

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



GREG ZILKA - SAFETY DIRECTOR

CHRISTOPHER HUERNER - FIRE CHIEF

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF

Chief Chris Huerner

Annual Report 2013

Mayor Zilka and Members of Council,

I am pleased to present the 2013 annual report for the Avon Lake Fire Department which contains reports from the Fire Prevention Bureau, Training Bureau 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 of our community the very best service possible by skilled caring professionals.

Fire prevention and public education continue to be an integral part of the Avon Lake Fire Department. The Fire Prevention Bureau conducts plan reviews, occupancy inspections, annual inspections and system testing to provide the business community the means to help prevent emergencies in the work place. The Fire Prevention Bureau works diligently with the assistance of shift personnel to provide a safer community through public education. 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 county's fire safety house. 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. In the year 2013 the amount of fire emergencies was the lowest for the last 10 years due to the direction of this bureau and the assistance of all personnel.

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 than ever before. These highly technical skills and abilities require continuous education and training. Federal and State mandated training requirements along with continuing education requirements for firefighter and paramedic certification renewals impose a critical responsibility on the training officer. The department utilizes instructors from within as well as outside the department to meet these educational responsibilities. The training officer is responsible for coordinating, tracking and documenting all education needed to ensure the high level of professional services provided by the department. The training officer not only performs these critical core functions but is also involved in many administrative tasks as assigned by the fire chief.

Operationally in 2013 the department experienced 2009 emergency incidents, which is a 5% decrease over 2012. The decrease in call volume and especially the decrease in fire emergencies mean that Avon Lake was a safer place in 2013. The following table is a breakdown of the department's responses.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Fire Calls | 35 |
| Overpressure, Overheat(no fire) | 1 |
| Rescue & EMS incident | 1416 |
| Hazardous Condition (no fire) | 62 |
| Service Call | 233 |
| Good Intent Call | 80 |
| False Alarm & False Call | 174 |
| Severe Weather & Natural Disaster | 3 |
| Special Incident Type | 4 |
| TOTAL CALLS | 2009 |
| Mutual Aid Given | 58 |
| Mutual Aid Received | 37 |

The three platoons provide around the clock emergency response to the community. Their dedication and hard work provide the professional services directly to the citizens, businesses and visitors of Avon Lake. Besides the emergency responses, the shift personnel perform a variety of other duties such as equipment checks/service/repair, building cleaning and repair, training, public education, hose testing, hydrant flushing, installs for the smoke detector program and much, much more. They are the core of the department and are supported by administrative staff personnel.

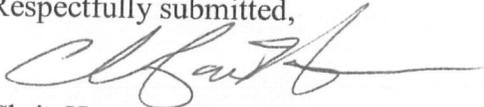
In 2013 the department finished the transition of its dispatch operations to Lorain County 9-1-1. This regionalization of dispatch operations provided various benefits to the department by streamlining the dispatch of emergency personnel, allowing for one more firefighter to respond during emergencies, decreased radio use and enhanced monitoring and recording of emergencies to name a few. This was a lengthy process that involved the installation and training of mobile data terminals and station alerting equipment. New response procedures were developed and modified throughout the year to provide a smooth and safe transition. Many personnel worked long hours both on and off duty to help get this operational.

Also in 2013, the Avon Lake Fire Department sent out its ladder truck for refurbishing. This decision will extend the life of the truck by more than 10 years and save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars. The refurbish process has been lengthy and has had multiple delays. During this process, Avon Fire Department has graciously agreed to provide mutual aid with their ladder on all appropriate emergencies. The department anticipates its completion in early 2014 and looks forward to the return of this vital piece of apparatus.

The Avon Lake Fire Department continually strives to provide for the safety of the city. The department will continue to focus its goals on professional emergency services, prevention and efficiency. In 2013 the fire department overtime budget was able to be reduced by \$60,000 due to a variety factors.

We are optimistic for 2014 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Huerner", written in a cursive style.

Chris Huerner, Fire Chief

STAFFING

FIRE CHIEF

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

TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION



LIEUTENANT S. MARTI

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING BUREAU

Annual Report 2013

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 2013.

Annual Training Summary

The following summary includes cumulative training hours as reported in the FireHouse database for all employees in the year 2013.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| ▪ Firefighting | 800.5 |
| ▪ Emergency Medical | 1119.5 |
| ▪ Hazardous Materials | 45 |
| ▪ Rescue | 445 |
| ▪ Miscellaneous | 75 |
| Total Training Hours | 2485 |

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 2013 four employees received certification in the following subject areas.

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Basic and Intermediate Rope Rescue | (2) certifications issued |
| Strategy and Tactics for the Company Officer | (2) certification issued |

Fire Arson Investigation

The Department had two of our members attend the Northern Ohio Arson Seminar held at Ashland University. We also had several members attend the "Electrical Fire Investigation, and Arc Mapping" lecture presented by the ATF Fire Research Laboratory and Southwest Emergency Response Team(SERT).

