

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

**2024
ANNUAL REPORT**



MAYOR MARK SPÄETZEL – SAFETY DIRECTOR

JEREMY BETSA – FIRE CHIEF



AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF JEREMY BETSA



2024 Annual Report

Mayor Spaetzel and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Avon Lake Fire Department, I am pleased to present the 2024 annual report.

This report summarizes and reviews the activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau, the Training and Operations Division, and each of our three Platoons from the past year. It provides insight into our response statistics, training efforts, inspections, and accomplishments in 2024. Additionally, it offers a brief overview of the various responsibilities undertaken by our dedicated members.

Community involvement continues to be a primary goal for our Department. This was especially evident in 2024 through our community CPR classes, car seat installation sessions, residential lock box program, address sign initiative, department tours, and fire safety talks. Our annual Big Trucks event remains our largest community engagement activity, providing an up-close view of the daily work we do.

One of the most memorable events of 2024 was the solar eclipse. Being in the direct path of totality created excitement throughout our community. The three-day celebration leading up to the eclipse was well organized by all involved. Planning for this event began over a year in advance, ensuring we were prepared to address any potential issues related to response and resource allocation. Although we did not experience the overwhelming demands that were anticipated, the solar eclipse turned out to be a historic event that all enjoyed.

The members of our department consistently met and exceeded our response goals. In 2024, we recorded an all-time high of 3,486 runs, representing a 4.6% increase in call volume. Despite the increased workload, our members maintained an impressive average response time of 5 minutes and 26 seconds, which is below the standard of 5 minutes and 30 seconds. Thanks to our dedicated staff, we have reduced our reliance on outside departments for community responses.

In 2024, we successfully replaced our command vehicle, which is staffed by the on-duty officer in charge and Medic 9. The previous command vehicle now serves as a dedicated support vehicle for our drone operations. The new drone program, introduced in 2024, includes highly capable equipment with several members trained to the appropriate standards. Vehicle replacement continues to pose challenges but has become a regular consideration. The evolving needs of our

department require continuous assessment and long-range planning, and we remain committed to addressing these needs for the future of both our department and the community.

Additionally, 2024 marked the retirement of part-time fire inspector Tammy Strawn. Fortunately, the Fire Department did not experience any other staffing changes, which has stabilized the training and development of our recently hired members.

It is my honor to lead this Fire Department into the upcoming year, with the goal of exceeding all expectations. I invite you to explore the 2024 Avon Lake Fire Department annual report to learn more about the distinguished men and women who make our department what it is today.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Betsa

[Jeremy Betsa \(Mar 26, 2025 08:42 EDT\)](#)

Fire Chief Jeremy Betsa

2024 STAFFING

CHIEF JEREMY BETSA

OPERATIONS – TRAINING

Assistant Chief Steve Peter

PLATOON #1

Capt. Eric Wagner

Lt. Forest Mercer

FF/Medics

Gary Madej

Mike Rowe

Clayton Khoma

Nick Gamellia

Joe Harder

Marcin Sroka

Brandon Sauer

Will Hoyett

Mike Hein

PLATOON #2

Capt. Steve Marti

Lt. Brian Gilles

FF/MEDICS

John Nakel

Mark Walters

Mike Pertz

Cole Eichenlaub

Eric Zmija

Mike Comley

Nick Kus

Brandon Bement

Ben Kowall

PLATOON #3

Capt. Jim Berry

Lt. Aaron Egut

FF/MEDICS

Frank Ogle

Rich Frygier

Kyle Urig

Brian Wood

Eric Yonkof

Pat Furnas

Kevin Lemmer

Matt Sullivan

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	-----	2024 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	-----	2024 FREIGHTLINER
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 2024

On April 8th, 2024, Avon Lake was ground zero for a total solar eclipse. The city was bracing for a great influx of visitors to the area. In preparation for this event countless meetings were conducted, starting more than a year in advance with our city officials, department heads, outside consultants and were attended by our fire department administration. In addition to what we were preparing within the city, much attention was also given to the county. Lessons learned from other municipalities from previous eclipses occurring around the nation were implemented into our preparations. The public safety forces for the five surrounding cities (Avon, Avon Lake, Sheffield, Sheffield Lake, and Noth Ridgeville) came together to set up an Emergency Operations Center in Avon's Fire Department as a contingency center. This would allow our area to operate in conjunction with but also totally independent of 911 system if they would be overwhelmed. This type of situation has been a frequent occurrence under similar circumstances around the country and the world. Many members of the fire department came together to help plan and provide extra staffing for that weekend. We were well prepared and had no significant issues for that weekend.

