

City of Kettering
Fire Department



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Kettering Fire Department Phone Numbers

Emergency 911

Non-emergency 937.293.2151

Headquarters 937.296.2489

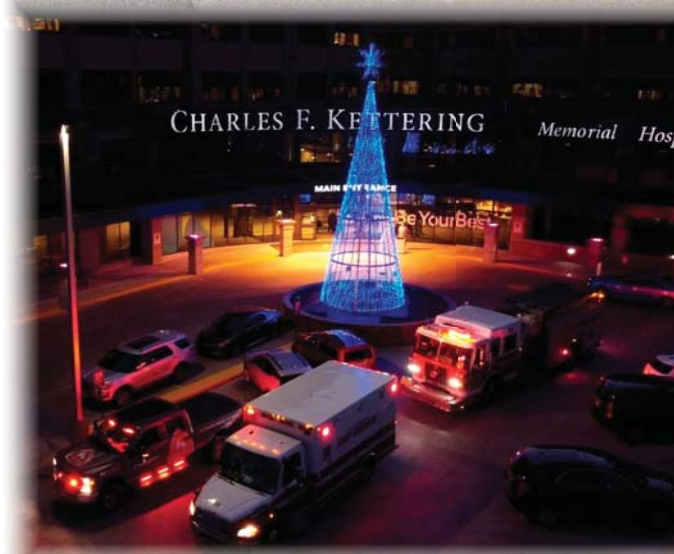
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Kettering Fire Department
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Message from the Chief

On behalf of the men and women of the Kettering Fire Department, it is my honor to present the Kettering Fire Department's *2021 Annual Report*. This report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of our members during this past year and demonstrates that 2021 was another successful year. Our members proudly responded on more alarms over the last year than any year on record. Keeping our members and the public safe became a key objective, once again, with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing into another year. Working from home is not an option for our organization; however, we did become more creative in the delivery of our non-emergency services.

Training our members became dependent on remote learning and education with social distancing as a priority. Our community involvement was limited, and we had to depend on technology for the delivery of our fire prevention messaging. However, the fact remained our members were here every day, every hour providing emergency services to our citizens. I am very proud of every member of the Kettering Fire Department and their responsiveness to the needs of our community.

The success and accomplishments over the past year could not have been achieved without the support of Mayor Don Patterson and the Kettering City Council. We said goodbye to Mayor Don Patterson and Council Members Bill Lautar, Joe Wannamaker, and Rob Scott at year end. We would like to thank them for their service and dedication to the City of Kettering. We would also like to thank city administrative staff, our public safety dispatch center and the Kettering Police Department for their support over the last year.



Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief Mitch Robbins, OFE, OFC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Robbins".

Kettering Fire Department

Vision

The vision of the Kettering Fire Department is to serve the public with the following core values: Integrity, Professionalism, Compassion, Unity and Honor.

Mission

Our mission is to meet community needs by delivering an effective system of services; thereby minimizing the impact of fire, hazardous conditions, illness and injury with a caring and efficient response.



Core Values

INTEGRITY – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATES INTEGRITY BY:

- Being loyal to the department's vision and mission
- Conducting ourselves with a high level of morality
- Conducting ourselves with the utmost honesty at all times
- Showing self-respect and respect for others
- Taking responsibility for our actions

PROFESSIONALISM – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT IS PROFESSIONAL IN ALL ITS ACTIONS RELATED TO:

- Appearance and behavior
- Respectful attitude
- Concern and compassion for people
- Training, preparedness, readiness and response

COMPASSION – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATES COMPASSION TO ITS MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES BY:

- Reconciling differences with an open mind
- Showing kindness and concern to our employees and citizens
- Being sympathetic and displaying empathy for others
- Giving consideration to all facts surrounding issues

UNITY – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT EVERY EMPLOYEE IS A VALUED MEMBER AND PARTNER IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FAMILY BY:

