

# CITY OF VAN WERT DIVISION OF FIRE



2017 ANNUAL  
REPORT



# VAN WERT CITY MAYOR AND COUNCIL



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## **VAN WERT FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTACT NUMBERS**

<b>EMERGENCY.....</b>	<b>911</b>
Non-Emergency.....	419-238-4918
Fax.....	419-238-1087
Email.....	vwfd@vanwertfd.org



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of the personnel of the Van Wert Fire Department, I am pleased to present to you the 2017 Van Wert Fire Department Annual Report. Throughout the following pages, you will find information and data which summarizes the department's general activities, accomplishments, and personnel as they served our community with integrity and professionalism. It truly is an honor and a privilege to serve with the personnel of the Van Wert Fire Department. I can't say enough about the pride, dedication and work ethic your firefighters display on a daily basis.

In 2017 the operations of emergency responses have been a year of staying busy to say the least. Emergency responses have steadily risen since 2016. The department would have most likely passed 2000 incidents, easily, if we hadn't enacted a new transfer policy for the Van Wert County Hospital to reduce non-critical transfers.

During 2017 we replaced our Firehouse software with Emergency Reporting software. This software has enhance our reporting abilities and data extraction capabilities. Personnel now can complete Electronic Patient Care Reports (ePCR) in the field via cellular and Wi-Fi capabilities. The department can also capture electronic signatures in the filed, alleviating paperwork. The software also gives us a capability to score all commercial occupancies via a Occupancy Vulnerability Assessment Profile (OVAP) score is a way to analyze and categorize the risk present in a particular occupancy. This risk will provide a pathway to establish a prevention schedule for the community.

The department also implemented an extensive cancer prevention program in our department. Cancer continues to rise substantially faster in firefighters than in the normal population.

While providing excellent emergency services is our primary goal and responsibility, community involvement, support, and excellent customer relations is our passion.

It is our commitment in 2018 continue to improve our fire prevention and community outreach efforts, in conjunction with the implementation of our all hazard emergency mitigation response profile. Through our collective efforts and due diligence, we will continue to reinforce our departmental vision and mission of making the City of Van Wert the safest community in which to Live, Work and Play. The future is bright, and we look forward to serving with and for you in 2018.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief Jon D. Jones





## **MISSION:**

**THE VAN WERT FIRE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SAFETY SERVICES TO OUR COMMUNITY. WE WILL PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE DELIVERY OF PROFESSIONAL, EFFICIENT, AND EFFECTIVE FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SERVICES. THE MISSION WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH HIGHLY EDUCATED, MOTIVATED AND DEDICATED PERSONNEL.**

## **OUR VISION:**

**IS TO BECOME A LEADER IN THE STATE OF OHIO IN RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AND THE PREVENTION OF FUTURE EMERGENCIES THROUGH COMMITMENT AND EXCELLENCE TO OUR COMMUNITY.**





# CORE VALUES:

**Professionalism** — The Van Wert Fire Department is professional in all its actions by:

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



**Integrity** — The Van Wert Fire Department demonstrates integrity by:

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

**Teamwork** — The Van Wert Fire Department demonstrates teamwork by:

- We each bring our own skills and experience
- Recognize that we are better together
- We support and depend on each other to achieve our goals

**Compassion** — The Van Wert Department demonstrates compassion to its members and the community it serves by:

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



**Honor** — The Van Wert Fire Department demonstrates honor by:

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







# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



7 Reserve Personnel (Pictures not available):

Jeff Jones, Brock Profit, Ryan Fair, Ethan Fraker, Brian Honigford, Trevor Spridgeon, Storm Pierce

Reserve firefighters fall under regular firefighters



## **DEPARTMENT GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The Van Wert Fire Department is an ISO class four rated protection department; whose primary response district is the City of Van Wert. This area is approximately 8 square miles and protects a population of 10,774 (2013 US Census). We also respond to provide mutual aid services to all the government based Fire and EMS departments in the county upon their request.

The Van Wert Fire Department is funded for a working strength of 19. The department has seen the retirement of Fire Chief James Steele that was in the office for 19 years. His vacancy this opened an officer position at each level starting with Chief, Captain and Lieutenant. In February 2017, Jon Jones was promoted to Fire Chief, David Cummings to Captain and Brian Ankney to Lieutenant. The department also hired a new person in April 2017, but after the failure of the tax levy that person took a job with another fire department.



Our firefighters work in a three platoon system, with three shifts of six personnel. Each shift is staffed with one Captain and one Lieutenant. Fire personnel work a 24 hour on duty and 48 hours off duty schedule which is considered to be a 56-hour work week. The full time firefighters are augmented by a maximum paid on-call reserve force of ten firefighters. The average combined experience of all our personnel is 11.9 years. The average fire service experience of our officers is 21.1 years. The average age of the personnel is 36.75 years.

In 2017 the Fire Department responded to and mitigated 1931 emergency incidents. This represents an increase of 2.4 % from 2016.

We continue to provide the public with fire suppression, advanced life support emergency medical services, specialized rescue, hazardous materials response, fire prevention, code enforcement, fire investigation, public education, and capital acquisitions for a 2017 cost per person of \$212.05 per year or 58 cents day. The general fund cost for the Fire Department was \$1,562,648.67 in 2017; Capital fund expenses for the Fire Department totaled \$431,303.76, and we once again had to use the .22 tax for personnel cost for a total of \$290,628.17 for a total expenditure of \$2,284,580.60. The billing of EMS runs, contract fire coverage, and inspection fees collected revenues of \$324,712.75 which was deposited to the General Fund. This additional money lowers the cost of services to the residents by \$30.14 per person for a total of \$181.91 per year or 50 cents/day; an decrease of \$30.14 year or decrease of 8 cents/day from 2017. Statistically, we find that on the average, that 1 in 6.32 residents of our coverage area used our emergency services this year.

