

Ross Township Fire Department



2019 Annual Report

As Fire Chief of the Ross Township Fire Department, I present to the Board of Trustees this summary of activities for the year of 2019. I am happy to say our delivery of emergency services continued to set the standard for the fire service and will continue to be our top priority. 2019 proved to be a year with great achievement as well as some difficult times.

In April, crews responded to a canoeist who had overturned his canoe, becoming trapped in rushing water. Because of our swift response, our crews were able to reach him and successfully remove him from the water with no injuries. In May, our crews responded to Mr. Butterfield's farm where he became trapped in a grain bin. This highly technical situation could have resulted in a more tragic outcome, but because of the highly skilled men and women of the Ross Township Fire Department, and many others including the Butler County EMA, and the Butler County Technical Rescue Team, Mr. Butterfield was rescued and sustained minimal injury. This incident has drawn local, State, National, and International attention, and will be a topic in a series called *"The Day My Job Tried to Kill Me."* These high-profile incidents show some of the great things the department has achieved this year, but we also have continued to provide an essential service our community, without fail, in their times of need.

The department also confronted some difficulty. In June, Engine 102 was involved in an accident in which the driver of the Engine narrowly prevented not only injuries to himself but also of other drivers on the roadway. The damage to the fire engine was extreme and would eventually be deemed a total loss. Thankfully the township has replacement coverage to cover the loss of the apparatus, and because of the leadership of the township, two new fire engines were ordered to replace the existing outdated apparatus as a cost savings measure.

In 2019 the department successfully received a total of \$135,891 in grant funding. These funds have been used to offset operational costs and to improve safety for our firefighters. In April, \$2,879 was received from the Ohio Department of Public Safety and used for EMS equipment. In September \$63,012 was received from The Department of Homeland Security for the purchase of a state-of-the-art breathing air compressor. In December, an anonymous source donated approximately \$70,000 toward the purchase of new physical fitness equipment. Grant funding will continue to be a critical avenue to offset operation cost of the department, and we will continue to be aggressive in researching and applying for grant funding in 2020.

The department responded to 1,541 calls for service in 2019, an increase of 4.5% from 2018 and a 12% two-year increase. There were 988 calls for emergency medical service which represents 64% of our total responses. Our paramedics transported 502 patients for treatment at area hospitals. Our average time from the initial 9-1-1 call to our arrival was five minutes three seconds.

The men and women of the department completed nearly 1,000 hours of community outreach and prevention duties. Our personnel provided the community with CPR training and Stop the Bleed training for high school students. Our most important outreach program is our annual fire safety prevention week, where all students of Elda Elementary undergo fire safety training.

The Ross Township Fire Department prides itself on being proactive, efficient, and exceptionally effective. We are an exemplary organization thanks to the support of our community. I want to thank all of the men and women of the department for their continued support and commitment to the mission of this department.

Chief Steve Miller, OFE



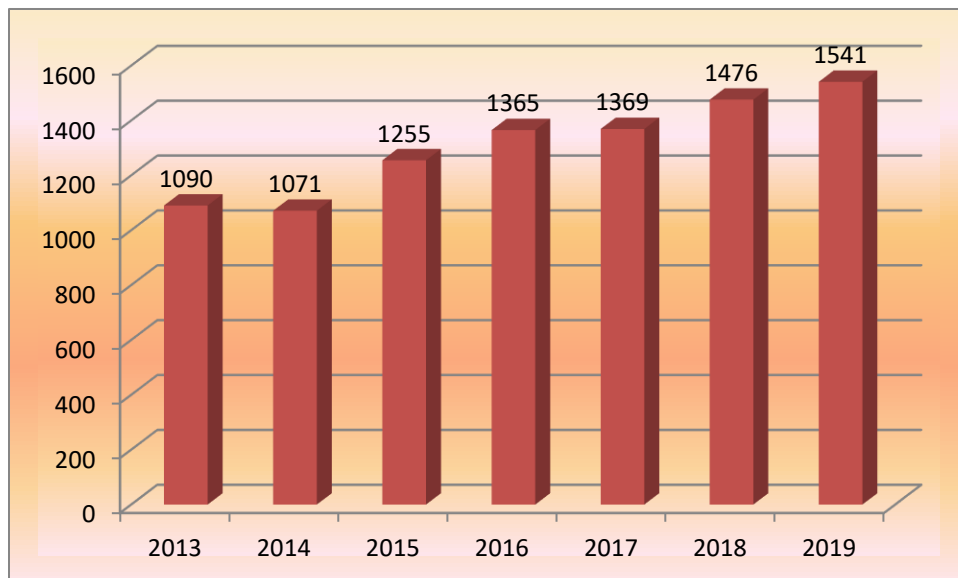
EMERGENCY ACTIVITY

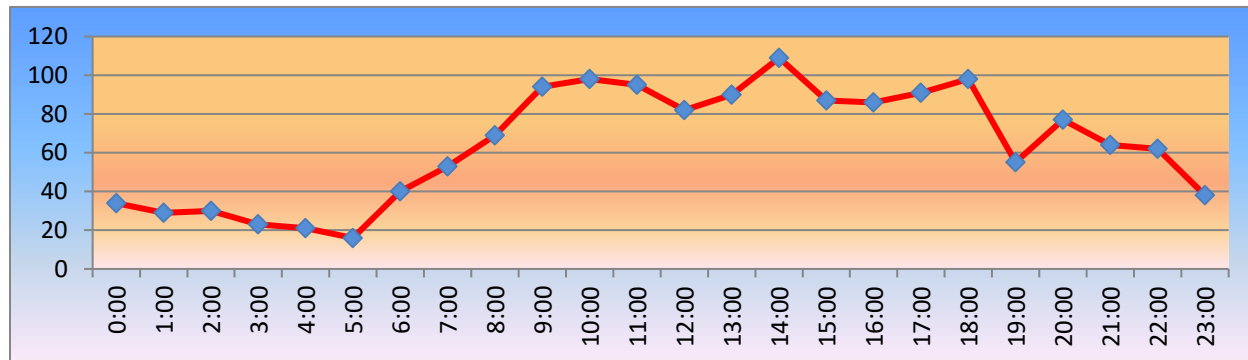
Ross Township Fire Department responded to 1,541 incidents, up 4.5% from 2018. Total fire loss for these incidents totaled \$73,500. Of these incidents, a total valuation of these structures or property amounted to \$245,500. This equates to saving \$172,000 in property value or saving 70.06% of the fires that we responded to. These incidents included the extinguishment of fires, treatment and extrication at vehicle accidents, fire alarms, weather related incidents, providing Advanced Life Support (paramedics) techniques and hospital transport at medical emergencies. The department also provides mutual aid response to our neighboring departments in accordance with the Mutual Aid Agreement through the Butler County Emergency Management Agency.