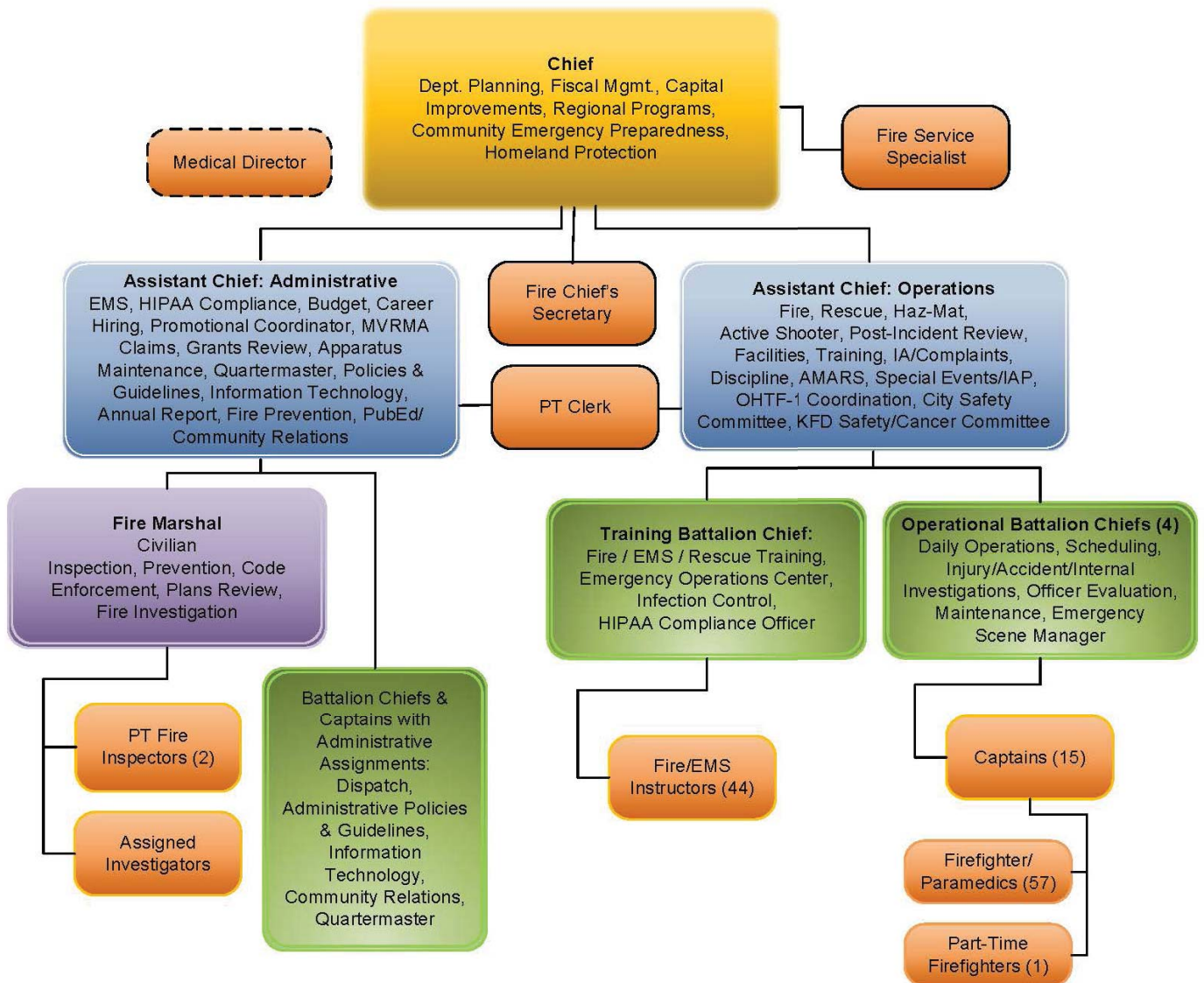
- Supporting a team-oriented approach to issues
- Valuing input from all members of the department
- Communicating openly and honestly, at all levels, without fear of reprisals
- Creating a consistent, trusting, pro-active work environment that promotes feelings of security in all members of the department

HONOR – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATES HONOR BY:

- Being respectful of others at all times
- Ensuring actions are done with the goal of the department having the highest level of reputation
- Conducting ourselves so that we are admired by the community
- Acting with honesty, integrity and fairness at all times

Kettering Fire Department

Organizational Chart



Rev. 2/22



Department Overview

2021: COVID-19 Continues

The members of the Kettering Fire Department (KFD) are dedicated to minimizing the impact of fire, hazardous conditions, illness and injury with a caring and efficient response. These highly trained men and women are proud of the quality service that they provide to this great community. Since the COVID-19 pandemic didn't end as everyone had hoped for in 2021, KFD personnel found themselves faced with many of the same challenges that we all experienced in 2020. KFD personnel, like the rest of the world, remained

in the middle of a pandemic and working through the difficulties and restrictions a pandemic inflicts on everyday life. Nonetheless, the men and women of the Kettering Fire Department proudly responded to over 9,100 calls for emergency services in 2021. That's approximately a 9% increase over the previous year which officially makes 2021 the first year for the Kettering Fire Department to respond to over 9,000 alarms in a single year.

In order to ensure that our personnel are prepared to respond to all types of emergencies, our members proactively completed over 4,900 hours of training in

the midst of the same social distancing restrictions that were implemented in 2020. Several members of the department were even specially trained to help with the regional efforts implemented by Public Health Dayton and Montgomery County (PHDMC) to vaccinate people from around the Dayton area. These KFD members were trained specifically in the administration of vaccines and helped inoculate many of the thousands of people who chose to go to the Dayton Convention Center to receive their vaccination shots.

July 2021 marked the end of an era for Kettering's Fire Prevention Bureau. After 42 years in the fire service, Fire Marshal Bill Ford officially retired from the fire service. Kettering's Fire Prevention Bureau has operated under the leadership of Fire Marshal Ford since 2008. In 2019, Fire Marshal Ford was awarded the Ohio Building Officials Association's Fire Official of the Year. We are grateful for Fire Marshal Ford's service to our community and wish him all the best in his



Kettering Fire Department

well-deserved retirement from the fire service.

