

2018



Fire / EMS Annual Report





NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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SPECIAL THANKS

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

Mayor	G. David Gillock
Safety Service Director	Jeffry Armbruster
President of Council	Kevin Corcoran
Ward 1 Council Member	Gregg A. Westover
Ward 2 Council Member	Dennis J. Boose
Ward 3 Council Member/ President Pro-Tem	Bruce F. Abens
Ward 4 Council Member	Bob Chapek
Council At-Large	Michelle Hung
Council At-Large	Martin E. DeVries



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It is once again with great pride that I present to you the activities and accomplishments of the personnel who serve the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Our members provide fire, EMS, special operations and public education in a manner that is effective and fiscally responsible to our residents. We are a full-service emergency management agency.

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 have all made our achievements possible by everyone working together.

Surprisingly, in 2018 your fire department answered 87 fewer calls for assistance than in 2017. One explanation for this may be an infrastructure project in 2017 that resulted in a large number of utility emergencies throughout the city. In 2018, the number of fire calls responded to was 542 and the number of EMS calls was 3,033. Our estimate is that with the growth of our community the number of calls for service will significantly increase. We are actively pursuing ways to improve our services and respond to the community.



John Reese, EFO
Fire Chief

In our ongoing effort to improve our service to the community, your fire department hosted and participated in the establishment of a 5-year Community Driven Strategic Plan. The 5-year plan was facilitated by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) which came to North Ridgeville and assisted us with holding meetings and analyzing the data that was received from our residents, business owners, and stakeholders. CPSE challenged the department's members to critically examine paradigms, values, philosophies, beliefs and desires, and challenged individuals to work in the best interest of the "team." Members of the community and department stakeholders' groups demonstrated commitment to this important project and remain committed to the future plan execution. The 2018-2023 North Ridgeville Fire Department Strategic Plan can be reviewed on the fire department page of the City of North Ridgeville website.

With the ongoing support of the community, we will continue to make efforts to improve so that your fire department will be among the best 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



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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.



