

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**2023
ANNUAL REPORT**



MAYOR MARK SPÄETZEL – SAFETY DIRECTOR

JEREMY BETSA – FIRE CHIEF



AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF JEREMY BETSA



2023 Annual Report

Mayor Spaetzel and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Avon Lake Fire Department, it is my pleasure to submit the 2023 annual report.

The report will summarize and review the year 2023 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 2023 accomplishments. It will also contain a brief overview of the additional responsibilities of our dedicated members.

Despite the pandemic halting most activities in recent years, we are happy to report that all programs and community involvement is back to normal, pre-pandemic levels. Being able to have the public in the building allows us to continue car seat installations, fire station tours, CPR classes, school safety talks, and outside interactions to plan community events. We were able to host the annual poster safety contest in 2023 and look forward to this event each fall for many years to come. Big Trucks has continued for the second year and continues to be one of the most anticipated community events the department participates in.

2024 brings the challenge of the total solar eclipse on April 8th, 2024. The Fire Department, along with all city departments, having spent most of 2023 planning for this event to occur. This looks to be one of the largest events Avon Lake will hold for decades to come. The Fire Department is well positioned to be ready for the large influx of visitors and will ensure the fire and life safety of all residents and visitors during this historic event.

The dedicated members of our department continued to meet and exceed goals set for response to the community. 2023 brought record run numbers with the total at 3,334, representing a 1.6% increase in run volume. With the increasing work load, our members were able to decrease overall response times to the community. I am proud of our average response time that stands at 5 minutes and 12 seconds. That means from the time the call is dispatched to our department and the time we arrive on scene is under the standard of 5 minutes and 30 seconds. We continue to rely less on outside departments for response into our community due to swift turn around times and our members dedication to staff the department.

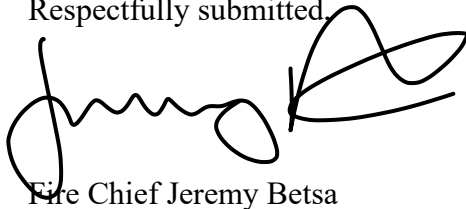
During the year 2023, we faced challenges with vehicle replacement that has changed how we plan for purchases. During the year 2023 we placed orders for two vehicle replacements. The first vehicle to be purchased was in April of 2023 and will replace our aging Ladder Truck, Ladder 11. The Ladder Truck was put into service in 1996 and is scheduled for replacement in 2026. Due to manufacturers having difficulty keeping up with the volume of orders, this vehicle was purchased in 2023 with hopes of delivery in 2026. We have also placed an order for replacement of our Platoon Officer in Charge vehicle, known as Car 3. This vehicle services as the command vehicle for the daily response to emergencies in Avon Lake. We look forward to this vehicle being in service prior to the end of 2024. Two years ago, we placed an order for an ambulance to replace a 2008 vehicle. We strive to have about 12 years out of a vehicle and we have been overdue for replacement of Medic 9. We expect this vehicle to arrive in the summer of 2024. As the challenges brought around vehicle replacement bring forward planning and ordering, we will ensure our vehicles remain response ready for Avon Lake.

2023 brought changes to our staffing due to a change in overall total staffing. 2022 allowed us to add 3 Firefighter/Paramedics to include Brandon Sauer, Brandon Bement, and Will Hoyett. We also hired Matt Sullivan due to a retirement in 2022. 2023 again allowed us to add 3 Firefighter/Paramedics to put our response Platoon strength at 11 members. The 3 new hires in 2023 include Ben Kowall, Mike Hein, and Cutter Briggs.

These additional hires bring us closer to where staffing levels need to be for the increase in run volume we continue to see. I appreciate the support of the administration and Council for allowing the department to grow with the community expectations.

It is my honor to lead this Fire Department into the next year with the hopes of exceeding all expectations. Please explore the 2023 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 stylized flourish at the end.

