

# Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department Annual Report 2020



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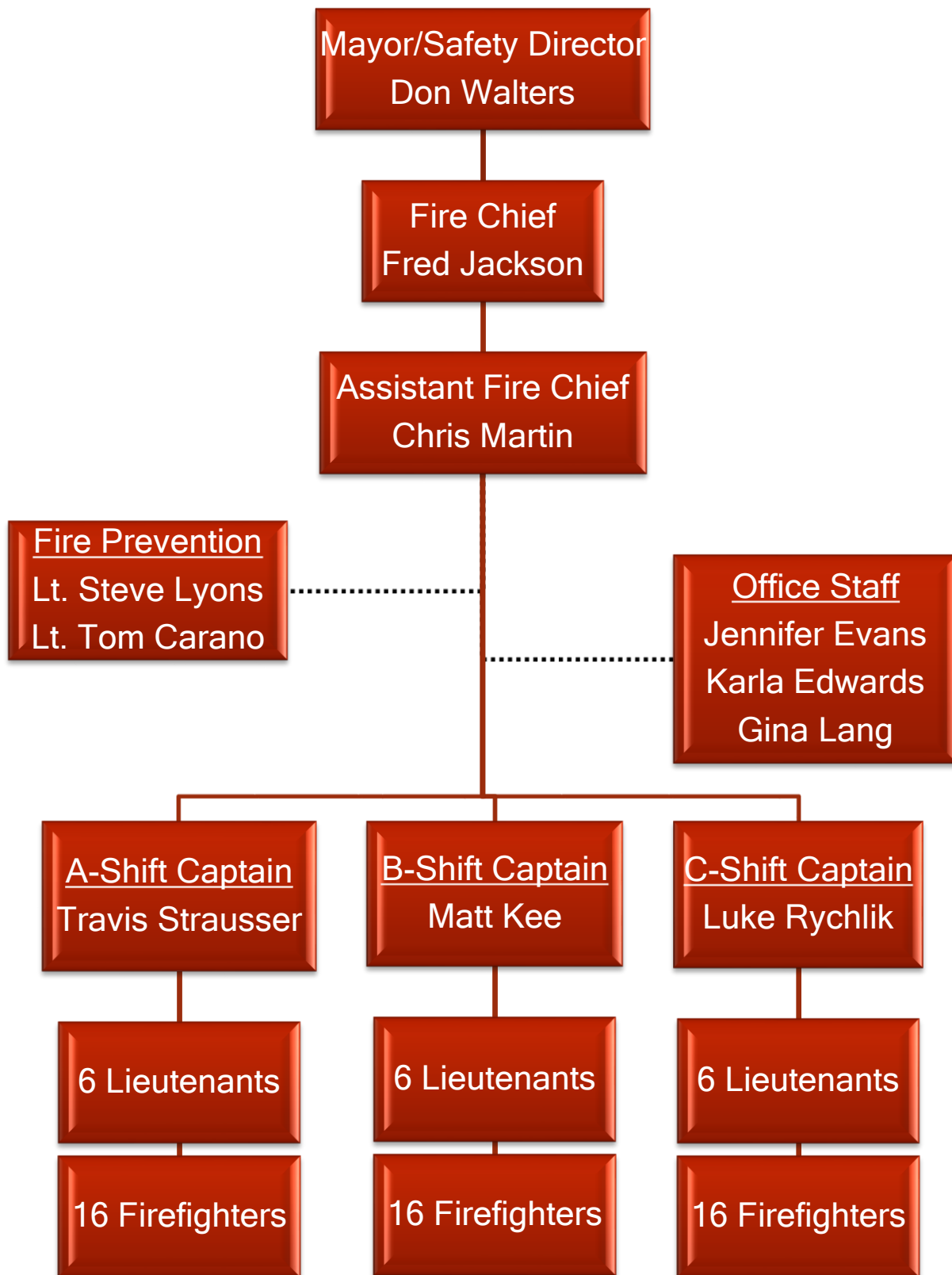
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# CFFD MISSION STATEMENT

