

# **AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**2019  
ANNUAL REPORT**



**GREGORY ZILKA – SAFETY DIRECTOR**

**JEREMY BETSA – FIRE CHIEF**



# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF JEREMY BETSA



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## 2019 Annual Report

Mayor Zilka and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Avon Lake Fire Department it is my pleasure to submit the 2019 annual report.

The report will summarize and review the year from the Fire Prevention Bureau, the Training and Operations Division, and each of our 3 Platoons. This information will provide insight on our response statistics, trainings, inspections and 2019 accomplishments. It will also contain a brief overview of the additional responsibilities of our dedicated members.

The only membership change that occurred to our Fire Department in 2019 was when my role changed from Interim Fire Chief to Fire Chief. We added no new members throughout the year, giving us great opportunity to grow together and strengthen internally. We've begun to shape this Fire Department into the progressive and capable department that this community deserves, and we've set ourselves up for reaching our future goals.

One of the goals of 2019 was to increase our presence in the community, and bring more of the community to the Fire Department. With the involvement of every member of this department, we accomplished that goal in many forms. Avon Lake Fire Department Citizens Fire Academy commenced, with the first class graduating in June 2019. The feedback from our Academy graduates solidifies that when you provide opportunity for community members to step into your shoes while providing them with education, rational, and support, you undoubtedly gain their support for your department. Another way we accomplished this was by providing CPR classes to our community members. We were able to offer this opportunity free of cost, due to our collaboration with University Hospitals. The community response overwhelmed our initial projection, leading us to add additional classes to accommodate all who wanted to participate. The Citizens Academy and CPR classes have greatly enhanced the fluidity between the Fire Department and our community members.

The public appropriately expects and demands unwavering professionalism and customer service, year after year. We continuously and consistently reevaluate our operations to determine appropriate enhancements to the services we provide. This included implementing the latest technology for incident notification and mapping of dispatched calls. This has accommodated us receiving instant knowledge of a need in our community, allowing us to respond without delay. The implementation of this technology has reduced our reaction to dispatch times, and the times of each entire response.

In 2019 we utilized a group effort to rebrand the Fire Department, and a new patch design was created. The new patch correctly identifies the year the Fire Department was established, and displays a clean modernized design. We will spend the next two years replacing logos and uniforms to reflect our new design. This is our new Avon Lake Fire Department patch:



Programs that impact the safety of our community members remain in place and speak directly to our commitment to our residents. These programs include the residential lock box program, replacement of smoke detectors and batteries by Fire Department personnel, file of life, and the reflective address signs. These programs are in place to enhance the safety of the community members and to ensure that help can arrive quickly in the event they need our services. In addition, the Fire Department has three members who are certified in car seat installation. They offer free car seat installation to anyone who lives, works, or travels through our community. This continues to be a very popular program, and when utilized we take the time to provide education and stress the importance of safe child seat installations and car seat safety.

The total amount of responses for 2019 was yet another record breaking year for the Fire Department. A 0.5% increase in run volume with a total of 2,834 calls for service.

We continue to see that about 70% of our runs are for EMS (Emergency Medical Services). EMS calls are for the transport of sick or injured persons to the hospital, or for lift assists for residents in need. The other 30% of our run volume is related to fire or hazardous conditions in which our members must use their technical expertise to identify and mitigate present hazards. The 70/30 split is the trend of the national average and is expected to remain status quo. Our mutual aid is also identified within these numbers, in 2019 we provided mutual aid to surrounding departments 59 times. We requested mutual aid from them 50 times within the year. Mutual aid continues to prove invaluable, with this collaboration between departments equipping all of us to handle situations that are bigger than our individual resources support.

The members of our department continue to take pride and ownership in their positions and will continue to provide the community with exemplary service at the highest level of quality now and into the future. We look forward to 2020 as a year to unleash the potential of our members and strive for excellence in everything we do. The Avon Lake Fire Department will work hard, train hard and continue to learn every day, in an effort to make your fire department exceptional. We appreciate the hard work and dedication from the Mayor, Council, businesses and all community members. Without these desirable relationships the Fire Department would not be able to succeed.

