

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**2015
ANNUAL REPORT**



GREG ZILKA – SAFETY DIRECTOR

CHRISTOPHER HUERNER – FIRE CHIEF

2015
STAFFING

FIRE CHIEF

Christopher Huerner

Asst. Chief John Rogers

Asst. Chief Jeff Moore

PLATOON 1

Capt. Steve Marti

Lt. Steve Peter

John Scott

Gary Madej

Richard Frygier

Aaron Egut

Forest Mercer

Brian Wood

Cole Eichenlaub

PLATOON 2

Capt. James Berry

Lt. Jeremy Betsa

Frank Ogle

Jerry Kimmell

Eric Wagner

Brian Gilles

Chris McKay

Clay Khoma

PLATOON 3

Capt. Glen Eisenhardt

Capt. John Reitz

Dana Szymanowski

John Nakel

Mike Rowe

Mark Walters

Mike Pertz

Kyle Urig

Capt. Lawrence Grizzell - Retired

Capt. Tetorakis - Retired

Fred Berner - Retired

Laddie Lid - Retired

Mark Mcguire - Separated from Service

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTORS

Nick Cicone

Sue Newcomb

SECRETARY

Suzanne Bliss



AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT



CHIEF CHRIS HUERNER

Annual Report 2015

Mayor Zilka and Members of Council,

I am pleased to present the 2015 annual report for the Avon Lake Fire Department which contains reports from the Fire Prevention Bureau, Operations Chief 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.

The year 2015 was a historical year for the Avon lake Fire Department. The department brought on six new firefighter/paramedics, or 1/3 of the response force, in one year. The department had never seen such a large turnover of personnel in the past. This unprecedented change created challenges to balance the loss of experience and knowledge with the strength and enthusiasm of new personnel. This large change in personnel also affected the restructuring plan for the department. A plan that was thought to happen over several years of attrition was largely completed in a matter of months. The accelerated restructuring resulted in new positions and new promotions in 2015. The accomplishment of such a large change in such a short time without adverse effects to response and safety can only be attributed to the determination and extreme professionalism of the Avon Lake Fire Department personnel. The department is continuing to define these roles by shifting duties and responsibilities within the structure to provide for the most efficient and professional department possible.

The new position of Fire Marshal, which is an Assistant Chief rank, is responsible for fire prevention and public education. The Avon Lake Fire Department provides response to mitigate emergencies within the community. But more important, we strive to reduce emergencies and lessen the impact through prevention and public education. Through these efforts the department provides for the overall safety of the community. 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 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 department offers File of Life, Lock Box and Smoke Detector programs to name a few. These programs assist responders and provide for the overall safety of the citizens.

The new position of Operations Chief, an Assistant Chief rank, replaces the previous position of Training Officer. The Operations Chief is not only responsible for training, but all other aspects of operations related to emergency response and other administrative duties. There have been many changes in building construction over the years to reduce costs and provide better energy efficiency. These changes in building construction combined with increased fuel loads from the use of plastic and styrene in home furnishings have resulted in fires that burn hotter and faster. These changes have caused a need to adjust tactics and strategies when fighting fires. Today's firefighter/paramedics are tasked with the need for highly technical skills and abilities which require continuous education and training. These changes coupled with Federal and State mandated training requirements for firefighter and paramedic certification renewals impose a critical responsibility on the Operations chief. The department utilizes instructors from within as well as outside the department to meet these educational responsibilities. The Operations Chief is responsible for coordinating, tracking and documenting all education needed to ensure the high level of professional services provided by the department.

Operationally the department experienced 2,439 emergency incident requests in 2015. This is the highest run volume ever recorded in Avon Lake and is a 14% increase over 2014. The following table is a breakdown of the department's responses.

TYPE	Amount
Fire Calls	54
Overpressure, Overheat(no fire)	4
Rescue & EMS incident	1650
Hazardous Condition (no fire)	94
Service Call	327
Good Intent Call	129
False Alarm & False Call	173
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	3
Special Incident Type	5
TOTAL CALLS	2439
Mutual Aid Given	62
Mutual Aid Received	54

Rescue and EMS has steadily increased over the past two decades and remains the bulk of our responses accounting for 67% of all calls in 2015. Increases in run volume of rescue and EMS calls leveled off in 2012 and then exploded to a 14% increase in 2015 over 2014 numbers. Fire Calls include full structure fires along with vehicle fires, garage fires, dumpster fires and field fires to name a few. Fire runs were up over the previous two years but still slightly below average as compared to the statistics of the last 17 years.

