



# ANNUAL REPORT



# 2021

*Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department*

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Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio  
44221

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[www.cityofcf.com/departments/fire](http://www.cityofcf.com/departments/fire)

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# CFFD MISSION STATEMENT



*The mission of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department is to provide the highest quality professional emergency service, fire prevention and life safety education to our community. We resolve to do this within a framework of empathy, compassion and dedication to the citizens we serve, as well as each other.*



# MESSAGE FROM CHIEF MARTIN

On behalf of the dedicated men and women that serve the community of Cuyahoga Falls, I want to thank you for taking the time to review our 2021 annual report. As you will see, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department is a progressive, well-trained, diverse organization focused and driven to fulfill our mission to improve the lives of those we serve.

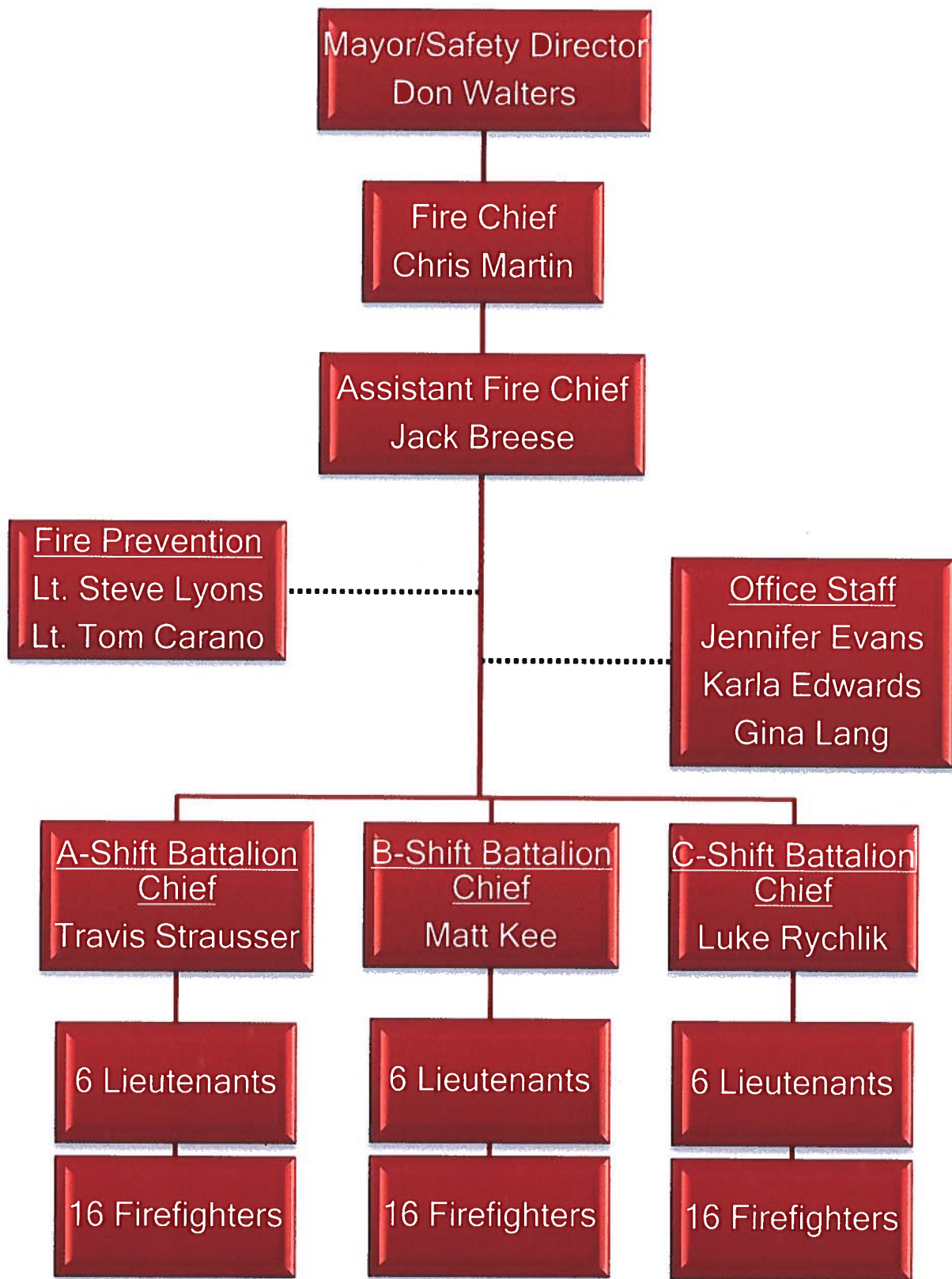
Throughout my 22 years of service in the CFFD, I have consistently held an immense amount of pride in our organization as we selflessly and diligently strive to keep our members safe while providing customer-centered service every hour of every day. Our culture is one of kindness in the face of tragedy, aggressiveness when lives are at risk, intelligence when faced with challenges and love for a community that provides so much for so many. We are fortunate to be supported by citizens that have trust in us and an administration that believes in our members and our devotion to service.