Non-emergency work levels continue to be very high. The Department completed the maintenance and flow testing of 645 hydrants, pressure testing of more than 21,000 feet of hose, load testing of 496 feet of ground and aerial ladders, and pump testing of 5 engines and ladders. Department staff performed more than 169 hours of in-house maintenance of apparatus, and most importantly Department staff completed over 6278 hours of training. The average number incidents per day were 5.3.







# TOTAL INCIDENTS

The Van Wert Fire Department embraces the philosophy of providing a modern all hazards mitigation approach to Emergency Services. During 2017, we responded to 1,931 total incidents as indicated in the corresponding chart. This included a wide variety of emergencies ranging from medical incidents and auto extrication to structure fires. In accordance

with our mission, VWFD personnel provided an effective system of services necessary to minimize the impact of fire, hazardous conditions, illness, and injury with a caring and efficient response. Our personnel take great pride in serving this community and strive to be fully prepared each and every time that we may be called upon to respond and assist the citizens of this community in their time of need.

Call Type	Number of Incidents	Percentage
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>100%</b>
EMS (Total)	1705	86.59%
Fire Runs (Total)	226	13.41%
Fire /Explosion (working Fire)	67	3.29%
Structure Fires	39	1.70%
False Alarm Fire	46	3.34%
Good Intent Call	51	1.27%
Unauthorized Burning	11	0.58%
Mutual Aid Fire	31	1.00%
Mutual Aid EMS	86	6.00%
EMS Transfer	78	4.13%
Automatic EMS Aid	23	1.22%
Gas Leaks	22	1.48%



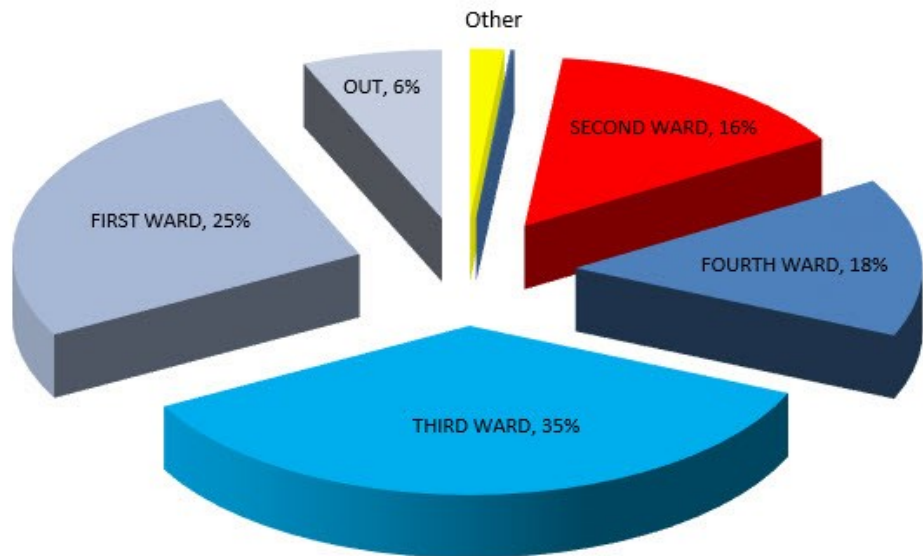
# VAN WERT FIRE DEPARTMENT

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services encompasses nearly 87 percent of the annual incidents handled by the fire department. Due to this statistic, all of the operational Van Wert Fire Department members are required not only to be certified as a firefighter with the state of Ohio, but also be certified in EMS as an Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic.

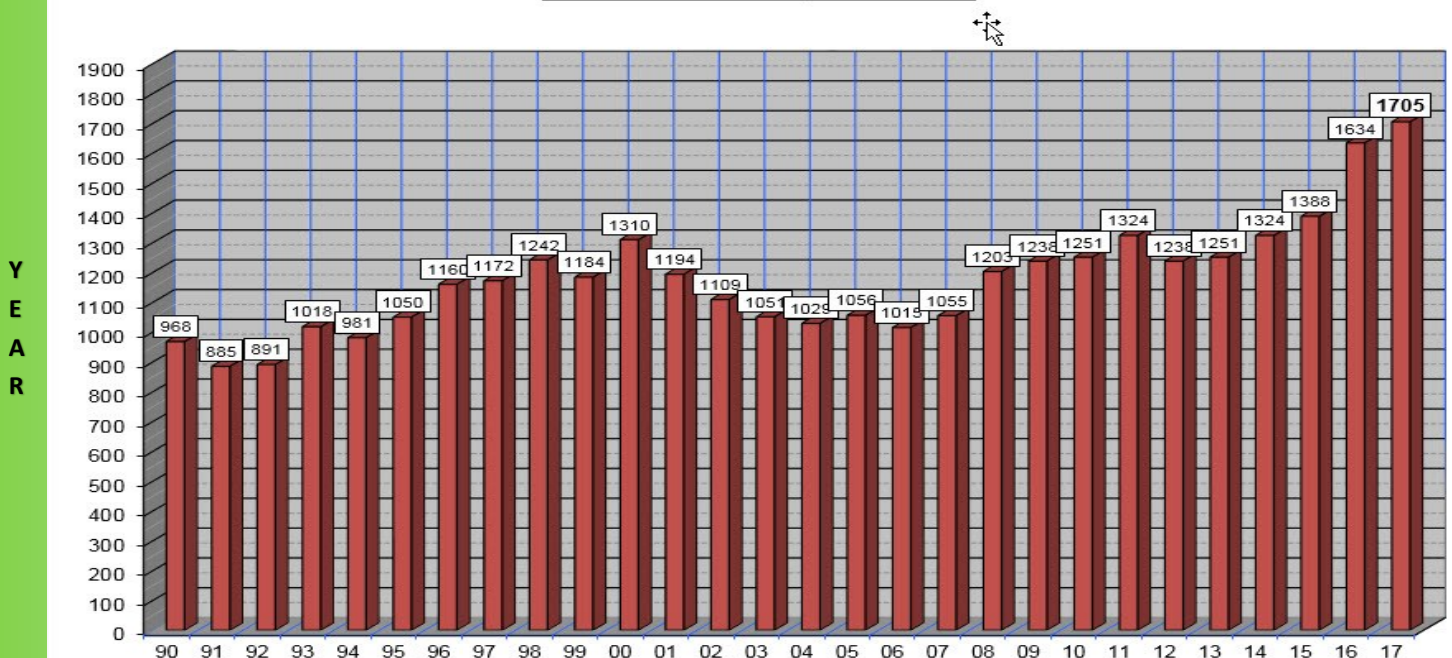
We also respond automatic and mutual aid within all of Van Wert County to the county volunteer departments cover 481 square miles for the entire county.