Although Fire Marshal Ford will be missed, on December 13, 2021, the Kettering Fire Department welcomed a new Fire Marshal in Duane Stitzel. Fire Marshal Stitzel came to the Kettering Fire Department from the Dayton International Airport where he served as the Fire Chief. Duane's fire service career spans more than three decades including serving as a fire protection specialist with the 906th Tactical Fighter Group in the U.S. Air Force; 12 years with the City of Springfield as a Firefighter/Paramedic and Fire Safety Inspector; and 14 years with the City of Vandalia where he served as the Fire Marshal, Shift Commander, and Training Officer.

The Kettering Fire Department was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant in 2021. This grant was allocated for the much needed updates to the City of Kettering's Disaster Warning System, also known as the tornado sirens. This upgrade ensures that Kettering's siren system will function reliably for years to come. For more information on the Disaster Warning System, visit our website at ketteringoh.org/disaster-sirens/.

The Kettering Fire Department is continually assessing the risks in our community and strives to shape our emergency response model to meet the community's needs in the most efficient and fiscally responsible manner possible. All of the men and women of Kettering Fire Department are dedicated to this community and proud to serve

Emergency Response Call Type	Number of Incidents	Percentage
Emergency Medical Services	7,208	78.65%
Personal Assist	757	8.26%
Alarm Investigation	396	4.32%
Investigation	340	3.71%
Recreational Fire	72	0.79%
Inside Gas Leak	70	0.76%
Wires Arc/Down	59	0.64%
Hazardous Materials	39	0.43%
Electrical/Wiring	35	0.38%
Single Engine Alarm	33	0.36%
Fire Near Structure	24	0.26%
Water in Structure	21	0.23%
Mulch/Grass Fire	18	0.20%
Standby	18	0.20%
Residential Fire	17	0.19%
Vehicle Fire	13	0.14%
Mutual Aid Given - Fire	13	0.14%
Cooking Fire, Contained	12	0.13%
Apartment Fire	6	0.07%
Rescue	4	0.04%
Outside Gas Leak	3	0.03%
Elevator Problem	3	0.03%
Explosion	2	0.02%
Commercial Fire	1	0.01%
Lightning Strike	1	0.01%
Total Incidents	9,165	100%

the people who make Kettering home. For more information about the Kettering Fire Department, please visit us on our website at ketteringoh.org/departments/kettering-fire-department/.



Emergency Medical Services

Every career member of the Kettering Fire Department is a highly-trained State of Ohio certified paramedic. Our devoted personnel are always prepared to respond to the emergency medical needs of our community. We pride ourselves in providing the highest quality of professional emergency medical care to those who call Kettering home.

In 2021, KFD personnel responded to over 7,200 emergency medical incidents which is an average of 19 calls for service a day and

accounts for 78 percent of the total number calls that our members respond to annually. To ensure that our members are fully prepared to serve the community, our professional firefighter/paramedics participated in nearly 2,700 hours of EMS training collectively. These trainings could be logged through attending classes that are led by one of our nine State of Ohio certified EMS instructors or attending in-company, or crew led, trainings in the firehouse. KFD is also

fortunate in that our members will occasionally receive EMS instruction delivered through an outside agency such as Kettering Health Network, Premier Health, and even Care Flight. Hosting trainings with these agencies helps to build upon the strong partnerships that we currently enjoy with each of these organizations. These trainings provide the opportunity to remain current on the latest in EMS practices and also provide the in-depth instruction needed to enhance our EMS skillsets. Last year we



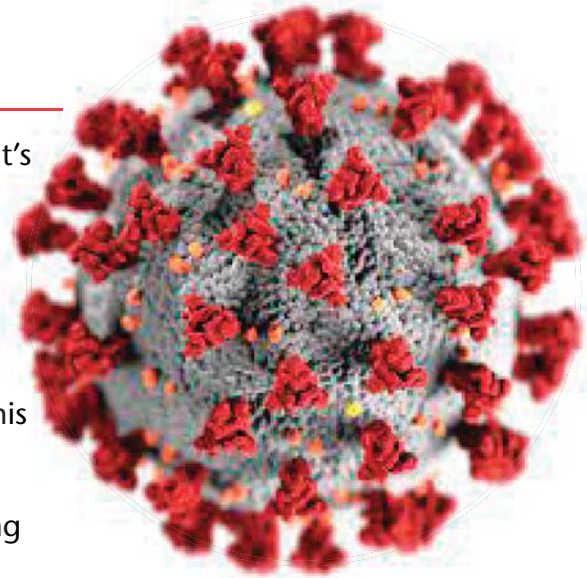
Kettering Fire Department

EMS Call Type	2021 Totals
Illness	1,422
Injury from Fall	1,063
Difficulty Breathing	895
Chest Pain	342
Heart Problem	335
Unconscious/Fainting	296
Psychiatric Problem	279
Abdominal Pain	259
Injury - Other	235
Accident with Injury	223
Convulsion/Seizure	210
Stroke	185
Bleeding/Hemorrhage	180
Overdose	169
Medical Alarm	167
Back Pain	161
Diabetic Problem	158
Unknown Problem	133
Deceased Person	125
Life Assist	75
Allergic Reaction	73
Mutual Aid Given - EMS	47
Cardiac Arrest	44
Pregnancy/Childbirth	23
Choking	19
Headache	18
Assault	18
Animal Bite	17
Burns	12
Police Assist Non-Emerg.	10
Well Person Check	5
Heat/Cold Exposure	5
Stab/Gunshot Wound	4
Water Rescue	1
TOTAL	7,208

