

Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department Annual Report 2019



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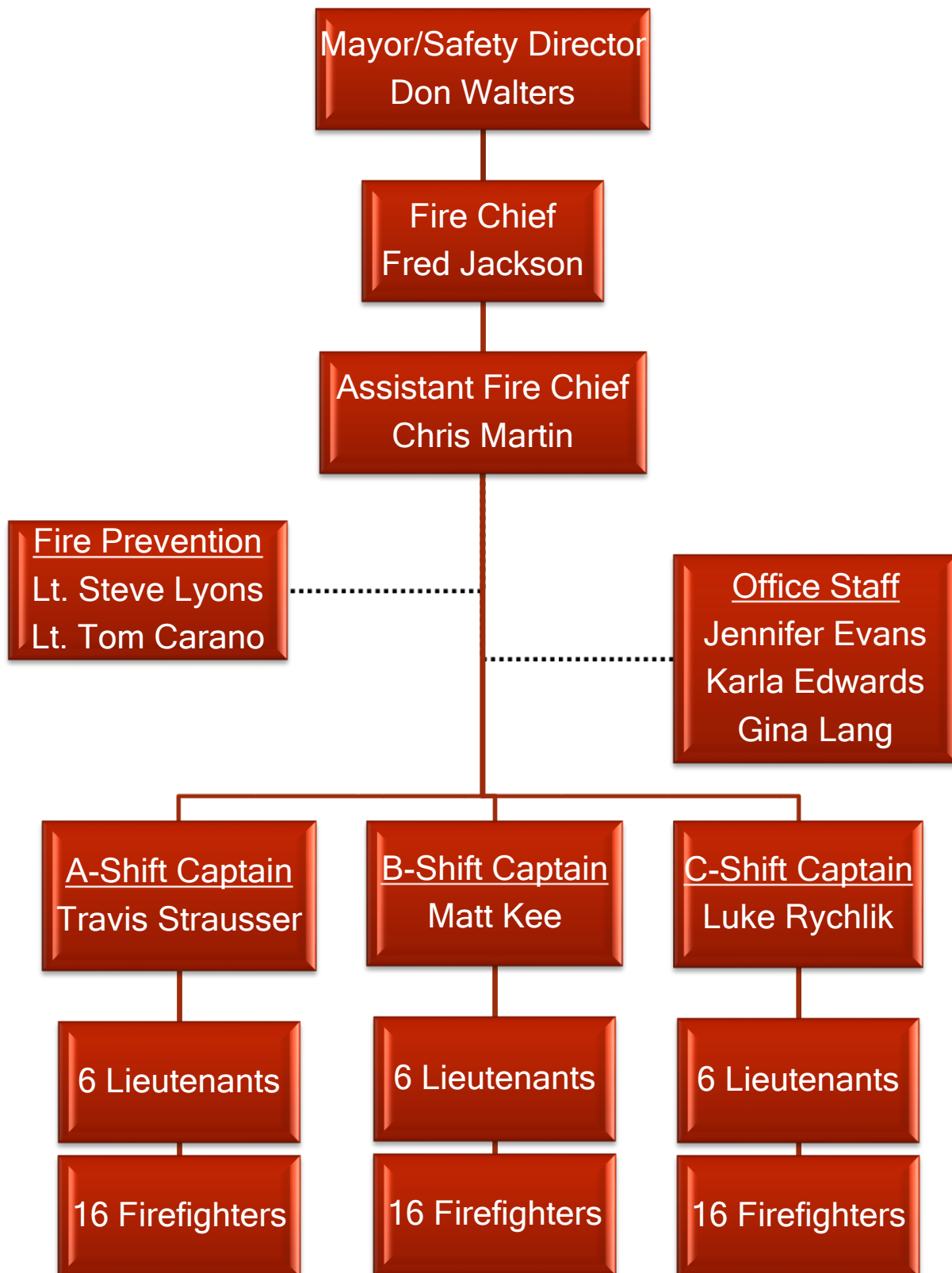
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CFFD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department is to provide the highest quality professional emergency service, fire prevention and life safety education to our community. We resolve to do this within a framework of empathy, compassion and dedication to the citizens we serve, as well as each other.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CFFD PERSONNEL

Chief Officers

Chief - Fred Jackson
Assistant Chief - Chris Martin

Captains

Travis Strausser - A Shift Matt Kee - B Shift Luke Rychlik - C Shift

Lieutenants

<u>A-Shift</u>	<u>B-Shift</u>	<u>C-Shift</u>	<u>Fire Prevention</u>
Ed McCullough	Rick Malak	Chet Hoyt	Steve Lyons
Mike Marsh	Charmaine Zawacki	Dave Tripepi	Tom Carano
Mike Stanec	Konrad Lenk	Zak Elzholz	
Jack Breese	Maggie Hobson	Bryon Barth	
Chris Bickett	Tom Taylor	Brian Krebs	
Scott Christiansen	Kevin Roarty	Joe Peters	

Firefighters

<u>A-Shift</u>	<u>B-Shift</u>	<u>C-Shift</u>
Pat Hayden	Andy Ryne	Russ Hannan
Tim Humbert	Mark Melice	Carlton Barnett
Todd Hyde	Mike Beck	Eric Davis
Frank Yoskey	Tim Carey	Reade Allen
Chris Anselm	Don Smerk	Matt Hutchison
Rob Gipson	Randy Kistemaker	Scott Cline
Jeff Utzler	Carl Hayward	Clint Snyder
Ryan Gray	Charlie Kilbel	Mic George
Dan Grimm	Jason Boivin	Josh Bell
Jacob Knight	Doug Hallahan	Ben Edwards
Jessica Amato	Alex Cheronis	Addison Marable
Dan Pittman	Richard Patterson	Paul Celinski
Ken Facemire	Andrew King	Connor McComas
Ben Kerner	Gary Huhn	Marcus Feichtner
Rocco Mauer	Vince Sferra	Adam Hafer
Colin Papp	Seth Stertzbach	Anthony Girardi

FIRE STATIONS

Fire Station #1 (Fire Headquarters)

1924 Front Street

Opened in 1927

Equipment:

