

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



GREG ZILKA – SAFETY DIRECTOR

GLEN R. EISENHARDT – FIRE CHIEF

\*CHRISTOPHER W. HUERNER – FIRE CHIEF

\*C. HUERNER WAS APPOINTED FIRE CHIEF IN DECEMBER 2012



# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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January 31, 2013

Mayor Greg Zilka  
Members of Avon Lake City Council

Mayor Zilka and Members of Council,

I am pleased to present the 2012 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.

During 2012, The City of Avon Lake continued to enjoy a reputation as one of greater Cleveland's best suburbs. Despite the challenges that accompany tough economic times the quality of life in our community remains high. During these times our department was able to initiate change to meet the demands of this climate.

To compound the financial challenges the city faced, the current three year Paramedic Levy was due to expire at the end of 2012. This levy provides approximately forty percent of our departments total funding and allows the operation of our paramedic service. Historically this levy has drawn consistent support from our residents. With changes to the state funding levels, an increased millage of 2.0 was proposed by council and ultimately approved by the residents. We would like to thank everyone for their efforts towards passage and especially thank the residents of Avon Lake for their tremendous support and confidence in our department. Since passage, there have been ongoing discussions between the City administration, council and residents regarding whether a levy is the appropriate vehicle for funding emergency operations.

One of the most significant operational changes in the history of our department, the transfer of emergency dispatching to a regional center operated by Lorain County, began to take shape in 2012. This change allows more efficient use of our highly trained firefighters and technological improvements to our dispatch process that will directly benefit our resident's safety. Funding for a project of this scope can be difficult in any climate not to mention the economic state we faced in 2012. We were able to secure funding through a five year no cost loan from Lorain County. We are grateful for this strong relationship with our county government and especially our Lorain County Commissioners. This is a fine example of multiple levels of government working directly for the people to not only streamline costs but improve on a service to our residents. This project is still underway and the full implementation should be completed in the first quarter of 2013.

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. Once again Big Trucks was a huge success enjoyed by over 1500 people both young and old.

Operationally in 2012 the department responded to 2121 requests for emergency assistance.

Fire Calls	65
Overpressure, Overheat(no fire)	0
Rescue & EMS incident	1476
Hazardous Condition (no fire)	70
Service Call	224
Good Intent Call	91
False Alarm & False Call	182
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	4
Special Incident Type	9
Misc. Calls	0
<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>2121</b>
Mutual Aid Given	58
Mutual Aid Received	61

In addition to the routine requests, highlighted below are the significant emergency incidents handled by the Avon Lake Fire Department.

### Superstorm Sandy

Natural disasters and large storms can easily overtax the ability to provide emergency services to everyone that may require assistance. The first role our service took was to provide our residents with critical information to effectively protect themselves during this storm. Initially our CodeRed emergency notification system and normal media outlets were used, followed by a door to door campaign in the hardest hit areas. CodeRed allowed us to continually update our residents on the massive power outages and restoration efforts as well as the available shelters. During the height of the storm Avon Lake had over half of our residents without power with the final homes coming back on line a week later. With such a critical infrastructure down for an extended period it was necessary to provide secondary shelter for those who had nowhere else to turn. With the assistance of the Lorain County EMA, Red Cross and St Joseph Church a shelter was opened. Although this storm was a major inconvenience, Avon Lake had no storm related fatalities or significant injuries. Our department responded to over eighty storm related hazardous incidents within the first forty eight hours. Our efforts would not have been as successful without the help of the Avon Lake Police, Service and Recreation departments, Lorain County EMA, Lorain County CERT team, American Red Cross and the countless residents that offered assistance.

### Somerset Apartment Fire

On March 9, 2012 our department along with six surrounding communities battled a large apartment fire that destroyed fifteen apartments and left approximately 30 residents displaced. The estimated dollar loss was over \$1,250,000. Only one injury was reported and that resident was treated and released the same day.

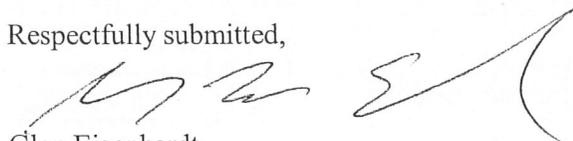
### Lake Erie Drownings

While we experience many benefits of being a lake front community, we need to continue to educate residents and visitors on the inherent dangers and specific hazards associated with our section of lake front. In 2012 two individuals lost their lives while enjoying Lake Erie. One individual drowned while in the discharge channel of the power plant while the other was within the designated swim area of Miller Road Park. In 2012, individuals from all levels of Government and local private business leaders worked together to limit access to the dangerous discharge channel of the power plant. Through the combined efforts of these people, The City of Avon Lake has taken definitive steps towards reducing life threatening hazards to citizens who use Miller Road Park. Inevitably, our community will have swimming related fatalities in the future as it is impossible to completely eliminate the hazards with this activity.

