

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



GREG J. ZILKA - SAFETY DIRECTOR

GLEN R. EISENHARDT - FIRE CHIEF

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

February 29, 2012

Mayor Greg Zilka
Members of Avon Lake City Council

Mayor Zilka and Members of Council,

I am pleased to present the 2011 annual report for the Avon Lake Fire Department containing reports from the Fire Prevention Bureau, Training Department, and each of the three platoons. These reports provide information related to accomplishments and responsibilities as well as emergency response statistics. The Avon Lake Fire Department strives to provide the residents, businesses, and visitors to our community the very best service possible by skilled caring professionals.

With the retirement of Chief Morris, the department experienced several significant changes in leadership in 2011. Along with my promotion to chief, firefighter Steve Marti was promoted to lieutenant and a new firefighter was hired to fill the vacancy created by the retirement. This transition went very smoothly due to the efforts of everyone in the City.

The skills and knowledge required to perform the duties of today's Firefighter/Paramedic are much more technical and encompass a wider range of specialized disciplines requiring continuing education and training. Federal and State mandated training requirements along with continuing education requirements for Firefighter and Paramedic certification renewal impose a critical responsibility on the Training Officer. The department utilizes personnel from within as well as outside instructors to meet these educational responsibilities.

Fire Prevention and Public Education continue to be an integral part of the Avon Lake Fire Department. Under the direction of the Fire Prevention Bureau, the File of Life and the Lock Box programs continue to gain popularity. These programs assist responders in gaining rapid access to the residence and the patient's vital information. The Fire Prevention Bureau through plan reviews, occupancy inspections, annual inspections and system testing provide the business community the means to help prevent emergencies in the work place. During Fire Prevention month department personnel give fire safety presentations at the schools and provide an opportunity for students to practice home safety with the aid of the Fire Safety House.

In April a second master plan study of the fire department was completed by Emergency Services Consulting International. This report not only analyzed our department operations but looked at a consolidated regional fire department with our surrounding Cuyahoga County communities. With the information gathered by the report multiple meetings occurred between the cities of Avon Lake, Bay Village, Westlake, Rocky River, Fairview Park, Lakewood and North Ridgeville to determine the feasibility of creating such a region. It was determined by the Administration and the City Council of Avon Lake not to join the proposed region. The rationale behind our withdrawal was based on the fact that Avon Lake currently benefits from the lowest cost per capita for fire and emergency medical service of any of the cities studied. The plan not only called for increased funding requirements but also a reduction in services to the residents of Avon Lake. Although we did not continue with the consolidation, numerous areas of collaboration were identified and are still being discussed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our services.

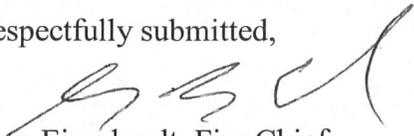
Operationally in 2011 the department experienced 2158 emergency incidents, which is a 9% increase over 2010. This is an all-time record for the department. In spite of this increase a 7.5% reduction of overtime was achieved. The following table is a breakdown of the department's responses.

Fire Calls	50
Overpressure, Overheat(no fire)	1
Rescue & EMS incident	1443
Hazardous Condition (no fire)	107
Service Call	229
Good Intent Call	126
False Alarm & False Call	197
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident Type	5
Misc. Calls	0
TOTAL CALLS	2158
Mutual Aid Given	67
Mutual Aid Received	50

As we look forward to 2012 our goals will remain focused on the residents of Avon Lake. Numerous projects that deal directly with the improvement and efficiency of our services are scheduled and already underway.

