

# *Ross Township Fire Department*



## *2018 Annual Report*



As the Fire Chief of the Ross Township Fire Department, I present to the Board of Trustees this summary of activities for the year 2018. I am happy to say that our delivery of emergency services continues to set the standard in the fire service, and continues to be our top priority. 2018 again, proved to be a very successful year for the operation of our department.

2018 was yet another milestone in the history of the Ross Township Fire Department. In January of 2018 the department hired its first full-time firefighters. Sworn in were Rob Embry, Scott Huston and Rick Simmons. After months of testing, interviews, back ground checks, physiological testing and medical screenings these gentleman were the top choices. All three share the vision and values of the department. Each firefighter duties will include fire inspections, fire prevention, fire suppression, fire investigations, public education and emergency medical response.

In 2018 the department was highly successful in obtaining grant funding. The department received a total of \$194,178 to go towards the operation of the department and safety of our firefighters. In April the department received \$1,250 from the Ohio Department of Public Safety for EMS equipment. In June, the department received \$11,125 from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements. This grant funding was for new protective hoods and gloves. In August the department was awarded \$176,949 from the Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighter grant to purchase twenty-seven (27) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. In December the department was awarded \$4,854 from the Hamilton Community Foundation to assist in the purchase of new Thermal Imaging Cameras. Grant funding is critical for the operation of our department and we will continue to be aggressive in researching and applying for grants.

The department responded to 1,479 calls for emergency and non-emergency assistance. This is an increase of 8% from last year. There were 1,006 calls for EMS which represents 68% of our total response. Our Paramedic/EMT's transported over 557 patients for treatment to area hospitals. Our average response time to these incidents was 4 minutes and 43 seconds.

The Ross Township Fire Department prides itself on being very proactive, efficient, and exceptionally effective in our delivery of services. We are an exemplary organization thanks to the support of our great community. I want to thank all of the men and women of the Fire Department for their continued support and commitment to the mission of this department.

