

RICHMOND HEIGHTS DIVISION OF FIRE



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



SUBMITTED BY:
FIRE CHIEF MARC J. NEUMANN

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MISSION STATEMENT

Consistent with the laws of the State of Ohio and the Charter of the City of Richmond Heights, the primary mission of the Richmond Heights Division of Fire is to:

- Protect life, health, and property
- Extinguish all fires within the City of Richmond Heights
- Investigate the cause of all fires
- Answer all calls for emergency medical assistance within the City of Richmond Heights

Each firefighter is charged with the duty and privilege of providing all citizens of this community with protection from the ravages of fire and with any and all necessary emergency medical assistance, whenever the need may arise.

The primary goal of every member of the Richmond Heights Division of Fire must be to promote and achieve honorable and dedicated service to this community. If life and property are protected... if destructive fires are prevented... if public security and tranquility are sustained through the efforts of highly motivated firefighters... the mission of the Richmond Heights Division of Fire shall be fulfilled.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



As the Fire Chief for the City of Richmond Heights, it is with great pride that I present you this summary of activities for the year 2020. Our organization continues to accept the challenges presented by the economy, demands for service, and ever-changing technology. We constantly evaluate our operational platform to ensure it provides efficient and effective services to the community and make necessary changes when needed. The Division of Fire also continues to collaborate regionally with other fire departments in the areas of training, specialized response teams, purchase of equipment, dispatch services, and mutual aid. These collaborations greatly reduce our overhead costs while at the same time allowing us to provide a broader array of service levels to the community.

The Richmond Heights firefighters have proven their essential value to the community during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Over the past year, Richmond Heights firefighters continued to answer the call, continued to serve at the highest level possible, and continued to deliver lifesaving care to the community. The City of Richmond Heights has taken precautions to protect our firefighters and the public during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This includes limiting access to the fire station, wearing protective face masks while on duty and wearing specialized personal protective equipment (PPE) during all patient encounters.

Richmond Heights firefighters responded to 2,207 calls for service in 2020, which was a 1.6% increase compared to 2019. Of the 2,207 total calls, 1,622 calls were for EMS, which represents 73.5% of total responses for emergency services.

Our firefighters/paramedics are among the best trained in the State. Providing exceptional training to our personnel continues to be at the forefront of our daily operations. We truly believe that our dedication to training directly affects the safety of our citizens and firefighters while helping to ensure positive outcomes to your emergencies.

In 2019 the Insurance Service Office (ISO) conducted a survey of Richmond Heights to determine the Public Protection Class (PPC) for the City. ISO is a third-party independent agency that evaluates the fire department, water department, and communications systems. ISO rates the results on a national scale from 1 to 10 (1 being the best and highest). According to ISO, most U.S. insurers use the PPC information in their decision-making process when determining premiums for personal and commercial property insurance. Richmond Heights PPC survey improved from a Class 3 to a Class 2 effective March 1, 2020. The new classification places Richmond Heights in the top 4%; or one of only 88 communities in the

State of Ohio with a Class 2 ISO rating. Homeowners and businesses may be eligible for reductions in their property insurance premiums as a result of the improved ISO PPC rating.

In 2020 Division of Fire was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the amount of \$44,400 to fund the purchase of rope rescue equipment, classroom instruction, “hands on” training and staffing expenses. This is a 95% funded grant which means that the fiscal impact to Division of Fire is 5%, or approximately \$2,114. The training and tools will be used during emergencies involving high angle rope rescues.

In 2020 Division of Fire was awarded \$10,328 from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund. The funds were used to purchase Personal Protective Equipment and disinfectant supplies to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020 Division of Fire was awarded a Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the amount of \$4,132. The Regional COVID-19 Supplemental Grant funded the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment and disinfectant supplies to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020 Division of Fire was awarded a \$2,846 EMS Training and Equipment Grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The grant funds were used toward the purchase of life saving medical equipment and supplies.

Division of Fire is actively recruiting to increase our part-time firefighter staff to fifteen members. Our part-time firefighters provide the additional staffing to the full-time firefighters and are a vital part of our program. This model is a balanced approach to meeting requirements for today’s fire service.

Members of the Richmond Heights Division of Fire are committed to providing the best fire, rescue, and emergency medical services while continuing to be proactive in fire safety, prevention, and education. We will continue to pursue excellence while maintaining efficiency and cost effectiveness. I am confident that a review of this annual report will confirm our dedication to this life safety goal. We assure every citizen that our mission will be accomplished in a fashion which reflects this organization’s dedication to outstanding customer service.

Respectfully submitted,

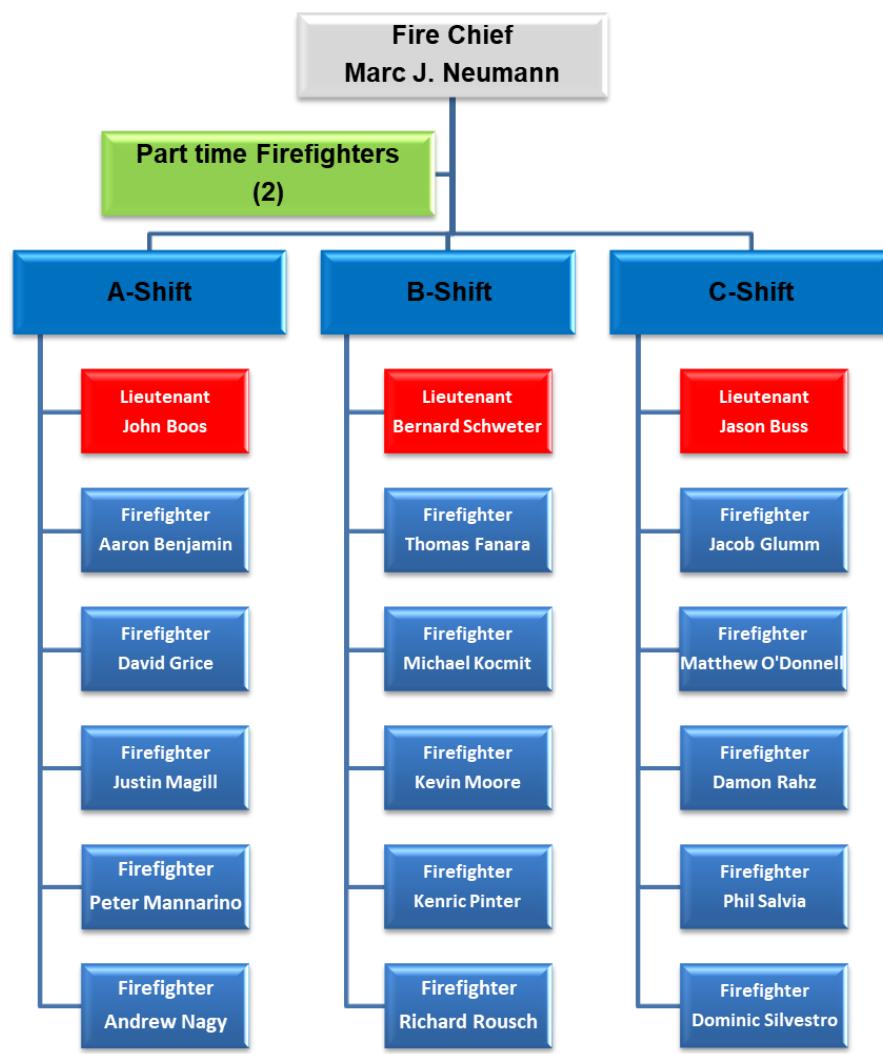
*Marc J. Neumann
Chief of Fire*

SHIFT INFORMATION

The Richmond Heights Division of Fire operates out of one fire station, located at 457 Richmond Road. Housed in the fire station are one fire engine, one aerial ladder, two paramedic equipped rescue squads, and one command vehicle. These vehicles are in service every day to serve the citizens and visitors of our community.