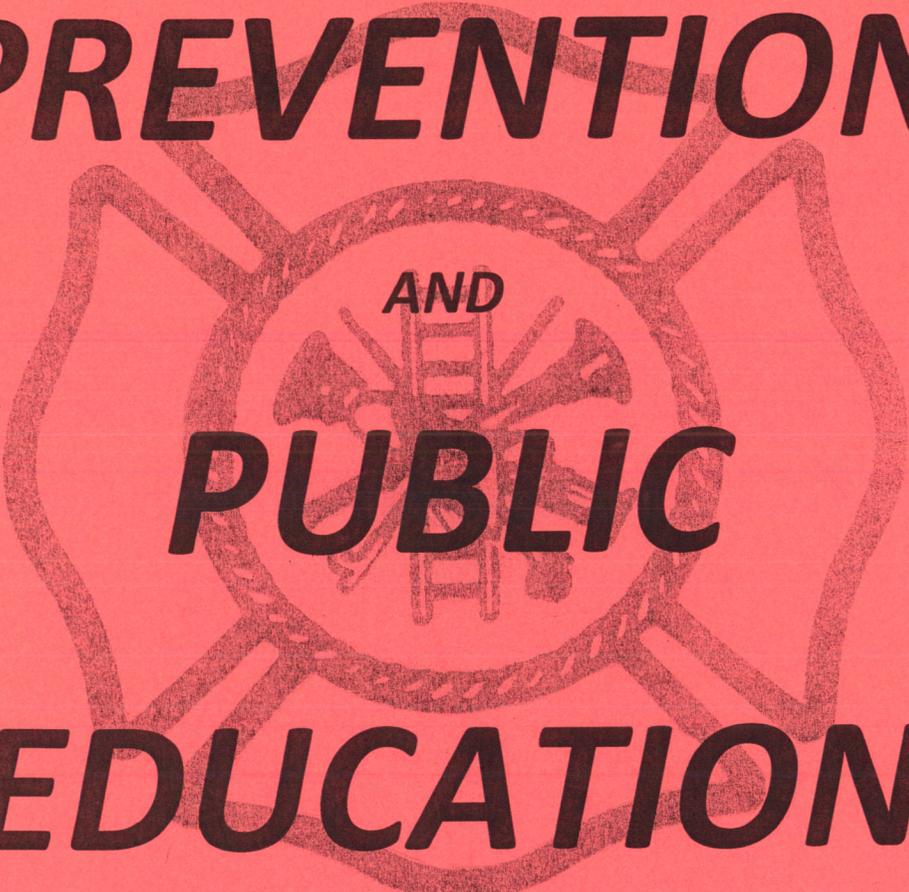
We are optimistic for 2012 and on behalf of the officers and members of the Avon Lake Fire Department I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,



Glen Eisenhardt, Fire Chief

FIRE
PREVENTION
AND
PUBLIC
EDUCATION



LIEUTENANT J. MOORE

INSPECTOR S. NEWCOMB

INSPECTOR F. N. CICONE

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Annual Report 2011

The two main functions of the fire prevention bureau are code enforcement and public education. We base our code enforcement on the current editions of the Ohio Fire Code and Ohio Building Code as well as standards from private agencies such as the National Fire Protection Association. The bureau is staffed by one full time lieutenant and two part time inspectors. All three of these individuals hold state certification as fire safety inspectors. Listed below are some of the responsibilities of bureau personnel.

- Conduct fire safety inspections in all assembly, business, commercial, educational, factory, industrial occupancies as well as the common areas of multiple family residential occupancies.
- Code research
- Inspect residential dwellings of those persons wishing to adopt or foster children.
- Conduct occupancy inspections of new facilities.
- Yearly inspection and maintenance of Knox Boxes.
- Witness acceptance tests of new and updated fire alarm, detection and suppression systems.
- Monitor semi-annual and annual fire alarm, detection and suppression system tests.
- Review construction and renovation blueprints as well as engineering drawings then forward comments to the appropriate city departments.
- Issue permits.
- Maintain records of inspections and tests.
- Update the Avon Lake Fire Codes as needed.
- Observe a minimum of one fire drill per year in each school.
- Assist business and industry in developing and implementing disaster and evacuation plans.
- Respond to complaints of fire code violations.
- Measure and post for maximum occupancy load in certain types of use groups.
- Update the city disaster plan.
- Develop and present fire and life safety talks and demonstrations to the general public, schools, businesses and industry.
- Install residential lock boxes to provide access for fire/rescue emergency personnel.
- Supply and install smoke detectors and batteries.
- Coordinate the File Of Life and Address sign programs.
- Develop and coordinate the second and fourth graders annual fire safety poster contest and awards presentations.
- Update the Community Disaster Plan
- Member of the Lorain County Emergency Planning Committee.
- A staff member of the County Emergency Operations Center.
- Help plan and organize the cities safety/service open house program.
- Attend North East Ohio Fire Prevention Association Meetings.
- Attend continuing education seminars as provided by various organizations.

