

# The Richville Fire Department

## Denmark Township, Tuscola County

### Annual Report 2016



#### Mission Statement

“Committed to providing quality, courteous, and professional life safety and public safety.”

## Statement from the Chief

"The Richville Fire Department is committed to keeping our community safe, whether we are doing it through community programs or applying for grants to better equip our department. This year we have received funding for much needed, new equipment and have applied for our largest grant yet, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. We have not yet heard back if we have received the AFG, but if we do it will allow us to purchase new air packs—our current air packs are in desperate need of replacement. We apply for these grants so we can have the funding needed to ensure that we have the appropriate tools for any kind of emergency situation, because we are dedicated to the safety and protection of not only our firefighters, but our community and residents as well." –Chief Eric Brown

*Continue reading to see what else The Richville Fire Department has done for the community this year.*

## Table of Contents

The RFD: A Brief Overview.....	Page 2
Giving Back to the Community.....	Page 3
Time and Dedication of the Volunteers.....	Page 4
The RFD: Then and Now.....	Page 5
Officers and Volunteers.....	Page 6
Contact the RFD.....	Page 7

## Board of Directors

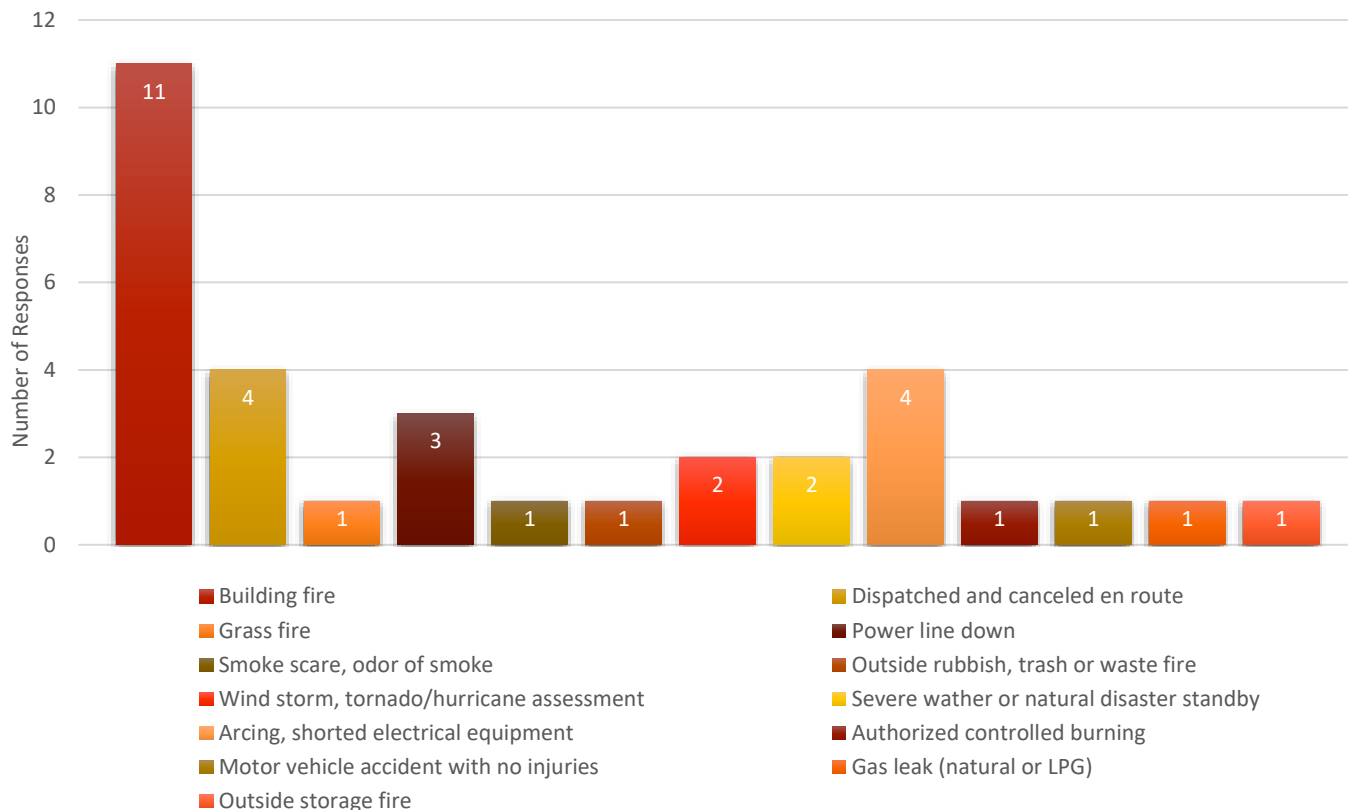
Township Supervisor: Chuck Heinlein  
President of the Fire Board: Steve Schwab



