson began working with Petoskey schools to stock each classroom in the district with emergency supplies. Each emergency supply pack contains a Stop the Bleed kit, emergency blanket, and miscellaneous hygiene items.

Stop the Bleed kits contain the necessary items to control serious bleeding and prevent further blood loss for a victim suffering a traumatic injury.

## 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 2023, Officer Benjamin Carlson 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.



## Community Connections



In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, PSO Karl Fritz and Detective Scott Lamont met with Benjamin Blake from SERVPRO of Gaylord and Cheboygan. SERVPRO donated safety tip bags for children, goodies for first responders, and smoke detectors. This generous donation allows us to supply smoke detectors to City homeowners, free of charge.



Public Safety Officers enjoy the opportunity to meet with community members both at events throughout the year and at our Department. One event that officers were on hand for was a large country music concert at the Emmet-Charlevoix fair in August. Pictured above is Deputy Vanvalkenburgh (Emmet County), PSO Kish, Lt. Mikulski, Deputy Brady (Emmet County), and PSO Hoig.

Pictured left, PSO Hoig showed some visitors our fire station and fire trucks.





Lt. Parker was one of several officers on hand for a STRIVE event held at our Lake Street station in April. STRIVE (Students Taking a Renewed Interest in the Value of Education) is a scholarship and job partnership program for high school students. Officers shared more about our Department and what it means to be a first responder. We were joined by Emmet EMS, Emmet County Sheriff, Northern Michigan Mutual Aid Task Force, and MSP.



The Michigan Police Unity Team ended their 313-mile bicycle trip at our station on Lake Street. The team rode their bikes across the state, stopping at memorials along the way to honor fallen officers. While at our station, the team honored Robert Russell, a Petoskey Police Officer killed in the line of duty on June 6, 1950.



A generous donation from Petoskey Home Depot helped us to issue a manual breaching kit to each of our marked patrol cars. Their donation of heavy duty bolt cutters and sledgehammers ensures officers will have rapid access in a lifesaving event. We would like to thank Home Depot, Store Manager John Ledig, and Customer Experience Manager Dusty Maat for their donation.

Pictured is PSO Donovan and Dusty Maat.



## Open House

In June, we hosted our annual Open House at the downtown fire station on West Lake Street. This was our 12<sup>th</sup> Open House, after having to take a couple years off due to COVID-19 precautions. The event was very well attended, we estimated more than 500 people visited our station. Guests were treated to free snacks, refreshments and gifts; most donated by local businesses. Guests also had the opportunity to check out our fire and police equipment, observed a drone demonstration, and operated a fire hose.

We were joined by CCE Central Dispatch, Emmet EMS, Emmet County Sheriff's Office, Little Traverse Bay Bands Tribal Police, Northern Michigan Mutual Aid Task Force, Office of Emergency Management, Radio Armature Civil Emergency Services, Resort Bear Creek Fire Department and US Coast Guard.

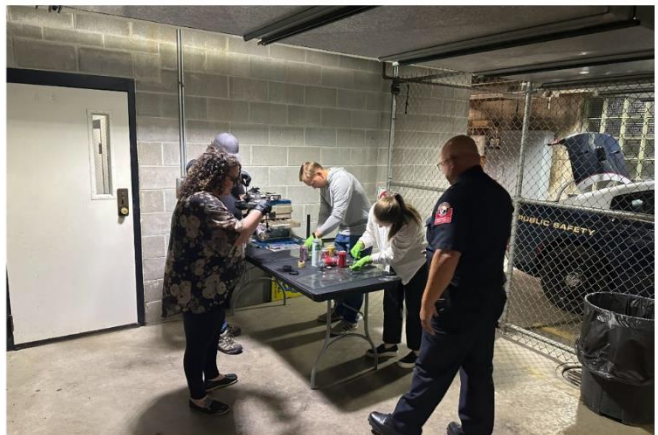




## Citizens Academy

We held our 12<sup>th</sup> Citizens Academy in the fall of 2023. The Citizens Academy was established to give citizens a better working knowledge of our operations, policies, and procedures. We invite participants into our work place and give them a firsthand look at what it means to a Public Safety Officer. The Academy is open to all members of the community, at no cost to the students.

The 24-hour block of instruction is very comprehensive, covering different topics over the course of several weeks. Participants received instruction in fire operations, emergency medical services, criminal law, interviewing and interrogation, and crime scene investigation. Students also had the opportunity to use our equipment and heard presentations from Emmet EMS, Emmet County Sheriff's Office, and CCE Central Dispatch. Officers enjoy sharing their knowledge with Academy participants and put a lot of hard work into making this program a success.



