



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

City of Vandalia Division of Fire



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MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF



On behalf of the entire City of Vandalia Fire Division team, I am pleased to present you with the Division of Fire's 2018 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 2018. 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 2018. 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 for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Follick'.

Chad E. Follick, Fire Chief

"THE VFD WAY"

The 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."

The 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.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2018

1. **Overhead Garage Door Project Fire Station 2 (\$15,000)** –the overhead garage door project at Fire Station 2 called for the replacement of three overhead garage doors (front facing doors) and the replacement of five overhead door opener systems. This is the first upgrade on 90% of the overhead doors since the station was constructed in the early 1980's.



2. **Exterior Door Replacement & Entryway Stucco Repair Project (\$30,000)** – this project called for the replacement of three of the building's original entry way doors, frames and to upgrade the closures and security devices. At the same time the entryways, constructed of stucco, were renovated to prevent water from damaging the new doors.
3. **Bay Heaters at Fire Station 2 Project (\$15,000)** – three overhead, gas fed bay heaters were replaced with new, more efficient units. The three units replaced were original to the building.
4. **Firefighter Protective Clothing (\$35,000)** - the goal of this project was to replace/upgrade fifteen sets of firefighter protective clothing. This project was supplemented by a \$18,000 grant from the Ohio Bureau of Workman's Compensation, which allowed us to purchase nearly eighty sets of gloves and eighty new firefighting hoods. The gloves and hoods are the latest in firefighting technology designed to assist in limiting a firefighter's exposure to known carcinogens. This project is a huge win for our Health and Safety group as they work to enhance our occupational cancer prevention program.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT IN 2018

The City Council graciously approved the addition of three (3) career Firefighter/Paramedics in 2018. Following a hiring process in early 2018, the Division of Fire welcomed Firefighter Matthew Buker in early summer 2018, Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Porter in January 2019, and Firefighter/Paramedic Derek Copp in fall 2018. All three were part-time members of the Division of Fire before being hired as full-time, career firefighter/medics. We are excited about being at our full-time authorized staff!



Swearing in of Matthew Buker



Swearing in of Andrew Porter



Swearing in of Derek Copp (light blue shirt on the right side)

ANNUAL AWARDS

Firefighter of the Year 2018 – Firefighter/Paramedic Derek Copp



Firefighter/Paramedic Derek Copp has been with the Division of Fire since 2012, Derek was nominated by one of his peers who wrote: *"I believe Derek Copp should receive the Fire Fighter of the Year award. I nominate him for not only the short time I have worked with him, I am nominating him for the past 6 years he has mentored me. When I was 14 and showed interest in the Fire Service, he led by example and became an excellent role model. Derek is the example of an employee that Vandalia should be looking for".*

Firefighter Copp was promoted to a full-time firefighter/paramedic position in late 2018, he is currently assigned to Fire Station 1, on first platoon. Firefighter Copp is currently working to educate and protect his co-workers from occupational cancer exposures.

EMS Person of the Year



Firefighter/Paramedic Jarod Reilly was a Fire Explorer with the Division of Fire for three years before being hired as a part-time firefighter/EMT in 2017. In a short period of time with the organization Firefighter Reilly emerged as a leader and a mentor to younger employees. One of his peers wrote this in his nomination; *"I would like to nominate Jarod Reilly for Paramedic of the year. Since completing his paramedic certification, I have watched him step up and take a leadership role on the medic and with the new guys. I have watched Jarod rise through the ranks from a Fire Explore to a firefighter/paramedic and I believe he has a bright future ahead of him"*.

Shortly after being awarded the Division of Fire's EMS Person of the Year, Firefighter Reilly was hired full-time by the Washington Township (Centerville, Ohio) Fire Department. Firefighter Reilly is assigned to first platoon, at Fire Station 2, he will continue to work part-time hours for Vandalia while working full time with the Washington Township Fire Department.

Special Recognition

The Division of Fire kicked off its 2018 awards presentation with special recognition of those team members that have served and are active serving our county in one of the United States military services. The Division of Fire is lucky to have these dedicated patriots on staff, and we are grateful to them and their families for their service.



Special Recognition



Long time Fire Prevention Officer Kim Hannahan retired in May of 2018. Shortly after retiring, Kim was awarded the 2018 State of Ohio Fire Prevention Educator of the Year. Kim's accomplishments set remarkably high standards both within her agency and within her community for all aspects of safety. She is one of the finest examples of what a true, dedicated public safety professional should be. She's utilized her passion for public education to help expand the department's Fire Prevention Bureau, consequently improving the safety of thousands of her community members and setting a new standard for fire education. We are so very proud of Kim, and we appreciate all of her hard work. We will miss Kim and we wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

Letters of Commendation & Challenge Coins

1. Captain Chad Garver received a Fire Chief's Gold Challenge Coin and a Letter of Commendation for all of his hard work, much of which required him to attend meetings and work off-duty, on the implementation of the *Spillman* Fire Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) system.
2. Firefighter/Paramedic Tara Carrol and Firefighter/EMT Matt Monroe received a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin and a Letter of Commendation for delivering customer care that was considered to be "above and beyond" while caring for an Alzheimer's patient. The crew remained on scene for nearly an hour calming the patient and getting the patient "tucked into bed". This extra time was not only what was right for the patient, but it was also what the patient's caregiver needed.
3. Firefighter/EMTI Chris Widener, Firefighter/EMT Jason Lawler, and Firefighter James Marcum received a Fire Chief's Gold Challenge Coin and a Letter of Commendation for delivering "value add" customer care during an EMS call to an Alzheimer patient's house, where the patient was the full-time caregiver. Crews worked to ensure that the Alzheimer's patient was properly cared for, including offering to leave a crew member behind to sit with the patient until a replacement caregiver could arrive.
4. Firefighter (detailed to Fire Prevention Bureau) Jones Kanak received a Fire Chief's Gold Challenge Coin and a Letter of Commendation for delivering outstanding customer service to a VIP residential lock box client. In the customer's write-up she stated that Jones was; "polite, knowledgeable, and very thorough". She also stated that the time Jones took to answer all of the customer's questions put them "at ease".
5. Firefighter/EMT Matt Monroe received a Fire Chief Gold Challenge Coin for customer service that went "above and beyond" in his care of an elderly patient that was suffering from a significant mental status change as the result of an infection. Matt built a rapport with the patient that led to the patient trusting him and his ability to more effectively care for the patient.
6. Firefighter Paramedic Derek Copp, Jarod Reilly, and Firefighter/EMT Mike Smith received the EMS Officers Silver Challenge Coin for developing outstanding emergency medical care to a patient who cut themselves and was in hypovolemic shock as a result of blood loss following the incident.
7. Firefighter Paramedic Ben French, Derek Copp, Firefighter EMT Nick Halter, Mike Smith, and Firefighter Brian Elish received the EMS Officers Silver Challenge Coin for rapid assessment, treatment, and transport of a patient suffering from a stroke at a local place of assembly.

