



FIRE DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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SPECIAL THANK YOU

The operation of the Fire Department has a lot of working parts and takes the help and support from many people. We appreciate the support of the City Administration and our City Council. Thank you!

MAYOR

Kevin Corcoran

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Jason Jacobs

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

Martin E. DeVries

COUNCIL AT-LARGE

Georgia Awig

The Fire Department would like to honor the memory of Council Member Dennis J. Boose by thanking his family for his many years of service to our community and his commitment to supporting our department in our mission to provide the best possible service to our community. His passing was a huge loss to the Fire Department and our community.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Mayor Corcoran and Members of the Council,

On behalf of the members of the North Ridgeville Fire Department (NRFD), it is my pleasure to present the 2023 North Ridgeville Fire Department Annual Report. Inside, you will find not only statistics about our responses, but some of our accomplishments during the last calendar year as well. There will be updates in reference to our personnel and divisions of responsibility within the department.

In 2023, the NRFD continued our community-oriented dedication to serving with the following core values: Integrity, Professional Excellence, Compassion, Accountability, and Efficiency. The department continually strives to deliver exceptional customer service to the 36,000 plus residents of North Ridgeville and to our numerous businesses and visitors. We are a full-service fire department comprised of 40 men and women that provide both Fire and EMS services 24/7/365 from two strategically located fire stations.

Last year, NRFD crews responded to 5,260 incidents, in addition to monitoring the emergency preparedness of the community. We focused on fire prevention and education through our Division of Fire Prevention and we supported our emergency services delivery through our Training and Administrative Divisions.

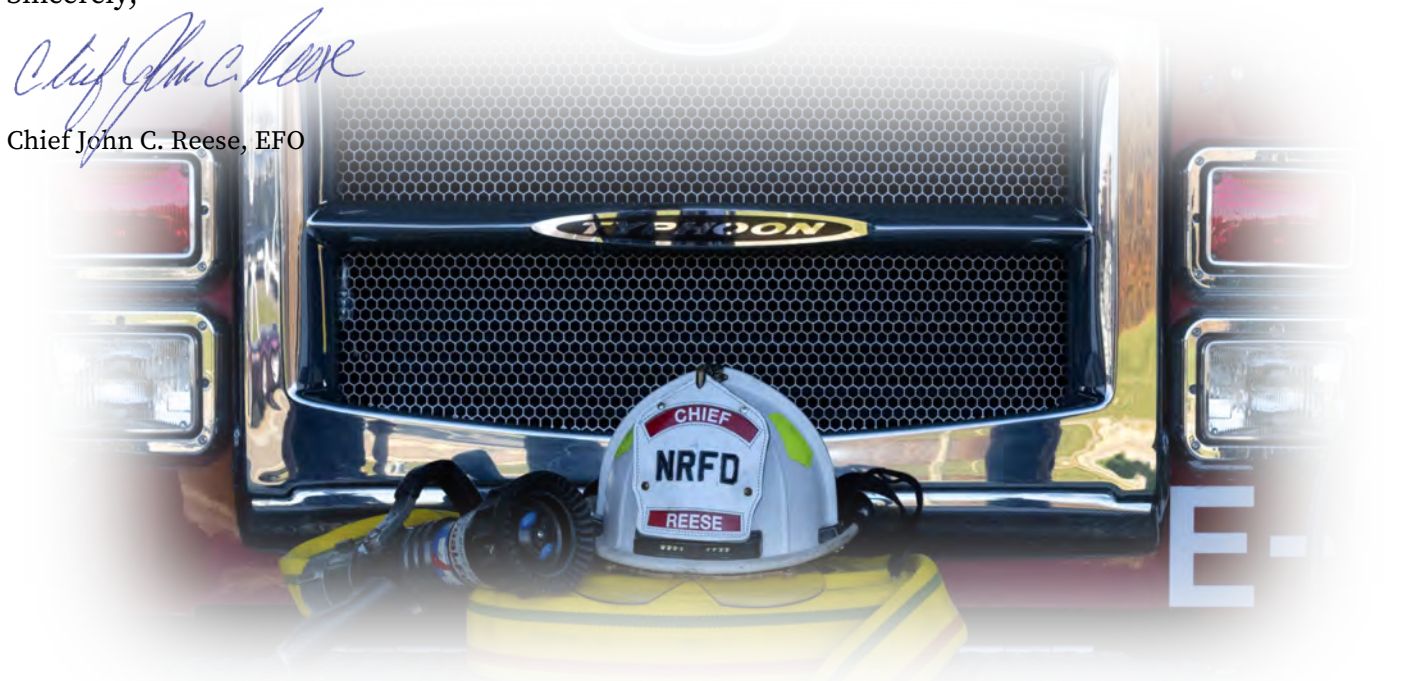
As the City of North Ridgeville continues to grow, the fire department seeks new opportunities to improve services and strengthen our relationships with our surrounding communities and agencies. Our dedicated personnel are highly trained professionals who proudly serve this community and are willing to risk their lives to save others. I can never express enough how proud I am to serve our community and lead our personnel in keeping it safe. This is made possible through the continued support of our City Administration, Council, and of course our residents.

We hope that you enjoy the 2023 North Ridgeville Fire Department Annual Report as it highlights our accomplishments over the past year.

Sincerely,



Chief John C. Reese, EFO



VISION

NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The North Ridgeville Fire Department's vision is 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 great 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 future by holding each other accountable for fulfilling our mission, living our values, accomplishing our goals, and making this vision a reality.

MISSION STATEMENT

NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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.

CORE VALUES

NORTH RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

INTEGRITY - The North Ridgeville Fire Department demonstrates integrity by:

- ◆ Conducting ourselves with a high level of morality
- ◆ Taking responsibility for our actions
- ◆ Being loyal to the department's vision and mission
- ◆ Conducting ourselves with the utmost honesty at all times
- ◆ Showing self-respect and respect for others

COMPASSION - The North Ridgeville Fire Department demonstrates compassion to its members and the community it serves by:

- ◆ Showing kindness and concern to our employees and citizens
- ◆ Being sympathetic and displaying empathy for others
- ◆ Reconciling differences with an open mind
- ◆ Giving consideration to all facts surrounding issues

EFFICIENCY - The North Ridgeville Fire Department demonstrates efficiency by:

- ◆ Utilizing our resources to the best of our abilities
- ◆ Being well-prepared to handle emergencies before they occur
- ◆ Maintaining and analyzing data to promote improvement
- ◆ Maintaining good working relationships with the agencies and departments around us

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE - The North Ridgeville Fire Department demonstrates professional excellence by:

- ◆ Respectful attitudes
- ◆ Concern and compassion for people
- ◆ Appearance and behavior
- ◆ Training, preparedness, readiness, and response

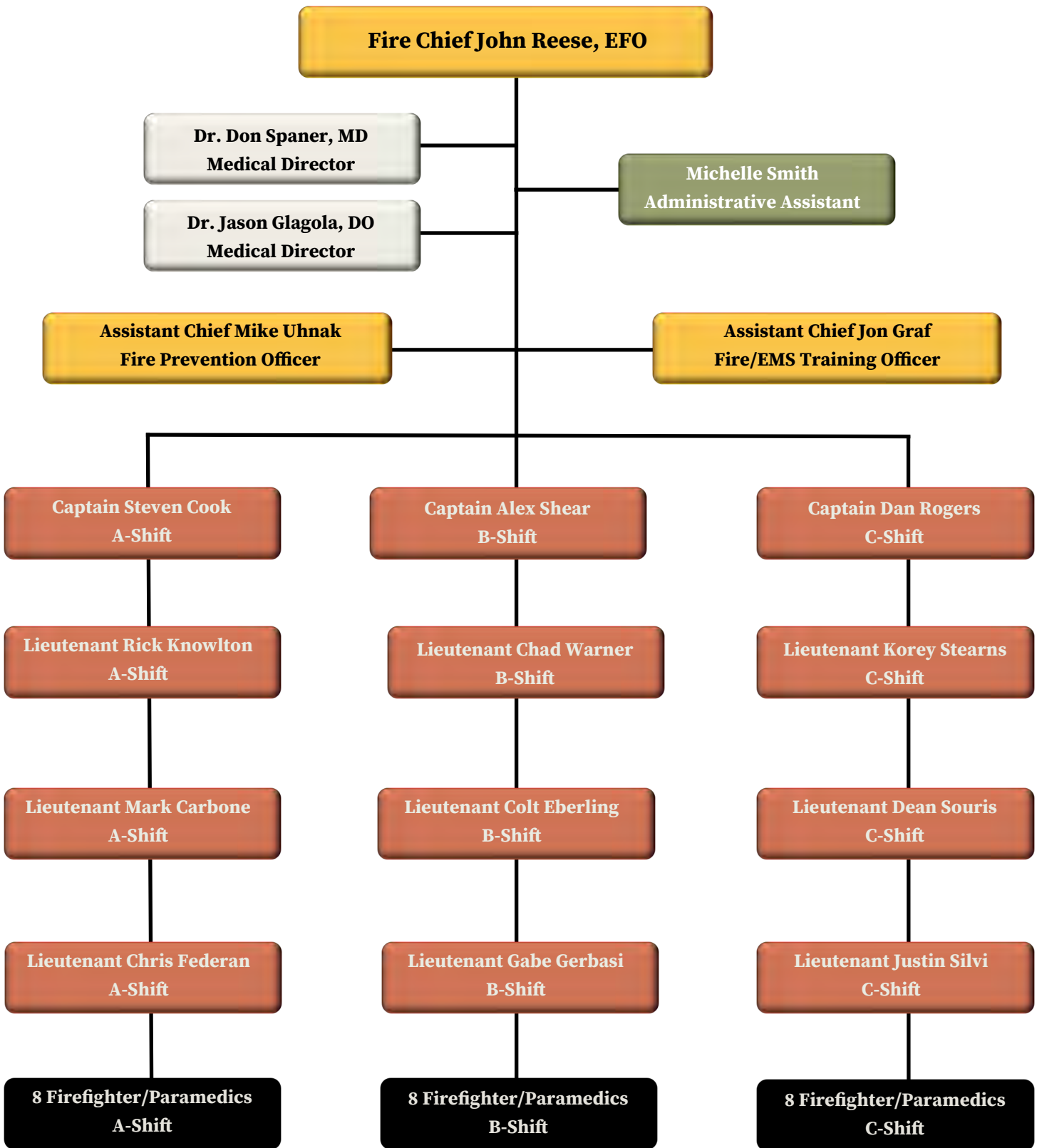
ACCOUNTABILITY - The North Ridgeville Fire Department demonstrates accountability by:

- ◆ Owning responsibilities
- ◆ Accepting criticism
- ◆ Being proactive
- ◆ Setting team goals
- ◆ Admitting our errors

COMMUNITY ORIENTED - The North Ridgeville Fire Department demonstrates that it is community oriented by:

- ◆ Listening to the voices of our stakeholders
- ◆ Developing a culture of community appreciation
- ◆ Encouraging volunteerism
- ◆ Treating our customers as family
- ◆ Admitting our errors

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The area that is now the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio was originally settled in 1810. Today, the City of North Ridgeville boasts an estimated population of 36,240 residents within its 25 square miles. North Ridgeville is one of the fastest growing city in the Greater Cleveland area and is realizing a future of double population and industrial growth. The city is mixed with residential, commercial, and industrial properties.

The fire department's genesis dates back to February 1931, when the Ridgeville Township Trustees held a meeting to consider the purchase of bonds to purchase fire equipment and for the appointment of volunteers to form its first fire company.

Within the same month, a fire chief was appointed by trustees, which sealed the start of the Ridgeville Township Fire Department. The organization remained a volunteer fire company until August 1967, when the first full-time fire fighters were sworn into service to staff the single fire station to cover the entire jurisdiction.



In 1970, the department began its evolution with the rest of the industry by providing basic life support ambulance service to North Ridgeville residents, businesses, and visitors. The North Ridgeville Fire Department has continued to evolve to meet the demands and growth of the city. Through this proactive evolution, the department has continued to focus strategically and to understand change.

Today, the department remembers its history and remains committed to protecting the lives and property of its community and providing great customer service. The North Ridgeville Fire Department continues to deliver proactive, all-hazards, public safety services to our residents, businesses, and visitors from two fire stations that are located strategically throughout its jurisdiction. Staffed with 40 uniformed and civilian professionals, the department embraces quality service and excellence in all that we do.

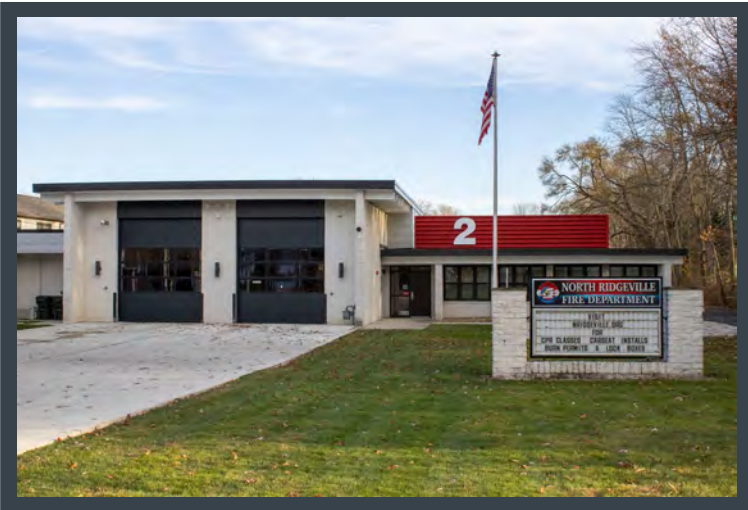
FIRE STATIONS & APPARATUS



STATION #1

7000 Ranger Way

- 2019 Sutphen 100' Aerial Tower
- 2014 E-One 1500 GPM Pumper
- 2011 E-One 1500 GPM Pumper
- Medic 25 - 2019 Ford F550 Horton Ambulance
- Medic 27 - 2012 Ford F750 Braun Ambulance
- Medic 28 - 2017 Ford F550 Braun Ambulance
- Command Cars 20, 29, and 31 - 2018 Ford Police Interceptors
- Car 32 - 2023 Ford F250 Utility Pickup with plow



STATION #2

34523 Lorain Road

- 2020 Sutphen 1500GPM Pumper
- Medic 26 - 2015 Ford F550 McKoy Miller Ambulance
- Car 30 - 2008 Ford F250 Utility Pickup with plow

2023 FIREHOUSE MAGAZINE STATION DESIGN AWARD

The Fire Station #2 remodel with addition project that was finished in 2022 received the 2023 Firehouse Magazine Station Design Silver Award for a fire station remodeling project. The Firehouse Magazine Station Design Awards is a national competition. This was a great achievement made by our community.

FIRE OPERATIONS

The North Ridgeville Fire Department strives to deliver gold standard all-hazards emergency response to our community. We accomplish this by continuously evaluating our service delivery model 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.

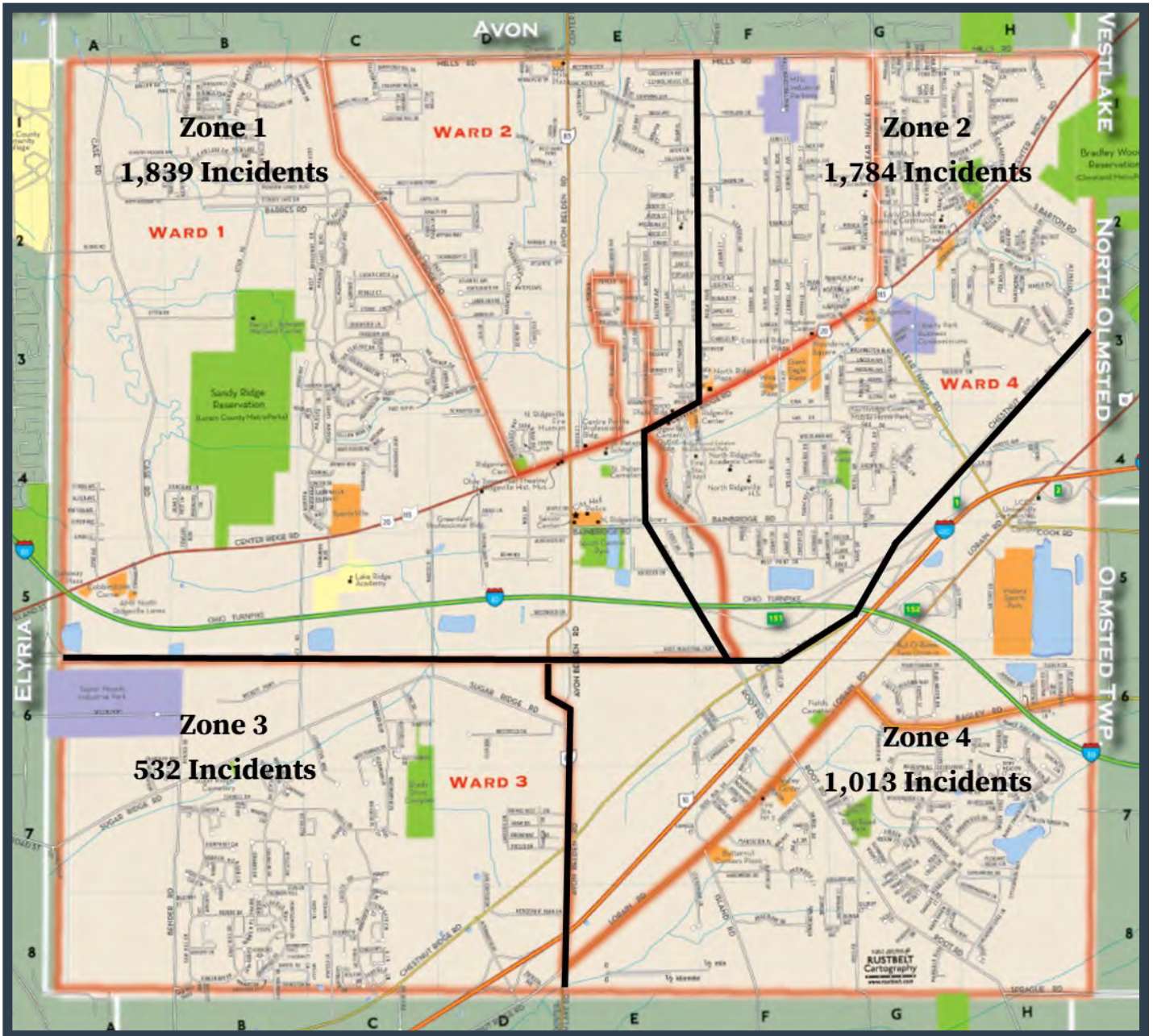
In 2023, North Ridgeville Fire Department responded to 5,260 calls for assistance from our customers, with an average response time of 6:37 minutes, which includes the response times of neighboring cities to ours for mutual aid. Of the 5,260 calls, 4,521 were emergency medical calls and 739 were fire 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, insurance premiums for our customers, and the overall safety of our community. The combination of a well-trained firefighting force with active 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 2023 and saved through the interventions of the North Ridgeville Fire Department was \$1,018,070. Of that total, an estimated \$515,350 was lost.