## **Detective Position**

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. Public Safety Officer Scott Lamont began his term as detective in January 2022. Detective Lamont has been with the Department since August 2016.



In 2023, Detective Lamont continued investigation on 96 complaints, worked on 186 new incidents, and reopened 15 cases. He obtained 36 felony arrest warrants, 49 misdemeanor arrest warrants and 12 search warrants. Additionally, he completed 100 follow-up interviews or contacts. Detective Lamont also completed 11 assists to local schools.

## **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 completed 100 Freedom of Information requests, 14 permits to purchase a handgun, and 55 pistol sales records in 2023. The administrative office also provides a Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug (POD) Drop Off location for City residents. In 2023, the Department safely disposed of approximately 595.2 pounds of medications and assisted in the disposal of POD's in neighboring counties as well.





## School Resource Officer

Over the past several years, the Public Safety Department has devoted as much time as possible to having an officer present within Petoskey schools. PSO Carlson is a fully trained School Resource Officer (SRO) however, staffing issues prevented the Department from scheduling him in the schools full-time. Over the summer of 2021, Petoskey school administrators recognized a need for an increased presence of a resource officer. An agreement was reached whereby Petoskey schools made a financial commitment in an effort to increase the number of hours the SRO is on campus. The Public Safety Department is grateful to Petoskey schools for their commitment and the Department is pleased to announce that PSO Carlson was in the schools full-time beginning January 2023.

SRO's are a great asset to schools as they collaborate with staff to ensure that students have a safe environment in which to learn. PSO Carlson is not only on hand in case of an emergency, but he assists with truancy concerns, provides medical assistance, completes demonstrations, and speaks with students daily. Additionally, a large percentage of PSO Carlson's time is spent mentoring and building positive relationships with students.



## 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. Tips can be submitted on the OK2SAY app or by phone, text, or email. 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 9,686 tips submitted statewide in 2023.

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



## New Officers



We added two new full-time Public Safety Officers to our team in 2023. PSO Dolan joined the Department in October. He previously served six years as an officer for the New Baltimore Police Department. In addition to bringing his years of experience, PSO Dolan is a Field Training Officer and Evidence Technician.



PSO Givens took his oath to serve as a Public Safety Officer in December. PSO Givens previously served seven years at the Emmet County Sheriff's Office as a Corrections Officer. He is a graduate of the 2023 Kirtland Police Academy and is currently in his field training with our Department.



## **Police Academy Sponsorship**

The Kirtland Police Academy is approved by and operated under the authority of the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). This program not only meets the MCOLES requirements but exceeds them. The 17-week Academy operates five days a week for eight hours a day at their Grayling campus. Cadets participate in classroom learning, hands-on lessons, and scenario-based training. They must pass written exams as well as skills tests regarding firearm proficiency, physical fitness, defensive tactics, first aid, and emergency vehicle operations. During the last week of the Academy, cadets must take the MCOLES Licensing Exam.

In 2023, the City of Petoskey and the Petoskey Department of Public Safety sponsored our new PSO, Officer Givens, in the Kirtland Police Academy. PSO Givens not only graduated the Academy successfully, he was awarded Top Shot in Marksmanship and Most Improved in Pressure Point Control Tactics (Defensive Tactics).

Every cadet in the Fall 2023 Kirtland Academy was sponsored by a Law Enforcement Agency.



## **Field Training Program**

In 2022, three of our Public Safety Officers, Officers Haalck, Bowen, and Arnold, attended a Field Training and Evaluation program presented by Dewolf and Associates. This training provides experienced officers the tools necessary to effectively train, educate, and evaluate new officers. This Field Training program is a four step process, with the trainee taking on more responsibilities as they progress through each stage while receiving coaching from their Field Training Officer (FTO). The trainee is graded daily, and must show that they meet all expectations before continuing to the next step. The last phase, the "Shadow Phase" consists of the FTO observing their trainee as they take the lead in their complaints. The FTO determines if the trainee has satisfactorily displayed the ability to perform as a PSO on their own prior to completion of the program.

## **Recruitment**

The Petoskey Department of Public Safety is committed to providing the citizens of Petoskey with the highest caliber of Public Safety Officers. Recognizing a nationwide officer shortage, we are making a focused effort on recruitment. Lt. Troxel is spearheading this project and has been promoting the Department at several career expos, law enforcement graduations, and school events. The recruitment process will continue in 2024.

