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**Photos** (cover) The Division's Fire Cadet interns practice attack hose techniques at the Columbus Fire Academy. See page 24. (Top Photo) Fire Officers, Mayor Ginther, Safety Director Dr. Ned Pettus Jr. and VIPs break ground for new Fire Station 16 on Oakland Park Avenue. See page 12. (Middle Photo) Firefighters participate in annual September 11th commemoration services. See page 30 for community service & volunteerism. (Bottom) Recruits from the 108th Fire Recruit Class practice emergency evacuation techniques during "Save Your Own" training at the Columbus Fire Training Academy, see page 42.









### THE 2019 ANNUAL REPORT TEAM

Welcome to the Columbus Division of Fire 2019 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.

### **Fire Chief**

Chief Kevin O'Connor

### **Public Information Office**

Battalion Chief Steve Martin, PIO Rebecca Diehm Assistant PIO James Miller Photographer

### **Layout & Design**

James Miller



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.

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. In 2019, we broke ground for Fire Station #16 in North Linden, a new 24,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art fire station that will help cut down response times for fire and EMS calls.

Last year we started a cadet program, hiring 20 people from Columbus to work part time learning to become firefighter/ EMTs. This program is a first for Columbus Fire and is designed to increase the diversity of the division.

We partnered with Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, Ohio Health and Mount Carmel to begin sending a Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit to patients who may be experiencing a stroke, bringing definitive care to their doorstep instead of bringing the patient to the care. This saves valuable time for a stroke patient when seconds equal brain cells, and is a terrific example of the public/private partnerships for which Columbus is known.

Again, thanks to you for your determination and strength and for being nationally recognized as among America's most elite divisions.

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



I want to start out by thanking our brave men and women of the Division of Fire, who respond to work every day to encounter people on what may be the worst day of their life. Our fire personnel must wear many hats-firefighter, medic, supervisor, social worker, counselor, engineer, investigator- just to name a few. But they do so with

the utmost of compassion for their calling and to make a situation better for each person they meet. We are finishing out 2019 with the highest number of sworn personnel in the history of the Division for the second year in a row-1602. As Columbus has grown, so has the Division of Fire.

The Division has expanded its role in response to the opiate crisis. What started out as a pilot project, the Rapid Response Emergency Addiction Crisis Team (RREACT) has expanded, and thanks to state and federal grant funding has solidified their existence in the Division, winning national recognition. The

RREACT team now includes officers from the Columbus Division of Police and has been able to obtain needed resources to provide the best service to those struggling with addiction and mental health issues.

During this past year, we broke ground on a newly located Station 16 at 1465 Oakland Park Avenue. As with our most recent new builds, it too will have the health and safety aspects built in to minimize exposure to carcinogens. I'm proud to see these structural changes become the norm for our fire stations.

Also, this past year saw our first class of fire cadets.

Twenty were seated in April. The Cadet Program is an important part of the pipeline being created to address the recruitment of diverse individuals as firefighters. The newly created fire pathway as part of the Public Safety program at Downtown High School is yet another important piece of the puzzle. The Division is proud to be a partner with Columbus City Schools in this endeavor.

As these initiatives grow, I look forward to next year!

Ned Pettus Jr., PhD.
Director
Department of Public Safety



### Message from Kevin O'Connor, 24th Fire Chief · Columbus Division of Fire

Every year, the men and women of the Columbus Division of Fire come in for their respective shifts, and work to serve the residents of Columbus.

Some will work directly with residents or visitors, helping them at their moment of need, responding to a call for assistance. Others will spend many hours working to prevent potential situations that may cause harm or damage, like our fire prevention bureau. And still others will dedicate their

time in support roles, serving the firefighters who are out meeting the public.

The support roles include providing the finest training to our people, making sure we have the best equipment, gear and clothing to do the job and return home safe and healthy, and to make sure our people receive their earned pay and benefits.

All the people in all the bureaus and offices, uniformed and civilian, make up a machine that is the Division of Fire. Every part of the machine is necessary for optimal operation of the organization.

One thing I have observed in my time with the Division, is that our people are typically not satisfied with just performing one role, or performing it the same way.

Firefighters and officers, just by our nature, are always looking for ways to improve what we do, whether it is the same drill and trying to do it faster or finding a better way to achieve the same or better results. We will not settle for just keeping the machine running, we want to make it run better.

I want to thank the members of the Division for their hard work last year. I want to thank them for not only becoming a firefighter, ready to respond to any emergency fate throws at us, but also for becoming excellent EMTs and Paramedics.

EMS is the majority of our work, and it gives us our most important opportunity to interact with the public. Thank you for volunteering to become Fire and EMS instructors and training our recruits and officers to be better.

Thank you for being on the Honor Guard or Pipes and Drums band, representing Columbus Fire when we celebrate happy occasions like graduation and promotion, or the solemn occasion of having to bury one of our members, active or retired.

Thank you to those who have chosen to train as a hazardous materials or bomb

technician. And thank you to everyone else not mentioned who continue to not only do their job well, but work to improve it.

Two of the improvements to the Division last year are our new Fire Cadet Program and our partnership with Ohio Health, Mt. Carmel Health System, and The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in operating the Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit. Those stories are in this report.

Everyone's efforts to improve our service to the public have an effect. Whether it is decreased response times, more inspections being accomplished, more arsons being prosecuted, better diversity in our incoming classes, or any of the hundreds of other things that are being worked on every day, I appreciate these efforts.

These efforts would go unnoticed without having it in writing. As proof of providing service at the highest level, not only are we maintaining our Accreditation, but we were rated for the first time in our history by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) as a Class 1 Fire Department.

To memorialize these and more of the great things being done in our Division, I am very pleased to present our 2019 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Keven O'Connor

Kevin O'Connor Fire Chief

# THE COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE....

Is the best fire service division in the country, responsible for assuring the efficient and effective deployment of firefighting and emergency resources to the City of Columbus.

### **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

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

### **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

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

### **BATTALION 3**

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

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

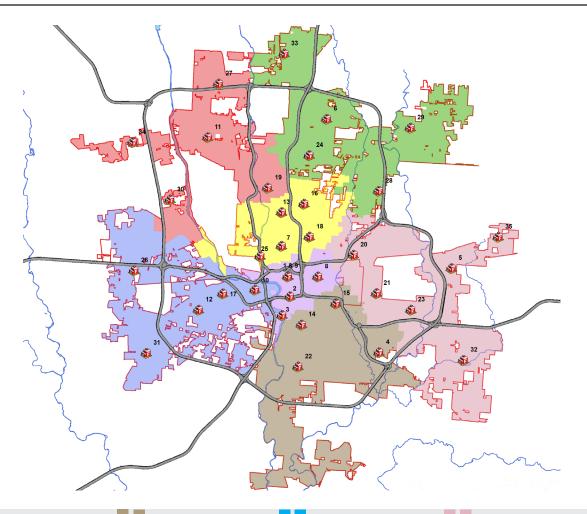
Station 16, Built 1952 "North Linden Station" 1130 E. Weber Road Columbus, OH, 43224

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

### **NEWEST EDITION**

FIRE STATION 35
711 N. WAGGONER RD.
OPENING PLANNED
JANUARY, 2020



### **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

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

### **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 inquries 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 2019, the PIO continued to focus on getting messaging to the public utilizing print, on-line and social media platforms. The staff is working to grow our following so when the need arises to put out critical information, we have a large audience we can reach directly and quickly. Last year we increased our Facebook following from 17,000 to over 20,000 people. Our Twitter following has gone from 3,360 followers last year to 4,000 and our Instagram following has grown from 2,679 followers to 4,650.

The PIO office has increased interaction and engagement with our followers by asking them to write photo captions and posting quizzes regarding neighborhood fire stations or apparatus in our social media posts.

The PIO Office continues to post monthly run totals on the first day of the month, which continues to get a lot of interest and activity. In 2019, we began regular monthly postings of our cardiac arrest run information. Information includes locations, the number of runs we are able to get a return of spontaneous circulation, how many runs of this type are witnessed and by whom. Most importantly, we note how many of these patients are receiving CPR before our arrival.

These popular posts fall in line with the HeartSafe Columbus initiative. We are hoping to encourage people to see the number of cardiac arrest runs that occur in the home and how important it is for people to receive CPR training.

### **Division of Fire Recruiting Office**

The Recruiting Office operates on a 24-month cycle. The first half of the cycle began in 2019 with entrance exam sign-ups in January. The cycle was moved up a couple months to allow for the possibility of a candidate taking the entrance exam and being hired in the same year.

Previously, the testing cycle would allow the first person on the list to be hired after 15 months. The recruitment staff recognized a major hurdle to increasing diversity was retaining qualified candidates after they have passed the testing phase but were left waiting on the hiring list.

Shortening the time between testing and hiring could help overcome this hurdle. In December of 2019, a class of 40 began recruit training at the Academy. The 110th Fire Recruit Class included 23 white males, 10 men of color and 7 women, making this class one of the most diverse classes in 30 years. The class also included 15 recruits who took the spring 2019 test, plus two members who were in our inaugural Fire Cadet program.

Recruiting takes place continuously at colleges and high schools in central Ohio school districts. Recruiters also attended many community events, including the African American Male Wellness Walk, Fishing with Dads, Columbus International Festival and the Stonewall Pride Festival.

New initiatives included producing a YouTube workout video for fire recruit candidates. Recruit staff also volunteered to meet candidates at public parks to participate in calisthenics. This helped to both establish working relationships and to re-enforce the need to be physically prepared for the daily training at the Fire Training Academy.

The recruit staff continued to expand partnerships with local agencies, such as the Columbus Urban League, to arrange study times for candidates to drop in for tutoring.

1,209 Residents were taught CPR during EMS Week 2019



### **Division of Fire Medical Director's Office**

In 2019, the Division of Fire and the Office of the Medical Director went through monumental changes as Dr. Dave Keseg, Medical Director for the past 32+ years retired July 1, 2019. Dr. Eric Cortez served as interim Medical Director from July 1, 2019 thru Nov 18, 2019. On behalf of the Office of the Medical Director and the Division of Fire, we thank them for their dedication and service to the Division and the Citizens of Columbus.

Dr. Robert Lowe assumed the role as the Division of Fire's Medical Director on November 18, 2019. Dr. Lowe is a board certified Emergency Medicine Physician and has a sub specialty board certification in EMS Medicine.

The Division continues to trial new technologies, therapies and EMS interventions, including the ECPR (cardiac bypass and heart cauterization) of patients in cardiac arrest trial, which continues with OSU Wexner Medical Center.

In May of 2019 the Mobile Stroke Transport Unit (MSTU) came on line as an active dispatchable resource. The Mobile Stroke unit is staffed by two Columbus Division of Fire Paramedics in addition to a CT technologist and a Neurology Advanced Practice Provider. Mobile Stroke is in service 7:00 am – 7:00 pm daily. From the May 29th introduction of the Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit through the end of the year, the MSTU was dispatched 990 times.

- 990 Dispatched MSTU Runs
- 266 Patient Transports
- 247 On scene Mobile CT Scans

The Medical Director's office works in tandem with the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) office. In addition to Evaluation and review of Quality concerns the office has:

- Established a Sentinel Event Review and Tracking process.
- Helped Refine the EMS Officer evaluation and selection process.
- Provided Documentation training and Review to the Paramedic School and Students.

EMS Week, held the 3rd week of May, was again a large success. Yearly activities include daily first-aid and CPR instruction and demonstrations held throughout the community.

National EMS Week accomplishments include:

- Taught CPR and Bleeding Control to 84 Hilltonia Middle School students.
- Taught 14 people at two "New American" CPR classes for different ethnic groups.
- Hosted our noon-hour public Nationwide CPR event and taught CPR to 150 people.
- Taught CPR to 105 people at the COSI Safety Day event.
- Hosted our annual Cardiac Arrest Survivor Celebration luncheon re-uniting survivors with responding medic crews.

The Medical Director's Office remains actively involved in committee and collaborative efforts, locally, regionally, and nationally.

The EMS Research Committee was very active in 2019. Committee projects included:

- Pre-hospital intervention in hypertensive obstetric patients.
- Use of Epinephrine in anaphylaxis.
- Pre-hospital appraisal of child abuse.
- Utility of PulsePoint in improving survival from cardiac arrest.





Christopher Blair 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 2019 include:

- Worked with Support Services to update all employee emergency contact information.
- Assisted Civil Service in the completion of a Job analysis for all promoted ranks.
- Worked with Payroll & Human Resources to update the process for reporting sick and injury leave.
- Worked with City of Columbus EAP and the Fire Chief to create the Members Support Unit.
- Worked with the Fire Chief and Training Bureau to create and implement the LEADS training for all Captains and Lieutenants.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Administrative Investigations Unit**

The Administrative Investigations Unit has two main areas of responsibility: Investigating concerns from citizens or Division members and background investigations on all new hires. As of November 2019 the Administrative Investigations Unit had worked 123 cases and an additional 30 cases that carried over from 2018. This translates to over 40 cases per primary investigator. The background investigators researched an additional 155 candidates with 73 completing the oral board process.

The Administrative Investigations Unit is staffed with a Battalion Chief, a Captain, three Lieutenants, four Firefighters and an Office Assistant. Major accomplishments for 2019 included:

- In coordination with the office of translation services published multi-lingual pamphlets explaining the Administrative Investigations Unit in Somali and Spanish.
- Monthly background cases investigated by Firefighters average 21 candidates per investigator.
- Held candidate oral boards every 12 weeks to meet the growing needs of the division.
- Continued with multiple training sessions on investigations and legal issue. The Administrative Investigations Unit continues to maintain the highest number of certified investigators to be assigned here in the past six years.
- Continued to work on decreasing the time it takes to submit final reports to administration for adjudication.
- Over 50 hours of continuing education completed by all staff related to investigations.
- Continue to transition more of our work to electronic format to further limit the use of paper reports.

The Administration Bureau welcomed Lieutenant Tom Montecalvo to the staff as we congratulated Lieutenant Doug Hart on his promotion to Captain.

#### **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,

**OPERATING BUDGET** 

manages Grants legislation and detailed informal procurement specifications etc.

Management Analyst I (vacant July-December) Manages procurement for Tools and Equipment, Mask Repair, informal bids & catalog purchases and accounts payable. The position also manages townships receivables and deposits, travel requests, and maintenance contracts.

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.

