

City of Vandalia Division of Fire



Annual Report 2016

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On behalf of the entire City of Vandalia Fire Division team, I am pleased to present you with the Fire Division's 2016 Annual Report. The information included will provide you with insight into the hard work and dedication that all of the members of the Division put into the organization day in and day out. It is only through a cooperative team effort that we are able to accomplish our "Mission".

I feel that the statistical information included in this report clearly highlights our capability to perform. The report details both the emergency and non-emergency activities of the Division in 2016. The contents truly highlight the amount of time that the Fire Division staff spends dedicating themselves to servicing the needs of our community.

We are proud of our work and what we have accomplished in 2016. We hope that you can identify that pride through this report. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and for the support provided to the Division by the community, the City Manager, the Mayor, and members of Council. We look forward to your continued support in the years to come.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Chad E. Follick, Fire Chief



Our Mission - "Our mission is to provide superior fire, emergency medical, educational and prevention services to the citizens we serve. By consistently delivering these services in a courteous, safe and professional manner we hope to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Vandalia."

Our Vision - "Our vision is to be a progressive Fire/EMS service that provides the highest quality service at the lowest possible cost to our customer."

Our Customer Service Philosophy - The "customer" is formally defined as "one who buys goods or services", and informally defined as "any person with whom one has dealings." Our organization traditionally adopts an informal approach and our organizational vocabulary is "keeping it simple" and informal. The Division of Fire no longer limits its organizational definition of the term "customer" to its formal interpretation. We have expanded our definition to include any person who receives our services, and anyone with whom our members have dealings. To those customers we promise the following level of service.



1. **Professional Excellence** - the Division of Fire believes that the pursuit of excellence and demonstration of high professional standards are critical to our service delivery model. To ensure that we are delivering the best possible service to our customer, the Division of Fire supports continuous training and encourages professional development.



2. **Health and Safety** - the Division of Fire believes that our health and safety is essential to fulfilling the Division of Fire's mission. We are committed to creating a health and safety culture within our organization. The Division of Fire is committed to seeking out programming, and providing our employees with education and training that enhances our health and safety culture by ensuring the well-being of our employees and operational readiness.
3. **Integrity** - the Division of Fire understands that the trust placed in us by our customers and colleagues is integral to the performance of our duties. The Division of Fire is committed to honest and ethical behavior, and will hold ourselves accountable at all levels.
4. **Team Work and Leadership** - the Division of Fire knows that a well-functioning team is more effective than individuals working separately and that in many cases our lives depend on effective team work and leadership. The Division of Fire believes that individuals have the capacity to lead, and the Division of Fire values and emphasizes the importance of empowerment and leadership at all levels of the organization.

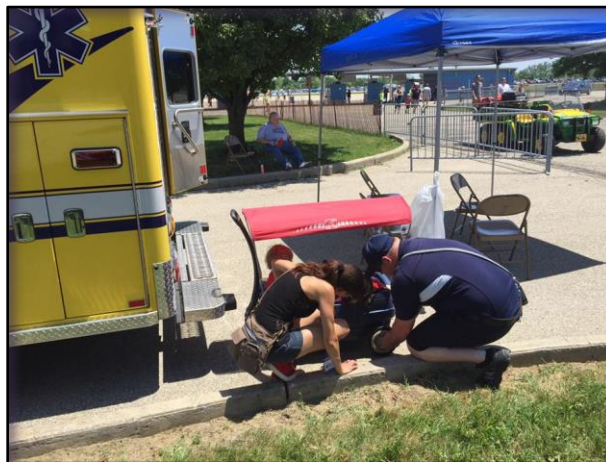


5. ***Community Service and Involvement*** - the Division of Fire believes we have a duty to be involved in our community. Our responsibility is to protect life, property, and the environment. The Division of Fire is committed to fulfilling our responsibility and to deepening our involvement in the communities we serve.



Third platoon firefighters posing with staff from Bunkers Grille sporting Vandalia Fire Breast Cancer Awareness Tee Shirts, together Vandalia Firefighters and Bunkers Staff raised nearly \$1500 for Cancer research and awareness.

6. ***Innovation*** - the Division of Fire recognizes and understands that our community is evolving, and in doing so there is change, and that this change impacts our operations. The Division of Fire is committed to using innovation and progressive thinking to address change effectively and efficiently. Our efforts to meet the challenges of our evolving community will be focused on benefiting the customer first.



1. Implementation of a Health and Safety Officer - In accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Guidelines (1581) and nationally recognized best industry practices the Division of Fire has created a Health, Safety, and Support Command Officer's Position within the Division of Fire's Command Structure. Captain Jordan Samson is currently assigned to this responsibility. The addition of a third career Captain in 2016 allowed us to divide up leadership roles and for the foreseeable future Captain Samson will serve as the Division of Fire Health and Safety Officer.
2. Implementation of the Division of Fire Occupational Cancer Awareness and Prevention Action Plan - Working from the recommendations of a consultant in 2015, the Health & Safety Officer will take steps to better educate our firefighters making them more aware of the risk of occupational cancer exposures while implementing action steps (including policy changes) that are focused on reducing the risk of occupational exposures.
 - a. Implementation of stricter policies for how a firefighters protective clothing and uniform are to be handled following an exposure to smoke and potentially carcinogens in that smoke.
 - b. Implementation of protective clothing decontamination (decon) buckets. Buckets carried on the fire apparatus that can be used to "grossly" decontaminate a firefighter protective clothing and skin following an exposure.



Firefighters in the photos above using a newly launched PPE DECON bucket to grossly decontaminate their protective clothing and larger body wipes to decontaminate their exposed skin following a fire in downtown Tipp City. Both procedures rolled out to the crews in early 2016 as part of our Cancer Awareness and Risk Reduction Strategy.

3. Develop and Implement "Special Customer's Program"- Using customers from our residential lock box program the Division of Fire has implemented a "VIP" program that allows our Fire Prevention Bureau to expand our customer service and outreach services to customers that may need additional assistance. Services that are currently being extended to our VIP customers include:
- ☒ Placement of an emergency services residential lock box
 - ☒ Home Safety Inspection
 - ☒ Pre-incident planning for ALL VIP customers
 - ☒ Proper Smoke/CO detector placement, installation and checks performed on a six month schedule.
 - ☒ Access to the Fire Prevention Intern for questions or coordination of other City, County, State or Private support services.
 - ☒ Operation Safety Net Telephone notification system (upon request)
 - ☒ Assistance with registering customer and/or their family in HyperReach mass notification system. So they can receive emergency messages from the City.
4. Implementation of After the Fire Program - the Division of Fire has partnered with a local church to provide "go bags" for fire victims. Volunteers from the Division of Fire Crisis Response Team will bring the bags directly to fire victims upon request and then remain on scene to assist the Division of Fire with coordinating disaster recovery services with the customer(s) affected.



FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2016**Code Enforcement Officer Kimberly Hannahan**

Code Enforcement Officer Kimberly Hannahan is tasked with managing the Division of Fire Community Risk Reduction Mission. Kim works tirelessly day in and day out to ensure that our customers have a safe and stable community to live, work and play in. Kim has proven that she is fully committed and dedicated to delivering our Mission providing thousands of hours of public outreach/education and fire code enforcement. Kim's focus is always on keeping both our customers and our firefighters safe.

A co-worker wrote; "Kim exhibits a courteous, conscientious, and professional manner in her everyday dealings with the public. Kim works tirelessly to keep her department going always looking to develop and improve herself and her employees. She is often in early and staying late to ensure nothing gets left behind".