## Promotion

In April, PSO Mikulski was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Mikulski has served the City of Petoskey as a Public Safety Officer since 2004. In addition to his years of service, Lt. Mikulski serves the Department as our Field Training Officer Program Supervisor and Property Custodian Supervisor. He also recently served a term as Detective, where he completed investigations, conducted interviews, and assisted the courts and outside agencies.



## Years of Service Recognition

In December, we recognized two of our Public Safety Officers for 25 years of service to the Department. Lt. Parker and PSO Gosciak have served the Public Safety Department and Citizens of Petoskey since 1998. They were presented with plaques in honor of their years of service and as a token of our gratitude for their dedication to serving the citizens of Petoskey.





## Director Retirement

In February, Director Breed retired from the Public Safety Department after serving the City of Petoskey for 33 years. Director Breed was hired in 1989 as the City's first fully certified Public Safety Officer. He rose through the ranks, earning a Lieutenant position before becoming the Public Safety Director in 2016.

Members of many surrounding agencies joined City staff in honoring Director Breed at his retirement party. It was a very well attended event, which is testament to the caliber of leader Director Breed was and how highly regarded he is within the community.

On his retirement, Director Breed states "it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the Petoskey community over the past three decades. I sincerely appreciate the support from community members as well as city leaders and staff. In addition, I feel fortunate to have been part of an amazing team that works together in an effort to provide the highest level of professional service in police, fire, and EMS. While my career with Public Safety has been both rewarding and fulfilling, the time has come to take a step back. My retirement will allow more time for family, friends, and hobbies."



## New Director

Upon the retirement of Director Breed, the City of Petoskey began an extensive search for the next Public Safety Director. In February, Lt. Karr was selected and sworn in as our new Director. Director Karr served the City of Petoskey Public Safety Department since November 2004. He had been a Lieutenant since 2010 and has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Lake Superior State University and a Masters of Science and Administration with a concentration in Leadership from Central Michigan University. He is a MCOLES certified Law Enforcement Officer, has earned certificates in Fire Fighter I, II, and III along with Leadership I, II, and III through the Fire Fighters Training Council. Further, Director Karr is an Emergency Medical Technician and has served as our Department Accreditation Manager.



## **2023 Honors Board of Review Recipients**

The Petoskey Department of Public Safety Honors Board of Review consists of the Director, Senior Lieutenant and Union Stewart. 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 Karr, Senior Lieutenant Troxel, and Detective Lamont.

### **Chief's Award:**

Awarded by the Chief to citizens whose actions merit recognition for their service to the Department or community.

Sean Dempsey  
Terry Barrette  
Leah Schillinger

On August 25, 2023 at approximately 2:27 P.M., dispatch received a report of a woman who appeared to be in mental distress on the Bridge Street Bear River Bridge. The caller advised dispatch the woman was crying while standing on the opposite side of the railing and appeared to be preparing to jump. Petoskey Public Safety Officers Bowen and Donovan quickly responded to the scene as well as MSP Trooper Duff.

The 911 caller for this incident was Sean Dempsey. Mr. Dempsey was able to keep dispatch updated on the rapidly developing situation. As the situation continued to escalate, Mr. Dempsey informed dispatch the woman was kneeling on the railing and there was someone with their arm around her.

The person holding onto the female was Terry Barrette, City of Petoskey's Department of Public Works Supervisor. Mr. Barrette attempted to talk the young woman into coming back over the railing. When it became evident the female was refusing to come back over the railing, Mr. Barrette hung onto her arms while waiting for help.

Mr. Barrette was assisted shortly thereafter by another citizen, Leah Schillinger. Together, Mr. Barrette and Ms. Schillinger continued to attempt to calm the female in distress while holding onto her to prevent her from jumping off the bridge until officers arrived on scene.

Mr. Barrette and Ms. Schillinger assisted Public Safety in lifting the female back over the railing to safety. Ms. Schillinger remained on scene to console the female until Emmet EMS arrived to transport her to McLaren Northern Michigan for further treatment.

Public Safety later located a suicide note written by this would-be victim.

We feel it important to recognize these three citizens for their lifesaving actions surrounding this very dangerous situation. Sean Dempsey, Terry Barrette, and Leah Schillinger are hereby awarded the Chief's Award.

