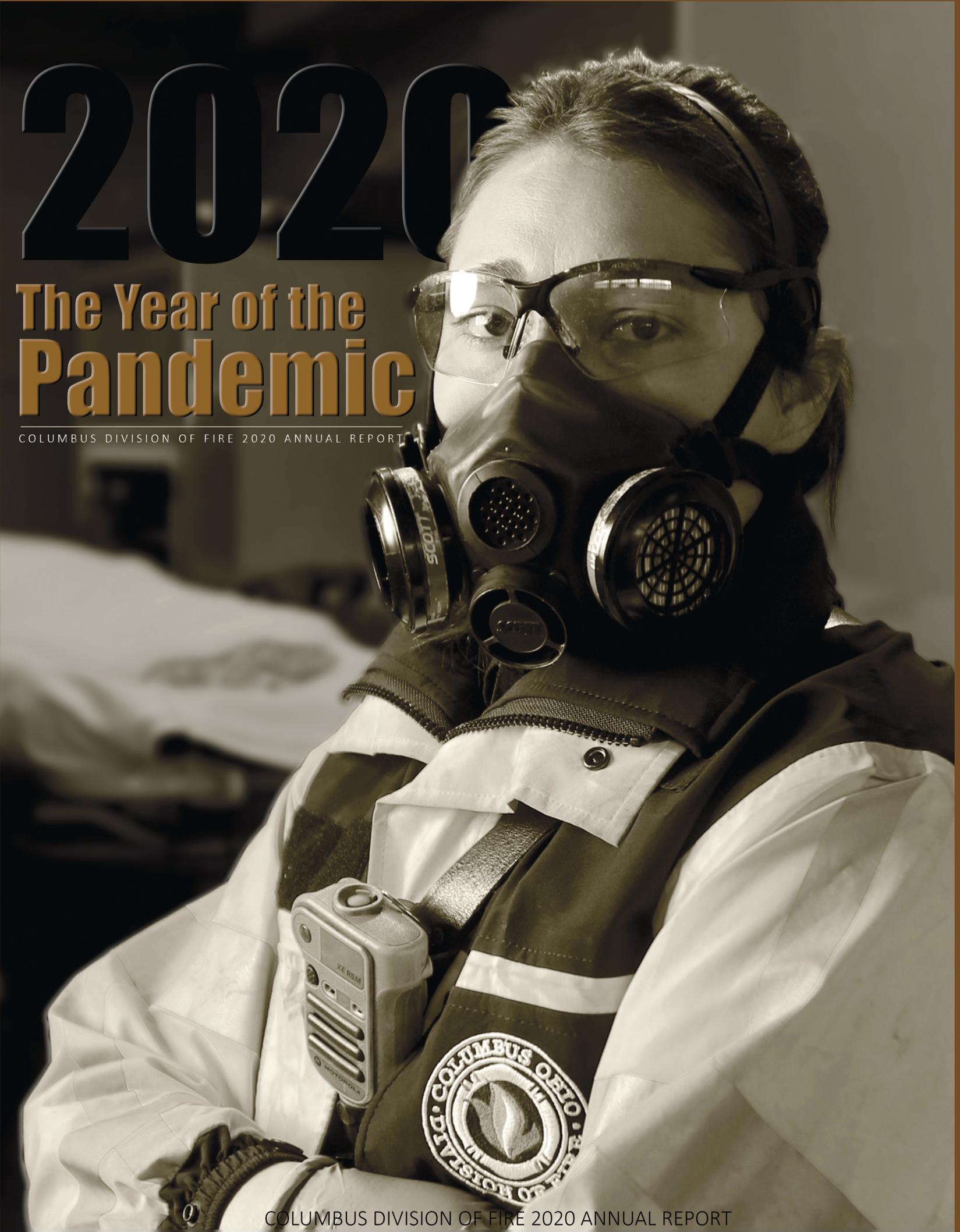


# 2020

## The Year of the Pandemic

COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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Welcome to the Columbus Division of Fire 2020 Annual Report. This document is published by the Division's Public Information Office, and provides a look back on the efforts, priorities and accomplishments of the 1,592 uniformed and 70 civilian professionals serving the citizens of Columbus, Ohio.

**Public Information Office**  
 Battalion Chief Steve Martin, PIO  
 Rebecca Diehm Assistant PIO  
 James Miller Photography & Design

**Photos (cover)** EMT-B Amber Salsburey of Station 16 is suited up for a medic run in Covid-19 protective gear. See page 24. **Top Photo:** Firefighter HAZ MAT Tech George Roback suits up to enter Battelle Memorial Institute to investigate a fire in February. See page 22 for stats. **Second Photo:** Fire Medic John Canter gives Covid-19 vaccines on the Ohio State Fairgrounds. **Third Photo:** Lt. Issac Toliver distributes Narcan at a Linden area community event. See page 48. **Bottom Left:** Recruits from the 110th Fire Recruit Class plant flags around Veterans Memorial Museum in May. See page 30. **Bottom Right:** Members of Battalion 1, 1 Unit assembled on the Ohio Statehouse to display the Patriot Flag on Oct. 12, 2020. From left is Eric Baldrige, Lt. Scott Highfill, Jonathan Lent, Justin Beeson, Brad Sibley, Lt. Robert Houser, Deputy Chief Sean Wooten, Steve Ison, Capt. Aaron Renner, Lt. Joseph Griesbach, David Arnold, Lt. Chad Bair, Robert Paxton III, Todd Allen, Robert Chambers, Brandon Leidel, Battalion Chief Steve Martin, Brian Murphy and Bo Ewing. See pages 63 & 64.



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24



48



30



64



To all of the men and women of the Columbus Division of Fire: My heartfelt thanks for all that you do for the safety of the residents of Columbus.

First responders are the finest examples of our essential workers and have had to deal with the many challenges of protecting themselves, their families, their co-workers and their families,

while still delivering lifesaving service to our residents and visitors. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic reshaped the way the Division of Fire delivered EMS to the sick and injured. You faced initial Personal Protective Equipment shortages and had to use what you had prudently while dealing with a pandemic virus where information on its signs, symptoms, means of spread and how to clean, disinfect and decontaminate were constantly evolving.

While many city employees were directed to work remotely when possible, you remained on the front line, often putting yourselves and your family members at risk. The division faced civil unrest in 2020 at levels

not experienced in Columbus since the 1960's, before most of the members of the division were born. This proved to be another example of how our firefighters put personal feelings and fears aside and responded to calls for help from people who were injured or to the many fires that were set. They ignored the rocks and bricks being thrown at their vehicles and continued to serve the community and significantly help decrease potential property loss that may have occurred otherwise.

We saw the retirement of Fire Chief Kevin O'Connor after he served the city for 31 years, the last five as chief. And, for the first time, the City opened up the search for a new chief to include applicants

from outside the division. The new chief will be named early in 2021.

Safety remains the top priority of our firefighters whose mission is to preserve life and property. Every single day, you leave your families and your homes to save the lives of people you have never met. Sometimes that means our firefighters pay the ultimate price with their own lives. We recognize that your families make that sacrifice, as well, and that behind every firefighter is a mother and father, a sister and brother, a son and daughter who must go on without their child, their sibling or their parent. We cannot begin to express our gratitude.

Sincerely,

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther

## ***“MY HEARTFELT THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS OF COLUMBUS”***

*- City of Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther*



It has become cliché to say 2020 was a year like no other, but it bears repeating. This was a year that tested all of us in new and incredibly difficult ways. The pain, hardship and heartbreak inflicted by COVID-19 was felt far and wide. We all had to find new ways to live, new ways to work, and new ways to stay safe and healthy. Few

professions experienced that more sharply than our first responders.

Under the leadership of Chief Happ, this Division not only rose to the challenge- you attacked it. Fire and EMS don't get a sick day- even during a pandemic. The calls for service don't stop. The people needing your expert help don't go away. I am proud of each and every one of you, and how you persisted and continued to provide the essential work of public safety while protecting yourselves, your co-workers and your families.

While COVID-19 may have defined 2020, it didn't define or diminish

the mission of Columbus Fire.

We celebrated the opening of Fire Station 35. We celebrated working toward a more diverse Division by graduating the most diverse class in decades, educating ourselves on implicit bias, and continuing to shape the future of public safety through our cadet program by starting another class of 20 cadets. We also celebrated the promotion of Assistant Chief Tracy Smith making history and breaking a glass ceiling .

Our RREACT program grew and positively impacted the lives of more of our friends and neighbors. It continues to be a model for

other communities who wish to take positive action to reduce the impact of the on-going opiate epidemic .

You continue to serve your city well and faithfully, through the most daunting and dangerous of times.

That is leadership. That is public service. That is why you are the best.

With gratitude and respect,

**Ned Pettus Jr., PhD.**

Director

Department of Public Safety



## Message from Jeffrey Happ Interim Fire Chief · Columbus Division of Fire

To say 2020 was an unprecedented year in the Columbus Division of Fire is an understatement. Shortly after the beginning of the year the Division was greeted with a global pandemic which has impacted all of us professionally and personally, including our families. Trial by fire is a phrase we use often and the COVID-19 pandemic tested our relatively new Executive staff, Medical Director, and the IAFF Local 67 President as we navigated uncharted waters.

I'd be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank retired Fire Chief Kevin O'Connor for his leadership and guidance during the first few months of the pandemic. The success of our leadership team and the

Division did not come easy. Although it appeared as if we operated seamlessly and effectively it would not have been possible without the strong foundation and relationships that were laid in previous years. Most importantly, the success of the Columbus Division of Fire can directly be attributed to the outstanding women and men of the Division who make up our ranks and stand ready to serve regardless of the situation.

As I transitioned into the role as Interim Fire Chief on May 28, 2020, the Division and our city was confronted with another historical challenge that very few, if any, in the Division had ever experienced. The calls for social justice reform resulted in civil unrest

and protests which taxed our resources and once again put our members on the front lines in harm's way. The vast knowledge and experience of Assistant Chief Richard Ballard and Assistant Chief David Walton provided a calming influence and trusted advisory helping myself and the Division navigate these challenges.

For those of you who know me personally, you understand the importance and value I place on relationships. It is my belief that strong respectful and personal relationships are the foundation for the success of any TEAM. The Columbus Division of Fire is my TEAM and it is my job as the Fire Chief to support each and every member to help make us successful.

If you have heard it once, you'll hear it again, I work for you. We work for each other and the residents and visitors of our great city. Every member of the Division serves a vital role in the success of our TEAM and requires and deserves the support of one another. These values have and will be the guiding compass during my tenure as your Fire Chief and I expect the same from all of our members.

Although 2020 provided unprecedented challenges the division not only survived but continued to excel and grow. The pandemic impacted our work force and reduced our ranks but our TEAM never wavered. The Division discovered new ways to adapt to the ever changing environment and continued almost as if it was business as usual. The Emergency Services staff worked collectively to develop a POD staffing model which provided continuity and consistency. It protected our work force and kept morale high at a time when we were facing uncertainty and adversity.

The Training Bureau continued to provide training to our members and introduced new Recruit and Cadet classes during these challenging times. The Fire Prevention Bureau's District Inspector Program not only maintained the success of previous years, it expanded and relieved some of the burden from our Emergency Service crews. The EMS outreach programs RREACT and SPARC continued to provide service and outreach during a time when similar programs shut their doors and reduced service. The Arson Investigation Unit and Bomb Squad met the challenges of the increased work load created by the civil unrest and executed flawlessly. The EMS Bureau, Medical Director, and Safety Officer TEAMS provided guidance

and assistance to our members and their families, providing the necessary resources to combat this pandemic. Finally none of these efforts would have been possible without the Support Services and Administration Bureaus providing the behind the scenes resources and guidance.

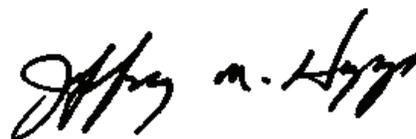
The Impact of 2020 on me personally has been profound, challenging, and rewarding. This year provided me the opportunity to swear in the Columbus Fire 110th Recruit Class which included my son Josh and to welcome my son Jared into Class 111. Personally I have a lot riding on the success of the Division and must ensure that it continues to improve, strengthen, and become more diverse, and inclusive for all members. The Columbus Division of Fire is in a great position to meet these challenges not because of me, but because of the great TEAM which I serve.

In closing, I'm pleased to offer the 2020 Annual Report which will memorialize the events of this historical year and recognize the hard work, professionalism, and dedication of its members. I will leave you with the following thought from General Stanley McChrystal,

*"An organization must constantly be led and pushed uphill towards what it must be, stop pushing it doesn't continue or even rest in place. It rolls backwards. There is a temptation for all of us to blame failure on factors outside of our control. There is comfort in doubling down on proven processes regardless of their outcome. Few of us are criticized if we faithfully do what has worked many times before. But feeling comfortable or dodging criticism should not be our measure of success. Just trying hard is not enough what really matters is succeeding."*

Keep pushing, keep leading, and keep succeeding!!!!

Sincerely,



Fire Chief Jeffrey M. Happ

# 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.

## 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.



### BATTALION 1

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

Station 2, Built 2017  
"John Nance Station"  
150 E. Fulton Street  
Columbus, OH, 43215

### BATTALION 2

Station 6, Built 1969  
"Sharon Woods Firehouse"  
5750 Maple Canyon  
Columbus, OH, 43229

Station 24, Built 1960  
"Northland Area Firehouse"  
1585 Morse Road  
Columbus, OH, 43224

### 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

### NEWEST EDITION

**FIRE STATION 16**  
**1465 OAKLAND PARK AVE.**  
**OPENED JAN, 2021**

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 28, Built 1981  
"Stelzer Ridge Firehouse"  
3240 McCutcheon Road  
Columbus, OH, 43219

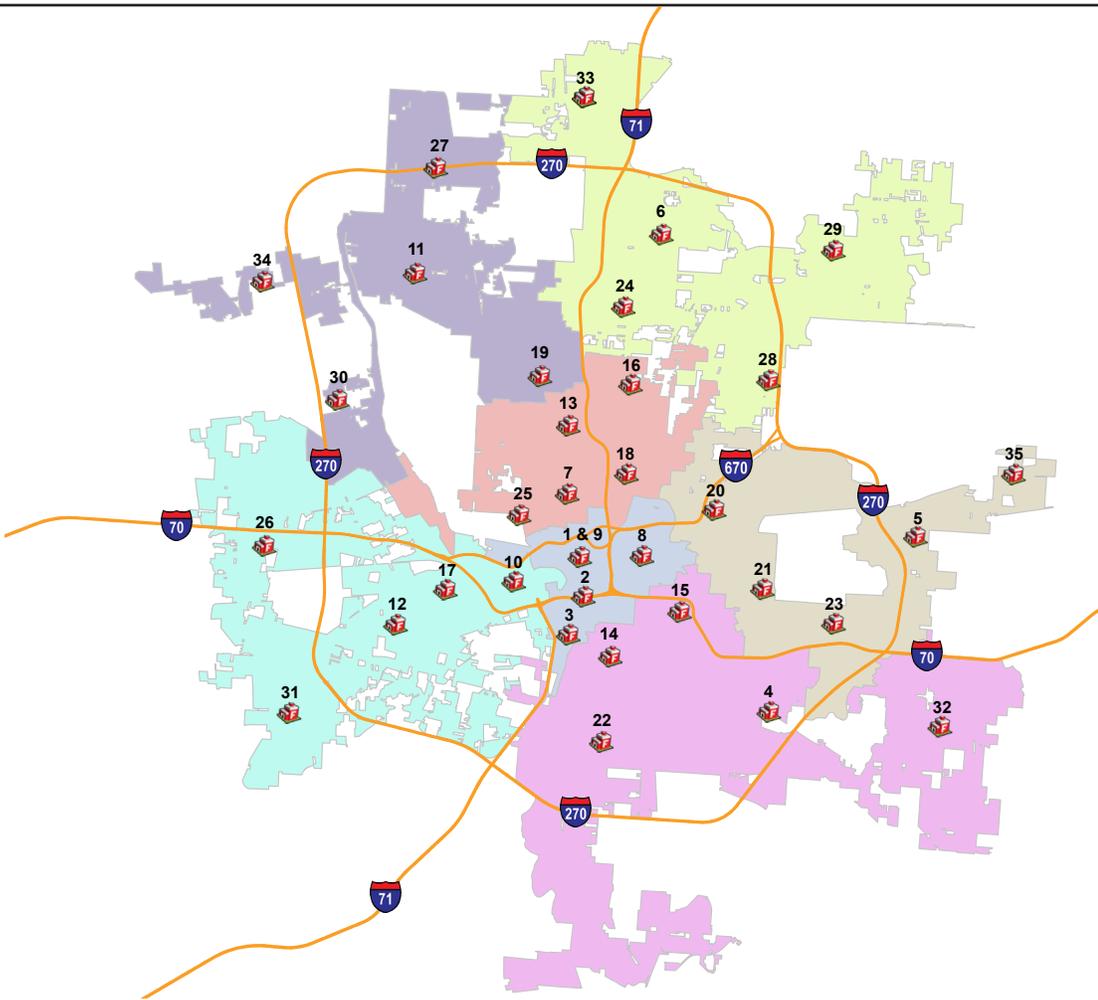
Station 29, Built 1984  
"Little Turtle Station"  
5151 Little Turtle Way  
Columbus, OH, 43081

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

Station 16, Built 2020  
"North Linden Station"  
1465 Oakland Park Avenue  
Columbus, OH, 43224

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

Station 25, Built 1961  
"Gowdy Field Station"  
739 W. Third Avenue  
Columbus, OH, 43212



**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"  
1514 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

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

**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"  
2250 W. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH, 43223

Station 26, Built 1974  
"The Rock"  
5433 Fisher Road  
Columbus, OH, 43228

Station 31, Built 1988  
"Bolton Field Fire Station"  
5305 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 35, Built 2019  
"Far East Fire Station"  
711 N Waggoner Road  
Blacklick, OH, 43004

**BATTALION 7**

Station 11, Built 1991  
"Don Scott Station"  
2200 W. Case Road  
Columbus, OH, 43017

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, 43071

Station 30, Built 1988  
"Wyandotte Fire Station"  
3555 Fishinger Blvd  
Columbus, OH, 43026

Station 34, Built 2003  
"Sleepy Hollow"  
5201 Wilcox Road  
Columbus, OH, 43016

## Division of Fire Public Information Office

The Public Information Office (PIO) serves as the point of contact for the Division of Fire to media outlets, residents, businesses and Division members. The office consists of a Battalion Chief Public Information Officer, a civilian Assistant Public Information Officer and a civilian photographer.

The PIO staff is available for media inquiries 24 hours a day and responds to major events to provide accurate and timely information to the public. The PIO coordinates press releases and media advisories for the Division of Fire for both emergent and non-emergent information.

In 2020, the PIO continued to focus on getting messaging to the public utilizing print, on-line and social media platforms. The staff expanded our reach via the division's social media platforms including: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by promoting the division's good works and publishing interesting content. We assisted in solving criminal arson cases by posting photos and information on our social media platforms. Our posts helped to encourage the public to provide tips that led to positive identification of suspects.

As a division liaison, our office worked to facilitate Columbus, the Ohio Fire Training Academy and other Central Ohio fire departments to be the host for the 2021 and 2022 Firehouse Expo, a national fire training convention.

Additionally, the PIO Office worked with a national television show, LIVE Rescue, to have them air a dramatic ladder rescue performed at a fire on December 5, 2020. The segment aired on December 18, 2020.

Division Photographer, James Miller, wrote a comprehensive article about the Mobile Stroke Unit and submitted it with his photographs for publication in Firehouse Magazine. (July 2020 edition).

The PIO Office worked with the Training Bureau to create a COVID acceptable graduation celebration for Class 110. This was done with incredible coordination between Fire and Columbus TV (Ctv), to produce a ceremony that was broadcast live via Ctv's cable channel and the City of Columbus YouTube Channel. The ceremony was done without any family members being able to attend.

The PIO Office also worked with the Prevention Bureau in 2020 to develop a virtual Fire Prevention Week Program. This was designed to deliver fire safety tips by different firefighters every day, also taking advantage to show the diversity we have in our division. The messages were published on our social message as well as a special page on the division webpage. We created a web address, [firepreventionweek.columbus.gov](http://firepreventionweek.columbus.gov), and a QR Code, to make it easy for people to find this information. We also video recorded a virtual open house to showcase station 35 for everyone since it opened without the typical celebration.

## Division of Fire Recruiting Office

The Columbus Division of Fire Recruitment Unit had a very challenging year with the onset of Covid-19. Due to the pandemic and shut down, many of the community events that we would normally attend to showcase the Columbus Division of Fire were cancelled. Through our recruiting efforts from past years and by word of mouth, we were still able to connect potential candidates and keep those currently in the process and attempting to start the process informed.

We met with candidates virtually and over the phone. We were able to reach out to candidates to inform them of phase one civil service testing. This allows any candidate to take the civil service written test. Once a candidate successfully passes this portion of the test they do not have to take the written exam again for two testing cycles. These individuals along with those who have already passed will be eligible to apply for the open application period starting in January 2022.

EZtexting and Eventbrite are two marketing platforms used to keep individuals informed of the most up to date information such as; test dates and recruiting events. We had 401 potential candidates sign up for EZtexting, from January 1, 2020 through February 15, 2021.

Eventbrite is an additional online tool used to promote and send information via email about our existing and future recruiting events. There were 1,135 potential candidates that signed up between the months of January, 1st 2020 through March 2nd, 2020.

If you know of someone who would make a great member of our team, have them text "joincfd" to 474747!



## Division of Fire Medical Director's Office

Obviously the year 2020 was a unique event for EMS, the Division of Fire and society as a whole. While many immediate and planning responses were driven by COVID and rapidly changing knowledge and spread in a pandemic, the Medical Director's Office was busy with many aspects to ensure quality, and improve operational medical aspects. A sampling of the work and highlights includes:

- Successful deployment and accompanying education for transition to the ZOLL product line of Monitor/Defibrillators and AEDs. This transition of devices was a significant effort of many years of evaluation that culminated in file deployment that occurred just weeks prior to the declaration of local and state health emergency related to COVID-19.
- Implemented Medical Director ride-alongs beginning with assigned EMSO (interrupted and hampered by COVID). In addition, the presence of EMS Fellows on ride-alongs was implemented in 2020.
- Ongoing work to strengthen the role of the EMSO and facilitate the EMSO as direct extension of the Medical Director accelerated in 2020. Medical Director involvement in testing, and participation in development and the delivery of the EMSO orientation class, as well as EMSO CE day program. EMSO CE day 1 was completed in 2020.
- Extensive COVID efforts dominated much of 2020 including the planning of responses to patients, mitigation of exposures and development of quarantine, isolation and monitoring plans with Public Health and CFD Safety and Innovation. The medical recommendations were widely shared with our local, regional and state partners.
- Collaborated with local healthcare systems for the COVID testing of membership to meet and maintain the goals of CFD operations and response.

- The division partnered with Columbus Public Health for the deployment of paramedic personnel for the Influenza vaccination, and ultimately for the deployment and vaccination administration at Columbus Public Health sites against COVID-19.

- The Office of the Medical Director has worked with the training staff to become more involved in interaction with EMT-B, Paramedic and Certified Recruit Training and education. In addition, participation in instructor education and updates has increased.

- Work has continued on protocol updates with a simultaneous stated goal of "Less Words" and "More Actions". In an effort to make protocol both up to date medically but also as a more usable quick resource with appropriate additional information and education aspects separate from immediate treatment aspects.

- Brought on four EMS Fellows in partnership with both the Ohio State Wexner and OhioHealth EMS Fellowship Training programs, for the Academic year beginning July 1, 2020. The fellows have simultaneously been engaged learners of EMS, but also have served as medical assets in development of training, protocol research, and development of quality projects accomplished on behalf of the division and under the direction of the Medical director and the CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement) office. With the academic year straddling the calendar year we will be nearing completion of those quality projects in first half of 2021.





**David Baugh**  
**Assistant Chief**

**“Our mission is to develop and monitor accounting practices, financial measures and administrative procedures which promote achievement of the Division’s goals and objectives. The Bureau coordinates the efficient allocation of funds and the establishment of measures that ensure adherence to established practices and procedures by all Division personnel.”**

#### **Administration Bureau**

Areas of responsibility include the Assistant Chief’s Office, Administrative Investigations Unit, Human Resources, Payroll and the Business Office. The Bureau Chief represents the Division of Fire in contract negotiations and disciplinary hearings; adjudicates disciplinary cases; interacts with other city divisions and departments; serves as a project manager on department initiatives; and coordinates with outside agencies.

#### **Assistant Chief’s Office**

A Captain and an Administrative Assistant work with the Assistant Chief in handling the day to day operations of the office. Office responsibilities include tracking and processing administrative investigations; personnel transfers; administrative assignments; light duty assignments; disciplinary matters; administering the Division’s cellular communications program and administering the Division’s flower fund.