Our two strategically located Fire Stations utilized a combination of part time and volunteer firefighters. 4 Part time firefighters staff both stations 7 days a week during the day time hours. Our volunteer members provide service when available. Currently there are 46 members on the fire department roster. Of those 46 members, only 5 are volunteer members.

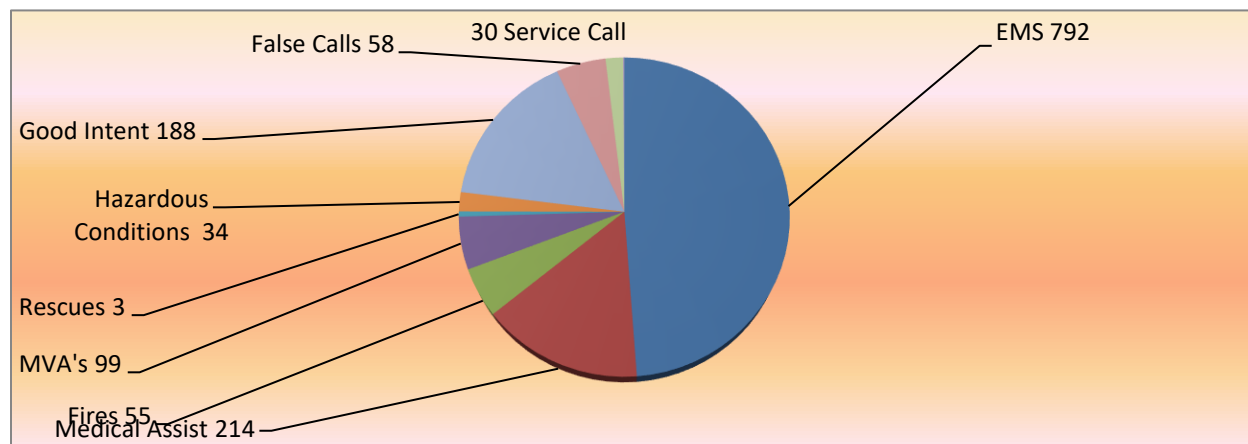
7 YEAR COMPARISON OF DOLLAR LOSS	
2019	\$73,500
2018	\$207,910
2017	\$38,500
2016	\$97,500
2015	\$261,600
2014	\$11,236
2013	\$120,500