*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

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## Chief Officers

Chief - Fred Jackson  
Assistant Chief - Chris Martin

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## Captains

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

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## 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 Stanec	Charmaine Zawacki	Dave Tripepi	Tom Carano
Jack Breese	Konrad Lenk	Zak Elzholz	
Chris Bickett	Maggie Hobson	Bryon Barth	
Scott Christiansen	Tom Taylor	Brian Krebs	
Carl Hayward	Kevin Roarty	Joe Peters	

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## Firefighters

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

1601 Portage Trail

Opened in 2020

Equipment:

1 Engine

1 Tower

2 Squads

1 Spare Command Vehicle



## 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



# 2020....COVID TAKES A TOLL

## COVID-19 Pandemic Changes Everything

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) was not immune to the adversity presented by COVID-19. The pandemic provided an environment of significant increased risk to all that we do as an organization and many adjustments had to be made throughout the year to accommodate this challenging environment.

### Altered Operations

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFFD Command Staff met on an almost weekly basis throughout the year and altered operations in every way. Daily routines in the stations included constant cleaning and disinfecting of every touchable surface in both the stations and on apparatus. Fire stations were closed to the public, Paramedic students and other visitors for most of the year and most of the office staff were forced to work from home. Additionally, CFFD made the following operational changes:

- Every patient that needed assistance was considered to be positive for the COVID-19 virus. This created an environment in which additional PPE had to be worn on every incident. This included N95 masks, face shields, gowns and eye protection.
- EMS protocols had to be changed as hospitals prepared for patient surges.
- Priorities for daily assignments were shifted from training to cleaning and disinfecting all work areas.
- Life in the stations did not include group activities, as social distancing had to become a top priority.
- CFFD administrators spent countless hours facilitating these changes and coordinating with other agencies to stay up to date on the issues the virus presented.

### Additional Purchases and Innovations

In addition to the operational changes that were made, the CFFD purchased several cleaning devices that helped keep the stations and apparatus disinfected. This included air purifiers, medically approved UV light lamps, a disinfectant “bomb” to be used in the back of Squads and large amounts of cleaning agents. In total, the CFFD spent at least \$28,000 on this equipment and other cleaning supplies.



### Necessity Breeds Innovation

In times of great need, opportunities are created for some to rise to the occasion and think outside the box for solutions to difficult problems. This was the case for the CFFD and our fight against COVID-19. Lieutenant Tom Carano (currently assigned to the Fire Marshal's office) stepped up and created several unique tools that were used to aid in disinfecting stations and equipment. UV light had been proven effective against the virus, so LT. Carano devised lamps and boxes that were very effective in disinfecting everything from large areas to iPads and N95 masks. LT. Rick Malak also devised an addition to existing ventilation systems in Squads. His system allowed more direct and enhanced ventilation that could be used on each individual patient during transport to the hospital.