**CAPITAL PURCHASES** 

See Administration Bureau, continued on page 41

### 2019 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

	OI ENAING B	o D G L I			CALITALIONE	IASES
PERSONNEL (Payrol	II)		\$ 248,087,4	14	10 Horton Medics	\$ 2,829,004
					1 Sutphen Aerial Platform	\$ 1,381,924
SUPPLIES, including	g hoses, uniforms, tur	nout gear, etc.	\$ 4,565,5	60	2 Sutphen Engines	\$ 1,256,166
SERVICES, including	g EMS Billing, Telestaf	f, PulsePoint, etc.	\$ 12,860,6	03	Zoll Defribrillators	\$ 923,141
					10 Stryker Power Cots	\$ 421,728
OTHER EXPENSES, i	including refunds, da	mage claims, etc.	\$ 150,8	47	·	\$ 147,703
					Tablet Command SCBA Module	\$ 147,703
TRANSFER, includin	g supplies for recruit	s	\$ 7,1	54	Ladder 15 Repair	\$ 80,665
TOTAL			\$265,671,5	80	TOTAL	\$ 7,846,531
201	6		2017		2018	
General Fund Op	erating Budget	General Fu	und Operati	ng Budget	General Fund Operat	ing Budget
Personnel	\$ 226,603,808	Personnel		\$ 232,801,281	Personnel	\$ 242,623,857
Supplies	\$ 3,521,909	Supplies		\$ 4,100,462	Supplies	\$ 4,180,576
Services	\$ 10,227,766	Services		\$ 11,056,289	Services	\$ 11,073,670
Other	\$335,674	Other		\$145,143	Other	\$147,150
Transfer	<u>\$ 26,600</u>	<u>Transfer</u>		\$ 8,940	Transfer	\$ 19,458
Total	\$ 240,715,757	Total		\$ 248,112,115	Total	\$ 258,044,710
2016 Capital	Purchases	2017	Capital Purc	hases	2018 Capital Puro	hases
EMS Toughbooks	\$ 199,687	Defribrillators		\$ 222,854	Sutphen Pumpers	\$ 3,133,665
Howell Rescue Equipm	ent \$ 71,666	JAG Grant Balli		\$ 103,824	Horton EMS Medics	\$ 1,467,629
Commercial Washers &		Commercial Wa			Pierce Ladder Truck	\$ 1,309,312
Horton Medics	\$ 1,061,675	BoundTree UC/			Sutphen Ladder Truck	\$ 1,290,312
Motorola Radios	\$ 50,811	Custom Pumpe Pierce Tiller Lac		\$ 1,838,217 \$ 1,315,326	Driving Simulator	\$ 555,943
Pumpers & Aerial Ladd		Horton Medic 1		\$ 1,313,326	Motorola Radios	\$ 89,670
<u>r umpers a Aeriai Lada</u> Total	\$ 5,030,877	Total	TACKS (T)	\$ 6,392,877	Total	\$ 7,846,531



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**

The groundbreaking ceremony was held for new Fire Station 16 on Oakland Park Avenue in September. The new station will contain the Transitional Spaces that were installed at new Fire Station 35 which opened in 2020. In these areas personnel can shower and dawn clean uniforms before they enter the living quarters of the station. Other cancer prevention items installed are direct capture exhaust system, plus a separate equipment cleaning room and laundry area for uniforms.

The new Fire Station 16 is scheduled to open in late 2020 or early 2021.

New Fire Station 35 on North Waggoner Road opens in early 2020. This is our first station to go in service with the new cancer prevention measures. We look forward to servicing the far east side of the city.

Stations 8 and 12 have had major work completed on replacing the apparatus bay floors. We appreciate everyone's patience during the construction period.

The work on replacing the underground sanitary lines at station 1 has wrapped up, the budget had a little room for some other improvements to the station. Flooring and shower doors were replaced in the bathrooms and the HVAC chiller will be replaced.

The installation of whole-house generators continued through 2019, with upgrades to Stations 11, 17, 28, and 29 in the bidding process at year's end.

The new standard for diesel exhaust removal from the fire stations is the direct capture method. A project is underway to retrofit existing stations. The first stations to have this installed are the old stations with living quarters on each side of a central apparatus bay.



Design work is in progress for extending the apparatus bay at station 23. The addition of Medic M823 forced the station to adopt an unusual apparatus parking pattern that needs corrected. We hope to squeeze in some other improvements as part of the project but the budget is tight.

A multi-station sidewalk project came to fruition at Fire Stations 4, 5, 27, 28, and at the Training Academy on Parsons Avenue.

### **Apparatus**

Captain Alexander Sundberg and Firefighter LD Smith have worked hard to outfit as many of the extra engines with a complement of hose to shorten the amount of time and work that must be done to change over. The apparatus warehouse was reorganized and the Tag-Out procedure revitalized to clearly identify whether a truck is available for service.



#### 2019 Major Capital Purchases

1 Platform Ladder Truck: L2

2 Engines: E17, E35

10 Medic Transport Vehicles: M3, M7, M8, M14, M16, M21, M23,

M24, M28, M35

10 Power patient cots and loaders

9 Thermal Imaging Cameras

#### 2019 General Fund Purchase

6 Interceptors vehicles: Bn1, Bn7, EMS11, EMS14, EMS16, K9-4 and 5 Ford Fusion Hybrids (Provided by a Smart City Grant)

#### Fire Alarm Office

The FAO dispatched 195,302 calls for service and answered 229,111 phone calls. The CAD upgrade continues, but progress has been limited. The yearly dispatcher training classes began in the fall of 2019. We hope to add 18 newly trained firefighters to our pool of qualified personnel.

### **Mask Repair**

Mask repair fit-tested approximately 3,020 face piece masks, repaired over 450 SCBA harnesses, and completed over 565 flow tests. Mask repair also tested and inspected approximately 430 ground ladders during the annual testing period.

### **Groves Road Logistics Center**

EMS Supply and Equipment- Funding became available to complete the Zoll project that started a few years ago. New Zoll AED Pros will be swapped out for all the LifePak 12s and all LifePak 15s will be replaced with Zoll X Series monitors, totaling 55 X-Series Defribrillators, 51 AED Pro and two AED Plus Units.

In 2019, the Division experienced a "zero loss" of pharmaceuticals

inventory in the warehouse and U-Cap-it inventory management machines. Firefighters Scott Ellis and Darren Fuller worked to get the quantities and expiration dates of supplies staggered. This took some precision due to nationwide drug shortages and the need to maintain safe inventory levels. The Division has reduced its pharmaceuticals waste by 80% since 2017.

### **Equipment Maintenance**

Outfitted all Fire Prevention inspectors with CO monitors. Maintained all meters in the field by calibrating, testing, and repairing as needed.

#### Quartermaster

Fitted approximately 75-80 new recruits, and assisted with 20 cadets with uniforms and turnout gear. Rolled out new physical training gear for recruits, cadets, and training instructors, while providing the roughly 1,600 division members with uniform based inquiries, replacements, and orders.

### **Fire Supply**

Laundered over 3,000 sets of fire gear, inspected over 1,500 sets of gear, and over completed 1,000 repairs to fire gear.

**Photos (top left)** Division Medics are trained on the new light weight Zoll LIFEPAK monitor/defribrillators. The Division invested in 58 of the advanced monitors, which have the added advantage of being lighter in weight, welcome news for CFD Medics who responded to 133,357 calls for service in 2019.

**Photo center:** The City of Columbus broke ground for the new Fire Station No. 16, at 1465 Oakland Park Avenue in 2019. The construction cost of the new station is \$9,408,000. The project has a target completion in December 2020, and will include 24,698 square feet, three apparatus bays and 15 bedrooms. The design also features four transitional spaces to allow for decontamination before entry into the living quarters, public EMS space for walk-ins and a direct capture exhaust removal system.

**Photo below:** Firefighter Darren Fuller replenishes a U-Cap-It EMS supply inventory management station at an east-side fire station.







### James Cannell Assistant Chief

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) accounted for 80% of all calls for service in 2019. The Bureau implemented new training approaches for Active Violence Incidents to better serve our community.

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 James R. Cannell, Jr. 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. The Emergency Services bureau provides the following services:

- Emergency Medical Services
- Fire Suppression Services
- Special Operations, including:

   Bomb Squad and K9 Unit
   Technical Rescue Team
   Tactical EMS Team (TEMS)
   Dive and Rescue Team (DART)
   Hazardous Materials Response Team
   Counter Terrorism Liaison Program

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 33 fire stations consisting of approximately 300 personnel during daytime hours and approximately 350 minimum personnel during nighttime hours. These personnel are available and ready to respond 24 hours a day seven days a week.

### **Major Accomplishments**

In 2019, 60 Captains, 35 Battalion Chiefs, and four Deputy Chiefs participated in Command and Control of the Active Violence Incident training in conjunction with Columbus Police Department.

Personnel were placed in command roles at a simulated mass casualty incident involving multiple gunshot victims. The fire incident commanders worked with law enforcement to focus on establishing unified command early to overcome the unique challenges presented at this type of incident. Crews were required to use ICS basics and current Active Violence SOP's to bring the incident to a successful conclusion. The training was successful in that a few areas were identified for improvement but overall the incident was handled professionally and quickly.

In 2019 ES continued to work with the Safety Office to establish improved fire scene rehabilitation/ decontamination practices in an effort to reduce firefighter cancer and cardiac event occurrences. ES also worked with Safety to evaluate and select an alternative option for replacing the Scott Incident Command Imperium System, which was not able to meet the needs of the Fire Department.

It was determined that the current system of running a fire scene could be improved upon. After conducting several studies, it was determined that Tablet Command was the most viable program. It was tested and proved to be very successful. The current system, while it works, has the potential for missed opportunities on the scene. Tablet Command will aid in being more proficient in running the scene. Tablet Command is scheduled to be implemented during the first half of 2020.

Additional changes implemented in 2019 included fire run card modifications. The most significant change was to our deployment of resources to fire alarm activations. In May of 2019, the assignment was reduced to one engine and one ladder. During this time, several runs were taken with this new system in place. After several months of continuous feedback from ES Chief Officers, it was determined that safety needs were not being met with the changed system. The safety of the personnel on the run was considered at risk. It was decided to return to the previous deployment model.

As of November 1, 2019, the Department returned to a three level system. Fire Alarm A, consisting of one Engine and one Ladder, will respond to fire alarms in small residential occupancies. Fire Alarm B will consist of one Engine, one Ladder, and one Battalion Chief and sent to non-high life hazard commercial occupancies. Fire Alarm H will consist of two Engines, one Ladder, and one Battalion Chief and will be sent to large commercial or residential occupancies categorized as a high life hazard or high rise. The safety of our personnel was the contributing factor for changing back to the previous model.

# 135 Daily Calle For Sorvice in 2010

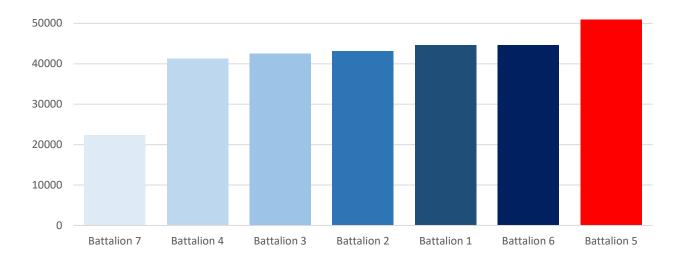
433 Da	ally Calls For Service III 2019	
133,357	EMS & Rescue Calls for Service	
13,176	Good Intention: Dispatched & Canceled en route	
8,896	False Alarms	
5,069	Service Calls: Smoke or Odor, Assist Invalid	900/
2,602	Structure Fire, Including Fields & Vehicles	80%
2,417	Hazardous Conditions: Gas Leaks & Flammable Sp	
570	Other: Over Pressure, Explosion or Excessive Heat	
166,087	Total Calls For Service 2019	

Photo below: Firefighters battle an apartment complex blaze at Vail Pine Place in April, 2019. James Miller/Division of Fire



# **7 Battalions**

## 289,298 Total Runs by Battalion

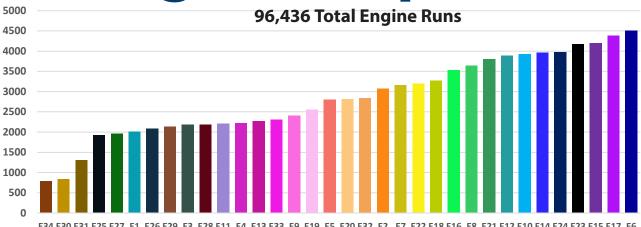


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Battalion 1	3,563	3,305	3,594	3,609	3,885	3,955	4,076	4,004	3,852	3,802	3,416	3,501	44,562
Battalion 2	3,532	3,222	3,445	3,452	3,635	3,613	3,800	3,474	3,713	3,847	3,677	3,686	43,096
Battalion 3	3,360	3,267	3,418	3,275	3,599	3,472	3,603	3,752	3,952	3,843	3,593	3,374	42,508
Battalion 4	3,348	2,962	3,302	3,272	3,580	3,620	3,886	3,584	3,469	3,518	3,274	3,377	41,192
Battalion 5	3,791	3,740	4,055	3,877	4,513	4,292	4,756	4,639	4,426	4,546	4,114	4,188	50,937
Battalion 6	3,682	3,562	3,577	3,633	3,802	3,533	3,830	3,907	3,856	3,833	3,621	3,802	44,638
Battalion 7	1,830	1,796	1,784	1,726	1,887	1,892	1,860	1,867	1,972	1,918	1,876	1,957	22,365
Total	23,106	21,854	23,175	22,844	24,901	24,377	25,811	25,227	25,240	25,307	23,571	23,885	289,298

A December car crash at the intersection of Kenny and Kinnear Roads resulted in a car hitting a home on the corner resulting in a house fire in addition to a vehicle fire on New Year's Eve in 2019. The house was unoccupied and the driver of the vehicle escaped without injuries. Columbus fire & rescue crews responded to 636 building fires and 358 passenger vehicle fires in 2019. James Miller/ Division of Fire



