

CITY OF VANDALIA

DIVISION OF FIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

2015

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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 2015 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 2015. 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 2015. 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 'C. Follick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Mission, Vision, Customer Service, and Values



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

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



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

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.

2015 GOALS

1. **Prevent and/or reduce the impact of occupational injuries and illnesses** - The Division of Fire will make every effort to protect, educate, promote, and inspire all department members to pursue safe, healthy, and active lifestyles; a lifestyle that reduces injuries and illness, increases productivity and efficiency.

Achievements:

- ☒ In 2015 the Division of Fire worked with Firefighting Cancer Consultants to provide occupational cancer awareness/prevention training. FCC also reviewed policies, procedures, and facilities. A cancer awareness/prevention action plan has been developed and will be implemented in 2016.
- ☒ Established a Crisis Response Team, additional local mental health responders that can be summoned to assist customer or responders in critical incident stress management. Conducted two trainings with the CRT in 2015.
- ☒ Firefighters Behavioral Health Alliance brought in to provide fire service suicide awareness and prevention training.

2. **Delivery exemplary emergency services** - The City of Vandalia Division of Fire will be an exemplary organization acclaimed for our regional reputation and our hometown attentiveness as we provide all hazards services.

Achievements:

- ☒ The Division of Fire continues to receive positive feedback from customer surveys, negative surveys or complaints are acted upon quickly.
- ☒ An electronic customer satisfaction survey developed and made available to the customer on line on website.

3. **Innovate new service delivery systems** - The Division of Fire will have the foundational strategies in place to not only address the operational challenges we face today, but also, those needed to handle future challenges.

Achievements:

- ☒ In late 2015, the Division of Fire updated mobile EMS reporting system, and returned to a mobile reporting solution.
- ☒ The Fire Prevention Bureau is working to implement paperless, mobile fire safety inspection system.

4. **Work to prepare our customers for the emergencies, adverse weather, and/or disasters that may impact them as residents of Vandalia** - the Division of Fire will serve our community in new and engaging ways through creative customer service initiatives, life-enriching preparedness programs, and strategic community relationships.

Achievements:

- ☒ The City of Vandalia implemented new mass notification system in 2015.

5. **Fostering workforce excellence** - The City of Vandalia's Division of Fire will be recognized as a high performing TEAM that fosters a culture of safety, and that capitalizes on each member's strengths, while respecting individual differences, all in the pursuit of workforce excellence.

Achievements:

- ☒ Employee evaluation forms revised and improved.
- ☒ Grade card system used in 2015 to conduct "after action reviews".

ANNUAL AWARDS

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2015 - Fire Safety Inspector Brian Ziegenbusch



Fire Safety Inspector Brian Ziegenbusch is the Division of Fire's 2015 "Firefighter of the Year". "Ziggy", as he is more affectionately known around the station, was detailed to the Fire Prevention Bureau in 2014. When Ziggy took the assignment he was tasked with advancing the Division of Fire's community risk reduction Mission. Ziggy has far exceeded our expectations and the quality of his work has been and continues to be outstanding.

Ziggy works to develop positive customer service relationships in a position where the customer usually is not happy to see a Fire Safety Inspector. Ziggy has worked very hard to advance and develop our public education/outreach programs, which caused Ziggy to travel well outside of his comfort zone, providing educational programs to a variety of audiences. Ziggy has also taken full advantage of every educational or training opportunity that he could in 2015, easily achieving the educational goals that his supervisors have assigned to him. These training sessions often took him away from his family for extended periods of time.

EMS PERSON OF THE YEAR 2015 – Firefighter/Paramedic Brent Gallup



Firefighter/Paramedic Brent Gallup is the Division of Fire's 2015 "EMS Person of the Year". Brent was nominated by his peers because he is outgoing, eager to take on daily projects, displays a positive attitude, and he has a willingness to mentor younger employees. However, the main theme of the nominations mentioned the outstanding level of EMS care that he provides each and every day that he comes to work.

Brent received several Letters of Commendation this year for his treatment and care of customers with serious medical emergencies, most if not all of which had positive outcomes due in no small part to his excellent care and leadership.

SERVICE MEDALS

1. **Medal of Courage** - Robert Corwin, Brad Heitkamp, and Mike Harmon



This crew was awarded the Montgomery County Fire Chief's Firefighters of the Year Award for this rescue. Pictured is the crew receiving their awards at the Montgomery County Police/Fire Chief's annual awards banquet.

On July 24, 2015 your crew was summoned to west bound I70 at Dixie Drive to assist the police with a suicidal female that had climbed out on to the highway side of the Dixie Drive Bridge and was hanging from the fence over the west bound lanes of I70 traffic.

Initially your crew was instructed to move the ladder into position blocking the female from coming any further south on the bridge, almost instantaneously the female decided that she was ready to come off the bridge and your crew transitioned to a rescue operation. Your crew quickly and carefully positioned the ladder allowing Firefighters Corwin and Heitkamp to climb the ladder and rescue the woman from the bridge bringing the incident to a safe ending.

I commend you for your rapid and efficient actions, for displaying the courage to place yourself at risk to affect the rescue of a customer that was not in the best of places mentally which made her very unpredictable. To take that risk at 30-40 feet in the air is a selfless and courageous act.

