



WHAT IGNITES YOU



CITY OF COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE
ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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Cover Photo: Laura Elford has been a Columbus firefighter and paramedic for 24 years, serving the people of the city's east-side Driving Park neighborhood surrounding East Livingston Avenue at Station 15. Elford is married to Jackson Township firefighter Mark Elford, and has two grown children, Josh and Amber. Elford, a committed runner, ran her first marathon as a

high school junior and track athlete. She still logs 20 to 30 miles a week, and plans to run the Columbus Half Marathon in the fall.

"I've got to do it just to keep up with the burley guys I work with," said Elford, who shares Station 15 duties with several men who are no strangers to the weight room. "Running just helps me clear my head and keep me sane," says Elford. Medic 15 logged 6146 runs in 2015, and Engine 15 had 4248 runs, making Station 15 the second busiest in the city. Elford rides on both units, plus pulls shifts at the alarm office. She likes the busy pace.

"It's the best job I've ever had. I've got a great crew of really good guys. They really spoil me." Elford admits that staying at a single firehouse for so many years is unusual for a career firefighter, but feels she and her teammates are making a difference in the lives of a neighborhood beset with challenges.

"We see a lot of need. We see the violence, the poverty and the sickness in the neighborhood. And we see a lot of fires, of course. But most of the residents appreciate the work we do. Working with these families forces you to think differently about poverty. It also makes you appreciate what you've got."

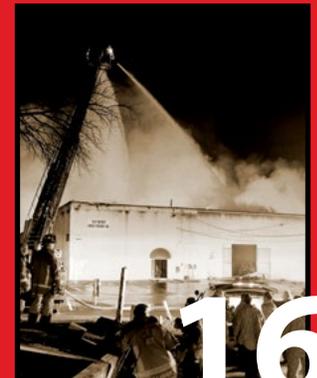
Elford's teammates at Station 15, Unit 1 are (from left) Lt. John Temple, Matt Tibbs, John Myers, Sam Berger, Doug Tibbs, Lt. Kevin Radwanski, Nick Koebele and Scott Baker. Photo by James Miller/Division of Fire.



5



26



16



24

OUR TEAM

Welcome to the Columbus Division of Fire 2015 Annual Report. This document is published by the Columbus Division of Fire Public Information Office, and provides a look back on the efforts, priorities and accomplishments of the Division's 1533 uniformed and 45 civilian professionals, and outlines a number of initiatives undertaken in 2015 to better serve the citizens of Columbus, Ohio.

Fire Chief

Chief Kevin O'Connor

Editor-in-Chief

Battalion Chief Tracy Smith

Designers

Lee Cole and James Miller

Photographers

Nick Calderone, James Miller and Casey Vincent.



I've said it many times before, and I will continue to say it: Columbus has the greatest division of fire in the country!

Thank you for your bravery and heroism as you work to keep Columbus citizens safe. Your bravery is unwavering, and you serve as role

models to those who want to know what it means to be brave and courageous.

When you became firefighters you answered a call that many others would think was risky and scary. But you understood the challenge and what it takes to put others first. I appreciate the sac-

rifices you make on a daily basis and for your heroism and grace. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with you for the last 16 years.

I wish the Division of Fire and the Department of Public Safety continued success as you work toward a safer Columbus.

"COLUMBUS HAS THE GREATEST DIVISION OF FIRE IN THE COUNTRY!"

- City of Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman

As Director of the Department of Public Safety, I want to first thank and commend the men and women of the Columbus Division of Fire.

- City of Columbus Director of Public Safety George Speaks

Every day, they continue to be on the front lines of disasters, both big and small, delivering the best fire suppression and emergency medical response in the country.

This past year was one of transition. After serving the City of Columbus Division of Fire for 34 years, three as chief of fire, Gregory A. Paxton retired in April 2015.

During his accomplished career, Chief Paxton implemented numerous policies and improvements that kept Columbus Fire on the forefront of fire prevention and suppression practices. His experience and knowledge will surely be missed. Enjoy retirement Chief Paxton!

In May 2015, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman appointed Kevin O'Connor as the 24th Chief of Columbus Fire. Initially joining the Division in 1989, O'Connor began his career as a firefighter three years earlier with the City of Springfield Fire Department.

In addition to his many years of service, Chief O'Connor brings his experience in building strategic partnerships and a commitment that our firefighters are the best trained in the nation.

I am confident the Division will continue to be successful and innovative for years to come.

Another big transition came in June, as the Division

officially dedicated and opened the new state of the art, Mitchell J. Brown Fire Station No. 3 at 222 Greenlawn Avenue. The station replaces combined Station 2 and 3 located at 150 E. Fulton Street.

The new station will help the Division serve the residents of Downtown and the South Side in the most efficient manner possible.

Throughout 2015, the Division of Fire continued their robust recruitment efforts, with a focus on minority recruitment.

The "What Ignites You" campaign, along with recruitment expos, served to educate the public on what it takes to become a Columbus firefighter, as



well as all the benefits of joining the Division. These efforts are an integral part of maintaining the diverse, high quality firefighting force that has served our community so well.

The men and women who worked on these and numerous other projects, along with the day-to-day services of the Division of Fire, deserve our utmost appreciation and recognition. Their dedication and dependability is what makes Columbus the best city to live, work, and raise a family. Keep up the great work!



MAY 21, 2015

KEVIN O'CONNOR NAMED 24TH CHIEF OF THE COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE

I am pleased to present the 2015 Columbus Division of Fire Annual Report to Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, Director of Public Safety George Speaks, members of Columbus City Council and the citizens of Columbus.

During 2015, Columbus Fire once again delivered the consistent level of excellent emergency services that our citizens expect. This year also challenged our Division and pushed us to adapt to the changing needs of our city and our citizens. As we constantly rose to meet the expectations of our customers, we realized we were busier than we have ever been and the demands on our Division do not seem to be diminishing.

As this report indicates, the Division has accomplished a number of significant goals and objectives that have provided a foundation for excellence. Specific successes in 2015 include the addition of two peak-demand Medics, Ladder 5, and the opening of Station 3. We also implemented a recruitment initiative focused on creating a more diverse Division that reflects

the community we serve. Additionally, I am pleased to share that in 2015 the Division graduated 34 new firefighters from our training academy, 20 new paramedics, and graduated 40 new firefighters in the first part of 2016.

As I complete my first year as your Fire Chief, the Division of Fire has identified six Strategic Initiatives to guide us over the next five years:

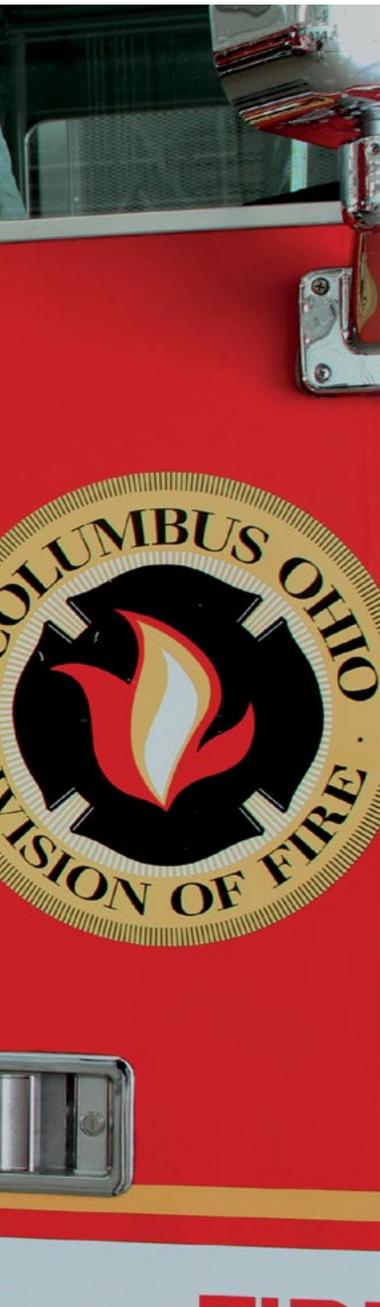
- **Assure our recruitment plan effectively seeks the best, most diverse work force;**
- **Manage our budget and fiscal needs while improving cost efficiency;**
- **Provide an effective and appropriate response to all service areas;**
- **Provide members with the most up-to-date training;**
- **Monitor the adequacy of our tools & equipment; and**
- **Constantly evaluate our technology needs.**

Each of these strategic initiatives is thoroughly developed with short and long term goals and objectives that will be continuously monitored

and changed if necessary. These goals will allow the Division of Fire to continue to be a “public safety leader,” providing a safe and secure environment for our community.

