

# ***Fairview Park Fire Department 2014 Annual Report***



CITY OF

**FAIRVIEW PARK**

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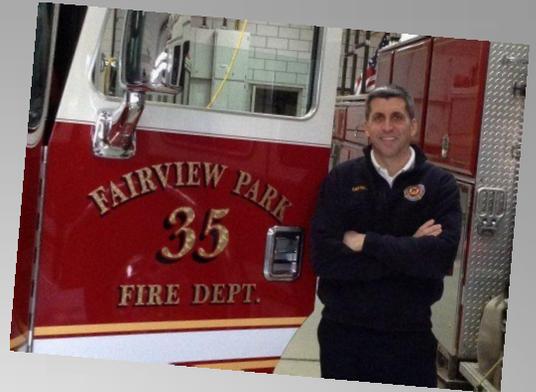
*A Great Place to Grow*



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



The Fairview Park Fire Department experienced a very positive and productive 2014 that was full of change and excitement. In May the department witnessed the promotion of veteran firefighter Tim Draves to the rank of Lieutenant, Lieutenant Chris Kavulic was promoted to Captain, and Captain Anthony Raffin was promoted to Fire Chief making him the 10<sup>th</sup> Chief in the history of the department. A new face also came aboard in May with the hiring of Firefighter/Paramedic Peter Bartkiewicz. Lastly, we said good bye to Chief Julian (Bud) Williams as he retired after 31 years of service with the department.

Together our members worked tirelessly to ensure that we stayed true to our mission of providing service excellence to our community. Our ability to accomplish that mission was a direct result of our teamwork, communication, and collaboration with others as well as a constant awareness that the community's needs are always our top priority.

We recognize that those needs will always act as a road map which dictates the direction of our department and the services we provide. As a result our department aggressively pursued collaborative efforts throughout the year with neighboring fire departments and hospitals so that members of our community could benefit from the most efficient and effective use of resources that were available. One example of those resources includes WestCom dispatch. WestCom is the central dispatch center for the WestShore region.

As you read through this annual report I hope that it provides you with a better understanding of exactly what goes on behind the bay doors of your Fairview Park Fire Department. I also hope that it adequately conveys to you how dedicated we are to our mission. Thank 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.**

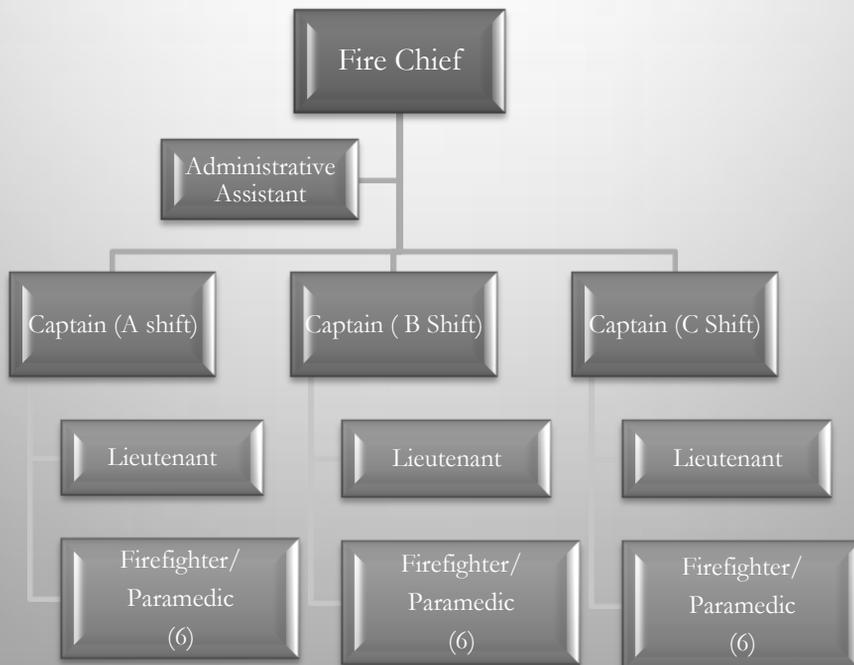
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# Daily Operations