It is my great please to present your crew with the Division of Fire's Medal of Courage, a small token of appreciation and recognition for taking this calculated risk. Congratulations!

2. **Meritorious Service** - Robert Corwin

Preventing occupational illness and injuries has become one of the Division of Fire's primary strategic goals. The object of that goal is to make every effort to protect, educate, promote, and inspire all department members to pursue safe, healthy, and active lifestyles; a lifestyle that reduces injuries and illness, increases productivity and efficiency.

In recent years there have been an increased concerns surrounding the number of firefighters being diagnosed with a variety of cancers as a result of their occupational exposure to known carcinogens.

In 2015 Firefighter Robert Corwin asked to attend a cancer awareness seminar hosted by the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF). Robert returned from that training session focused on reducing the risk of occupational exposures within the Division of Fire.

Robert has been the driving force in bringing in Firefighter Cancer Consultants, working with them on and off duty to conduct station inspections, a review of our policies and procedures, and a review of our fire ground operations. Most importantly Robert was essential in bringing education and training to our staff. This awareness training opened the eyes of our staff to this imminent (and real) threat and to the simple things that they, as employees, can do to reduce their risk of exposure.

Robert continues to push to effect change and moving forward Robert will be a key player in the implementation of new policies and procedures that are focused on reducing these risks. Robert is committed to creating a safe work environment for our entire workforce. Robert was awarded the Division of Fire's Meritorious Service Medal for his hard work and commitment to Firefighter Health and Safety.

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION AND CHALLENGE COINS



1. Firefighter Paramedic Brent Gallup and Firefighter/EMT Blake Thomas were issued a Letter of Commendation and Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for stopping in the entrance drive of Miami Valley Hospital after dropping off their patient to provide treatment and transport of a heroin overdose that was dropped off in the driveway of the hospital (June 2015).
2. Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Corwin and Firefighter/EMT Courtney Goodrich were issued a Letter of Commendation and a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for providing customer service that went above and beyond during an impromptu tour of Fire Station 2 for a 2 year old, his parents, and his grandparents.

These types of customer service actions have become somewhat "routine", crews often execute these tours without thinking about the impact they have on those that they are serving. I fully believe that this tour was one of those "routine" tours for this crew, but not so much for the family that wrote the letter (October 2015).

3. Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick O'Neil and Firefighter/EMT Jason Lawler were issued a Letter of Commendation and Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for their response, treatment and rapid transport of a customer that sustained a life threatening traumatic arm injury at a residence in Butler Township (July 2015).
4. On August 21, 2015, Firefighter/Paramedic Brent Gallup and Firefighter/EMT Blake Thomas were issued a Letter of Commendation and a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for their outstanding care, treatment, and rapid transport of a 70 year old male that they suspected was suffering from an acute stroke. The crew's "door to TPA time" was 41 minutes (August 2015).
5. Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Corwin, EMT David Todd, and Firefighter/EMT David Stockler were issued a Letter of Commendation and a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for their outstanding care, treatment, and rapid transport of a 63 year old female that they suspected was suffering from an acute stroke. The crew's "door to TPA time" was 44 minutes (August 2015).
6. Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Corwin and Firefighter/EMT Carter Schuman were issued a Letter of Commendation and a Fire Chief's Challenge Coin for their outstanding care, treatment, and rapid transportation of a 92 year old customer that had fallen and sustained a very minor injury to his hands and knees. The crew provided first aid to the customer, communicated with his family, and then ultimately ended up driving him and his vehicle home. This service delivery prompted a positive feedback email from the customer's daughter (February 2015).

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS 2015

1. **Command vehicle replacement project** - The Division of Fire replaced a command vehicle in 2015, used by the Fire Chief. This vehicle is tasked with safely getting an incident commander to the scene of a variety of fire, EMS, and/or rescue emergencies while being a reliable method of non-emergency transportation for the Fire Chief in his day to day service. The Division of Fire “downsized” this command vehicle transitioning from a full-size four wheel drive vehicle to a smaller more compact sports utility vehicle with “all-wheel drive”. The 2016 Ford is a Police Interceptor.



2. **Mobile Computer Upgrades** - the Division of Fire upgraded mobile data terminals (MDT's) in three fire engines, a ladder, three medics, and three command vehicles. Fire/EMS crews receive their dispatched call information on their MDT's and the MDT's also carry essential pre-fire information on more than 1,000 buildings in the City of Vandalia and Butler Township. This information is essential to affecting rapid, efficient, and safe emergency response. In addition to MDT's the Division of Fire purchased new mobile reporting solutions for three of our medic units and for two of our Fire Safety Inspectors. These devices are used to transmit EMS run reports to receiving hospitals, the State of Ohio, and to our EMS billing company. The Fire Prevention Bureau is using the pads to more effectively provide fire safety inspections in the field. The pads give them instant access to the fire, building, and housing codes while allowing them to electronically record and/or transmit a final inspection report to the customer.
3. **Medic Unit Replacement Project** - the Division of Fire responds on over 3,000 calls for service each year, 90% of which are EMS calls for service. Having reliable equipment is essential to the Division of Fire's service delivery model. The Division of Fire replaced a 2006 medic unit in 2015, however, chassis/motor delay have significantly impacted the delivery date. Currently the new (2016) medic is due to be delivered in mid-February.
4. **Radio Replacement Project (Phase 3)** - in 2015 the Division of Fire budgeted and has executed the third phase of a multi-year radio replacement project. The Division of Fire replaced several mobile and base station radios. Three phases has positioned the Division of Fire well for the late 2016 transition of the radio system from the Montgomery County radio system to the state operated MARCS radio system.