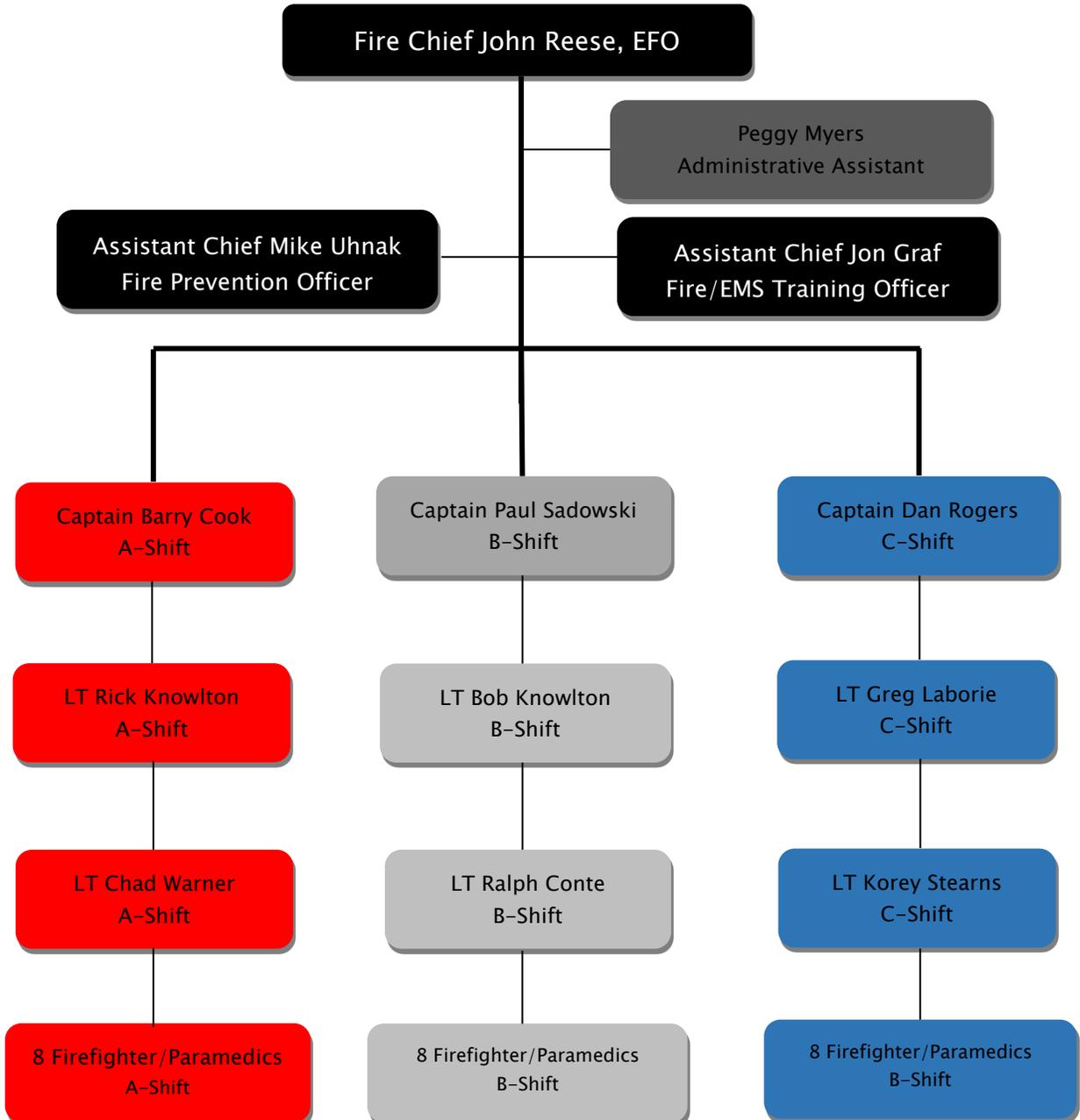


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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

North Ridgeville Fire Organizational Chart





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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 include:

- 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!





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NEW FIRE STATION UPDATE

The North Ridgeville Fire Department is just weeks away from the opening of the City's New Central Fire Station to the public so everyone can take a look! Although the station has been on time throughout the process, we still have a punch list of items to have touched up and we are waiting on delivery of the kitchen fire suppression hood before we can open for operations. The building process has been an incredible experience and we are excited for the community to have such a fine facility. We are hoping to have a Grand Opening Ceremony and Open House for the public sometime in May followed by our staff moving operations over to the new building. The current Fire Station #1 located at 7090 Avon Belden Road is scheduled to be demolished in the summer of 2019.

The New Central Fire Station will:

- Allow the Fire Department to meet the current and future needs of the residents and is designed to serve the community's needs for the next 50 years
- House two fire companies as well as the Fire Department's administrative offices
- Provide better training facilities so Fire/EMS personnel can better serve the city and residents
- Improve overall response times to emergencies
- Allow proper storage of fire apparatus and equipment
- Eliminate some of the traffic congestion on Rt. 83 where fire station #1 is currently located
- Include a medical triage room which will allow on duty Firefighter/Paramedics the ability to provide triage to walk-in patients with medical emergencies, as well as, other health programs and screenings
- Allow the fire department to provide classes (e.g. CPR Classes) to residents in the state of the art classroom facility
- Improve safety related fire station tours and learning opportunities for your children
- Serve as a local emergency operations center during a natural disaster or large scale emergency
- Allow the fire department to expand its overall service to the City of North Ridgeville





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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 2018, the North Ridgeville Fire Department responded to 3,575 calls for assistance from our customers with an average response time of 6:13 minutes which includes the response times of neighboring cities to ours. Of the 3,575 calls, 3,033 were emergency medical calls and 542 were fire service related calls.

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 residents and our area businesses, 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 2018 and saved through the interventions of the North Ridgeville Fire Department was \$9,697,400. Of that total value, an estimated \$407,725 was lost.

In April of 2018, a new Braun ALS Ambulance was delivered and placed into service. The new ambulance replaces the backup Medic unit at Station #1. Maintaining our equipment and keeping it in a constant state of readiness is a high priority for the fire department. Our personnel and the City's service department mechanics spend many hours each year maintaining our equipment to ensure that we are always ready to respond. As in the past, we sent our city mechanic to the Ohio Fire Academy for the Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) classes that qualify them to work on our equipment. This investment in our mechanics has paid off for the city. Our city mechanics perform all of the annual preventative maintenance on our fire apparatus which saved us thousands of dollars and will continue to do so each year. The use of our service department mechanics also ensures quality work that is done in a timely manner so we can get our equipment back into service faster.

Our two fire stations operate on a 24/7 basis and are staffed by the men of the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Maintenance of these facilities and grounds are performed on a daily basis by the on-duty personnel. This ensures that the stations are kept safe, clean and operating efficiently. It also reflects an image that complements our community which is important to our mission.