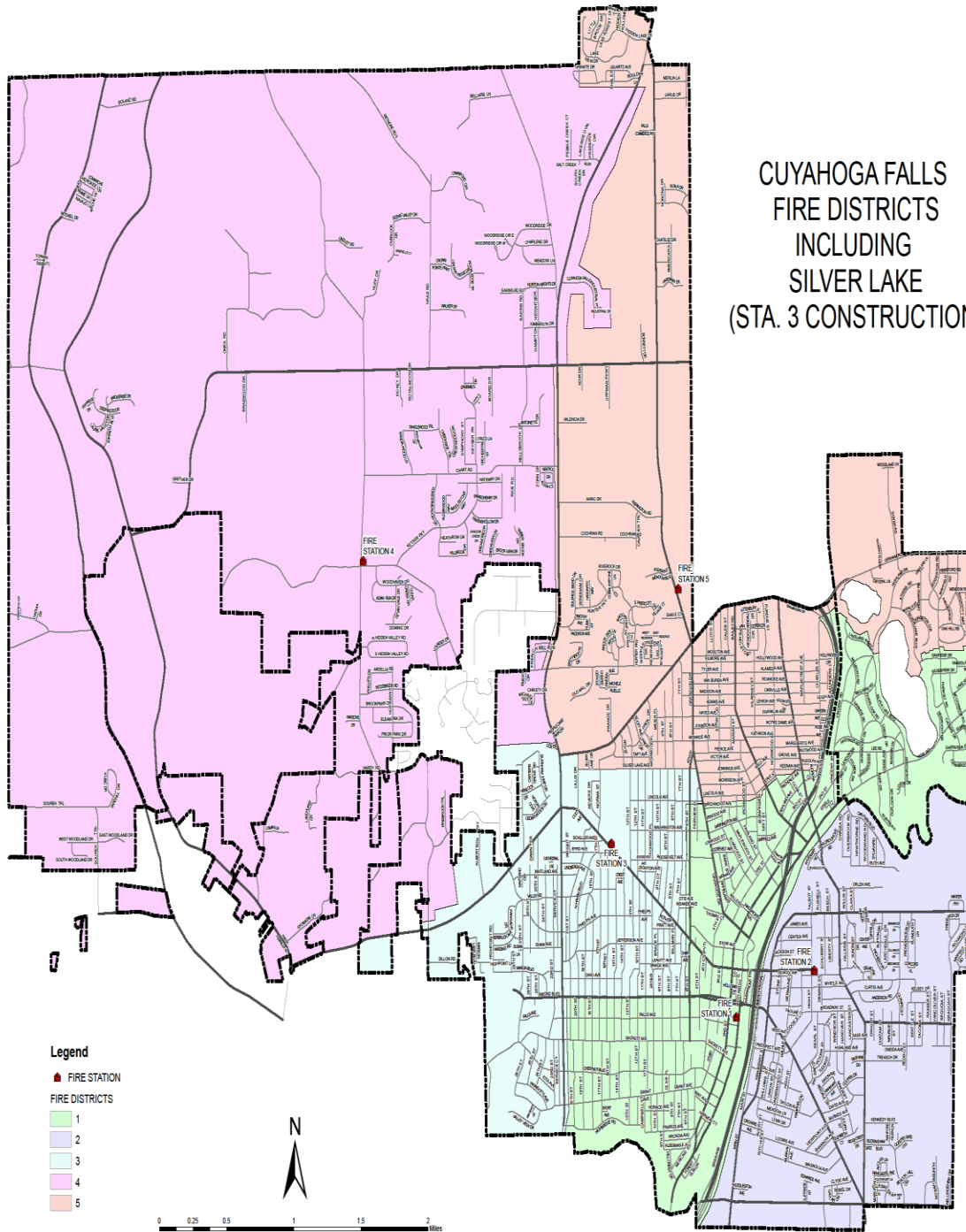
### COVID Testing for CFFD Members

Western Reserve Hospital (WRH) proved to be an invaluable resource during the CFFD response to COVID-19. Not only did our Medical Director, Dr. Rudd "Sonny" Bare, offer constant advice and direction on all Emergency Medical Procedures in an ever-changing environment, WRH provided COVID-19 testing for all members of the CFFD. Thanks to WRH, testing was easily accessed 24/7 and provided extremely quick results so our operations were minimally effected where possible. In 2020, 33 members were tested for COVID-19 and 17 unfortunately contracted the virus and tested positive.