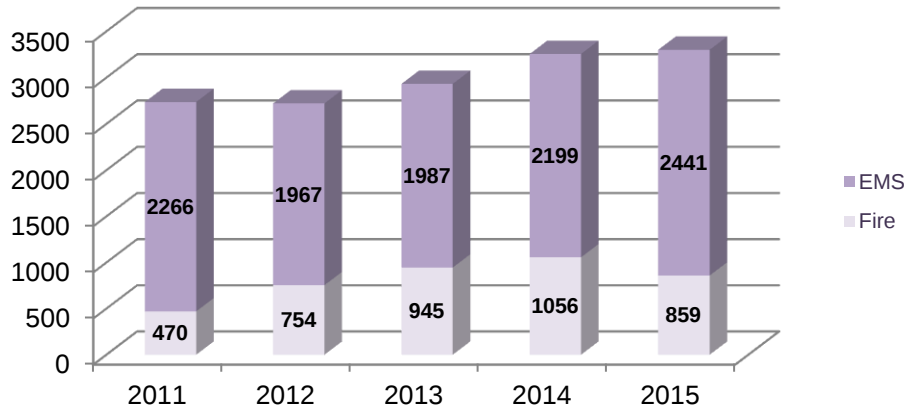
5. **Rescue Equipment** - the Division of Fire is a full service fire, EMS, and rescue service. The Division of Fire maintains a modest cache of “special rescue” equipment. In 2015, the Division of Fire used capital money to update, upgrade and replace water, ice, confine space and rope equipment.
6. **Fire Station 2 Furniture** - in 2007 the Division of Fire remodeled and began staffing Fire Station 2. Up until this point the station was strictly a volunteer station, furniture wasn’t original to the building was “hand me down” furniture from other city services or from private donations. The Division of Fire replaced the beds, soft chairs, and lockers at Fire Station 2 as part of our capital replacement budget in 2015.
7. **Fire Training Equipment Grant** - in early 2015 the Division of Fire applied for and received a \$15,000 grant from the Firefighters Support Network to purchase a larger digital fire simulator and smoke machine. The photos below show firefighter training with the panel and the smoke machine at the training center shortly after we received the equipment.



Above (left) firefighters review the operations of the Division of Fire’s new digital fire simulator. On the right a firefighter is shown participating in training using the Division of Fire’s new smoke simulation machine.

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 2015, the Division of Fire answered 3300 calls for service (2441 EMS calls and 859 fire calls).



(Left) One of 859 fire responses, the photo is the living room of a duplex on Bright Ave following a structure fire at that address spring of 2015. No one was home at the time of the fire.

(Below) Fire/EMS crew working a two car motor vehicle accident in the intersection of Ranchview and Kenbrook. One person was injured and transported with minor injuries to a local ER.

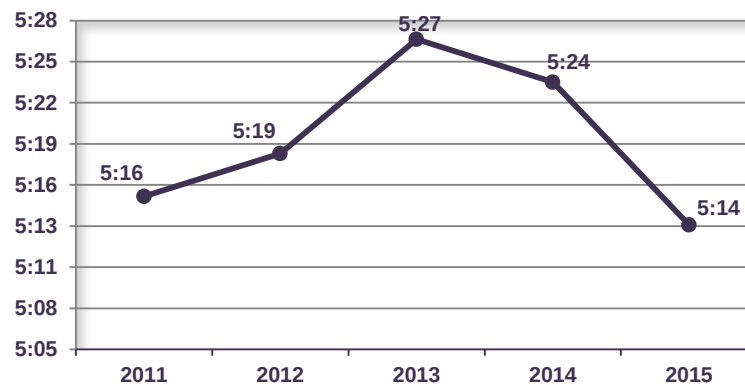


RESPONSE TIMES



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 2015 was 5:14, 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

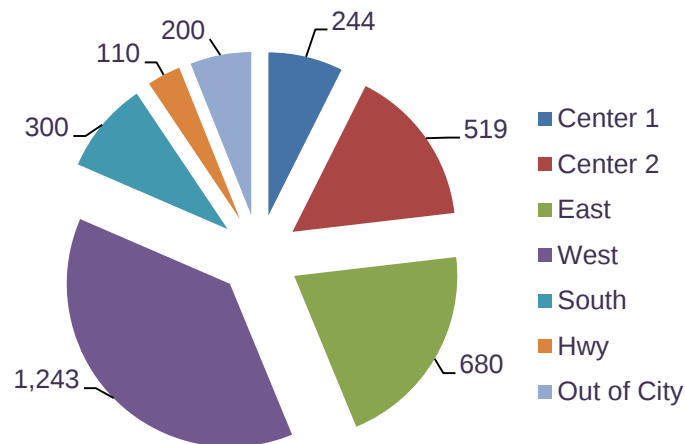
The Division is committed to providing the highest quality service in the fastest and most efficient manner possible. Operating from three fire stations the Division of Fire has realigned each station's primary response areas, sending "the closets and most appropriate" fire/EMS resources. The joint staffing and response program has significantly impacted the Division of Fire's response and deployment model. Our joint deployment plan ensures that the closets 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 declining response times and 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 loss of part-time staffing is significantly impacting our ability to regularly staff three fire stations (medics), which is our goal. In the closing months of 2015 the Division of Fire lost a dozen part-time firefighters forcing us to "brown out" fire/EMS crews at Fire Station 88. The Division of Fire is actively recruiting part-time personnel, and a goal for 2016 is to develop a long range plan for recruiting and retaining part-time personnel.