**Barry Cook, Paramedic
Captain**

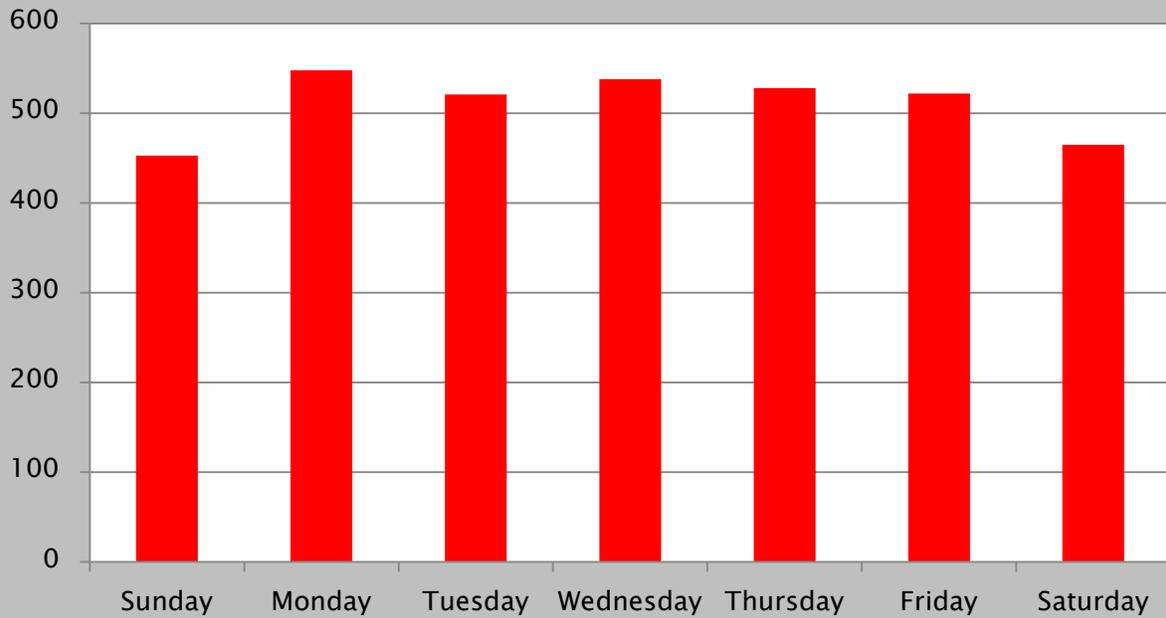


NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE OPERATIONS

2018 INCIDENTS PER DAY OF WEEK



DAY OF THE WEEK	# INCIDENTS
Sunday	453
Monday	548
Tuesday	521
Wednesday	538
Thursday	528
Friday	522
Saturday	465
TOTAL	3575



NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

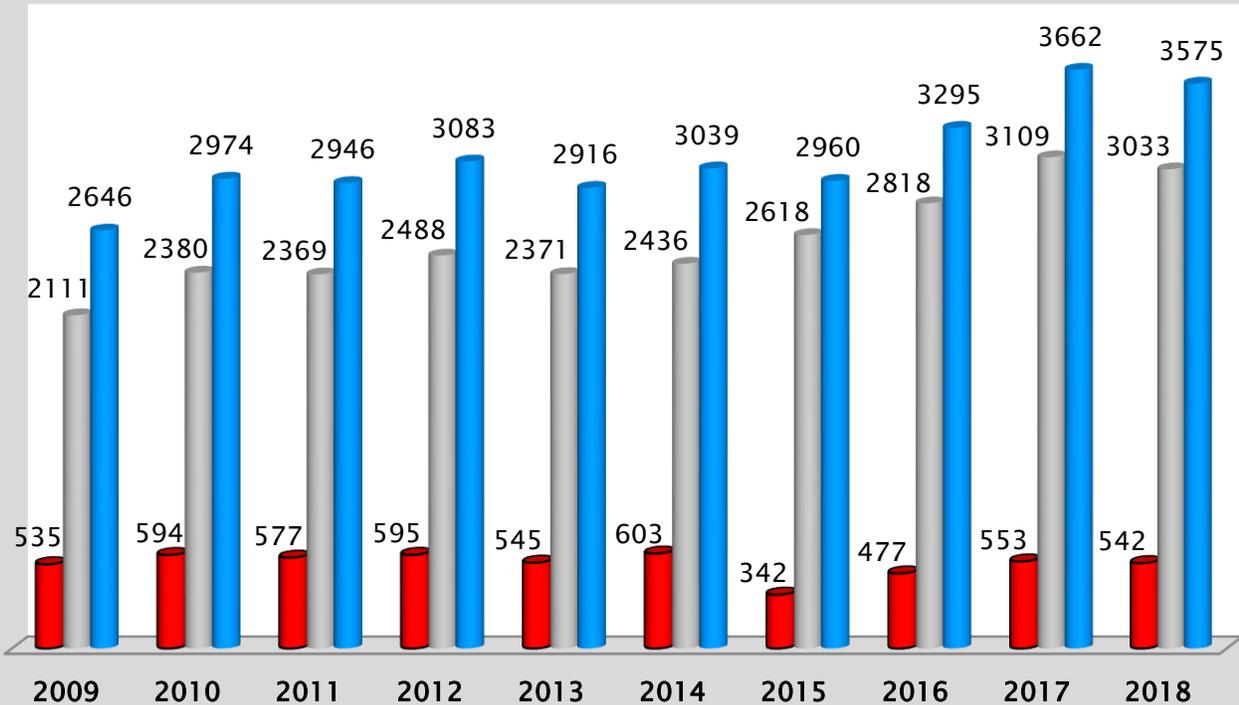
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FIRE OPERATIONS