The Division of Fire operates on a three shift rotation, referred to as A, B, and C Shifts. Each shift is assigned one Lieutenant and five Firefighters. The number of full-time Firefighters is 19 (including the Fire Chief) and part-time Firefighters are 2.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



RICHMOND HEIGHTS DIVISION OF FIRE



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 2009 **UNION OFFICERS**



Phil Salvia, President



Damon Rahz, VP



Richard Rousch, Secretary



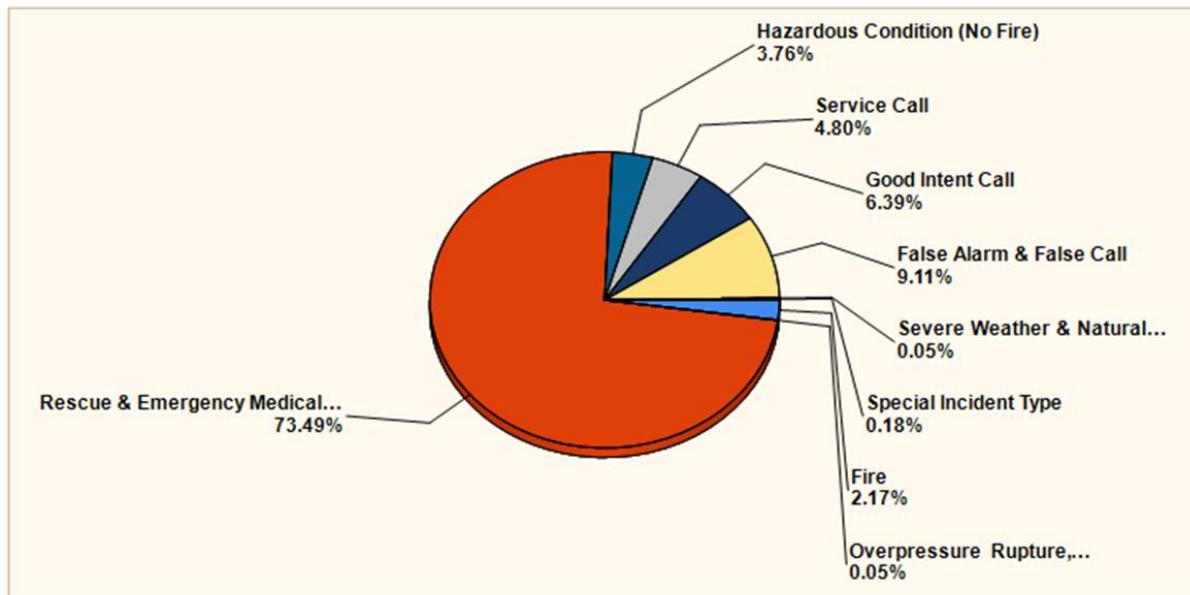
Jacob Glumm, Treasurer

PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

Mathew Radke, Stephen Silvestro

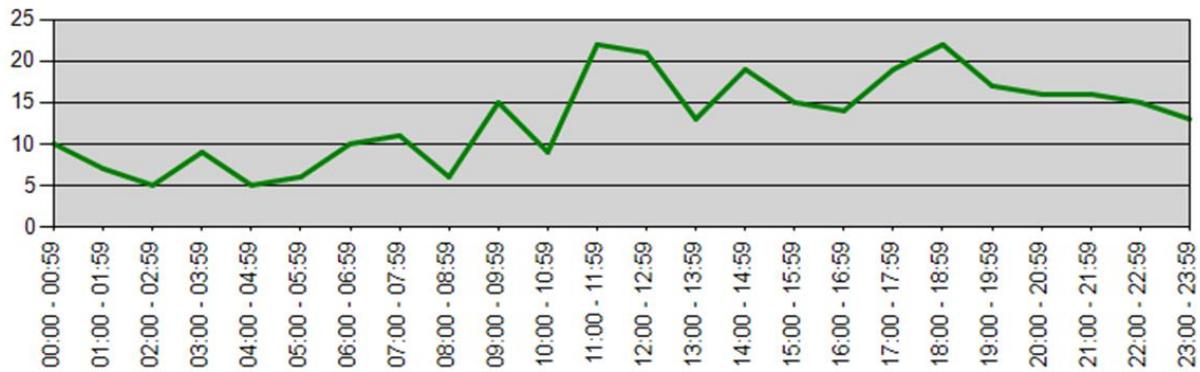
ALARMS BY CATEGORY

The Division of Fire responded to **2,207** emergencies in **2020**. Alarm response volume in 2020 was up 1.6% relative to 2019 statistics. **1,622** responses to requests for emergency medical assistance represented **73.5%** of our total 2020 response volume. The remaining **585 responses (26.5% of the total response volume)** were attributable to structure fires, fire investigations, and miscellaneous incidents. Alarms that fall into the miscellaneous category include responses to hazardous material incidents, lightning strikes, carbon monoxide incidents, utility related emergencies, various rescues, and a variety of public service calls.