Fire Chief Jeremy Betsa

2023 STAFFING

CHIEF JEREMY BETSA

OPERATIONS – TRAINING

Assistant Chief Steve Peter

PLATOON #1

Capt. Eric Wagner

Lt. Forest Mercer

FF/Medics

John Nakel

Mike Rowe

Mike Pertz

Kyle Urig

Nick Gamellia

Eric Zmija

Nick Kus

Matt Sullivan

Ben Kowall

PLATOON #2

Capt. Steve Marti

Lt. Brian Gilles

FF/MEDICS

Gary Madej

Rich Frygier

Clayton Khoma

Joe Harder

Eric Yonkof

Patrick Furnas

Brandon Sauer

Will Hoyett

Mike Hein

PLATOON #3

Capt. Jim Berry

Lt. Aaron Egut

FF/MEDICS

Frank Ogle

Mark Walters

Brian Wood

Cole Eichenlaub

Mike Comley

Marcin Sroka

Kevin Lemmer

Brandon Bement

Cutter Briggs

CODE ENFORCEMENT – PUBLIC EDUCATION

Captain Chris McKay


Inspector Tammy Strawn

Inspector Glen Netkowocz

SECRETARY – RECORDS

Kristin Gomez

VEHICLES



CAR #1	-----	2016 FORD EXPLORER*
CAR #2	-----	2014 FORD ESCAPE**
CAR #3	-----	2012 FORD EXPEDITION***
CAR #00	-----	2013 FORD EXPLORER****
ENGINE #4	-----	2019 PIERCE
ENGINE #5	-----	2010 PIERCE
RESCUE #6	-----	2017 FORD EXPEDITION
RESCUE #7	-----	2002 PIERCE
MEDIC #8	-----	2020 FREIGHTLINER
MEDIC #9	-----	2008 INTERNATIONAL
MEDIC #10	-----	2015 FREIGHTLINER
LADDER #11	-----	1996 KME
MAINT #12	-----	2015 FORD F-250

Chief *

Assistant Chief **

Command ***

Fire Marshal/Fire Prevention ****

TRAINING AND OPERATIONS



ASSISTANT CHIEF STEVE PETER

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING & OPERATIONS

Annual Report 2023

In 2023 we had several initiatives that consumed a lot of time and effort for training and operations of this department. One of these initiatives was the switch over to a new Electronic Patient Care Reporting System (EPCR) that Lorain County is working to roll out and to be used by all EMS departments. Avon Lake Fire Department agreed to be the first department to start on this software and was tasked to work with software company and Lorain County 911 to identify issues and to get it functioning appropriately for the region.

Along with the EPCR, Lorain County is in the process of integrating multiple software platforms that will aid departments to their incident response. Avon Lake Fire Department took the lead on much of this development as our fire department has been using some of these software components independently and have been working with Lorain County 911 to implement it.

Strides have been made in the re-implementation of an Incident Command system known as Blue Card. We have sent a portion of our officers and lead men to get the formal training in 2023 and we will expand to more of our personnel over the next several years. This is a program that is used and taught by several local departments and will be used as the incident command response system throughout Lorain County.

In March 2023, we hosted the State Fire Marshal's office and surrounding communities to be trained on the State of Ohio Fire Reporting System.

In May 2023 we brought out the Ohio Fire Academy's "Search and Rescue" trainer semi. We had the trailer for three full days and trained with several surrounding fire departments including Lorain, Elyria, Avon, Sheffield Village and Sheffield Lake. This search and rescue trailer along with several other props put together by members of this department provided many hours of joint training.

In September 2023 we also brought out the Ohio Fire Academy's "Blast Trailer" along with their instructors. Once again, we opened the training opportunity to outside fire departments and had several of them took advantage of it. This gives firefighters some real fire exposure under controlled settings.

The State of Ohio requires our personnel to renew their Firefighter II, Paramedic, EMS Instructor, Fire Instructor, and Fire Safety Inspector 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.

The following is a summary of recorded man-hours committed to training in 2023.

- Continuing Education 1047
 - Continuing Education represents training for EMS state certifications
 - Professional Development 2227
 - Professional Development represents various classes for Fire, Haz Mat, Arson, technical rescue, Dive, Safety inspector, Blue Card, Admin etc..
- Total Training Man-Hours 3274**

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

PLATOON OPERATIONS 2021

Our overall run volume increased 1.6% from 3279 calls in 2022, to 3334 in 2023.