The men and women of the Columbus Division of Fire remain committed to providing our community with excellent and compassionate emergency services. As the Fire Chief, I am committed to providing our Division with the training, equipment, and leadership needed to fulfill this goal and the mission of the Division of Fire. We will continually evaluate our operations to ensure we consistently exceed the expectations of our community with our focus being “how can we do it better.”

This Annual Report highlights only some of the activities and achievements of this Division, but clearly exemplifies the dedication and professionalism of all our members. I look forward to an exciting and productive 2016, working with the new City administration, and most importantly serving as your Fire Chief.



THE COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE...

is the best fire service division in the country, responsible for assuring the efficient and effective deployment of firefighting and emergency resources to the City of Columbus. In 2012, the Division of Fire was awarded the Commission on Fire Accreditations International Re-Accreditation Status. This important accreditation was re-affirmed by the commission in 2015.

OUR MISSION

Our mission as the Columbus Division of Fire is to serve our community by:

- Preventing emergencies through education and inspection.
- Minimizing injury, death, and property destruction due to fire, natural disaster and other emergencies.
- Minimizing injury, death, and suffering by providing timely and effective emergency medical service.

OUR VALUES

In order to accomplish our mission, the members of the Columbus Division of Fire, use the following values to guide our actions:

- Preservation of life and property.
- Personal integrity.
- Professionalism.
- Respect for others.



NEWEST ADDITION

**MITCHELL J. BROWN
FIRE STATION 3
BROKE GROUND ON
SEPTEMBER 23, 2013**

BATTALION 1

Station 1&9, Built 1982
"Union Station"
300 N. Fourth Street
Columbus, OH, 43215

Station 2, Built 1962
"Nance Hoster Firehouse"
150 E. Fulton Street
Columbus, OH, 43215

Station 3, Built 2015
"Mitchell J. Brown Station"
222 Greenlawn Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43223

Station 8, Built 1968
"Herman Harrison Station"
1240 E. Long Street
Columbus, OH, 43203

Station 25, Built 1961
"Gowdy Field Station"
739 W. Third Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43202

BATTALION 2

Station 6, Built 1969
"Sharon Woods Firehouse"
5750 Maple Canyon
Columbus, OH, 43215

Station 24, Built 1960
"Northland Area Firehouse"
1585 Morse Road
Columbus, OH, 43229

Station 28, Built 1981
"Steltzer Ridge Firehouse"
3240 McCutcheon Road
Columbus, OH, 43230

Station 29, Built 1984
"Little Turtle Station"
5151 Little Turtle Way
Columbus, OH, 43081

Station 33, Built 1993
"Polaris Station"
440 Lazelle Road
Columbus, OH, 43240

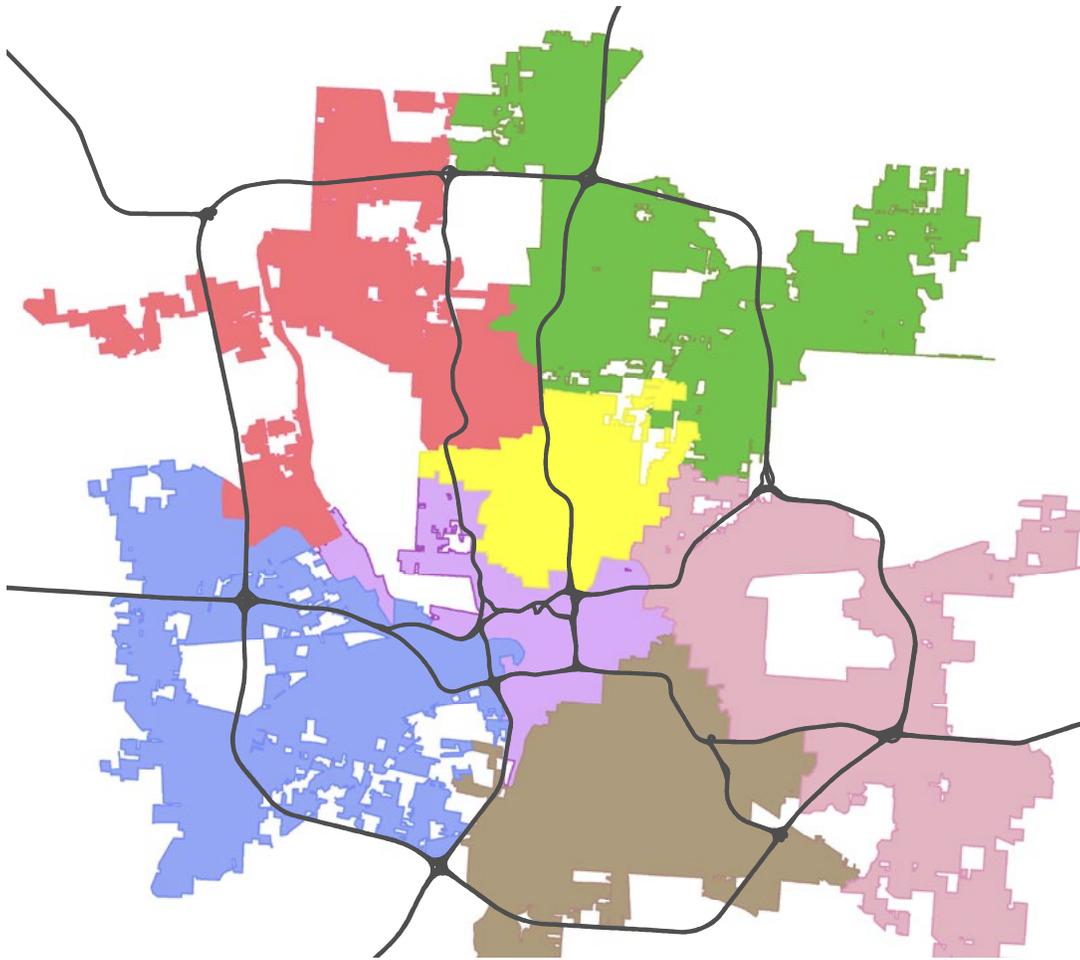
BATTALION 3

Station 7, Built 1966
"Buckeye Station"
1425 Indianola Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43201

Station 13, Built 1957
"Olde North Station"
309 Arcadia Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43202

Station 16, Built 1952
"North Linden Station"
1130 E. Weber Road
Columbus, OH, 43211

Station 18, Built 1982
"William J. Roop Station"
1630 Cleveland Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43211



BATTALION MAP

In order to provide high quality service to the residents of Columbus and offer support to surrounding communities, the City of Columbus is divided into seven battalions.

BATTALION 4

Station 4, Built 1975
"Berwick Fire Station"
3030 Winchester Pike
Columbus, OH, 43232

Station 14, Built 2001
"North Graceland Station"
1716 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43207

Station 15, Built 1969
"Driving Park Station"
1800 E. Livingston Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43205

Station 22, Built 1959
"Jack Russ Fire Station"
3069 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43207

BATTALION 5

Station 10, Built 2008
"Maurice Gates Firehouse"
1096 W. Broad Street,
Columbus, OH, 43222

Station 12, Built 1950
"Frank D. Grashel
Firehouse"
3200 Sullivant Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43204

Station 17, Built 1993
"Hilltop Station"
2300 W. Broad Street
Columbus, OH, 43223

Station 26, Built 1974
"The Rock"
5333 Fisher Road
Columbus, OH, 43228

Station 31, Built 1988
"Bolton Field Fire Station"
5303 Alkire Road
Columbus, OH, 43228

BATTALION 6

Station 5, Built 1964
"Olde Orchard Fire Station"
211 McNaughten Road
Columbus, OH, 43213

Station 20, Built 1950
"Pleasant Higgenbotham
Fire Station"
2646 E. Fifth Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43219

Station 21, Built 1950
"Eastmoor Fire Station"
3294 E. Main Street
Columbus, OH, 43213

Station 23, Built 1959
"Big Walnut Fire Station"
4451 E. Livingston Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43227

Station 32, Built 1991
"Refugee Tract Fire Sta-
tion" 3675 Gender Road
Columbus, OH, 43110

BATTALION 7

Station 11, Built 1991
"Don Scott Station"
2200 W. Case Road
Columbus, OH, 43235

Station 19, Built 2003
"Northmoor Engine House"
3601 N. High Street
Columbus, OH, 43214

Station 27, Built 1978
"Great Northwest Station"
7560 Smokey Row Road
Columbus, OH, 43235