Major accomplishments for 2020 include:

- Completed 200 hours of Continued education of staff
- Developed policy to conduct telephonic interviews when appropriate in light of Covid-19 restrictions
- Partnered with Columbus Police Internal Investigations and City officials on the design and development of the Joint Safety Administration Complex scheduled for 1185 E Broad
- Improved audio/ visual recording capabilities in interview rooms for safety and training issues
- Conducted multiple educational presentations to groups such as (Officer School, Paramedic School, Recruit Training, and the Cadet program) regarding proper work ethics and how the Administrative Investigative Unit operates.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

#### **Administrative Investigations Unit**

The Administrative Investigations Unit (AIU) is charged with the receipt, processing, and investigation of allegations made against members of the Columbus Division of Fire and performing the background investigation of all uniform new hires. The Administrative Investigations Unit is currently commanded by a Battalion Chief, who reports to the Assistant Chief of the Administrative Bureau, who reports directly to the Fire Chief of the City of Columbus.

The Unit includes the following personnel, one captain, three lieutenants, five firefighters, and one full-time and one part-time administrative assistant. The investigators assigned to the Administrative Investigations Unit have decades of combined fire/EMS and investigative experience.

In 2020 the Administrative Investigation Unit investigated 88 cases, of which 47 were citizen complaints, and 41 came from an assignment directive from the Fire Chief. Also, they were 21 cases carried over from 2019. In total, over 250 individual interviews were conducted by AIU investigators.

#### **Background Investigations Unit**

The primary mission of the Background Investigations Section is to ensure that candidates are thoroughly vetted before being appointed to a recruit class. Investigators are currently working on candidates from the 2019 Firefighter Eligible list, which became effective on August 25, 2019. There were 553 candidates total on the list broken up into three bands. There were 133 candidates in the 90 band, 208 in the 80 band, and 212 in the 70 band. We have exhausted the 90 band and are currently working with candidates from the 80 band.

Investigators are required to complete a comprehensive investigation into a candidate's background to determine if a candidate meets the Division of Fire's strict hiring standards. If it is determined that a candidate meets a removal standard, a request is sent to the Civil Service Commission to remove the candidate from the list.

From the 2019 list, 33 candidates have been removed for honesty/falsification issues, 19 have been removed for drug usage related issues, and four candidates were removed for criminal activity. Three candidates were removed for employment-related issues, and two were removed for traffic offense associated matters. Thirty-five candidates

were removed for non-responsiveness or declining to continue with the hiring process, and nine candidates failed to pass a stress test.

Background investigation operations were severely impacted by Covid-19 in 2020 and encountered the following issues; Columbus Police Department suspended polygraphs, candidates' previous employers were not available to answer questions about candidates' work history, and oral boards were not conducted for a few months due to social distancing requirements. Despite the challenges, investigators processed 109 candidates from the 80 band and completed over 80 background investigations. 68 Candidates completed the Oral Board.

An Oral Board Member training class was conducted for the first time in over four years. Ten new members completed the training, along with sixteen current board members that completed refresher training.

**Business Office**

The Business Office, comprised of the Fiscal Manager, Management Analyst II, Management Analyst I, and Purchasing Expeditor is responsible for managing all financial operations for the Columbus Division of Fire.

Fiscal Manager - Supervises business office personnel; prepares and reviews operating, capital, and special revenue budgets; oversees the legislating and procuring of major and revenue services contracts; manages EMS Billing, Lockbox deposits, general budget reservations management, petty cash, etc.

Management Analyst II- Responsible for overseeing EMS Supply contracts, ordinance and accounts payable, assists Research and Development with formal bids & associated ordinances, manages Grants legislation and detailed informal procurement specifications etc.

*Administration Continued page 59*

# 2020 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

**OPERATING BUDGET**

<b>PERSONNEL (Payroll)</b>	<b>\$ 220,023,277</b>
<b>SUPPLIES, including hoses, uniforms, turnout gear, etc.</b>	<b>\$ 4,775,582</b>
<b>SERVICES, including EMS Billing, Telestaff, PulsePoint, etc.</b>	<b>\$ 9,393,902</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES, including refunds, damage claims, etc.</b>	<b>\$ 29,996</b>
<b>TRANSFER, including supplies for recruits</b>	<b>\$ 93,715</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$234,316,471</b>
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**CAPITAL PURCHASES**

<b>5 Sutphen Monarch Rescues</b>	<b>\$ 3,836,685</b>
<b>1 Pierce Tiller Ladder</b>	<b>\$ 1,383,038</b>
<b>Genesis Rescue Extrication Tools</b>	<b>\$ 244,510</b>
<b>Medic 21 &amp; Medic 8 Repair</b>	<b>\$ 280,872</b>
<b>28 Thermal Imaging Cameras</b>	<b>\$ 140,000</b>
<b>1 Decontamination Unit Upfit</b>	<b>\$ 147,703</b>
<b>Motorola Communications Unit</b>	<b>\$ 80,665</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,975,290</b>
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2017		2018		2019	
General Fund Operating Budget		General Fund Operating Budget		General Fund Operating Budget	
Personnel	\$ 232,801,281	Personnel	\$ 242,623,857	Personnel	\$ 248,087,414
Supplies	\$ 4,100,462	Supplies	\$ 4,180,576	Supplies	\$ 4,565,560
Services	\$ 11,056,289	Services	\$ 11,073,670	Services	\$ 12,860,603
Other	\$145,143	Other	\$147,150	Other	\$150,847
Transfer	\$ 8,940	Transfer	\$ 19,458	Transfer	\$ 7,154
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 248,112,115</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 258,044,710</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 265,671,578</b>

2017 Capital Purchases		2018 Capital Purchases		2019 Capital Purchases	
Defibrillators	\$ 222,854	Sutphen Pumpers	\$ 3,133,665	10 Horton Medics	\$ 2,829,004
JAG Grant Ballistic Vests	\$ 103,824	Horton EMS Medics	\$ 1,467,629	1 Sutphen Aerial Platform	\$ 1,381,924
Commercial Washers & Dryers	\$ 75,081	Pierce Ladder Truck	\$ 1,309,312	2 Sutphen Engines	\$ 1,256,166
BoundTree UCAPIT Machines	\$ 217,995	Sutphen Ladder Truck	\$ 1,290,312	Zoll Defibrillators	\$ 923,141
Custom Pumpers	\$ 1,838,217	Driving Simulator	\$ 555,943	10 Stryker Power Cots	\$ 421,728
Pierce Tiller Ladder Truck	\$ 1,315,326	Motorola Radios	\$ 89,670	Command SCBA Module	\$ 147,703
Horton Medic Trucks (4)	\$ 2,618,719	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,846,531</b>	Ladder 15 Repair	\$80,665
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,392,877</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,040,331</b>



**Assistant Chief  
Richard Ballard**

The mission of the Support Services Bureau (SSB) is to provide and maintain the facilities, apparatus, equipment, and supplies so that the Division of Fire can serve the public effectively and efficiently, to receive emergency and non-emergency calls and to dispatch the necessary response through our Fire Alarm Office.

#### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

##### Building Projects

On March 23, the long awaited opening of Station 35 took place with the tradition of physically pushing the apparatus from the ramp into the bay. Because of COVID-19, there was no formal ceremony or fanfare. From that day to the end of the year Station 35 has taken 1,811 runs, an average of almost 6.4 a day.

The remarkable feature of this new station is the floorplan which incorporates transition spaces designed to allow firefighters, who are contaminated from prior EMS/Fire incidents, to get from the apparatus into the station in a way that does not bring contaminants into the living area.

**Station 1 Plumbing Replacement Project:** This one-year project replaced the deteriorated and irreparable first-floor plumbing and updated the first-floor showers and restrooms. Through tremendous cooperation of the station personnel and the contractor, the work was completed in phases so that the station could remain open.

**Station 15 Ground Water Project:** This project is in phase two of a three phase project. The goal of the project is to eliminate excessive ground water that penetrates the basement at station 15. The project consists of boring observation wells several blocks away from and around the station. The goal is to determine where the water is coming from, develop and implement a plan to mediate the water level. Final phase of the project is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2021.

**Emergency Generator Replacement Project:** New, whole house generators, were installed to replace the aging generators at stations 11, 17, 28, 29, and 32.

**Practical Skills Building Project:** This was a major project financed by the Department of Finance to replace the exterior block. After years of leaks and water penetration, the new block will provide a rain shield on the



exterior of the Practical Skills Building. Ventilation systems in the showers and turnout gear storage room were also included to improve the health and safety of our members.

**Fire Training Academy Asbestos Abatement and Interior Upgrades:** This project was needed to remove the hazardous asbestos ceilings. The ceilings were replaced with new drops ceilings and upgraded lighting in the EMS CQI offices, two corridors near the auditorium, and FPB offices and conference rooms. The Auditorium was improved with a fresh coat of paint on the walls and floors.

**Fire Station Apparatus Floor Replacement Project:** As part of ongoing station improvement projects and deteriorating conditions, the concrete floors were replaced and the plumbing was upgraded at stations 8 and 12.



**Apparatus**

Engine 17 was delivered in October.

New medics were delivered to 10 stations

**2020 Major Capital Purchases**

5 Sutphen/SVI Heavy Rescue vehicles to replace all 5 of the 2012 Sutphen/SVI Rescues.

1 Pierce Tractor Drawn Aerial that will replace L-1's 2008 LTI American LaFrance.

1 Retrofitting a 2005 Rosenbauer Heavy Rescue vehicle to become a Demobilization Unit. The demobilization unit will be utilized as a mobile decontamination/changing area to get firefighters out of their contaminated gear quicker. This procedure will reducing prolonged exposure to firefighters from carcinogens and other poisons.

9 Thermal Imaging Cameras were purchased to complete the compliment for all apparatus.

**2020 General Fund Purchase**

Eight Hybrid and three all-electric cars were added to the fleet. The bureau also replaced three command SUVs, three EMS Supervisor SUVs and one K9 SUV.

**Fire Alarm Office**

The COVID-19 pandemic required implementation of call screening questions by dispatchers. These questions were established to alert the crews responding to a possible Covid-19 incidents to protect our members on the front lines from being unknowingly exposed to the virus. The FAO dispatched 287,517 units on 160,451 incidents and answered over 200,000 phone calls.

*Photo (top) Firefighter David Daley distributes new Scott SCBA X3 Pro harnesses at the Training Academy. The upgrade allows the fabric straps to be removed for decontamination.*

The CAD upgrade to HEXAGON 9.4 was completed in November. The newer version of CAD brought updates to our dispatching room and changes to the MDC's emergency vehicles in the field. All division member's received training on the changes with the assistance of the Training Bureau and Target Solutions.

**Mask Repair**

In the first quarter of the year, we started our annual flow tests of our Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) along with new cancer reduction improvements. Mask Repair, in conjunction with Scott Health & Safety, upgraded all SCBA harnesses to the X3 Pro. This upgrade allows the fabric straps to be removed for decontamination. As with other areas, the second quarter was dominated by the Covid-19 response. We were able to continue our annual testing as the year progressed. Ground ladder testing was complete along with face piece fit tests for both the AV-3000 full-face mask and the 3M/Xcel half-mask. The half-masks were vital to CFD's response to the COVID pandemic, allowing reuse of P-100 filter in place of the one-time use N-95 masks. This prevented CFD members from running out of respiratory PPE as well as freeing up the needed N-95 masks for other healthcare providers.

Mask Repair accomplishments:

- Repaired over 450 SCBA harnesses
- Repaired 22 different cascade systems at various fire stations
- Maintain fuel, oxygen and breathing air supplies for all fire stations
- Approximately 560 annual flow tests on the divisions SCBA's
- About 3300 annual fit tests on Scott Health & Safety face pieces
- About 450 annual ground ladder tests for all Engines & Ladders
- Upgrade to X3 PRO SCBA's

*Photo (bottom) Firefighters Brian White and Tim Ruffing raise the flag for the first time over the newly completed Fire Station 35 on Waggoner Road on Mar. 30, 2020. The new fire station is an \$11.5 million, 26,750 square-foot facility that contains four apparatus bays, a watch room, partial basement, administrative office and 15 sleeping rooms. The facility will house CFD Engine 35 and Medic 35.*

**Quartermaster**

The Quartermaster's office was moved from its long time location on Business Park Drive, to the CFD Logistics/Supply office on Groves Road. This occurred with the implementation of the new uniform contract.

**Fire Supply – Logistics**

Purchased new Zoll cardiac monitors and AEDs to replace all the Physio-Control monitors and AEDs. Completed change over to Zoll in March 2020.

Purchased five U Cap It drug dispensing machines that were installed in stations 12, 14, 16, 24 and 28. We currently have 24 U Cap It machines throughout Division

The COVID-19 pandemic caused several operational changes in the stations and vehicles. The division purchased nine Aeroclave disinfecting units. These units are assigned to each battalion to disinfect vehicles and stations where we have known or suspected COVID positive contamination. We also purchased portable air scrubbing units for each station to be used throughout the buildings to purify the breathing air.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic we initiated a 24 hour De-Con facility at the Groves Road warehouse to decontaminate our vehicles and personnel. This included deconning the vehicles, a portable shower facility and laundry capabilities.

**SMART Columbus**

Working with SMART Columbus to provide connected vehicle environment (CVE) in our apparatus that respond to emergencies in areas in vicinity of stations 6, 7, 13, 16, 18, 19, 24, 28, 29. This equipment will provide traffic signal pre-emption at certain intersections along High Street from Fifth Avenue to Morse Road, Morse Road from High Street to Stygler Road and on Cleveland Avenue from Second Avenue to Morse Road. This project will continue into 2021.





**Tracy Smith**  
**Assistant Chief**

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Emergency Medical Services accounted for 79% of all calls for service in 2020. The Bureau maintained its six minute or less response time benchmark city-wide throughout the pandemic.

The Emergency Services Bureau in 2020 was filled with once in a career events with the Pandemic, the State of Emergency, and civil unrest, which led to Statewide shutdowns. Our workforces tirelessly handled it with poise, professionalism, and determination. Persistently serving and protecting our vulnerable communities, as well as one another.

As the largest bureau within the organization, the frontline workers persevered ahead adopting a change to station life, family life, and major changes to patient care. Emergency Medical runs now include gowns, goggles, and P100 masks as normal. Yet, our people continue to battle through all adversities while still maintaining exceptional emergency medical, fire, and public services day in and day out. Thank you to you all.

The mission of the Emergency Services 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.

Bureau Head Assistant Chief Tracy L. Smith, along with three Deputy Chief Shift commanders are responsible for all emergency scene operations within the Division. The bureau is divided into seven battalions with three platoons of personnel rotating 24-hour duty shifts. Each shift or unit is commanded by a Deputy Chief who also works a 24-hour shift and coordinates and assures the daily staffing of 34 fire stations consisting of approximately 300 personnel during daytime hours and approximately 337 minimum personnel during nighttime hours.

### The Emergency Services Bureau provides the following services:

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Fire Suppression Services
- Special Operations Group (staffed), including:
  - Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF)
  - Bomb Squad and K9 Units
  - Counter-Terrorism Liaison (CTU)
  - Dive and Rescue Team (DART)
  - Hazardous Materials Response Team
  - Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit (MSTU)
  - Technical Rescue Team
  - Tactical EMS Team (TEMS)
- Special Operations Group (non-staffed), including:
  - Rescue Boats
  - Command One - Mobile EOC
  - Drafting Trailers
  - Foam Trailers
  - Rescue Support Units

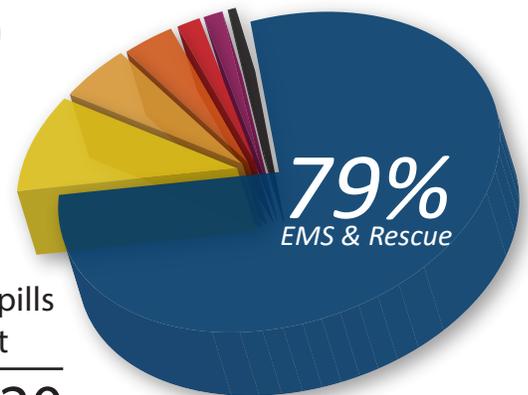
### Major Accomplishments

Many initiatives were intended for the year 2020, yet, with the massive health crisis to our members and our community, we became more centralized on the COVID19 response and action plans. However, the Bureau had several major accomplishments for the Division while still maintaining the obvious year's events.

The highlighted accomplishment of the Emergency Services Bureau was the development, implementation, and frequent modification of the new COVID19 staffing model, "the POD".

## 438 Daily Calls For Service in 2020

126,351	EMS & Rescue Calls for Service
13,830	Good Intention: Dispatched & Canceled en route
8,344	False Alarms
5,394	Service Calls: Smoke or Odor, Assist Invalid
<b>2,844</b>	<b>Structure Fire, Including Fields &amp; Vehicles</b>
2,434	Hazardous Conditions: Gas Leaks & Flammable Spills
605	Other: Over Pressure, Explosion or Excessive Heat



## 159,802 Total Calls For Service 2020

The early stages of this pandemic brought together all areas of the Division to implement the Incident Command System. Thus, creating the Incident Action Plan (IAP) providing personnel guidance, information, and planning to manage this enormous event.

During the COVID19 pandemic and through years of preparation, the Bureau was able to maintain services to the community and also complete, train, and implement a Telestaff software upgrade in July 2020. The transition to this newer staffing management system afforded all personnel the ability to navigate through individual work and station calendars utilizing technology from home or mobile devices.

The Command One vehicle renovation was identified and with the work of various partnerships, it will be reestablished as a command resource. The Division aligned with and has accepted a grant of \$50,000 from the Franklin County Emergency Management Agency. This continued partnership allows the Command One vehicle to be advanced back to a state-of-the-art mobile unified command center through its refurbishment to cellular-based communication, audio, and visual technologies.

The Honor Guard commanders worked to develop updated Standard Operating Procedures for funeral and special events celebrations. During the State of Emergency, the Honor Guard held steadfast in providing honors for our fallen active and retired members continuing their efforts to deliver the dignity and respect due our brothers and sisters. Also, the Honor Guard worked alongside other departments assisting with funeral preparations for firefighters across

Central Ohio.

The Awards committee pulled off the toughest awards presentation this year by making it a virtual presentation. With restrictions to public assembly, Interim Fire Chief Jeffrey Happ presented the awards to individuals and filmed the bestowal of awards for all members to view. The committee worked diligently to ensure our members were recognized for outstanding actions in the year in which they occurred.

The Division's Special Operations section encompasses an enormous area of special functions for the City, therefore a process was established to reevaluate staffing, training, leadership, and its impact on the Division and the community.

The Bomb Unit added two additional canines to assist with the increasing need for security for events and responses. Hazmat continues to respond and track all hazardous materials stored, manufactured, and transported throughout the City.

The Dive and Rescue Team (DART) certified all the division divers while under COVID conditions utilizing various sites for underwater and no visibility dives.

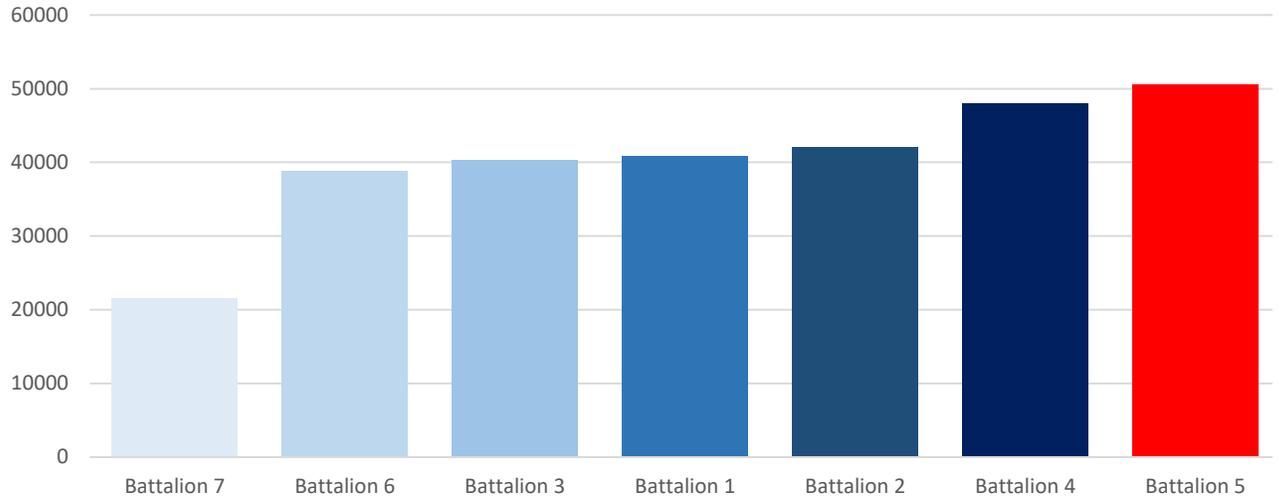
Tactical EMS continues to support our brothers and sisters in Columbus Police to ensure their safety while under hazardous situations as well as support our department by taking medical runs when available.

Ohio Task Force 1 and Central Ohio Strike Teams supported numerous regions of central and remote areas of Ohio for collapse, hurricane, and technical responses.

***Emergency Services Continued on page 16***

# 7 Battalions

## 281,825 Total Runs by Battalion



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Battalion 1	3,553	3,416	3,385	2,589	3,258	3,418	3,864	3,547	3,494	3,449	3,48	3,325	40,756
Battalion 2	3,555	3,375	3,355	2,853	3,319	3,536	3,820	3,669	3,792	3,644	3,306	3,798	42,022
Battalion 3	3,342	3,163	3,206	2,508	3,277	3,581	3,784	3,675	3,712	3,484	3,299	3,231	40,262
Battalion 4	3,961	3,882	3,784	3,275	3,989	4,226	4,435	4,283	3,937	4,029	4,144	3,987	47,932
Battalion 5	4,179	3,843	3,961	3,385	4,273	4,515	4,771	4,579	4,319	4,084	4,254	4,324	50,487
Battalion 6	3,137	2,957	3,017	2,695	3,369	3,248	3,740	3,433	3,183	3,300	3,451	3,307	38,837
Battalion 7	1,859	1,713	1,781	1,431	1,731	1,767	1,854	1,844	1,769	1,953	1,856	1,971	21,529
Total	18,736	22,349	23,216	24,291	24,206	22,489	25,030	26,268	23,782	23,586	23,945	23,943	281,825

### Emergency Services Bureau Continued

The technical rescue group did a massive overhaul to its system to ensure training, certifications, procedures, and emergency responses followed all local, state, and federal regulations. The capital expenditures for replacement tools and equipment as well as apparatus were recognized and requested. Quality control of these expenditures, budgeting for future needs and replacement equipment, and statistical information on these types of rescue incidents are now being captured through a special reporting area in the Firehouse software.

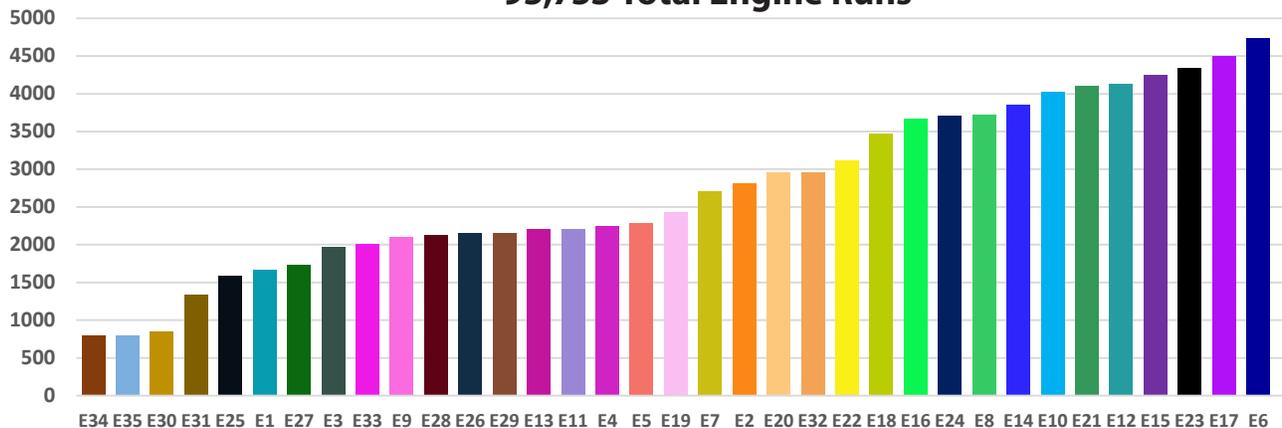
The Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit in its second year of operation continues to have a significant impact within our community. The partnership with OhioHealth, The Ohio State University, and Mt. Carmel Health Systems proves immediate therapies provided to patients on the scene before transport contributes to the patients having a greater chance to lower or negate deficits from strokes.