2011 STATISTICS

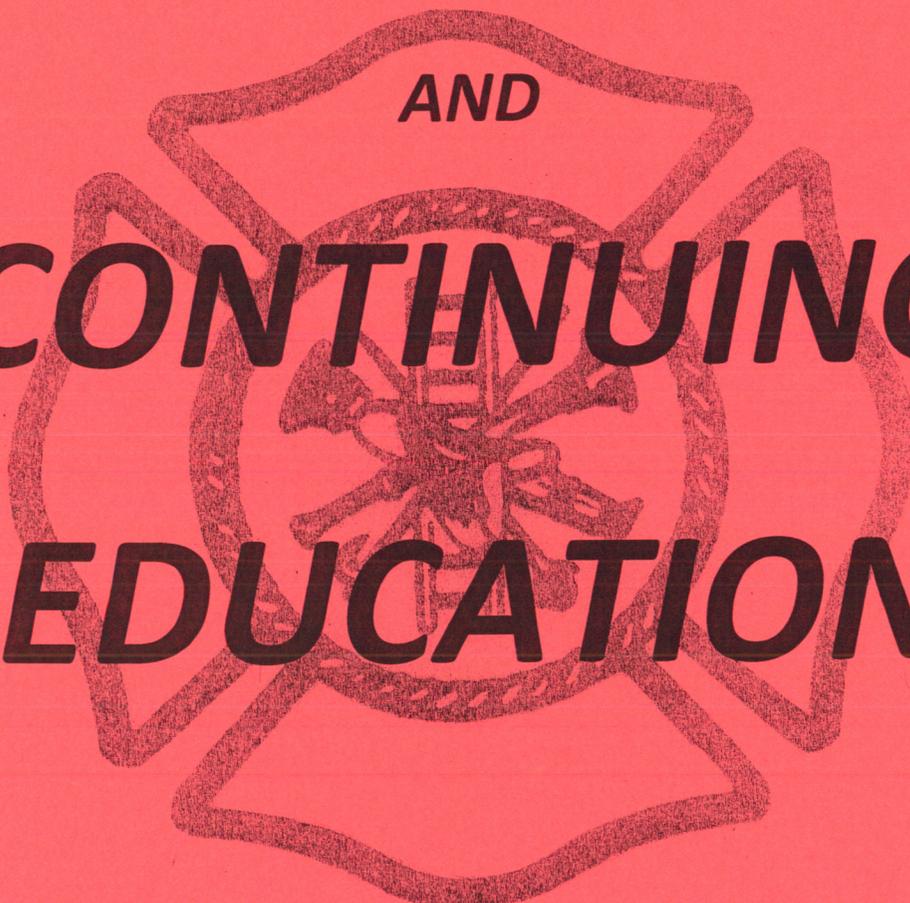
Inspections and re-inspections:	373
Special Inspections:	44
Occupancy Inspections:	19
Fire alarm, detection and suppression system tests:	168
Plan reviews:	60
Permits issued:	24
Residential Lock Box installations:	10
*Adults and children instructed in fire and life safety:	2480

*We are able to instruct this many individuals due to the involvement of the line firefighters.

Respectfully Submitted By:


Lieutenant J. Moore *SN*

TRAINING
AND
CONTINUING
EDUCATION



***LIEUTENANT L. GRIZZELL**
LIEUTENANT S. MARTI

***LIEUTENANT L. GRIZZELL TRANSFERRED TO PLATOON #2 IN NOVEMBER OF 2011**

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING BUREAU

Annual Report 2011

Please accept the following as an Annual report for the Training Department. This report contains an analysis of the training hours, and descriptions of significant training events and activities for the year 2011.