It is my honor to lead this fire department into the next year with the hopes of exceeding all expectations. Please continue to explore the 2019 Avon Lake Fire Department annual report and continue to learn more about the distinguished men and women that make our department what it is today.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Betsa', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fire Chief Jeremy Betsa

# **2019 STAFFING**

**CHIEF JEREMY BETSA**

## **OPERATIONS – TRAINING**

Assistant Chief John Rogers

### **PLATOON #1**

Capt. Eric Wagner

Lt. Chris McKay

#### **FF/Medics**

Jon Scott

Gary Madej

Aaron Egut

Kyle Urig

Nick Gamellia

Eric Zmija

Nick Kus

### **PLATOON #2**

Capt. Steve Marti

Lt. Brian Gilles

#### **FF/MEDICS**

John Nakel

Rich Frygier

Forest Mercer

Clayton Khoma

Brian Wood

Eric Yonkof

Marcin Sroka

### **PLATOON #3**

Capt. Jim Berry

Lt. Jerry Kimmell

#### **FF/MEDICS**

Frank Ogle

Mike Rowe

Mark Walters

Mike Pertz

Cole Eichenlaub

Joe Harder

Mike Comley

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT – PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Assistant Chief Steve Peter


Inspector Nick Cicone

Inspector Tammy Strawn

## **SECRETARY – RECORDS**

Kristin Gomez

# VEHICLES



CAR #1	-----	2016 FORD EXPLORER*
CAR #2	-----	2014 FORD ESCAPE**
CAR #3	-----	2012 FORD EXPEDITION***
ENGINE #4	-----	2019 PIERCE
ENGINE #5	-----	2010 PIERCE
RESCUE #6	-----	2017 FORD EXPEDITION
RESCUE #7	-----	2002 PIERCE
MEDIC #8	-----	2006 INTERNATIONAL
MEDIC #9	-----	2008 INTERNATIONAL
MEDIC #10	-----	2015 FREIGHTLINER
LADDER #11	-----	1996 KME
MAINT #12	-----	2015 FORD F-250

Chief \*

Code Enforcement \*\*

Command \*\*\*



# **CODE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**



**ASSISTANT CHIEF STEVE PETER**

**INSPECTOR NICK CICONE**

**INSPECTOR TAMMY STRAWN**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## CODE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION BUREAU

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### Annual Report 2019

The *mission* of the 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.

The Bureau has a staff of three State of Ohio Certified Fire Safety Inspectors. These inspectors must recertify every three years by completing required continuing education and are:

Assistant Chief Steve Peter (Bureau Chief)

Inspector Tammy Strawn (Retired Lorain Fire Fighter/Engineer)

Inspector Nick Cicone (Retired Avon Lake F.D. Lieutenant)

2019 was the 26<sup>th</sup> year that we have held a fire safety poster contest for all second and fourth grade students as part of our fall school fire safety programs. Awards were presented by Mayor Zilka and Superintendent Scott to six winners from each school at the awards ceremony held at the fire department and attended by the student's families. Our annual fall fire safety programs entail fire and life safety instruction to all five elementary schools K, first, second, third and fourth grade students as well as to preschool students.

Since 2003 the Bureau has played a large part in planning, coordinating and participating in the annual Open House/ Big Trucks event held in September. The bureau contacts the approximately 50 exhibitors several times during the planning phase of the event beginning in early May of each year and develops plans for the exhibitors set up locations and an action plan for the event.

The Residential Lock box program has been very well received over the years and we have installed over 380 of these units. We also periodically contact each location where a box has been installed to make certain the resident of record is still there and also that the key is still correct. We also periodically perform a maintenance check on each box.

### **BUREAU STAFF DUTIES**

Maintain an inventory of regulated properties defined by the Ohio Building Code

Code research

Conduct fire and life safety inspections of regulated properties

Conduct investigations of all fires and hazardous material releases

Complete plan reviews regarding fire and life safety for new and existing construction as well as fire detection, suppression and alarm systems.

Educate the general public as well as business and industry employees regarding fire safety, fire extinguisher use, severe weather, hazardous materials and life safety.



Issue permits per the Ohio Fire Code.

Monitor the acceptance testing of new fire detection, alarm and suppression 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 4<sup>th</sup> grade students attending public and private schools in the city. We also present programs to preschool students upon request and participate in Safety Town.

Plan and implement the annual Fire Safety Poster Contest and awards presentations for second and fourth grade students.