EMS and Rescue continue to represent the bulk of our service demand (60%).

We responded to 455 request that were not transported to any facility in 2023. Non transport calls represented 18% of our EMS run volume, and when combined with Rescue & EMS calls account for 73% of our total call volume.

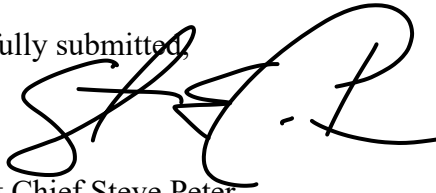
In 2023 we had an 7% increase in the number of EMS patients transported (from 1848 to 1980) to area medical facilities. 83.7% (1658) of our patients were transported to Avon Richard E. Jacobs Emergency Department. St. John Medical Center received 15.2% (301) of our patients. The remaining 1.1% (21) were transported to Fairview General Hospital, Mercy Regional Medical Center, UH Elyria and Cleveland Metro Hospital. Transport destination is mostly determined by patient preference.

False Alarm & Good Intent calls represented 14% of our run volume. And actual fires in represent around 1.5% of our total run volume.

Our need for Automatic and Mutual Aid from surrounding fire departments had been decreasing over the past decade and has stabilized between 1-2% of run volume. For 2023 there was 47 request which represents 1.4% of total run volume.

For mutual aid requested from Avon Lake to the surrounding departments was 133 requests which represents 4% of our total run volume.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Peter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Assistant Chief Steve Peter

CODE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION



CAPTAIN CHRIS MCKAY

INSPECTOR TAMMY STRAWN

INSPECTOR GLEN NETKOWICZ

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CODE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION BUREAU

Annual Report 2023

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:

Captain Chris McKay (Fire Marshal)

Inspector Tammy Strawn (Retired Lorain Fire Fighter/Engineer)

Inspector Glenn Netkowicz (Retired Westlake Fire Fighter)

Avon Lake Independence Day celebration with Fireworks is celebrated every July at Weiss Field. The Fire Prevention Bureau plans with the Fire Works Company and the pyrotechnicians with sight discharge location, delivery, set up, and detonation of the Fireworks. This past year there was an additional Fireworks show held at the Avon Lake High School on Sept 8th post the Avon Lake High School Football game. Both shows were a great success.

2023 was the 29th year that we have held the fire safety poster contest for all second and fourth grade students as part of our fall school fire safety programs. Mayor Zilka and Superintendent Magyar were able to present the awards to the six winners from each school at the in-school ceremonies.

Our annual fall fire safety programs took place inside of the school to conduct our annual Fire Safety school talks. 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 several preschool programs were all able to receive these talks. This program is 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 the 3rd grade to explain fire safety and hazards in the home. The Fire Safety trailer is owned by Lorain County Fire Chiefs' Association and is stored at Carlisle Twp Fire Station.

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 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. We had an excellent turnout of visitors/residents, exhibitors, city departments, metro life flight and multiple food trucks.

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 the resident was 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.

Mobile food truck operations are a vast growing industry in Northeast Ohio and has become much more prevalent in Avon Lake. Mobile Food trucks are regulated by the Ohio Department of Commerce, they need to be registered with the City of Avon Lake to operate business here and complete a Fire Safety Inspection by the Fire Department. Mobile food trucks, by nature, are only here sporadically when they are conducting their operations. This makes it a need to have them inspected each time they set up to operate their businesses. This does not matter whether it is a public or private event. This year we had 35 different mobile food trucks that registered with the city.