Annual Training Summary

The following summary includes cumulative training hours as reported in the FireHouse database for all employees in the year 2011

▪ Firefighting	997
▪ Emergency Medical	790
▪ Hazardous Materials	24
▪ Rescue	150
▪ Miscellaneous	11
Total Training Hours	1972

Significant events and activities

In addition to scheduled platoon training exercises, fire department personnel participate in various training evolutions outside the department. Some of these programs are continued specialty study through area Colleges and Universities, cooperative training exercises with local businesses and hospitals, and participation in Lorain County Emergency Response Teams. This section will discuss some of these activities in detail.

Bowling Green State University

The BGSU department of continuing education offers certification/coursework through the Ohio Department of Public Safety designed specifically for fire and police department employees. In the year 2011 two employees received certification in the following subject areas.

Single Engine Residential Fire (2) certifications issued

SFM Ohio Fire Academy

The Ohio Fire Academy offers courses in accordance to ODPS and the State Fire Marshall that covers a wide range of fire/rescue training. We had a member attend one of their classes last year.

Aerial Ladder Operations (1) certificate issued

Emergency Medical Services

The majority of the department's emergency medical service training is provided by the WeShare Organization, which is the departments medical control organization. WeShare is a consortium of St. John West Shore Hospital, Fairview General Hospital and Lakewood Hospital and is made up of full time fire departments from western Cuyahoga county and eastern Lorain county. Training provided covers topics too numerous to list and are conducted by certified trainers and physicians. This training provides department members with review of protocols and procedures as well as new procedures and techniques. In addition, several special topic classes are conducted by outside speakers and equipment review and response critiques are conducted by shift personnel.

Lorain County Community College and the Cleveland Clinic EMS Academy

The Avon Lake Fire Department has been partnered with the Lorain County Community College and the Cleveland Clinic EMS Academy Paramedic programs for many years. Each year approximately 30 students participate in emergency medical responses with our department personnel as part of their clinical course requirements. Throughout the years, several members of our department have become instructors in the program and have earned state of Ohio teaching credentials. In the year 2011 members of the fire department provided over 300 hours of clinical training to the college students in addition to their regular shift duties.

Rescue

Diverse industry, geographical considerations, weather and quantity of construction within the city all contribute to opportunities for special hazards. Therefore, the Avon Lake Fire Department maintains technical rescue capabilities to provide protection to its residents and businesses. These special rescue areas include: Water and ice rescue, dive rescue, rope rescue, confined space rescue, extrication, trench rescue and structural collapse. The Avon lake Fire Department also participates in the Lorain County Technical Rescue Team providing further response resources to Avon Lake and Lorain County. Continual training is given to keep members up to date on response techniques as well as to maintain certifications. This training is given by department personnel with expertise in these subjects as well as guest speakers. In addition personnel attend various out of department classes to maintain and improve response abilities in these areas.

Promotions due to Retirement of Chief Morris

With the Retirement of Chief Morris, there were promotional test given for the rank of Chief and Lieutenant. This does not constitute documented training hours, however the department benefits from the individuals preparing to test. It has been my experience that when there are promotional exams given, the candidates spend countless hours studying. You see them studying on their down time and then quizzing their fellow firefighters/officers. This leads to a more cohesive team.

New Hires

Along with the continuing training of the previous 2 hires from 2010, the Department hired a replacement to fill the position vacated by a retirement. This ups the training above normal for the shift officers and the Training Officer because it is our responsibility to ensure that our members, old and new, maintain the high standards expected of Avon Lake. Our senior firefighters have also been tasked with conducting hands on training with our probationary firefighters for daily checks, equipment maintenance and station housekeeping. It is easy to look at class hours attended and know the hours put into department training, but these are the On the Job hours that are important to professional development.