The Division of Fire's "Save Citations"

1. Paramedic Captain Chad Garver, EMT Captain Mike Pinson, and Firefighter/EMT Troy Fox received the Division of Fire's Life Savers Award, for their rapid response, treatment, and transport of a patient that suffered a sudden cardiac arrest while attending a fitness class at the Vandalia Recreation Center. Civilian Life Saving Awards were also presented to a member of the Recreation Center staff and a bystander for initiating CPR and applying an AED.



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

1. Captain Steve Milliken, Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Corwin, Derek Copp, Jarod Reilly, Firefighter/EMT Chris Widener, Jason Lawler, James Marcum, Jacob Cline, Nick Whitlock, Steve Walker, Matt Jones, Nick Halter, Mike Smith, and Firefighter Jones Kanak received a Unit Citation for delivering outstanding (outside of the box) customer service during three separate events in 2018 (Trick or Treat, K9 Rescues, and Wheel Chair Rescues).



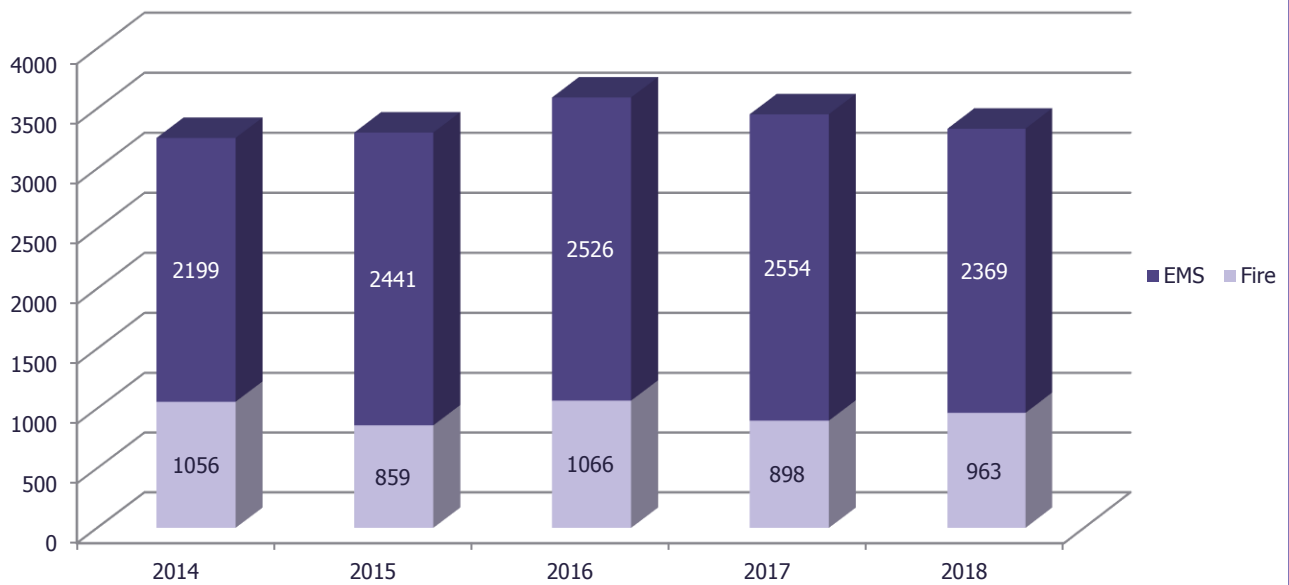
RESPONSE DATA

Calls for Service

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 **3332** calls for service in 2018.



The chart below is a comparison of calls for service over the past five years, the darker purple represents EMS calls (2369) and the lighter purple represents fire responses (963).

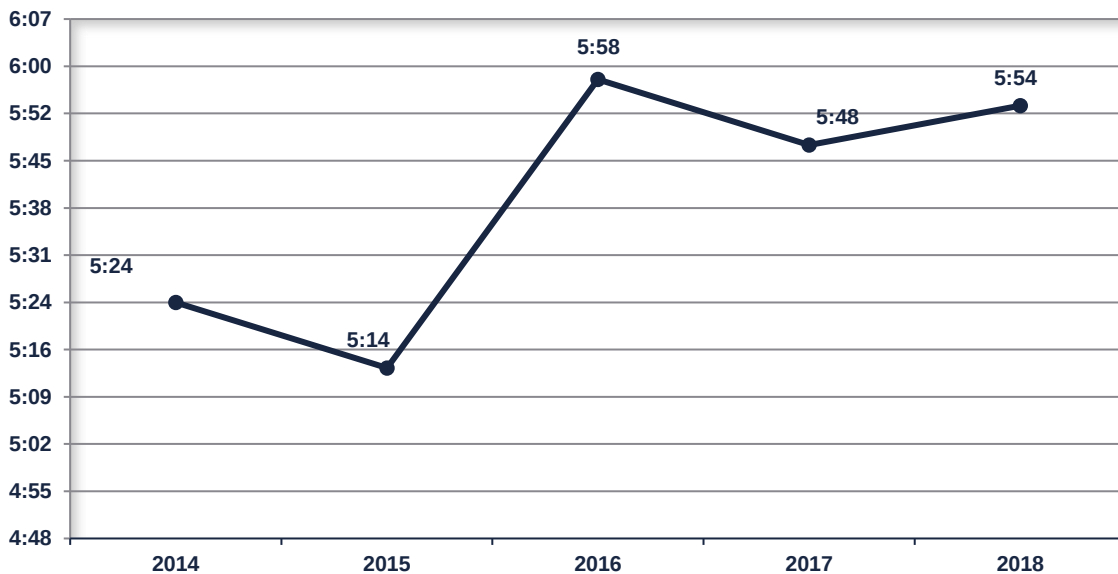


Response Times

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).