10 YEAR RUN COMPARISON			
YEAR	FIRE	EMS	TOTAL
2009	535	2111	2646
2010	594	2380	2974
2011	577	2369	2946
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

10 YEAR RUN COMPARISON

■ FIRE ■ EMS ■ TOTAL



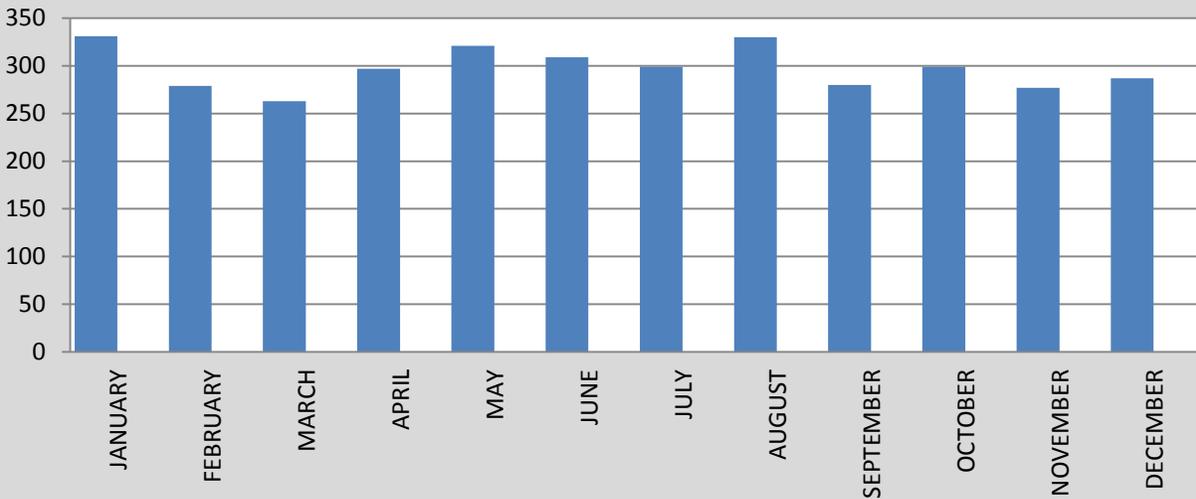


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FIRE OPERATIONS

2018 INCIDENTS PER MONTH



MONTH	INCIDENTS
JANUARY	331
FEBRUARY	279
MARCH	263
APRIL	297
MAY	321
JUNE	309
JULY	299
AUGUST	330
SEPTEMBER	280
OCTOBER	299
NOVEMBER	277
DECEMBER	287



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FIRE OPERATIONS

PRE-INCIDENT VALUE		LOSSES
\$9,697,400.00		\$407,725.00
MUTUAL AID		
Aid Type	Total	
Aid Given	74	
Aid Received	54	
OVERLAPPING CALLS		
# OVERLAPPING	% OVERLAPPING	
949	26.55	
LIGHTS AND SIREN - AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)		
Station	EMS	FIRE
Avon Fire Department	0:14:28	
North Olmsted Fire Department	0:06:44	
NRFD Station 1	0:05:36	0:07:33
NRFD Station 2	0:06:51	0:08:04
Olmsted Falls Fire Department		0:25:59
Olmsted Township Fire Department	0:11:26	
Sheffield Village Fire Department	0:07:10	
Westlake Fire Department	0:09:13	0:03:38
AVERAGE FOR ALL CALLS		0:06:13
AGENCY		AVERAGE TIME ON SCENE (MM:SS)
North Ridgeville Fire Department		14:23