Our two fire stations operate on a 24/7/365 basis and the department maintains a minimum staff of one Shift Captain, two Lieutenants, and six Firefighter/Paramedics each shift, divided between the two fire stations. Maintenance of fire department 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 compliments our community, which is important to our mission.



In the following pages, you will see charts and graphs that provide an overview of the North Ridgeville Fire Department's 2023 operations.



The above map of the city displays the four zones that the Fire Department uses to determine responses.

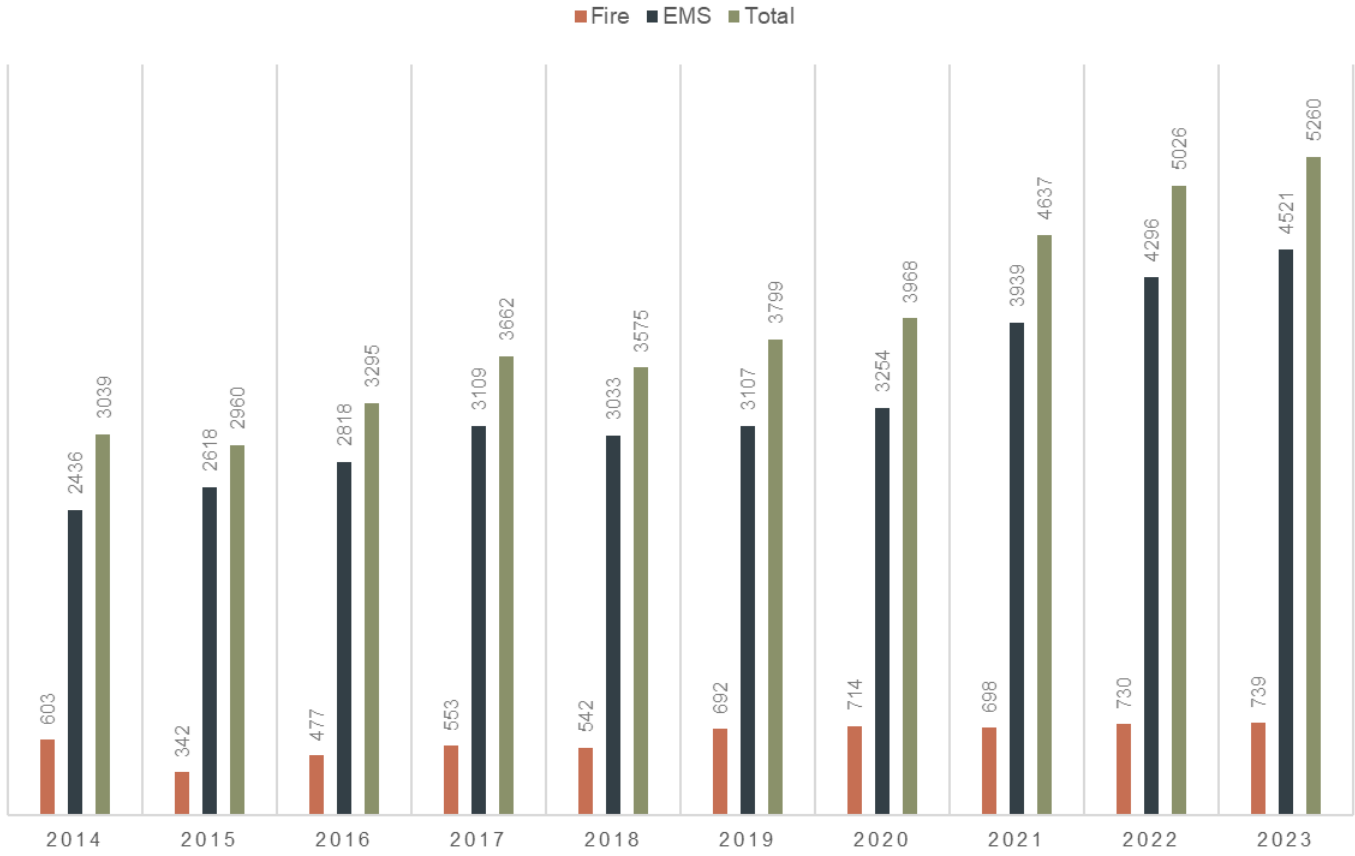
North West = Zone 1

North East = Zone 2

South West = Zone 3

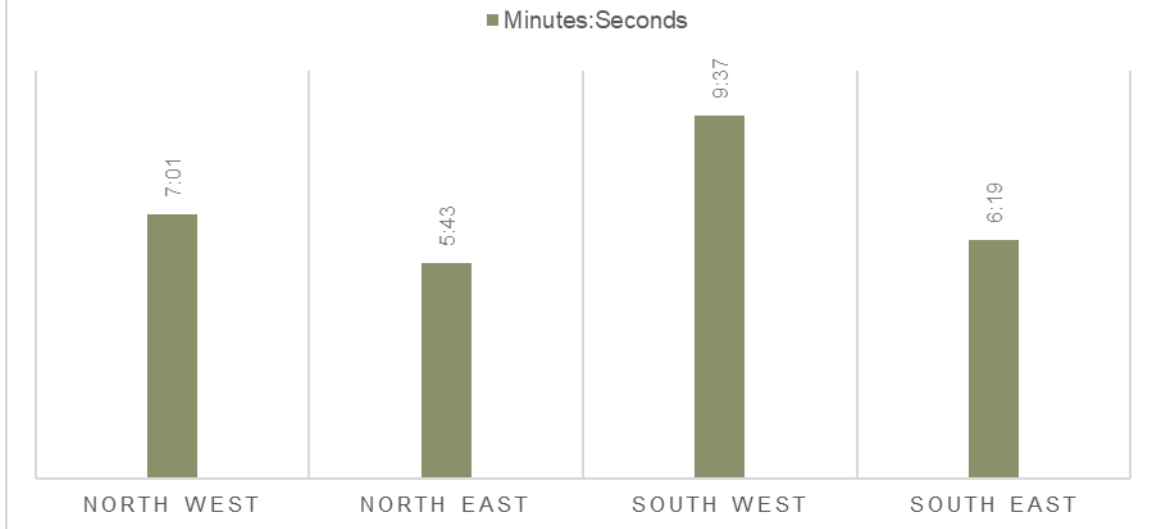
South East = Zone 4

10-YEAR RUN COMPARISON



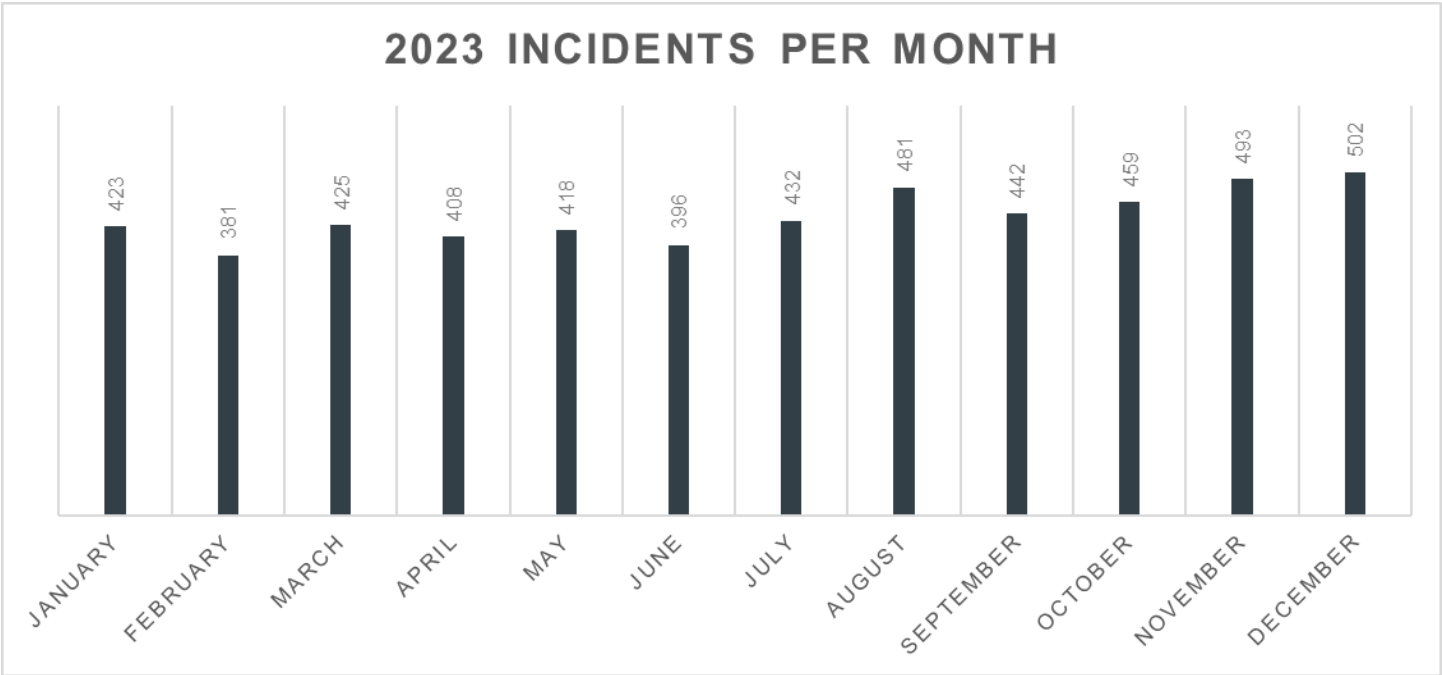
The above chart represents a 77% increase in emergency calls over a 10-year period.