January 21, 2016

The three platoons provide around the clock emergency response to the community. Their dedication and hard work provide 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.

The department continues to review and improve regulations and standard operating guidelines to reflect changes in current practices and standards. The department has made improvements in record keeping and report documentation along with increases in training in order to improve the city's insurance rating that was received in 2014. These changes also provide for a safer and more efficient department and ultimately benefits the residents through our service to them.

The Avon Lake Fire Department will continually strive to provide for the safety of the city and focus its goals on professional emergency services, prevention and efficiency.

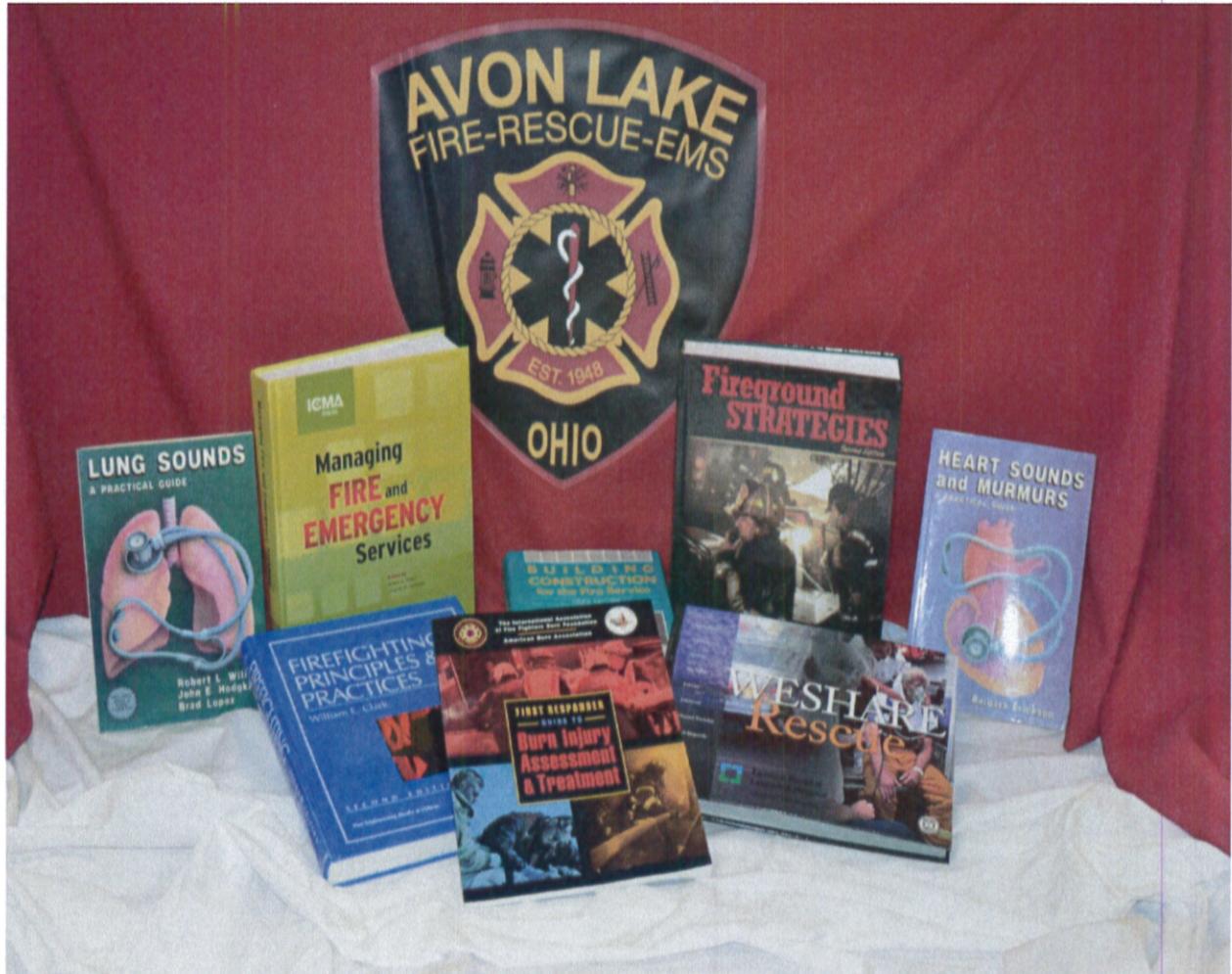
We look forward to a safe and productive 2016 and on behalf of the officers and members of the Avon Lake Fire Department I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude for the continued support of the community.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Huerner, Fire Chief