In addition to being recognized as the Division of Fire's 2016 Firefighter of the Year, Kimberly is celebrating 35 years of service with the Division of Fire in 2016.

EMS PERSON OF THE YEAR 2016**Firefighter/Paramedic Corey Gebhart**

Firefighter/Paramedic Corey Gebhart has been with the Division of Fire for five years; Corey is assigned to Fire Station 1 on First Platoon. Corey was nominated and awarded the Division of Fire's Paramedic of the Year for all of his outstanding customer care in 2016. Corey received three Letters of Commendation for his handling of very serious medical emergencies that he was the primary care giver on in 2016. In each case, the outcome was positive for the customer that Corey was providing service to. Corey was also nominated for the award for the extra time and effort he has taken on in 2016 as a peer mentor to our new employees. Corey has performed at the highest levels in 2016 all while battling and surviving cancer for a second time.

The Division of Fire's "Meritorious Service Medal"

1. Fire Prevention Intern Garrett Buttelwerth- Garrett Buttelwerth a high school senior in Miami Valley CTC's Firefighting program and a four-year veteran of the Division of Fire's Fire Explorer's Post received a Meritorious Service Medal for working so well with our VIP customers and delivering customer service that is consistent and on some occasions went "above and beyond" the expectations.
2. Paramedic Michael Newkirk and EMT Jim Anderson - responded to a "customer service call", where they went "above and beyond" to assist a customer with an overflowing toilet. The crew repaired the problem, plunged the toilet, cleaned up the water, replenished the toilet paper, placed the towels used into the washer for the customer, and then stuck around a few minutes longer to calm and reassure the customer that the issue was resolved.

The Division of Fire's "Unit (Crew) Citations"

1. On March 4, 2016, second platoon firefighters (Capt. Garver, Stevens, Boone, Fielder, Francis, and Stubblefield) responded to the report of a structure fire in the 500 block of Koch Ave. The crew's rapid actions and quick effort kept the fire from spreading to exposures in close proximity.
2. On July 11, 2016, second platoon firefighters (Capt. Garver, Stevens, Fielder, Stockler, and Craig) responded to the report of an auto accident with an entrapment on southbound I-75. Crews worked rapidly to provide advanced trauma life support and to extricate the victim. The victim survived his injuries and has gone on to make a full recovery, to which he credits EMS personnel.
3. On October 31, 2016, third platoon firefighters (Capt. Stitzel, King, Porter, Fellers, Webb, and Walker) responded to the report of an apartment fire in the 200 block of Tionda Drive South. Crews were able to quickly locate, confine, and extinguish a rapidly developing basement fire. The crews actions undoubtedly saved lives and prevented additional property loss/damage.

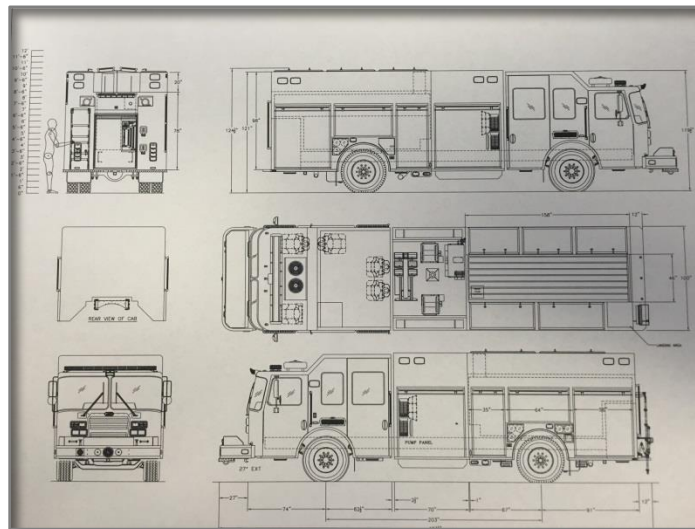
The Division of Fire's "Save Citations"

1. On July 10, 2016, first platoon EMS crews (Capt. Pinson, Copp, Corwin, Gebhart, Matlock, and Smith) responded to the report of a cardiac arrest in the Taylorsville Metro Park. Crews arrived to find a customer down on the trail with by-stander CPR in progress. While transporting the customer to the emergency department he developed a spontaneous pulse and began breathing on his own. Early and continuous CPR, rapid access to advanced life support, outstanding care and rapid transport to an interventional facility undoubtedly saved this customers life.
2. On August 13, 2016, while working a cardiac arrest on Continental Court, Paramedic Ryan Boone identified and removed an airway obstruction. Shortly following the customer regained a spontaneous pulse and began breathing on his own. This basic life support technique undoubtedly saved this customers life.

Letters of Commendation and Division of Fire Challenge Coins

1. First platoon fire/EMS personnel (Capt. Samson, Paramedic Corwin, EMT Matlock, and EMT Smith) were issued a letter of commendation and a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for the outstanding customer care/service provided to the friends and family of a cardiac arrest victim on July 16, 2016.
2. First platoon fire/EMS personnel (EMT David Stockler & Firefighter Teegarden) were issued a Letter of Commendation and a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for their rapid identification and treatment of a critical cardiac emergency on Pool Ave on July 3, 2016.
3. Paramedic Jackson and EMT Matlock were issued a Letter of Commendation and a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for stopping while on duty and in transit from a call to quarters, on August 27, 2016. The crew stopped to care for an American Flag that had fallen off of a local business store front and into the roadway during a rain/wind storm.
4. EMT Jason Lawler received a Letter of Commendation and a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for delivering outstanding customer care/service during a medical emergency on March 15, 2016 at Butler High School.
5. Captain Pinson, Paramedic Gebhart, and EMT Smith received a Letter of Commendation and a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for their response to a walk-in child choking at Fire Station 1 on September 16, 2016.