The Avon Lake Fire Department still has been working to help facilitate the implementation of several software platforms that are going to be used around Lorain County. One of these initiatives was to switch over to a new Electronic Patient Care Reporting System (EPCR). Lorain County is working to roll out this system area wide to be used by all EMS departments. The Avon Lake Fire Department agreed to be the first department to start on this software back in 2023 and was tasked to work with a software company and Lorain County 911 to identify issues and to make it function appropriately for the region. To this date we have had many of the local jurisdictions switch over this past year with our help.

Along with the EPCR, the integration of other software platforms such as Locution and Active 911 are two other systems that will aid other departments in their incident response times. 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 get it implemented county wide to those who plan to use it.

The Avon Lake fire department was involved with the planning of the demolition of the old coal fired power plant. There was a continuous demolition project over the year and the removal of the many buildings located on the property. During this process there were two separate implosions conducted to bring down large sections of the power plant along with its towering smokestacks. One was conducted on July 31st, 2024, and the other on Dec. 19th, 2024.

We continue making strides 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 this formal training in 2023 and in 2024 added another two tiers of our senior firefighters. These senior firefighters are often asked to fill the roles of our officers while these officers are not available. It is pivotal that our up-and-coming firefighters are trained up to meet these demands. Blue Card is used and taught by

several local departments and is used as the incident command response system throughout Lorain County.

On August 6th, 2024, Avon Lake was hit with a tornado that touched down and damaging winds which caused a significant damage to our area. We experience 62 calls in a 24-hour period. This included a couple structure fires and many damage homes from fallen trees and utility poles.

We conducted many CPR classes for businesses and their employees but also for the public where they were hosted at the Avon Lake Public library. We have 4 firefighters who are certified infant/child car seat installers which have conducted 41 separate installations for residents at our station.

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 2024.

▪ Continuing Education	1,278
○ Continuing Education represents training for EMS state certifications	
▪ Professional Development	2,385
○ Professional Development represents various classes for Fire, Haz Mat, Arson, technical rescue, Dive, Safety inspector, Blue Card, Admin etc..	
Total Training Hours	3,663

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

PLATOON OPERATIONS 2024

Our overall run volume increased 4.6% from 3,334 calls in 2023, to 3,486 in 2024.

EMS and Rescue continue to represent the bulk of our service demand (69.3%).

We responded to 428 requests that were not transported to any facility in 2024. Non transport calls represented 18% of our EMS run volume, and when combined with Rescue & EMS calls account for 74% of our total call volume.

In 2024 our EMS patients transported nearly stayed the same (from 1,980 to 1,958) to area medical facilities. 85.5% (1,674) of our patients were transported to Avon Richard E. Jacobs Emergency Department. St. John Medical Center received 13.7% (268) of our patients. The remaining 0.8% (16) were transported to Fairview General Hospital, Mercy Regional Medical Center, UH Elyria and Cleveland Metro Hospital. Transport destinations are mostly determined by patient preference although critical calls are transported to the most appropriate facility.

Actual fires still represent around 1.5% of our total 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 2024 there was 46 request which represents 1.3% of total run volume.

For mutual aid requested from Avon Lake to the surrounding departments there was 114 requests which represents 3.2% of our total run volume.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Peter

Steve Peter (Mar 26, 2025 08:49 EDT)

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 2024

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

The Bureau currently has a staff of 2 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 Glenn Netkowicz

Inspector Tammy Strawn Retired from the Fire Prevention Bureau in May of 2024, we appreciated her dedication and knowledge for the City of Avon Lake.

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 42 mobile food trucks that registered with the city.

Avon Lake Independence Day celebration with Fireworks is celebrated every July at Weiss Field. The Fire Prevention Bureau plans with the Fireworks 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 August 30th, post the Avon Lake High School Football game. Both shows were a great success.

2024 was the 30th 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. The awards ceremony was held at the Avon Lake Fire Dept in which there are 6 winners from each school.

Our annual fall fire safety programs took place inside of the school to conduct our annual Fire Safety school talks. This program 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 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 multiple 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 functioning correctly.

