

# 2020



## Fire / EMS Annual Report





# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# ***NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT***

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### ***SPECIAL THANKS***

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

<b>Mayor</b>	Kevin Corcoran
<b>Safety Service Director</b>	Jeffry Armbruster
<b>President of Council</b>	Martin E. DeVries
<b>Ward 1 Council Member</b>	Holly A. Swenk
<b>Ward 2 Council Member</b>	Dennis J. Boose
<b>Ward 3 Council Member</b>	Bruce F. Abens
<b>Ward 4 Council Member</b>	Clifford Winkel
<b>Council At-Large</b>	Michelle Hung
<b>Council At-Large</b>	James R. Maleski



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF**

It goes without saying that 2020 was an incredibly challenging year for our community and our fire department! Once again, I am proud to present to you the activities and accomplishments of the fire department personnel who serve our community and the major events that have transpired with the department. The difference this year is that everything that our personnel did was especially difficult due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The year started off pretty normal, but within a couple of months we were experiencing what was initially a very scary situation for our residents and personnel. In the early days of the pandemic, nobody knew what we were dealing with and patients that were calling in distress due to Covid-19 were already severely compromised by the time EMS crews arrived. The early cases that we treated were already in dire need of advanced medical care when we arrived to assist them. Thankfully, our personnel remained calm and professional throughout this time and learned quickly how to aggressively treat these patients to ensure them every chance of survival.

This year has proven more than ever 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 worked together to lessen the spread of Covid-19 and to ensure that any type of normalcy that was possible was maintained. Our new Mayor that had just taken office prior to the start of the pandemic did a great job of listening to our needs and supporting us by helping us to acquire anything that was needed to combat the effects of Covid-19 and allow us to continue to handle any fire, rescue, or medical emergencies that occurred.



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

On a more positive note, the fire department took delivery of three new emergency vehicles which were purchased to replace vehicles that had reached the end of life. In January, the fire department took delivery of a new 100' aerial ladder truck which was built by Sutphen in Columbus, Ohio. The new ladder is used to provide large amounts of water at fires and access not only high places, but engineered trussed roofs which are a danger to firefighters while under fire conditions. In July, the department took delivery of both a new fire engine and a new ambulance. The fire engine was also built by Sutphen in Columbus, Ohio and is expected to service the city for 20 years. It replaced a fire engine that was purchased in 1993. The ambulance which is built on a Ford F550 chassis was built by Horton Emergency Vehicles which is also located in Columbus, Ohio. We are fortunate to have the support of the residents and the administration in providing safe and modern ambulances and fire apparatus.

The fire department is looking forward to 2021 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**

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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.*



