

*Ross Township
Fire Department*



*2020
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 2020. I am happy to say our delivery of emergency services continued to set the standard in the fire service and will continue to be our top priority. 2020 proved to be a year with great achievement as well as some difficult times.

As we wind down the year, the fire department has a chance to reflect on the many challenges of 2020, with a once-in-a-century global pandemic the likes of which have not been seen since 1918 with the Spanish flu. With COVID-19 vaccines on the verge of receiving Federal Drug Administration (FDA) emergency use authorization, mass vaccinations are underway soon and into 2021, hopefully taming the pandemic's effects. Our members have had to confront not only the effects of the pandemic but also the effects of the fiscal downturn on local government budgets.

Personal protective equipment became paramount to our first responders in 2020 and these will no doubt continue to have great importance into the new year. We have also seen that this virus affects certain populations with comorbid conditions in a more severe manner, such as those with underlying conditions. The rigors of being a first responder during a turbulent 2020 also reminds us of the importance of behavioral wellness support within our departments.

We have also been impacted by personnel contracting COVID-19 and others having been exposed, forcing members to quarantine and leaving a tremendous operational strain on our work schedule. Sadly, numerous first responders have made the ultimate sacrifice and succumbed to the virus, as have hundreds of thousands of Americans.

In 2020 the department successfully received a total of \$117,995 in grant funding. These funds have been used to offset operational costs and to improve safety for our firefighters. In January the department received a grant from the Richard J. Fitton Family Foundation to purchase an UTV off-road vehicle. The vehicle was equipped with a skid mount pump along with an area to transport a patient. The funding also included a tandem axle trailer. Physical Fitness equipment was received in early 2020 from an anonymous source. This state-of-the-art equipment was installed at both fire stations. In April, \$2,995 was received from the Ohio Department of Public Safety and used for EMS equipment. In March a state-of-the-art breathing air compressor was received that we received grant funding from The Department of Homeland Security. 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 1,486 calls for service in 2020, a decrease of 3.5% from 2019. This decrease could be related to the COVID scare earlier in the year and the closing of the Ross Urgent Care. We still show a 39% percent increase of calls from the last 5 years. There were 1,067 calls for emergency medical service which represents 72% of our total responses. Our paramedics transported 451 patients for treatment at area hospitals. Our average time from the initial 9-1-1 call to our arrival was five minutes thirty-six seconds

The men and women of the department completed nearly 800 hours of community outreach and prevention duties. Our most important outreach program is our annual fire safety prevention week,



where all students of Elda Elementary undergo fire safety training. Unfortunately, due to the COVID outbreak the normal use of the Fire Safety Trailer was suspended, fire safety talks were conducted outside the classroom.

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.

Looking ahead, 2021 will no doubt continue to present challenges to health and wellness as we continue to gain control of the virus. Additionally, economic challenges to department budgets will continue to challenge deployment and operations.

Chief Steve Miller, OFE



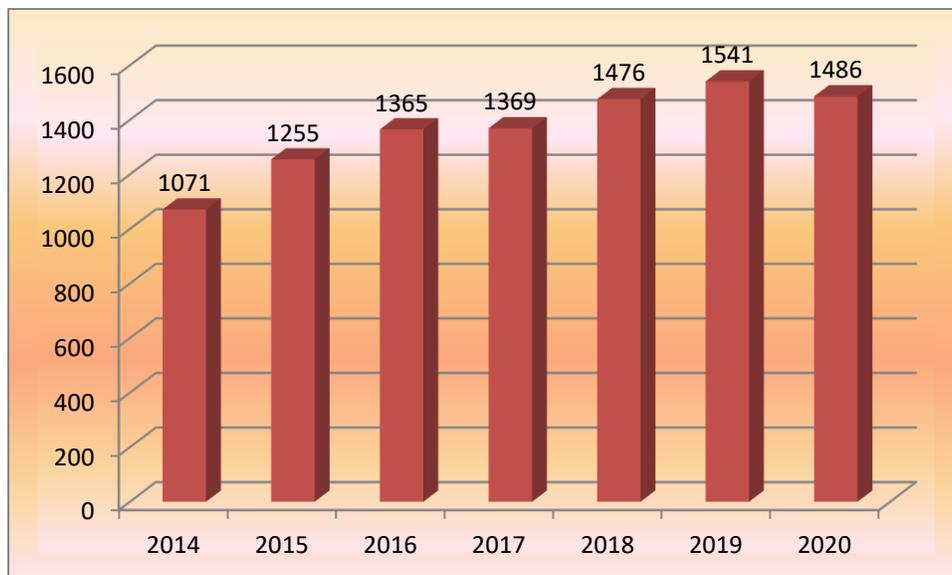
EMERGENCY ACTIVITY

Ross Township Fire Department responded to 1,486 incidents, down 3.5% from 2019. Total fire loss for these incidents totaled \$389,580. Of these incidents, a total valuation of these structures or property amounted to \$1,211,390. This equates to saving \$821,810 in property value or saving 67.84% 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 full time and part time firefighters. 4 Part time firefighters staff both stations 7 days a week during the day time hours. Currently there are 46 members on the fire department roster. Of those 46 members, only 3 are volunteer members.