The Division of Fire is committed to responding to a customer's emergency quickly and effectively.

The table below represents the total number of calls for service that were received in each of the Division of Fire's seven (7) response zones in 2015.

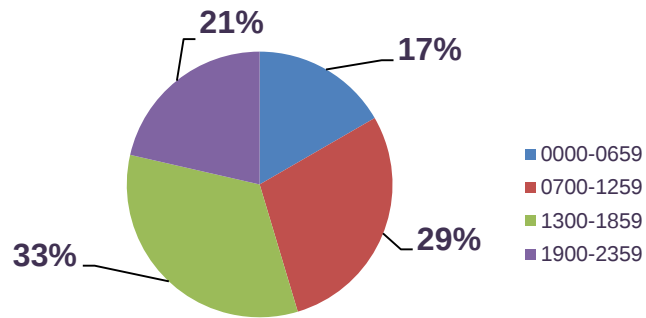
CALLS FOR SERVICE BY RESPONSE DISTRICTS 2015



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 2015.

CALLS FOR SERVICE BY TIME OF DAY 2015



(Left) Photos of a well involved auto fire on Long Street in front of the old "It's For You" building.

(Below) Third Platoon Firefighters work to free a trapped motorist at Airport Access Road and National Road.



(Left) Ladder 3 preparing to put water on to a warehouse fire in Harrison Township.

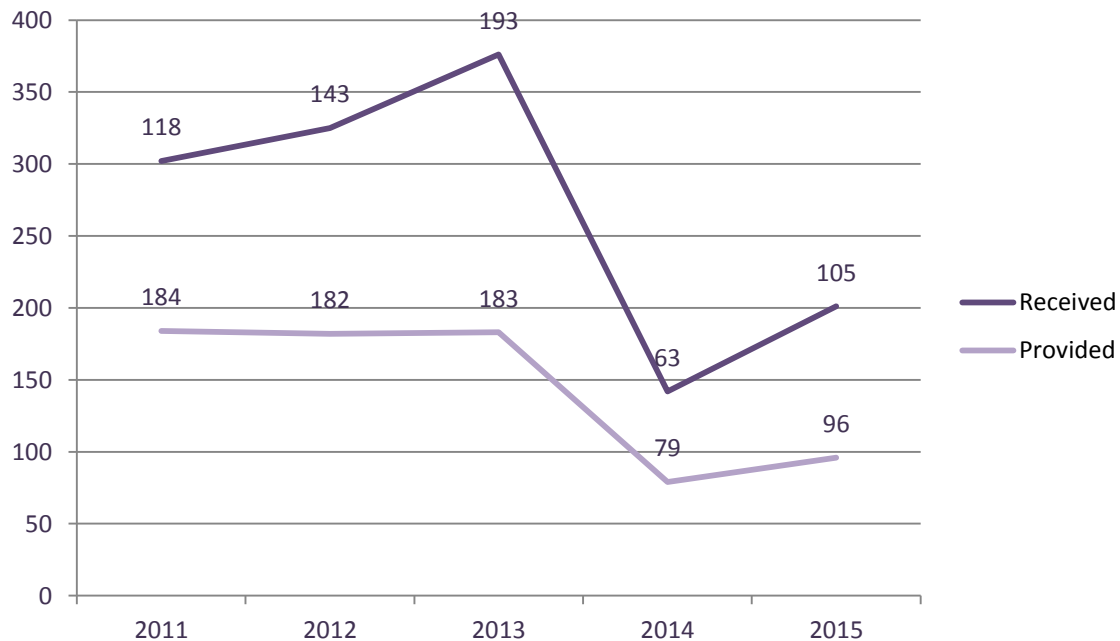
MUTUAL AID RESPONSE DATA

Table 1 represents an accounting of the total number of Mutual Aid calls that the Division of Fire responded to and/or requested in 2015. 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 2 provides a “snap shot” of the past five years of mutual aid, provided and received.

