

Van Wert Fire Department

2020

Annual Report



Jon Jones, Fire Chief
515 East Main Street Van Wert, OH 45891



Patient compartment of Medic Unit

TABLE OF CONTENTS

City Council.....	3
2020 in Review.....	4
Message from Chief	5
Training	6
Fire Incidents.....	7
Fire Prevention.....	8
EMS.....	7
EMS Statistics.....	10-11
General Information.....	12
Coverage Area.....	13
Incident Action.....	14
Station Details.....	15
Incident Information.....	16
Awards.....	17-18
Core values.....	19
Vision and Mission.....	20

VAN WERT FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTACT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY.....	911
Non-Emergency.....	419-238-4918
Fax.....	419-239-1087
Email.....	vwfd@vanwertfd.org
Website.....	www.vanwertfd.org

VAN WERT CITY MAYOR AND COUNCIL



MAYOR: **KENNETH MARKWARD**.....419-238-0308

E-MAIL: k.markward@yahoo.com

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: **JAY FLEMING**419-513-1010

E-MAIL: jfleming@vanwert.org

CITY AUDITOR: **MARTHA BALYEAT**.....419-238-6976

E-MAIL: mbalyeat@vanwert.org

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: **JON TOMLINSON**.....234-222-0096

E-MAIL: jdtomlinson@roadrunner.com

FIRST WARD: **JEFF AGLER**419-513-0585

E-MAIL: Jeffagler79@yahoo.com

SECOND WARD: **JOI MERGY**419-605-7602

E-MAIL: pjmergy@gmail.com

THIRD WARD: **STEVE HELLMAN**.....419-516-3037

E-MAIL: stevehel@gmail.com

FOURTH WARD: **ANDREW DAVIS** 937-570-1181

E-MAIL: davisvw council@gmail.com

COUNCIL-AT-LARGE: **JEFF KALLAS** 567-259-8684

E-MAIL: NONE

COUNCIL-AT-LARGE: **BILL MARSHALL**..... 614-623-3568

E-MAIL: billmarshallsaceliteguard@gmail.com

COUNCIL-AT-LARGE: **JOEL PENTON, SR.**419-605-2427

E-MAIL: NONE

CLERK OF COUNCIL: **VERONICA CUEVAS**..... 567-259-9602

E-MAIL: vcuevas0901@yahoo.com

2020 IN REVIEW

2020 was definitely a year we all will remember. All the planning for the year went out the window when COVID-19 hit our world. Items that were planned were put aside to deal with the pandemic. Normal purchases were changed to purchase UV lights, disinfectants, mask, gloves and anything else needed to provide a safe work environment for our personnel and safety to our citizens.

The year started out busy, as usual. Once COVID-19 struck we noticed a major decrease in EMS runs during the months of March, April and May. We ended the year 2020 with another busy year of EMS responses at 1803 and fire responses at 214 for a total of 2017 emergency responses. This represents 5.52 responses daily in 2020. EMS remains our main responses criteria at 89% of our emergency responses. We also responded to 54 possible structure fire with an actual structure fire, on arrival, of 26. The 26 structure fires had a pre-incident value of \$2,077,370.00 with a only an actual loss of \$177,600.00 from fire damage. The remaining 160 responses were hazardous conditions with no fire, service calls, good intent calls and false alarms.

In January the department took delivery of a 2019 Braun Chief XL Type 1 ambulance on a Ford F-550 chassis. The Ford chassis provides 4x4 capabilities, and a reduction in cost of nearly \$40,000 compared to the previous International chassis. It also gives the department the ability to have it serviced locally. The total cost for the unit was \$243,640.00. This unit replaced a 2004 Braun unit that was purchased by Wren Fire Department.

The department continues to work with the community youth by participating in the school's CEO internship program and starting a departmental fire explorer program. Through the CEO program the department has hired 4 of the fire participants as reserve firefighters on our department and one achieved a full-time position. Along with emergency incidents our personnel completed 107 inspection activities, flowed and tested 673 water hydrants, tested 21,000 feet of fire hose, Our personnel completed 4089 hours of training and, 72 hours of building maintenance/remodeling.

The department hired Trevor Spridgeon as a full-time employee in February. FF Spridgeon began his fire/EMS with the CEO program provided through Van Wert High School.



2019 F-550 4x4 Braun Chief
XL Type 1 Medic



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Now that we have close the books on 2020, I cannot help be reflect back on what a year it has been having to deal with the response to COVID-19. As first responders we did what we have always done, we responded to the new threat like any other threat.

What made this threat different was we had to move forward without the full knowledge on how to protect our patients and, ourselves from this threat. In the beginning everyday brought new concerns, new procedures and new unknowns.

With all of the hazards and unforeseen problems our personnel figured out a way to complete our department mission and continue to provide protection for our community. Early on we began our precautions and adapted to the ever-changing recommendation from both the federal and state agencies. In whole, the community emergency agencies bonded together and met the needs of our community.

The Van Wert Fire Department (VWFD) remains at 19 fulltime sworn firefighters and 10 reserve personnel. Currently, we have fifteen EMT-Paramedics, four EMT-Intermediates and seven EMT-Basics. The department contracted with Four County Career Center for the VWFD to host a paramedic class in our station. In doing so, we have three sworn members in that class to become EMT-Paramedics. The department embraces a lot pride in that we are one of the first rural departments in Ohio to have EMT-Paramedics and wish to continue that service to our stakeholders.

On a personal note, I want to thank the members of Van Wert City Council, City Administration and Mayor Markward for their support of the Fire Department. Furthermore, I would like to give my appreciation to every member of this department for an unusual but outstanding year. Finally, I would like to thank all of the local businesses, neighboring public safety agencies and Van Wert Citizens for their outstanding continued support.