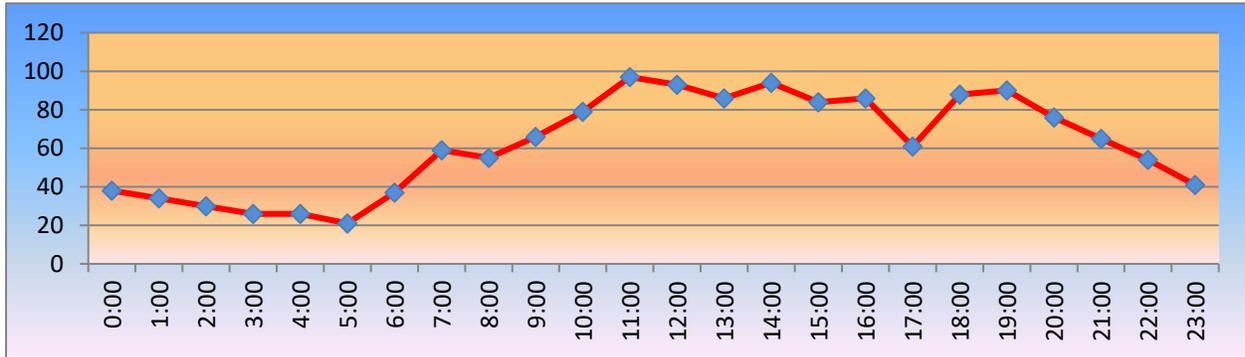
7 YEAR COMPARISON OF DOLLAR LOSS	
2020	\$389,580
2019	\$73,500
2018	\$207,910
2017	\$38,500
2016	\$97,500
2015	\$261,600
2014	\$11,236