We consider ourselves to be in partnership with the community, and hope you will join us to make safety a shared effort. Together with our residents, business owners, and visitors, we look forward to another exciting year in 2013.

We are optimistic for the future 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. It is an honor to be of service to the community of Avon Lake.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Eisenhardt', written in a cursive style.

Glen Eisenhardt  
Fire Chief

## STAFFING

### FIRE CHIEF

Glen Eisenhardt / Christopher Huerner

### PLATOON LIEUTENANTS

John Rogers	Jim Berry
Lawrence Grizzell	John Reitz
Angelo Tetorakis	Glen Eisenhardt

### STAFF LIEUTENANTS

Jeffrey Moore – Fire Prevention Bureau  
Steven Marti – Training Department

### FIREFIGHTER/PARAMADICS

Fred Berner	Steven Peter
Dana Szymanowski	Michael Rowe
Laddie Lid	Mark McGuire
Larry Heczko	Richard Frygier
Jonathan Scott	Eric Wagner
Frank Ogle	Aaron Egut
Jerry Kimmell	Brian Gilles
Gary Madej	Mark Walters
John Nakel	Jeremy Betsa
	Christopher McKay

### FIRE SAFETY INSPECTORS

Nick Cicone  
Susan Newcomb

### SECRETARY/DISPATCHER

Suzanne Bliss

## VEHICLES

LADDER 2	1996 KME AERIALCAT
ENGINE 4	1996 PIERCE DASH
ENGINE 5	2010 PIERCE DASH
RESCUE 6	2003 FORD EXPEDITION
RESCUE 7	2002 PIERCE ENFORCER
MEDIC 8	2006 INTERNATIONAL
MEDIC 9	2008 INTERNATIONAL
MEDIC 10	2005 INTERNATIONAL
MAINTANANCE 12	2000 GM 2500
CAR 1	2002 FORD CROWN VICTORIA (CHIEF)
CAR 2	2002 FORD TAURUS (FIRE PREVENTION)
CAR 3	2012 FORD EXPEDITION (COMMAND)
HONDA 2006 AQUATRACK WAVERUNNERS (2)	

# TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION



LIEUTENANT S. MARTI

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## TRAINING BUREAU

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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 2012.

### Annual Training Summary

The following summary includes cumulative training hours as reported in the FireHouse database for all employees in the year 2012

▪ Firefighting	1004.75
▪ Emergency Medical	1598.5
▪ Hazardous Materials	76
▪ Rescue	170.5
▪ Miscellaneous	86
<b>Total Training Hours</b>	<b>2935.75</b>

### 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.

Street Smart Engine and Ladder Company Ops	(3) certifications issued
Strategy and Tactics for the Company Officer	(1) certification issued

### **Fire Arson Investigator**

We had a member attend a 2 ½ day Basic Arson Investigator class. He was able to do this through Medina via the Public Training Agency Council. He received his NFPA 921 certification.

NFPA 921 (1) certification issued.

### **Hazardous Materials Training**

We were able to have our newest member trained up to Hazmat Technician level via a class given by Lorain County Emergency Management. This class was offered due to a grant that their agency received. Two of our department members are currently part of the County Hazmat team and attend regular team meetings for training. They also went through an 8 hour Hazmat Tech Refresher with the team.

Hazmat Technician (1) certification issued

Hazmat Technician Refresher (2) certifications issued

### **Cuyahoga Community College**

The Cuyahoga Community College is one of the leading Fire Schools in the local area. This year we were able to have a member attend the Fire Instructor Class and pass the State test for certification. Additionally, we were able to have several members attend a one day seminar over "Firefighter Safety and the Codes". This was free training provided by the IAFF. The Tri-C Fire Academy also acquired a Structure within the city limits. This was a benefit to our department because we were able to have 8 of our firefighters get some "Live Fire" training.

Fire Instructor (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. We are also provided on-line training through Kaplan Fire & EMS training. This is free to our department at this time through our affiliation with WeShare.

The Hospitals in the area also offer training opportunities for Paramedics from local fire departments that are not mandatory or associated with WeShare. An example would be the "Cadaver Lab" training that 3 of our members attended at the Cleveland Clinic main Campus. This was a great opportunity for our Paramedics to get some "hands-on" practice that is normally reserved for Doctors and 4<sup>th</sup> year Medical students. We are always on the lookout for training that will improve or add to our skills. Whether it's a Trauma Symposium, free lectures being offered from any of the Hospitals or asking the specific coordinators to come out to cover a subject we haven't covered recently.