The Emergency Preparedness section of the Special Operations group is being modeled to proactively plan for potential hazardous occurrences within the City of Columbus. Its development will allow the Division to identify areas of the City in need of specialized action plans for a response which will include cooperation with other City partners of safety. This group will also assist with the planning and oversight for emergency exercises annually supporting the decisions for response run seamlessly. These preparations will be specific to various areas in terrorism, civil unrest, and large environmental disasters.

The Emergency Services Bureau embraces many aspects of Public Safety. The most important accomplishment of these is the delivery of outstanding emergency care to the citizens of Columbus by the extraordinary members of the Division. Their commitment to excellence and their compassion for others confirms the Public Safety Director and Fire Chiefs declaration-We are one of the most prominent departments in this nation.

# 34 Engine Companies

95,753 Total Engine Runs

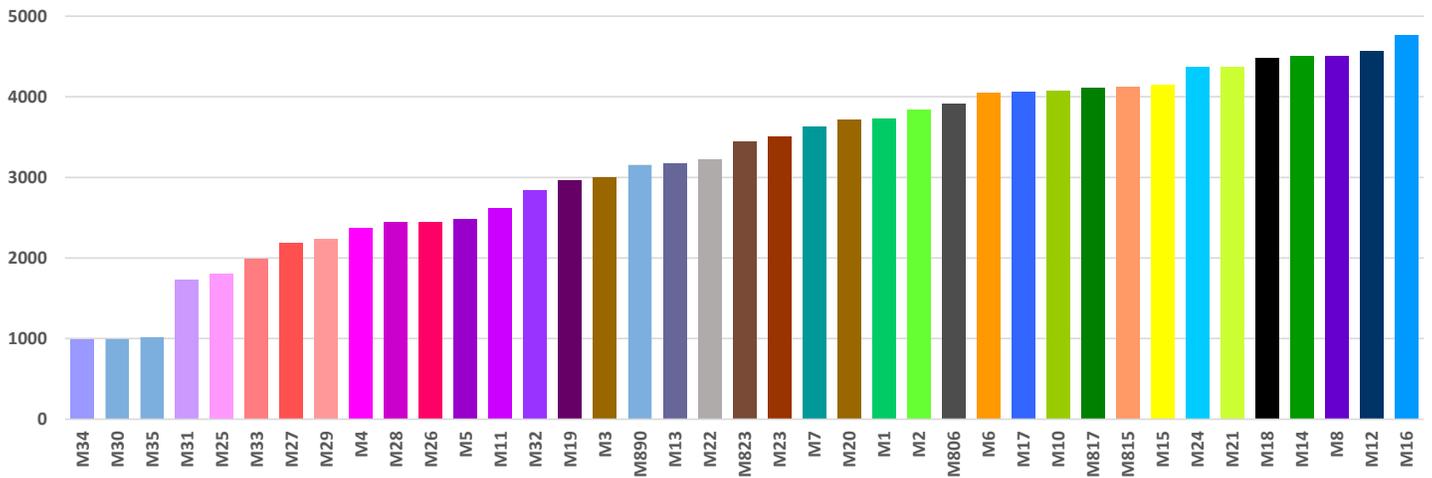


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
E1	150	162	117	87	126	135	170	161	146	137	129	148	1,668
E2	239	260	258	189	229	204	257	252	230	210	248	235	2,811
E3	161	166	154	133	153	199	184	152	145	168	180	176	1,971
E4	187	172	186	146	193	193	220	206	188	177	200	184	2,252
E5	236	196	199	145	172	149	215	213	187	185	175	214	2,286
<b>E6</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>4,734</b>
E7	255	246	215	159	198	219	240	266	283	259	185	186	2,711
E8	272	273	314	263	303	353	341	318	322	336	335	287	3,717
E9	213	183	151	117	148	159	205	201	186	171	180	190	2,104
E10	372	337	301	239	331	341	407	346	343	332	339	337	4,025
E11	182	178	164	157	164	183	191	206	169	198	203	218	2,213
E12	296	262	306	248	335	368	434	394	356	359	377	396	4,131
E13	162	161	147	136	188	189	196	194	230	211	203	195	2,212
E14	306	300	298	277	345	363	348	359	308	317	333	301	3,855
E15	<b>334</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>4,253</b>
E16	276	228	275	264	312	355	383	341	330	294	315	301	3,674
E17	313	291	346	294	417	422	431	445	395	349	387	414	4,504
E18	249	248	255	216	295	354	335	298	312	294	295	316	3,467
E19	196	195	206	170	194	185	219	217	220	240	188	206	2,436
E20	229	228	226	198	254	246	279	285	249	249	267	247	2,957
E21	296	317	290	288	362	380	408	384	312	370	388	314	4,109
E22	266	254	232	213	252	261	278	279	272	275	266	268	3,116
E23	379	335	323	333	380	369	409	356	366	345	394	350	4,339
E24	326	286	298	261	320	319	348	306	296	318	321	310	3,709
E25	154	154	139	101	130	105	138	132	141	142	120	133	1,589
E26	185	144	161	145	165	200	212	192	188	179	182	197	2,150
E27	146	140	129	130	134	137	139	148	143	148	173	165	1,732
E28	180	179	154	124	157	179	199	177	209	188	179	201	2,126
E29	189	167	175	175	170	181	168	170	215	192	162	193	2,157
E30	60	71	68	42	75	71	70	74	79	83	81	70	844
E31	97	118	88	89	113	109	125	123	98	124	126	128	1,338
E32	255	254	219	210	234	243	275	269	226	249	258	270	2,962
E33	168	143	147	118	123	172	213	196	209	182	156	187	2,014
E34	72	64	48	35	65	76	83	63	61	73	80	72	792
E35	0	0	17	61	75	75	103	79	88	89	105	103	795
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,763</b>	<b>7,458</b>	<b>7,271</b>	<b>6,310</b>	<b>7,771</b>	<b>8,197</b>	<b>8,990</b>	<b>8,532</b>	<b>8,211</b>	<b>8,109</b>	<b>8,166</b>	<b>8,180</b>	<b>95,753</b>

# 39 Medic Companies 125,650 Total Medic Responses

The medic crews of Station 16 serving the North Linden neighborhood took top honors with 4,771 total runs in 2020. The Division’s 39 medic units and seven EMS supervisors were dispatched on 125,650 runs in 2020, which represents a four percent decrease in city-wide medic responses compared to 2019.

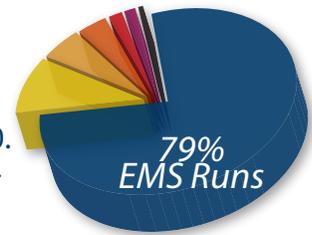
*Below:* About 75 Columbus firefighters and medics participated in a mass casualty exercise at John Glenn International Airport in September, 2020. Columbus Fire was joined by Mifflin Township, Whitehall and Port Columbus Fire & Rescue to practice deploying multiple fire departments to an air crash incident under a central command structure. Columbus Fire Lieutenant Chris Gutman led the planning of the event which is mandated every three years under FAA policies. Firefighter teams practiced extinguishing a burning practice fuselage on a closed runway and extracting victims while EMS agencies used pre-planned response procedures and specialty equipment to triage, treat and transport victims at the crash scene and coordinate local emergency room capacities to accept victims for treatment. Officers were tasked with establishing an Emergency Operations Center to coordinate multi-level agencies responding to the crash and implementing an Incident Command System and transition to a Unified Command System to manage the crash incident response by all the area agencies.



## 125,650 EMS & Rescue Responses

EMS responses represent 79% of all 911 Calls for service for Columbus Fire in 2020.

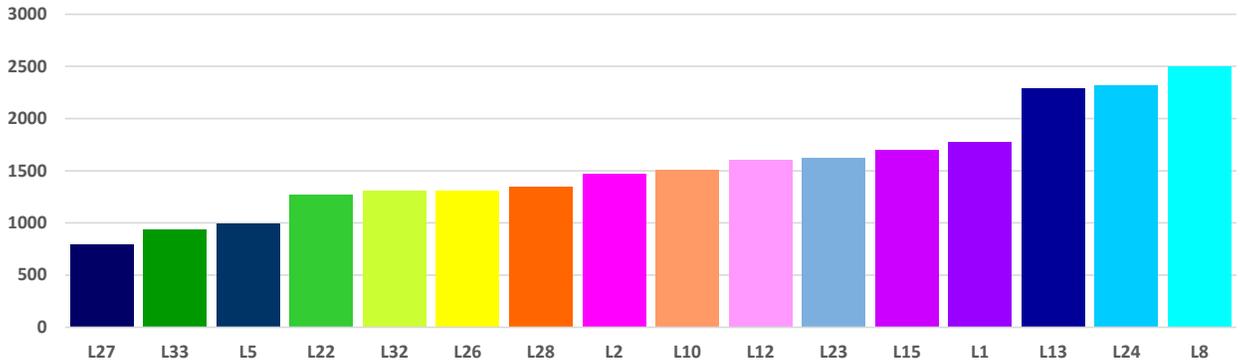
\*EMS responses may exceed number of calls for service when multiple Medics respond to a single emergency scene.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
M1	353	336	304	237	282	310	349	349	316	323	289	279	3,727
M2	360	351	334	247	292	313	366	341	327	310	317	285	3,843
M3	291	297	271	189	243	265	278	239	227	225	242	239	3,006
M4	196	184	202	161	195	200	221	212	197	201	202	207	2,378
M5	260	215	215	146	183	178	216	200	208	227	203	228	2,479
M6	329	348	336	284	326	334	400	341	344	355	309	351	4,057
M7	346	335	288	203	270	309	347	353	328	320	274	261	3,634
M8	384	345	379	295	354	411	462	399	375	384	365	357	4,510
M10	396	371	326	218	320	375	376	368	358	323	325	324	4,080
M11	251	208	224	204	211	200	236	212	202	224	214	229	2,615
M12	373	345	350	321	377	389	422	414	378	370	407	427	4,573
M13	262	265	251	187	215	283	283	289	287	276	285	296	3,179
M14	381	367	391	336	380	416	402	381	355	360	373	366	4,508
M15	364	331	320	270	339	383	396	373	326	339	372	336	4,149
M16	373	362	374	320	408	463	482	414	438	378	368	391	4,771
M17	348	315	324	280	364	373	393	368	327	321	317	331	4,061
M18	376	330	376	308	411	405	430	393	387	349	362	355	4,482
M19	274	243	267	196	234	245	251	233	255	253	242	270	2,963
M20	300	296	291	242	314	324	338	316	313	302	338	340	3,714
M21	363	349	328	316	409	391	398	415	322	374	368	340	4,373
M22	255	238	259	240	271	297	284	277	278	274	269	285	3,227
M23	300	282	280	239	311	295	321	303	287	283	317	288	3,506
M24	384	352	358	324	344	359	401	364	362	365	353	404	4,370
M25	175	171	136	85	126	152	190	172	157	157	151	129	1,801
M26	205	187	205	158	184	222	242	212	189	203	214	230	2,451
M27	183	175	1889	137	168	185	192	173	177	195	198	222	2,194
M28	192	210	193	137	179	232	229	202	214	206	201	249	2,444
M29	205	192	184	164	184	206	189	183	188	175	183	183	2,236
M30	71	80	90	60	88	86	81	97	84	92	77	89	995
M31	142	169	138	136	142	140	154	146	142	122	147	157	1,735
M32	238	250	216	207	220	236	249	260	234	233	235	267	2,845
M33	168	155	142	132	127	158	187	197	177	192	156	205	1,996
M34	87	78	66	56	80	82	97	78	71	90	90	113	988
M35	0	0	25	83	101	85	125	111	118	115	119	134	1016
M806	331	326	314	277	314	330	365	345	340	332	290	350	3,914
M815	363	348	317	279	335	362	390	357	337	327	353	352	4,119
M817	358	319	335	287	359	386	368	389	335	335	306	338	4,115
M823	300	279	293	237	291	282	335	280	275	269	310	295	3,442
M890	256	253	259	217	270	251	292	281	296	248	262	269	3,154
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,793</b>	<b>10,257</b>	<b>10,125</b>	<b>8,332</b>	<b>10,120</b>	<b>10,828</b>	<b>11,612</b>	<b>10,926</b>	<b>10,413</b>	<b>10,312</b>	<b>10,284</b>	<b>10,637</b>	<b>125,650</b>

# 16 Ladder Companies

24,768 Total Ladder Runs



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
L1	164	161	137	98	119	129	136	160	166	168	159	176	1,773
L2	133	111	108	86	120	136	140	133	129	121	136	118	1,471
L5	73	76	71	74	82	79	113	95	86	91	74	84	998
L8	165	177	194	137	202	193	247	213	232	274	247	215	2,496
L10	139	110	113	124	137	124	130	113	144	124	136	114	1,508
L12	119	121	128	123	153	145	134	127	142	149	143	125	1,609
L13	198	183	175	121	179	162	171	251	247	236	208	163	2,294
L15	137	146	133	114	140	141	144	157	150	172	145	121	1,700
L22	101	100	75	94	89	110	125	122	113	119	110	109	1,267
L23	127	128	166	117	159	127	141	107	129	147	154	127	1,629
L24	181	182	162	165	197	183	180	220	222	216	202	207	2,317
L26	112	92	88	93	97	118	125	127	119	118	115	105	1,309
L27	62	55	59	56	64	62	60	77	82	99	64	58	798
L28	143	95	115	81	99	95	105	125	139	128	105	121	1,351
L32	101	112	101	88	91	106	113	140	128	107	117	103	1,307
L33	87	66	66	49	62	78	95	96	92	87	77	86	941
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,042</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,990</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>2,159</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>2,356</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>24,768</b>



## 5 Heavy Rescues, 7 Battalion Chiefs & 7 EMS Officer Units

### Heavy Rescue Units

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
R3	124	93	95	95	124	116	143	132	137	123	132	127	1,441
R4	123	116	112	83	133	134	162	156	129	155	161	161	1,625
R11	70	70	59	43	70	64	75	70	54	63	74	75	787
<b>R16</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>2,211</b>
R17	121	117	133	111	156	150	154	157	170	122	149	116	1,656
<b>Total</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>7,391</b>

### Battalion Chiefs

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
B1	99	91	92	74	89	76	91	70	90	81	80	73	1,006
B2	109	81	93	80	119	81	92	105	118	93	90	96	1,157
B3	105	84	105	62	97	107	94	106	117	100	92	81	1,150
B4	80	85	68	52	85	70	61	73	72	59	69	67	841
B5	110	84	80	75	100	109	91	105	99	87	104	87	1,131
<b>B6</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>1,463</b>
B7	67	64	56	37	71	56	52	69	54	70	55	48	699
<b>Total</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>7,447</b>

### EMS Officers

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
EMS10	78	74	104	73	110	97	114	99	90	83	98	87	1,107
EMS11	226	225	236	173	215	194	257	226	253	206	200	214	2,625
EMS12	201	203	241	157	214	220	202	222	236	209	160	230	2,495
EMS13	242	236	289	210	263	289	299	264	266	250	252	223	3,083
<b>EMS14</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>3,447</b>
EMS15	237	203	277	226	250	293	280	272	240	219	217	229	2,943
EMS16	148	130	149	116	140	143	197	158	130	154	126	128	1,719
EMS17	98	67	118	78	81	94	80	98	81	96	81	105	1,077
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>18,496</b>

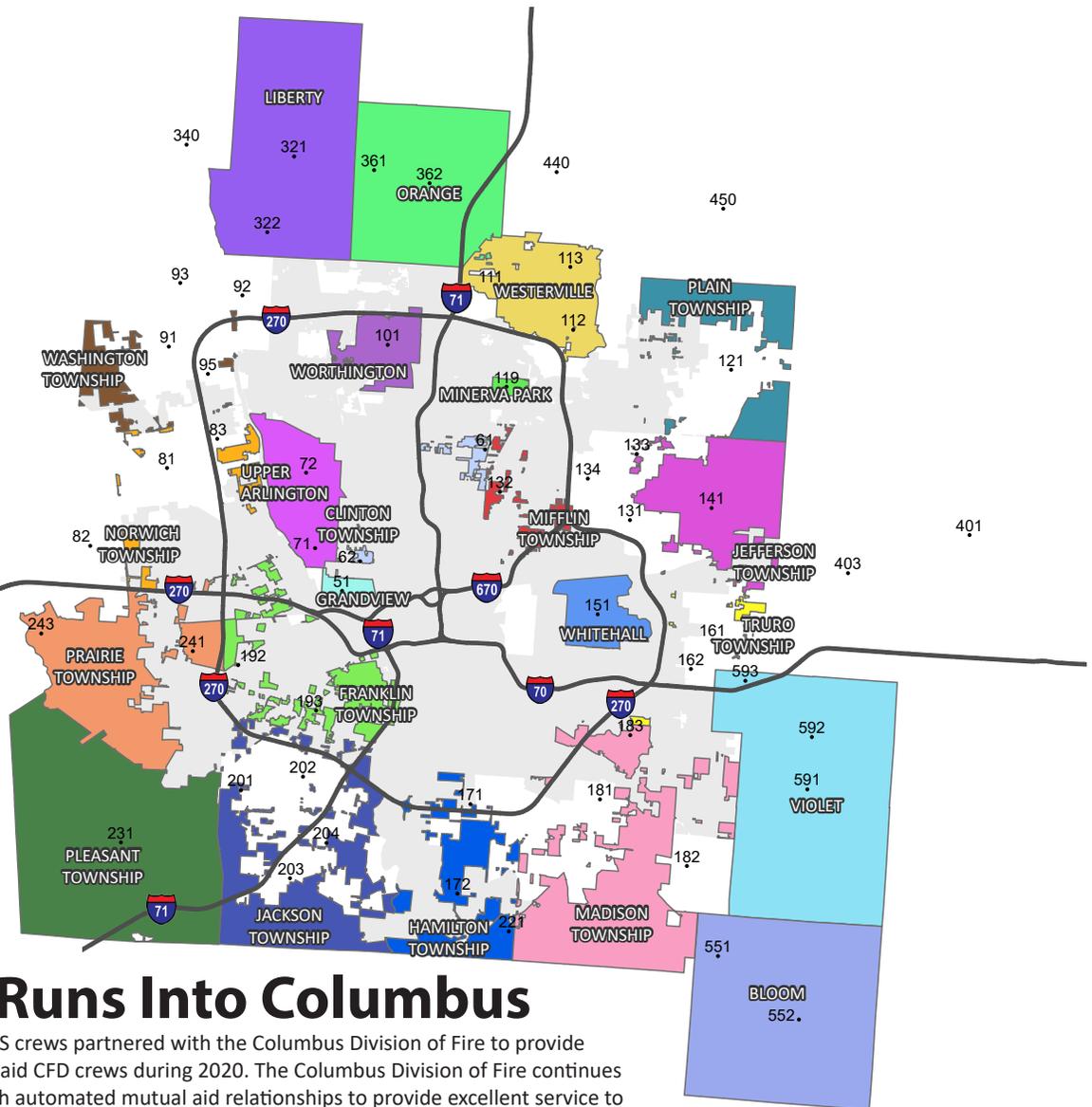


## Rescue Boats

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
BO3	0	3	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11
BO4	0	1	2	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
BO5	1	1	5	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	14
BO10	0	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	10
BO11	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
BO14	0	0	1	1	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
BO19	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	7
BO22	0	2	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	13
BO25	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
BO26	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	5
BO27	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	6
BO29	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
BO30	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
BO32	2	0	3	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>121</b>

## Bomb Squad, Dive Team, Hazmat & Command Center

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
BS2	6	2	7	3	6	6	11	7	2	9	9	2	70
BS3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
CMD18	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
DART2	1	4	8	5	15	6	5	0	2	2	1	1	50
DECON4	5	2	2	1	2	3	2	1	0	1	2	0	21
FK91	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	11
FK92	1	11	7	1	4	4	5	3	10	13	6	3	68
FK93	10	10	6	2	3	6	4	4	8	9	8	0	70
FK94	14	5	11	15	5	12	17	6	8	11	7	3	114
ISU19	40	22	30	26	25	34	24	25	32	24	37	28	347
ES1	4	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	17
ES2	10	9	3	2	8	7	4	9	10	8	10	4	84
HZ4	4	4	1	3	2	5	3	1	1	4	3	2	33
MSU19	21	24	25	26	33	31	28	20	24	24	19	9	278
RSU19	0	1	3	1	2	1	1	3	3	1	0	2	18
RSU3	1	1	1	4	1	1	0	1	6	2	3	3	24
MSU1	30	24	16	20	25	26	31	18	23	30	21	19	283
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1,530</b>



# Township Runs Into Columbus

Township and city fire and EMS crews partnered with the Columbus Division of Fire to provide 34,306 runs into Columbus to aid CFD crews during 2020. The Columbus Division of Fire continues these key partnerships through automated mutual aid relationships to provide excellent service to Columbus residents, and to assist adjoining communities and fire districts in their time of need.

# 34,306

<span style="color: #4F81BD;">■</span> BLOOM TOTALS : 4	<span style="color: #E91E63;">■</span> JEFFERSON TOTALS : 207	<span style="color: #2E7D32;">■</span> PLEASANT TOTALS : 815	<span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> WASHINGTON TOTALS : 320
<span style="color: #ADD8E6;">■</span> CLINTON TOTALS : 4,855	<span style="color: #FFB74D;">■</span> MADISON TOTALS : 4,285	<span style="color: #FF9800;">■</span> PRAIRIE TOTALS : 1,882	<span style="color: #FFD700;">■</span> WESTERVILLE TOTALS : 1,052
<span style="color: #32CD32;">■</span> FRANKLIN TOTALS : 7,877	<span style="color: #FF0000;">■</span> MIFFLIN TOTALS : 4,710	<span style="color: #0070C0;">■</span> RICKENBACKER TOTALS : 116	<span style="color: #4682B4;">■</span> WHITEHALL TOTALS : 840
<span style="color: #40E0D0;">■</span> GRANDVIEW HTS TOTALS : 1,184	<span style="color: #32CD32;">■</span> MINERVA PARK TOTALS : 4	<span style="color: #FFD700;">■</span> TRURO TOTALS : 2,122	<span style="color: #8A2BE2;">■</span> WORTHINGTON TOTALS : 1,615
<span style="color: #0000FF;">■</span> HAMILTON TOTALS : 2,689	<span style="color: #FFA500;">■</span> NORWICH TOTALS : 540	<span style="color: #E91E63;">■</span> UPPER ARLINGTON TOTALS : 948	
<span style="color: #00008B;">■</span> JACKSON TOTALS : 301	<span style="color: #008080;">■</span> PLAIN TOTALS : 1	<span style="color: #ADD8E6;">■</span> VIOLET TOTALS : 218	

COLUMBUS FIRE

PARAMEDICS

LL 911

2020

The Year of the  
Pandemic

Firefighter/Paramedic Josh Fitzpatrick responds to a 911 call for a person in respiratory distress in March, 2020. Fitzpatrick wears his P100 mask, eye protection, gloves and Division issue all weather jacket as a protective layer against airborne pathogens. Fitzpatrick's EMT partner will remain in the medic's front cab during patient evaluation and transport, if possible, to limit possible Covid-19 exposure of EMS personnel. James Miller/Division of Fire



## de·fin·ing mo·ment

*Noun*

***An event which typifies or determines all subsequent related occurrences. A point at which the essential nature or character of a person or group is revealed.***

It would be hard to overstate the impact of the global coronavirus outbreak in 2020 on emergency first responder organizations like the Columbus Division of Fire.

On the day of Governor DeWine's March 9th State of Emergency Declaration, Columbus Fire Assistant Chief David Baugh was attending a Franklin County Fire Chiefs Association meeting where Columbus Fire and city and county health departments were making presentations.

"When I left that meeting, I knew we needed to come up with a plan, because things were going to escalate quickly", said Baugh. The Covid-19 pandemic had reached only 90,000 cases scattered over 70 countries by March 1st, 2020.

Ohio had seen no confirmed cases when Governor Mike DeWine and Mayor Andrew Ginther announced on March 3rd that the popular Arnold Sports Festival held annually in March would be sharply curtailed out of fear of a major contagion. The annual gathering generates \$53 million in convention business, according to the Greater Columbus Sports Commission, and draws nearly 250,000 visitors and thousands of athletes from over 80 countries to downtown Columbus over a week.

It was a controversial decision at the time, given that it would be over a week before Ohio saw its first confirmed cases on March 9th. Governor DeWine issued a state of emergency on that day, authorizing the Ohio Department of Health to implement restrictions and procedures statewide to prevent or alleviate the public health threat. By the end of March, schools and many businesses were closed, worldwide supply chains were breaking and health officials were urging lockdowns to prevent overwhelming emergency rooms with infected patients.

