

# 2021



## Fire / EMS Annual Report





# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### ***SPECIAL THANKS***

We appreciate the support of the City of North Ridgeville Administration and Council.  
Thank You!

**Mayor**

**Kevin Corcoran**

**Safety Service Director**

**Jeffry Armbruster**

**President of Council**

**Martin E. DeVries**

**Ward 1 Council Member**

**Holly A. Swenk**

**Ward 2 Council Member**

**Dennis J. Boose**

**Ward 3 Council Member**

**Bruce F. Abens**

**Ward 4 Council Member**

**Clifford Winkel**

**Council At-Large**

**Jason Jacobs**

**Council At-Large**

**James R. Maleski**



# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF***

In 2021, the fire department again reached record call volume numbers that had surpassed our expectations. From 2020 to 2021 the call volume increased by over 15%. This has to be the largest jump in call volume that the fire department has ever experienced in a single year. It is impressive that our personnel were able to continue to keep up without any increases to our staff. More impressive is that our personnel were successful in keeping up while also participating in several day long Covid-19 vaccination clinics that were held in North Ridgeville. A special thanks to the Lorain County Health Department for providing all of the vaccine, knowledge, and help needed make those events in North Ridgeville a success.

This year has proven once again that your fire department cannot and does not stand alone. The continued support of the Mayor, Safety Service Director, Council, City Departments, Residents, and Business Owners has made our achievements possible. Everyone continued to work together to lessen the spread of Covid-19 and to ensure that our community could try and get as close as possible to our pre-Covid lives. The city administration, council, and our police department were helpful and supportive of our efforts to assist the county in getting as many people vaccinated as possible.



***John Reese, EFO  
Fire Chief***

More exciting news in 2021 is that the fire department was able to begin the addition/remodeling project at fire station #2 located at 34523 Lorain Road. Although the threat of supply chain issues was at first a little worrisome, the project kicked off and is moving along at a reasonable pace. Our Fire Fighter/Paramedics that are assigned to fire station #2 have been very accommodating to fact that in order to keep the station open, they will be living in a construction zone. The good news is that the project will wrap up sometime in 2022 and the new look of the station should complement the surrounding neighborhood.

The fire department is looking forward to 2022 and the opportunity to continue to improve our services. With the ongoing support of our community, we plan to strive to be among the best fire departments in Northeast Ohio. We are committed to making North Ridgeville one of the safest cities in Ohio.

Thank you for your continued support,  
**Chief John C. Reese, EFO**





# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

#### **OUR MISSION**

*The North Ridgeville Fire Department is a professional, customer-based organization, focused on protecting the lives and property of our residents, visitors, and businesses. Our mission is to provide the highest level of public safety services through effective planning, preparedness, rapid response, and risk management, while remaining fiscally responsible to our community.*



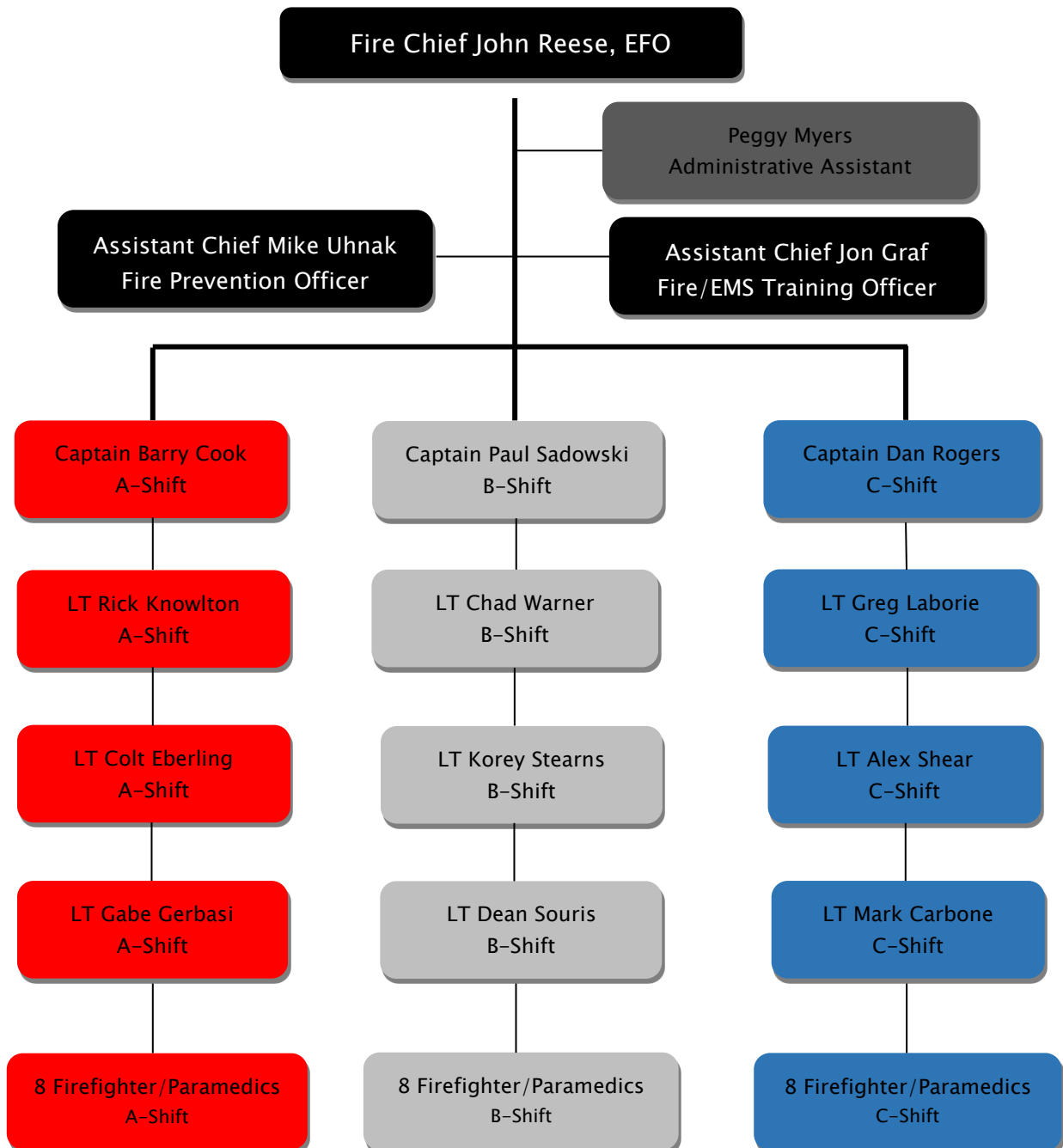


# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE***

**North Ridgeville Fire Organizational Chart**





# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FIREFIGHTER***

***Firefighters spend a significant portion of their day learning their jobs, educating others, and maintaining equipment as well as the fire and EMS apparatus. This is done in addition to the primary job of responding to emergency and non-emergency calls throughout the community.***

**Here is a look at how a firefighter may end up spending their day:**

- Shifts begin and end at 8:00 AM. The on-coming crew meets with the off-going crew to check the status of equipment and units and to discuss events that may have been encountered the previous day.
- The on-duty crew then completes an inventory and operational check of their equipment and vehicles to ensure their readiness for use.
- The company officers conduct a briefing with details of the day's activities.