2012 Training

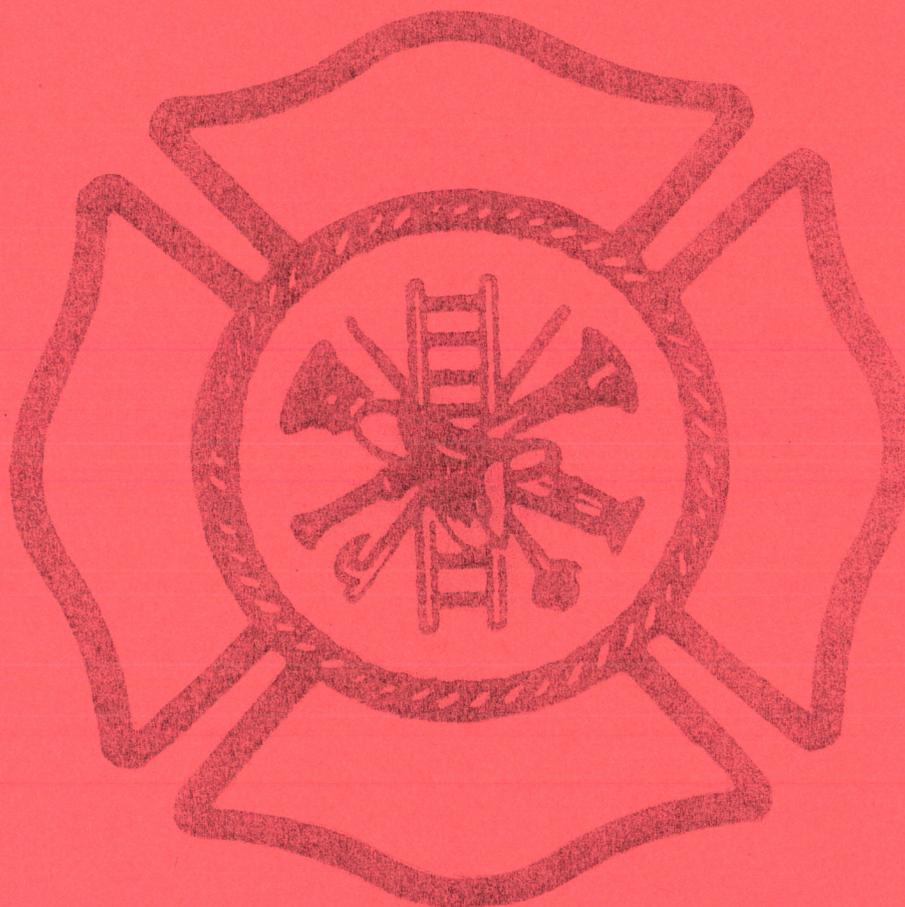
Our objectives should not only be to maintain our current level of training, but to improve. Our department lost the ability to install car seats due to the Child Passenger Safety Technicians not being able to re-certify. The class was not offered locally and would have incurred over time cost. We also need to have our members attend Hazmat refreshers, Confined Space certified refreshers and other Rescue refreshers to maintain our ability to conduct operations in a safe and efficient manner. These classes cannot be taken in two hours, on duty. We will do our best to train the department on Fire operations, but there is a limit that can be done on station. It is in our best interest to keep our training up. A confident and well trained firefighter will be prepared to physically and mentally meet the challenge of answering the ultimate call.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lt. Steven V. Marti

PLATOON #1



LIEUTENANT A. TETORAKIS

LIEUTENANT J. BERRY

F. BERNER - F. OGLE

G. MADEJ - M. ROWE

M. WALTERS - J. BETSA

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 1

Lt. Angelo Totorakis

Lt. James Berry

Annual Report 2011

Please accept the following as an Annual report for Platoon 1, outlining significant shift activity for the year 2011. Included are response analysis summary and specific details involving non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

Platoon 1 responded to 728 emergency calls during the year 2011.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	015
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	475
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks	045
▪ Good Intent Calls	049
▪ Service Calls	081
▪ False Calls	062
▪ Special Incident	001
▪ Total Emergency Calls	728

Special Projects

Updated City Map – Platoon 1 members assisted with input and were instrumental in the updating of new roads and developments.

Orientation and Training for one of our newest FF/Paramedics Mark Walters.