In the 12 months between April 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021, the State of Ohio experienced over a million cases leading to over 56,000 hospitalizations and 19,188 deaths. Franklin County led all counties with 124,449 cases, but suffered 1,379 deaths compared to Cuyahoga County, which saw 2,090 fatalities. The Division of Fire responded to 126,351 medic calls in 2020, a four percent drop over the previous year suggesting a reluctance of residents to call 911 for fear of being exposed to medical personnel who were treating the sick and injured almost 350 times a day city-wide.

Over 3 million people have died of the disease world-wide, according to the World Health Organization.

"By January, 2020, Fire Chief O'Connor had directed me, (EMS medical director) Dr. Robert Lowe and Deputy Chief Patrick Ferguson to come up with a plan to monitor the situation. I had only been head of the Emergency Services Bureau for a short time, but I had already reached out to Leslie diDonato and Mike Fielding at the Columbus Public Health," said Assistant Fire Chief David Baugh.

*Continued next page*



*Columbus Firefighters gathered at the Columbus Convention Center (CCC) to unload and distribute about 1,000 cots. On March 31, 2020. CCC management of the 373,000 square-foot facility announced it joined into a partnership with Mount Carmel Medical Systems, OSU Wexner Medical Center, OhioHealth and Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security to become a temporary surge treatment center in the event that area hospitals are overwhelmed with Covid-19 patients. James Miller/Division of Fire*

"They mentioned that every time an infectious disease threatened the community, they would develop an incident management team for planning and gathering intelligence," said Baugh.

"After the County Fire Chiefs Association meeting, I realized it was here. It was going to escalate quickly and our people were going to get infected. That was the 'slap in the face' moment. We needed a plan," Baugh recalled.

Baugh and Assistant Chief Richard Ballard began building a team and an Incident Command System in an attempt to integrate facilities, equipment standards and an incident management organization of four functional teams, including operations, planning, logistics and finance.

"We were handling it like a wildfire, essentially, knowing that first, it was going to spread, and that it was going to get bigger. It was going to go on for days and days and that things were going to change as we went forward. In hindsight, that's probably the best thing we could have done, instead waiting for the 'perfect plan,'" said Baugh.

The first step was trying to gain situational awareness of the looming coronavirus outbreak, according to Baugh. Though the preliminary team was assembled in early January and the medical director was following the progression of the infections across the country, there were no initial plans within the Division to deal with pandemic other than the existing contagious emergency protocols.

"We knew EMS supplies were going to be limited. And we knew we needed a plan to keep our people safe, because if we lost a bunch of firefighters, we wouldn't be able to maintain our operational abilities and wouldn't be able to respond to calls for help from residents of the city," said Baugh.

"So those three things became our primary goals, and those goals remain in place today: Conserve EMS supplies, protect our personnel from the virus, and protect our ability to respond to 911 calls," Baugh said.

"As we tracked the impact of the virus elsewhere, we thought it was possible we were going to lose 50% of our workforce. And we didn't know whether we're going to lose them to long term illness, whether

they'd be hospitalized, or whether they were going to die," said Baugh.

"Our big concern was that we were going to have the general population in Columbus infected with a respiratory illness that our medics needed to respond to. Our staff was no more immune to the virus than the general population. We were quickly going to have firefighters that weren't able to come to work anymore. How are we going to maintain those operational capabilities to deliver our services? We had talked about moving firefighters into the firehouse and not letting them leave. We were worried about grocery stores shutting down, and how we feed and get supplies to our personnel if they're going to have to be on duty 24 hours a day?" Baugh recalled.

"I remember the eerie feeling coming to work during the shutdown. You're the only person on the freeway. If you passed somebody, it's either another firefighter or police officer, but there was nobody else on the road. It was just an eerie feeling. I still get chills, thinking about what we didn't know," said Baugh.

The residents of Columbus have always

counted on Columbus Fire in an emergency. The Division's EMS crews respond to over 350 calls for help every day, so the possibility of medic crews' exposure to infectious diseases was considerable, as it was throughout the community of first responders and health care professionals.

"Once the mayor declared an emergency, it really helped us to be able to justify canceling a lot of activities in order to limit possible exposure. Communications between the Fire Chief's office, Safety Director's office, and Columbus Public Health and the mayor's office all became super important. It underscored the importance of having good, solid relationships outside of the Division before an emergency happens. You don't want that first-time meeting between the fire chief and Dr. Roberts to be in the face of an emergency. We'd already established that level of trust. Now we needed to count on each other," said Baugh.

"The next biggest challenge became communicating to our personnel. Inherently, the culture of the organization is that once a new policy comes out, that policy exists for an extended period of time. But when you develop an incident management team, and you create an incident action plan that is changed every 24 hours, you had to train the whole fire department to understand how that was going to work," said Baugh.

"When it comes to policy development, it traditionally is discussed in the executive staff meetings. What typically happens is our rules are formed by committee, where it just takes a long time. It's a bureaucratic process to make sure that it's reviewed by legal, it's reviewed by all the other people impacted, then reviewed by the union. And then you think about it for a little bit. When Covid-19 hit, we didn't have time for that process, because we needed to get plans in place to protect our personnel by tomorrow. And we didn't have any of those plans in place. Our main source of information and guidance came from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, and as more was learned about the virus, their guidance changed, sometimes on a daily basis. So our action plans had to evolve just as quickly," said Baugh.

Baugh's incident command team designed daily operational plans distributed Division-wide that coincided with 8 a.m. shift change to push out the evolving processes as they were developed.

"In the beginning our plan was very basic, about eight pages long. And then every day, we would add objectives and directives to our personnel, because things would pop up like, 'Oh, we need to stop doing this', or 'we need to direct our personnel to do this'. The process and frequency of cleaning our vehicles had to change dramatically. Everything was changing," Baugh said.

"Even the term 'social distancing' was new. A year later, that's a common term that we all use. At the time, however, we didn't know what that meant. And how do you communicate that to all the people that are out there working on the street? How does that play into how we treat patients, or how we live together in a fire house for 24 hours?" Baugh said.

"Initially, the CDC came out and said don't wear masks, but we knew better. Respiratory protection was our best method to protect our personnel. We didn't want to follow that guidance. Later they came out and said first responders and medical personnel should wear masks, but not the general population," Baugh said.

Baugh estimated that the Division had about 45 days-worth of EMS supplies stockpiled, including M95 disposable surgical masks that medics consumed at a rate of about 350 a day. World-wide demand for the masks would dry up supply very quickly in just a few weeks.

"Fortunately, we've been issuing the P100 reusable masks to firefighters for about 10 years as recommended by Safety Officer Battalion Chief David Bernzweig. Chief Bernzweig is a nationally recognized authority on respiratory protection and sits on the standards committee for the NFLPA," said Baugh.

*Continued next page*

*Members of the 110th Columbus Fire Recruit Class run the tower during morning PT training. Recruits must take their temperature and fill out a health survey each morning before roll call. Roll call and physical training is conducted outdoors whenever possible, and six foot spacing between recruits is maintained whenever possible. When performing strenuous aerobic exercise in close quarters, like running repetitions up the six story training tower, recruits wear particulate respirator face masks to protect against airborne infectious agents. James Miller/ Division of Fire*





*Columbus Firefighters gathered to unload and distribute about 1,000 cots at the Columbus Convention Center in the Arena District on March 31, 2020. Firefighters unloaded semi-trucks and placed beds into temporary cubicle type treatment rooms, following workers erecting the partitions. Technicians, electricians and plumbers worked throughout the four main exhibition halls to ready the facility. The massive effort was undertaken to create a temporary surge treatment center in the event that area hospitals are overwhelmed with Covid-19 patients. James Miller/Division of Fire*

#### *Year of the Pandemic continued*

“If we were dependent on N95 masks, we would have been in a world of hurt,” said Baugh.

“Much of the early guidance would impact our operational capability. We were all advised that you didn't want people to interact with people from other households. But the firehouse inherently brings people together from different households,” said Baugh.

On March 14, 2020, the first Columbus firefighter tested positive for Covid-19 at Columbus Fire Station 24 on the corner of Morse and Karl Roads. Station 24 is home to Engine 24, Ladder 24 and Medic 24. The station is typically staffed by 15 firefighters and officers for each 24 hour shift.

“We had to send everybody home on every shift. We hired ServPro to come in and clean the firehouse and clean the fire trucks. Afterwards, it was hard to get people to come to work. Now we know if you get Covid-19, you're likely to recover.

But at the time people didn't want to come to work at the impacted stations, because no one wanted to take the virus home to their families. It was a huge challenge, but eventually we got some people to come back,” Baugh recalls.

March began a series of initiatives enacted by the Division's Incident Command team. A video re-enforcing proper personal protective gear use was distributed city-wide. On-site training was halted and non-essential access to fire stations, including family member visits were stopped. A strict policy of staying home with cold or flu symptoms was enforced. Medical check-in screenings for all arriving shifts began at each Division facility.

New standards for disinfecting all vehicles, radios and door handles, with extra attention to high contact surfaces and door handles were introduced. Neighborhood residents wishing to speak with their local fire station staff could still ring the exterior doorbell and meet with a firefighter outside the facility. All Columbus Firefighters were instructed to observe the appropriate six

foot social distancing as much as possible. By month's end, most civilian support staff were directed to work from home until further notice.

Uniformed personnel previously involved in the Division's Training Bureau and Research and Development were reassigned to perform contract tracing and data collection. EMS instructor Joshua Bryan created a widely distributed dashboard page which compiled all the tracing, testing, isolation and illness data into a daily snapshot that tracked the impact of Covid-19 in visual format.

By the beginning of April, all EMS patient contacts required full PPE, P100 respirator masks, eye protection and gloves, including full gowns and suits for high risk CE (contagious emergency) medic runs. By the end of April, 25 Columbus firefighters had tested positive for Covid-19 and were in isolation.

#### **The Scarcity of Testing**

“We would send our firefighters for testing

if they were exposed, but we didn't know if these people were positive until three, four days later. They would be sick and expose people, and we would have to retro actively go back and send people home to quarantine. We had a real fear that we were quickly running out of firefighters at this rate of quarantine. But we got a break; in the fire service, everybody knows somebody's wife or brother who is a nurse somewhere, and we found out that OSU Medical Center had the fastest test turnaround, about 24 hours. We worked with the city and secured a contract for testing at OSU, which helped our contact tracing efforts a great deal. But it was still 24 hours of not knowing your status," said Baugh.

"Initially, we were putting everyone who was working with an infected person into quarantine. We quickly realized that a firefighter from Station 24 worked a shift at Station 29, and got sick the night before he worked a shift at Station 2. So now we had Stations 24, 29 and 2 exposed," said Baugh.

The direction from the city's health department at the time was anyone in contact with an infected person 48 to 72 hours prior to their getting sick was considered a close contact and should be quarantined.

"One of our main goals was maintain operational capabilities, but that wasn't going to happen if we are quarantining

12, 15 or 20 people at a time. We needed to change the practice of moving people from station to station to level out staffing. We need 337 people to staff the Division every day. Typically, we temporarily reassign between 50 and 60 firefighters from station to station each day to cover people out sick or on vacation. That's when we came up with POD staffing. Much like your family household, we wouldn't move people from station to station, which was spreading the virus among the ranks. You can't just change to POD staffing at snap a finger. It had to be in collaboration with IAFF Local 67, and there was going to be a huge cost impact," said Baugh.

On March 27, the U.S. Congress passed the \$2.2 trillion coronavirus aid CARES Act. The City of Columbus received \$157 million, with \$80 million targeted for direct spending for Covid-19 expenses, including medical expenses for testing, EMS response and personal protective equipment.

"Fortunately, federal emergency funds began coming into the city. We were able to apply them to the growing overtime hours needed to maintain the POD staffing model, which in turn helped us keep our infection rates low enough to keep operating without diminishing our response times across the city. Tracking and documenting the additional costs of our pandemic initiatives were vital to qualifying for those federal dollars when they became available," said Baugh.

The Division did endure troubling spikes of infections and subsequent waves of quarantine among the uniformed ranks which roughly paralleled rises of Covid-19 cases city-wide. The Division's Incident Management Team circulated the dashboard report daily to track manpower effected, infections rates, testing rates, isolation, quarantine and firefighters returning to duty after illness or isolation.

On July 31, 2020 the Division had 78 firefighters in 14 day quarantine or in isolation because of a positive test result. This was two weeks after Franklin County recorded a then record 372 positive Covid-19 cases.

On November 20th, Columbus Public Health approved a Division request to shorten close contact quarantine from 14 days to 10 days after the Incident Command team data indicated positive tests were emerging within the first 10 days of a firefighter's exposure to virus. The four day reduction in quarantine days played a role in keeping more firefighters on the job, as did a decision in early April to treat ALL medic runs as a possible contagious after a patient transported with no symptoms of respiratory illness had later tested positive for Covid-19 at the hospital, sending all the medics involved into quarantine.

*Pandemic continued page 38*

*Firefighter/EMT Jonathan Snyder responds to a 911 call for a person in respiratory distress in March, 2020, but remains in the cab while a medic treats the patient in the back of the unit. The Division of Fire's Emergency Medical Services response procedures were modified in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. A single paramedic now conducts the patient evaluation, whenever possible, to limit possible exposure to EMS professionals and to preserve precious supplies of gloves, masks and outer-ware. Interviews of family members take place with the appropriate social distancing space to protect both the household members and the EMS personnel. James Miller/Division of Fire*

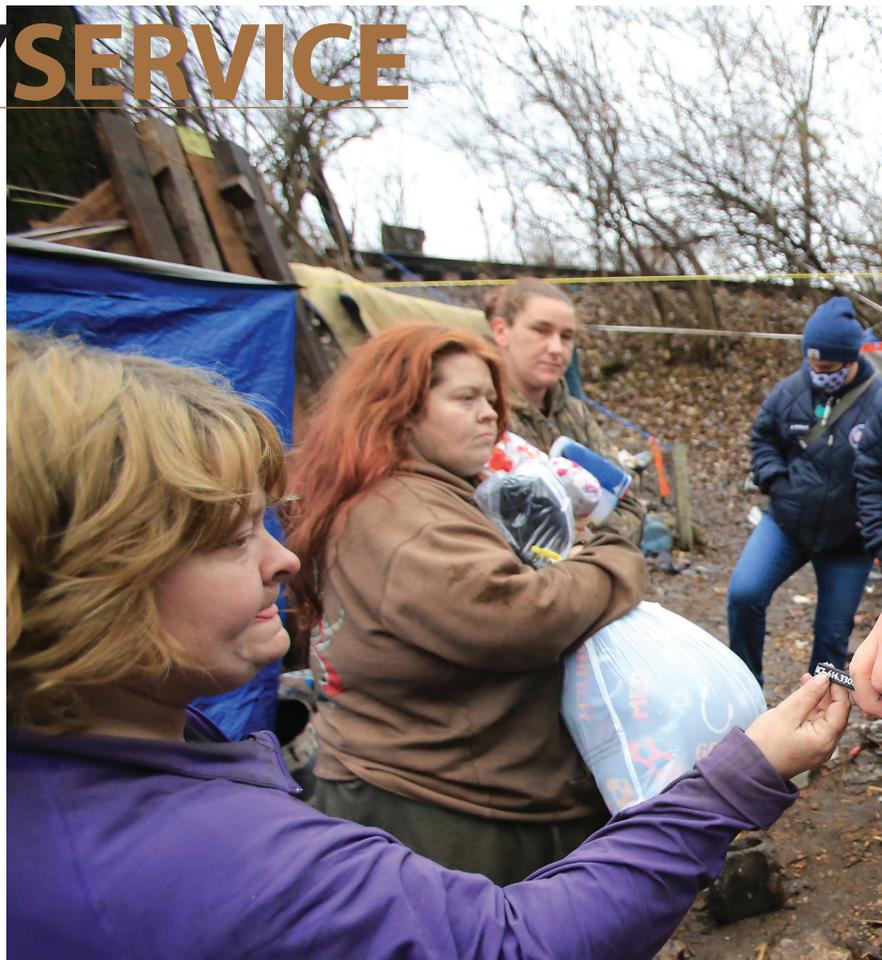


# COMMUNITY SERVICE



**Top;** Columbus Fire crews from Station 15 on East Livingston Avenue near the Driving Park neighborhood delivered \$500 worth of school supplies to the staff of Weinland Park Elementary in August. The donated supplies were provided by the Columbus Firefighters Foundation, the crews of Station 15 and Seventh Son Brewery who have informally adopted the neighborhood school.

**Middle:** The 110 th Columbus Fire Recruit Class participated in Community Day public service events in March. The recruits visited the Columbus State University where Growlers Dog Bones are made to help produce biscuits made from donated brewery grains. The non-profit company employs workers with disabilities and sells the biscuits at area farmers markets and at the local breweries who donate the materials.



**Above:** RREACT addiction crisis response team members Don Penrod, Lt. Issac Toliver and Columbus Police Officer Rachel Thomas distribute new socks, toiletries and addiction recovery services literature at a downtown homeless encampment in December. **Below:** Firefighter Shawn Smart and members of his Give Smart Foundation distribute holiday gift bags of socks, hats, gloves and snacks as well as small Bibles at a downtown homeless shelter on Christmas eve. The Give Smart Foundation is in its fifth year of reaching out to the homeless.



**Bottom left;** The Columbus Division of Fire's 110th Fire Recruit Class Green Company arranged about 4,500 American Flags upon the grounds of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum on Friday. The group performed the mission as part of the class community service activities required by the Columbus Fire Training Academy.



**Top Right;** Columbus paramedics John Hagan and Mike Canter of Station 10 reunite with Elo and his owner April Speakman weeks after the firefighter's quick action saved the puppy from an apparent opioid overdose.

## VOLUNTEERISM

**Middle Photo;** A group of firefighters banded together to renovate a bathroom and work area and hallways for social worker and CISM team member Kay Werk in 2020. Werk suffered a stroke in 2010 that confined her to a wheelchair. Lt. George Wallace organized the effort, along with crews from Station 17, including Rob Blunk of E17, Rob Cooper E17, John Hagan E10, Lt. Chad Bair L1, Mike Hatem R17, John Capretta R17, Randy Porter E29, and retirees Rex Osborn, Dan Rainey and Rick Schock.





**David Walton**  
**Assistant Chief**

The best possible outcome of any emergency is the one that was prevented. That is why the mission of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to prevent emergencies through education and inspection, and to minimize injury, death, and property destruction due to fire, natural disaster, and other emergencies.

This mission is accomplished by dedicated bureau personnel who promote fire and life safety, pre-plan for special events, enforce code through regularly scheduled inspections, and investigate incidents of fire to determine origin and cause. The values of preservation of life and property, personal integrity, professionalism, and respect for others guide the abundant and diverse activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

The Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) is comprised of the following Sections:

- Bureau Inspections Office
- District Inspections Office
- Public Outreach
- Plans Review
- Public Assembly
- High Hazard
- Institution-Education
- Fire & Explosives Investigations Unit (FEIU)

#### **2020 Fire Prevention Bureau Accomplishments**

- Expanded the District Inspections Office in anticipation of assuming all 31,000+ annual inspections starting in 2021
- Worked collaboratively with numerous outside agencies to develop guidelines and inspect for compliance



## **FIRE PREVENTION OFFICES**

### **Bureau Inspection Offices**

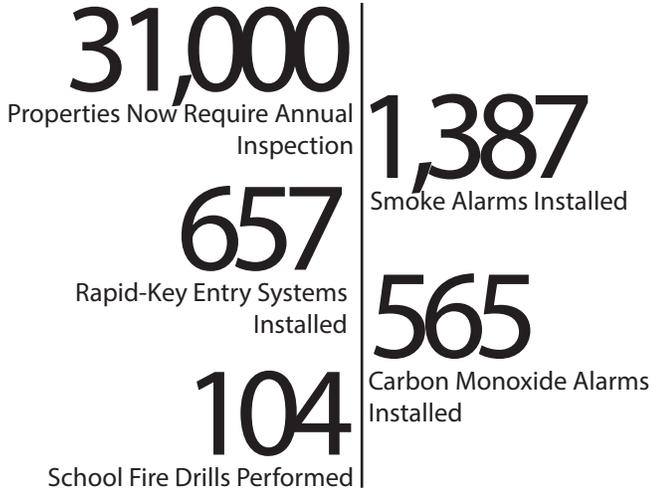
Despite the economic downturn in the economy during the first half of the year which served to stifle the robust growth in construction projects throughout the city as compared to 2019, more than 863 new Building Inventory Reports (BIRs) needed to be added to the inspection database. In total, more than 31,000 properties now require annual inspections by CFD certified Fire Safety Inspectors and this number is expected to climb as numerous other projects throughout the city are currently under construction and will need to be added to the FPB inspectable database upon completion.

This growth, albeit not as fast, will continue to create challenges for the Fire Prevention Bureau as technology and personnel resources are stretched to capacity. Several efficiencies were explored in the past year to address these concerns, including expanded electronic inspection processes and the pilot testing of mobile devices in hope that someday soon our inspectors will be able to accomplish assigned inspections in the field, from initiation through completion. Even without these forthcoming efficiencies, the completion percentages remained very high throughout the year and concluded with 94% for Company-Level inspections, 97% for District-Level inspections, and 93% for Bureau-Level inspections.

Several training classes regarding the High-Rise Fire Safety Director Course were held in 2020, a comprehensive 24-hour curriculum which focuses on Emergency Action Plans, Fire Code requirement, record keeping, and Fire Command Center operations. This initiative was further expanded to include key High-Risk properties in the City that pose a significant life risk to both citizens and first responders.

2020 Fire Prevention Bureau Accomplishments *Continued*

- Assisted in the planning, inspection, and deployment of the Greater Columbus Convention Center Field Hospital and COVID Testing Tents throughout the City.
- Completed organizational restructuring and revision of bureau job descriptions.
- Expanded high-rise inspection program to include high-risk occupancies.
- Developed comprehensive bureau-specific training regarding orientation, continuing education, and succession planning.
- Acquisition of needed hardware and implementation of virtual meeting procedures to safeguard personnel and ensure the proper and timely continuance of core fire prevention activities.
- Development of the Hazardous Condition Notification procedure based upon the Ohio Fire Code Vacant Premises, whereby important information about dangerous occupancies are made readily available to Emergency Services personnel.
- Prepared to transition to a new cashing system that will track all associated Fire Prevention fees from point of sale through remittance to accounts receivables.
- Restructured Youth Fire Prevention & Intervention (YFP&I) program based upon National Fire Protection (NFPA) 1035.



**Public Outreach**

The normal outreach programs of the Public Outreach Section were significantly curtailed in response to limitations imposed by the pandemic, however, this did not impede the dedicated personnel of this office in contributing to the bureau’s mission by conducting 104 School Fire Drills, installing approximately 657 residential Rapid-Key Entry Systems. Using enhanced health safeguards, more than 1,387 smoke alarms and 565 carbon monoxide alarms were installed without cost for our most at-risk residents.

The traditional Fire Prevention Week activities were replaced with new taped safety segments for each day of the week that were made available on social media, radio, and television, culminating in a virtual Open House of our newest Fire Station 35. A very successful Community Safety Day was held in October, where Public Outreach joined forces with more than a dozen other agencies and provided important safety messaging in addition to offering other critical resources.

**See Prevention continued on next page**

*Photos top left: Columbus Fire Inspector Michael DeFrancisco speaks to plant safety personnel after a chemical process used to seal test tubes started a fire at Battelle Memorial Institute on Feb. 12, 2020. Below below: Fire Inspector Joe West speaks with a food truck operator during inspections held jointly Columbus Public Safety Licensing Section and Columbus Fire Prevention at the City's Groves Road facility on Sept. 29, 2020.*



## FIRE PREVENTION OFFICES

CONTINUED

### Plans Review

This Section is on the front lines in ensuring Fire Code compliance even before ground is broken by reviewing various types of plans that have been submitted by architects, contractors, and private consultants. Many times, these reviews uncover safety concerns that are easily remedied in the planning phase, saving invaluable time and expense to both the responsible party and the City.

The Plans Review Section works closely with the Department of Building and Zoning Services and shares office space to enhance this coordination, resulting in time savings and improved customer service.

This section also manages the Division's Rapid-Key Entry System for businesses, which allows for fast and easy access by Emergency Services during emergencies. To date, more than 1,400 Knox Box Electronic Security Cores have been installed throughout the City and soon the Division's Medvaults will be upgraded to allow for real-time updates in the field. In addition to the more than 1,499 site plans and 815 fire and sprinkler alarm plans reviewed in 2020, the office also administers hydrostatic testing of underground fire line systems. While the influx of plan submittals subsided somewhat due to economic conditions, growth continues throughout the City as exhibited by several new large-scale projects and high-rises that are either under construction or in the planning stage.

### Public Assembly

The Public Assembly Section oversees the permitting aspects associated with large-scale gatherings and their unique safety concerns. Indoor/outdoor events, mobile food vending, and pyrotechnic displays are all potentially hazardous and require additional safeguards and oversight.