OPERATIONS



ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHN ROGERS

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING & OPERATIONS

In September, 2015 the Training Officer was replaced by an Assistant Chief whose combined responsibilities are Training and Platoon Operations (Fire, Rescue and EMS response). This section of the Annual Report will now include training activities, and a report from each of the three Platoons.

TRAINING 2015

Annual Training Summary

The following is a summary of recorded man-hours committed to training in 2015.

▪ Firefighting	1219.25
▪ Emergency Medical	838.5
▪ Hazardous Materials	34
▪ Rescue	529.25
▪ Miscellaneous	298
Total Training Hours	2919

Fire department personnel participate in various types of training performed both in-house and outside of 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 2015 four employees received certification in the following subject areas.

Basic to Advanced Pump Operations	(1) certification issued
Rope Rescue Level 1	(2) certifications issued
Fire Officer 2	(1) certification issued

Fire Arson Investigation

The Department had one of our members attend the Northern Ohio Arson Seminar held at Ashland University.

Hazardous Materials Training

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

Emergency Medical Services

The majority of the department's emergency medical service training is provided by the WeShare Organization, which is the department's 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 Cleveland State University.

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, there are always ample EMS training opportunities available.

SWAT Team and Active Shooter Drill

Our department has one member who is attached to the Lorain County SWAT team as a medic and he attends regular monthly training with them.

Lorain County Community College

The Avon Lake Fire Department has been partnered with the Lorain County Community College Paramedic Program for a long time. Each year we allow LCCC paramedic students to participate in emergency medical responses with our department personnel as part of their clinical course requirements.

Rescue

We still have a diverse industry, geographical considerations, weather and quantity of construction within the city, which 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. We also have one of our members who is with 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.

Fire Prevention/Fire Inspection

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, such as the Water Treatment plant and Lubrizol. We also had several Officers attend training through the North East Ohio Fire Prevention Association (NOEFPA) on fire Protection Systems and Sprinklers.

State Certifications CEU tracking

The training hours that all members need for recertification for their Fire Fighter II, EMT-Paramedic, Fire Safety Inspector and/or Fire Instructor certifications from the State of Ohio are recorded and maintained by the Training/Operations Officer. 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. We ensure our members keep their standards up and update their knowledge with training on new techniques and practices.

Blue Card

This was the Fire Incident Command training that our senior Fire Fighters completed this year. Although our senior Fire Fighters had the knowledge to run emergency incidents, this was necessary training to ensure continuity with our mutual aid departments when responding to emergencies together. At this time all of our officers and many of our senior Fire Fighters have successfully completed the 50 hours of online and 3 days of simulator for Blue Card certification.

FDIC

We were able to have several of our members attend the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis. There are classes over everything from strategy and tactics to everyday department staff operations. We were also able to see the latest innovations in the Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical equipment.

EMS Protocol Review & Revision Committee

In 2015 the WeShare organization decided to review and revise the EMS Assessment and Treatment Protocols that our fire department, along with Bay Village, Westlake, North Ridgeville and Olmsted Township use. We have been actively participating in this lengthy process, and by the end of 2016 hope to have a format that is easier to reference in the field. This will help to maintain a high quality of care consistent with proven standards of practice.