1 Engine

2 Squads

2 Command Vehicles

1 All-terrain vehicle

Station 1 is also home to the Department's Administrative Offices and Fire Prevention Bureau



Fire Station #2

2121 High Street

Opened in 1949

Remodeled in 1999

Equipment:

1 Ladder

2 Squads

Fire Stations

Fire Station #3

****Closed 3/2019**

New station being

Constructed**

1601 Portage Trail

Opened in 1959

Equipment:

1 Engine

2 Squads



Station #4

3089 Northampton Rd.

Opened in 1947

Equipment:

1 Engine

1 Ladder

2 Squads

1 All-Terrain Vehicle

1 Grass Fire Truck

Fire Station #5

3497 Wyoga Lake Rd.

Opened in 2006

Equipment:

1 Engine

1 Ladder

2 Squads

1 Water Rescue Truck (with boats)

1 Technical Rescue Truck

Various Summit County Heavy Rescue Equipment



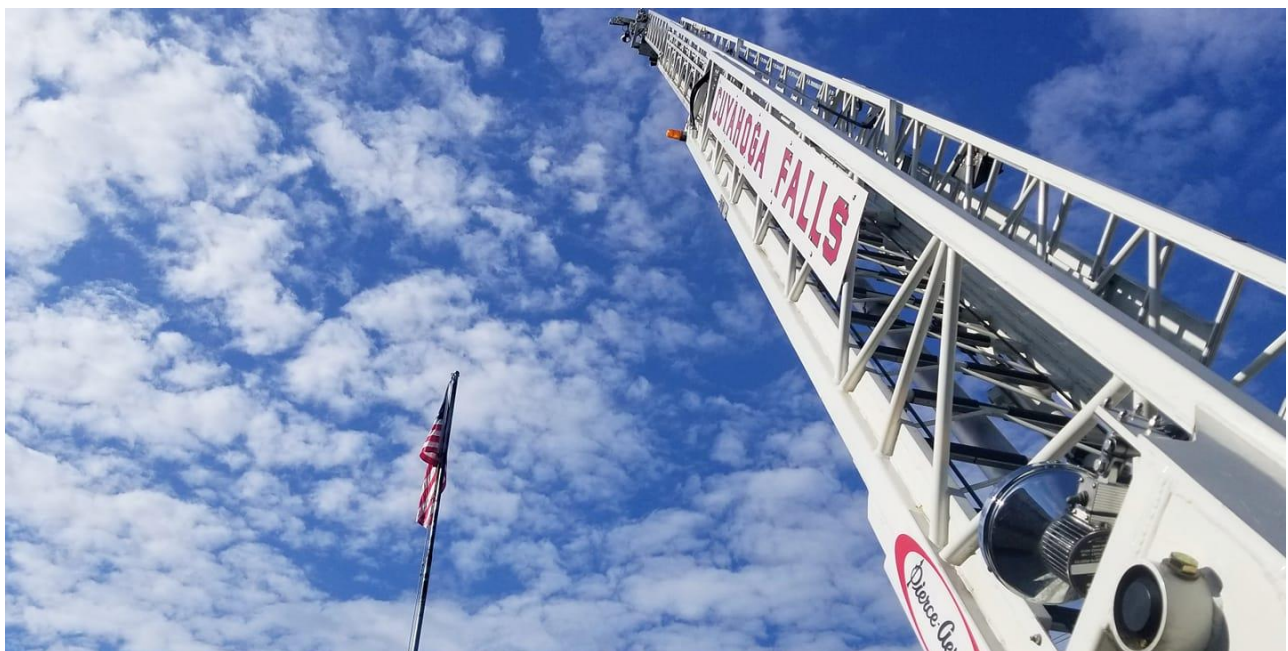
2019....A SPECIAL YEAR

Cuyahoga Falls moves all data collection and reporting to ESO

In March 2019, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department completed the transition for our electronic reporting, data entry and all forms of electronic records retention from Firehouse Software to ESO. This conversion went as smoothly as can be expected, and we are pleased with the end result. With the conversion taking place during the year, however, the data in this report had to be gathered from two different sources. Every effort has been made to verify each piece of information to assure its accuracy, and this report will be updated periodically as needed if inconsistencies are found.