# 34 Engine Companies

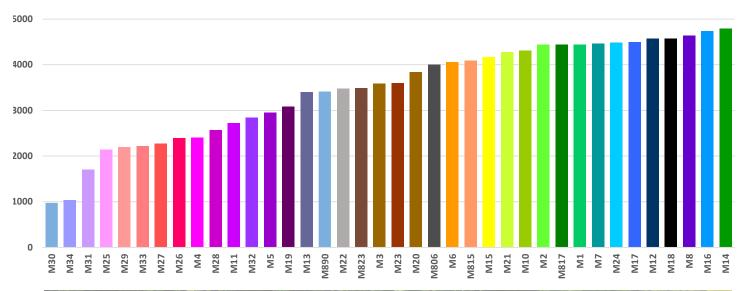


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
E1	141	135	160	161	181	197	164	191	186	185	151	158	2,010
E2	259	223	250	249	244	268	307	316	263	251	225	218	3,073
E3	152	121	177	173	183	208	252	179	196	202	149	186	2,178
E4	204	165	205	181	190	173	171	193	198	187	167	180	2,214
E5	227	233	249	229	233	212	219	260	233	237	241	224	2,797
<b>E</b> 6	369	330	366	340	343	371	412	360	407	423	392	392	4,505
E7	235	229	243	238	242	254	262	285	315	298	316	242	3,159
E8	302	289	270	271	270	320	342	324	309	325	310	302	3,634
E9	188	157	192	178	209	237	221	223	217	208	197	172	2,399
E10	286	256	303	278	337	327	368	369	381	358	354	308	3,925
E11	178	202	165	170	192	201	186	187	172	183	188	183	2,207
E12	302	298	296	304	318	321	351	355	340	352	319	327	3,883
E13	162	184	155	171	182	168	186	223	283	213	183	161	2,271
E14	303	283	299	293	370	370	403	356	330	351	311	295	3,964
E15	329	303	299	311	331	387	416	390	374	391	330	339	4,200
E16	268	271	283	270	300	310	304	297	324	289	300	314	3,530
E17	291	269	359	324	349	411	436	438	364	409	353	374	4,377
E18	244	243	276	227	291	295	281	300	280	326	257	242	3,262
E19	197	189	225	185	226	211	208	242	245	216	206	199	2,549
E20	243	245	212	217	234	240	256	231	246	222	246	224	2,816
E21	308	315	295	322	312	296	323	336	364	343	276	312	3,802
E22	209	218	286	268	284	266	330	266	268	281	249	265	3,190
E23	324	332	353	333	322	344	336	377	361	365	357	372	4,176
E24	304	306	308	336	333	328	344	341	369	359	326	320	3,974
E25	150	168	149	149	166	165	156	163	173	192	149	144	1,924
E26	153	166	173	144	196	146	198	165	171	187	181	202	2,082
E27	158	163	139	155	156	151	162	167	169	182	173	182	1,957
E28	176	174	177	178	174	169	170	177	167	232	187	203	2,184
E29	207	181	154	182	177	204	162	154	163	198	174	174	2,130
E30	75	61	65	45	74	73	75	78	71	84	72	60	833
E31	94	95	109	104	116	108	100	112	123	124	111	112	1,308
E32	235	214	205	214	253	218	258	245	237	254	226	271	2,830
E33	208	174	174	168	206	201	177	191	183	199	240	189	2,310
E34	66	56	63	55	67	63	66	48	73	73	73	80	783
Total	7,547	7,248	7,634	7,423	8,061	8,213	8,602	8,539	8,555	8,699	7,989	7,926	96,436

# 39 Medic Companies 131,622 Total Medic Runs

The medic crews of Station 14 serving the south-side Lincoln Park neighborhoods surrounding Parsons Avenue took top honors for 4,796 total runs in 2019. The Division's 41 medic units and seven EMS supervisors were dispatched on 131,622 runs in 2019, which represents a two percent increase in city-wide medic responses compared to 2018.

*Below:* Paramedic Andrew Neuens and Firefighter/EMT Andrew Hall of Columbus Fire Station 14 on South Parsons Avenue treat a patient before transporting to Grant Hospital. The three crews staffing Medic 14 were the busiest of the city in 2019.





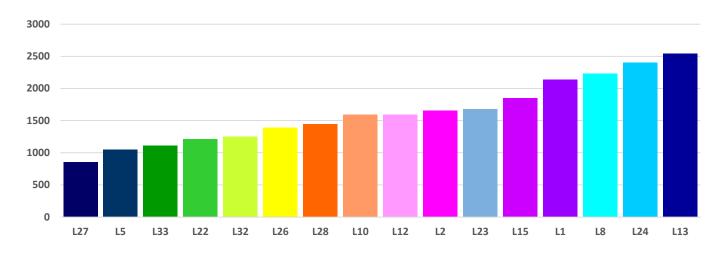
### 131,622 EMS & Rescue Responses

EMS responses represent 80% of all 911 Calls for service for Columbus Fire in 2019. \*EMS responses may exceed number of calls for service when multiple Medics respond to a single emergency scene.



M1 M2 M3	<b>Jan</b> 340 340 283 209	<b>Feb</b> 338 305	<b>Mar</b> 360	<b>Apr</b> 359	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
M2 M3	340 283		360	359									
МЗ	283	305		337	399	381	405	436	390	358	330	348	4,444
			375	393	379	397	418	422	371	380	301	362	4,443
B/4/4	200	284	307	271	329	332	343	308	286	299	268	274	3,584
M4	209	165	214	189	220	196	216	206	203	181	183	225	2,407
M5	252	214	244	252	255	223	263	269	226	253	250	256	2,957
M6	320	294	348	321	341	348	395	328	359	344	310	355	4,063
M7	360	351	364	330	370	378	368	406	416	402	357	357	4,459
M8	387	385	375	377	403	412	423	402	386	389	338	359	4,636
M10	318	328	361	344	404	359	426	397	351	349	321	357	4,315
M11	231	195	225	231	224	222	231	248	240	220	217	239	2,723
M12	362	328	367	372	386	384	447	397	393	400	366	369	4,571
M13	259	270	266	278	305	269	299	299	329	300	272	252	3,398
M14	406	309	412	390	436	429	468	416	406	375	389	360	4,796
M15	343	337	331	334	378	363	376	354	341	335	341	332	4,165
M16	383	368	361	391	399	394	428	404	418	403	389	394	4,732
M17	320	314	368	337	429	396	437	432	386	382	351	346	4,498
M18	378	334	391	366	416	368	414	410	402	396	326	374	4,575
M19	236	253	278	246	257	255	268	270	277	266	224	252	3,082
M20	322	319	311	310	334	295	339	345	336	317	308	305	3,841
M21	368	356	343	344	371	349	377	366	370	362	330	343	4,279
M22	298	259	282	285	328	305	340	303	271	291	248	269	3,479
M23	309	277	292	300	313	285	322	296	317	304	281	301	3,597
M24	349	340	347	359	409	383	449	368	404	361	356	362	4,487
M25	151	158	175	157	180	169	187	192	200	207	192	171	2,139
M26	194	199	211	176	188	197	216	182	204	218	187	223	2,395
M27	180	181	184	197	190	177	181	194	197	185	205	202	2,273
M28	217	192	214	204	209	214	209	210	213	229	215	243	2,569
M29	195	165	197	195	182	185	198	166	167	185	161	199	2,195
M30	77	86	84	76	97	80	77	79	67	82	68	102	975
M31	125	116	163	139	167	153	121	138	152	149	140	138	1,701
M32	234	222	222	228	254	230	269	248	243	230	216	241	2,837
M33	173	167	185	176	200	173	192	180	170	184	209	206	2,215
M34	96	73	83	91	96	91	78	65	90	78	95	104	1,040
M806	342	277	343	320	336	322	381	317	352	346	325	345	4,005
M815	333	296	313	329	351	374	397	344	350	348	320	335	4,090
M817	310	291	353	340	418	401	428	428	384	411	325	355	4,443
M823	282	260	287	302	317	274	310	312	310	272	270	291	3,487
M890	244	250	262	263	337	267	329	340	286	293	263	278	3,412
MSU1	25	26	30	21	31	30	25	25	20	32	21	29	315
Total	10,551	9,882	10,826	10,593	11,638	11,060	12,050	11,502	11,283	11,116	10,268	10,853	131,622

# 16 Ladder Companies 25,996 Total Ladder Runs in 2019



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
L1	177	151	168	141	190	185	176	196	209	193	179	170	2,135
L2	140	121	127	139	164	134	152	153	134	141	126	126	1,657
L5	91	80	87	97	95	90	72	96	78	87	88	88	1,049
L8	199	165	165	198	191	192	180	176	197	206	181	183	2,233
L10	126	137	98	145	129	135	140	147	128	155	124	126	1,590
L12	134	135	111	108	133	134	157	147	129	154	130	118	1,590
L13	225	189	201	199	179	186	202	234	253	262	231	180	2,541
L15	155	151	111	157	149	145	172	165	161	187	151	144	1,848
L22	98	78	101	89	105	97	107	120	95	94	104	124	1,212
L23	130	135	125	126	150	119	140	137	141	173	155	149	1,680
L24	186	164	172	186	212	203	203	217	222	240	205	195	2,405
L26	108	120	105	102	138	101	123	113	120	121	123	116	1,390
L27	61	74	58	58	68	68	69	64	87	93	73	82	855
L28	111	100	106	122	127	109	129	116	122	141	134	129	1,446
L32	104	122	103	94	106	94	90	104	115	128	93	100	1,253
L33	85	98	58	82	86	113	91	94	99	108	120	78	1,112
Total	2.130	2.020	1,896	2,043	2,222	2,105	2,203	2,279	2,290	2,483	2,217	2,108	25,996



# 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	145	111	117	108	118	105	120	103	122	131	142	113	1,435
R4	148	108	95	119	110	97	129	114	105	111	124	126	1,386
R11	94	79	79	71	72	67	79	52	61	68	90	81	893
R16	214	149	164	155	158	167	201	173	194	177	164	180	2,096
R17	141	129	117	119	138	142	121	124	139	155	129	127	1,581
Total	742	576	572	572	596	578	650	566	621	642	649	627	7,391

### **Battalion Chiefs**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
B1	194	141	138	164	146	135	149	155	168	159	168	137	1,854
B2	157	116	121	132	141	117	141	137	136	121	153	118	1,590
В3	183	153	134	126	143	128	164	158	186	166	174	143	1,858
B4	96	75	65	70	66	71	85	83	75	74	92	76	928
B5	119	104	93	89	91	102	121	115	100	133	137	92	1,296
B6	187	142	134	159	154	149	149	170	135	149	152	155	1,835
B7	85	51	72	69	68	71	73	76	68	77	76	66	852
Total	1,021	782	757	809	809	773	882	894	868	879	952	787	10,213

### **EMS Officers**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
EMS10	80	95	88	94	94	110	94	115	105	113	85	96	1,169
EMS11	162	160	196	193	209	248	240	258	264	226	189	206	2,551
EMS12	169	151	181	172	176	198	202	189	219	195	176	164	2,192
EMS13	209	205	237	212	259	263	271	270	266	280	286	248	3,006
EMS14	243	207	270	249	254	321	313	289	277	276	266	277	3,242
EMS15	201	197	201	188	227	242	257	239	263	234	209	232	2,690
EMS16	99	99	113	110	113	149	147	169	162	158	153	159	1,631
EMS17	81	67	90	75	78	120	88	89	98	89	83	99	1,057
Total	1,244	1,181	1,376	1,293	1,410	1,651	1,612	1,618	1,654	1,571	1,447	1,481	17,538

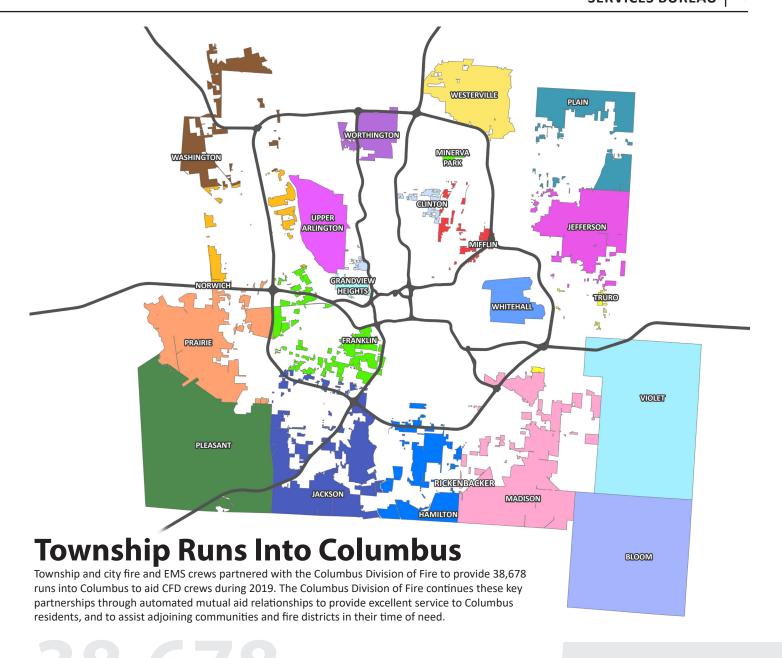


## **Rescue Boats**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
ВО3	0	1	4	1	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	14
BO4	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	6
BO5	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
BO10	0	4	3	1	3	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	16
BO11	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	7
BO14	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	7
BO19	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	8
BO22	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	6
BO25	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	9
BO26	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
BO27	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	4
BO29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
BO30	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	8
BO32	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	1	14	12	6	14	11	14	6	9	6	0	5	98

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
BS2	1	2	6	4	3	7	6	5	4	5	7	6	56
BS3	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
CMD18	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
DART2	0	6	8	3	4	5	5	2	5	3	0	2	43
DECON4	5	2	2	1	2	3	2	1	0	1	2	0	21
FK91	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	6
FK92	0	1	7	1	6	5	4	3	0	0	1	1	29
FK93	1	0	8	1	9	5	4	5	4	8	9	6	58
FK94	6	7	4	13	5	8	8	12	7	4	13	2	89
ISU19	38	32	26	26	27	27	28	28	31	26	38	36	363
ES1	4	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	17
ES2	13	15	12	9	10	7	9	7	6	6	8	4	106
HZ4	0	0	1	2	1	3	7	3	2	3	1	3	26
MSU19	21	24	25	26	33	31	28	20	24	24	19	9	278
RSU19	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	11
RSU3	0	1	1	4	2	1	2	0	4	1	1	3	20
Total	90	95	102	92	109	106	105	91	88	84	100	76	1,138



BLOOM JEFFERSON **PLEASANT WASHINGTON** TOTALS: 1 **TOTALS: 584 TOTALS: 744 TOTALS: 356 MADISON** CLINTON PRAIRIE WESTERVILLE TOTALS: 5,526 TOTALS: 4,520 **TOTALS: 1,941 TOTALS: 1,172 FRANKLIN** MIFFLIN RICKENBACKER **WHITEHALL** TOTALS: 8,563 **TOTALS: 5,972 TOTALS: 134 TOTALS: 1,100 GRANDVIEW HTS** MINERVA PARK **WORTHINGTON TRURO TOTALS: 1,324** TOTALS: 232 TOTALS: 2,570 **TOTALS: 1,554 HAMILTON** NORWICH UPPER ARLINGTON TOTALS: 3,034 **TOTALS: 551 TOTALS: 1,016** JACKSON PLAIN **VIOLET TOTALS: 196** TOTALS:3 **TOTALS: 209** 



# DEFINING MOMENT FIRE CADET TRAINING PROGRAM

## FIRE CADET PROGRAM

2019 RE-LAUNCH OF INTERNSHIPS INTRODUCES THE FIRE SERVICE TO NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

ne year into the Division of Fire's relaunch of the Fire Cadet Program, the Fire Training Bureau announced that six of the 20 Cadets who enrolled in April, 2019 have passed all three phases of the Columbus Civil Service exam to qualify for the upcoming fire recruit classes.

Cadets Jarrel Jackson, Derron Everson, Aaron Peaks, Tiffany Thomas, Deon Holder and Trevon Turner have passed the Firefighter Mile fitness test, the written exam and the firefighter oral assessments mechanism (FOAM). Five of the six Cadets scored in the 90 percentile band. Both Jackson & Peaks were accepted into the Columbus Fire 110th Recruit Class in December, 2019.