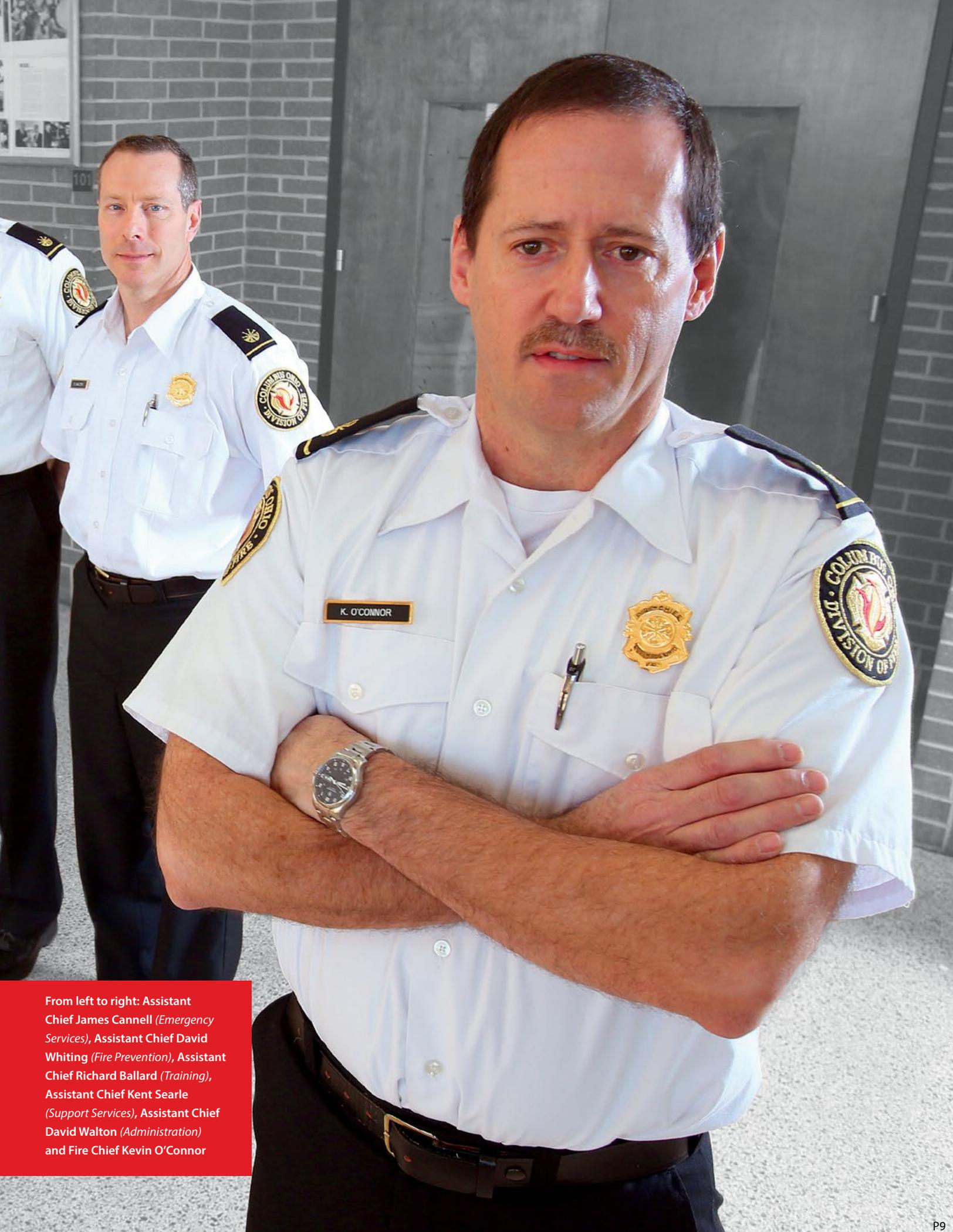
Station 30, Built 1988
"Wyandotte Fire Station"
3555 Fishinger Blvd
Columbus, OH, 43206

Station 34, Built 2003
"Sleepy Hollow"
5201 Wilcox Road
Columbus, OH, 43216



LEADERSHIP

IN THE LARGEST ACCREDITED FIRE DIVISION IN OHIO



From left to right: Assistant Chief James Cannell (*Emergency Services*), Assistant Chief David Whiting (*Fire Prevention*), Assistant Chief Richard Ballard (*Training*), Assistant Chief Kent Searle (*Support Services*), Assistant Chief David Walton (*Administration*) and Fire Chief Kevin O'Connor



Kevin O'Connor
Fire Chief

This year pushed us to adapt to the changing needs of our city and our citizens. We continue to be a “public safety leader” providing the best care and optimal coverage for our community.

The Columbus Division of Fire overall operations are managed by the Fire Chief. This includes ensuring that the citizens of Columbus are provided the best, most efficient and timely fire and emergency medical services.

As Fire Chief, Kevin O'Connor provides leadership and direction to the five assistant chiefs to uphold the mission of the Division. To ensure the best fire practices are accomplished, direction is given to the five bureaus: Administration, Emergency Services, Fire Prevention, Support Services, and Training. In order to accomplish the Division's mission, an authorized uniform staff of 1,533 and a civilian staff of 45 are employed.

Major Accomplishments

- Developed an occupational, health and safety wellness program for our firefighters
- Developed specifications and delivery of replacement apparatus
- Created new recruitment branding “What Ignites You?”, winning major advertising and publishing awards
- Deployed a specialty bariatric EMS vehicle, partnering with Central Ohio Trauma System (COTS)

OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

Medical Director Office, under the leadership of Dr. David Keseg, provides the Division's medical oversight and helps advance the quality and efficiency of the EMS system within the Division. The medical office partnered with Nationwide Children's Hospital in 2015 to participate in pediatric pre-hospital research, resulting in four published articles. The department welcomed Dr. Eric Cortez as an associate medical director.

The Special Events Office provides emergency services, logistical, and site resources for a variety of events around Columbus. The Special Duty Office partners with a number of local, state and national agencies including the U.S. Secret Service, The Ohio State University Athletics Department, Columbus Blue Jackets (NHL), Greater Columbus Convention Center, VIPs/Political visits, and Red White & Boom organizers to provide vital safety services for popular events throughout the city. In 2015, the Special Duty Office scheduled for 519 events, which include 770 vehicles and more than 1,800 personnel.

The Office of Health, Safety, and Innovation was created in January 2015 when the Research and Development Section and the Safety Office were merged. The Office of Health, Safety, and Innovation is responsible for the Division's occupational health, safety, and wellness programs, policy development, and the specification and coordination of new apparatus and equipment purchases.

In 2015, the Office of Health, Safety, and Innovation played a key role in the purchase of ten engines, six medic vehicles, an incident support unit vehicle, and a new safe-house trailer. In addition, an extensive turnout gear wear test and evaluation of new SCBA equipment were conducted.

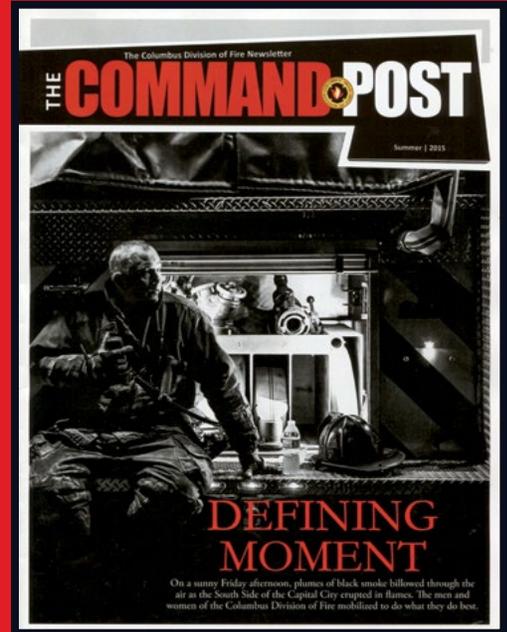
The Public Information/Recruitment Office is responsible for the internal and external communications, media relations, and recruitment efforts for the Division of Fire.

In 2015, Public Information handled over 11,000 contacts from the public and media outlets for information and public record documents, produced over 50 press releases, coordinated the Station 3 dedication, produced and disseminated public service announcements for fireworks, cooking fires and Christmas tree safety, and various other public appearances and interview requests.

Recruitment delivered a 28% diversity representation in the 90 band eligibility list, created new study sessions and expos to expose diverse individuals to the fire service, launched the Division's first ever Recruitment Campaign "What Ignites You?", and forged new partnerships with Columbus Public Schools, Reynoldsburg, Whitehall, South Western and Westerville Schools Districts for the "I know I Can" campaign.

The Columbus Division of Fire Public Information office won three Achievement in Marketing awards by the Columbus American Marketing Association AIM Awards for design and photography published in the Division's "The Command Post" quarterly news letter and for PIO office's conceptual and graphic design execution of the "What Ignites You" recruitment campaign targeting women and minorities in 2015.