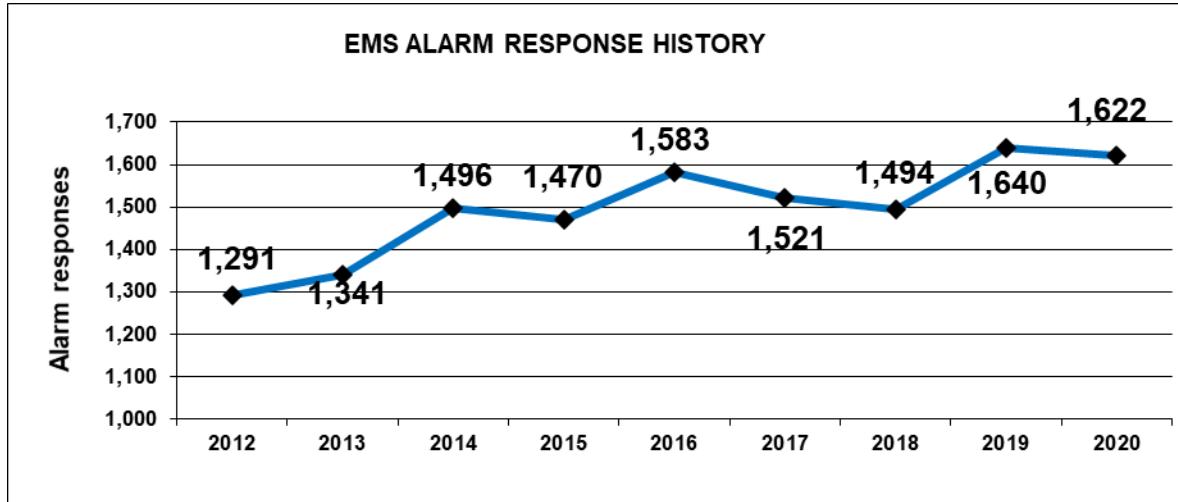
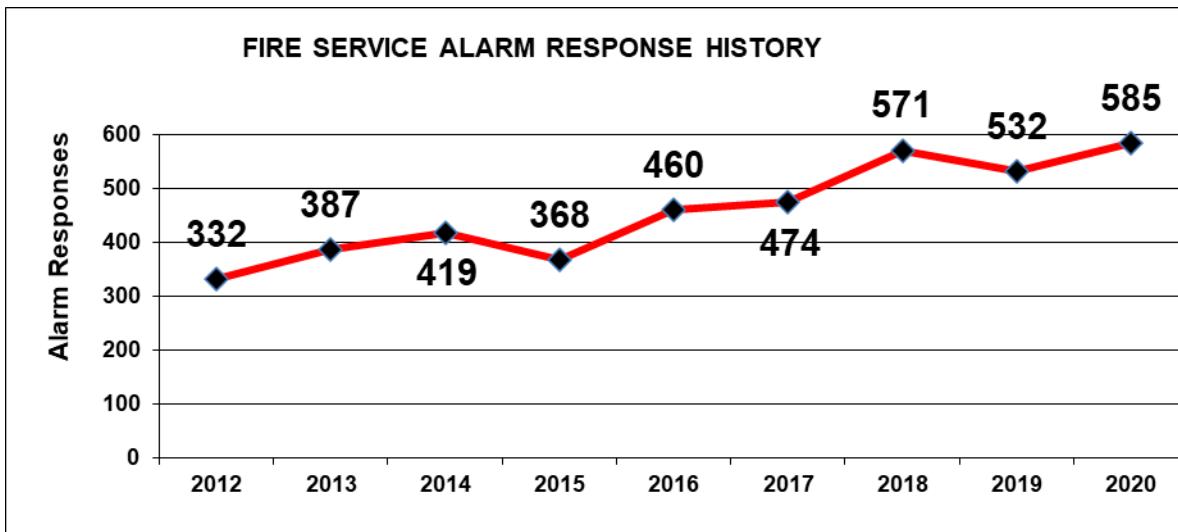
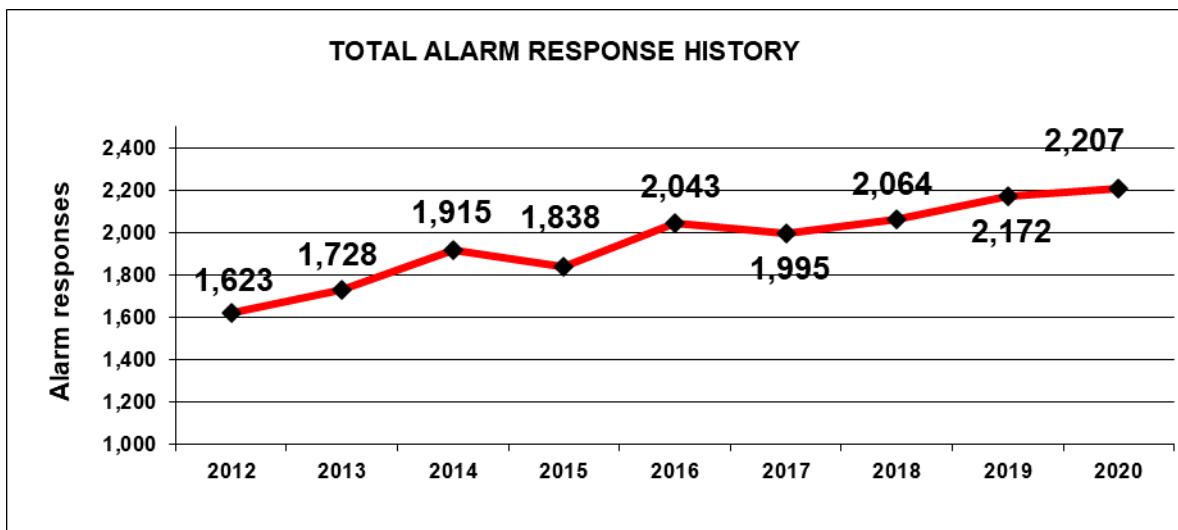
MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fire	48	2.17%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire)	1	0.05%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	1622	73.49%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	83	3.76%
Service Call	106	4.80%
Good Intent Call	141	6.39%
False Alarm & False Call	201	9.11%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.05%
Special Incident Type	4	0.18%
TOTAL	2207	100.00%

CALLS FOR SERVICE BY HOUR OF DAY



TIME	# INCIDENTS
00:00 - 00:59	10
01:00 - 01:59	7
02:00 - 02:59	5
03:00 - 03:59	9
04:00 - 04:59	5
05:00 - 05:59	6
06:00 - 06:59	10
07:00 - 07:59	11
08:00 - 08:59	6
09:00 - 09:59	15
10:00 - 10:59	9
11:00 - 11:59	22
12:00 - 12:59	21
13:00 - 13:59	13
14:00 - 14:59	19
15:00 - 15:59	15
16:00 - 16:59	14
17:00 - 17:59	19
18:00 - 18:59	22
19:00 - 19:59	17
20:00 - 20:59	16
21:00 - 21:59	16
22:00 - 22:59	15
23:00 - 23:59	13