### **Unit Citation:**

**PSO Will Bowen**  
**PSO Hunter Arnold**  
**PSO Connor Kish**

Awarded to two or more officers who, in the line of duty, perform an outstanding service to the Department or to the community.

On January 2, 2023, PSOs Bowen, Arnold, and Kish were nearing the end of their shift after working the holiday weekend. They were performing road patrol duties when PSO Arnold observed a vehicle driving poorly, nearly striking parked vehicles and curbs. PSO Arnold alerted PSO Kish and Field Training Officer Bowen of his observations. PSO Kish conducted a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle. This stop led to the arrest of the driver for operating under the influence of narcotics and possession of methamphetamine. The follow-up investigation revealed two children, a two-month-old and five-year-old, were left at an apartment unsupervised.

These findings led to a joint investigation with the Department of Health and Human Services. The children were taken to a safe location where they could be properly cared for with their needs met. It was also later learned the vehicle involved had been taken without permission. Additional charges were requested for child neglect and unlawful driving away of an automobile.

PSOs Bowen, Arnold, and Kish should be commended for their dedication to enforcing the laws and taking appropriate action to take a drug-impaired driver off the roadway. For their follow through investigative skills, which resulted in the protection of children, these officers are each awarded a Unit Citation.

**Unit Citation:**

**PSO Will Bowen**

**PSO Hunter Arnold**

**PSO Connor Kish**

**Dispatcher Kiara Zynewicz**

**Dispatcher Talina Lacount**

Awarded to two or more officers who, in the line of duty, perform an outstanding service to the Department or to the community.

On April 23, 2023 Dispatchers Zynewicz and Lacount advised PSOs Bowen, Arnold, and Kish of an alarm at the Sweet Fire Tobacco Store on West Mitchell Street. Officers and Dispatchers were aware of a previous break-in at the business earlier in the month. The dispatch information was quickly relayed to officers who responded priority.

Upon arriving at the store, officers found the front window broken and it appeared someone either gained entry or attempted to gain entry in the same fashion as the earlier break-in. PSO Kish stood by the store to secure the scene and await additional officers. Knowing the suspect in the previous incident was on foot, PSO Bowen checked the area and quickly located a subject walking. PSO Bowen questioned him regarding the incident and determined he was most likely the person responsible. PSO Arnold assisted by drafting a search warrant for the residence of the suspect. Once authorized, the search warrant was executed on the suspect's residence confirming suspicions that officers apprehended the responsible party.

Central Dispatch employees Zynewicz and Lacount immediately relayed pertinent information and officers responded priority accordingly. For these actions, the suspect was held accountable for hundreds of dollars of theft and thousands of dollars of damage to the building.

This team of employees is hereby awarded a Unit Citation.

**Certificate of Merit:**

**PSO Scott Gosciak**

**Deputy Donald Martin, Emmet County Sheriff's Office**

Awarded to an officer for outstanding performance of duty under unusual or difficult conditions.



On August 15, 2023 at approximately 4:08 P.M., officers were dispatched to a location just outside the City limits for a report of “somebody hitting two girls”. The dispatch information being relayed was difficult to process due the complexity of the event taking place. A witness reported to dispatchers that the suspect had a cord around the victim’s neck and was choking her. As this new information was gathered, PSOs determined this was a priority complaint and responded to assist the Emmet County Sheriff’s Office.

Upon hearing the sirens of responding units, the male suspect involved in the assaultive behavior fled the scene. PSO Gosciak was able to get a visual on the suspect as he was fleeing and made contact with him along the US 31 bluff. The suspect continued to attempt to flee by jumping over the bluff as PSO Gosciak grabbed ahold of him. Both PSO Gosciak and the suspect went over the embankment, sliding nearly 60 feet. Observing this action, Deputy Martin disregarded his own safety and willfully jumped over the bluff and down the embankment to assist PSO Gosciak.

During this fall, PSO Gosciak severely injured his shoulder causing him to be off work for several months. Despite his injury, PSO Gosciak was able to maintain control of the subject throughout the entirety of the event.

PSO Gosciak and Deputy Martin put the safety of the public over the safety of themselves. For this selfless act, they are hereby awarded a Certificate of Merit.

**Mayor’s Award:**

Jill Tompkins  
Crystal Masta  
Jennifer Shorter

On February 9, 2023 at approximately 2:03 P.M., an elementary school principal called School Resource Officer Carlson to report two 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students had left the school unsupervised. Shortly after, the principal received information from employees at Grandpa Shorter’s in Downtown Petoskey that the girls had been located in the store and were safe.