Station 3 - the End of an Era

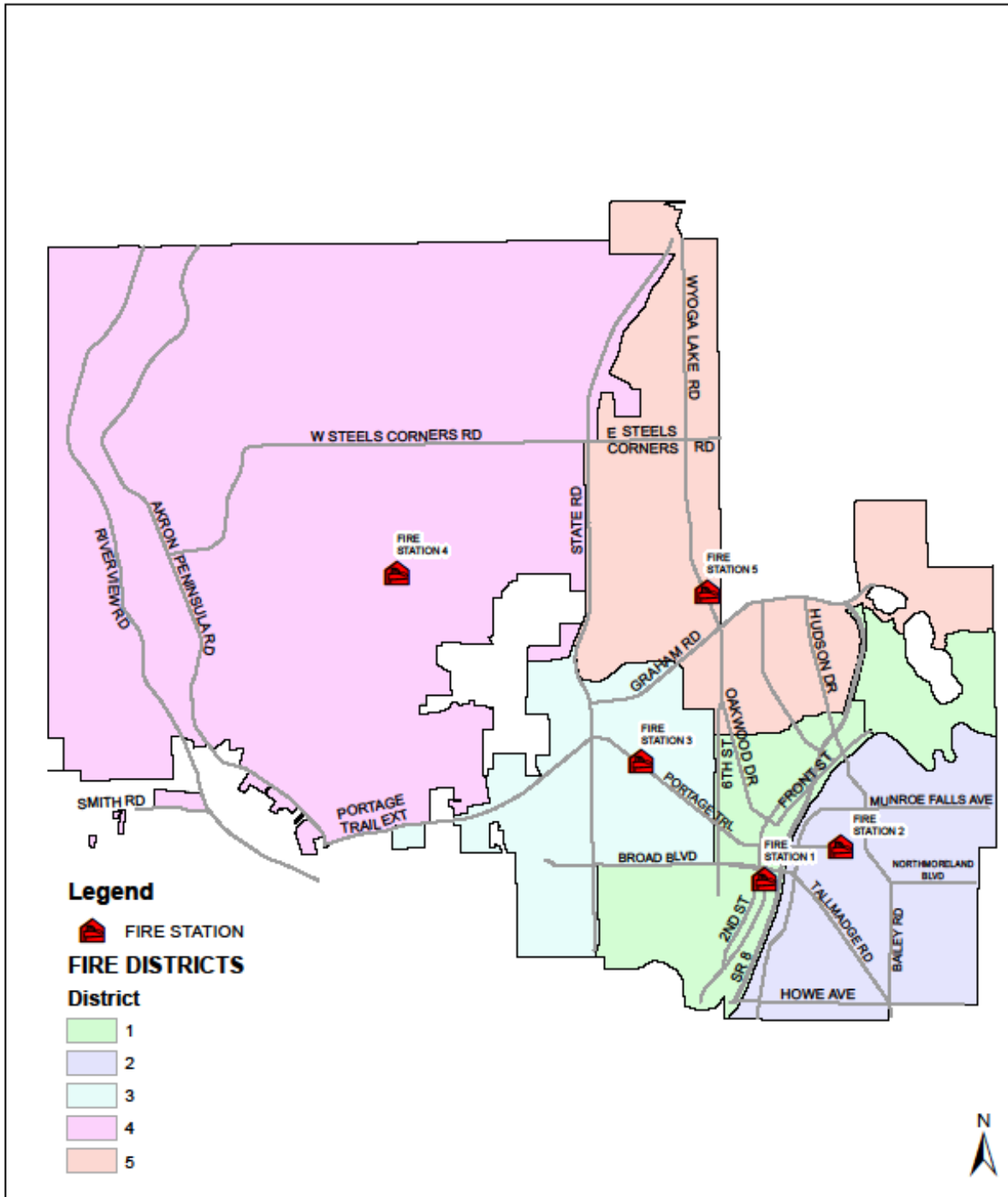
Also occurring in 2019 was the demolition of Fire Station #3 so that a new station could be constructed in its place. Because the location of the new station is the same as the previous Station 3, CFFD had to relocate the crews normally responding from there to Station 1. Response districts were amended to accommodate the fastest response times possible, and equipment was relocated during the construction phase. This substantial alteration of our response capability resulted in variances in response times, vehicle responses and several other key points found throughout this report. Further information on this construction project can be found on pages 18 and 19 of this report.



RESPONSE DISTRICTS

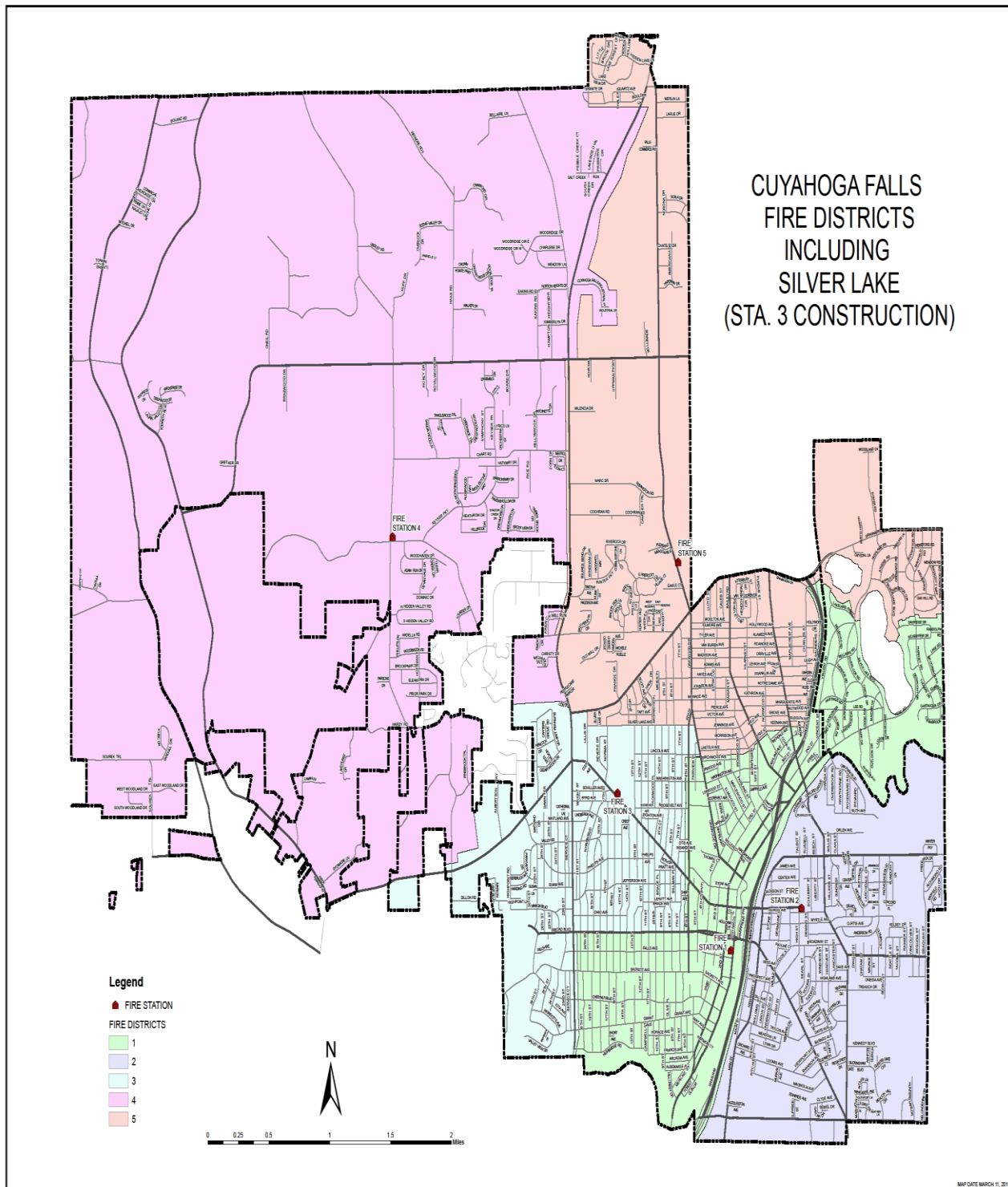
This district map was effective 1/1/2019-3/1/2019, prior to the demolition of Station 3