*Respectfully, Chief Steve Miller, OFE*



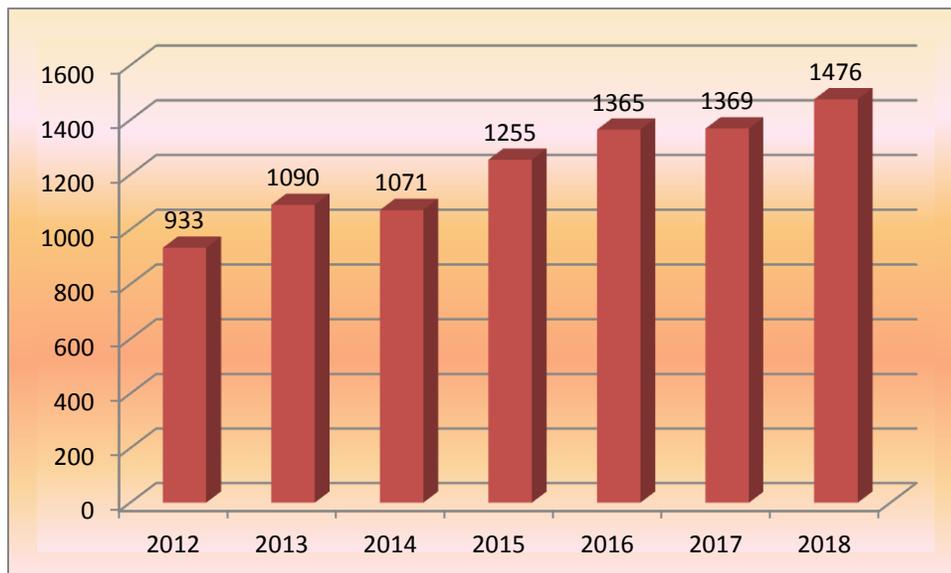
## EMERGENCY ACTIVITY

Ross Township Fire Department responded to 1,476 incidents, up 8% from 2017. Total fire loss for these incidents totaled \$207,910. Of these incidents, a total valuation of these structures or property amounted to \$298,900. This equates to saving \$90,990 in property value or saving 30.44% of the fires that we responded to. This value is down from 2017 due to a few fires that were considered un-savable on our arrival. These incidents included the extinguishment of fires, treatment and extrication at vehicle accidents, fire alarms, weather related incidents, providing Advanced Life Support (paramedics) techniques and hospital transport at medical emergencies. The department also provides mutual aid response to our neighboring departments in accordance with the Mutual Aid Agreement through the Butler County Emergency Management Agency.

Our two strategically located Fire Stations utilized a combination of part time and volunteer firefighters. 4 Part time firefighters staff both stations 7 days a week during the day time hours. Our volunteer members provide service when available. Currently there are 46 members on the fire department roster. Of those 46 members, only 5 are volunteer members.

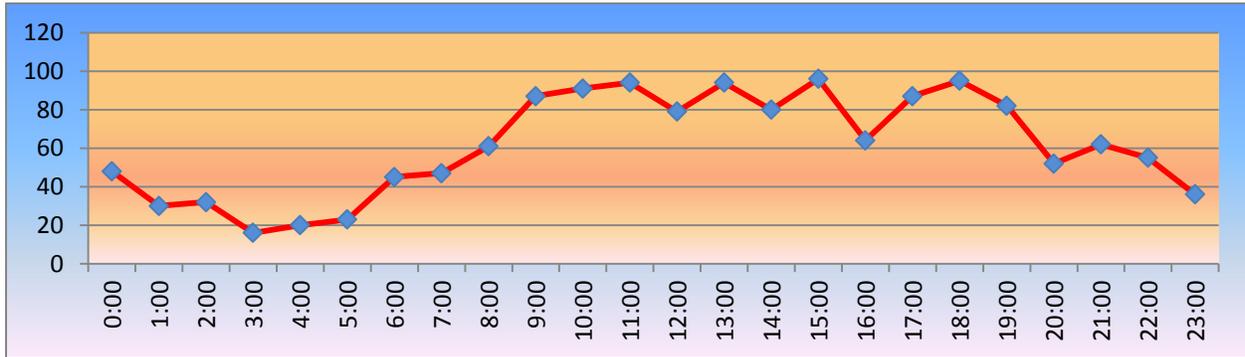
7 YEAR COMPARISON OF DOLLAR LOSS	
2018	\$207,910
2017	\$38,500
2016	\$97,500
2015	\$261,600
2014	\$112,236
2013	\$120,500
2012	\$1,894,876