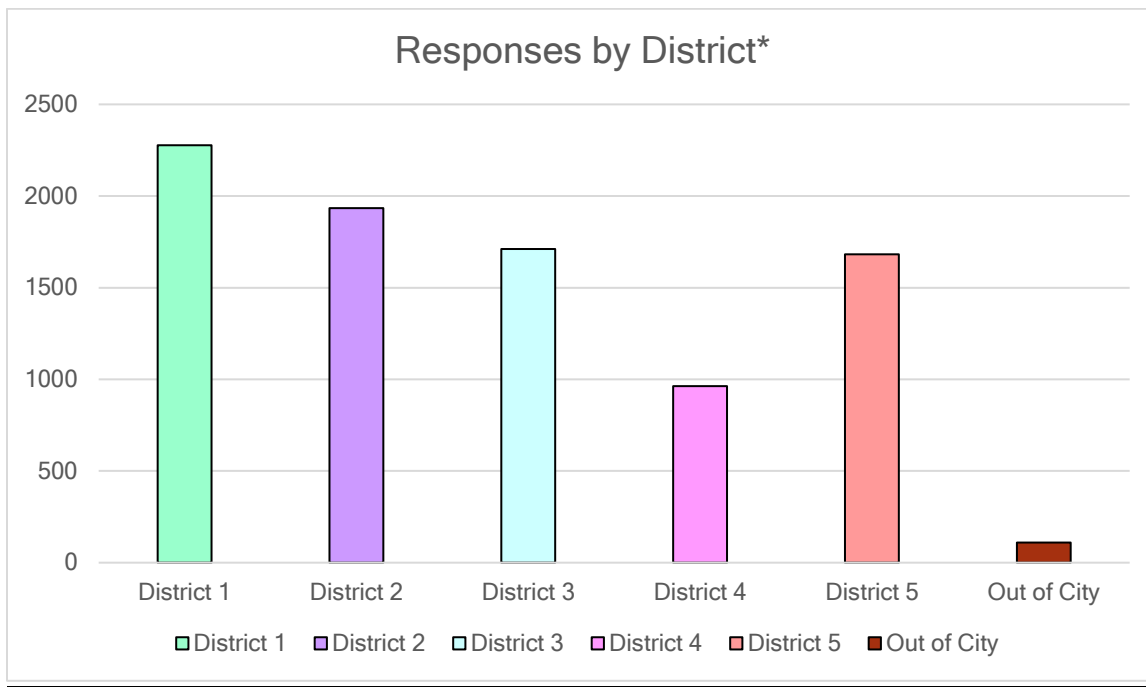
# RESPONSE DISTRICTS

CUYAHOGA FALLS  
FIRE DISTRICTS  
INCLUDING  
SILVER LAKE  
(STA. 3 CONSTRUCTION)



MSP DATE: MARCH 11, 2019

# DISTRICT RESPONSES



\*Includes all Fire, EMS and Other calls for service

## Analysis of District Responses

2020 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 48% of these calls. Included in these results are the two Silver Lake Districts, which are split between Fire Station's 1 and 5. In 2020, there were a total of 112 calls for service in Silver Lake.

In 2020, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department also responded to requests for Mutual Aid (Out of City responses) 74 times. These requests were generated from both Automatic Aid agreements that exist with neighboring Departments, and specific requests from other jurisdictions.

In general, Fire Department calls for service decreased in 2020. The CFFD was consistent with other agencies in the area in this regard. This decrease can be attributed to the restrictions on activities for the general public, and an overall consensus that hospitals were generally over-crowded and at a high risk for contraction of the virus.