Respectively Submitted,

Jon Jones, OFE

Fire Chief



TRAINING



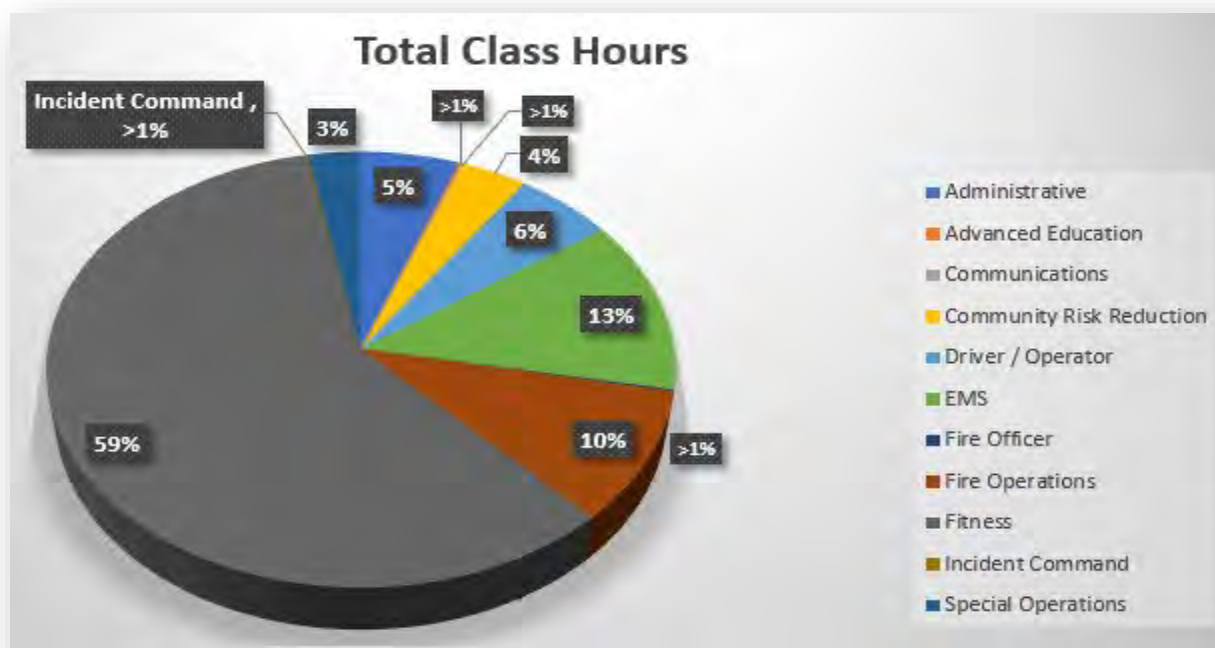
Van Wert Fire Department's thirty one personnel performed 4089 hours of training in 2020 an average of 141 hours per person.

With the onset of COVID-19 all in person training came to a halt. This drastically reduced our training for 2020. During normal operating years our personnel attend many hands on trainings at different training facilities but, with COVID-19, almost all hands on training was cancelled for 2020.

Our department for 2020 through 2022 will be hosting an EMT-Paramedic class in our department. We currently have three personnel taking that class; AJ King, Brett Schumm and Ethan Fraker.

Ten personnel meet the 100 hour physical fitness goal for 2020 including: B. Ankney, E. Carter, D. Cummings, D. Edelbrock, E. Fraker, Z. Merkle, A. Miller, R. Miller, J. Ricker and N. Steyer.

Finally, the person who complete the most training hours in 2020 was Ed Carter with 358 hours.



FIRE INCIDENTS

The fire department responded to 26 structure fires in 2020. The total value of structure fires was \$2,077,370.00 with a controlled loss of only \$177,600 (8.5%) in 2020.

NFPA Standard 1710 establishes an 80 second “turnout time” and 240 second “travel time” (together, 320 seconds or 5 minutes and 20 seconds “response time”) benchmark time goal for not less than 90% of dispatched incidents. Our departments average response time in 2020 was 5:24 just shy of the NFPA standard. The additional time is partially attributed to the location of the fire station and its distance from our busiest part of our response area in Ward 3. We are continually working on lowering our response time.



717 East Sycamore Street
September 22, 2020



542 Vine Street
August 7, 2020



621 Center Street
December 7, 2020

FIRE PREVENTION

In 2020 the department completed 107 inspections of all types. The Van Wert Fire Department provides annual, sprinkler, occupancy certification, fire alarm systems, home, plan review, pressure testing, assembly use and many other fire safety inspections.

Fire prevention activities are assigned to our three Lieutenants, Rob Miller, Nick Steyer and Brian Ankney in 2020. Shift personnel also assist out Lieutenants when needed.

The department continues to work on scoring all commercial occupancies by generating the Occupancy Vulnerability Assessment Profile (OVAP) score for all occupancies within our response area. This project is scheduled to be completed this year.



Fire Prevention Week 2021 is October 3-9!



552

FACILITIES THAT
REQUIRE INSPECTION



Inspections completed

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Emergency Medical responses continue to be the majority of the departments emergency responses at 89% of our runs.

EMS responded to 580 Advanced Life Support Incidents and 1223 Basic Life Support incidents.