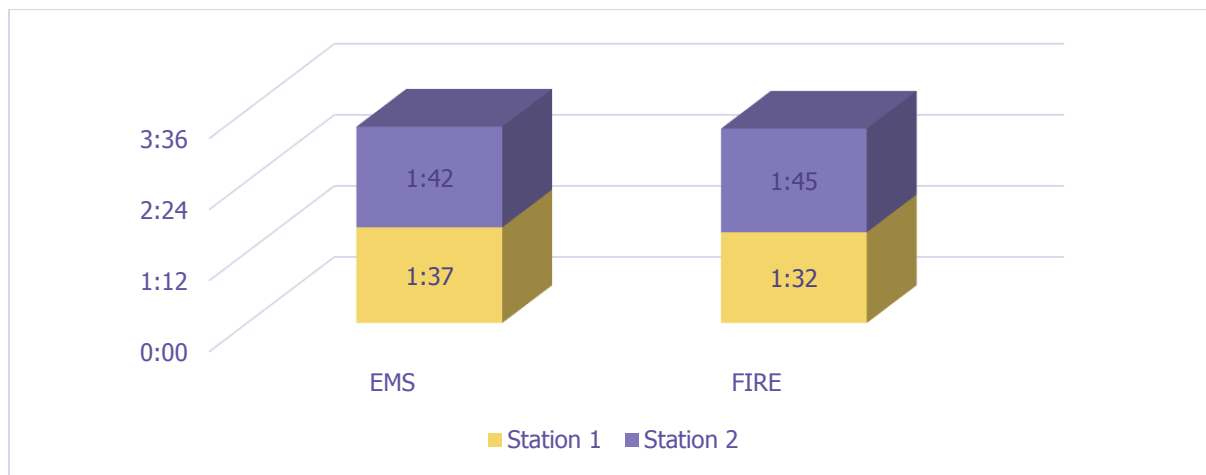


The average monthly response time in 2018 was 5:54, which is almost a full minute above our target response time of five minutes (5:00). The table below shows a five year “snap shot” of the average annual response time.



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.

Turnout times are one way for the Division of Fire to “tweak” our response times, turn-out time is the amount of time it takes firefighters to get dressed, get on the apparatus, and get out the door (respond). The Division of Fire tracks turn-out times for both FIRE and EMS calls for service. Typically, the EMS turn-out times are quicker because firefighters do not have to get dressed in their protective clothing to respond to this type of call for service.



The table above shows that both fire stations are quick to turn-out. Station 1 turn-out time is slightly faster on EMS and fire responses than Station 2.

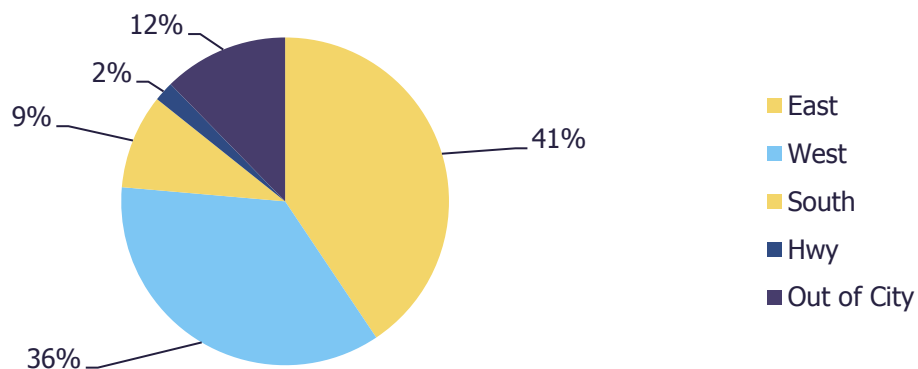
Response by District

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.



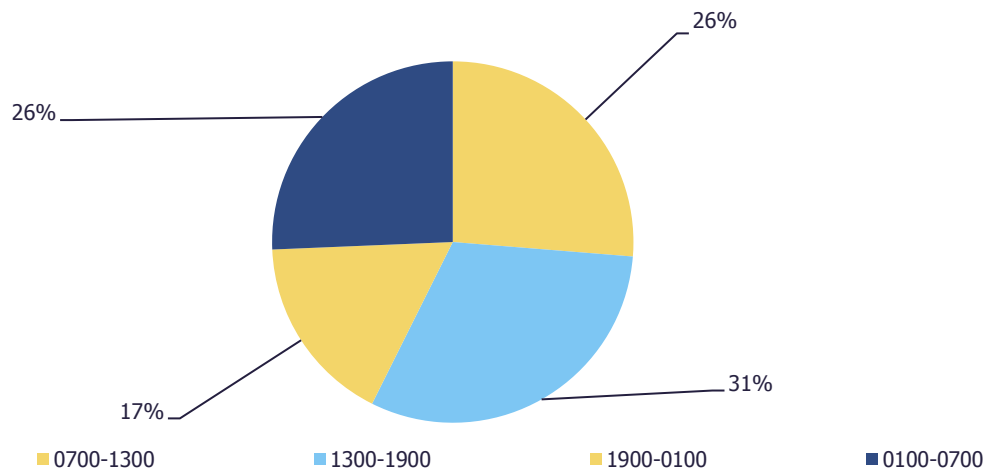
The Division feels that it has a very good handle on where the calls are occurring within the city, however, we continue to assess and "tweak" our deployment strategy. The Division of Fire is committed to responding to a customer's emergency quickly and effectively.

The table below represents the total number of calls for service that were received in each of the Division of Fire's five (5) response zones in 2018.



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 2018.

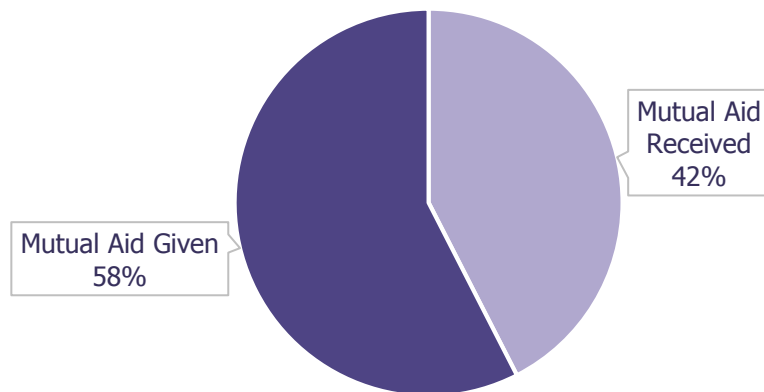


Afternoons 1300-1900 seem to be the busiest of times for VFD crews, followed closely by the 0700-1300 and 1900-0100 timeframes (both represent approximately 26% of our total call volume).

Another interesting statistic is that a little more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of our call volume occurs simultaneously or are overlapping other calls for service, 29% (971) of our total calls for service overlap or are occurring simultaneously.