Develop public service announcements regarding fire safety, severe weather and health related issues.

Manage the residential address sign and File of Life programs.

Responsible for the installation, maintenance and records of residential lock boxes.

Perform regular maintenance of Knox Boxes installed at our request by business and industrial occupancies.

Participate in County Emergency Planning Committee and Emergency Operations Center.

Develop and update the city Disaster Plan.

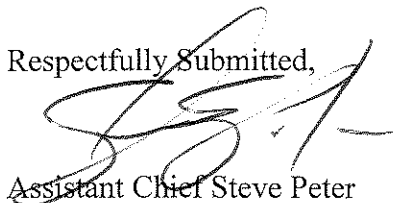
Continuing Education

## **2019 STATISTICS**

Inspections - Re-Inspections - Special Inspections – System Tests:	1043
Residential Lock Box Installs:	35
Knox and Lock Box Maintenance and updates to information:	345
Plan Reviews:	43
Adults instructed in fire-life safety and fire extinguisher use:	205
Youths given fire safety instruction	*1404

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Assistant Chief Steve Peter

# TRAINING AND OPERATIONS



**ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHN ROGERS**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## TRAINING & OPERATIONS

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### Annual Report 2019

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 studies through area Colleges and Universities, cooperative training exercises with local businesses and hospitals, and participation in Lorain County Emergency Response Teams.

The State of Ohio requires our personnel to renew their Firefighter II, Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Instructor, and Paramedic certifications every 3 years. In order to renew, everyone must complete a minimum number of Continuing Education training hours from sources approved by the State of Ohio.

Ensuring that all personnel complete the necessary training for certification renewal remains the core function of our training program. In addition to that, we also provide training opportunities that enhance our personnel's abilities to mitigate a broader range emergency situations such as water rescue, hazardous material release, and vehicle extrication.

#### **Annual Training Summary**

The following is a summary of recorded man-hours committed to training in 2019.

▪ Firefighting	1521
▪ Emergency Medical	1213
▪ Hazardous Materials	86
▪ Rescue	219
▪ Miscellaneous	393
<b>Total Training Man-Hours</b>	<b>3432</b>

Each of the three Platoons have included detailed information regarding training in their annual report sections.

## PLATOON OPERATIONS 2019

Our overall run volume remained nearly the same from 2018 (2820 runs) to 2019 (2834 runs). Rescue & EMS continue to represent the bulk of our service demand (62%).

In 2019 we transported EMS patients 1626 times to area medical facilities. Most patients went to Avon Richard E. Jacobs Emergency Department (74%). St. John Medical Center received 19% of our patients. The remaining 7% were transported to UH Avon, Mercy Regional Medical Center, Fairview Hospital, UH Elyria, and Cleveland Metro Hospital. Transport destination is mostly determined by patient preference.

84% of our EMS patients were 51 years or older. We responded to 392 Lift Assist requests in 2019. Lift Assist calls represented 14% of our run volume.

Our need for Automatic and Mutual Aid from surrounding fire departments has been decreasing over the past three years. In 2017 we utilized aid 66 times (2.5% of the run volume). In 2018 aid was utilized 58 times (2% of the run volume), and in 2019 aid was used 50 times (1.7% of the run volume).

False Alarm & Good Intent calls represented 16% of our run volume. And, fires in general continue to remain at 2% of our run volume.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Rogers', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Assistant Chief John Rogers

# PLATOON #1



**CAPTAIN ERIC WAGNER**

**LIEUTENANT CHRIS MCKAY**

**JON SCOTT**

**NICK GAMBELLIA (NOT PICTURED)**

**GARY MADEJ**

**ERIC ZMIJA**

**AARON EGUT**

**NICK KUS**

**KYLE URIG**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLATOON 1

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### Annual Report 2019

This report represents the significant shift activity of this platoon for the year 2019. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

#### **Emergency Response Summary**

In 2019 the department responded to 2834 calls which was an increase over 2018 and also a record high. Of those 2834 emergency and non-emergency calls Platoon 1 responded to 978 of them.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	018
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	619
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO	028
▪ Good Intent Calls	067
▪ Service Calls	149
▪ False Alarms	093
▪ Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	002
▪ Special Incident Type	002

<b>Total Emergency Calls</b>	<b>978</b>
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Platoon 1 responded to several house fires in the city as well as providing mutual aid to our neighboring communities. We were able to avoid major losses locally thanks to residents' timely notification and our ability to respond quickly. I am very proud of our paramedics' skill, professionalism and compassion on the over 600 emergency medical/rescue calls we responded too. We are very appreciative to the public for the many thank you notes and calls that we receive.