Total Incidents by Year

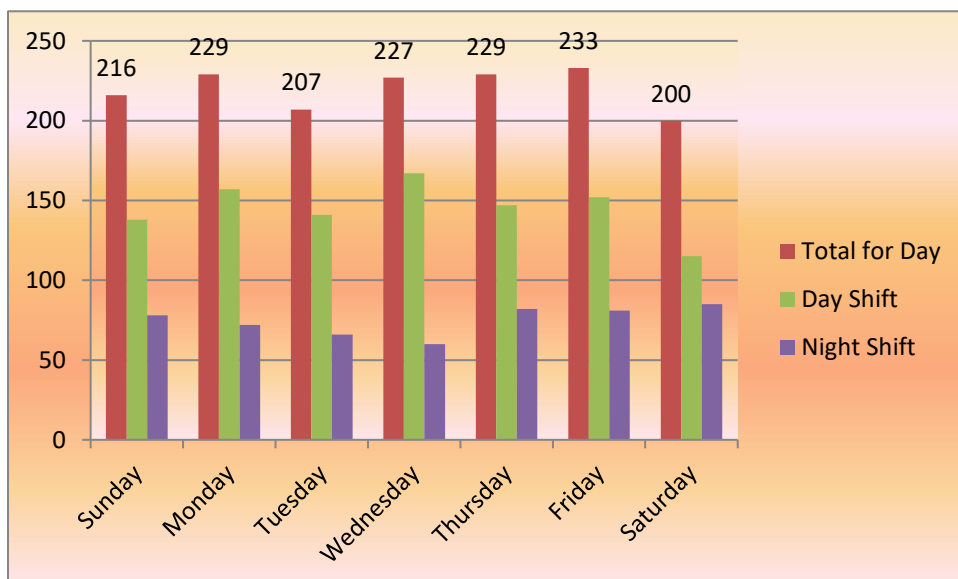


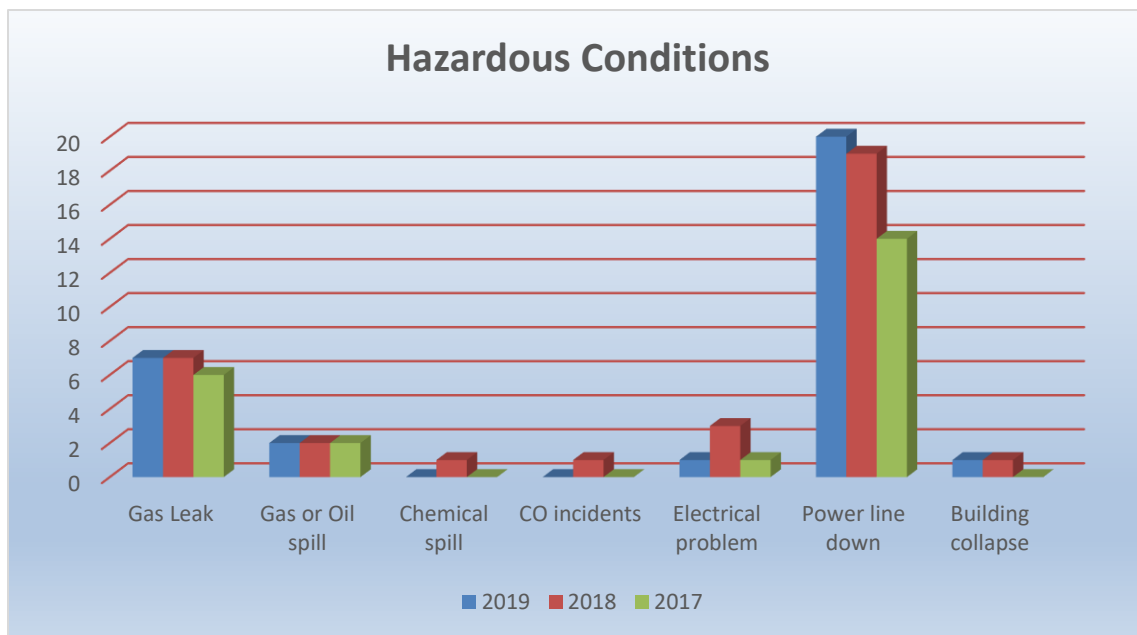
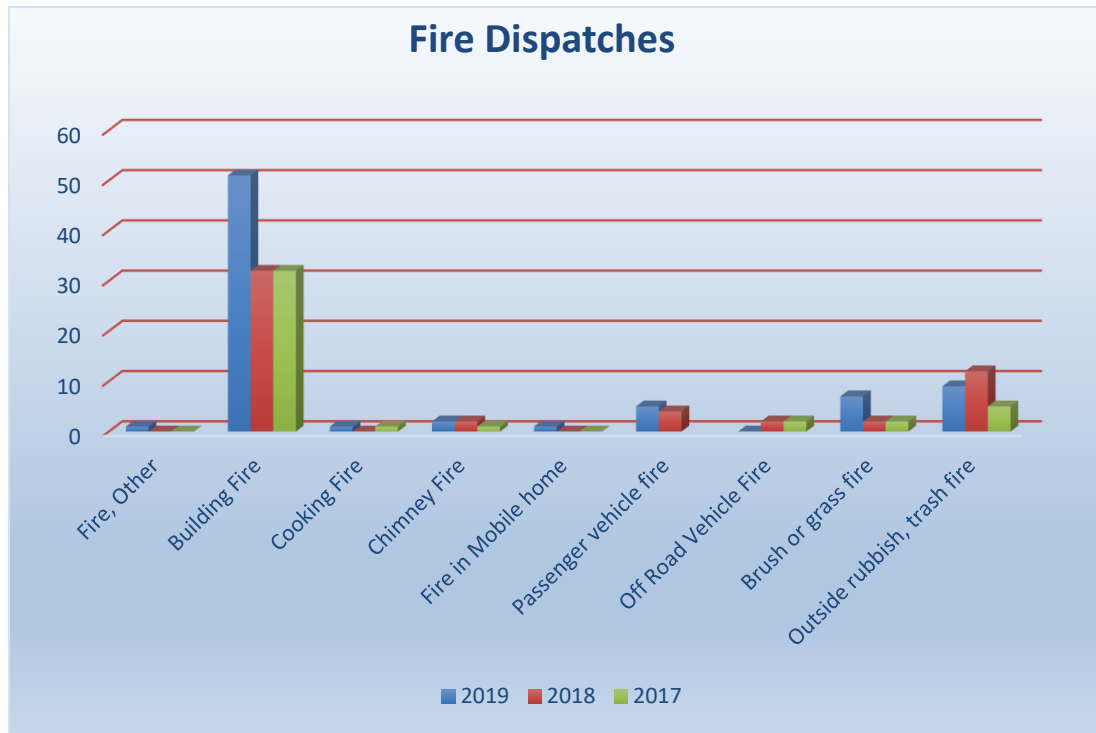