AVERAGE EMS/FIRE RESPONSE TIMES BY QUADRANT

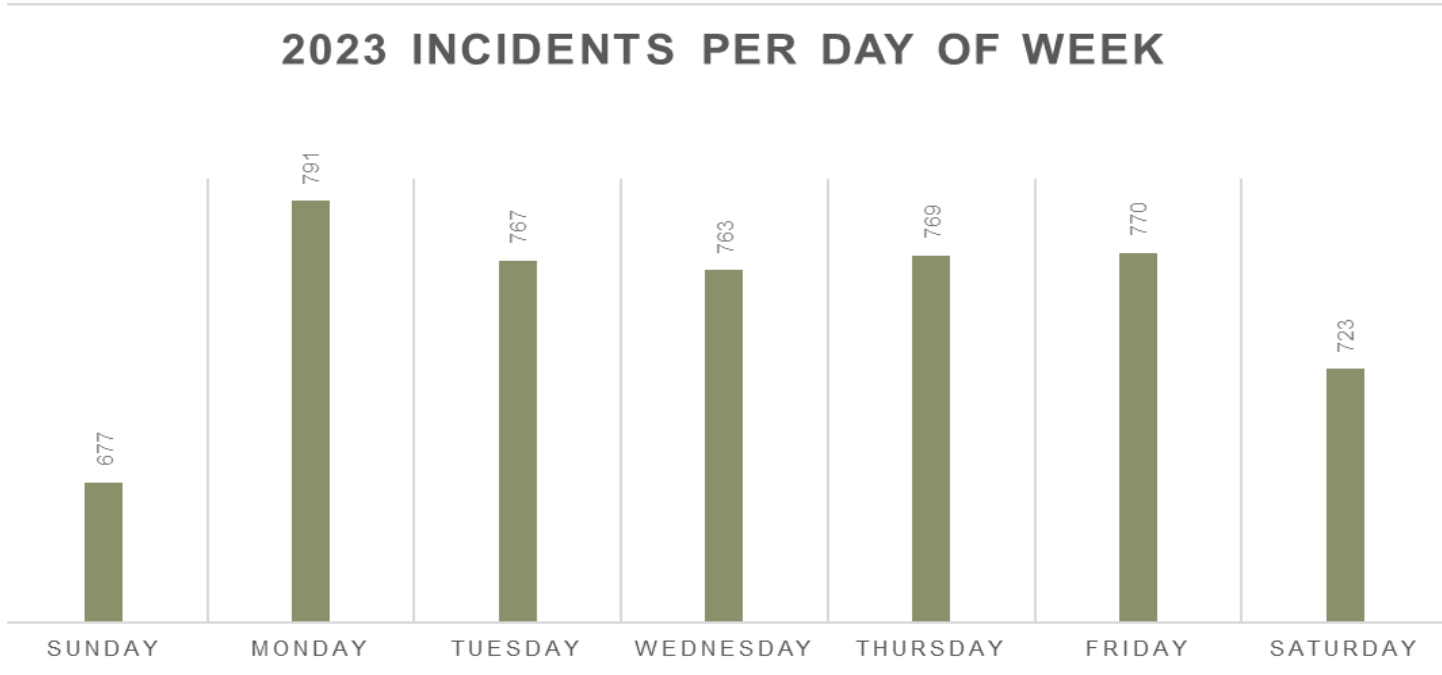


Response time is calculated from the time the Fire Department receives the call to when units arrive on scene.

2023 INCIDENTS PER MONTH



2023 INCIDENTS PER DAY OF WEEK



WATER SUPPLY

The North Ridgeville Fire Department realizes the importance of water supply as it relates to our firefighting operations. In 2023, the city experienced shortages of available applicants for summer help employment. This problem has been common in our surrounding communities and throughout our state. Due to this shortage of help, the number of hydrants flushed and maintained during the past year was below our expectations. The city administration is working on a solution to try to ensure that this does not occur again in 2024. Utilizing the personnel that was available to us, we achieved the following preventative maintenance:



- Maintenance of all hose testing equipment, hoses, appliances, and nozzles.
- Performed annual hose testing on all department fire hose to ensure compliance with NFPA 1962 *Standard for Hose Service Testing*.
- Collaborated with the North Ridgeville Service Department to coordinate fire hydrant testing/maintenance to the best of our abilities. Out of the 2,589 hydrants in the city, 371 were flushed and flow tested.
- Purchased a new hose testing machine to replace the one that had reached its end of life.
- Purchased shut off valves for fire engine deck guns.
- Purchased 5 - 50' lengths of 2 1/2" hose
 - 3 - 25' lengths of 5" hose
 - 3 - 100' lengths of 5" hose

| Hose Diameter | # Sections Tested | Total Feet Tested | # Sections Passed | # Sections Failed |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 3/4" | 71 | 3,550 | 64 | 7 |
| 2 1/2" | 74 | 3,900 | 74 | 0 |
| 5" | 27 | 2,450 | 24 | 3 |

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, two utility pickup trucks, 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 maintenance duties:

- Oil changes and preventative maintenance on all vehicles, which is performed by the North Ridgeville Service Department.
- 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.

Many of our vehicle repairs are performed by an Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) at the North Ridgeville Service Department. If the Service Department is unable to make a repair, they will then work with us to choose a service vendor to perform the work.

In 2023, Engine 24 was sent out late in the year to have a valve repaired and then its pump tested. Due to shortage of staff at the repair facility, the valve was not repaired in time and the engine failed its pump test. Since that time, the valve has been repaired and the engine is fully functional. The engine will be sent out the first part of 2024 for a follow-up pump test. Taking care of these issues immediately is a testament that our vehicle maintenance program is effective.



2023 PUMP TESTING

| APPARATUS | STATUS |
|-----------|--|
| Engine 21 | Passed |
| Engine 22 | Passed |
| Engine 24 | Failed Valve repaired with follow-up test |
| Truck 23 | Passed |

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 our 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.