Table 1 - MUTUAL AID DATA 2015

Department	M/A Provided	M/A Received
Bethel Fire (Miami)	0	0
Dayton Fire	1	2
Dayton Airport Fire	2	0
Englewood Fire	11	1
Fairborn Fire	1	0
Huber Heights Fire	37	28
Harrison Twp. Fire	28	39
Tipp City Fire/EMS	16	35
TOTAL	96	105

Table 2 – FIVE YEAR “SNAP SHOT” MUTUAL AID



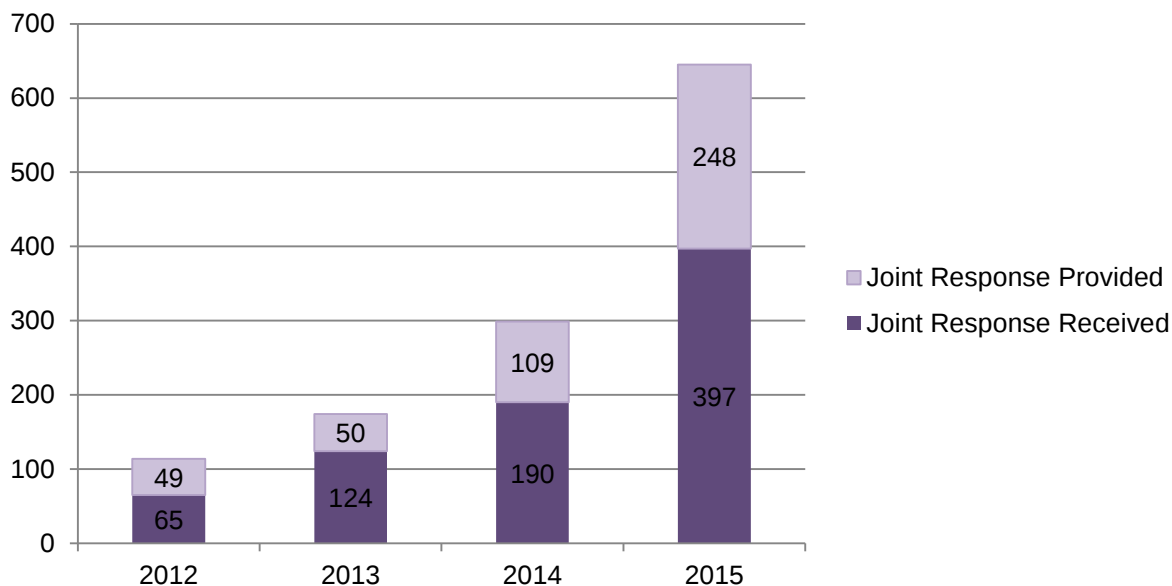
JOINT STAFFING AND RESPONSE PROJECT

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.

Statistically, joint calls and/or mutual aid calls in general rose significantly in 2015. We attribute this increase to two things, first the increase in call volume and second the significant loss of part-time staffing that we experienced in the second half of 2015.

Table 3 provides statistical data on the total number of “joint responses” received and then provided by the City of Vandalia’s Division of Fire.

Table 3 - JOINT AMAR RESPONSE DATA 2015



FIRE SUPPRESSION



The Division of Fire answered **859** fire related calls for service in 2015. Fire related calls account for approximately **26%** of our total call volume.

Below Table 4 represents a three (3) year comparison of the top five annual "Fire" type responses.

TABLE 4 - FIRE TYPE RESPONSE COMPARISON 2013-2015

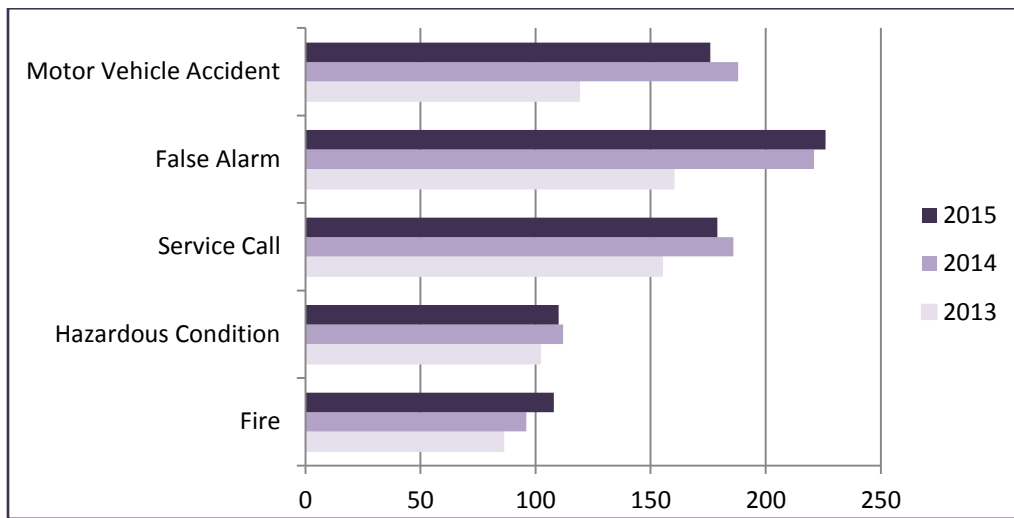
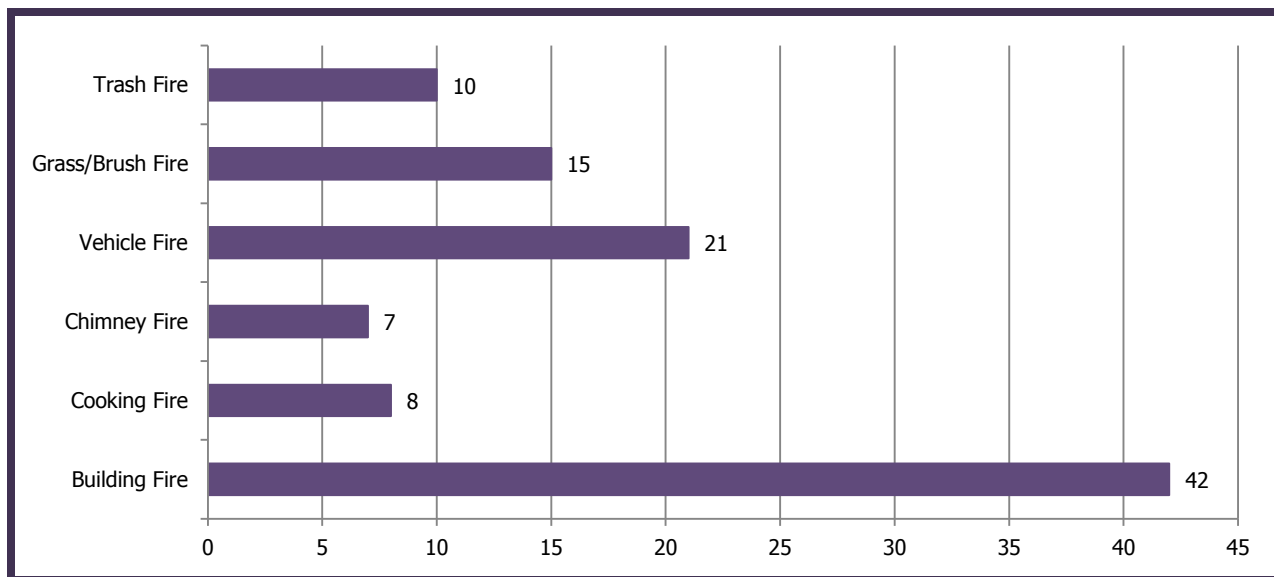


