

# ***FAIRVIEW PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT***



***2015 ANNUAL REPORT***



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## *A message from the Chief...*

With a record high call volume, 2015 proved to be the busiest year in the history of the department both in responses for emergency service and in activities around the firehouse.

By the first week in February, the Fairview Park Fire Department had responded to three 1<sup>st</sup> alarm fires throughout the region and by the end of the year the number would climb to a record high. In March the department witnessed the promotion of veteran firefighter Mike Fink to the rank of Lieutenant. March also showed us the retirement of Lieutenant Tom Homes and the hiring of our newest Firefighter, Michael Kocon, a lifelong Fairview Park resident.

The dedication and professionalism of our department shined strong, holding several regional trainings and staying ever true to our mission and our commitment to the needs of our residents. Even though I stated it in last year's report it bears repeating, our community's needs will always dictate the direction of our department and the services we provide. We are *your* fire department and my hope is that as you read through this annual report you learn more about what an incredible resource our community has.

As always, the Fairview Park Fire Department thanks you for all of the support that you continue to show our members each year!

**The mission of the Fairview Park Fire Department is to provide excellence in service in the fields of emergency medical care, rescue, fire prevention and suppression, and public safety education. Such service is achieved through a combination of innovation, training, teamwork, and a commitment to the safety of the citizens of Fairview Park.**

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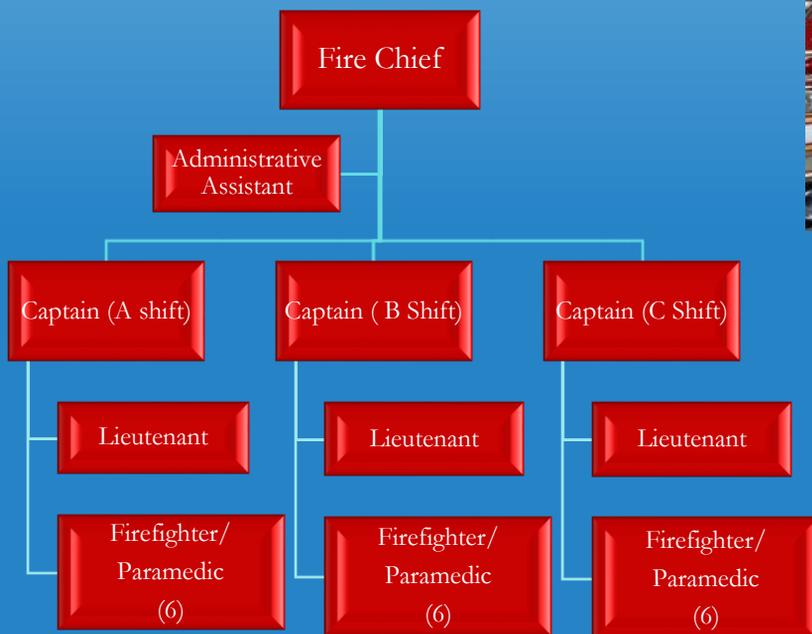
# Daily Operations...

No two shifts are ever the same at the Fairview Park Fire Department. However, one thing is certain, the firefighters living and working at the station will be interacting with the community and responding to their needs every day. Whether it is an EMS call, a fire call, a station tour, reading to a classroom of children, or just answering a question on the phone, our members are happy to provide services to those who need it and they take pride in providing it professionally and respectfully.

It's important for the community to understand how and why we operate the way we do. The sections presented below shed light on everything that goes into making our department one that is constantly striving for excellence in service.

## STAFFING:

The Fairview Park Fire Department has a total of 26 members including the Chief and his administrative assistant. Staffing is further divided into three platoons, each of which works a full 24 hour shift at a time. Each platoon is comprised of 8 members and is structured as shown in the organizational chart below. This type of structure allows for a minimum of 6 members to be on duty at the station at any given time.



FFR. Mike Kocon is sworn in.

## REGIONAL RESPONSES:

Every now and then the station gets a call inquiring as to why there were so many fire trucks at the scene of a structure fire; a legitimate question that deserves some explaining. The Fairview Park Fire Department is part of a bigger region referred to as the Westshore. As such, we have standing aid agreements with our neighboring communities to help each other if needed when responding to an emergency.

NFPA standard states that there must be a minimum of 15-17 firefighters on scene to fight a structure fire safely. With only a fraction of those firefighters on duty at our station on any given day, we rely on our neighbors to assist us when such a situation arises and they rely on us in the same way.