COVID brought new challenges to the City and wherever people gathered. The Public Assembly Section assisted in making assemblies in this new environment as safe as possible by working collaboratively with local and state authorities to develop safety guidelines and procedures intended to safeguard patrons, workers, and first responders.

### High Hazard

The High Hazard Section conducts inspections of industrial hazardous materials storage facilities, hotel/motels, distilleries, marijuana facilities and aboveground/underground petroleum storage tanks. Additionally, this Section assist in mitigating contamination involving flammable/combustible liquid storage tanks and coordinating activities with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR), and other City and State agencies. Inspectors also participate in Environmental Nuisance Abatement Group (NAG) and Hotel/Motel NAG inspections, which are multi-agency efforts to guide nuisance properties down the path towards code compliance.

Distilleries and marijuana facilities were added to the responsibilities of the High Hazard Section this year due to the unique hazards involved in these operations. Specific activities of this Section include:

- 783 High-Hazard Occupancy Inspections
- 523 Hotel/Motel Occupancy Inspections
- 148 Storage Tank Permits Issued

### Institution-Education

This section is responsible for the inspections of daycares, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities institutions, residential homes (group, foster care, and adoption), Educational occupancies, Institutional occupancies (hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living), requested

inspections for licensing, and various complaint inspections to include incidents of reported hoarding. This office also participates in Apartment Nuisance Abatement Group (ANAG) inspections and is assigned to manage the bureau's telephone communication and customer service phone tree.

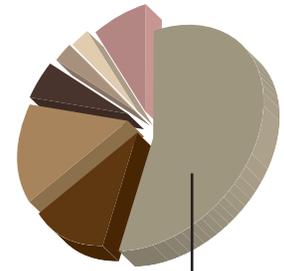
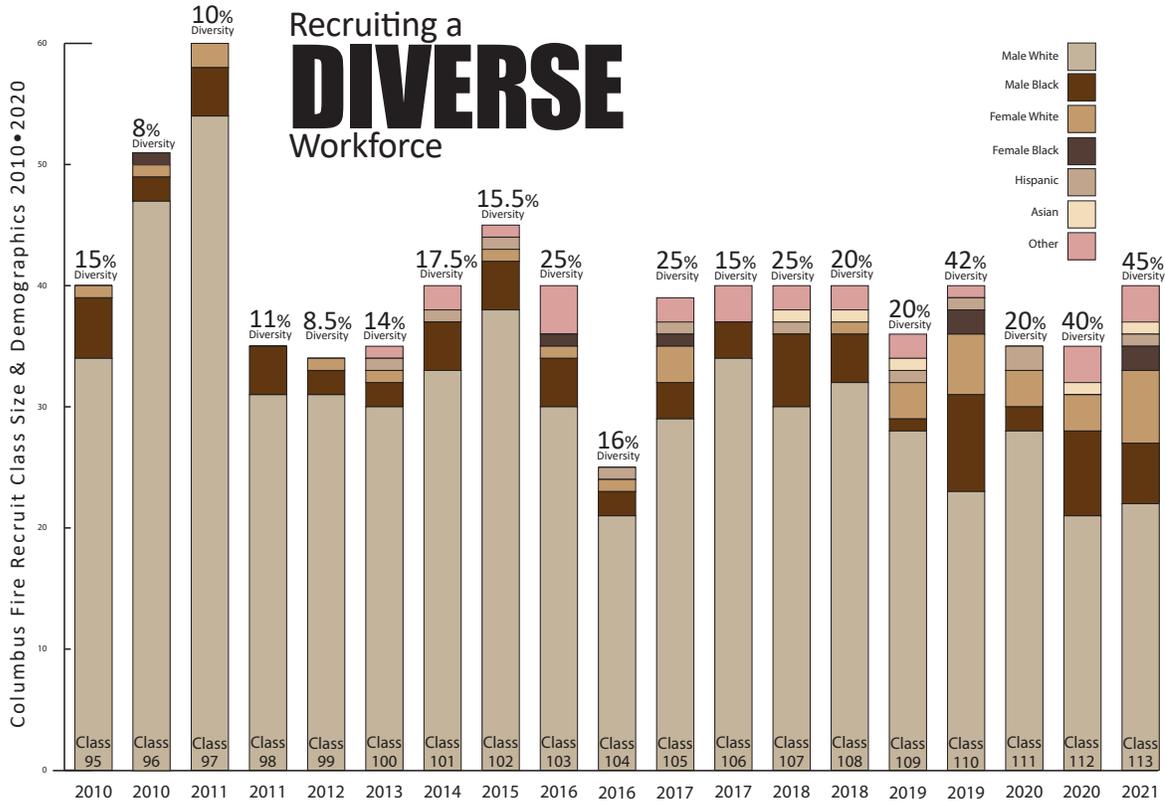
Improvements to the Division's website included the addition of checklists related to various inspection types and the inclusion of instructional information for school administrators and teachers. Specific activities of this Section include:

- 489 Daycare Inspections
- 510 Home Inspections/Group Homes
- 907 Schools/Colleges
- 208 Business/Institution/and other Inspections

### District Inspections Section

Arguably the most significant accomplishment in the Fire Prevention in 2020, was the successful preparation of transitioning the remaining 16,000+ company-level inspections to the District Inspections Office in early 2021. This monumental accomplishment was made possible, in part, by physically moving the District Inspections Office to a central location within the CFD Training Complex, the assignment of additional Fire Prevention Bureau personnel to this section, and enhanced training of inspectors.

Once the transition is complete, the District Inspections personnel will be responsible for more than 80% of the total 31,000+ annual fire inspections. The complexity of Fire Code, combined with the competency and training needed to stay abreast of the administration and enforcement of code requirements, weighted heavily in the decision to consolidate all inspection under the Fire Prevention Bureau. While many logistical needs remain, it is believed that the devoted inspectors of the District Inspections Office are well positioned to meet the challenges that lie ahead.



**Class 113**  
40 Recruits

55% White Male

18% Afro-American

20% Female

12% Asian/Hispanic/Other

45% Diversity

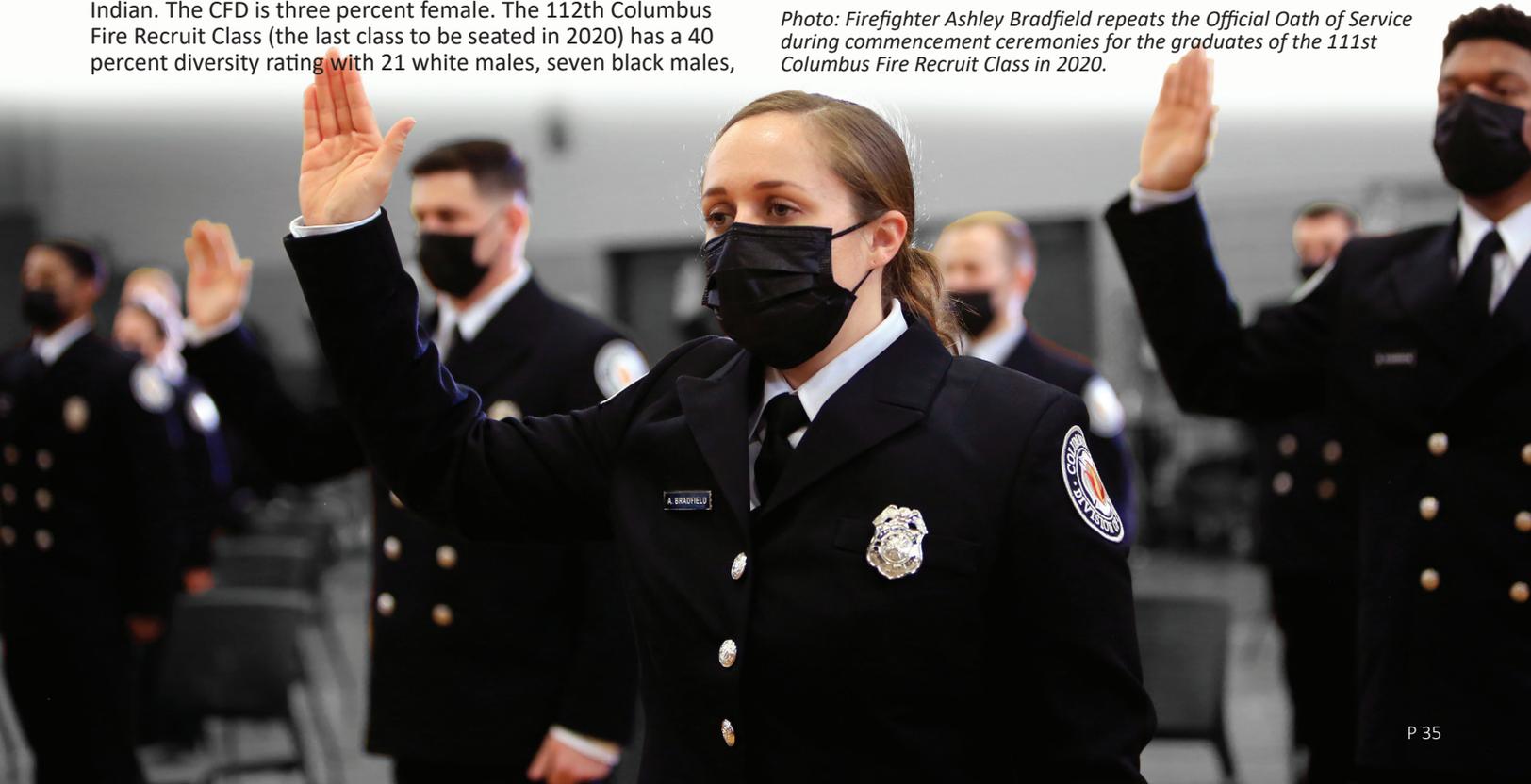
The Columbus Division of Fire Office of Recruitment has achieved solid progress in the goal of achieving a more diverse workforce over the last 10 years to better reflect the communities we serve. The City of Columbus population of almost 900,000 is made up of 59 percent white, 29 percent African American and about six percent Asian and Hispanic residents.

Currently, the Columbus Fire Department's 1,547 uniformed personnel are 90 percent white, eight percent African American, one percent Hispanic and about a half percent Asian and Indian. The CFD is three percent female. The 112th Columbus Fire Recruit Class (the last class to be seated in 2020) has a 40 percent diversity rating with 21 white males, seven black males,

three white females three black females, one Asian American & three of other ethnicities. The 113th Columbus Fire Recruit Class, the Division's first class seated in 2021, has a 45 percent diversity rating, including eight women.

The Division's Fire Cadet Program, started in 2019 to introduce the fire service to non-traditional and minority students, has prepared 14 students who were eventually accepted into the Fire Training Academy as recruits, with five of those Fire Cadet alumni now working as full-time firefighters for the City of Columbus.

Photo: Firefighter Ashley Bradfield repeats the Official Oath of Service during commencement ceremonies for the graduates of the 111st Columbus Fire Recruit Class in 2020.





Columbus Fire Investigators Lonie Henegar and Jeffrey Smith scan the aftermath of an explosion that rocked the Enchanted Acres mobile home park on Janice Marie Blvd on Feb. 4, 2020. Hamilton Township and Columbus CFD responded to the scene where crews found two injured people near the demolished trailer park home. The two were transported to area hospitals as firefighters extinguished the blaze that was hot enough to melt siding off of nearby homes. James Miller/Division of Fire

## FIRE PREVENTION OFFICE

### Fire & Explosives Investigations Unit

The Fire & Explosive Investigations Unit (FEIU) seeks to determine the origin & cause of fires, and to establish if each was accidental or intentionally set. This unit is also responsible for investigating all explosive and hazardous material incidents within the City of Columbus and conducts full criminal investigations and file charges on individuals when warranted. Education and mentoring of juveniles through the Youth Fire Prevention & Intervention Program (YFP&I) is an important resource of the Fire & Explosive Investigations Unit.

In 2020, the Columbus Division of Fire responded to 2,807 fires. Of those fires, our nine (9) Fire Investigators were called to conduct 1,162 fire investigations. This represents an investigation being conducted on 41% of the fires where Columbus Fire Companies responded. Of those 1,162 investigations, 459 or

40% were found to be incendiary in nature, 505 or 43% were determined to be accidental, and 131 or 11% remain undetermined\* at this point. The remaining 6% fell into "Good Intent" or other categories.

There were 19 bomb investigations, three incendiary device investigations, and seven Hazmat incidents investigated. There were 507 total reported vehicle fires in the city, with investigations being conducted on 317 or 63% of those fires. Of the vehicle investigations, 144 or 45% were determined to be incendiary. There were 142 charges filed from 108 fires: 54 for Aggravated Arson, 34 Arson, 13 Attempted Aggravated Arson, 2 Attempt Arson, 11 Criminal Damaging or Endangering, seven Open Burning, six Breaking and Entering, six Vandalism, two Aggravated Menacing, one Criminal Trespass, one Illegal Possession of Fireworks, one False Report of a Catastrophe, one Grand Theft Motor Vehicle, one Making False Alarm, one

Provisions Involving Companion Animals, and one Unlawful Possession/Use of a Hoax Weapon of Mass Destruction. There were 54 juveniles involved in 36 fires referred to our YFP&I program. There was one referral to our YFP&I program from Franklin County Children's Services, five were referred from family members, and one was ordered by the court to complete our program. Twenty Arson fires were closed by making referrals to the YFP&I program in lieu of filing felony charges on juveniles.

Ten Arson fires were solved by exceptional means and charges are pending in three fires. There were 10 fire related fatalities in Columbus in 2020, including nine adults and one child and one multiple fatality fire. We also tracked 74 injuries from fires that included 74 civilians and no firefighters.

These numbers equate to a solve rate of 31.4% for incendiary fires in Columbus, in 2020, exceeding the national average of 23.4% (Statista, 2020).

	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Fire Runs</b>	2,534	2,396	2,564	2,807
<b>Investigator Call-Outs</b>	920 (36%)	918 (38%)	948	1,162
<b>Incendiary</b>	376 (41%)	332 (36%)	348 (38%)	459
<b>Accidental</b>	383 (42%)	374 (41%)	430	505
<b>Undetermined*</b>	107 (12%)	135 (15%)	118	131 (11%)
<b>Bomb investigations</b>	18	19	18	19
<b>Haz-mat Investigations</b>	10	16	11	7
<b>Vehicle Fires in Columbus</b>	454	474	424	507
<b>Vehicle Fire Investigations</b>	257 (57%)	240 (56%)	231	317 (63%)
<b>Vehicle incendiary</b>	134 (52%)	101 (42%)	113	144 (45%)
<b>Fires Resulting in Charges**</b>	46	56	88	111
<b>Number of Charges Filed</b>	58	67	95	146
<b>Youth Firesetter Prevention &amp; Intervention Referrals</b>	50 from 34 fires	38 from 29 fires	18	7 from 20 fires
<b>Incendiary Fire Solve Rate</b>	21%	25.6%	32.0%	31.4%
<b>Fire Fatalities</b>	13 Adults 2<18	7 Adults 0 Children	5 Adults 0 Children	9 Adults 1 Child

\*Undetermined includes fires with known causes but lacking sufficient evidence to prove it to the degree of certainty required by NFPA 921 to classify it differently, and includes fires still under investigation. \*\* These numbers need to be tempered with the fact that many of the JFSP referrals were made in lieu of filing felony charges against juvenile offenders.

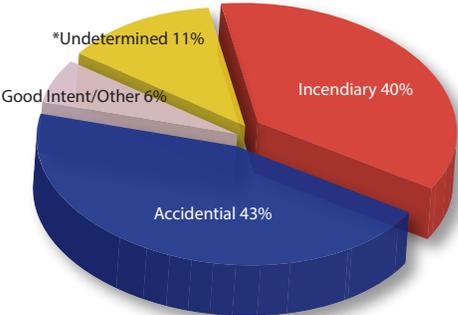


Photo below: Columbus Fire Investigator Deric Scott interviews workers after a fire ripped through a McKinley Avenue auto recycling business on Sept. 15, 2020. FEIU Investigators were summoned to 1,162 fire scenes during 2020, resulting in a 146 felony charges. James Miller/Division of Fire



**FEIU**

9 Investigators

**1,162**

Fire Investigations

**459**

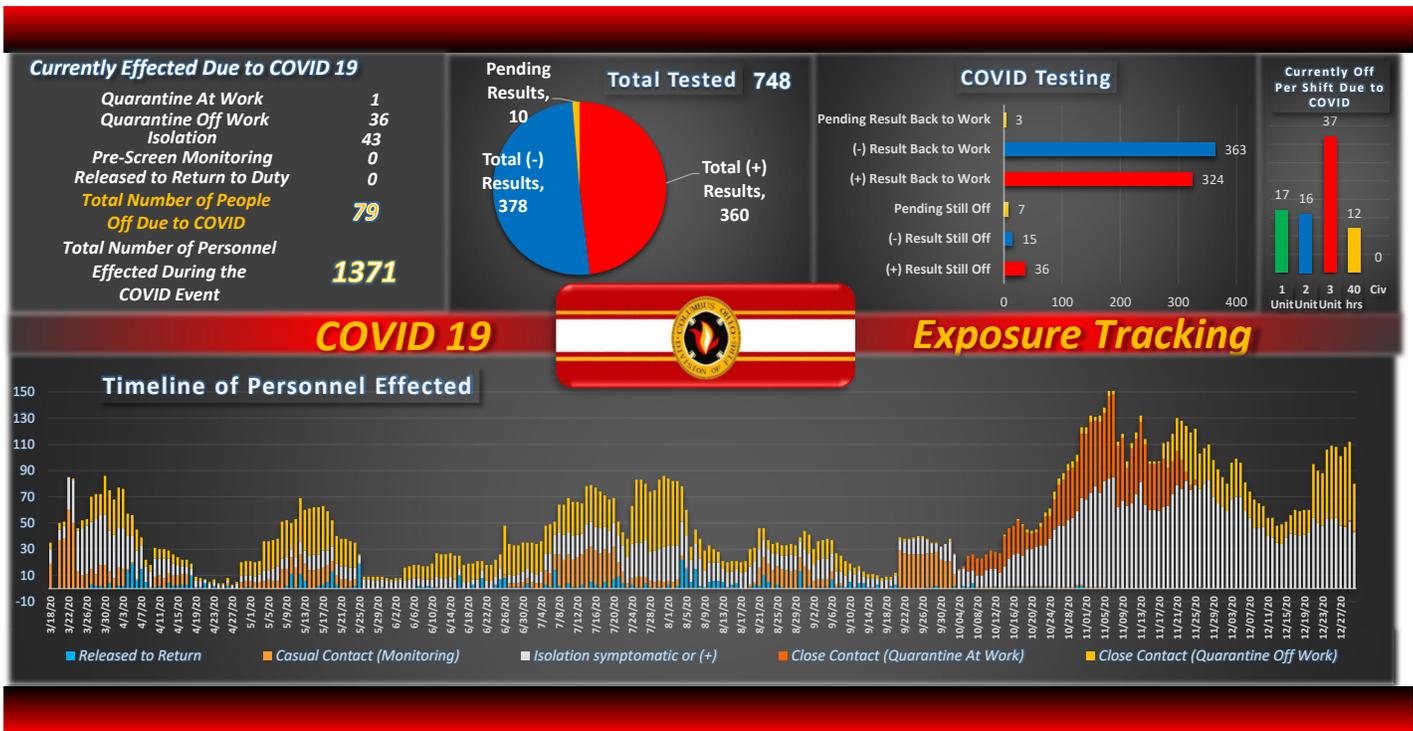
Fires Deliberately Set

**146**

Charges Filed

**20**

Kids Referred to YFP&I



**Photo top:** Columbus Fire EMS instructor Joshua Bryon created a Covid-19 tracking dashboard which was updated and distributed daily to keep officers and medical personnel abreast of the impact of illness and quarantine status of the uniformed personnel. This snapshot shows the 10 month progression of infection rates beginning in March, 2020 through the end of the year. Of the Division's 1,568 members, 1,006 had been either quarantined for exposure or in isolation for illness during the 10 month period. The 1,371 Total Number of Personnel Effected in the first column includes members that were quarantined or isolated more than once.

**Year of the Pandemic continued**

All patient interactions now required full PPE turnout gear, including P100 respirators, glasses, gloves and isolation gowns or department issued all weather gear. Division contact tracers notified

medics who transported Covid-19 positive patients after the fact to confirm the proper use of PPE during the run. Confirmation meant those medics were not considered "close contact" exposures by virtue of the protective gear, and were not ordered off the job and into quarantine.

On December 1st, 2020, Franklin County saw a new record of 1,181 Covid-19 infections coming out of the Thanksgiving holiday. On the same day, Columbus Fire had 90 firefighters off work with 65 positive tests and 25 close contact quarantines. By that point of 2020, the Division had tracked 268 positive Covid-19 infections since the first firefighter tested positive in March.

**Changes in EMS Patient Contact Procedures**

The Division of Fire's Emergency Medical Services response procedures evolved in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The changes to patient interactions were adopted to help limit possible virus exposure to the EMS staff and to protect the patients as much as possible.

The Division's 911 dispatchers began gathering information about any possible contagious emergency from callers requesting medical help and relayed the information to the responding medic crews.

Callers were now asked:

- Has the patient been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for, or is under suspicion for Coronavirus?
- Does the patient have a fever, cough or shortness of breath?
- Can the patient safely get to the entrance of the building? If so, please meet the EMS crew at the door.

Under the new guidelines, when medics arrive, a single paramedic conducts the patient evaluation whenever possible to limit possible exposure to EMS crews. This also minimizes the use of personal protective gear on each 911 run in order to preserve precious supplies of gloves, masks and outer-ware. Interviews of family members will take place with the appropriate social distancing space to protect both the household members and the EMS personnel.

Only the patient and the attending medic were now permitted in the medic unit, unless the medic requests another EMS partner to assist in the evaluation. In the event that a patient with contagious virus symptoms is transported to a medical facility, responding medics replaced or sanitized all protective gear and sanitize the transporting vehicle upon returning to their station before going back into service.

To protect the community as well as themselves, all on-duty Firefighter/EMTs were screened for virus symptoms twice during each 24 hour shift. If a medic crew was notified that a patient they've interacted with or transported has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, the crew members were ordered to

decontaminate themselves, change clothing and replace all of their protective gear and take the medic/ambulance out of service until it can be completely chemically decontaminated.

Medic and EMT personnel now showered and changed out of their uniforms before going home to their families.

“We had to recreate the daily routine where cleaning surfaces and cleaning the firehouse had to be a top priority. We had to make full PPE and P100 masks mandatory for ALL patient contacts. We also had to ensure that people who were feeling sick would not be allowed to continue to work,” said Baugh.

“It was a huge culture shift. For 25 years, you’ve got the same routine at the fire station. We’ve seen if for years; when someone in the station comes down with the ‘crud’, before you know it everybody has the crud. The difference was if it was just the flu or strep throat, it didn’t spread exponentially throughout the organization like it did with Covid-19,” said Baugh.

By August the Division invested in seven additional aeroclave decontamination units to be assigned to each Battalion for disinfecting medics and stations. In November, 40 portable scrubber units were distributed to fire stations with dormitories. Emergency funds were also used to and set up a 24 hour vehicle decontamination workspace at the city’s

Groves Road transportation facility. Crews could clean their trucks, take a shower and change clothes after a “contagious emergency” run at a central location shared with the police department. In December, working with Citywide Safety and Occupational health, the Division provided barriers in work stations and fire station dormitories to better protect staff. Baugh said the central decontamination facility was the result of member feedback. “A national demand for decontamination fluid was creating a big shortage and long lead times from our vendor. And we eventually learned that a shortage of gallon jugs was part of the problem getting the fluid, so we just started to order the material in 55 gallons drums,” said Baugh.

**The Evolution of EMS Protocols**

Columbus Fire Medical Director Dr. Robert Lowe was tasked with monitoring the progress of the pandemic across the city and to adopting best practices among the EMS personnel to protect the workforce.

“I remember in the early days there was a concern about what kind of personal protective equipment (PPE) we had and didn’t have. Even among the general public, there wasn’t public masking or mask wearing in the fire stations until there were more masks for health care workers,” recalled Dr. Lowe.

“Initially, we had the P100 masks. That

was an easy level of protection that every uniformed member had and it fit real well,” said Lowe, who went on to explain that a national shortage of isolation gowns forced another adaption; medics would now wear their Division issued rain parka during all patient interactions in lieu of a gown. The jackets added another layer of protection against both airborne and blood borne pathogens with the added benefit that they could be disinfected and reused.

The working definition of exposure, adopted on April 3, 2020, was being within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes unprotected.

“We were trying to sort out the 911 calls in the early days of the pandemic. Which were Contagious Emergency Calls which we’d gear up for, and which were not necessary? The ‘woman in labor’ call hampered us pretty quickly,” said Lowe.

