

# **AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**2021  
ANNUAL REPORT**



**GREGORY ZILKA – SAFETY DIRECTOR**

**JEREMY BETSA – FIRE CHIEF**



# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF JEREMY BETSA



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## 2021 Annual Report

Mayor Zilka and Members of Council,

On behalf of the Avon Lake Fire Department, it is my pleasure to submit the 2021 annual report.

The report will summarize and review the year 2021 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 2021 accomplishments. It will also contain a brief overview of the additional responsibilities of our dedicated members.

2021 continued to challenge the department, members, and community with COVID-19 infections and exposure. The comprehensive policies and procedures put into place early in the global pandemic continue to be a part of our daily operations. Advanced cleaning of ambulances and equipment along with appropriate protective equipment are now ingrained into the normal process. We will continue to develop and adapt to this new normal as we move into the third year of this global pandemic. COVID-19 infections will always be present and the adaptations will vary depending on the active case count in our area.

Despite the pandemic halting most activities in 2020, we were happy to bring most outreach programs back to the community in 2021. The department continues to welcome the public back into the building with limited groups, social distancing, and masking when appropriate. Bringing the public back into the building allows us to continue car seat installations, fire station tours, CPR classes, school safety talks, and outside interactions to plan community events. Big Trucks continued to be a casualty of the pandemic in 2021 with hopes of the event occurring in 2022.

The dedicated members of our department continued to meet and exceed goals set for response to the community. 2021 brought record run numbers with the total at 3,045, representing a 9% 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 17 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 2021, we replaced one response vehicle and added an additional vehicle to our fleet. Medic 8 was replaced in May and continues to serve the community as the first line apparatus to respond for medical emergencies. This vehicle was designed and built by Horton Emergency Vehicles in Grove City, Ohio with work done by a committee of 4 department members. This replaced a vehicle that was in service since 2006. Rescue 20 was an addition to our fleet and is an all-terrain vehicle. Rescue 20 is designed for off road use during response in parks, trails, beaches, and other areas normal vehicles cannot travel. This vehicle will also be used during community events when large gatherings of people make normal vehicle maneuvering difficult or not practical.

2021 brought changes to our staffing due to a retirement and a change in overall total staffing. In August of 2021 Lieutenant Jerry Kimmell retired after more than 25 years of service to the City of Avon Lake. Aaron Egut was promoted to Lieutenant after a competitive examination upon retirement of LT Kimmell. Kevin Lemmer was hired as a firefighter/paramedic to replace the vacancy created due to the retirement.

Through the support of the Administration and City Council, the staffing of the fire department was increased. During 2022 we will add three additional firefighter/paramedics with one being added to each shift. This represents a step towards the staffing model needed by the community to continue responding with increased run volume and the additional assignments required by our department throughout the year.

It is my honor to lead this Fire Department into the next year with the hopes of exceeding all expectations. Please explore the 2021 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, flowing script.

Fire Chief Jeremy Betsa

# **2021 STAFFING**

CHIEF JEREMY BETSA

## **OPERATIONS – TRAINING**

Assistant Chief John Rogers

### **PLATOON #1**

Capt. Eric Wagner

Lt. Chris McKay

#### **FF/Medics**

John Nakel

Mike Rowe

Mike Pertz

Kyle Urig

Nick Gamellia

Eric Zmija

Nick Kus

### **PLATOON #2**

Capt. Steve Marti

Lt. Brian Gilles

#### **FF/MEDICS**

Gary Madej

Rich Frygier

Forest Mercer

Clayton Khoma

Joe Harder

Eric Yonkof

Pat Furnas

### **PLATOON #3**

Capt. Jim Berry

Lt. Aaron Egut

#### **FF/MEDICS**

Frank Ogle

Mark Walters

Brian Wood

Cole Eichenlaub

Mike Comley

Marcin Sroka

Kevin Lemmer

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT – PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Assistant Chief Steve Peter