Hazardous Materials Training

Two of our department members are currently part of the County Hazmat team and attend regular team meetings for training.

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 a Refresher for Fire Instructor Class that was needed to maintain their certification.

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 Medical Center, 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. Our department also has access to on-line training through Cleveland State that also has medical courses.

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 personnel 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 4th 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 Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). This is done every two years and deals with critical care specific to children.

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 to 40 students participate in emergency medical responses with our department personnel as part of their clinical course requirements. Over the year, Paramedic students attended over 400 hours of practical training. We also had a Medical student in training to become a Physician ride along over his summer break.

Rescue

We have diverse industry and geographical considerations, ongoing construction as well as severe weather which all pose special hazards and the need for specialized rescue techniques. Due to these risks 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. One of our Firefighter/Medics is on the County SWAT team as a Medic and another Firefighter/Medic who is a member of the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing team. 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.

In the spring, we were able to conduct auto extrication training with vehicles provided by Patton Towing and in the summer we were able to conduct two full days of water rescue training in the discharge channel of the power plant. This also included some Rope rescue training for hauling victims in a litter.

We also have done some joint training with local businesses Emergency Response Teams, such as GENON and Lubrizol.

Fire Prevention/Fire Inspection

This year, several officers were able to attend a Fireworks seminar prior to July 4th. We continued to use Cleveland State University's on-line courses to 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. We also had several Officers attend training through the North East Ohio Fire Prevention Association (NOEFPA) on fire Protection Systems and Sprinklers.

EMS Charts and Firehouse

The department has successfully switched to EMS Charts and our officers now are part of the Quality Assurance of reports. The shift officers are responsible to QA their crews reports and provide feedback to the members to ensure they correct any errors. Additionally, the officers and acting officers are responsible to QA Fire House reports to ensure accuracy and completion of reports by the end of a shift. The department has been using Firehouse software for many years, but every year we are learning to take better advantage of its potential. These are not reflected in training class hours, but there have been many occasions where we are learning on the job. The staff officers attended National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and Ohio Fire Incident Reporting System (OFIRS) training in 2013 as we have been working to improve our departments incident reports.

Operations

I have 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. The state requested 2 Audits of Avon Lake Fire Fighters for Paramedic recertification. 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 strive to ensure all personnel keep their standards up as well as updating their knowledge with training on new techniques and practices.

I also am involved in the day to day, continuous on the job training/review that all Firefighters should have. I have held over 40 classes on Fire Tactics, Fire Behavior, Search and Rescue, Overhaul, Forcible Entry, Ground Ladders, Pump Operation, Vehicle Operation and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's). That is just to name a few, but daily I talk with fire fighters, new and old, about the job and what I and the leadership of this department think is important.

I have assigned classes through EMSJANE that covered Fundamentals of Fire Fighter skills and the Officers have had to complete Fire Officer Modules. Several Officers were able to attend a Leadership Lecture this fall that had Chiefs from all over the country.

The department has gone through major changes with the switch to 911 and Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) on the vehicles. We have had to learn to use this equipment and deal with problems when the equipment fails. It has been an adjustment establishing a shift Officer In Charge (OIC) and ensuring that all personnel understand how we are approaching our response to calls. Training will continue and will help the members understand why and how this improves our service to the community.

2014 Training Once again, our objectives should not only be to maintain our current level of training, but to improve. We have already begun Blue Card training for the officers, which is a Fire Incident Command training program. Our expectations are to have the 50 hour on line part completed by May and then put the officers through a simulator. We have a Hazmat Operations Refresher scheduled for the end of January through Cleveland State. I have already had the entire department complete a practical skills test on checking and donning our SCBA's as well as a quick review of calling the Mayday. However, we will be conducting more SCBA training throughout the year, including a consumption drill to see how long our air will last while working. This will be time consuming, but I feel confident we will gain confidence from it. 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 continue to engage all members in Leadership/Officer training. It is a team that wins the day and it is important that all of the members know that they are part of the team and are responsible to the team.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.V. Marti". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Lt. Steven V. Marti

FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Lieutenant: J. Moore

Inspectors:

F. N. Cicone

S. Newcomb



AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Annual Report 2013

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.

