

Ross Township Fire Department



2022

Annual Report

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Your Ross Township Fire Department... who we are and what we stand for

Our Mission

We are an organization of dedicated professionals whose Mission is to Save Lives, Protect Property, Protect the Environment, Provide the best possible service to the community, and to Treat People Nice.

Our Vision

The Ross Township Fire Department will be recognized as an agency that reflects best practices in delivering services to our community. We will demonstrate professionalism in all we do by pursuing and achieving our goals and continuous improvement in all duties and responsibilities, enhancing services our community trusts us to provide.

In honoring the community's trust, we will be well-trained and equipped to deliver quality departmental programs and services. We will foster improvement in infrastructure and asset protection, and resiliency by using strategies to support our delivery to the community. We will proactively engage with our community through outreach and community initiatives to support and educate those we serve.

We will invest in our greatest organizational asset through comprehensive workforce development initiatives and ensure that our department is appropriately staffed and professionally developed to accomplish our Mission.

Our community's expectations will be met or exceeded by holding one another accountable for carrying out our Mission, Living our values, and that this vision become reality.

Our Values

P – Professionalism, we will uphold a professional image by the way we look, act, and perform our Jobs.

R – Respect, we strive to promote diversity and treat each other and those we serve with integrity.

I – Integrity, we are accountable through our everyday actions and communications.

D – Dedication, we are committed to the Mission, our department, each other, and the community.

E – Excellence, we strive to achieve and maintain the highest service levels.

Our Motto

Be Professional, Be Adaptable, Be Nice

Chief's Message

I am pleased to present the Ross Township Fire Department's 2022 Annual Report. With 1557 responses, 2022 continued to show an increasing need for emergency services provided by your Ross Township Fire Department.

The Ross Township Fire Department takes pride in providing fire protection, life safety, and emergency medical services 24/7 to our community of over 10,000 residents. As the community we serve grows and diversifies, our department continues to keep up and adjust to changing demands and needs. Together with Ross Township Administration, our Elected Officials, and you, our residents, we as a community will confront the challenges.

This annual report reflects the many accomplishments, incidents, and programs our Fire Department and its team members have initiated, responded to, or been actively involved in 2022. This annual report documents our achievements and successes and showcases the short and long-term challenges we have overcome and continue to work through.

As you review this annual report, I hope you consider the critical role our team members play in the success of our department and how valuable they are in completing our daily mission. Our Fire Department is built upon our core values and the people who exemplify them daily.



Steve Miller, OFE
Fire Chief

Administration/Support Services

The Office of the Fire Chief and his supporting Command staff support the overall Mission of the RTFD by working diligently behind the scenes to accomplish the organization’s administrative needs. As a priority, the department recognizes the need to be fiscally responsible with funds provided by our levies. In an attempt to offset capital improvement costs, the department has applied for and received several State and Federal Grants for equipment.



2022 Total Annual Fire Department Budget

- \$1,426,075.71

2022 Total Expenditures

- \$1,379,793.62

Personnel Expenditures (Wages, overtime, pension)

- \$1,111,575.71

Operations Expenditures (Electric, water, fuel, IT service)

- \$268,217.91

2022 Grant Funding

- \$66,142

2022 Capital Improvements

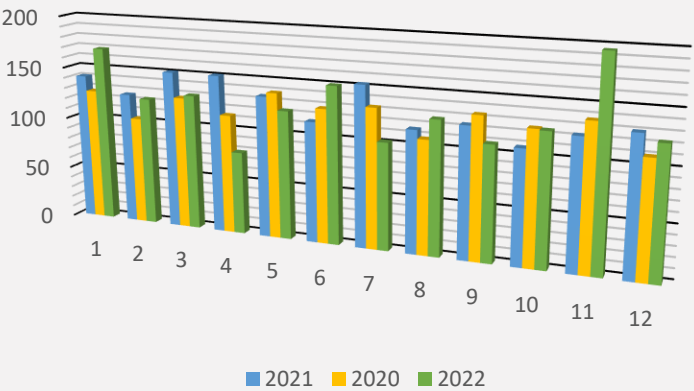
Placed Order for New Braun Medic Unit (\$255,847.00)

Operations/Suppression/EMS

2022 was a busy and exciting year for the RTFD. Emergency responses continue to increase year after year. This year the annual increase was less than historical increases, potentially due to the increased amount of simultaneous emergencies

within Ross Township. The required aid from our neighboring department continues to rise as our crews attempt to manage the increase in responses. Throughout 2022 the department responded to 1556 calls for service. Calls for service increased over 2021. As with usual annual data EMS makes up 70% of the total responses we respond to. As the number of emergency responses continues to increase, the Ross Township Fire Department is committed to providing our community with the best possible service.