Total Incidents by Year

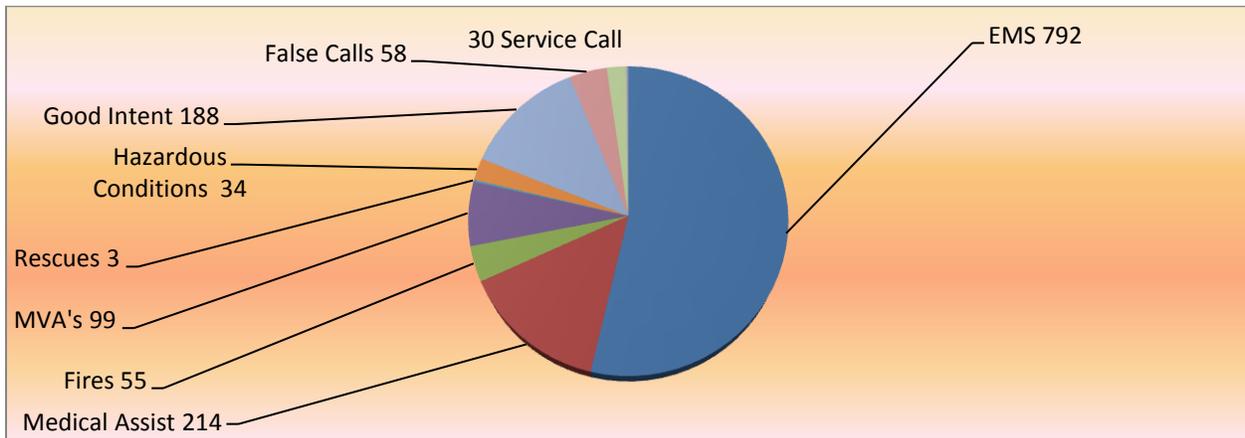




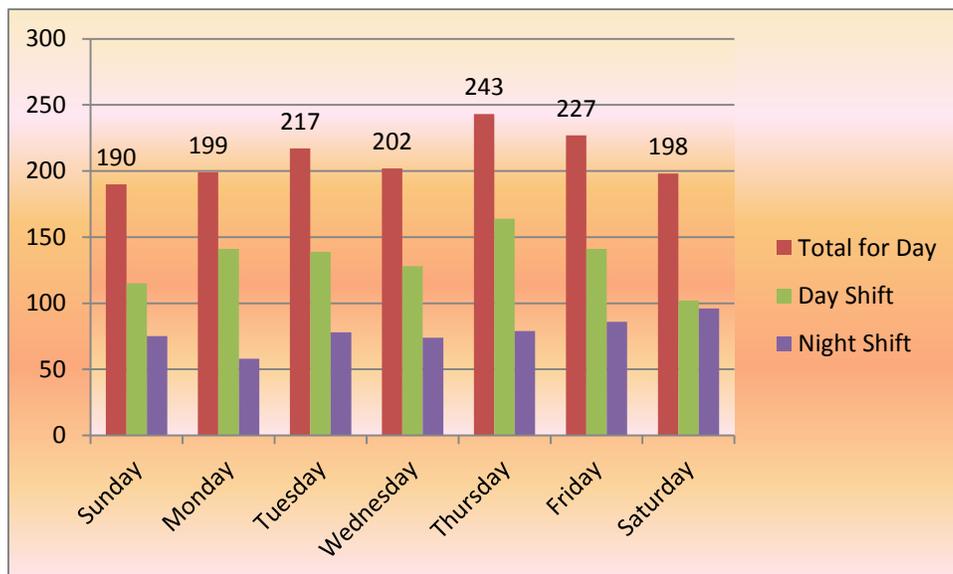
Alarm Time Analysis



2018 Incidents Call Type



2018 Incidents by Day of the Week





## **FIRE PREVENTION**

The Department responded to 55 working fires in 2018. This includes working fires outside of our respective area. Total fire loss for 2017 was \$207,910. I am pleased to announce that as a result of fires during 2018 there were no civilian injuries and no firefighter injuries or deaths. The department responded to 32 structure fires and 6 vehicle fires in 2018. The department conducted 4 fire investigations, one which was deemed arson and turned over to the Ross Twp. Police which is still pending.

The department continues to offer to our Senior Citizens free home Knox Boxes. For “*at risk*” residential occupants, the Knox boxes give the ability to the fire department access into a residence in an emergency without damaging the property from forced entry. Unlike residential grade boxes that can be opened by anyone who has a common key or PIN, the Knox box is a high security weather resistant key safe that can be access by the fire department 24 hours a day, to provide peace of mind and safety for the resident.

A total of 93 fire inspections were conducted in commercial facilities in 2018. The department participated in many fire safety education programs and appearances which impacted over 800 individuals. Fire Safety programs were conducted throughout the month of October at Elda Elementary and the township’s open house. Several public education classes were also conducted on a needed basis for local scout troops. On as needed basis, CPR classes were held for our township residents. These classes are offered at a minimal cost covering the cost of the CPR card and a pocket CPR mask.





## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

In 2018, the Ross Twp. Fire Department upheld our long standing tradition of being there for our residents and guest of our township when they are in need. This year saw us respond to 1,006 calls for medical assistance. These calls range from very minor or serious medical needs and can involve anything from cardiac arrest to fractures and serious trauma. It is because of the dedication of our members that we can provide quality care in a timely manner.

The Ross Twp. Fire Department and emergency crews across Ohio respond to heroin overdoses on a much more frequent basis than even three years ago. In 2016 the department responded to 18 overdoses which 2 were fatalities. In 2017 the department responded to 44 overdoses and 1 fatality. Although this national epidemic has not gone away I am happy to report that overdose incidents in Ross Twp. dropped to 14 incidents in 2018. The highest chief complaint that our EMS personnel treated was for falls and cardiac related incidents.

In 2018 the department had seen 1,006 patients and transported 557 of those patients to local area hospitals. While we are proud of the care we have given the sick and injured. Our transport activity also provides an additional benefit; revenue. Working in conjunction with our billing agency, Medicount Management, we are able to recover funds from patients insurance companies in order to underwrite the rising cost of providing paramedic transport services.

Treating medical emergencies and traumatic injuries require skill, intelligence and equipment. Lots of equipment! Why? The simple fact is that every day and night we don't know what our crews will be faced with. Our department strives to equip our front line ambulances with cutting edge technology in order to save lives. This objective is costly and takes time to regulate and administer, but is worth every penny spent. Every ambulance in each of our stations has the ability to handle a wide range of EMS incidents. In fact our department was one of the first in our county to equip our ambulances with the new Lucas2 automatic chest compression machines.