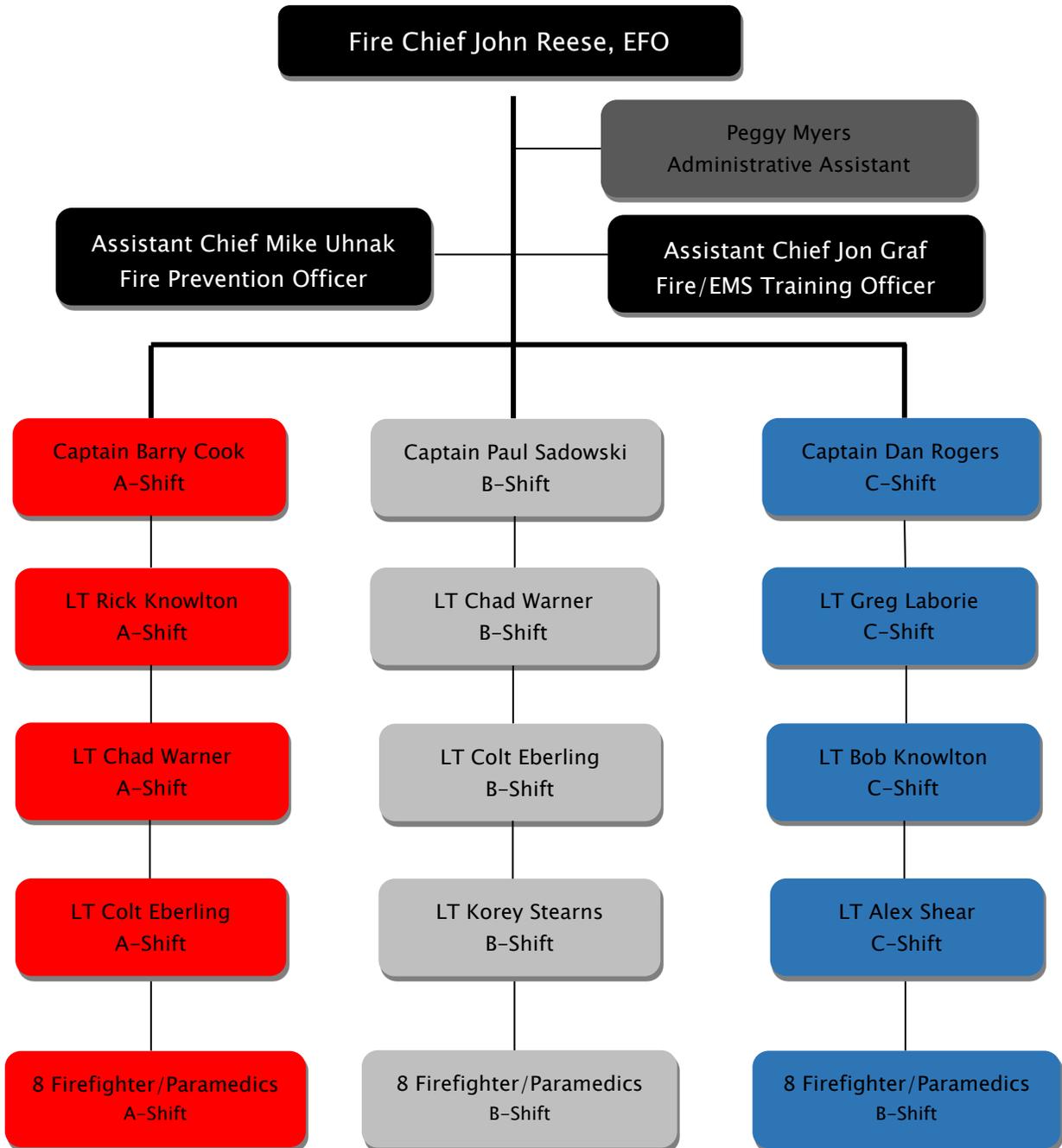


# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

North Ridgeville Fire Organizational Chart





# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 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!***



***Firefighter Kevin Pocos reporting to rehab after extinguishing a 2020 house fire***



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 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.

In February of 2020, an ordinance was passed to issue notes for the purpose of completing a remodeling and addition to fire station #2. 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 hope is that vaccinations will slow the pandemic and the city will be in a position to bid the project during the first quarter of 2021 and begin construction. The project is expected to take approximately 12 months once construction begins.



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



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



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 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 2020, the North Ridgeville Fire Department responded to 3,968 calls for assistance from our customers with an average response time of 6:41 minutes which includes the response times of neighboring cities to ours. Of the 3,968 calls, 3,254 were emergency medical calls and 714 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 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 2020 and saved through the interventions of the North Ridgeville Fire Department was \$5,028,499.00. Of that total value, an estimated \$1,903,400.00 was lost.

In 2020, the fire department completed several efforts in the continued attempt to improve services to the city. The department took delivery of two new pieces of fire apparatus that assisted us in this effort. The first piece of apparatus is a 100' Sutphen aerial ladder truck that replaced a 2006 aerial ladder that had been plagued with expensive maintenance issues. The second is a Sutphen fire engine which replaced a fire engine that was purchased in 1993 and had reached the end of life. Additionally, the fire department received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist in the purchase of 28 new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The SCBAs allow our firefighters to breath clean compressed air while working in a burning building or other hazardous environment. The SCBAs meet all new safety standards set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and replace equipment that had reached the end of life.