EMS Call Type	2017 Totals
General Illness	530
Traumatic Injury	306
Chest pain	123
Respiratory Distress	110
Abdominal Pain	57
Seizure	59
Syncope/Fainting	63
CVA/Stroke	26
Diabetic Problem	37
Drug/ Poisoning ingestion	65
Choking	5
Psychiatric Problem	39
Cardiac Arrest	36
Cardiac	152
Obvious Death	36
Allergic Reaction	12
Unknown/Person Down	23



INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT

## Total EMS Calls Per Year

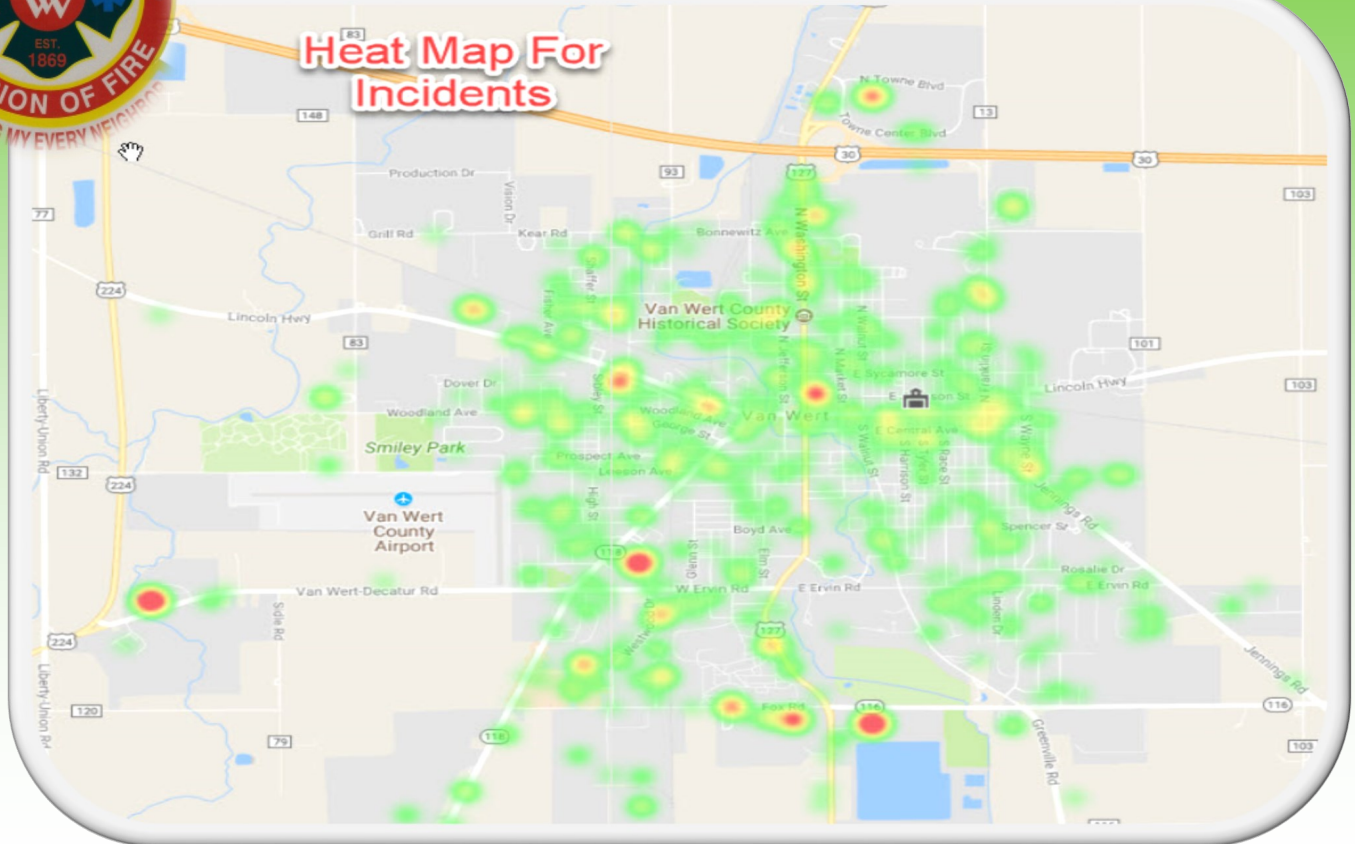




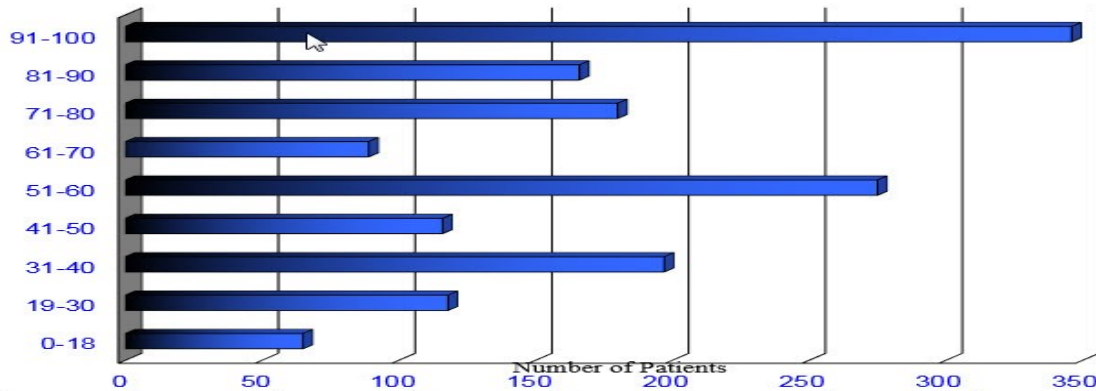


# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

## Heat Map For Incidents

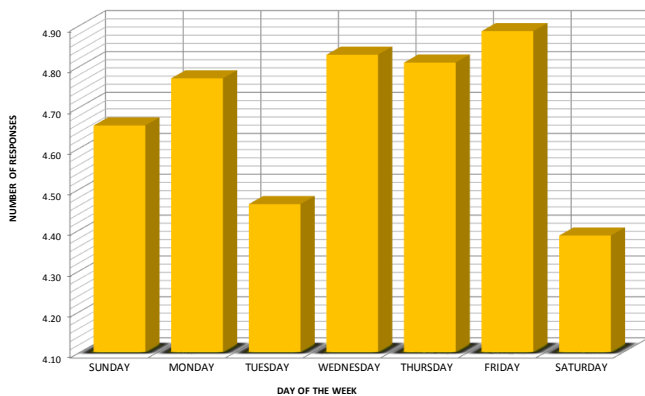


## TOTAL PATIENTS BY AGE

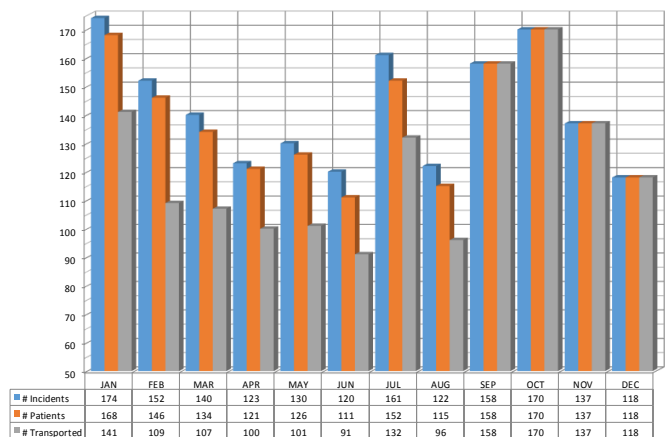