CUYAHOGA FALLS FIRE DISTRICTS INCLUDING SILVER LAKE

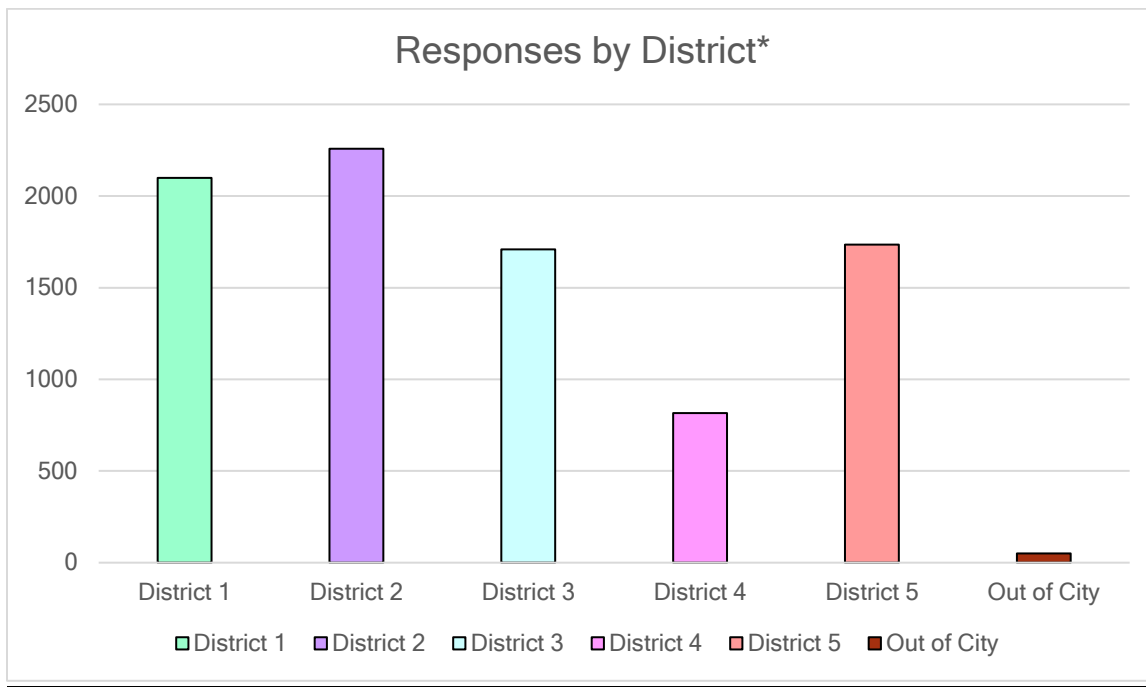


RESPONSE DISTRICTS

District map effective 3/1/2019 until opening of the new Station 3



DISTRICT RESPONSES



*Includes all Fire, EMS and Other calls for service

Analysis of District Responses

2019 remained consistent with previous years in regards to calls for service by response districts. Districts 1 and 2, which serve the Central and East side of the City, accounted for 51% of these calls. Included in these results are the two Silver Lake Districts, which are split between Fire Station's 1 and 5. In 2019, there were a total of 222 calls for service in Silver Lake. This represents a 13% increase from 2018, in which there were 194 responses to Silver Lake.

In 2019, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department also responded to requests for Mutual Aid (Out of City responses) 109 times. These requests were generated from both Automatic Aid agreements that exist with neighboring Departments, and specific requests from other jurisdictions. CFFD experienced an increase of these requests from 2018 (92 total responses) of 16%.

VEHICLE RESPONSES

Total Front-Line Vehicle Responses – 2019*

(Vehicle number represents the Fire Station each vehicle responds from)

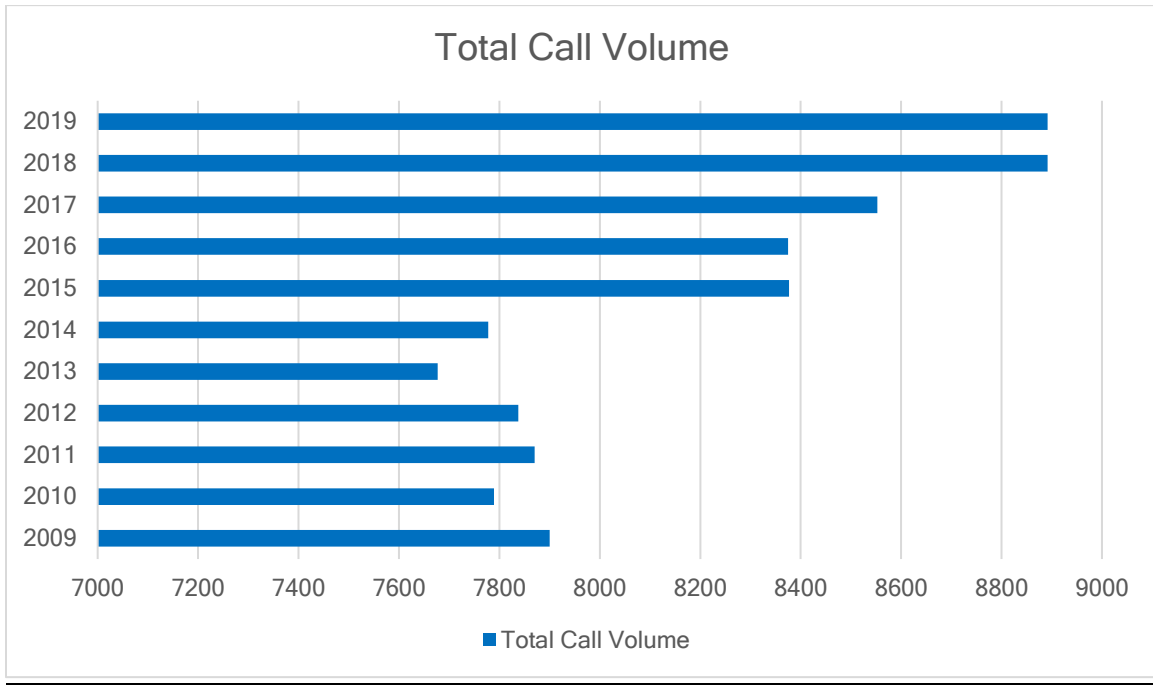
2019	Responses
C4 - Shift Commander	887
Squad 1	1774
Squad 2	1672
Squad 3	1524
Squad 4	840
Squad 5	1528
Engine 1	386
Ladder 2	196
Engine 3	214
Engine 4	152
Ladder 5	196
Engine 5**	140