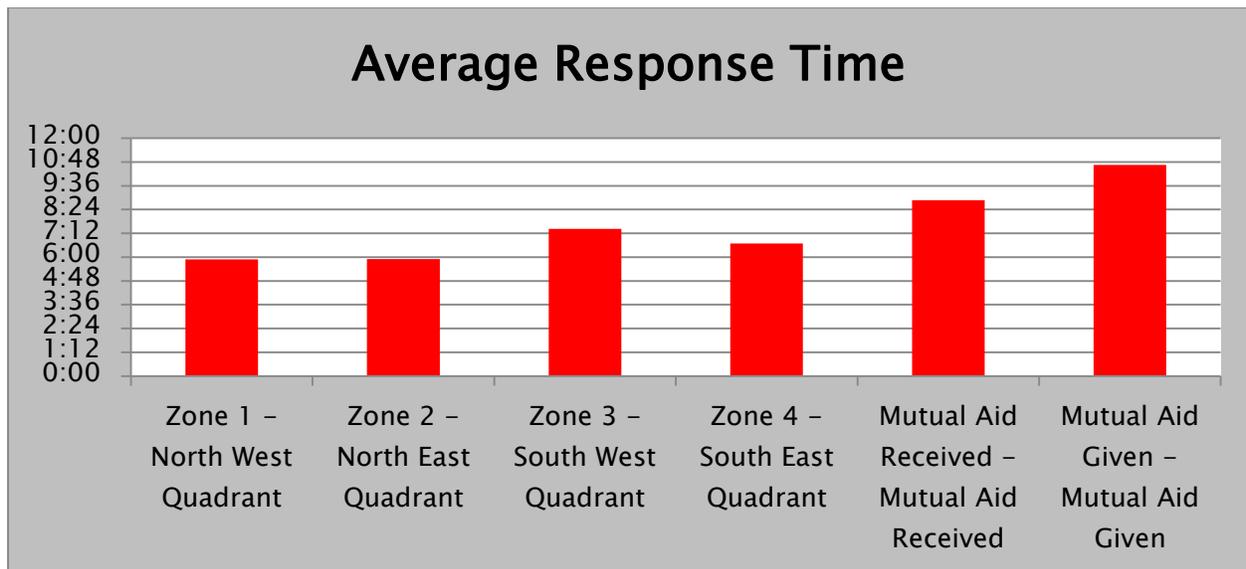


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FIRE OPERATIONS

ZONE	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME in minutes (Dispatch to Arrived)
Zone 1 - North West Quadrant	5:53
Zone 2 - North East Quadrant	5:54
Zone 3 - South West Quadrant	7:26
Zone 4 - South East Quadrant	6:41
Mutual Aid Received - Mutual Aid Received	8:52
Mutual Aid Given - Mutual Aid Given	10:39





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FIRE OPERATIONS

2018 RESPONSES PER UNIT

APPARATUS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
E21	12	3	5	0	4	30	8	8	3	22	5	4	40
E22	19	14	16	17	12	18	11	23	13	16	21	10	190
E24	32	18	17	23	35	25	31	35	22	19	48	35	318
M25	90	70	68	71	88	11	42	65	55	68	30	65	587
M26	112	144	137	150	64	64	70	79	95	141	122	151	1111
M27	96	55	55	51	8	50	6	0	39	62	80	47	461
M28	17	0	0	0	139	146	147	148	80	0	0	0	677
T23	0	11	13	15	15	4	10	34	3	5	16	7	133
Total	378	315	311	327	365	348	325	392	310	333	322	319	*3517

M=Medic Unit

T=Aerial Ladder Truck

E= Engine

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



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FIRE OPERATIONS

	2017 PUMP TESTING	
	APPARATUS	STATUS
	Engine 21	Passed
	Engine 22	Passed
	Engine 24	Passed
	Truck 23	Passed

HOSE TESTING RESULTS				
HOSE DIAMETER	# of Sections Tested	Total Feet Tested	# of Sections that Passed	# of Sections that Failed
1 3/4"	93	4,650	91	2
2 1/2"	87	4,350	86	1
5"	35	3,500	33	2
Overall Totals	215	12,500	210	5