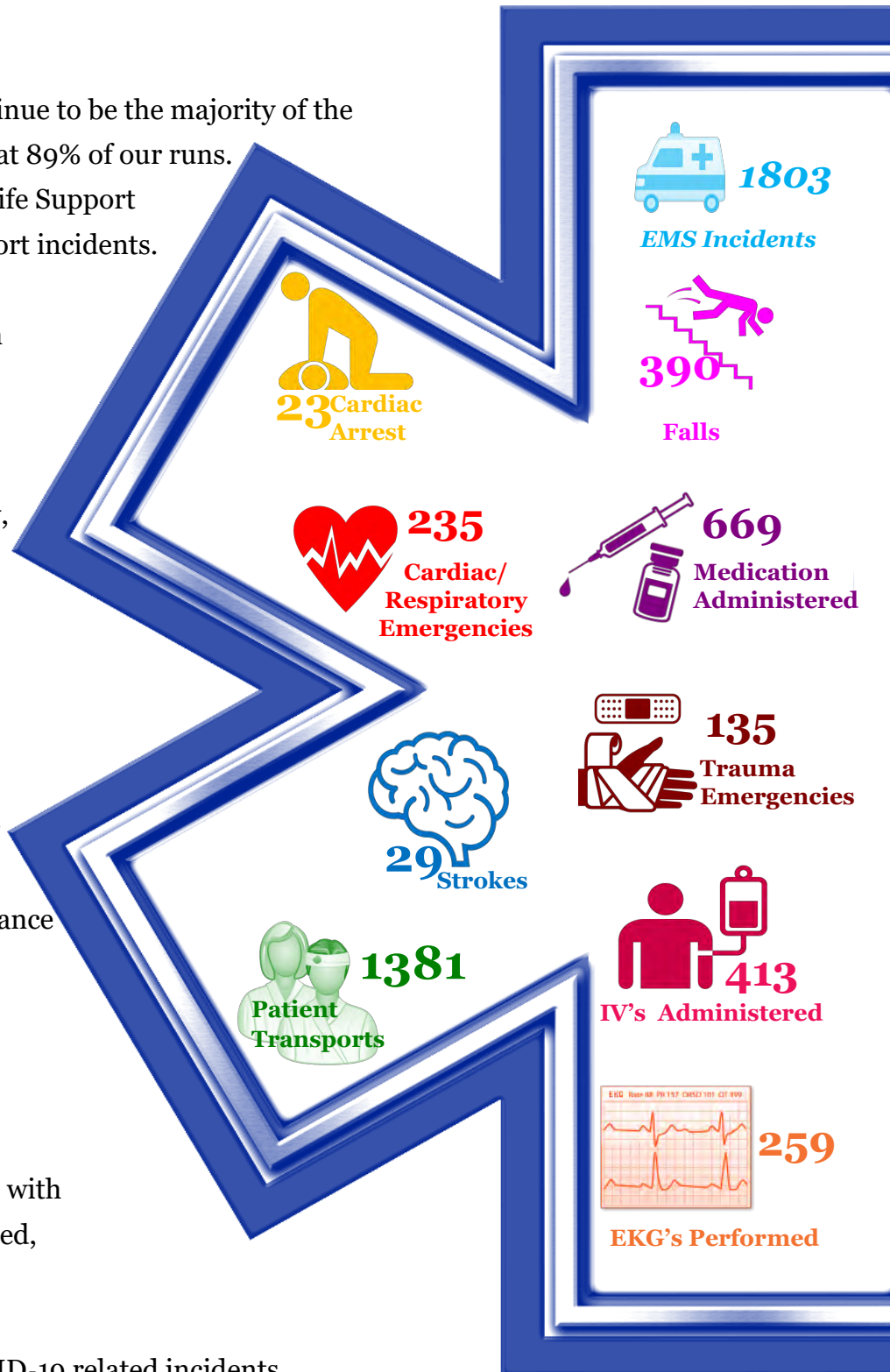
We also gave mutual aid support on 99 EMS incidents throughout Van Wert County.

We continue to be the primary ALS unit for the entire Van Wert County, encompassing 410 square miles.

