

## Major Changes/Additions to the NSFD Mission & Capabilities Since 1979

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### Mission

Sometime during the late 1980s, enough members became licensed Medical First Responders to qualify our station as a licensed MFR station. New members were encouraged, but not required to complete MFR training until sometime after the year 2000.

With the establishment of Isabella County Central Dispatch, the enhanced 911 system came an increase in the range of our responsibilities. In recent years, over 80% of our runs have been medical in nature.

Originally the sole responsibility of the local fire department, the investigation of fires for the purpose of determining cause & origin of the fire is often performed by the Isabella County Cause & Origin Team.

### Station & Equipment

- Pagers for firefighters & hand-held VHF transceivers for some officers were purchased when Isabella County obtained the ability to send pages;
- A new fire station constructed on Weidman Road;
- 1.5" inside diameter hose was upgraded to 1.75" inside diameter hose to improve our fire suppression capability;
- More SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) units were purchased & training provided;
- We got a military surplus 5,000 gal aviation fuel tanker truck & modified it (removed the onboard pump, shortened the frame, moved the rear axles) for use as a 3<sup>rd</sup> tender;
- A military surplus 2.5T 6x6 ("Deuce & A Half") cargo vehicle was obtained and outfitted with lights, siren, VHF transceiver, a 1,000 gallon water tank, an on-board pump, an on-board foam injection unit, a fender mounted sprayer nozzle system and a "tree busting" heavy pipe exoskeleton;
- A military surplus diesel generator was purchased for emergency backup station power;
- We were given a radio communications tower that had been "dropped". We managed, through cutting & welding, to salvage about 150' of fairly straight tower sections (of varying length). We cut out the bent sections, cut off & re-welded the sockets, sand blasted & painted the sections, poured the huge guy cable footings & erected the tower & guy cables behind our new station. Bob Hildinger, a commercial radio repair wizard and one of our captains, successfully applied to the FCC for the use of a pair of frequencies, obtained a used repeater system then repaired & installed it. This has greatly enhanced communications between our personnel and has been of use to neighboring departments on many occasions.
- A fire department operational millage was approved by the residents of Sherman & Nottawa townships;
- Through a Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe grant, a county-wide purchase our older model SCBAs replaced with more modern units with all fire departments in the county getting the same make/ model. This greatly enhances fire operations in which more than one department is involved.
- We have replaced our main pumping engine replaced twice;
- Our secondary pumping engine has been replaced twice;
- Over 1,000 feet of 6" previously owned hose was purchased to enhance our ability to provide a water supply for the main fire suppression engine;
- We obtained a military surplus 1T utility truck w/crew cab for use as a light/heavy rescue;
- Using grant money from the Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe, we

	<p>purchased a larger heavy rescue vehicle complete with six crew and a cascade style SCBA bottle refilling station;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ A new light rescue vehicle was also purchased with a grant from the Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe;</li><li>▪ Breathing air &amp; medical oxygen cascade systems were installed &amp; a breathing air compressor system was installed;</li><li>▪ An infra-red imaging camera purchased for use in locating fire or smoldering material hidden from normal view;</li><li>▪ Our station on Weidman Road was enlarged to provide additional vehicle bays, a storage room, turnout gear locker space, a compressor room, another restroom and a new meeting room;</li><li>▪ To increase the level of safety during ice/water rescue operations, we purchased ice water rescue suits &amp; an ice/water rescue sled;</li><li>▪ Two new tenders were purchased (one through a Saginaw-Chippewa Tribal grant) to replace the old 11-2 tender (loaned to Barryton Community Fire Department) and the old 11-4 &amp; 11-7 tenders;</li><li>▪ Our Jeep CJ grass/brush fire vehicle was replaced with a Ford F250 4x4 pickup &amp; utility vehicle (not for use on brush fires &amp; woods fires);</li><li>▪ Our military surplus 2.5T, 6x6 brush vehicle replaced with a newer military surplus version;</li><li>▪ Husqvarna 4x4, HUV utility vehicle &amp; transport trailer purchased &amp; equipped for grass/brush fire suppression &amp; rough terrain patient transport;</li><li>▪ A newer model Infra-Red imaging camera purchased;</li><li>▪ A newer, larger capacity, previously owned diesel generator was purchased to replace the old one for emergency backup station power;</li><li>▪ A steel carport was purchased &amp; erected beside our outdoor charcoal grill to provide cover for social event participants;</li><li>▪ A semi-automatic hose washing machine was purchased by the NSFA to substantially decrease the time required to clean the hundreds of feet of hose dirtied during fire suppression activities;</li></ul>
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