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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 department dealt with change and adversity in 2018. This change came in many forms. The Center Ridge Road construction project created response challenges and delays. Construction traffic, lane closures, construction vehicles and supplies are just a few concerns that we dealt with. Adversity came when our new ambulance was hit by a vehicle while transporting a patient to the emergency room. Another recurrent change for the department was the number of homes in our city. North Ridgeville added 308 more houses in 2018. The department is aware of the ever increasing needs of our blossoming community and will continue to adapt our services to stay ahead of these needs. Finally, with the dissolution of WESHARE, the department adopted University Hospitals as our medical control. While this was an anticipated and expected change, it was still a modification in the way that our paramedics provided services, with medications and procedures.

Previous Year Comparison		
Overall Response Time by EMS Units		
Year	Minutes/ Seconds	Number of EMS Calls
2014	5:51	2,436
2015	5:41	2,618
2016	5:49	2,818
2017	5:39	3,109
2018	5:45	3,033

Of the 3,033 EMS calls we received in 2018, we transported a patient 2,239 times to a more definitive care facility for treatment of their illness or injury.



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EMS OPERATIONS

The following enhancements were made by our department in 2018:

- The department purchased 3 bariatric modification kits for our ambulance stretchers in order to safely transport obese patients.
- A \$1,200 EMS grant was awarded by the State of Ohio EMS /Public Safety division for the purchase of durable medical EMS 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 Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Kotar, Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Silvi and Firefighter/Paramedic Colt Eberling. This committee is responsible for assisting with designing and specifying features for the purchase of new ambulances, Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement of EMS documentation, and updating the standard operating procedures to satisfy the best practices for EMS accreditation.
- In 2018, the department maintained the EMS accreditation requirements from CAAS (Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services). This accreditation ensures that the department meets/exceeds the new standards of care for Emergency Services nationally. This accreditation process was purely 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.
- The department also was awarded the American Heart Association's Silver Mission Lifeline award for 2018. This award recognizes outstanding cardiac care as it relates to the treatment and transport of STEMI and Stroke patients.
- The North Ridgeville Fire Department adopted the 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 2019. Completing the internal audits for accreditation and moving into the new fire station is going to allow us to improve policies, procedures, equipment storage, training, community health programs and improve response times.



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FIRE PREVENTION

The Division of Fire Prevention for the North Ridgeville Fire Department is headed by Assistant Chief Mike Uhnak. He is a 23 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. This is evident by the fact that both of the city's commercial fires in 2018 were mitigated in the utmost timely fashion. Loss was minimized due to previously inspected fire suppression systems and a timely response of fire apparatus with well trained personnel.



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

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. Businesses within the borders of North Ridgeville are annually inspected for compliance with the Ohio Fire Code. 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 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.



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FIRE PREVENTION

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 that are our audience. Lieutenant Robert "Bob" Knowlton and Firefighter David "Brad" Buescher are our two Fire Education Educators. Both assist in presenting fire safety talks in the community throughout the year. Our efforts include:

- Fire extinguisher training
- Annual Health and Safety Fair
- Safety talks at area nursing homes
- Home fire safety inspections for adoption and foster care homes
- Fire station tours and safety presentations
- Boy Scout and Girl Scout badge requirements
- Safety talks in the schools
- Safety talks at the North Ridgeville Senior Center
- Safety Talks at Safetyville
- Family and Friends CPR
- Child Passenger Car Safety Seat checks/installations

In 2018, The North Ridgeville Fire Department continued to expand its child safety seat program. Lieutenant Ralph Conte and Firefighter Justin Silvi were accredited by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and received training from University Hospitals. In 2018, they 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.





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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





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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 24 year veteran 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 has acquired specialized trainer certifications in Live Fire Training, Ice Rescue Training, Emergency Vehicle Driver's Training, and is an Ohio Fire Executive. 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 6,900 hours of training in 2018. The largest amount of time is spent on Fire Operations. This training covers a large array of topics including, but not limited to, fire ground tactics, fire ground communications, emergency vehicle driving, ice rescue, search and rescue, self-contained breathing apparatus, hose advancement, nozzle selection, pump operations, incident command and emergency evacuations. With an increased focus nationally on fire prevention and public awareness, actual fire operations have decreased in frequency in many area fire departments. It is because of the less frequent practice of actual operations that makes the increased training on these operations so important.