2015 Ambulance

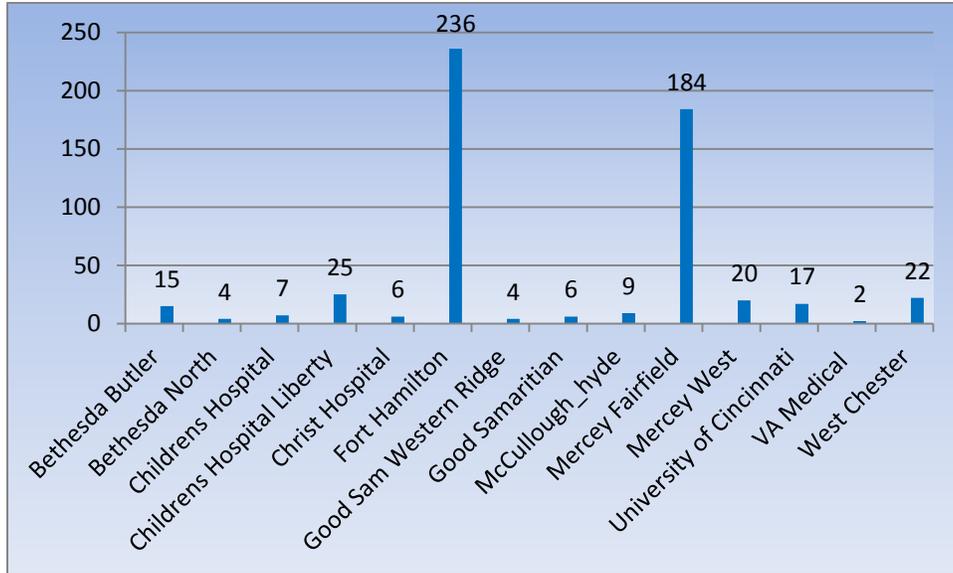


2017 Ambulance

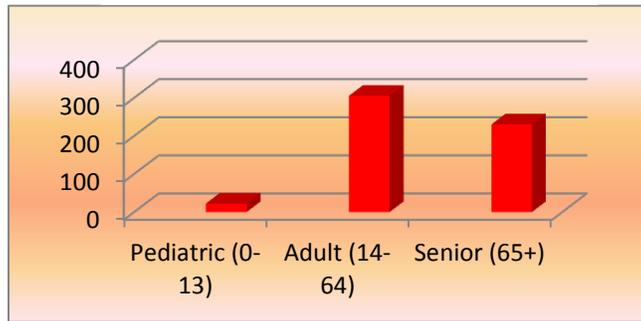




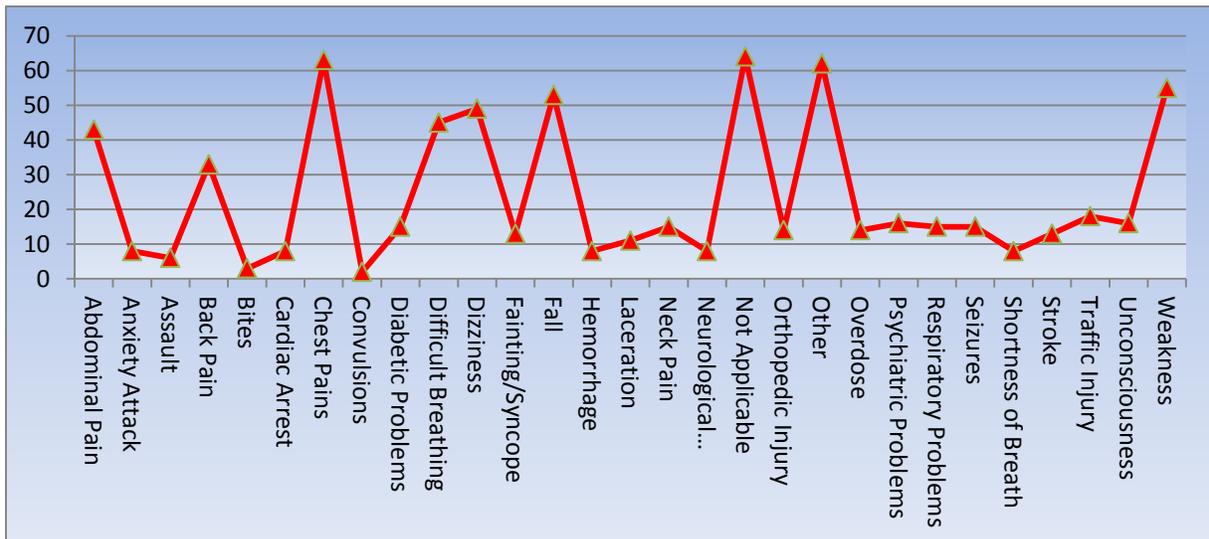
Hospital Designations



Transport by Age



Complaint Type





## TRAINING

If we agree with a risk manager’s quote “predictable is preventable,” then one of the primary ways that we can avoid or minimize our risks is through training. The department continues to make training one of our top priorities. Our training program can essentially be separated into three segments. The first is medical training. After initial education, this ensures that our members receive their continuing education to maintain all of their levels of licensure. This also allows them to stay current with developments and innovations in EMS care. The second part of the training program is fire and technical in nature. These programs include firefighting skills, technical rescue skills, extrication, and so forth. The third portion of the training system is personnel and leadership development. Through officer training, we ensure that our younger members are prepared for the future. Through this succession planning, we are developing our leaders of tomorrow, today.

The Ross Twp. Fire Department continually strives to improve the services we provide to the citizens of Ross Township. With the increase of incidents during the year at times it has been difficult to fit a training class into the day. In 2017 the department signed on with Target Solutions. Target Solutions offers easy-to-use computer-based technology for scheduling, delivering and tracking training and compliance. The platform features more than 450 hours of on-line fire training, over 160 hours of accredited EMS continuing education hours.

As a Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic in the State of Ohio you are required to have continuing education in each discipline that you are certified to every three years.