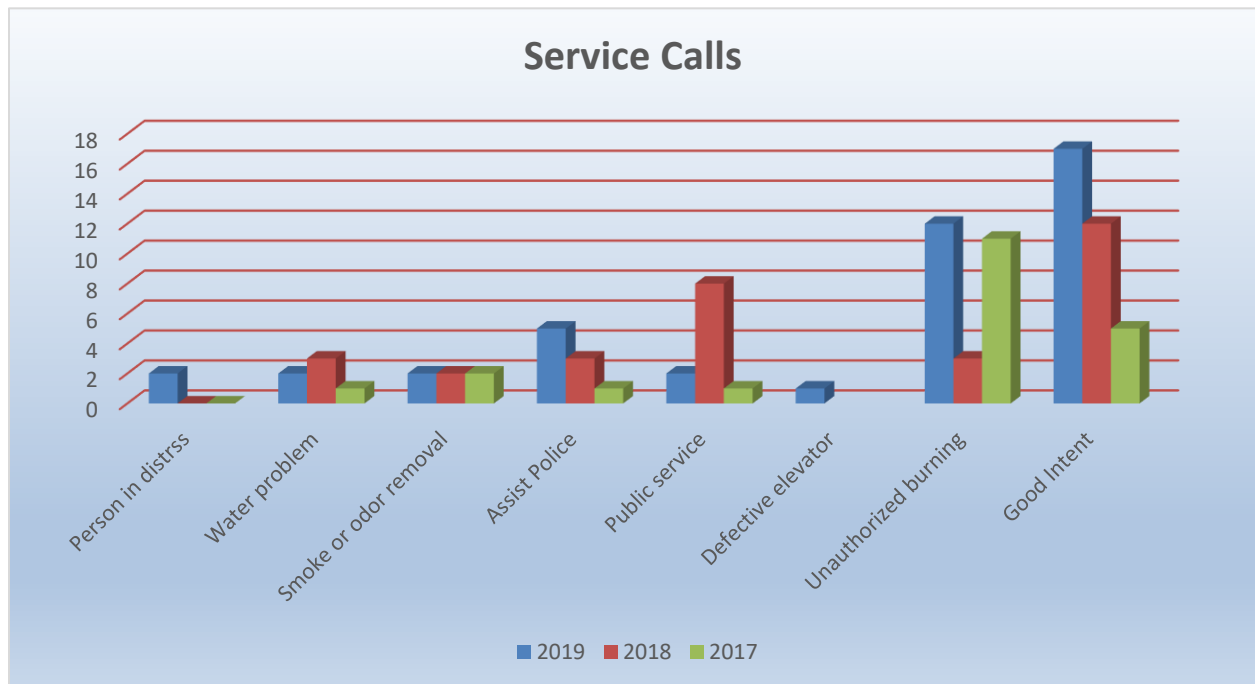
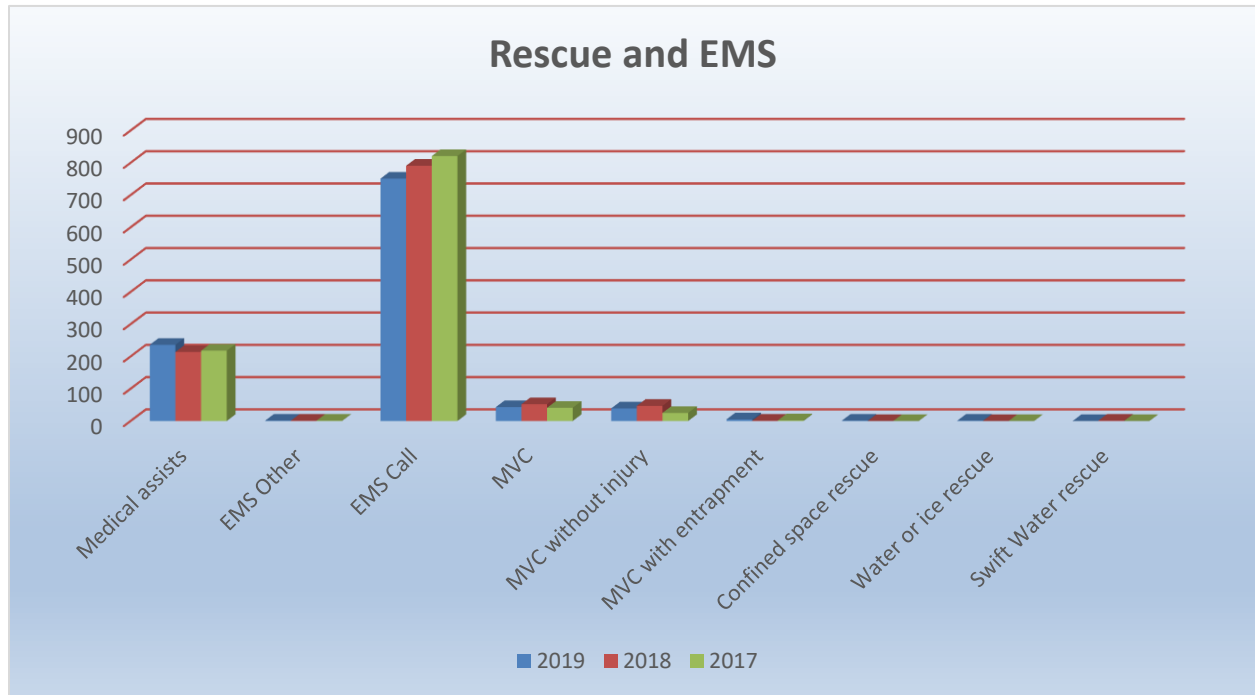
2019 Incidents Call Type

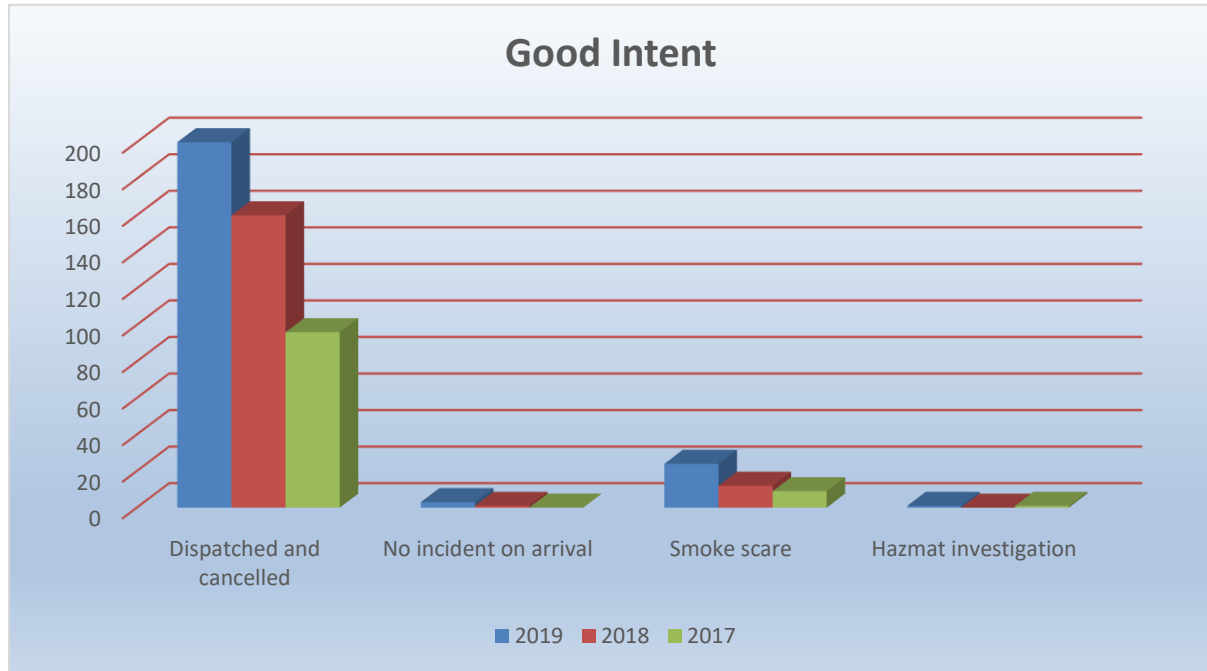


2019 Incidents by Day of the Week











FIRE PREVENTION

The Department responded to 77 working fires in 2019. This includes working fires outside of our respective area. Total fire loss for 2019 was \$73,500. I am pleased to announce that as a result of fires during 2019 there were no civilian injuries and no firefighter injuries or deaths. The department responded to 51 structure fires and 6 vehicle fires in 2019.