RESPONSE HISTORY: 2012-2020



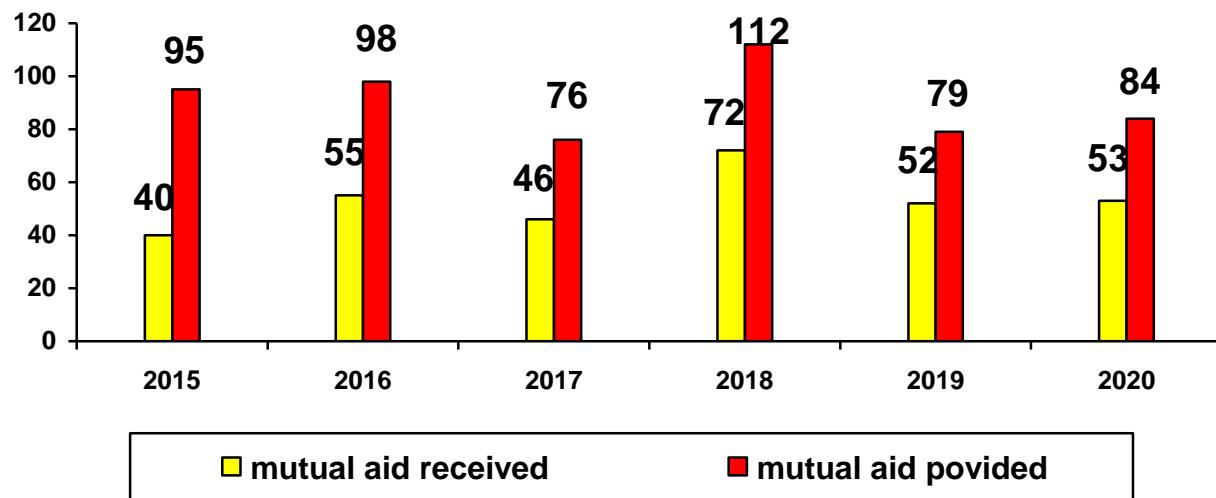
SIMULTANEOUS ALARM RESPONSES

Simultaneous alarms are emergency calls for service which are dispatched while firefighters are assigned to at least one other call at the same time. This is an important statistic to keep track of, as it relates to the availability of firefighters to provide services when called upon. Staffing for the second alarm will range from no more than three personnel to the more common two-person response. The Division of Fire responded to **597** simultaneous alarms in **2020**, which means that overlapping calls occurred **27.1%** of the time.

MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM (MABAS)



The Division of Fire works with agencies throughout the Region, County, and State as part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). The purpose of MABAS is to increase the speed and efficiency of mutual aid responses to major incidents, and to improve interoperability of fire departments in the area. MABAS bylaws define common radio frequencies and common terminology, as well as the minimum requirements for fire company personnel and apparatus. Participating departments agree to send pre-determined apparatus when requested by the stricken community. These assets are placed on a MABAS Box Alarm “card” which designates which units respond to a given alarm level. Typically, closer companies are designated to respond first, with resources from greater distances being called in as the alarm level escalates. MABAS agreements not only cover large fire alarm responses, but also may include technical rescue, mass casualty incidents, hazardous materials responses, and natural disasters. In 2020 the Division of Fire sent 89 units to 89 mutual aid requests and received mutual aid during 53 incidents involving 143 units from neighboring communities.



HIGH ALARM RESPONSE AREAS

Requests for assistance from the following occupancies represented **24%** of the Division of Fire's total alarm response volume in 2020:

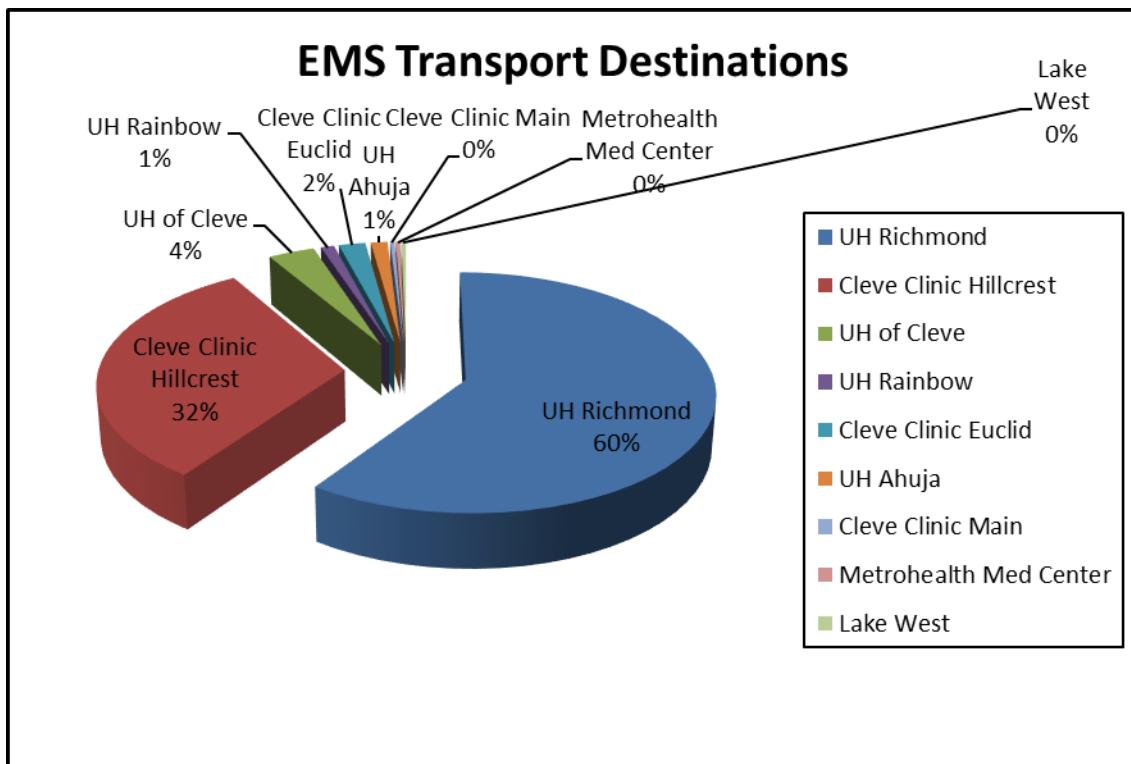
Occupancy	ALARM RESPONSES				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Richmond Town Square	72	55	40	33	13
Richmond Heights Place	106	99	108	91	96
Grande Pointe Nursing Home	92	78	87	110	102
The Waterford	154	173	163	105	128
Dorchester/Loganberry Apartments	230	237	258	264	144
Richmond Park Apartments	158	137	134	166	185
TOTAL RESPONSES	812	779	790	769	538

NOTABLE ALARMS

Date	Time	Location	Situation	Incident Number
01/03/20	23:16	443 Richmond Park	Apartment Fire	20-0017
04/22/20	16:51	5175 Queensboro Drive	House Fire	20-0621
07/04/20	18:59	440 Richmond Park	Trash Fire	20-1092
07/25/20	13:11	521 Richmond Road	Auto w/ Entrapment	20-1224
12/25/20	21:41	446 Richmond Park	Apartment Fire	20-2160