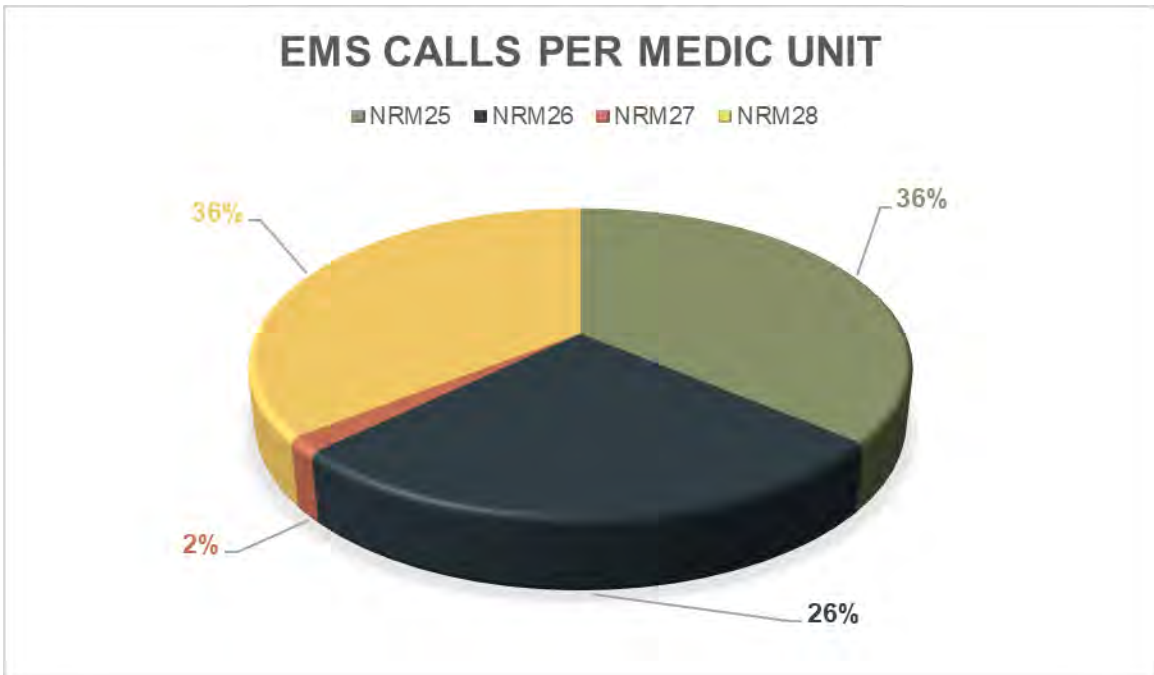
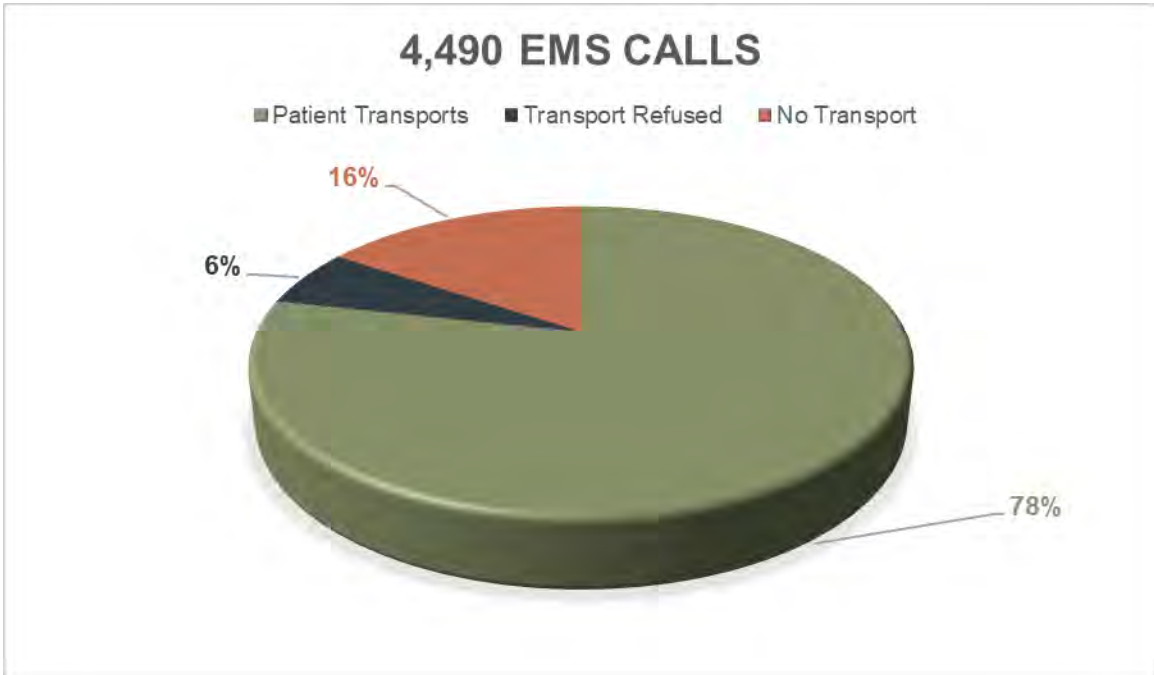


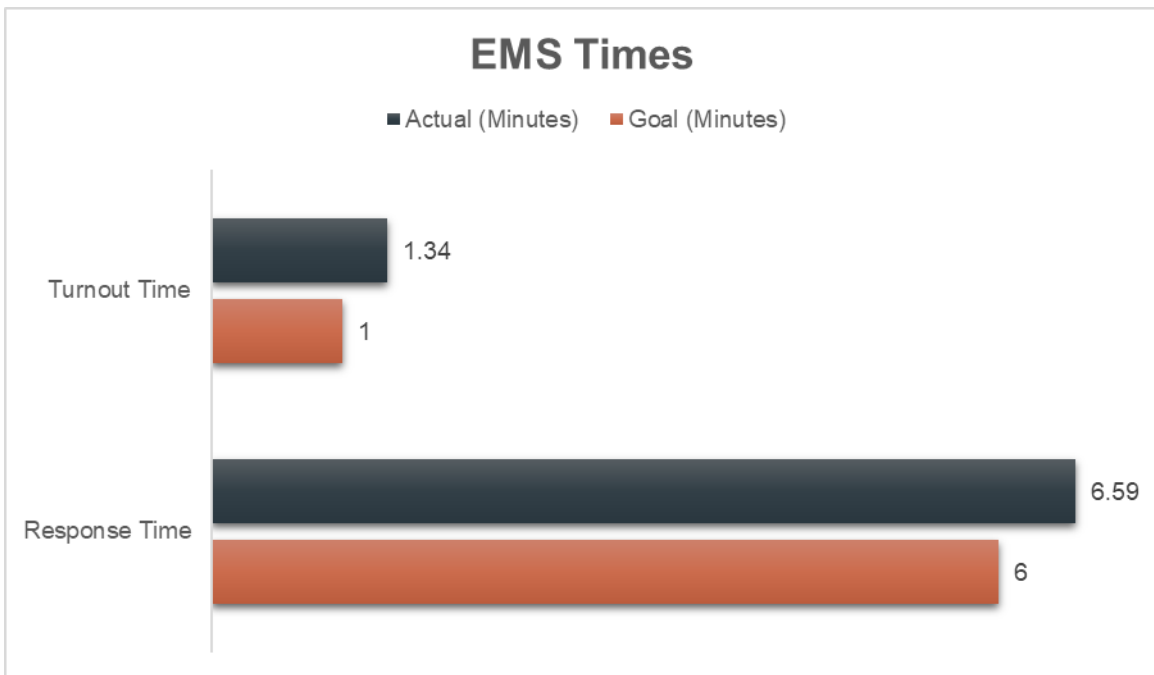
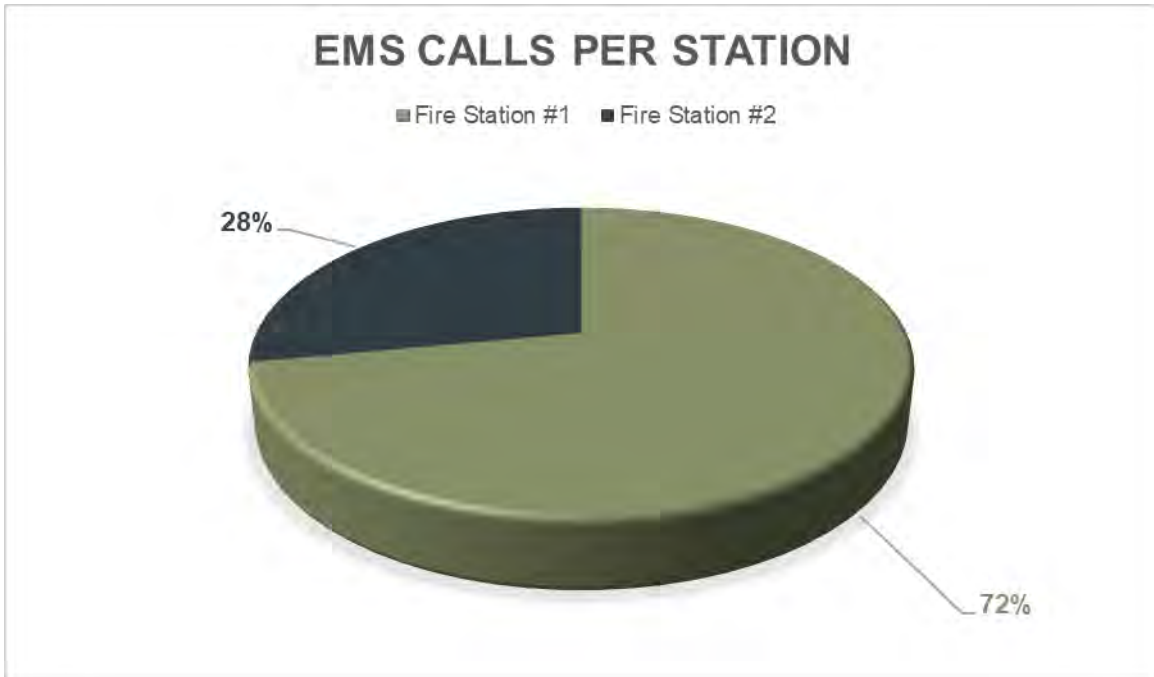
The department responded to 4,490 medical emergencies in 2023, which was almost 200 more than the previous year. Besides the increase in call volume, the department has experienced a couple of other issues that have created a challenge. The first of those issues is patient requests for transport to a preferred medical facility. This sometimes becomes an issue due to the condition of the patient or their chief complaint. It is our goal to take patients where they would like to be treated, but we sometimes cannot do so when a patient is critical or requesting to go to a facility that does not have the capabilities to provide the best care for that patient. We are required to transport patients to the closest and most appropriate facility. This means that the patient will be taken to the hospital of their choice, unless our staff deems that it is detrimental to that patient. For example, a 50-year old gentleman with chest pain asks to be transported to a facility that does not have a 24-hour cardiac catheterization lab. The patient requested facility may be a wonderful hospital, but they cannot provide the best care for our patient. In this case, our paramedics would insist on taking the patient to the closest hospital that does have a 24-hour cardiac catheterization lab. Although we are doing what is best for the patient, this is sometimes not understood and our customers are not satisfied with the service. We are attempting to provide public information so that our customers understand why they sometimes don't have a choice as to where we can transport them in an emergency. We will continue these efforts to try and remedy any future misunderstandings.