Sixteen Cadets achieved their State certification in Fire Fighter I and II, six Cadets receiving passing scores on the City of Columbus Civil service entrance exam. The Cadets have successfully completed over 400 hours of Fire Training and have begun their EMT-B training, totaling 200 hours at the completion of the course. The Cadets have also provided local neighborhood's with over 40 hours of community service, including public classes on CPR training.

The 15 men and five women were recruited to apply for the first ever two-year cadet program, marking the culmination of a ten-year effort by then city councilperson Andrew Ginther and Dr. Ned Pettus (who was the first Columbus African-American Fire Chief at the time) to increase diversity among the ranks of police and fire. Mayor Andrew Ginther has tasked the Safety Director to double the diversity of the city's public safety forces, and the new fire cadet program mirrors a similar effort begun at Columbus Police.

"This is an important pilot program for the Division, and I couldn't be happier with the results so far," said Training Bureau Assistant Fire Chief Jeffery Happ.

Participants in the Cadet Program are working towards widely accepted credentials: Fire Fighter I and II, Emergency Medical Technician Basic, Healthcare provider CPR AHA certification, AHA First Aid training, National Incident Management System (NIMS) 100, 700 and HAZ-MAT Technician Certification.

"I've got to thank the folks who did the initial interviews for the quality of the class, including Holly Fannin, Lt. Zachary Bridges, Firefighters Kylie Salvadore and Aja Farris," said Happ.

"We've tried to be flexible while designing the curriculum, so we've changed a few things on the fly. The Mayor and the Safety Director have set us up with the best possible resources to succeed," said Happ.

Assistant Chief Happ also credits the firefighters assigned to instruct the Cadets for the early success of the six enrollees, including Lt. Sexton Towns and firefighters Kylie Salvadore, Quinton Echols and Tim Boyd.

The Division's Student Intern II training has been broken up into four distinct subjects, similar to the Fire Training Academy curriculum. Emergency Medical Services, Firefighter 1 & 2, Fire Inspection and Physical Training. The Cadets are part-time employees working 35 hours a week, and must have a high school Diploma or GED and valid driver's license. All Cadets must pass the Civil Service Examination and the medical and background screening process to be placed on the firefighter eligible list.

"The training staff of Lt. Sexton Towns and Firefighters Quinton Echols, Tim Boyd and Kylie Salvadore have been excellent instructors. We've had to be extremely flexible and often change things on the fly. But the growing pains have been minimal; we've designed a two year program, so we can move things around," said Happ.

The Cadets receive no extra points on the Civil Service Firefighter Exam for completing the program. The program is designed to help prepare them for the firefighter selection process.

"The most gratifying thing was watching the Cadets perform public outreach. During EMS Week, the class were among the uniform members teaching First Aid and CPR to people from their own communities. For youngsters to see the Cadets helping other residents is extremely important," said Happ.

"They are really reaching back and pulling others ahead with them," said Happ.

"I've also been surprised by the support we've received from many of the uniformed firefighters who have participated in the training. Guys stick their heads into my office all the time and compliment the Cadets on their character and their efforts."

Firefighters Kylie Salvadore and Lt. Sexton Towns said they pleased to part of the training staff assigned to teach the first class, though they admit that the curriculum and schedule is evolving as they adapt the fire recruit training basics to a younger group of cadets.

"I didn't try to make it any different than recruit training," said Kylie Salvadore.

Firefighter Kylie Salvadore from the Academy in 2008 and is a classmate of Towns. She became an EMT instructor for recruit training in 2011, and became a Fire Instructor in 2017. Both Salvadore and Towns are paramedics.

"We truly tried to set them up for success so the transition into the Academy wouldn't be that difficult. We wanted to set the expectations right up front about how to conduct yourself and how to be a professional and how to respect others," said Salvadore.

Continued next page



The 2019 Fire Cadet Class was on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony at the Fire Station 16 construction site in September. From left is Director of Public Safety Dr. Ned Pettus Jr., Columbus Fire Chief Kevin O'Connor, Cadets Deon Holder, Tiffany Thomas, Derron Everson, Percell Gaskins, Anastacio Rodriguez, Frank Ellington, Serrina Jackson, Tyreek Williams, Sammy Ouch, Trevon Turner, Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther, Brianna O'Mara, Jeremiah Wiggins, Jarrel Jackson, Lonnie Stuckey, Courtland James, Aaron Peaks, Heather Vicha, Firefighters Quinton Echols, Kylie Salvadore and Tim Boyd. Not pictured are Cadets Nautica Smith and Marcus Moore.

Fire Cadet Program continued

"This is a younger generation," said Towns, a 12-year veteran of the Division. Towns taught fire recruits for three years at the Fire Training Academy before being recruited to teach the re-launched Fire Cadet program.

"For fire recruit classes, you get a bigger range of age groups. I was 20 years old when I came on the department. I had someone in my class that was 53, so the younger people tended to hang out with their peers," said Towns.

"For the Cadets, there ages are so close that they have everything in common. So I feel like they have a better relationship with each other. But with that, you have to bring more discipline because they seem more comfortable with each other, more talking in class, just more getting comfortable faster. For the average recruit in the Academy, it's going to take a longer to feel comfortable," said Towns.

The Cadet program covers 24 months, over twice as long as the recruit training program. Both Towns and Salvadore said keeping Cadets motivated over the longer

commitment is sometimes a challenge. But there's a built in advantage, as well.

"We doubled the program, essentially. Fire training is doubled, EMT is doubled. For example, now instead of one day of neuro, a lecture and lab, the cadets have two or three days of that material," said Salvadore.

"The advantage is that we double the amount of time dedicated to the class work and provide time to actually read in class. The fire recruits don't have that luxury. You take a lot of work home," said Sexton.

"The training academy tries hard not send a ton of work home, but it's just part of the job. For the Cadets, you could have three days on a subject with one day devoted just to reading in class. So the advantage is we have more time to teach the subject matter. The disadvantage is that the time gap between covering the material and the final test can be twice as long, so you have to retain it longer. So we, as instructors, are trying to continually tweak the program to minimize the disadvantages for the next program," said Sexton.

Salvadore feels the 24 month program also

helps the five women in the class gain the physical strength and stamina required for firefighting.

"And not just the strength and conditioning. Also the confidence and personal growth," said Salvadore.

"We've had a female cadet accepted into the recent fire recruit class and she's told me she wasn't certain she could have passed the minimum physical requirements to become a fire recruit without the preparation and growth she got from her time as a cadet. She said she was grateful for this program, so I've personally have seen the growth. And that's the strength of the cadet program, not just to build strength but to also build confidence," said Salvadore.

"I'm used to teaching the fire recruits, but this is a new program so I didn't really know what to expect with the cadets. There's a learning curve within the entire Division. I feel like many uniformed members don't know what the program is about or why we are doing it," said Towns.

"For the fire recruits, many know about the career and what it entails. For recruits, they are probably interested in becoming a firefighter because they were previously a firefighter somewhere, or they knew a firefighter. For the cadets, they probably never knew a firefighter to pique their interest. So they are almost trusting our opinions that 'hey, this is a great job'. They are trusting us when we say 'keep putting in all this hard work and effort and it's going to pay off'," said Towns.

"The program is something new to the Columbus Division of Fire, but there are fire departments out there that have had cadet programs for over 30 years. They maintain those programs because they've been successful. The biggest challenge for us is to make sure we are doing it in the best possible way for the Division, for the people of Columbus and for the cadets themselves," said Towns.

Firefighter Salvadore and Lt. Towns both admit to missing doing the work of firefighting, but both are pleased to participate as instructors in this inaugural Fire Cadet class.

"It's gratifying whenever you are teaching or helping anybody get better at anything," said Towns.

"I think the entire cadet training staff enjoy working on the streets. But we also see a need to help these individuals in this program. We've all built personal relationships with these cadets and I believe the cadets trust us. We actually talk more than we teach. In recruit training, we always have instructors come out and teach their specialty or areas of expertise. For the cadets, we end up teaching most of that ourselves as staff. But I've enjoyed being part of the program. I think it'll be a part of the Division for a while. Hopefully, it'll do its job in increasing diversity on the force, and will continue long after I've left the program," said Towns.

"At first, I wasn't sure what the program was going to be about, but I knew the crew that was going to lead it, so I knew it was going to be in good hands," said Salvadore.

"For me personally, it's been a pleasure to be a part of it. It also required us to get back into our books so we knew the material inside and out, so that was good for all of us. Building relationships, the mentoring that goes on is a positive for me. In the Academy, you don't have a lot of time for that. For the cadets, they know they can come in and talk to us about what's going on with them, ask us more about how to deal with life outside the program. We try and encourage them to be good people all around. I've seen a change in a lot of them, just in their personal growth," said. Salvadore.

"We encourage any of the uniform members to reach out to us with questions they might have about the program. Our extension is 7-5355. We are still learning and the program is still developing. We are getting advice from the Director's office, and getting a lot of help from the recruit training staff and the EMS training staff. All of us are all trying to make the program a success," said Towns.

Cadets Jarrel Jackson, Aaron Peaks and Tiffany Thomas sat for an interview in September of 2019 to share some of their impressions of the program.

Tiffany Thomas is 33 and from Columbus. She graduated from Whitehall Yearling High School. Her mother was a social worker and her father an English teacher. Both are now retired. Thomas attended Spelman College (an historically black liberal arts college for women in Atlanta), then Duke University to earn a master's degree in religion. She was working in community service/community development prior to entering the Academy.

"A year ago I decided to change my career and started on a journey that brought me here to the Columbus Division of Fire," said Thomas.

Jarrel Jackson is from Cleveland. He attended Collinwood High School, then enrolled at The Ohio State University. Jarrel is the middle of five children.

Continued next page

Fire Cadet Aaron Peaks assists
Cadet Nautica Smith during physcial
training at the Columbus Fire
Academy. Fire Cadets endure daily PT
sessions using the same facility as fire
recruits at the Academy. Peaks was
accepted into the 110th Fire Recruit
Class in December, 2019. James
Miller/Division of Fire





Fire Cadet Program continued

Jackson's father worked for the Department of Homeland Security. His mother is an entrepreneur and owns her own cleaning company. Jarrel ran into a paramedic at a football game and asked about volunteering at the fire department.

"He said 'why don't you just apply?' I attended a couple of recruiting events where I learned of the new Fire Cadet opportunity," said Jarrel.

Aaron Peaks, 25, graduated from Linden McKinley High School. Peaks was working in retail and doing community based work, mostly with his church. He was mentoring at St. Vincent Family Center to help troubled kids when he meet Lt. Zach Bridges at a recruiting event. He made up his mind he was going to be a firefighter, so he joined a gym and a Civil Service exam study group lead by Lt. Bridges and Firefighter Elvin Pinckney.

"I learned of the new Fire Cadet program while attending the classes," said Peaks.

### Why Consider the Fire Service as a Career?

Aaron: Growing up in the Linden area, I was already trying to make an impact in my community with kids, but I knew for me to truly make an impact with kids, to hear my voice, practically, I knew I wanted to become a firefighter and I wanted to show kids you can achieve something great. My dream is to go back to Station 18 and work there to show kids good things can happen if you put some hard work in, keep your integrity and keep your nose clean. Plus, it's exciting work; everyday we do something new, something fun. And you get paid to workout. The benefits are amazing, pays is good, things you just can't heat

Tiffany: I have two older brothers, and when we were little, I was a little bit of a tom boy. He wanted to be a police officer and I wanted to be a firefighter. He's a state trooper now. That idea as child kind of fell away from me because I never saw women firefighters. Now as an adult, I knew I wanted a different career choice so I had to sit down and do a lot of self reflection.

I thought a lot about how I want to spend my life and it returned me to the child in me. I don't want to sit at a computer all my life. I want to go out and save the world, and that's what we are doing everyday. It's awesome.

Jarrel: Like Cadet Thomas, I also have a big passion for community service. I'm from a big city, and my grandmother was the rock of my neighborhood. Whenever anybody needed anything, they always came to my grandmother. So it's always been a part of me to want to engage in the community.

I always looked at firefighters as super heroes. Like, you never know where they are, but when there's danger, they come in and save the day. I was always told I was smart, I should go to college. So I did, and that childhood super hero thing escaped me. But after a while working in construction, I realized it just wasn't that fulfilling. I went to the football game started talking to a paramedic, and I thought 'you know what? I'm going to chase after my dream."

# What has surprised you about the program? And what has been most challenging?

Tiffany: When you think about firefighting, you think about putting water on fire. What surprises me is how difficult it is to become competent in this skill. It's almost like a science in a sense. I'm challenged every single day. There are things that firefighter do that I've never thought about. We are learning about extrication from vehicles right now. I never thought about how firefighters get people out of wrecks, or how you actually do the work of cutting cars open. It's just about the knowledge. You must have the physical strength to hold hydraulic tools and not cut your own hand off. I'm surprised everyday about all the things you have to know to just do the basic job.

I'm challenged everyday to be strong enough, both mentally & physically to do the job. Hopefully, I can rise to that challenge everyday.

Jarrel: Along with the knowledge about doing the job, I find the communication challenging. It's very limited and efficient communication. I'm surprised by how efficient everybody on a fire scene is. Everybody has a job, everybody knows what they are doing. It's a challenge sometimes to stay calm and consistent.

Aaron: I would say decision making. My background in basketball as a point guard,

it's your job to initiate the plays and distribute the ball. As a firefighter, when you size up a scene, you have to decide what's first and you focus on your job. There's three kids and a mom in there. You have to have the mentality that "I CAN do this". You might not be physically strong enough but if you've got the will to do it, you can do it. I've seen it here time and again. An instructor will show up and he's smaller than me, and I'm thinking "no way he can do this task". Then he gets up there and does it, because he's learned the techniques and he's strong enough in the mind to do it.

### It takes physical strength to become a firefighter. How did you prepare for the rigors of the program?

Tiffany: I ran cross country in high school. I've run marathons before, so I was athletic to begin with, but I wasn't strong. It's been a whole journey to become strong enough to do my job because women are not taught to be strong physically.

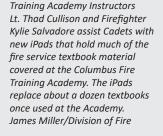
Things are starting to change, but for the most part, appearing to be physical strong has not been considered an attractive thing. Women are always taught to be less, so women are always dieting. Women are always calorie counting and trying to lose their mass. So to do the work to gain mass, to become stronger, contradicts everything we are taught about what it means to be female, to be feminine.

So I've loved the journey to try to become more instead of trying to become less. It's totally changed my life, that journey to becoming stronger.