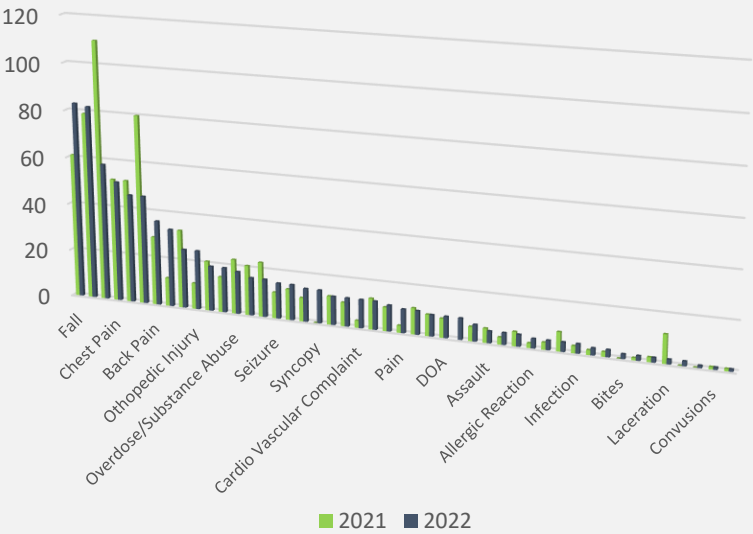
Month-to-Month Total Incident Comparison



The department continues to see EMS activities at a more significant frequency than other incidents. In 2022, our paramedics responded to 989 medical emergencies, an increase of 18% over 2021 levels. These medical emergency

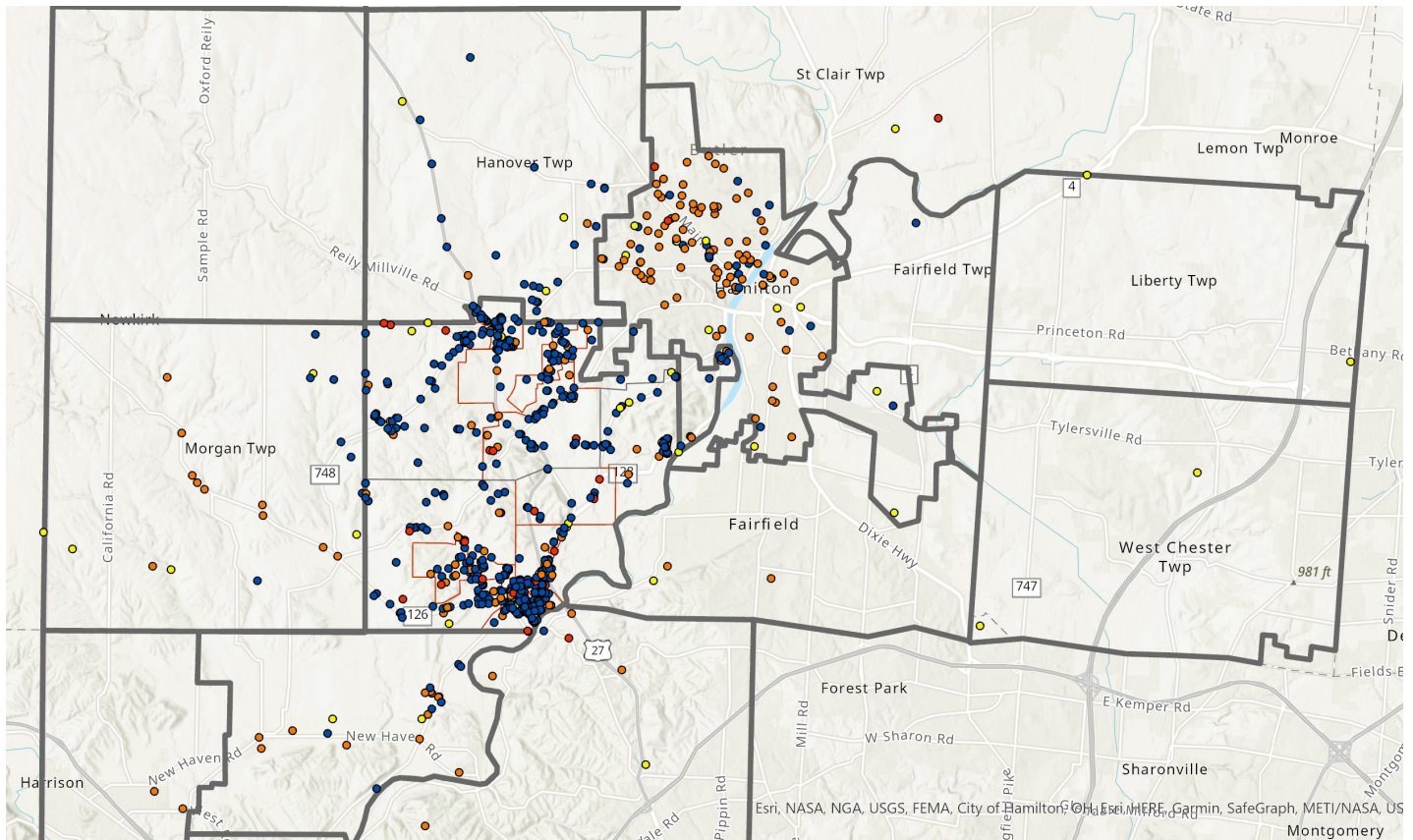
patients are provided with some of the most innovative prehospital medicine in the region. Our paramedics use advanced technology, medications, and skills to offer our patients the best emergency care.