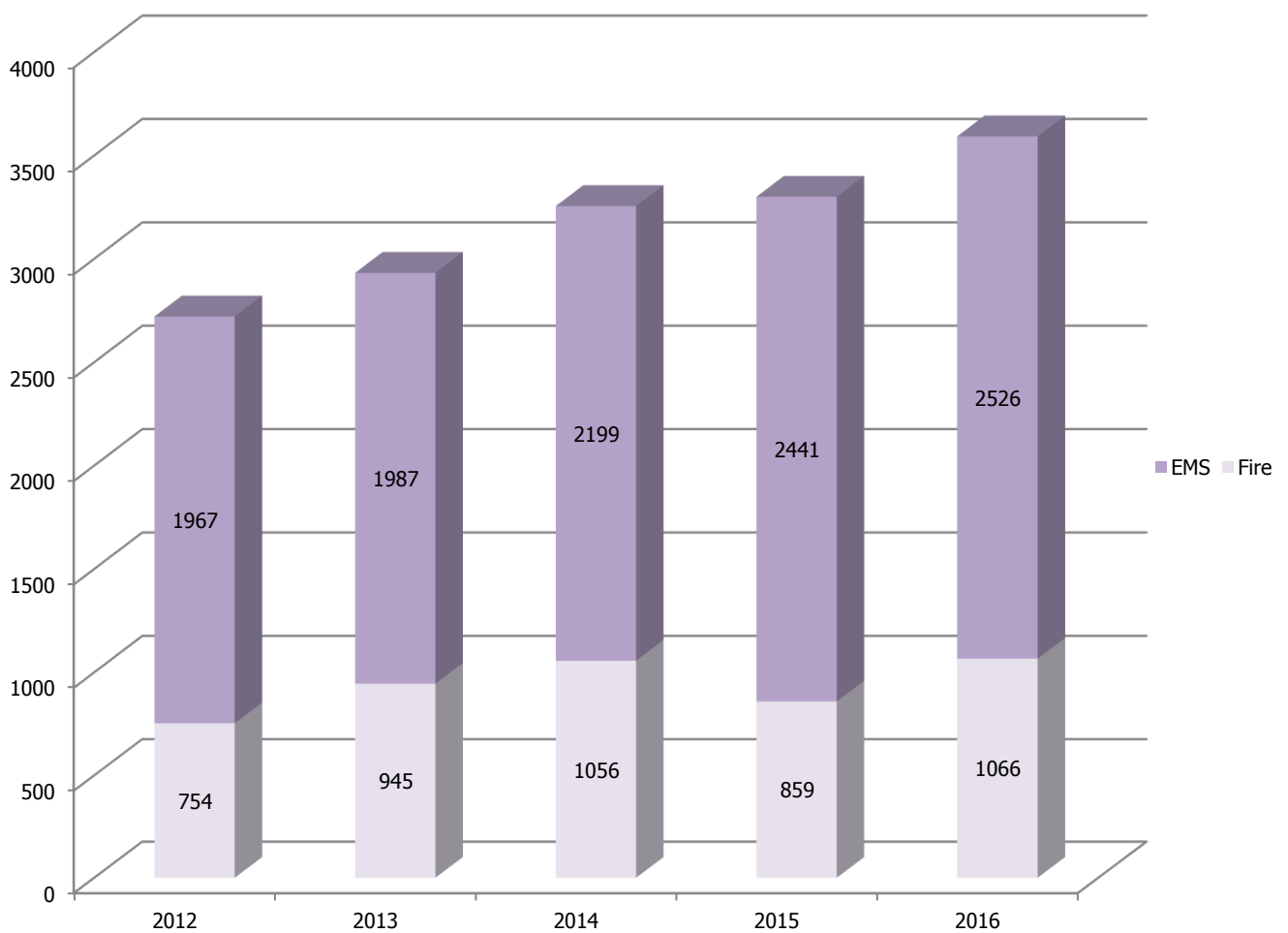
1. The Division of Fire purchased a 2016, KME Rescue Fire Engine at a total price of \$489,814.00. Construction on the engine began in early 2016 and the Division of Fire is expecting a mid-February 2017 delivery of the specialized engine. Unlike any other engine in the Vandalia fleet this engine was specifically designed by firefighters to perform as the Division of Fire designated rescue-engine. The engine was designed with plenty of storage space which will allow the Division of Fire to relocate all of its special rescue equipment to a single vehicle. The Division of Fire is a "full service" fire, medical, and rescue department, which means that firefighters need to be prepared and equipped to handle any emergency in its initial phases. Rescue Engine 2 will be stationed at Fire Station 2 on South Brown School Road prior to April 1, 2017.



2. The Division of Fire used capital dollars in 2016 to convert its 800 radio system over to the MARCS radio system. The Division of Fire has been a customer of Montgomery County's radio system for ten plus years and we have been pleased with the service so when the county made the change to MARCS the Division of Fire joined several other police, fire, and EMS providers in the area and switched to the new platform. The Division of Fire budgeted \$30,000 in 2016, and the project cost \$25,493.44.
3. The Division of Fire has implemented several regularly scheduled replacements projects into our Capital Improvement Plan (fire hose, rescue equipment, and firefighter protective clothing). In 2016 the Division of Fire purchased ten (10) sets of Firefighters protective clothing, which included new sets of boots and new firefighting helmets. The Division of Fire budgeted \$30,000 for this project in 2016

The Division of Fire continues to see steady increases in both fire and emergency medical calls for service. The Division of Fire answered a total of **3592** calls for service in 2016. This is an approximately an 8% increase in calls for service from 2015.

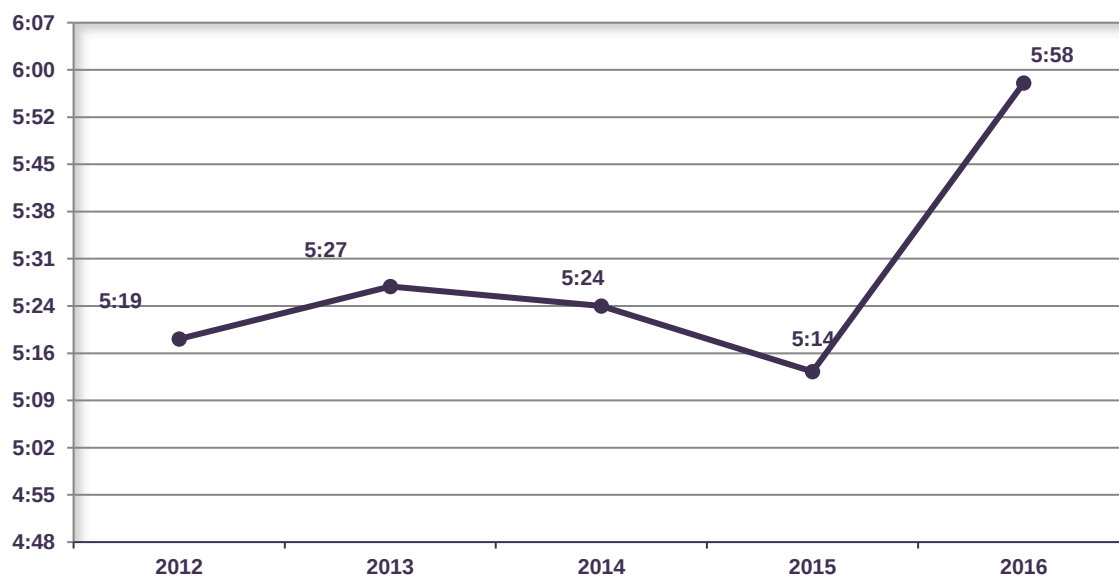
The chart below is a comparison of calls for service over the past five years, the darker purple represents EMS calls (2526) and the lighter purple represents fire responses (1066).



Response Times

The Division of Fire takes pride on being able to provide efficient and timely service to its customers. This statistic is one of the most closely monitored by the Division of Fire. The Division of Fire is committed to achieving an average target response time of five (5) minutes or less to any dispatched emergency. The response time recommendations of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1710 standard) are slightly higher than those established by the Division of Fire. When asked why, the answer is simple; we feel we can get there faster than the national average (standard).

The average monthly response time in 2016 was 5:58, which is almost a full minute above our target response time of five minutes (5:00). The table below shows a five year “snap shot” of the average annual response time.



Achieving this five-minute target response time is a goal of the Division of Fire; we are consistently evaluating monthly response times and “tweaking” our operations to improve those times.