# of Patients	0-18	19-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90	91-100
	65	118	197	116	275	89	180	166	346

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF RESPONSES BY DAY OF WEEK



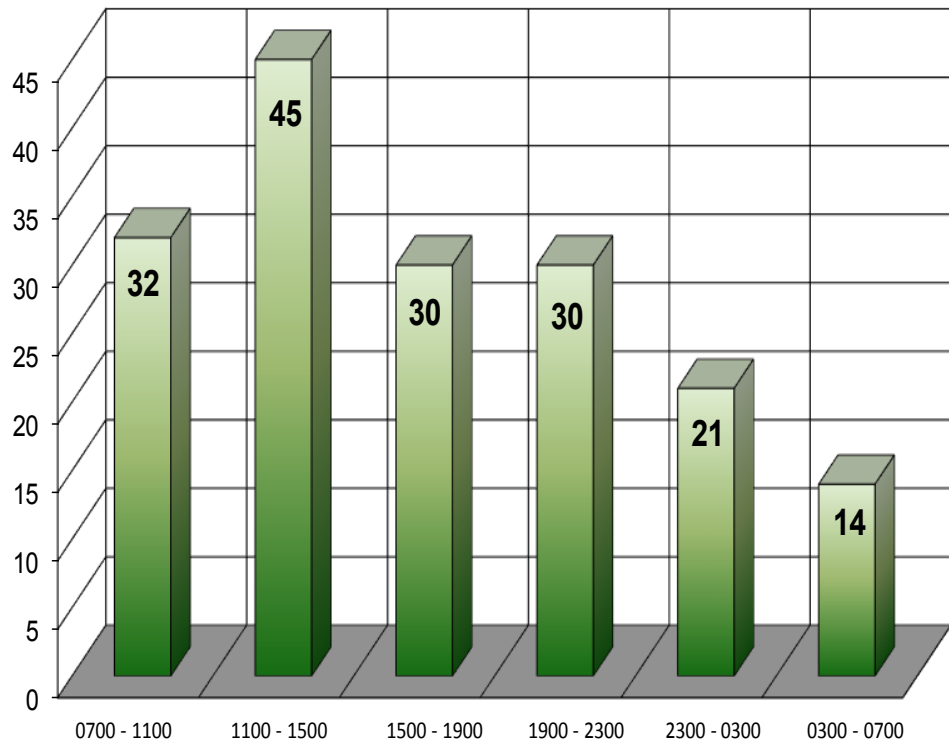
## MONTHLY ACTIVITY



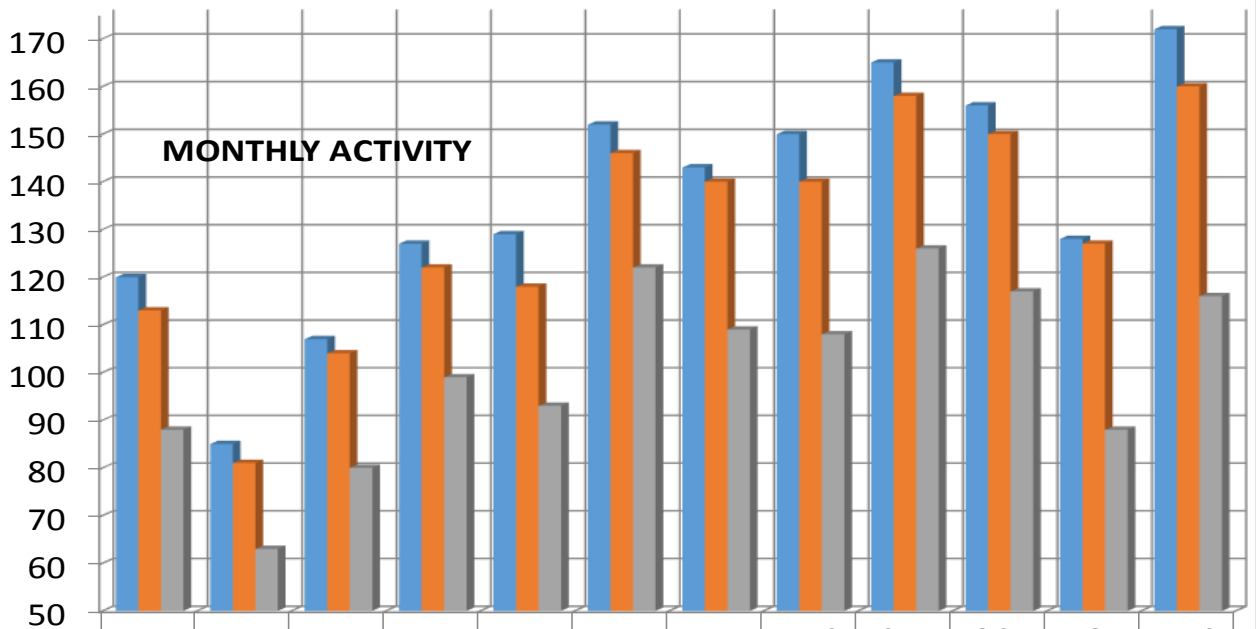


## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

### TIME OF DAY



### MONTHLY ACTIVITY



# Incidents	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
# Patients	120	85	107	127	129	152	143	150	165	156	128	172
# Transported	113	81	104	122	118	146	140	140	158	150	127	160
	88	63	80	99	93	122	109	108	126	117	88	116