“We found out people who were being tripped into quarantine were the ones that we didn’t know were exposed to infectious people. We had a crew run on a woman in labor who later tested positive for Covid-19 at the hospital. That put the whole crew into quarantine. We quickly transitioned to every patient contact was going to be in a P100 mask after that. That eliminated a lot of quarantine because it didn’t meet the definition of exposure because every patient contact was fully PPE’d,” said Lowe.

***Pandemic continued page 41***

**Photo left:** Columbus Fire Medic Shawn Smart was among dozens of firefighters who worked along side public health nurses to administer Covid-19 vaccinations in a mass drive-thru operation held at the Celeste Center on the Ohio State Fairgrounds. The joint effort between Columbus Public Health and the Division of Fire began in Dec. 2020 and continued into the spring. Over 65,000 doses had been administered free to the public by the end of March, 2021. James Miller/Division of Fire





### Narcan Events 2020

Total Events  
**3,274**

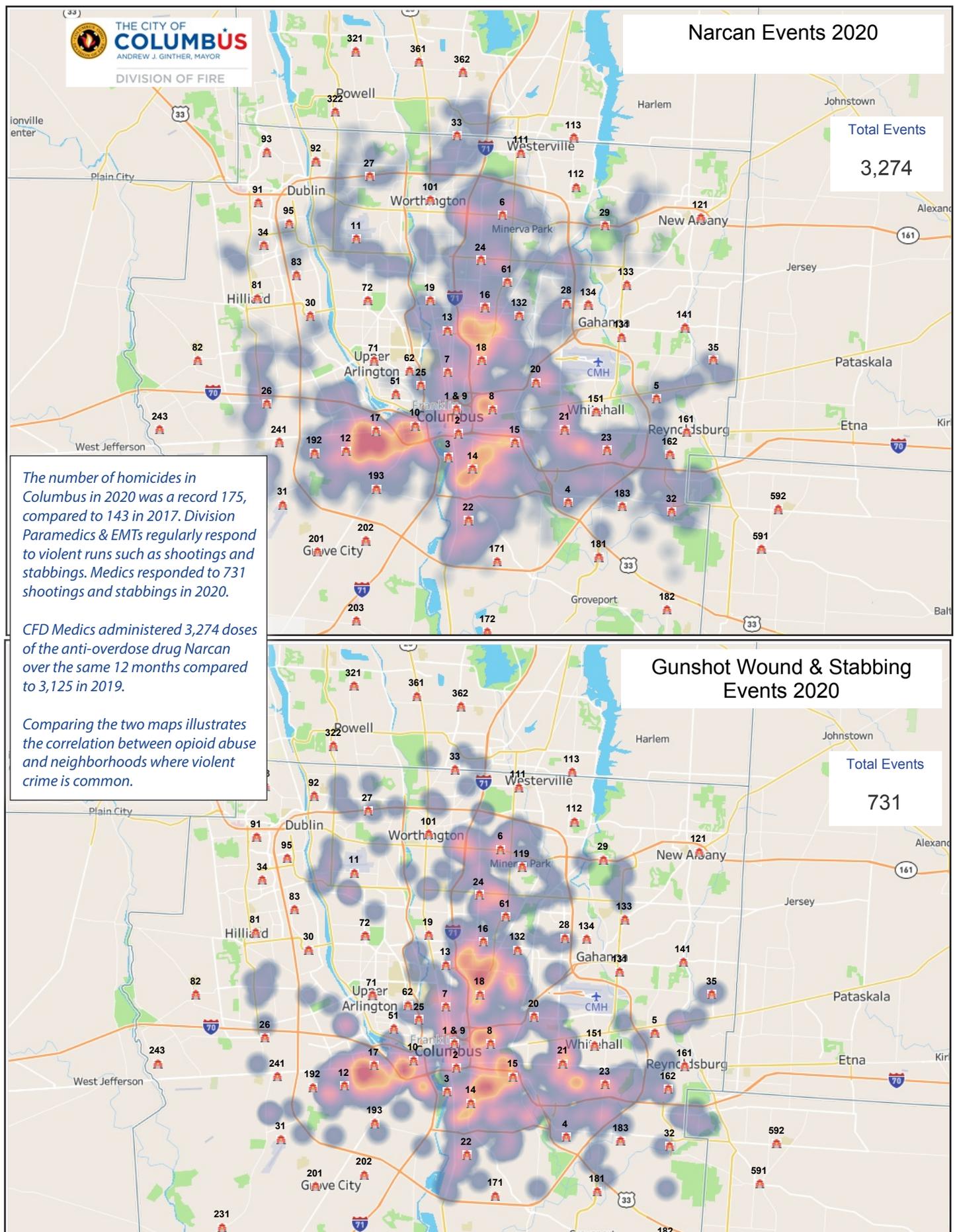
*The number of homicides in Columbus in 2020 was a record 175, compared to 143 in 2017. Division Paramedics & EMTs regularly respond to violent runs such as shootings and stabbings. Medics responded to 731 shootings and stabbings in 2020.*

*CFD Medics administered 3,274 doses of the anti-overdose drug Narcan over the same 12 months compared to 3,125 in 2019.*

*Comparing the two maps illustrates the correlation between opioid abuse and neighborhoods where violent crime is common.*

### Gunshot Wound & Stabbing Events 2020

Total Events  
**731**



***Year of the Pandemic continued***

“That helped a ton. These were no longer ‘exposures’ as long as we had the PPE on. To this day, we still maintain the Contagious Emergency call type so our people know what they are walking into,” said Lowe.

“We did a couple minor things to minimize contact with dispatched CE calls. We asked patients to meet us at the front door whenever possible. We warned our crews that maybe we didn’t need five people inside six feet of a patient. Maybe we could assess the patient with one or two people inside of six feet, with others available at a safe distance, if needed,” said Lowe.

“We minimized time in the airways. If they absolutely didn’t need a nebulizer treatment, we didn’t use it so we didn’t have all that exhalation all over the ambulance. We switched the type of nebulizer eventually, as product caught up with the pandemic. And we were able to put filters into exhalation valves and breathing tubes as well,” said Lowe.

“To manage our quarantine numbers, the online dashboard did a really good job of tracking our internal people. A firefighter goes into quarantine because of exposure. They go into isolation because of symptoms. We were able to track those in quarantine, who actually developed symptoms and when did they develop symptoms. Within the first couple of months, it was obvious to us that anyone who was popping positive were developing symptoms by day ten. Most of them by day seven. So with that data, we were able to reach out to the Public Health Department and said this is what our numbers are showing. Obviously we have a work force issue, we wanted to protect the workforce, so we won’t bring people to work sick because we screen all our people on arrival. But we thought we could safely step down to 10 days of quarantine if exposed, and they agreed to support that change. That was because we maintained our own data, and we were able to see that really early on,” said Lowe.

“Those were our own numbers, our own data by the end of July, 2020. That was six months before CDC went to 10 day quarantine,” said Lowe.

“We stayed with the P100 mask requirement for a long time, just transitioned out this spring, but we still require a facemask with everybody. With our vaccination rates, we’ve seen infections plummet, both as a community and as a department. On May 12th we had our first day with no one off due to Covid-19,” said Lowe.

“Early on, we received a blessing from the health department that previously infected Covid-19 personnel who had another exposure but were asymptomatic didn’t need to go into quarantine. We monitored them, but there was a presumption of antibodies in that firefighter. Obviously, we continued to screen for symptoms, but we didn’t have a re-infected person until just recently. But that person remained asymptomatic. That really helped us a lot by not having to put them into quarantine when they were asymptomatic,” said Lowe.

A change in work leave policy instituted in October led to a spike in infections. A total of 72 firefighters were off due to exposure or positive test results on November 1, 2020.

“My concern was we were no longer giving firefighters the unlimited paid time off, so they were going to show up symptomatic and not stay home with minor symptoms. So we had this ‘at-work’ quarantine period here, which made us look a little higher. But once vaccinations kicked in and once leave was kicked back in, we were able to solve a lot of that,” said Lowe.

“The first vaccinations began Dec. 26, 2020. I remember debating whether the day after Christmas was the right date to start, but in the end we didn’t want to wait. Chief Happ got an early vaccination and he did his video to show it was safe and that we weren’t asking people to do something we weren’t willing to do,” said Lowe.

Covid-19 vaccines remain voluntary for firefighters because the vaccines were approved under an emergency authorization, but 875 firefighters have been vaccinated as of June 3, 2021. Firefighters were paid overtime to get their vaccinations at the end of their shifts so that any symptoms from the vaccines would run their course during the 48 hours off work and not be confused with actual Covid-19 symptoms.

**Lessons Learned**

The Division maintained the definition of close contact which triggered quarantine, but mandated that all patient contacts be in full PPE, so close contact was not unprotected close contact.

The Division was able to change the quarantine time frame from 14 days to 10 days.

The Division was able to forego quarantine of close contact exposure personnel for those who had previously contracted Covid-19 if a second unprotected exposure occurred with the assumption that antibodies were present.

Post vaccination firefighters would not have to quarantine under our policy, and CDC quickly followed up with the same guidelines.

By the end of calendar year 2020, 1,006 of the Division’s 1,640 members had been quarantined or in isolation at some point, with 748 members tested and 360 positive Covid-19 cases reported. Remarkably, the Division maintained its eight minute or less response time benchmark throughout the year and suffered no Covid-19 related deaths. Medical Director Dr. Robert Lowe, who also tested positive for the virus, attributed the Division’s relative health and fitness of its members for avoiding fatal illness from the disease. Dr. Lowe also credited the city’s decision to modify sick time rules, which incentivized members to not report to work with minor illness symptoms, for keeping the infection rates relatively low at most of the fire stations.

**Is the Division of Fire better prepared for the next pandemic?**

“I think we are,” said Baugh.

*Pandemic continued page 59*



**Christopher Blair**  
**Assistant Chief**

Training is paramount throughout one's career and serves as a vital function in the Division by equipping personnel with the education and training to perform job duties. The Training Bureau continues to focus on all aspects of the EMS and Firefighting profession.

The Training Bureau provides initial EMS and Fire certification and proceeds throughout an individual's career, maintaining certifications and providing targeted professional development. The Bureau is also responsible for ensuring and evaluating the effectiveness of EMS care delivery and contributing to the development of innovative care practices through research. Firefighting and EMS are constantly evolving and continue to present unforeseen challenges, the Training Bureau continues to stay on the forefront and provide for all Division employees.

### Recruit Training

The Recruit Training Academy consists of approximately 35 weeks of intense training. The academy is broken into 4 Sections: EMS, Firefighter II, Division Operations, and Physical Training. The Firefighter II course is a basic fire training program of not less than two-hundred and fifty hours, with an additional 64 hours for Driving & Tilling, Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations level course, and 16 Life Safety Initiatives. The Division Operations course is based on periodic evaluations covering material from the Division of Fire Systems Manual, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), Division Operations subjects (Engine, Ladder, High-Rise, and Saving Our Own), and Battalion Familiarization. After completion of these sections, a recruit will be certified as a State of Ohio: NREMT-Basic and Firefighter II. Passing all four sections is required for graduation.

# TRAINING BUREAU

## 20 New Fire Cadets Enroll in Second Class of Student Fire Interns in 2020



THE DIVISION OF FIRE TRAINING BUREAU HAS PROVIDED  
17,093 HOURS OF EMS CONTINUOUS EDUCATION TRAINING

504 CIVILIANS TRAINED IN CPR & FIRST AID

The Training Academy also coordinates with Columbus Fire In-Service Training, Journeyman Training, Cadet Program, Arson Bureau, and RREACT to use the grounds, buildings, and/or vehicles. In addition, the Training Academy has partnered with outside agencies including the Columbus Police Division, Columbus Police NTAC and SWAT teams, Columbus Fire Auxiliary, Central Ohio Strike Team, The Ohio Fire Academy, Ohio State Patrol Search and Rescue Team, Franklin County SWAT team, Columbus State Community College, Civil Service Commission, Columbus Recreation and Parks, and Firehouse Expo to utilize various classrooms, buildings, and/or vehicles.

**Major Initiatives**

2020 has been a year of Organization, Time Management, and Building Repair. In-order for the Academy to function at the highest level, it requires structure and efficiency. Classes and timelines have been streamlined to provide an effective outcome. The Training Academy has trained hundreds of recruits and personnel since its opening. This vast number of people has had an adverse impact on the building and grounds. Recruit Training with the help of Support Services, The Administration Bureau, and City of Columbus Finance has managed a construction project, where the building issues have been receiving much needed attention.

**Major Accomplishments**

Class 109 – 35 Recruits – Graduated - February 7, 2020

Class 110 – 37 Recruits – Graduated - August 21, 2020

Class 111 – 36 Recruits – Start date - June 15, 2020

Class 112 – 35 Recruits – Start date - December 14, 2020

Firehouse Expo – Columbus Fire Training Academy is working with central Ohio regional partners and will host hands-on training sessions Sept 13-18, 2021

**Projects**

Practical Skills Building Moisture Infiltration Renovation Project

Digital Projectors – Classroom A and B – Bluetooth compatible

Porta Kleen Unit – South Campus

9/11 House – New Siding / Decks

Columbus Recruit Class Graduation Picture Wall

Addition of Gym Equipment

Stationary Bike

Stationary Rower

Pull-up Assist Machine

Community Days

All Columbus Fire Recruits are required to perform two community day projects while at the Academy to reinforce the Division’s commitment to the neighborhoods we serve. This year has been challenging with limited volunteer opportunities due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**Events**

Growlers Dog Bones – March 6, 2020

Recruits worked side-by-side with young people with disabilities to make and bake dog biscuits to be sold at area farmers markets and local breweries

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum – May 22 and September 11, 2020

Recruits assisted with lining the property with approximately 4,000 U.S. Flags to honor Memorial Day and 9/11

Columbus Parks and Recreation – March 6 and September 11, 2020

Recruits helped with various needs at the following park locations

Wilson Road Park – 275 South Wilson Road

Franklin Park – 1755 E. Broad Street

Columbus Firefighter Memorial – September 11, 2020

Recruits cleaned the grounds, picked weeds, and groomed the mulch

*Training Bureau continued next page*

### Apprenticeship Program

The apprenticeship program has seen some exciting changes over the course of 2020. Leaders in the Columbus Division of Fire have worked diligently to update our course material to reflect our own standards and practices in the division. Three new manuals have been released for the program and the Division, with three more to come in the next year. The Engine Operations Manual, High Rise Operations Manual and Saving Our Own Manual all focus on the Division's equipment, SOP's and practices as well as hands on and classroom training to further prepare the apprentice to operate as a journeyman firefighter. Truck Company Operations Manual, Out of Class Manual, and EMS Operations Manual are set to be released in 2021.

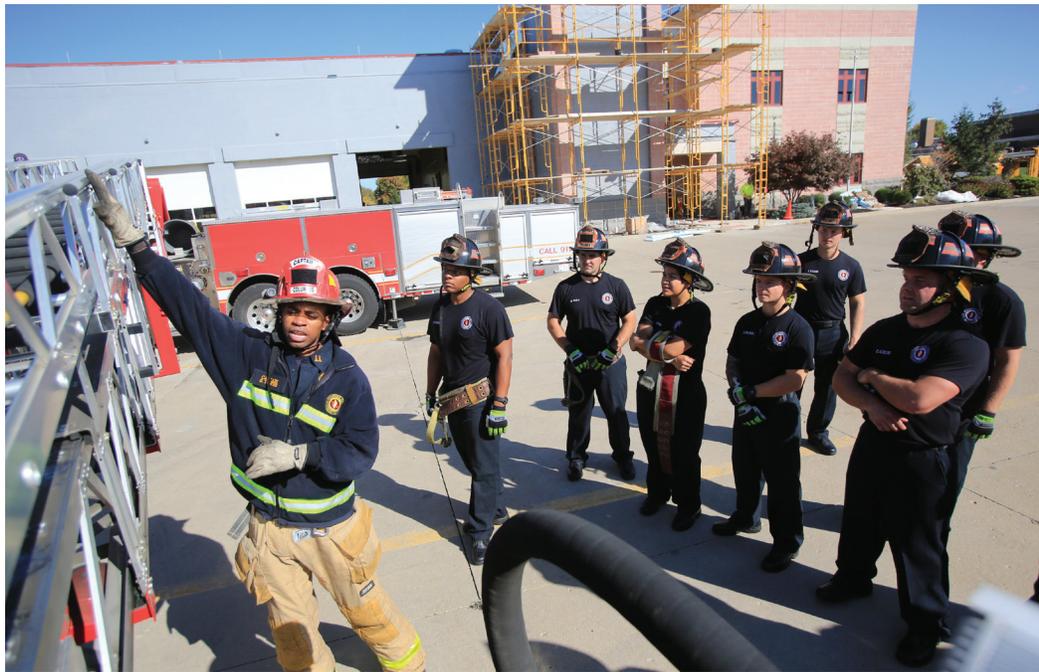
For the first time the apprenticeship program taught apprenticeship firefighters to become Certified Fire Safety Inspectors. This course had previously been part of the recruit training program. 30 members of class 109 were awarded their certificate for this program.

66 apprentice firefighters achieved the milestone of passing their final hands on skills test and completing their training in 2020 to become journeyman firefighters and receive their certification from the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council. This training totals over 6000 hours of on the job training as well as 430 hours of related instruction.

### In-Service Training

The office of in-service training is tasked with career long training opportunities for the departments 1568 members. Priorities for the office include supplying continuing education to maintain required certifications, training on new equipment and procedures, maintaining a high level of proficiency, and professional development to best serve the City of Columbus and our surrounding neighbors.

2020 brought special challenges with the pandemic. With adaptations to the training environment and special considerations with regard to protection of the workforce the in-service training office developed an exciting new program. Two certified fire instructors were dedicated to a direct delivery training model developed



**Photos top left:** The 110th Columbus Fire Recruit Class participated in Community Day public service events on Friday, March 6, 2020. The recruits visited the Innovation Kitchen on the campus of Columbus State Community College in Mitchell Hall where Growlers Dog Bones are made to help produce biscuits made from donated brewery grains. The non-profit company employs workers with disabilities and sells the biscuits at area farmers markets and at the local breweries who donate the materials. **Bottom left and page 47:** Lt. Sexton Towns teaches ladder operations to the 111th Fire Recruit Class, including truck operations for both aerial and platform trucks, as well as ground ladders and ladder truck tactics. Each recruit must climb ladders reaching 100 feet in the air and tilted to a steep 70 degree pitch and anchor themselves onto the ladder using a safety harness and large carabiner. The purpose of the exercise to build confidence in performing tasks at extreme heights often required during a multi-story structure fire or rescue. **Right top:** About 75 Columbus firefighters and medics participated in a mass casualty exercise at John Glenn International Airport in September, 2020. Firefighter teams practiced extinguishing a burning practice fuselage on a closed runway and extracting victims while EMS agencies used preplanned response procedures and specialty equipment to triage, treat and transport victims at the crash scene and coordinate local emergency room capacities to accept victims for treatment. **Bottom right:** The 40 members of the Columbus Fire 110th Recruit Class endured a challenging "Murph" workout to honor a fallen Navy Seal ahead of the Memorial Day Weekend on Friday. The recruits were led by physical training instructor Firefighter Timothy Gribble. 'Murph' is named after Navy Lieutenant Michael Murphy, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on June 28th, 2005. James Miller/Division of Fire



to deliver true “in service” training at the station level. This model will allow for continued training and development with a decreased need to assemble multiple companies, and a significant decrease in out of service times to conduct training evolutions.

Training provided in 2020 consisted of 12,664 man hours, including the following topics.

Fire Officer I, Leadership development, auto extrication, rope rescue, collapse, water rescue, commercial roof operations, and drivers training.

The office is currently working on future plans for 2021 in the form of command training, the addition of Fire Officer II, III, and IV programs, and a Fire and Emergency Services Instructor course to certify members as Fire and/or EMS instructors to be utilized in the Cadet, In-Service, EMS, and Recruit training programs.

**Emergency Medical Services Education**

The Division’s EMS Education Department is staffed by seven full-time civilians and approximately 8 part-time civilians. In early 2020, the Division welcomed a new EMS Education Manager, Brandon Schoborg, to oversee all EMS training within the Division.

EMS Education provides EMS training to a variety of groups to include: uncertified recruits, certified recruits, cadets, and paramedic students. Additionally, EMS Education manages and delivers an annual continuing education (CE) program to the Division’s approximately 1,568 members. Each educational program utilizes a combination of uniformed and civilian instructors to provide training.

**Continuing Education**

Approximately 17,093 hours of EMS continuing education were delivered through the Division. In total, our members completed 22,111 hours of EMS continuing education from a combination of internal and external EMS classes. The Division also created an EMS Officer orientation and continuing education program.

**Recruit & Cadet Training**

Three uncertified recruit classes (total of 51 recruits) completed EMT class and had a 100% first-time pass rate on the NREMT examination. Two certified recruit classes (total of 21 recruits) completed CFD EMS in-service training – a 12 week course to orient already certified (EMT or Paramedic) recruits to the CFD EMS system and protocol. A cadet class of 14 completed EMT class and had a 100% overall pass rate on the NREMT examination.

**Paramedic Training**

A paramedic class of 16 students graduated and had a 94% overall pass rate on the NREMT examination. A new paramedic class of 20 students started in October and will finish in August 2021.

**Training Equipment Additions**

EMS Education welcomed several major pieces of equipment to aide in the delivery of EMS training, such as: (6) iSimulate monitors, (2) Stryker Power Cots, (1) LUCAS 3 machine, and (3) LifeCast Medical Simulation Mannequins.

**Public CPR & First Aid Program**

COVID-19 caused a suspension of all public classes from February through June, however, our CPR program still managed

*Training Bureau continued next page*

### **Training Bureau Continued**

to train 504 participants in a variety of AHA CPR/AED and First Aid courses. Due to the coronavirus, our annual hands-only CPR event could not occur which typically offers training to 500 members of the community.

### **Continuous Quality Improvement**

The Office of Continuous Quality Improvement's (CQI) primary function is to improve patient care and outcome through quality assurance (retrospective) and quality improvement (future impacts). This office works directly with the Medical Director, Emergency Services, EMS training, Support Services, and GIS. The CQI Office uses evidence-based medicine to improve policies, programs, and protocol. In addition, the CQI office is the administrative hub for Division's emergency medical services. We manage all patient care records and requests including our patient care recording software, ESO. It is our responsibility to train and supervise EMS Officers. Finally, we maintain compliance for requirements relating to HIPPA and drug accountability.

### **Initiatives**

**COVID 19 Response** – The CQI Office issued guidance for the Division's incident action plan to maintain the highest level of patient care while protecting our workforce. Further, working with our hospital partners, we provided patient and crew information to SO1 in order to provide timely notification of potential exposures.

We are upgrading the process for documenting daily and drug accountability logs from paper to a computer program. The electronic record will reduce paperwork, provide better drug accountability and allow for real time reporting.

CFD expanded our emergency medicine physician fellowship program with Ohio Health and the Ohio State University with an additional three doctors. Four physicians rotate through the CQI Office working on quality related projects as well as conducting in-field ride time with EMS officers.

The CQI Office continues to work closely with the SPARC/RREACT programs providing referrals and conferencing to integrate special patient care plans for high utilizing individuals.

### **Accomplishments**

In February, the Division replaced the aging Physio cardiac monitors with new Zoll X-Series monitors. The CQI Office was responsible for the configuration of the new machines and well as providing protocol updates and training. In addition, we worked with Zoll representatives to overcome technical issues during the implementation.

Patient care reporting efficiency was improved as we started converting engine companies to GETAC laptops. Sixteen engine companies have been upgraded in this phased in approach.

After years of discussion, an EMS Officer refresher class was launched in the third quarter. The CQI Office assisted with the development of the curriculum and content. New quality assurance measures and a uniform cardiac arrest review process were addressed in the training.

### **Fire Cadet Program**

On August 10, 2020 the Columbus Division of Fire Cadet Program began its second class. There were two hundred twenty-five applicants and sixty-nine interviews were conducted. At the conclusion of the selection process, twenty Cadets were chosen to participate in the class. This class began during a time period packed with unprecedented challenges and equally unprecedented opportunities. Over the next two years Cadet Class 2 will earn certifications as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-B), Firefighter 1 & 2 (240), Fire Safety Inspector, Healthcare provider CPR AHA, AHA First Aid training, and National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) 100 & 700. Everyone involved with the Cadet Program has experienced tremendous growth. There is a culture of service, teamwork, discipline, and hard work that has been intentionally woven into every aspect of this program.

Civil Service Rule Six testing began on

October 10, 2020. There were thirty Cadets who started the process with the written and FOAM, and twenty scored well enough to move on to the Firefighter Mile. All twenty Cadets that took the Firefighter Mile passed.