The department continues to offer to our Senior Citizens free home Knox Boxes. For “*at risk*” residential occupants, the Knox boxes give the ability to the fire department access into a residence in an emergency without damaging the property from forced entry. Unlike residential grade boxes that can be opened by anyone who has a common key or PIN, the Knox box is a high security weather resistant key safe that can be access by the fire department 24 hours a day, to provide peace of mind and safety for the resident.

A total of 73 fire inspections were conducted in commercial facilities in 2019. The department participated in many fire safety education programs and appearances which impacted over 1,009 individuals. Fire Safety programs were conducted throughout the month of October at Elda Elementary and the township’s open house. Several public education classes were also conducted on a needed basis including “Stop the Bleed”, CPR and other outreach programs on as needed basis, CPR classes were held for our township residents. These classes are offered at a minimal cost covering the cost of the CPR card and a pocket CPR mask.





EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

In 2019, the Ross Twp. Fire Department upheld our long-standing tradition of being there for our residents and guest of our township when they are in need. This year saw us respond to 988 calls for medical assistance. These calls range from very minor or serious medical needs and can involve anything from cardiac arrest to fractures and serious trauma. It is because of the dedication of our members that we can provide quality care in a timely manner.

In 2019 the department had seen 988 patients and transported 502 of those patients to local area hospitals. While we are proud of the care we have given the sick and injured. Our transport activity also provides an additional benefit; revenue. Working in conjunction with our billing agency, Medicount Management, we are able to recover funds from patients insurance companies in order to underwrite the rising cost of providing paramedic transport services.

Treating medical emergencies and traumatic injuries require skill, intelligence and equipment. Lots of equipment! Why? The simple fact is that every day and night we don't know what our crews will be faced with. Our department strives to equip our front line ambulances with cutting edge technology in order to save lives. This objective is costly and takes time to regulate and administer, but is worth every penny spent. Every ambulance in each of our stations has the ability to handle a wide range of EMS incidents. In fact our department was one of the first in our county to equip our ambulances with the new Lucas2 automatic chest compression machines.