# VEHICLE RESPONSES

## Total Front-Line Vehicle Responses – 2020\*

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

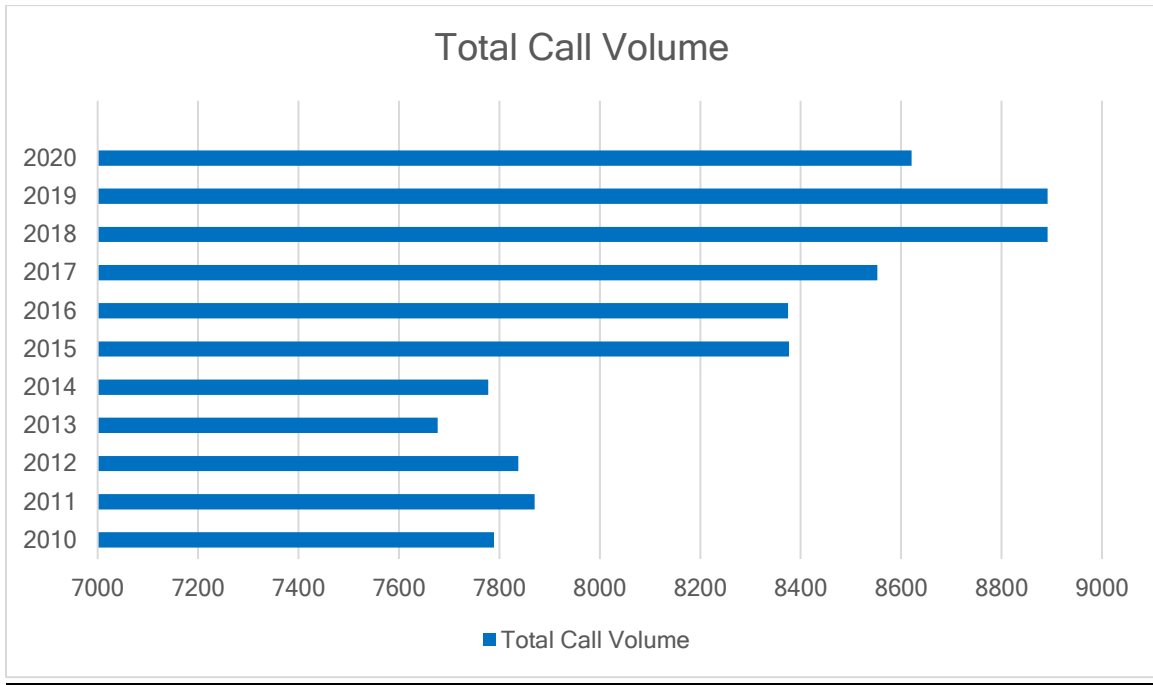
2019	Responses
C4 - Shift Commander	1038
Squad 1	1965
Squad 2	1762
Squad 3	1589
Squad 4	866
Squad 5	1533
Engine 1	425
Ladder 2	243
Engine 3	197
Engine 4	194
Ladder 5	145
Tower 3	161
Engine 5**	140