Our two fire stations operate on a 24/7 basis and are staffed by the members 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**

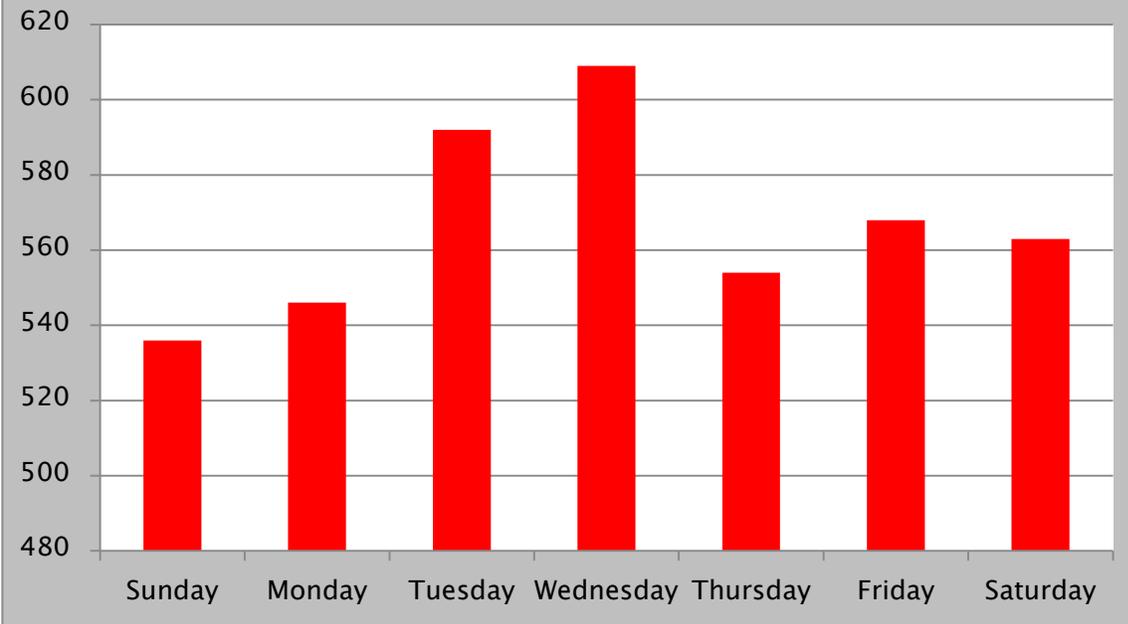


# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### FIRE OPERATIONS

#### 2020 INCIDENTS PER DAY OF WEEK



DAY OF THE WEEK	# INCIDENTS
Sunday	536
Monday	546
Tuesday	592
Wednesday	609
Thursday	554
Friday	568
Saturday	563
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3968</b>