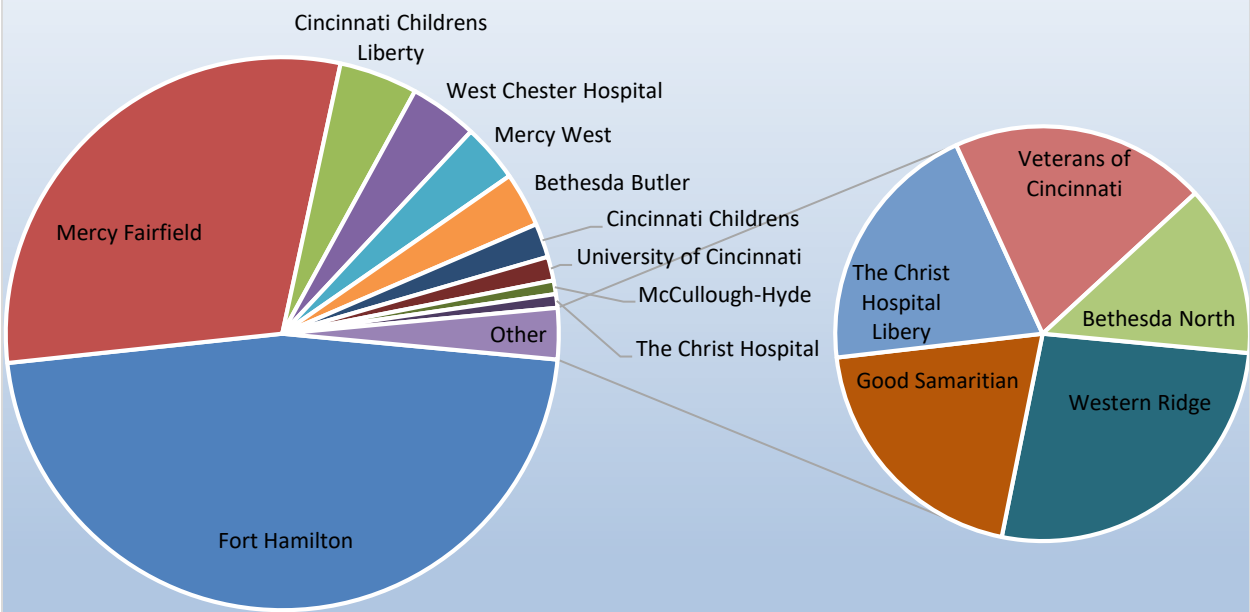
2015 Ambulance

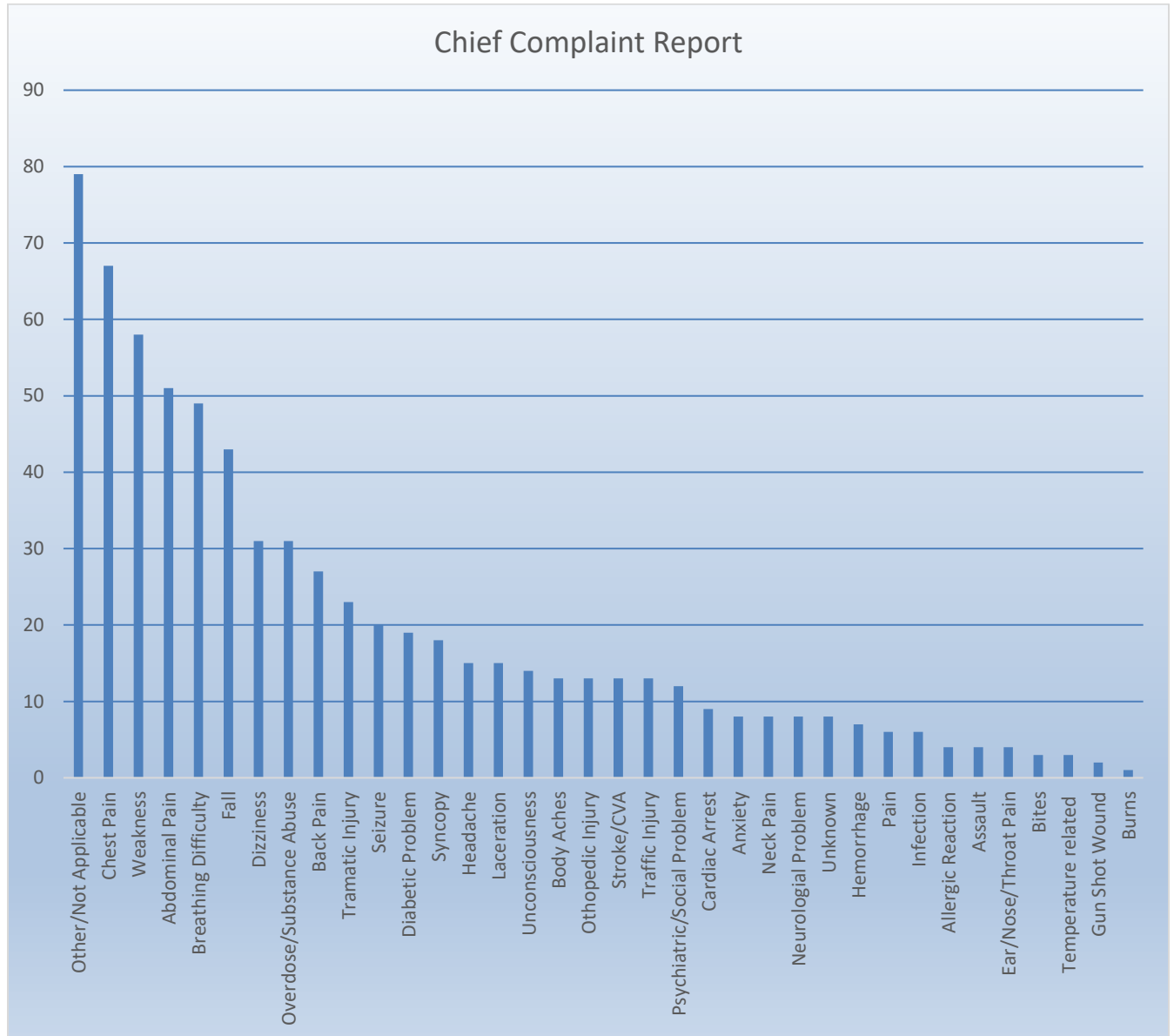


2017 Ambulance



Hospital Transport Destination







TRAINING

If we agree with a risk manager's quote "predictable is preventable," then one of the primary ways that we can avoid or minimize our risks is through training. The department continues to make training one of our top priorities. Our training program can essentially be separated into three segments. The first is medical training. After initial education, this ensures that our members receive their continuing education to maintain all of their levels of licensure. This also allows them to stay current with developments and innovations in EMS care. The second part of the training program is fire and technical in nature. These programs include firefighting skills, technical rescue skills, extrication, and so forth. The third portion of the training system is personnel and leadership development. Through officer training, we ensure that our younger members are prepared for the future. Through this succession planning, we are developing our leaders of tomorrow, today.

The Ross Twp. Fire Department continually strives to improve the services we provide to the citizens of Ross Township. With the increase of incidents during the year at times it has been difficult to fit a training class into the day. In 2017 the department signed on with Target Solutions. Target Solutions offers easy-to-use computer-based technology for scheduling, delivering and tracking training and compliance. The platform features more than 450 hours of on-line fire training, over 160 hours of accredited EMS continuing education hours.

As a Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic in the State of Ohio you are required to have continuing education in each discipline that you are certified to every three years.

Certification Level	36 Months (100%)
Firefighter	54 Hours
Fire Safety Inspector	30 Hours
EMT Basic	40 Hours of CE to include 6 Hours Pediatric 2 Hours Geriatric 8 Hours trauma to include the Ohio Triage Trauma Course
EMT Paramedic	86 Hours of CE to include 12 Hours of Pediatric 4 Hours Geriatric 6 Hours Cardiac care 8 Hours trauma to in include the Ohio Triage Trauma Course
Fire Instructor	6 hours CEU and 24 hours teaching
Assistant Fire Instructor	6 Hours CEU and 8 hours teaching
Continuing Education Instructor	2 Hours of Methodology 6 Hours of Instructing



MUTUAL AID

In an effort to reduce the economic impact on the community and continue to provide the necessary services, Ross Township continues to seek alternative delivery methods. Additionally, with the complexity of the emergency calls received today, the Ross Township Fire Department, along with numerous fire departments throughout Butler County, recognizes the need to consolidate specialized teams and equipment to reduce costs to individual fire departments. Mutual aid agreements have been in place for many years, but there has never been more of a need to train and respond with other agencies than now. At the same time, we are able to continue to provide an outstanding response and mitigate emergencies not only in Ross Township, but in other communities as well.

With our neighboring fire departments, we developed run cards for certain emergency incidents where we will be getting Automatic Aid from them.

“Automatic Aid” erases jurisdictional boundaries for all participating agencies. This means that any time you call the closest appropriate emergency response vehicle to you will be dispatched regardless of where you are inside our dispatch area. This ensures first and foremost that our customers are receiving the highest level of care available in the shortest amount of time, and secondly, allows all participating agencies better use of their resources. Each participating agency must adhere to standard operating policies and procedures which allow multiple agencies to work side-by-side on incidents under one Incident Command. This seamless cooperative effort ensures that the closest most appropriate resources are dispatched without a time or distance delay.

