

CITY OF VANDALIA

DIVISION OF FIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief	3
Customer Service, Mission, Values, Vision	4
2013 Goals	6
Annual Awards	8
Capital Improvement Projects	17
Response Statistics	21
Mutual Aid Response Data	24
Joint Staffing and Response Project	26
Fire Suppression	28
EMS Operations	31
Fire Prevention	35
Training	39
Special Operations	45

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

On behalf of the entire City of Vandalia Fire Division team, I am pleased to present you with the Fire Division's 2013 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 2013. 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 2013. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chad E. Follick', written in a cursive style.

Chad E. Follick, Fire Chief
City of Vandalia Division of Fire

"OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CUSTOMER"



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.

"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 CORE VALUES"



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

2013 GOALS

1. *Reinforce the Division of Fire's commitment to creating a "safety culture" of risk reduction, working from the philosophy that "everyone goes home" at the end of every shift.*

Achievements:

- ☒ New hearing conservation program instituted.
- ☒ New eye protection program instituted.
- ☒ New response guidelines for response to "violent or potentially violent" fire/EMS scenes instituted.
- ☒ Implementation of new ballistic vests, and policy for their use during "violent or potentially violent" responses instituted.

2. *Continue to evaluate, revise, improve and grow the Vandalia-Butler Fire Department's joint staffing, deployment, and response plan.*

Achievements:

- ☒ Vandalia fire/EMS crews moved into fire station 88 on January 1, 2013.
- ☒ A joint response/deployment plan was implemented on January 1, 2013, designed to ensure that customers of Vandalia and Butler Township get the "closest and most appropriate" fire/EMS resource.
- ☒ In May 2013, Butler Fire personnel and apparatus moved into both fire station 1 and 2 during the remodeling of their fire station on Little York Road (projected to be completed in February of 2014).
- ☒ In late summer 2013, the Division of Fire was invited to participate in a regional effort to improve dispatching procedures and to reduce call handling times. In 2014 the Division of Fire will begin using an automated voice dispatching system called "Locution".

3. *Coordinate a full scale exercise of the City of Vandalia's Emergency Operations Plan.*

Achievements:

- ☒ There was no full scale exercise of the city's EOP in 2013, several smaller scale weather events and an EF1 tornado in late 2013 proved the best test of the plan. After action reviews of these events have identified the need for several improvements to the EOP. This will be a goal in 2014.

4. *Focus the Fire Prevention Bureau's fire safety inspection and pre-fire planning efforts on getting the southern district (aka "the contract area") entered into the data management system.*

Achievements:

- ☒ Duty crews were successful in completing almost all of the initial fire safety inspections in the "contract area".
- ☒ Through another partnership with Butler Township Fire, the Fire Prevention Bureau was able to utilize the pre-fire plans that Butler Township Fire had on commercial structures in the "contract area". In cooperation with Butler Township Fire we are now sharing our pre-fire planning mobile software; this guarantees that Vandalia and Butler first responders have available pre-fire response information on buildings in both the city and the township.

5. *Review, revise, and improve the Division of Fire's emergency medical incident quality assurance program to ensure that customers are getting the best quality, fastest, and most efficient emergency medical services.*

Achievements:

- ☒ The EMS work group revised our quality improvement plan in 2013; more EMS calls for service were reviewed, additional training was provided based on the needs identified during call review, and our Medical Director became more involved in the review of "flagged" calls for service by assisting us in developing service improvement plans for those employees that needed them.
- ☒ Our customer satisfaction surveys continue to be positive, and surveys are reviewed by the Fire Chief. Surveys that overall are rated eight or lower are passed on to the appropriate shift commander for his review. The shift commander is expected to call the customer and "investigate" the issues, and then communicate the issues to the assigned crew. Less than 1% of the total calls for service in 2013 required command review.

ANNUAL AWARDS

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2013 - *Joey Ostendorf, Firefighter/EMT*



Firefighter/EMT Joey Ostendorf was nominated by his peers as the Division of Fire's 2013 Firefighter of the Year. Joey's peers wrote this about him:

"Joey needs little direction while at work. Joey challenges me and the other members of our crew to think outside the box, whether on scene, in training, or around the engine house."

"Joey has worked hard to achieve a paramedic certification. I believe that he will be successful in achieving his certification in early 2014, and when he does, he is going to be a great paramedic."

"I know that when I am working with Joey that we will all make it home in the morning, Joey is smart, skilled, and very safety conscious."

"Joey is a team player, always willing to help out. He is always working to improve himself and others on our shift, and he is a great person to have on our team!"

As the Fire Chief, my observations of Joey's performance were simple; Joey has embodied the mission, vision, values and customer service philosophy of this organization. Joey is skilled, level-headed, and he is a critical thinker.

EMS PERSON OF THE YEAR 2013 - *Matthew Goodin, Firefighter/Paramedic*



Firefighter Matt Goodin was nominated by his peers as the Division of Fire's 2013 EMS Person of the Year. In their nominations his peer's wrote this about Matt:

"Matt demonstrates excellent patient care. Matt communicates with his patients as if they were a member of his own family, and his "bedside manner" is among the best that I've seen."

"Matt has done an excellent job managing the EMS supplies; there has never been a time when we have gone without supplies."

"Matt has also taken on and done an excellent job working with our EMS billing company and the State of Ohio to ensure that our data management and reporting system is up to date, accurate, and on time. This has afforded us the opportunity to maximize our exposure to revenue generated by the EMS user fee, and exposed us to the maximum amount of available EMS grant money."

As the Fire Chief, I feel that Matt has developed and emerged as a better leader in 2013. As the firefighter in-charge (FFIC) at fire station 2, Matt has developed a crew that he respects and that respects him. Matt knows when to assert himself as the leader in the station and when to let his subordinates take the leadership role. He has done an excellent job of achieving the Division of Fire's 2013 division-wide goals by empowering his staff to perform and achieve at the highest levels.

COMMAND OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2013 - *Chad Garver, Captain*



Captain Chad Garver was nominated by his crew as the Division of Fire's 2013 Command Officer of the Year. The crews wrote the following about Captain Garver:

"Captain Garver is a good leader; he demonstrates a definite command presence while running emergency incidents."

"Captain Garver has been a good mentor to me, he is patient and always willing to assist me with any issue I bring to him."

"Captain Garver treats people with respect, and is always willing to assist an employee with any issue they may have. Captain Garver truly looks out for me as an employee."

"Captain Garver has been a great mentor to me, he challenges me to do the best that I can, he is always willing to assist me in any way he can to ensure that I will be successful."

Captain Garver is a tremendous asset to the Division of Fire, a great leader, and a role model for personnel that aspire to advance as company officers. Captain Garver has done an excellent job of achieving the Division of Fire's 2013 division-wide goals; he achieved this by empowering his staff to perform and achieve at the highest levels.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS



Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Cheatwood, Firefighter/EMT Paul Kimmel, Firefighter/EMT Jacob Miller, Firefighter/EMT-I Missy Oostveen, and Captain Chad Garver received the Division of Fire's *EMS Meritorious Service Medal* for committing to and applying the Division of Fire's mission, values and superior standard of customer care while operating at a cardiac arrest along the bike path in the Taylorsville Metro Park on June 14, 2013.

The crew responded to a call on the report of a 56 year old male collapsed along the bike path in the north part of the Metro Park. The crew went to work quickly and efficiently providing an advanced level of care complemented by teamwork. Prior to loading the patient into the medic, the crew was able to obtain a spontaneous pulse, and upon their arrival at the emergency department the patient began to have some spontaneous respirator effort. After being admitted and treated for a cardiac issue, the patient went home and made a full recovery. The crew's rapid response, extraordinary teamwork, and efficient medical treatment undoubtedly saved this patient's life.

CHALLENGE COINS AND LETTER OF COMMENDATION



1. Firefighter/Paramedic Lisa Cornwell, Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Goodin, and Lt. John M. Sands received a Letter of Commendation and the *EMS Officer's Challenge Coin* for delivering a "superior level of emergency medical care" while caring for a 75 year old male customer suffering from a serious cardiac event on March 24, 2013, in the 500 block of South Tionda Drive. The crew's accurate assessment, professional treatment, and rapid transport of this patient to an intervention facility resulted in a successful heart catheterization which ultimately led to the customer's full recovery.
2. Firefighter/EMT-I Jonathan Duffy and Firefighter/EMT Zachary Ramey received a Letter of Commendation and the *EMS Officer's Challenge Coin* for delivering a "superior level of emergency medical care" while caring for a 57 year old male customer suffering from a serious cardiac event on April 1, 2013, in the 700 block of Damian Street. The crew's accurate assessment, professional treatment, and rapid transport of this patient to an intervention facility resulted in a successful heart catheterization which ultimately led to the customer's full recovery.
3. Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Cheatwood, Firefighter/EMT Paul Kimmel, Firefighter/EMT Jacob Miller, Firefighter/EMT-I Missy Oostveen, and Captain Chad Garver received a Letter of Commendation and the *EMS Officer's Challenge Coin* for delivering a "superior level of emergency medical care" while caring for a 56 year old male customer suffering from a serious cardiac event on June 14, 2013, in the 2000 block of East National Road. The crew's accurate assessment, professional treatment, and rapid transport of this patient to an intervention facility resulted in a successful heart catheterization which ultimately led to the customer's full recovery.
4. Firefighter/Paramedic Lisa Cornwell, EMT David Todd, and Lt. Robert Williams received a Letter of Commendation and the *EMS Officer's Challenge Coin* for delivering a "superior level of emergency medical care" while caring for a 52 year old female customer suffering from a serious cardiac event on June 16, 2013, in the 100 block of Forestwood Avenue. The crew's accurate assessment, professional treatment, and rapid transport of this patient to an intervention facility resulted in a successful heart catheterization which ultimately led to the customer's full recovery.

5. Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Barlage and Firefighter/EMT Candice Jacobs received a Letter of Commendation and the *EMS Officer's Challenge Coin* for delivering a "superior level of emergency medical care" while caring for a 78 year old female customer suffering from a serious cardiac event on August 5, 2013, in the 500 block of Adeline Avenue. The crew's accurate assessment, professional treatment, and rapid transport of this patient to an intervention facility resulted in a successful heart catheterization which ultimately led to the customer's full recovery.
6. Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony Miller, Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Matlock, and Firefighter/EMT Michael Nolan received a Letter of Commendation and the *EMS Officer's Challenge Coin* for delivering a "superior level of emergency medical care" while caring for a 42 year old female customer suffering from a serious cardiac event on September 13, 2013, in the 400 block of Halifax Drive. The crew's accurate assessment, professional treatment, and rapid transport of this patient to an intervention facility resulted in a successful heart catheterization which ultimately led to the customer's full recovery.
7. Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Corwin, Firefighter/EMT John Follick, and Firefighter/EMT Kurtis Green received a Letter of Commendation and the *EMS Officer's Challenge Coin* for delivering a "superior level of emergency medical care" while caring for a 53 year old female customer suffering from a serious cardiac event on September 23, 2013, at Delphi Interiors on Northwoods Boulevard. The crew's accurate assessment, professional treatment, and rapid transport of this patient to an intervention facility resulted in a successful heart catheterization which ultimately led to the customer's full recovery.
8. Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Allen, Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Barlage, and Firefighter/Paramedic Brent Gallup received a Letter of Commendation and the *Fire Chief's Challenge Coin* for delivering a "superior level of emergency medical care" while caring for a 62 year old male having chest pain in the 1300 block of Woodland Meadows Drive on June 25, 2013. Upon the crews arrival they found a patient experiencing a serious cardiac event; a cardiac rhythm disruption was threatening this patient's life. Working as a team the crew provided immediate intervention by delivering a synchronized electrical shock (cardio-version). This treatment undoubtedly saved this patient's life. Unfortunately, the patient succumbed to his cardiac illness approximately thirty days after admission. In a customer survey submitted by this patient's wife, she wrote; "*Thank you, you were such a comfort at an awful time. My husband passed away on September 26, 2013, but your help was very important to me. God bless each and every one of you.*" The impact the crew made on this customer and his family goes well beyond the "superior level of emergency medical care" that we promise to our customers. The crews caring and compassionate response to the needs of this customer, and more specifically, to the needs of his family undoubtedly enhanced their quality of life, an element of the Division of Fire's Mission Statement that is often achieved in the delivery of EMS care. In this situation the crew impacted this family in a different way by affording them additional time with their father and husband.

9. Firefighter/Paramedic Greg Stubleski received a Letter of Commendation and a *Fire Chief's Challenge Coin* for his coordination and management of the 32 hour child passenger safety training on April 15-18, 2013. Firefighter Stubleski "stepped up" in the eleventh hour to assist the Division of Fire (the host) in making this program successful. A project initiated by Code Enforcement Officer Kim Hannahan, the fate of the course came into question when Kim sustained a knee injury and was off for an extended period of time. Firefighter Stubleski saw an opportunity to lead and made it a huge success. The regional coordinator wrote this about her interaction with Greg; "*Greg was a pleasure to work with and showed the highest degree of professionalism.*"
10. Firefighter/EMT Justin Davis, Firefighter Troy Fox, Firefighter/Paramedic Matt Goodin, Firefighter/EMT Adam Marchal, Firefighter/EMT Mindy Weber, and Captain Chad Garver received a Letter of Commendation and a *Fire Chief's Challenge Coin* for assisting with making our "Feel the Heat" live fire training session a success. The crew was instrumental in creating an informative, exciting and safe learning experience for 15 civilian candidates. The goal of this event is to provide key decision makers in local government and media with an opportunity to see what we do for the community. Beyond the line items and capital expenses are well trained, knowledgeable, and dedicated public servants that put their health and well-being on the line each and every day to ensure the safety and stability of our community.
11. Firefighter/EMT Derek Copp, Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Corwin, Firefighter/Paramedic Travis Dafler, Firefighter/Paramedic Corey Gebhart, Firefighter/EMT Kurtis Green, and Firefighter/EMT Travis McCool received a Letter of Commendation and a *Fire Chief's Challenge Coin* for providing key assistance with several "special training projects" in 2013. The crew was instrumental in the preparation for and success of the following "special training events" in 2013:
- ☒ Joint bus crash/MCI drill with Vandalia-Butler School's transportation department.
 - ☒ "Feel the Heat" live fire training session.
 - ☒ Vandalia and Butler Township fire department live fire training sessions at the Old Cassel Road acquired structure.

Each of these events required a great deal of preparation and time, and the crew devoted both to ensure that the training provided the highest quality and safest learning opportunities possible.

12. Captain Chad Garver, Captain Mike Pinson, Lt. David Clapper, Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Burneka, Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Cheatwood, Firefighter Brian Elish, Firefighter/EMT John Follick, Firefighter Troy Fox, Firefighter Andrew Hochwalt, Firefighter/EMT Jason Lawler, Firefighter/EMT Adam Marchal, and Firefighter/EMT-I Brian Ziegenbusch were awarded a *Unit Citation* for their efforts, actions, and performance during the EF1 tornado on October 31, 2013. As a team these crews were recognized for their fast, efficient, courteous, and professional service that they delivered in the face of this devastating natural disaster. Their response to this incident was well "above and beyond" the normal level of service that we promise to those we serve. Their efforts and actions undoubtedly enhanced the quality of life for those citizens affected, and prevented further injury and loss of life.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S "FIREFIGHTING CREW OF THE YEAR"



This crew was nominated for their initial response and actions during the EF1 tornado in October 2013.

The following is a copy of the nomination letter submitted to the Montgomery County Fire Chiefs:

On October 31, 2013, the City of Vandalia experienced an EF1 tornado that "touched down" on the city's northeast side. The tornado was only on the ground for approximately 45-60 seconds; however, in that short period of time it significantly damaged utility infrastructure and several commercial/residential structures along a three block swath of National Road, collapsing six structures, and damaging a dozen more beyond the point of habitation.

At approximately 23:31 hours the Vandalia 911 center received a call for fire/EMS service to 21 Foley Drive, a Fricker's restaurant. The caller was reporting that the storm had caused damaged to the building and injured several of the restaurant's patrons. Assessing the call as an "injury" the 911 center dispatched Medic 2. Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony Miller and Firefighter/EMT Anthony Porter were the first to arrive on Foley Drive. Upon their arrival they were faced with a scene that was "pitch dark", an electrical system in the area that had been completely destroyed, a building that was heavily damaged by what initially appeared to be straight line winds, debris that littered the street/parking lot, automobiles that had been "tossed about" in the lot, and droves of patrons that were exiting the restaurant.

The crew provided a rapid scene size-up, and realizing the magnitude of this incident, summoned additional fire/EMS resources. The crew established a "mobile" command post and used their vehicle's public address system to initiate a triage process; asking those patrons in the lot and those still exiting the building to gather at the rear of the medic unit until they could be assessed by fire/EMS personnel. As the crew entered the structure, they observed a scene of complete devastation and "chaos". The crew in their after action summaries described what they observed as; "what they believed police, fire, EMS personnel would see arriving first-due to a car bombing." The building was heavily damaged, the interior of the building was covered in debris, and from their initial assessment of those patrons still in the restaurant, injuries present that would easily escalate this incident to a "mass casualty event". The crew quickly provided a situational update and briefing to the first arriving Battalion Chief, Captain Duane Stitzel, who immediately transitioned them from incident commanders to triage officers. This two person crew began triaging and tagging patients using the "new" SALT triage system and equipment. A system that is still fairly "new" to the crews, but a system that was proficient, quick and well applied. Soon after, additional fire/EMS resources arrived and began to assist, treat, and transport the injured.