The City of Avon Lake has taken on the building and fire code responsibility of the new Ford Plant that is being built in the city of Sheffield Village. The Fire Prevention Bureau has spent a lot of time on this project and has been working closely with the Avon Lake Building Department. including multiple meetings with Ford members, contractors, county/city officials planning and conducting inspections. We have been on sight at the new Ford construction sight over 50 times

2023

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

2023 STATISTICS

Inspections - Re-Inspections - Special Inspections – System Tests:	1165
Residential Lock Box Installs:	22
Plan Reviews:	30
Food Truck Registrations:	35

Respectfully Submitted,



Captain Christofer McKay

PLATOON #1



CAPTAIN ERIC WAGNER

LIEUTENANT FOREST MERCER

JOHN NAKEL

NICK GAMELLIA

MIKE ROWE

ERIC ZMIJA

MIKE PERTZ

NICK KUS

KYLE URIG

MATT SULLIVAN

BEN KOWALL

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 1

Annual Report 2023

This report represents the significant shift activity of platoon 1 for the year 2023. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

In 2023 the department responded to 3334 calls. Of those 3334 emergency and non-emergency calls Platoon 1 responded to 1124 of them.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	18
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	786
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO	29
▪ Good Intent Calls	86
▪ Service Calls	113
▪ False Alarms	91
▪ Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	0
▪ Special Incident Type	1

Total Emergency Calls 1124

Platoon 1 responded to several house fires in the city as well as outside the city providing mutual aid to our neighboring communities. I am proud of our platoon's skill, professionalism and compassion on many emergency medical/rescue calls we responded too. We appreciate the many thank you notes and calls that we received from our residents.

Hydrant Work

Platoon 1 flushed and serviced over 1/3 of the city's fire hydrants.

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

Platoon 1 members participated in events such as Big Trucks, Employee Appreciation Day, Citizen Fire Academy, community CPR classes, station tours, Fire prevention school presentations and other special events at the firehouse. We also have continued to provide vital services such as residential smoke detector installation and battery replacement and car seat installation.

Training

Throughout the year Platoon 1 personnel continued our mission to continually improve our knowledge, skills, and abilities. This training included classroom instruction, computer generated training and hands on training. 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. In 2019 Firefighter Nick Gamellia took the initiative and made our department a State of Ohio accredited training site for emergency medical service continuing education. This has helped us to keep up on our training in-house while our increasing run volume makes it challenging to get outside training. Below is a list of some of the training the platoon members participated in.

- Familiarization of local business by walk throughs, noting hazard areas and fire suppression systems.
- Firefighters Nick Gamellia and Mike Rowe conduct regular continuing education training for department members.
- Platoon Members participated in vehicle extrication training with donated vehicles while on duty.
- Platoon Members participated in live fire training using the Ohio Fire Academy Fire Blast Training simulator.
- Platoon members participated in Active Shooter drills in North Olmsted along with other area departments.
- Department/shift drills over numerous subjects such as standard operating procedures, rescue training, vehicle training and department operations.
- As members of the Lorain County Technical Rescue Team Lieutenant Mercer and Firefighter Urig attend monthly trainings and respond to emergencies in Lorain County.
- 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.
- Firefighters Gamellia and Kowall attended the Fire Expo Conference in Columbus, OH for both classroom lecture and hands on training opportunities.

- Lieutenant Mercer attended class and was certified as a Fire and Life Safety Inspector as well as Blue Card Command.
- Captain Wagner attended class and was certified as a Fire and Life safety officer.

Special Assignment

Lieutenant Mercer and Firefighter Urig continue to serve as members of the Lorain County Technical Rescue Response Team. Firefighter Urig also serves as a Trench Rescue Coordinator for the team.

Firefighter Nick Kus serves as a member of the county HAZMAT team.

Firefighter Nakel serves as a member of the Westshore Critical Incident Response Service.

Firefighter Rowe serves as a medic on the Lorain County Swat Team and attends regular trainings and responds to emergencies.

Firefighter Zmija serves the community as a certified car seat installer.

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

Firefighter Gamellia continues to instruct CPR classes for city employees and residents.

Firefighter Gamellia also assisted the department with hosting its second Citizens Fire Academy.

Collateral assignments

Captain Wagner oversees rescue operations and equipment.

Lieutenant Mercer oversees the building maintenance and repair. Scheduling the preventative maintenance with the City Public Works department and several outside contractors. He also oversees the department respiratory protection program and SCBA's.

