

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**2020
ANNUAL REPORT**



GREGORY ZILKA – SAFETY DIRECTOR

JEREMY BETSA – FIRE CHIEF



AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF JEREMY BETSA



2020 Annual Report

Mayor Zilka and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Avon Lake Fire Department, it is my pleasure to submit the 2020 annual report.

The report will summarize and review the year 2020 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 2020 accomplishments. It will also contain a brief overview of the additional responsibilities of our dedicated members.

2020 started off as a typical year for the Avon Lake Fire Department. Run volume was consistent and our capital improvement projects were underway. February brought the reality of the deadly Coronavirus, COVID-19, and on March 9th Ohio reported the first 3 cases within our state borders. To protect our firefighters and our community members, I proactively and swiftly made the difficult decision to change the way we operate and interact with our community. On March 13th, 2020, I instituted these changes. The Bureau of Fire Prevention was essentially halted and outside persons without a necessary business purpose were restricted from entering the fire station, to include pausing car seat installation and building familiarization tours. The building was secured, and our members were mentally prepared to help fight this pandemic while protecting themselves from community members and our community members from them. They ensured that clean emergency medical equipment and vehicles were safely ready to respond to our community.

We pride ourselves and our department on the services we offer to our community that go above and beyond responding to emergencies. The community not having access to these services was a difficult reality for our department since one of our main goals was to increase our presence in the community. As the year progressed and we learned the ways the virus was transmitted and the ways to mitigate risks we have begun to safely reinstate portions of our community outreach programs. The Fire Prevention Bureau is again active, car seat installations are now being completed, and visitors to the Fire Station are allowed for essential purposes. Tours of the fire station and talks out in the community continue to be suspended. We will continue to evaluate how the impacts of the pandemic shape our presence in the community and continuously mold to meet their needs.

The COVID-19 Pandemic impacted more than just our community outreach. One of the primary concerns early in the pandemic was the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE). In early March, we asked local businesses and residents to donate PPE or cleaning supplies if they

were able, to help support our response to the pandemic. The overwhelming support we received from local businesses and residents was astonishing and it is incredibly humbling that the community that we support day to day really came through for us in our time of need. As the availability of PPE and cleaning supplies has become more abundant, we have managed to keep our members safe and our equipment clean. This would have been a difficult challenge to meet without the donations received in March and April.

The Fire Department was not immune to its members getting infected, as we are all living through a pandemic. Changes made as a result of this 100-year Pandemic will have a long-standing impact on the department for many years to come. PPE requirements for response to emergencies changed how our members physically prepare to meet the needs of the community. I am proud to say that these changes, although impactful for us, have had no negative impact on our response times or our on-scene times. The analysis of the time it takes for our members to respond to community events is the best way to quantify our services. The members of the Avon Lake Fire Department stepped up and continue to successfully respond to emergencies without impact to those we serve. Safety of our members is paramount as we need to continue answering emergency calls regardless of the nature or presence of disease.

Changes made to keep our community safe during this pandemic were also necessary. Portable equipment and specialized solutions were procured to allow comprehensive cleaning of the ambulances and equipment used during emergencies. UV disinfectant lights were also installed to assist with the decontamination of the ambulances. These two processes are completed in addition to our current cleaning regimen to keep our members and those who we interact with safe from acquiring illness related to exposure of contaminated equipment.

Another impact the pandemic and the subsequent shutdown brought was a temporary decrease in run volume. The decrease in run volume was a result of people staying in their homes and a widespread fear of going to the hospitals. This decrease in run volume early in the shutdown was appreciated both regionally and nationally. Run volume normalized as we saw the state begin to open back up.

The decrease in emergency calls during the COVID-19 shutdown demonstrated a negative impact on run volume compared to previous years. In 2020, we responded to 2,791 calls. This is a decrease of 43 runs, or 1.5% during 2020. About 77% of our run volume is related to Emergency Medical Service calls and lift assists. About 2% of our run volume is related to structure fires and the remaining 21% encompasses other types of emergencies, false alarms, and good intent calls.