#### **Hydrant Work**

Firefighter Aaron Egut continues to keep hydrant records up to date and perform routine maintenance. He oversees the annual hydrant flushing program and reports problems to the water department.

## **Building and Grounds Maintenance**

General routine building and ground maintenance performed by the platoon includes general cleaning, vacuuming, window cleaning, simple maintenance; plowing snow and shoveling walks; replacing light bulbs; emptying drain oil, etc. We also participated in preparing the station for Big Trucks, poster awards, employee appreciation and other special events.

## **Public Relations**

As in past years the platoon assisted in the departments fire safety/education programs which include:

- Off-site talks and demonstrations
- Fire Prevention month participation at Avon Lake City Schools
- Residential smoke detector and battery replacement
- Fire Department tours and safety demonstrations
- On-site blood pressure tests for residents
- Hosted the Fire Safety Poster contest
- Car Seat installations

## **Training**

Throughout the year 2019 platoon 1 personnel participated in over 1000 hours of continuing education, which included classroom instruction, computer generated training, and hands on evolutions. All members of the platoon are dedicated to increasing knowledge and response capabilities in all facets of our profession and will continue to take advantage of all available training and continuing education made available to them. Below is a list of some of the training the platoon members participated in.

- The platoon had extrication training on our new battery operated tools and hands on extrication training with donated cars.
- Familiarization of local business with walk-thru and pre-plans.
- Continuing medical education and symposiums provided by WeShare.
- Several members attended classes for operations and leadership.
- Department/shift drills over numerous subjects such as standard operating procedures, rescue training, vehicle training and department operations.
- Lieutenant McKay continues to serve as a member of the Lorain County Fire Investigation Team along with Assistant Chief Peter. They attend training and



meetings throughout the year.

- Firefighter Nick Kus joined the Lorain County Hazmat Team with Firefighter Joe Harder. They attend monthly training with the team and responded to emergencies in Lorain County.
- Captain Eric Wagner and Firefighter Kyle Urig continue to serve as members of the Lorain County Technical Rescue Team. The team holds training at least once a month to stay proficient. Firefighter Urig attended a week long course in trench rescue and is now a Trench Rescue Coordinator for the team.
- Firefighter Zmija attended Street Smart Engine and Truck Operations and Firefighter Gamellia attended Single Engine Residential Firefighting at the State Fire School in Bowling Green.

### **Special Assignment**

Firefighter Gamellia was successful in his efforts to have the department meet the standards to become a State of Ohio accredited training site for emergency medical service continuing education. This accreditation will raise our level of training which in turn improves our service to the community.

Firefighter Zmija, is a member of the new EMS vehicle design committee. This committee was tasked with drawing up specifications and design for the new unit scheduled for purchase in 2020.

Firefighter Kus designed and built several training props designed to increase our proficiency in vehicle stabilization and extrication.

Lieutenant McKay and Firefighter Gamellia continue to provide CPR classes to the public.

Lieutenant McKay and Firefighter Gamellia were instrumental in starting the Fire Department's first Citizen Fire Academy.

Lieutenant McKay and Firefighter Urig served on the new engine committee. As members of the committee they researched and designed a fire engine that meets the unique needs of our community. The new engine, Engine 4, was placed in service on November 22nd.

### **Collateral assignments**

Captain Wagner oversees rescue operations and equipment. In 2019 the department purchased new rope rescue equipment. This purchase helped to streamline our rescue systems with more modern equipment and rescue techniques and replaced ropes and harnesses that were past their reasonable service life. Captain Wagner and Firefighters

Urig, Kus, Harder, Yonkof, Comley, Mercer attended an intensive training program provided by REVAC to hone their skills using the new equipment and systems. They in turn will disseminate this information to department personnel.