Total Incidents by Year

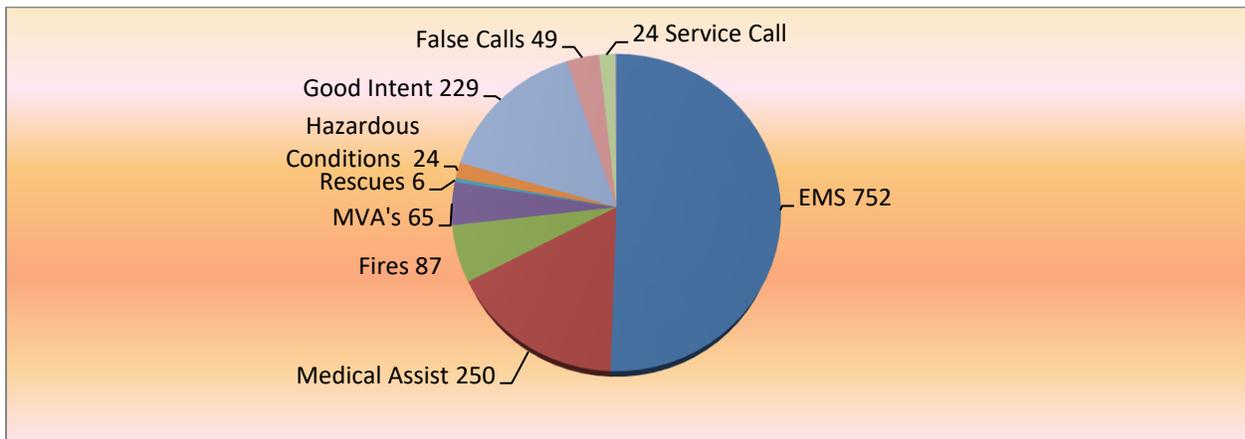




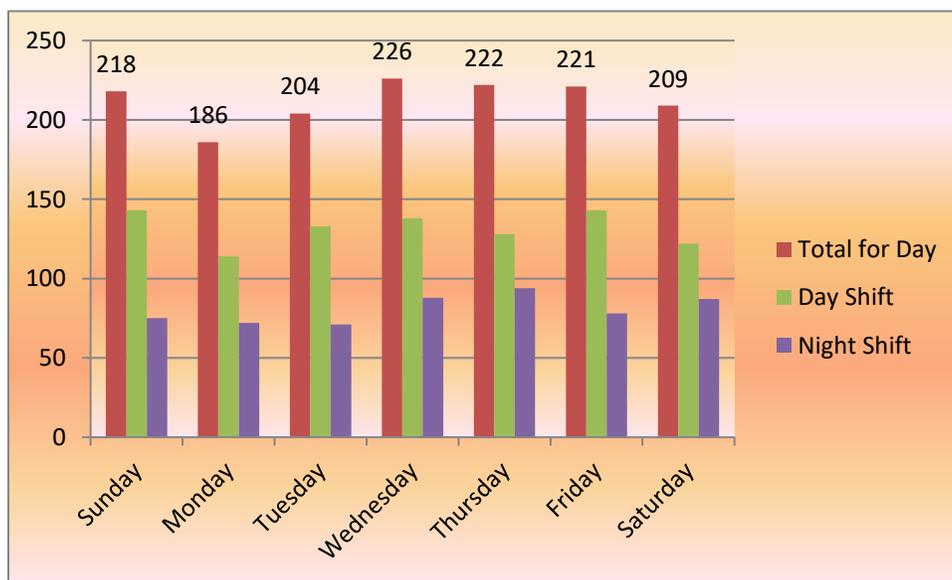
2020 Response Time Analysis

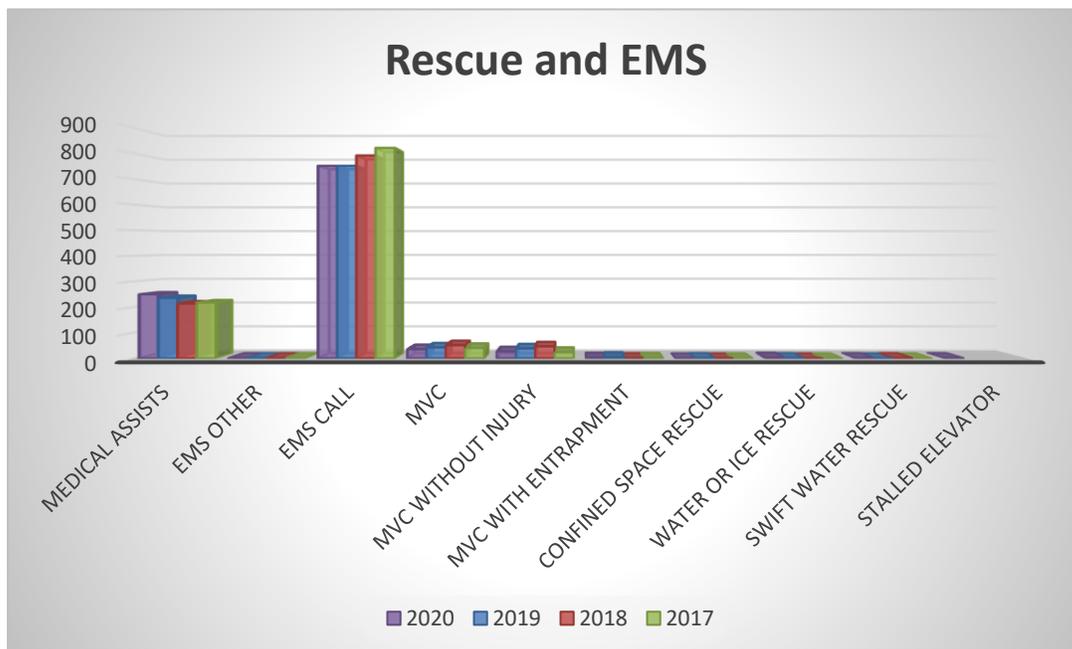
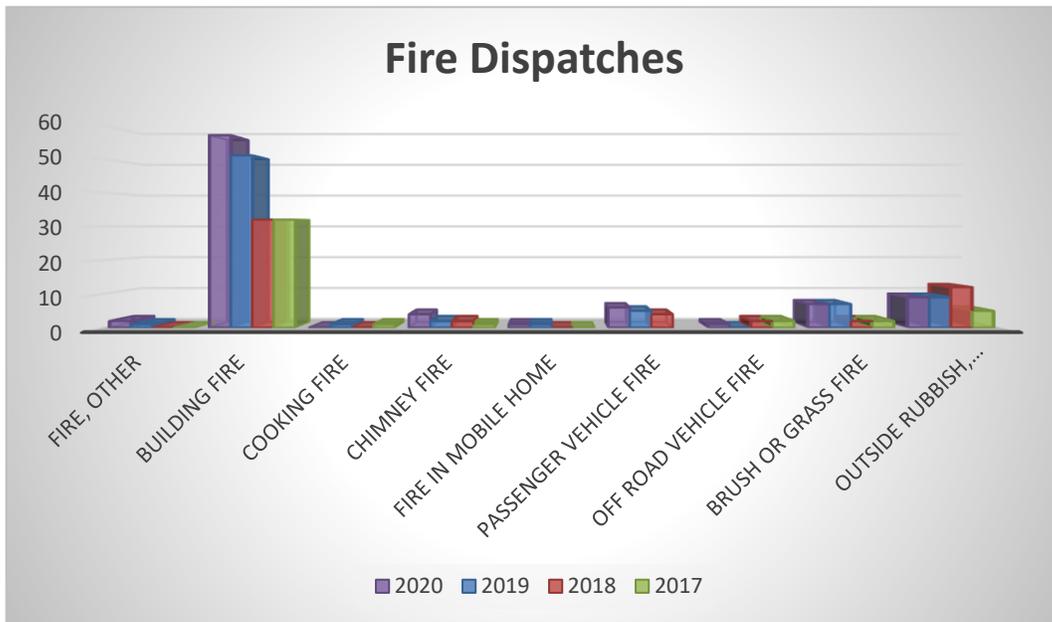