I just finished the Firefighter Mile a while back. My brother was a wrestler, and he always wrestled above weight. So he worked at getting heavier for the weighin, and always drank chocolate milk to get the mass. I was always jealous of him in high school because he would always drink chocolate milk and I'm always on a diet. For me to get stronger to pound that tire, I would drink chocolate milk in the morning. It was awesome! I'd call my brother and tell him. When I first started, I would hammer and hammer at that tire. I could not get it to move and I just wanted to cry. But months later, after working and watching my own growth, I got that tire moving and finally moved it across the line in 27 seconds to complete that part of the Firefighter Mile. It was beautiful. (Editor's note: Cadet Thomas improved from 13 push-ups in her initial assessment to 40 push-ups by mid-June).

Tiffany: Cadets as a team aren't isolated from the larger Training Academy staff and recruits, but we are incubated. We have relationships with the training staff, and they say they like working with us because we are a smaller group. There are only 20 of us, and they could be teaching two classes simultaneously of 30 to 40 recruits.

Cadets continued page 47



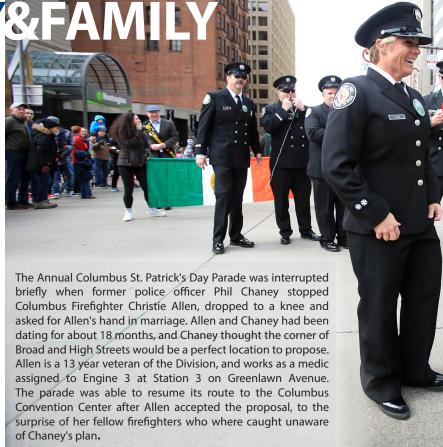








*Top;* Columbus Fire crews from Station 15 on East Livingston Avenue near the Driving Park neighborhood delivered \$500 worth of school supplies to the staff of St Vincent Family Center on Aug.14, 2019. The donated supplies were provided by the Columbus Firefighters Foundation, and the crews of Station 15 who have informally adopted the neighborhood school. *Middle:* Firefighter Mike DeFrancisco attends a birthday celebration for Jahid Mitchell, 2, at the Columbus Fire Museum a year after the 31-year veteran firefighter caught the infant after his mother Aleasha Mitchell tossed him from the porch roof of their burning house. DeFrancisco was awarded the 2019 Fire & Rescue Sheep Dog of the Year Award for his actions on that day.



# VOLUNTEERISM

Firefighters raising money and awareness

*Left;* Two sisters from Gahanna visited Columbus Fire Station 28 in July to receive brand new bicycles, courtesy of the Columbus Fire Foundation and Christopher's Promise, an area non-profit that supplies specialty adaptive bikes for kids with disabilities. Heather Howell, 12, and sister Holly, 6, received the custom bikes and pedaled them around the station for the first time.



**Above;** The 108th Columbus Fire Recruit Class participated in Community Day public service events in August. The recruits visited the Eddie Grayson Culinary Lab 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.



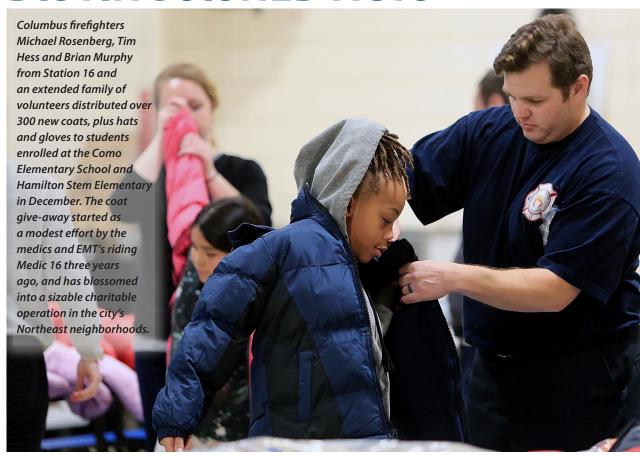




Top Right; Columbus paramedics Brian Dudley and Tim Grover from Station 20 on East Fifth Avenue joined emergency department staff at Ohio State East Hospital to host an informal gathering to honor former patient Latoria Johnson in October. The care team re-united to celebrate Johnson's recovery & to thank all the first responders and OSU staff who made up her continuum of care, including Fire Station 20's Timothy Grover, Lead EMT-Paramedic Marc Henneke, EMT-Basic David Stone, **EMT-Paramedic Brian** Dudley.

Middle Photo; Veteran Columbus Firefighter Lt. J.D. Vasbinder received The Ohio Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2019 Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame & Fire Awards Ceremony held at the Ohio State Fire Academy training facility in September.

# **DISTINGUISHED ACTS**





David Walton
Assistant Chief

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

### 2019 Fire Prevention Bureau Accomplishments

- Fully implemented a revised inspection schedule to more evenly distribute inspectable occupancies among Emergency Services companies and reassigned 9,000+ inspections to the FPB.
- Partnered with Citywide Occupational Safety & Health industrial hygienists to complete a yearlong study regarding exposure risks faced by FEIU Investigators.



### FIRE PREVENTION OFFICES

### **Bureau Inspection Offices**

The strong economic growth in the City continued throughout 2019 as evidenced by the addition of new Building Inventory Reports (BIRs) and Certificate of Occupancies, totaling more than 1,500 in 2019. Dozens of other sites throughout the City are currently under construction and will need to be added to the FPB inspectable database upon completion.

This vibrant growth is exciting, however, the corresponding need to provide regular and comprehensive inspections of more than 30,000 properties will continue to create challenges for the FPB as technology and personnel resources are stretched to capacity. Despite the increase in inspection workload for both FPB and ES personnel, 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.

The revised High-Rise Fire Safety Director Course curriculum was developed in cooperation with local educational institutions. This 24 hour course provides information on Emergency Action Plans, Fire Code requirement, record keeping, and Fire Command Center operations.

### **Total Occupancies Requiring Inspection 2019**

	With Permits	<b>Without Permits</b>	Total
FPB Level	969	3,522	4,491
District Level	4,068	6,034	10,102
Company Level	0	15,731	15,731
Total	5,037	25,287	30,324

- Joined CFD Plans Review personnel and Building & Zoning Services staff, resulting in streamlined reviews and improved customer service.
- Partnered with Columbus Public School to provide fire safety and inspection training to teachers and administrators.
- Employed Public Assembly Code Enforcement (PACE) Team to assist with bar/nightclub overcrowding.
- Simplified the permitting and inspection of Mobile Food Vending and Temporary Operational Permits.
- Provided and/or coordinated with Emergency Services more than 1,000 Public Outreach programs that focused on fire and life-safety messaging.
- Restructured the bureau to include Public Assembly, High Hazard, and Institution-Education Sections.



Photos top left: Fire Prevention **Bureau Inspectors** Joseph West and Lt. Brian Fowler speak with pyrotechnic technicians assembling mortars two days prior to the annual Red, White & Boom fireworks celebration. Photo below: Firefighter Tony Cupe assists young campers operating a fire hose. Dozens of students aged 9-15 participate in the annual Fire **Exploration Camp** at the Columbus Fire Training Academy in June and July. Kids learn basic firefighting techniques and see equipment used by firefighters and paramedics during

the two-day summer

camp.

### FIRE PREVENTION OFFICES CONTINUED

### **Public Outreach**

Public Outreach conducts fire and life-safety training to a broad range of citizens within our community. Specialty Programs include the Safe House Program for the young, the Fifty-Plus Program for seasoned citizens, and the Off-Campus Housing Safety walk throughs for the thousands of students that live in our community. More than 2,000 smoke alarms and 1,300 carbon monoxide alarms were installed without cost to our most at-risk residents. Other programs include:

- Fire extinguisher training
- Fire Prevention Week
- Career Days
- Health Fairs
- Evacuation Drills

- Mayor's Community Night Out events
- National Night Out
- Smoke Alarm installs
- Carbon Monoxide Alarm installs
- Parks & Recreation Police & Fire Summer Camp



300

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

### **FIRE PREVENTION OFFICES**

CONTINUED

#### **Plans Review**

This Section reviews various types of plans which have been submitted by private consultants, architects and contractors to ensure Fire Code compliance, an essential function that will affect the safety of our citizens for generations to come.

Communications and coordination between this Section and the Department of Building and Zoning Services were greatly enhanced by providing a regular CFD presence at the Building Department. This has resulted in more-timely interaction among both departments and improved customer service.

As the country's 14th-most populous city in the United States, and one of the fastest growing large cities in the nation, one cannot avoid the sights and sounds of construction in Columbus. In fact, the Plans Review Section processed more than 1,450 site plans and 1,650 fire and sprinkler alarm plans in 2019.

This trend is expected to continue for some time as evidenced by several new large-scale projects and high-rises that are either under construction or in the plans review pipeline.

Photo top: Firefighter Tom McGue performs inspections at the new Moo Moo car wash on a South High St. construction site. Photo right: Firefighter Trina Cain addresses Columbus City Council before receiving a council resolution proclaiming October 6 through October 16, 2019 as Fire Prevention Week in Columbus. The resolution was presented by Councilperson Mitchell Brown, former paramedic and current public safety chairperson, and accepted by Fire Chief Kevin O'Connor after Prevention Bureau firefighters spoke to council about their efforts to promote fire safety throughout the community through public outreach and education.

Great strides were made during the past year in transitioning towards an all-electronic Rapid Key Entry System, making entry by first responders faster while preventing undue property damage.

### **Public Assembly**

The creation of the Public Assembly Section has afforded greater oversight of the many safety 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.

The realignment of unrelated duties and the inclusion of the mobile food vending inspector has resulted in an improved working group which now consist of one additional Public Assembly inspector.

Outdoor events engage multiple city departments and divisions including Columbus Police, Water, Recreation and Parks, Traffic and Building and Zoning etc. Two significant improvements to the outdoor event permitting process went into effect in 2019. The first was the implementation of a web-based application process through Recs & Parks which auto generates the Temporary Operational Permit Application for Columbus Fire.

The second was the development of a "joint application" with Building and Zoning Services for events that have permit sized tents and stage canopies. Both of these new processes have not

been without their challenges but overall have resulted in a more streamlined process for the public.

Large events such as Sonic Temple, The Arnold Classic, and OSU Football games require specific Public Assembly Section oversight and guidance. Large venue assembly occupancies bring their own set of hazards and potential challenges which the Public Assembly Section continually evaluates and makes recommendations to improved preparedness and safety of attendees.

Specific activities of this Section include:

- 543 Temporary Event Permits (a 35% increase over 2018)
- 72 Pyrotechnic Permits
- 352 Mobile Food Vending inspections





### **High Hazard**

The High Hazard section conducts inspections of hotel/motels, industrial Hazardous materials storage facilities and underground/aboveground petroleum storage tanks. The inspectors issue permits, schedule inspections with contractors and witness testing as required by code. The Tank Specialist assists in correcting leaks or spills involving flammable/combustible liquids and coordinates activities with The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR), EPA and other agencies.

The Hotel/Motel Occupancy Specialists participate in joint Hotel/Motel Nuisance Abatement Group inspections. The Hazardous Material Storage Specialists participate in joint Environmental Nuisance Abatement Group inspections with other City and State agencies. Specific activities of this Section include:

- 528 High-Hazard Occupancy Inspections
- 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, group homes, mental institutions, medical offices, adoption and foster care, Sororities, Public Schools, Charter Schools, Colleges, licensing inspection for businesses, and bureau complaint inspections. 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. Nearly 300 School Fire Drills were completed under the direction of this section, using a new electronic reporting platform that proved to be very successful. Specific activities of this Section include:

- 381 Daycare Inspections
- 260 Home Inspections
- 72 Group Home Inspections
- 81 Business/Institution/and other Inspections





### **District Inspections Section**

The District Inspections Section completed its first full year in operation, conducting thousands of inspections that previously were done by Emergency Services personnel. Significant efficiencies were made possible by the use of mobile devices and the implementation of an electronic re-inspection submittal process, whereby an owner/occupant can provide electronic evidence of correcting common Fire Code violations.

Remittance for annual permit fees are up significantly since the inception of this section. District Inspectors participated in ANAG (Apartment Nuisance Abatement Group), a multi-agency consortium tasked with improving the living condition in apartments through the enforcement of health, safety, and Fire Codes.



Above top: Firefighter Rodney Dommer checks propane tanks among the 30 food vendors gathered on the Scioto Mile for the annual Red, White & Boom celebration. Photo left: Firefighters Marvin Robertson and Trina Cain of the Fire Prevention Bureau visited St Mary's School in German Village to observe the school staff perform a fire drill during the school's Fire Safety Week during the first week of November. St Mary's School was established in 1865 on South Third Street and has an enrollment of 384 students in grades K-8. Thirty teachers and administrators were on hand when the fire crews arrived for the school's annual fire drill observed by Columbus firefighters.



The 2019 Fire & Explosives Investigations team is, front row (left to right): Derrick Young, Capt. Jeff Martin, Andrea Marshall, Ed Ritterbeck, Jeb Johnson, Lt. Shawn Farley, Greg Haggit (Ret.). Back row (left to right): Jeff Smith, Ken Jesenovec, Mike DeFrancisco, Lonie Henegar, Deric Scott and Jim Whaley. James Miller/Division of Fire

### **FIRE PREVENTION OFFICES**

CONTINUED

### 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 Firesetter Prevention & Intervention Program (JFSP) is an important resource of the Fire & Explosive Investigations Unit.

In 2019, the Columbus Fire Department responded to 2,510 fires. Of those fires, our nine (9) Fire Investigators were called to conduct 948 fire investigations. This represents an investigation being conducted on 38% of the fires where Columbus Fire Companies responded. Of those 948 investigations, 36% were found

to be incendiary in nature, 45% were determined to be accidental, and 13% remain undetermined\* at this point. The remaining 6% fell into "Good Intent" or other categories. There were 18 bomb investigations, 11 incendiary device investigations, and 11 Hazmat incidents investigated.



There were 424 total reported vehicle fires in the city, with investigations being conducted on 230 of those fires. Almost half (113) were determined to be incendiary.

There were 95 charges filed from 88 fires:

38 for Aggravated Arson, 25 Arson, 6 Attempted Aggravated Arson, 8 Criminal Damaging or Endangering, 4 Open Burning, 3 Possessing Criminal Tools, 2 Aggravated Menacing, 2 Disorderly Conduct, 2 Making False Alarms, 1 Criminal Mischief, 1 Disrupting Public Services, 1 Possession of A Dangerous Ordinance, 1 Theft, 1 Vandalism, and 1 Violation of a Protection Order.

There were 40 juveniles involved in 29 fires referred to our JFSP. Many of these referrals were made in lieu of filing felony charges on juveniles. Nine fires were solved by exceptional means and charges are pending in 8 fires.

There were 4 fire related fatalities in Columbus in 2019, all adults, with no multiple fatality fires. We also tracked 55 injuries from fires that include 7 firefighters and 48 civilians.

These numbers equate to a solve rate of 32% for incendiary fires in Columbus, in 2019, exceeding the national average of 21.7% (Statista, 2017).