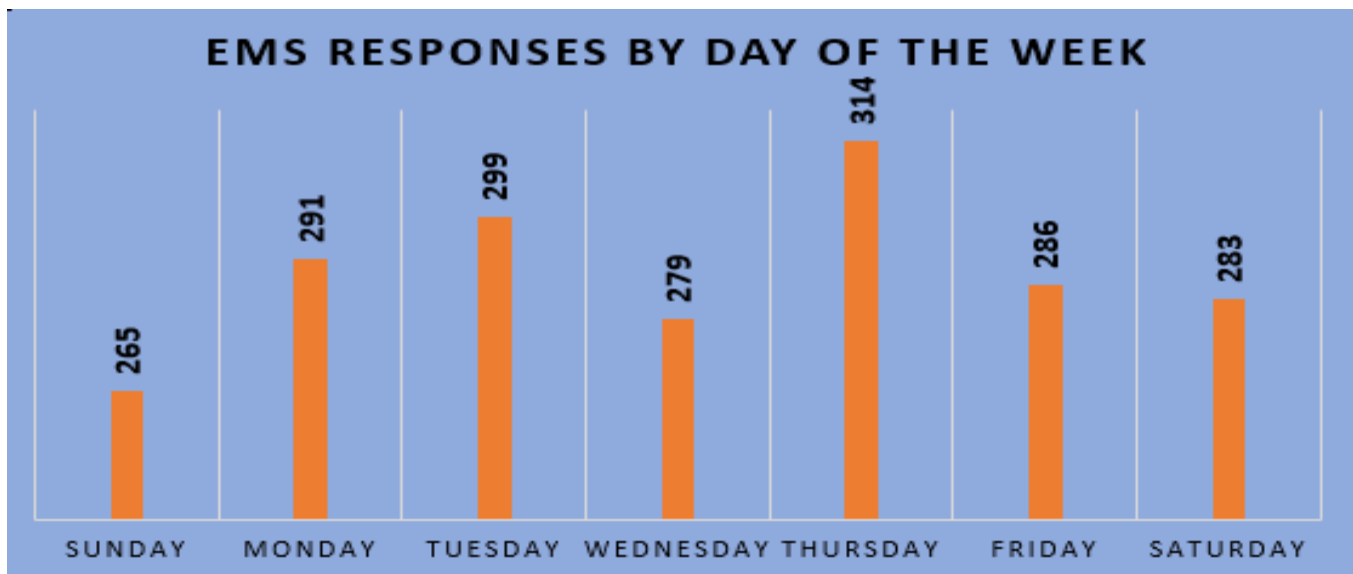
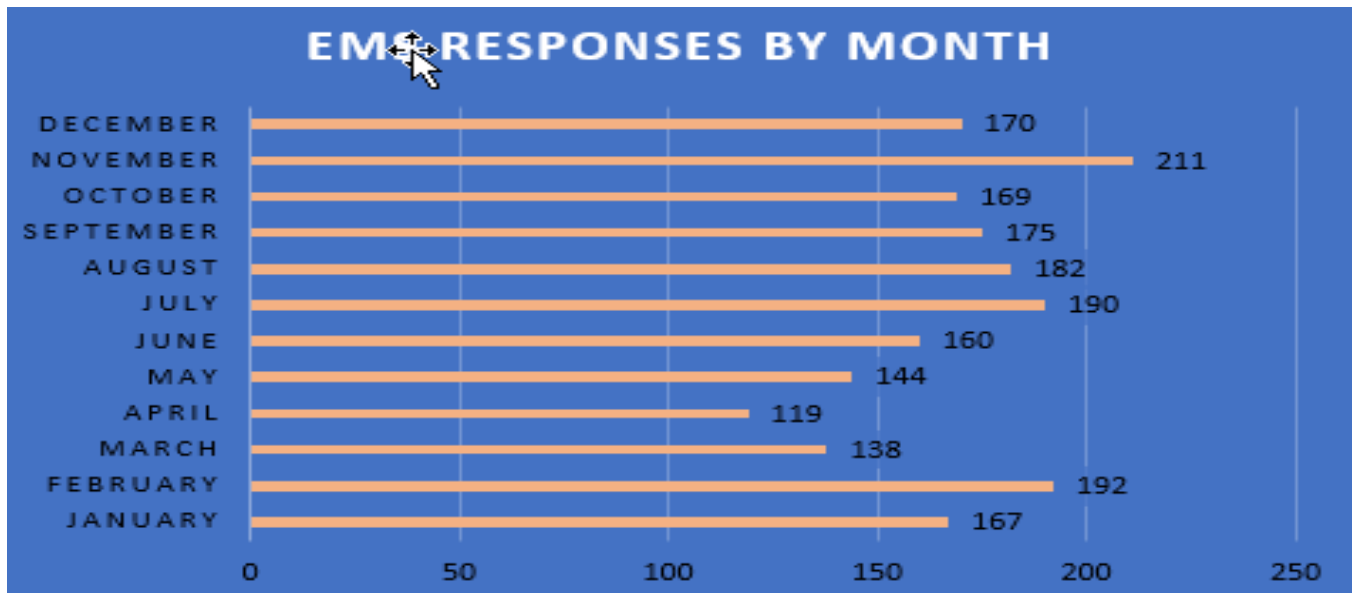
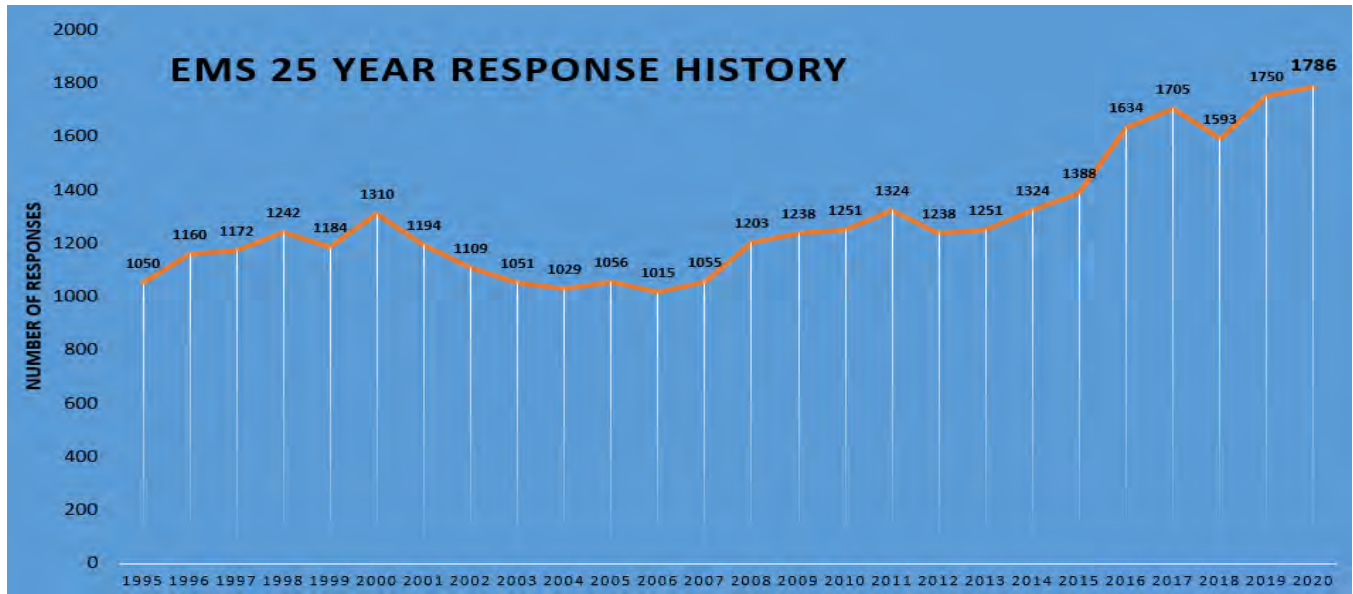
In 2020 the department had 288 overlapping incidents. This represents that the department is mitigating two or more incidents at the same time, during 14% of our incidents. Additionally, due to the lack of a community private ambulance our department had to cover 90 emergency responses due to the lack of the availability of a private ambulance in town.

Presently, the department is staffed with 15 EMT Paramedics, 4 EMT advanced, and 7 EMT basic.