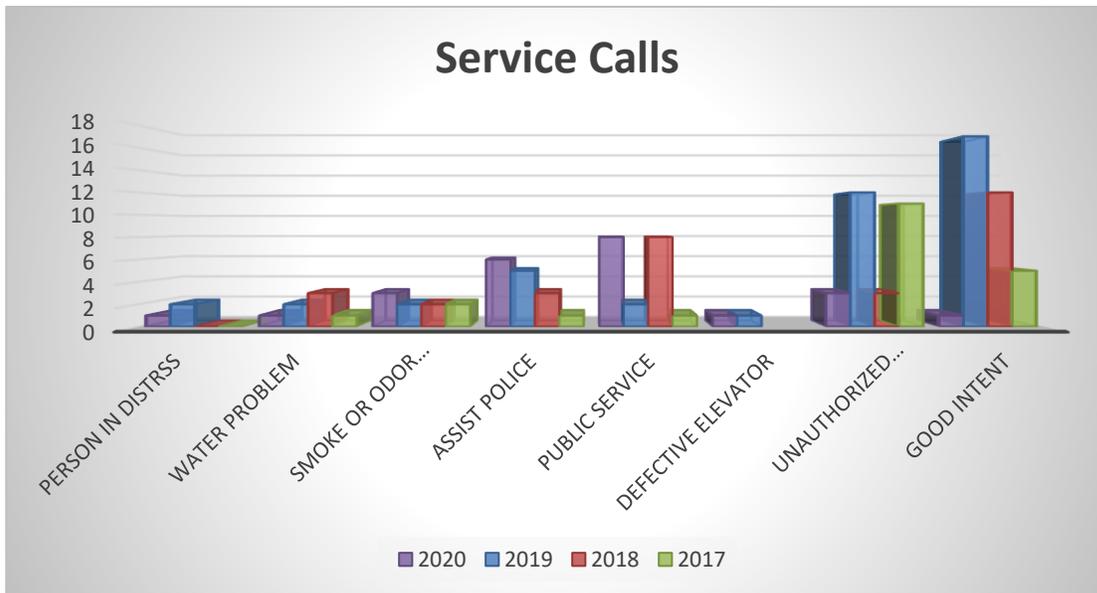
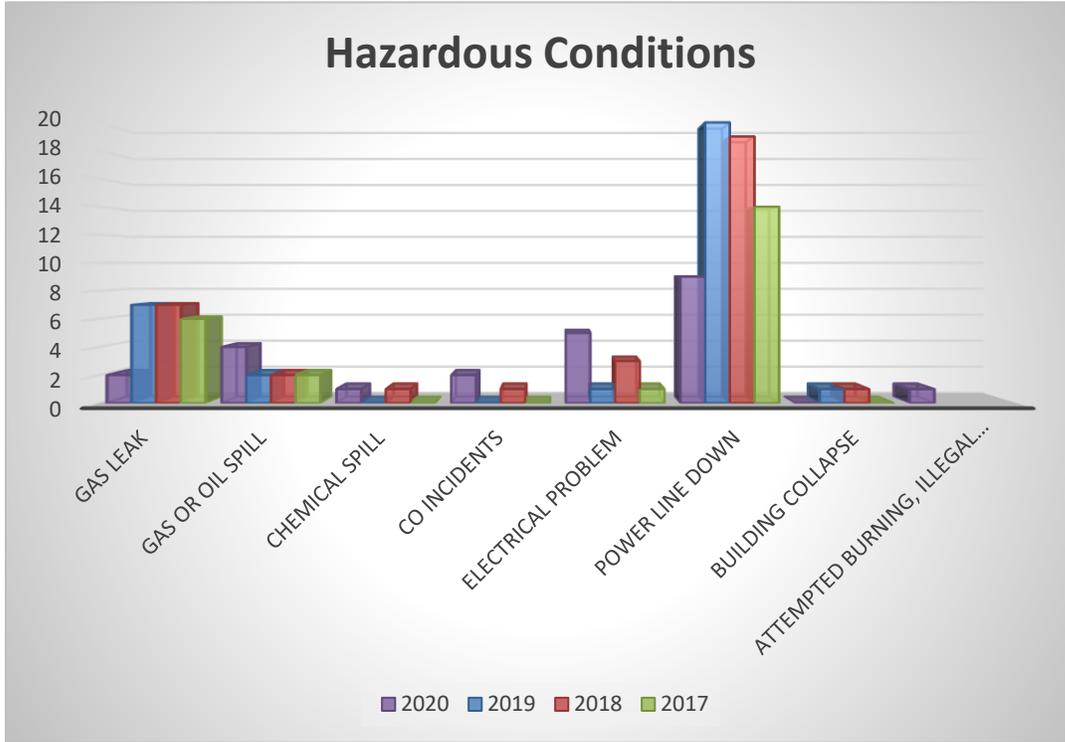
2020 Incidents Call Type