WHAT IGNITES YOU?



“Our mission is to develop and monitor accounting practices, financial measures, and administrative procedures which promote the achievement of the Division’s mission through the professional development of personnel and efficient use of funds”



David J. Walton
Assistant Chief

The Administration Bureau manages the daily operations of the Office of the Fire Chief and serves as a liaison between the Fire Chief and the Department of Finance to develop long-range and strategic plans, monitor accounting practices, financial measures, and administrative procedures that support the Division’s mission through the efficient deployment of funds.

The Administration Bureau is responsible for human resources, payroll, background investigations, internal investigations and discipline.

Headed by Assistant Chief David J. Walton, the Administration Bureau represents the Division of Fire in contract negotiations, conducts disciplinary hearings, interacts with the other city divisions and departments, and serves as a project manager on department initiatives.

Major Accomplishments

- Civilianization of 9 uniformed positions
- Piloted an electronic filing system to reduce waste and increase efficiency
- Initiated electronic transfer request procedures
- Assisted in the administration of the Division’s Critical Incident Stress Management Team
- Conducted Division wide Drug Free Safety Program Training
- Standardized investigatory procedures of all accidents involving Division apparatus
- Assisted in negotiating a new Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Set parameters for the effective cataloging and response of community complaints
- Revised CFD Disaster Plan

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Background Investigations is responsible for conducting extensive, in-depth investigations of candidates seeking to become firefighters within the Division.

Business Office is responsible for managing the various budgets and financial operations for the Division, including budget management and analysis, procurement, accounts receivable and accounts payable.

Human Resources is responsible for administering and ensuring Division compliance with several labor contracts as well as federal, state and local employment laws. In addition, administers all aspects of the employment process such as hiring, promotions, demotions, suspensions and terminations as well as the administration of employee benefits programs.

Payroll ensures that all employees are paid accurately and timely with the correct withholdings and deductions, and the withholdings and deductions are remitted in a timely manner. This includes salary payments, tax withholdings, and deductions from paychecks.

Professional Standards assists in addressing the concerns of citizens, members, and the Division through the performance of thorough, factual and neutral investigations of citizen complaints and administrative directs. The resulting investigative report is submitted to the Administration Bureau Chief where the concerns may be addressed using training, counseling, discipline or policy changes/revisions. The product of this work unit helps to identify both isolated instances of concerns and potential trends in behavior that can be pro-actively corrected with training or undated concern procedures. The ultimate goal of the PSU is to assist in providing the greatest customer service possible.

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE IS THE LARGEST ACCREDITED FIRE DIVISION IN THE STATE OF OHIO

1578 Public Safety Professionals Dedicated to Protecting

835,957 Citizens*

Budget and Capital Purchases:	<u>OPERATING BUDGET</u>		<u>CAPITAL PURCHASES</u>	
	Personnel	\$ 215,853,895	Toughbooks (MDCs)	\$ 491,152
	Supplies	3,696,074	Aerial Platform	1,199,768
	Services	10,499,109	HazMat Vehicle	888,900
	Other	200,000	Air Support	456,849
	Transfer	0		
	TOTAL	\$ 230,249,078	TOTAL	\$ 3,036,669

2014	2013	2012
General Fund Operating Budget	General Fund Operating Budget	General Fund Operating Budget
Personnel \$204,625,508	Personnel \$ 200,041,063	Personnel \$200,756,899
Supplies 3,778,634	Supplies \$ 5,448,997	Supplies 4,503,309
Services 10,864,719	Services \$ 11,699,081	Services 11,084,435
Other 200,000	Other \$ 200,000	Other 200,000
Transfer 1,809,013	Transfer \$ 1,302,157	Transfer 661,227
Total \$ 221,277,874	Total \$ 218,691,298	Total \$ 217,205,870
2014 Capital Purchases	2013 Capital Purchases	2012 Capital Purchases
Custom Pumpers \$5,809,680	EMS Medic Units \$1,900,582	EMS Medic Units \$3,319,018
EMS Medic Units 1,455,752	Custom Pumpers 2,318,649	Custom Pumpers 3,585,080
Rescue Boats 127,050	Rescue Support Units 439,800	Fire Station Furniture 170,432
Safety Education House 62,498		Heavy Rescues 500,000
Total \$7,454,980	Total \$4,659,031	Total \$7,574,530

*Columbus 2014 population estimate: United States Census Bureau



**Assistant Chief
Kent Searle**

The mission of the Support Services Bureau is to receive emergency and non-emergency calls and dispatch the appropriate response team and equipment to the community through the Fire Alarm Office while maintaining the facilities, apparatus, equipment and supplies to serve the public and Division members effectively and efficiently.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Mitchell J. Brown Fire Station No. 3 is an \$8.2 million, 27,020 square-foot facility that contains six bays for apparatus and combines much of the Division's Special Operations into a single location. It features a tower which recalls the historic hose dryer tower elements of earlier fire houses and replaces Fire Station 2, 150 E. Fulton Street, built in 1962 and retired on June 17, 2015.

Station 3 was featured in the FireHouse Magazine 2015 Station Design Awards and received the Career Notable award. It is tracking to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold award, which is the second highest certification level within the LEED Rating System.

A new Fire Station 2 project at the same 150 E. Fulton Street location is underway with demolition and construction expected to begin in 2016.

The site included a holistic site design which decreased the station's environmental impact by using recycled, low-VOC and regional building materials.

Low-flow flush valves, shower heads and faucets reduce indoor water usage by 51% and the unique site design maximizes natural light sources and decreases storm-water runoff. These and several other sustainable efforts are expected to reduce annual energy costs by 30%.



The Columbus Division of Fire investment in infrastructure and apparatus has a positive impact on services provided to the community

Facilities

- Paving replacement at two fire stations to improve parking and apparatus access
- Concrete bay floors replaced at two fire stations
- Generators purchased to serve five stations to provide whole house electrical back-up power in the event of a long-term power interruption.

Apparatus

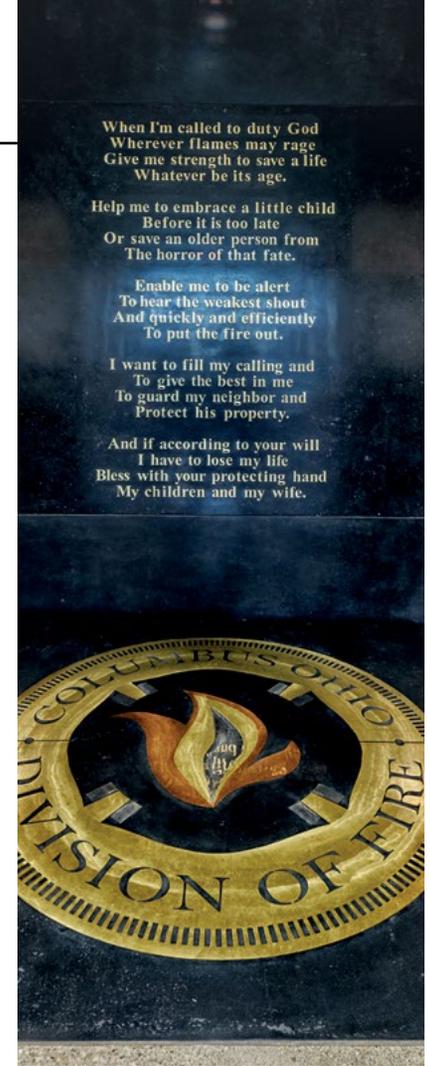
- 10 Sutphen Monarch Custom Pumper Engines
- 6 new Horton International Medics
- 1 International Incident Support Unit
- Safe House Mobile Education Trailer
- 2 Ford SUV command vehicles
- 3 support Ford Transit Vans
- 9 Ford F-250 station trucks
- 1 Bobcat skid-steer loader

FAO Communications

The Fire Alarm Office is responsible for the receipt and processing of daily emergency and non-emergency calls for EMS and fire service. This includes calls from surrounding automatic and mutual aid townships and dispatching companies providing tactical channel oversight. This office handled 236,951 calls and dispatched over 156,000 runs in 2015.

Charitable Initiatives

The Logistics Center is the hub of support for the Division where EMS and station supplies are received and distributed to fire stations and facilities; house, hose supply and repair; and serves as storage for supplemental emergency apparatus. However, from Thanksgiving through the new year, the warehouse is transformed to accommodate the Firefighters for Kids toy program. The program occupies most of the warehouse to become a satellite North Pole toy distribution.