EMS responded to 129 known COVID-19 related incidents.

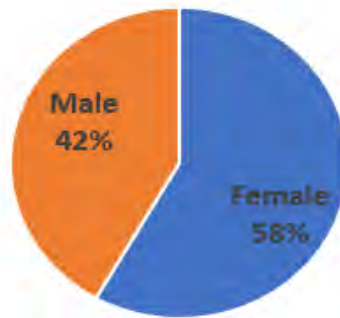


EMS STATISTICS

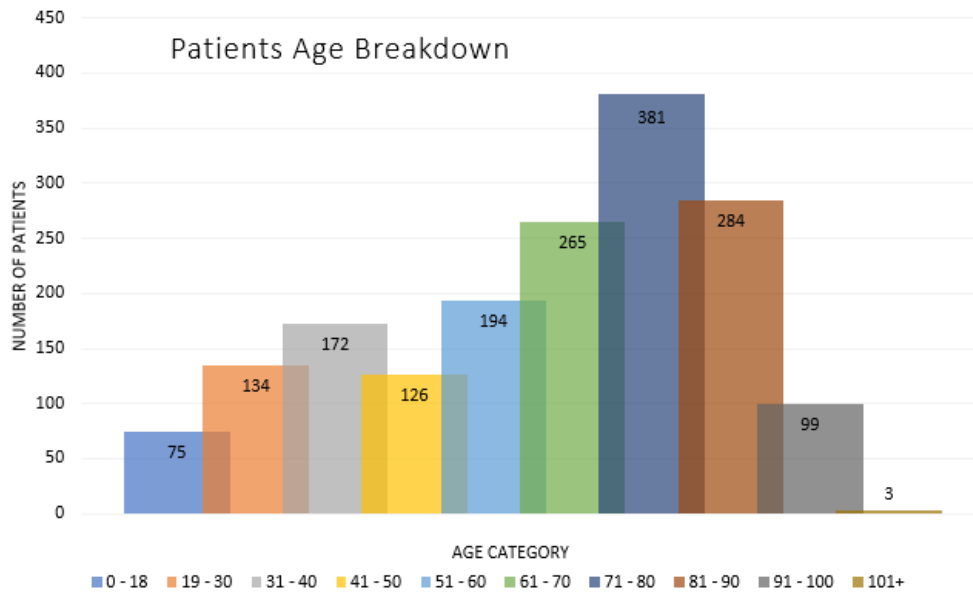


EMS STATISTICS

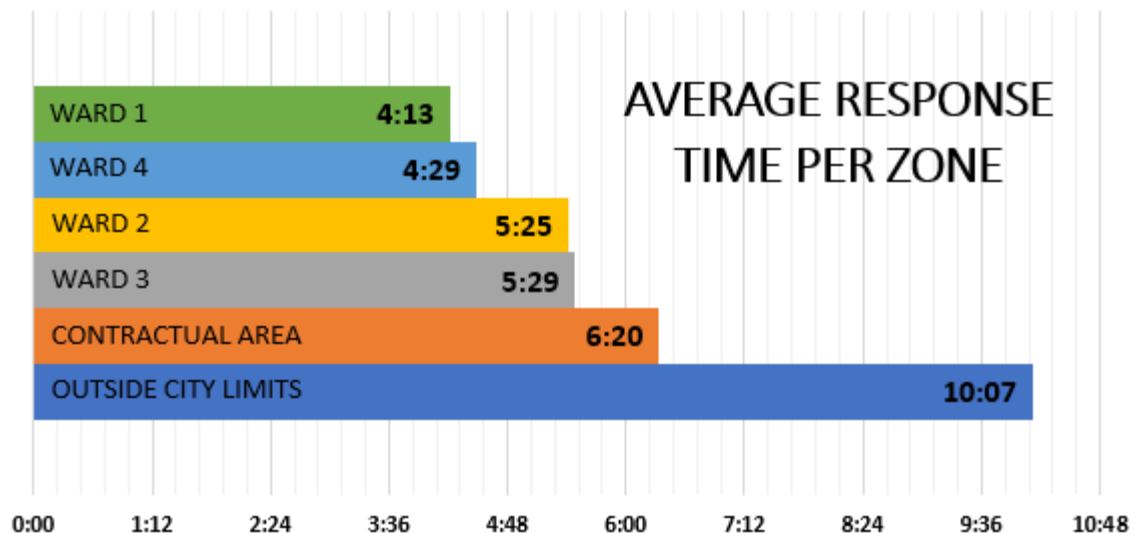
Patient Gender



Patients Age Breakdown



AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME PER ZONE





DEPARTMENT GENERAL INFORMATION:



The Van Wert Fire Department is an ISO class three rated protection department; whose primary response district is the City of Van Wert and 6 square miles of contracted areas. The total area is approximately 14 square miles and protects a population of 11,120 (2017 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.