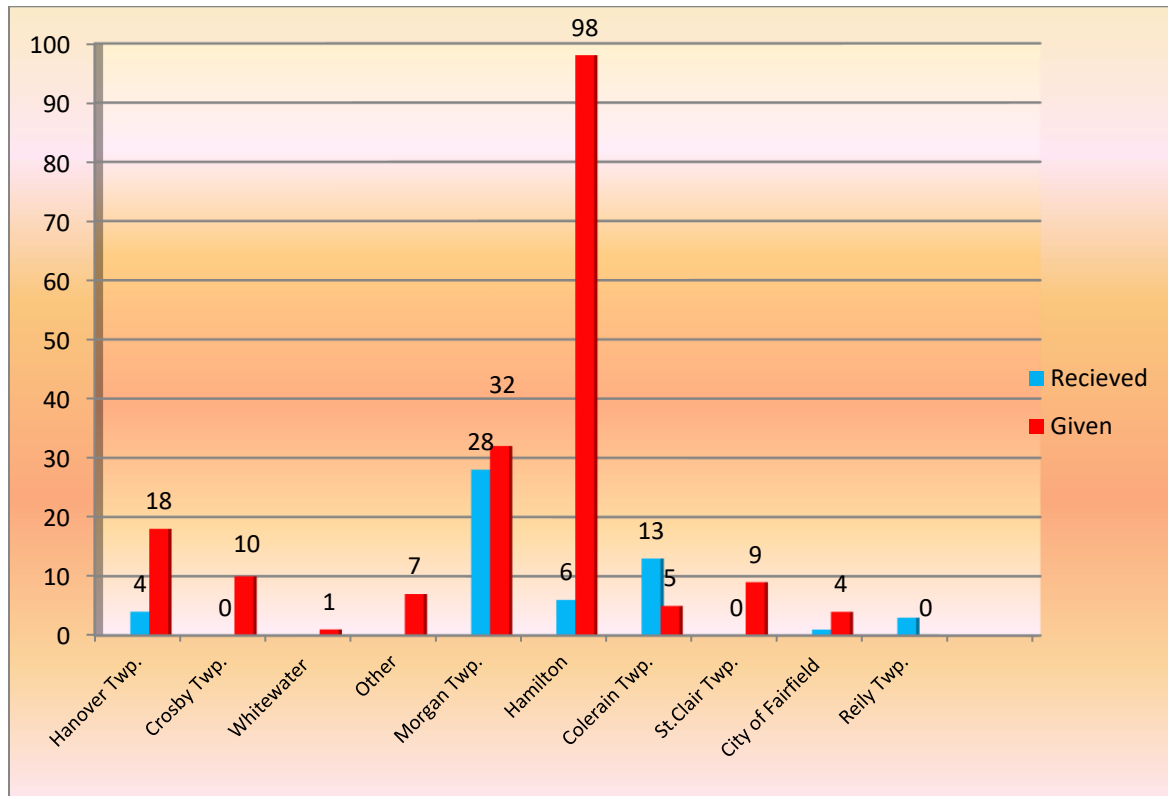
Chief Miller is the Logistics Section Chief with the State of Ohio/Butler County All Hazards Incident Management Team. In June of 2019 the team participated in Operation Unified Response at the Muscatatuck Urban Training center in the State of Indiana. Operations Unified Response was a multi-national Urban Search and Rescue exercise which simulated a response to a significant earthquake and included teams from across the United States, Canada and Australia. Operation Unified Response was also the first exercise designed to integrate local Incident Management Teams, such as the Butler County IMT, into the operations of FEMA and Department of Defense resources. Operation Unified Response gave the team an opportunity to train with the best in the world. This training is essential to ensuring that we are ready to respond to any emergency which may impact our community. One of the exercises was working with the Army in moving personnel and equipment from different locations. One scenario was moving personnel with a Chinook Helicopter from the training center to Station 102







2019 Mutual Aid Received/Request





2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2019 was once again proven to be a very good year for our Department and its members.

Department Accomplishments and Significant Events

- Due to personal reasons Captain Shane Packer made notification of his resignation from the department effective January 31st.



- Captain Jared Morris secured \$6,000 in scholarships from the Ohio Fire Chief's Dominion Foundation to be applied to his enrollment into the Ohio Fire Executive Program.

- To help in the reduction of the risk of cancer in our Firefighters we were able to secure a donation from Home Depot in the amount of \$300 to build a turnout gear dryer. This dryer will allow our firefighters turnout gear to return to service sooner instead relying on it to dry naturally.



- Received a donation from Harbor Freight in the amount of \$350 to purchase a power washer for cleaning vehicles and the exterior of the fire stations.
- Purchased a new software program from Firehouse Software for Fire Inspections. The program on our iPads is working great, performing both hydrant maintenance and most importantly, company fire inspections. It has greatly reduced our workload and made us essentially paperless. Our 'customers' seem to like it better as well, because everything is emailed or faxed



to them as soon as we complete the inspection. Once the crews get back within range of our Wi-Fi connection, the information is uploaded and complete.

- Early on a Saturday morning a group of canoeists from Miami University were going down Indian Creek when one of the canoeist overturns and became trapped when his leg was stuck under a rock and brush. A quick response from our crews got to this victim and successfully extricating the victim from harm
- In order to stay compliant with NFPA 3000 Standard of an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program, the department ordered 9 ballistic vest and helmets. With this personal protective equipment, it will allow our firefighters to enter a hostile event with our law enforcement partners.
- Chief Miller responded into Montgomery County as a member of the Ohio Incident Management Team to support a Logistic Staging area at UD Arena from tornados that struck the area the night before.
- As part of the Ohio Fire Chief's Emergency Response Plan, Tanker 101 along with Assistant Chief Johns was sent to Washington Township in Montgomery County for a 24 hour shift due to the township having no water pressure available due to their water plant issues because of the tornados.
- Successful grain bin extrication on Timberman Rd. A man was trapped for over 3 hours while our crews along with many mutual aid partners successfully freed the patient. Patient was transfers by Air Care and was released the next morning



- Ben Alvis and Landen Richey both resigned their positions of Lieutenant due to personal reasons.