Lieutenant McKay continues to oversee the building maintenance and repair. Scheduling the preventative maintenance with the City Public Works department and several outside contractors. Lt. McKay is currently working on preparing our building for the future improvements and remodeling to fit our current needs.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Captain Eric Wagner

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

Lieutenant Chris McKay

# PLATOON #2



**CAPTAIN STEVE MARTI**(NOT PICTURED)

**LIEUTENANT BRIAN GILLES**

**JOHN NAKEL**(NOT PICTURED)

**BRIAN WOOD**

**RICH FRYGIER**

**ERIC YONKOF**

**FOREST MERCER**(NOT PICTURED) **MARCIN SROKA**

**CLAY KHOMA**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLATOON 2

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### Annual Report 2019

This report represents the significant shift activity of Platoon 2 for the year 2019. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

#### **Emergency Response Summary**

In 2019 Platoon 2 responded to the following emergency and non-emergency calls.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	016
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	555
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO	032
▪ Good Intent Calls	055
▪ Service Calls	138
▪ False Alarms	080
▪ Severe Weather	001

**Total Emergency Calls** 877

Platoon 2 responded to several structure fires not only in Avon Lake but also to our neighboring mutual aid communities. We were able to avoid major losses locally thanks to residents' prompt notification and our timely response. Our department has excellent paramedics and Platoon 2 is proud of our abilities and performance on the over 500 emergency medical/rescue calls Platoon 2 responded too in 2019. We have received numerous thank you notes and phone calls this past year from residents who were pleased with our service.

#### **Hydrant Work**

During the 2019 calendar year, Platoon 2 assisted the other platoons in flushing over 1600 hydrants to check for proper operation. Firefighter Wood has also been putting GPS coordinates on Active 911 with the assistance of Firefighter Sroka.

#### **Building and Grounds Maintenance**

General routine building and ground maintenance performed by Platoon 2 includes general cleaning, vacuuming, window cleaning, simple maintenance; plowing snow and shoveling walks; replacing light bulbs; emptying drain oil, etc. We also readied the station for Big Trucks, poster awards, employee appreciation and other special events.

## **Public Relations**

Throughout the year Platoon 2 worked with the entire department to promote fire safety and educate the public for a safer community including;

- Off-site talks and demonstrations
- Fire Prevention month participation at Avon Lake City Schools
- Residential smoke detector and battery replacement
- Fire Department tours and safety demonstrations
- Hosted Big Trucks
- Hosted the Fire Safety Poster contest
- Assisted with car seat installations
- Sunset with safety forces
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## **Training**

Throughout the year Platoon 2 members participated in over 1000 hours of continuing education, which included classroom instruction, computer generated training, and hands on evolutions. Some of the training that Platoon 2 completed are the following;

- Completion of Job Performance Requirements and probation for Firefighter Sroka
- Firefighter Sroka attended the Bowling Green State Fire School for Street Smart Fire Attack
- Fire Safety Inspector for Lieutenant Gilles
- Firefighter Khoma attended the Ohio Fire Academy for Pumps and Building Construction
- Firefighter Wood attended Advanced Dive training
- Firefighter Mercer attended Structural Collapse training with the Tech Rescue team
- Firefighters Mercer and Yonkof attended Rope rescue training
- The Platoon attended the Auto show Extrication class
- Platoon went through the Ohio Fire Academy Fire Blast trailer
- Familiarization of local business with walk-thru and pre-plans.
- Hands On Extrication Training with donated cars
- Several members attended classes for Operations and Leadership
- Department/shift drills over numerous subjects such as Standard Operating Guidelines, Rescue training, Vehicle training and Operations.

- Firefighter Yonkof attended the Bowling Green State Fire School for Single Engine Residential Fires – Pump Operations

### **Collateral assignments**

#### **Lorain County Technical Rescue Team**

Firefighter Mercer is a member of the team. He attends monthly training with the team as well as special operations training during the year that includes Trench Rescue, Water Rescue, Rope Rescue and Extrication Tactics. He was involved in several Tech team recalls this year.

#### **Dive Team**

Firefighter Wood is the lead for the Avon Lake Fire Department's Dive team. He maintains the equipment and coordinates with the county for training.

#### **Car Seats**

Lt. Gilles and Firefighter Frygier are certified car seat installers. They have been willing to help residents and non-residents get their car seats installed or check the seats to make sure seats are installed correctly. Usually, the department secretary schedules the appointments for the installs, but there have been times that they have been flexible by allowing people who could not make their appointment to come later in the day/evening or on weekends when they could make it.