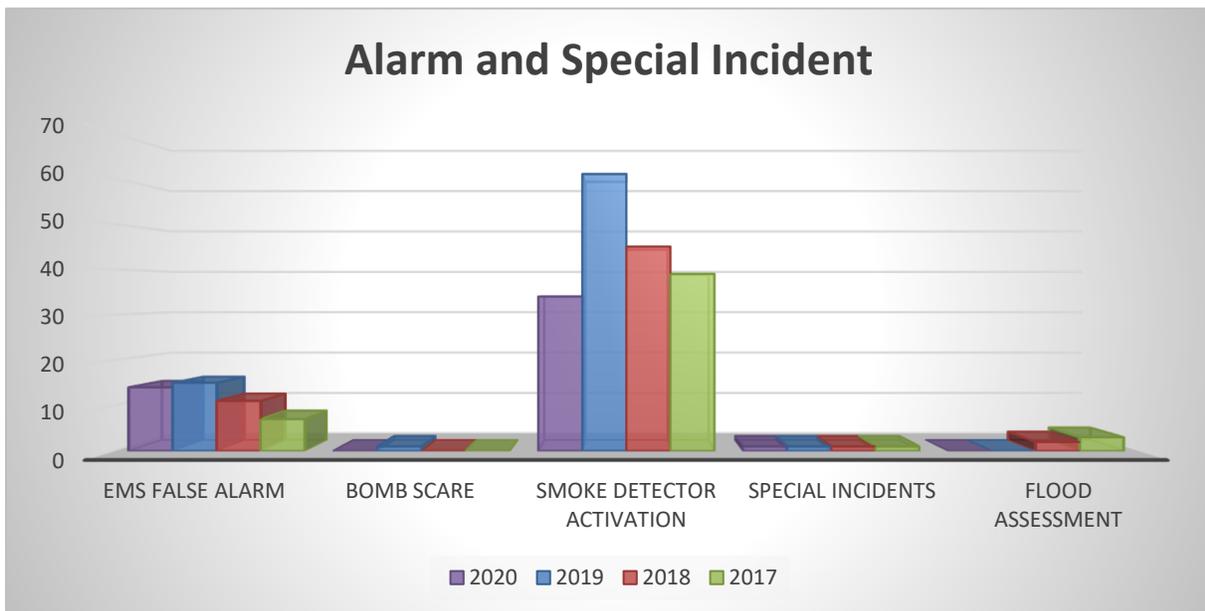
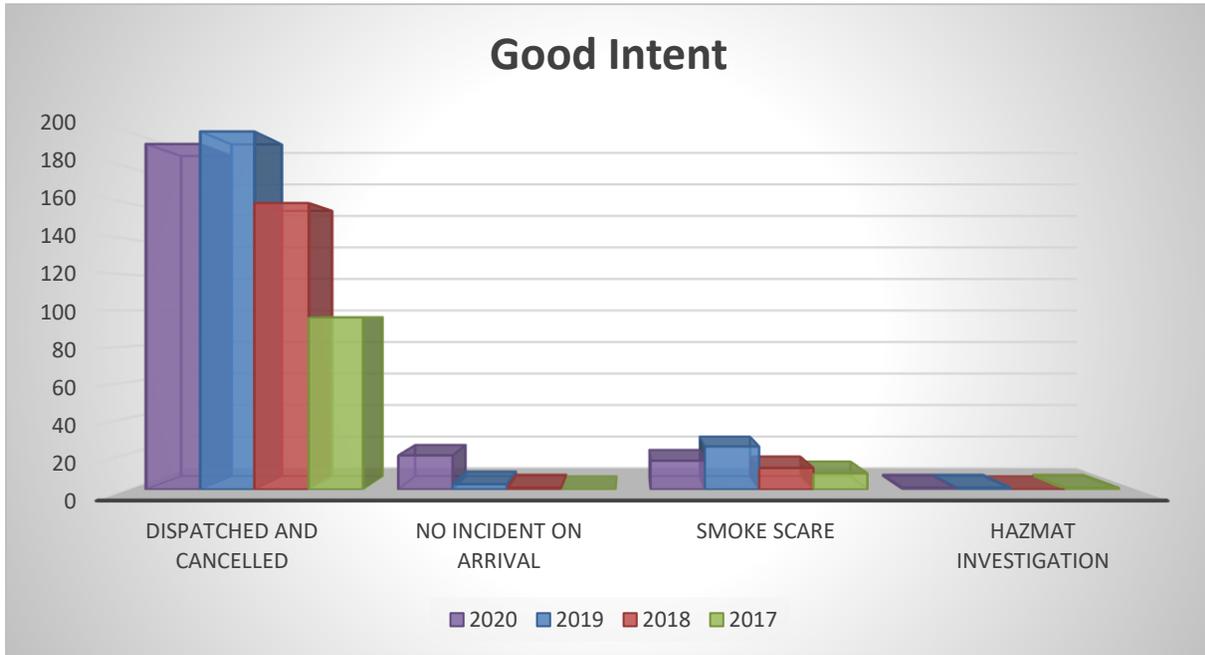


2020 Incidents by Day of the Week











FIRE PREVENTION

The Department responded to 87 working fires in 2020. This includes working fires outside of our respective area. Total fire loss for 2019 was \$389,580. I am pleased to announce that as a result of fires during 2020 there were no civilian injuries and no firefighter injuries or deaths. The department responded to 57 structure fires and 6 vehicle fires in 2020.

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 accessed by the fire department 24 hours a day, to provide peace of mind and safety for the resident.

Due to the COVID pandemic it was decided to suspend all commercial fire inspections to keep our social distancing. The department continued inspections of the Ross Local Schools and residential inspections dealing with foster care and adoptions. Fire Safety programs were conducted throughout the month of October at Elda Elementary but without the presentation of classroom in the Fire Safety Trailer. It is our hope to get through this pandemic and continue our long-standing tradition of providing quality fire prevention activities.





EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

In 2020, 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 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 1,067 patients and transported 451 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.