Lt. Schultz responded to Grandpa Shorter’s and found the two 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in good spirits. Both students were dressed in their winter pants and boots, and when asked, “what happened today?” they responded, “we escaped school”. The girls were then transported back to school.

Jill Tompkins, Crystal Masta and Jennifer Shorter observed something out of the ordinary in this situation and took it upon themselves to investigate. Due to their actions, these young children were properly cared for and returned to their parents safely.

For their actions and attentiveness, Jill Tompkins, Jennifer Shorter and Crystal Masta are hereby presented with the Mayor’s Award.

**Lifesaving Award:**

PSO Frederick Haalck

This award is intended for individuals directly responsible for saving a human life.

On February 3, 2023, officers were dispatched to McLean and Eakin Booksellers on East Lake Street in the City of Petoskey. Dispatch advised there was an unresponsive 86-year-old female in the business. PSO Haalck, performing Field Training Officer duties prior to this call, responded and checked for a pulse which he found to be “weak and thready”. PSO Haalck attached an AED which indicated “no shock advised”. PSO Haalck performed two rounds of quality CPR and applied high flow oxygen. The patient became responsive and was transported to McLaren Northern Michigan for further advanced care.

PSO Haalck, a paramedic, reverted back to his training and experience and did not hesitate to act. Due to PSO Haalck's actions, the patient was provided an opportunity to fully recover.

It should be noted, the entire incident took 14 minutes.

For his actions, PSO Haalck is presented with a Lifesaving Award.

**Lifesaving Award:**

PSO Benjamin Carlson

This award is intended for individuals directly responsible for saving a human life.

On June 23, 2023 at approximately 7:22 P.M., Central Dispatch reported an overdose at a business within the City of Petoskey. PSO Carlson responded and observed a female lying on the ground adjacent to a vehicle. This female was receiving chest compressions from an unknown Good Samaritan. The unconscious female had a waxy cyanotic appearance.

Through training and experience, PSO Carlson confirmed the emergency as a possible overdose. PSO Carlson administered a single 4 mg dose of Naloxone (or Narcan). At about this time, Emmet EMS arrived and took over patient care. PSO Carlson checked for a pulse and an easily palpable carotid pulse was noted followed by chest rise.

PSO Carlson's quick response recognition of indicators provided a favorable outcome to an otherwise potentially fatal overdose.

For his actions on this day, PSO Carlson is awarded a Lifesaving Award.

**Lifesaving Award:**

PSO Lawrence Donovan

This award is intended for individuals directly responsible for saving a human life.

On August 20, 2023, PSO Donovan was with his wife traveling back from a vacation in the Upper Peninsula when they came upon an accident that just occurred. A vehicle had been unable to navigate a curve and the driver lost control. The rear seat occupant, a female in her early 20's, had been ejected and suffered minor injuries. A baby in a car seat that was restrained in the rear seat had suffered minor injuries.

The driver and front seat passenger were both still trapped in the upside-down vehicle and seriously injured. Officer Donovan was off-duty and used what lifesaving equipment he had to attempt to stabilize the patients and await the arrival of local EMS and fire personnel. Once personnel from fire and EMS were on scene, PSO Donovan continued to assist with the extrication of the trapped patients.

It was expected that all parties involved in the accident will survive their injuries however the outcome could have been drastically different had PSO Donovan not arrived on scene and began assisting in the process of rapid triage and treatment of all patients involved.

For his actions on this date, PSO Donovan is hereby awarded a Lifesaving Award.

**Lifesaving Award:**

Lt. David Schultz  
PSO John Duch  
PSO Erik Hoig  
EMT George Spanier  
Paramedic Dustin Gaberdiel

This award is intended for individuals directly responsible for saving a human life.

On December 14, 2023 at approximately 2:28 A.M., officers and Emergency Medical Services were dispatched to a residence within the City for a report of a witnessed cardiac event.

Upon arrival, the patient had no pulse and CPR was immediately started. Officers and Emmet EMS staff worked on the scene for over an hour to provide advanced lifesaving cardiac care to the patient prior to transporting her to McLaren Northern Michigan.

On January 5, 2024, Lt. Schultz contacted the patient's husband who was happy to report his wife is expected to make a full recovery after spending 14 days in a Grand Rapids intensive care unit. Thanks to the knowledge, training, and teamwork of all members at this scene, a life was saved.

This team is hereby presented with a Lifesaving Award.