Certification Level	36 Months (100%)
Firefighter	54 Hours
Fire Safety Inspector	30 Hours
EMT Basic	40 Hours of CE to include 6 Hours Pediatric 2 Hours Geriatric 8 Hours trauma to include the Ohio Triage Trauma Course
EMT Paramedic	86 Hours of CE to include 12 Hours of Pediatric 4 Hours Geriatric 6 Hours Cardiac care 8 Hours trauma to include the Ohio Triage Trauma Course
Fire Instructor	6 hours CEU and 24 hours teaching
Assistant Fire Instructor	6 Hours CEU and 8 hours teaching
Continuing Education Instructor	2 Hours of Methodology 6 Hours of Instructing



## MUTUAL AID

In an effort to reduce the economic impact on the community and continue to provide the necessary services, Ross Township continues to seek alternative delivery methods. Additionally, with the complexity of the emergency calls received today, the Ross Township Fire Department, along with numerous fire departments throughout Butler County, recognizes the need to consolidate specialized teams and equipment to reduce costs to individual fire departments. Mutual aid agreements have been in place for many years, but there has never been more of a need to train and respond with other agencies than now. At the same time, we are able to continue to provide an outstanding response and mitigate emergencies not only in Ross Township, but in other communities as well.

With our neighboring fire departments, we developed run cards for certain emergency incidents where we will be getting Automatic Aid from them.

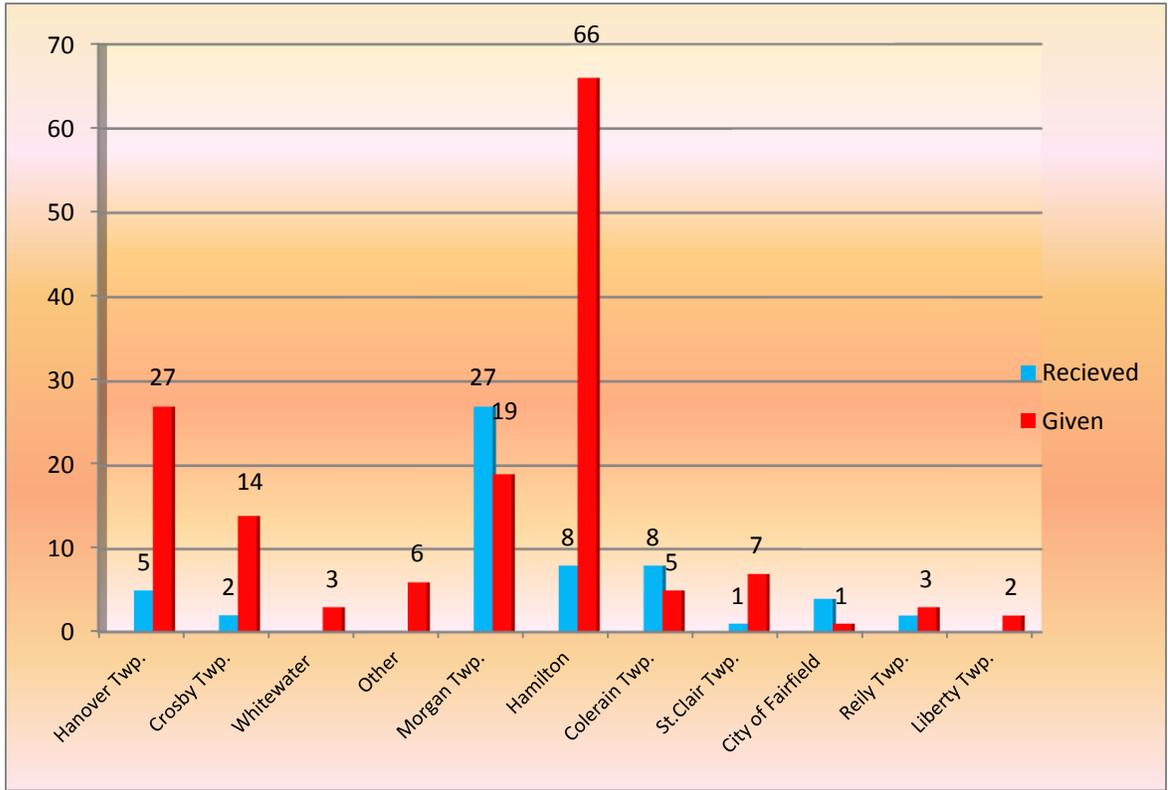
“Automatic Aid” erases jurisdictional boundaries for all participating agencies. This means that any time you call the closest appropriate emergency response vehicle to you will be dispatched regardless of where you are inside our dispatch area. This ensures first and foremost that our customers are receiving the highest level of care available in the shortest amount of time, and secondly, allows all participating agencies better use of their resources. Each participating agency must adhere to standard operating policies and procedures which allow multiple agencies to work side-by-side on incidents under one Incident Command. This seamless cooperative effort ensures that the closest most appropriate resources are dispatched without a time or distance delay.