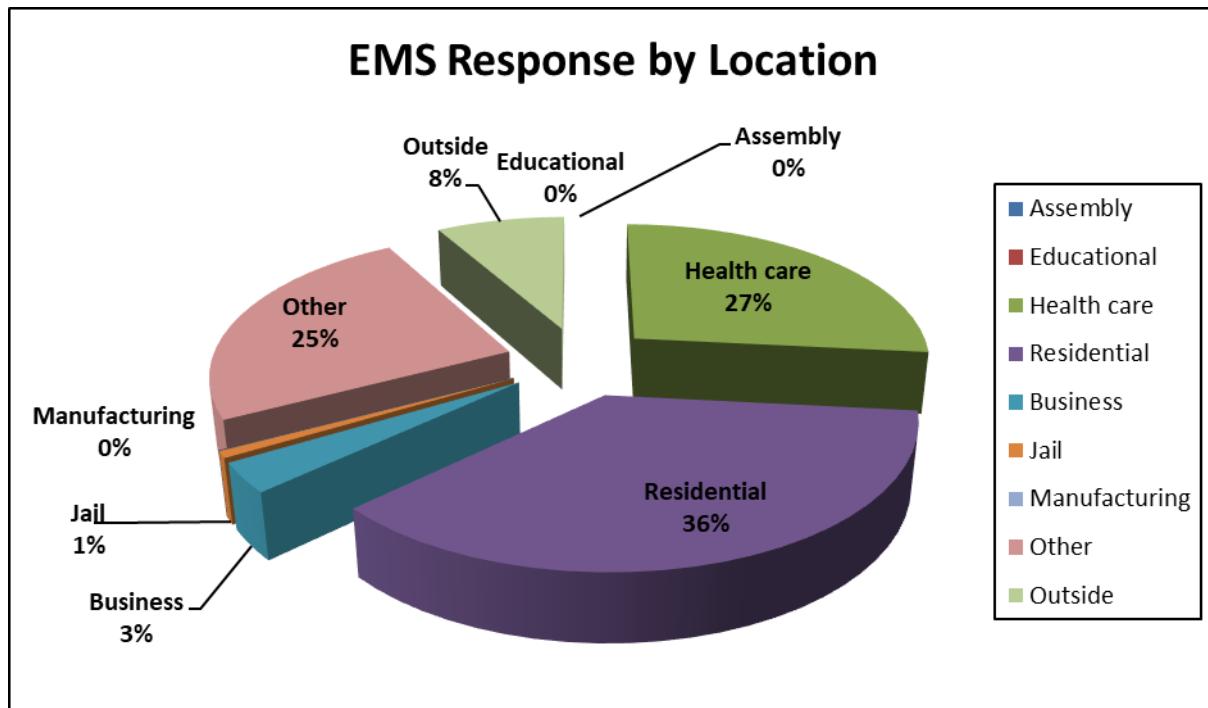
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS calls continue to be the majority of incident activity for the Division of Fire. Division of Fire's rescue squads provided emergency medical transport **1,224** times to area hospitals in 2020. Patients were transported to University Hospitals Richmond Medical Center on 731 occasions (60%). Patients were transported to hospitals outside of our City on 493 occasions (40%).

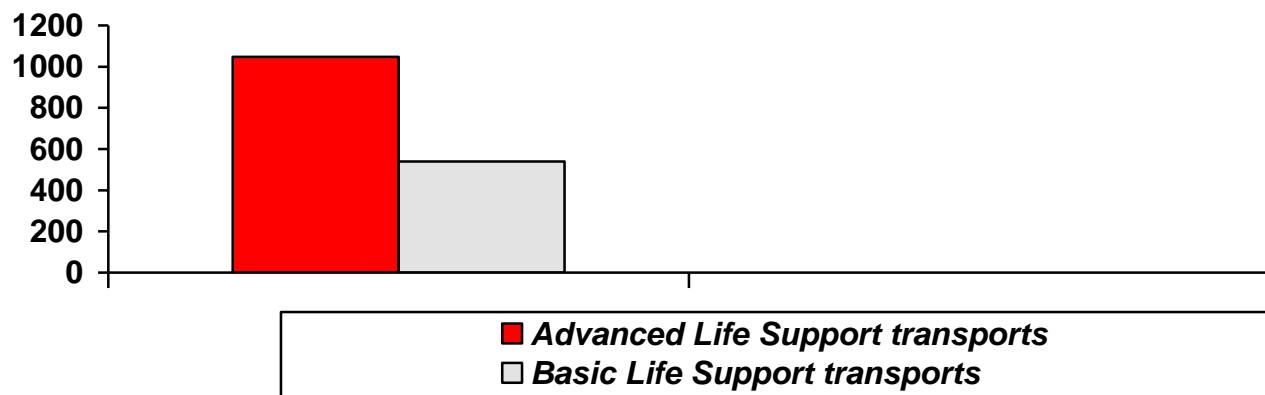


Hospital	EMS Transports
UH Richmond	731
Cleve Clinic Hillcrest	388
UH of Cleve	42
UH Rainbow	12
Cleve Clinic Euclid	24
UH Ahuja	15
Cleve Clinic Main	4
Metrohealth Med Center	4
Lake West	4

EMS RESPONSES BY LOCATION



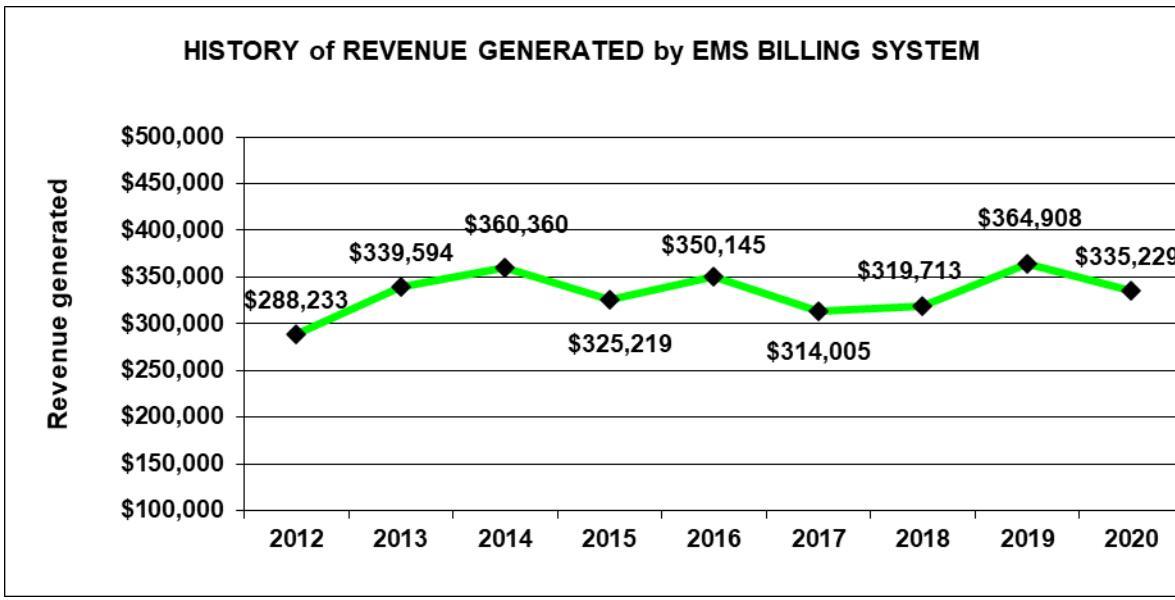
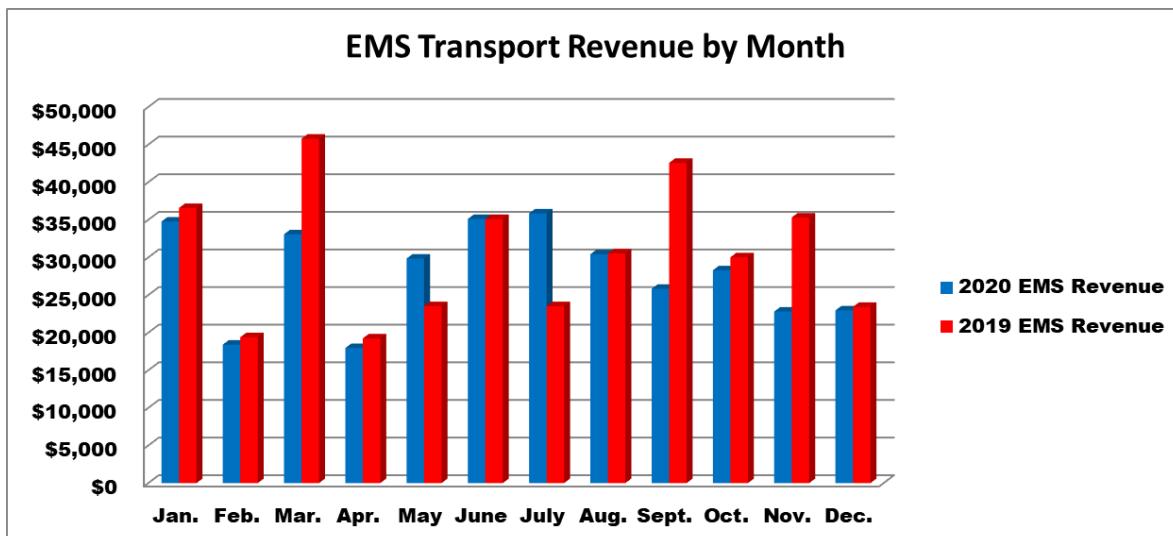
EMS RESPONSES BY SEVERITY