Division Fire Stations and Apparatus

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 32 Fire Stations
(Fire Station 2 under construction) | 1 HAZMAT Unit |
| 34 Engines | 2 Rescue Support Units |
| 37 Medics | 1 Incident Support Unit |
| 16 Ladders | 1 Command Unit |
| 3 Bomb Squads | 1 Dive and Response Team (DART) |
| 5 Rescues | 1 Bariatric Unit |
| 14 Boats | |



James Cannell
Assistant Chief

The mission of the Emergency Service Bureau is to minimize injuries, deaths and property loss related to fire, medical emergencies and other disasters through the efficient delivery of effective fire suppression, pre-hospital treatment and patient transport.

Emergency Medical Service

- Bomb Squad
- Canine Unit
- Dive and Rescue Team
- Counter Terrorism
- Emergency Medical Services
- Medical Support Unit
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Tactical EMS

Major Accomplishments

- Opened and staffed new Fire Station 3 on Greenlawn Avenue.
- Implemented two additional Peak Demand Medics.
- Restructured the “run cards” to increase efficiency and deployment of equipment and staff in low run verses high demand areas of the city.
- Conducted an EMS audit to evaluate sustainability and quality assurance of the Division’s EMS system.
- Reorganized the Special Operations section with a focus on emergency medical service.
- Updated the Division’s standard operating procedures including high-rise, modernized firefighting tactics, command and control practices.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

In the Emergency Services Bureau, EMS accounted for 78% of all incidents for 2015. The Division implemented a new approach to deploy engines and medics to better serve our community.



TOP 4 EMS INCIDENT TYPES

1. Ill Person	23,174
2. Difficulty Breathing	15,803
3. Chest Pain	10,703
4. Fall	6,806

TOP 4 FIRE INCIDENT TYPES

1. Auto Accident	7,615
2. Fire Alarm B	4,768
3. Fire Alarm	2,560
4. Freeway	2,471

121,858

EMS Incidents

Total CFD EMS into all jurisdictions.

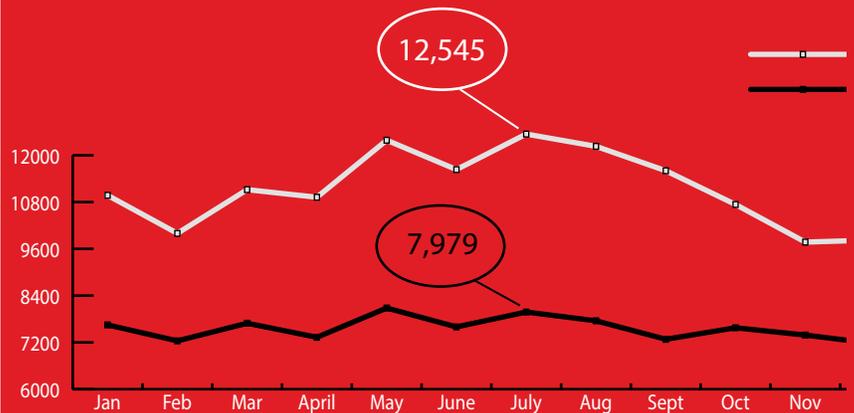


33,710

Fire Related Incidents

Total CFD Engines into all jurisdictions.

In 2015, The Division's Engine & EMS Crews experienced its highest volume of runs in the month of July, averaging 662 runs per day city-wide.



4-ALARM FIRE

One, four-alarm fire in 2015.

This was the second 4-alarm fire in the past two decades.



2-Alarm Fire

16 two-alarms fires

1-Alarm Fire

303 one-alarm fires

ONE HUNDRED, THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THREE

MEDIC RUNS TAKEN IN 2015

MEDIC 8 TAKES TOP HONORS WITH 6219 RUNS

The medic crew at Station 8 know all about busy shifts. The team on the city's near east side, located on East Long Street, logged 6,219 runs in 2015, achieving top honors of the Division's busiest medic unit for 2015.

"Yes, I like being busy. We are certainly busy here," said Paramedic Kevin Johnson of 1-unit, who's been at Station 8 for four years.

The paramedics may also ride on the ladder or engine, Johnson continued. This changes up the day and offers some variety. The officers here really understand the pace and really support our crew.

Station 8 is located in an older, working class neighbor-

hood on the near east-side just north of Broad Street, where some residents don't have a personal physician and are more likely to call a medic for a chronic health issue, according to Johnson. One of the city's eight homeless shelters is within Station 8's coverage area. "Sure, it's edgy. It's exciting, especially for a young firefighter. Emergency Medical Service (EMS) has become a much bigger part to the job of firefighting with a smaller number of people doing it. The big fires require lots of people, lots of equipment. They make a big splash in the community," said Lieutenant Michael Sachs.

"But day in and day out, the EMS guys carry the lion's share of the workload."

STATS (BY APPARATUS)

MEDIC 1 : 5355

MEDIC 3 : 4856

MEDIC 4 : 3630

MEDIC 5 : 3090

MEDIC 6 : 4957

MEDIC 7 : 4680

1st MEDIC 8 : 6219

MEDIC 10 : 5450

MEDIC 11 : 2703

MEDIC 12 : 4942

MEDIC 13 : 3654

MEDIC 14 : 5582

MEDIC 15 : 6146 **2nd**

MEDIC 16 : 5565

MEDIC 17 : 5581 **3rd**

MEDIC 18 : 5262

MEDIC 19 : 3239

MEDIC 20 : 4325

MEDIC 21 : 5370

MEDIC 22 : 3598

MEDIC 23 : 5227

MEDIC 24 : 4653

MEDIC 25 : 2523

MEDIC 26 : 2420

MEDIC 27 : 2151

MEDIC 28 : 2742

MEDIC 29 : 2086

MEDIC 30 : 1058

MEDIC 31 : 1920

MEDIC 32 : 3659

MEDIC 33 : 2095

MEDIC 34 : 1010

MEDIC 817 : 2168

MEDIC 806 : 1824

MEDIC 815 : 1605

MEDIC 890 : 1774

MEDIC 891 : 33





**NINETY
THOUSAND,
SEVEN HUNDRED
AND THIRTY-TWO**

ENGINE RUNS TAKEN IN 2015

**ENGINE 6 TAKES TOP
HONORS WITH 4333
RUNS**

The logo emblazoned on Engine 6 depicts a wolf howling at the moon. The caption, “After Midnight, Things Get a Little Hairy Around Here.” These are fitting words for the Division’s busiest engine of 2015, Engine 6, logging 4,333 runs.

“We have some busy nights here, where there’s little time to decompress,” said Lt. Larry James of 3-Unit.

Columbus Fire Station 6’s mix of dense residential neighborhoods, narrow twisting road grids, apartment buildings and nursing homes makes for a busy and challenging posting for firefighters. Located on Maple Canyon Avenue, the station’s area of responsibility

straddles the Dublin-Granville Road’s high traffic commercial corridor on the city’s northeast quadrant.

“These are some real stand-up [crews] here. They take a beating. They care about one another and treat each other like brothers. They’re all very proficient medics,” James continued, describing the members of the three units that comprise the workhorses of Engine 6.

“It’s not unusual for all of us to be up and talking at 5 a.m. after a long night,” said Brandon Leddy. “The nights are long, but if you’ve got a fun crew to ride with, it makes all the difference.”



STATS (BY APPARATUS)