**Public Safety Citation:**

Lt. David Schultz  
PSO Karl Fritz  
PSO Erik Hoig  
Marty Flynn, City of Petoskey Water Department Supervisor

Award for service in the line of duty that required unusual thoroughness, conscientiousness, determination and initiative in the performance of a difficult assignment.

On February 20, 2023, the Petoskey Department of Public Safety received notice that our 5-year Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating was once again up for review. The date for said review was determined to be April 26, 2023.

Lt. Schultz supervised the process as PSOs Fritz and Hoig did the majority of the heavy lifting. This process is extremely painstaking and calls for attention to detail as well as the ability to produce records from many different aspects of our fire-oriented responsibilities.

Water Department Supervisor Marty Flynn was a crucial member of this process. Marty was able to produce up-to-date hydrant pressures throughout the City as well as answer water supply and demand concerns. Marty was instrumental in explaining how pressures can be diverted to different locations within the City if an emergency requiring this pressure increase were to occur.

The impact of the numerous hours spent gathering the necessary data resulted in a reduction of the City of Petoskey's ISO rating from a 4 to a 3. The work by this team, along with the dedication of all Public Safety staff, will directly impact the citizens of Petoskey by potentially lowering their insurance premiums for homeowners.

Due to the aforementioned efforts, these members are hereby awarded a Public Safety Citation.

**Public Safety Citation:**  
PSO Lawrence Donovan

Award for service in the line of duty that required unusual thoroughness, conscientiousness, determination and initiative in the performance of a difficult assignment.

On March 21, 2023 at 5:30 A.M., PSO Donovan was off-duty in his personal vehicle on Horton Bay Road. In the dark morning hours, PSO Donovan noticed a glow coming from the backyard of a residence on Resort Pike Road. Based on experience, PSO Donovan recognized the glow to be consistent with a large structure fire. PSO Donovan investigated the glow and found that a large chicken coop at the residence had caught fire and was fully involved. PSO Donovan stated there were several other vehicles traveling on the roadway at this time and nobody had taken the time or initiative to stop and investigate.

PSO Donovan used his Department issued radio to call dispatch and request the Resort Bear Creek Fire Department to respond in order to handle the issue. PSO Donovan remained on scene and directed the responding fire apparatus to the emergency. Had it not been for PSO Donovan's willingness to act and investigate, the fire could have spread to other out buildings or structures and caused more loss.

For his efforts on this day, PSO Donovan is hereby awarded a Public Safety Citation.

**Public Safety Citation:**  
Lt. Todd Troxel

Award for service in the line of duty that required unusual thoroughness, conscientiousness, determination and initiative in the performance of a difficult assignment.

On April 2, 2023, the City of Cheboygan responded to a reported felonious assault with a firearm. During the incident the suspect, who was armed with a shotgun, barricaded himself in his residence with a female and potentially two children. The Northern Michigan Mutual Aid Emergency Response Team was activated and requested to assist. As members arrived, a perimeter was set up along with react and negotiation teams. Lt. Troxel was the lead negotiator during this incident.

This incident was subsequently resolved by Lt. Troxel and his negotiation team de-escalating the situation for a peaceful surrender. The suspect was convinced to exit the residence and was taken into custody without further violence.

Lt. Troxel is hereby awarded a Public Safety Citation for utilizing his training and negotiating skills during this emotionally charged event.



## Training

Each year, Public Safety Officers receive training in a variety of areas including firefighting, emergency medical services, and law enforcement. In 2023, officers participated in several important trainings including hazmat, active shooter, arson investigation, firearms, defensive tactics, de-escalation, implicit bias, and use of force. We had the opportunity to train with drafting/master streams and aerial operations using our two ladder trucks. Great Lakes Energy also provided a demonstration on safety while responding to energized power lines.

In 2023, the Public Safety Department received a total of 3,500 hours of training.

Law Enforcement	Fire	EMS
1,590	1,150	760



Above, Lt. Mikulski (left) and PSO Peacock (right) participate in a multi-agency active shooter training. The Salvation Army generously allowed agencies to use their building for this important training. Members of CCE Central Dispatch, Emmet EMS, Emmet County Sheriff, Harbor Springs PD, MSP, and North Central Michigan College also participated.