*Includes all responses (Fire, EMS and Other calls for Service)

** Engine 5 is also used as the “back-up” fire apparatus that fills in for other trucks that may be out of service for mechanical reasons



SUMMARY OF 2019 RESPONSES

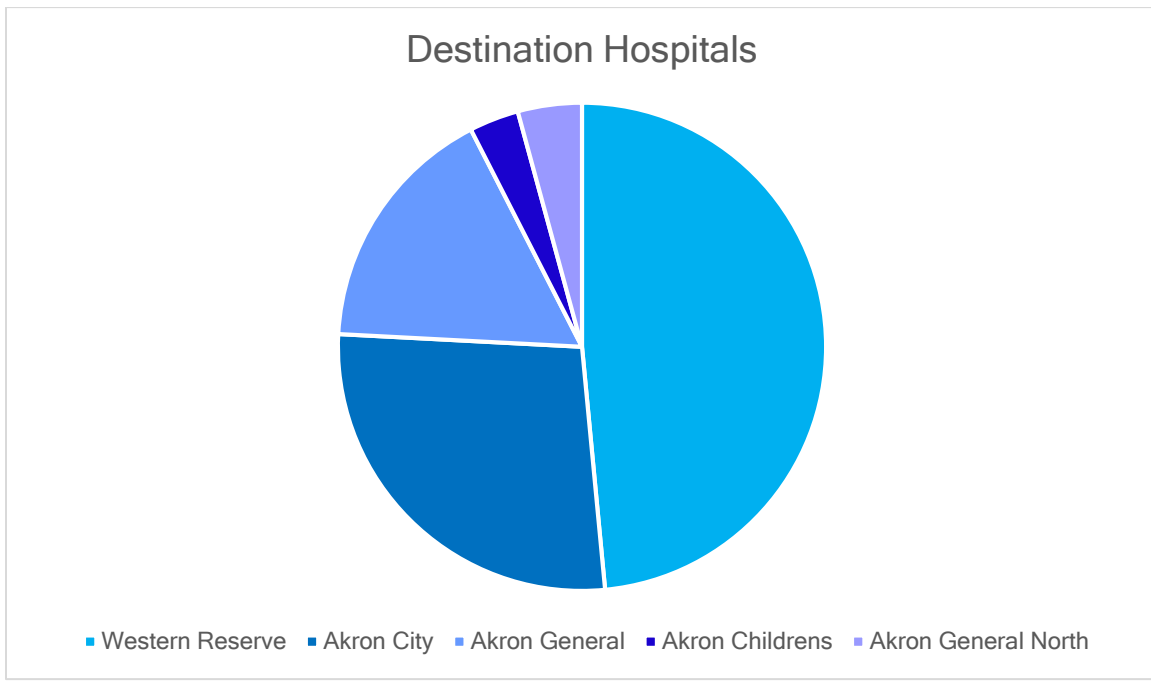


Breakdown of Response Types

	Fire Related Emergencies	EMS	False Alarms (EMS and Fire)	Service/Other	Total
% of Total Responses	5%	74%	6%	15%	100%

With a total of 8,892 responses in 2019, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department matched the number of responses in 2018, the highest in the Department’s history. EMS responses remain the largest category of calls for service, which is consistent with national trends for comparable fire departments.

EMS TRANSPORT DATA



Analysis of Hospital Transports

In 2019, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) transported a total of 4,550 patients to area hospitals. Western Reserve Hospital remained the hospital of choice for the majority of patients, which is consistent with previous years. CFFD EMS crews transport patients to the hospital of their choosing within the immediate area of Cuyahoga Falls and Akron, unless the nature of the patient’s illness or injury dictates otherwise (based on hospital capabilities and specialties).

Based on the severity of the illness or injury each patient is experiencing, CFFD EMS crews make a determination on each response, whether to transport patients to the hospital with lights and sirens, or without lights and sirens. In 2019, 472 patients were transported with lights and sirens to the hospital (indicating a life threatening illness or injury), and 4078 patients were transported without lights and sirens (indicating non-life threatening signs and symptoms).

FIRE RESPONSE DATA



The City of Cuyahoga Falls responds to millions of dollars' worth of property value from the devastating effects of fire on a daily basis. In 2019, 83% was saved due to the efforts of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department. The Department is also proud to report that there were no fire related fatalities in 2019.

CFFD is proud to have exceptionally trained, highly motivated and courageous members in its employ. This workforce, along with a high quality ongoing training program, top of the line equipment and diligent work from the Fire Protection Bureau continue to provide the highest level of security from the risks of fire to the citizens of the City of Cuyahoga Falls.

TURNING THE PAGE ON STATION 3



Opened 1959, the original Station 3 served the citizens of Cuyahoga Falls for 50 years. Through the years, hundreds of Firefighters lived and worked in this station and countless citizens were served by its presence. So many memories were made here, and this station will forever hold a special place in the hearts and memories of the City of Cuyahoga Falls.



In March of 2019, demolition was complete, and the site for our new Fire Station 3 was prepared. Crews and equipment were housed at different stations throughout the City during the construction project.

A NEW BEGINNING



At a groundbreaking ceremony for the new station held on April 15th 2019, there was a moment of silence in honor of the lives touched by the original Station 3.