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, and county/city officials for planning and conducting inspections. We have been on sight at the new Ford construction site over 30 in times 2024.

The Power Plant in Avon Lake is still under demolition in which there were 2 building implosions held at this facility in 2024. The Avon Lake Fire Department assisted Trifecta (Power Plant Demolition Company) in preparing and establishing an Emergency Action Plan for the building implosions that were held on July 31st and December 19th of 2024. Both events took place without any accidents or injuries.

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.

Continuing Education.

2024 STATISTICS

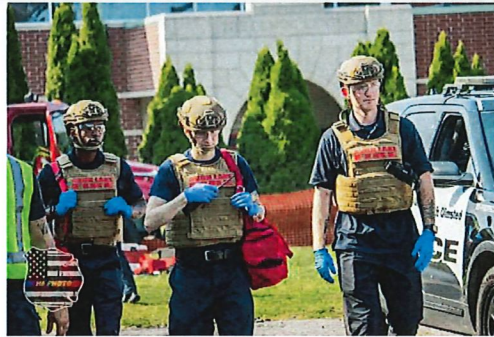
Inspections - Re-Inspections - Special Inspections – System Tests:	1057
Residential Lock Box Installs:	32
Plan Reviews:	32
Food Truck Registrations:	42

Respectfully Submitted,


Chris McKay (Mar 29, 2025 12:06 EDT)

Captain Christofer McKay

PLATOON #1



CAPTAIN ERIC WAGNER

LIEUTENANT FOREST MERCER

GARY MADEJ

NICK GAMBELLIA

MIKE ROWE

MARCIN SROKA

CLAY KHOMA

BRANDON SAUER

JOE HARDER

WILL HOYETT

MIKE HEIN

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 1

Annual Report 2024

This report represents the significant shift activity of Platoon 1 for the year 2024. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

In 2024 the department responded to 3,486 calls. Of those 3,486 emergency and non-emergency calls Platoon 1 responded to 1,216 of them.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	21
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	772
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO	58
▪ Good Intent Calls	103
▪ Service Calls	141
▪ False Alarms	95
▪ Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	26
▪ Special Incident Type	0

Total Emergency Calls	1,216
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Platoon 1 responded to numerous fires in the city as well as outside the city providing mutual aid to our neighboring communities. Platoon members showed their skill, professionalism and compassion on the many emergency medical/rescue calls we responded to. We appreciate the many thank you notes and calls that we received from our residents.

1st platoon was on duty on August 6th of 2024 when the region experienced a severe storm with several confirmed tornados in the area. This resulted in the department responding to over 40 emergency calls in a short span of time.

Hydrant Work

Platoon 1 flushed and serviced 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; emptying drain oil, etc.

Public Relations

Platoon 1 members participated in events such as Big Trucks, 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 includes 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. Firefighter Nick Gamellia maintains our departments status as 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 as 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.

- 1st Platoon members recertified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support.
- Platoon members participated in vehicle extrication training with donated vehicles while on duty.
- Firefighters Hein, Hoyett and Sauer attended a 2 day training event in Elyria that included search and rescue, forcible entry, live fire, and rope rescue.
- Department/shift drills over numerous subjects such as standard operating procedures, rescue training, vehicle training and department operations.
- Firefighters Gamellia, Hoyett and Sauer attended training and were certified as Drone Operators. This new capability enhances our situational awareness in ordinary and large-scale incidents.
- Firefighters Gamellia and Khoma and Captain Wagner attended the Blue Card Hazard Zone Incident Command Training and Certification Program.
- Firefighters Hein, Hoyett, Gamellia, and Sauer attended Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training.

Special Assignments

Lieutenant Mercer serves as a member of the Lorain County Technical Rescue Response Team.

Firefighter Harder serves as a member of the Lorain County HAZMAT team.

Firefighters Gamellia, Harder, Hoyett, Rowe and Lt. Mercer instruct CPR classes for city employees and residents.

Firefighter Mike Rowe serves as a Medic on both the Lorain County Swat team and the Eastern Lorain County Emergency Response Team. He attends training throughout the year and responds to emergencies. He also is a Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Instructor.

Firefighter Khoma is a member of the Lorain County Dive Team and attended training throughout the year and he also earned certification in Swift Water Operations.