EMS Primary Complaint



Operations/Suppression/EMS.....(continued)

The Ross Township Fire department continues to provide the community with emergency services out of two strategically located fire stations near the neighborhoods generating the highest volumes of calls for service. These stations are staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with highly trained professionals. The men and women who staff either firehouse continue to respond promptly to all emergencies. On average, our crews are on the way to an emergency in 92 seconds after receiving the call and arrive at the emergency location within 5 minutes of the initial 9-1-1 notification.



The department responded to 63 structure fires throughout 2022. Most of these calls (58) were to aid surrounding departments such as Morgan Township, Crosby Township in Hamilton County, and the City of Hamilton. During 2022 we experienced a significant shift in fire loss versus value saved. This is due to a single incident where notification of fire was delayed due to no one being home at the time of the fire. Removing this incident from the data, the department saved 61% of the property value from fire. Factoring in the significant loss of a single property results in a 39% property saved percentage.



2022 Major Incidents

January:

- Layhigh Road Fire – Provided aid to Morgan Township, 1 Alarm Fire
- Crosby Road Fire – Provided aid to Crosby Township, 1 Alarm Fire
- Hamilton Cleves Crash with Entrapment – 1 Victim Transported to Hospital
- Morgan Road Ice Rescue – Provided Aid to Whitewater Township – 2 Rescued

February:

- Oxford Street Fire – Village of Millville – 1 Alarm Fire
- Beckett Paper Company Fire – Provided aid to the City of Hamilton – 3 Alarm Fire
- Morgan Ross Road – Morgan Township – Utilized Gator 102 to move victim due to inclement weather

March:

- Smith Road Grass Fire – Multiple units assisting in extinguishing large area of fire
- Riverbend Court Fire – Provided aid to The City of Fairfield – 1 Alarm Fire

April:

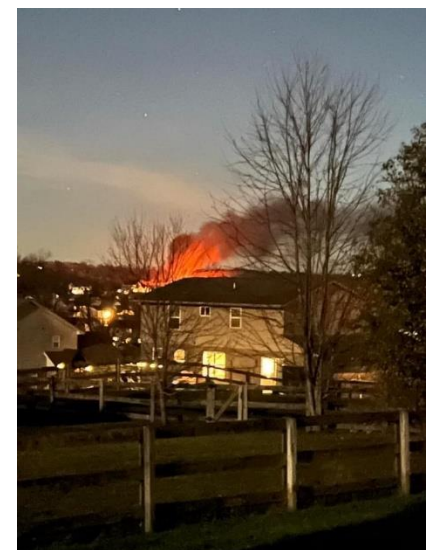
- Missing Person in Rentschler Park – Gator 102 and RTFD Personnel Assisted in Search Efforts
- Rumpke Landfill Fire – Provided aid to Colerain Township, 2 Alarm Fire

May:

- Sir Edward Drive – Provided aid to Hanover Township – 1 Alarm Fire
- Cincinnati Brookville Road – Person Trapped by Machinery – One Person Transported in Critical Condition
- Morgan Ross Road Fire – Provided aid to Morgan Township – 1 Alarm Fire

June:

- Stahlhaber Road Fire – Provided aid to Hanover Township – 1 Alarm Fire
- Ross Millville Traffic Crash with Entrapment – One Person extricated and Transported to Hospital
- Straight line Wind Event Throughout Ross Township - RTFD Handled 10 Calls For Service in One Hour