**A sampling of possible daily duties includes:**

- Training on medical, firefighting or rescue competencies.
- Completing cardio and strength fitness training during the shift.
- Conducting visits to buildings/businesses to help firefighters familiarize with layouts and features. This information is used in our "pre-plans".
- Visiting schools and participating in a wide variety of other public education programs.
- Addressing visitors to the stations and providing tours, assistance, or blood pressure checks.
- Performing annual inspections of all of the city's fire hydrants.
- Annually testing over 12,000 feet of fire hose.
- Performing housekeeping duties to care for the fire stations and apparatus.

Firefighters also plan and prepare their meals together, an important part of camaraderie and promoting teamwork.

***All of these activities take place between the responses of the team to emergency incidents!***



***Firefighters reporting to rehab after extinguishing a 2021 house fire.***



# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FIRE STATION #2 REMODEL/ADDITION***

Fire Station #2 is a neighborhood fire station located at 34523 Lorain Road near the intersection of Root Road. The station was built in 1975 to house up to two emergency crews with (3) members on each. Currently, there are (3) members on duty at this station at any given time. The station houses a fire engine and an advanced life support ambulance. The crew at fire station #2 is the initial response for the south side of North Ridgeville and it is expected that eventually the crew at this station will mainly serve the southeast quadrant. Although fire station #2 has been well-maintained over the years, there has not been any type of major remodeling to date.

The remodel/addition project began in April of 2021. The project will include the relocation of firefighter turnout gear storage, relocation of the physical fitness area, addition of an EMS decontamination area, addition of an EMS triage area, additional public parking, and improvements to the interior living space of the building including the addition of unisex restroom and shower facilities.

Although the project was expected to be bid and start in 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic slowed the process and eventually drove up the anticipated cost of the project due to the increase in building material costs. The current supply chain issues are also expected to have an impact on the project completion time. The project was originally expected to take approximately 12 months.



***A current picture of Fire Station #2***



***Rendering of proposed Addition/Remodel of  
Fire Station #2***





# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FIRE OPERATIONS***

The North Ridgeville Fire Department consistently strives to deliver superb all-hazards emergency response to our residents and area businesses. We accomplish this by continuously evaluating our service delivery with the latest standards and best practices. Our goal is to remain competitive, marketable and sustainable while delivering the best possible emergency services to our customers.

In 2021, the North Ridgeville Fire Department responded to 4,637 fire/EMS calls for assistance from our customers. Of those calls, 3,939 were emergency medical calls and 698 were fire service related calls. The average response time for all emergencies was 06:31 minutes.

In the fire service we measure success by how quickly we can respond, the number of lives saved and the value of the residential and commercial buildings saved. These numbers have a direct impact on the property values in our community, insurance premiums for our customers, and our department's reputation. The combination of a well-trained firefighting force with active fire prevention helps to prevent damages and protect the city's property values by sustaining a thriving residential and business community. The total estimated value of property impacted by fire in 2021 and saved through the interventions of the North Ridgeville Fire Department was \$1,358,710.00. Of that total value, an estimated \$602,710.00 was lost.

In 2021, the fire department completed several efforts in the continued attempt to improve services to the city. The department participated in a scheduled review from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) of our firefighting capabilities. ISO rates each jurisdiction on a 1-10 scale with 1 being the best and 10 having very limited capabilities. Our department improved from a score of 4 to a score of 3. This is a positive improvement that could potentially affect insurance rates throughout the community. Additionally, the fire department partnered with the fire departments from Avon, Avon Lake, Sheffield Lake, and Sheffield Village and received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist in the purchase of all new P25 digital mobile and portable radios. The radios allow our firefighters to communicate safely while working in a burning building or other hazardous environment. They also were designed for use on a new digital radios system that allows us to communicate more effectively with our mutual aid partners. The radios meet all safety standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and replace equipment that had reached the end of life. The following are statistics that provide details of our departments emergency responses for 2021.



***Barry Cook, Paramedic  
Captain***

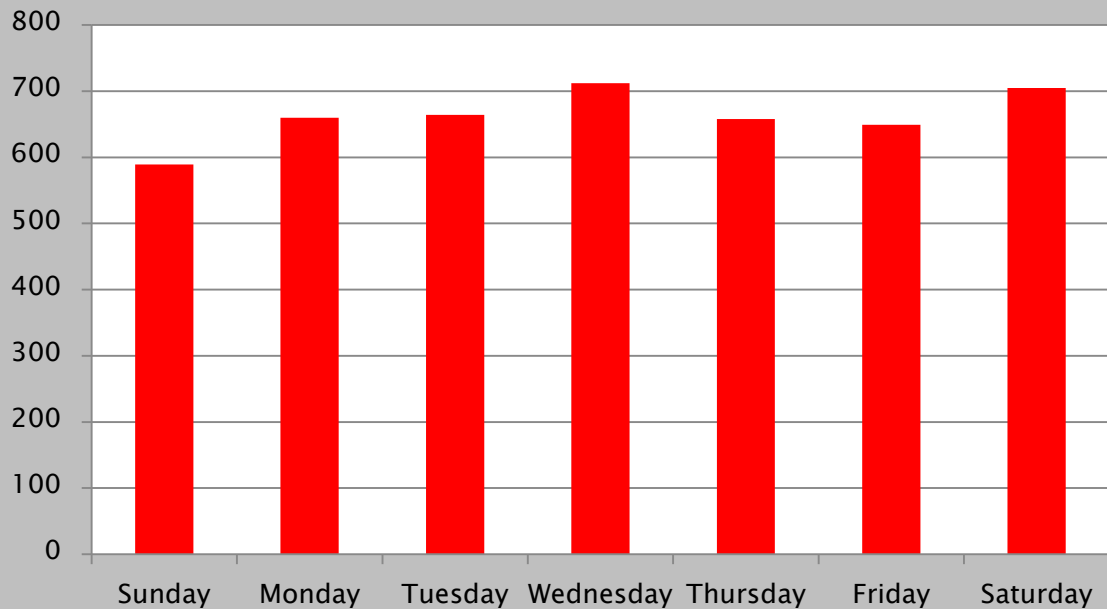


# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FIRE OPERATIONS***

### **2021 INCIDENTS PER DAY OF WEEK**



DAY OF THE WEEK	# INCIDENTS
Sunday	589
Monday	660
Tuesday	664
Wednesday	712
Thursday	658
Friday	649
Saturday	705
TOTAL	4637