were able to utilize Care Flight's PEDI Mobile Education Lab (MEL). This mobile education lab is an interactive training laboratory housed in a 45-foot long RV that is outfitted with ambulance simulators and a realistic trauma bay. This interactive lab helps train our members to make quick and effective decisions when caring for our patients.

COVID-19 continued to create unique challenges for the Kettering Fire Department in 2021. Nevertheless, KFD was finally able to return to some forms of normalcy within the community. With the return of Kettering's Go 4th celebration and the Holiday at Home parade; KFD was once again able to provide EMS service during these special events. KFD members staffed medical tents, EMS bike teams, and medic carts at these events. KFD medics were once again proud to provide EMS service at other local events as well. With the return of Fairmont home football games, Frazee Pavilion events, and Alter High School's annual Alterfest, KFD medics were once again ready to respond at a moment's notice if needed.

KFD was also able to continue our relationships with Wright State University (WSU) School of Medicine, Kettering Health Network, Sinclair



Community College, Miami Valley Career Tech Center, and Clark State Community College. With proper COVID-19 precautions, the students from these local institutions were able to do "ride time" alongside our professional EMS personnel to participate in prehospital EMS care while also gaining knowledge and experience.

Additionally, members of the Kettering Fire Department continued to be dedicated affiliates of numerous councils, committees, and boards that help shape the future of EMS on a regional level. KFD members are active participants on the Greater Miami Valley EMS Council, the Regional Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Committee, the Regional Physicians Advisory Board (RPAB), the EMS Research Committee, and the Education Committee.



Rescue Task Force, Region 3 Rescue and Ohio Task Force One

Region 3 Rescue

The Kettering Fire Department currently supports 13 personnel to the Ohio Region Three Rescue Strike Team. This regional team is comprised of members from an eight county response area. Its members consist of people who are specially trained in different technical rescue disciplines such as trench collapse, confined space, rope rescue, and structural collapse just to name a few. Kettering Fire Department members were able to participate in

multiple trainings held in 2021 to include trench collapse, structural collapse, and a rope rescue training which was held at the Kettering Fire Department. Members were able to make the most of their skills by training in the firehouse, as well as attending these regional trainings.

Rescue Task Force

The Kettering Fire Department sponsors approximately 40 of our firefighters to the area Rescue Task Force. These members have been specially trained to respond to active threat

situations, such as an active shooter incident, within the Miami Valley. The Kettering Fire Department is also a cache host agency for the area. This means that we keep a supply of body armor in a station should it be needed for an active threat event. The Kettering Fire Department has three RTF instructors who teach both in-house and at other area fire departments.



All members trained in-house in 2021 due to COVID restrictions.

Ohio Task Force One

The City of Kettering Fire Department currently sponsors two members to the FEMA sanctioned Ohio Task Force One Urban Search and Rescue Team. These members attend regular trainings throughout the year. These trainings are similar to that of the Region 3 team except on a larger scale. These two members will also deploy anywhere in the United States or slightly abroad should a major disaster occur. One member deployed to one of these disasters in 2021 when the Champlain Towers South building collapsed in Miami, Florida.



Kettering Fire Department

Mission: Lifeline®

Kettering Fire Department Earns National Recognition for Efforts to Improve STEMI Treatments in Region

In 2021, the Kettering Fire Department received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Plus Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures to treat patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

Each year, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), the deadliest type of heart attack, caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it is critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® program helps reduce barriers to prompt treatment for heart attacks –

starting from when 9-1-1 is called, to EMS transport and continuing through hospital treatment and discharge. Optimal care for heart attack patients takes coordination between the individual hospital, EMS and healthcare system.

"EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those

who have heart attacks," said Tim Henry, M.D., Chair of the Mission: Lifeline® Acute Coronary Syndrome Subcommittee. "Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can save precious minutes of treatment time by activating the emergency response system that alerts hospitals to an incoming heart attack patient."

Program participants apply for the award recognition by demonstrating how their organization has committed to improving quality care for STEMI patients.

"Kettering Fire Department is honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association for our dedication to providing optimal care for heart attack patients," said Mike Miller, Assistant Chief for the Kettering Fire Department "The Mission: Lifeline® program puts proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis so patients have the best possible chance of survival."





Training Division

2021 proved to be another successful year of training for the dedicated members of the Kettering Fire Department (KFD). KFD members continued to overcome the unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic while also ensuring that they were fully prepared to serve our community.