*Jon Graf, OFE
Assistant Chief*

Training Category	Training Hours 2018
Fire Operations	3469.45
EMS Operations	1480
Officer Development	953
County Rescue Teams	629.3
Fire Instructor	111
Fire Inspector	75.3
Fire Investigator	48
Miscellaneous	166
Total	6932.05



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FIRE & EMS TRAINING REPORT

Emergency Medical Services training accounts for the second largest portion of training hours at 1,480 hours in 2018. Every department member is required to receive annual continuing education training that pertains to; pediatrics, geriatrics, cardiology, trauma, and general medical topics. This training was provided by department instructors, area hospital instructors and online continuing education resources.

In April, the department sent 3 members to the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, IN. FDIC is an international conference that hosts training classes on all pertinent fire and EMS topics relevant in the today's world. It is also a convention that brings together vendors of fire and EMS equipment, apparatus and supplies under one roof for fire personnel to see. The members who attended the conference brought their new training back to the department by building a hose advancement simulator that all members are able to use. (Pictured on page 11)

This year, the department also acquired a training prop to practice forcible entry techniques. The Multiforce Door can be used to practice both residential and commercial tactics allowing for simulation of any scenario necessary for training purposes.



Several of the department's members contribute their skills to the Lorain County Specialized Rescue Teams. The City of North Ridgeville relies on services provided by these teams which consist of Technical Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Dive Rescue, and Hazardous Materials Response and Mitigation. The members of the North Ridgeville Division of Fire committed over 600 hours toward these teams.



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FIRE & EMS TRAINING REPORT

Officer development and leadership development continue to be a high priority for our department. Our department officers completed over 950 hours of continuing education focused toward improving leadership abilities and personnel management. Included in this, Lieutenant Greg Laborie continued his training in the Ohio Fire Executive Program. This program was developed and administered by the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association over the last 3 years. The program is very intensive and consists of hundreds of hours of lecture by some of the Nation's highest achieving academics and fire service leaders. In between sessions, the student is required to complete many hours of assignments focused on leadership and organizational development. Examples of these assignments include the development of a five year strategic plan, an organizational change initiative project, and a personal leadership improvement plan. During this process the student is also conducting a two year research project that is focused on an area of needed improvement within their own organization.



Finally, A.C. Graf has worked diligently with the architects of the new fire station to ensure the new classroom and training tower are capable of meeting the current and future training needs of the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Modern technology has been incorporated throughout the classroom to enable remote training, shared learning and the ability to train multiple topics simultaneously. The training tower will allow for more hands on fire training including but not limited to; hose advancement, ladder operations, stand-pipe operations and high angle rescue.



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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. Prior to 2015, none of these patients were sent to collections for non-payment and this resulted in a large sum of uncollected debt. In 2015, 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. You will find below that this arrangement resulted in an increase in collections for the year 2015.

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 2018, the fire department experienced a 3% **increase** in collections as compared to 2017. The EMS collections data is in the chart below. The revenue generated from ambulance billing is placed in our ambulance fund and is used for new ambulances, medical equipment and staffing.

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





NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FACILITIES

TWO FIRE STATIONS 24/7 Current Facilities



Fire Headquarters & Station #1

7090 Avon Belden Road

Built in 1957 as the City's first fire station

3,565 square feet

Medic 28, Engine 22, Medic 26, Engine 24, Car 30 (utility pickup)



Fire Station #2

34523 Lorain Road

Built in 1975 to serve the south side of North Ridgeville

2,700 square feet

Medic 25, Truck 23, Engine 21 (reserve), Medic 27 (reserve)



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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**





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WESTCOM DISPATCH CENTER

Westshore Central Dispatch (Westcom)

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.

During 2018, the North Ridgeville Fire Department responded to 3,575 Fire and EMS runs. Overall, Westcom dispatched 16,405 Fire and EMS calls for the communities of North Ridgeville, Bay Village, Westlake, Rocky River, and Fairview Park.



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. This focus on training and education translates to the best possible 911 service for the citizens of North Ridgeville and the entire Westshore region.



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WESTCOM DISPATCH CENTER

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.

Accomplishments in 2018 included:

- Replacement of an "end of life" CAD server
- Completion of the IP based Fire Station Alerting System. This system was purchased with a State Capital Grant that was dually awarded to Westcom and Bay Village in May of 2017.
- Community involvement including our annual participation in Camp Phoenix, a program held at Camp Cheerful that hosts a camp for children who've been treated for burns



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WESTCOM DISPATCH CENTER



Your Dispatchers at Westcom are committed to our role of serving as a critical link between the citizens of North Ridgeville and the Fire Department that serves them. We recognize and appreciate the contributions of our Dispatchers and the support of the Mayor, City Council members, and citizens of North Ridgeville in helping us execute our mission.