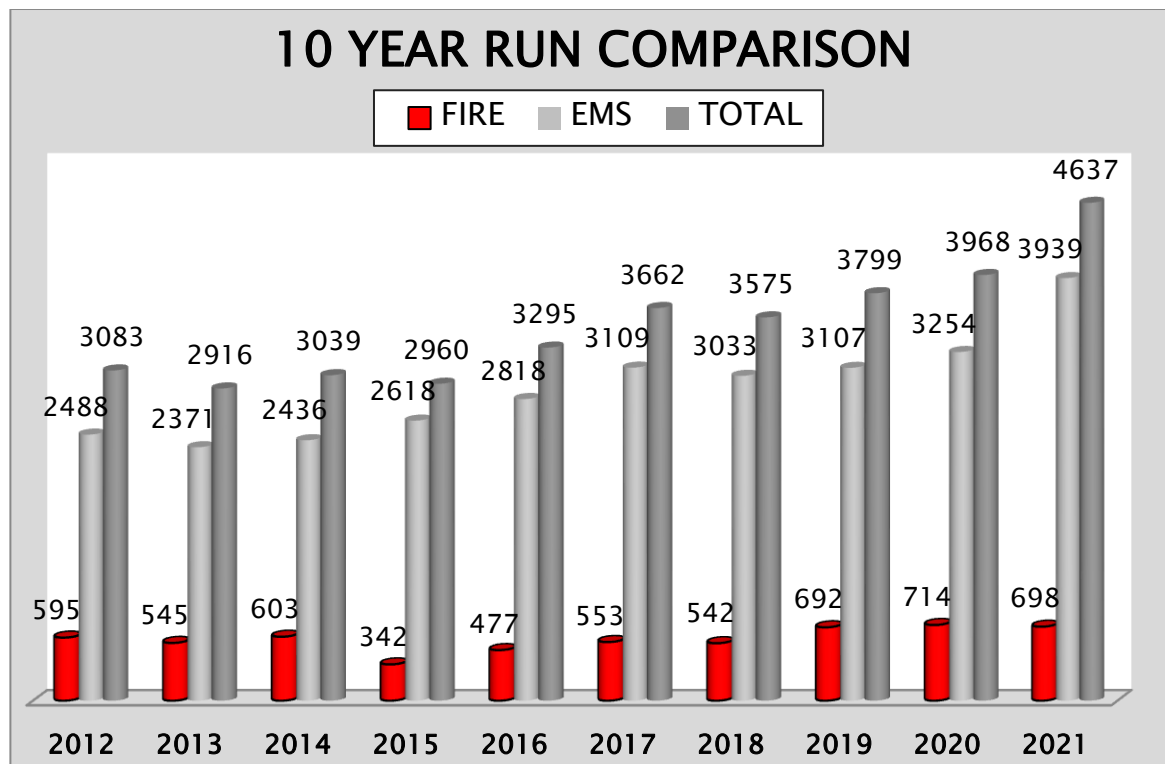


# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### FIRE OPERATIONS

10 YEAR RUN COMPARISON			
YEAR	FIRE	EMS	TOTAL
2012	595	2488	3083
2013	545	2371	2916
2014	603	2436	3039
2015	342	2618	2960
2016	477	2818	3295
2017	553	3109	3662
2018	542	3033	3575
2019	692	3107	3799
2020	714	3254	3968
2021	698	3939	4637



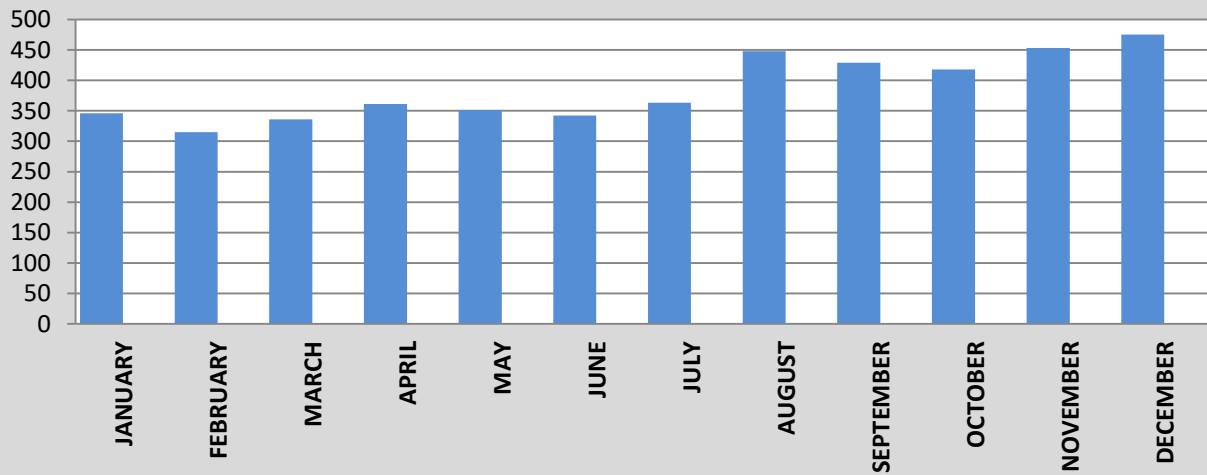


# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FIRE OPERATIONS***

### **2021 INCIDENTS PER MONTH**



MONTH	INCIDENTS
JANUARY	346
FEBRUARY	315
MARCH	336
APRIL	361
MAY	351
JUNE	342
JULY	363
AUGUST	448
SEPTEMBER	429
OCTOBER	418
NOVEMBER	453
DECEMBER	475





# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **FIRE OPERATIONS**

PRE-INCIDENT VALUE		LOSSES
\$1,358,710.00		\$602,710.00
MUTUAL AID		
Aid Type		Total
Aid Given		82
Aid Received		50
OVERLAPPING CALLS		
# OVERLAPPING		% OVERLAPPING
2080		44.86
LIGHTS AND SIREN - AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)		
Station	EMS	FIRE
Avon Fire Department	0:11:47	
North Olmsted Fire Department	0:11:45	
NRFD Station 1	0:06:11	0:07:35
NRFD Station 2	0:07:05	0:07:46
Olmsted Township Fire Department	00:12:58	
<b>AVERAGE FOR ALL CALLS</b>		<b>0:06:31</b>
AGENCY		AVERAGE TIME ON SCENE (MM:SS)
North Ridgeville Fire Department		15:12

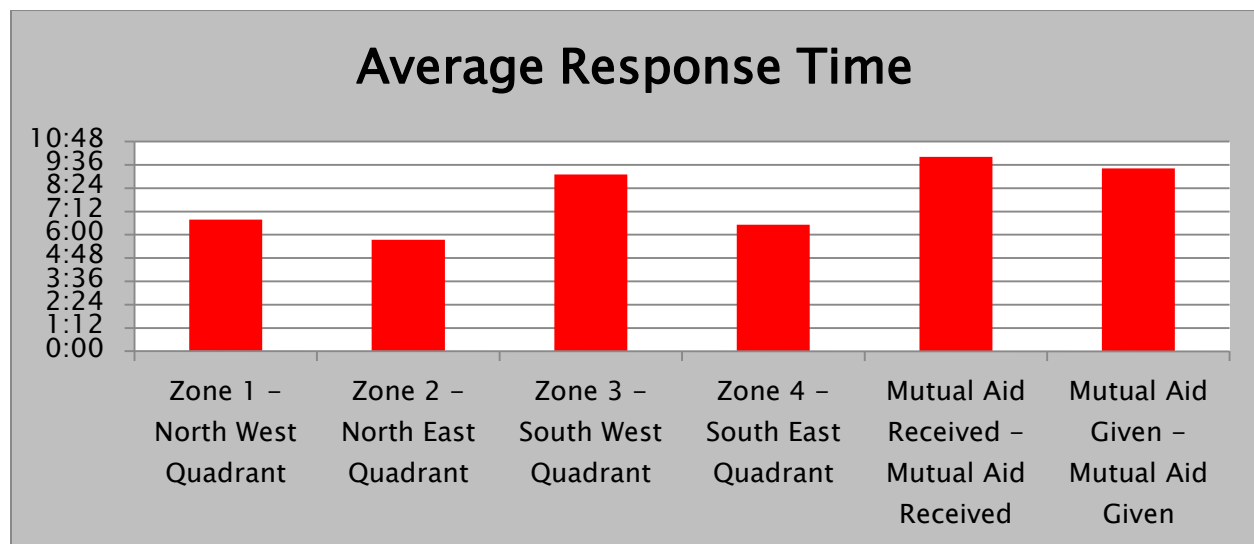


# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### FIRE OPERATIONS

ZONE	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME in minutes (Dispatch to Arrive)
Zone 1 - North West Quadrant	6:47
Zone 2 - North East Quadrant	5:45
Zone 3 - South West Quadrant	9:06
Zone 4 - South East Quadrant	6:31
Mutual Aid Received - Mutual Aid Received	10:01
Mutual Aid Given - Mutual Aid Given	9:25





# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### FIRE OPERATIONS

2021 RESPONSES PER UNIT													
APPARATUS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
E21	21	19	21	11	9	24	22	10			12	15	164
E22	25	16	15	23	27	23	13	34	29	24	22	32	283
E24	14	18	15	18	14	25	21	26	20	21	32	29	253
M25	71	93	119	56	57	88	112	81	114	116	78	118	1,103
M26	68	56	56	63	74	63	72	83	87	99	60	80	861
M27		12	11	18	10	14	2	33		8	48	4	160
M28	128	84	103	122	121	116	111	109	126	93	115	123	1,351
T23				1	2	1	7	24	17	27	13	8	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>4,971</b>

**M=Medic Unit**

**T=Aerial Ladder Truck**

**E= Engine**

**\* = This number does not reflect units that were cancelled or mutual aid units**



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **WATER SUPPLY**

The North Ridgeville Fire Department realizes the importance of water supply as it relates to operations and ensures that the following functions are kept as a high priority throughout the year:

- Maintenance and tracking of all hose testing equipment, hoses, appliances, and nozzles.
- Arrangement of annual hose testing assignments to ensure compliance with NFPA 1962 *Standard for Hose Service Testing*.
- Collaboration with the North Ridgeville Service Department to coordinate fire hydrant testing/maintenance of all of our city's fire hydrants. 2,458 fire hydrants were flushed and flowed in 2021. The fire department estimates that there are 2,905 fire hydrants in the city with new hydrants being added to the inventory each year.
- Coordination with Fire Prevention and Fire Operations to maintain effective pre-planning data. Keeping updated and accurate records regarding types of sprinkler systems and location of fire department sprinkler connections in the City of North Ridgeville. All data is uploaded to "Active 911" which is utilized by responding crews to provide real-time data during emergency incidents.



**Dan Rogers, Paramedic  
Captain**

HOSE TESTING RESULTS				
HOSE DIAMETER	# of Sections Tested	Total Feet Tested	# of Sections that Passed	# of Sections that Failed
1 3/4"	87	4,350	84	3
2 1/2"	80	4,000	80	0
5"	28	2,800	28	0
<b>Overall Totals</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>11,150</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>3</b>





# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### VEHICLE MAINTENANCE


The North Ridgeville Fire Department maintains all of our department's vehicles with the help of the North Ridgeville Service Department. The department has eleven emergency use vehicles, a utility pickup, and a couple of trailers that all must receive yearly maintenance and repairs. The following are a list of items included in the department's yearly vehicle maintenance duties:

- Oil changes and preventative maintenance on all vehicles
- Yearly pump tests performed on the department's four pieces of fire apparatus
- Non-destructive ladder testing on all of the department's ground ladders and aerial ladder waterway
- Aerial ladder testing (every five years)
- Tire inspections on all vehicles
- Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections by on-duty staff



**Chad Warner, Paramedic  
Lieutenant**

Although much of our maintenance and repairs are performed by the North Ridgeville Service Department, some items must still be sent out to private repair facilities to be performed. The members of the department charged with vehicle maintenance arrange for those repairs, monitor their progress, and ensure that they are completed properly.

2020 PUMP TESTING		
	APPARATUS	STATUS
	Engine 21	Passed
	Engine 22	Passed
	Engine 24	Passed
	Truck 23	Passed



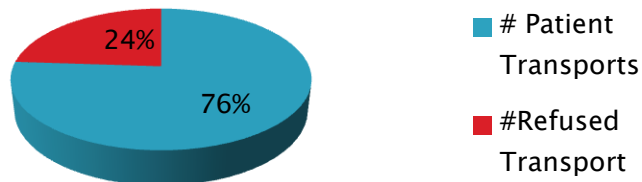
# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **EMS OPERATIONS**

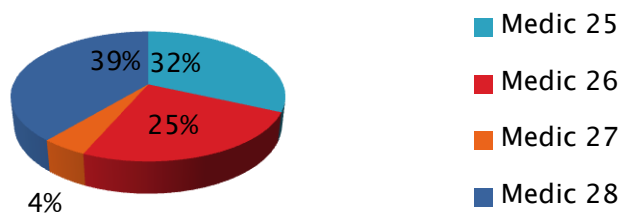
The North Ridgeville Fire Department maintains a high standard for our Emergency Medical Services. We consistently strive to deliver superb all-hazards emergency response to our residents and area businesses. We accomplish this by continuously evaluating our service delivery with the latest standards and best practices. Our goal is to remain competitive, marketable and sustainable while delivering the best possible emergency services to our customers. The following graphs represent our call volume for EMS calls in 2021.

### **3,939 EMS Calls**



The number of EMS calls in 2021 increased by over 18% from the previous year.

### **EMS Calls Per Medic Unit**



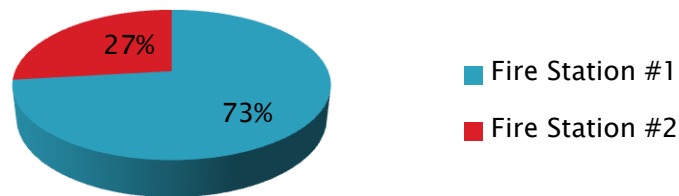


# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

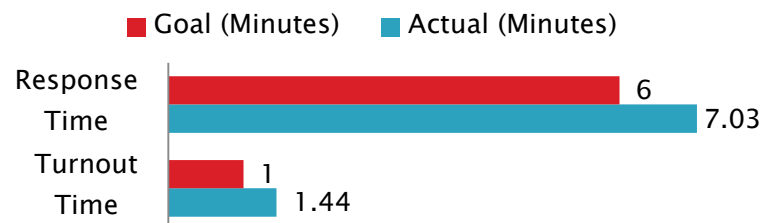
## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **EMS OPERATIONS**

#### **EMS Calls Per Station**

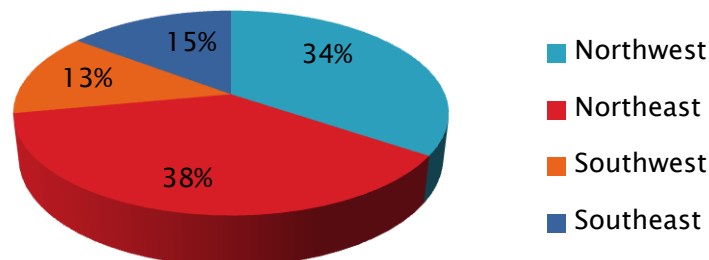


#### **EMS Times**



Our average EMS turnout and response times are higher than our goals. Although driving time to the scene cannot really be improved on, turnout time can. Our personnel are continuing to be mindful of turnout time in an effort to decrease our overall average response time.