## Accreditation

The Public Safety Department began the Accreditation process with the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC) in 2020. To achieve accreditation status, departments are required to prove they have written policies or directives to address all 108 standards mandated by the MLEAC. These standards cover a wide range of topics such as administrative, operational, personnel, investigative, and arrestee/detainee handling functions. Additionally, departments must also provide “proofs” that they comply with the standards while performing their law enforcement duties. These proofs are typically documented by incident reports or bodycam footage. The department must also successfully complete an assessment led by a team of independent auditors. Part of this audit includes spending time with officers while they are working their shifts to ensure the standards are being adhered to by department members. The public is also invited to speak with the auditors to give their input on the department.



In the Spring of 2022, we invited auditors to evaluate our Department's Accreditation progress. Upon completion of a two-day audit and detailed review, the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission determined the Department had successfully earned Accreditation status. In order to maintain this status, the Department must provide new proofs each calendar year to show we continue to adhere to policies and standards. MLEAC requires departments to participate in an Audit every three years and our Accreditation team continues to work diligently in preparation for our 2025 audit.



Public Safety was presented with the Certificate of Accreditation from the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission on October 3, 2022. Pictured left to right: Lt. David Schultz, Lt. Michael Parker, Director Adrian Karr, Director (Retired) Matthew Breed, and Lt. Todd Troxel.

## 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
- One Patrol Unit



## Fire and EMS Calls for Service

The Department responded to 1,005 fire and emergency medical calls for service in 2023. Of these calls for service, 321 were classified as a fire response and 684 were a medical response.

There were no fire-related injuries or fatalities to civilians or firefighters in 2023. There was one large fire in Bay Harbor that resulted in extensive damage to a residence, however, this fire is under investigation at this time.

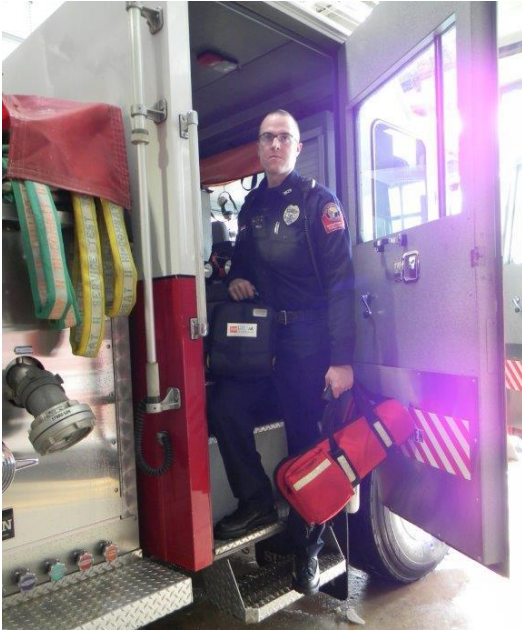


Photo Credit: Josh Morgan

## Emergency Medical Services

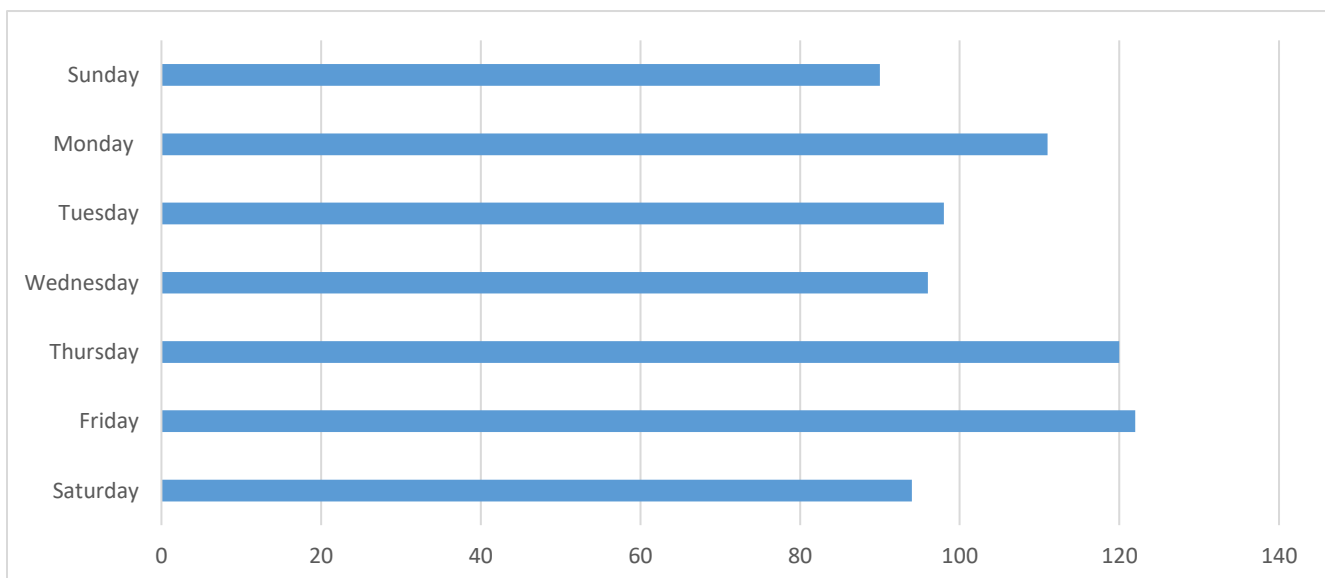
Approximately 68% of the calls for emergency medical or fire services answered in 2023 were medical in nature. The Department of Public Safety operates under licensing issued by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Petoskey is the only fire department in Emmet County operating at the “basic-non transport” level. This license is one level below the paramedic level.