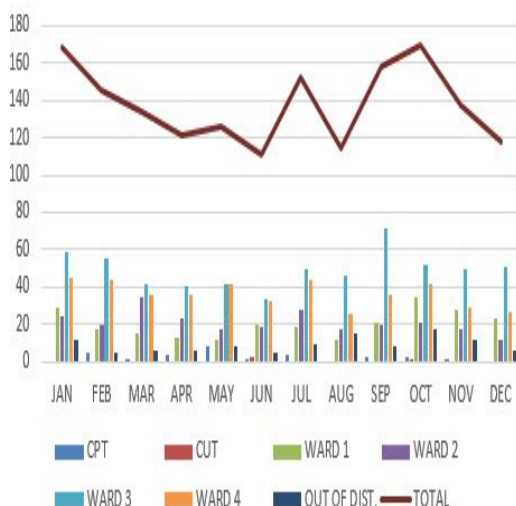
# RESPONSE SUMMARIES

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Patient Disposition	2017
Van Wert County Hospital	1196
Lutheran Hospital	24
Parkview Hospital	*1/15
St. Rita's Hospital	22
Lima Memorial Hospital	26
DuPont Hospital	2
Adams County Hospital	0
St. Joseph Hospital	0
Van Wert Hospice	5
Vancrest of Van Wert	0
No Patient	50
Treated and transported by EMS	1293
Treated and transfer care	5
Treated and transported by private vehicle	2
Treated and released	73
Treated and Transported by PD	2
No treatment required	66
Pt refused care	154
Dead at scene	19
* Were taken from the scene by helicopter	1
Advanced life support	456
Basic life support	1126