The Division of Fire estimates that the first crew was able to triage around 30 people, most of which were considered to be "walking wounded", green tagged, and minor. Those patrons received first aid treatment at the scene and left under their own power. Three were ultimately considered to be yellow or red tagged, and were transported to a local hospital.

It is my belief that the initial actions of the Medic 2 crew (FF Miller and FF Porter) coupled with the outstanding leadership of Captain Duane Stitzel (Battalion Chief), who established an initial command post on Foley Drive, managed this MCI event and then transitioned to running as the "area commander" for the entire disaster response, created positive outcomes for each and every customer effected by this storm. Equally as important, their actions created the safest working conditions and environments that could have been provided to each and every first responder (police, fire, EMS, public works, and utility workers) operating at dozens of emergency scenes along the tornado's path. Please understand that these three men did not handle this incident on their own, but their initial actions and their command and control of the incident enabled the other fire/EMS responders to safely handle their assignments.

It is for those reasons I am nominating Captain Duane Stitzel, Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony Miller, and Firefighter/EMT Andrew Porter as the "Montgomery County Fire Chief's Fire/EMS Person(s)/Crew of the Year". The level of skill, ability, and composure that was displayed on this incident truly is what makes them fire/EMS service professionals, and I am extremely proud of the work they do. Please accept my nomination on behalf of the City of Vandalia's Division of Fire and each and every customer that this crew assisted on that evening.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Chad E. Follick, OFE
Fire Chief
City of Vandalia Division of Fire*

Captain Duane Stitzel, Public Safety Specialist Kelly Howard, Anthony Miller, and Andrew Porter also received the Division of Fire's *FIRE/EMS Meritorious Service Medal* for their initial actions at the October tornado event.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2013

1. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement Project (\$160,000)



GOAL: The goal of this capital improvement budget project was to ensure that firefighters in the Division of Fire are equipped with firefighter protective clothing that meets or exceeds the most current National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) standards.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of this capital improvement project was to:

- ☑ Replace twenty-five (25) of the Division of Fire's 15 year old self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units.
- ☑ Replace (52) SCBA cylinders.
- ☑ Replace (65) SCBA masks.
- ☑ Replace (15) SCBA Mask mounted voice amplifiers.
- ☑ Replace (2) Rapid intervention kits (RIT KITS) with new SCBA compatible "RIT KITS", and add a third "RIT KIT" to the Division of Fire's equipment cache.

2. Fire Hose and Nozzle Replacement Project (\$20,000)



GOAL: The goal of this capital improvement project is to ensure that its members are equipped with the firefighting equipment that meets or exceeds the most current National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA 1961) standards.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of this capital improvement project is to replace failing, damaged, or destroyed hose and ensure that each firefighting engine is properly equipped to initiate an efficient fire attack. The hose and equipment requested as a part of this objective was:

- ☒ Replace 2,000 feet of large diameter 4" supply fire hose.
- ☒ Replace 2,000 feet of 3" supply fire hose.
- ☒ Add/replace seven (7) 100 psi rated nozzles.
- ☒ Replace three (3) fire hydrant drop bags.

3. Citywide Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) Project (\$43,000)



GOAL: The goal of this capital improvement project was to ensure that city facilities and “first response” vehicles were equipped with the most up to date, efficient and effective automatic defibrillator (AED) technology available, and that it was readily available to city employees, first responders, and bystanders ensuring that emergency care was started ahead of a 911 call and the arrival of the advanced life support crews. The objective of this capital improvement project is to replace the city’s current aging AEDs with newer technology.

OBJECTIVES: The following AED equipment was purchased as a part of this capital project:

- ☒ Eighteen (18) new AEDs.
- ☒ New service agreements on the units were established.
- ☒ Ten (10) AED cabinets in city owned facilities, improving the visibility and availability of the AEDs in those facilities.

4. Protective Clothing Replacement Project (\$20,000)



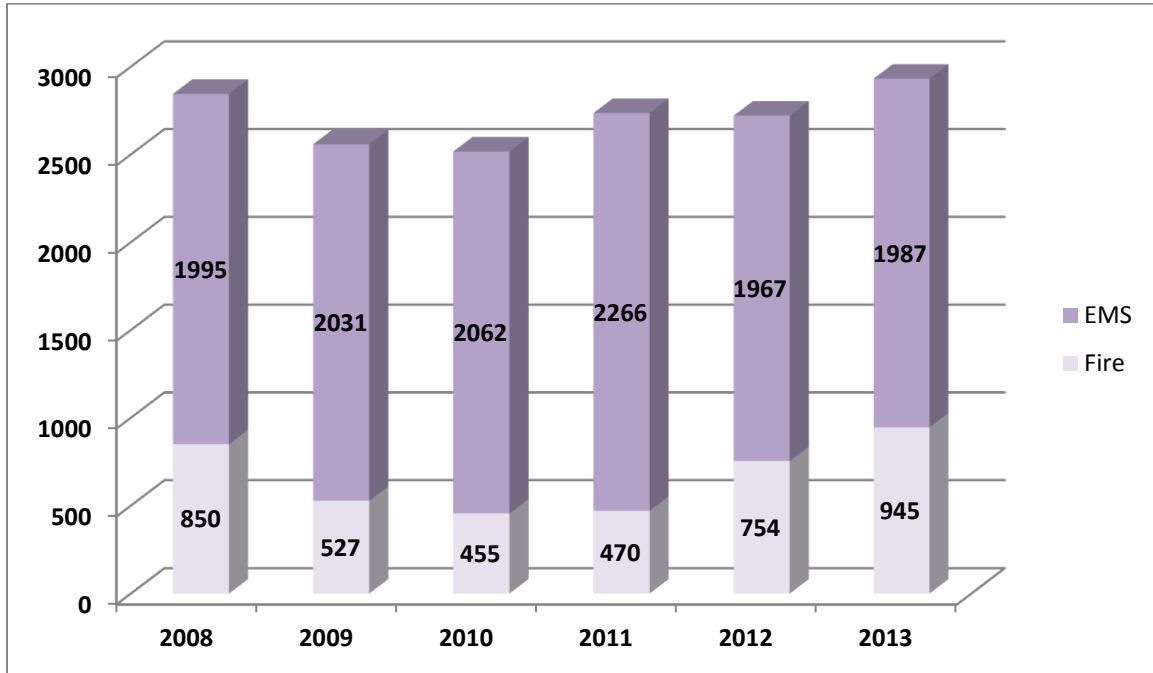
GOAL: The goal of this capital project was to ensure that firefighters are equipped with the firefighter protective clothing that meets or exceeds the most current National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA 1971) standards.

OBJECTIVES: The following was purchased as a part of this capital project:

- ☒ Replaced between ten and fifteen (10-15) sets of firefighter's protective clothing ("turnout" coats and pants).
- ☒ Replaced ten (10) firefighter's helmets (with leather fronts).
- ☒ Replaced ten (10) sets of firefighter's leather firefighting boots.
- ☒ Replaced ten (10) pairs of firefighter's gloves.
- ☒ Replaced ten (10) firefighter's protective hoods.

RESPONSE STATISTICS

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE (5 Year Experience)



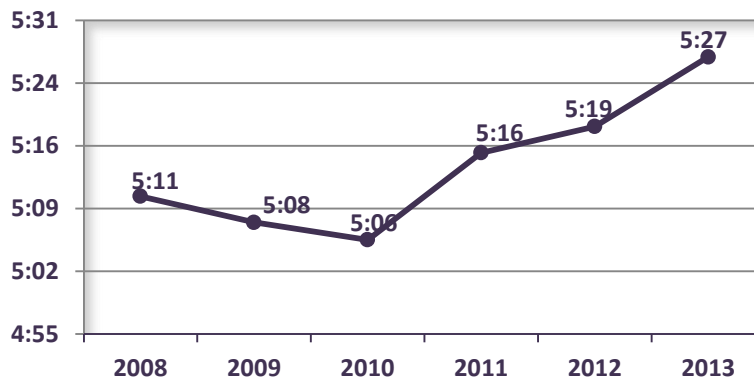
The table above represents a five (5) year “snap shot” of the total calls for service answered by fire/EMS personnel. In 2013, the Division of Fire answered **2932** calls for service (**1987** EMS calls and **945** fire calls).

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 2013 was 5:27, slightly above our target response time of five minutes (5:00), however, still well below the NFPA standard. The table below shows a five year "snap shot" of the average annual response time.



