

Ross Township Fire Department



2023 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

It is my pleasure to present the Ross Township Fire Department's Annual Report for 2023. The information inside will provide you with history, activities, and statistical information on incident response and other department data. 2023 saw the department respond to 1,394 incidents, down nearly 10% from the previous year. The dedicated men and women of your fire department respond to fires of all types, fire alarms, medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, and hazardous materials incidents, among countless other calls for service. These professionals also provide fire prevention, public education, and fire inspection services to the community.

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 2023.

As we move forward into a new year, I am confident that the men and women of our department will remain a reliable pillar in this community, being there for all who call, and doing so with undying empathy and compassion for those experiencing their worst moments or days. Thank you for your continued support and please take the time to thank those you see in the community wearing the RTFD uniform if you have the opportunity. I know they would really appreciate the support.

Lastly, in October I announced my upcoming retirement from the Ross Township Fire Department. My last day in the office will be March 8, 2024. It has been an absolute pleasure serving Ross Township for the last 20 years. I have appreciated the support I have received from our community, Township leaders, and fire department members over the years. As I leave office, I am still amazed at what a great township we have.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Miller".

Steve Miller, OFE
Fire Chief

Administration/Support Services

The Office of the Fire Chief, supported by the Command staff, functions as the Ross Township Fire Department (RTFD) administrative backbone, diligently addressing the organization's multifaceted organizational needs. With a strategic focus on efficiency and effectiveness, these leaders work behind the scenes to ensure seamless coordination and execution of various tasks essential to the department's mission. From personnel management to resource allocation, their responsibilities extend beyond the front lines of emergency response, emphasizing the critical role played by efficient administration in sustaining the department's overall functionality.

The unwavering commitment to fiscal responsibility is one of the foremost priorities ingrained in the RTFD's operational principles. Understanding the significance of the funds derived from levies, the department prioritizes sensible financial management. This commitment serves to optimize the utilization of available resources and reflects a dedication to transparency and accountability. By upholding rigorous standards of fiscal responsibility, RTFD aims to fortify its financial foundation, ensuring the sustained capability to deliver high-quality emergency services to the community. The department's adherence to careful financial practices is a testament to its commitment to long-term sustainability and its responsibility as stewards of public funds.



2023 Total Annual Fire Department Budget

\$1,701,942.58

2023 Total Expenditures

\$1,604,708.98

Personnel Expenditures (Wages, overtime, pension)