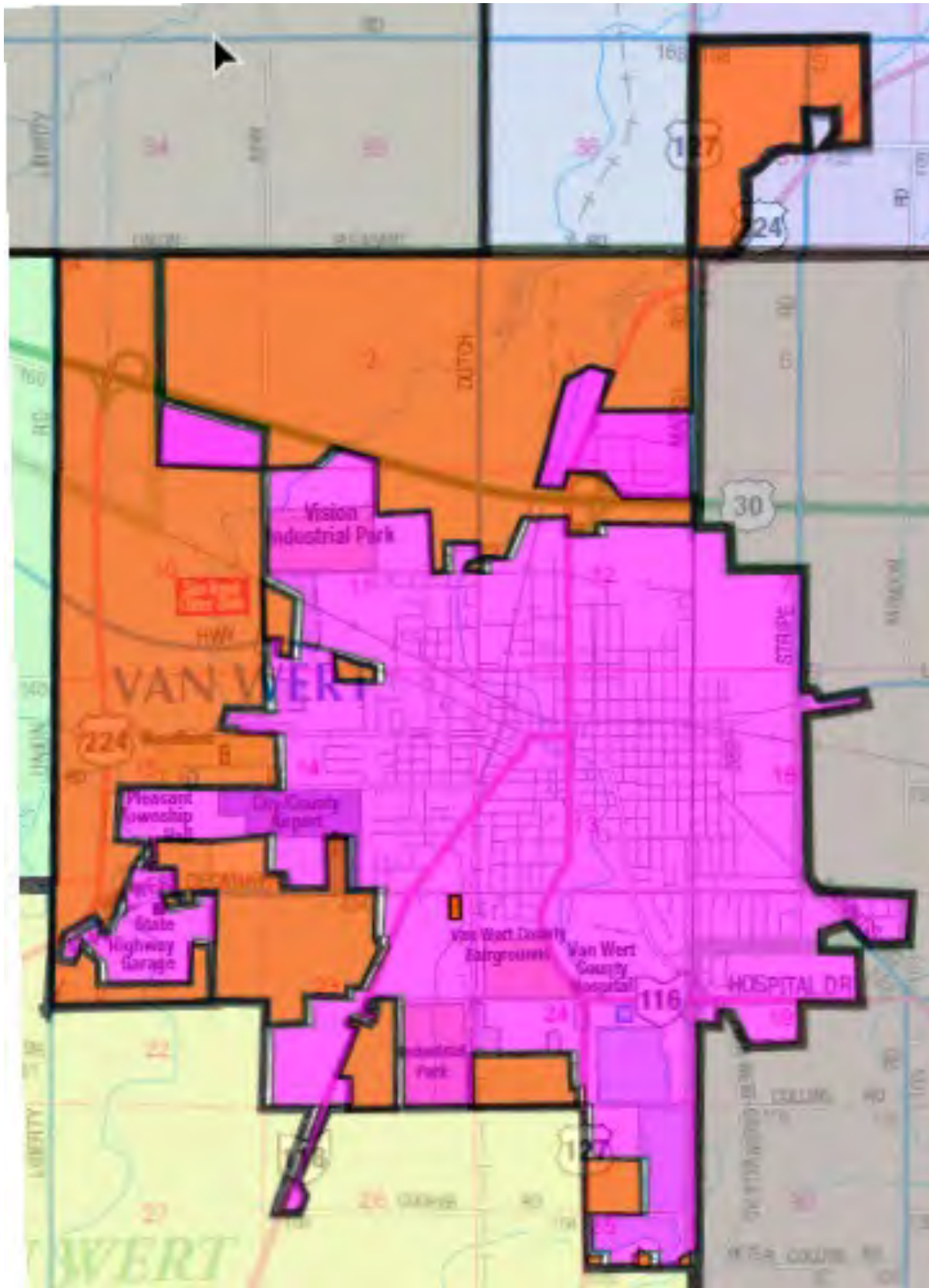
Our firefighters work in a three platoon system, with three shifts of six personnel. Each shift is staffed with one Captain and one Lieutenant. The Fire Chief is the only administrative position, currently, in the department. Fire personnel work a 24 hour on duty and 48 hours off duty schedule which 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 12.1 years. The average fire service experience of our officers is 22 years.

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. The general fund cost for the Fire Department was \$1,901,882.37 in 2020; Capital fund expenses for the Fire Department totaled \$415,246.34. The average cost per resident is \$208.37 per year or 57 cents day in 2020. The billing of EMS runs, contract fire coverage, and inspection fees collected revenues of 378,947.73 which was deposited to the General Fund. The additional money lowers the cost of services to the residents by \$37.34 per person for a total of \$174.30 per year or 48 cents/day. Statistically, we find that on the average, that 1 in 6.2 residents of our coverage area used our emergency services this year.

The department responded to a total of 2017 incident in 2020. This was a slight decrease from the 2029 incident responses in 2019. This was mainly due to the decreased EMS responses in March, April and May in response to the COVID quarantine. Of the 2017 incidents 214 were fire responses and 1803 were EMS related. EMS incidents remain our majority of emergency responses at 89% of our responses.

Non-emergency work levels continue to be very high. The Department completed the maintenance and flow testing of 673 hydrants, pressure testing of more than 21,000 feet of hose, load testing of 500 feet of ground and aerial ladders, and pump testing of 5 engines and ladders. Department staff performed more 1563 man hours of non-emergency work including; vehicle and building maintenance, testing hose, testing ladders, building tours, preplanning buildings, providing snow removal for the city building and many other miscellaneous items.