\*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 2020 RESPONSES

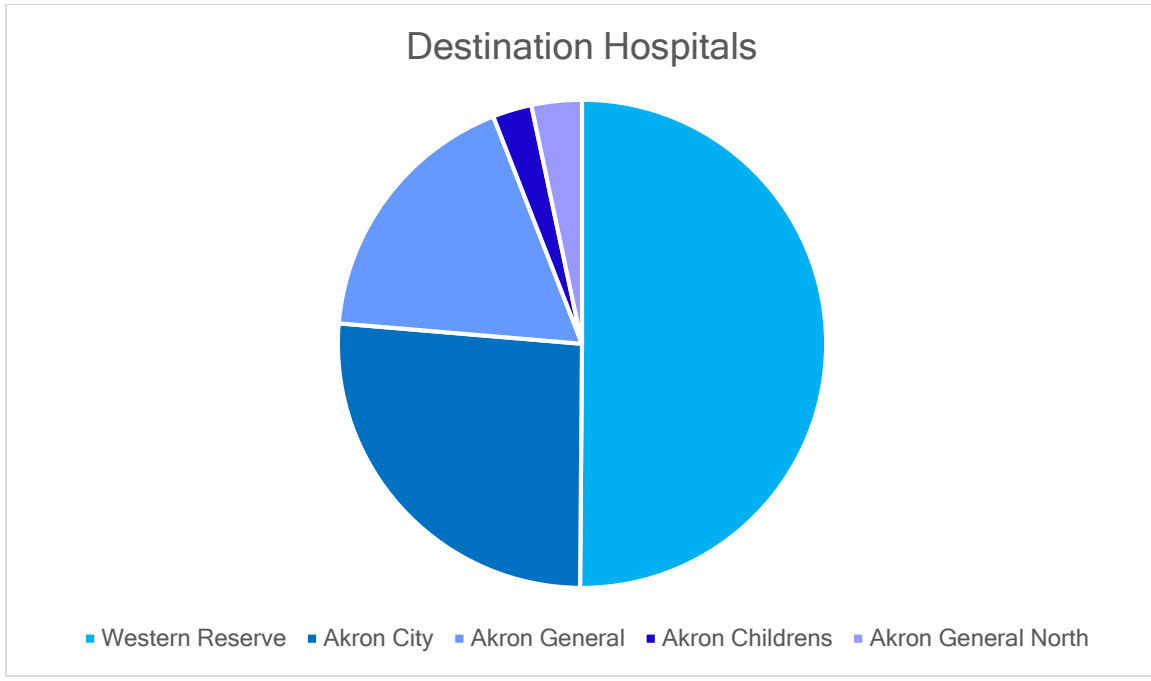


## Breakdown of Response Types

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

With a total of 8,621 responses in 2020, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department experienced a slight decrease from the previous two years. This trend was consistent throughout the area and can be attributed to the impact COVID-19 had on overall public behavior. 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 2020, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) transported a total of 4,303 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 2020, 505 patients were transported with lights and sirens to the hospital (indicating a life threatening illness or injury), and 3789 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 2020, 85% was saved due to the efforts of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department. Unfortunately, there was one fatality that occurred as a result of a house fire in 2020.

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



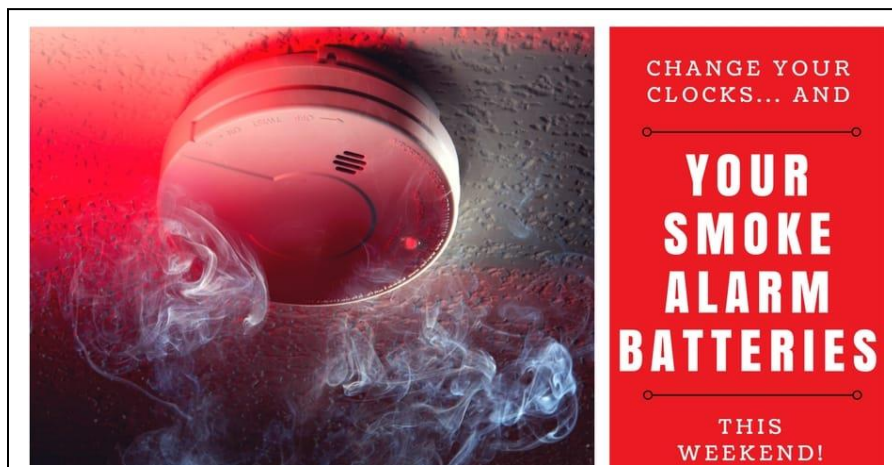
At a groundbreaking ceremony for the new station held on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2019, there was a moment of silence in honor of the lives touched by the original Station 3.



The new Station 3 opened 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.

# FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

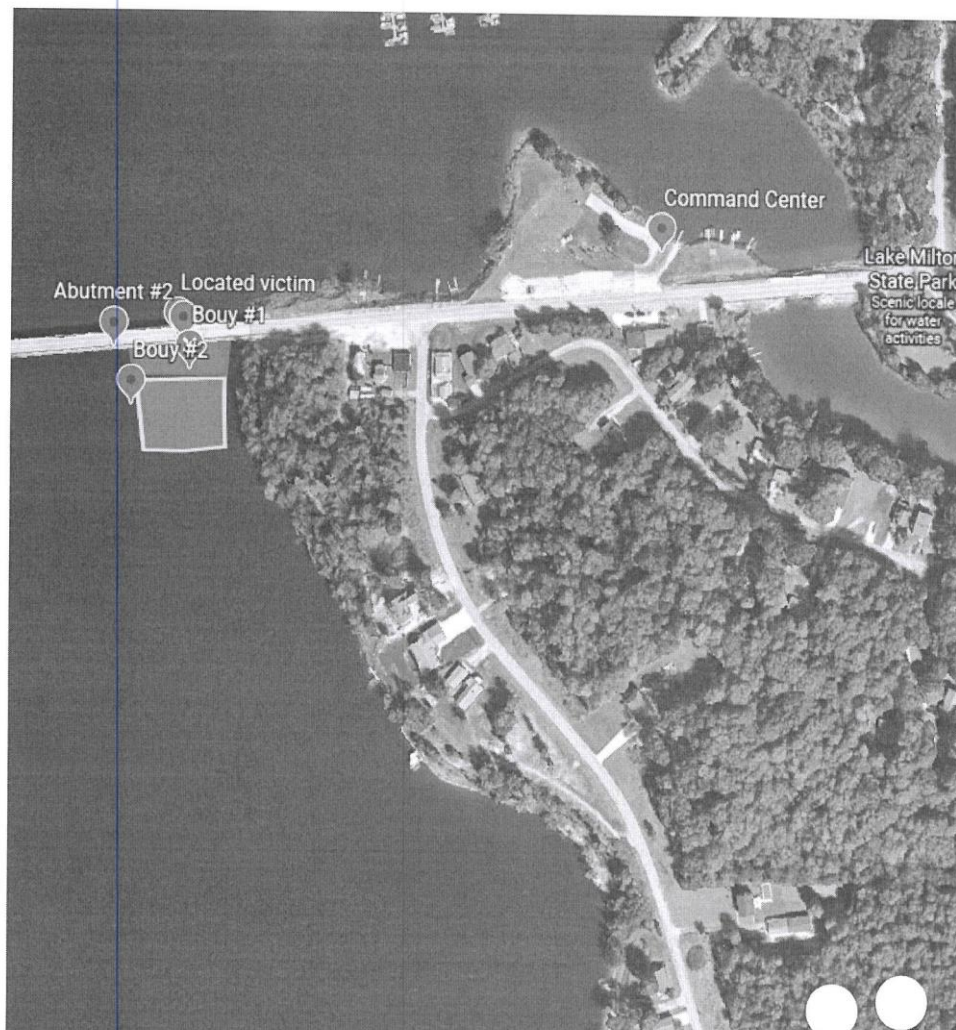
The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau currently consists of two sworn members of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department. Members of Fire Prevention perform daily tasks such as Fire Code enforcement, Fire Safety inspections for businesses, smoke detector installations, residential and commercial lock box installations, and home fire safety inspections. The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for building inspections; reviewing permit applications for new fire protection systems; reviewing plans for new construction and building renovation; ensuring safety at public assemblies and enforcing local, state and federal laws pertaining to fire and life safety. The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Prevention Bureau inspects all hospitals, schools, and day cares annually that are within the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The Fire Prevention Bureau investigates all fires that occur within the City of Cuyahoga Falls. In 2020 the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Prevention Bureau investigated 25 fires that occurred within the City of Cuyahoga Falls.



# 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 2020, the team did maintain minimal amounts of training hours due to COVID-19. In spite of the limited ability to train, the team was, as always, ready to respond with no reduction in service or availability.