REVENUE FROM EMS TRANSPORT

The Division of Fire bills patients for transportation to medical facilities. The EMS billing system generated \$335,229 in 2020. The funds received from Emergency EMS billing are distributed into the Division of Fire's budget. Listed below are the 2020 EMS billing totals.

EMS Billing	2019	2020	Difference	%
Billed Amount	\$851,973	\$834,662	-\$17,311	-2.03%
Received Amount	\$364,909	\$335,229	-\$29,680	-8.13%
Collection Rate	43%	40%		-6.98%



BUDGET

2020 Division of Fire Budget vs. Actual		
Description	2020 Approved Budget	2020 Actual Expenditures
Personnel	\$ 2,788,468	\$ 2,676,454
Contractual	\$ 203,677	\$ 135,983
Supplies and Materials	\$ 48,922	\$ 31,206
Capital Outlay	\$ 186,424	\$ 88,283
Totals	\$ 3,227,491	\$ 2,931,926
		-9.16%

Past Actual Annual Expenditures	
2016	\$ 2,416,461
2017	\$ 2,892,548
2018	\$ 2,790,531
2019	\$ 2,763,363

2020 Grant Awards				
Grant	Purpose	Local Share	Local Cost Share	Grant Funds
FEMA/AFG Assistance to Firefighters Grant	Rope Rescue Training and Equipment	5%	\$2,114	\$44,400
HHS/CARES	Personal Protective Equipment	0%	\$00	\$10,328
FEMA/AFG Regional COVID-19 Supplemental Grant	Personal Protective Equipment	10%	\$413	\$4,132
2019 & 2020 Ohio Department of Public Safety	EMS Training & Equipment	0%	\$00	\$2,846
		TOTAL	\$2,527	\$61,706

TRAINING

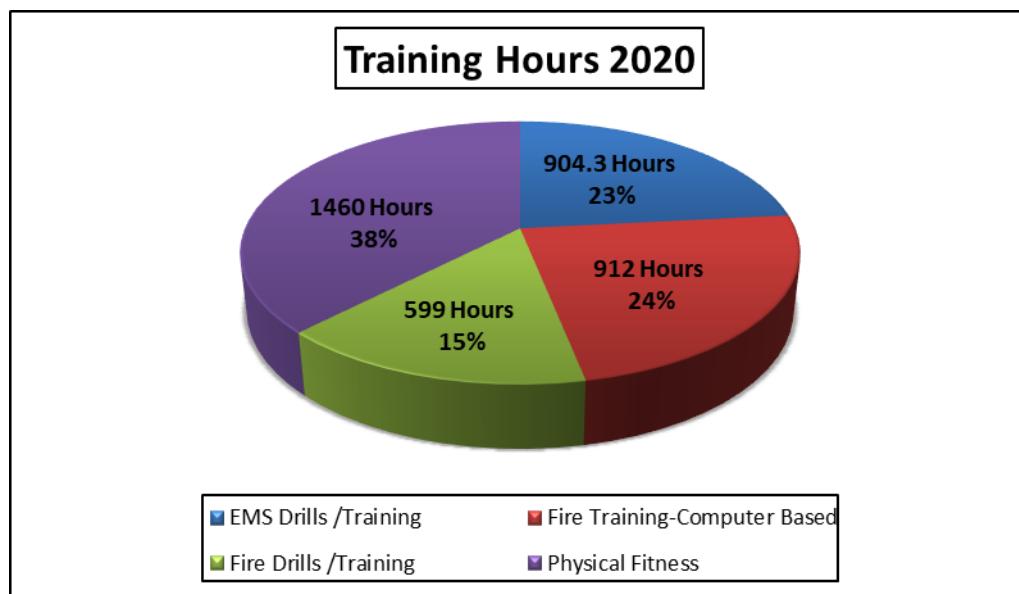
IN-SERVICE SHIFT TRAINING

The following list includes the areas covered by in-service shift training. Firefighters are required to complete monthly training requirements set forth by the Training Officer. These requirements are in line with the requirements set forth by the State of Ohio for firefighter recertification.



Building Construction and Fire Behavior
Company Tours of New Construction
General Driver Training
Fire Control
Strategic and Tactical Operations
Incident Command System
Fire Streams Theories
Fundamentals of Fire Suppression
Hazardous Materials Overview
Rope Rescue Training
Ground Ladders

General Fire Prevention Training
SCBA Training
Live Fire Burn Training
Air Bag Training
Cold Water Rescue
Rapid Intervention Training
Firefighter Escape Techniques
Ventilation Procedures
Small Equipment Reviews
Aerial Operations
Engine and Truck Pump Procedures



EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING

The following list includes the areas covered by monthly run reviews held with Dr. Anthony Daher, MD our Medical Director. Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are required to complete monthly training requirements set forth by the Medical Director. These requirements are in line with the requirements set forth by the State of Ohio for Paramedic and EMT recertification.