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Fire Runs	2,400	2,534	2,396	2,564
Investigator Call-Outs	893 (37%)	920 (36%)	918 (38%)	948
Incendiary	416 (47%)	376 (41%)	332 (36%)	348 (38%)
Accidental	408 (34%)	383 (42%)	374 (41%)	430
Undetermined*	143 (16%)	107 (12%)	135 (15%)	118
Bomb investigations	24	18	19	18
Haz-mat Investigations	6	10	16	11
Vehicle Fires in Columbus	471	454	474	424
Vehicle Fire Investigations	239 (51%)	257 (57%)	240 (56%)	231
Vehicle incendiary	137 (57%)	134 (52%)	101 (42%)	113
Fires Resulting in Charges**	63	46	56	88
Number of Charges Filed	67	58	67	95
Youth Firesetter Prevention & Intervention Referrals	67 from 42 fires	50 from 34 fires	38 from 29 fires	18
Incendiary Fire Solve Rate	25%	21%	25.6%	32.0%
Fire Fatalities	6 Adults 5<18	13 Adults 2<18	7 Adults 0 Children	5 Adults 0 Children

\*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.





# FIRE CADET PROGRAM

2019 RE-LAUNCH OF INTERNSHIPS INTRODUCES THE FIRE SERVICE TO NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

Cadets continued from page 29

Tiffany: So everything we do, we spend more time doing it. When the instructors come in, they spend days with us when they may only have hours with the recruits. And the relationships we have with the recruits are like a mentorship. We aspire to be recruits one day, so we have the highest respect for them. The paramedic students are like our big brothers. They really look out for us, so I think we are really meshing well at the Academy.

Aaron: I started with a study group led by firefighter (Elvin) Pinckney, they taught us how to interact with the officers and firefighters. There's a level of respect among those wearing the uniform, and a different culture in the fire service that we learned about before I even came into the Fire Cadet Program. There's a certain way you talk to firefighters, even if they're 20 or 30 years into their careers. You don't know what all they've been through, what they've endured. So he gets the same respect as a younger person in peak physical condition. You respect everybody. I'm only four months into the program, and you realize everybody around you in uniform was challenged and tested like we are being now. I recently was in North Dakota and met a firefighter. I told him

you've got my respect because now I know a little about what you went through to wear that uniform.

This new Fire Cadet program is Mayor Andrew Ginther and Public Safety Director Dr. Ned Pettus' initiative to enlist more residents of color into both police and fire departments. Do you feel like efforts like this are still important to your communities and your families?

Tiffany: I absolutely do. I think that first responders should reflect the community that they are serving. The firefighters and police are working for the citizens, so they should look like the citizens so there's more trust. I really appreciate the Mayor's effort on this. It's well beyond time to jump that hurdle.

Jarrel: I'll agree with Cadet Thomas. It's easier to set goals, to create a path for yourself when you can see others that have gone down that path. Being a first generation college student was hard because there was no one around me who I could look at and say "I just need to be like this person, I just need to model myself after this person." That person wasn't in my life. Same with the fire department or police department. It's hard to see yourself in those roles when you don't see anyone like that in your family or neighborhood.

The opportunity we have to be a positive reflection, to offer some diversity to the department, to reflect that back to the community, I'm sure that will have an inspiring impact for generations to come.

Aaron: Even in my own household, when my niece saw I was taking the firefighter process seriously, she was like 'Wow, that's what I want to do." When I get home she's full of questions; "what did you do today?" I'm from the Linden area, so there's certain conversations I can have with people that people outside the community can't have. For instance, I've known this guy for 20 years. I know his grandmother, I know his sister, so there's a certain level of respect that comes from being from the neighborhood. When I was a kid at St. Vincent, kids didn't know that firefighting was something that was possible for them, even though there were posters in our building. But if you don't personally know someone going through that process, that guy on the poster is just some guy on a poster.

Tiffany: Both fire & police are facing the same questions; what's the history of racial bias when it comes to the question of who gets hired, who gets to represent the city? Is it because people of color are just not interested? Or is it something else? I think this Cadet class shows we are interested, and I think we are proving that people of color, and women are just as competent, just capable. So now is the time. I really appreciate the mayor facing that. There's been some serious issues and painful history about race as it relates to employment in police and fire departments.

# Any advice for young people considering the Fire Cadet program?

Tiffany: Start running now (laughing)! Seriously, there's lots of reading, lots of physical demands. So whatever you can do to get yourself into shape will help. The program is demanding academically, emotionally and physically.

Jarrel: I agree, but I would say "don't count yourself out". There are 20 of us. We are a diverse group with different levels of education and physical fitness. But everyone's been able to step up to the challenges. So if you feel you're too out of shape, feel like you're not smart enough, you can't do it, know this; the program is well designed. It will meet you where you're at as long as you are willing to put in the hard work and buckle down, you will be successful.

Aaron: I agree. But you don't start to become a firefighter when you put on that recruit uniform. The day you make up your mind you want to become a firefighter you have to have a mindset.

You need to surround yourself with supporting people and be aware of your actions. You have to ask yourself "do I have the mental capacity to see the things I will see as a firefighter?" You have to be honest with yourself and analyze your strengths.

The Cadet training mirrors Fire Recruit Training, including EMT Basic credits. But what you can't know is how you are going to react the first time you respond to a scene where a family's been gravely injured. Does that unknown haunt you here?

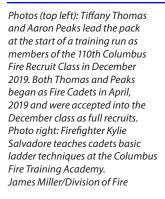
Tiffany: We think about it all the time. One of the things we have in the Cadet program is the brother and sisterhood, the relationships we are building early in our careers. We are able to talk about it now. When we do begin to see the reality of pain and trauma and death, we can come to each other and talk about it all and process those things together. We've learned here the importance of communicating with our peers. That's going to help us on our journey to become firefighters.

Jarrel: I think the program has done an excellent job of putting us into high pressure situations to prepare us and gradually exposing us to the reality of the job. We've watched a lot of training videos, and some are more graphic than others.

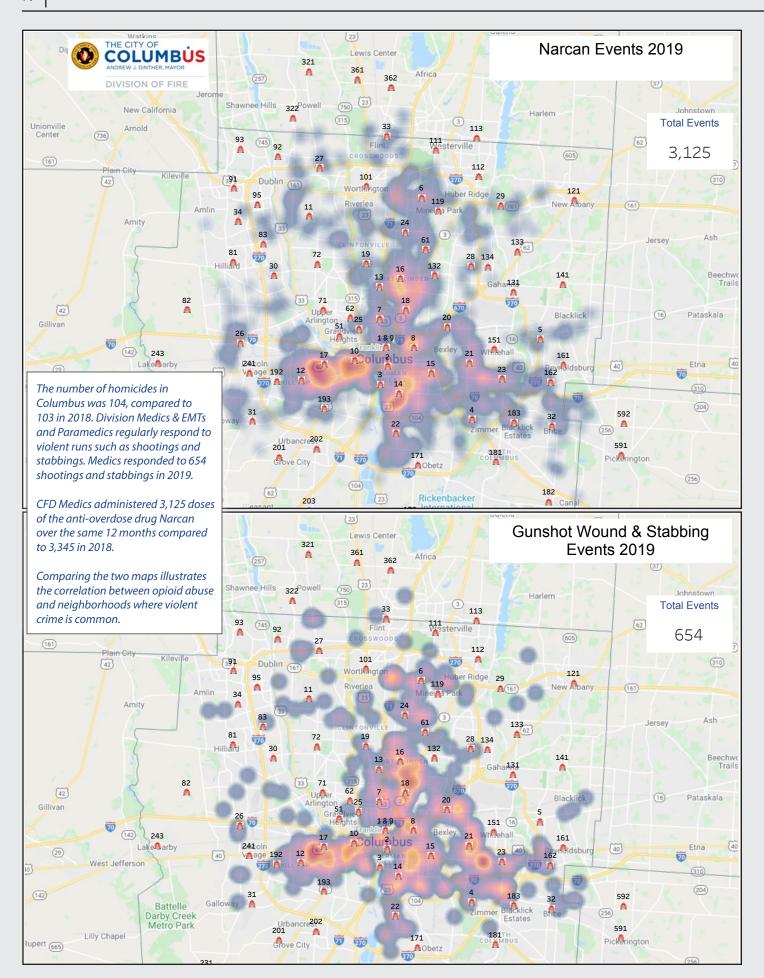
Tiffany: We call it deadly Monday. It's different from being there, but we are exposed.

Jarrel: We had the opportunity to here Lt. Polaski talk about his experience, and the firefighters involved also talked about the mental impact it had on them.

See Cadets page 41









Fire Cadet Program continued from page 39

Editor's note: Lt. Mike Polaski collapsed in cardiac arrest in a smoke-filled basement while fighting a house fire in 2010. Four crew members rescued him, and paramedics performed CPR on the unconscious firefighter in route to a hospital where he was put into induced coma. Lt. Polaski eventually recovered and returned to his duties.

Jarrel: It was a successful rescue for him and he's alive. But they talked about the mental weight it had on them. It was very eye opening to us Cadets. The Employee Assistance people have met with us and talked about support systems and taking care of the self.

On family night, instructor Boyd told us he wanted to meet all the people in our support system, the family members who are going to be there for us during the tough times we'll certainly have.

Tiffany: I can't over state how terrific our instructors are, and their commitment to us. It's been profound. They've given us so much of their time, their wisdom and knowledge to us. They are remarkable people, and they could be doing anything within the Division and they would be awesome. But they come in everyday and give us their best."

# So you feel these initial relationships begun as Cadets will support you throughout your career?

Tiffany: Sure. I'm looking forward to having Firefighter Jarrel Jackson working for me (laughs).

Aaron: We will always be Cadets among ourselves, right? You could become a firefighter elsewhere, you could become the Fire Chief, right? But you'll always be Cadet Thomas to me."

Photo above: The instructors of the inaugural 2019 Fire Cadet Class are Tim Boyd, Kylie Salvadore, Lt. Sexton Towns and Quinton Echols at the Columbus Fire Training Academy. James Miller/Division of Fire

Administration Bureau, continued from page 11

### **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 2019 included:

- Hired one class of 20 part-time Fire Cadets in April
- Hired one class of 35 fire recruits in June and one class of 40 fire recruits in December for a total of 75 recruit firefighters in 2019;
- Filled eight full-time and one part-time civilian position and hired nine temporary civilian employees to work on special projects and assist the various bureaus during significant staffing shortages;
- Submitted approximately \$20,000 dollars in reimbursement requests in 2019 as a result of the Division's participation with the Ohio FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

- Processed 33 promotions and 66 sworn separations from employment;
- Applied for FEMA reimbursement for employees participating in the Ohio Task Force 1 deployment response to hurricane Dorian in the amount of \$33,452.82;
- Completed a draft of a Division of Fire Civilian Policies and Procedures Manual for review and submission.

#### **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 2019

- Continued to participate in focus groups with the City Auditor's office to assist in the design and implementation of the City's new payroll processing system:
- Began the special open enrollment period for the new IAFF Health Savings Account Plan October 9 through November 8, 2019.
- Initiated a process to audit and review payroll shift codes for accuracy on a quarterly basis.



# Jeffrey Happ Assistant Chief

The EMS/Training Bureau serves a vital function in the Division by equipping personnel with the education and training necessary to perform job duties in both firefighting and providing EMS care.

This begins in the Academy with initial fire and EMS certification courses and proceeds throughout each 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 EMS research.

# TRAINING BUREAU

20 New Fire Cadets Enroll in Inaugural Class of Student Fire Interns in 2019



#### **Major Accomplishments**

#### **Apprenticeship Program**

As personnel graduate from initial training in the Training Academy, they progress to the JATC program. The JATC currently has 5 classes in the Apprenticeship totaling 188 firefighters. In 2019, the JATC successfully trained 58 new journeymen firefighters. These 58 firefighters received certification from the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council. The JATC also adapted to changes in training by increasing hands- on time for a variety of skills training categories. The JATC totaled more than 500 hours of classroom and hands on training of Apprentices.



THE DIVISION OF FIRE TRAINING BUREAU HAS PROVIDED

145,731 HOURS OF IN SERVICE ADVANCED TRAINING

# 2,400 CIVILIANS TRAINED IN CPR & FIRST AID

# **Fire Recruit Training**

The Training Academy (TA) trained two classes totaling 80 recruits in 2019 of approximately 39 weeks of training. The recruits completed EMS, Firefighter I and II, CFD Division Operations, and Physical Training.

We coordinated with In-Service Training, JATC, and the Fire Cadet Program to use the grounds at the training complex for an additional 1,400 hours of training. In addition, the TA has partnered with outside agencies including the Ohio State Patrol SRT Team, Columbus Police NTAC and SWAT teams, Columbus State Community College, and the Franklin County SWAT team to utilize classrooms, physical training and training buildings.

All Columbus Fire Recruits performed two community day projects while at the Academy to reinforce the Division's commitment to the neighborhoods we serve.

This year, recruits visited the Eddie Grayson Culinary Lab 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. The group also donates biscuits to area animal shelters like CHA Animal Shelter located at 3765 Corporate Drive. CHA nonprofit animal shelter in northeast Columbus is funded solely by donations from adoption fees, donations from the public and fundraising efforts. Recruits prepared and served lunch at the Ronald McDonald House across from Nationwide Children's Hospital, and introduced kids to the TA engine parked on the grounds.

Recruits lead an early morning workout session with 100 high school students and teachers at City of Columbus Independence High School. The recruits also visited Schiller Park on Jaeger Street to mulch and clean up the playground and to give a tour of a Division fire engine to kids gathered at the park.

# **Fire Cadet Program**

The first Columbus Division of Fire Cadet Program began April 8, 2019. The Cadet program was born from a vision to introduce young men and women into the fire service that may not have had the opportunity or understanding of what it means or takes to become a firefighter.

Through this inaugural year we have watched these 20 Cadets sacrifice, train, study, work and dedicate themselves to the goal of becoming professional firefighters. The Cadet Program mimics the Recruit Training schedule, standards and expectations.

Participants in the Cadet Program will earn widely accepted credentials: Fire Fighter I and II, Emergency Medical Technician Basic, Healthcare provider CPR AHA certification, AHA First Aid training, National Incident Management System (NIMS) 100, 700 and HAZ-MAT Technician Certification.

The first year of this two year program we have enjoyed many successes and highlights. Just a few of these include, 16 Cadets achieving their State certification in Fire Fighter I and II, six Cadets receiving passing scores on the City of Columbus Civil service entrance exam. Three of the Cadets are currently ranked, awaiting appointment, and have received conditional offers for the December 2019 class. The Cadets have successfully completed over 400 hours of Fire Training and have begun their EMT-B training, totaling 200 hours at the completion of the course.

As part of the Cadet education they were introduced into public service. The Cadets provided local neighborhood's with over 40 hours of community service. Van Buren Community Center, Moller Elementary school, Independence High School and the Mayor's luncheon are just a few of the events they worked with the Community. In addition, the Cadets participated in EMS Week which included assisting current paramedic students and AHA instructors in teaching First Aid and CPR to over 400 civilians and students.