In 2021, KFD members continued to train to ensure that they are fully prepared to respond and mitigate any emergency that may

arise. The Kettering Fire Department continually looks to our fire, EMS, and technical rescue instructors to create challenging training scenarios that reinforce the basics while also introducing new tools, technique's, and tactics. Currently, KFD has 41 Fire Instructors, 9 EMS Instructors, and 9 Live Fire Instructors that are certified by the State of Ohio. KFD routinely utilizes our well versed instructors to lead in-company drills and multi-company drills.

Unfortunately for 2021, COVID-19 precautions didn't allow for many multi-company drills.

We were also able to build on the strong relationships we have with outside agencies such as Kettering Health Network, Premier Health, Cleveland State University, Region 3 Strike Team, and the Ohio Fire Academy who all contribute to the professional development of our members.

KFD crews were fortunate to utilize the Ohio Fire



Kettering Fire Department



Academy's Fire Blast Trailer for live fire training. This trailer is a specialized mobile trailer that utilizes propane to create live fire training scenarios. Crews had the opportunity to practice numerous fire skills such as forcible entry, nozzle advancement, and fire extinguishment in an environment that mimicked real life fire conditions.



Training Type	Hours
EMS Training	2,683
General	1,082
Cardiac	686
Trauma	668
Pediatric	134
Geriatric	113
Fire Training	5,177
General Fire	2,492
Technical Rescue	696
Inspector	652
Officer Development	619
HazMat	522
Live Fire	177
Instructor	19
Other	6
TOTAL	7,866



Community Relations

In 2021, Kettering Fire Department still experienced a significant reduction in its attendance of community activities due to the ongoing pandemic. The community activities which are routinely attended by fire personnel had to be suspended or postponed in the name of safety. This could not deter the Kettering Fire Department from educating residents about fire prevention. The Kettering Fire Department used other available methods of communication, such as social media, to disseminate important fire and life safety messages. Throughout 2021, Kettering Fire Department members engaged with Kettering residents and businesses at roughly 70 scheduled events including ribbon cuttings, CPR classes, station tours, and block parties. Members also partnered with the talented videographers at Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) to create an



educational video for families to watch during National Fire Prevention Week.

The theme for the 2021 National Fire Prevention Week was “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.” This campaign worked to educate everyone about the different sounds the smoke and

carbon monoxide alarms make. Knowing what to do when an alarm sounds will keep you and your family safe. When an alarm makes noises – a beeping sound or a chirping sound – you must take action. A big thank you goes out to Firefighter Chris Caudill and his crew at Station 34 for their efforts in making the annual video happen.

The Kettering Fire Department was able to utilize social media platforms to reach the community with fire safety information and KFD news. Please follow us on Facebook. We look forward to 2022 being a year where we can get back to the typical schedule of events for our community.

Public Education Events	2021 Totals
Block Parties	20
CPR Classes	10
Station Tours	4
Other Events	1

Kettering Fire Department

Fire Prevention Bureau

2021 provided major changes in staffing KFD's Fire Prevention Bureau. Two long-term employees, who had a combined fire prevention experience of over 60 years, ended their fire service careers. Fire Marshal Bill Ford moved on in July 2021, while Fire Inspector Robert Treiber completed his last contract in December 2021. These two gentlemen paved the way for a strong and experienced Fire Prevention Bureau for this community. There is no way of knowing how many lives they protected from their fire safety plans review and fire safety inspections. We wish Fire Marshal Ford and Fire Inspector Treiber the best in their future endeavors.

Our new Fire Marshal, Duane Stitzel, comes with over 30 years' fire service experience with 15 years of those specifically in fire prevention. He has previously served the Dayton International Airport, City of Vandalia, City of Springfield, as well as the U.S. Air Force.

Our new fire inspector is retired KFD Captain Rob Hessinger. Rob has been working in the fire prevention field for several years as a fire inspector in his hometown before returning to Kettering.

Fire Prevention is the first step to saving lives and property in our community. We provide this service to our residents and business communities in several different ways.

- Fire protection plan reviews. This consists of looking at new or renovated buildings

and their site locations on a construction drawing. We make sure there is the right amount of water, access to the building, and other Ohio Fire Code requirements that make the buildings safe.

- Acceptance testing on all of the fire protection systems such as the fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems after they are installed and before they allow occupants in the building.
- Fire safety inspections are provided on an annual basis. Fire inspectors contact our local businesses and review their use and operation.
- Fire safety education is conducted in our school systems or any public education program.

We have a dedicated fire prevention staff, including the Kettering career firefighters, who are eager to provide this valuable service to our community.

Fire Prevention	2021 Totals
Initial Inspections	81
Re-Inspections	49
Construction Inspect.	5
Violations Issued	597
Violations Resolved	453





Honor Guard

The City of Kettering Fire Department and the fire service as a whole is steeped deeply in tradition. Many traditions are reflected in the mission and vision statements of the department. Each member is expected to demonstrate and live out these traditions through their timely service to the citizens of Kettering. However, a small group of individuals are looked upon to carry on the traditions of the fire service and the Kettering Fire Department. Those individuals are the members of the Kettering Fire Department's Honor Guard.