The new Station 3 is slated to open in the spring of 2020. The 3,000 square foot building includes a classroom, exercise room for crews, EMS room for treatment of patients that arrive at the station, a state of the art incident alerting system, modern facilities utilized in cancer prevention in the fire service and much more.

CFFD TRAINING SUMMARY

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department had a robust 2019 training year. While Continuing Education is required for maintaining our member's many certifications, training is invaluable for our optimized efficiency and professionalism. Fire training topics in 2019 included incident scene size-up, fire behavior, fire control, fire ground operations, and search and rescue. Other related training topics included swift-water river rescue, active shooter emergencies, mass decontamination, and various additional related emergency medical services related topics. In addition, CFFD members completed a certification course in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) in 2019. CFFD members averaged in excess of 240 hours each in training hours for 2019.



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

2019 was a busy year for the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau. The Bureau was busy with its normal duties of fire prevention and investigation, and implemented a new and improved electronic version of Company Inspections.

One of the main duties of the Bureau is fire investigation. After a fire incident, it is the job of the Bureau to determine the cause and origin of the fire. The 2 members of the bureau respond to both large and small fires. The bureau also helps the victims of fire after the incident. This may be in the form of helping the victim start the process of contacting their insurance company. The Bureau also helps the victim obtain temporary housing. If the victim does not have family or friends to stay with, the Red Cross is contacted for them to obtain help.

The majority of the duties of the Fire Prevention Bureau are in fire prevention. The Bureau oversaw 1,715 Fire Safety inspections in 2019. These annual inspections are conducted for every commercial occupancy in the city. These inspections are conducted by the fire companies from all five stations during their work shifts. The Marshal's conducted inspections of Western Reserve Hospital and the 20 public and private schools that reside in the city. These schools include buildings from the Cuyahoga Falls City School District, Woodridge Local School District, Walsh Jesuit High School, Cuyahoga Valley Christian School, Redeemer Christian School, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, St. Joseph School, and Chapel Hill Christian School.

As part of the City of Cuyahoga Falls' free smoke detector program, the Bureau installed 50 smoke detectors in homes during the year. These detectors are bought by the City of Cuyahoga Falls or with money from various grants the Fire Department receives. These detectors are provided free of charge to resident's who need them. Both Marshals in the bureau also go out to the residences to properly place and install these detectors for the residents.

The Bureau also installed 10 residential style key lock boxes. These boxes were donated to the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department by a Local Re/Max branch. The boxes are installed at homes where the resident either lives alone or has limited mobility. The box allows Fire and EMS access to the property without having to do any damage should the resident not be able to get to the door. These boxes are installed with a code that is known by no one other than the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department. The resident does not know the code either. This insures the key cannot be removed or misplaced.

Part of the responsibilities of the Fire Prevention Bureau is plans examining for new commercial buildings coming into the city or existing businesses conducting renovations. In 2019 there were 141 building permits issued in the city. There were many new businesses that came into the city and numerous existing businesses making renovations.

The Fire Prevention Bureau also participates in many community events during the year. These events include the Touch-A-Truck event at the Quirk Cultural Center and Safety Town at The Natatorium. The Bureau also attends the Cuyahoga Falls Career Night and the Cuyahoga Falls Community Expo. Both of these events are sponsored by the Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce.



WATER RESCUE TEAM

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department is proud to boast one of the best water rescue teams in the region. Comprising of 18 members, this team trains on a monthly basis and is ready to respond to any emergency involving water rescues. In 2019, along with hundreds of hours of training hours, the Team responded to the following events (does not depict every request for the Team):

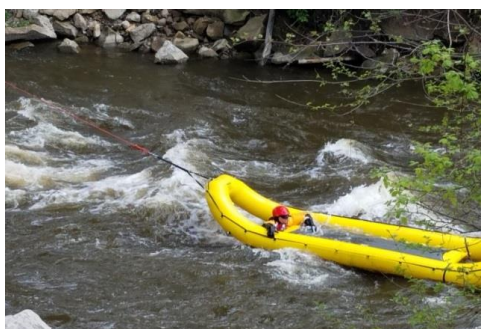
April 13th - Cuyahoga Falls Kayak race, several members from CFFD Water rescue team participated as Safety & Rescue Team.

April - 2 citizens fell into the river behind Waterworks and could not make it back to shore. CFFD responded and extricated both individuals.

April 24th, Marlboro Twp. Police Dept. (Stark County) requested SCSORT Sector Scan Sonar to scan a pond for the body of a teenaged boy that had been missing from the night before. Members from CFFD & Akron Fire along with Side Scan sonar housed at CFFD St. 5 responded to the location. Upon arrival, it was determined to be too shallow of a pond for Sonar Operations. SCSORT Team members conducted a search of the pond by using a human chain. The victim was located and turned over to law enforcement.

May - 2 kayaker's (husband & wife) were kayaking the river; the river was at a very high level. Both individual's tipped their kayaks behind Waterworks and became stuck on a small island in the middle of the river. Due to the high velocity of the river, Rescue 1 responded with boats. The Rapid Deployment Craft was used to gain access to the kayakers, and then both were brought to shore. 1 of the kayaks was able to be recovered.

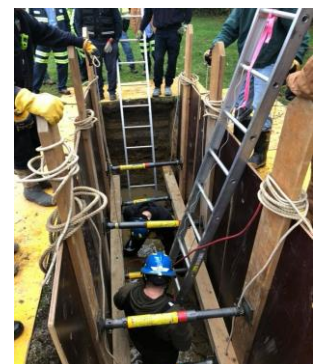
June 2 - June 6 - A young man swimming in the area of Cascade Valley Metro park Chuckery was swept away by overwhelming river currents. The raging river had been fed by days of rainfall. The river was over 5 feet above normal level. SCSORT Swift-water team members (several CFFD members) searched for 4 days along the river. A body was found in the river on the first day, but was a different individual that what the original search was intended. The missing boy was never located.



TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS TEAM

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) Technical Rescue Operations Team (TROT) was formed in the early 1990's as an elite group of specially trained firefighters whose additional training, knowledge, and equipment were tasked with response to the myriad of unique rescues that may occur in the community. Their areas of expertise included rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench and excavation rescue and structural collapse rescue.