Fire Department

2019 Annual Report

- Chief Miller attended a week-long training exercise at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center as part of the State of Ohio/Butler County Incident Management Team



- Scott Huston and Rick Simmons obtain their Fire Officer I certification by attending a week-long class at Scarlet Oaks training center.
- Rob Embry, Rick Simmons, and Scott Huston were promoted to the position of Lieutenants

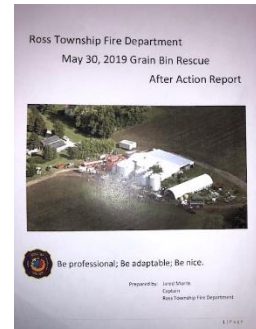


- Jason Bunger, Rob Embry, Jerrod Cooper, Chris Arnold, Dan Young, Chris Johns, Jared Morris, Walt Ritchie, Scott Huston received a Unit Citation award for their rescue efforts at the grain bin rescue





- An After-Action Report was developed by Captain Jared Morris and was review by all fire department personnel. The report was also sent to all responding agencies that assisted us that day. This report is intended to assist the Ross Township Fire Department preparedness by analyzing and identifying strengths to be maintained and built upon to provide the best possible service to our community. It is also analyzed and identified potential areas for improvement, so that the Ross Township Fire Department can provide better service to our community.



- The department participated in an Active Shooter Drill at the Ross High School.



- Returning from a fire incident in Morgan Township Engine 102 was involved in a single vehicle accident due to the road way giving away. Luckily there were no injuries. Unfortunately, the fire apparatus was deemed a total loss. A replacement apparatus has been ordered and is expected late in the year 2020.



- Engine 101 and Medic 101 participated in a 4th of July Parade in the Black Rod. Subdivisions. This has turned into a traditional event which draws a lot of people.



Fire Department

2019 Annual Report

- Again, this year the department participated in the Annual MDA Camp at Camp Gambel Gard. The department sends out a tanker so the kids can compete in the bucket brigade.



- Received a \$2,879 Grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Services Grant. This grant funding went towards the purchase of an on-line training program for Fire and EMS and went towards the purchased on new 4G modems for our AED's
- Received a Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of a new breathing air Compressor to re-fill our SCBA cylinders.



- With the aid of our Fire Safety trailer, the department spent two weeks at Elda School teaching fire prevention to all students within Elda School.



- A few years ago, the department received a donation for oxygen mask for animals. In October our department was dispatched into Morgan Township for a structure fire. Crews completed an interior search and found two animals that were not breathing. The animals were brought outside and given oxygen through the mask and both were revived.





- Lt. Rob Embry and Lt. Scott Huston completed the Fire Officer II class at Sharonville FD. This course builds on the experience learned in the Fire Officer I class and is step 2 in preparing Ohio's Fire & Emergency Services Leaders for the challenges facing them tomorrow. The Fire Officer II program requires team work, group projects, application, analysis and synthesis. As the officers attain the rank of Fire Officer II, their responsibilities include the management and leadership of multiple projects and companies.

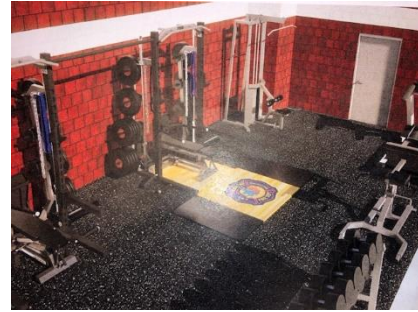


- A film crew from Canada was at the station interviewing personnel on the grain bin rescue that occurred earlier in the year. The crew was filming for the TV series "My Job Almost Killed Me"





- The department received an anonymous donation from a local resident to outfit both fire stations with physical fitness equipment. This equipment has been ordered and is expected to be placed in service after the first of the year.



- In October the department was dispatched to an MVA on Cincinnati-Brookville Rd. In the car was three Ross students. One of the patients, Lyla Brinck was seriously injured in the crash. In December, Lyla and her family met the members of the department, as well as members from Colerain Twp. Fire and Miami Valley Care Flight crew.





Personnel Accomplishments

Captain Jared Morris - \$6,000 Scholarship for OFE
Lt. Rob Embry obtained Fire Officer I certification
Shawn Wurzelbacher obtained full time employment with Milford Community Fire Dept.
Andy Wilkens back to active status
Lt. Scott Huston obtained Fire Officer I certification
Lt. Rick Simmons obtained Fire Officer I certification
Lt. Rob Embry promoted to Lieutenant
Lt. Rick Simmons promoted to Lieutenant
Lt. Scott Huston promoted to Lieutenant
Jason Bunger obtained Paramedic certification
Ron Stenger named Firefighter of the year at Colerain Twp. Fire & EMS
Chief Steve Miller – New grandpa to Savannah Ryan Miller
Lt. Rob Embry became father to Weston Embry
Jason Bunger obtained full time position with Hamilton Fire Department
Howard “Buddy” Jackson obtained Firefighter II certification
Lt. Rob Embry obtained Fire Officer II certification
Lt. Scott Huston obtained Fire Officer II certification
Captain Jared Morris became father to Kellen Robert Morris

New Hires – *Dominic Bruno*

Service Awards 2019

20 Years

Nick Alvis
Eric Simon
Robin Grant
Tom Licata

10 Years

Kirk Fisher

5 Years

Scott Miller



Chief Steve Miller

District Chief Dan Young

Assistant Chief Chris Johns

Captain Jared Morris

Lt. Rob Embry

Nick Alvis
Mike Brooks
David Chaney Jr.
Kirk Fisher
Howard Jackson
Steve Meyer
Evan Seeley
Ron Stenger
Shawn Wurzelbacher

Lt. Rick Simmons

Chris Arnold
Dominic Bruno
Jerrold Cooper
Andy Flannery
Kathy Johns
Scott Miller
Eric Simon
Tracy Teetz

Lt. Scott Huston

Justin Bogolo
Brandon Cable
Jon DePrie
Bret Fogel
Ryan Lucas
Walt Ritchie
Robby Smith
Jeremy Waldroff

Lt. Tom Licata

Paul Bromwell
Charlie Caudill
Steve Fawns
Robin Grant
Shawn May
Eric Schaub
Brandon Sparks
Andy Wilkens

Resignation - Captain Shane Packer
Kyle Swadener
Scott Ray
Eric McCarthy
Jason Bunger

In-Active Ben Alvis
Landen Richey
Nate Holt