## The Richville Fire Department: A Brief Overview

### Incident Responses

In 2016, the Richville Fire Department had a total of thirty-three incident responses, including exposure fires. In the graph below, you can see how many and what kind of calls they went on. Mutual aid was received by Richville for five of these fire calls, and they provided mutual aid eleven times to area departments such as: Reese, Millington, or Vassar.



### Budget and Grants

The Richville Fire Department is a millage based department and because the township population is small (3,170 people), they have low property taxes, which funds 99% of the department's budget. Their 2016 budget was \$64,000 which left no wiggle room for large expenses, so they applied for grants.

In 2016, the fire department applied for nine grants: Firehouse Subs, Archer Daniels Midland corporation, Enbridge, Assistance to Firefighters Grant, Frankenmuth Credit Union, Fire Fighters Foundation, and Triple A.

They were awarded all but two of these grants—they did not receive funding from Firehouse Subs and they are still waiting to hear back from FEMA. The funding from these grants allowed them to purchase new equipment such as: jaws of life, a new fire truck, and, potentially, new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units.



## Giving Back to the Community

### Fire Prevention Week

During fire prevention week in October, the Richville Fire Department invited the preschool and grade children of St. Michael's Lutheran School to take a field trip to the department so they can teach them all about fire safety. This year, the preschoolers watched a movie about fire prevention and they got to sit inside the trucks!



St. Michael's kindergarten, first, and third grades during fire prevention week



St. Michael's preschool during fire prevention week

The kindergarten through third grades went over to the fire station where they learned what to do in an emergency. The fifth graders also participated in a poster contest, where they drew out escape routes for their home if there was a fire.

Educating the children in the community about fire prevention is important because kids need to know what to do in an emergency situation, it could save their lives.

### MDA Dance

The Muscular Dystrophy Association Dance is an event put on by the fire department, where members of area fire departments get together to have dinner and participate in a silent auction of donated goods from companies. All the proceeds go to MDA to help find a cure for muscular dystrophy. However, due to lack of interest in the dance, the MDA Dance of 2016 was the last one.

### Fill The Boot Drive

Every year in August, the firemen get together for a "fill the boot" drive to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy.



Two of Richville's volunteers asking for donations



One of the engines out in front of Fritz's Family Restaurant for fill the boot

The firemen stand out at the four-way stop of M-15 and M-46 in town, and go up to cars as they stop to ask for donations. If a donation is given, the money is placed in a firefighter's boot. All of the proceeds go to MDA to help find a cure for the disease.

## Time and Dedication of the Volunteers

### Fire Prevention at School

The principal of St. Michael's Lutheran School, which is located just across the street from the fire station, is Mr. Daniel Stoelting. Mr. Stoelting has been principal at the school for six years.

When talking about fire prevention week at the school, Mr. Stoelting said, "Having children learn fire prevention is really important, especially when they are at a younger age. Duane and Josh, the two guys who run the program, do a great job showing the kids that they are here to help."

When firemen are in in their full gear, sometimes children will be scared of them because they are not familiar with how they look in their gear. The firemen do a good job to show them that they have no reason to be scared and that they are here to save their home, not destroy it.

Mr. Stoelting also said that the volunteers have always been willing to help with anything they might need. They are always willing to help with fire drills and they even came up with a safer escape route for the children to use if there was a fire in the building.



### Training and Using Grant Funding

Mr. Kevin Fent is a Captain on the Richville Fire Department. He joined the department, officailly when he turned eighteen in 1998. Kevin has had a lot of experience as a firefighter, he has been on two different departments besides Richville—Vassar and Saginaw Township.

Kevin is a state certified training officer since 2005. Having someone state certified to do Richville's training has been more than beneficial—it allows them to have more validity and liability as a volunteer department.