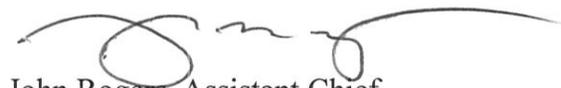
PLATOON OPERATIONS 2015

There are three Platoons, each being responsible for one third of every calendar year. A Platoon reports to duty at 7:00 AM and is relieved at 7:00 AM the following morning by another Platoon. During that 24 hour duty period, a Platoon responds to Fires & Explosions, Medical & Rescue Emergencies, Hazardous Conditions, Severe Weather Emergencies, and other types of service requests.

When not involved in emergency response and mitigation, the Platoons complete other tasks such as vehicle and equipment inspections and repairs, training, public education, and special projects.

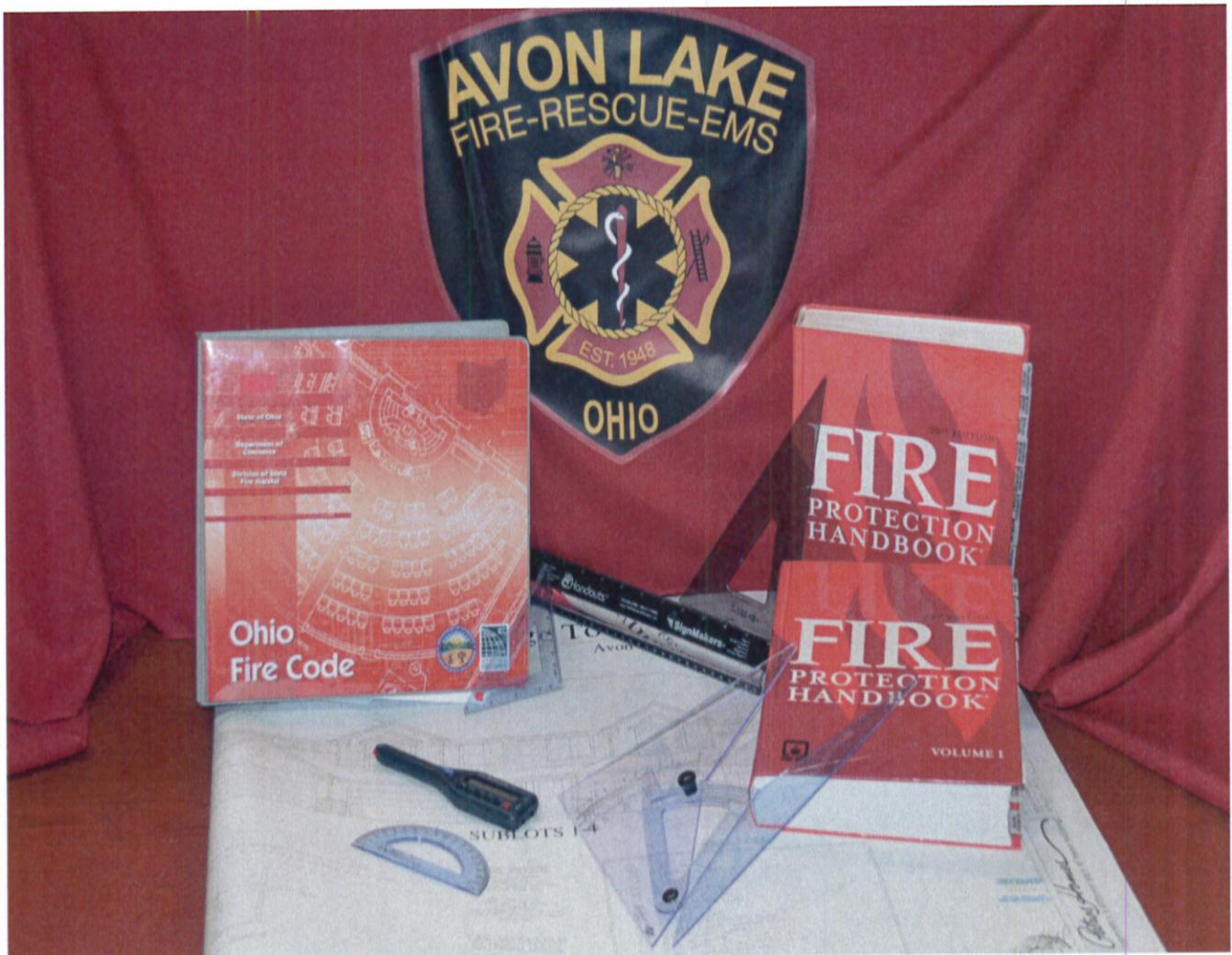
The following sections are submitted by the Platoon officers describing their activities in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