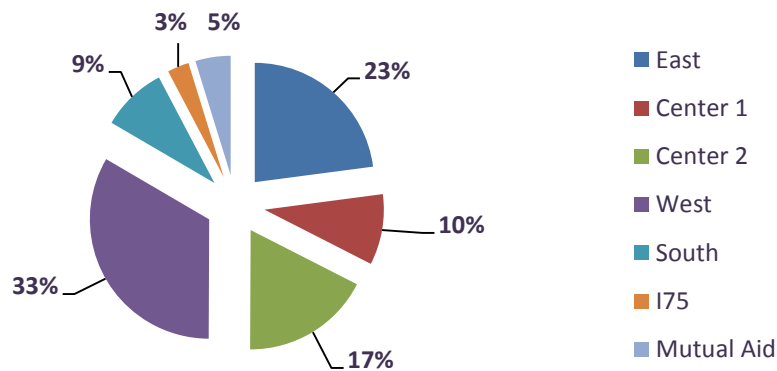
Achieving this five minute target response time is a goal of the Division of Fire; we are consistently evaluating monthly response times and "tweaking" our operations to improve those times.

RESPONSE BY DISTRICT

Since January 2010, the Division of Fire has improved response times and service delivery by making "sweeping changes" to its deployment and staffing strategies. The Division is committed to providing the highest quality service in the fastest and most efficient manner possible. In early 2011, the Division realigned each station's primary response areas, sending fire/EMS resources from the closest fire station. The Division feels that it has a very good handle on where the calls are occurring within the city, but we continue to develop long range plans to provide fire/EMS staffing in these areas. Getting to a customer's emergency quickly is only one part of the mission; the vision is to be quick, proficient and cost effective.

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 2013.

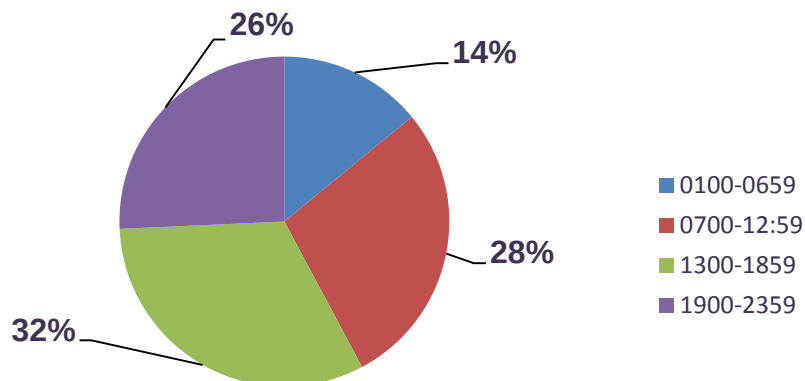
CALLS FOR SERVICE BY RESPONSE DISTRICTS 2013



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 2013.

CALLS FOR SERVICE BY TIME OF DAY 2013



MUTUAL AID RESPONSE DATA



The mutual aid partnerships that the Division of Fire maintains are divided into three main categories: (1) Automatic Mutual Aid Response (AMAR) - which is a pre-arranged agreement that brings additional resources to the scene of pre-determined hazards throughout the city (examples include manufacturing facilities, schools, nursing centers, etc.) and, (2) Mutual Aid – which summons additional resources to the scene of specific incidents as they are needed (examples include multiple injury auto accidents, multiple victim fire incidents, and EMS call(s) that go beyond the Division's initial EMS capabilities) and, (3) "Joint Response" AMAR- joint responses are fire/EMS responses handled by the "closest, most appropriate" fire/EMS resource regardless of the jurisdiction.

A statistical footnote; when analyzing our mutual aid numbers is that the Division of Fire is consistently able to provide (staff) three to four EMS vehicles for EMS calls in the City of Vandalia. This is not something that most of our neighbors can say. With joint staffing coming on line mid-year, the number of "in the city" EMS calls that were handled by true mutual aid resources have been significantly reduced. This is important to the Division of Fire because calls that Vandalia medics can't handle first out represent a loss of EMS revenue.

The Division has been successful in considerably reducing these types of "missed opportunities" in the last five years. Moving forward, that number will be even lower as our joint staffing and response project grows and our vision of ensuring that the "closest and most appropriate" fire/EMS resource gets dispatched to a customer's fire/EMS emergency. We feel that the ability to deliver a quality service to our customers by sending the closest resources, regardless of the jurisdiction, is worth the reduced EMS revenue.

Table 1 represents an accounting of the total number of both AMAR and Mutual Aid calls that the Division of Fire responded to and/or requested in 2013. 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.

Table 1 - MUTUAL AID DATA 2013

Department	AMAR Provided	AMAR Received	Mutual Aid Provided	Mutual Aid Received
Bethel Fire (Clark)	0	0	1	0
Bethel Fire (Miami)	0	0	1	0
Butler Fire	27	59	90	73
Dayton Fire	0	0	3	1
Dayton Airport Fire	0	0	1	0
Englewood Fire	0	2	0	2
Huber Heights Fire	6	14	17	14
Harrison Twp. Fire	1	7	7	4
Tipp City Fire/EMS	9	11	20	6
TOTALS	43	93	140	100

JOINT STAFFING AND RESPONSE PROJECT

The "Joint Staffing and Response" project began in late 2011 as a trial; alarm cards were changed to automatically bring up the "closest" fire/EMS resource to a 911 caller's emergency. As new fire station 1 came on line (2010) it was clear that there were areas in both the city and township that would be better served by sending the closest fire/EMS resources instead of a customer waiting for a city or a township medic to travel extra time/distance to their emergency. This "joint response philosophy" was really the first step in a multiple tier plan to improve service delivery.

In 2012, Butler fire crews from fire station 89 (Frederick Pike) moved into Vandalia fire station 1, and on January 1, 2013, the first phase of the joint staffing plan was made "fully operational" as Vandalia fire crews moved into and began to operate from Butler fire station 88 on Little York Road.

In May of 2013, Butler fire embarked upon a significant remodeling and addition project at fire station 88. To assist Butler in bringing this project in "on time and under budget", Butler fire crews were temporarily relocated to both Vandalia fire stations for the duration of this project (projected to be completed in February 2014). This temporary "joint staffing" set-up has provided a better view of what a "global staffing" concept can do to improve operations, reduce redundancies, and ultimately save money.

We now have a better idea of what the "right size" staffing is for both organizations. We have been able to "cross staff" fire/EMS apparatus which has allowed us to keep our promise to our customers, ensuring that they are receiving the "closest and the most appropriate" service. The staffing model has provided us an opportunity to really "do more with less". When a station/department is short staffed the "global staffing" model has allowed us to fill these "gaps" internally, preventing additional effort in seeking out (or calling in) personnel, and reducing the need and expense of overtime. The staffing model has afforded us the opportunity to get a full box alarm of fire apparatus to fire/EMS emergencies well within our target response time, and well ahead of the national average. Being able to deliver an appropriately staffed fire engine on an actual house fire within that five minute window creates positive outcomes for all of those involved. For the customer it means that those first arriving firefighters can go right to work, extinguishing the fire, searching for trapped occupants, and making rescues of those trapped occupants. For firefighters, a proper first alarm (properly staffed) assignment enhances our ability to perform simultaneous fire ground activities. It also provides us with an opportunity to more rapidly deploy water to the fire and search crews to trapped victims. Ultimately it improves the survivability of customers trapped within the burning building, reduces property loss and devastation, and ensures fire ground/fire fighter safety.

Much of what we have learned during this period of "co-habitation" is being used to develop longer range joint staffing, response and deployment plans. In fact, it is very likely that in early 2014 we anticipate implementing several of these operational changes. The timing of these changes will correspond with Vandalia and Butler fire crews moving back into fire station 88.

Another exciting joint project coming soon to “a fire station near you” is “*Locution*”, the automated dispatching system that Vandalia, Butler Township, Huber Heights, Riverside, and Englewood will be sharing in 2014. The “Locution” system is a software system that links directly into our computer aided dispatching (CAD) system in the 911 center and that automatically deploys (dispatches) the “closest and most appropriate” fire/EMS resource to a call for service. This system was almost exclusively paid for through a federal grant awarded to the City of Huber Heights. Huber Heights extended access to the system to all of its immediate neighbors in an attempt to begin addressing the need for better call handling and deployment times. As a Vandalia dispatcher enters a call for service into the CAD, locution will begin to collate that information, and when it has the critical pieces, it will automatically send the call out to fire/EMS crews. If a call for service would require a response from Butler, Huber, or Englewood alongside Vandalia crews, the locution will open the appropriate radios and send the call directly to those fire/EMS resources.

In developing this joint project, communications and notification have always been major concerns. The process in the past was Vandalia would dispatch Vandalia crews and simulcast on a radio frequency that was supposed to be monitored in our mutual aid department’s communication centers. Sometimes the equipment failed, sometimes human error prevented calls from being sent or received, and sometimes the calls went through but the handling times significantly impacted response times. Another positive “lesson learned” from our most recent cohabitation is that being able to hear a call for service initially enhances response times significantly. So we feel that this software is a great start to assisting us in achieving the larger goal of faster service.

Table 2 represents the total number of calls (fire/EMS) that were provided and received as a result of the joint response plan.