Today, the CFFD TROT is comprised of twenty members dispersed among each of the three Department's shifts. The Team maintains a technical rescue vehicle and its associated equipment at Fire Station #5. Each member must obtain certification of completion in Rope Rescue Levels I and II, Confined Space Rescue Technician, Trench/Excavation Rescue Technician and Structural Collapse Rescue Operations. Additionally, members must be trained as Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Technicians prior to acceptance in the abovementioned courses. The training to become a full-certified member exceeds two-hundred hours of initial training. As the second largest Department in Summit County, the CFFD TROT members are integral leaders and members of the Summit County Special Operations Response Team, a county-wide Team comprised of members from most of the department's within Summit County. Additionally, select CFFD TROT members are members of the Ohio Region 5 Collapse Search & Rescue Strike Team, which deploys to structural collapse assistance requests within a thirteen county region of Northeast Ohio (Ashland, Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Summit, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and Wayne).



SWAT TEAM

The SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Medic program was started over 20 years ago. Paramedics from the fire department who are elected for this detail are properly trained and equipped to work alongside police officers on the team in hostile environments. The medics train monthly with SWAT Officers on tactics, weapons qualifications and trauma care. Over the years the team consisted of three to four medics, in 2018 another position was added to a total of five medics. The team responds in a fire department ambulance providing immediate treatment and transport if injury or illness occurs during SWAT operations or training. In early 2018 after going through proper training Taser Guns became part of the personal protective equipment each medic carries during SWAT callouts.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

The Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Team was established after it was determined that it would be too expensive for each city, township, or village to equip and train their own teams. The Summit County Team is a joint effort between the Summit County Government, the local fire departments, and the University of Akron. The County provides the funding necessary for specialized hazardous materials equipment and basic operating costs, each fire department provides the personnel to respond, and the University of Akron provides the specialized training. The team has been in service since 1986. Currently the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department has four members on the Summit County Hazardous Material Response Team who are Lt Steve Lyons, FF Gary Huhn, FF Mic George, and FF Andrew King.



QUICK RESPONSE TEAM (QRT)

In 2017, the CFFD, in coordination with Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADM) and CFPD began providing follow-up assistance to members of our community struggling with drug addiction. Once a week, a CFFD Paramedic joins a CFPD Police Officer and Social Worker from the Summit County ADM Board to visit members of the community who had experienced a drug overdose in the previous week. The goal of the visit is to educate and assist the resident with programs and services that are available to help with addiction. In 2019, the Quick Response Team responded 171 times to assist those in need.



CFFD DRONE TEAM

The City of Cuyahoga Falls Drone team was started in 2017. In the first year Lt. Krebs was assigned to be the lead for the team and work in conjunction with the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department. Drones were a fairly new concept in the police and fire service. We were the first in Summit County to purchase a drone for the city. The goal of our first year was to focus on learning the rules and regulations set by the FAA for government agencies, develop policy and procedures for our city, purchase the drone and accessory equipment for successful operations of all kinds, gather team members and get them trained on the drone and equipment. One member from each the FD and PD attended a four day class at the Ohio State Patrol academy in Columbus, Ohio to familiarize team members with rules and regulations by the FAA 14 CFR Part 107 and prepare to pass the test to be licensed.

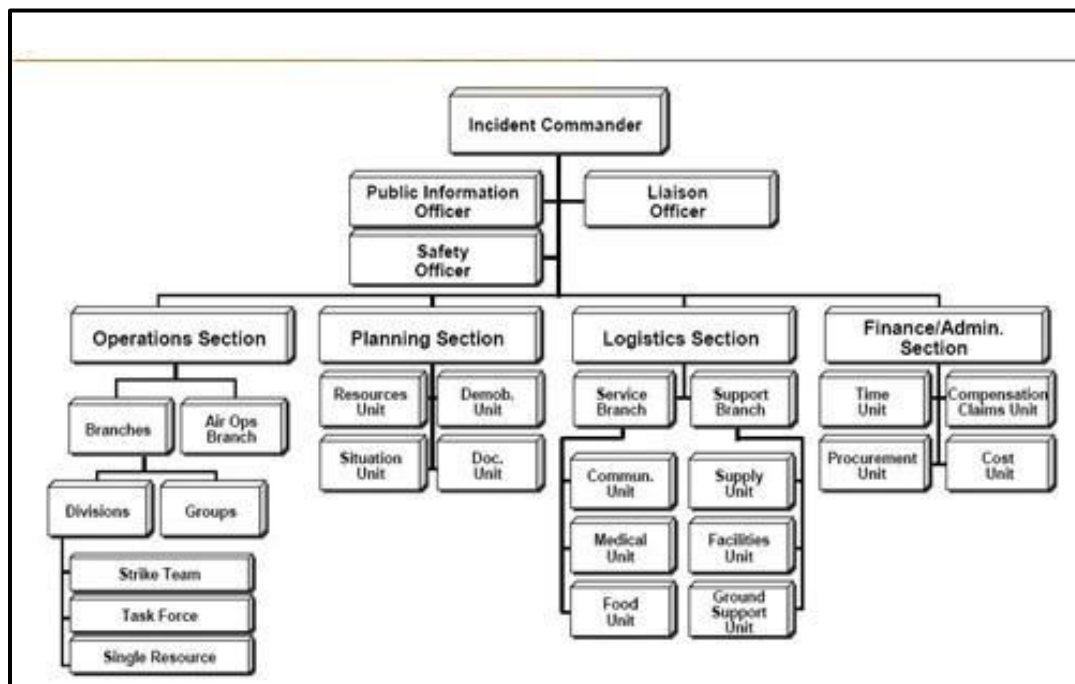
In 2018 we developed the program further and had multiple call-outs for live use. We deployed team members multiple times for missing persons within our city limits, and responded twice for mutual aid requests to assist the Akron Fire Department on hazmat operations where our aerial footage proved to be very beneficial. Three more team members were licensed on the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) in 2018. The CFFD drone equipment and policies were shared with the Sandusky Fire Department and the Brimfield Police Department, to assist in the development of their drone programs.