Responding with lights and sirens to an emergency call in a fire truck or ambulance is only one of the daily activities that take place at the Fairview Park Fire Department. Without a doubt, that response is a direct result of the combined teamwork and dedication of all those involved in the emergency response and those behind the scenes as well. It encompasses hours of training and continuous planning on the part of everyone. From ensuring that all of the fire hydrants in the city are operational to search and rescue training in blacked out surroundings, all daily operations are geared toward keeping our community safe. 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 in the organizational chart below. This type of structure combined with the 24/7 on-call schedule of the Fire Chief allows for the proper staffing of our department at all times of the day.





## HYDRANT/HOSE TESTING:

In the spring department members inspected and tested all 845 street hydrants in the city. Each hydrant was opened, closed, and checked for proper draining. The task is a lengthy process usually taking an entire month to complete but is critical to the safety and planning abilities of the department. Without assurance that an adequate water supply is available throughout the city, no further strategic or tactical planning can take place.

Testing the fire hoses owned by the department was another task that took place this past fall. As with hydrant testing, hose testing is critical to departmental operations and the safety of our members and community.

## FIRE PREVENTION and EDUCATION:

Fire prevention is one of the most important functions that our department is involved in throughout the year. Every year all commercial buildings and all multi family dwellings registered with the city are inspected to ensure their compliance with the most recent International Fire Code (IFC). This past year the Fire Prevention Bureau inspected 448 buildings with no major violations noted. The inspections take place throughout the year but are concentrated in the summer months. The inspections serve several purposes. Not only do they allow for the correction of violations, they also present an opportunity for all members to introduce themselves to our business owners and to familiarize themselves with the layout of specific businesses.

Additionally, a total of 100 fire suppression systems were inspected throughout the year to ensure IFC compliance and to ensure that they had been properly tested by an accredited agency. All of this helps to ensure your safety as you move throughout your community.

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 "Working smoke alarms save lives!". With the generous help of Energizer Batteries we were able to distribute over 1,500 smoke alarm batteries to schools throughout the community, helping to enforce the message of Fire Prevention Week. Firefighters from all three of our shifts made their way to the grade schools and preschools in the city to speak on fire safety. A total of 19 fire drills and 15 safety talks were completed.



## PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Interacting with the public is another point that cannot be understated. This past year was witness to Fairview Park Fire's first ever open house! Approximately 450 people attended the open house event on a rainy Saturday in August. It was exciting and informative for all involved. People were given the chance to use a fire hose, try on firefighting gear, and climb aboard our newest fire engine. From displays of the department's history to free fire extinguishers and information on fire safety, all had an amazing time learning about the department! Thank you again to all our sponsors that made the event possible!



Throughout the year multiple tours were given at the fire station, each of which is an outstanding opportunity to show and explain exactly what happens at the firehouse. From organized school groups to families stopping in last minute, we are always happy to show people what we do here!

Summerfest presented yet another opportunity for our members to go out and thank you all again for your support. Last year our members and their families walked the parade route tossing out candy as they followed behind the fire engine and the squad. Hope to see you all again along the route next year!

Santa also 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 for over 45 years. Every Christmas Eve we are happy to escort him around on our fire truck! This past year volunteer partners started a new “Santa Tracker” to help you locate exactly where Santa was in the city. We hope to have that same feature available next year through a link on the city’s website.



One final outstanding example of our firefighters interacting and contributing to the community is Firefighter Karl Bort’s work with Camp Cheerful. Karl was selected and recognized by Firefighter’s Credit Union as “Sparkworthy” for their 2015 calendar publication. This honor was bestowed upon him for all his volunteer work that he has done with Camp Cheerful supporting and working with children who are burn victims. In 2014 Karl raised over \$1,500 for camp participants!