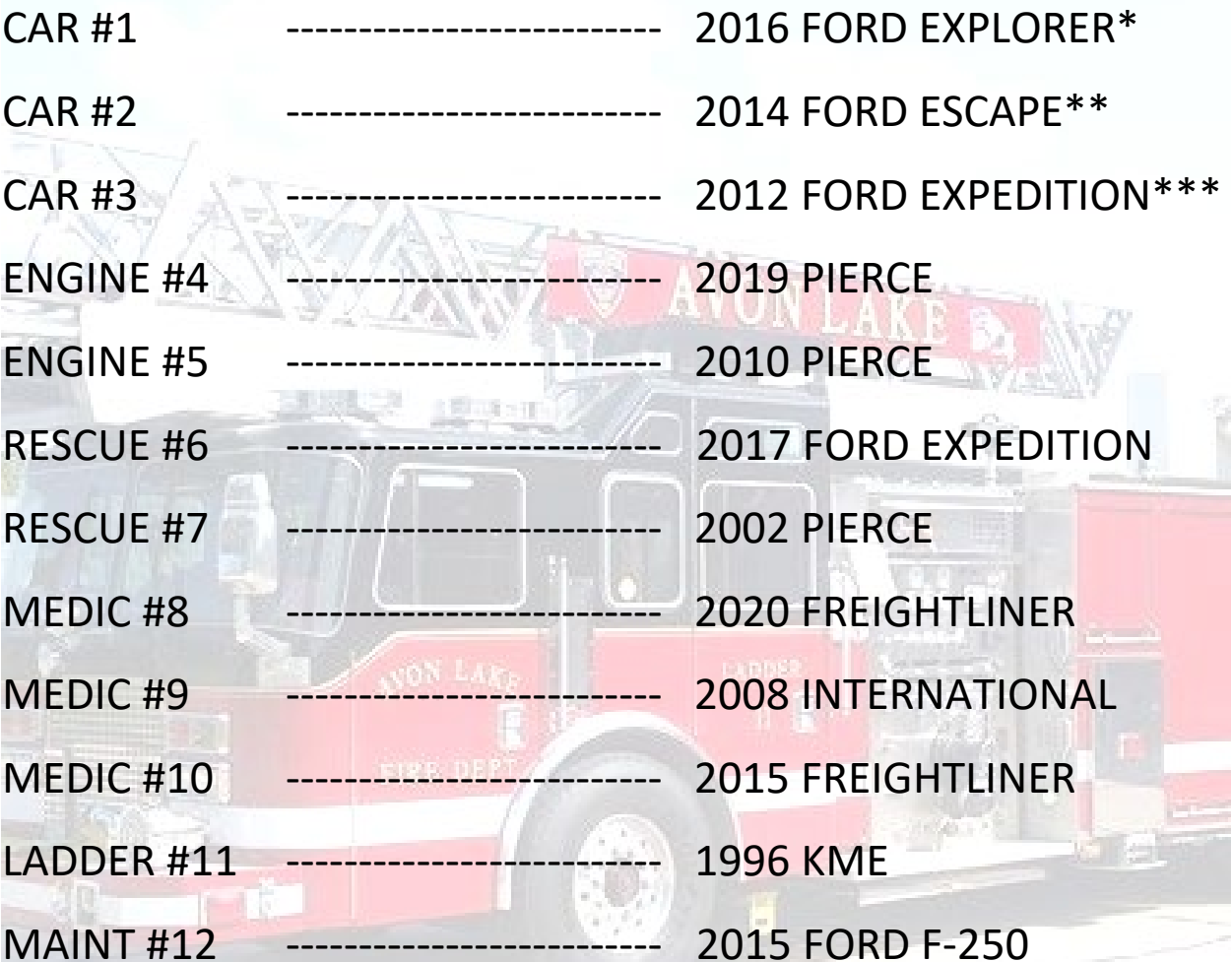
Inspector Tammy Strawn

Inspector Glen Netkowocz

## **SECRETARY – RECORDS**

Kristin Gomez

# VEHICLES



CAR #1	-----	2016 FORD EXPLORER*
CAR #2	-----	2014 FORD ESCAPE**
CAR #3	-----	2012 FORD EXPEDITION***
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 \*