This cooperative relationship is accomplished through WestCom, our regional dispatch center. If help is needed, WestCom will find it and dispatch the proper EMS or Fire apparatus to the emergency event without hesitation. When Westcom takes these actions at a working structure fire it is referred to as a 1<sup>st</sup> alarm assignment.

Typically our department responds to an EMS call with 3 members and to a structure fire with 6 members, 4 on an Engine and 2 on a Truck. If a first alarm assignment is dispatched an additional fire engine, hook and ladder truck, and medic unit will be dispatched to the fire. If you consider that we already have 2 vehicles responding from Fairview Park, the number of “fire trucks” on scene starts to add up quickly.

A first alarm fire would result in two engines, two ladder trucks, one medic unit, and at least one Chief's car being on scene. Second and third alarms would require even more vehicles. The most beneficial result of this type of dispatching is that we immediately receive the 15-17 firefighters that are needed to establish a command system, attack the fire, protect exposed homes, search for occupants, ventilate smoke, connect to the hydrant, and treat any medical needs that may arise for both the residents and the firefighters.



## OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES:

One of the things that the fire department needs to explain better to the community is how many more services we now provide when compared to the fire department of 30 or 40 years ago. In 2015 so much more is asked of a fire department that it is almost a misnomer to call it that. A better and more appropriate name would be an Emergency Services Department.

Throughout our region we have organized teams that help provide the services that our communities need. In doing so we have gained the ability to provide the city of Fairview Park with services that include Incident Management Teams, Hazardous Material Response, Heavy Rescue, Fire Investigations, Water Rescue, Trench Rescue, Critical Incident Debriefing Teams, Rope Rescue, Dive Rescue, and Ice Rescue. All of this is the result of the hard work of many individuals and the dedication to teamwork with so many of our neighbors.

Not only do we have more response capabilities when compared to years ago, but we also do so much more when it comes to training, community outreach, fire prevention, child safety, government relations, continuing education, and community services. As you continue through this annual report, we hope that you get an idea of just how much has been going on behind the scenes.



## FIRE PREVENTION and EDUCATION:

In 2015 our department completed 565 safety inspections throughout the city. The inspections take place throughout the year and are completed by each shift and by the Chief. The intent is to educate business owners on fire safety and to point out code violations that may need correction. Not only does this allow for the correction of violations, it also presents an opportunity for all members to introduce themselves to our community and business owners. Along with the site visits, close to 100 fire protection systems were inspected by the department for proper operation.



Fire Prevention Week was in early October and was a great opportunity for all of our members to spread the message of fire prevention. The theme for this past year was “Hear the BEEP where you SLEEP!” Our firefighters spread the word through the city by speaking at schools and giving tours of the station. A total of 22 fire drills were held at the various schools all over the city and 20 fire safety talks were presented.



Although Fire Prevention Week is set aside to specifically talk about fire safety, our department stayed committed throughout the entire year. They were able to spread the message of fire safety in ways that included, messages in the Recreation Department’s program guide, block parties, guest reading, safety town, city newsletters, and the many impromptu tours that occur at the fire house.

An additional service that many took advantage of was the car seat inspection and installation program. The program, run through Fairview Hospital’s Child Life Department, installs and inspects car seats once a month throughout the year using scheduled appointments. In 2015 certified technicians checked and installed close to 200 car seats for members of our community!



## BEYOND the EMERGENCIES:

Participating on committees and at various events are not what people typically think about when referring to their local Fire Department, but the members of our department had their share of just that in 2015.

In March, several of our members were activated as part of the Westshore Hazardous Materials response team. The team was requested to stand by during President Obama's visit to Cleveland. Directed by the U.S. Secret Service, the team was staged at the Cleveland Hopkins Airport for rapid response in the case of an emergency event.

Paramedics from our department also participated as members in Stoke Accreditation as well as Chest Pain Accreditation committees for the Cleveland Clinic's Fairview Hospital. Our members were designated as EMS representatives and met with the accreditation evaluators in order to provide insight as to the protocol that is followed when encountering these types of emergencies.

The Fire Department continued to be a member of the Fairview Hospital Community Advisory Board and also had members participate in the Fairview Fire/Fairview Hospital EMS committee. The purpose of the committee is simple; to exchange information and encourage collaboration so that both entities can continue to provide the best service possible to the community.