Pediatrics	Geriatrics
Emergency Runs and Protocol Review	CPAP
12 Lead EKG Interpretations	Trauma
Respiratory Emergencies	Pharmacology
Stroke	Altered Mental Status
CPR Recertification	Hypothermia
Drug Box Exchange Procedure	



FIRE HYDRANT TESTING

Fire hydrants in the City of Richmond Heights are inspected and flow tested annually by the Division of Fire. There are over 750 fire hydrants in the City of Richmond Heights. Fire hydrants and water utilities are owned by the City of Cleveland, Division of Water. Hydrants needing repair are reported to the Division of Water for follow up.

The Division of Fire is responsible for maintaining the appearance of the fire hydrants. Each year a list of hydrants in need of painting is compiled. Painting provides a hydrant protection against rust which “freezes” caps and makes the overall operation of the hydrant difficult.

HOSE TESTING

The annual service pressure testing of fire hose was completed on all in-service fire hose. Defective or failed hose is replaced on an as-needed basis each year. This ensures that serviceable hose is available when needed. Division of Fire was awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant in 2014 for the replacement of all hose, nozzles, and adaptors.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

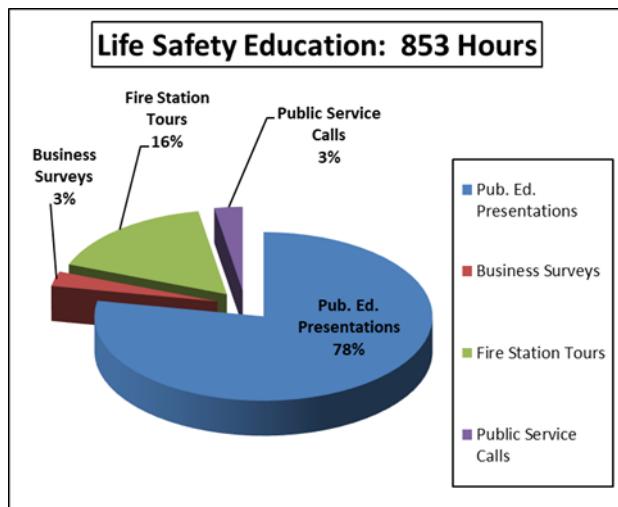
All personal protective equipment used for structural firefighting was replaced in 2020 and the during the first quarter of 2021. A special cleaning system acquired through a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant is used to maintain the structural firefighting gear.

All Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment was serviced and tested in 2020. All SCBA equipment meets current National Fire Protection Association recommended standards. In 2013 and 2014, Division of Fire was awarded local and regional FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants to fund the replacement of 16 SCBA units, 42 masks, and 32 air bottles.

All personal protective gear and equipment comply with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommended standards.

LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

On duty personnel are responsible for providing Life Safety Education to the City of Richmond Heights. Our programs and tours influence age groups from preschool to high school. The goal is to get helpful safety information to the children in a manner that will “stick” with them as they develop. They also address the needs of seniors, homeowners, and employees in the workplace.



Life Safety Education	Total Hours	% Total Time
Pub. Ed. Presentations	665	78%
Business Surveys	24	3%
Fire Station Tours	141	17%
Public Service Calls	23	3%
Total	853	100%

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

2020 was a busy year for Fire Prevention activities. The Fire Prevention Officer is assigned to the Building Division and serves the community by conducting annual fire safety inspections, fire suppression system testing, public education, and plan reviews for new construction and renovations of commercial buildings in the city.

2020 Fire Prevention Activity

- 218 Annual business fire safety inspections.
- 18 Requested residential home fire safety inspections.
- 8 Fire protection equipment plan reviews.
- 19 New fire protection equipment acceptance tests.
- 2 Requested and completed fire prevention classes.
- 9 Hazard Warning Notices posted with completed corrections to all 9.
- 5 Code enforcement procedures conducted: 3 State, 1 Local, 1 ongoing.
- 1 New BDRA system at the new upper school; 2 additional BDRA systems at industrial locations in the planning phase.
- 19 Fire Prevention related meetings.
- COVID-19 continuing education.

VEHICLE INVENTORY & EXPENSES

Division of Fire's vehicle inventory is:

Vehicle#	Year in Service	Make	VIN#
Engine 712	2007	Sutphen	1S9A1BLD671003119
Ladder 721	2000	Am. LaFrance	4Z36EMEB7YRG75887
Squad 741	2015	Lifeline	1FDUF5HT1FEA99849
Squad 742	2017	Lifeline	1FDUF5HT3HED72096
Chief 751	2016	Ford Explorer	1FM5K8AR0GGA28762
Chase 771	2015	GMC Sierra 1500	3GTU2TEH0FG145894

In 2020 **\$21,810** was spent in vehicle maintenance and **\$6,911** in fuel. The total operating expenses for vehicles in Division of Fire was **\$28,721**. The annual fire pump testing was performed by Countryside Truck Service, Inc. and the annual ladder testing was performed by Diversified Inspections.

2020 Vehicle Maintenance Expenses:

Vehicle#	Maintenance	Fuel	Total Cost	Cost per/mile
Engine 712	\$ 9,830	\$1,607	\$ 11,436	\$ 4.35
Ladder 721	\$ 7,468	\$ 375	\$ 7,843	\$ 15.92
Squad 741	\$ 579	\$1,124	\$ 1,703	\$.41
Squad 742	\$ 538	\$1,962	\$ 2,500	\$.27
Chief 751	\$ 2,178	\$ 831	\$ 3,010	\$.30
Chase 771	\$ 1,217	\$1,012	\$ 2,229	\$.36
Total	\$ 21,810		\$ 6,911	
			\$ 28,721	

HILLCREST-HEIGHTS REGIONAL FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT (HHRFIU)

The Hillcrest Regional Fire Investigation Unit was created in 1997 to assist participating communities with investigating the origin/cause of fires. The team expanded in 2018 with the addition of Euclid FD and expanded further in 2019 with the addition of Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, and University Heights. The team is now called the Hillcrest-Heights Regional Fire Investigation Unit (HHRFIU) and proudly serves (13) communities with a roster of (39) fire investigators.

As a member of the HHRFIU, Richmond Heights receives and provides fire investigation mutual aid to surrounding communities. Participation ensures that an adequate number of well-trained, experienced investigators are available for fire investigation in the Hillcrest-Heights Region. Richmond Heights currently provides two (2) investigators to the HHRFIU.

There were (9) requests for the HHRFIU in 2020:

2/9/2020	South Euclid FD
3/23/2020	Shaker Heights FD
5/23/2020	Mayfield Heights FD
6/13/2020	Lyndhurst FD
6/26/2020	South Euclid FD
8/1/2020	Lyndhurst FD
8/21/2020	Lyndhurst FD
11/7/2020	Gates Mills FD
11/30/2020	Mayfield Village FD



The HHRFIU normally meets bi-monthly for 2-3 hours of case review and continuing education. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the team only held two in-person meetings during 2020. All other meetings, continuing education, and training was conducted "virtually."