#### **EMS Call Per Quadrant**



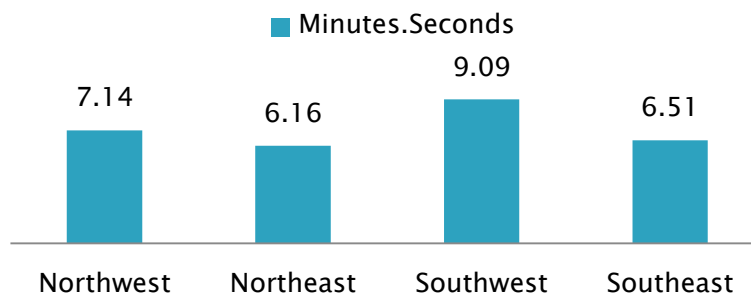


# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

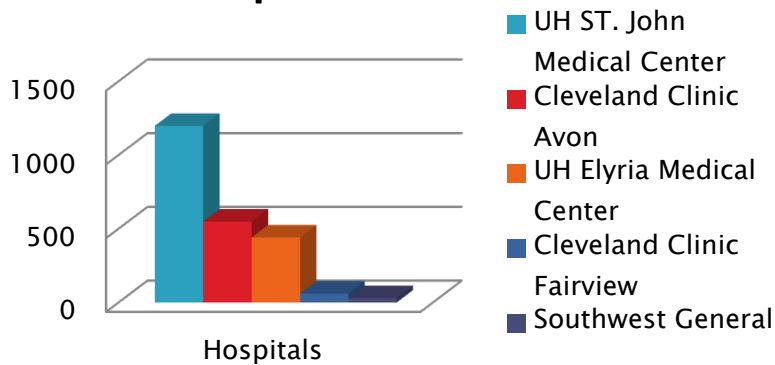
## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### EMS OPERATIONS

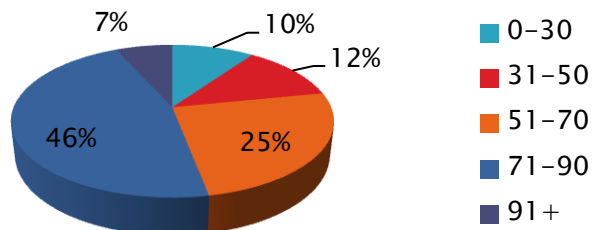
#### Average EMS Response Times by Quadrant



#### Transport Destinations



#### EMS Patients by Age Group





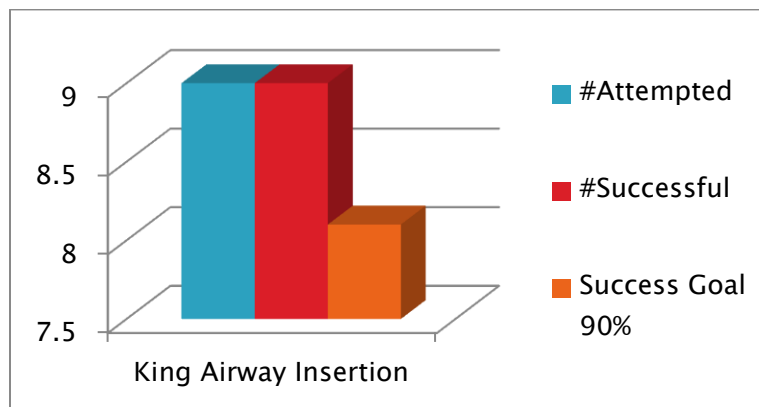


# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

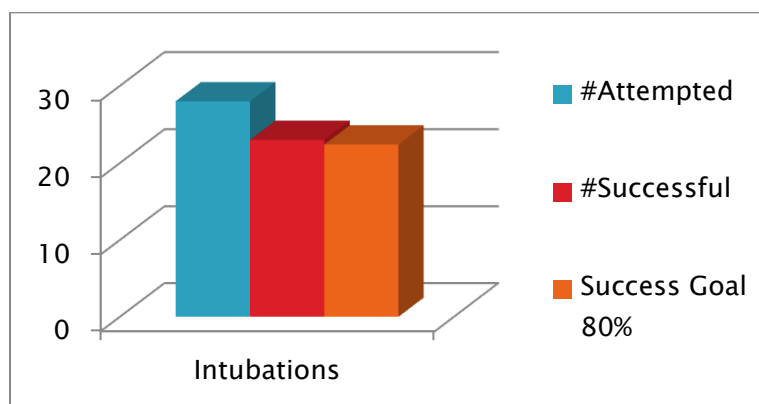
## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **EMS OPERATIONS**

In 2021, we began trending our treatment success ratios so that we can report it to our personnel and the public. In doing so, we are trying to raise awareness and set goals so that we can improve on our treatment success ratios and provide improved care. In collaboration with our Medical Director, Dr. Don Spaner, we have set treatment success goals that we plan to reach through continued practice and training. The following graphs represent our treatment success ratios for Advanced Life Support (ALS) procedures and the goals that we are trying to reach.



**The department has successfully exceeded our goal of 90% and will re-evaluate our goal in 2022.**



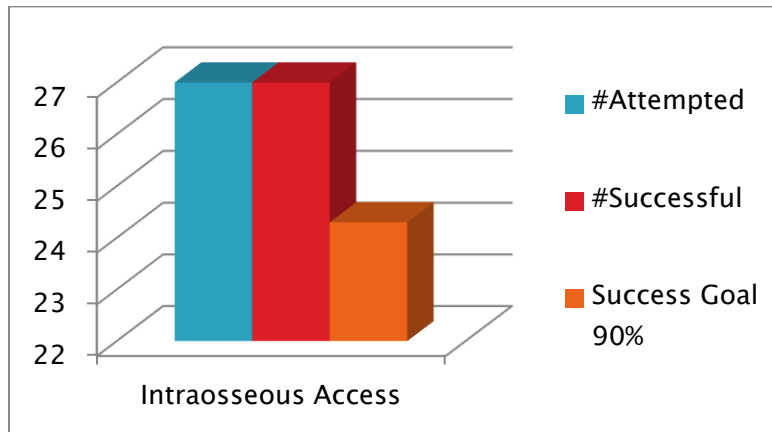
**The department has not reached our goal of 80% success in intubations and will re-evaluate our goal in 2022.**



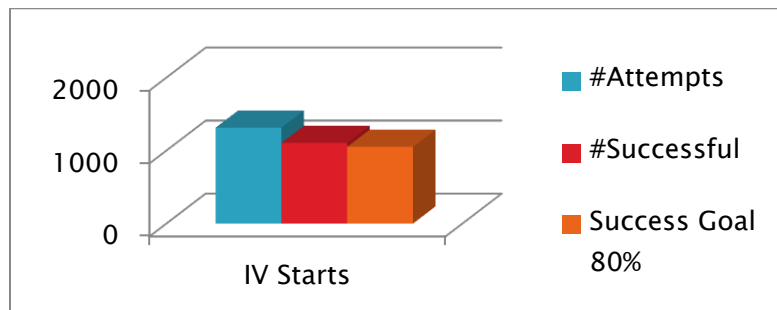
# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **EMS OPERATIONS**



**The department has successfully exceeded our goal of 90% and will re-evaluate our goal in 2022.**



**The department has reached our goal 80% and will re-evaluate our goal in 2022.**

Finally, the fire department continues to cherish the relationship that we have with University Hospitals of Cleveland. Our Medical Control Physicians Dr. Spanner and Dr. Glagola are second to none and both have been to the department several times over 2021 for one-on-one training with our paramedics. Our partnership with University Hospitals is good for both the department and the community.



# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### *EMS OPERATIONS*

The following enhancements were made by our department in 2021:

- The Department ordered a chassis and began specifications for a new Horton ambulance which will be built in 2022 and delivered the beginning of 2023.
- A new triage room was added to the plans for the fire station #2 remodel/addition. The new triage room will also be the clean storage area for ambulance medical supplies.
- The fire department continues to support an internal EMS Committee to take advantage of the talents and ideas of our shift members to continue to improve our EMS service. Each shift is represented by a member that reports ideas and problems and helps to come up with solutions. The committee is led by Captain Cook and its members are Lieutenant/Paramedic Colt Eberling, Lieutenant/Paramedic Alex Shear, Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Silvi, and Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Kotar. This committee is responsible for assisting with designing and specifying features for the purchase of new ambulances, ordering and maintaining an adequate supply of EMS Equipment, Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement of EMS documentation, and updating the standard operating procedures to satisfy the best practices for EMS accreditation.
- In 2021, the department filled our re-accreditation application with the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). This accreditation ensures that the department meets/exceeds the new standards of care for Emergency Services nationally. The accreditation process is voluntary and undertaken by the Fire Department to ensure we are providing the residents with the highest professional service possible. The accreditation assures that the department's Standard Operating Procedures meet the stringent guidelines for certification. The North Ridgeville Fire Department is 1 of 2 fire departments awarded this distinction and 1 of 6 total EMS agencies in the State of Ohio. We are expecting a site visit from CAAS sometime in 2022.
- The North Ridgeville Fire Department continued to follow University Hospital's EMS Protocols to provide the residents with state of the art medical care and updated interventions.

We are looking forward to continuing to improve our service in 2022. Completing the internal audits for accreditation is going to allow us to improve policies, procedures, training, and community health programs.

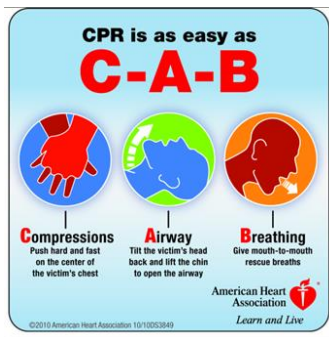


# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **EMS OPERATIONS**

## **COMMUNITY CPR PROGRAM**



The North Ridgeville Fire Department in collaboration with the North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department offer CPR classes to the public. Residents can find all the CPR classes being offered and sign up through the Parks and Recreation website. American Heart Association (AHA) Friends and Family CPR and AHA BLS CPR classes are offered throughout the year and are held at the fire department. The community CPR program is organized by Lieutenants Korey Stearns and Colt Eberling. In 2021 we instructed 80 members of the community through our partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department.

The fire department also offers BLS CPR classes for any dentist or doctor's office in the city; we provide the North Ridgeville City Schools with BLS CPR instruction as well as the North Ridgeville Police Department. As a department we understand the importance of early recognition and CPR in the event of a cardiac arrest and are making every effort to expand our program and reach more people each year. We recognize that our efforts to achieve the Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) in more patients begins with bystander CPR.







# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FIRE PREVENTION***

The Division of Fire Prevention for the North Ridgeville Fire Department is headed by Assistant Chief Mike Uhnak. He is a 26 year veteran of the department and is certified as a State Fire Inspector, State Fire Instructor and Fire Investigator. The primary goal of the prevention division is to prevent loss of life and property. This is accomplished through code enforcement inspections, public education and fire investigation as well as pre-planning for major emergencies.

Fire Prevention is responsible for ensuring all commercial buildings are constructed or renovated in compliance with the Ohio Fire Code, as well as various standards such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The Fire Prevention Department's continuous efforts keep our community safe from hazards. In the year 2021, the Division of Fire Prevention conducted a total of 881 inspections, including but not limited to:

- 347 annual inspections
- 44 new business acceptance inspections
- 199 fire protection system inspections (sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, special agent systems)
- 37 foster/adoption inspections
- 126 fire safety during construction inspections
- 142 plan review inspections

In addition to the above noted, emergency planning, fire investigations, and numerous re-inspections were also performed.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Fire Prevention is dedicated to the fair and accurate administration of the Ohio Fire Code. These efforts are delivered by A.C. Uhnak and several of our company officers who are certified as Fire Safety Inspectors by the State of Ohio. Our inspection goal is not only compliance, but to educate the business on the fire code as well. We show how the fire codes will make them safer by preventing fires before they occur. It's our business to make sure that they stay in business and do not get shut down by a preventable fire. Included with annual inspections, our crews develop and update pre-fire plans of local



***Mike Uhnak, Paramedic  
Assistant Chief***



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **FIRE PREVENTION**

businesses. These pre-fire plans are drawings and information gathered about each individual business for use in case of a fire. The pre-fire plans assist us in training, locating utility shutoffs, contacting property owners and preserving property in the case where there is a fire in a business. The fire department loads the pre-fire plans onto a server that allows our fire crews to access the information on an iPad which is located in each piece of the City's fire apparatus.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Public education programs are designed with the purpose of preventing fires, injuries and even deaths resulting from accidents and fires. We are dedicated to continuously improving programs based on the current trends and technology available to our department.

Fire Prevention is responsible for overseeing the administration of the public education programs geared towards the safety of our community. Our goal is to customize our programs to meet the needs of the age groups of our audience. The primary Fire Education Educators are Firefighters Jason Chrosniak and Steven Accord. Our fire safety educators deliver fire safety talks in the community throughout the year. Our efforts include:

- Business and Nursing Home Safety Talks
- Adoption and Foster Care Inspections
- Boy and Girl Scout Badge Requirements
- NR Senior Center Safety Talks
- Friends and Family CPR
- Annual Health and Safety Fair
- Home Fire Safety Inspections
- Fire Station Tours and Safety Presentations
- Safety Talks in Schools
- Safety Talks at Safetyville
- Car Safety Seat Checks/Installations
- Fire Extinguisher Training

*In 2021, Lieutenant Gabe Gerbasi, Firefighter Justin Silvi, and Firefighter Chris Federan who are accredited by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration combined to complete 57 child safety seat inspections as well as the required continuing education from the NHTSA. This program allows for proper installation and inspection of child safety seats in our residents' vehicles. Anyone interested in this service can go to the city's webpage or contact these individuals at 440-327-5311 for more information or to make an appointment.*





## ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### ***FIRE PREVENTION***

##### **FIRE INVESTIGATIONS**

The State of Ohio requires all fires to be investigated to determine cause and origin. It is also the fire department's responsibility to determine whether the fire was intentionally set. Intentionally set or arson fires are investigated by the North Ridgeville Fire Department, with the professional assistance of the Lorain County Fire Investigation Team and the Ohio Fire Marshal. By determining the cause of a fire, the fire department can develop programs to educate the community to reduce future fire incidents.

## **Fire Prevention**





# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FIRE & EMS TRAINING REPORT***

The Division of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Training for the North Ridgeville Fire Department is headed by Assistant Chief Jon Graf. He is a 27 year member of the department and is certified as a State Fire Inspector, State Fire Instructor, State EMS Instructor and Fire Investigator. In addition, A.C. Graf is an Ice Rescue Instructor, Emergency Vehicle Driving Instructor, Blue Card Incident Command Instructor, and a graduate of the Ohio Fire Executive Program. The primary goal of the training division is to safely and effectively prepare personnel for real operations. This training does not only focus on current services delivered, but looks to the future needs of the department as well.

The members of the North Ridgeville Fire Department completed over 5,000 hours of training in 2021. The largest amount of time was dedicated to fire operations. This training covers a large array of topics including, but not limited to, advancing fire hose within a burning structure, rapid ladder deployment, search techniques in zero visibility, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) entanglement drills, fire service saws, electrical emergencies, pump operations, radio communications, incident command, HAZMAT, ice rescue, and emergency vehicle driver techniques.