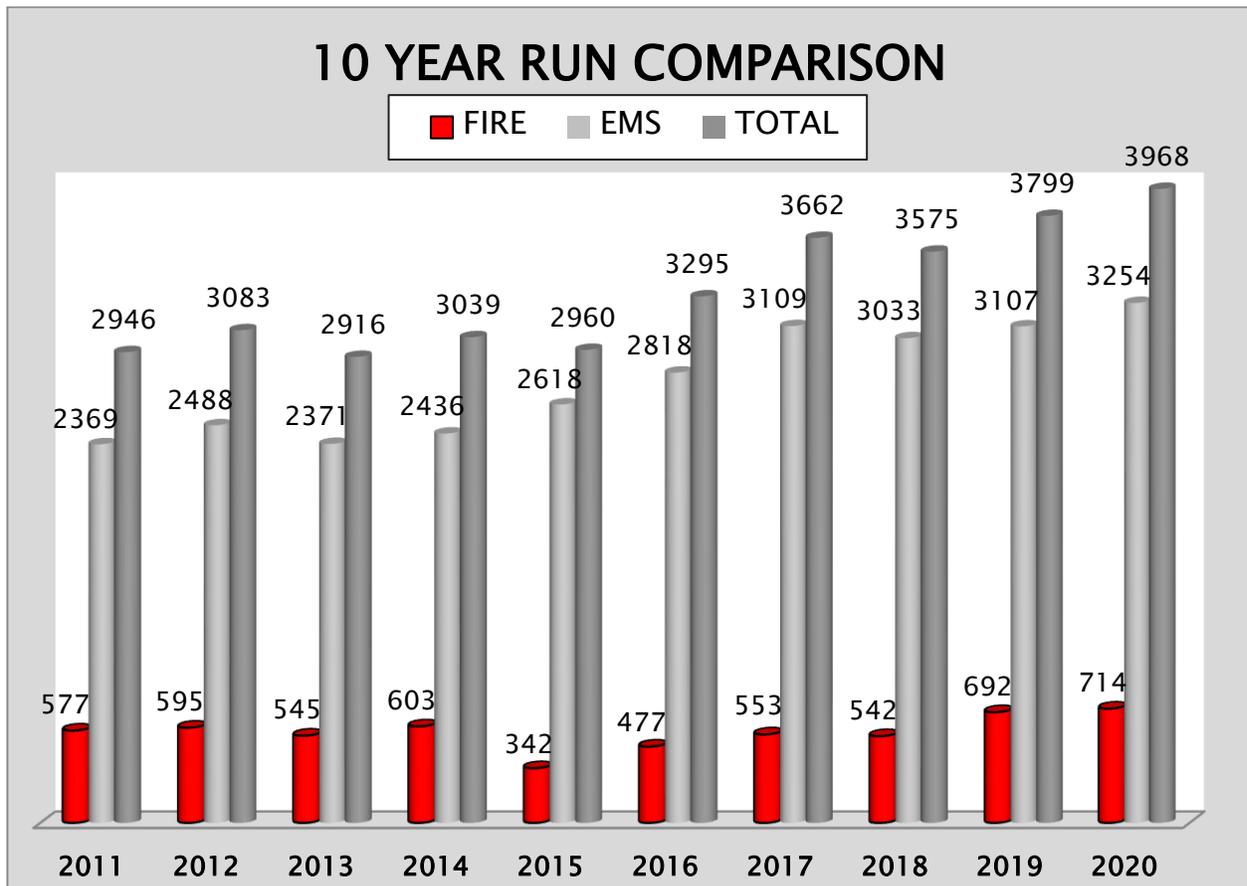


# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### FIRE OPERATIONS

10 YEAR RUN COMPARISON			
YEAR	FIRE	EMS	TOTAL
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
2019	692	3107	3799
2020	714	3254	3968