Hydrant Work

During the 2011 calendar year Platoon 1 assisted the other platoons in flushing over 1600 hydrants to check for proper operation.

Building and Grounds Maintenance

General routine building and ground maintenance performed by platoon 1 included general cleaning, vacuuming, window cleaning, plowing snow and shoveling walks; replacing light bulbs; emptying drain oil etc.

A list of the more specific maintenance projects and activities completed by our platoon during the year are vehicle maintenance and cleaning. Maintenance and repairs of drains and plumbing.

EMS Operations & Equipment

Throughout the year the Avon Lake Fire Department has been host to several organizations involving medical related functions. Platoon 1 assisted with paramedic students' field training through LCCC , The Cleveland Clinic Western Region EMS Academy and Hocking Tech University.

Maintenance of equipment consists of keeping up to date on all drugs & licensing requirements. Maintaining and servicing all medical monitoring equipment and telemetry. Ordering of medical supplies and monitoring inventories are also part of our program.

The paramedic program, with the strong support of the paramedic levy, continues to enable us to provide a high level of emergency medical care, continuing education and training for certification and recertification in areas such as Basic and Advanced Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support. We also provide city wide CPR and Defibrillator training and instruction on the use of Epi-Pens to the High School staff. We continue to maintain in-house instructors of Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. This high level of pre-hospital care, EMS training and continuing education as well as the civilian instruction we can provide would not be possible without the continued support of the administration and community for the paramedic levy.

Public Relations

Throughout the year, Platoon 1 worked with the Fire Prevention Bureau to promote fire safety and educate the public for a safer community. Listed, are examples of the various activities our crew members participated in. Tours of the Fire Station; presentations at schools and other facilities; installation and replacement of smoke detectors and batteries; and car seat installations.