John Rogers, Assistant Chief

**CODE ENFORCEMENT
AND
PUBLIC EDUCATION**



**ASSISTANT CHIEF JEFF MOORE
INSPECTOR NICK CICONE
INSPECTOR SUE NEWCOMB**

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The *mission* of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to provide the business community and general public with structures that are as free as possible of fire and life safety hazards and to promote personal safety in regards to fire, hazardous materials and severe weather thru code enforcement and education.

In 2015 the assistant chief of the Bureau participated on the design committee for the new EMS vehicle, planned upgrades to the communications equipment, performed in the role of Acting Chief when the Fire Chief was out of town, began updating pre plans of commercial and industrial structures and applied for and received a grant from the State of Ohio for EMS equipment.

In our attempt to achieve the above we:

- *Maintain an inventory of regulated properties defined by the Ohio Basic Building Code as; Assembly, Educational, Business, Factory, High Hazard, Institutional, Mercantile, Residential and Storage occupancies. Detached one, two and three family dwellings are not included.
- *Conduct fire and life safety inspections of regulated properties.
- *Conduct investigations of all known unfriendly fires and hazardous material releases.
- *Complete plan reviews regarding fire and life safety for new and existing construction as well as fire detection and alarm systems.
- *Educate the general public and business and industry employees regarding fire, severe weather, hazardous materials and life safety.
- *Issue permits for the installation of fire detection, alarm and suppression systems.
- *Are present at the acceptance testing of new fire detection and alarm systems as well as the annual and semi-annual tests of these systems.
- *Develop and schedule the annual Fall Fire Safety Programs for K thru 4th grade students attending public and private schools in the city. We also present programs to preschool students upon request.
- *Plan and implement the annual Fire Safety Poster Contest and awards presentations for second and fourth grade students attending school in town.
- *Develop public service announcements regarding fire safety, severe weather and health related issues.
- * Manage the residential address sign and File Of Life programs.
- * Are responsible for the installation, maintenance and record keeping of residential lock boxes.
- *Perform regular maintenance of Knox Boxes installed at our request by business and industry.
- *Conduct periodic updating of the Avon Lake Community Disaster Plan.
- *Plan, and implement along with other city departments the annual Big Truck event.
- *Participate in the Lorain County Emergency Planning Committee, where at this time one of our inspectors is the chairman. Two of our bureau personnel are also members of the Lorain County

Emergency Operations Center and act as representatives for the county fire departments in large scale emergencies.

*Assume other assignments and duties delegated to bureau personnel by the fire chief during the year.

2015 STATISTICS REGARDING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Regular Annual Inspections	374
New Occupancy Inspections	014
Special Inspections	037
Knox Box Security Checks	006
Residential Lock Box Installs	035
Commercial Kitchen Extinguishing System Tests	077
Fire Alarm Tests	047
Fire Pump Tests	005
Sprinkler System Tests	039
Fire Door Tests	006
Special Extinguishing System Tests	008
Fire Drills Held	015
Planning Commission Plan Reviews	023
Construction Plan Reviews	021

2015 STATISTICS REGARDING PUBLIC EDUCATION

Adults instructed in fire safety and severe weather emergencies	194
Adults instructed in fire extinguisher use	077
Children attending Safety Town fire safety instruction	195
Preschool Children instructed in fire safety	063
Kindergarten thru 4 th grade students instructed in fire safety	1527*

*This is made possible only due to the invaluable participation of platoon personnel

Respectfully Submitted,



Assistant Chief J. Moore

PLATOON #1



CAPTAIN STEVE MARTI

LIEUTENANT STEVE PETER

JON SCOTT

AARON EGUT

GARY MADEJ

FOREST MERCER

RICH FRYGIER

BRIAN WOOD

COLE EICHENLAUB

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 1

Capt. Steve Marti

Annual Report 2015

Please accept the following as an Annual report for Platoon 1, outlining significant shift activity for the year 2015. Included are a response analysis summary and specific details involving non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

Platoon 1 responded to 808 emergency calls during the year 2015.