#### **Department Wall Map**

Firefighter Wood continues to update the watch office wall map which shows street and hydrant locations as needed.

#### **Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team**

Firefighter Nakel continues to be on the Critical Stress Incident Debriefing team for the area police and fire departments. He attends meetings and annual training to help him be ready to assist with CSID. This is a valuable service because there are many calls that we respond to that are more stressful than the normal emergency.

#### **SCBA Maintenance**

Firefighter Mercer is in charge of maintaining the departments Self Contained Breathing Apparatus packs and breathing cylinders. Firefighter Khoma is now assisting him with this collateral duty. When possible repairs needed are done by these two individuals. If the needed repairs are beyond their expertise the affected equipment is sent out to a certified company.

#### **EMS Operations & Equipment**

Captain Marti is responsible for EMS Operations and Supplies. Maintenance of

equipment consists of keeping up to date on all drug & licensing requirements. Maintaining and servicing all medical monitoring equipment and telemetry. Ordering of medical supplies and monitoring inventories are also part of our program. He also assists other city departments with their AED annual checks and purchase.

Throughout the year, the Avon Lake Fire Department has been host to several organizations involving medical related functions. Platoon 2 assisted with paramedic students' field training through LCCC.

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

#### Special Committees

Firefighter Wood was a member of the new Engine 4 design committee and Firefighter Frygier is a member of the new EMS vehicle design committee. Truck committees detail the specifications and are responsible to inspect the vehicles for final delivery. Engine 4 was put into service this year and we expect to purchase the new EMS vehicle in 2020.

#### Information Technology and Radio Communication

Lieutenant Gilles is the lead for the departments Radio Communications and he also is the main point of contact for IT problems or purchases. Engine 4 radio was coordinated with Cleveland Communications. Radios installed were the Harris radio System. Portable Harris radios ordered for Car 3, Medic 10 and OIC. Harris radios have the ability to receive Westcom and Marc's radio signals from neighboring communities.

#### Special Projects

Firefighter Mercer assisted Captain Wagner and Firefighter Urig with the department's new purchase of rope rescue equipment. He also helped set up the various rope rescue bags for efficient deployment.

The department started a Wellness program in 2019 with Lt Brian Gilles supervising the program. The program has four different measuring tools, Agility, Education, Physical and Exercise. Approximately two thirds of department personnel are participating. We feel this program will be a benefit to all those who participate.

Respectfully Submitted,



Captain Steve Marti



Lieutenant Brian Gilles



# PLATOON #3



**CAPTAIN JAMES BERRY**

**LIEUTENANT GERALD KIMMELL**

**FRANK OGLE**

**COLE EICHENLAUB**

**MIKE ROWE**

**JOE HARDER**

**MARK WALTERS**

**MIKE COMLEY**

**MIKE PERTZ**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLATOON 3

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Captain James Berry

Lieutenant Jerry Kimmell

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### Annual Report 2019

Please accept the following as the Annual Report for Platoon 3. The report outlines significant shift activities for the year 2019, 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 979 emergency calls during the year 2019.

▪ Fire/Explosion	025
▪ EMS Calls/Rescue	596
▪ Hazardous Condition	038
▪ Service	166
▪ Good Intent	065
▪ False Calls	089
▪ Total Emergency Calls	979

#### **Routine Platoon Personnel Activities**

##### **Collateral Assignments**

In 2019, Platoon Officers Captain James Berry and Lieutenant Jerry Kimmell were tasked with specific areas of responsibility for the proper day-to-day functioning of the department. Daily projects were completed with the help of all platoon personnel in the following areas: vehicle inspection and maintenance, station details and upkeep, managing resources during emergency responses, and overseeing special teams and personnel within the department.

Lieutenant Kimmell is the apparatus officer and responsible for all apparatus within the department.

##### **Child Car Seat Installation**

Firefighter Joseph Harder maintains certification to install child safety seats in automobiles. This

popular program is not only an excellent public relations tool, but provides an invaluable service to our residents. During 2019, Firefighter Harder was responsible for 37 installations and/or inspections.

### **Hydrant Work**

Throughout 2019, platoon personnel worked with the rest of the department in flushing approximately 1600 fire hydrants checking for proper valve operation, adequate water supply and performing general maintenance.