Code Enforcement \*\*

Command \*\*\*

# **CODE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**



**ASSISTANT CHIEF STEVE PETER**

**INSPECTOR TAMMY STRAWN**

**INSPECTOR GLEN NETKOWICZ**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## CODE ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION BUREAU

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### Annual Report 2021

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 Glen Netkowicz (Retired Westlake Fire Fighter)

2021 Was once again plagued with the SARS – CoV 2 virus that causes the Covid 19 illness. We were fortunate to add a part-time inspector on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 to facilitate in the inspections of the local businesses. Glen Netkowicz comes to Avon Lake Fire Department with an extensive background in the fire service. Glen started his career working part-time with the Sheffield Village Fire Department and was promoted to a top rank of captain during his tenure. He obtained his State Fire Inspectors certification in 1989. Glen was very instrumental with the fire inspection program and worked for SVFD till 2008. Glen was hired as a fulltime career firefighter at Westlake Fire Department in 1990 and retired after putting in 30 years there.

2021 was the 27<sup>th</sup> 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. Due to the pandemic the in-person award ceremony and presentations to the winners were performed at the individual schools. Mayor Zilka and Superintendent Scott were able to present the awards to the six winners from each school at the in-school ceremonies.

Our annual fall fire safety programs were able to take place for the in-person 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 specific age groups to explain fire safety and hazards in the home. The Fire Safety trailer was opted to not be used again this year due to the concerns of spreading of the SARS – CoV2 virus.

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. We had high hopes of being able to hold this event this year and planned accordingly. Unfortunately, it was decided a month out that it would be in the best interest of the community to once again hold off on having such a big event. Big Trucks was once again another casualty of the pandemic and was 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.

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 Fire and also need to be registered with the city to conduct business here. 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 29 different mobile food trucks that registered with the city.

## **BUREAU STAFF DUTIES**

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

Code research

Conduct fire and life safety inspections of regulated properties

Conduct investigations of all fires and hazardous material releases

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

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

Issue permits per the Ohio Fire Code.

Monitor the acceptance testing of new fire detection, alarm and suppression systems as well as the annual and semi-annual tests of these systems.

Develop and schedule the annual Fall Fire Safety Programs for K thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade students attending public and private schools in the city. We also present programs to preschool students upon request and participate in Safety Town.

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



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

Manage the residential address sign and File of Life programs.

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

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

Participate in County Emergency Planning Committee and Emergency Operations Center.

Develop and update the city Disaster Plan.

Continuing Education

## **2020 STATISTICS**

Inspections - Re-Inspections - Special Inspections – System Tests:	1323
Residential Lock Box Installs:	26
Plan Reviews:	57
Food Truck Registrations:	29

Respectfully Submitted,



Assistant Chief Steve Peter

# TRAINING AND OPERATIONS



**ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHN ROGERS**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## TRAINING & OPERATIONS

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### Annual Report 2021

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.

The following is a summary of recorded man-hours committed to training in 2021.

▪ Firefighting	916
▪ Emergency Medical	834
▪ Hazardous Materials	33
▪ Rescue	383
▪ Miscellaneous	32
<b>Total Training Man-Hours</b>	<b>2198</b>

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

### PLATOON OPERATIONS 2021

Our overall run volume increased 9% from 2791 in 2020, to 3045 in 2021.

Rescue & EMS continue to represent the bulk of our service demand (66%).

We responded to 396 Lift Assists request in 2021. List Assist calls represented 13% of our run volume, and when combined with Rescue & EMS calls account for 79% of our call volume.

In 2021 we had an 18% increase in the number of EMS patients transported (from 1501 to 1777) 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 Mercy Regional Medical Center, Fairview Hospital, UH Elyria and Cleveland Metro Hospital. Transport destination is mostly determined by patient preference.

82% of our EMS patients were 51 years or older.

False Alarm & Good Intent calls represented 14% of our run volume. And, fires in general continue to remain at 2% of our run volume.

Our need for Automatic and Mutual Aid from surrounding fire departments has been decreasing over the past four years.