There were no membership changes or new members added throughout the year, giving us great opportunity to grow together and strengthen internally. We've continued to shape the department into the progressive and capable department this community deserves, and we've set ourselves up for reaching our future goals.

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 utilizing 2021 to demonstrate the maximum potential of our members and 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 keep 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 explore the 2020 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Fire Chief Jeremy Betsa

2020 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

Annual Report 2020

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)

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone due to the pandemic of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. With the rapidly spreading virus, many of the yearly events that the Fire Prevention Bureau are involved in had to be altered or cancelled entirely. An integral piece of the fire prevention bureau, Inspector Nick Cicone, took a leave of absence from the fire department in February due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and did not return the entire year. Inspector Cicone has been a monumental fixture for the Avon Lake Fire Department since he was hired full time on July 9th 1973. Nick retired at the rank of Lieutenant from his full-time duties on September 1, 1997 only to return 10 months later as a parttime inspector and serve this city continuously ever since. Nearly 47 years of experience and service was greatly missed this year.

2020 was the 26th 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. Due to the pandemic the in-person award ceremony and presentations to the winners was put on hold. We are still hoping that Mayor Zilka and Superintendent Scott will be able to present the six winners from each school their awards at a ceremony in the near future and be able to be attended by the student's families.

Our annual fall fire safety programs were cancelled this year. This program normally entails fire and life safety instruction to all five elementary schools Kindergarten, first, second, third and fourth grade students as well as to preschool students. This program is greatly assisted by the on-duty fire personnel. Talks are normally conducted in each of the classrooms, while a fire safety trailer prop is toured by specific age groups to explain fire safety and hazards in the home.

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. Unfortunately, this was another casualty of the pandemic that had to be cancelled.

We continued with our Residential Lock box program which has been very well received over the years. This program is designed so that the Fire Department would have easy access to a homeowner's residence in the event that the home was locked and resident unable to open it. We

have now installed over 400 of these units to date. We also periodically contact each location where a box has been installed to make certain the resident of record is still living there, perform a maintenance check on each box there, and check that the key is still functions correctly.

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 4th 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

2020 STATISTICS

Inspections - Re-Inspections - Special Inspections – System Tests:	962
Residential Lock Box Installs:	21
Plan Reviews:	38

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Assistant Chief Steve Peter

TRAINING AND OPERATIONS



ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHN ROGERS

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING & OPERATIONS

Annual Report 2020

The State of Ohio requires our personnel to renew their Firefighter II, Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Instructor, Paramedic 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 of emergency situations such as water rescue, hazardous material release, and vehicle extrication.

In the years prior to 2020, fire department personnel participated in various types of training performed both in-house and outside of the department. During the 2020 pandemic nearly all outside training opportunities were canceled. Consequently, there was a decrease in the number of training hours completed in 2020.

Annual Training Summary

The following is a summary of recorded man-hours committed to training in 2020.

▪ Firefighting	1202
▪ Emergency Medical	918
▪ Hazardous Materials	2
▪ Rescue	119
▪ Miscellaneous	25
Total Training Man-Hours	2266

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

PLATOON OPERATIONS 2020

Our overall run volume decreased slightly (1.5%) from 2019 (2934 runs) to 2020 (2791 runs).

Rescue & EMS continue to represent the bulk of our service demand (62%). We responded to 420 Lift Assists request in 2020. List Assist calls represented 15% of our run volume and when combined with Rescue & EMS calls account for 77% of our call volume.

In 2020 we transported EMS patients 1501 times to area medical facilities. Most patients went to Avon Richard E. Jacobs Emergency Department (80%). St. John Medical Center received 18% of our patients. The remaining 2% 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.

80% of our EMS patients were 51 years or older.

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), in 2019 aid was used 50 times (1.7% of the run volume), and in 2020 aid was used 43 times (1.5% of the run volume).