2020 COVERAGE AREA



Van Wert City
Corporation



Contractual Areas

INCIDENT COUNT PER PRIMARY ACTION TAKEN

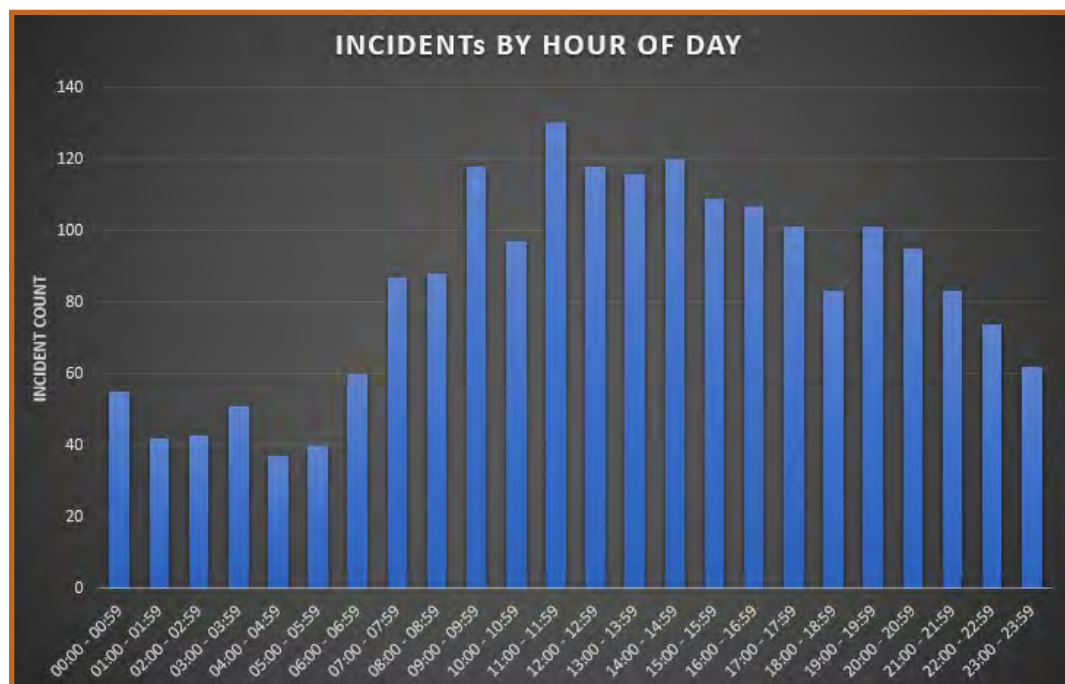
ACTION TAKEN	# INCIDENTS	PERCENTAGE
00 - Action taken, other	5	0.25%
10 - Fire control or extinguishment, other	34	1.69%
11 - Extinguishment by fire service personnel	10	0.50%
12 - Salvage & overhaul	1	0.05%
20 - Search & rescue, other	1	0.05%
23 - Extricate, disentangle	1	0.05%
30 - Emergency medical services, other	318	15.77%
31 - Provide first aid & check for injuries	18	0.89%
32 - Provide basic life support (BLS)	112	5.55%
33 - Provide advanced life support (ALS)	1344	66.63%
34 - Transport person	1	0.05%
40 - Hazardous condition, other	2	0.10%
43 - Hazardous materials spill control and confinement	1	0.05%
45 - Remove hazard	3	0.15%
50 - Fires, rescues & hazardous conditions, other	1	0.05%
51 - Ventilate	4	0.20%
55 - Establish safe area	1	0.05%
60 - Systems and services, other	2	0.10%
63 - Restore fire alarm system	4	0.20%
70 - Assistance, other	2	0.10%
73 - Provide manpower	1	0.05%
74 - Provide apparatus	1	0.05%
76 - Provide water	6	0.30%
80 - Information, investigation & enforcement, other	16	0.79%
86 - Investigate	90	4.46%
87 - Investigate fire out on arrival	9	0.45%
90 - Fill-in, standby, other	1	0.05%
92 - Standby	2	0.10%
93 - Cancelled en route	30	1.49%