### **Continuous Quality Improvement Office**

The EMS and Continuing Quality Improvement (CQI) Office launched the Division's new patient care reporting software, ESO, in April. The launch included replacing all the hardware with new laptops and tablets for all emergency service vehicles. Division-wide training was conducted and support staff was utilized to ensure a seamless transition. The CQI Office continued to work with ESO after deployment to address issues and customize data fields specific to CFD operations. In addition, healthcare data from both ESO and the former platform, SafetyPad, were migrated to Columbus Department of Technology servers. This will allow more sophisticated and robust reporting, including real-time alerting.

The Mobile Stroke Unit (Stroke1) began operations in May and is averaging more than 150 incidents per month. The CQI Office hosted monthly meetings with collaboration team (Ohio State University, Ohio Health and Mt. Carmel Health Systems) to review incidents, data, and make recommendations for operations. In addition, the medical protocol was adjusted to reflect Stroke1 and run cards were revised.

#### **Emergency Medical Services**

EMS training for the year 2019 completed four deliveries of our 8 part Continuing education series. The program delivers CEUs for PALS, ACLS, Geriatrics, Pediatrics/OB, Airway, Trauma, Medical

emergencies, and Cardiac. Also occasional deliveries of CEUs for Advanced Stroke Life Support were delivered at and by our partners at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

EMS Training certified EMT Basics for each of the recruit classes that graduated in 2019 as well as Con-Ed/Protocol training for those recruits who come to CFD already certified as paramedics or EMT-B.

CPR Instructors Bob Kelley and Jillian Gates along with many of our uniformed personnel who help, had contact with just over 2,400 people in 2019 to deliver various versions of CPR & First Aid training. This Includes Hands-only, Heart saver, First aid, CPR for BLS providers, and Pediatric CPR. These courses have taken place at the CFD TA, city facilities and host sites all over Columbus.

EMS Training is helping with the set up and preparation of the new CQI training system for 2020 which will take PALS, ACLS, and BLS CPR training out to the stations.

### **Members Support Unit**

In September 2019 the Training Bureau created the Members Support Unit. Studies show that PTSD and depression in the fire service are nearly five times higher than civilian population. Untreated mental health can lead to poor physical health and impaired decision making, impacting the Division's overall performance. The primary objective of the Members Support Unit is



raising awareness of mental health topics through training, and peer outreach. The launch of the Unit was made possible through the collaborative efforts of members from different ranks and disciplines, and EAP staff.

November 2019 saw the release of the Leadership Essentials and Development Series, or LEADS. LEADS is a multi-part development program aimed at increasing personal wellness and professional development. Topics discussed in LEADS 1 included: leadership methods and styles, resiliency, and mental toughness. Nearly 300 Lieutenants and Captains attended the initial session.

Additionally, the Members Support Unit and EAP staff met with all EMS Supervisors in small group settings to review the effects of cumulative and traumatic stress, and the resources available to all. The Members Support Unit will continue to develop training and identify resources that can keep the Division mentally strong and resilient.

### **In-Service Training**

In-Service Training was provided the opportunity to use portions of Mount Carmel West Hospital for training. In conjunction with Recruit Training, training was provided in high rise operations at the fire training tower for ES. Rope search evolutions were conducted for ladder, rescue, and engine companies using the new rope deployment bag.

In-Service Training focused on providing new training videos on Target Solutions in 2019. These videos are meant to be quick references for fireground tasks. These videos included rope deployment for search, high rise operations, and engine operations. This amounted to 72 videos distributed for fire and EMS training.

Other In-Service Training topics include:

- Rescue Technician Refresher
- Rescue Technician Certification
- Fire Officer I
- Mobile Driving Simulator
- LEADS (Leadership Essentials & Development Series)
- Scott Pak-Tracker
- DVRS (Digital Vehicular Repeater System)
- Total of 145,731 hours of training provided in 2019



# RREACT-SPARC-2019 ADDICTION CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM EXPANDS TO ASSIST FAMILIES IN CRISIS

The EMS Outreach programs currently being piloted within the Columbus Division of Fire experienced significant growth and achievements during 2019.

Through the use of federal grant funds and support from leadership at The Department of Public Safety, Columbus City Council, Mayor Andrew Ginther, and Private Partnerships both programs were able to add additional staffing and resources. These resources allowed them to increase the number of residents served and produced improved outcomes that not only benefited the individual clients but also had a positive impact on our EMS crews responding to 911 calls. These efforts did not go unrecognized as the RREACT program was the recipient of numerous community awards because of their accomplishments.

Using grant funding, the RREACT program was able to increase its staffing level in 2019, operating three teams that serve the community. 2019 staffing for RREACT consisted of 1 Columbus Division of Fire Lieutenant, 2 CFD Paramedics, 4 Crisis Intervention (CIT) Columbus Division of Police Officers, 2 Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging LSW's, 2 Franklin County Family & Children's First Council LSW's

and Family Resource Specialists, and a Southeast Health Public Service Liaison. The three outreach teams conduct daily follow ups on individuals suffering from substance use disorder in our community and connect individuals and families with treatment and recovery resources or services.

Expanding upon the social service referral program, CFD re-branded the team to become known as the SPARC program. The SPARC EMS outreach team consists of one CFD Paramedic and a COAAA LSW who provide service to individuals who are medically fragile, high utilizers of EMS, or lacking of necessary health resources.

In 2019, the RREACT program was financially supported through several grants that were awarded directly to CFD, The Department of Public Safety, or the City of Columbus. The use of these grant funds allowed RREACT to pilot and evaluate new program initiatives without significantly impacting CFD's operating budget.

A great amount of work and collaboration went into acquiring these grants. Special thanks goes to Bridget Decrane in the Columbus City Attorney's office for her oversight, experience, and passionate support of the RREACT program.

2019 RREACT funding grants include:

- Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance – Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (BJA-COAP) grant. \$799,105 for FY2018-2020.
- Ohio Department of Health- Integrated Naloxone Access and Infrastructure Grant (Project DAWN) \$7,125 for FY2018-2019.
- Ohio Department of Health- Integrated Naloxone Access and Infrastructure Grant (Project Dawn) \$65,400 for FY2019-2020.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA), First Responders – Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Grants (FR-CARA) \$1,916,116 FY2019-FY2023.
- Ohio Attorney General Law Enforcement Diversion Program Grant (LEDP) \$109,375 FY2018-FY2019.
- Ohio Attorney General Law Enforcement Diversion Program Grant (LEDP) \$62,500 FY2019-FY2020
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) –
  Overdose Data to Action Grant (CDC-OD2A) \$1,111,569 FY2019-FY2022.



In early 2019, City Council Member Mitchell J. Brown secured funding in the amount of \$65,884 for the purchase of two outreach vehicles for the RREACT program. The vehicles were put in service in the fall of 2019 and introduced to the community during a press conference at Fire Station 17.

The team has also partnered with the Franklin County Sheriff's HOPE task force to improve coverage in the overlapping areas of the county that have seen some of the highest incidents of overdoses.

In 2019, CFD responded to 3,117 incidents where Naloxone was used to reverse an Opioid Overdose. The CFD RREACT teams conducted 1892 outreach attempts on 1,461 overdose survivors resulting in 691 direct patient contacts of 539 unduplicated patients. Of these 539 unduplicated patients' RREACT linked and transported 232 unduplicated patients directly to treatment services.

The greatest accomplishment of the multi-discipline RREACT team has been the work they have done providing support to the families, children, and victims of crime who have been impacted by individuals with substance use disorder and the opioid epidemic. The RREACT Team assisted nearly 200 family members and victims of crime providing resources and linkage to treatment and support services.

Collectively the RREACT program has provided linkage to treatment and resources for nearly 1,200 individuals through direct transports by EMS, Southeast RREACT teams embedded in the Local emergency departments, or the CFD RREACT outreach teams.

In the summer of 2019, United States Senator Rob Portman visited the RREACT program and accompanied the team on an outreach ride along. Legislation and funding supported by Senator Portman has played a vital role in the expansion of the RREACT program. The senator's support for those suffering from substance use disorder was evident when he boasted about the Columbus Fire RREACT team on the senate floor when advocating for expansion of these vital programs.

Recovery from addiction is a life long journey, to better support those we have served, RREACT formed the RREACT Alumni Group to continue engagement and assistance for individuals in the program.

The highlight of 2019 programing included a Friendsgiving dinner in November for those in recovery, reconnecting many of them with their families for the first time in years.







Photos (above) RReact Social Worker Eve Fitch and U.S. Senator Rob Portman visit a potential client on the city's south-side. Middle: People in active recovery, along with their supporters and families participate in the Friendsgiving Dinner organized by the RReact Alumni Group in November. Bottom: City Councilperson Mitch Brown meets RReact team members during a ceremony celebrating the addition of two new client transport vehicles purchased for the addiction response group by the City of Columbus.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES BUREAU











## STATIONS 1 & 9 300 N Front Street

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 1	2008 Ferrara	2,010
Ladder 1	2008 LTI LaFrance	2,135
Engine 9	2008 Ferrara	2,399
Medic 1	2014 International/Horton	4,444
Medic 801	2013 International/Horton	1,458
Command 1	2007 Spartan	3
MSU 1	2009 International/Horton	315
ES-2	2012 Chevy Suburban	106
SO-2	2013 Ford Explorer	1,080
EMS-10	2018 Ford Explorer	1,169
Station 1 & 9	<b>Total Runs</b>	13,661

# STATION 2 150 E Fulton Street

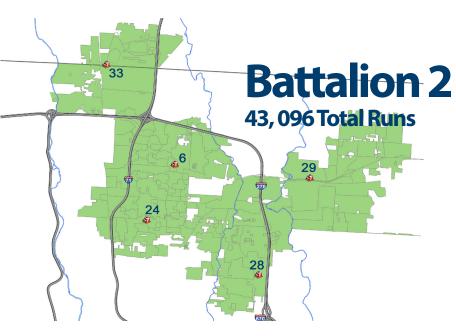
Station 2	Total Runs	10,492
Battalion 1	2018 Ford Explorer	1,319
Ladder 2	2011 Sutphen	1,657
Medic 2	2012 International/Horton	4,443
Engine 2	2015 Sutphen	3,073
APPARATUS	MODEL	<b>TOTAL RUNS</b>

# STATION 3 222 Greenlawn Avenue

Bomb Squad 2 Bomb Squad 3	2007 Freightliner/Pierce 2010 Spartan	56 4
Boat 3	2014 Zodiac	14
EMS-11	2013 Ford Explorer	2,551
Rescue 3	2012 Sutphen/SVI	1,504
Medic 3	2012 International/Horton	3,584
Engine 3	2005 Sutphen	2,178
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# STATION 8 1240 E Long Street

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 8	2015 Sutphen	3,634
Ladder 8	2019 Pierce	2,233
Medic 8	2013 International/Horton	4,636
Station 8	Total Runs	10,503



# **STATION 6 5750 Maple Canyon Avenue**

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 6	2019 Sutphen	4,505
Medic 6	2015 International/Horton	4,063
Medic 806	2009 International/Horton	4,005
Battalion 2	2013 Ford Explorer	1,303
EMS-12	2013 Ford Explorer	2,192
Station 6	<b>Total Runs</b>	16,068

## STATION 24 1585 Morse Road

Station 24	Total Runs	10 866
Medic 24	2013 International/Horton	4,487
Ladder 24	2016 Pierce	2,405
Engine 24	2015 Sutphen	3,974
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# STATION 28 3240 McCutcheon Road

Station 28	Total Runs	6,199
Medic 28	2014 International/Horton	2,569
Ladder 28	2019 Pierce	1,446
Engine 28	2015 Sutphen	2,184
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# **STATION 29** 5151 Little Turtle Way

Station 29	Total Runs	4,326
Boat 29	2008 Lowe Line	1
Medic 29	2018 International/Horton	2,195
Engine 29	2011 Ferrara	2,130
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

## STATION 33 440 Lazelle Road

APPARATUS	MODEL	<b>TOTAL RUNS</b>
Engine 33	2015 Sutphen	2,310
Ladder 33	2005 Sutphen	1,112
Medic 33	2014 International/Horton	2,215
Station 33	<b>Total Runs</b>	5,637











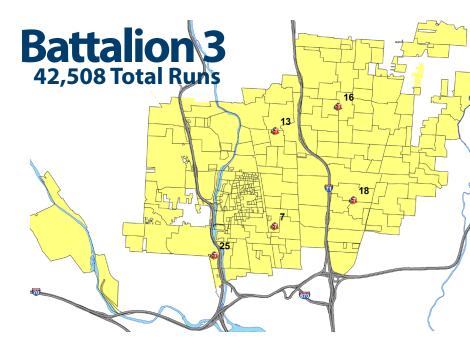












STATION /	1425 Iliulaliola Avellue		
APPARATUS	MODEL	<b>TOTAL RUNS</b>	
Engine 7	2011 Sutphen	3,159	
Medic 7	2013 International/Horton	4 459	

 Battalion 3
 2013 International/Horton
 4,459

 Station 7
 Total Runs
 8,981

# **STATION 13** 309 Arcadia Avenue

Station 13	Total Runs	8,210
Medic 13	2013 International/Horton	3,398
Ladder 13	2012 Pierce	2,541
Engine 13	2019 Sutphen	2,271
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# STATION 16 1130 E Weber Road

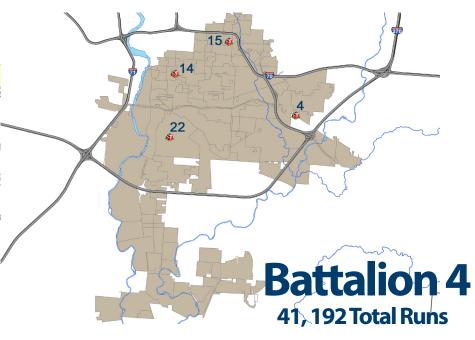
Station 16	Total Runs	10,402
Medic 16	2013 International/Horton	4,732
Rescue 16	2012 Sutphen/SVI	2,140
Engine 16	2014 Sutphen	3,530
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

## STATION 18 1630 Cleveland Avenue

Station 18	Total Runs	10 843
Command 18	2005 Spartan	3
EMS-13	2013 Ford Explorer	3,006
Medic 18	2012 International/Horton	4,575
Engine 18	2012 Sutphen	3,262
APPARATUS	MODEL	<b>TOTAL RUNS</b>

### STATION 25 739 W Third Avenue

APPARATUS Engine 25	MODEL 2008 Ferrara	TOTAL RUNS
Medic 25	2014 International/Horton	2,139
Boat 25	2014 Zodiac	9
Station 25	<b>Total Runs</b>	4,072