Respectfully Submitted,

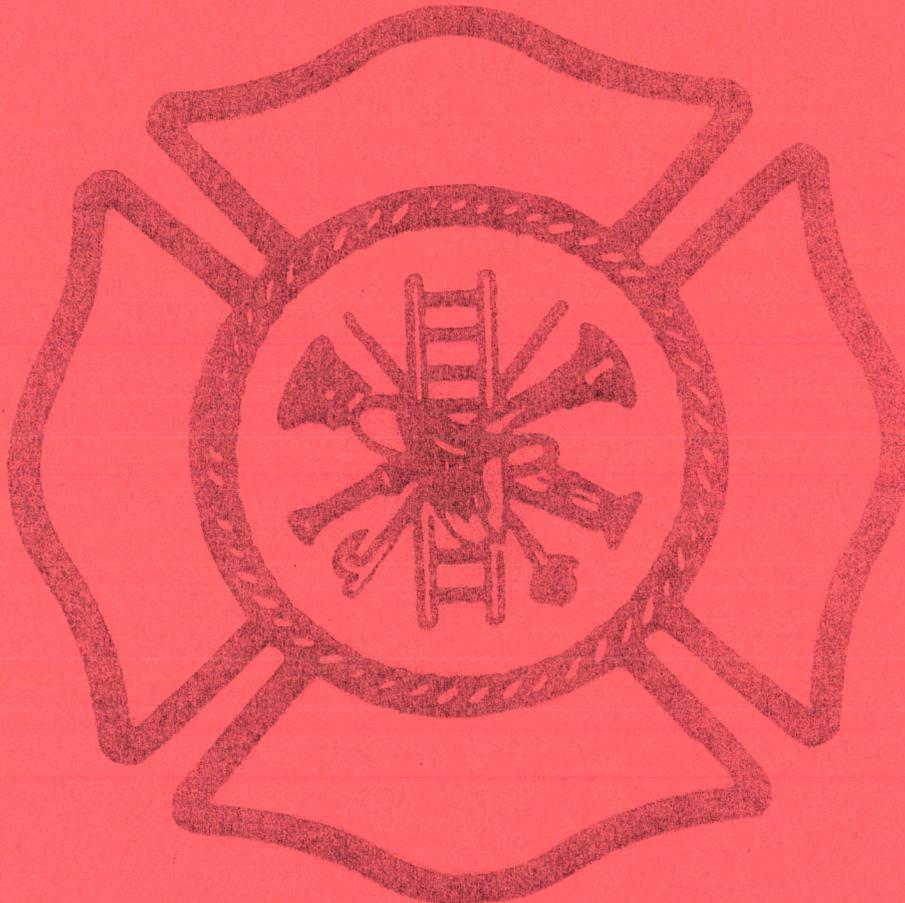


Lt. Angelo Tetorakis



Lt. James Berry

PLATOON #2



LIEUTENANT J. ROGERS

***LIEUTENANT G. EISENHARDT**

L. LID - L. HECZKO

J. KIMMELL - M. McGUIRE

E. WAGNER - E. EGUT

***G. EISENHARDT ASSUMED THE POSITION OF FIRE CHIEF IN DECEMBER OF 2011**

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 2

Chief Glen Eisenhardt (Plt. 2 officer 2011)

Lt. John Rogers

Annual Report 2011

Please accept the following as an Annual report for Platoon 2, outlining significant shift activity for the year 2011. Included are response analysis summary and specific details involving non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

Platoon 2 responded to 711 emergency calls during the year 2011.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	17
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	473
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks	35
▪ Good Intent Calls	36
▪ Service Calls	75
▪ False Calls	73
▪ Special Incident	2
▪ Total Emergency Calls	711

Hydrant Work

During the 2011 calendar year Platoon 2 assisted the other platoons in flushing over 1600 hydrants to check for proper operation.

Building and Grounds Maintenance

General routine building and ground maintenance performed by platoon 2 included general cleaning, vacuuming, window cleaning, plowing snow and shoveling walks; replacing light bulbs; emptying drain oil etc.

Public Relations

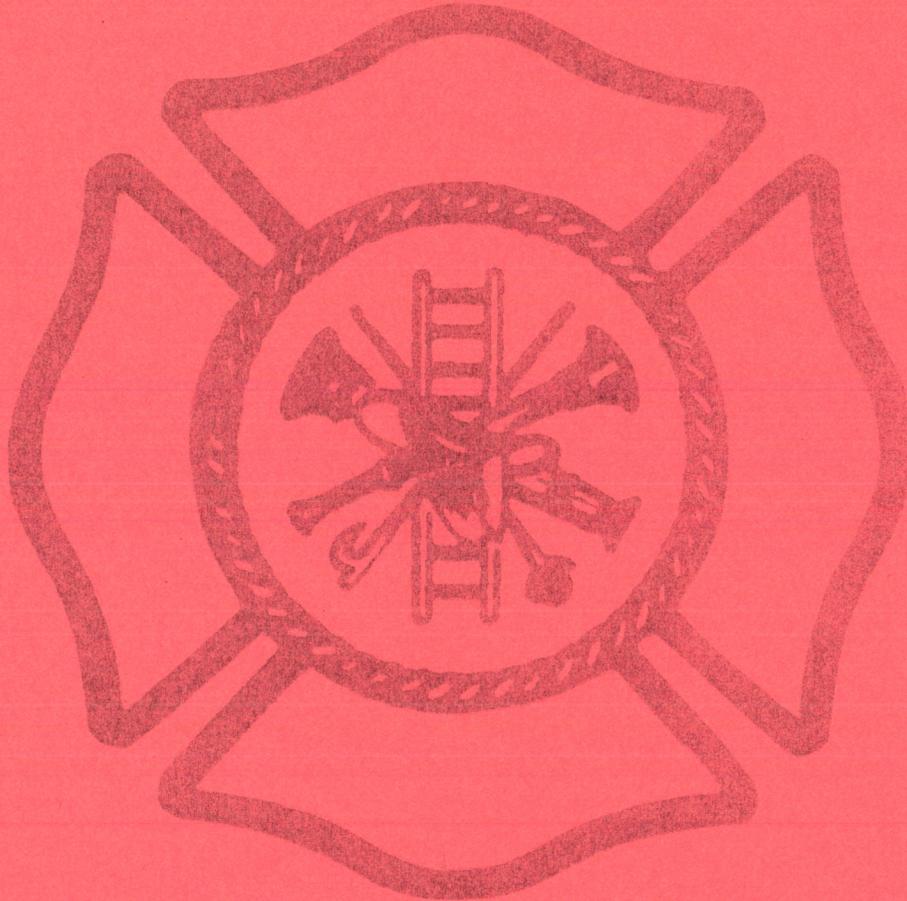
Throughout the year 2011 Platoon 2 worked with the entire department to promote fire safety and educate the public for a safer community including; Tours of the Fire Station; presentations at schools and other facilities; installation and replacement of smoke detectors and batteries; and car seat installations.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lt. John Rogers