Firefighters Gamellia, Hoyett and Sauer attended training and were certified as Drone Operators. This new capability enhances our situational awareness in ordinary and large-scale incidents

Firefighter Harder serves as a member of the Lorain County Fire Investigation Unit along with Captain McKay, Assistant Chief Peter, and Firefighter Yonkoff

Lt. Mercer volunteered for a project to remodel part of the classroom to create additional dorm space.

Firefighter Harder is a certified car seat installer.

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,



Eric Wagner (Mar 28, 2025 09:18 EDT)

Captain Eric Wagner



Forest Mercer (Mar 30, 2025 07:08 EDT)

Lieutenant Forest Mercer

PLATOON #2



CAPTAIN STEVE MARTI

LIEUTENANT BRIAN GILLES

JOHN NAKEL

COLE EICHENLAUB

MARK WALTERS

MIKE COMLEY

MIKE PERTZ

NICK KUS

ERIC ZMIJA

BRANDON BEMENT

BEN KOWALL

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 2

Annual Report 2024

This report represents the significant shift activity of Platoon 2 for the year 2024. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

Emergency Response Summary

In 2024 Platoon 2 responded to the following emergency and non-emergency calls.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	12
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	806
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks	43
▪ Good Intent Calls	96
▪ Service Calls	89
▪ False Alarms	88

Total Emergency Calls	1,136
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Platoon 2 responded to 6 structure fires, 1 inside the city and 5 as mutual aid to our neighboring communities. The crew made a nice stop of the fire on Lake Road where a propane tank was involved, knocking the fire down with a 2 ½ inch line before it could get away and extend into the attic. We were able to avoid major losses locally thanks to residents calling and our timely response. There was also a water rescue that we assisted with. Our department has excellent paramedics and Platoon 2 is proud of our abilities and performance on over 800 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. Our crew was on shift for the power plant implosion and were standing by on scene when the stacks came down. Lastly, we were manning the station on the day of the total eclipse.

Hydrant Work

During the 2024 calendar year, Platoon 2 assisted the other platoons in flushing over 1,600 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 and other special events.

Public Relations

Throughout the year 2024, 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 once again in person.
- Tours of the fire station.
- On site blood pressure checks for the public.
- Some of our platoon taught CPR to residents.
- Big Trucks preparation.
- Assisting with 2024 Total Eclipse events.

Training

We were able to get some training as well as utilize online training.

- Captain Marti, Firefighter Pertz and Walters attended Blue Card training.
- Capt Marti attended Ohio Fire Academy plans review.
- Firefighter Comley attended swift water rescue training.
- FF Kowall attended Bowling green for Single Engine Response Training.
- FF Kus attended numerous Hazmat training with the county team.
- Firefighters Bement, Comley and Eichenlaub attended numerous Dive trainings this year with the county team.
- Firefighter Kus, Zmija and Kowall all became Drone pilots through training hosted by our department.
- ACLS 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 2024, Firefighters Ben Kowall was trained and signed off on his JPR's. Every member of the platoon contributed to their development as members of the team. He is a fully capable firefighter and has performed well for our department.

Collateral assignments

Dive Team

Firefighter Comley is Dive team tender for the Lorain County Dive team. Firefighters Bement and Eichenlaub are Rescue Divers. They attend training and respond to call outs for the county.

Car Seats

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

CISD

Firefighter Nakel is a member of the area Critical Incident Stress Debriefing team. A service we have had to use ourselves for incidents that take their toll psychologically and emotionally.

Information/Technology and Radio Communication

Lieutenant Gilles is the lead for the department's 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.

EMS Operations & Equipment

Captain Marti is responsible for EMS Operations and Supplies. Firefighter Walters 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 our ambulance cots with a newer, better version to help us get into tighter spaces with them.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,



[Steve Marti \(Mar 27, 2025 19:07 EDT\)](#)

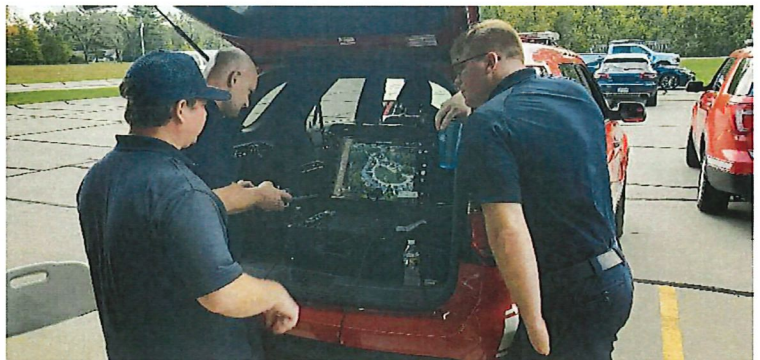
Captain Steve Marti



[Brian Gilles \(Mar 28, 2025 15:42 EDT\)](#)