**CERT:**

Chief Raffin replaced retired Chief Williams as Staff Advisor to the Westshore Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The goal of the WSCERT is to be the local and regional component of the larger Cuyahoga County CERT association. Their focus is public education, training, and volunteer opportunities to engage all citizens in making their communities safer, stronger, and better prepared for emergencies.

CERT assisted our fire department several times in 2014 with staffing tasks such as crowd control and first aid stations. The city's Food Truck Festival, Summerfest, Public Safety Softball Tournament, and Winterfest all saw members of CERT helping out in Fairview Park. Our department thanks them for all of their hard work! If you are interested in becoming a member of CERT please visit their website: [www.westshorecert.org](http://www.westshorecert.org)



## INSURANCE SERVICE OFFICE RATING

We are very proud to announce the results of our most recent Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey conducted by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). ISO collects information on municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. ISO then analyzes the data and assigns a PPC from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection while Class 10 indicates a community's fire suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. ISO's PPC Program is recognized as an objective, countrywide standard evaluation of a community's fire protection services.

The Fairview Park Fire Department demonstrated outstanding improvement, moving from a Class 4 to a **Class 2!** There is no question that our department's most recent rating is directly related to each member's commitment and personal investment in our department. Due to their hard work in fire prevention, public education, and firefighter training programs, the Fairview Park Fire Department is now one of the highest graded departments nationwide! Based on the statistics presented in the ISO survey report, the Fairview Park Fire Department's Class 2 classification is in the top 1.6% of close to 50,000 graded departments throughout the country!



## GRANTS:

We are very thankful that our department was the recipient of several grants in 2014 totaling \$32,500! Two of the grants, (State of Ohio Division of EMS and Wal-Mart) provided us with the reserves to make equipment purchases needed for emergency medical care and rescue operations. The third grant from Ohio BWC was ear-marked for motorized patient stretchers that assist paramedics in lifting patients. Two stretchers were purchased for our department!

# Department Response Vehicles

## FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES:

The department has several emergency response apparatus available should an emergency arise. They include the following.

Engine #35- 2008 KME with a 750 gallon tank and a 1,500 gpm pump

Engine #34- 1993 KME with a 750 gallon tank and a 1,500 gpm pump (reserve engine)

Truck #31- 1995 KME a 102' Ariel Platform with a 350 gallon tank and a 1,500 gpm 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

Car #30 was purchased in 2014 as a replacement for the then existing response vehicle which after 12 years and 120,000 miles was at the end of its useful service life.



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.

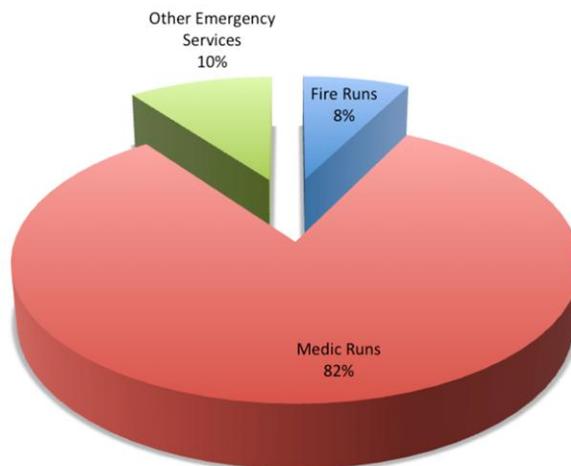
# Department Run Totals

## CALLS FOR SERVICE:

The Fairview Park Fire Department had its busiest year ever responding to **2,025** 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 3 working structure fires in the city resulting in property loss only. There was no loss of life or injury resulting from a structure fire in 2014. 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 145 times throughout the year. In the same regard our fire department requested aid 174 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.