▪ Fire/Explosion	16
▪ EMS Calls	555
▪ Hazardous Condition	25
▪ Good Intent Calls	47
▪ Service Calls	111
▪ False Calls	54
▪ Total Emergency Calls	808

Retirements, Promotions and New Hires

This year Platoon 1 went through many changes in personnel. Captain Tetorakis and Firefighter Berner both retired in 2015. Firefighter Betsa was promoted to Lieutenant and Captain Rogers was promoted to Assistant Chief. We also had Firefighter McGuire separate from service. With so many people retiring, this year we have added 3 new firefighters to the shift. Firefighter Mercer came to the shift in spring, Firefighter Wood in the summer and Firefighter Eichenlaub in the fall.

Building and Grounds Maintenance

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

Hydrant Work

During the 2015 calendar year Platoon 1 assisted the other platoons in flushing over 1600 hydrants to check for proper operation. Once again Firefighter Egut worked with other members of the department to rebuild/repair hydrants when he could to lower cost rather than replace the hydrant. He then worked with the Water Department to get those he could not repair scheduled for replacement.

SCBA Repair

Firefighter Mercer came to the department with certifications that allow him to repair Scott Air-Paks and he done this as a collateral duty. He also conducted SCBA face piece fit-testing for the entire department in 2015.

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 and several Doctors' from WeShare.

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 would not be possible without the continued support of our administration and our community

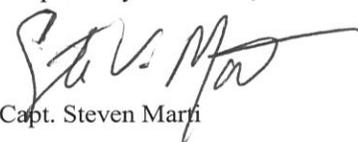
Training

In 2015 platoon members participated in several areas of training. With the new probationary firefighters, we conducted daily training that covered everything from Fire and Medical equipment daily checks, Station duties, Fire, Rescue and EMS quick drills to full classes over Tactics and operations. The Platoon also participated in Confined Space Rescue Refresher training, Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS), Metro Health Medical Center's Trauma simulator, monthly WeShare training, Water Rescue training, and Vehicle extrication training. The Platoon has also gone several business walk-thru inspections to better familiarize themselves for pre-planning. Additionally, Firefighter's Egut and Madej attended Columbia Gas fire training, Firefighter Scott and Madej became Blue Card certified, Firefighter Frygier was certified in Car seat installation, Firefighter Mercer was certified in Basic Rope Recue level 1 and completed all of his JPR's. Firefighter's Wood and Eichenlaub are currently working on getting their JPR's completed, continuing to familiarize themselves with the city map and high hazards that are in our district.

Public Relations

Throughout the year, 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; installation and replacement of smoke detectors and batteries; car seat installations; hosted the poster awards for fire safety; Readied the station for Big trucks; as well as participation in a Reading Program for the library and Trick or Treat at Learwood Square.

Respectfully Submitted,



Capt. Steven Marti

PLATOON #2



CAPTAIN JIM BERRY

LIEUTENANT JEREMY BETSA

FRANK OGLE

BRIAN GILLES

JERRY KIMMELL

CHRIS MCKAY

ERIC WAGNER

CLAYTON KHOMA

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 2

Annual Report 2015

This report represents the significant shift activity of Platoon #2 for the year 2015. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects. The aforementioned information was gathered utilizing the fire department's "Fire House" data base.

Emergency Response Summary

In 2015 Platoon #2 responded to the following emergency and non-emergency calls.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	23
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	543
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks	45
▪ Good Intent Calls	48
▪ Service Calls	109
▪ Special Incident	000
▪ False Alarms	60
Total Emergency Calls	828

Hydrant Work

During the 2015 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.

Public Relations

Throughout the year 2015 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. Platoon #2 was instrumental in the success of the Big Trucks Show by accomplishing the majority of station preparation.