Response By District

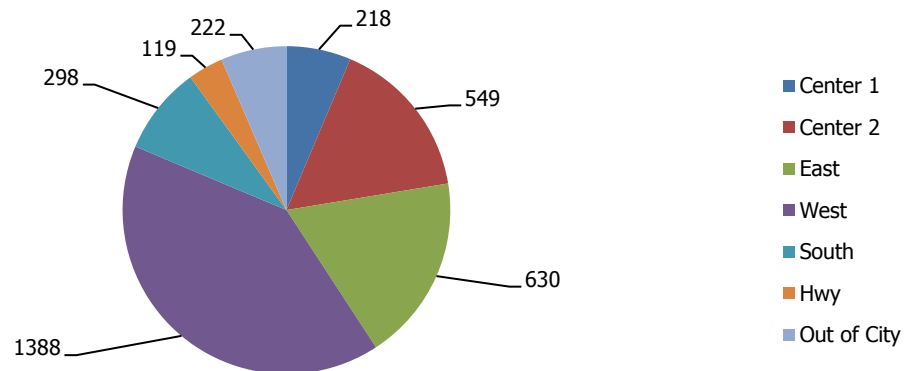
The Division is committed to providing the highest quality service in the fastest and most efficient manner possible. The Division of Fire's ideal staffing and deployment strategy puts Vandalia fire/EMS operating from three fire stations, two of which are jointly staffed with Butler Township Fire Department. Our joint deployment plan ensures that the closest most appropriate fire/EMS resource is sent to calls for service no matter the jurisdiction (Vandalia or Butler Township). This strategy is what is best for the customer and is evident in the reduction in the use of outside EMS mutual aid.

Photo - Vandalia Firefighters working to ensure that a fire on the exterior of a commercial building on the east side of the city is completely out.



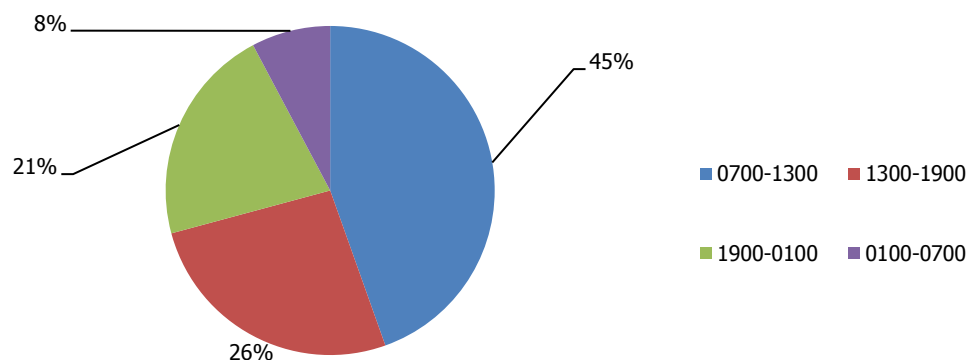
The Division feels that it has a very good handle on where the calls are occurring within the city, however, we continue to assess and "tweak" our deployment strategy. The Division of Fire is committed to responding to a customer's emergency quickly and effectively.

The table below represents the total number of calls for service that were received in each of the Division of Fire's seven (7) response zones in 2016.



Response times are definitively one of the primary measuring tools that a customer uses to rate the level of service he/she receives from the Division of Fire. The Division of Fire works very hard to meet our response time goals. But there are other statistics that are just as important to the Division and its vision.

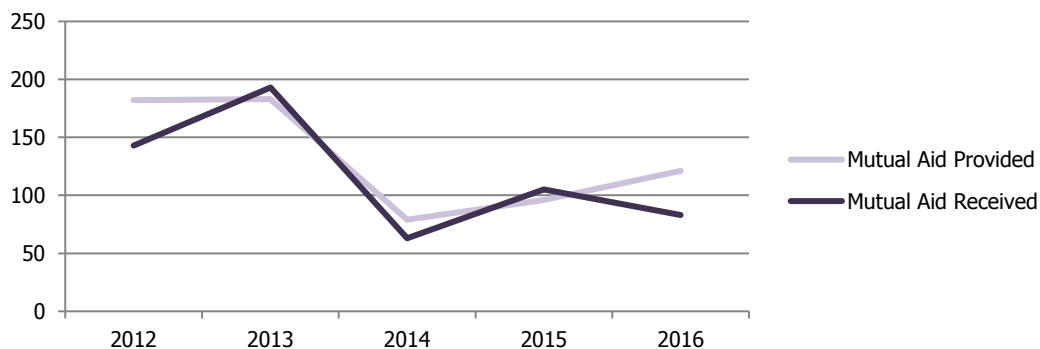
Another area we look at when doing operational assessments is the time of day that calls occur. The chart below represents the time frames that fire/EMS calls were received in 2016.



The table below represents an accounting of the total number of Mutual Aid calls that the Division of Fire responded to and/or requested in 2016. The Division of Fire maintains an average number of "Mutual Aid received" type responses. We believe that our staffing and deployment plan affords us the ability to keep City of Vandalia fire/EMS resources in the city and available to our Vandalia customers. The table below provides a summary listing of the organizations that we both provided and received mutual aid from in 2016.

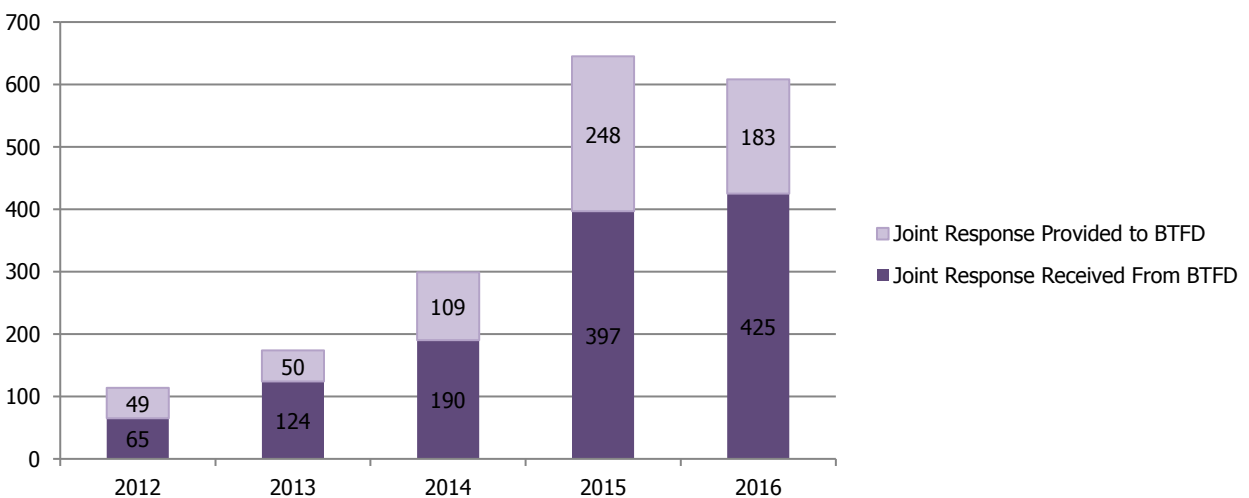
Agency	Mutual Aid Provided	Mutual Aid Received
Bethel Twp (Clark Co.) Fire/EMS	1	1
Bethel Twp (Miami Co.) Fire/EMS	0	3
Clayton Fire/EMS	2	4
Dayton Airport Fire	3	0
Dayton Fire Department	3	3
Englewood Fire/EMS	8	10
Huber Hts. Fire/EMS	35	31
Harrison Twp Fire/EMS	26	17
Tipp City Fire/EMS	40	14
Trotwood Fire/EMS	3	0
TOTALS	121	83

The Division of Fire realized a decrease in the amount of mutual aid that we received from other jurisdictions in 2016; however, we provided more mutual aid to area departments in 2016. The table below provides a five year "snap shot" of the mutual aid that the Division of Fire is providing and receiving.