Mutual Aid

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 2018. 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 of the total mutual aid that was both provided and received by the Division of Fire in 2018 (these numbers DO NOT include “joint responses” with Butler Fire, these “mutual aid” responses are tracked separately below).



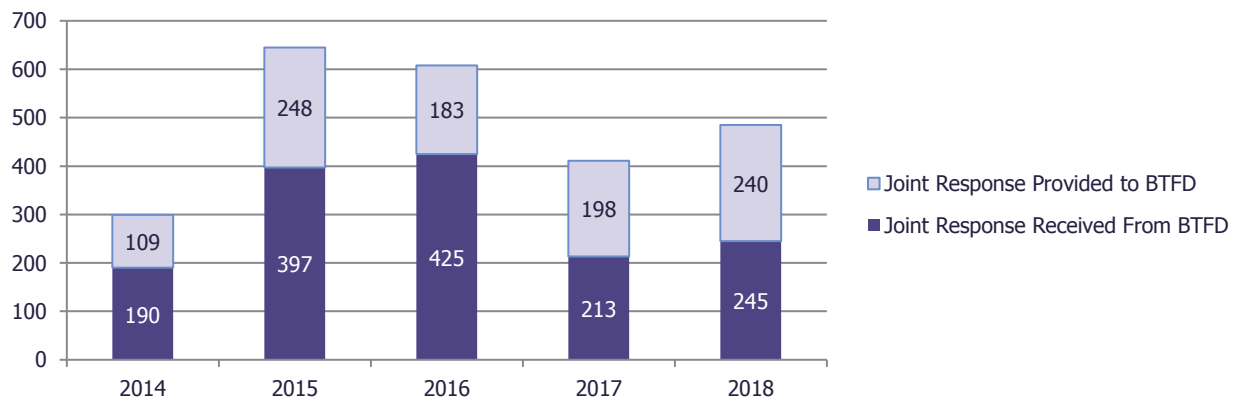
The Division of Fire realized a decrease in the amount of mutual aid that we received from other jurisdictions in 2018; however, we provided more mutual aid to area departments in 2018.



Joint Responses



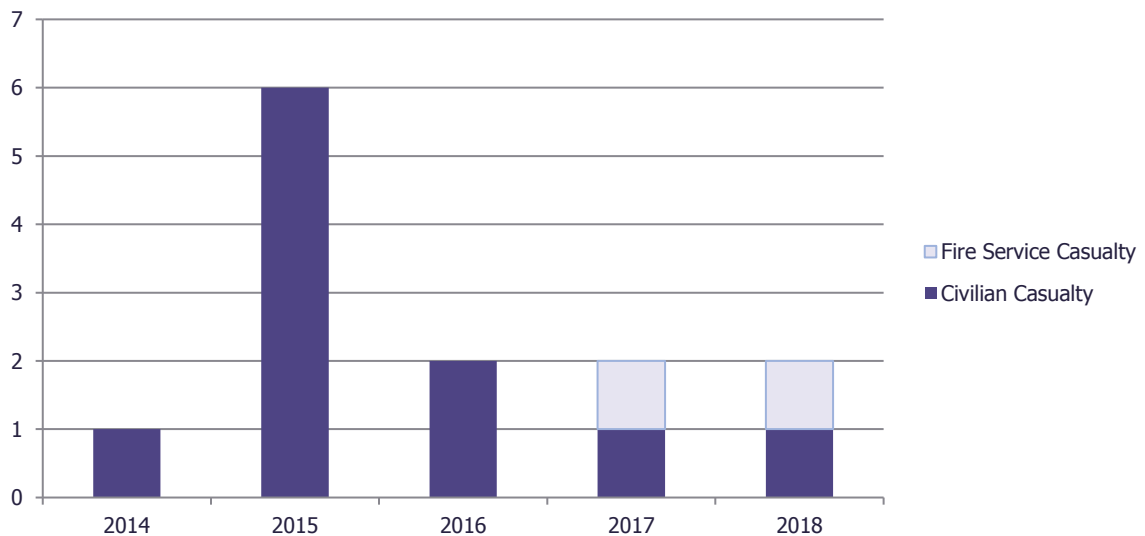
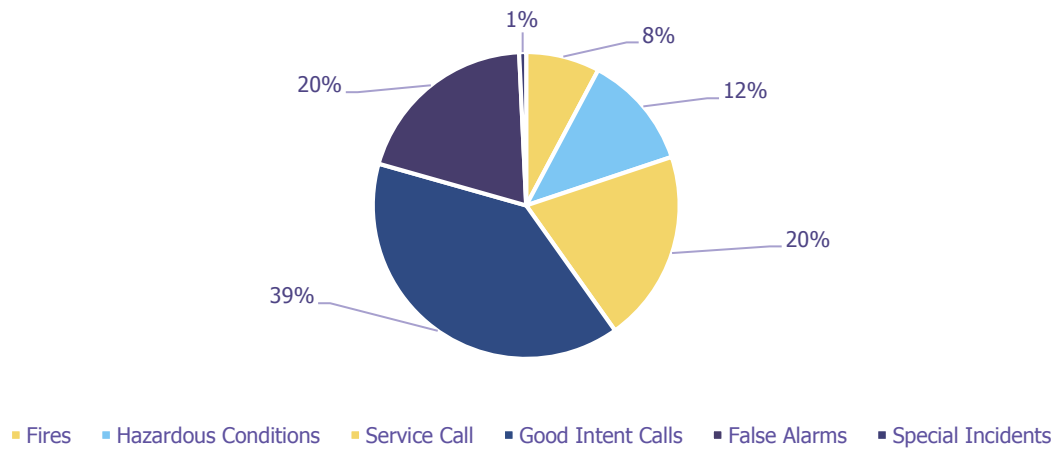
The goal of our joint deployment program is to provide customers in both the City and the Township with the best fire/EMS services available to them and to do so at the lowest possible cost to the tax payer. It is clear that both organizations feel that this vision is best achieved through our ongoing 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 (darker purple).



The Division of Fire answered **963** fire related calls for service in 2018. Fire related calls accounted for approximately **29%** of our total call volume.

Fire Operations

The Division of Fire responded on **74** incidents that classify as “fires” in 2018. The table below provides a breakdown of the “major call types” other than Emergency Medical Services calls that make up that **963** fire related calls for service that the Division of Fire handled in 2018.