ENGINE 1 : 2701

ENGINE 2 : 1191

ENGINE 3 : 2111

ENGINE 4 : 2146

ENGINE 5 : 2407

1st ENGINE 6 : 4333

ENGINE 7 : 2989

ENGINE 8 : 3733

ENGINE 9 : 2532

ENGINE 10 : 3703

ENGINE 11: 2057

ENGINE 12: 3775

ENGINE 13 : 2273

ENGINE 14 : 3654

ENGINE 15 : 4248 2nd

ENGINE 16 : 3545

ENGINE 17 : 3998 3rd

ENGINE 18 : 3287

ENGINE 19 : 2484

ENGINE 20 : 2859

ENGINE 21 : 3540

ENGINE 22 : 2802

ENGINE 23 : 3765

ENGINE 24 : 3765

ENGINE 25 : 3704

ENGINE 26 : 1876

ENGINE 27 : 1890

ENGINE 28 : 2014

ENGINE 29 : 1741

ENGINE 30 : 847

ENGINE 31 : 1241

ENGINE 32 : 2592

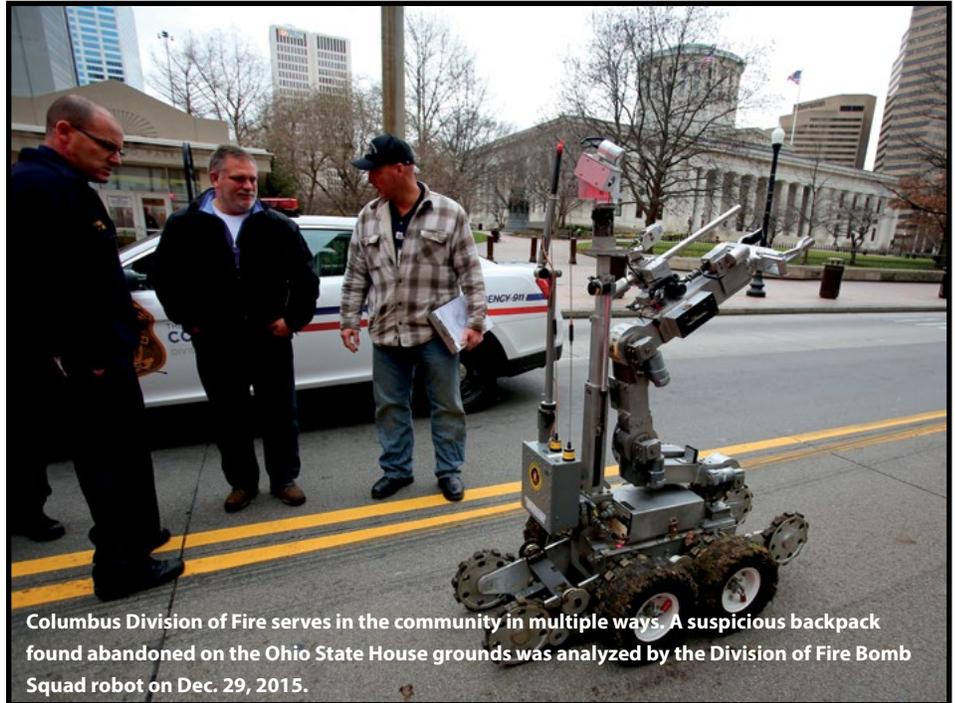
ENGINE 33 : 2142

ENGINE 34 : 739

COLUMBUS FIRE LADDER 13 LEADS THE CITY IN COMPANY RUNS



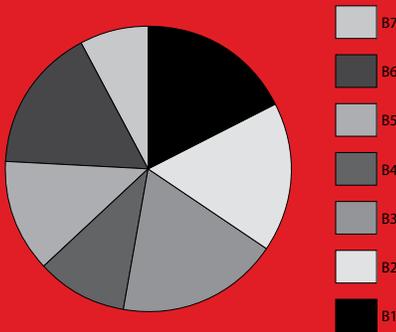
L1	2049	L23	1549
L5	332	L24	1734
L8	1839	L26	889
L10	1459	L27	635
L12	1400	L28	1325
L13	2277	L32	970
L15	1604	L33	863
L22	925		



Columbus Division of Fire serves in the community in multiple ways. A suspicious backpack found abandoned on the Ohio State House grounds was analyzed by the Division of Fire Bomb Squad robot on Dec. 29, 2015.

BS2	77	INV12	76	ISU19	146
BS3	4	INV13	125	MSU19	250
BS4	12	INV14	150	ROW1	997
CMD18	4	INV15	169	ROW2	828
DART2	42	INV16	89	RSU5	10
DECON4	11	INV17	26	RSU19	27
HZ4	53	INV3	11	SO2	778
INV10	9	INV36	110		
INV11	64	INV37	103		

BATTALION 3 SECURES THE BUSIEST LOGGING IN 2,402 RUNS IN 2015



BATTALION CHIEFS

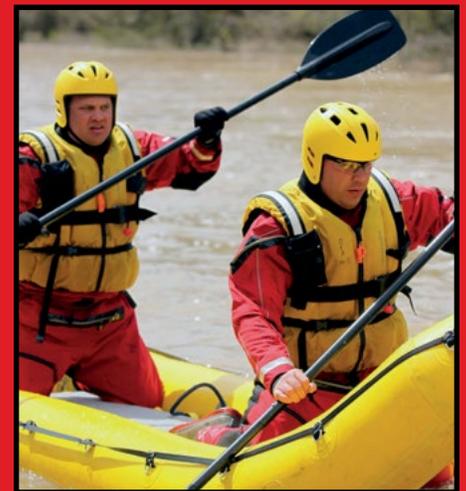
B1	2338
B2	2230
B3	2402
B4	1383
B5	1676
B6	2149
B7	1014

DIVE AND RESCUE TEAMS HIT THE WATER ON 87 DIFFERENT INCIDENTS WITH BOAT 25 LEADING THE WAY

BO2	6	BO21	4
BO4	6	BO22	5
BO5	1	BO23	4
BO6	4	BO25	10
BO10	9	BO26	4
BO11	8	BO27	3
BO14	6	BO29	1
BO19	8	BO30	8

EMS SUPERVISOR

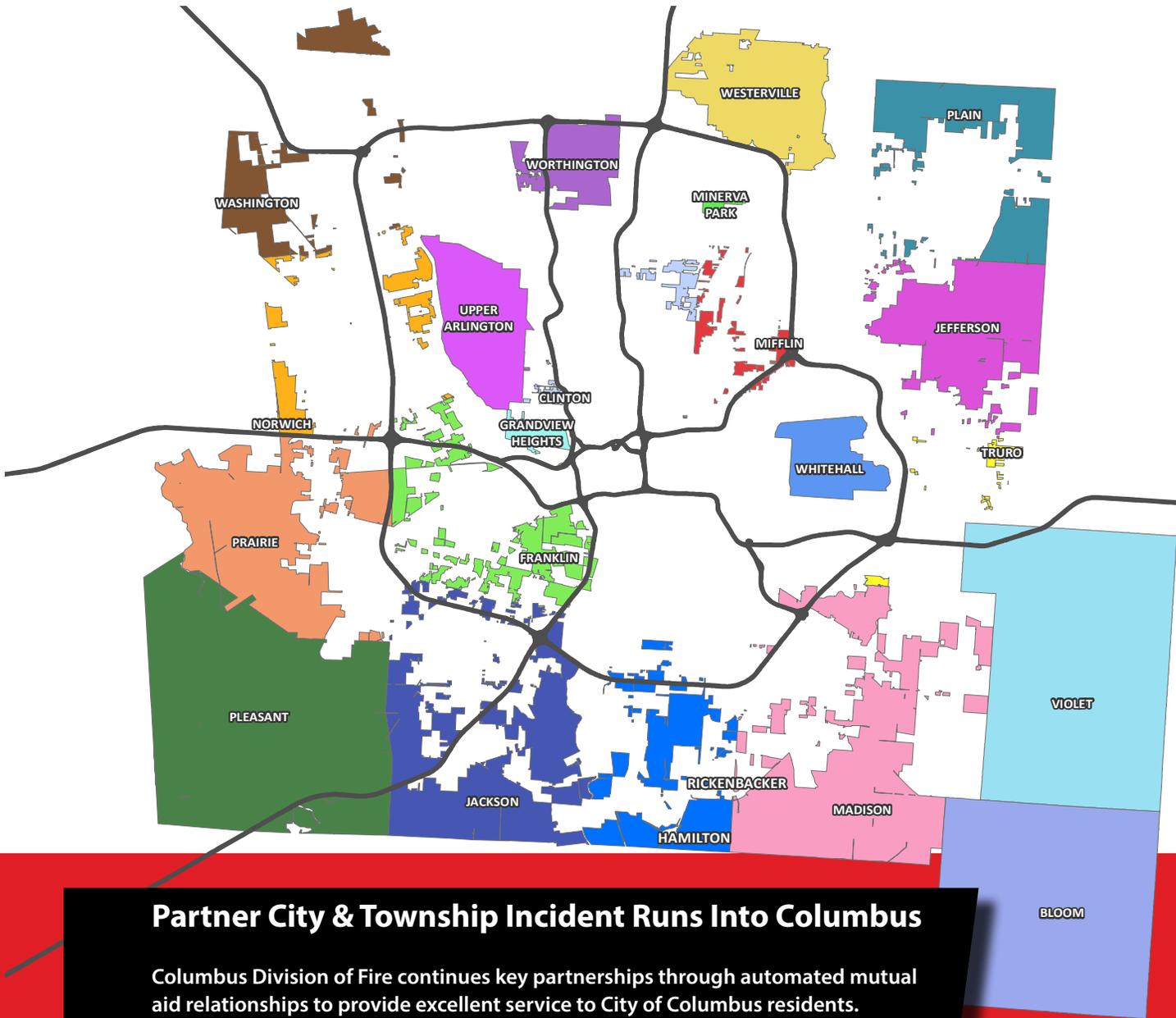
EMS 11	2582
EMS 12	2000
EMS 13	2720
EMS 14	2925
EMS 15	2903
EMS 16	1725
EMS 17	934



15,031

TOTAL RESCUE RUNS 2015

R2	3717
R4	3078
R11	1444
R16	4045
R17	2747



Partner City & Township Incident Runs Into Columbus

Columbus Division of Fire continues key partnerships through automated mutual aid relationships to provide excellent service to City of Columbus residents.