# STATION 4 3030 Winchester Pike

Station 4	Total Runs	6,069
Hazmat Trailer	2012 Ford350/2011 Nomad	21
Boat 4	2014 Zodiac	6
Rescue 4	2012 Sutphen/SVI	1,395
Hazmat 4	2005 HME/Marion	26
Medic 4	2018 International/Horton	2,407
Engine 4	2011 Sutphen	2,214
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
A DDA DATLIC	MODEL	TOTAL D

# STATION 14 1514 Parsons Avenue

APPARATUS	MODEL	<b>TOTAL RUNS</b>
Engine 14	2011 Sutphen	3,964
Medic 14	2011 International/Horton	4,796
Battalion 4	2013 Ford Explorer	924
Boat 14	2013 Zodiac	7
Station 14	Total Runs	9,691

# **STATION 15** 1800 E Livingston Avenue

Station 15	Total Runs	17,545
EMS-14	2018 Ford Explorer	3,242
Medic 815	2013 International/Horton	4,090
Medic 15	2011 International/Horton	4,165
Ladder 15	2012 Pierce	1,848
Engine 15	2005 Sutphen	4,200
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# STATION 22 3069 Parsons Avenue

Station 22	<b>Total Runs</b>	7,886
Boat 22	2008 Rescue One	6
Medic 22	2010 International/Horton	3,478
Ladder 22	2005 Sutphen	1,212
Engine 22	2019 Sutphen	3,190
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUN <b>S</b>









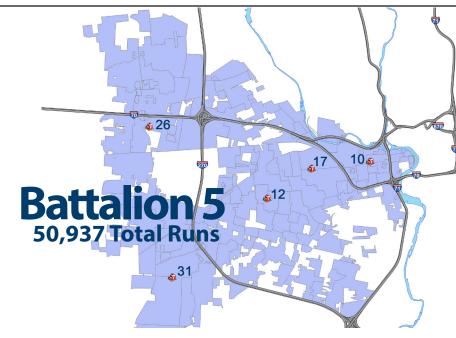












## STATION 10 1096 W Broad Street

Station 10	Total Runs	13,258
Boat 10	Zodiac	16
Medic 890	2016 International/Horton	3,412
Medic 10	2012 International/Horton	4,315
Ladder 10	2014 Sutphen	1,590
Engine 10	2019 Sutphen	3,925
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# **STATION 12 3200 Sullivant Avenue**

APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS
Engine 12	2019 Sutphen	3,884
Ladder 12	2012 Pierce	1,590
Medic 12	2011 International/Horton	4,571
Station 12	Total Runs	10,045

## STATION 17 2250 W Broad Street

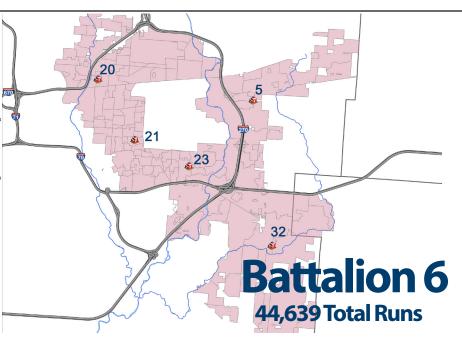
APPARATUS	MODEL	<b>TOTAL RUNS</b>
Engine 17	2009 Ferrara	4,377
Rescue 17	2012 Sutphen/SVI	1,609
Medic 17	2009 International/Horton	4,498
Medic 817	2009 International/Horton	4,443
Battalion 5	2013 Ford Explorer	1,135
EMS-15	2013 Ford Explorer	2,690
Station 17	Total Runs	18,752

## STATION 26 5433 Fisher Road

Station 26	Total Runs	5.870
Boat 26	2008 Lowe	3
Medic 26	2012 International/Horton	2,395
Ladder 26	2019 Sutphen	1,390
Engine 26	2019 Sutphen	2,082
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

## STATION 31 5305 Alkire Road

Station 31	Total Runs	3,009
Medic 31	2008 International/Horton	1,701
Engine 31	2014 Sutphen	1,308
APPARATUS	MODEL	<b>TOTAL RUNS</b>



# STATION 5 211 McNaughten Road

Station 5	Total Runs	8.439
EMS-16	2018 Ford Explorer	1,631
Medic 5	2014 International/Horton	2,957
Ladder 5	2018 Pierce	1,049
Engine 5	2005 Sutphen	2,797
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

## STATION 20 2646 E Fifth Avenue

Station 20	Total Runs	6.657
Medic 20	2013 International/Horton	3,841
Engine 20	2019 Sutphen	2,816
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

### STATION 21 3294 E Main Street

Station 21	Total Runs	9.679
Battalion 6	2013 Ford Explorer	1,598
Medic 21	2013 International/Horton	4,279
Engine 21	2019 Sutphen	3,802
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# **STATION 23** 4451 E Livingston Avenue

Station 23	<b>Total Runs</b>	12,940
Medic 823	2013 International/Horton	3,487
Medic 23	2011 International/Horton	3,597
Ladder 23	2001 Sutphen	1,680
Engine 23	2008 Ferrara	4,176
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

## STATION 32 3675 Gender Road

Station 32	Total Runs	6,924
Boat 32	2008 Mercury Marine	4
Medic 32	2013 International/Horton	2,837
Ladder 32	2011 Sutphen	1,253
Engine 32	2011 Sutphen	2,830
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS











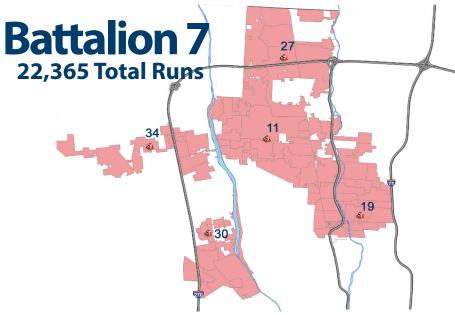












# STATION 11 2200 W Case Road

Station 11	Total Runs	7,624
Boat 11	2013 Zodiac	7
EMS-17	2013 Ford Explorer	1,057
Battalion 7	2013 Ford Explorer	764
Medic 11	2011 International/Horton	2,723
Rescue 11	2012 Sutphen/SVI	866
Engine 11	2005 Sutphen	2,207
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# STATION 19 3601 N High Street

Station 19	Total Runs	6.013
Rescue Support Unit 19	2014 International/Farber	11
MSU 19	2008 International/Horton	278
Incident Support Unit 19	2008 Spartan	363
Boat 19	2014 Zodiac	8
Medic 19	2012 International/Horton	3,082
Engine 19	2011 Sutphen	2,549
APPARATUS	MODEL	<b>TOTAL RUNS</b>

# STATION 27 7560 Smokey Row Road

Static	nn 27	Total Runs	5.089
Boat 2	27	2007 Lowe	4
Medio	27	2012 International/Horton	2,273
Ladde	er 27	2008 LTI LaFrance	855
Engin	e 27	2005 Sutphen	1,957
APPA	ARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# STATION 30 3555 Fisher Boulevard

Station 30	Total Runs	1.816
Boat 30	2008 Rescue One	8
Medic 30	2013 International/Horton	975
Engine 30	2011 Ferrara	833
APPARATUS	MODEL	TOTAL RUNS

# STATION 34 5201 Wilcox Road

Station 34	Total Runs	1,823
Medic 34	2008 International/Horton	1,040
Engine 34	2011 Sutphen	783
APPARATUS	MODEL	<b>TOTAL RUNS</b>

#### RREACT • SPARC continued from page 47

Many of these residents are elderly, isolated, homeless, or medically fragile and make up some of the most vulnerable populations in our community.

In 2019, the SPARC Team received 1,016 referrals for service from EMS Crews or other agencies. The team conducts home visits and provides a specialized assessment and links individuals with the resources they need to improve their health situation and reduce their reliance on 911, EMS, and Hospital services. These efforts were evaluated by a study conducted by Mighty Crow Media, funded by COAAA, indicating a 29% reduction in 911 calls for service and a significant increase in connectivity and improved quality of life.

The results of this study were instrumental in allowing the SPARC program to receive an in-kind grant from AETNA that was awarded to COAAA to continue its support of this program.

Although the RREACT and SPARC program have different focuses, they operate jointly when conducting EMS Outreach and share resources across disciplines when addressing the over lapping social determinants that necessitate a need for service.

These two programs have had an enormous impact on improving the quality of life of many of our residents and provide a valuable resource for our public safety crews responding to 911 calls.

The accomplishments achieved in 2019 were recognized by several organizations locally and federally. The RREACT team received the following awards and recognitions; The Douglas A. Rund 2019 Leadership in EMS Award 2019, ADAMH Barry Magistrine Leadership Award 2019, and Addiction Policy Forum – Ohio Innovation Now Award. As RREACT continues to build upon its early success and champion the cause to improve EMS Outreach, team members have presented at several local, state, and national conferences and training events.

Additionally the EMS Outreach programs provide training, education, and support to our local hospital emergency departments and Columbus City School's partnering with the After School All-Stars program at Moler Elementary and Champion Middle School.

In 2019 the RREACT team trained and distributed over 450 Project Dawn Narcan Kits. Twenty one Project Dawn Distribution community events were conducted throughout Columbus, including The Week of Walk-ins, National Night-Out, After School All-Stars, and Zoo Day at Corpus Christi. RREACT also organized and led Narcan training events for Jordan Reiser Foundation, The Peer Center, Women's Respite Center, COAAA, FCFCFC, and Sober Living House.





Photos top: RREACT Columbus Police Officer Adam Bell shows a student the cockpit of his patrol vehicle during a public outreach visit to Moler Elementary School in October. Photo middle: RREACT Team members received the Addiction Policy Forum — Ohio Innovation Now Award at the Ohio Statehouse in October, 2019. From left is Columbus Police Officer Dennis Jeffery, Outreach Coordinator Troy Urbano, Social Worker Diana Kubovcik, Fire Lieutenant Matt Parrish, Family Specialist Kirstin Buckner and Southeast Program Director James Alexander.

Members of The RREACT staff provided program presentations at the following events:

- Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance National Round Table in Washington, D.C.
- Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance and Office of Victims of Crime annual summit in Washington, D.C.
- The Zoll Summit in Denver, CO.
- The American Society on Aging National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- The Ohio Health EMS Conference, Columbus OH.
- Leadership Columbus 2020 Cohort
- Ohio Attorney Generals Law Enforcement Conference
- Ohio EMS Medical Directors Conference
- Institute for Health Improvement National Conference
- The OSU Center for EMS EMS Controversies Conference
- Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections Conference

### **FIRE**

Fire, Other	142
Building fire	636
Fires in structure other than in a building	14
Cooking fire, confined to container	
Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	13
Incinerator overload or malfunction, fire confined	5
Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined	3
Trash or rubbish fire, contained	58
Fire in mobile prop used as a fixed structure, other	4
Fire in mobile home used as fixed residence	2
Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle	1
Fire in portable building, fixed location	5
Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	50
Passenger vehicle fire	358
Road freight or transport vehicle fire	33
Water vehicle fire	1
Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire	1
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	4
Natural vegetation fire, other	
Forest, woods or wildland fire	
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	
Grass fire	80
Outside rubbish fire, other	149
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	394
Garbage dump or sanitary landfill fire	
Construction or demolition landfill fire	
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	209
Outside stationary compactor/compacted trash fire	
Special outside fire, other	
Outside storage fire	
Outside equipment fire	
Outside gas or vapor combustion explosion	
Cultivated vegetation, crop fire, other	
Cultivated grain or crop fire	
TOTAL	2,602
OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (NO FIRE)	
Overpressure rupture from steam, other	
Overpressure rupture of steam pipe or pipeline	
Overpressure rupture of steam boiler	
Steam rupture of pressure or process vessel	
Overpressure rupture from air or gas, other	
Overpressure rupture of air or gas pipe/pipeline	13
Air or gas rupture of pressure or process of vessel	
Explosion (no fire), other	2
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	137
TOTAL	163

RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE INCIDENT	
Rescue, EMS incident, other	1,825
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	4,742
Emergency medical service, other	13,048
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	105,689
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	3,199
Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	390
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	3,795
Lock-in (if lock out, use 511)	165
Search for lost person, other	10
Search for person on land	8
Search for person in water	
Search for person underground	
Extrication, rescue, other	19
Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure	
Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	38
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	205
High-angle rescue	1
Extrication of victim(s) from machinery	
Water & ice-related rescue, other	
Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	
lce rescue	1
Swift water rescue	
Electrical rescue, other	1
Electrocution or potential electrocution	
Rescue or EMS standby	
TOTAL	
HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE)	
Hazardous Condition, Other	
Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other	52
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	77
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	733
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	23
Toxic condition, other	13
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	
Chemical spill or leak	11
Refrigeration leak	5
Carbon monoxide incident	407
Radioactive condition, other	1
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	
Overheated motor	
Breakdown of light ballast	
Power line down	
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	
Biological hazard, confirmed or suspected	
Accident, potential accident, other	

### **HAZARDOUS CONDITION (NO FIRE) (CONTINUED)**

Building or structure weakened or collapsed	
Aircraft standby	
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1
Explosive, bomb removal	
Attempted burning, illegal action, other	
Attempt to burn	10
Threat to burn	
TOTAL	2,41
SERVICE CALL	
Service call, other	107
Person in distress, other	
Lock-out	
Ring or jewelry removal	
Water problem, other	
Water evacuation	
Water or steam leak	
Smoke or odor removal	
Animal problem, other	
Animal problem	
Animal rescue	
Public service assistance, other	
Assist police or other governmental agency	
Police matter	
Public service	394
Assist invalid	573
Defective elevator, no occupants	37
Unauthorized burning	8
Cover assignment, standby, move-up	72
TOTAL	5,06
GOOD INTENT CALL	
Good intent call, other	567
Dispatched & canceled en route	
Wrong location	59
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	
Authorized controlled burning	118
Prescribed fire	1
Vicinity alarm (incident in other location)	30
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	
Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	22
Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	69
EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency	2
Hazmat release investigation w/no Hazmat	24
TOTAL	13.176

#### **FALSE ALARM & FALSE CALL**

False alarm or false call, other	178
Malicious, mischievous false call, other	431
Municipal alarm system, malicious false alarm	105
Direct tie to FD, malicious false alarm	13
Telephone, malicious false alarm	13
Central station, malicious false alarm	44
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	91
Bomb scare - no bomb	24
System malfunction, other	
Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	54
Extinguishing system activation due to malfunction	17
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	
Heat detector activation due to malfunction	16
Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1,269
CO detector activation due to malfunction	314
Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1,719
Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	88
Extinguishing system activation	
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	982
Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	551
Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	1,414
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	
TOTAL	8,896
SEVERE WEATHER & NATURAL DISASTER	
Severe weather or natural disaster, other	
Earthquake assessment	
Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment	
Lightning strike (no fire)	
Severe weather or natural disaster standby	
TOTAL	18
SPECIAL INCIDENT TYPE	
Special type of incident, other	
Citizen complaint	
TOTAL	389

TOTAL INCIDENT COUNT......166,087