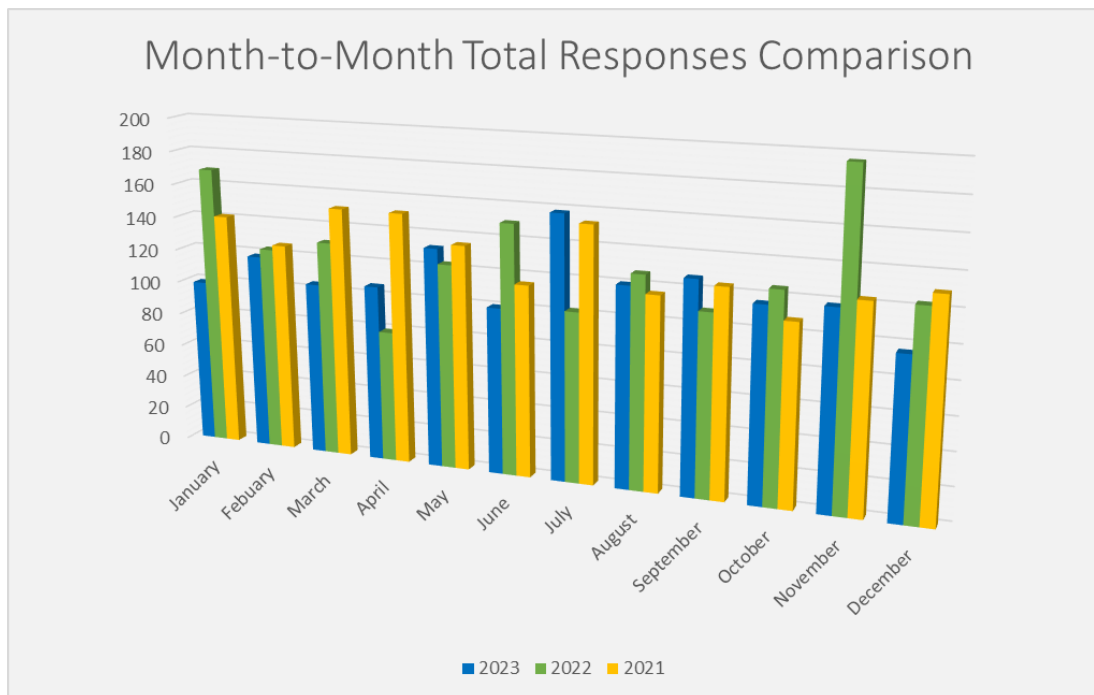
\$1,283,767.18

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

\$320,941.80

Operations/Suppression/EMS

The Operations Division of the Ross Township Fire Department is the heartbeat of emergency response and community safety. With a commitment to excellence, this division shoulders the day-to-day responsibility of delivering essential emergency services. From the urgent rhythm of fire suppression to the compassionate response to medical calls, the Operations Division is a versatile force equipped to handle various crises. Our expertise extends beyond traditional firefighting and compassionate emergency medical services, encompassing hazardous materials mitigation, technical rescues such as auto extrication or swift water rescues, and solving our community's problems. In addition to the swift and efficient emergency response, the Operations Division plays a crucial role in maintaining the department fleet, ensuring that the tools of their trade are in peak condition. Additionally, our proactive approach is evident in the meticulous pre-emergency planning inspections conducted on target buildings throughout the community. In essence, the Operations Division stands as the stalwart guardian of Ross Township, embodying a commitment to service, preparedness, and the well-being of the community they tirelessly serve.