The second challenge has been the purchase of new ambulances. We currently have two ambulances on order. One was ordered in 2022 and the other in 2023. Due to the chip shortage that occurred during the pandemic, vehicle chassis makers are still trying to catch up on orders. This seems to be a common problem in our industry. We continue to maintain our current ambulances that are getting near the end of life while hoping that we take delivery on at least one of our new ambulances by the holiday season of 2024.

Finally, the Fire Department continues to cherish the relationship that we have with University Hospitals of Cleveland. Our medical control physicians, Dr. Spaner and Dr. Glagola, are second to none and both have visited the department several times during 2023 for one-on-one training with our paramedics. Our partnership with University Hospitals continues to be good for both the department and the community.

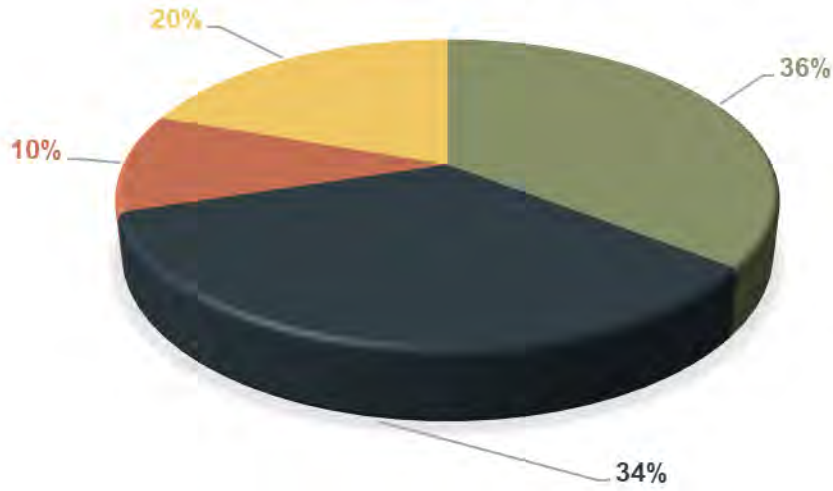






EMS CALLS PER QUADRANT

■ North West ■ North East ■ South West ■ South East

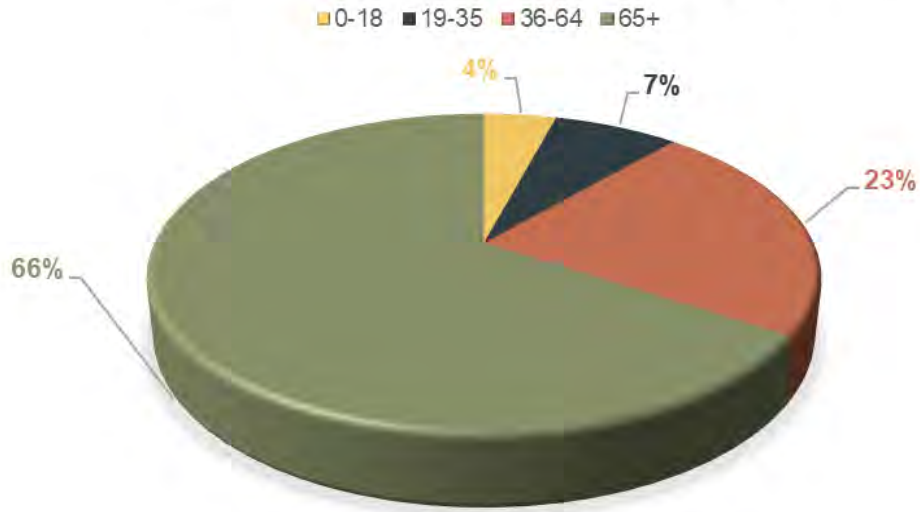


CALL VOLUME

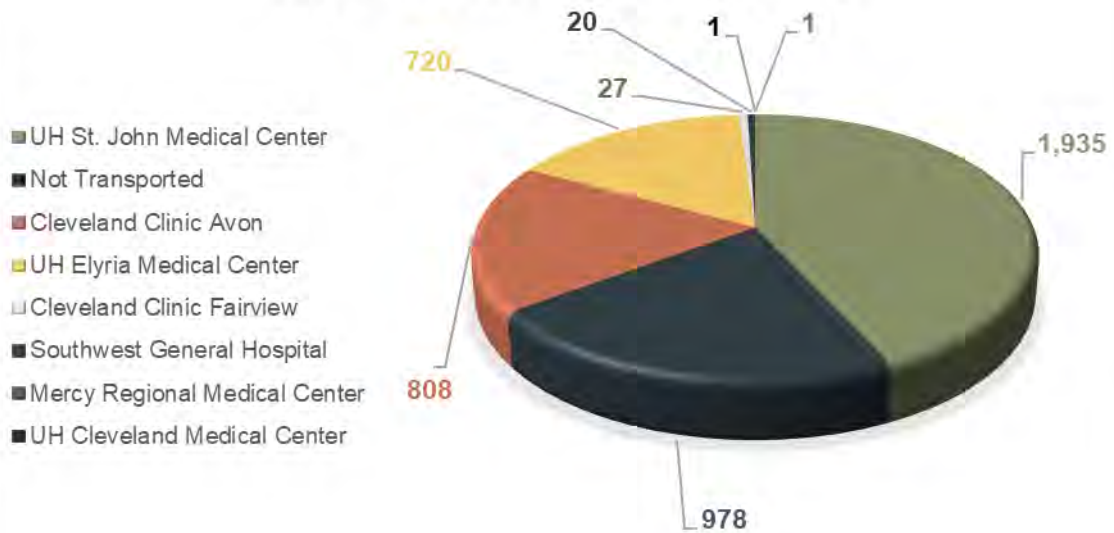
■ Total Calls = 5,260 ■ Overlapping Calls = 2,011