Responses by Month & District



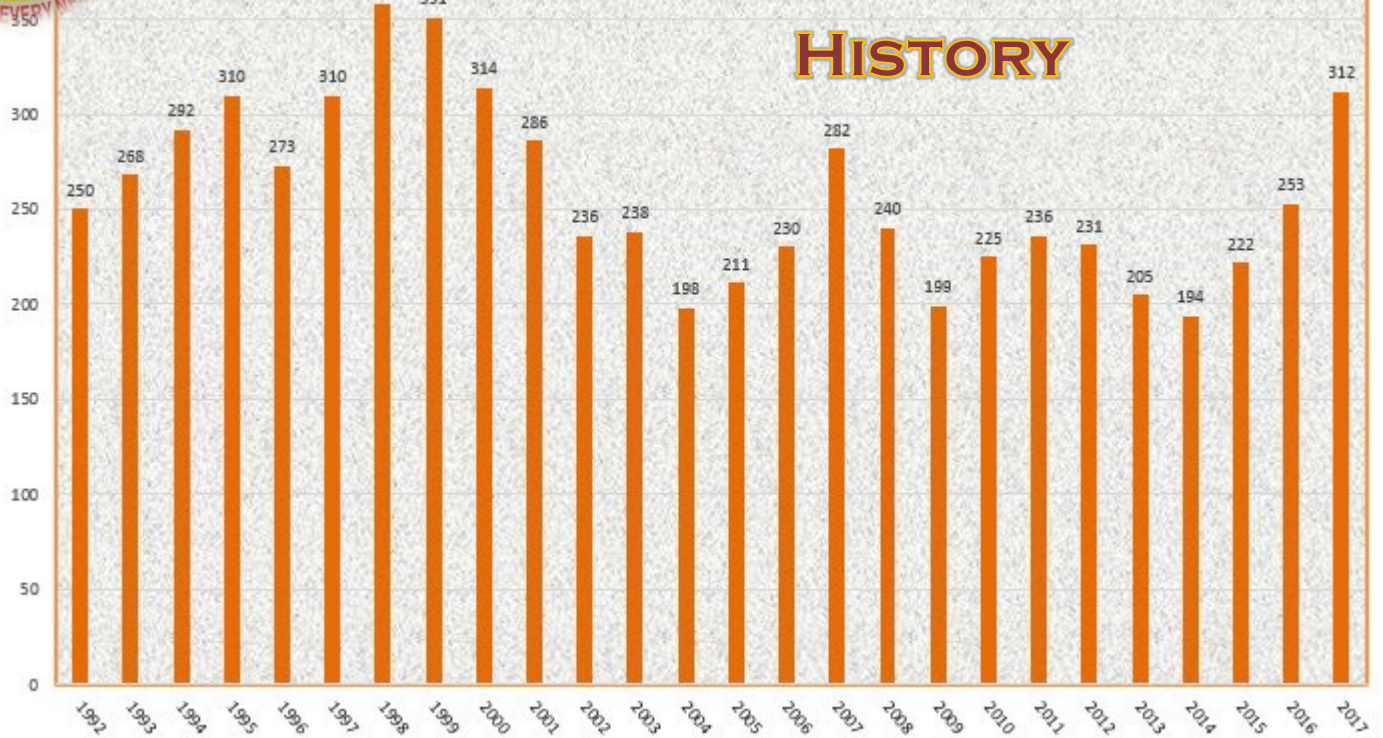
### Average Response Time In Minutes

Ward 1	4:20
Ward 2	5:24
Ward 3	5:23
Ward 4	4:28
In district average	5:01
Out of district	11:51
Contracted Area	6:20
<b>Overall average</b>	<b>6:06</b>