Chief Miller is the Logistics Section Chief with Butler County All Hazards Incident Management Team which deployed to Bay County Florida in the wake of category 4 hurricane Michael. The team, which consisted of 11 members from ten different agencies, was deployed October 10th and faced challenges right out of the gate. The team had to divert to Jacksonville due to the storm’s projected path before ultimately heading to Panama City and Mexico Beach, two of the hardest hit areas. Once they arrived, the team worked 16 hours shifts to coordinate assistance for the residents affected by the storm. This included assigning search and rescue teams, recon of the surrounding areas to find suitable locations for resource distribution warehouses and shelters, and then managing those shelters, volunteers, and donations. The team worked with additional teams from Oregon, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Idaho, New York, Lee County Florida, Florida Forest Service, and the North East Florida Team. The team learned several lessons that they plan to bring back to Butler County in preparation of a potential disaster in our own area. During the deployment, the teams faced multiple days of connectivity and cell phone issues due to downed power lines, rendering some of their equipment unusable.





2018 Mutual Aid Request



Mexico Beach Florida



Bay County Florida





## 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2018 was once again proven to be a very good year for our Department and its members.

### Department Accomplishments and Significant Events

Venice 1 was requested to be displayed at the Ohio Township Association in Columbus Ohio to celebrate the Association's 100<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary



On January 21, 2018 the department hired its first full-time firefighters Rob Embry, Scott Huston and Rick Simmons

Commendation Awards given to Lt. Landon Richey, Nate Holt, Andy Flannery, Jeremy Waldroff for their efforts on an extremely complicated successful extrication of a driver in a semi-truck on US 27



Swearing in ceremony for the new full-time firefighter at the February Board of Trustee Meeting



Fire and EMS personnel participated in the annual Ross Lions Easter Egg hunt at Ross High School





Heavy rains in April brought flooding issues in the Village of Millville and along tributaries in Ross Township. Crews spent several man-hours pumping flooded basements along these creeks.



Assistant Chief Chris Johns and Eric Simon graduated from the Ohio Fire Executive Program Class 16. The OFE program is a 2.5 year executive leadership program that includes an applied research project, delivering multiple presentations and speeches, writing several papers, over 50 reading assignments, and attending 2 weeks of classes each year in Columbus. Chief Johns becomes the 4th RTFD officer to graduate from the OFE program. Eric Simon attended the program through the Blue Ash Fire Department



Awarded a Electronic Tablet grant through the Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services

Participated in the Memorial Day Parade. Hosted the annual Township Open House at Station 102 along with the Police and Road Departments





## Fire Department

2018 Annual Report

Awarded a Bureau of Workers Compensation Grant in the amount of \$11,125. The Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements (FEEE) grant is help combat cancer in the fire service. The grant bought new protective hoods and fire gloves for our members.

Participated in the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association camp at Camp Campbell Gard



Participated in Black Rd. Subdivision July 4<sup>th</sup> parade



Charles Caudill resigned from his position as Assistant Chief due to personal reasons. Chief Caudill was re-assigned to the position of Health & Safety Officer

Captain Chris Johns was promoted to the position of Assistant Chief. Lieutenant Jared Morris was promoted to the position of Captain.