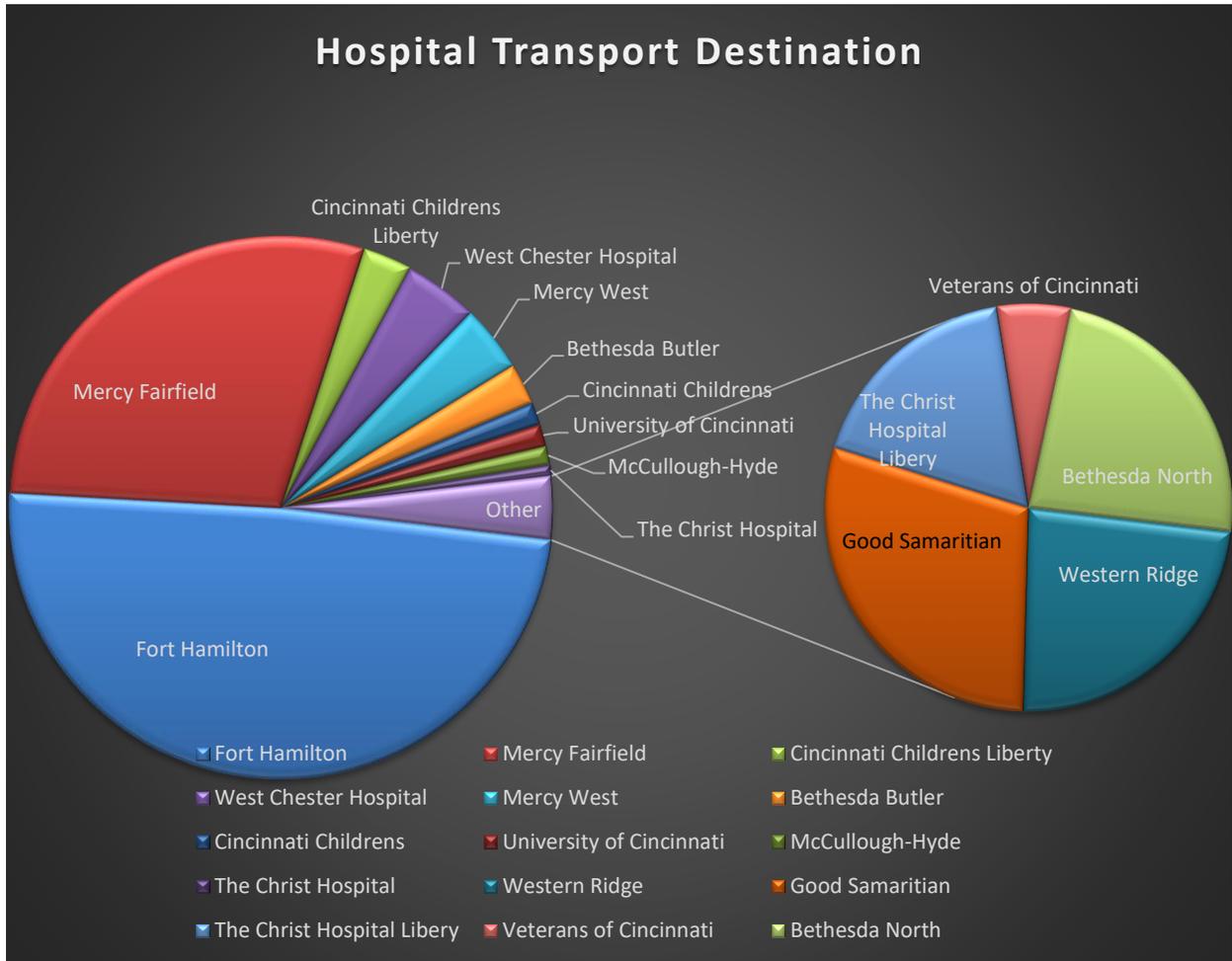
Treating medical emergencies and traumatic injuries require skill, intelligence and equipment. Lots of equipment! Why? The simple fact is that every day and night we don't know what our crews will be faced with. Our department strives to equip our front line ambulances with cutting edge technology in 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.