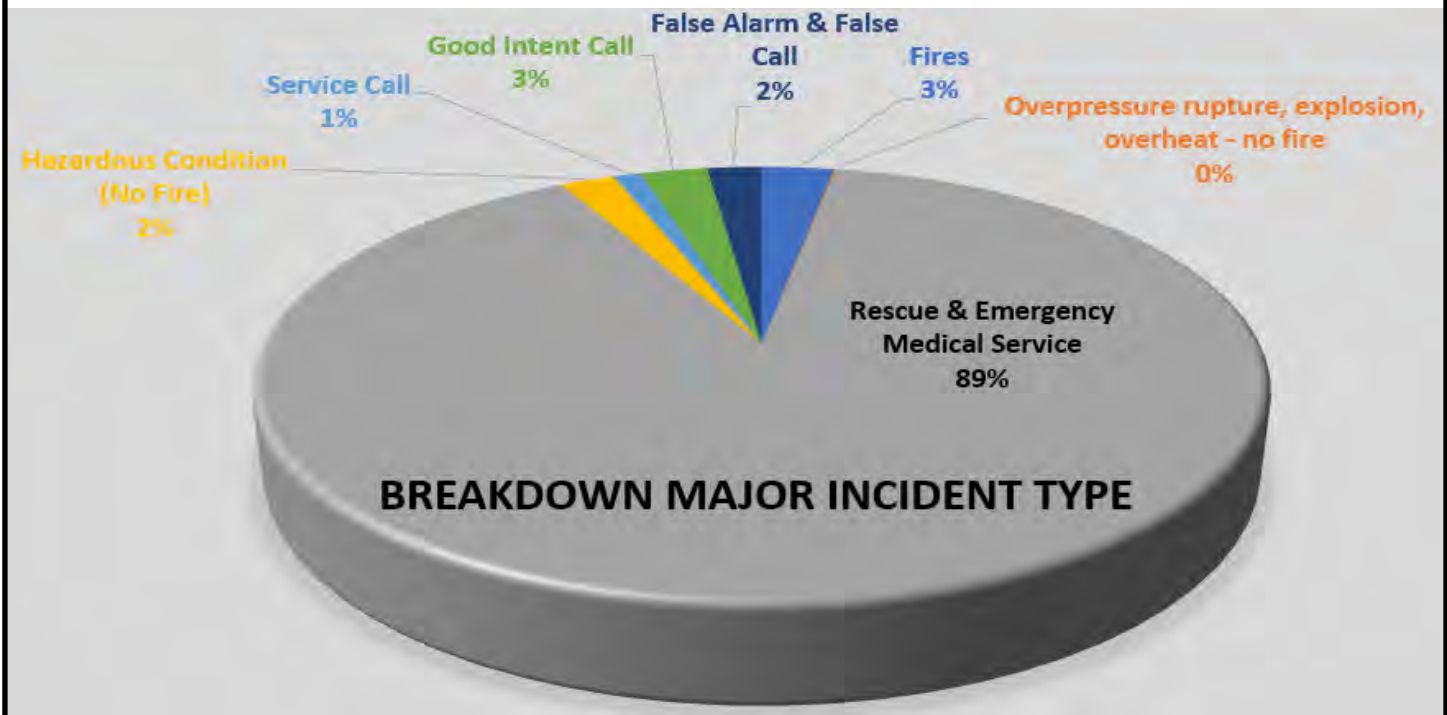
STATION DETAILS



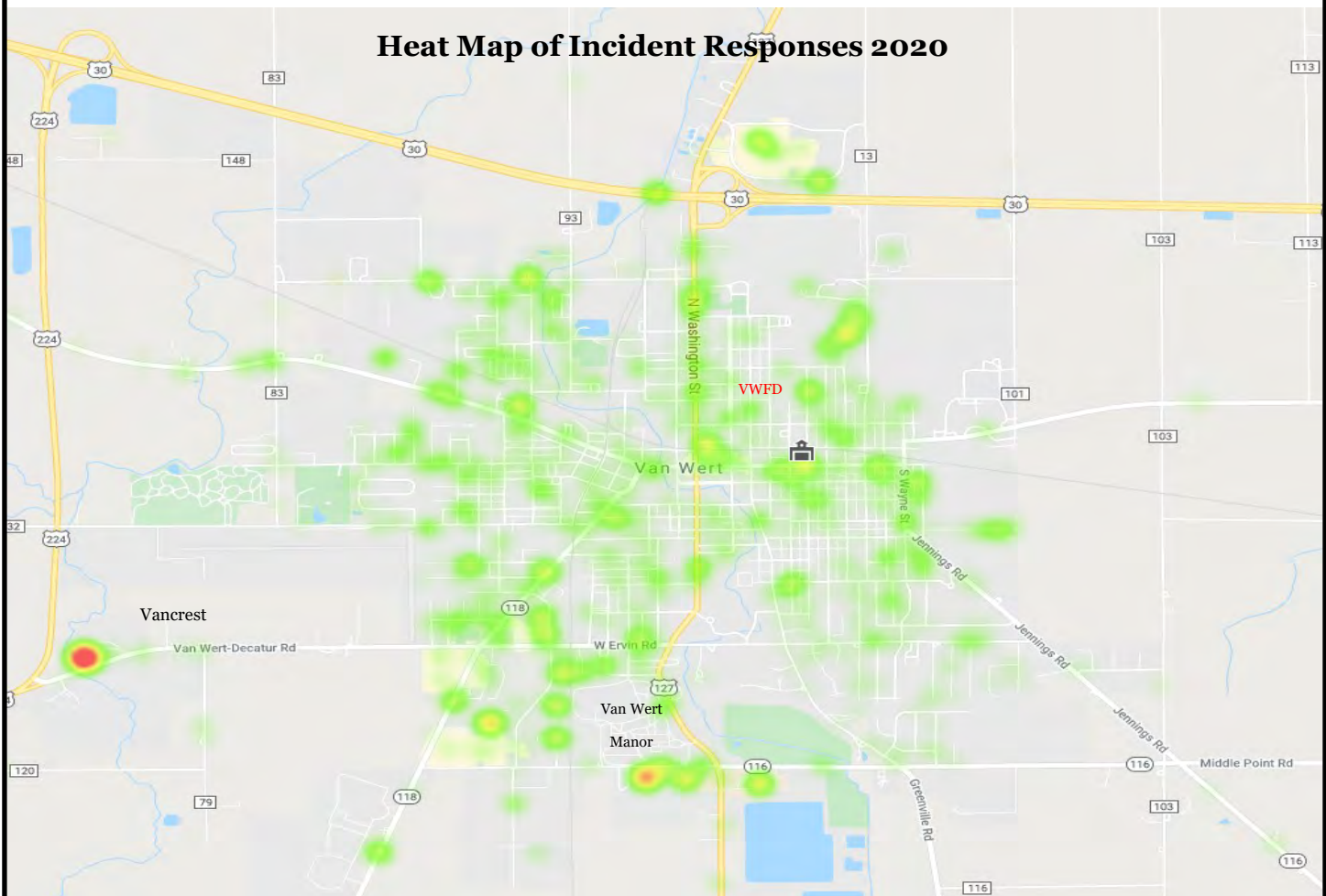
MUTUAL AID	
Aid Type	Total
Aid Given	100
OVERLAPPING CALLS	
# OVERLAPPING	% OVERLAPPING
288	14.28



INCIDENT INFORMATION



Heat Map of Incident Responses 2020



VAN WERT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Awards

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the department do not hold its annual awards ceremony but we did want to recognize those that achieved the milestones we normally recognize at that ceremony.

Training Award- Ed Carter

Fitness Award– Ed Carter

Senior Firefighter/EMT Paramedic Ed Carter set some high standards in 2020 by achieving the most hours in both training and physical fitness! Carter had 358 hours training and 280 hours of physical fitness hours.



Busy Bee Company Award– 14 responses in 24 hours

Shift Three–

**Captain Cummings, Lieutenant R. Miller, Ed Carter,
Doug Edelbrock, Jeff Ricker, Ethan Fraker**

VAN WERT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighter/EMT of the Year

The Firefighter of the Year is awarded to the firefighter/EMT that exemplifies the true meaning of commitment and pride in the organization for the current year. The award process is voted on by their peers in our organization. The selection is determined by being a team player, making the Department a better place, the respect of their peers, constantly improving themselves, involvement in extracurricular projects and routinely responding to emergency service calls. Last, but not least, they go above and beyond to give care and comfort to the patient.

Firefighter/EMT of the Year; FF/EMTP Ed Carter





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

VAN WERT FIRE DEPARTMENT

VISION

Is to become a leader in northwest Ohio in responding to emergencies and, the prevention of future emergencies, through commitment and excellence.

MISSION

The Van Wert Fire Department is dedicated to providing a professional emergency service for our community, protecting the lives and properties within it.