The Division of Fire continues to realize a significant reduction in the number of civilian fire casualties (injuries) in 2018, in fact, the Division of Fire only recorded one (1) civilian casualty, and that injury was very minor in nature. On the downside, the Division of Fire did record one (1) fire service casualty in 2018; this injury was also minor in nature.

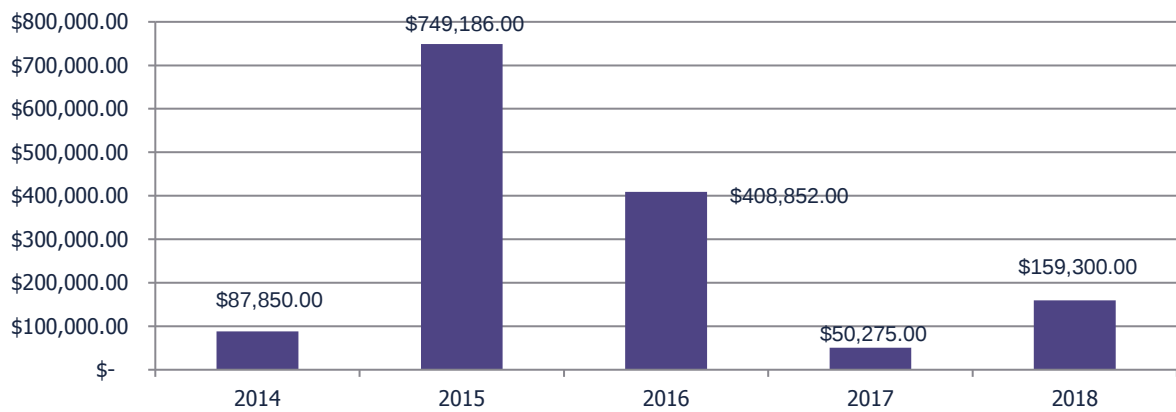


The Division of Fire defines an actual fire as a “dollar loss fire” when the fire causes a tangible property loss. The Division of Fire responded to twelve (**12**) fires that were classified as “dollar loss fires” in 2018. In 2018 the Division of Fire experienced fire losses totaling **\$159,300.00.**

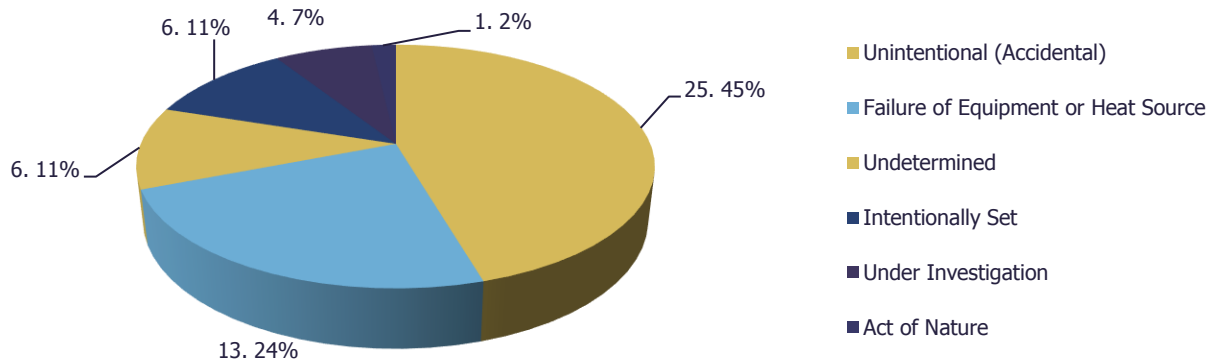
Incident Type	Total Losses (Property & Contents)
Building Fire	\$110,000.00
Passenger Vehicle Fires	\$36,300.00
Road Freight, Truck, Transport Fires	\$800.00
Camper or RV Fires	\$3000.00
Brush/Grass Fires	\$100.00
Mobile Property Fires	\$9000.00
Smoke Odor Removal	\$100.00



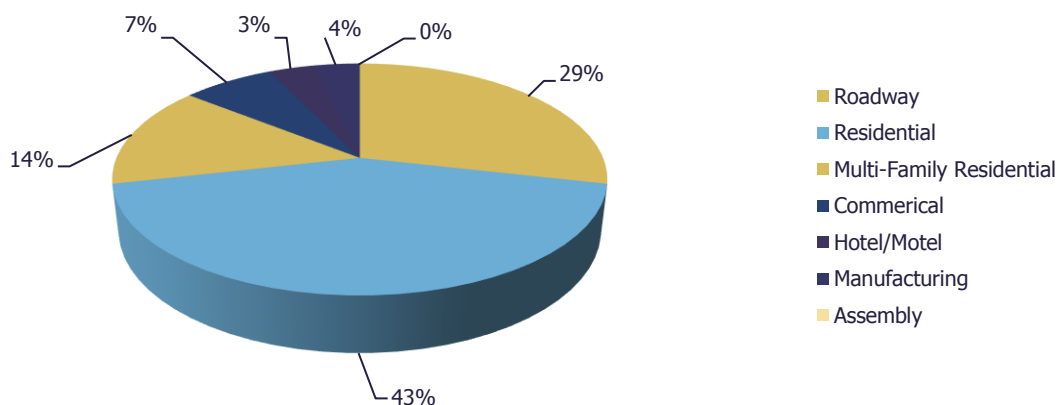
The table below provides a “snap shot” of the Division of Fire’s total dollar loss due to fire for the last five years.



An essential part of preventing fires and the injuries (or deaths) that result from these unfriendly fires is the need for the Division of Fire 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 2018.



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 dollar loss fires occurred.



As you can see the largest percentage of the dollar loss fire in 2018 were fires in residential and multi-family residential dwellings. We continue to focus our fire prevention and risk reduction efforts toward reducing the number of fires in residential (homes) and multi-family buildings as these buildings typically don't have the fire safety systems that commercial buildings do (i.e. automatic fire alarms and sprinkler systems).