Sincerely,

Ronald Barlow

Supervisor



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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 with our mission. Our grant writing efforts are headed by Captain Barry Cook with the assistance of Fire Fighter/Medics Colt Eberling and Alex Shear. Once again in 2018, we obtained an Ohio Public Safety Grant for \$1,200. We also were awarded a FEMA grant for an Exhaust Removal System for Station #2 worth \$25,000. There was an application completed for FEMA in 2018 for the replacement of our aging Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus worth \$193,910. That grant is still pending and we should find out whether or not we received it in early 2019. Our grants and donations history for the past 16 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
2018	Ohio Public Safety EMS	\$1,200.00	EMS Equipment
	TOTAL	\$635,637.00	



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ANNUAL HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR



In October, the fire department held 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. At this year's event, there were 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 were 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 Chief John Reese at (440) 353-0803.





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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



The fire department takes pride in its closeness with the community. Each year our members donate their time to try and make North Ridgeville a great place to live. This year, the fire department administration and the members of the North Ridgeville Firefighters International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 2129 participated in several community events.

The fire department members have a bond with the Senior Citizens in our community. Each year, our members and their families volunteer at every spaghetti dinner held at the Senior Center. They do everything from serving meals to washing dishes. We also deliver meals on wheels on Thanksgiving and lend a hand in whatever the Senior Center needs throughout the year.

Firefighter Mike Williams leads the fire department in collecting cans for the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC) Fund. There is a can collection trailer behind fire station #1 that funds donations to area burn units and summer camps for burned children. We also team up each year with the North Ridgeville Recreation Department and the North Ridgeville Fishing Club to host our annual Kids Fishing Derby held at South Central Park. The proceeds from the Kids Fishing Derby also help to fund donations to ACBC.

Each year, Local 2129 in cooperation with Target donate to a family in need in our community. This year, Santa took some time out of his busy schedule to deliver presents to this year's family. The members of Local 2129 participate in several worthwhile projects throughout the year including sponsoring local sports teams.



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RETIREMENT



Captain/Paramedic Joe Gavlak

In August of 2018, Captain Joe Gavlak retired and ended his 23 year career with the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Captain Gavlak had been the Shift Captain on “C” Shift since 2005. Captain Gavlak was one of the first Paramedics hired by the City with the passage of the original paramedic levy in 1995. Before working for North Ridgeville, Captain Gavlak had worked for several years as a Paramedic for Lakewood Hospital and the City of Lakewood. Captain Gavlak lives with his wife Gina in Sheffield Village and has an adult daughter and two children that are beginning college. Upon retiring from the fire department, Captain Gavlak plans to take a position with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation as an EMS Coordinator at Fairview Hospital.



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NEW HIRES



Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Hein

In June of 2018, the fire department hired Michael Hein from North Olmsted, Ohio as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Firefighter Hein is 31 years old and grew up in North Ridgeville. He worked full-time for NASA as an HVAC/Maintenance Journeyman and was also self-employed as a home rehab investor. Firefighter Hein is engaged to Kate Lyn Tobey of North Olmsted and does not have any children at this time.



Firefighter/Paramedic Chad Heppert

In June of 2018, the fire department hired Chad Heppert from Chesterland, Ohio as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Firefighter Heppert is 23 years old and grew up in Chesterland. He worked part-time for the Chesterland and Mentor Fire Departments for the past year. He also was a Fire Explorer at the Chesterland Fire Department while attending high school. Firefighter Heppert is single and has no children at this time.



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MILESTONES

SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES	
Celebrating 1 Year	
FF. Steve Acord	
FF. Matt Sullivan	
Celebrating 5 Year	
FF. Tony Kotar	
FF. Alex Shear	
FF. Chris Federan	
Celebrating 10 Year	
None	
Celebrating 15 Year	
Capt. Dan Rogers	
Celebrating 20 Year	
None	
Celebrating 25 Year	
Capt. Paul Sadowski	
LT. Bob Knowlton	
LT. Rick Knowlton	
PROMOTIONS	
None	
RETIREMENTS	
LT. Joe Gavlak	23 Years



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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.

Needing 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.

Remembering 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.

For 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.

Dedicated 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.