The ability to obtain aerial views and footage normally inaccessible by land can expand all of our operations, emergent and non-emergent, and has proven to be a tremendous asset to the City of Cuyahoga Falls. In 2019, the Drone Team responded to 5 calls for assistance on incidents, one in the City of Akron. The Team was also called upon multiple times for non-emergency use of their equipment to capture images used in all aspects of CFFD services.



BLOSSOM COMMAND

In 2018, the CFFD began placing an on-duty Fire Officer at Blossom Music Center for all concert events in order to initiate the National Incident Command System (NIMS), and coordinate with the Summit County Sheriff's Office and Blossom staff in the event of major emergency. The Officer would serve as an initial Incident Commander and liaison with other responding agencies. In all, CFFD Officers were present at all 44 Events held at Blossom Music Center throughout the summer concert series, including every Live Nation Concert and Cleveland Orchestra Show.



CFFD HONOR GUARD

The purpose of the Honor Guard is to have an organized group of members of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department ready to represent our Fire Department for ceremonies and other official gatherings such as but not limited to: Funeral services of past and present firefighters, participation in memorial services, parades, and presentation/posting of the flags. These functions are available to safety forces, city officials of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and include other surrounding communities.

In 2019 members of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department Honor Guard participated in:

- The annual Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day Parade.
- The annual Memorial Day wreath ceremony at the Oakwood Cemetery.
- The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department Honor Guard served as casket guard, pall bearers, reading of the last alarm, and flag presentation for retired Cuyahoga Falls Firefighter George Miller, Brad Goodyear and George Sewald.



CPR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department is an American Heart Association Basic Life Support Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training Center. Our training center offers certifying classes in first-aid, CPR, and use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Currently the CFFD BLS CPR training center has 60 active CPR/First-Aid instructors. Our instructors are employees of the following locations. The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department, the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department, the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium, the Summit County Sheriff's Office, Cuyahoga Falls High School, Woodridge Schools, Walsh Jesuit High School, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, Copley High School, and Western Reserve Hospital. In 2019, 487 people were certified in CPR, AED's, and/or First Aid through our training center.



Western Reserve Hospital

Beginning July 2018, Western Reserve Hospital proudly partnered with the City of Cuyahoga Falls to provide 24/7 Medical Support. This includes Dr. Sonny Bare as the Medical Director, Dr. Dan Celik as the Assistant Medical Director, and Dr. Brad Clarke as the Tactical EMS Director.

Providing the Medical Direction needs for both the City of Cuyahoga Falls and its nationally recognized event facility, Blossom Music Center is ideal for the community, as these new partnerships allow for increased continuity of care. These new, high-profile clinical leadership roles also display in a very public way, the strong commitment shared between the community and its local hospital, which leads the region in rankings for quality, safety and satisfaction.

Beginning in December of 2018, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department transitioned to a cutting edge Medication Drug Box Exchange Program, which allows all pre-hospital medications to be cross-checked by hospital pharmacists. We are one of the few cities in Ohio, capable of providing our own community with a Medical Drug Box Exchange program of this scope, sophistication and magnitude.



2019 VEHICLE PURCHASES

2020 Ford E-450 Braun Ambulance

In 2019, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department was proud to add another Braun Ambulance to our fleet. Featuring state of the art engineering and custom manufacturing, this truck was built to our exact specifications and features a mechanically powered cot and lift system to help avoid injuries and improve patient care.



2020 Pierce 110' Tower Truck

In late 2019, the Department took delivery of a new Pierce Ascendant tower truck. This truck is equipped with the latest in modern technology for aerial fire apparatus and was fully customized to our exact specifications. Built on a single rear axle, but still able to reach 110 feet, this truck will provide extraordinary tactical advantages for CFFD. It will be in service in early 2020 at the new Station 3, after appropriate training and up-fitting is complete.



2019 RETIREMENTS



FF Jack Hunt
Hired - 6/28/1989
Retired - 7/20/2019

Lieutenant Kevin Rubin
Hired - 7/19/1992
Retired - 1/1/2020



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

FRANK SCHUMANN MEMORIAL

On December 15th 1957, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department lost one of our own in the line of duty. While working at the scene of an MVA at the intersection of State Road and Maitland Avenue, Firefighters Frank Schumann and John Moore were unloading salt from the rear of a department pickup when a drunk driver veered left of center and struck both men, pinning them momentarily and then tossing them in opposite directions. Firefighter Moore heard Schumann asking, "Is Johnny ok, is Johnny ok?" That was the last time Moore would hear his Brother's voice; Firefighter Frank Schumann would succumb to internal injuries and massive hemorrhage, dying several hours later at Akron City Hospital. Schumann left behind his wife and two young children. The one issue that resonated with John Moore many years after the incident was that there was no lasting memorial for his friend's sacrifice that evening. This past year and on the 61st anniversary of the incident that was changed as a permanent sign was placed at the location. In a collaborative effort between the city and department administrations and the Local 494 a ceremony was held to unveil the sign. Many thanks to Mayor don Walters and all that help make this memorial a reality.



Capt. John Moore (Retired) with his wife standing near the memorial sign in the same location where he and FF Schumann were struck 61 years before.

FIREMAN'S PRAYER

FIREMAN'S PRAYER



WHEN I AM CALLED TO DUTY, GOD
WHENEVER FLAMES MAY RAGE,
GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO SAVE SOME LIFE

WHATEVER BE ITS AGE.

HELP ME TO EMBRACE A LITTLE CHILD
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, OR SOME OLDER PERSON
FROM THE HORROR OF THAT FATE.

ENABLE ME TO BE ALERT AND HEAR THE WEAKEST SHOUT,

AND QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY

TO PUT THE FIRE OUT.

I WANT TO FILL MY CALLING AND GIVE THE BEST IN ME,

TO GUARD MY NEIGHBOR

AND PROTECT HIS PROPERTY.

AND IF ACCORDING TO YOUR WILL

I HAVE TO LOSE MY LIFE,

PLEASE BLESS WITH YOUR PROTECTING HAND

MY CHILDREN AND MY WIFE.