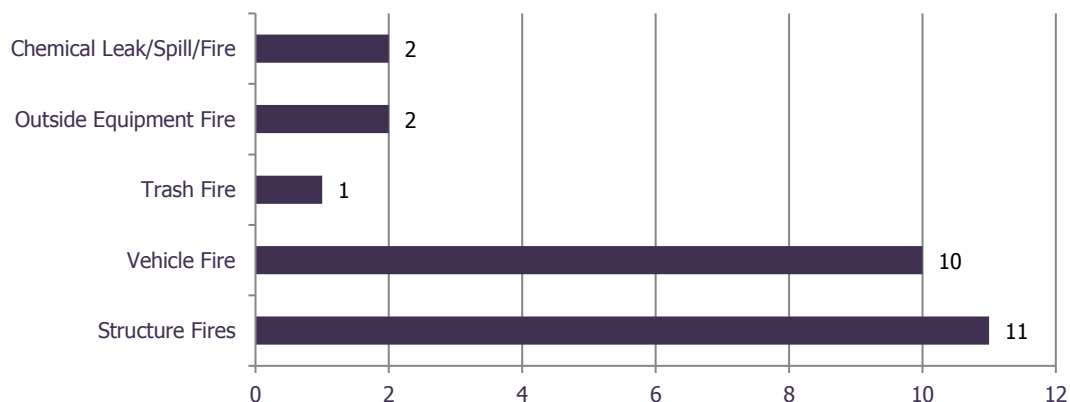
The goal of our joint deployment program is to provide customers in both the City and the Township with the best fire/EMS services available to them and to do so at the lowest possible cost to the tax payer. It is clear that both organizations feel that this vision is best achieved through our ongoing cooperative effort. The table below provides statistical data on the total number of fire/ems incidents where the Division of Fire provided a fire/ems response (lighter purple) and the total number of incidents where a "joint response" from Butler Fire was received by Division of Fire (dark purple).



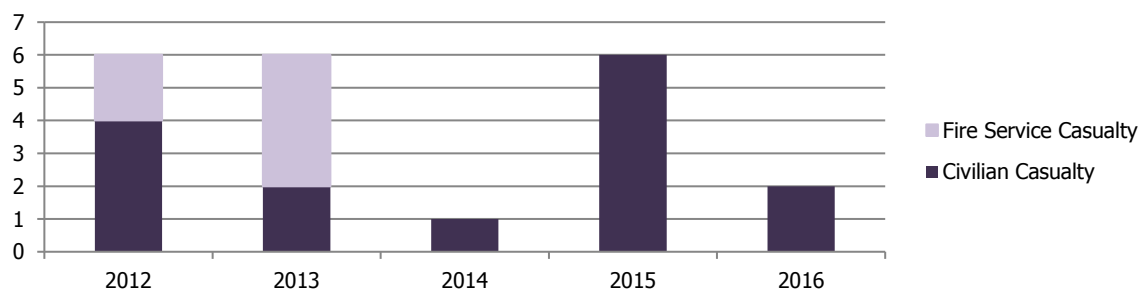
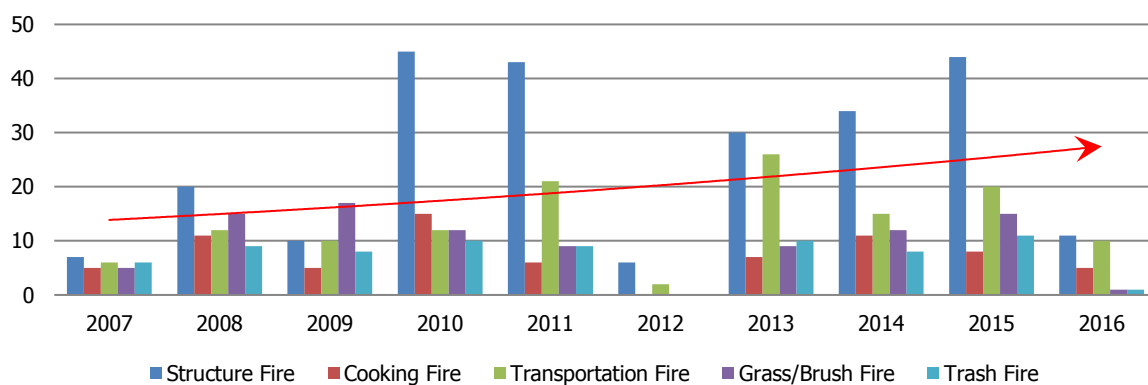
The Division of Fire answered **1066** fire related calls for service in 2016. Fire related calls accounted for approximately **30%** of our total call volume or approximately three (3) calls for service per shift.



The Division of Fire responded on **92** incidents that were reported as a “fire” in 2016, of these calls for service only **26** of these calls for service was an actual dollar loss fire. The table below provides a breakdown of actual “dollar loss fires” reported in 2016.



Despite an aggressive fire prevention strategy, the Division of Fire has been tracking a steady increase in the number of “dollar loss fires” especially structural fires in the last three years. It appears that in 2016 that trend has been broken as structural fires fell to **11** occurrences. The table below shows the Division of Fire’s dollar loss fire trending for the last ten years.

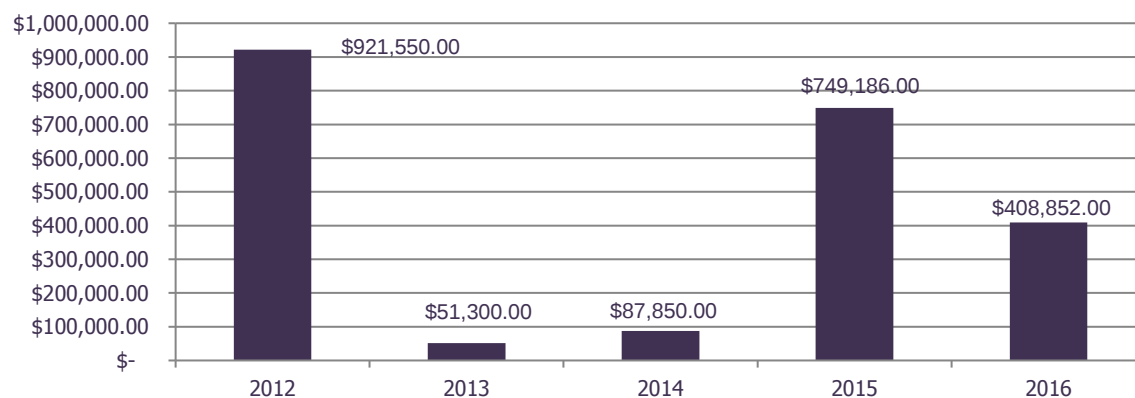


Most importantly the Division of Fire realized a significant reduction in the number of civilian fire casualties in 2016, as there were only two (2) reported for the entire year. For the third year in a row there were NO firefighters injured as a result of their actions on the scene of a fire in 2016, which is a safety achievement that we are very proud of.