The Kettering Fire Department sponsors 12 active members on the Honor Guard

which includes a Commander, an Assistant Commander, a Colors Team Commander, a Sargent at Arms, a Quarter Master, and seven Ceremonial Guardsmen. These members are responsible for upholding the time-honored tradition of the fire service of long ago and to remind the modern day firefighter of the traditions used to honor and remember our fallen brothers and sisters.

Traditionally your KFD Honor Guard has represented the department at special events such as station dedications, award ceremonies, and flag presentations. However, the Honor Guard exists to pay final respects to both active and

retired firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

While our main mission is to honor our fallen, the Honor Guard serves as an educational tool as well. We attend community events and spread the traditions of old to citizens and communities outside of our area. Some of the more notable events conducted by the KFD Honor Guard include the colors presentation at the annual 9/11 memorial ceremony held here in Kettering, as well as presenting the colors during the National Anthem at a Cincinnati Bengals home football game.

Members of the KFD Honor Guard pride themselves in being one of the premiere



Kettering Fire Department



teams in Montgomery County. We operate using a stringent set of guidelines set forth by the National Honor Guard Academy. Our duties include basic drill and ceremony, standard marching, colors detail, flag etiquette, ceremonial movement, event planning, and many more.

As stated, the main mission of the Honor Guard is to honor our fallen. Unfortunately, in recent years, the Honor Guard

has been very active providing funeral services for a record number KFD retired career and volunteer members. Not only does your Honor Guard provide these services to the fallen members of the KFD, we also will provide services for other area departments who do not have sponsorship for their own team. During 2020 and 2021, your Honor Guard, operating under strict COVID guidelines,

provided services for many honored individuals ranging from casket watch requests to full service Line of Duty Death funerals. Not once has the Kettering Fire Department Honor Guard failed to meet the needs and requests of our fellow firefighters and their families. We shall continue to train to better ourselves with the hopes that our training and skills are no longer needed in the future.



IAFF Local 2150

Although COVID-19 remained at the forefront of our daily lives in 2021, it could not stop the Kettering Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 2150 from continuing their mission as “Partners in Protecting our Community.”

2021 saw the distribution of vaccines to help ease the effects and reduce the spread of COVID-19 while providing hope for an end to the pandemic. We were able to resume some of our normal activities with a few

extra precautions, but some of our long-standing plans were still cancelled. Even with these challenges, the firefighters were able to raise funds through their 501(c)(3) non-profit, Kettering Professional Firefighters Foundation. The charitable foundation has allowed L2150 to expand our mission and have a greater impact on those in need throughout our region.

2021 marked the 33rd year for the firefighters to host their annual Adopt-a-Family

program, albeit somewhat smaller than in previous years. Counselors from Kettering City Schools, Meijer, Kroger and other local businesses helped the firefighters provide a brighter Christmas with presents and groceries to a few local families in need.

Local 2150 continued as a partner with “Firefighters for Operation Warm,” a national program to provide winter coats to Kettering City School children in need.



Kettering Fire Department

Our successful fundraising last year gave us a head start with our outreach in 2021. The rest of the necessary funds were obtained through our extremely successful motorcycle poker run that was planned and executed by KFD Fire Captain Duane Cobb and his group of volunteers. Global supply chain issues limited the ability to acquire all the normal sizes, but the schools were able to be supplied with 60 coats to provide to students who may need them.

One of the bright spots in 2021 was the return of the Dor-Wood Optimists Golf for Kids golf outing. The firefighters were happy to resume their silver sponsorship of such a great event. The Optimists use this outing to raise funds to support programs for kids in and around Kettering.

For the second year in a row Workout Anytime hosted a 9/11 Stair Climb challenge to raise funds for the charity foundation. Local 2150 members and Workout Anytime patrons donated money to participate in a 110-story stair climb in remembrance of the attacks at the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001. Members of Local 2150 were once again able to post the best times with the encouragement of the amazing staff at Workout Anytime.

In addition to all of the tasks they complete on a day-to-day basis at the firehouse and in the community, the Kettering Professional Firefighters also took every opportunity to assist our members, as well as other area firefighters and their families, during times of need due to illness or injury.

The Kettering Professional Firefighters, in conjunction with our charitable foundation, are continuing to explore partnerships while hoping to renew some of our long-standing events that have been cancelled in recent years, allowing us to further our mission in and around our community. We look forward to assisting the citizens of Kettering and our partner organizations through our charitable efforts in 2022.