Table 2 - JOINT AMAR RESPONSE DATA 2013

Joint AMAR Received	Joint AMAR Provided
124	50

FIRE SUPPRESSION

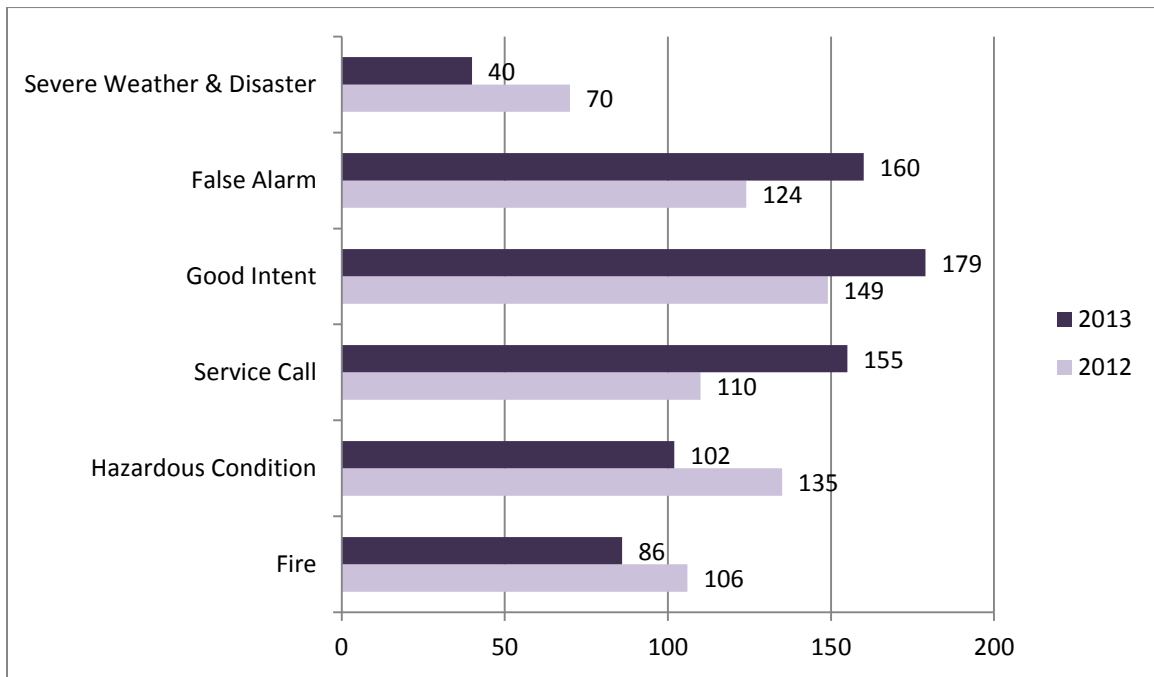
The Division of Fire answered 945 fire related calls for service in 2013. Fire related calls for service increased by approximately 25% in 2013 (754 fire related calls for service in 2012).

The increase can be attributed to subtle increases in the following call types:

- (1) Calls for service classified as a "Fire" response - the statistical term "fire" includes actual fires, big or small, inside or outside, developing or extinguished upon the fire department apparatus's arrival.
- (2) Calls for service classified as "Hazardous Conditions" which includes everything from carbon monoxide/natural gas leaks, to odd odors, to arcing/sparking electrical equipment.
- (3) Calls for service classified as "Service Calls" where the fire department responds to provide assistance with any variety of non-emergency type issues, (examples include burst pipes, smoke detector (battery) installations, assisting the police by providing ladders or tools, animal rescues, etc.).
- (4) Calls for service classified as "Good Intent" where smoke is reported in an area, where smoke is reported in a building but no fire exists, when an auto fire is reported and it is never found, or it is found and the smoke is from a mechanical issue and not a fire, or a fire is reported but none exists.
- (5) Calls for service classified as a response to a "Severe Weather/Natural Disaster", (this call type was added to our data collection system following the dry hurricane/wind storm in 2008). The Division of Fire answered 208 calls for service in 2008 in a forty-eight hour period, and tracking these calls became an issue. So, this call type was added to the data collection system. During severe weather events the Division of Fire is often called upon to perform duties both inside and outside of our normal purview (assessment of electrical hazards, searching/assessing damage/collapsed buildings, searching abandoned or damaged automobiles as a result of the event, debris clearance, etc.).
- (6) Calls for service classified as "False Alarms and/or False Calls" such as fire/rescue false alarms, both intentional (malicious) and unintentional, and all fire alarm malfunctions.

Table 3 represents six of the top ten annual “Fire” type responses and a comparison of the six fire type responses mentioned above 2012 to 2013.

TABLE 3 - FIRE TYPE RESPONSE COMPARISION 2012-2013

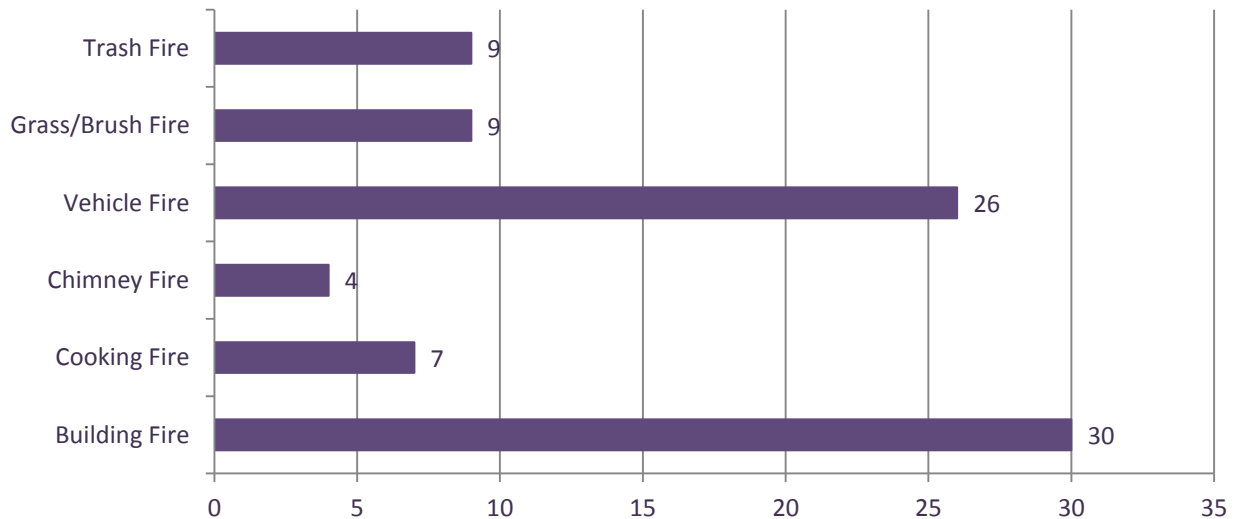


Below - Firefighter David Stockler and Firefighter Cassandra Channell stand at the ready on a “back-up” line at a fire incident.



Table 4 breaks down the “Fire” data heading a bit more concisely to provide you with a better understanding of exactly what type of actual fires the Division of Fire handled in 2013. These statistics are provided in table 4.

TABLE 4 - TOP “FIRE” RESPONSES 2013

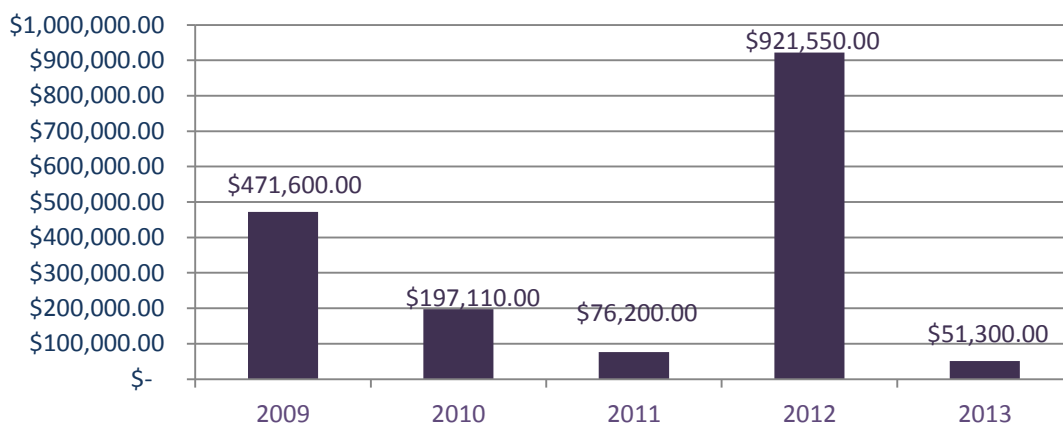


The Division of Fire defines a fire as a “dollar loss fire” when the fire causes a tangible property loss. As you can see above, the Division of Fire answered approximately **85** calls for service that were classified as “fire” responses in 2013. Of those 85 calls for service, the Division of Fire classified **28** of these fires as a “dollar loss” fire incident.