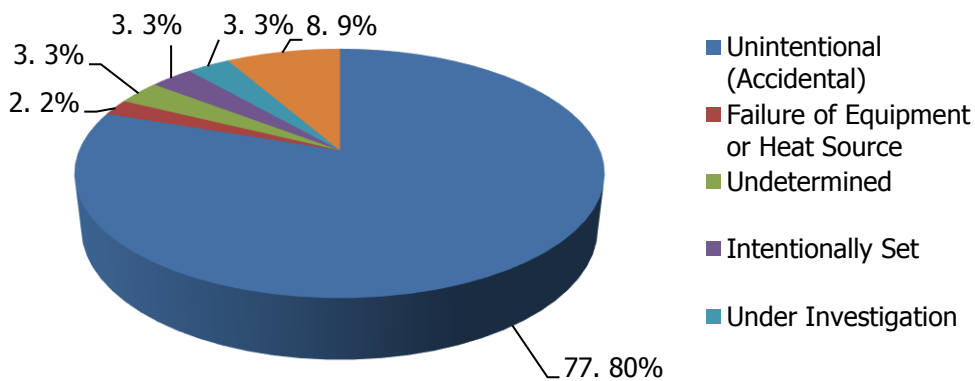
The Division of Fire defines an actual fire as a “dollar loss fire” when the fire causes a tangible property loss. Of these fires, **\$288,852.00** dollars of loss occurred in residential or commercial buildings, and the remaining **\$120,000** dollars of loss was related to auto mobile (transportation) fires in 2016.



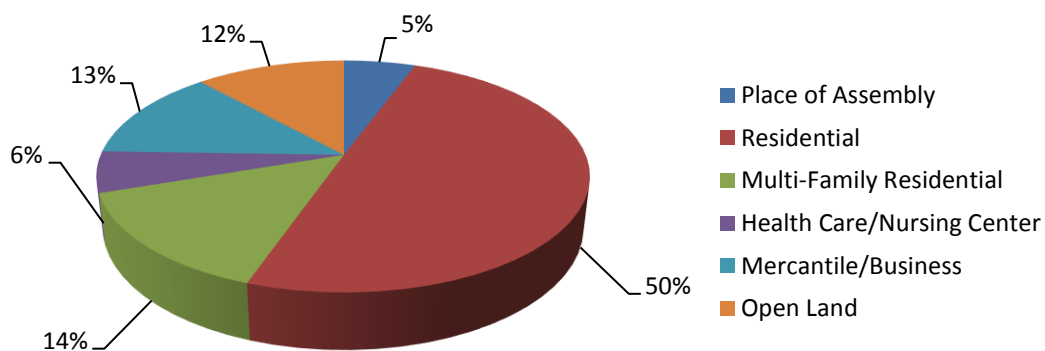
The table below provides a “snap shot” of the Division of Fire’s total dollar loss due to fire for the last five years.



An essential part of preventing fires and the injuries (or deaths) that result from these unfriendly fires the Division of Fire needs to understand what causes these fires. Every fire is investigated by the Division of Fire's Fire Prevention Bureau. In some cases, the Division of Fire will enlist the assistance of the Division of Police, and the State of Ohio's Fire Marshal's Office. The table below shows the designated "Cause of Ignition" for the dollar loss fires in 2016.



Just as critical as understanding the how a fire starts, is the understanding of the where, in what kind of occupancies are these fire incidents occurring? The table below highlights the statistical data that represents the type of occupancies that our fires are occurring in.

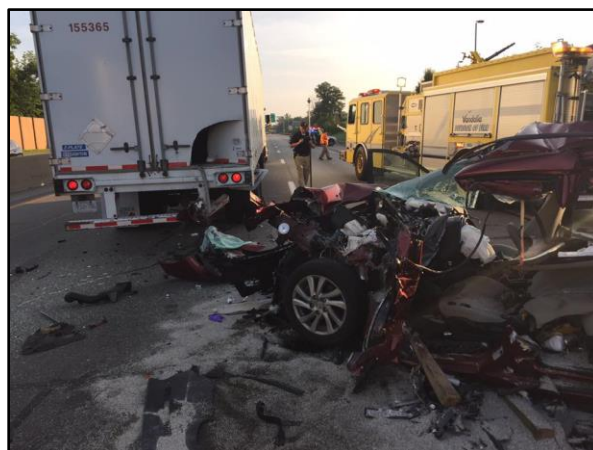


As you can see the largest percentage of structural fires that occurred in 2016 occurred in residential settings, 50% of these fires occurred in single family residences and another 14% of these fires occurred in multiple family (apartment) dwellings.

Statistically, emergency medical services (EMS) calls account for approximately 74% of the Division of Fire's call volume. The Division of Fire answered **2526** emergency medical calls for service in 2016.

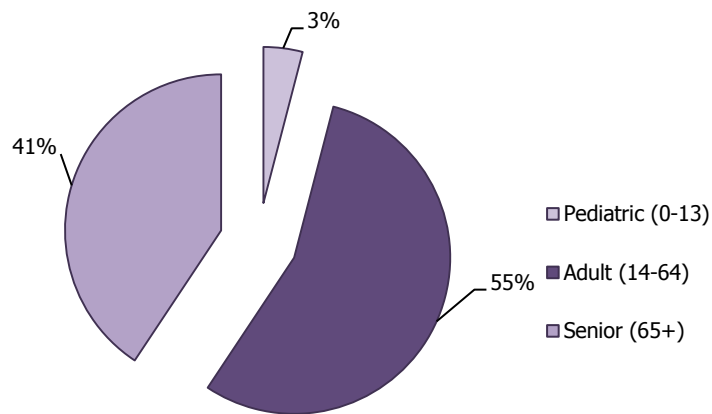


EMS crews from the Division of Fire answer between six and eight calls for emergency medical services each day. The goal of the Division of Fire's EMS service delivery system is to provide the highest level emergency medical care in the fastest and most efficient manner possible. Our continued Vision is to deliver that level of service at the lowest possible cost to the tax payer.



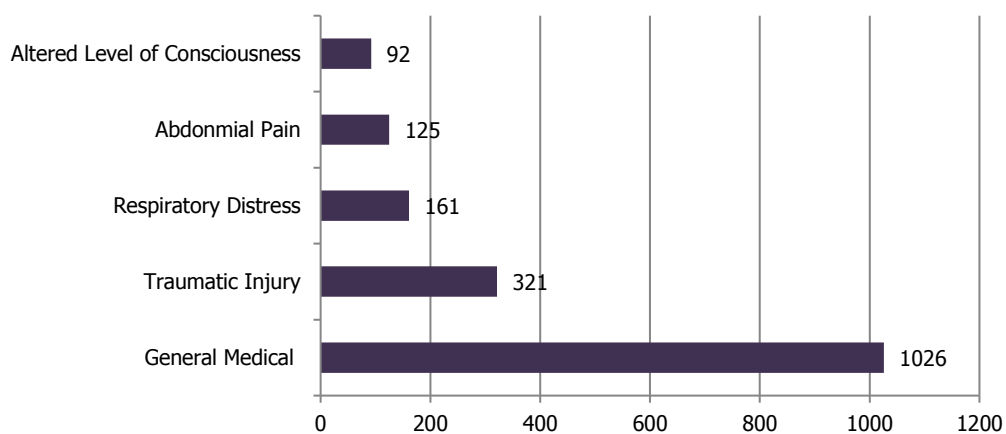
The Division of Fire's emergency medical services are requested by customers ranging in age from several weeks old to 102. The average age of a customer requesting EMS in the City of Vandalia is 54 years old. The table below shows the percentage of customers served in each age range.

PATIENTS BY AGE RANGE



The table below represents the five most common EMS calls answered by the Division of Fire in 2016.