### **Fire Prevention/Public Education**

Department Platoons assist the Fire Prevention and Public Education Divisions on a regular basis. Listed below are some of the specific activities this platoon performed in the year 2019.

- Off-site talks and demonstrations
- Fire Prevention month participation at Avon Lake City Schools
- Residential smoke detector and battery replacement
- Fire Department tours and safety demonstrations
- On-site blood pressure tests for residents
- Pre-plan fire safety inspections
- Smoke detector and battery installations

### **Non-Routine Platoon Personnel Activities**

#### **Lorain County Hazardous Material Team**

Firefighters Mark Walters and Joseph Harder are two 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 Walters is currently a certified Hazardous Materials Technician, and Firefighter Harder received his certification last year. The Team meets for two hours monthly to conduct organizational meetings and training drills. Firefighter Harder supported the multijurisdictional response to Oberlin for an unknown chemical substance that exposed multiple people across several locations, including a hospital emergency department. He was integral in the mitigation of the incident and evacuation of personnel from a hazardous area.

#### **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. As part of the team, he is also responsible for operation of the team's robots, and is certified on deploying distraction devices. Firefighter Rowe was the

recipient of the Ohio Tactical Officer's Association Life Saving Award in 2019 for providing medical care under fire to a critically injured SWAT team member.

### **Public Safety Rescue Diving**

Firefighter Cole Eichenlaub became an active member of the Lorain County Dive Team, performing underwater search, rescue, and recovery operations throughout Lorain County. The Dive Team trains year-round and members must successfully complete the International Association of Dive Rescue Specialists (IADRS) Watermanship test annually. Firefighter Eichenlaub obtained the following Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) certifications: Advanced Open Water Diver, Full Face Mask Diver, Dry Suit Diver, and Public Safety Diver. Firefighters Frank Ogle, Mike Rowe and Michael Pertz have been members of the Avon Lake Dive Team, and continue to support in city operations.

### **Education and Training**

In October, Firefighters Nick Gamellia, Eric Yonkof and Joe Harder attended the Single Engine Residential Fires Pump Operations Course at Bowling Green State University. During this training, they were able to practice multiple fire evolutions and learn new fire tactics from fire departments all over the country. Firefighters Nick Kus and Joseph Harder completed their Hazmat Technician training through Cleveland State University, and have joined the Lorain County Hazmat Team.

Lieutenant Kimmell received certification as a Fire Safety Inspector to assist in annual fire inspections of buildings and businesses, determine correctable fire hazards, and ultimately reduce the number of fires within our jurisdiction. He also completed Fire Officer I and II courses.

Firefighters Mike Rowe, Cole Eichenlaub, and Joseph Harder maintained certification as instructors for emergency medical services. This allows our own personnel to hold required EMS courses in house, reducing the number of hours outside instructors need to be brought in to provide required continuing education courses. Firefighter Harder is a certified fire instructor, allowing fire continuing education to be conducted on shift.

### **Metro Health Trauma Symposium**

In May of 2019, Platoon 3 responded to a call for vehicle versus bicycle. The personnel who responded to this particular call were Lieutenant Kimmell, Firefighters Michael Pertz, Frank Ogle, Mike Rowe and Michael Comley. Due to the patient's critical condition, they were transported by helicopter to Metro Health. This patient subsequently made a full recovery and returned to meet the members of Platoon 3 who were on the call.

The case was chosen by Metro Health to be featured in their annual trauma symposium in December of 2019. Firefighter Michael Pertz, along with all members of Platoon 3, presented the case to Metro Health's medical staff as a case study on proper patient management during traumatic accidents.

## **Fire Investigations**

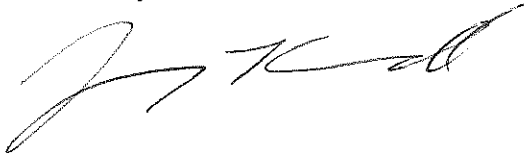
Captain Berry and Firefighters Ogle and Rowe hold special training in fire cause and determination. They are responsible for investigating fires in our city, determining the origin of a fire and the probable cause. This occurs for accidental fires, and in conjunction with the Avon Lake Police Department in the case of intentional fires.

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain James Berry

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Berry".

Lieutenant Jerry Kimmell

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry Kimmell".