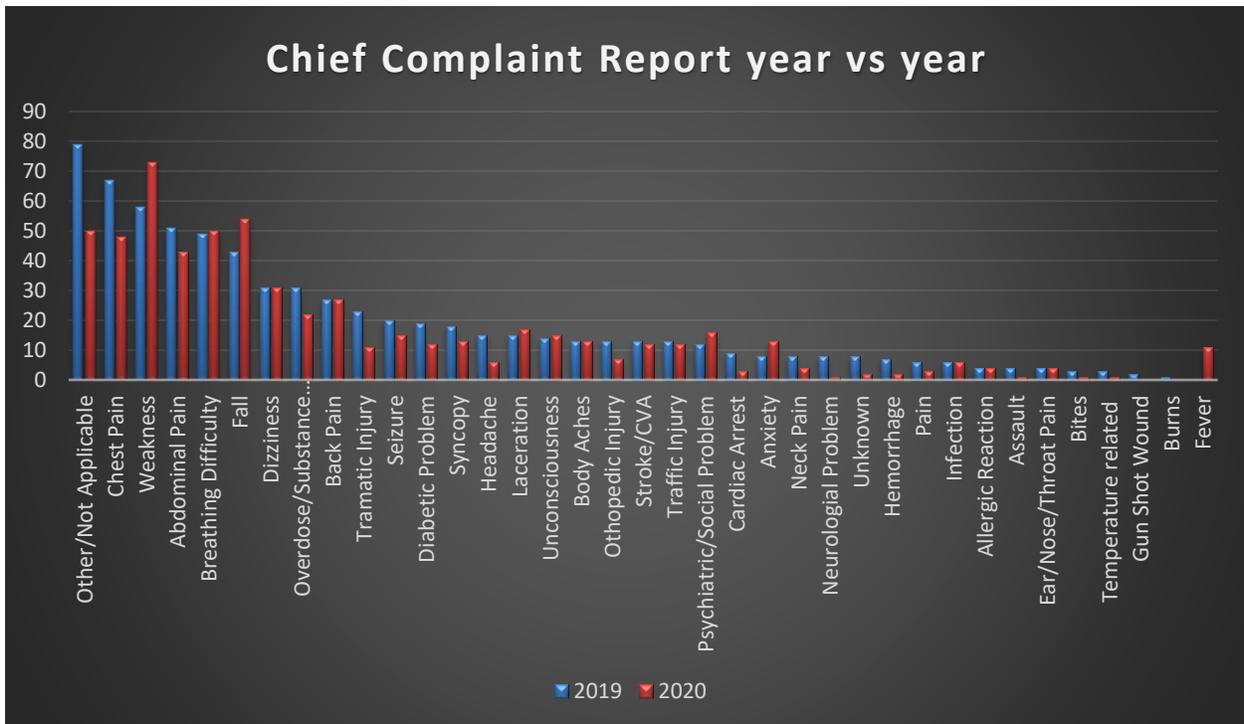
2015 Ambulance



2017 Ambulance









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 2020 the department conducted several different training evolutions with our neighboring departments. Those training included water rescue, extrication, fire behavior, and we also hosted the Butler County Technical Rescue Team to conduct a trench rescue training.

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.

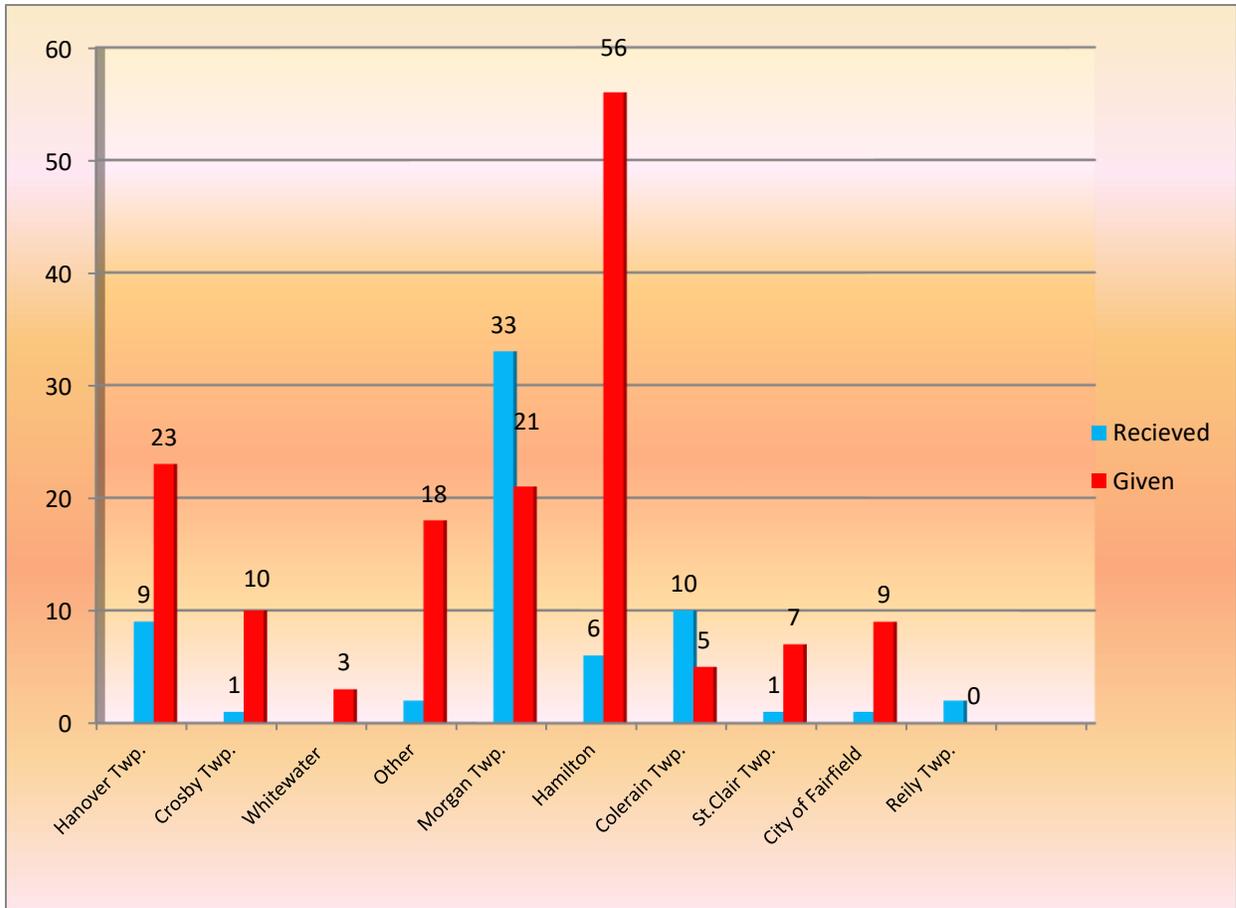
“Automatic Aid” erases jurisdictional boundaries for all participating agencies. This means that any time you call the closest appropriate emergency response vehicle to you will be dispatched regardless of where you are inside our dispatch area. This ensures first and foremost that our customers are 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.

In 2020, our department responded to 152 mutual aid requests from our neighboring departments. This doesn't include the 193 incidents that the department was dispatched and were cancelled enroute to the scene. We were provided mutual aid from our neighboring departments for 65 incidents. This includes assistance for structure fires, motor vehicle accidents and Emergency Medical calls. During 2020 the department had over 446 overlapping incidents that occurred before a previous incident was completed. This proves that automatic aid is truly needed.





2020 Mutual Aid Received/Request





2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2020 was once again proven to be a very good year for our Department and its members.