Of these fires, \$24,900 dollars of loss occurred in residential or commercial buildings, vehicle fires account for the remaining \$26,400 dollars of loss reported in 2013.

Table 5 provides a “snap shot” of the Division of Fire’s total dollar loss due to fire for the last five years. It’s important to note that the Division of Fire’s total dollar loss in 2013 is the lowest reported dollar loss for the city in over five years.

TABLE 5 - DOLLAR LOSS LAST FIVE (5) YEARS



EMS OPERATIONS

Statistically, emergency medical services (EMS) calls account for approximately 68% of the Division of Fire's call volume. The Division of Fire answered 1987 emergency medical calls for service in 2013.



The Division of Fire's vision is to provide the **fastest** and most efficient level of patient care at the lowest possible cost to our customers.

Delivering "fast" service is really more complex than having a firefighter or paramedic "drive faster" to an emergency. Our vision is achieved by efficiently managing time, and time in this application is defined by analyzing the amount of time it takes firefighters/paramedics to; (1) "turn out", the amount of time it takes for firefighter/paramedics to get into a medic unit or a fire truck and roll out of the station once a call is received, (2) "respond", response time is the amount of time it takes for a medic unit or fire truck to get from the station's front door to the patient's front door, (3) "on scene time", on scene time is the amount of time that it takes an EMS crew to initiate basic/advanced care once they arrive to stabilize the patient, load them into a medic unit and initiate transport to the emergency department, (4) "transport time", transport time is the amount of time it takes a medic unit to get the patient from their door step to an emergency room's door step, and (5) "turnaround time", turnaround time is the amount of time it takes an EMS crew to get a patient checked into the ER, re-stock, submit their documentation and return to service. Time at an ER is basically "downtime", time when the crew and medic unit are not available for other emergencies in our community.

Turnout times are fairly consistent; the Division of Fire has an average "turnout time" of 1:30, this number rising slightly at night as crews are waking, dressing and moving to the apparatus. Turnout times are determined by subtracting a crews "en-route" time from the dispatch time. Turnout times are added to the crew's actual response time and are included in all response time figures (i.e. the Division's average response time).

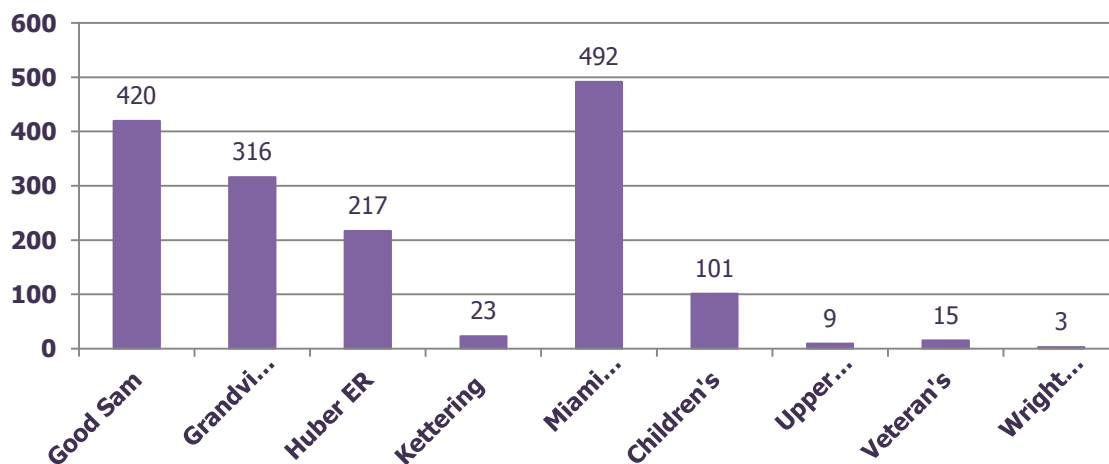
Response times were mentioned earlier in this report. The Division of Fire has set five minutes as a "target response time" which means that it should take us five minutes or less to arrive at the patient's door step following a 911 call.

The Division of Fire's average response time in 2013 was 5:27; which is 27 seconds above our target. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) establishes a "target" response time for Advanced Life Support which means a paramedic staffed EMS unit should arrive within 8 minutes. We are committed to improving response times and to meeting our "target" response time. We closely monitor the use of statistical information in this report to access and revise our policies and procedures in an attempt to reduce our average annual response times to meet this target.

On-scene times sometime vary depending on the level of emergency care that is required. Crews are encouraged to rapidly assess, treat, package and transport patients based on their initial assessment of a patient's signs and symptoms. In many cases a rapid assessment, treatment, and transportation is required by our operating protocol (i.e. for patients with possible heart attacks, strokes, or patients that are suffering from traumatic injuries). The Division of Fire's average "on-scene" time is 16:39, on-scene times have greatly improved from last year (2012) with the average "on-scene" time in 2012 at 28 minutes.

The Division of Fire transported **1596** patients; approximately 80% of the patients that were cared for by Vandalia EMS crews were transferred to a Dayton area hospital. Table 6 below shows the distribution of patients to local receiving hospitals.

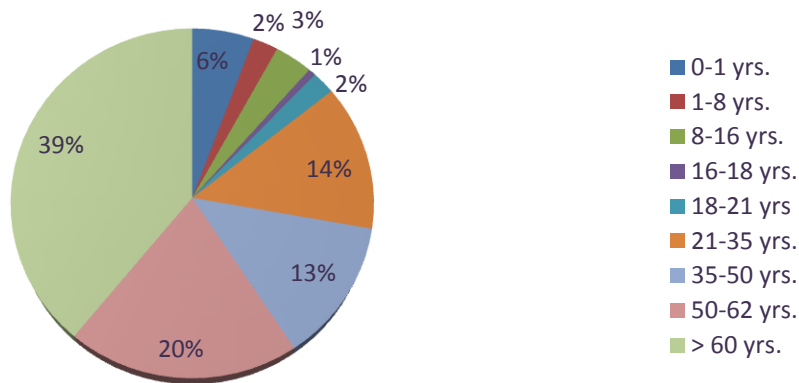
TABLE 6 - TRANSPORTS BY RECEIVING HOSPITAL 2013



As you can easily see from the data in table 6, the Division of Fire transports the largest number of its patients to one of the four Dayton Regional Hospitals (Good Samaritan, Miami Valley, Grandview, and Huber ER). There are several factors that impact transport (travel) times (i.e. location of the hospital, traffic, weather conditions, construction, and patient condition). The Division of Fire's average transport (travel) time is 10:16.

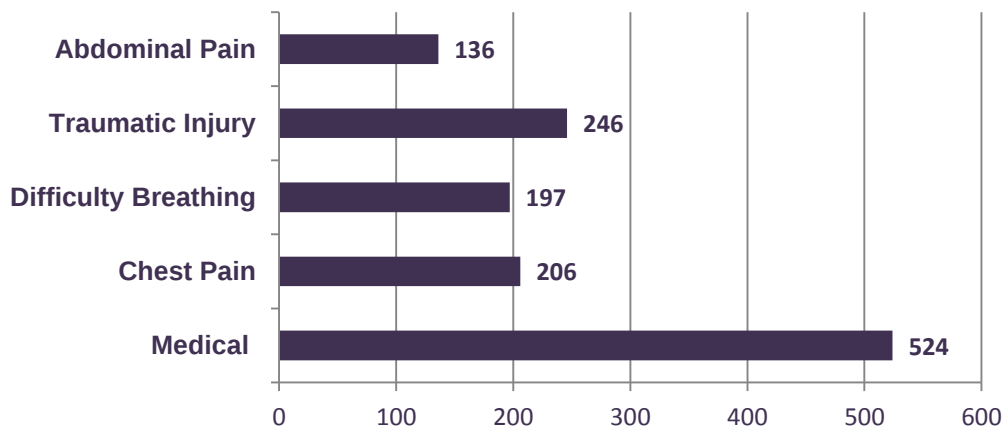
The Division of Fire's emergency medical services are requested by customers ranging in age from several weeks old to 102. The Division has found that approximately 39% of the patients its EMS crews encounter are 62 years of age and older. Table 7 shows the percentage of customers served in each age range.

TABLE 7 - PATIENTS BY AGE RANGE



The Division of Fire classifies EMS calls in two major categories; (1) Medical, or (2) Trauma. Under each of these primary headings are subcategories that describe a patient's chief complaint (reason for calling). Table 8 represents the five most common EMS calls answered by the Division of Fire in 2013.