Awarded a grant in the amount of \$176,949 from the Department of Homeland Security – Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the purchase of twenty-seven Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.





The department was saddened with the news of the passing of retired member Robert Williams. Robert was a past Fire Chief. Robert was also a past member of the Ross Twp. Police Department.



Shawn Wurzelbacher and Walt Ritchie received commendation awards for their quick actions taken on the fire ground for a structure fire on Thrush Ave. Their actions prevented the structure to become fully involved until additional resources arrived.

Received a grant in the amount of \$4,854 from the Hamilton Community Foundation. The grant is from the Hanover Life Squad Inc. fund. The grant award will be applied to new Thermal Imaging Camera that will be purchased in 2019.

Captain Shane Packer completed the Maxwell Leadership Series





## **Personnel Accomplishments**

Jeremy Waldroff – Obtained Paramedic certification  
Rob Embry – Hired full time Ross Twp. Fire Department  
Scott Huston – Hired full time Ross Twp. Fire Department  
Rick Simmons – Hired full time Ross Twp. Fire Department  
Ryan Lucas – Birth of daughter Everley  
Ryan Lucas – Hired full time Cincinnati Fire Department  
Ben Alvis – Birth of daughter Nora Grace  
David Chaney Jr. Obtained Paramedic certification  
Will Haas – Birth of daughter Rebecca Lynn  
Rob Embry – Obtained Fire Arson certification  
Chris Johns – Graduated from Ohio Fire Executive Program  
Eric Simon – Graduated from Ohio Fire Executive Program  
Robby Smith – Hired full time with Fairfield Twp. Fire Department  
Rob Embry – Completed the Company Officer Leadership Symposium  
Chief Miller – Featured in the Ohio Fire Chief's In-Command Magazine  
Kyle Swadener – Birth of son Jackson David  
Jeremy Waldroff – Hired full time Fairfield Twp. Fire Department  
Chris Johns – Promoted to Assistant Chief  
Jared Morris – Promoted to Captain  
Chris Arnold – Promoted to Lieutenant at Forest Park Fire Department  
Jared Morris – Accepted into Ohio Fire Executive Program Class 19  
Kyle Swadener – Department FAO  
Jerrod Cooper – Department FAO  
Will Haas – Hired full time Dayton Fire Department

**New Hires** – *Jerrod Cooper - Steve Meyer*

## **Service Awards 2018**

### **25 Years**

Chris Johns

### **10 Years**

Will Haas

### **5 Years**

Rick Simmons  
Robby Smith  
Jeremy Waldroff  
Andy Wilkens



Chief Steve Miller

District Chief Dan Young

Assistant Chief Chris Johns

Captain Shane Packer

Captain Jared Morris

Lt. Landen Richey

Nick Alvis  
Mike Brooks  
David Chaney Jr.  
Steve Fawns  
Robin Grant  
Ryan Lucas  
Scott Miller  
Rick Simmons  
Ron Stenger  
Jeremy Waldroff

Lt. Ben Alvis

Chris Arnold  
Jason Bunger  
Jerrod Cooper  
Kirk Fisher  
Scott Huston  
Shawn May  
Walt Ritchie  
Eric Simon  
Kyle Swadener  
Shawn Wurzelbacher

Lt. Tom Licata

Justin Bogolo  
Brandon Cable  
Jon DePrie  
Andy Flannery  
Howard Jackson  
Eric McCarthy  
Eric Schaub  
Robby Smith  
Tracy Teetz

Paul Bromwell  
Charlie Caudill  
Rob Embry  
Bret Fogel  
Kathy Johns  
Steve Meyer  
Evan Seeley  
Brandon Sparks

**Resignation -** Steve May  
Will Haas

**In-Active** Nate Holt  
Dan Steed  
Andy Wilkens