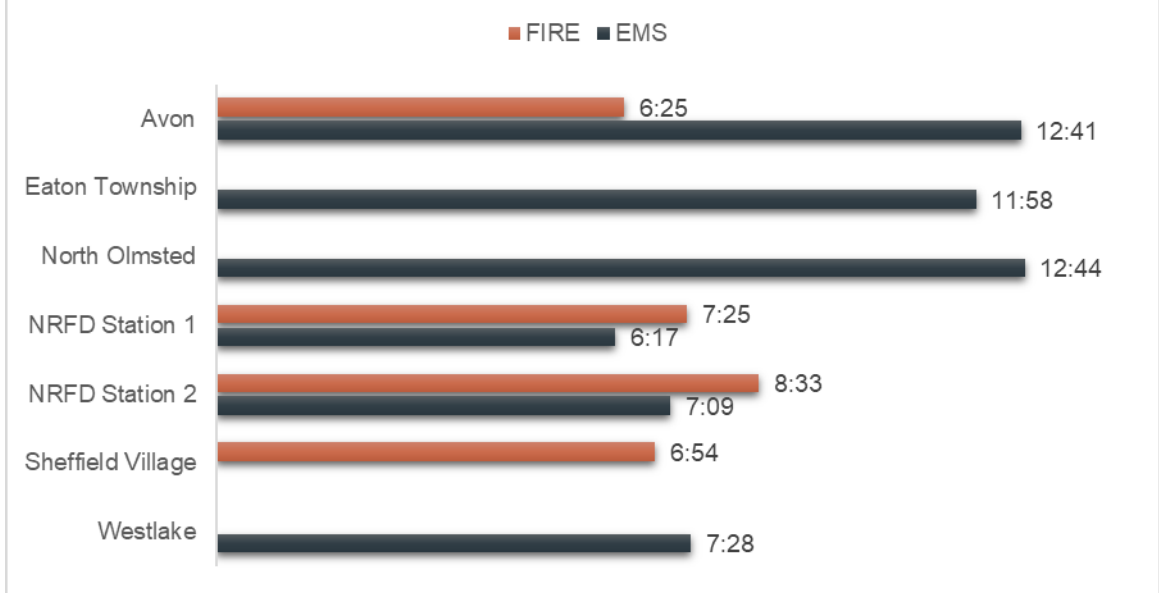
EMS PATIENTS BY AGE GROUP



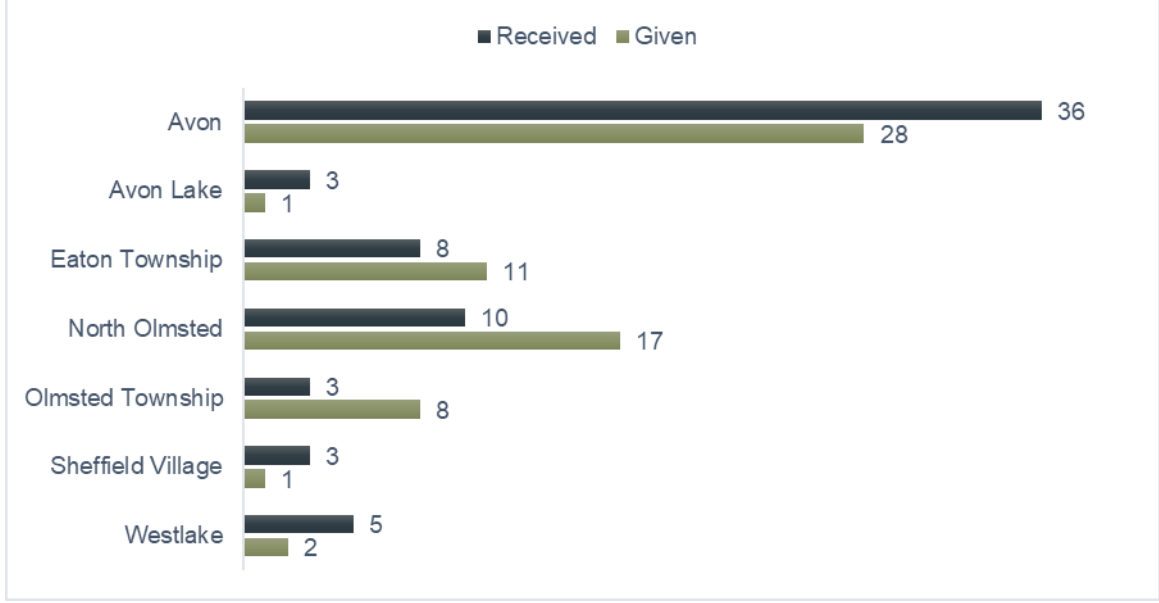
TRANSPORT DESTINATIONS



AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME BY AGENCY



MUTUAL AID BY AGENCY



FIRE PREVENTION

The Division of Fire Prevention for the North Ridgeville Fire Department is headed by Assistant Chief Mike Uhnak. He is a 28-year veteran of the Department and is certified as a State Fire Safety Inspector, State Fire Instructor, and Fire Investigator. The primary goal of the Prevention Division is to prevent the 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 Division of Fire Prevention's continuous efforts keep our community safe from hazards. In 2023, the Division of Fire Prevention conducted a total of 873 inspections, including but not limited to:

- 410 Annual Inspections
- 239 Fire Protection System Inspections
- 98 Plan Reviews
- 64 Fire Safety During Construction Inspections
- 20 Annual Re-inspections
- 11 Emergency Planning and Evacuation Inspections
- 15 Final Occupancy Acceptance Tests
- 16 Foster/Adoption Home Inspections

Code Enforcement

Fire Prevention is dedicated to the fair and accurate administration of the Ohio Fire Code. Our inspection goal is not only compliance, but to educate businesses on how the Fire Codes will assist in preventing fires. The Division of Fire Prevention also develops and updates pre-fire plans for local businesses and buildings. These consist of drawings and information gathered for use in case of a fire. The pre-fire plans assist us in training, locating utility shutoffs during an emergency, contacting owners, and preserving property in case of a fire in the business. The Fire Department loads the pre-fire plan onto a cloud-based program that allows our fire crews to access the information on an iPad located in each piece of the city's fire apparatus.

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.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION



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

Our Division of Fire Prevention is responsible for overseeing the administration of public education programs geared toward the safety of our community. Our goal is to customize our programs to meet the needs of the age groups of our audience. Our primary Fire Education Instructors are Lt. Chris Federan, Lt. Gabe Gerbasi, Firefighter Steven Acord, and Firefighter Jason Chrosniak.

In 2023, we reached 1,200 community members with our safety talks. We visited local preschools and spoke to approximately 300 children about home fire safety and what to do in case of an emergency. We also spent some time at Pioneer Ridge talking about what to expect when you call 911, hospital designations and transport options, smoke alarms, life alerts, our residential lock box program, and safety tips for our senior community.

Safetyville and school talks include information about having a fire escape plan, the number to call in an emergency, knowing two ways out of your house, having a family meeting place, kitchen safety, and stop drop and roll. We also create a relationship with the students so they are not afraid of firefighters during an emergency situation. Other fire safety efforts include:

- Business and Nursing Home Safety Talks
- Fire Station Tours and Safety Presentation
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Home Fire Safety Inspections
- Boy and Girl Scout Badge Requirements
- North Ridgeville Senior Center Safety Talks

One of our biggest events throughout the year is our annual Safety and Health Fair which is held in collaboration with the North Ridgeville Police Department the first Saturday in October. The event features family-friendly events and vendors that are related to promoting health and safety in the community. If you are in need of any of our public education services, would like to schedule a tour or class, or are a vendor that would like to participate in our annual Safety and Health Fair, please contact us at (440) 490-2040.



Safety Fair events include touch-a-truck and the Junior Firefighter agility course

PUBLIC EDUCATION

COMMUNITY CARDIO PULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) TRAINING

The North Ridgeville Fire Department continues to work toward our goal of increasing the likelihood of the survival of our citizens during a respiratory or cardiac arrest. We do so by providing American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support and Family & Friends CPR classes. The classes are offered at Fire Station #1 at minimal cost to anyone interested in learning or becoming certified in CPR. The CPR classes utilize CPR training manikins with feedback devices. The instruction also incorporates the use of training videos and other AHA materials to provide classes through an affiliation with Lorain County Community College.



In 2023, six of our fire department personnel taught 25 classes, which resulted in 275 BLS certifications. An additional 25 community members learned how to respond to emergencies and begin hands only CPR and how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The classes included students from the North Ridgeville Police Department, North Ridgeville City Schools, Goddard School of North Ridgeville, Pioneer Ridge Development, and a number of others that signed up through the North Ridgeville Parks & Recreation Department. BLS/CPR classes are held at Fire Station #1 on Ranger Way.



Interested parties can register for CPR classes through the North Ridgeville Parks & Recreation page at northridgeville.recdesk.com/Community/Calendar and clicking on the link in the calendar and following the prompts.

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAR SEAT INSTALLATION



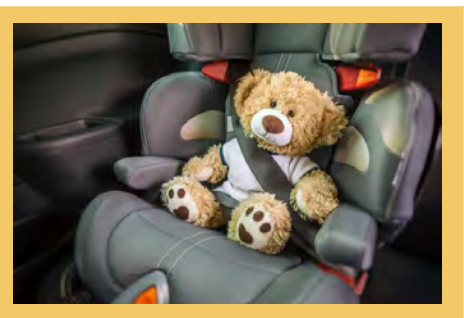
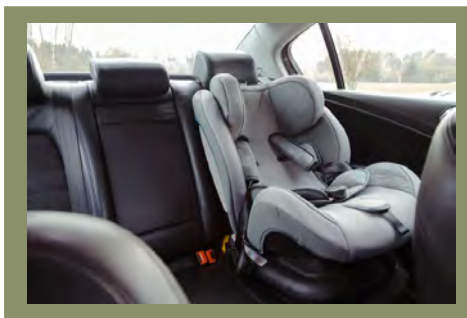
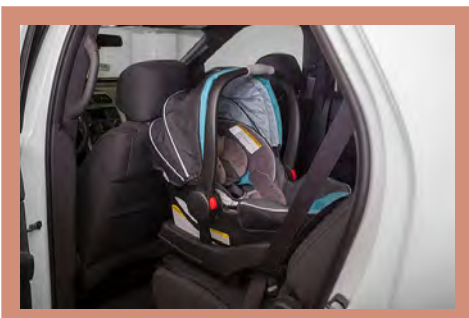
The North Ridgeville Fire Department provides car seat installation by Certified Passenger Safety Technicians to the customers of North Ridgeville. This covers the whole range of car seats - from infant carriers to booster seats for older children.

The initial process for obtaining Certified Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) is attending a 40-hour course to include both a classroom and practical portion put on by University Hospitals Injury Prevention Center in conjunction with SafeKids Worldwide. Each CPST is also required to complete 24-hours of continuing education every two years to maintain their certification.

In 2023, our CPSTs installed 60 car seats for North Ridgeville customers. Currently, Lt. Justin Silvi and Lt.

Chris Federan are the only CPSTs for the North Ridgeville Fire Department. We will be hosting a certification course in June of 2024 in partnership with University Hospitals and plan to add three more technicians to our ranks.

If you are interested in having one of our CPSTs install your car seat or check to make sure your car seat is installed correctly, please visit our website at nridgeville.org/ChildSafetySeat.aspx and fill out the “Child Safety Seat Installations/Checks” form. Once the form is filled out and submitted, one of our CPSTs will contact you to schedule a day and time for your car seat installation or safety check.



FIRE & EMS TRAINING



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 29-year member of the department and is certified as a State Fire Inspector, State Fire Instructor, State EMS Instructor, and Fire Investigator. In addition, Assistant Chief 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 for real operations. This training not only focuses 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 3,000 hours of training in 2023. The largest amount was dedicated to fire operations. This training covers a large array of topics, including advancing fire hose within a burning structure, rapid ladder deployment, search techniques in emergencies, pump operations, radio communications, incident command, HAZMAT, ice rescue and emergency vehicle driving techniques. Assistant Chief Graf was also kept busy in 2023 providing initial on-boarding training to the six new firefighters that were hired throughout the year.



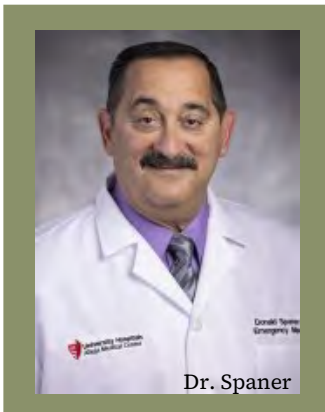
Each member of the North Ridgeville Fire Department maintains, as a minimum, a State Firefighter and Paramedic Certification, Emergency Vehicle Driver updates, HAZMAT Awareness and Blue Card Incident Command Certification. The majority of the department members, however, are required to maintain far more than the minimum certifications. All department officers are encouraged 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.