TABLE 8 - FIVE MOST COMMON EMS CALLS IN 2013



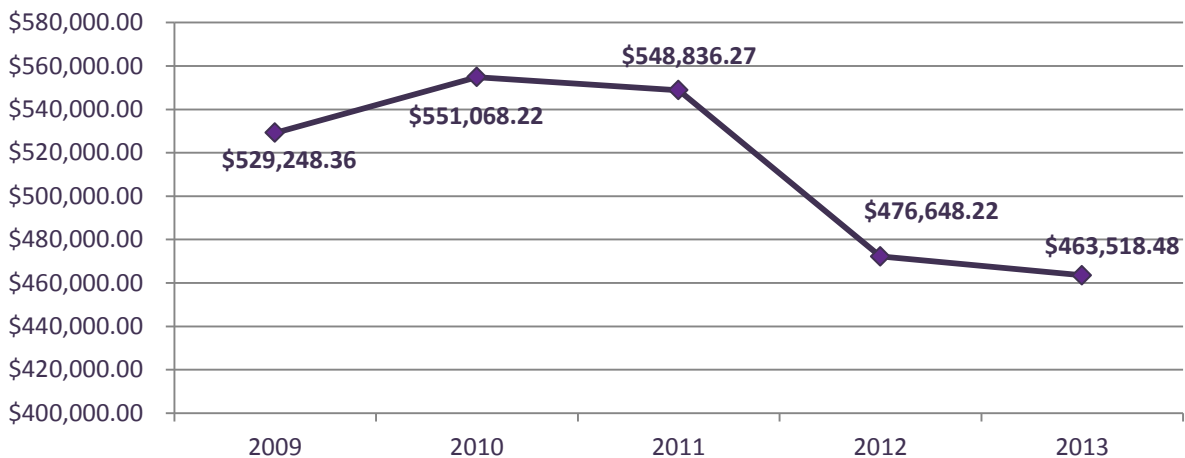
EMS BILLING

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).

The Division of Fire transported **1594** patients in 2013, those transports represent approximately \$1.4 million dollars of EMS charges in 2013. Of that \$1.4 million the Division of Fire collected **\$463,518.48**. Based on the total amount collected and the total number of transports, the Division of Fire’s average EMS collection rate is **\$293/transport**, this is about a 32.5% recovery rate.

Despite the fact that transports were up slightly in 2013, we are not seeing a significant improvement in collections and revenue. On a positive note, we did see a much lower “adjustment/write-off” figure in 2013 of \$877,571.66. This is the lowest write-off amount since 2009. Table 9 provides a “snap shot” of EMS revenue collections for the last five years.

TABLE 9 - EMS REVENUE LAST (5) YEARS



FIRE PREVENTION

The mission of the Fire Prevention group 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 Fire Prevention group uses fire safety inspections, pre-fire planning visits, public education, and school programming as conduits for disseminating our safety messages.



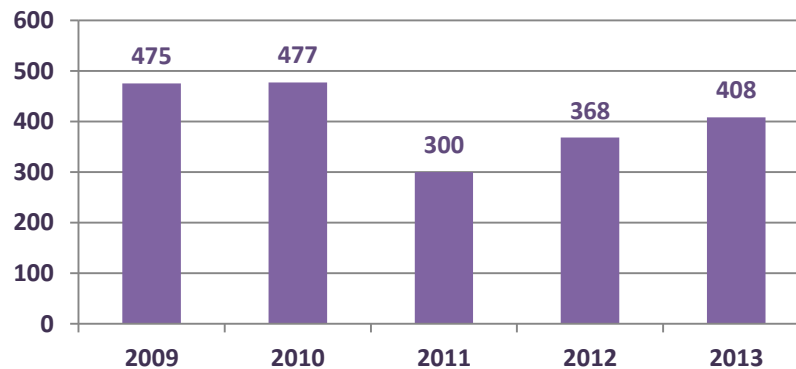
Above - Two of our biggest fans are enjoying their visit to the fire station during the Fire Department Open House in October 2013.

Fire Safety Inspections and Pre-Fire Planning

The Division of Fire is responsible for providing annual fire safety inspections to well above 500 commercial, mercantile, manufacturing, and institutional structures. In 2013, Fire Safety Inspectors completed **241** regularly scheduled fire safety inspections. In addition to our regular fire safety inspections, the Fire Prevention Bureau is tasked with other "special inspections". These special inspections include inspections of new construction projects, renovations, building repair projects, and State licensed daycares. The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted **167** permit/special inspections in 2013.

Table 10 shows the total number of fire safety inspections completed annually over a five year period.

**TABLE 10 - Total Number of Fire Safety Inspections Annually
(Five Year Summary)**



The Division of Fire's fire safety inspection program is carried out by on-duty firefighter/EMS crews (referred to as company level inspections). Approximately 75% of the regular annual fire safety inspections are done by on-duty companies. These crews focus on getting into the small-medium size offices, commercial, manufacturing, and institutional occupancies in the city. Kim Hannahan, the Division of Fire's Code Enforcement Officer, handles annual fire safety inspections in the larger facilities, special occupancies (schools, health care facilities, nursing homes, group homes, and larger office/manufacturing facilities). These larger facilities are better served by an inspector that can pre-schedule and remain committed to the inspection throughout its duration. On-duty companies assigned to inspections often are "pulled away" from the inspection to answer emergency calls.

In 2011, the Division of Fire "rolled out" new pre-fire planning software, this software has put this critical planning information on mobile data terminals (MDTs) in each piece of front-line fire/EMS apparatus. Now, as crews complete fire safety inspections they also collect information (intelligence) and input it into our pre-fire planning software. This data collection process puts critical building information right at first responder's "finger tips" during emergency responses. Having this type of information directly in front of a first responding firefighting crew or first arriving incident commander puts the fire department crews operating at the scene at a significant tactical advantage, while greatly enhancing fire ground safety. The Division of Fire completed **236** fire pre-plans in 2013.

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.

FIRE PREVENTION COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Outreach and message delivery continues to be the best method for prevention of fires and injuries. In 2013 the Division of Fire participated in about **612** hours of fire prevention outreach contacting **6965** people.



Photo Left - Firefighter Dan Williamson explains how firefighters use hand tools to assist them in gaining access to fires. This photo was taken during the 2013 Fire Department Open House.

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".



Pictured above - Zachary Paige, a first grader at Helke Elementary School poses with his Civilian Medal of Honor. He received this medal for summoning fire/EMS assistance for his ill grandmother in January of 2013. When asked how he knew what to do, he responded; "I learned how to call 911 from the Passport to Safety program."

Another fire/injury prevention program success story, the "Passport to Safety" program has significantly saved lives and property in our community. The Division of Fire is proud to partner with the Division of Police, Butler Township Police/Fire, and the schools to deliver this "value added" community outreach programming.

The following is a sample of some of the other outreach opportunities the Division of Fire participated in during 2013:

- Car Seat Installations (74)
- Smoke Detector Installations (14)
- Smoke Detector Checks and Batteries (36)
- Remembering When Senior's Program
- Passport to Safety (3 weeks)
- Stop, Drop and Roll (3 weeks)
- Helke Student Recognition Assembly
- Play and Spray at the Vandalia Library
- St. Chris Field Day
- Carnival at Smith Middle School (Jointly with Butler Fire)
- Lunch and Learn Summer Safety
- Hosted Safe Kid's Car Seat Check Up Event
- Touch a truck at the Recreation Complex
- Fire Station Tours (6)
- Living Word Church Fall Festival
- Living Word Church Car/Truck/Bike Show
- Business/Corporate Fire Drills (12)
- National Night Out
- Ladder 8 assist Morton Middle School with Egg Drop Experiment (75 students)
- Health Fair at VRC's Well-O-Ween
- Fire Extinguisher Training Sessions (15)
- Pre-school Visits (6 Schools)
- Fire Department Open House
- Chamber of Commerce Business Expo
- Health Fair at GE Aviation
- Health Fair at Standard Register
- Residential Lock Box Installations and Education
- CPR (AED) programs (38)
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Classes (6)
- First Aid programs (15)
- Blood Borne Pathogens Training (8)
- Senior Fire Academy Vandalia Village Safety Training (7)
- Kid's Home Alone Program (3)
- Waibel Safety Classes
- Inteva Safety Day
- Flow testing for construction projects (7)

TRAINING

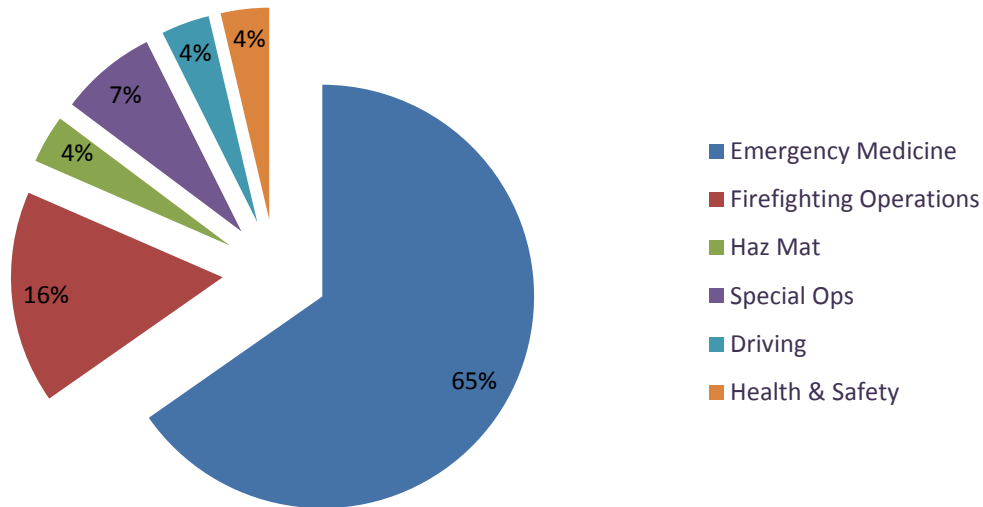
The Division of Fire and its staff are very much like a championship sports team in the following ways; firefighters/paramedics have to be mentally and physically prepared to play (respond) at game time. There are usually coaches on every call (command officer or firefighter in-charge), and we have a 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, and practice is how you “win” games (save lives and property).