Training

Throughout the year 2015 Platoon #2 participated in over 800 hours of continuing education which included classroom instruction, computer generated training, and hands on evolutions. Platoon Two is currently in the process of training a newly hired firefighter which allows many opportunities for Fire, EMS, and Rescue training. We have combined the familiarization of many of our commercial buildings with the Fire Preplan system used by the Fire Prevention division.

Fleet Maintenance and repair

Platoon #2 remained very busy with the maintenance and repair of the Avon Lake Fire Department apparatus and vehicles. With the co-operation of the service contractors and fire department personnel the fleet remains in great condition. Firefighter Frank Ogle is the primary member responsible for the troubleshooting and rapid repair of vehicles that need attention at inopportune times. Maintenance procedures are scheduled based on usage and budgetary concerns by Platoon #2 and Chief Huerner .

Rescue

The water rescue and dive equipment are serviced and maintained by Platoon #2 and several outside services. Lieutenant Steve Peter is very involved with the maintenance and care of our Personal Watercraft. The weekly service as well as the winterization is completed and monitored by Platoon #2.

Technical Rescue equipment and training now fall under the care of Captain Berry and Platoon 2. We continue to work toward the training and certification of new divers to allow for the rapid response of our water rescue services. Our participation in the Lorain County Technical Rescue team continues to expand with the addition of new ALFD members to the team. Their training is extensive and the members bring that knowledge back to all department personnel.

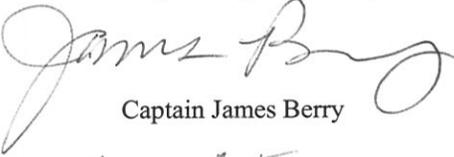
Special Projects

Lt. Betsa extensively researched the firefighter's performance evaluation tool currently in use and those in use throughout the country for our profession. From this research a new, updated firefighter performance evaluation tool was created and is currently being used to evaluate firefighters. This tool was designed to help identify and enhance all of the firefighters in various aspects of job related criteria. This tool will be used, evaluated itself and modified as necessary. It will also be the foundation for the evaluation tools that will be created for the additional ranks.

EMS equipment has been streamlined in the way of ordering, stocking, and re-ordering. All ordering has been enhanced to be the most efficient it has been and in turn has significantly reduced any allotted waiting time for arrival of EMS supplies. The storage and inventory of the EMS equipment and supplies was subjected to a major overhaul creating an organized, efficient process to monitor, track, and re-order stock. This streamlining has made the process not only more efficient but has also increased the awareness of needs and reduced the constraints of inadequate or excessive supply levels. Firefighters Kimmell and McKay have been working diligently with other personnel to develop design specifications for the new ambulance due for delivery in 2016.

Firehouse Inspector for iPad was obtained and the process of installing more the 1600 fire hydrants into the system in order to increase the efficiency of fire hydrant inspection, repair, and maintenance was started. Beginning with the 2016 fire hydrant inspections this program will be used on an iPad with GPS location of hydrants to eliminate the antiquated and unreliable system of a long list of fire hydrants that has been used previously. This will keep track of fire hydrant inspections instantly and will increase the ease of adding the information into the computer program as well as reduce any possibility of error in regards to hydrant inspection and maintenance. This program will also make hydrant repair more efficient as it can identify any hydrants needing repair and to the exact cause of the deficiency. Firefighter Wagner has updated the watch office wall map showing street and hydrant locations and will continue to keep the map current.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Berry". The signature is fluid and connected, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Captain James Berry

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeremy Betsa". The signature is more compact than the one above, with a clear "J" and "B".

Lieutenant Jeremy Betsa

PLATOON #3



CAPTAIN JOHN REITZ

CAPTAIN GLEN EISENHARDT

DANA SZYMANOWSKI

MARK WALTERS

JOHN NAKEL

MIKE PERTZ

MIKE ROWE

KYLE URIG

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 3

Captain John Reitz

Captain Glen Eisenhardt

Annual Report 2015

Please accept the following as the Annual Report for Platoon 3. The report outlines significant shift activities for the year 2015, 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 802 emergency calls during the year 2015.