Aid was utilized 66 times in 2017 (2.5% of the run volume), 58 times in 2018 (2% of the run volume), 50 times in 2019 (1.7% of the run volume), 43 times in 2020 (1.5% of the run volume), and 33 times in 2021 (1.1% of the run volume).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Assistant Chief John Rogers

# PLATOON #1



**CAPTAIN ERIC WAGNER**

**LIEUTENANT CHRIS MCKAY**

**JOHN NAKEL**

**NICK GAmELLIA**

**MIKE ROWE**

**ERIC ZMIJA**

**MIKE PERTZ**

**NICK KUS**

**KYLE URIG**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLATOON 1

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### Annual Report 2021

This report represents the significant shift activity of platoon 1 for the year 2021. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

#### **Emergency Response Summary**

In 2021 the department responded to 3045 calls. Of those 3045 emergency and non-emergency calls Platoon 1 responded to 997 of them.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	16
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	662
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO	35
▪ Good Intent Calls	61
▪ Service Calls	131
▪ False Alarms	89
▪ Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	02
▪ Special Incident Type	1

**Total Emergency Calls** 997

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 very 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**

Unfortunately, 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 do, however, 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 when available while adhering to COVID 19 safety requirements. 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 to keep up on our training in-house while outside training opportunities are limited due to the pandemic. 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.
- Department/shift drills over numerous subjects such as standard operating procedures, rescue training, vehicle training and department operations.
- As members of the Lorain County Fire Investigation Team Lieutenant McKay and Assistant Chief Peter attend monthly training.
- 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 Kus and Gamellia attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

- Platoon members conducted live fire training with

### **Special Assignment**

Firefighter Urig continues to serve as a member of the Lorain County Technical Rescue Response Team. He also serves as a Trench Rescue Coordinator for the team.

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

Lieutenant McKay Serves as a member of the Lorain County Fire Investigation Team along with Assistant Chief Peter.

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.

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 entered service in 2021. This new hose will provide better 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, Medic 8, which entered service in 2021.

Firefighter Zmija completed training to be a certified car seat installer.

Firefighter Kus designed and built several training props designed to increase our proficiency in vehicle stabilization and extrication. These training props were put to use for training during 2021.

Lieutenant McKay and Firefighter Gamellia continue to instruct CPR classes for city employees and residents.

As head of the UTV committee, Firefighter Urig did research and provided recommendations for the purchase of a new UTV. Rescue 20 entered service in 2021. This vehicle allows us more flexibility in accessing trails, fields, beaches and other areas where street vehicles can't go.

Lieutenant McKay attended command classes at the Firehouse Expo in Columbus.

As a member of the PPE committee Firefighter Nakel researched and tested turnout gear for future replacement of the current gear. He attended the Firehouse Expo in Columbus with other committee members.



**Collateral assignments**

Captain Wagner oversees rescue operations and equipment.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EW'.

Captain Eric Wagner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CM'.

Lieutenant Chris McKay

# PLATOON #2



**CAPTAIN STEVE MARTI**

**LIEUTENANT BRIAN GILLES**

**GARY MADEJ**

**JOE HARDER**

**RICH FRYGIER**

**ERIC YONKOF**

**FOREST MERCER**

**PATRICK FURNAS**

**CLAY KHOMA**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLATOON 2

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### Annual Report 2021

This report represents the significant shift activity of Platoon 2 for the year 2021. Included is the response analysis summary, the training, and specific details involving routine and non-routine projects.

#### **Emergency Response Summary**

In 2021 Platoon 2 responded to the following emergency and non-emergency calls.

▪ Fire/Explosion/Electrical	17
▪ EMS/Rescue Calls	638
▪ Hazardous Conditions/ CO/Gas Leaks	35
▪ Good Intent Calls	54
▪ Service Calls	167
▪ False Alarms	73

<b>Total Emergency Calls</b>	<b>984</b>
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Platoon 2 responded to 9 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**

The global pandemic continued in 2021. There was continued stress on the community and department with call volume due to COVID cases. Additionally, with the introduction of the vaccine our personnel were under the stress of facing the unknown of whether it would be effective or even harmful in and of itself. Fortunately, by the end of the year we felt more at ease and most of us even got the booster.