The HHRFIU is continuously striving to utilize best-practices and embrace new technologies to enhance investigator safety and improve our ability to detect the origin/cause of fires. This year we were able to purchase each member their own 3M™ cartridge respirator (and P100/Organic Vapor/Acid Gas cartridges). The team also replaced broken halogen task-lighting with new LED, purchased organizational items (brackets, hooks, cabinet), and replenished Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies.

HEIGHTS-HILLCREST TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

Established 2017



Serving the Communities of Beachwood, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Gates Mills, Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Pepper Pike, Richmond Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, University Heights, Willoughby Hills, and all Chagrin Southeast Communities.

2020 was another successful year for our team. Our team provides special rescue services to all of eastern Cuyahoga County, as well as, the city of Willoughby Hills. The Heights-Hillcrest Technical Rescue Team provides special rescue services in the following disciplines; Rope Rescue, Confined Space, Trench Rescue, Structural Collapse, and Water Rescue. The rescue team is comprised of, 73 specially trained firefighters from each of our member communities. By utilizing this regional approach, the team is able to provide specialized services that no one city could provide by themselves. Our team's specialized equipment is housed on five, Rescue Trucks, which are placed in fire stations throughout our service area. The team provides reciprocal rescue services to the Chagrin/Southeast communities in exchange for their Hazardous Material response capabilities. In addition to local training and emergency responses, the Heights – Hillcrest Rescue Team works closely with the Ohio Region 2, USAR Team, the Ohio Region 2, Water Rescue Team, and the SERT Team, which services the west side of Cleveland. Our teams' annual budget is \$83,000, which is funded by contributions from our member communities. This funding is used to maintain and improve our specialized equipment, as well as provide training for our team members.

There were a total of 16 team call outs in 2020. These callouts involved seven, structural collapse calls, three water rescue calls, three rope rescue calls, two machinery extrication calls, and one wide area search call. All of our calls are rewarding, but our most successful call this year occurred at Tinker's Creek, where we rescued 4 stranded swimmers, and also performed a body recovery. Major purchases and acquisitions this year included the replacement of all our rescue rope, the purchase of two, new rescue boats, and the team is now in charge of a logistics truck and rough terrain tow motor



The team holds monthly training sessions for our team members, which help maintain proficiency with our technical skills. These trainings provide invaluable experience to our members and assures that the team is always ready to respond to any situation we are called for.

Due to the COVID pandemic, our normal training schedule was reduced from 12 trainings to 8 training sessions. In 2021, we will make every attempt to hold all of our 12 regular training sessions. In addition to these scheduled drills, team members participated in numerous outside training opportunities. Some of these outside opportunities included swift water classes sponsored by our Region 2 water team, advanced rope classes in Cleveland, dive rescue classes taught by Dive Rescue International, and trench rescue classes in Michigan.

The Heights - Hillcrest Technical Rescue Team requires that all our members are certified as Rescue technician's, in all rescue discipline's, with the exception of Rescue Diver. We continue in our efforts to achieve this goal. The team currently has 11 Rescue Divers, and we are working on expanding this pool. The teams' commitment to training, allows our members to operate safely, effectively, and efficiently in extremely hazardous situations.

2020 Callouts:

1/26/20	Warrensville Hts.	Structural Collapse
1/31/20	Valley View	Wide Area Search
2/25/20	Euclid	Structural Collapse
3/26/20	Bedford Heights	Extrication/Rope Rescue
3/29/20	South Euclid	Water Rescue
5/17/20	Euclid	Structural Collapse
5/28/20	Bedford	Water Rescue
6/19/20	Willoughby Hills	Rope Rescue
6/20/20	Euclid	Structural Collapse
7/26/20	Perry	Rope Rescue
9/1/20	Bedford	Water Rescue
9/25/20	Lyndhurst	Structural Collapse
9/27/20	Mayfield Heights	Structural Collapse
10/8/20	Willoughby Hills	Structural Collapse
11/3/20	Bainbridge	Machinery Extrication
12/25/20	Woodmere	Structural Collapse



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I get a copy of a Fire or Medical report?

Call the Division of Fire at (216) 383-6325, during our regular business hours of 8:00AM-5:00PM Monday thru Friday, for proper procedures to obtain a report.

Who do I call to learn CPR?

You can call (216) 383-6325 and ask for the EMS Coordinator.

What is a “Lockbox” & where can I obtain one?

A “lockbox” is a tamper-proof box mounted on the outside of a structure which contains keys to access the building. This allows firefighters quick access to a home or business even when the building may be secured, i.e. after hours or when occupants have limited mobility. Information to purchase a lockbox can be obtained by calling the Division of Fire at (216) 383-6325.

If my carbon monoxide (CO) detector activates, what should I do?

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is created by the incomplete combustion of carbon based fuels. It also connects to blood cells at a rate 200 times faster than oxygen. It is recommended that you install a carbon monoxide detector on each level of your home. If a detector activates, call 9-1-1 and exit your home immediately. The Division of Fire will respond to your home and check the level of carbon monoxide (if any).

Why do firefighters cut holes in the roof and break windows of a building on fire?

This is called “ventilation.” There are two reasons for ventilating a structure. The first is to remove dangerous gases, heat, and smoke which accumulate in a burning building. These gases reduce visibility and can impede rescue and firefighting efforts. Second, ventilation allows firefighters to relieve the structure of superheated gases which spread fire and contribute to dangerous situations such as flashover and backdraft explosions.

What should I do with hot fireplace ash?

DO NOT remove hot ashes from the fireplace immediately. Wait 2-3 days before removing the ashes from the fireplace to allow the hot embers time to completely cool. Place the cool ash in a metal container and store outside away from the home and any combustibles.

What types of shifts do the Richmond Heights firefighters work?

Firefighters work 24 hour shifts beginning at 8 a.m. each morning. This amounts to approximately 56 hours per week, ten shifts per month. This schedule reduces personnel costs by not having overtime costs associated with a 40 hour work week. Firefighters do not receive overtime for hours worked over 40 hours. The fire station is staffed 24/7/365 days a year.

Why not three 8 hour shifts instead of one 24 hour shift? Wouldn't that be more cost effective?

Actually, it is more cost effective for firefighters to work 24 hour shifts. Firefighters work an average of 56 hours per week. If staffed with 8 hour shift employees, it would require overtime for hours worked per week, exceeding 40. An 8 hour shift schedule would require 30% more firefighters to provide the same daily staffing levels as is currently maintained.

Why do firefighters sleep at the fire station?

Firefighters in Richmond Heights, along with most firefighters in North America work 24 hour shifts. Irrespective of the time of day or night, firefighters will respond 24/7/365 days a year. Station duties and training activities are completed throughout the day. At night firefighters are permitted to sleep in order to maintain energy and a sharp mind when requested to respond.