▪ Fire/Explosion	019
▪ EMS Calls/Rescue	555
▪ Hazardous Condition	024
▪ Service	109
▪ Good Intent	034
▪ False Calls	058
▪ Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	000
▪ Special Incident	003
▪ Total Emergency Calls	802

Continuing education and training

Departmental/Shift drills

In order to maintain the highest level of emergency response capability, platoon 3 participated in (52) Fire/Rescue practical training drills, and (17) 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, and consisted of an additional 794 cumulative hours of training.

Blue Card

Firefighters Szymanowski, and Nakel completed the Blue Card Command Certification Program. The program is a state of the art training and certification system that teaches Company and Command Officers how to standardize local incident operations across their organization. The program uses a combination of online and in-class simulation training which results in an Incident Commander solution that finally addresses local Hazard Zone operations. The course consisted of fifty (50) hours of online training materials and three days of practical lab exercises.

WeShare Continuing Medical Education

The Westshore Area Rescue Association serves as the EMS medical Command for the Avon Lake Fire Department. The Organization provides required continuing medical education for Avon lake Paramedics. In 2015 WeShare conducted Ten (10) 2 hour courses for platoon 3 members to educate members in current topics of pre-hospital medicine and supplement the minimum State of Ohio continuing education requirements for EMS providers.

Confined Space Rescue

Platoon 3 members participated in a confined space rescue refresher certification course in summer 2015 conducted by Cleveland State University. All members attending received renewed certification in both confined space entry and rescue.

BGSU Basic/advanced pump operations

Firefighter Mark Walters attended the Bowling Green State University Fire academy to study basic/advanced pump operations in May 2015. This course covered pump and hydraulic theory needed to become a proficient pump operator.

Northern Ohio Trauma System

Firefighters Mike Rowe and Mark Walters attended the 2015 annual NOTS conference. This program is accredited by the Ohio State Medical Association intended to offer continuing education for physicians, nurses, and pre-hospital providers involved in the care of the trauma patients. In addition, Firefighter Rowe received certification in Advanced Burn Life Support at the conference.

Fire Department Instructors Conference

Captain Eisenhardt attended the Annual Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis. The conference features nationally recognized speakers that deliver up to date, cutting edge information to improve all aspects of fire service delivery. In addition to the educational aspects, the conference also hosts the largest trade show for firefighting and EMS equipment in the United States.

Routine shift member activities

Collateral Assignments

In 2015 Captains 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

Captain Reitz – Information and Communication Technology

Captain Eisenhardt- Fire Operations and Equipment

Hydrant Work

During 2015 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 2015.

- 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

New Firefighter Recruits

Due to several members retiring from the Fire Department in 2014 and 2015, two new recruits were assigned to platoon this year. Firefighters Pertz and Urig transferred from fire departments in Cuyahoga Falls and Tiffin Ohio respectively. 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 Pertz and Urig completed all assigned objectives to date and are demonstrating excellence in the performance of their duties. Platoon 3 will continue to work with firefighters Pertz and Urig to complete their job performance requirements in 2016.

Non Routine Shift member activities

Lorain County Hazardous Material Team

Firefighter Mark Walters is one of the two 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. Firefighters McKay and Walters are both certified Hazardous Materials Technicians. The Team meets for two hours monthly to conduct organizational meetings and training drills.

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 (8) CIRS responses in 2015.

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 was involved with (5) SWAT responses in 2015.

EMS Vehicle Committee

Captain Eisenhardt is a member of the four person committee involved in pre-purchase planning for the City's new ambulance. This committee is responsible for the research, design, and specification of this vehicle from the ground up. This vehicle is essentially a mobile emergency department that utilizes communication network connections to our county dispatch center and seven area hospitals with the ability to send and receive emergency dispatch and real-time medical diagnostic information to and from emergency dispatchers and emergency department physicians. The Department expects to take delivery of this vehicle in the first half of 2016.

Information Technology

Captain Reitz is responsible for implementation and maintenance of the department's computer network system, computerized vehicle emergency dispatching systems, Medical and Fire incident reporting software and Cellular communications systems. Firefighter Rowe has been instrumental in the design and maintenance of these systems and has volunteered to audit these systems for proper operation and cost control. FF Rowe has also been very helpful assisting other city departments with their cellular communications devices.

Respectfully Submitted,



Captain John Reitz



Captain Glen Eisenhardt