#### **Hydrant Work**

During the 2021 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 2021 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

## **Training**

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

- Capt Marti attended Fire Officer 3 thru BGSU
- FF Mercer had Trench rescue training with the LCTRT
- FF Furnas attended FDIC for training
- FF Harder got certified for Fire Arson Investigation
- Firefighter Khoma 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.

## **New Probationary Firefighter Paramedic**

In January of 2021, Firefighter Patrick Furnas joined the department and our Platoon. Over the course of the year he was trained and signed off on his JPR's. Every member of the platoon contributed to his development as a member of the team. He is a fully capable firefighter and has performed well for our department.

## **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 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.

### **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 year we were able to replace our LifePak 15 monitors for all of our Medic units and also received some new AEDs.

Captain Marti also assist 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 took delivery of the new squad in April of 2021. This committee is already preparing to replace Medic 9.

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.

Firefighters Mercer and Khoma have formed a committee to evaluate SCBA's manufacturers for replacing our SCBA's in the near future. They have brought in sales reps to demo their equipment and have had demo SCBA's here in the building for the platoons to train with and give their opinions on.

Respectfully Submitted,

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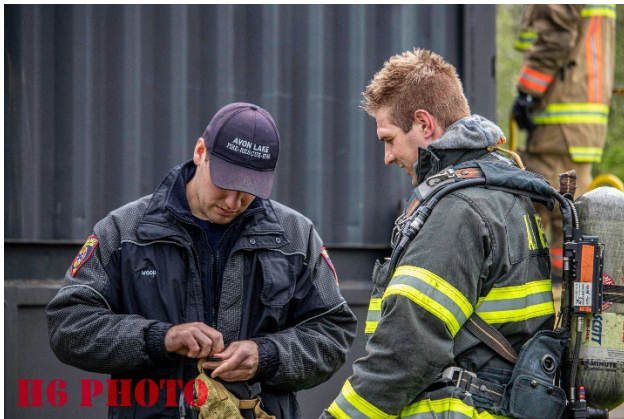
Captain Steve Marti

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Gilles", written in a cursive style.

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**

# AVON LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## PLATOON 3

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Captain James Berry

Lieutenant Aaron Egut

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### Annual Report 2021

Please accept the following as the Annual Report for Platoon 3. The report outlines significant shift activities for the year 2021, 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 1058 emergency calls during the year 2021.

▪ Fire/Explosion	017
▪ EMS Calls/Rescue	696
▪ Hazardous Condition	039
▪ Service	157
▪ Good Intent	063
▪ False Calls	085
▪ Severe Weather	001
▪ Total Emergency Calls	1058

#### Routine Platoon Personnel Activities

##### **Collateral Assignments**

In 2021, 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 was 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 2021, 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 2021.

- 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**

#### **Public Safety Rescue Diving**

Firefighters Cole Eichenlaub and Brian Wood 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.

#### **Gear Committee**

Firefighter Mark Walters served on the committee researching and testing new turnout gear for purchase in 2022.

#### **Education and Training**

In addition to regular on duty fire, rescue, and ems training, platoon members attended the following specialized classes: Lieutenant Egut attended State Fire School at BGSU to complete coursework toward certification as a Fire Instructor. Firefighter Brian Wood completed a personal watercraft rescue operations course. Firefighter Marcin Sroka joined members of Lubrizol's fire brigade for a week of advanced fire brigade training provided by Texas A&M University. A flashover trailer provided by the Ohio Fire Academy allowed for on-site fire behavior training for department members.

Firefighter Cole Eichenlaub maintains certification as an instructor 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.

## **Retirements, Promotions, and New Hires**

Lieutenant Jerry Kimmel retired on August 6 after serving the City of Avon Lake for over 25 years. Firefighter Aaron Egut promoted to lieutenant on August 7. Firefighter Kevin Lemmer was hired to fill the shift vacancy on August 24.

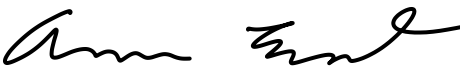
## **Fire Investigations**

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,



Captain James Berry



Lieutenant Aaron Egut