BLOOM
TOTALS : 7

JEFFERSON
TOTALS : 518

PLEASANT
TOTALS : 2

WASHINGTON
TOTALS : 432

CLINTON
TOTALS : 5431

MADISON
TOTALS : 2713

PRAIRIE
TOTALS : 2002

WESTERVILLE
TOTALS : 1979

FRANKLIN
TOTALS : 7289

MIFFLIN
TOTALS : 4742

RICKENBACKER
TOTALS : 113

WHITEHALL
TOTALS : 1678

GRANDVIEW HTS
TOTALS : 1644

MINERVA PARK
TOTALS : 291

TRURO
TOTALS : 2856

WORTHINGTON
TOTAL : 2137

HAMILTON
TOTALS : 3232

NORWICH
TOTALS : 573

UPPER ARLINGTON
TOTALS : 1519

JACKSON
TOTALS : 318

PLAIN
TOTALS : 506

VIOLET
TOTALS : 458

DEFINING MOMENTS IN 2015

611 MARION RD

On Friday, May 1, 2015, billows of smoke collided with blue skies and violent winds. The Columbus Division of Fire was dispatched to what would become a historic four-alarm fire at Phoenix Recycling Inc. on the south-side of the city.

Firefighters battled for more than 72 hours. As the companies left the fire-ground, they were greeted by Box 15, who supplied relief, food and basic rehab.

A total of 52 fire apparatus from multiple jurisdictions were used to get the blaze under control. Fifteen fire trucks flowed up to 1,000 gallons of water per minute each for over 10 hours during the initial incident. Crews worked seamlessly to fulfill the Division's mission of preserving life and property.

Critical risk assessments

were conducted. Downed electric lines were marked and 1,000 pound propane tanks and cylinders were protected and removed to create a safer environment on the fire-ground. Incident Command implemented a strategy that proved to be vital to the management of the fire. The tactic allowed the fire to burn toward the water flow rather than subject personnel to take water to the fire.

Communications and technology was vital to the transition of relief companies and media management.

Fire Alarm Office personnel were able to assist with operational decisions due to their knowledge of fire ground operations. The Public Information Office effectively disseminated information to local and national media outlets that kept the scene safe and allowed on-company personnel to focus on the fire devoid of distractions.

After the fire was extinguished, the Division's Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit determined the fire was the result of improperly discarded smoking materials. This determination was made after conducting extensive bystander and firefighter interviews, site analysis, and ruling out every other possible cause.

Franklin and Hamilton township Fire Departments also assisted on the fire.

4,200,000 Gallons of Water
321 Firefighters Deployed
134 Fire Apparatus Used
3 Days to Extinguish
+ 0 Injuries

JOB WELL DONE





IN THE FIRST 24

Fire and Explosives solve 2-alarm blaze within hours



Fire Chief Kevin O'Connor stood with Fire and Explosives Unit investigator Mike DeFrancisco to declare the 2-alarm, SJT Depot, 2662 Fisher Rd, blaze an arson but to proclaim that investigators had identified, located and arrested the suspect the same day. "This is a testament to the experience and diligence of our fire investigators," said Chief O'Connor. "Their quick actions and expertise enabled them to take a witness statement and transform it into an immediate arrest."

CIVILIAN RECEIVES FIRE CHIEF AWARD



Karla Short, EMS Education Manager received the 2015 Fire Chief's Award at the 26th Annual Division Awards Banquet, October 8, 2015.

For the first time, a civilian Division employee was publicly recognized for outstanding work ethic and/or a commendable act or acts which are deemed to be above and beyond those normally expected or required.

This past summer, City of Columbus Division firefighters volunteered and donated funds to Recreation Unlimited Camp to aid and assist

67 CHILDREN with neuromuscular diseases experience a week where anything is possible while gaining confidence and independence – all at no cost to their families thanks to the men and women of Columbus Fire.



DISTINGUISHED ACTS

The 26th Annual Columbus Fire Awards Banquet celebrated members and residents for acts of heroism and/or exceptional community service.

The historic October awards event enjoyed the largest attendance to date. The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Silver Maltese Award, the Division highest honor, to a collection of 20 firefighters for an incredible rescue in Canal Winchester. Fire billowed from the sides and the front entry of an engulfed home while a trapped couple was rescued from the basement. *(continued)*

TRIUMPH OVER PERSONAL TRAGEDY



Columbus Public Health transformed Division Firefighter Scott Widener's Safe Sleep program into CelebrateOne, a community initiative to reduce infant mortality rates. Widener's son died of sudden infant death syndrome in 2011.



Combined Fire Station 2 & 3 at 150 E Fulton St. closed after

53 YEARS The iconic structure was built in 1962, and was once considered the busiest fire station in the city. In 2001, the station was declared the busiest in the nation.



Division 911 dispatchers remained on the line coaching the couple how to stay safe, while fire crews worked feverishly to gain access to the basement.

The couple was found, unconscious, hugging, face-to-face on the floor with their cell phones still illuminating. Firefighters carried the victims up the basement stairs using a ladder to safety.

FIREFIGHTER MARK RHINE GETS SOME 'SKNLUV'



Division Firefighter Mark Rhine received the September 2015 Hometown Hero Award from radio station Sunny 95 and CME Federal Credit Union in recognition of his efforts to fight skin cancer. Rhine is a preeminent figure in the education, fight and prevention of skin cancer amongst first responders.



City Wellness Team teaches the art of healthy cooking

For three Thursdays in the month of September, civilians and firefighters united in the 3675 Parsons Avenue kitchen to learn the art of healthy cooking. The City of Columbus Wellness Program offered free hands-on cooking classes entitled, "Healthy Start to Home Cooking" to City employees in various satellite locations.

Fire Chief Gregory A. Paxton retires after 34 years of service to the Division. Paxton served as chief from 2012-2015.



Community Reward

The Division packed its bags and trucks with mannequins and defibrillators and marched all over the city to celebrate and educate the community on bystander CPR. It was an initiative that started in 2014 and continued to gain momentum in 2015.

The message was simple, "This is a chance to learn how to save a life. Every second is critical." The goal was to give anyone who wishes a chance to learn bystander CPR.



The "Sparky" Salute

Annual Firefighters for Kids Toy Drive Kick-off with partner NBC 4 collected thousands of toys, gift cards and monetary donations for over 5900 families and 18,000 children



David Whiting
Assistant Chief

The mission of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to serve the community by preventing emergencies through inspection and education and to minimize injury, death and property destruction, due to fire, natural disaster and other emergencies.

This mission is accomplished through annual, special, requested and life safety inspections, performed by trained and highly qualified fire inspectors. These inspectors are responsible for enforcing the fire code and helping businesses and the community, to provide a safe environment for schools, daycares, group homes, places of public assembly and area businesses.

Major Accomplishments

- Issued over 7000 permits.
- Invested in a new community educational resource, the Safe House. This apparatus now includes weather emergency preparedness, disaster preparedness and is now ADA accessible and equipped for the hearing impaired.
- Implemented a new fire extinguisher training program to train schools and businesses on proper use of fire extinguishers when requested.
- In total, all four of the offices performed more than 4,000 inspections.
- Reviewed more than 1900 building plans.
- Public Outreach performed over 300 programs, reaching thousands of participants.

“We strive to continue our proactive outreach to the community to educate, prevent loss and protect the lives of the city’s greatest assets: the citizens of Columbus and the visitors who are drawn to our great community.”

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICES

Plans Review and Permits assures code compliance in all plans submitted for new builds and renovations. Performs life safety inspections before these buildings are occupied by the public.

Special Inspections provides inspections for all outdoor events, pyrotechnic/firework displays, food cart/truck vendors, hotels and motels, underground storage tanks, complaint inspections and fire watches.

Annual Inspections provides inspections for all schools, (public, private, suburban, charter and colleges) and tracks fire drill records of same.

Requested Inspections provides inspections for daycares, group homes, adoptions and foster care. This section headed a Recycling Center Task Force to address and inspect salvage yards and recycling centers in the city. This task force works closely with various other city agencies.

Fire and Explosive Investigations determines the cause and origin of fires, whether suspicious, incendiary or explosive in nature, or any undetermined cause, as well as fires involving loss of life or of a significant dollar amount.