Cadet Class 1 is nearing the completion of the program. Five of the Cadets from Cadet Class 1 are currently employed by the Columbus Division of Fire. A total of twelve individuals from Cadet Class 1 are currently employed in either the fire service or the emergency medical service including Worthington Fire, Scioto Township Fire Department, Harrison Township Fire Department, and AmeriKare Private Ambulance.

Both classes have participated in community service by teaming up with members from RREACT to help sort and bag food for the Drug Take Back Day. The Cadets have also partnered with Columbus Parks and Recreation and the Columbus Zoo to assist with community revitalization and clean up.

The Cadet Program continues to highlight the commitment of the Division of Fire to be leader on all fronts in Public Safety. The Cadet program was born from a vision to introduce young men and women to the fire service that may not have had the opportunity or understanding of what it means or takes to become a firefighter. This vision is now a successful reality and helping shape the Division of Fire.

### **Members Support Unit**

The Members Support Unit formalized their mission in 2020 to Maximize Performance Through Education, Training, and Peer Outreach. The Members Support Unit is a safe, confidential office for all division members to connect with trained peers and learn about resources available. The staff networks with EAP, local clinicians, providers, and non-profit agencies to provide a wide array of resources. The office logged over 300 contacts in 2020. Contacts were frequently self-referrals, but many were generated by members concerned about a co-worker.

To carry out the mission of education and training, the Members Support Unit

17,093

Hours of Continuous EMS Training for  
1,568 members

71

New Fire Recruits  
Entered the Academy

72

Fire Recruits Graduated in 2020

504

Civilians Trained in CPR/AED &  
First Aid

94%

Overall Pass Rate of  
Paramedic NREMT Exam

produced a testimonial video. The Video features Columbus Police and Fire members who share their story of recovery from critical incident stress, cumulative stress, and substance use. Normalizing the use of resources and hearing the first-person account of recovery will reduce the stigma associated with seeking help. This video will be integrated in to continuing education classes for all members. Additionally, a curriculum of Mental Fitness was developed and implemented for Recruits, Apprentice firefighters, and Paramedic students. The curriculum includes resilience, self-care, and the importance of a daily practice of wellness. Chief Officers received the first installment of the Leadership Essentials and Development Series (LEADS), which focuses on leadership strategies, resilience, and self-care for supervisors. LEADS was developed in 2019 for Company Officers and modified in 2020 for Chief Officers.

Outreach objectives were met through a joint effort with our Employee Assistance Program, and IAFF Local 67. Marketing materials highlighting wellness services available to our members through all three offices were combined into a poster campaign. The posters and additional materials were distributed to all work locations. A brief presentation by peer team members accompanied the delivery. Easy access to resources is essential to maintain a healthy division and maximize performance.

In addition to our existing Peer Support Team, a Chaplain Team comprised of 10 sworn, uniformed members was established. Traditionally, the Division was supported by chaplaincy that was primarily ceremonial. This new team will function in coordination with our Peer Team, providing emotional as well as spiritual support for our members. One of the first deployments for our Chaplains was wellness checks on our members affected by Covid-19. Phone calls were made to members and their families to offer support, identify needs, and answer questions.

Members Support Unit Staff and Peers are active beyond the Division of Fire. Building a community is essential in any healing process, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to volunteer with great organizations including First Responders Bridge, Ohio ASSIST, and Save A Warrior.



# RREACT • SPARC • 2020

ADDICTION CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM EXPANDS TO ASSIST FAMILIES



The Columbus Fire RREACT opioid response team hosted a Community Safety Day at the Fire Training Academy on Oct. 24, 2020, which featured Narcan training & distribution, safe drug disposal and free produce provided by Division partners. From left is Capt. Matt Parrish, Lt. Issac Toliver, Case Manager Will Burton, Firefighter Marvin Robertson, Greg Fountain and Sincear Fountain of New Birth Christian Ministries, Fire Chief Jeffrey Happ, CPD Officer Adam Bell, Meg Hoyles, RREACT Alumni Sam DeLong and Chris Clay, Case Manager Amy Zimmerman and Firefighter Don Penrod. James Miller/Division of Fire

RREACT, an innovative, public safety outreach program, continues to serve the community by increasing linkage to evidence-based treatment and harm reduction services for opioid users. Key partners in this project include the Columbus Division of Fire (CDF), Columbus Division of Police (CDP), Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA), Southeast, Inc., PrimaryOne Health, and the Franklin County Family and Children First Council (FCFCFC). RREACT operates within the CDF Training and Emergency Medical Services Bureau.

In 2020, the RREACT program has grown significantly. RREACT was awarded the SAMHSA FR-CARA grant, BJA COSSAP grant, and CDC OD2A grant. Grant funding allowed for the addition of three CIT Police Officers, a case manager, and a behavioral health liaison to scale the outreach efforts and expand access to resources. RREACT also hired a data analyst to help study vast amounts of data. RREACT EMS outreach service was extended to high-risk zip codes in suburbs and townships within Franklin County that are heavily impacted by opioid overdose, but lack the infrastructure and funding to provide outreach through their local EMS and fire teams.

In 2020, RREACT attempted to make contact with 3,268 unduplicated patients to provide information and linkage to treatment and recovery support services. To reach these 3,268 persons, RREACT made 5,231 attempted contacts, including visits, phone calls, texts, and letters. Through those contacts, the team had 649 direct patient contacts with 519 unduplicated patients. The team made 196 transports to treatment (17 patients were transported more than once). Of the 519 patients that were directly contacted by RREACT, 176 individuals accepted transports to treatment (33.91% of total patients directly contacted).

The external evaluation team, Mighty Crow, conducted interviews with RREACT staff and RREACT patients to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program. Interviews with RREACT patients highlighted the importance of the ability to access treatment immediately. Patients receive direct transportation to treatment via RREACT and ongoing support provided by RREACT case managers as key facilitators to recovery. Interviews with RREACT team members again emphasized the strengths of collaboration and a genuine commitment to supporting individuals

with substance use disorders as catalysts to the teams' success in engaging with the community (2020 RREACT Data Analysis, Hammond, Gretchen, Mighty Crow).

As with most public service programs, RREACT's work was deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Overdose rates increased during this period and it was more difficult than usual to connect individuals with substance use treatment as various agencies shifted their programming to curb the spread of the virus. In response, RREACT developed more strategic outreach in Columbus and Franklin County via remote and face-to-face follow-ups for individuals who experienced an overdose, Narcan training and distribution, and Fentanyl test strip distribution to reduce fatal overdoses and link individuals with treatment and related resources. RREACT shifted priorities towards Harm Reduction and prevention to address the implications associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. RREACT leveraged their training and expertise in dealing with a contagious disease as first responders to continue operations, as safely as possible, while also implementing virtual methods for engagement and recovery supports.

Throughout 2020, the RREACT participated in 136 education and community outreach events, reaching over 2,500 individuals. Events included education about the RREACT program and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and substance use, and Narcan administration training and distribution, as well as the distribution of Fentanyl test strips, masks, and food. Events were held at schools, community agencies, gas stations, churches, fire stations, food banks, and grocery store parking lots. Through hosting and participating in community events, RREACT distributed over 4,000 Project Dawn Kits.

In May 2020, RREACT Partnered with FCSO Hope Taskforce, OSU, FCPH, Southeast Health, to conduct Naloxone training and targeted outreach in zip codes with high rates of overdose. Over four weeks Operation Recovery was responsible for training over 1,000 individuals in Naloxone use. These events also resulted in several significant encounters to engage individuals with SUD and led to many follow-up engagements resulting in linkage to care.

On October 24, 2020, The Columbus Division of Fire hosted a RREACT Community Safety Day event as a part of the DEA National Drug Take-Back Day. The event, attended by nearly 1100 individuals, provided a safe place to dispose of the prescription medication, receive fresh produce, flu shots, Narcan training, and free Narcan kits, fire prevention information, community safety, and resilience resource information. The event served residents from at least 14 different zip codes across central Ohio. The largest area represented in the data collected indicated that the 43207 zip-code accounted for approximately 76.4% of the attendees.

To provide continuous recovery support, the team helped form RREACT Alumni, a self-organized group of individuals in recovery who received RREACT services. The mission of RREACT Alumni is to create opportunities for members to stay connected, support one another, and give back to others in the community. In 2020, RREACT Alumni hosted 12 RREACT Alumni events, including in-person social gatherings and virtual meetings. A total of 217 RREACT Alumni, friends, and family participated in the RREACT Alumni events. Due to COVID-19 social gathering restrictions, RREACT created a RREACT Alumni Facebook page to keep RREACT virtually connected with those in recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic. RREACT Alumni engagement proved to be a backbone of our efforts to sustain meaningful connections, identify the areas of need, and provide the essential resources.

In March, the team helped a RREACT Alumni member in recovery furnish her first apartment through many community donations. In December, the Division hosted a RREACT Alumni Winter Festival Drive-Thru event. Team members partnered with the RREACT Alumni Group to give away hot turkey dinners, gift bags with signed holiday cards and distributed the opioid overdose reversal drug Narcan to visitors as they drove through the Columbus Fire Administration campus.



Photos (above) RREACT CPD Officer Adam Ball and Medic Don Penrod distribute Narcan from a near west-side parking lot. Middle: RREACT team members assist Alumni members Sam DeLong and Chris Clay move into their first apartment. Both DeLong and Clay are in active recovery. Bottom: CPD Officer Carrie Mae Hazlerig relays hot holiday meals to waiting cars during the RREACT Alumni Group Drive Thru Holiday Party held at the Columbus Fire Administration campus in December, 2020.



# SMOKE&CO

## Alarms Save Lives

**C**arbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can kill you. It knows no season.

The family of Scott Duffy and Shalaina Slark and their four children had just moved in to a Clintonville home on Girard Road in December after spending weeks renovating the split level ranch.

They called the Columbus Fire Prevention Bureau and requested new smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. They didn't know it at the time, but the call may have saved them from serious illness. Or worse.

"I went to the home with the intent of installing a single CO detector," said Firefighter Marvin Robertson.

Robertson is a 21 year veteran of the Columbus Fire Department and has served the 18 months in the Fire Prevention Bureau. "I met Mr. Duffy, and he was very friendly. He carried a baby in his arms. As I was installing the CO and a separate smoke detector, he mentioned that the kids sleep in the downstairs lower level of the home," said Robertson.

"When I heard that, I went to the truck and got another detector. We don't normally put a CO detector in a basement, but since there were kids staying down there, I ended up installing two CO and two smoke detectors in the home," said Robertson.

Robertson learned the following day the alarms he installed

sounded that very night. The family called the fire department and Ladder 24 arrived to investigate the alarms. The responding firefighters found CO levels in the house at 81 parts per million, a level that over time could have caused illness. CO levels above 70 ppm are considered dangerous and can lead to headache, nausea and fatigue. Sustained concentrations of 150 – 200 ppm can lead to disorientation, unconsciousness and possibly death.

CO fumes are produced any time you burn fuel in furnaces, hot water heaters, fireplaces and gas ranges as well as cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns and grills. Building codes require proper venting for CO producing appliances, but it can build up indoors and poison people and animals who breathe it.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Infants, the elderly, people with chronic heart disease, anemia, or breathing problems are more likely to get sick from CO. Each year, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning not linked to fires and more than 20,000 people visit the emergency room with symptoms. Over 4,000 people are hospitalized with CO poisoning each year.

"The majority of the CO alarm runs we get are caused by batteries dying in the home detector or by faulty detectors sounding off," said Captain Boomstra.

Boomstra was the officer commanding Ladder 24 when a call was received by the Fire Alarm Office and passed onto Columbus Fire Station 24, located at the corner of Morse and Karl Roads, about two miles from Girard Road. Boomstra explained that

911 dispatchers question callers when a CO alarm sounds to determine if anyone in the household is feeling symptoms of CO poisoning. If so, an EMS medic would be dispatched as well as a ladder truck or fire engine for a medical emergency response, with sirens blaring and lights flashing.

“It’s a colorless, odorless gas, so unless someone is feeling sick, the caller has no way of knowing if there’s a real problem with carbon monoxide, or just a faulty alarm,” said Boomstra

No one was feeling ill at the Duffy home, so when Ladder 24 arrived, the crews carried hand-held CO meters and began their search. They confirmed the high level of carbon monoxide, but after ventilating the home with portable fans from the ladder truck, the crews could not find the source of the gas after checking the furnace and appliances, the usual sources of CO.

“There were kids in the house, and it was just before Christmas. We didn’t want to leave without finding the source. But we were stymied. We usually pin point these things pretty quickly,” said Boomstra.

The crews searched for an hour before asking the homeowner what was operating when the alarm went off. They discovered that the home’s boiler driven heating system was working so well that the family had turned on the whole house fan to moderate the indoor temperature. The whole house fan, which is typically used in summer months, was creating negative air pressure in the house, causing the boiler fumes to be drawn back into the house instead of escaping up the chimney as designed.

“It was about 7 p.m., and the kids had just finished a zoom call with grandma. They were just starting to unwrap some Christmas gifts when one of the alarms went off,” said Scott Duffy.

Duffy, his wife Shalaina Slark and their four school-aged kids had just moved into the home two days earlier, and were only beginning to figure out the heating system. (The “baby” Duffy was holding in his arms when Firefighter Marvin Robertson arrived earlier that day turned out to be one of his daughter’s dolls).

“I wasn’t sure what to make of it, because the CO alarm was just installed that day. I thought maybe something was wrong with it, but then the second alarm went off,” said Duffy.

Shalaina Slark called the Fire Department’s non-emergency number, then joined the kids who were by then waiting outside in the family minivan, part of the family’s pre-arranged meeting place in case of emergency.

“I couldn’t be happier with the firefighters who stayed to solve the mystery. They told me they weren’t leaving until they figured it out, even if it took all night. Carbon monoxide is not something on the forefront of your mind, honestly. It’s not something you think about hurting your family. I’d like everybody to know that if you don’t know the status of CO and smoke alarms in your home, get them checked out,” said Duffy.

The crews of Ladder Company 24, along with the Fire Prevention firefighters Robinson and Jamie Sierra were reunited with the Duffy-Slark family on Saturday. The family wanted to thank the firefighters and pose for photos. Firefighter Robertson took some ribbing for remembering the “baby” in Duffy’s arms during his alarm installation, but he took it all in stride.

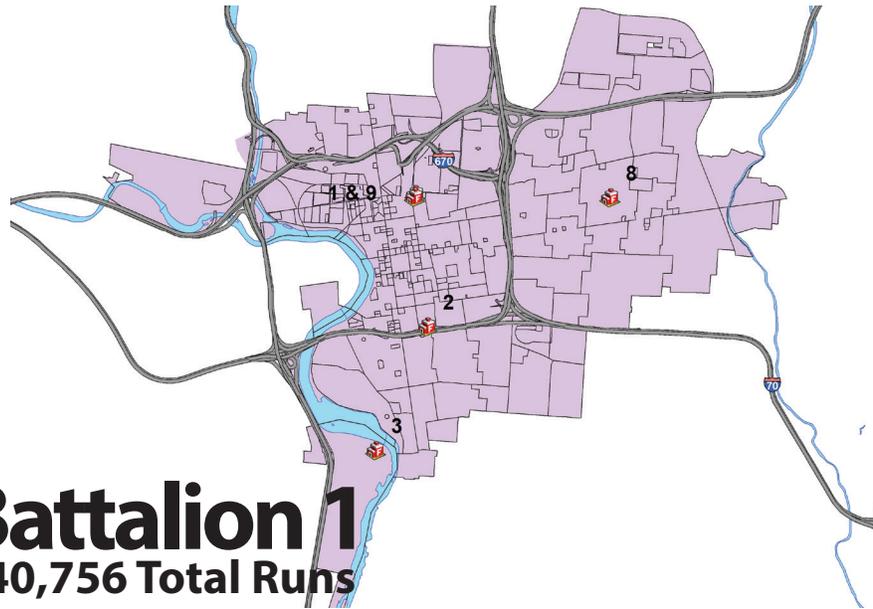
“It’s a feeling you can’t really explain. You’ve made a difference” said Robertson, who had installed alarms in five residences that day.

“The little bit of time we spent with these folks might have changed their lives. I’m glad we can make a difference.”

To request a free smoke alarm or carbon monoxide alarm, residents of Columbus can call the Columbus Division of Fire Smoke Alarm Hot-line at 614-724-0935



Photos: (opposite page) Fire Prevention Firefighters Jay Sierra and Marvin Robinson pose with the Duffy-Slark family in front of their home, along with the crew of Ladder 24, including Capt. Andrew Broomstra and Firefighters Adam Deskins, Tim Liebhart, and John Julian. Photo: (left) Prevention Firefighter Marvin Robinson points out one of the CO detector installations in the Duffy-Slark hallway. The Columbus Fire Prevention Bureau installed 565 CO detectors and 1,387 Smoke Alarms in 2020.



# Battalion 1

## 40,756 Total Runs

### STATIONS 1 & 9 300 N Front Street

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 1	2018 Sutphen	1,168
Ladder 1	2008 LTI LaFrance	1,773
Engine 9	2018 Sutphen	2,104
Medic 1	2014 International/Horton	3,727
Command 1	2007 Spartan	3
MSU 1	2009 International/Horton	283
ES-2	2012 Chevy Suburban	84
SO-2	2013 Ford Explorer	960
EMS-10	2018 Ford Explorer	1,107
<b>Station 1 &amp; 9</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>13,661</b>

### STATION 2 150 E Fulton Street

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 2	2015 Sutphen	2,810
Medic 2	2012 International/Horton	3,843
Ladder 2	2011 Sutphen	1,471
DART 2	2008 International/Horton	50
Battalion 1	2018 Ford Explorer	1,006
<b>Station 2</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>9,180</b>

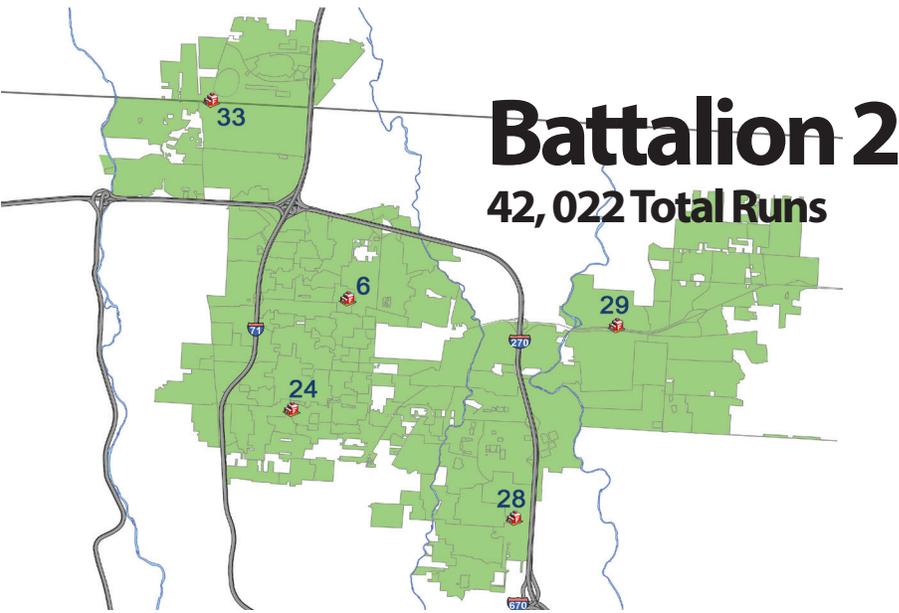
### STATION 3 222 Greenlawn Avenue

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 3	2014 Sutphen	1,971
Medic 3	2012 International/Horton	3,006
Rescue 3	2012 Sutphen/SVI	1,441
EMS-11	2013 Ford Explorer	2,624
Boat 3	2014 Zodiac	11
RSU 3	2013 International/Horton	24
Bomb Squad 2	2007 Freightliner/Pierce	70
Bomb Squad 3	2010 Spartan	1
<b>Station 3</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>9,148</b>

### STATION 8 1240 E Long Street

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 8	2015 Sutphen	3,717
Ladder 8	2019 Pierce	2,496
Medic 8	2013 International/Horton	4,510
<b>Station 8</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>10,723</b>

# Battalion 1



# Battalion 2

## 42,022 Total Runs

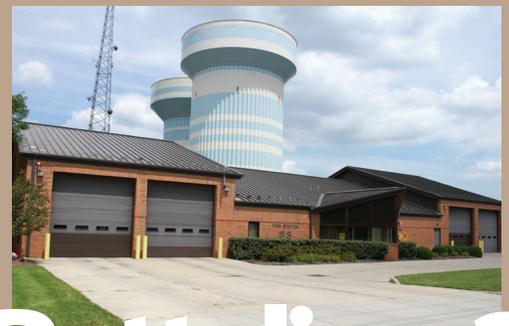
<b>STATION 6</b>		<b>5750 Maple Canyon Avenue</b>	
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS	
Engine 6	2019 Sutphen	4,734	
Medic 6	2015 International/Horton	4,057	
Medic 806	2009 International/Horton	3,914	
Battalion 2	2013 Ford Explorer	1,157	
EMS-12	2013 Ford Explorer	2,495	
<b>Station 6</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>16,357</b>	

<b>STATION 24</b>		<b>1585 Morse Road</b>	
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS	
Engine 24	2015 Sutphen	3,709	
Ladder 24	2016 Pierce	2,317	
Medic 24	2013 International/Horton	4,370	
<b>Station 24</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>10,396</b>	

<b>STATION 28</b>		<b>3240 McCutcheon Road</b>	
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS	
Engine 28	2015 Sutphen	2,126	
Ladder 28	2019 Pierce	1,351	
Medic 28	2014 International/Horton	2,444	
<b>Station 28</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>5,921</b>	

<b>STATION 29</b>		<b>5151 Little Turtle Way</b>	
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS	
Engine 29	2011 Ferrara	2,157	
Medic 29	2018 International/Horton	2,236	
Boat 29	2008 Lowe Line	4	
<b>Station 29</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>4,397</b>	

<b>STATION 33</b>		<b>440 Lazelle Road</b>	
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS	
Engine 33	2015 Sutphen	2,014	
Ladder 33	2005 Sutphen	941	
Medic 33	2014 International/Horton	1,996	
<b>Station 33</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>4,951</b>	

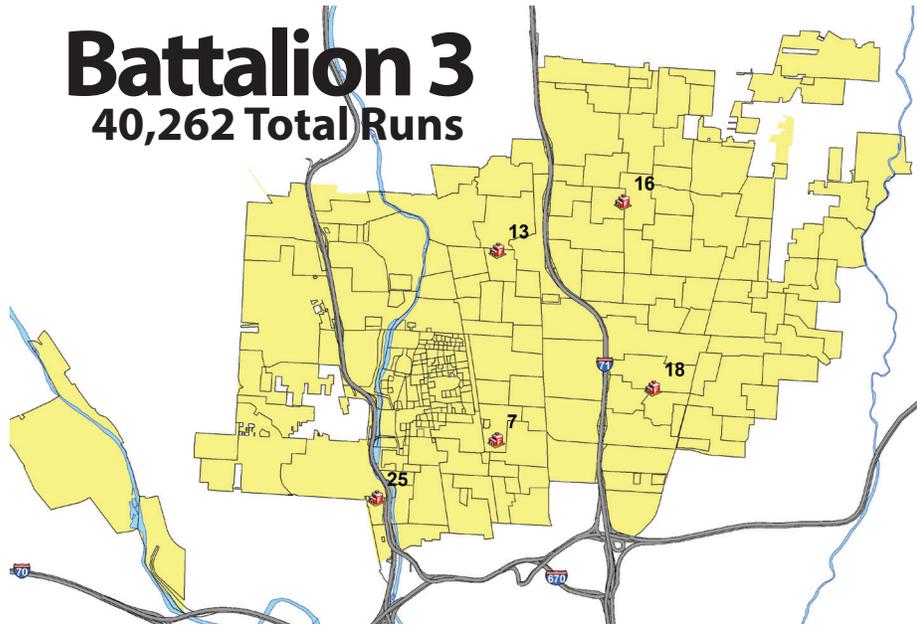


# Battalion 2



# Battalion 3

## 40,262 Total Runs



### STATION 7

### 1425 Indianola Avenue

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 7	2011 Sutphen	2,711
Medic 7	2013 International/Horton	3,634
Battalion 3	2013 Ford Explorer	1,150
<b>Station 7</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>7,495</b>

### STATION 13

### 309 Arcadia Avenue

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 13	2019 Sutphen	2,212
Ladder 13	2012 Pierce	2,294
Medic 13	2013 International/Horton	3,179
<b>Station 13</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>7,685</b>

### STATION 16

### 1130 E Weber Road

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 16	2014 Sutphen	3,674
Rescue 16	2012 Sutphen/SVI	2,211
Medic 16	2013 International/Horton	4,771
<b>Station 16</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>10,656</b>