Personnel Updates

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS



FF/P Matthew Abel

FF/P Jake Coverstone

Batt. Chief Kyle Denlinger

FF/P Matthew Eldridge

FF/P Brian Hissong

FF/P Bryce Kuhn

FF/P Joel Sagasser

FF/P David Walker



FF/P Peter Burcham

FF/P Amber Duritsch

FF/P Zachary Joyce



Batt. Chief James Lokai

RETIREMENTS



FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

STEVE REED

26 Years of Service



FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

STEVE GREEN

24 Years of Service



FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC

TRACY LEACH

19 Years of Service

Kettering Fire Department

PROMOTIONS

Battalion Chief Kyle Denlinger began his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter with Kettering Fire Department. Prior to returning to Kettering as a career firefighter/paramedic in 2016, he served full time with City of Xenia Fire Department and Dayton Fire Department. He was promoted to captain in 2019. He holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Administration. He has extensive experience as both a fire and EMS instructor and is an RTF and Region 3 Strike Team member. His many accolades include two Life Saving Awards, 2019 Letter of Commendation and 2018 Link to Excellence Award.

BATTALION CHIEF KYLE DENLINGER

Promoted January 2021



CAPTAIN KRIS DENLINGER

Promoted January 2021

Captain Kris Denlinger began his fire service career in Kettering as a volunteer firefighter from 2006 to 2013. He first served as a career firefighter/paramedic with Sidney Fire Department before returning to Kettering Fire Department in 2014. Kris was named the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year in 2012 and the Career Firefighter of the Year in 2019. He has also been a recipient of three Life Saving Awards.





Firefighter of the Year

The Firefighter of the Year is awarded to the firefighter that exemplifies the true meaning of commitment and pride in the organization for the current year. This award process begins in the fall, and nominations for the award may be submitted from any rank within the organization. At the end of each year, the nominations are evaluated for merit by the department's Award Committee which is made up of 4-5 individuals of varying rank and organizational responsibilities. The committee reviews each candidate and makes recommendations to the Fire Chief for final approval.



2021 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: FF/P A.J. BACON

FF/P A.J. Bacon

Firefighter/Paramedic A.J. Bacon came to the Kettering Fire Department from Dayton Fire Department in 2017.

A.J. was nominated for Firefighter of the Year by a fellow firefighter due to his "knowledge and experience and his passion and dedication to the fire service."

FF/P Bacon has continually been instrumental with teaching and preparing trainings in multiple disciplines in the fire service here at KFD. He has demonstrated the characteristics needed to be considered for this distinguished award. He is early to work, dedicated, knowledgeable and always has a ready to work attitude.

FF/P Bacon has been a fire instructor for many years both at Kettering Fire Department and Sinclair Community College. He often mentors other members with training topics and is always available for needed guidance.

FF/P Bacon is a member of the Region 3 Strike Team, fire investigator, and hydraulics instructor. He has been instrumental in the testing and future implementation of an improved high rise hose load.

A.J. has received letters of recognition for his work on a trench collapse in Sugarcreek

Township and for his actions on an RTA bus crash, both in 2019. Also, in 2019 A.J. was the recipient of the department's Life Saving Award.

A.J.'s passion for the Kettering Fire Department and his accomplishments makes him deserving of earning the title of Firefighter of the Year.

FF/P Bacon with Chief Robbins



Kettering Fire Department

Fire Chief's Award

The Fire Chief's Award is presented to fire service individuals, groups, or companies who, in the opinion of the Chief, have performed in a manner in which the Fire Chief feels is beyond that which is normally expected of them. The recipients for 2021 are listed below.

FF/P Shawn Ditton
FF/P Andy McCormick



The Fire Chief's Award was presented to Firefighter/Paramedic Shawn Ditton and Firefighter/Paramedic Andy McCormick for their exceptional display of customer service, compassion, and professionalism.

On a rainy April 8, 2021, at approximately 1255 hours, L32 had just been cancelled from an alarm and was turning around at Fire Station 37 to return to quarters. As the crew turned onto the front apron at Station 37, they noticed a car in the front parking lot with a flat tire. The driver of the car was physically unable to change the tire on her car. While still wearing their fire gear, firefighters Shawn Ditton and Andy McCormick didn't hesitate to lend a hand and began helping the woman with her car. In addition to the mild downpour occurring, there were a couple other issues complicating the matter. The jack and tire wrench were both the wrong size for her car. However, after some creative ingenuity, the lugs were removed and the spare was mounted. Thanks to the exceptional customer service displayed by these gentlemen, this grateful citizen was able to drive away in search of a more permanent repair.

FF/P McCormick, FF/P Ditton with Chief Robbins





Life Saving Award

The Kettering Fire Department's Life Saving Award is a prestigious and incredible honor awarded to active duty personnel whose direct actions save the life of a person whose heart has stopped beating and shows no signs of life. This award is only achieved when the patient who was clinically deceased is not only resuscitated and regains life sustaining functions, but is also able to make a full recovery and resume normal life activities. It is one of the most rewarding accomplishments any member of this organization can make in the course of their career — to know that their actions contributed to saving the life of another human being. To understand the significance of the last statement, the individual that is saved must be discharged from the hospital and resume normal life activities.