Officer development training continues to be a high priority for the North Ridgeville Fire Department. In 2023, Captain Dan Rogers graduated from the Ohio Fire Executives (OFE) program. The OFE is an executive development program that assesses, enhances, and refines the leadership qualities of Officers who are currently leading their organizations and develops “bench strength” in high potential senior officers who can move into positions of greater responsibility. It is the goal of our Fire Department to continue developing our future leaders so they are prepared for the challenges ahead.

MEDICAL DIRECTORS

University Hospitals of Cleveland provides the majority of 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 topics of pediatrics, geriatrics, trauma, and cardiology.



Dr. Don Spaner is an Emergency Physician at the University Hospitals Ahuja Center in Beachwood, Ohio. He is a Board-Certified Physician and EMS Medical Director. Dr. Spaner is a graduate of the Case Western Reserve University Medical School in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to graduating from medical school, Dr. Spaner served in the U.S. Coast Guard and worked as a paramedic.



Dr. Jason Glagola is an Emergency Physician at the University Hospitals St. John's Medical Center in Westlake, Ohio. He received his medical degree from the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio. Dr. Glagola has been in practice for more than 20 years.

WESTCOM DISPATCH

For almost 20 years, Westcom Dispatch has proudly served the communities of Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Ridgeville, Rocky River, and Westlake. Westcom's area covers 56-square miles with a population of 117,528 residents. In 2023, Westcom experienced an increase of 3.5% in call volume and answered a total of 20,058 calls for service.

All dispatchers at Westcom are certified in Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Public Safety Telecommunicator, Emergency Medical Dispatch, Law Enforcement, Advanced Fire, and American Heart

Association CPR. In addition, one dispatcher is a state certified Paramedic, five are state certified Emergency Medical Technicians, two are state certified Firefighters, two are APCO certified Training Officers, and one is an American Heart Association CPR/BLS Instructor. Each year, Westcom dispatchers perform a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education to stay up to date on their certifications.



Additional duties that Westcom has are activating and dispatching the specialty rescue teams in the Westshore region and the Northern Ohio Region II Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR). Westcom also monitors the alarms on all municipal buildings in the five-city area. This includes the monitoring of both fire and burglar alarms for those facilities. This is a huge cost savings on monitoring fees for the members of Westcom Dispatch. Westcom serves our cities 24/7/365 and keeps our communities safe. It is and continues to be a regionalization success story.

PERSONNEL ACHIEVEMENTS

Celebrating 1 Year

Firefighter/Paramedic Kim Torres
Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Erlenbach

Promotions

Captain Alex Shear
Lieutenant Chris Federan
Lieutenant Justin Silvi

Retirements

Captain Paul Sadowski (30 years)
Lieutenant Greg Laborie (33 years)
Administrative Assistant Peggy Myers (26 years)

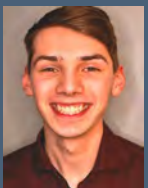
NEW HIRES

Richard Kenney



On April 17, 2023 Firefighter/Paramedic Class D Richard Kenney was sworn into the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Richard grew up in Oberlin, OH and today he resides in Elyria, where he has bought his first home. Richard attended Basic Emergency Medical Training at Lorain County JVS. He attended the Lorain County Fire Chief's Academy for Fire Fighter Training, then attended Paramedic School at Lorain County Community College. Richard is currently serving our country in the Ohio National Guard.

Noah Tanzilli



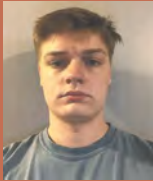
On April 17, 2023 Firefighter/Paramedic Class D Noah Tanzilli was sworn into the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Noah grew up in North Ridgeville where he still resides with family. Noah was home schooled and attended Lorain County Community College and Cuyahoga Community College during high school for Fire Fighter and Basic Emergency Medical Technician Training. He then attended and graduated from Paramedic School at Lorain County Community College. Noah completed some clinical experience with the North Ridgeville Fire Department while still in school.

Luke Smith

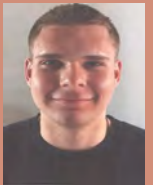
On July 5, 2023 Firefighter/Paramedic Class D Luke Smith was sworn into the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Luke grew up in Avon Lake, OH and resides in North Ridgeville with his wife Lauren and their two boys. He is an avid hunter and sportsman. Luke graduated from the LifeCare Ambulance Paramedic Academy in 2016 and the Ehovc Fire Academy in 2020. Luke worked several years for LifeCare Ambulance in Lorain before being hired by the North Ridgeville Fire Department.

Kory Campbell

On October 19, 2023 Firefighter/Paramedic Class D Kory Campbell was sworn into the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Kory grew up in Cleveland, OH and currently resides with his family in Grafton. He was home schooled through high school and during that time attended classes at Cuyahoga Community College. Kory attended Basic Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic Training at Cuyahoga Community College and the University of Akron for Fire Fighter Training. Kory has an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice and worked for Medina County Life Support prior to being hired by the North Ridgeville Fire Department.

Dustin Kattler

On November 27, 2023, Firefighter/Paramedic Class D Dustin Kattler was sworn into the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Dustin grew up in Brooklyn Heights, OH where he still resides with his family. Dustin was active in wrestling, soccer, and drumline in high school. He also attended his Fire Fighter and Basic Emergency Medical Technician training at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center which ran a JVS program through his high school. He then attended Paramedic School at University Hospitals of Cleveland EMS Training Academy in Parma where he graduated in 2023.

Nathan Trybus

On November 27, 2023 Firefighter/Paramedic Class D Nathan Trybus was sworn into the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Nathan grew up in Broadview Heights, OH where he still resides with his family. He was active in sports and robotics in high school and attended Fire Fighter and Basic Emergency Medical Technician Training through vocational education in high school. He then attended and graduated from Paramedic School at Lorain County Community College. Nathan completed some clinical experience with the North Ridgeville Fire Department while still in school.

Michelle Smith

On September 15, 2023 Administrative Assistant Michelle Smith was hired by the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Michelle grew up in Bend, Oregon and then attended and graduated from Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, North Dakota. Prior to working for the North Ridgeville Fire Department, Michelle was the Administrative Assistant at Lorain County 911. She has been married to her husband Joe for almost 25 years and resides with him and her 3 children in South Amherst.

RETIREES



In March 2023, Captain Paul Sadowski retired from the North Ridgeville Fire Department after 30 years of service to our city. Paul was hired in 1993 as a Fire Fighter/EMT and then attended Paramedic Training when the opportunity arose several years later. Throughout the years, Paul promoted to Lieutenant and then Captain. He was very involved with working on our fire museum and the city's original Buffalo fire engine to preserve the Fire Department's history. He also served as the Union President for the North Ridgeville Fire Fighter's Local 2129 for several years. Paul plans to enjoy his retirement with his wife Debbie, their three adult children, and hopefully the start of many grandchildren to come.

In April 2023, Lieutenant Greg Laborie retired from the North Ridgeville Fire Department after 33 years of service to our city. Greg was hired in 1990 as a Fire Fighter/EMT and was very involved in the passage of the original paramedic levy. Greg put himself through Paramedic Training while also helping promote the levy throughout the community. Years later, Greg promoted to Lieutenant and was involved in EMS education for our department and also the Cleveland Clinic. Prior to working for the North Ridgeville Fire Department, Greg served our county in the United States Army. Since retiring, Greg is working for the Cleveland Clinic Avon Campus and plans to eventually move somewhere warm with his wife Sherri and enjoy their retirement together.



In September 2023, the Fire Department's first Administrative Assistant, Peggy Myers, retired after 26 years of service. Peggy started in 1997 as an Administrative Assistant, but she was also the daytime dispatcher up until Westcom Dispatch took over those duties for the department in 2007. For most of her career, Peggy was the only female employee of the Fire Department and for the most part took on the role of "den mother" and kept all the guys in line. It may not have always been an easy job, but Peggy always seemed to make things work. Peggy plans to spend her retirement "snow birding" with her hubby Karl and trying to keep up with her kids. She was an important member of our department and she will be missed.

IN MEMORY OF CHIEF RAY DIEDERICH (RET.)

In November of 2022, we lost a beloved member of the North Ridgeville Fire Department. Fire Chief Ray Diederich passed away at the age of 75. Chief Diederich was a lifelong resident of North Ridgeville and had retired from the department in 1995. Before joining the Fire Department, Chief Diederich served in the United States Air Force as a Motion Pix Lab Specialist and developed film for the Apollo XII and XIII missions.

Chief Diederich will be remembered for serving as the Fire Chief that spearheaded the Fire Department's efforts to pass the levy that brought the paramedic ambulance service to North Ridgeville. Along with several resident volunteers, Chief Diederich organized two levy attempts, which eventually funded the city's Advanced Life Support service. Up until the time of his passing, Chief Diederich would still check-in with the Fire Department "just to see how he could help out".

Chief Diederich is survived by his wife of 51 years, Page "Pete" (nee Hostutler), who still resides in North Ridgeville. Chief Diederich was an avid car lover who always seemed to prefer black vehicles for his own use and collection. Chief Diederich is missed and will always be remembered as playing a large role in the Fire Department's history.