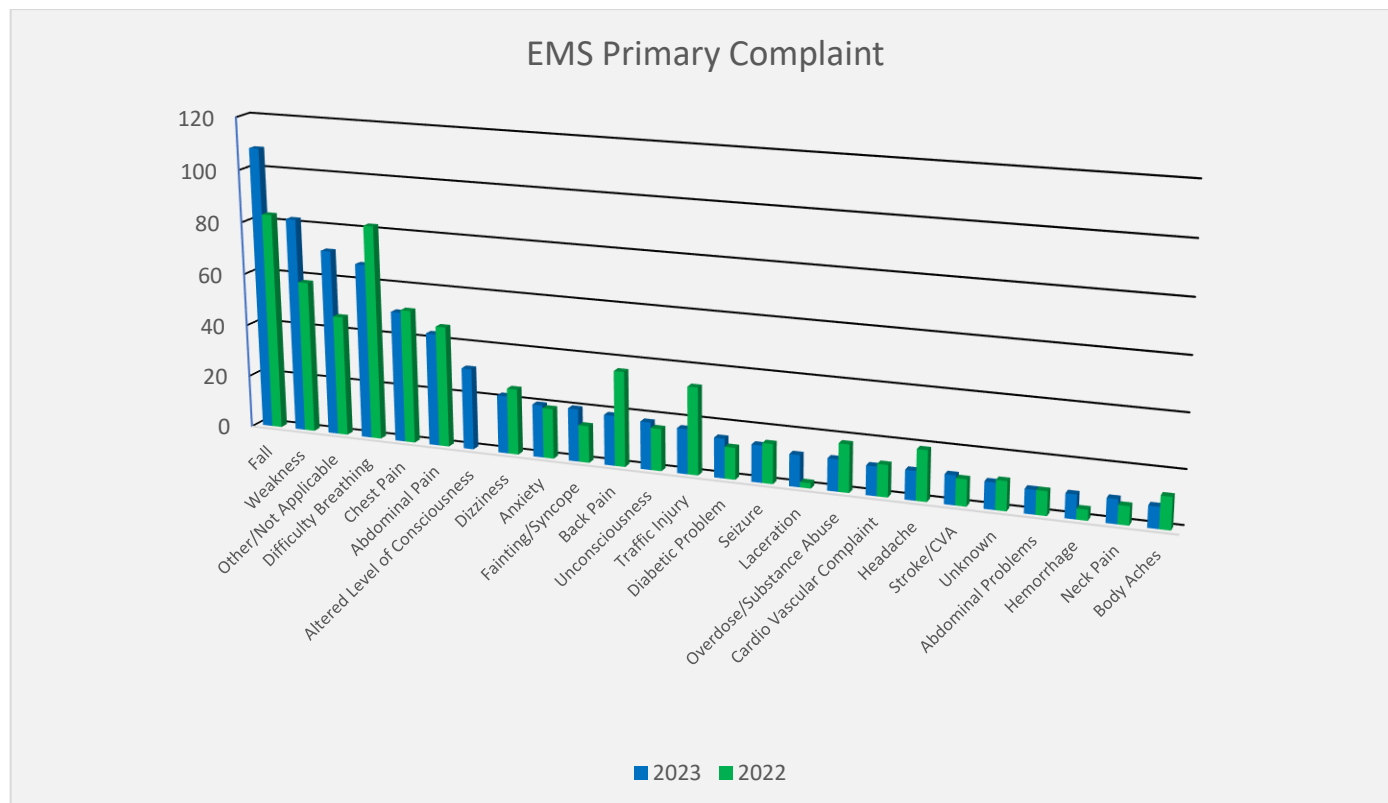


The department totaled 1394 responses in 2023, down nearly 10% from the previous year. This reduction in total responses could be attributed to many variables within and outside of Ross Township. One example is the number of mutual aid responses to other jurisdictions, which fell by 15% in 2023. This graph demonstrates the responses provided by the Ross Township Fire Department each month over the last three years.

The heartbeat of the Ross Township Fire Department is the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provided by the department, which emerges as a vital lifeline intricately woven into the fabric of community well-being. Far beyond the flashing lights and blaring sirens, the importance of EMS becomes apparent in the compassionate hands and swift response of the dedicated paramedics and professionals. Serving as the front line of healthcare in times of crisis, the EMS team embodies reassurance for residents facing medical emergencies. Whether it's a critical situation or a moment that demands urgent care, our EMS team ensures that help is just moments away. Beyond the immediate response, the EMS team fosters a sense of security for our community's residents, knowing that a skilled and empathetic team is ready to navigate the complexities of their medical emergencies. The department's commitment extends to preventive initiatives, community education, and forging connections that strengthen the community's overall health. In every ambulance ride and every medical intervention, the Ross Township Fire Department is a beacon of hope, resilience, and unwavering support, exemplifying the profound impact that dedicated emergency medical services have on the well-being and vitality of the Ross Township community.

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

In 2023, our dedicated staff of professionals responded to 997 medical emergencies. These responses account for nearly 73% of the total responses by the Ross Township Fire Department. As the number of medical emergencies continues to increase within Ross Township, the community can trust that a highly trained team of compassionate professionals will care for them. In 2023, the department responded to a myriad of medical emergencies. Below is a graph that provides a glimpse of the top 25 causes of an EMS response.