Every member of the North Ridgeville Fire Department maintains, as a minimum, a firefighter II certification, a paramedic certification, an Emergency Vehicle Driver certification, Ice Rescue certification, HAZMAT Awareness, and Blue Card Incident Command certification. The majority of the department members, however, are required to maintain far more than the minimum certifications. All department officers are required to maintain the additional state certifications of Fire Safety Inspector and Fire Instructor. All of these certifications require significant continuing education hours. In addition to maintaining certifications, department members must continually train on emergency scene operations that are unique to the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Fire officers are also required to participate in annual training that is focused on managerial skills. In 2021, all fire officers participated in a personality assessment that was followed up with a full day of leadership training that was focused on leading and relating to other personality types.

University Hospitals of Cleveland provides the majority of the EMS continuing education that is required for our members to maintain their paramedic certifications. UH instructors are onsite monthly to provide education on the required topic categories of; pediatrics, geriatrics, trauma, and cardiology.



***Jon Graf, OFE  
Assistant Chief***





# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FIRE & EMS TRAINING REPORT***

Officer development training continues to be a high priority for the North Ridgeville Fire Department. In 2021 Captain Dan Rogers continued his enrollment in the Ohio Fire Executive Program. The Ohio Executive (OFE) program, as described by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, is an executive development program. The OFE assesses, enhances, and refines the leadership qualities of Chiefs who are currently leading their organizations and develops “bench strength” in high potential senior officers who can move into positions of greater responsibility.

The content and processes of the program were chosen to support the acquisition of improved leadership capabilities. It is envisioned that the program will have an impact on participants in five domains: knowledge acquisition, self-awareness building, perspective change, skill development, and behavior change. Captain Dan Rogers received a scholarship from the Ohio Fire Chief’s Association that will cover all of the costs of the program.

Training Category	Training Hours 2021
Fire Operations	2,482
EMS Operations	1,483
Officer Development	409
County Rescue Teams	135
Fire Instructor	8
Fire Inspector	547
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,064</b>







# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### EMS BILLING

The North Ridgeville Fire Department bills **non-residents** for ambulance transports. The patient is sent a bill and asked to pay or make arrangements to pay the full amount. The fire department contracted with the Ohio Attorney General's office to provide collection service for any current or past uncollected debt from **non-resident** patients.

The fire department also "soft" bills our patients that are residents. If the resident has medical insurance, the fire department will send the insurance company a bill and accept any payment that is forwarded on their behalf. Residents of North Ridgeville should **NEVER** receive a bill at their home and are **NEVER** turned over to collections for an ambulance transport. In 2021, the fire department experienced a 16% **increase** in our collections from the previous year. The record increase in EMS volume helped us to see an increase in our collections for 2021. Billing rates are reviewed annually in order to keep them competitive with those of the surrounding communities. The fire department's ambulance billing rates have not increased since 2014.

YEAR	# EMS CALLS	MONTHLY COLLECTION AVG.	TOTAL YEAR COLLECTIONS
2013	2,371	\$56,029.10	\$672,349.14
2014	2,436	\$56,399.85	\$676,798.17
2015	2,618	\$65,007.34	\$780,088.05
2016	2,817	\$60,568.09	\$726,817.13
2017	3,109	\$63,460.25	\$761,522.46
2018	3,033	\$65,200.05	\$782,400.60
2019	3,107	\$64,058.15	\$768,697.78
2020	3,254	\$68,181.98	\$818,183.71
2021	3,939	\$80,872.42	\$970,468.99

*The EMS collections data is summarized in this chart. The revenue generated from ambulance billing is placed in our ambulance fund and is used for new ambulances, medical equipment and staffing.*



# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FACILITIES***

## **TWO FIRE STATIONS 24/7 Current Facilities**



### **Fire Headquarters & Station #1**

**7000 Ranger Way**

**Opened in July 2019**

**23,000 square feet**

**All fire department administrative offices and training facilities**

***Medic 25, Engine 21, Medic 27, Engine 22, Medic 28, Ladder 23, Dive  
Rescue Trailer, Car 30 (utility pickup)***



# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FACILITIES***



#### **Fire Station #2**

**34523 Lorain Road**

Built in 1975 to serve the south end of North Ridgeville

2,700 square feet

*Medic 26, Engine 24*



#### **Fire Station #2 Remodel/Addition Project**

Station will receive updates including protective gear storage, protective gear laundry, EMS decontamination area, triage room, and physical fitness area. Construction began in 2021.





# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***FACILITIES***

#### **FIRE MUSEUM**

The North Ridgeville Fire Department maintains a museum next to Old Town Hall that contains the history of our department and the fire service. The fire museum houses the city's original 1931 Buffalo fire engine which was the first piece of fire apparatus that the City of North Ridgeville purchased.

The museum contains pictures and memorabilia that reflect the history of the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Tours cover the establishment of the North Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Department up to today's full-time fire/EMS service. There is also memorabilia that tell the story of the American Fire Service, including two Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) that were recovered at the World Trade Center site in 2001.

The Buffalo fire truck is in running condition and can be used for funerals, parades, and car shows. Our staff is constantly working on the truck to improve its condition and keep it running. The truck is used throughout the year by various picture takers that like the truck for its photogenic value.

The fire museum is open on some holidays and always by request. Anyone that would like a tour or is interested in donating to the museum fund can contact us at (440) 327-5311.



***Paul Sadowski, Paramedic  
Captain***





## **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### **WESTCOM DISPATCH**



The mission of the Westshore Central Dispatch Center is to provide professional and efficient emergency communications to the citizens, first responders, and visitors of the Westshore Region. This will be accomplished through utilizing technology, ongoing training, dedicated employees, and continued growth to fulfill the needs of our community and all who pass through it. 2021 proved to be our busiest year on record. Westcom dispatched 18,285 Fire and EMS calls for the communities of North Ridgeville, Westlake, Bay Village, Rocky River, and Fairview Park while handling 60,000 calls for service. This marked a 13% increase in call volume compared to 2020. The North Ridgeville Fire department ran 4,638 calls compared to 3,968 in 2020, an increase of over 15%.





## ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### ***WESTCOM DISPATCH***

The 911 Dispatchers of Westcom continue to receive a high level of training. Each dispatcher maintains APCO International certifications in Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), Public Safety Telecommunication, and Fire Service Communication. Westcom employs two certified training officers to provide regular continuing education to all personnel. Westcom Dispatchers recertify every two years in EMD, CPR, and AED. Each dispatcher performs a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education annually. This focus on training and education translates to the best possible 911 service for the citizens of the entire Westshore region.

Westcom Dispatchers provide callers with critical pre-arrival instructions during emergency situations such as:

- CPR for cardiac arrest victims
- Assisting with choking victims
- Assistance during childbirth
- Assistance during structure fires

In cases when a city's Fire and EMS units are already on calls, Westcom will send the closest, most appropriate emergency vehicle to residents. This collaborative approach to dispatch provides the citizens of the Westshore area with continued, seamless emergency service. This practice saves precious time during fire and medical emergencies.

Furthermore, when there is a confirmed structure fire in the region, Westcom Dispatchers will automatically send units from neighboring communities to assist the affected Fire Department.





## ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### ***WESTCOM DISPATCH***

Accomplishments in 2021 included:

- Westcom received a Next Generation 911 grant and purchased three cellular 911 answering positions. The positions known as “Nomads” will allow for continuity of operations in the event of a disaster.
- Westcom continued its community involvement with participation in the holiday donation drives for the Cleveland APL and Friendship APL.