This year all departmental paramedics renewed our American Heart Association Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support Cards. This is a requirement that is done every two years.

### **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 2012 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.

We also have done some joint training with local businesses Emergency Response Teams, such as GENON and Lubrizol. Lubrizol tries to get together with our department quarterly and was able to work with our department in doing some Confined Space training last spring.

## **Fire Prevention/Fire Inspection**

This year we were offered an opportunity for training for our Fire Officer's from Cleveland State University in association with the Ohio Fire Chiefs. For a small fee, we were able to get access to on line training courses that the Officers can do on their own time. Specifically, these courses help meet the 30 hours of continuing education required to maintain our Fire Inspector certification.

We are also conducting familiarization walk thru inspections of local businesses throughout the year to help the department have an idea of the layouts, hazards and alarms before an emergency arises. This is especially helpful in our larger businesses.

## **EMS Charts**

This year marked a big step for ALFD with moving away from handwritten reports to using a computer based charting system. We spent the first 3 months ensuring that all members were trained. Then we had the department run a dual system where we continued to use the old system, but also used the new system to ensure it was working properly. In May we were able to go live with EMS Charts and feel that the department has made a smooth transition.

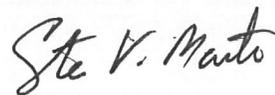
## **Operations**

In addition to training, I have been working on updating the departmental Standard Operating Guidelines. With the assistance of department personnel, we are still working to update the format and information they provide to better help the newer members have a resource to reference for a better and more efficient response.

I have also maintained quality control pertaining to training hours that all members need for recertification for their Fire Fighter II, EMT-Paramedic, Fire Safety Inspector and/or Fire Instructor cards from the State of Ohio. Each certification has a certain number of required hours that they need to have covered in a three year window. These hours are further broken down into specific subjects. For example, Paramedics need 86 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU's). Of those 86 hours, at least 12 need to be about Pediatrics, 4 about Geriatric, 6 about Cardiac and 8 hours covering Trauma. We do our best to cover all of the recommended topics for Fire Fighter and Inspector, which do not have specific hours attached to them. In 2012, the state requested 3 Audits of Avon Lake Fire Fighters. One Audit was for Paramedic recertification and 2 were for Fire Fighter. We successfully passed these audits, as should have been expected. Having a Training Officer maintain the records makes these audits easy because it is our way of Quality Control. We ensure our member keep their standards up and update their knowledge with training on new techniques and practices.

Once again, our objectives should not only be to maintain our current level of training, but to improve. We have already completed Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) in January. We also have a Driver's education class with an actual simulator planned for the first part of this year. We had some Confined Space training in 2012, but we need to make sure everyone is getting that training. My goal is also to schedule a Hazmat refresher this year. However, we will be conducting training with the change in operations from our own dispatch to the county assuming our dispatch through 911. This will be time consuming, but I feel confident we will handle the transition. There will be opportunities for Rope Training and we will work with the Dive team to conduct training in water rescue. These classes cannot be taken in two hours, but we will do our best to accomplish what we can. We will also focus our monthly training on fire operations to maintain the confidence and high standards we have become accustomed to when responding to calls. I will also work to engage all members in Leadership/Officer training. It is in our best interest to develop future leaders of the department so they can be prepared to assume the leadership role when that day comes.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "St. V. Marti". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lt. Steven V. Marti



# FIRE



# PREVENTION



# PUBLIC

# EDUCATION



LIEUTENANT J. MOORE

INSPECTOR F. N. CICONE

INSPECTOR S. NEWCOMB



## AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

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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.

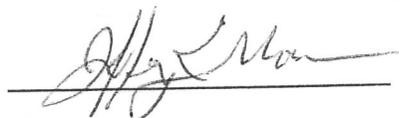
- Conduct fire safety inspections in all assembly, business, commercial, educational, factory, industrial occupancies as well as the common areas of multiple family residential occupancies.
- Code research
- Inspect residential dwellings of those persons wishing to adopt or foster children.
- Conduct 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.