Fire service runs	152
Medical service runs	1,668
<u>Other emergency services*</u>	<u>205</u>
TOTAL	2,025

**Types of Emergency Service Responses**



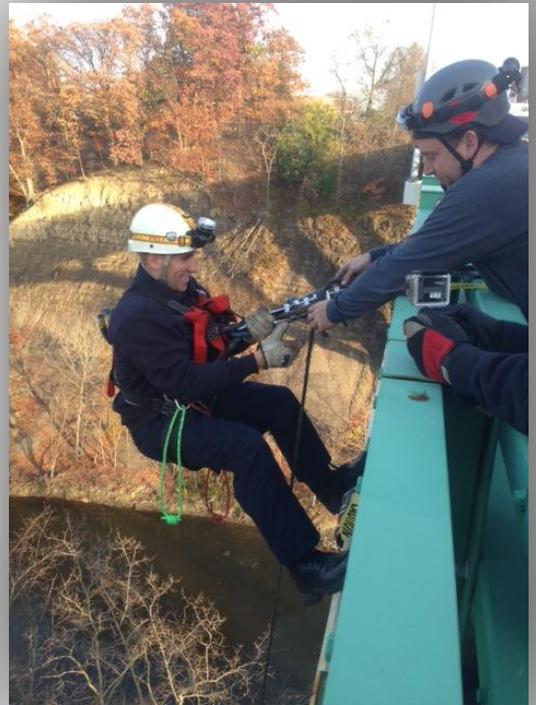
\*Calls listed as "other emergency services" include responses by our fire department for hazardous materials incidents, rope rescue, dive team operations, water rescue, lockouts, and any other general request.

# Department Training

The department trains everyday in some fashion. Whether it is a quick tabletop discussion on tactics or a rope rescue training from 100 feet above the valley floor, all of our members know that training is what makes the difference in our performance. Several trainings completed were done so in partnerships with neighboring fire departments. Last year our members racked up an impressive 2,800 hours of in house training. That amount does not include any training our members pursued independently. Training for emergency service response is a never-ending task that requires us to always be aware of the newest tactics and techniques. A sample of the trainings that were covered in 2014 are listed below.

Fire Inspections  
Sprinkler systems  
Rope Rescue  
Swift Water Rescue  
Fire Behavior  
Driver Training  
Building Construction  
Search Trailers

Public Education  
Preplanning  
Hydraulics  
Disaster Drill Training  
SCBA Testing  
Vehicle Extrication  
Haz Mat Awareness  
Blind Mask Drills



# Department Training

While a majority of training is done in house 2014 saw several of our individuals complete training programs through accredited training centers. The Chief had the opportunity to attend the Executive Fire Officer Symposium given at the National Fire Academy in Emmittsburg, Maryland completing a short course on Community Paramedicine. Two members of the department completed training at Cuyahoga Community College and became state certified as Fire Service Instructors. Another member attended the college and became certified as a State Fire Safety Inspector. Three more members enrolled in a course on fire investigation. This will allow them to become members of the Westshore Fire Investigation Unit.

Additionally two of our members received monthly training in hazardous materials as part of the Westshore Hazmat Team.

The Fairview Park Fire Department's ability to contribute resources to the Westshore region is critically important. With the collaborative efforts of sharing resources within the region, Fairview Park Fire Department is able to provide emergency services to the community that are second to none. The following is a list of exactly what our department members have to offer to the region in this collaborative effort.

- Fire Service Instructors (4)
- Emergency Medical Services Instructors (1)
- Fire Safety Inspectors (4)
- Hazardous Materials Team members (2)
- Westshore Fire Investigators Unit (3)
- Dive Team Members (1)
- Hazardous Materials Techs (5)



Additionally, all department members are certified Firefighters and Paramedics through the State of Ohio division of EMS. All members are also trained and certified to the operations level for rope rescue and hazardous materials operations and to the awareness level for swift water rescue.