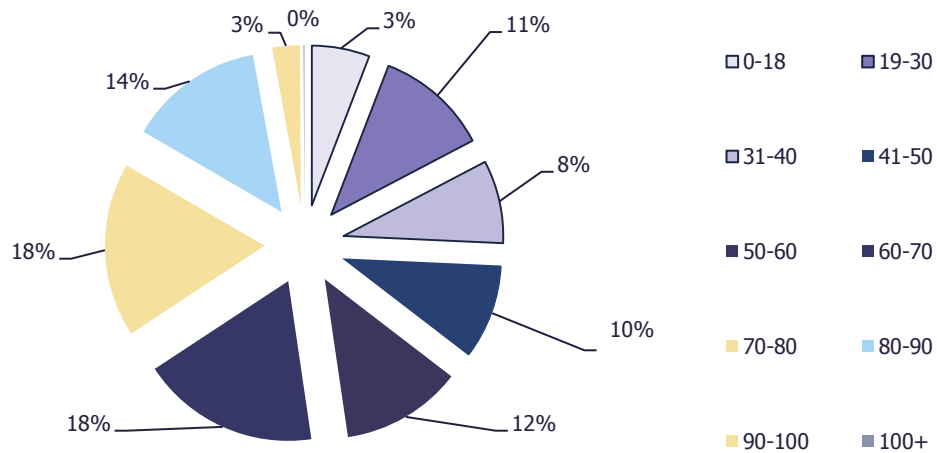
Emergency Medical Services

Statistically, emergency medical services (EMS) calls account for approximately 72% of the Division of Fire's call volume. The Division of Fire answered 2369 emergency medical calls for service in 2018.

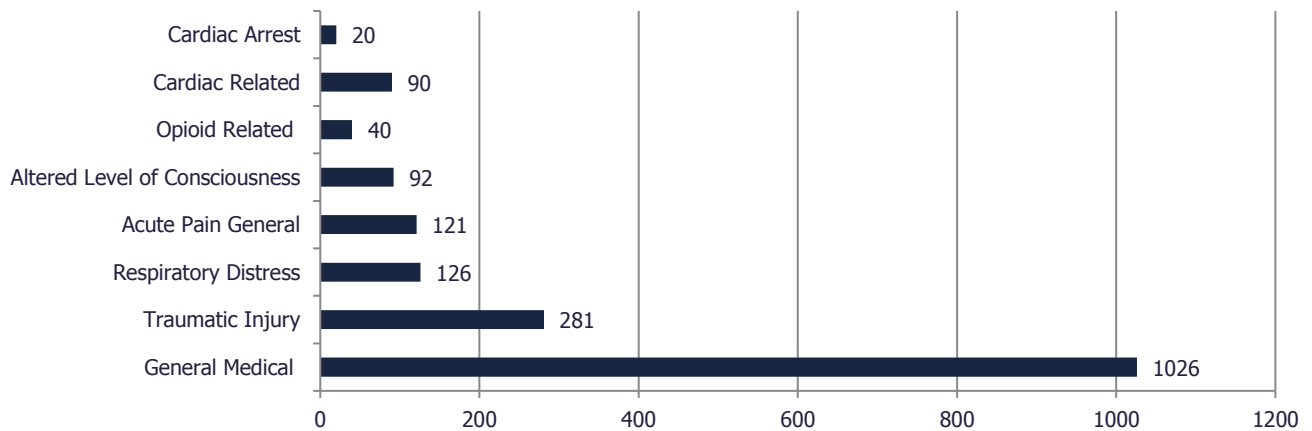
EMS crews from the Division of Fire answer approximately 6.5 calls for emergency medical services each day. The goal of the Division of Fire's EMS service delivery system is to provide the highest-level emergency medical care in the fastest and most efficient manner possible. Our continued Vision is 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.



The table below represents the most common EMS calls answered by the Division of Fire in 2018.



EMS Billing

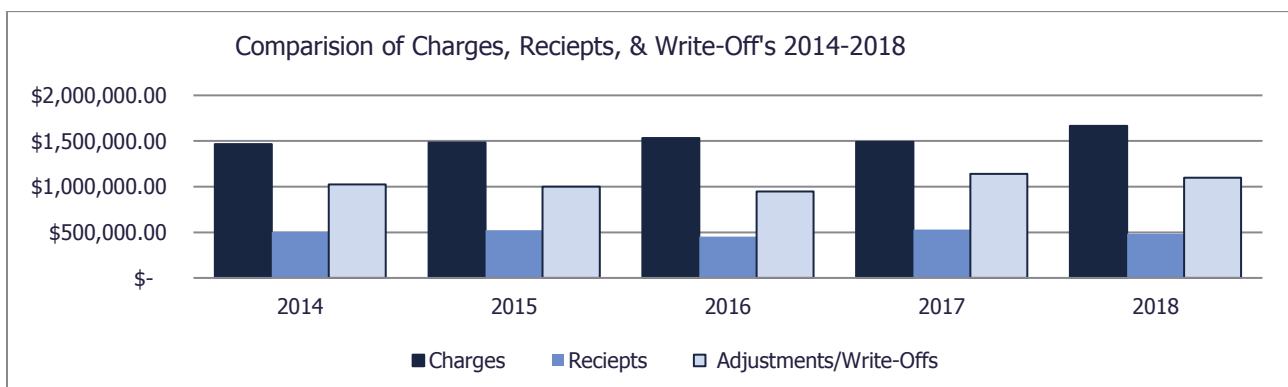
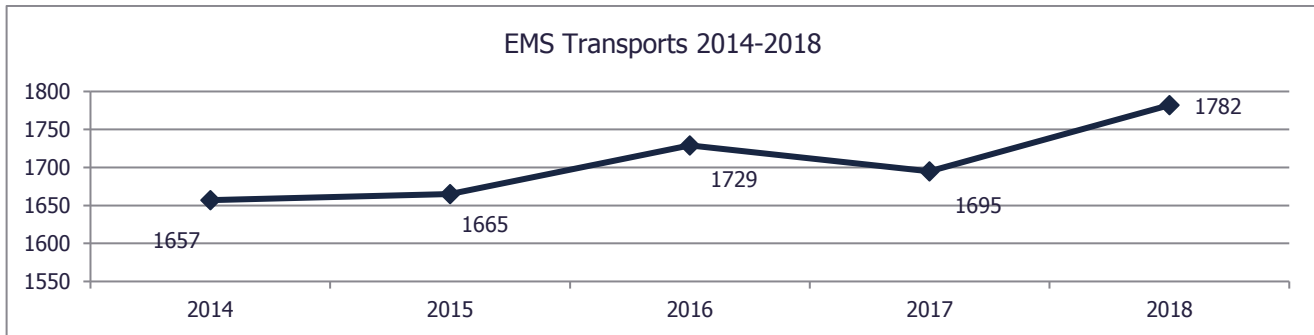


To aid the Division of Fire in creating the “best service at the lowest rates”, the Division bills medical insurance companies (including Medicaid/Medicare) for EMS transports. The Division uses a “soft billing” approach in accordance with the Attorney General’s ruling. The Division’s third party billing 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 2018, the Division of Fire transported **1782** patients, the Division of Fire billed \$934.82 (average)/transport in 2018. The Division of Fire collect \$272.32 (average)/EMS call in 2018.