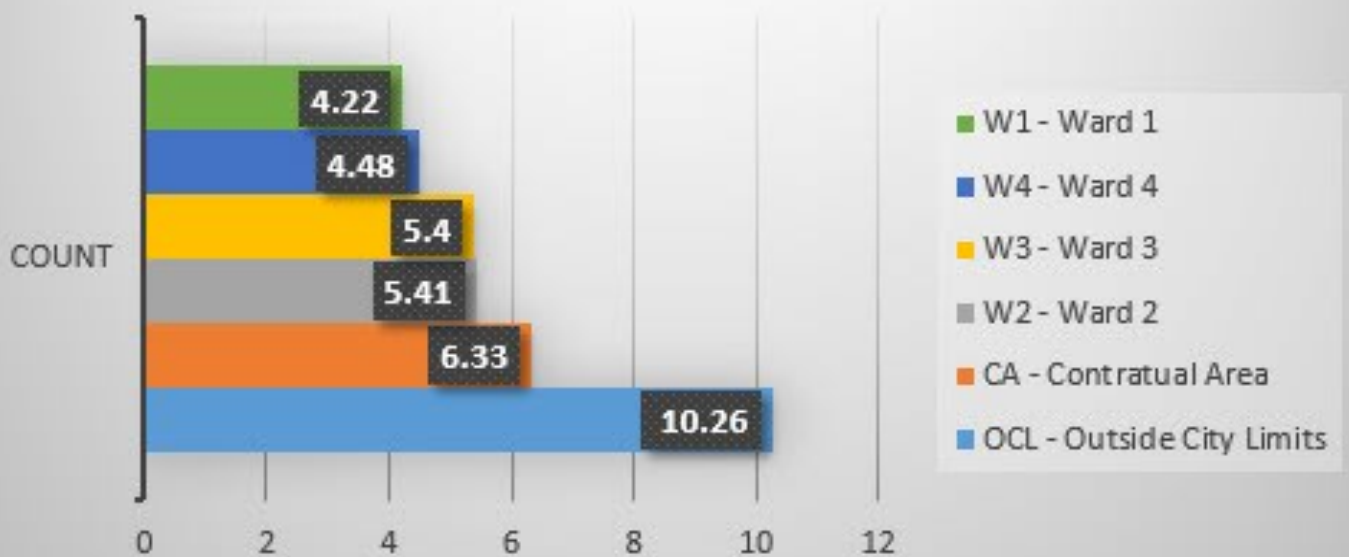


# FIRE RESPONSE SUMMARIES

## 25 YEAR FIRE RUN HISTORY



## Average Response Time for Fire in Minutes

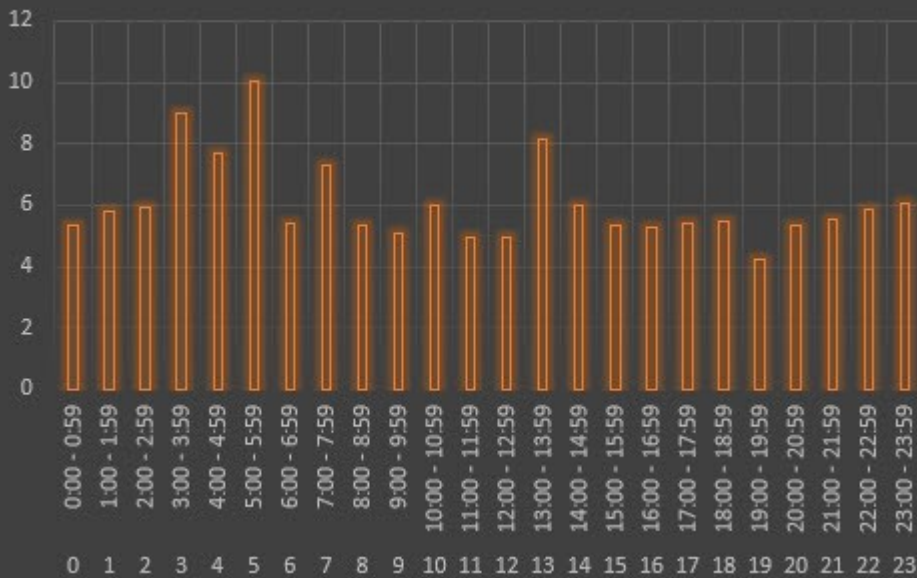




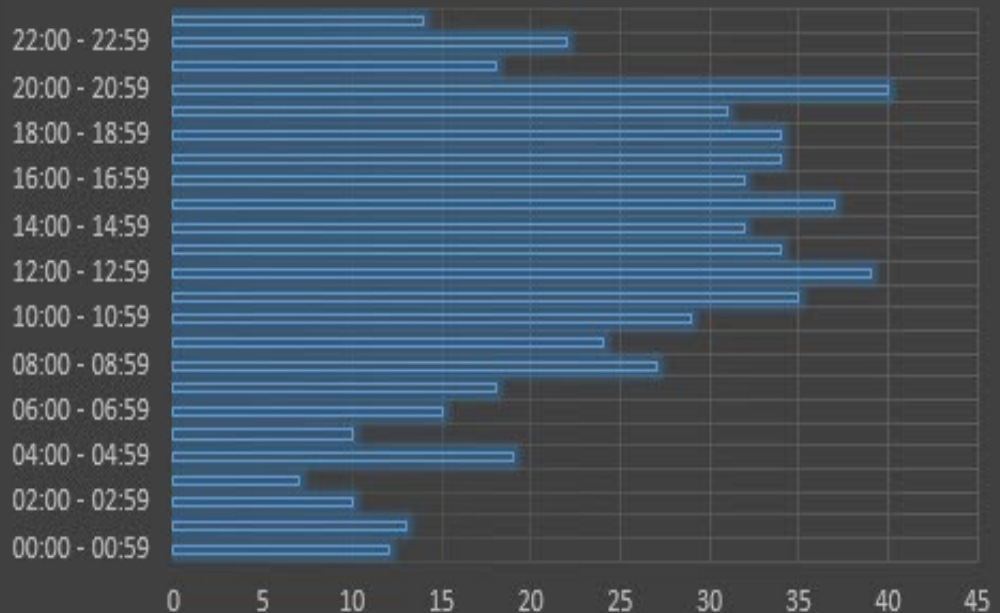


# FIRE RESPONSE SUMMARIES

Average Response Time per Hour for Date Range



Alarm Time Analysis







# 2017 Summary Report

## **Staffing:**

We ended 2017 with a staffing level of 17 full time personnel, well below our authorized level of 19 full time firefighters. The average manning for 2017 was down from 4.35 to 3.75 personnel/day/shift. Part time and reserve staffing raised the personnel/day/shift average by 0.08 daily to an overall average of 3.83 personnel/day/shift daily. This was below our required minimum manning of 4 before overtime is used to meet that minimum of 4.

**Inspections:** In 2017 we seen a total of life safety inspections down to 151 . In 2018 we are planning on restructuring our prevention program to increase initial inspections and a decrease our re-inspection numbers.

The full time fire inspector position remains unfilled since 2008. This position was staffed with a 40 hour/week person from 1975-2008. Currently, we fulfill the inspector duties with the use of the three shift lieutenants. They perform the inspection duties along with their normal duties, and with making emergency responses and doing all other required duties, our department is falling short of completing an annual inspection in our nearly 500 hundred commercial occupancies. Over the last 5 years we have averaged approximately 100 inspections annually.