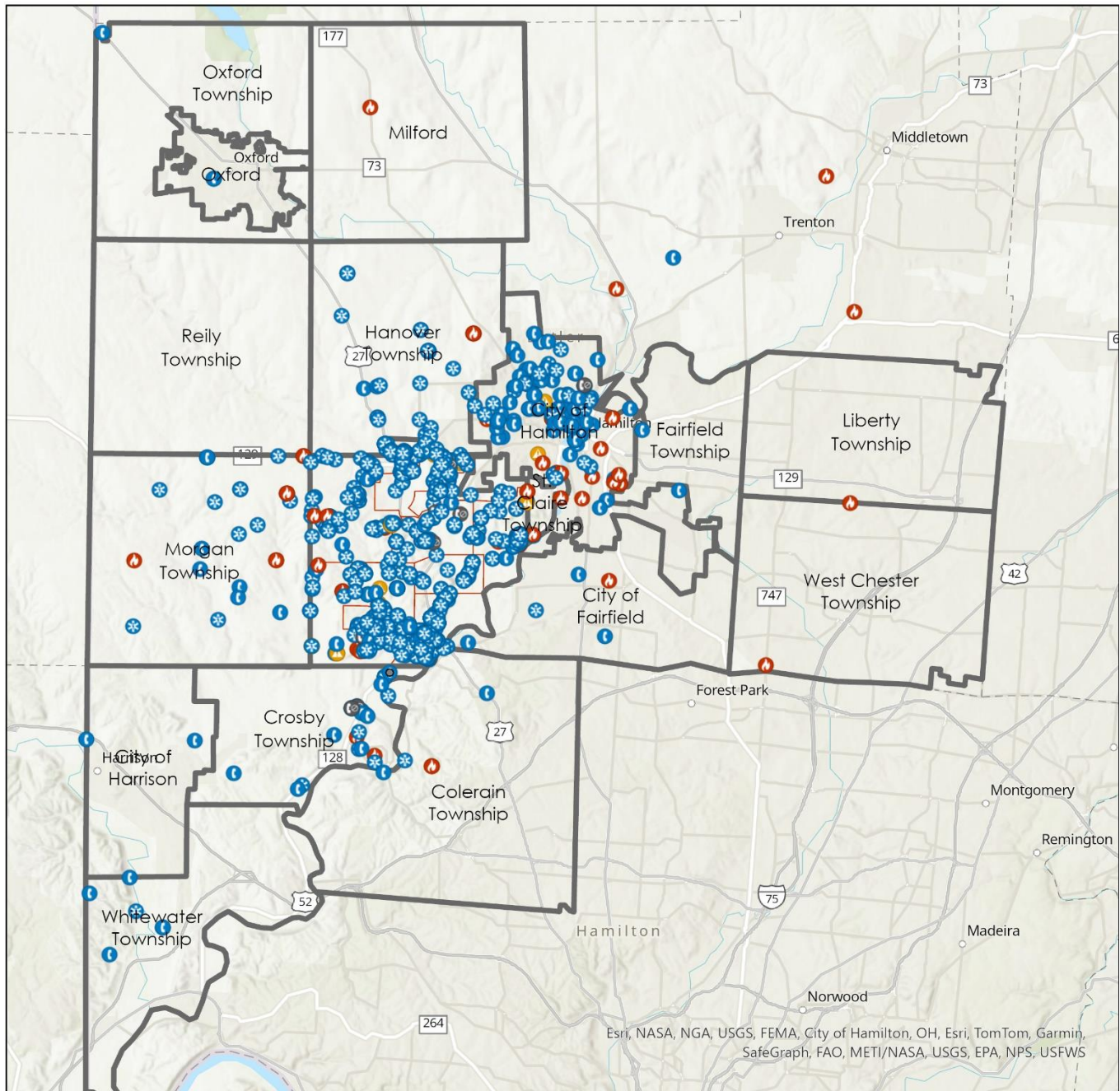


The unwavering commitment of the Ross Township Fire Department to the safety and well-being of the community is underscored by its strategic utilization of emergency services through two strategically located fire stations. Nestled in close proximity to the neighborhoods with the largest populations, these stations serve as vigilant guardians, ensuring a timely and competent response to emergencies. Manned by highly trained professionals 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, these firehouses stand resilient, ready to combat any crisis.

The significance of rapid response times in emergency services cannot be overstated. The men and women staffing our fire stations recognize the critical importance of time in emergency situations. In an average of 92 seconds from the moment a call is received, our crews are mobilized and in route to the emergency scene. This immediate response is not merely a matter of statistics; it is a deliberate and calculated effort to minimize the crucial time elapsed between an emergency call and the arrival of assistance.

Arriving at the emergency location within 5 minutes of the initial 9-1-1 notification, our professionals ensure that aid is on-site swiftly, maximizing the potential for positive outcomes. In emergencies, every second counts, and the Ross Township Fire Department's commitment to a rapid and effective response is a testament to the understanding that rapid intervention can make the difference between life and death.