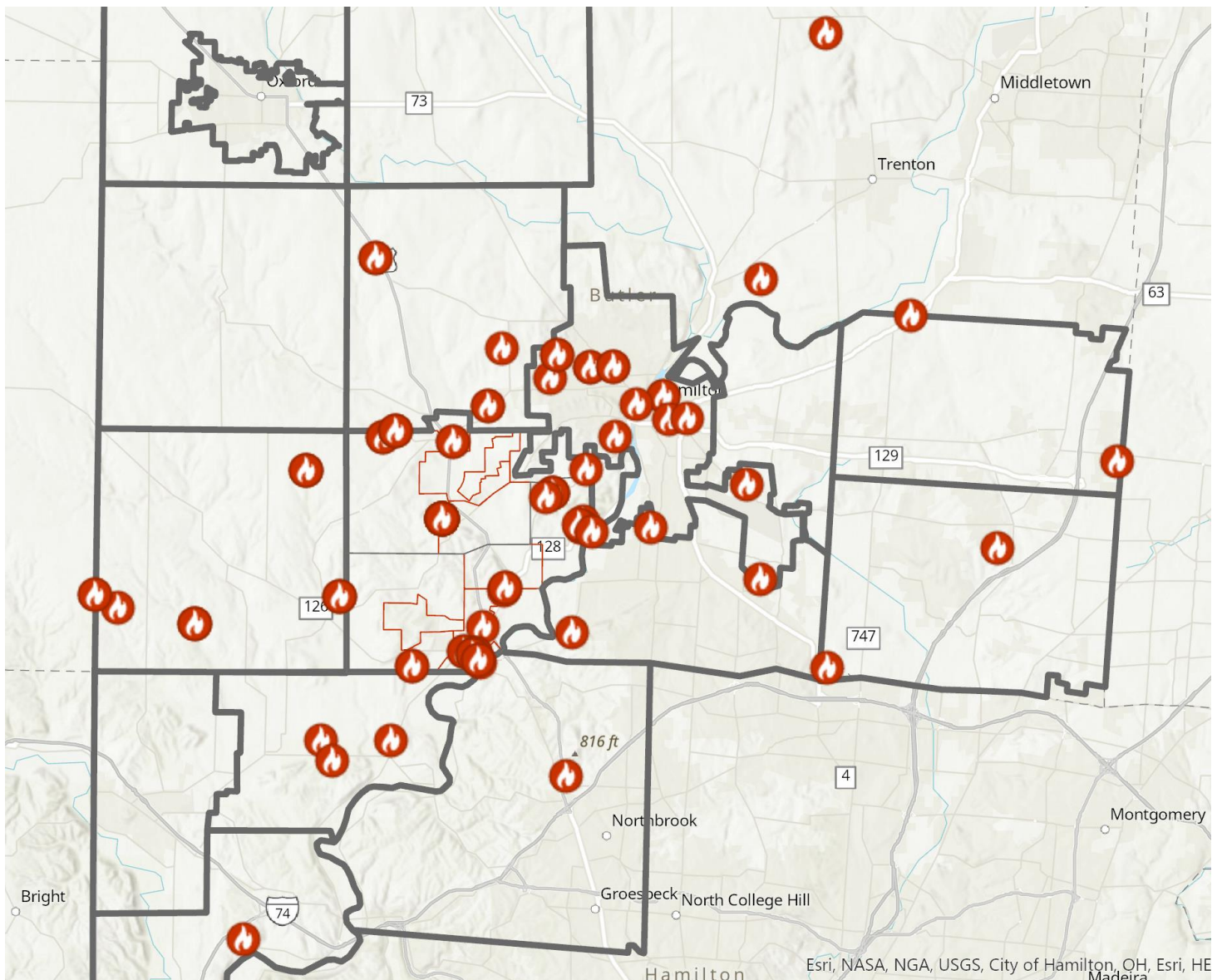
Operations/Suppression/EMS.....(continued)

October:

- Brookwood Ave Fire – Provided aid to the City of Hamilton – 1 Alarm Fire
- Cincinnati Brookville Road Entrapment – Extricated Family Animal Without Injury
- Wayne Township Brush Fire – Gator 102 and RTFD Personnel Assisted in Extinguishment Efforts
- Robin Avenue Fire – 1 Alarm Fire with multiple Department Providing Aid

November:

- Search and Rescue Operation for a Missing Person – Person Located, Treated and Released
- Cardinal Ave Fire – 1 Alarm Fire with Multiple Departments Providing Aid
- Redwing Court Fire – 2 Alarm Fire with Multiple Departments Providing Aid
- New London Road Fire – 1 Alarm Fire with Multiple Departments Providing Aid – 1 Rescue



RTFD Strategic Plan

This past year, the RTFD developed and adopted the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, a long-range plan for the delivery of emergency services. The Strategic Plan will act as a road map for the constantly evolving future. Below are some of the initiatives laid out within the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Initiative 1 – Exceptional, Innovative Service Delivery

In the last five years, the department has continued to see an increasing demand in calls for service, community outreach, and community risk reduction tasks. As the department adapts to the community's ever-changing needs, we must continue a holistic approach to be proactive, produce measurable results, and remain fiscally responsible.

Strategic Initiative 2 – Strong Adaptive Infrastructure

Our focus is to provide the necessary physical and technical infrastructure and services to support our strategic vision and operational readiness. This focus includes not only new stations, fleet, equipment, and technology for the anticipated growth during the coming years but also maintaining, remodeling, or replacing existing aging infrastructure.

Strategic Initiative 3 – Thriving Healthy

Our culture embraces the fire service traditions while positioning ourselves as leaders of progressive philosophies and tactics. We are continuing to evolve our culture within the fire service. Our goal is to direct that evolution over the coming years by defining and infusing our desires into everything we do, from hiring and promoting our personnel to the internal and external services we provide. We enjoy a loyal, professional, and highly trained membership that delivers quality services. In the coming years, we intend to strengthen our wellness initiatives to further reduce injuries and recovery time and provide more tools to our personnel to handle the job and life stresses, and improve overall mental wellness and job satisfaction. Leadership development and labor/management relations will be a priority.

Strategic Initiative 4 – Proactive, Strategic Communication

We desire a targeted, strategic approach to our methods of communication with our internal and external audience. We understand that it's not just the volume of the critical communication but also the quality and alignment with a clear purpose, such as safety themes, expanding knowledge, and supporting its Mission. Externally, we would like to be more proactive with media relations, be more in tune with our demographic's communications desires, and have a formal philosophy and strategy about how we market our organization. Internally, we want to increase the overall frequency and effectiveness of our communications.

Prevention/Education...an ounce of prevention

The Ross Township Fire Department's Prevention Division strives to improve the lives of Ross residents by preventing fires and reducing the impact in the event a fire does occur. How do we typically accomplish this?

- Inspections
- Responding to complaints regarding fire and life safety code violations
- Educational activities

One of the most rewarding and engaging ways we help prevent fires is to employ public education programs like Fire Safety Week. This program is extremely popular due to the positive, fun-filled experience in which students learn about fire and life safety. In 2022, the program was provided to approximately 675 Elda Elementary and Ross Intermediate School students.

Schools often contact us to schedule station tours in which the students see firsthand where firefighters live and work while on duty. We take every opportunity to give important fire and life safety tips. If your school, group, or organization is interested in scheduling a tour, don't hesitate to contact our Fire Prevention Division at (513)863-3410.



Highlights for 2022



RTFD and many of our Friends and Family held a successful Benefit for one of our Sisters after a traumatic Injury.



RTFD Hired Four New Full-Time Firefighters/EMTs



With the help of Elda Elementary School Students and Families, funding and materials were provided to memorialize our Brother Brandon Sparks, who lost his life in 2021.

Star of Life Award

In October 2019, Ross Township Fire Department responded to a crash involving a semi-truck and a car; those involved with this crash saved the life of a young girl. This week, those rescuers involved received the Star of Life award from the State of Ohio Department of Public Safety. Along with Ross, Colerain Township Fire, and Miami Valley Careflight also received the award for their role in this call. Job well done by all!



Ross Township Fire Department and Reffitts Towing hosted a large-scale extrication training. Over 50 firefighters from over 15 departments including Butler Tech High Schools fire program spent the weekend training in various auto extrication scenarios. Thanks to Reffitts Towing, who provided over 25 vehicles; Howell Rescue lending us additional tools and equipment; Butler County Tech Rescue, Oxford Fire Dept, and Colerain Fire Dept. For lending us their apparatus with their respected extrication equipment, and to our excellent instructors who spent time

away from their busy lives, work, and families representing OH-TF1, Butler County Tech Rescue, Hamilton County Tech Rescue, Cincinnati Fire, Hamilton Fire, Liberty Township Fire, Colerain Township Fire, Fairfield Township Fire and the City of Oxford Fire Department's ensuring attendees got a great day of training. It's great to build professional relationships and increase our skills in firefighting.