In the fall, the Chief was featured in *Community Fire Protection News*. The publication is an online newsletter for fire chiefs and insurers that provides concise and topical fire protection information, relevant community mitigation and insurance news, and more. Its circulation reaches over 25,000 fire service and insurance professionals. In the newsletter he discussed the new risks that firefighters are facing, the financial challenges many fire departments confront, and the fact that fire severity is up even though fire frequency is down nationwide.

Finally, in a follow up to last year, Firefighter Karl Bort continues to stand out as an amazing volunteer. Karl was selected by the IAFF to be a counselor at the International Burn Camp. The camp, held near Washington D.C. during the summer, was given for 45 burn survivors from all around the country. We are truly fortunate and honored to have such an amazing person on our department!



Although it wasn't a White Christmas, Santa still took his annual tour through the city streets on Christmas Eve, throwing candy out to children eagerly awaiting his arrival. "Santa Patrol" has been a city tradition in Fairview Park for over 45 years. A special thanks to the Fairview Park Youth Association who was a tremendous help with volunteers and the Santa Tracker!! Thank You!



### **CERT:**

As Staff Advisor to the Westshore Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Chief Raffin would like to extend a warm thanks to Tricia Granfors. Tricia retired in late December after many years as Westshore CERT program coordinator. Thank you ,Tricia!!

The focus of the Westshore CERT is public education, training, and volunteer opportunities to engage all citizens in making their communities safer, stronger , and better prepared for emergencies. More information can always be found at its website: [westshorecert.org](http://westshorecert.org)



## TRAINING:

Training is the foundation of our department and is at the core of the services that we provide. Accordingly, we stayed quite busy throughout the year making sure that all members kept their knowledge, skills, and abilities as sharp and current as possible.

Fire training was rigorous, frequent, and included everything from on duty discussions of strategies and tactics to regional efforts organized by our department. Over this past year we had the fortunate opportunity provided through a partnership with the State Fire Academy to bring fire behavior training to the Westshore Region. Departments from Rocky River, Westlake, Lakewood, and Cleveland Airport all participated.

Held in the parking lot of Bohlken Park, the training provided an opportunity for members to attack a structure fire in a controlled environment in order to sharpen their skills. As a part of the “feel the heat” program promoted by the State fire Academy, we invited City Council and the Mayor to take part. Mayor Patton and Councilman Russo took us up on our offer and experienced exactly what it is like to battle a house fire from inside the structure!



Another successful partnership with the State Fire Academy brought us “Search Techniques”, a search and rescue simulator which we were able to again share with other Fire Departments through the region.

Since EMS is a tremendous part of what we do, it is another skill that we make sure every member is well versed in. Each month all 25 of our Paramedics receive training from Fairview Hospital.

Through our relationships with Fairview Hospital and our medical Director, Dr. Matt Lashutka, we are provided with monthly EMS trainings that includes everything from basic EMS skills to emergency life saving procedures.

In addition to the monthly trainings provided throughout the year, all of our members received certification in Pediatric Advanced Life Support and all were given the opportunity to attend the Northern Ohio Trauma System (NOTS) symposium in November held at the Convention Center.



The paramedics we have are outstanding at what they do and show their dedication to our community through their commitment to EMS training.

Additionally, two of our Fire Officers, Lt. Tim Draves and Lt. Mike Fink completed Fire Officer I training at Cuyahoga Community College. Lt. Fink also attended the National Fire Academy completing a course on leadership. These courses further prove the commitment of members to stay true to the mission statement of our department.

All together each member of our department logs hundreds of hours in training each year!

## FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES:

The department has several emergency response apparatus available should an emergency arise. They have come along way since the first motorized vehicle was purchased in 1924 (right).



- Engine #35- 2008 KME with a 750 gallon tank and a 1,500 gallon per minute pump
- Engine #34- 1993 KME with a 750 gallon tank and a 1,500 gallon per minute pump (*reserve apparatus*)
- Truck #31- 1995 KME a 102' Ariel Platform with a 350 gallon tank and a 1,500 gallon per minute pump
- Medic #31- 2013 ambulance with advance life support capabilities
- Medic #33- 1999 ambulance with advanced life support capabilities
- Car #39- 2013 Ford F-250 pickup truck utility vehicle
- Car #30- 2014 GMC Terrain, Chief's response vehicle



Apparatus are maintained through daily inspections and an established preventative maintenance program. Our maintenance program provides for the annual testing of all apparatus that may require it. Additionally, all vehicles are reviewed annually for any repairs that may be needed. This permits our department to have reliable vehicles should an emergency arise.