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



Legend

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| • EMS & Rescue | • Hazardous Condition | • <all other values> |
| • False Alarm False Call | • Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat | • RTFD Incidents - Mutual Aid |
| • Fire | • Service Call | • RTFD Incidents - Still |
| • Good Intent Call | | |

2023 Major Incidents

January:

- Fox Run – High carbon Monoxide incident with rescue
- Meadow Dr – Provided aid to St. Clair Township, 1 Alarm Fire

February:

- East Miami River Road – Assisted Colerain Township utilizing Gator 102 to extricate a patient from the woods
- New London Road Entrapment – one transported to hospital

March:

- Franklin St. – Assisted City of Hamilton, 1-alarm fire
- Hamilton Scipio – Assisted Morgan Township with a two-vehicle auto accident with entrapment
- Grand Blvd – Assisted City of Hamilton, 1-alarm fire
- Grand Blvd – Assisted City of Hamilton, NG Rumpke truck fire
- Hamilton Cleves Rd – Assisted Crosby Township, 1-alarm fire
- Ross Hanover Rd – High carbon monoxide in residence
- Vizedom Rd – Assisted Hanover Township, 1-alarm fire



April:

- New London Rd – Large 2-acre field fire, assisted by Morgan Township
- Garnet Rd – Assisted Morgan Township, 1-alarm fire

May:

- Main St – 1-alarm fire, assisted by Colerain Township and Morgan Township
- Hamilton Cleves Rd – Car into a building, one transported to the hospital
- Beth Ln – Assisted City of Hamilton, 1-alarm fire
- Robin Ave – 1-alarm fire, assisted by Colerain Township and Morgan Township
- Fear Not Mills Rd – Assisted St. Clair Township with large brush/field fire

June:

- California Rd – Assisted Morgan Township with an auto accident with entrapment
- Lawrenceburg Rd – Assisted Whitewater Township, Swift water rescue

July:

- Hamilton Cleves Rd – Auto accident involving a dump truck
- Lawrenceburg Rd – Assisted Whitewater Township, Swift water rescue
- East Miami River Rd – Assisted Colerain Township, Swift water rescue
- Millville Shandon – Large animal rescue, assisted by Reily Township
- Len Mary Rd – Assisted City of Harrison, Swift water rescue
- Okeana Drewersburg Rd – Assisted Morgan Township, 1-alarm fire



August:

- Great Miami River – Swift water rescue, Assisted by Colerain Township and the City of Hamilton
- New London Rd – Assisted Morgan Township with an auto accident with entrapment
- Hamilton Cleves – Assisted St. Clair Township, 1-alarm fire

September:

- Ross Millville Rd – Auto accident with entrapment, assisted by the City of Hamilton

October:

- Ross Millville Rd – Auto accident involving overturned tractor-trailer

November:

- Millville Shandon – 1-alarm fire, assisted by Morgan Township, City of Hamilton
- Rockyhill – 2-alarm fire with rescue, assisted by Colerain Township, Morgan Township, City of Hamilton
- Chapel Rd – Assisted Morgan Township, Woodland fire
- Bell Rd – Assisted Morgan Township, 1-alarm fire
- Roppelt Dr – Assisted Colerain Township, 1-alarm fire

December:

- Ross Hanover Rd – Auto accident with entrapment and fire, assisted by the City of Hamilton



RTFD Strategic Plan

The Ross Township Fire Department 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



A cornerstone of our proactive approach to fire prevention involves using various public education programs, such as Fire Safety Week. Recognized for its value, Fire Safety Week has gained popularity through its positive and engaging methodology, offering students an enriching and enjoyable learning experience focused on fire and life safety. Notably, in 2023, the program successfully reached an audience of approximately 700 students from Elda Elementary and Ross Intermediate School.

Recognizing the value of firsthand experiences, many schools and clubs frequently contact us for station tours, giving students direct insight into our firefighters' living and working environments during their duty hours. These tours extend beyond the physical space, providing a platform for imparting crucial fire and life safety tips. For schools, groups, or organizations wanting to arrange an insightful tour, we encourage you to contact our Fire Prevention Division. Your proactive engagement is pivotal in reinforcing our community's safety and preparedness culture.



Highlights for 2023



Chief Miller and FF Clayton responded with the Butler County Incident Management Team to East Palestine, Ohio, for a major train derailment.



Lt. Huston, FF Agoston, and FF Simon received commendation awards for their life-saving actions for a patient in cardiac arrest.



Chief Miller was honored as the Cincinnati Red's First Responder.





The artist at Inspiration Studios spent several weeks creating a masterpiece dedicated to the men and women of the Ross Township Fire Department.



Assistant Chief Chris Johns received the prestigious Ohio Fire Chief (OFC) credential designation from the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association.