Table 5 breaks down the “Fire” data heading a bit more concisely to provide you with a better understanding of exactly what type of actual “fires” the Division of Fire handled in 2015.

TABLE 5 – Detailed “Fire” Response Data 2015



(Left top) Vandalia Firefighter working a large vacant barn fire with Butler Fire Crews.

(Left lower) Rumpke trash truck on fire in a parking lot at Brown School Road and National Road.

(Right lower) Firefighter preparing to attack a fire on the second story of an apartment building on Tionda Drive.





Firefighters from Ladder 3 work to ventilate an apartment fire on Tionda Drive. This apartment fire was one of the Division of Fire's larger dollar loss fires of 2015.

The Division of Fire defines a fire as a “dollar loss fire” when the fire causes a tangible property loss. The Division of Fire answered approximately **108** calls for service that were classified as “fire” responses in 2015. Of those 108 calls for service, the Division of Fire classified **78** of these fires as “dollar loss” fire incidents. Of these fires, **\$655,945.00** dollars of loss occurred in residential or commercial buildings, vehicle fires account for the remaining **\$93,241.00** dollars of loss reported in 2015.

Table 6 provides a “snap shot” of the Division of Fire’s total dollar loss due to fire for the last five years.

TABLE 6 - DOLLAR LOSS LAST FIVE (5) YEARS



EMS OPERATIONS

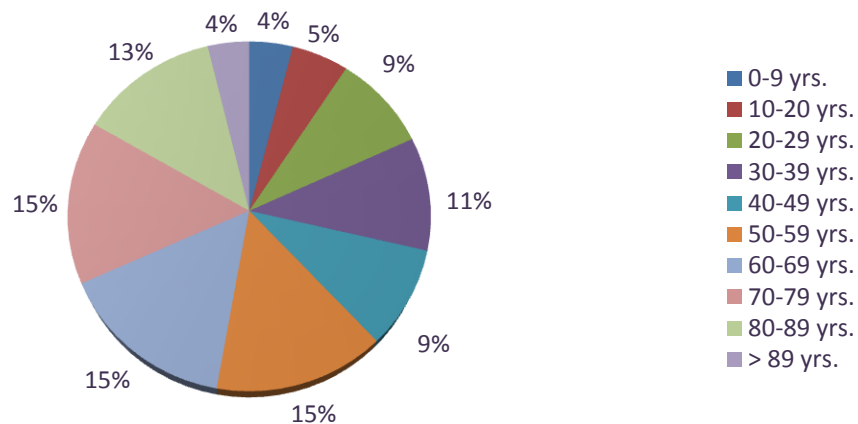


Statistically, emergency medical services (EMS) calls account for approximately 74% of the Division of Fire's call volume. The Division of Fire answered 2441 emergency medical calls for service in 2015.