Lieutenant Brian Gilles

PLATOON #3



CAPTAIN JAMES BERRY

LIEUTENANT AARON EGUT

FRANK OGLE

ERIC YONKOF

RICH FRYGIER

PAT FURNAS

KYLE URIG

KEVIN LEMMER

BRIAN WOOD

MATT SULLIVAN

CUTTER BRIGGS

AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

PLATOON 3

Captain James Berry

Lieutenant Aaron Egut

Annual Report 2024

Please accept the following as the Annual Report for Platoon 3. The report outlines significant shift activities for the year 2024, including an emergency response analysis, continuing education training summary and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects and activities.

Emergency Response Summary

Platoon three responded to 1,141 emergency calls during the year 2024.

▪ Fire/Explosion	18
▪ EMS Calls/Rescue	844
▪ Hazardous Condition	39
▪ Service	66
▪ Good Intent	84
▪ False Calls	90
▪ Severe Weather	0
▪ Total Emergency Calls	1,141

Routine Platoon Personnel Activities

Collateral Assignments

In 2024, 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 Ogle completed minor repairs and maintenance in house. Major repairs and annual maintenance/testing were sent out to qualified repair facilities. In anticipation of his retirement

next year, Firefighter Ogle has been mentoring Firefighter Eric Yonkof to take over some aspects of fleet maintenance.

Hydrant Work

Throughout 2024, platoon personnel worked with the rest of the department to test approximately 1,600 fire hydrants for proper operation and adequate water supply.

Fire Prevention/Public Education

Department platoons assist the fire prevention bureau on a regular basis. Listed below are some of the specific activities platoon three performed in 2024.

- 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

Firefighter Brian Wood is 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.

Technical Rescue

Firefighter Kyle Urig serves on the Lorain County Technical Rescue Response Team and trains year-round on various rescue disciplines including high and low angle rope rescue, structural collapse, confined space rescue, trench rescue, and wide area search.

Squad Committee

Firefighters Frank Ogle and Rich Frygier worked as part of the squad committee to perform the final inspections and accept delivery of one new squad and update the specifications for the next squad that will be ordered in 2025 with delivery expected in 2028.

Drone Program

Firefighters Rich Frygier and Matt Sullivan completed their FAA 107 certification for the department's newly formed drone response team. Firefighter Sullivan has taken the lead role in developing and implementing continuing education and training programs for the various search, rescue, and reconnaissance capabilities of this new unmanned aircraft system.

Fire Investigations

Captain Berry, Firefighter Ogle, and Firefighter Yonkof 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. Firefighter Yonkof also serves as a member of the Lorain County Fire Investigation Unit.

Car Seat Installation

Firefighter Frygier maintains his certification as a Child Passenger Safety Technician and continues to provide installation service for the community.

Lorain County Active Shooter/ Hostile Event Response (ASHER)

Firefighter Furnas attended ALERRT Active Attack Incident Response (AAIR) Train-The-Trainer Course and C3 Pathways Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM). Firefighter Furnas instructs the ASHER Program monthly, in conjunction with Lorain County Fire Departments and Police Departments, to train First Responders in Lorain County in active shooter response and education.

Education and Training

In addition to regular on duty fire, rescue, and EMS training, platoon members attended the following specialized classes: Captain Berry and Lieutenant Egut attended the Fire Fusion Conference to gain insight into various practical applications of meshing technology and operations. Firefighters Urig and Frygier completed Blue Card Command Certification, Firefighter Sullivan attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference, Firefighter Kevin Lemmer completed certification as a Fire and Emergency Services Instructor II, Firefighter Cutter Briggs completed his probationary period on December 12th, 2024, and all members completed additional training in active shooter incident management, lithium-ion battery incident management, and vehicle extrication.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jim Berry (Apr 5, 2025 06:44 EDT)

Captain James Berry


Aaron Egut (Mar 26, 2025 11:53 EDT)

Lieutenant Aaron Egut