The Dispatchers at Westcom are committed to our role of serving as a critical link between the citizens and first responders of the Westshore region. We recognize and appreciate the contributions of our Dispatchers and the support of the Mayors, City Council members, and citizens in helping us execute our mission.

Sincerely,

Ronald Barlow

Supervisor



# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### GRANTS & DONATIONS

Each year, the fire department attempts to bring in funding through various grant sources and we are always willing to accept donations from private sources. Although we do not have a professional grant writer on staff, our personnel are willing to tackle the applications and are always looking for new funding sources that can assist us in our mission. Our grant writing efforts are headed by Captain Barry Cook with the assistance of Lieutenant/Medics Colt Eberling and Alex Shear. In 2021, the fire department was awarded \$328,326.80 from FEMA in regional grant with the fire departments from Avon, Avon Lake, Sheffield Lake, and Sheffield Township. The purpose of the grant was to provide new P25 compliant digital radios to each department to upgrade our communication systems. The total award for the regional grant was \$1,052,726.70. There were also applications completed for Firehouse Subs in 2021 for the replacement of some of the fire department's aging hand tools and power equipment. Our grants and donations history for the past 19 years is as follows:

YEAR	ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
2002	FEMA	\$51,327.00	Fire Fighter Wellness Program and Fitness Equipment
2004	FEMA	\$135,439.00	Generator, Radios, SCBA's and Fire Fighter Turnout Gear
2009	FEMA	\$126,297.00	Fire Station #2 Traffic Signal, Turnout Gear Washer and Dryer
2010	FEMA	\$270,000.00	Replacement Fire Engine
2014	FEMA	\$15,660.00	Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for Fire Apparatus
	Corn Festival Committee	\$2,000.00	Water Rescue Training
2015	Ohio Public Safety EMS	\$3,500.00	EMS Equipment
	North Ridgeville VFW	\$1,500.00	McGrath Mac Video Laryngoscope
2016	Ohio Public Safety EMS	\$2,500.00	EMS Equipment
2017	Ohio Public Safety EMS	\$1,214.00	EMS Equipment
2018	FEMA	\$25,000.00	Station Exhaust Removal System
	Ohio Public Safety EMS	\$1,200.00	EMS Equipment
2019	Ohio Public Safety EMS	\$2,765.00	EMS Equipment
	FEMA SAFER Grant	\$155,000.00	Staffing – Pay and Benefits for one Firefighter (3 years)
2020	FEMA	\$184,627.27	Replacement of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
	Ohio Public Safety EMS	\$2,846.43	EMS Equipment
2021	FEMA	\$328,326.80	P25 Digital Radio Equipment
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,309,202.50</b>	



# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***ANNUAL HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR***



In October of each year, the fire department holds our annual health & safety fair in observance of National Fire Safety Awareness Month. The safety fair is held at fire station #1 and is designed to attract residents of our community for a fun-filled family friendly day of tips about healthy living and home fire safety. Each year there are local businesses, hospitals, charitable organizations, city departments and doctors' offices on hand to offer information and giveaway items. Family entertainment and food are always an added attraction. Certified car seat installers, fire inspectors and CPR instructors from our department are also on hand to answer questions and schedule installations, inspections and classes. If you know of any health or fire safety related businesses that would like to attend, please contact Lieutenant Korey Stearns at (440) 353-0803.







## ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### ***RETIREMENT***

### **Lieutenant/Paramedic Robert “Bob” Knowlton**



In 2021, Lieutenant Robert “Bob” Knowlton retired from the North Ridgeville Fire Department after serving for 28 years. Bob was hired in 1993 as a Firefighter/EMT. He had been working for LifeCare Ambulance in Elyria and prior to that had proudly served in the United States Navy. After the North Ridgeville Paramedic Levy passed in 1995, Bob volunteered for Paramedic training and graduated a year later as a state certified Paramedic. Bob fought many fires during his 28 years with the North Ridgeville Fire Department. One of the last fires he fought was the Mills Creek Tennis Club fire which he worked at until he fell over from heat exhaustion and has to be transported to the hospital. Bob has been married to his wife June for 33 years and has two grown sons that are also both Firefighter/Paramedics. Bob is pictured here with his granddaughter Charlotte.



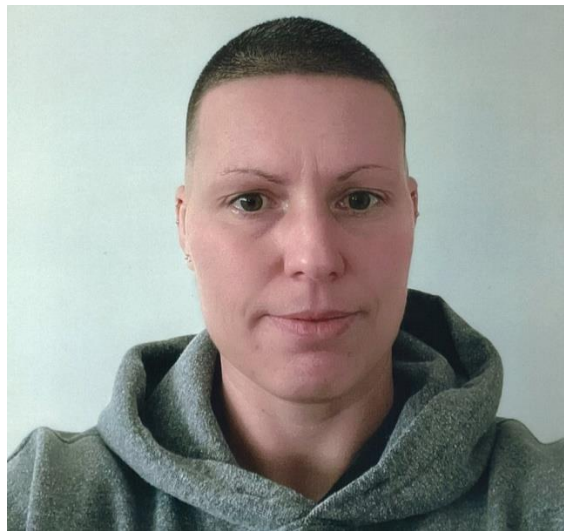


## ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

### **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

#### ***NEW HIRES***

### **Firefighter/Paramedic Kerri Tolway**



In 2021, the fire department hired Kerri Tolway from Lorain, Ohio as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Firefighter Tolway is 38 years old and grew up in Sheffield Township. She worked part-time as a Firefighter/Paramedic for both the Avon and Sheffield Village Fire Departments. Tolway has a Bachelor's Degree from Walsh University where she attended on a basketball scholarship. She lives with her husband Brad and her loved dog Beau.



# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **Celebrating 1 Year**

FF Grant Gradisek

#### **Celebrating 5 Years**

None

#### **Celebrating 10 Years**

Lieutenant Colt Eberling

Lieutenant Gabe Gerbasi

FF Justin Silvi

#### **Celebrating 15 Years**

FF Kirt Strahinic

#### **Celebrating 20 Years**

None

#### **Celebrating 25 Years**

Assistant Chief Mike Uhnak

#### **Celebrating 30 Years**

Chief John Reese

FF Gary Chase

### **PROMOTIONS**

Lieutenant Mark Carbone

### **RETIREMENTS**

Lieutenant Bob Knowlton



# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

## **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### ***OUR VISION***

#### **North Ridgeville Fire Department's 2023 Vision**

Is to continue to be widely known as a community-oriented fire service agency that provides the highest level of public safety services to the residents, businesses, and visitors of our city.

**N**eeding to always be our best, our strategic pursuit of greater community risk reduction will support our accountability and compassion to the people of North Ridgeville. We will endeavor to reduce the risks encountered to create a safer place to live, work, and play.

**R**emembering our commitment to serve while always embracing efficiency and fiscal responsibility, our initiative for staffing will ensure we can meet the demand and growth in order to provide the best for our community. Through greater understanding of the risks within the city, we will strive to perfect our deployment model with an emphasis on timeliness in our response.

**F**or us to personify our integrity, we will invest in our greatest asset, our members, through an initiative anchored in safety, health, and wellness. We will also invest in our department with a greater focus on succession planning. Both will provide a greater return to those we serve, while always providing our dedication to longevity.

**D**edicated to professional excellence always, we will respect our great history and embrace our futurity by holding each other accountable for fulfilling our mission, living our values, accomplishing our goals, and making this vision a reality.