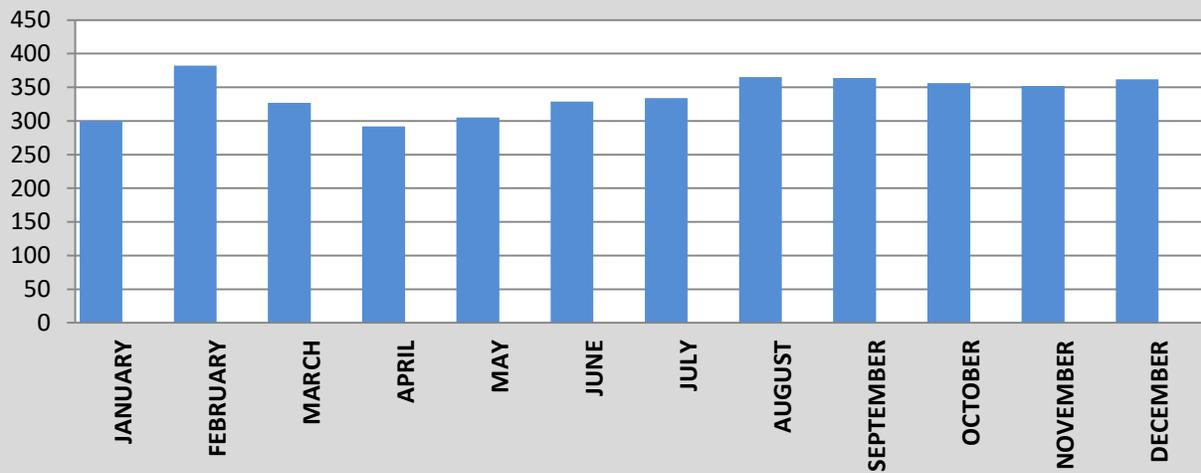


# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### FIRE OPERATIONS

### 2020 INCIDENTS PER MONTH



MONTH	INCIDENTS
JANUARY	300
FEBRUARY	382
MARCH	327
APRIL	292
MAY	305
JUNE	329
JULY	334
AUGUST	365
SEPTEMBER	364
OCTOBER	356
NOVEMBER	352
DECEMBER	362



# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### FIRE OPERATIONS

PRE-INCIDENT VALUE		LOSSES
\$5,028,899.00		\$1,903,400.00
MUTUAL AID		
Aid Type		Total
Aid Given		45
Aid Received		43
OVERLAPPING CALLS		
# OVERLAPPING		% OVERLAPPING
1303		32.84
LIGHTS AND SIREN - AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)		
Station	EMS	FIRE
Avon Fire Department	0:10:36	0:07:55
North Olmsted Fire Department	0:08:03	
NRFD Station 1	0:06:33	0:08:05
NRFD Station 2	0:07:36	0:08:35
Olmsted Township Fire Department		0:12:33
Sheffield Village Fire Department	0:06:32	
Westlake Fire Department	0:07:54	
<b>AVERAGE FOR ALL CALLS</b>		<b>0:06:55</b>
AGENCY		AVERAGE TIME ON SCENE (MM:SS)
North Ridgeville Fire Department		17:20

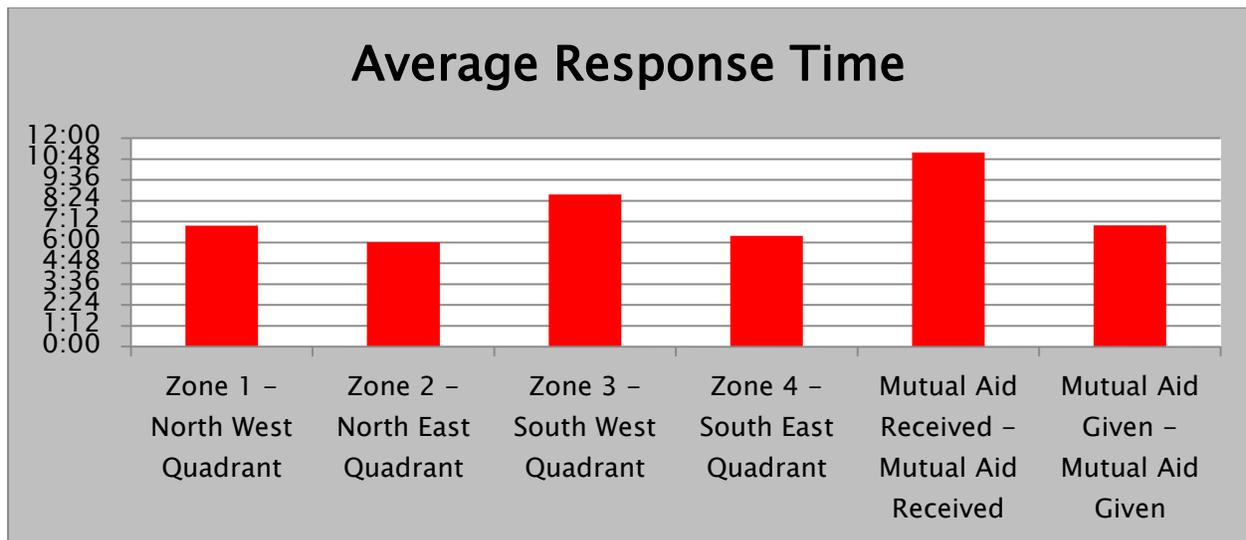


# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

### FIRE OPERATIONS

ZONE	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME in minutes (Dispatch to Arrive)
Zone 1 - North West Quadrant	6:58
Zone 2 - North East Quadrant	6:01
Zone 3 - South West Quadrant	8:46
Zone 4 - South East Quadrant	6:23
Mutual Aid Received - Mutual Aid Received	11:11
Mutual Aid Given - Mutual Aid Given	6:59





# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### FIRE OPERATIONS

#### 2020 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	407
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>4,275</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

## 2020 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. 2,134 fire hydrants were flushed and flowed in 2020. 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

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### 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

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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 2020. This change came in many forms amid a global pandemic. In addition to frequent total self-decontamination and showers after incidents, EMS crews had to manage the use of N-95 masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that was in high demand and in low supply by cleaning and reusing them. The department along with Serve-Pro, retro fitted two front line Medic Units to combat the spread of the virus by keeping the air in the vehicle clean. Three Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) were converted to backpack disinfectant sprayers to decontaminate medic units when they were exposed to COVID positive and/or COVID suspected patients. In all, the department transported 68 confirmed COVID positive patients, 121 suspected COVID positive patients and 1,483 that were unknown at the time of transport. The COVID related incidents were 1,672 of the 2,360 total transports for the year. The Center Ridge Road construction project continued to create response challenges and delays. Construction traffic, lane closures, construction vehicles and supplies are just a few concerns that we dealt with. Another recurrent change for the department was the number of new homes in our city. North Ridgeville added 336 additional houses in 2020. 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, 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 2020 for one-on-one training with our paramedics. Our partnership with University Hospitals is good for both the department and the community.

Overall Response Time by EMS Units		
Year	Minutes/ Seconds	Number of EMS Calls
2020	6:40	3,254

*Of the 3,254 EMS calls we received in 2020, we transported a patient 2,360 times to a more definitive care facility for treatment of their illness or injury.*



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **EMS OPERATIONS**

The following enhancements were made by our department in 2020:

- The Department took delivery of a new ambulance from Horton Emergency Vehicles to replace an older unit purchased in 2008.
- A \$2,846.43 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 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 2020, 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 will be up for re-accreditation in 2021.
- The department also was awarded the American Heart Association's Gold Plus Mission Lifeline award for 2020. This award recognizes outstanding cardiac care as it relates to the treatment and transport of STEMI and Stroke patients.
- 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 2021. Completing the internal audits for accreditation is going to allow us to improve policies, procedures, training, and community health programs.



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 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 25 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 2020, the Division of Fire Prevention conducted a total of 607 inspections, including but not limited to:

- 247 annual inspections
- 16 new business acceptance inspections
- 145 fire protection system inspections (sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, special agent systems)
- 25 foster/adoption inspections
- 53 fire safety during construction inspections
- 68 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**



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### 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. Firefighter Brad Buescher assists by supplying the Fire Education Program with the materials used to deliver the classes. All of 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 2020, Lieutenant Gabe Gerbasi, Firefighter Justin Silvi, and Firefighter Chris Federan who are accredited by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration combined to complete 39 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***

### **2020 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**

## **2020 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 26 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 2020. 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.



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

Every member of the North Ridgeville Fire Department maintains, as a minimum, a firefighter II certification, a paramedic certification, an Emergency Vehicle Driver 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.

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.

Officer development training continues to be a high priority for the North Ridgeville Fire Department. In 2020 Captain Dan Rogers began 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,



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### FIRE & EMS TRAINING REPORT

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 will begin the 30 month program in May of 2020 and has already received a scholarship from the Ohio Fire Chief’s Association that will cover all of the costs of the program.