### STATION 18

### 1630 Cleveland Avenue

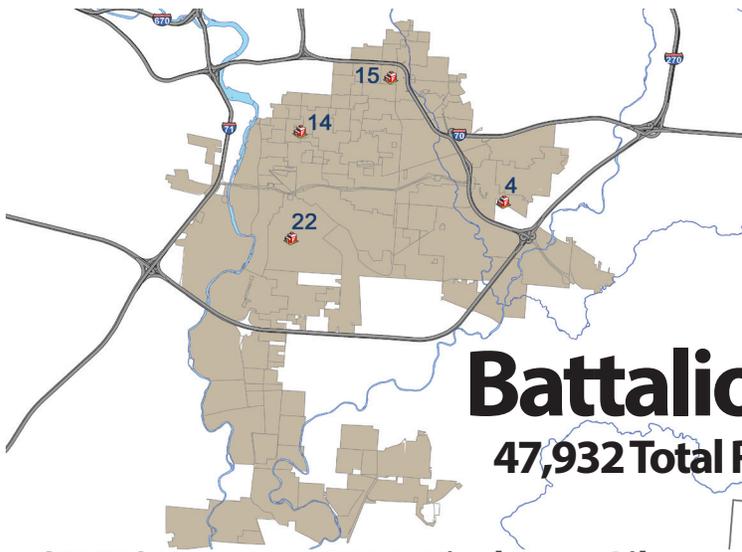
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 18	2012 Sutphen	3,467
Medic 18	2012 International/Horton	4,482
EMS-13	2013 Ford Explorer	3,083
<b>Station 18</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>11,032</b>

### STATION 25

### 739 W Third Avenue

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 25	2017 Sutphen	1,589
Medic 25	2014 International/Horton	1,801
Boat 25	2014 Zodiac	4
<b>Station 25</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>3,394</b>

# Battalion 3



# Battalion 4

47,932 Total Runs

STATION 4	3030 Winchester Pike		
APPARATUS	MODEL		TOTAL RUNS
Engine 4	2011 Sutphen		2,252
Medic 4	2018 International/Horton		2,378
Hazmat 4	2005 HME/Marion		33
Rescue 4	2012 Sutphen/SVI		1,625
Boat 4	2014 Zodiac		10
Hazmat Trailer	2012 Ford350/2011 Nomad		6
<b>Station 4</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>		<b>6,304</b>

STATION 14	1514 Parsons Avenue		
APPARATUS	MODEL		TOTAL RUNS
Engine 14	2011 Sutphen		3,852
Medic 14	2011 International/Horton		4,507
Battalion 4	2013 Ford Explorer		841
Boat 14	2013 Zodiac		11
<b>Station 14</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>		<b>9,211</b>

STATION 15	1800 E Livingston Avenue		
APPARATUS	MODEL		TOTAL RUNS
Engine 15	2005 Sutphen		4,253
Ladder 15	2012 Pierce		1,700
Medic 15	2011 International/Horton		4,149
Medic 815	2013 International/Horton		4,119
EMS-14	2018 Ford Explorer		3,447
<b>Station 15</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>		<b>17,668</b>

STATION 22	3069 Parsons Avenue		
APPARATUS	MODEL		TOTAL RUNS
Engine 22	2019 Sutphen		3,116
Ladder 22	2016 Sutphen		1,267
Medic 22	2016 International/Horton		3,227
Boat 22	2008 Rescue One		13
<b>Station 22</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>		<b>7,623</b>

STATION 32	3675 Gender Road		
APPARATUS	MODEL		TOTAL RUNS
Engine 32	2011 Sutphen		2,962
Ladder 32	2011 Sutphen		1,307
Medic 32	2013 International/Horton		2,845
Boat 32	2008 Mercury Marine		12
<b>Station 32</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>		<b>7,126</b>

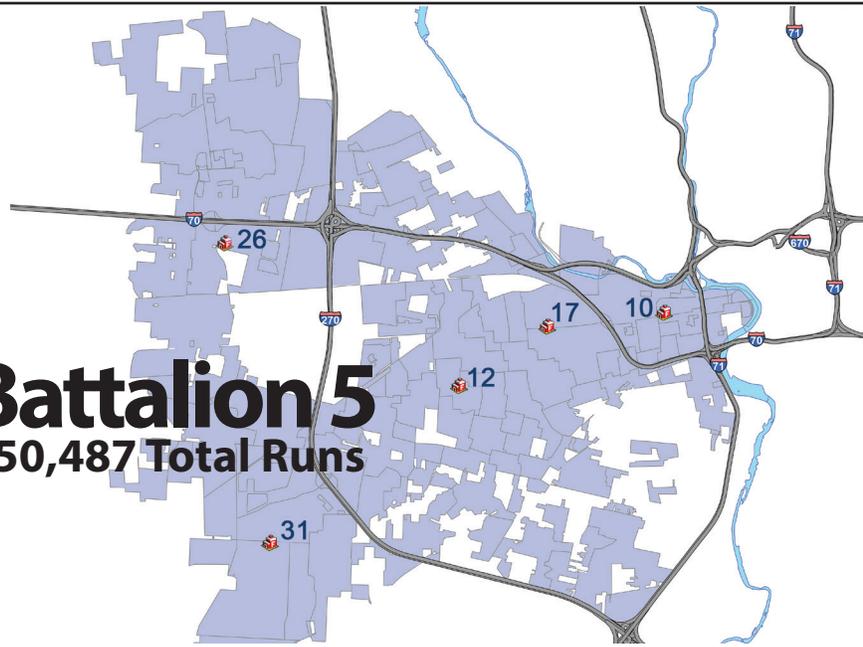


# Battalion 4



# Battalion 5

50,487 Total Runs



## STATION 10

### 1096 W Broad Street

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 10	2019 Sutphen	4,025
Ladder 10	2014 Sutphen	1,508
Medic 10	2012 International/Horton	4,080
Medic 890	2016 International/Horton	3,154
Boat 10	Zodiac	10
<b>Station 10</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>12,777</b>

## STATION 12

### 3200 Sullivant Avenue

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 12	2019 Sutphen	4,131
Ladder 12	2012 Pierce	1,609
Medic 12	2011 International/Horton	4,572
<b>Station 12</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>10,312</b>

## STATION 17

### 2250 W Broad Street

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 17	2009 Ferrara	4,504
Rescue 17	2012 Sutphen/SVI	1,656
Medic 17	2009 International/Horton	4,061
Medic 817	2009 International/Horton	4,115
Battalion 5	2013 Ford Explorer	1,131
EMS-15	2013 Ford Explorer	2,943
<b>Station 17</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>18,411</b>

## STATION 26

### 5433 Fisher Road

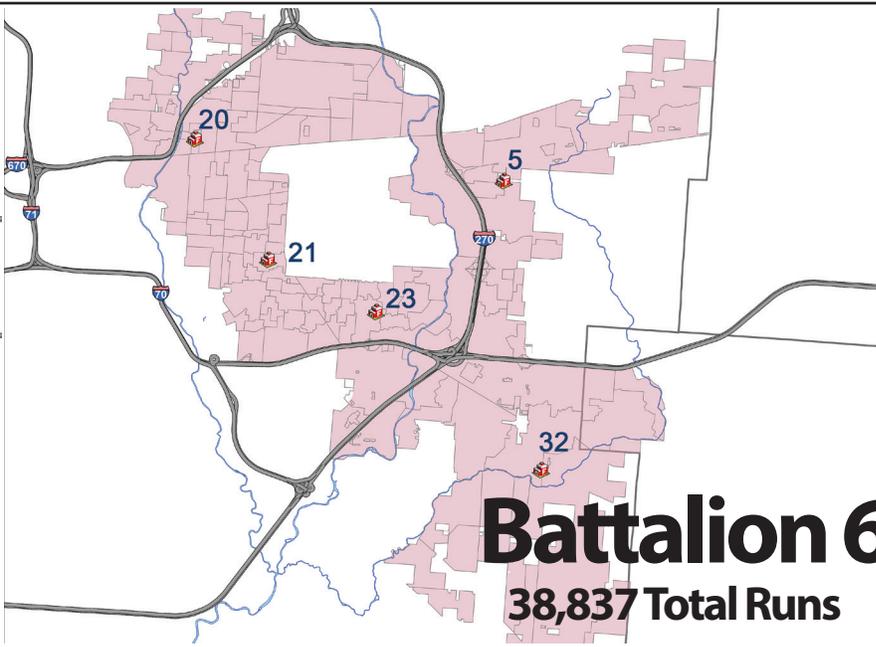
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 26	2019 Sutphen	2,150
Ladder 26	2019 Sutphen	1,309
Medic 26	2012 International/Horton	2,450
Boat 26	2008 Lowe	5
<b>Station 26</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>5,914</b>

## STATION 31

### 5305 Alkire Road

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 31	2014 Sutphen	1,338
Medic 31	2015 International/Horton	1,735
<b>Station 31</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>3,073</b>

# Battalion 5



# Battalion 6

## 38,837 Total Runs

<b>STATION 5      211 McNaughten Road</b>		
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 5	2015 Sutphen	2,286
Ladder 5	2018 Pierce	998
Medic 5	2014 International/Horton	2,479
EMS-16	2018 Ford Explorer	1,719
Boat 5	Lowe	14
<b>Station 5</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>7,496</b>

<b>STATION 20      2646 E Fifth Avenue</b>		
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 20	2019 Sutphen	2,957
Medic 20	2013 International/Horton	3,714
<b>Station 20</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>6,671</b>

<b>STATION 21      3294 E Main Street</b>		
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 21	2019 Sutphen	4,109
Medic 21	2013 International/Horton	4,373
Battalion 6	2013 Ford Explorer	1,463
<b>Station 21</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>9,945</b>

<b>STATION 23      4451 E Livingston Avenue</b>		
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 23	2015 Sutphen	4,340
Ladder 23	2014 Sutphen	1,629
Medic 23	2018 International/Horton	3,503
Medic 823	2018 International/Horton	3,442
<b>Station 23</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>12,914</b>

<b>STATION 35      711 Waggoner Road</b>		
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 35	2020 Sutphen	795
Medic 35	2019 International/Horton	1,016
<b>Station 35</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>1,811</b>

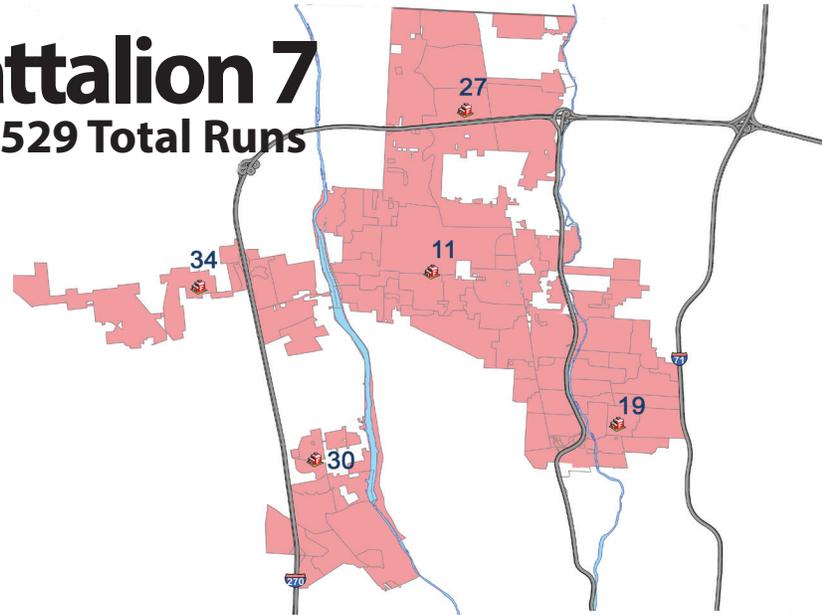


# Battalion 6



# Battalion 7

## 21,529 Total Runs



### STATION 11

### 2200 W Case Road

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 11	2005 Sutphen	2,213
Rescue 11	2012 Sutphen/SVI	787
Medic 11	2011 International/Horton	2,615
Battalion 7	2013 Ford Explorer	699
EMS-17	2013 Ford Explorer	1,077
Boat 11	2013 Zodiac	7
<b>Station 11</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>7,398</b>

### STATION 19

### 3601 N High Street

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 19	2011 Sutphen	2,436
Medic 19	2012 International/Horton	2,962
Boat 19	2014 Zodiac	7
Incident Support Unit 19	2008 Spartan	347
Rescue Support Unit 19	2014 International/Farber	18
<b>Station 19</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>5,770</b>

### STATION 27

### 7560 Smokey Row Road

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 27	2015 Sutphen	1,732
Ladder 27	2008 LTI LaFrance	798
Medic 27	2012 International/Horton	2,194
Boat 27	2007 Lowe	6
<b>Station 27</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>4,730</b>

### STATION 30

### 3555 Fisher Boulevard

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 30	2011 Ferrara	844
Medic 30	2013 International/Horton	995
Boat 30	2008 Rescue One	7
<b>Station 30</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>1,846</b>

### STATION 34

### 5201 Wilcox Road

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 34	2011 Sutphen	792
Medic 34	2015 International/Horton	988
<b>Station 34</b>	<b>Total Runs</b>	<b>1,780</b>

# Battalion 7

*Year of the Pandemic continued from page 41*

“Respiratory diseases are here and will evolve. As EMS providers, we are always going to be vulnerable to the latest outbreaks. Go back and look what we did for SARS and for H1N1. If you think about, it’s not altogether different from what has spread in previous years. I hope this isn’t the new normal, when every new respiratory borne illness comes around we are going to have to shut down the country. In the beginning of Covid-19, we really felt like we didn’t know if one of us would be dead next week,” said Baugh.

“We now know the key things we need to do is limit personal contact, protect yourself, and protect your respiratory system by wearing PPE. We need to maintain clean services in work areas and the ability to do contact tracing. We have great experience in all those areas now. If Covid-21 comes out sometime this summer, we could shift back into those operating procedures with some sense of normalcy. In the beginning, we didn’t know what would happen, didn’t know if half the fire department was going to die, if there would be martial law on the streets and buildings burning all over the place. Now we know we could go back to very strict, more stringent cleaning processes. Those are the key factors,” said Baugh.

“The incident action plan we put in place was all NIMS (National Incident Management FEMA) based Incident Command Training. Before 9/11, departments used their own system. Afterwards, NIMS based training became the push, but nobody really bought into it. You used it for major incidents, but we hardly ever have an incident lasting over several days. Other areas of the country do have multiple day events, like hurricanes or large wildfires. They have longer operational periods and better planning to go along with it,” said Baugh.

“Now we are familiar with that. It came up with the summer protests. We were able to transition into an incident management format seamlessly. Our experience with Covid-19 allowed us to transition into and out of that easily. We put the teams together quickly, defined roles, everyone was speaking the same language. The model was already in place. Now there’s planning for emergency preparedness section for the Emergency Services Bureau that Chief (Tracy) Smith is putting in place. What would we do in the case of Texas, where a late winter snowstorm hit and large regions lost power over multiple days? We should have a contingency plan pre-set up in the event that we have a major power outage for an extended period of time. How are we going to operate? The planning will take us out of the reactive mode to the proactive mode by thinking outside the box. Beyond the next house fire or the heart attack, the Emergency Services Bureau of the Columbus Division of Fire should be prepared for the ‘big one’. Having this experience under our belt helps us be better prepared,” said Baugh.

“I still believe having establishing relationships with key partners outside of the Division has to be done before emergencies. I was only with Emergency Services for a short period of time, but I reached out to meet with Health Department. I met with the upper brass at the Police department. We shared plans together and didn’t have to create homegrown response plans. We found a document from Homeland Security titled “Maintaining Operational Capabilities During a Pandemic” that was published by FEMA. There are a lot of outside resources that, as a fire service leader, you can find. You don’t have to always come up with great ideas. The great idea often is ‘don’t be afraid to use someone else’s information’. That’s what DHS is for, that’s what FEMA is for; to provide that consistent guidance.”

*Administrative Bureau Continued from page 11*

Purchasing Expeditor-Oversees Support Services/Supply and Quartermaster informal bids and catalog purchases, accounts payable, processing advanced ledger entries for daily deposits, and is responsible for mileage, memberships, subscriptions, cellular phone accounts payable and damage claims.

**Human Resources Department**

Human Resources personnel administer all personnel transactions - hiring, terminations, promotions and retirements. Responsibilities include: administering the Division’s collective bargaining agreements while ensuring all employment laws are followed; providing budget projections for staffing overtime and other personnel-related costs; managing the injury leave program; light-duty; FMLA; insurance and tuition reimbursement, and supervision of payroll personnel.

Major accomplishments for 2020 included:

- Hired a second class of 20 part-time Fire Cadets in August.
- Hired one class of 35 fire recruits in June and one class of 35 fire recruits in December for a total of 70 recruit firefighters in 2020.
- Filled four full-time and two part-time civilian position and hired two temporary civilian employees to work in the Training Bureau.
- Submitted approximately \$12,000 dollars in reimbursement requests in 2020 as a result of the Division’s participation with the Ohio FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force;
- Processed 40 promotions and 72 sworn separations from employment this year.
- Applied for FEMA reimbursement for employees participating in the Ohio Task Force 1 deployment response to hurricanes Laura and Zeta in the amount of approximately \$68,000.00.
- Set up a system to track COVID related leaves and follow up with all impacted employees.
- Tracked and reported sick leave and overtime directly related to COVID absences.

**Payroll Department**

Payroll’s function is to ensure that employees are paid accurately and timely. Responsibilities include: tax withholdings and deductions; pay increases; insurance premiums; and union dues per collective bargaining agreements.

Payroll major accomplishments for 2020

- Implemented the City’s new Dayforce payroll and timekeeping system;
- Began the special open second enrollment period for the new IAFF Health Savings Account Plan November 1 through November 30, 2020.
- Focused on improving and correcting issues with the City’s new payroll processing system.

# 2020 Incident Type Summary

## FIRE

Building fire.....	601
Fires in structure other than in a building.....	4
Cooking fire, confined to container.....	212
Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue.....	11
Incinerator overload or malfunction, fire confined.....	3
Commercial compactor fire, confined to rubbish.....	1
Trash or rubbish fire, contained.....	74
Fire in mobile prop used as a fixed structure, other.....	2
Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence.....	2
Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle.....	2
Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other.....	63
Passenger vehicle fire.....	429
Road freight or transport vehicle fire.....	19
Rail vehicle fire.....	2
Self-propelled motor home or recreational vehicle.....	1
Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire.....	2
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire.....	3
Natural vegetation fire, other.....	67
Forest, woods or wildland fire.....	2
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire.....	82
Grass fire.....	87
Outside rubbish fire, other.....	240
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire.....	467
Garbage dump or sanitary landfill fire.....	4
Construction or demolition landfill fire.....	2
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire.....	349
Outside stationary compactor/compacted trash fire.....	5
Special outside fire, other.....	73
Outside storage fire.....	5
Outside equipment fire.....	23
Outside gas or vapor combustion explosion.....	3
Outside mailbox fire.....	2
Cultivated vegetation, crop fire, other.....	2
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>2,844</b>

## OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (NO FIRE)

Overpressure rupture from steam, other.....	2
Overpressure rupture of steam pipe or pipeline.....	1
Overpressure rupture of steam boiler.....	1
Steam rupture of pressure or process vessel.....	1
Overpressure rupture from air or gas, other.....	10
Overpressure rupture of air or gas pipe/pipeline.....	7
Overpressure rupture of boiler from air or gas.....	1
Air or gas rupture of pressure or process of vessel.....	1
Chemical reaction rupture of process vessel.....	1
Explosion (no fire), other.....	4
Fireworks explosion (no fire).....	3
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition.....	167
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>199</b>

# 2020 Incident Type Summary

## RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INCIDENT

Medical assist, assist EMS crew.....	4,097
Emergency medical service, other.....	11,001
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury.....	103,697
Motor vehicle accident with injuries.....	2,820
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped).....	316
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.....	3,866
Lock-in (if lock out, use 511).....	128
Search for lost person, other.....	9
Search for person on land.....	7
Search for person in water.....	2
Search for person underground.....	1
Extrication, rescue, other.....	20
Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure.....	4
Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle.....	27
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator.....	167
Trench/below-grade rescue.....	1
Confined space rescue.....	1
High-angle rescue.....	2
Extrication of victim(s) from machinery.....	5
Water & ice-related rescue, other.....	17
Swimming/recreational water areas rescue.....	2
Ice rescue.....	1
Swift water rescue.....	7
Surf rescue.....	2
Watercraft rescue.....	2
Electrocution or potential electrocution.....	1
Trapped by power lines.....	5
Rescue or EMS standby.....	144
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>126,351</b>

## HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE)

Hazardous Condition, Other.....	8
Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other.....	60
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill.....	64
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG).....	698
Oil or other combustible liquid spill.....	23
Toxic condition, other.....	15
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak).....	4
Chemical spill or leak.....	9
Refrigeration leak.....	2
Carbon monoxide incident.....	460
Radiation leak, radioactive material.....	1
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other.....	210
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn.....	70
Overheated motor.....	65
Breakdown of light ballast.....	4
Power line down.....	458
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment.....	167
Accident, potential accident, other.....	19

# 2020 Incident Type Summary

## HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE) (CONTINUED)

Building or structure weakened or collapsed.....	29
Aircraft standby.....	5
Vehicle accident, general cleanup.....	16
Explosive, bomb removal.....	25
Attempted burning, illegal action, other.....	13
Attempt to burn.....	8
Threat to burn.....	1
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>2,434</b>

## SERVICE CALL

Service call, other.....	85
Person in distress, other.....	487
Lock-out.....	403
Ring or jewelry removal.....	20
Water problem, other.....	300
Water evacuation.....	10
Water or steam leak.....	260
Smoke or odor removal.....	962
Animal problem, other.....	11
Animal problem.....	10
Animal rescue.....	28
Public service assistance, other.....	652
Assist police or other governmental agency.....	345
Police matter.....	460
Public service.....	355
Assist invalid.....	824
Defective elevator, no occupants.....	28
Unauthorized burning.....	91
Cover assignment, standby, move-up.....	63
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>5,394</b>

## GOOD INTENT CALL

Good intent call, other.....	641
Dispatched & canceled en route.....	9,408
Wrong location.....	58
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address.....	2,587
Authorized controlled burning.....	110
Prescribed fire.....	21
Vicinity alarm (incident in other location).....	25
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other.....	109
Smoke scare, odor of smoke.....	533
Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke.....	183
Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle.....	80
EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency.....	37
Hazmat release investigation w/no Hazmat.....	37
Biological hazard investigation.....	1
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>13,830</b>

# 2020 Incident Type Summary

## FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALL

False alarm or false call, other.....	73
Malicious, mischievous false call, other.....	292
Municipal alarm system, malicious false alarm.....	98
Direct tie to FD, malicious false alarm.....	4
Telephone, malicious false alarm.....	15
Central station, malicious false alarm.....	21
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm.....	88
Bomb scare - no bomb.....	22
System malfunction, other.....	750
Sprinkler activation due to malfunction.....	34
Extinguishing system activation due to malfunction.....	10
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction.....	566
Heat detector activation due to malfunction.....	17
Alarm system sounded due to malfunction.....	1,305
CO detector activation due to malfunction.....	336
Unintentional transmission of alarm, other.....	1,576
Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional.....	55
Extinguishing system activation.....	8
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional.....	954
Detector activation, no fire - unintentional.....	573
Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional.....	1,264
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO.....	282
Biological hazard, malicious false report.....	1
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>8,344</b>

## SEVERE WEATHER & NATURAL DISASTER

Severe weather or natural disaster, other.....	14
Flood assessment.....	1
Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment.....	5
Lightning strike (no fire).....	6
Severe weather or natural disaster standby.....	1
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>27</b>

## SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE

Special type of incident, other.....	343
Citizen complaint.....	36
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>379</b>

**TOTAL INCIDENT COUNT.....159,802**

*Photo rear page, Courtesy of Mitch Mendler Members of Battalion 1, 1 Unit assembled on the Ohio Statehouse to display the Patriot Flag on Oct. 12, 2020. The flag's mission is to honor the fallen who gave their lives for their country and command respect for the men and women on the job today who keep us safe and preserve our freedom. The touring Patriot Flag began as a charity on Sept. 11, 2001 by an American Airlines pilot. It has been displayed throughout the country, including The Edmund Pettus Bridge, Selma Ala., The Vietnam Wall and The Martin Luther King Memorial at The National Mall in DC. Flag bearers are Eric Baldrige, Lt. Scott Highfill, Jonathan Lent, Justin Beeson, Brad Sibley, Lt. Robert Houser, Deputy Chief Sean Wooten, Steve Ison, Capt. Aaron Renner, Lt. Joseph Griesbach, David Arnold, Lt. Chad Bair, Robert Paxton III, Todd Allen, Robert Chambers, Brandon Leidel, Battalion Chief Steve Martin, Brian Murphy and Bo Ewing.*



# 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 while providing timely and effective emergency medical services.