Respectfully Submitted,



Captain Eric Wagner



Lieutenant Forest Mercer

PLATOON #2



CAPTAIN STEVE MARTI

LIEUTENANT BRIAN GILLES

GARY MADEJ

ERIC YONKOF

RICH FRYGIER

PATRICK FURNAS

CLAY KHOMA

BRANDON SAUER

JOE HARDER

WILL HOYETT

MIKE HEIN

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 2

Annual Report 2023

This report represents the significant shift activity of Platoon 2 for the year 2023. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

In 2023 Platoon 2 responded to the following emergency and non-emergency calls.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	14
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	747
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks	25
▪ Good Intent Calls	75
▪ Service Calls	145
▪ False Alarms	88

Total Emergency Calls	1094
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Platoon 2 responded to 4 structure fires inside the city and as mutual aid to our neighboring communities. One of which was a serious apartment fire in the city with a rescue of 2 citizens from the 3rd floor above the fire apartment. We also responded to hazardous materials semi-truck trailer that was on fire at Geon and with the assistance of Lubrizol's ERT and Lorain County Hazmat we handled the situation. There was also fire that involved High power lines that we were able to knock down before it spread even though power was not secure for over an hour after the incident began. We were able to avoid major losses locally thanks to residents calling and our timely response. There were also 2 water rescues that we assisted with. Our department has excellent paramedics and Platoon 2 is proud of our abilities and performance on over 700 emergency medical/rescue calls we responded to. Including saving 2 people from cardiac arrest and many others from critical emergencies. We received numerous thank you notes/calls from residents who were pleased with our service.

Hydrant Work

During the 2023 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 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 2023 Platoon 2 worked with the entire department to promote fire safety and educate the public for a safer community including.

- Residential smoke detector and battery replacement
- Car seat installations and education
- Education thru means of social media and in once again in person.
- Tours of the station have begun again as well
- On site blood pressure checks for the public
- Some of our platoon taught CPR to residents
- Big Trucks expo was on our shift

Training

We were able to resume in person training as well as utilize online training.

- Capt Marti, Lt Gilles, FF Madej and FF Frygier attended Blue Card training.
- Ohio Fire Academy Blast trailer for the platoon
- FF Furnas attended FDIC for training.
- FF Sauer and Hoyett attended Fire House expo where they had hands on training for 2 days and 3 days of lectures.
- FF Harder and Yonkof attended Northeast Ohio Fire Arson seminar.
- Firefighter Khoma had Dive training this year with the county team.
- FF Hoyett became a CPR instructor.
- CEI live power training trailer for the platoon
- PALS re-certification

- 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.

New Probationary Firefighter Paramedic

In 2023, Firefighters Brandon Sauer and William Hoyett were trained and signed off on their JPR's. Every member of the platoon contributed to their development as members of the team. They are fully capable firefighters and have performed well for our department.

Collateral assignments

Dive Team

Firefighter Khoma is Dive team tender for the Lorain County Dive team. He attends training and responds to call outs for the county.

Car Seats

Lt. Gilles, Firefighter Harder 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.

Lorain County Hazmat team

Firefighter Harder is a member of the Lorain County Hazardous Material emergency response team. He attends monthly training and responds to emergency call outs.

Lorian County Arson investigators.

Firefighters Yonkof and Harder are members of the county team and attend meetings, training and respond as needed. They assist our Chief Peter and Captain McKay in cause and determination for our city fires.

SCBA Maintenance

Firefighter Khoma is assisting Lt. Mercer from Platoon 1 with SCBA maintenance and Fit testing mask. They either make the repairs to them or send them out to certified vendors as needed. This year, the department received new Scott SCBAs that FF Khoma assisted getting into service and training our platoon on the proper use of the updated

SCBAs.

EMS Operations & Equipment

Captain Marti is responsible for EMS Operations and Supplies. Firefighter Yonkof assists 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 year we were able to replace some of our AEDs in the city and department this year. Captain Marti also assisted other city departments with their AED annual checks and purchases. 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.

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. We have been in the process of upgrading our MDTs and radios this year.

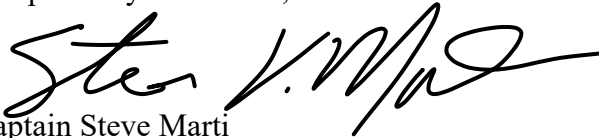
Special Committees

Firefighter Frygier was a member of the new Squad committee. We hope to take delivery of the new squad in Summer of 2024.