FIVE MOST COMMON EMS CALLS IN 2016



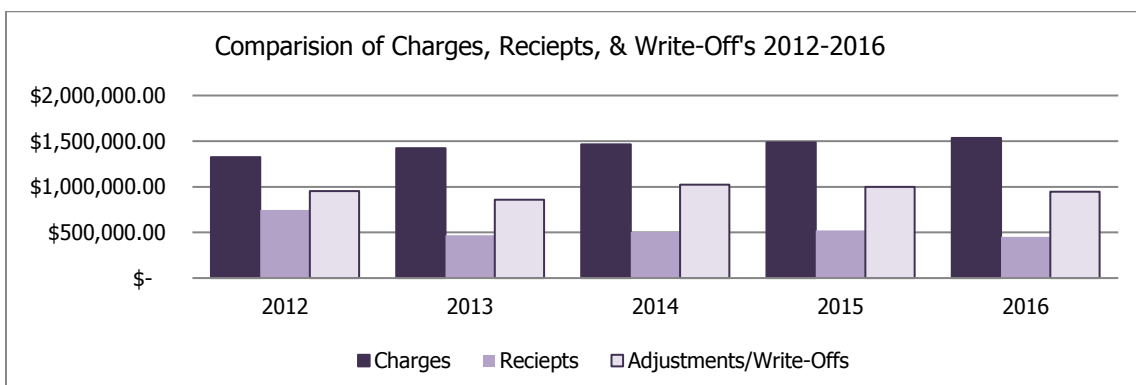
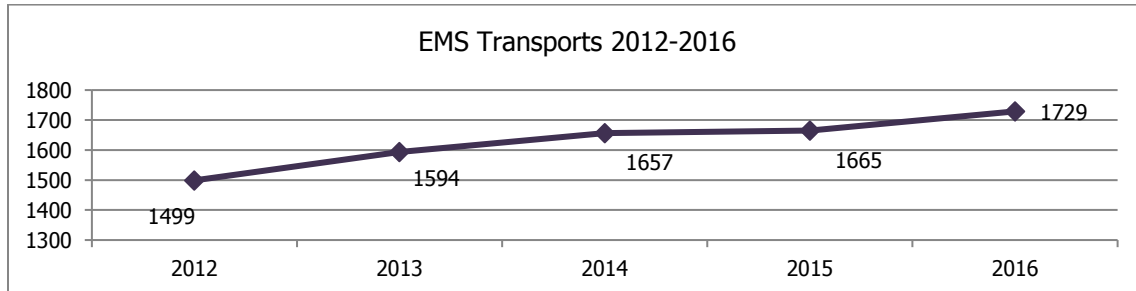
EMS Billing

To aid the Division of Fire in creating the “best service at the lowest rates”, the Division bills medical insurance companies (including Medicaid/Medicare) for EMS transports. The Division uses a “soft billing” approach in accordance with the Attorney General’s ruling. The Division’s third party billing agency submits bills to the medical insurance companies of both residents and non-residents. If the customer is uninsured the Division of Fire makes an attempt to paper bill the non-resident customer, and when there is no ability to pay, the debt is “written off” (forgiven).

In 2016, the Division of Fire transported **1729** patients, the Division of Fire billed \$887.38 (average)/transport in 2016. The Division of Fire collect \$261.08 (average)/EMS call in 2016.

The Division of Fire billed \$1,534,275.37 for EMS services delivered in 2016, and collected **\$451,398.97** of that total amount billed in 2016. The Division of Fire adjusted or “wrote off” \$947,564.18 in potential EMS revenue in 2016.

The tables below provide a five year comparison of total EMS transports and revenue.





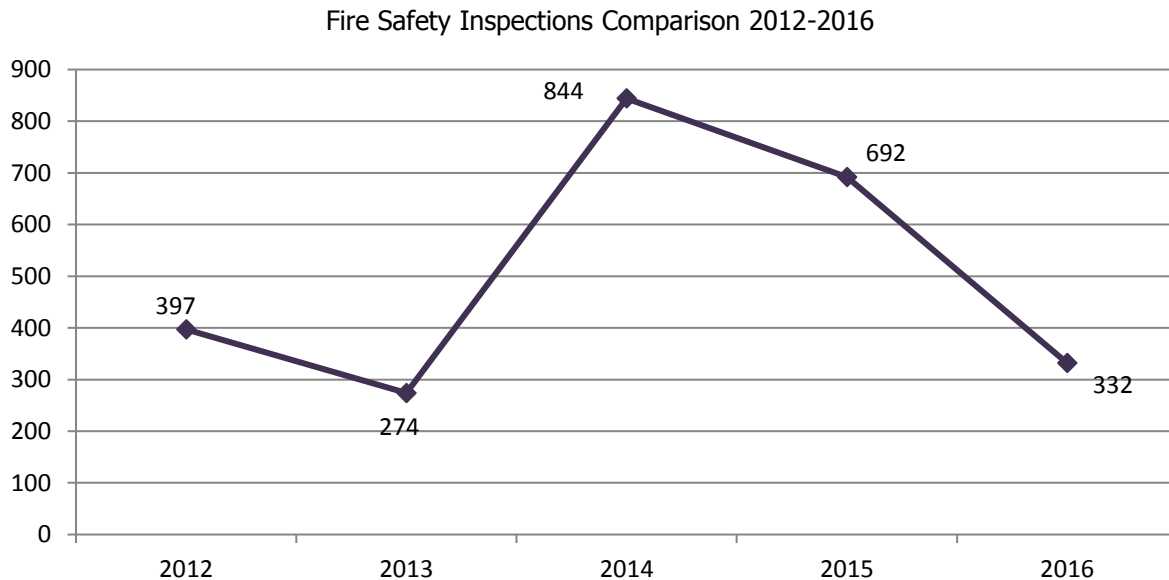
The mission of the Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) is to deliver the Division of Fire's fire/injury prevention message. This mission is achieved through an aggressive public education and outreach campaign. The FPB uses fire safety inspections, pre-fire planning visits, public education, and school programming as conduits for disseminating our safety messages.

Fire Safety Inspections

Fire safety inspections and pre-fire planning serve two purposes; (1) ensuring that buildings where our customers live, work, or play are safeguarded against disasters (fire, weather, chemical releases, and acts of terrorism), and (2) to ensure that our first responders are aware of their first due and "target hazard" facilities which greatly enhances their ability to quickly make fire/EMS decisions and to participate in the creation of safe fire/EMS incident operations.



The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for providing annual fire safety inspections to nearly 800 occupancies. Currently this work load is being split between two inspectors (one full-time and one-part-time). The table below provides a five-year comparison of completed fire safety inspections.



It is important to note, in 2014-15 there were three inspectors (one full-time and two part-time) assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau, and on-duty crews were still assisting the FPB by performing a small number of company level fire safety inspections. The FPB continues to work to recruit and retain part-time fire safety inspectors. The FPB is also working on a “self-inspection” process that could be used in the smaller establishments to prevent the FPB from having to make physical inspections to these sites every year.