Thanks to the Frankenmuth Credit Union grant, the fire department was able to buy a new, much needed fire truck. Kevin spent the most time researching the new truck which is how he stumbled across the company, Missouri Fire Apparatus, online. He put in many hours calling on references the company provided and previous customers, to see if they wanted to work with them.

Their new pumper/tanker was custom built and every firefighter gave their opinion on what they felt the fire truck needed. The whole process went smoothy—Kevin said, "We really covered the gambit on it, this fire truck is the best combination of old and new we could get."



Pictured [left to right]: Justin Schuler, Chief Eric Brown, owner of MFA Greg Still, Captain Kevin Fent, and Lieutenant Duane Weiss



## The Richville Fire Department: Then and Now

### Glenn Doud

Glenn Doud joined the fire department in 1979, a time when the fire department was much different. “When you first joined the department,” he said, “There was hardly any training—the officers showed you how to run the truck and handed you a hose. And after the fire was put out, you’d get to kick back and have a beer with the rest of the volunteers.”

Things are different now, though. Even if you can’t have a beer after a call anymore, Glenn said, “All the changes made between then and now have only bettered the department. The new guys have to go to the academy, where the training is more intense and thorough and the classes are harder.”

However, some things have stayed the same. The comraderie between all the volunteers is still as strong as it was back then and they all have the same mindset. “It’s all a part of our Christian duty.” Glenn said, “We help our neighbors and we protect our property.”

### Duane Weiss Jr.

Duane Weiss has been on the department since 2006 and in April of 2016, he became a Lieutenant.

He runs the department’s meetings and helps Kevin Fent with the monthly trainings as often as he can. Duane is in charge of the fire prevention week at St. Michael’s, a responsibility he shares with fellow volunteer Josh Doud. Also, he makes it a point to come to the station and help the new volunteers run through training or tests they are doing at the fire academy.

Duane loves to be a part of a community service, it was something he never thought he would do when he was younger. “The fire department is kind of a way of life. I don’t feel obligated to do all this extra work and give away my free time, I want to do it because I enjoy it so much,” he said. “It helps that we have a great group of people on this department, too.”

### Justin Schuler

Justin Schuler joined the fire department in 2013, and he is one of the newest firemen on the department. Justin is the secretary of the fire department and has been since 2014. He records the meeting minutes, mails out documents, and keeps track of fire reports.

When asked about the fire academy he said, “It was more challenging than I expected, but I had good teachers to help me and I knew that I could always get help from the older guys on the fire department, too.” Before becoming a firefighter, you have to go to the fire academy. You spend half the time on book work to learn the mechanics and technical side of firefighting, and the other half putting what you learned to practical use through training.

The Richville Fire Department is like a big family, they’re always here to help and support you with whatever you might need. From training to grant writing, there will always be someone there who can help you improve.

## Officers of the Richville Fire Department

Fire Chief: Eric Brown

Assistant Fire Chiefs: Kirk Atkins and Gene Solgat

Captains: Fred Huber and Kevin Fent

Lieutenant: Duane Weiss Jr.

## Richville Fire Department Volunteers

Tyler Atkins

Lucas Brown

Donald Daenzer

Glenn Doud

James Doud

Josh Doud

Kyle Eckenswiller

Dave Gunlock

Garrett Johnson

Joslyn Malicowski

Justin Schuler

Paul Weber

Michael Zimmerman



Back Row [left to right]: Paul Weber, Lucas Brown, Garrett Johnson, Kyle Eckenswiller, Tyler Atkins, James Doud, Joslyn Malicowski, Justin Schuler, Fred Huber, Donald Daenzer, and Glenn Doud

Front Row [left to right]: Kirk Atkins, Eric Brown, and Gene Solgat

Not pictured: Kevin Fent, Duane Weiss, Michael Zimmerman, Dave Gunlock, and Josh Doud

## Contact Information

### Address

9441 W Saginaw Rd, Reese, MI 48757

### Phone

(989) 868-3381

### Web

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/richvillefiredept>

### 501(c)(3) Status

Currently tax-exempted



## Vision Statement

“The Richville Volunteer Fire Department will set the standard of excellence for the Fire Service in the ranks and in the field, by defining, rather than chasing the future.”

*The Richville Fire Department works hard to better themselves so they can give their all back to the community—it was inspiring to see how much they have done for the community, on the surface and behind the scenes. I enjoyed working on this project and I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity to showcase their hard work and dedication in this annual report. –Emily Brown*