Firefighter Yonkof was a member of the committee for new Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment. They compared quality and cost of different manufacturers for our replacement gear.

Firefighter Sauer started the process of upgrading our vehicle exhaust removal system. Brandon Sauer started the process while attending the Firehouse Expo in Columbus. The new system will be put in for approval in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,



Captain Steve Marti



Lieutenant Brian Gilles

PLATOON #3



CAPTAIN JAMES BERRY

LIEUTENANT AARON EGUT

FRANK OGLE

MIKE COMLEY

MARK WALTERS

MARCIN SROKA

BRIAN WOOD

KEVIN LEMMER

COLE EICHENLAUB

BRANDON BEMENT

CUTTER BRIGGS

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 3

Captain James Berry

Lieutenant Aaron Egut

Annual Report 2023

Please accept the following as the Annual Report for Platoon 3. The report outlines significant shift activities for the year 2023, 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 1116 emergency calls during the year 2023.

▪ Fire/Explosion	18
▪ EMS Calls/Rescue	860
▪ Hazardous Condition	32
▪ Service	57
▪ Good Intent	75
▪ False Calls	73
▪ Severe Weather	1
▪ Total Emergency Calls	1116

Routine Platoon Personnel Activities

Collateral Assignments

In 2023, Platoon Officers Captain James Berry and Lieutenant Aaron Egut 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 Egut is the apparatus officer, assisted by Firefighter Frank Ogle and is responsible for all apparatus within the department. All apparatus were sprayed with corrosion control this year. Firefighter Frank Ogle handled minor repairs and maintenance issues in house. Major repairs and annual maintenance/testing were sent out to qualified repair facilities.

Hydrant Work

Throughout 2023, 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 2023.

- 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

Non-Routine Platoon Personnel Activities

Public Safety Rescue Diving

Firefighters Cole Eichenlaub, Brian Wood, and Brandon Bement are active members 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 Michael Comely serves as a dive tender and participates within the public safety dive team in a non-diving roll.

Squad Committee

Firefighter Eichenlaub worked as part of the squad committee to finalize the specifications for the new ambulance and conduct inspections throughout the build to ensure the community will have another apparatus that will provide reliable service for many years to come. The new squad is expected to be delivered in the summer of 2024.

GIS

Firefighter Wood continues to keep the department's map up to date with new streets and developments and in 2023 he integrated the GPS location of the city's fire hydrants into our New World software.

Education and Training

In addition to regular on duty fire, rescue, and ems training, platoon members attended the following specialized classes:

Captain Berry attended the Northern Ohio Arson Seminar, the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Officer Development Conference, and Firehouse Expo. Lieutenant Egut completed Fire Safety Inspector certification. Firefighters Wood, Eichenlaub, and Comley attended the Metro Life Flight Critical Care Symposium. Captain Berry, Lieutenant Egut, and Firefighter Walters attended Blue Card Command training. Firefighter Lemmer completed Fire Instructor certification. All members completed additional training in railroad hazardous materials management, active shooter incident management, and lithium-ion battery incident management. All members participated in the Ohio Fire Academy's search and rescue lab.

Firefighters Cole Eichenlaub and Brandon Bement maintain certification as instructors for emergency medical services. This allows our own personnel to hold the required EMS courses in house, reducing the number of hours outside instructors need to be brought in to provide required continuing education courses.

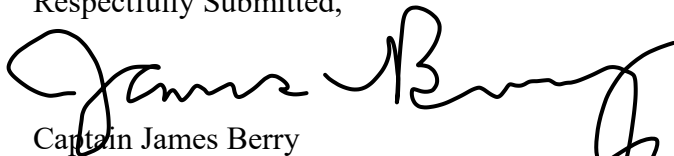
Retirements, Promotions, and New Hires

Platoon strength increased to 11 personnel with Cutter Briggs being sworn in as a probationary firefighter on December 12th, 2023.

Fire Investigations

Captain Berry and Firefighter Ogle 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Berry".

Captain James Berry

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Egut".

Lieutenant Aaron Egut