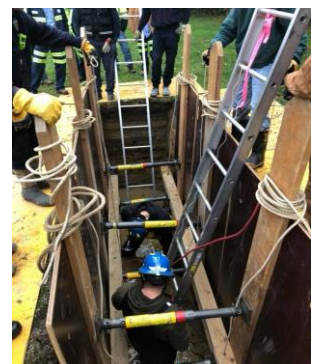
One incident of note for the Water Rescue Team was a mutual aid response to Lake Milton to assist in the recovery of a drowning victim. Several CFFD members responded with the Summit County Water Rescue Team, including Lieutenant Chris Bickett and Captain Luke Rychlik who were in command of the entire incident. The difficult operation spanned two days and the CFFD Water Rescue Team was given many compliments on how well the incident went.



# 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. As with most activities, the QRT call volume was lower than normal, with 55 total responses in 2020.



# 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.

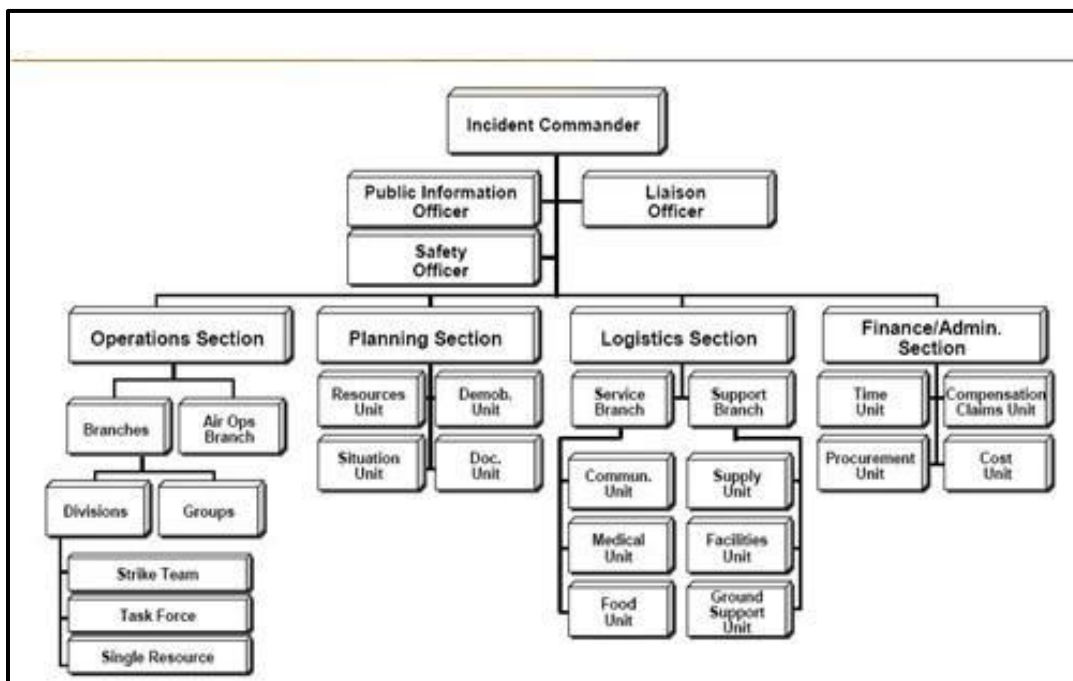
The ability to obtain aerial views and footage normally inaccessible by land can expand all of our operations, emergent and non-emergent, and has proven to be a tremendous asset to the City of Cuyahoga Falls. In 2020, the Drone Team responded to many calls for assistance on incidents, one in the City 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 2019, 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. Unfortunately, Blossom was forced to cancel their season of events in 2020. However, CFFD is looking forward to continued partnership in 2021 and beyond!



# 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.



# 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 2020, 218 people were certified in CPR, AED's, and/or First Aid through our training center. In addition to CPR training, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department also monitors the Automated External Defibrillators that are spread throughout the city.



# 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.



# 2020 VEHICLE PURCHASES

## 2021 Ford E-450 Braun Ambulance

In 2020, 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 was placed in service in early 2020 at the new Station 3.



# 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.**