False Alarm & Good Intent calls represented 15% of our run volume. And, fires in general continue to remain at 2% of our run volume.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Annual Report 2020

This report represents the significant shift activity of this platoon for the year 2020. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

In 2020 the department responded to 2791 calls. Of those 2791 emergency and non-emergency calls Platoon 1 responded to 921 of them.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	022
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	594
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO	020
▪ Good Intent Calls	056
▪ Service Calls	150
▪ False Alarms	077
▪ Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	0
▪ Special Incident Type	002

Total Emergency Calls 921

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 almost 600 emergency medical/rescue calls we responded too. We appreciate the public for the many thank you notes and calls that we received.

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.

Public Relations

Sadly, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we were unable to participate in events such as Big Trucks, poster awards, Employee Appreciation Day, Citizen Fire Academy and other special events at the firehouse. We continue to provide vital services such as residential smoke detector installation and battery replacement and car seat installation during the pandemic.

Training

Throughout the year Platoon 1 personnel continued to participate in training while adhering to COVID 19 safety requirements. This training 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.

- Familiarization of local business with walk-thru of outside areas.
- Extensive training on the new fire engine that entered service in November of 2019.
- 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 continues to serve as a member on the Lorain County Hazmat Team with Firefighter Joe Harder. They attend monthly training with the team and responded to emergencies in Lorain County.
- Firefighter Kus attended the Ohio State Fire School Engine and Truck Operations course along with Firefighter Sroka.
- Captain Eric Wagner and Firefighter Kyle Urig served as members of the Lorain

County Technical Rescue Team. Firefighter Urig is a Trench Rescue Coordinator for the team.

Special Assignment

Firefighter Gamellia's forethought in meeting the requirements to make the department a State of Ohio accredited training site for emergency medical service continuing education benefitted the department during the pandemic allowing us to provide continuing education to our members without leaving the station or bringing in outside instructors.

Lieutenant McKay with the help of platoon 1 researched and tested new replacement hose. Three companies brought hose to the station for inspection and hands on testing. A capital improvement request was made and the new hose is expected to be purchased in 2021. This new hose will provide greater performance and efficiency during fire suppression operations.

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 ambulance scheduled for delivery in 2021.

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 instruct CPR classes.

Collateral assignments

Captain Wagner continues to oversee rescue operations and equipment.

Lieutenant McKay continues to oversee the building maintenance and repair. Scheduling the preventative maintenance with the City Public Works department and several outside contractors.

Respectfully Submitted,



Captain Eric Wagner



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

Annual Report 2020

This report represents the significant shift activity of Platoon 2 for the year 2020. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

In 2020 Platoon 2 responded to the following emergency and non-emergency calls.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	26
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	574
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks	29
▪ Good Intent Calls	54
▪ Service Calls	180
▪ False Alarms	71
▪ Severe Weather	1

Total Emergency Calls 935

Platoon 2 responded to 13 structure fires inside the city and as mutual aid to our neighboring communities. We were able to avoid major losses locally thanks to residents calling and our timely response. There were also 3 water rescues that we assisted with. Our department has excellent paramedics and Platoon 2 is proud of our abilities and performance on over 600 emergency medical/rescue calls we responded too. We received numerous thank you notes/calls from residents who were pleased with our service.

COVID Pandemic

2020 presented unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic. We were adjusting almost daily in the beginning with changes in medical protocols and our approach to patient care. We went from wearing surgical mask for some calls that were potentially COVID to wearing N95 mask and eye protection for every call. Our platoon transported the first patient that was found to be COVID positive in the city and who subsequently died from pneumonia. The fear of the unknown added to the stress of our job because we didn't want to bring it back to the firehouse and then back to our own families. Supply shortages made it even more stressful but we were fortunate to get some supplies donated from local businesses and locate suppliers who were not out of stock. We have been lucky that only a few of us contracted the virus and were able to recover from it. Several

members did have to quarantine due to exposures to protect ourselves and our families. Hopefully in 2021 the situation improves.

Hydrant Work

During the 2020 calendar year, Platoon 2 assisted the other platoons in flushing over 1600 hydrants to check for proper operation. Firefighter Wood finished 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 poster awards, employee appreciation and other special events.