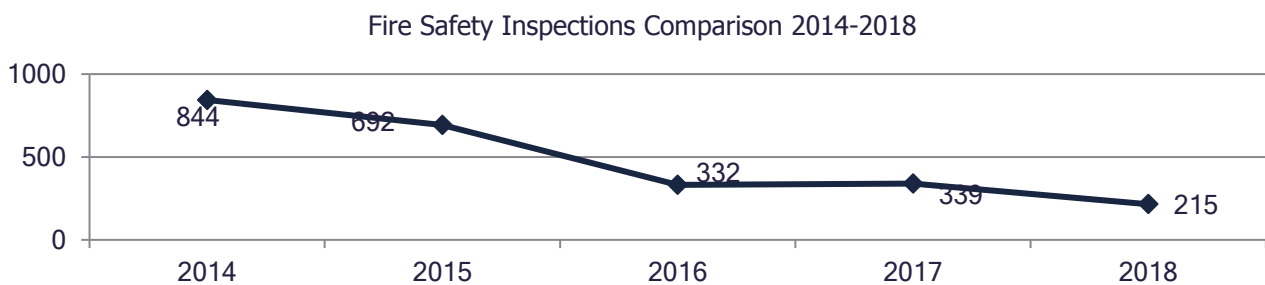
The Division of Fire billed **\$1,665,850.00** for EMS services delivered in 2018, and collected **\$485,275.00** of that total amount billed in 2018. The Division fo Fire adjusted or "wrote off" \$1,098,269.46 in potential EMS revenue in 2018. The tables below provide a five year comparison of total EMS transports and revenue.



Fire Prevention Bureau

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 throughout the City of Vandalia. The table above provides a five-year comparison of completed fire safety inspections. The loss of our only full-time fire safety inspector (to retirement) in May of 2018 significantly impacted our ability to provide routine annual fire safety inspections. Our hope is to get back to full staff, with a full-time Fire Marshal and one part-time Fire Safety Inspector in early 2019, which will allow us to re-engage our annual inspection program.

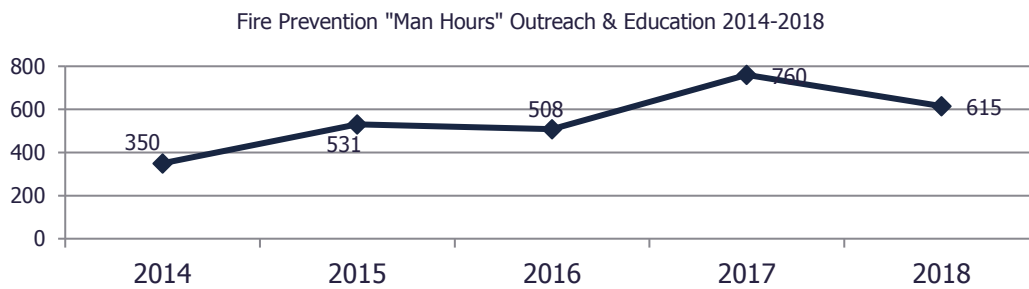
The FPB is also responsible for keeping up the Division of Fire's pre-fire planning database (*Command Scope*). We were fortunate to have a Fire Prevention Intern this year, Jones Kanak, a 2018 graduate of Vandalia-Butler High School and an aspiring firefighter/medic working in the FPB since June. His primary mission has been to keep the Division of Fire's pre-fire planning program and our Command Scope mobile database up to date. Command Scope 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.

The FPB logged **185** man-hours creating and/or updating pre-fire plans in Command Scope in 2018. This includes the implementation of **25** new pre-fire plans into our system in 2018.

Public Education & Community Outreach- Public outreach and message delivery continues to be the best method for preventing fires, injuries and/or deaths from fires.

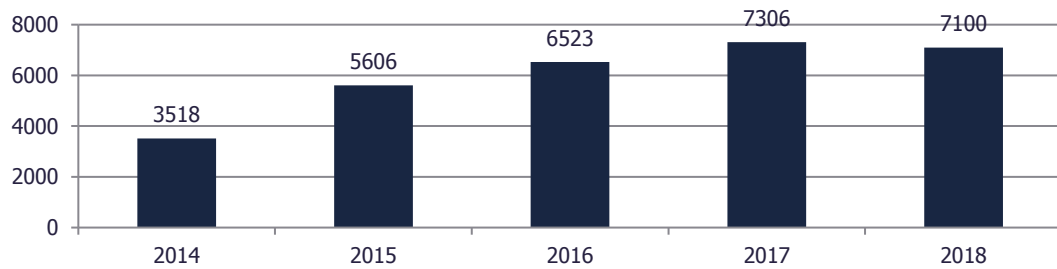


In 2018, members of the Division of Fire and our FPB performed **615** hours of public education/outreach. In these programs fire personnel came into contact with **7100** customers.



Medic 1 crew standing by during the Vandalia-Butler City Schools District-wide pep assembly in fall of 2018.

Customer Contacts FPB 2014-2018



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".



Second Platoon Firefighters stop by an Alex's Lemonade Stand Event in a local neighborhood in summer 2018.



The Division of Fire continues to receive outstanding support from our community partners. With these donations we continue to be able to provide FREE smoke detectors, smoke detectors batteries, and carbon monoxide detectors to Vandalia customers that need them.

Training

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 2018, Fire and EMS personnel logged **3132** hours of fire, EMS, Hazardous Materials, and Special Operations (technical rescue) training in 2018. That’s approximately **260** hours of training/month or approximately **9** hours of training per day.

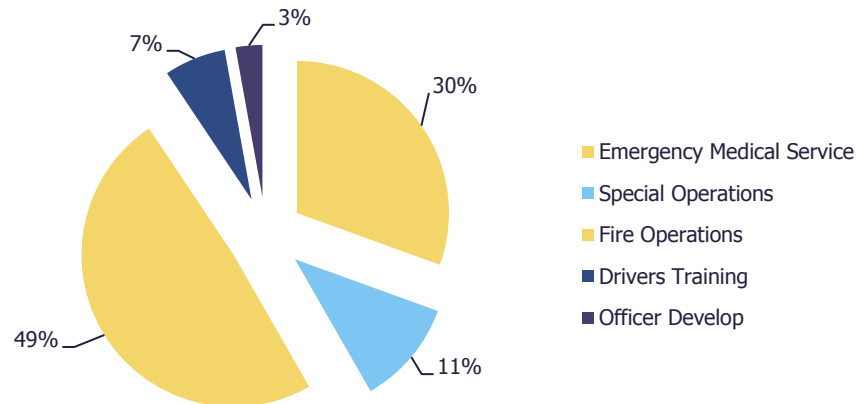


Above left- Firefighters participate in a joint fire training session with Butler Township firefighters, full scale hose evolutions at a local motel. Above right- Firefighters practice reduce profile and swim techniques, critical firefighters survival training for when a firefighter becomes entangled on the fire ground.