## WESTCOM:

The mission of the Westshore Central Dispatch Center (Westcom) is to provide professional and efficient emergency communications to the citizens, first responders, and visitors of the Westshore Region. This is accomplished through utilizing technology, ongoing training, dedicated employees, and continued growth to fulfill the needs of our community and all who pass through it.

Located within St. John Medical Center, Westshore Central Dispatch (Westcom) provides a regionalized fire and EMS dispatch center for the communities of Fairview Park, Rocky River, North Ridgeville, Westlake, and Bay Village. This collaborative approach has increased the level of service to citizens while reducing response times. Opened in March of 2006, Westcom has become a fixture in the Westshore region.

Westcom currently operates with nine full-time dispatchers, four part-time dispatchers and one full-time supervisor. All Westcom Dispatchers receive training in Emergency Medical Dispatch, Public Safety Telecommunication, Fire Service Communication, and American Heart CPR / AED. Dedicated to always providing the best service available, 2015 included the implementation of a new 911 phone system and an upgrade to the emergency radio systems.

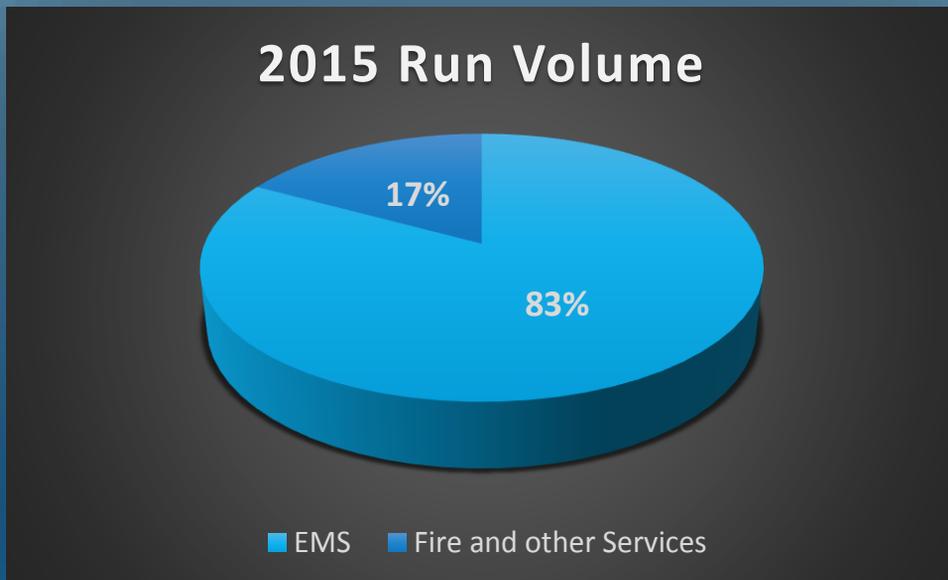
In 2015 Westcom dispatched the Fairview Park Fire Department to 2,306 fire and EMS calls. This reflected a 12% increase in call volume from 2014 for the department. The total of fire and EMS calls dispatched by Westcom for all departments in the Westshore region in 2015 was over 15,000!



## RUN NUMBERS:

The Fairview Park Fire Department had its busiest year ever responding to **2,306** calls for service throughout the city. As in the past, the majority of runs were medical related requiring a medic unit response to the incident.

Fairview Park also experienced 5 significant structure fires in the city resulting in property loss only. There was no loss of life or injury resulting from a structure fire in 2015. The department also responded to several working structure fires throughout the Westshore region including fires in Rocky River, Bay Village, Lakewood, North Olmsted, and Westlake. In fact, mutual aid response for fire and medical was requested by other cities 164 times throughout the year. In the same regard, our fire department requested aid 98 times throughout the year. The Westshore is a busy region with strong partnerships that have been forged with surrounding departments. Because of this we are always able provide outstanding emergency service to our community regardless of other calls that we may be responding to at the same time. In all types of events and all types of emergencies, the Fairview Park Fire Department is here for you.



EMS	1,911
Fire and other Services	<u>395</u>
Total calls for Service	2,306