With an average response time of 4.5 minutes from the time of notification by the 911 center until arrival, we are often the first medical unit on scene at priority calls. All officers hold at minimum a basic EMT license with some officers also holding paramedic licensing.



Basic medical equipment carried on both of the Department's licensed fire engines include splints, Automatic External Defibrillator, oxygen, glucose monitoring, Narcan, airways and OB kits.

## 2023 Medical Calls for Service by Day





## Fire Services

Public Safety Officers complete extensive education and training in fire services and are certified Firefighters by the State of Michigan. In addition to our full-time PSO's, the fire division also consists of five part-time PSO's and one on-call firefighter. Additionally, two of our PSO's, Officers Fritz and Hoig, serve as the Department's Fire Investigators. They are responsible for business inspections, fire investigations, and are certified fire instructors.

In 2023, the fire division responded to 321 calls for service. They provided scene security during traffic accidents, investigated hazardous situations such as leaks or spills, responded to fire alarms, and assisted in emergency medical services. The fire division responded to one large-scale residential fire and several smaller fires. These smaller fires were able to be extinguished quickly, preventing the fire from spreading and causing significant damage or safety concerns. Below are a few examples of these fire events.

- The fire division was dispatched to McLaren Northern Michigan's lab for an active fire. Upon arrival, there was heavy smoke in the lab and Resort Bear Creek Fire Department was requested to assist. Officers located a freezer machine on fire. Hospital staff had already used an extinguisher to knock the fire down and officers used an additional water extinguisher to finish extinguishing the fire. The fire was noted to be contained to the machine and also damaged the nearby drywall.
- An apartment complex within the City reported active fire in the laundry room. Officers arrived on scene and noted smoke was showing. It was determined the fire originated from a broom that was in the laundry room. This complaint is still under investigation.
- A local dry cleaning company contacted 911 to advise of a fire in a dryer. Officers arrived on scene to find that sheets and linens in the dryer had ignited and were smoldering. The items were removed from the dryer and the fire was extinguished. Further investigation determined that the items came from a business that performed massages and used massage oil.
- The fire division was requested at a downtown business who reported their boiler was on fire in the basement. Upon arrival, there were no flames visible but officers noted light smoke was present in the basement area. Officers identified signs of fire on the boiler for the hot water system. They turned fuel off to the boiler as well as shut off the electricity for the building. While there was damage done to the building, a rapid response prevented the fire from spreading to the rest of the building or nearby businesses.



## Retirement – Fire Division

In June, Firefighter Tim Goodwin retired from the Public Safety Department after 37 years. Tim was not only a volunteer firefighter for our Department, he also served 32 years as a Paramedic for various local EMS services. Pictured below, Lt. Troxel (left) and Director Karr (right) present Tim with a plaque in honor of his dedication to the Department.



## 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 2023, PSO Karl Fritz made trips to several different local schools and gave presentations to more than 500 students.





## 2023 Petoskey Department of Public Safety Summary of Activities

### Law Enforcement Calls for Service

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Bay Harbor</b>	335	389	361	393	372
<b>Petoskey</b>	8,621	7,074	7,587	6,978	7,968
<b>Total</b>	8,956	7,463	7,948	7,371	8,340

### Fire/EMS Calls for Service

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
797	871	1,001	938	1,005

### Breakdown of Fire and EMS Calls For Service

<b>EMS Calls</b>	684
<b>Fire Calls</b>	321