## 2012 STATISTICS

Commercial and Industrial Inspections/Re-Inspections:	393
Special Inspections:	030
Occupancy Inspections:	029
Fire Detection and Suppression Tests:	170
School Fire Drills:	016
Permits Issued:	014
Plan Reviews:	055
Industrial/Commercial Knox Box Maintenance:	083
Residential Lock Box Installations:	012
Residential Lock Box Maintenance:	115
Fire Extinguisher Training:	160 Private Sector Employees
Fire/Life Safety Displays at Various Functions:	003*
Fire/Life Safety Talks and Demonstrations:	2068 Elementary/PreSchoolChildren*

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

Respectfully Submitted By:



Lieutenant J. Moore

# PLATOON #1



LIEUTENANT J. ROGERS

LIEUTENANT A. TETORAKIS

F. BERNER

F. OGLE

G. MADEJ

E. WAGNER

E. EGUT

J. BETSA

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLATOON 1

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Lt. Angelo Totorakis

Lt. John Rogers

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Please accept the following as an Annual report for Platoon 1, outlining significant shift activity for the year 2012. Included are response analysis summary and specific details involving non-routine projects.

### Emergency Response Summary

Platoon 1 responded to 711 emergency calls during the year 2012.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	19
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	465
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks	26
▪ Good Intent Calls	39
▪ Service Calls	77
▪ False Calls	80
▪ Special Incident	5
▪ <b>Total Emergency Calls</b>	<b>711</b>

### Hydrant Work

During the 2012 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.

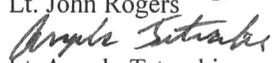
### Public Relations

Throughout the year 2012 Platoon 1 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; and installation and replacement of smoke detectors and batteries.

Respectfully Submitted



Lt. John Rogers



Lt. Angelo Totorakis

# PLATOON #2



LIEUTENANT L. GRIZZELL

LIEUTENANT J. BERRY

L. LID

L. HECZKO

J. KIMMELL

S. PETER

M. McGUIRE

M. WALTERS

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLATOON 2

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Lt. Lawrence E. Grizzell

Lt. James E. Berry

This abstract represents Platoon-2's significant shift activity for the year 2012. Included are response analysis summary, training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects. The aforementioned information was gathered utilizing the fire department's "Fire House" data base. The information is only as accurate as the datum entered into the system.

### Emergency Response Summary

Platoon-2 responded to 670 emergency calls during the year 2012.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical .....	22
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls .....	480
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks .....	16
▪ Good Intent Calls .....	15
▪ Service Calls .....	75
▪ False Calls .....	59
▪ Special Incident .....	3
<b>Total Emergency Calls .....</b>	<b>670</b>

Platoon-2 responded to multiple emergency calls as follows:

▪ First Call .....	553
▪ Second Call (Double) .....	110
▪ Third Call (Triple) .....	7

### Hydrant Work

During the 2012 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. Additionally, Platoon-2 was instrumental in the remodeling of the men's public restroom.

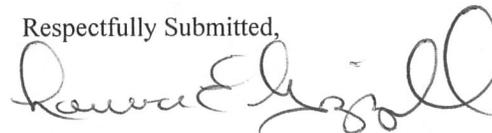
**Public Relations**

Throughout the year 2012 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; and installation and replacement of smoke detectors and batteries.

**Training**

Throughout the year 2012 Platoon-2 participated in 98 continuing education sessions which included classroom instruction, computer generated training, and hands on evolutions. The total accumulated platoon hours was 186.25

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence E. Grizzell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "L" and "G".

Lt. Lawrence E. Grizzell

# PLATOON #3



LIEUTENANT C. HUERNER

LIEUTENANT J. REITZ

D. SZYMANOWSKI

J. SCOTT

J. NAKEL

M. ROWE

R. FRYGIER

B. GILLES

C. MCKAY

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLATOON 3

Lt. Christopher W. Huerner

Lt. John Reitz

### Annual Report 2012

Please accept the following as the Annual Report for Platoon 3. The report outlines significant shift activity for the year 2012, including an emergency response analysis and specific details involving non-routine projects.

#### Emergency Response Summary

Platoon 3 responded to 739 emergency calls during the year 2012.

▪ Fire/Explosion	24
▪ EMS Calls	530
▪ Hazardous Condition	28
▪ Good Intent Calls	37
▪ Service Calls	72
▪ False Calls	43
▪ Special Incident	5
▪ <b>Total Emergency Calls</b>	<b>739</b>

#### Training

New recruit Firefighter Christofer McKay was assigned 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. Firefighter McKay has completed the required training and is demonstrating excellence in the performance of his duties.

In order to maintain State of Ohio Fire and EMS certifications, platoon 3 independently completed 24 Fire/Rescue hands on training drills, and 14 medical courses throughout the year. All members exceeded minimum requirements for certification maintenance. These courses were completed in addition to our normally scheduled training requirements.