On February 24, 2021, Battalion 30, Ladder 32, Medic 34, Safety Officer 1, and Battalion 4 responded on a possible full arrest. Upon arrival, crews found a 70-year-old male patient receiving CPR from his wife. Crews acted swiftly and performed CPR with several rounds of Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) to try to restart the man's heart. The patient's heart rhythm repeatedly changed from normal with a pulse to ventricular fibrillation (v-fib) and asystole with no pulse. Upon arrival at the hospital, the patient had regained a pulse and had return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC). However, the patient was still in need of definitive treatment

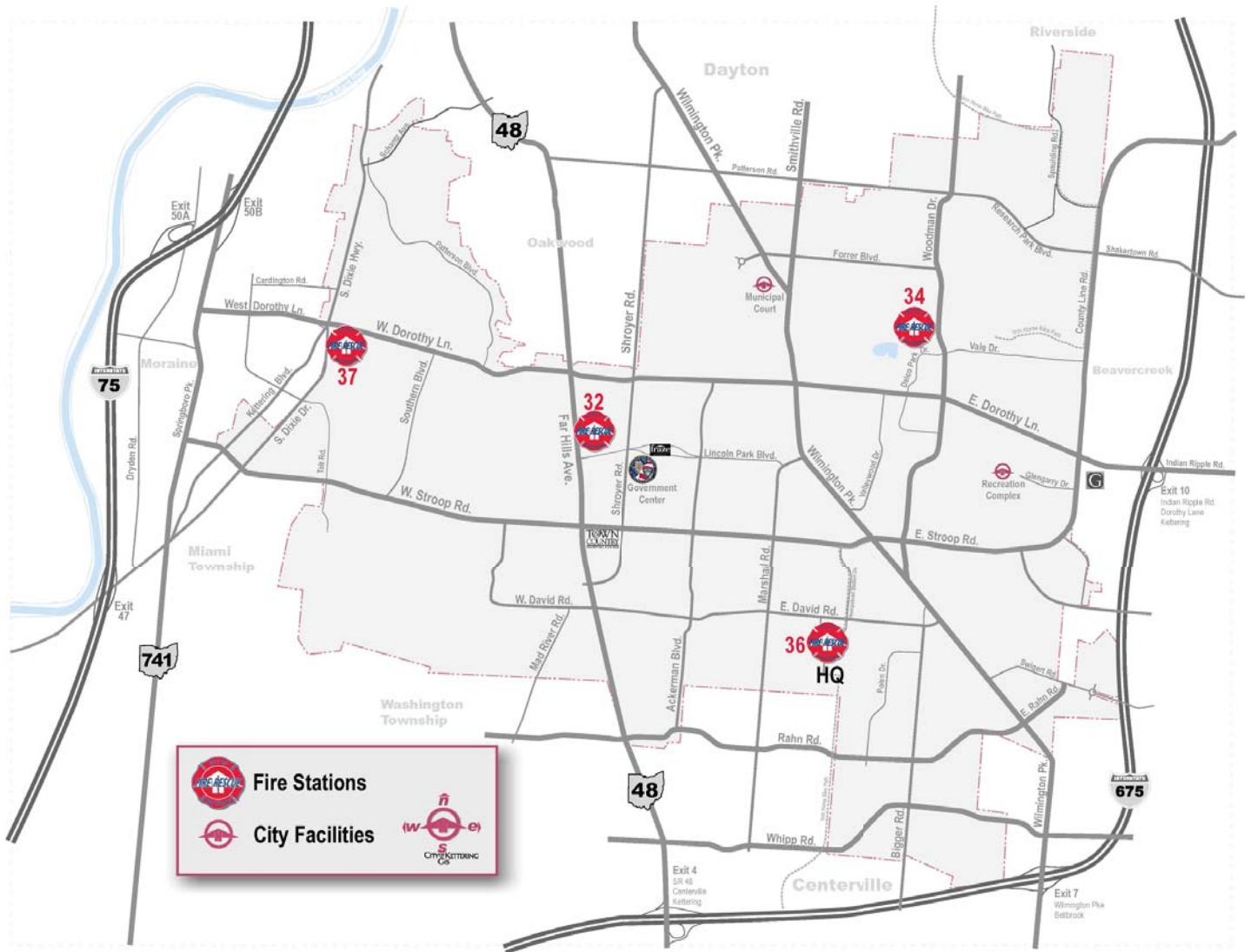
from the doctors and nurses at the hospital. Thanks to the CPR from his wife and high quality patient care from EMS and hospital staff, this patient was discharged home several days later and eventually returned to normal life activities.

Batt. Chief Kyle Denlinger
Capt. Mike Holbert
Capt. Shawn Morgan
FF/P Kent Denlinger
FF/P Jen Jordan
FF/P Justin lakes
FF/P Nick O'Connor



L to R: FF/P Lakes, Capt. Morgan, FF/P Jordan, Chief Robbins, FF/P Denlinger, BC Denlinger (Not pictured: Capt. Holbert, FF/P O'Connor)

Kettering Fire Department



FIRE STATION 32

3484 FAR HILLS AVENUE (45429)

FIRE STATION 34

2575 WOODMAN DRIVE (45420)

FIRE STATION 36 / FIRE HQ

4745 HEMPSTEAD STATION DRIVE (45429)

FIRE STATION 37

1300 W. DOROTHY LANE (45409)

"Because there's no greater good than to serve others."



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