PLATOON #3



LIEUTENANT C. HUERNER

LIEUTENANT J. REITZ

D. SZYMANOWSKI - J. SCOTT

J. NAKEL - S. PETER

R. FRYGIER - B. GILLES

C. McKAY

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 3

Lt. Christopher W. Huerner

Lt. John Reitz

Annual Report 2011

Please accept the following as the Annual Report for Platoon 3. The report outlines significant shift activity for the year 2011, including an emergency response analysis and specific details involving non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

Platoon 3 responded to 719 emergency calls during the year 2011.

▪ Fire/Explosion	19
▪ EMS Calls	495
▪ Hazardous Condition	27
▪ Good Intent Calls	41
▪ Service Calls	73
▪ False Calls	62
▪ Special Incident	2
▪ Total Emergency Calls	719

Training

New recruit Firefighter Christofer McKay was transferred to platoon 3 in December 2011. The platoon officers and members are responsible to complete all required job performance training requirements with new recruits to ensure they are capable to perform all of their duties safely and efficiently. Although this process can take from 12-24 months to complete, Firefighter McKay is progressing quickly through the required training and demonstrating excellence in the performance of his duties.

Hydrant Work

During 2011 Platoon 3 assisted the other platoons in flushing approximately 1600 fire hydrants to check for proper valve operation and adequate water supply.

Public Relations

Firefighter Richard Frygier is a certified Child Safety Seat installer. He performed dozens of child seat inspections/installations throughout the year ensuring the devices are safe and providing peace of mind for parents. Firefighter Frygier's certification needs to be renewed in 2012 in order to continue to provide this service.

Fire Prevention/Public Education

Department Platoons assist the Fire Prevention and Public education divisions of the department on a regular basis. Below are listed some of the specific activities platoon 3 performed in the year 2011.

Off-site talks and demonstrations

Fire Prevention month participation at City schools

Residential smoke detector and battery replacement

Fire Department tours and safety demonstrations

On-site Blood pressure tests for residents

File of Life

Lock Box Installations

Respectfully Submitted,

Lieutenant Christopher W. Huerner



Lieutenant John D. Reitz



Hydrant Work

During 2012 Platoon 3 assisted the other platoons in flushing approximately 1600 fire hydrants to check for proper valve operation and adequate water supply.

Emergency Dispatch Transfer

Members of Platoon 3 were involved throughout the year with preparations for transfer of all of our emergency dispatch operations to Lorain County 911. Members were instrumental in the planning, specification, purchase and installation of the following: New public address system at the fire station, new station alerting system connected via radio to Lorain County Dispatch, Mobile Data Terminals in all emergency vehicles, emergency telephone systems, and new electronic fire and EMS reporting systems. We are currently completing installations and anticipate we will be ready for the complete transfer of operations ahead of schedule.

Fire Prevention/Public Education

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Off-site talks and demonstrations

Fire Prevention month participation at City schools

Residential smoke detector and battery replacement

Fire Department tours and safety demonstrations

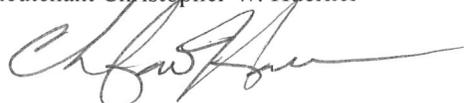
On-site Blood pressure tests for residents

File of Life

Lock Box Installations

Respectfully Submitted,

Lieutenant Christopher W. Huerner



Lieutenant John D. Reitz