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

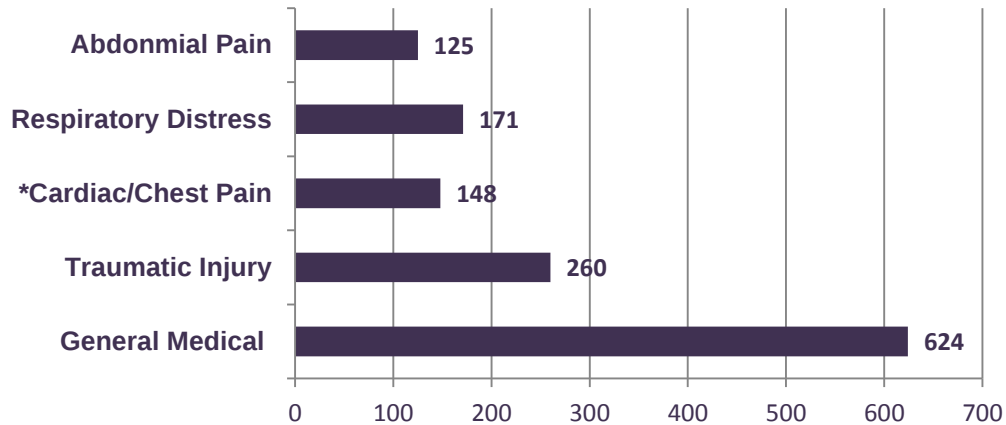
The Division of Fire's emergency medical services are requested by customers ranging in age from several weeks old to 102. The average age of a customer requesting EMS in the City of Vandalia is 54 years old. Females represent the larger percentage of EMS customers; in 2015 the Division of Fire provided EMS service to 1149 female customer, which represents about 55% of the total EMS calls for service. 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 and/or (2) Trauma. Under each of these primary headings are subcategories that describe a patient's chief complaint (or their reason for calling EMS). Table 8 represents the five most common EMS calls answered by the Division of Fire in 2015.

TABLE 8 - FIVE MOST COMMON EMS CALLS IN 2015



*Cardiac/Chest Pain includes 27 Cardiac Arrests in 2015.



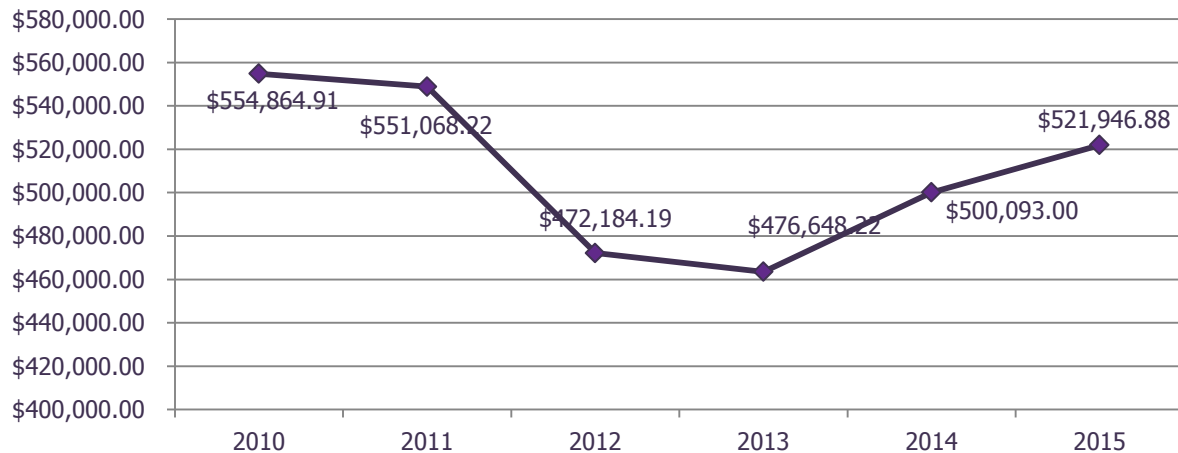
Special Events EMS crew working the 2015 Dayton Air Show.

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 2107 patients in 2015, the Division of Fire collected \$521,947.00. Based on the total amount collected and the total number of transports, the Division of Fire’s average EMS collection rate is \$248/transport. Table 9 provides a “snap shot” of EMS revenue collections for the last six years.

TABLE 9 - EMS REVENUE LAST (6) YEARS



FIRE PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

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.

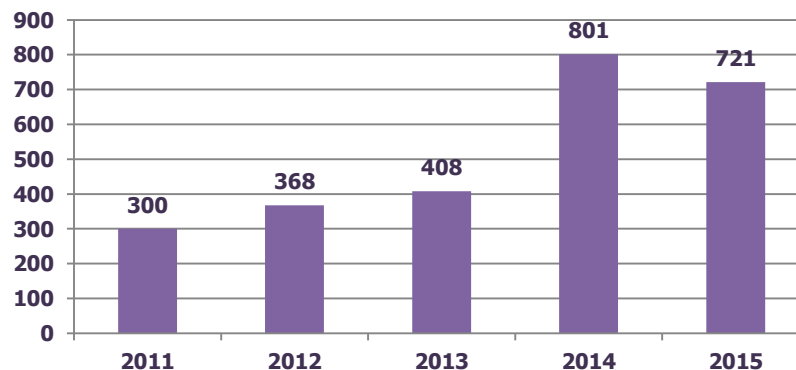


Fire Safety Inspections and Pre-Fire Planning

The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for providing annual fire safety inspections to nearly 800 occupancies.

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)**



Company level assistance has still played a significant role in the success of the FPB in 2015. Companies have been assisting the FPB with several of the larger or "target hazard" building inspections and they have been working to complete and/or update pre-fire plans on every building that the Division of Fire Inspects. The FPB has 85.5 hours in updating and revising pre-fire plans and crews have completed 88 new fire pre-plans in 2015.