Second platoon firefighters practice immobilizing an infant in a car seat following a pediatric trauma lecture in 2018.

The chart below represents the breakdown of training conducted in 2018 by general training topics.



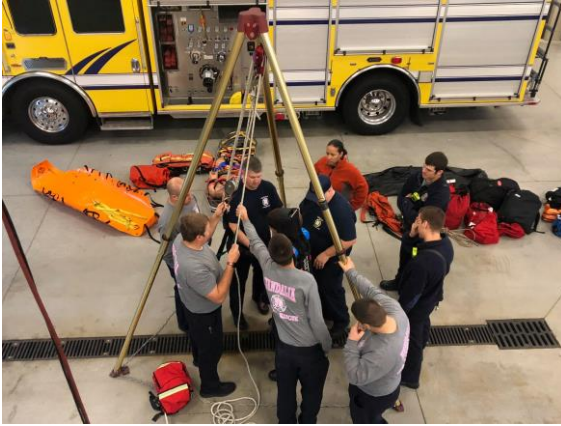
The Division of Fire's training plan is the key to empowering our employees to effectively deliver our Mission, Values, and most importantly, our Vision. Practice (or training) is essential to ensuring that the level of service provided to our customers is the most efficient, the most effective, and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



Above- Crews participating in our bi-annual drivers training, a maneuverability course that every driver is expected to be able to complete driving medic, engine, and ladder truck.

Special Operations

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, confined 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 **350** hours of training to Special Operations Training in 2018. In addition to receiving 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 the Division of Fire contracted with an outside firm to provide our crews with an additional 40 hours of machine rescue training.



In 2018, the Division of Fire responded to approximately **16** “special rescue” incidents where firefighting crews had to employ special equipment, strategies, and tactics to rescue customers trapped.

Type of Rescue Incident	Total Number of Incidents
Rescue of victims from motor vehicles (requiring extrication)	3
Rescue of victims from stuck/stalled elevator	2
Rescue of victims from water/ice	1
Response to hazardous materials incidents	2
Response to lost person(s)	3
Rescue of animal(s)	5
Total Number of Special Operations Incidents	16



VFD Special Operations Firefighters assisting in packaging and extricating an injured swimmer from the Great Miami River in Harrison Township.



VFD Special Operations Firefighters working a wooded area near New Carlisle, search for a reported downed aircraft.



Firefighters work to extricate a trapped and injured driver, by removing the roof of an SUV involved in a "T" bone auto accident at Bohanan and National Roads.



Firefighters work to mitigate a release of several hundred gallons of diesel fuel following a car vs. semi accident in the intersection of Benchwood and I75.

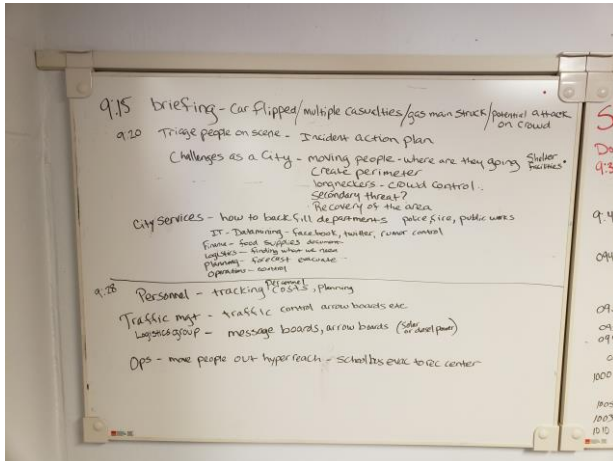
Emergency Operations Exercise



In May the City of Vandalia conducted a full-scale emergency operations exercise. Conducted every three years, the exercise, operation “Down on the Farm”, was a full-scale mass-casualty event which simulated a car driving into the Farmer’s Market. The exercise planning group identified five (5) Core Capabilities and corresponding objectives that were to be evaluated during this exercise they were:

1. Public Information and Warning- Deliver coordinated, prompt, reliable, and actionable information to the whole community through the use of clear, consistent, accessible, and culturally and linguistically appropriate methods to effectively relay information regarding any threat or hazard, as well as the actions being taken and the assistance being made available, as appropriate.
2. Operational Coordination- Establish and maintain a unified and coordinated operational structure and process that appropriately integrates all critical stakeholders and supports the execution of core capabilities.
3. On Scene Security and Protection- Ensure a safe and secure environment through law enforcement and related security and protection operations for people and communities located within affected areas and also for response personnel engaged in lifesaving and life-sustaining operations.
4. Operational Communications- Ensure the capacity for timely communications in support of security, situational awareness, and operations by any and all means available, among and between affected communities in the impact area and all response forces.
5. Situational Assessment-Provide all decision makers with decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the hazard, any cascading effects, and the status of the response.

The exercise required participation from all Departments and Divisions within the City, coordination of outside evaluators, and integration of local media. At the conclusion of the exercise there was a debriefing session, more commonly referred to as a “hot wash”, held to gather comments from all of the participants. These comments and the comments of the evaluators were combined and used to conduct an After-Action training session in early June, and to produce a written after-action report with recommendations on what improvements should be made to the City Emergency Operations Plan.



Above (left) -Photo of the log board used in the Emergency Operations Center during the exercise. (Right)- Photo of several of the simulated casualties used during the full-scale exercise.



Above (left) - The City of Vandalia's Public Information Officer, Rich Hopkins provides an interview at the scene of the simulated disaster to local media. (Right) City Manager, Jon Crusey, conducts a full-scale press conference at the end of the exercise.



Both Police and Fire command staff meet at the incident command post to formulate and implement an incident action plan.



Vandalia and Butler Township Fire/EMS crews work to assess (triage) and treat simulated victims, and to prepare them for transport to local hospitals.



Captain Stitzel, the Incident Safety Officer, provides a safety briefing to first responders, during our full-scale EOP exercise.



The EMS Transport Officer, Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Buker, coordinates the transport of 30 simulated casualties to local hospitals with the EMS Branch Officer, Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony Miller.