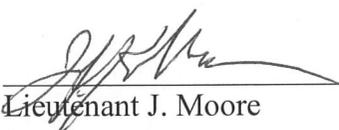
- Conduct fire safety inspections in all assembly, business, commercial, educational, factory, industrial occupancies as well as the common areas of multiple family residential occupancies.
- Code research
- Inspect residential dwellings of those persons wishing to adopt or foster children.
- Conduct 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.
- Participate in school fire drills.
- 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 (shift personnel assist in school program presentations).
- Install and perform maintenance of residential lock boxes that provide access for fire/rescue emergency personnel.
- Supply and install smoke detectors and batteries (shift personnel participate in this program).
- Coordinate and implement File Of Life, Address Sign, Knox Box, Residential Lock Box, Smoke Detector, Battery, Child Finder and other 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.
- Part of the staff of the County Emergency Operations Center.
- Plan and organize the cities Big Trucks event with other city departments.
- Attend North East Ohio Fire Prevention Association Meetings.
- Attend continuing education seminars as provided by various organizations.

2013 STATISTICS

| | |
|--|------|
| Inspections and re-inspections: | 403 |
| Special Inspections: | 45 |
| Occupancy Inspections: | 33 |
| Fire alarm, detection and suppression system tests: | 163 |
| Plan reviews: | 100 |
| Permits issued: | 10 |
| Residential Lock Box installations: | 21 |
| School Fire Drills: | 16 |
| Residential Lock Box Maintenance (carry over from 2012). | 90 |
| *Adults and children instructed in fire and life safety: | 2090 |

*We are able to instruct 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

Lt. Angelo Tetorakis

Lt. John Rogers

Annual Report 2013

Please accept the following as an Annual report for Platoon 1, outlining significant shift activity for the year 2013. Included are response analysis summary and specific details involving non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

Platoon 1 responded to 662 emergency calls during the year 2013.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| ▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical | 14 |
| ▪ EMS/Rescue Calls | 484 |
| ▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks | 16 |
| ▪ Good Intent Calls | 22 |
| ▪ Service Calls | 65 |
| ▪ False Calls | 60 |
| ▪ Special Incident | 1 |
| ▪ Total Emergency Calls | 662 |

Hydrant Work

During the 2013 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.

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 continue to maintain in-house instructors of Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. This year we have added a Lucas Device. The Lucas device performs compressions during a cardiac arrest. The rate and depth of compressions are pre- programmed allowing consistency throughout the call. This would not be possible without the continued support of our administration and our community.

Public Relations

Throughout the year 2013 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 Tetorakis

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

Lt. Lawrence E. Grizzell

Lt. James E. Berry

Annual Report 2013

This abstract represents Platoon-2's significant shift activity for the year 2013. 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 664 emergency calls during the year 2013.

| | |
|--|-----|
| ■ Fire/Explosion/Electrical | 13 |
| ■ EMS/Rescue Calls | 463 |
| ■ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks | 21 |
| ■ Good Intent Calls | 23 |
| ■ Service Calls | 83 |
| ■ False Calls | 58 |
| ■ Severe Weather & Natural Disaster | 2 |
| ■ Special Incident | 1 |

Total Emergency Calls 664

Platoon-2 responded to multiple emergency calls as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| ■ First Call | 580 |
| ■ Second Call (Double) | 75 |
| ■ Third Call (Triple) | 9 |

Hydrant Work

During the 2013 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 2013 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.

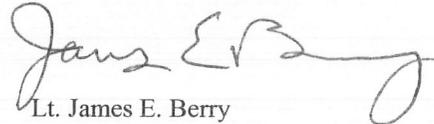
Training

Throughout the year 2013 Platoon-2 participated in 129 continuing education sessions which included classroom instruction, computer generated training, and hands on evolutions. The total accumulated platoon hours was 731.50

Respectfully Submitted,



Lt. Lawrence E. Grizzell



Lt. James E. Berry

PLATOON #3



LIEUTENANT G. EISENHARDT

LIEUTENANT J. REITZ

D. SZYMANOWSKI

J. SCOTT

J. NAKEL

M. ROWE

R. FRYGIER

B. GILLES

C. MCKAY

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 3

Lt. John Reitz

Lt. Glen Eisenhardt

Annual Report 2013

Please accept the following as the Annual Report for Platoon 3. The report outlines significant shift activities for the year 2013, including an emergency response analysis, continuing education training summary and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects and activities.

Emergency Response Summary

Platoon 3 responded to 682 emergency calls during the year 2013.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| ▪ Fire/Explosion | 009 |
| ▪ EMS Calls/Rescue | 469 |
| ▪ Hazardous Condition | 025 |
| ▪ Service | 085 |
| ▪ Good Intent | 035 |
| ▪ False Calls | 056 |
| ▪ Severe Weather/Natural Disaster | 001 |
| ▪ Special Incident | 002 |
| ▪ Total Emergency Calls | 682 |

Continuing Education Training Summary

In order to maintain the highest level of emergency response capability, platoon 3 participated in (51) Fire/Rescue practical training drills, and (21) emergency medical courses throughout the year. All members far exceeded the minimum requirements for professional certification required by the State of Ohio. These courses were completed in addition to our normally scheduled individual online training courses.