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.



Outreach and message delivery continues to be the best method for prevention of fires and injuries. In 2015 the Division of Fire participated in approximately 531 hours of fire prevention outreach contacting 5606 people.

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”.



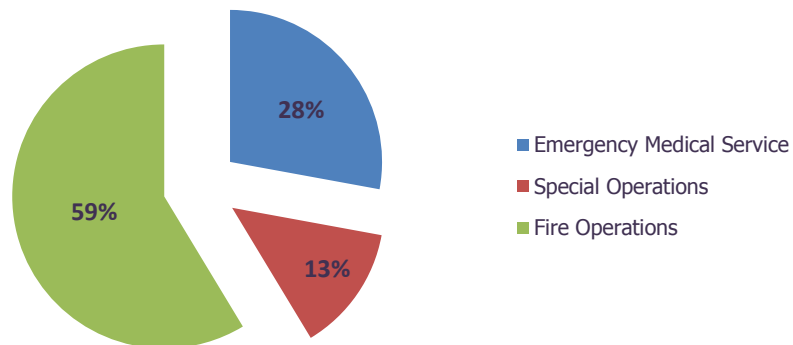
TRAINING



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 2015, Fire and EMS personnel logged 2350 hours of fire, EMS, Hazardous Materials, and Special Operations (technical rescue) training in 2015. That’s approximately 196 hours of training/month or approximately 6 hours of training per day. Table 11 represents the breakdown of training by general training topics.

TABLE 11 - TRAINING BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY IN 2015



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

The Division of Fire remains committed to strengthening and growing our "joint" staffing and deployment project with Butler Township Fire. The largest majority of the training conducted on a daily basis now is "jointly" developed, delivered, and attended. Pictured below are several examples of "joint training" sessions held in 2015.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS



(Above) Ice Rescue Training Metro Park Johnson Station Ponds Winter of 2015.

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 366 hours of training to Special Operations Training in 2015. Firefighters received instruction on rescue from confined space, the application of rope rescue tools and techniques, water rescue, ice rescue, conducting lost person searches, and response to hazardous materials releases/spills.

(Right) Captain Stitzel instructing special operations team firefighters on a rope rescue system.



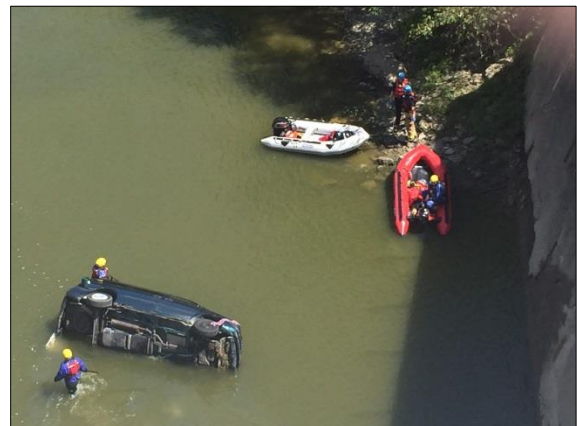


(Left) Special Operations Teams members from Vandalia, Butler, and Huber Heights Fire Departments working water rescue at the “Blue Gill Pond” in the Taylorsville Metro Park.

In 2015, the Division of Fire responded to approximately 20 “special rescue” incidents where firefighting crews had to employ special equipment, strategies, and tactics to rescue customers trapped within these special hazards.

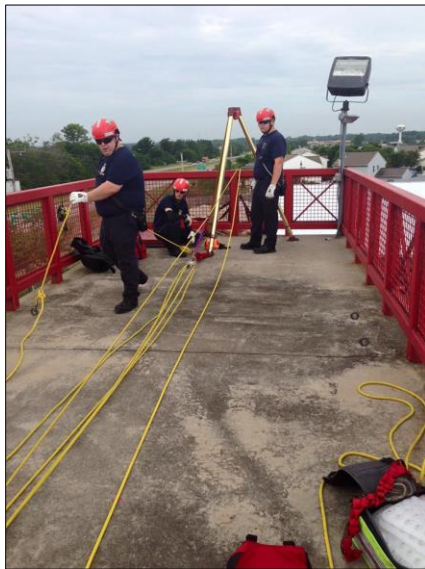
Type Incident	Number of Incidents
Rescue of Victim(s) from auto accident	4
Rescue of Victim(s) from Elevator	2
Rescue of Victim(s) from Water/Ice	4
Rescue of Victim(s) from Building/Structure Collapse	0
Response to Hazardous Materials Incident	8
Land Search for Lost Person(s)	2
Total Number of Incidents	20

(Right) Special Operations Team from Vandalia, Butler Township, and Huber Heights working a van into the river at the Taylorsville Dam summer 2015.





(Above) Vandalia Rescue Task Force Paramedics participating in a regional active shooter exercise at Morton Middle School in late summer 2015.



(Above) Firefighters training with new rope rescue equipment obtained through a 2015 capital improvement project at the Englewood Fire Training Tower.



(Left) SOG firefighters from Vandalia and Butler Township training with the new boat at the Taylorsville Dam in late spring 2015.