Department Accomplishments and Significant Events

- In January the department received a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the Richard J. Fitton Family Foundation to purchase an UTV off-road vehicle. The vehicle will be equipped with a skid mount pump unit along with an area to transport a patient. The grant funding also included a tandem axle trailer.



- Crews responded into the Village of Millville for a vehicle fire.



- The department received an anonymous donation from a local resident to outfit both fire stations with state of the art commercial physical fitness equipment. This equipment was installed at both fire station.





- Robin Grant, Nick Alvis, Eric Simon, Ron Stenger, and Tom Licata received their 20th anniversary rings for serving the fire department.

- Representatives from the Regional Autism Advisory Council presented training to our duty crews on how to safely and effectively interact with those on the autism spectrum. We placed “Sensory Bags” in our medic units which contain items that will assist us with those patients when we come in contact with them.



- The department responded to a structure fire on Sandy Hills Dr. and received assistance from Morgan and Colerain Twp. Fire Departments



- Received and install the new breathing air compressor at Station 102. This was from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in late 2019.





- Place Gator 102 in Service



- Crews responded to Hamilton-Scipio Rd. for a working structure fire in a detached barn. Received assistance from Morgan, Hanover and Reily Twp. Fire Departments.



- District Chief Dan Young announcement of his retirement from the department after 39 years of service. Chief Young served the department in many roles. Chief Young was the Ross Twp. Life Squad Chief and after the merger with Millville he became District Chief. His presence will be sorely missed





- Firefighter/Medics Eric Schaub, Andy Flannery, and Ron Stenger received commendation awards for a Cardiac Arrest save. They were transporting a patient to the hospital when she went into cardiac arrest. Quick actions by the crew resulted in a “save”. They received a commendation award by Chief Miller for that call. It is rare to have a cardiac arrest “save” but we were fortunate enough to have 2 back-to-back “saves” that week.

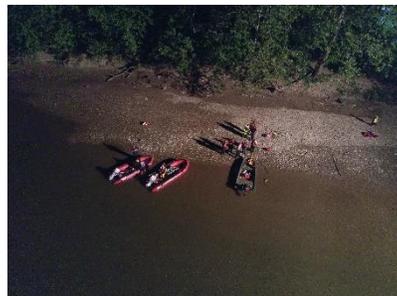




- Lieutenant Rick Simmons, Assistant Chief Chris Johns, and Firefighter/EMT Steve Fawns received a commendation award from Chief Miller for a cardiac arrest save of a patient who collapsed at the medical center. Prompt response from the doctor and medical staff at the facility who provided early CPR and defibrillation from their AED, combined with a quick response of our EMS crews and rapid transport to the hospital, allowed for a successful outcome for the patient.



- In June crews responded to the Great Miami River for a drowning. We received assistance from Morgan, Colerain Twp and the City Hamilton Fire Departments.





- In July we were honored in hosting a trench rescue class for the Butler County Technical Rescue Team. Our on-duty crews trained side by side with Tech rescue receiving valuable training.



- The department held a joint training session with Morgan, Colerain, Whitewater Twp and the City of Harrison dealing with water rescue scenario at Watson Sand & Gravel.



- In August E-One started construction on the new Engine 101 and Engine 102





- We received a donation of two “doll houses” from 859-Board-Up. These houses are used to demonstrate fire flow paths and fire behavior.



- After more than 25 years of dedicated service to the department and the citizens of Ross Township and the village of Millville, Charlie Caudill has announced his retirement from the department. For those that are in the fire service or have lived in this community probably know Charlie. Charlie was instrumental in starting the paramedic program at Millville Fire Department in the early 1990’s and has served in the positions of Firefighter/medic, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief, and most recently, Health and Safety officer. More important than all of those roles he held, he has been a mentor and friend to all of us. Charlie's infectious laugh, hours of stories, and his presence in the Ross Fire Department will be missed!



- Chief Miller, Assistant Chief Johns, Captain Morris and FF Eric Simon traveled to Hamburg New York to complete the final inspection of Engine 101 and Engine 102





- Gator 102 was used by Butler County Metroparks for their prescribed burns at Forest Run Preserve



- In December we received our ISO audit. The department was retained our Class 3/Y rating. This rating represents a rating that only 12% of the fire departments in the United States have obtained. Our next strategic plan will address changes or improvements the department can make to get to a Class 2



- Took delivery of Engine 101 and Engine 102. These units will be placed in service January 2021.





Chief Steve Miller

Assistant Chief Chris Johns

Captain Jared Morris

Lt. Rob Embry

Nick Alvis
Justin Bogolo
Brandon Cable
Steve Fawns
Robin Grant
Shawn May
Eric Schaub
Robby Smith
Jeremy Waldroff

Lt. Rick Simmons

Chris Arnold
Paul Bromwell
David Chaney Jr.
Kirk Fisher
Howard Jackson
Steve Meyer
Matt Schumann
Brandon Sparks
Andy Wilkens

Lt. Scott Huston

Mike Allen
Mike Brooks
Jerrod Cooper
Andy Flannery
Kathy Johns
Scott Miller
Evan Seeley
Ron Stenger
Shawn Wurzelbacher

Lt. Tom Licata

Jason Agoston
Dominic Bruno
Jon DePrie
Bret Fogel
Ryan Lucas
Walt Ritchie
Eric Simon
Tracy Teetz

Retirements - Dan Young
Charlie Caudill
Ben Alvis

New Hires Mike Allen
Jason Agoston
Matt Schumann