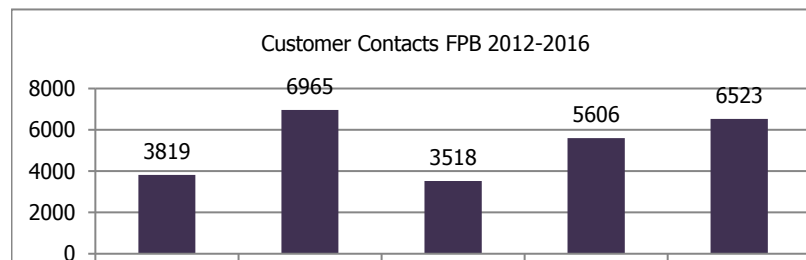
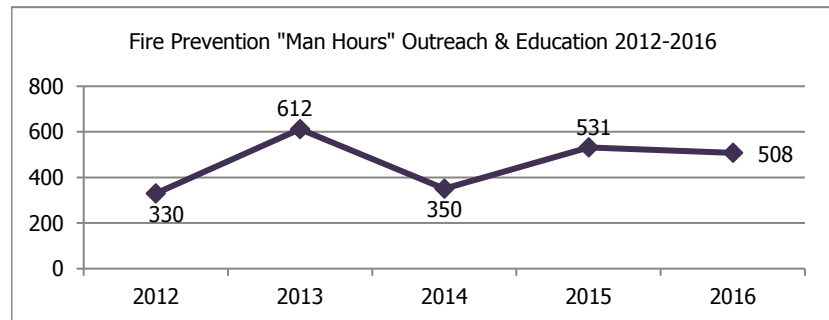
The FPB is also responsible for keeping up the Division of Fire’s pre-fire planning database (*Command Scope*). Command Scope is a mobile database that provides “real-time” intelligence to responding fire/EMS crews on any structure entered into the system that the Division of Fire is responsible for enforcing the fire code in (commercial, industrial, educational, etc.) and all “target or special hazard” occupancies or locations. To assist the FPB with this task the Division of Fire brought in a part-time Fire Prevention Intern in 2016. The FPB logged **226** man hours creating and/or updating pre-fire plans in Command Scope in 2016. This includes the implementation of **114** new pre-fire plans into our system in 2016.

Public Education & Community Outreach



Public outreach and message delivery continues to be the best method for preventing of fires, injuries and/or deaths from fires.

In 2016, members of the Division of Fire and our FPB performed **508** hours of public education/outreach. In these programs fire personnel came into contact with **6523** customers.



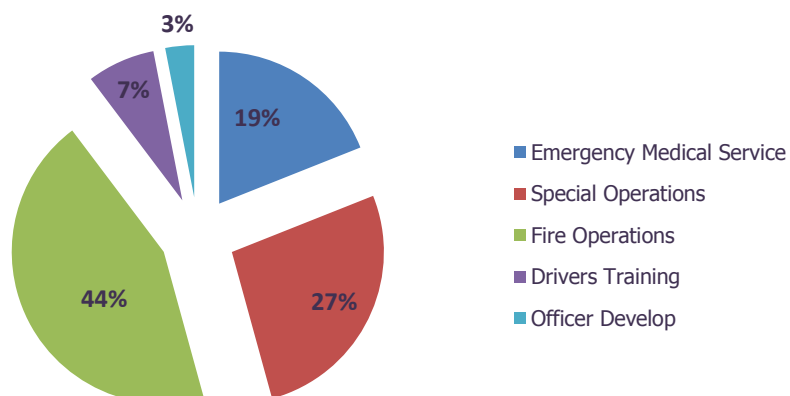
The Fire Prevention Bureau's work is sometimes difficult to quantify; for the most part if fire related injuries/deaths, occurrences, and dollar losses are all down, it is safe to say that the Division of Fire is getting their message "out there".



The Division of Fire and its staff are very much like a championship sports team in the following ways; firefighters/paramedics have to be mentally and physically prepared to play (respond) at game time. There are usually coaches on every call (command officer or firefighter in-charge), and we have a set of plays (operating procedures) for every game situation. The most distinctive way that fire personnel compare to a sports team is that they spend a great deal of time practicing their skills (training) and practice is how you “win” games (save lives and property).



The Division of Fire spent a great deal of time “practicing” in 2016, Fire and EMS personnel logged **3268** hours of fire, EMS, Hazardous Materials, and Special Operations (technical rescue) training in 2016. That’s approximately **272** hours of training/month or approximately **9** hours of training per day. The chart below represents the breakdown of training conducted in 2016 by general training topics.



The Division of Fire's training plan is the key to empowering our employees to effectively deliver our Mission, Values, and most importantly, our Vision. Practice (or training) is essential to ensuring that the level of service provided to our customers is the most efficient, the most effective, and ultimately the BEST service available to them.

The Division of Fire remains committed to strengthening and growing our "joint" staffing and deployment project with Butler Township Fire. The largest majority of the training conducted on a daily basis now is "jointly" developed, delivered, and attended.

Photo (right) – Vandalia & Butler Township fire/EMS personnel training on auto extrication.

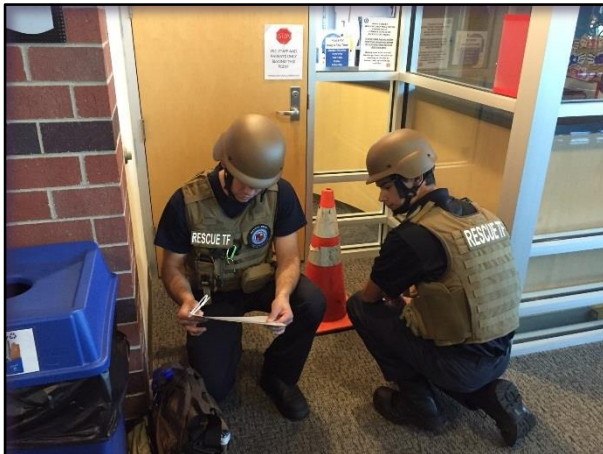


Photo (left) - Vandalia & Butler Township fire/EMS personnel training together on active shooter response during mass casualty drills at the Vandalia Recreation Center in fall of 2016.



Photo (left) – Vandalia, Butler & Airport Fire/EMS crews review the equipment and set-up procedures for the Airport's mass casualty trailer.



The Division of Fire is considered a “full service” fire/rescue organization. The Division of Fire is prepared to handle a wide variety of emergency situations. The Special Operations Group (SOG) is tasked with special operations (technical rescues), the SOG maintains specialized equipment, conducts special operations risk analysis/pre-planning, and ensures that crews are properly prepared/trained to handle special rescue incidents.

Vandalia firefighters are trained in and ready to respond to any of the following “special” rescue/operation situations; such as, hazardous material incidents, rope rescues, confine space rescues, trench collapse/rescues, lost person searches, automobile/machinery entrapments, and water/ice rescues.



These “special rescue” incidents are NOT regular occurring calls, so training and keeping crews proficient in these “special” skills sets is critically important to ensuring that crews are ready to deal with these technical/special rescue incidents. The Division of Fire committed **850** hours of training to Special Operations Training in 2016. Firefighters received instruction on rescue from confined space, the application of rope rescue tools and techniques, water rescue, ice rescue, conducting lost person searches, and response to hazardous materials releases/spills.



(Photo)- On duty members of the Division of Fire's Special Operations Team working to recover a construction worker from a failed trench in Washington Township. Vandalia Special Operations crews responded as a part of our North Rescue Zone mutual aid agreement.

In 2016, the Division of Fire responded to approximately **18** "special rescue" incidents where firefighting crews had to employ special equipment, strategies, and tactics to rescue customers trapped within these special hazards.

Type Incident	Number of Incidents
Rescue of Victim(s) from auto accident	5
Rescue of Victim(s) from Elevator	2
Rescue of Victim(s) from Water/Ice	3
Rescue of Victim(s) from Building/Structure Collapse	0
Response to Hazardous Materials Incident	5
Land Search for Lost Person(s)	2
Rescue of Victim(s) from a Trench/Excavation Collapse	1
Total Number of Incidents	18

Photo (right) - Members of the Division of Fire's Special Operations Team attending heavy rigging, stabilization, and lifting training at the State of Ohio Fire School in Bowling Green Ohio Summer of 2016.