Training Category	Training Hours 2019
Fire Operations	3,386
EMS Operations	1037
Officer Development	305
County Rescue Teams	626
Fire Instructor	15
Fire Inspector	47
Fire Investigator	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,448</b>





# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 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. 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 2020, the fire department experienced a 6.3% **increase** in our collections from the previous year. An increase in the Medicare rate at the beginning of 2020 and an increase from Medical Mutual helped us to see an increase in our collections for 2020. 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

*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***

## **2020 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**

## **2020 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 to begin in 2021.



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 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**

### **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

**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 2020, Westcom dispatched 15,968 Fire and EMS calls for the communities of Westlake, Bay Village, North Ridgeville, Rocky River, and Fairview Park.



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **WESTCOM DISPATCH CENTER**

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 the entire Westshore region.

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

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



Westcom Dispatcher Gary Skelley received a well-deserved recognition in 2020. Gary was awarded the Challenge Coin Award from the Cleveland Clinic for his actions on the morning of Sunday August 16, 2020. At 1115 hours, Westcom received a 911 call from a parent of an unresponsive two month-old infant that was turning blue. The calm and decisive actions of Gary while guiding the parents of the child through the CPR procedure resulted in the resuscitation of the child halfway through the third cycle of CPR. Rocky River Fire arrived shortly after to administer care. The award was presented by Dr. James Mark, Chief of Staff at Fairview Hospital, Bill Sillasen, Regional Coordinator for the Cleveland Clinic and Joe Gavlak, EMS Coordinator at Fairview Hospital.



# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 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 with our mission. Our grant writing efforts are headed by Captain Barry Cook with the assistance of Lieutenant/Medics Colt Eberling and Alex Shear. Once again in 2020, we obtained an Ohio Public Safety Grant this time in the amount of \$2,846.43. We also were awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$184,627.27 to replace all 28 of the department's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. There were also applications completed for FEMA and Firehouse Subs in 2020 for the replacement of some of the fire department's aging hand tools and power equipment. The fire department is also involved in a regional grant from FEMA for communications equipment. Our grants and donations history for the past 18 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
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$980,875.70</b>	



# NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2020 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. The health & safety fair was cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but we are hopeful that it will be held again in 2021. 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**

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**



*Firefighter Mike Williams donates several hours of his time each month to collect cans for Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC)*

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.



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **RETIREMENT**



### **Engine 21**

In 2020, the fire department replaced “Old Engine 21” with a new fire engine. Old Engine 21 is a 1993 EOne fire engine that was purchased by the city when Chief Ray Diederich was in charge of the fire department. Old Engine 21 was used at MANY fires and emergencies throughout its 27 years of service to the city. It was the first closed cab design fire engine that the city owned. The fire engines prior to Old Engine 21 left the rear passengers open to the elements when responding to an emergency. Old Engine 21 worked hard to the end and actually pumped for over three hours at the Mills Creek Tennis Club fire in 2020 before being retired. It was a favorite vehicle among the members of the fire department and will be long remembered for its dependability.



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **RETIREMENT**



### **Truck 23**

In 2020, the fire department also replaced “Old Truck 23” which had become costly to maintain due to mechanical issues. Old Truck 23 was a 2007 EOne 100’ aerial ladder that was purchased by the city when Chief Richard Miller was in charge of the fire department. Old Truck 23 had worked at several fires and emergencies including the General Industries fire in Elyria. The truck was traded in to Sutphen when it’s replacement was purchased and we were told that it is now being used somewhere in Canada.



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

<b>SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
<b>Celebrating 1 Year</b>	
FF Robert Hardy	
FF Benjamin Roberts	
FF Brian Logan	
<b>Celebrating 5 Years</b>	
Lt. Dean Souris	
<b>Celebrating 10 Years</b>	
None	
<b>Celebrating 15 Years</b>	
None	
<b>Celebrating 20 Years</b>	
None	
<b>Celebrating 25 Years</b>	
Assistant Chief Jon Graf	
Lieutenant Korey Stearns	
FF Tim Lindner	
FF Andy Castle	
<b>Celebrating 30 Years</b>	
Lt. Greg Laborie	
<b>PROMOTIONS</b>	
None	
<b>RETIREMENTS</b>	
None	



# **NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **2020 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.