Public Outreach conducts education and training in several areas for the public, including the Fifty-Plus Program, Juvenile Fire Setter Program, Mentor Outreach, the Safe House Program and Diversity Outreach. These specialized programs address areas of the community including children, the elderly, disadvantaged students and acts as liaison to cultural communities in the city. This section also partners with community groups to help provide smoke detectors, heating assistance, clothing and school supplies for students, mentoring, and cooking safety and fall prevention for seniors.

PLANS REVIEW AND PERMITS SECTION HAS REVIEWED AND PERFORMED
1900 PLANS AND OVER 1700 INSPECTIONS

PROVIDED OVER 700 INSPECTIONS FOR GREATER COLUMBUS AREA
SCHOOLS INCLUDING PUBLIC, PRIVATE, SUBURBAN, CHARTER
AND COLLEGES THROUGH THE ANNUAL INSPECTIONS SECTION



COLUMBUS FIRE GOES TO HOLLYWOOD

ASSISTED IN THE INSPECTIONS AND SAFETY OF
PYROTECHNICS FOR THE MOVIE PRODUCTION OF "I AM WRATH"

EDUCATED MORE THAN 140,000
PEOPLE WITH 175 SAFE HOUSE PROGRAMS

1553 SMOKE ALARMS

INSTALLED IN HOMES THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

FIRE AND EXPLOSIVE INVESTIGATIONS SECTION
ANALYZED OVER 800 FIRE REPORTS AND FILED

87 CHARGES ON 54 INDIVIDUALS

Community Partnerships in Columbus Fire

This past year, the Fire Prevention Bureau partnered with several entities to bring fire safety awareness and educational programs to the community.

The Division partnered with the American Red Cross and the State of Ohio Fire Marshal to provide smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to “at risk” areas in the city. This program installed more than 1,307 units in targeted areas in the city.

The Division also actively participated in the Red Cross “Pillow Case Project,” instructing hundreds of school age children on disaster guidelines and getting out and staying out of a burning house or building.

Columbus Public Health transformed a safe sleep initiative developed by a Division



**Assistant Chief
David Whiting**

member into CelebrateOne, a program to help decrease infant mortality. Celebrate One is a collective community initiative to reduce the

300

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS CONDUCTED
EMPOWERING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF COLUMBUS





“We are a proactive Division. We use data to identity areas that need additional prevention resources.”

- Assistant Chief David Whiting

city’s high infant mortality rate. It is a partnership of many local organizations including the Columbus Division of Fire and Columbus Public Health.

A key strategy for Celebrate One is to reduce sleep-related deaths which account for nearly 17 percent of infant deaths. Columbus Fire and Columbus Public Health are working collectively to teach parents the ABC’s of safe sleep in an effort to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

In 2015, the Division and the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) joined forces to highlight

kitchen fire safety with the theme of “Preventing Kitchen Fires.”

The dynamic, interactive event taught hands-only CPR, educated families on how to escape a building and showcased the Division’s new Safe House trailer. Used by Public Outreach, the unit resembles a mobile home and is used to provide fire safety training to the public, including the elementary schools.

These and many other partnerships are what makes the City of Columbus a great place to live, work and raise a family.

It was one of the most memorable school lunches to date for the children of Southwood Elementary School in the Columbus City School District as Division volunteers decorated the cafeteria, served the students, staff and immediate family members a holiday dinner complete with toys, toys and more toys for dessert!

The Division has been working with kids throughout the school district and each year, one school is selected to receive the special luncheon. The students receive a multitude of toys. A few deserving students receive bicycles for their dedication and hard work in the classroom.





Richard Ballard
Assistant Chief

The mission of the Training Bureau is to assure that all members have the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and efficiently fulfill the mission of the Division. The management structure of the Training Bureau is organized to provide training for two general disciplines, fire training and emergency medical training. To accomplish this, the Bureau is divided into four functional areas, each having a specific area of expertise and training responsibility.

Major Accomplishments

- Upgraded the Division's on-line education system
- Members completed 52,218 hours of continuing education training
- Revamped Officer I training course
- Trained 209 members on Fire Behavior Lab
- Provided 38,984 hours of EMS training
- Completed training of the 102nd recruit class
- Updated the Division's record keeping system advancing the Division toward 100% paper free. To date, the bureau has eliminated 200,000 pages from storage
- Through a partnership with Columbus State Community College, the Training Bureau has facilitated members earning 4,137 college credits
- Provided approximately 900 hours of training to Auxiliary members utilizing the Burn Building, the Roof Simulator and the Training Tower at the Division of Fire's training complex.

"Let no man's ghost come back to say 'my training let me down.'"

TRAINING BUREAU OFFICES

The Emergency Medical Training is responsible for training all levels of emergency medical providers and assisting members in maintaining certifications through extensive continuing education courses.

The Recruit Training is responsible for receiving civilian candidates and converting them into firefighters with EMT Basic, Firefighter II, and Fire Inspector certifications.

The Officer and Specialized Training is responsible for officer and in-service training including HazMat, ARFF, technical rescue, and state mandated Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector continuing education.

The Apprenticeship Training is responsible for the training of newly graduated firefighters until they attain certification as a Journeyman Firefighter. The unit is also responsible for practical skill development, testing, and final evaluation of all Journeyman candidates.

THE DIVISION OF FIRE TRAINING BUREAU HAS PROVIDED
38,984 HOURS OF EMS TRAINING

DESIGNED, CREATED AND CONSTRUCTED INNOVATIVE NEW TOOLS TO CHALLENGE,
PREPARE AND EDUCATE NEW RECRUITS ON THE PHYSICAL RIGORS OF FIREFIGHTING

4,137 COLLEGE CREDITS EARNED

THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

52,218 HOURS

OF CONTINUOUS EDUCATION EARNED BY DIVISION MEMBERS



The Training Academy

This \$9.7 million dollar complex includes a natural gas fired burn building, six-story training tower, practical skills building and various additional training props. These facilities have been utilized extensively for recruit, apprentice, and in-service training evolutions. In 2015, the Training Academy completed one class of 34 recruits and began a second class of 42 recruits, all of which extensively use these facilities for their fire training. Features of this facility include:



PRACTICAL SKILLS BUILDING houses training staff offices, apparatus and equipment to conduct skills training and testing indoors in inclement weather.

BURN BUILDING is a two story building with an attic space, kitchen, bedroom and featuring natural gas burn props and smoke production on all levels to allow a vast variety of training opportunities.

TRAINING TOWER is a six-story masonry structure with a two-story wing to simulate high rise emergency operations with a variety of openings and anchors to facilitate ladder, rope and confined space training evolutions.

ROOF SIMULATOR is a wooden structure that includes three different roof pitches; 6/12, 8/12 and 12/12. This provides roof training in a controlled, safe environment.

SHELTER HOUSE is an open-sided, forty by sixty foot shelter with electric and water service designed to provide a haven from the heat and rain in an outdoor training environment.

STORAGE BUILDING is a forty by sixty foot "pole barn" used to store equipment and supplies for off-site live fire training evolutions.

FLASH OVER SIMULATOR allows members to witness the signs of an impending flash-over first hand.

VENT, ENTER AND SEARCH SIMULATOR, built by Division training staff, allows for simulation of search and rescue techniques on a 4/12 pitch roof as well as vertical entry techniques from a flat metal roof area.

CONFINED SPACE SIMULATION AREA includes multiple configurations of underground piping to allow for training in confined space entry and removal.

SEARCH AND RESCUE CONTAINERS Enables training evolutions with multiple floor plans. The prop allows for over 20 floor plans for changing search pattern each time.

CONFIDENCE MAZE has collapsing floor and stairs, narrow passage and entanglement maze.

FORCIBLE ENTRY DOOR simulator allows for inward/outward door simulation. The doors are portable and are used for In-service training at fire stations.

OBSTACLE COURSE is used for Physical Training (PT). It consists of 12 events that correspond to fireground activities, including 5" hose pull, ladder climb, pike pole push/pull simulator, and dummy drag.

TRAINING GROUNDS surrounding all of these structures is a large expanse of heavy duty reinforced concrete to accommodate fire apparatus. There are 12 fire hydrants, a pond with dry hydrants for drafting, and a half-mile asphalt running trail that extends around the complex used for physical training.



Our Mission

Our mission as the Columbus Division of Fire is to serve our community by:

- Preventing emergencies through education and inspection.
- Minimizing injury, death, and property destruction due to fire, natural disaster and other emergencies.
- Minimizing injury, death and suffering by providing timely and effective emergency medical services.



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DIVISION OF FIRE