Public Relations

Throughout the year 2020 Platoon 2 worked with the entire department to promote fire safety and educate the public for a safer community including. This was greatly reduced due to the pandemic.

- Residential smoke detector and battery replacement
- Assisted with Car seat installations
- Education thru means of social media

Training

2020 saw less training with outside agencies due to classes being cancelled due to the pandemic. We did manage to get some training done via online course and also the following classes:

- Firefighter Sroka attended the Bowling Green State Fire School for Ropes training
- Firefighter Wood had Dive training this year with the county team.
- Continuing Medical Education and Symposiums
- Hands on Extrication Training with donated cars
- Several members attended classes for Operations and Leadership
- Department/shift drills over numerous subjects such as SOG, Rescue training, Vehicle training and 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 include 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 continued to keep the watch office map updated which shows new housing developments, streets, and hydrant locations updated 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

FF Mercer is in charge of maintaining the departments SCBA packs and breathing cylinders. FF Mercer checks proper SCBA seals of every mask in the dept with yearly fit testing. Firefighter Khoma is assisting him with this collateral. They either make the repairs them or send them out to certified vendors as needed.

EMS Operations & Equipment

Captain Marti is responsible for EMS Operations and Supplies. Firefighter Yonkof assist him with this responsibility. 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. This was especially taxing when it came to the pandemic supplies and the strain it put on the supply chain globally. We had to make sure that we had the correct equipment and disinfecting supplies for the situation.

Captain Marti also assist other city departments with their AED annual checks and purchase. Throughout the year, the Avon Lake Fire Department has been hosting 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 Frygier is a member of the new Squad committee. Truck committees detail the specifications and are responsible to inspect trucks for final delivery. We have ordered a new squad in 2020 and expect delivery by spring of 2021.

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. Target Solutions was updated to keep track of building maintenance as well as vehicle. New inventories of hose, radios, and SCBA are tracked and maintained in Target Solutions.

Special Projects

Firefighter Mercer assisted Captain Wagner in setting up the new rope rescue equipment. The new rope rescue bags are set up with the Petzl ID for rapid deployment for rope rescue. The equipment gives the dept safe and rapid set up to descend and retrieve injured or trapped victims.

FF Frygier was integral in the new Infrared UV decontamination lights upgraded in the ambulances. The new UV lights help to kill the COVID and flu virus along with other bacteria and germs. The UV lights are important for the safety of our patients and our department.

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

Captain James Berry

Lieutenant Jerry Kimmell

Annual Report 2020

Please accept the following as the Annual Report for Platoon 3. The report outlines significant shift activities for the year 2020, 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 933 emergency calls during the year 2020.

▪ Fire/Explosion	016
▪ EMS Calls/Rescue	568
▪ Hazardous Condition	032
▪ Service	159
▪ Good Intent	065
▪ False Calls	092
▪ Severe Weather	001
▪ Total Emergency Calls	933

Routine Platoon Personnel Activities

Collateral Assignments

In 2020, 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, assisted by Firefighter Frank Ogle and is responsible for all apparatus within the department. All apparatus was sprayed with corrosion control this year. Minor repairs and maintenance issues are handled in house by Ogle. Major repairs and annual maintenance/testing are sent out to qualified repair facilities.

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 2020, Firefighter Harder was responsible for numerous installations and/or inspections.

Hydrant Work

Throughout 2020, 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 2020.

- 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

Firefighter Joseph Harder 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. Firefighter Harder is currently a certified Hazardous Materials Technician. The Team meets for two hours monthly to conduct organizational meetings and training drills.

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.

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, Firefighter Michael Comley attended the Street Smart Truck Operations Course at Bowling Green State University. During this training, he was able to practice multiple fire evolutions and learn new fire tactics from fire departments all over the country.

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 also a certified fire instructor. Last year he conducted training classes/drills in PPE and SCBA, hose line deployment and ground ladder evolutions.

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



Lieutenant Jerry Kimmell