To say the least, the city needs to consider, strongly, in adding a full time fire inspector back on staff. I would propose a fire inspector/training officer fill the position in the capacity of an officer. Additionally, we charge \$95 for an annual inspection and \$195 for a new construction inspection, and with a full time fire inspector we would increase the safety of our occupants in the community, the safety of our firefighters, and at the same time the increased revenue from increased inspections would augment much of the inspectors annual salary. Furthermore, making an additional person to cover emergency responses and call back.

The department also continued its program "No Child Sleeps Unprotected" and with the joint venture with the Van Wert County Fire Chiefs we were able to distribute 425 smoke detectors to every kindergartener child in Van Wert County. This smoke detector has an internal battery with a 10 year lifespan .







# 2017 Summary Report

**Personnel:** In 2017 we seen the retirement of Chief James Steele with over 39 yeas of experience. With his retirement we had multiple promotions to Chief Jon Jones, Captain David Cummings and Lieutenant Brian Ankney and firefighter Cyrus Otto. Additionally, at the end of 2017 our part-time/reserve staff is at 6 out of an authorized 10. In the upcoming year of 2018, we plan on filling our reserves to full capacity of 10.

Of our 18 personnel 15 are EMT-(P)aramedics, 1 EMT-(A)dvanced and 2 EMT-(B)asic.

## **Apparatus/Equipment:**

- In May we placed into service the 2017 Spartan/Smeal rescue engine at the cost of \$ 577,627.00. This replaced Engine 10 a 1989 GMC/Grumann engine after 28 years of service. The new Engine 7 will be the main engine for residential fire and rescues. The .22 tax for capital was used for the purchase.
- The 2008 Ford Expedition designated as Command 1 was replaced with a 2017 Ford F-150 at a cost of \$56,000.00. The new Command 1 is fully outfitted with multiple radios and command capabilities. The 2008 C1 became Command 2 and is repurposed as secondary command vehicle and chase vehicle for EMS responses. The .22 tax for capital was used for the purchase.
- 8 sets of Globe PBI Gemini XT PPE turnout gear, footwear, gloves and GORE hoods at a cost of \$25,000. The .22 tax for capital was used for the purchase.
- The department also purchase a forcible entry simulator for \$7064 for training. The .22 tax for capital was used for the purchase.
- Emergency Reporting software was purchased replacing the FireHouse software that was in service for over 15 years. This new software is used for fire, EMS, and inspection reports along with occupancy, maintenance, equipment and training management.





# 2017 Summary Report

**Training:** In 2017 the VWFD had in house training of over 5000 hours including fire, EMS, and physical fitness training. The State of Ohio requires 54 continuing education hours every three years for firefighters to renew their certification, 30 hours every three years for inspectors, 8 hours annually for hazmat, and 8 hours annually for confined space rescue. For EMT's they need to renew their certification every three years the following: EMT-B, 40 hours, EMT-A, 60 hours and EMT-P 86 hours.

## **Final Thoughts**

Looking back on 2017 was a year of growth and updating. Once again we had a record year of responses. We ended 2017 with 1931 incidents, an increase of 2.4% from 2016.

As stated earlier our run volume has increased by over 20% in the last three years, although we still operate at the same manpower from the 1970's. In 2015 we had 1605 incidents, in 2016 we had 1887 and 2017 ending with 1931 incidents. With our aging population having a longer life span, our incidents will continue to increase. We have been able to maintain services, but in the future the city needs to look at adding firefighters before our safety services become strained and stretched to a breaking point.

Furthermore, we continue to use two-thirds of the 0.22% tax to fund wages and benefits for the fire and police departments. The city has decided to place a 0.28% tax on the ballot to help alleviate this occurrence and with its passing this would alleviate the difficulty in maintaining our strategic plan for apparatus and equipment with our current practices. With the failure of the tax, safety service departments will need to be creative.

This coming 2018 will be another busy year for the department. We should be taking delivery of our new Braun medic unit in May, replacing old M7 which will be 15 years old and repurposed to the VWPD as a SRT vehicle. C1 was replaced with a 2017 Ford F-150 and the 2008 Ford Expedition became C2 for a secondary command vehicle and chase vehicle for EMS Responses. The department will pursue replacing another Medic for 2018/2019 to replace the 2004 Medic 9.

Cancer in the fire service today has become the leading cause of death for firefighters. Firefighters have a 14% higher chance of dying from cancer than the normal population. There is a movement in the fire service with extensive studies being done on cancer and firefighter. With this knowledge, our department has incorporated the prevention procedures for our firefighters. We no longer allow PPE in the living quarters, at fire scenes PPE is decontaminated and bagged prior to departure to prevent carcinogens into the apparatus. We have particulate hoods for prevention and two sets of PPE, so one can be worn while the other is laundered. As new information is gathered and assimilated the program grows within our department.

This year we changed to a new software for our departments incidents and information. Our old software, Firehouse, had become stagnant and behind times. We upgraded to Emergency Reporting, a more robust software. This software allows Electronic Patient Care Reports (ePCR) to be completed in the apparatus while on the road, thereby decreasing our turnaround time on squad runs. The software has many new features to help productivity and strategic planning for the fire department.



## Final Thoughts

To conclude, I would like to thank everyone in our department for an extraordinary year in 2017. I would like to thank Lt Ankney, FF Edelbrock and FF Gasser for their assistance in gathering the information to produce this annual report. Furthermore, I see 2018 being an exciting and busy year and would like to thank everyone in our department for the opportunity in leading such an extraordinary group of professionals. If you or anyone has any questions regarding the content of this document, please feel free to contact or stop by the Fire Department.

Thank You, \_\_\_\_\_



Chief Jon D. Jones