Photo left - Firefighter Mandy Weber stretches fire control hose line during a “live fire” training session at the city’s retired farm house on Old Cassel Road.

The Division of Fire logged **775** hours of fire, EMS, Hazardous Materials, and Special Operations (technical rescue) training in 2013. That’s approximately **65** hours of training/month or approximately **2** hours of training per day. Table 11 represents the breakdown of training by general training topics.

TABLE 11 - TRAINING BREAKDOWN BY TOPICS 2013



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 categorized training in a couple of ways; (1) the Division of Fire has regular monthly EMS, Fire, and Special Operations training sessions considered to be department-wide training sessions, and (2) the Division of Fire holds weekly "Company Level" training sessions/drills. Company Level sessions are usually topic-specific training sessions held on shift for "on-duty" personnel, and are designed to focus on developing the practical skills of a specific company or crew while emphasizing "team work".

The Division of Fire has been fortunate to have access within the city or by sharing an opportunity with the township to utilize structures (usually residential) for a variety of trainings. These trainings normally result in a "live fire" demolition of the structure at the conclusion of our training time. Live fire training sessions are invaluable to firefighters; they allow our training staff to create realistic response conditions in a controlled, safe environment.



A great deal of the Division of Fire's fire training hours in 2013 were conducted at the city's retired farm house on Old Cassel Road. The photo above includes the participants and instructors from both Vandalia and Butler Fire Departments that participated in the final "live fire" training session in November of 2013.



Pictured to the left - Firefighters from both Vandalia and Butler Township advance a fire attack line to the second floor during a "joint" fire training session in 2013.

The Division of Fire remains committed to strengthening and growing our "joint" staffing and deployment project with Butler Township Fire. "Joint" fire/EMS training sessions are critical to the joint operations plan. Both departments realized in late 2012 that they could more effectively deliver training by committing to a single training plan and schedule. So in 2013, 98% of the training conducted was made possible through the teamwork, cooperation, and combined efforts of the Vandalia and Butler Fire Department's training staff.



"Practice makes perfect!" Acquired structures like the city's farm house provide an opportunity for fire crews to practice skills that cannot be easily simulated or replicated in a classroom setting. The photo to the left depicts a member of a Vandalia ladder company using a chain saw to convert a window to a door. This technique can be applied to rescue trapped citizens or in the worst case scenario to free trapped firefighters. It is a skill that you want firefighters to be able to perform from "muscle memory"; when it is necessary, it is a skill that must be carried out in a rapid and efficient manner. No time to review a manual or consult an "app" on your *iPhone*.

Photo right - A safety crew monitors the fire development in a burn room at live fire training in October 2013.



Above left - Vandalia and Butler fire crews discuss the best methods for cutting ventilation holes in the flat roof of a commercial structure.





Photo left - Firefighters complete their training objective, a 6' x 6' ventilation hole in the flat roof of the retired United Dairy Farmers building on Dixie Drive in Butler Township.



The photo above right depicts firefighters practicing their dismounts from the Vandalia ladder device. The ladder is used frequently to provide firefighting crews access to the roofs of commercial buildings, so it is imperative that crews practice using the ladder truck.



In the photos above firefighters from Vandalia and Butler fire practice advancing hose lines and searching in a larger floor plan (commercial) building.

"FEEL THE HEAT" TRAINING SESSION



In the photo above participants, instructors and safety crews pose for a group photo following the Division of Fire's 2013 "Feel the Heat" training opportunity. As a part of our 2013 training schedule, the Division of Fire held a special fire training session for City Council, staff, and the media in October of 2013. The Division of Fire provided two hours of "live fire" training sessions to a half dozen participants using the city's retired farm house. The training was designed to provide these select civilians with a "mask's eye view" of what firefighters in the City of Vandalia are faced with when they are called to fires within the city.

The participants got to see first hand the staffing demands of a fire, what firefighters encounter when they enter a building on fire to search for trapped occupants, how technology like the thermal imaging camera makes a firefighter's job easier, how fire develops, and what firefighters encounter when they enter a burning building to attack/control a fire.



Above left - Firefighter Derek Copp explains the operation of a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) that Darrel Wacker from the Vandalia Drummer News used during the "Feel the Heat" live fire evolutions.

Photo above right - Firefighter Justin Davis assisted the City's Chief Building Official, Ted Baker, with donning his firefighter's protective equipment just prior to entering a live smoke evolution at the "Feel the Heat" training.

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.

In addition to the Division of Fire’s regular special operations/technical rescue refresher training in 2013, several members of the Division of Fire completed their water rescue certification course and are now serving as a part of the Vandalia/Butler regional water rescue team. Also in 2013, the Division of Fire hosted a trench collapse certification course; several members of the Division of Fire completed the course and are now technicians.

The Division of Fire strives to provide operational level training for all of its employees. This level of training would allow those personnel to initiate a rescue operation that could be supplemented by those certified technicians within the Division of Fire or from the North Regional Rescue Zone, whose personnel and resources respond to our special operation’s incidents to provide support.

The photos below were taken during a “special operations” training in 2013; crews worked to rescue a simulated maintenance worker from a below grade, “confined space”, at the Recreation Center.

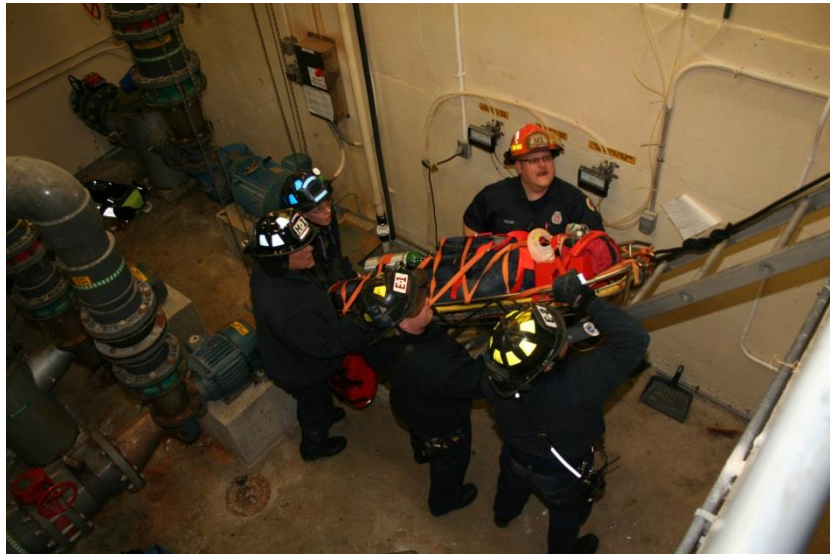




Photo left - Firefighters from Vandalia and Butler Township train with a rope retrieval system at the Metro Park sledding hill. This training was scheduled with the anticipation of snow, but the weather didn't cooperate. The sledding hill is a "special hazard". When kids get hurt they are usually at the bottom of the hill; this technique is used to safely retrieve an injured person from the bottom of the hill.

Photo right - Firefighters from Vandalia and Butler work with rescue air bags to lift a school bus from a simulated victim. In the summer of 2013, the Vandalia-Butler Schools donated two school buses to the Division of Fire for the purpose of training. One bus was used to provide a joint training with the school's bus drivers and the second is at fire station 3 (training center) being used for a variety of training evolutions.



Over the last five years the focus of "special operations" training has been to select a specific discipline of training from our special operation's capabilities and provide firefighters the opportunity to receive extra training on that specific discipline. In 2013, that discipline was trench collapse rescue. Open excavations are occurring every day in Vandalia; public and private, workers are exposed to the potential of not only trench collapse, but also to illness and injury while they are working in an open excavation area. This training helps to ensure that first responders are prepared to deal with any of the factors that they may be faced with when arriving at incidents with an open excavation ("trench"). The photos below were taken at this past summer's multi-day trench rescue course.