Routine shift member activities

Collateral Assignments

In 2013 Lieutenants Reitz and Eisenhardt were tasked with specific areas of responsibility for the proper day to day functioning of our department. Daily projects were completed with the help of Platoon 3 members in the following areas

Lieutenant Reitz – Information and Communication Technology

Lieutenant Eisenhardt- Fire Operations and Equipment

Hydrant Work

During 2013 Platoon 3 assisted the other platoons in flushing approximately 1600 fire hydrants to check for proper valve operation and adequate water supply.

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 2013.

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

Lock Box Installations

Non Routine Shift member activities

Lorain County Hazardous Material Team

Firefighter McKay is one of the ALFD representatives on the Lorain County Hazardous Material Team. The Lorain County Hazardous Material Team is responsible for the stabilization and mitigation of any significant hazardous material spill or release in Lorain County. Firefighter McKay completed his training and became a Hazardous Materials Technician. The Team meets for two hours monthly to conduct organizational meetings and training drills.

Non Routine Shift member activities (cont)

Critical Incident Response Service Team

Firefighter John Nakel is an active member of the CIRS which provides responders to the Greater Cleveland area. The Critical Incident Response Service program is a multi-component crisis intervention response team that includes Pre-Incident Education, on scene or near scene management, One-on-One intervention, Demobilization, Crisis Management Briefing, Defusing, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD), Family Support, Community Crisis Response, Pastoral Crisis Intervention and Follow Up. The team meets bi-monthly for training and organizational purposes. Firefighter Nakel was involved with (5) CIRS responses in 2013.

Lorain County SWAT

Firefighter Mike Rowe is an active member of the Lorain County Sheriff's Department Special Weapons and Tactics Team. Firefighter Rowe provides emergency medical treatment for law enforcement team members who respond to highly volatile law enforcement activities throughout Lorain County. These situations typically include active shooter situations, barricaded subjects, and high risk arrest warrants. The team conducts monthly training sessions consisting of 8 hours of hands-on tactical evolutions. Firefighter Rowe recently completed a Master's level Physician's Assistant degree program, and is a member of the American Academy of Physician's Assistant (AAPA). Firefighter Rowe was involved with (2) SWAT responses in 2013.

Ladder Truck Refurbishment

Lieutenant Eisenhardt has continued to lead our ladder truck refurbishment project that started in late 2012 when our 1996 KME ladder truck suffered critical mechanical failures that placed the unit out of service. In January our ladder truck arrived at KME manufacturing in Pennsylvania to start this comprehensive refurbishment. Throughout this project inspection trips have been made to monitor the progress and workmanship of the project. There were some significant delays due to difficulties adapting the new modernized systems into the older body style of our ladder and internal plant management issues. Delivery was originally contracted to be completed by September 2013, but because of these delays, KME manufacturing has faced a monetary penalty for not meeting the contractual deadline. Along with the payment of these penalty fees additional equipment and safety systems were added making the ladder truck safer and more user friendly with no additional cost to the City. This refurbishment will allow the department to push back the purchase of a new ladder truck about ten to twelve years. The goals of this project were to make certain the residents and businesses of Avon Lake were protected with the needed firefighting equipment and to provide the City flexibility by lifting a significant monetary burden off of their budget in these economic conditions. This project is on track to come in well under budget.

The project will be completed in the first quarter of 2014. Once the ladder has returned Platoon 3 will mount all of the firefighting equipment, tools, hose, and computers. All members will be trained on the new operating systems and features prior to the truck being placed back in service.

Non Routine Shift member activities (cont)

Emergency Dispatch Transfer

In 2013 The Avon Lake Fire Department transferred all of our emergency dispatch operations to the Lorain County 911 Dispatch Center in Elyria. Platoon 3 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, multiple wireless access points, and new electronic fire and EMS reporting systems. All of the installations have been completed and all systems are operational. Because these integrated systems rely on dependable fiber optic, cellular, Wifi and satellite communication networks to ensure continual connectivity, Platoon 3 members were very involved with learning how to operate these systems and troubleshoot connectivity issues throughout the year. In 2014, Lt Reitz and Firefighter Rowe plan to develop a comprehensive communication maintenance program that will include detailed documentation of the entire multi- network architecture, a complete firmware backup/recovery system for all devices, the ability to remotely monitor the network and correct problems off site. In addition, we anticipate that in the first quarter of 2014 our GPS vehicle location system will be fully operational.

Preview for 2014

Platoon 3 will continue to strive for excellence in 2014. Our Goals will be focused on more intensive training to ensure that our Department members remain the highly prepared, efficient and effective emergency responders the citizens of our community deserve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lieutenant John Reitz



Lt Glen Eisenhardt