In July of 2021, I fulfilled the honor of my professional career when I was sworn-in as CFFD's 16<sup>th</sup> Chief of Fire. This is not a role I take lightly, and I pledge to keep the members of the CFFD and our community safe as we face the dangers of today and the challenges of tomorrow. We have an aggressive plan for our future, including the addition of a Deputy Chief assigned to the training division, the construction of a new fire station and training facility, numerous vehicle purchases, enhancement of special operations capabilities, and numerous other initiatives that will elevate our fire department to heights never before realized. Through it all, the men and women of the CFFD are ready to progress and are all excited to embrace what lies ahead. Our workforce is among the best in the nation, and I am proud of every single member of the CFFD.

We are proud of our past, extremely excited about our future, and want to thank all that support us in every way! It truly is an honor to serve.



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# CFFD PERSONNEL

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## Chief Officers

Chief – Chris Martin  
Assistant Chief – Jack Breese

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## Battalion Chiefs

Travis Strausser – A Shift

Matt Kee - B Shift

Luke Rychlik – C Shift

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## Lieutenants

<u>A-Shift</u>	<u>B-Shift</u>	<u>C-Shift</u>	<u>Fire Prevention</u>
Chris Bickett	Rick Malak	Dave Tripepi	Steve Lyons
Konrad Lenk	Charmaine Zawacki	Zak Elzholz	Tom Carano
Tom Taylor	Maggie Hobson	Bryon Barth	
Scott Christiansen	Carl Hayward	Brian Krebs	
Kevin Roarty	Alex Cheronis	Joe Peters	
Charlie Kilbel	Scott Cline	Dan Grimm	

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## Firefighters

<u>A-Shift</u>	<u>B-Shift</u>	<u>C-Shift</u>
Pat Hayden	Mike Beck	Eric Davis
Todd Hyde	Tim Carey	Reade Allen
Frank Yoskey	Don Smerk	Matt Hutchison
Rob Gipson	Randy Kistemaker	Clint Snyder
Ryan Gray	Chris Anselm	Mic George
Jacob Knight	Jason Boivin	Josh Bell
Jessica Amato	Doug Hallahan	Ben Edwards
Dan Pittman	Richard Patterson	Addison Marable
Ken Facemire	Rocco Mauer	Paul Celinski
Ben Kerner	Andrew King	Connor McComas
Colin Papp	Gary Huhn	Marcus Feichtner
Seth Stertzbach	Vince Sferra	Adam Hafer
Christian Avalos	Landon Alderman	Justin Wise
Evan Giffels	Antonio Corriere	Mason Reimer
Nick Testa	Patrick Tippen	Trenton Donald
Cade McDougal	Steve Chiarappa	Aaron Volcansek

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# CFFD 2021 PROMOTIONS



**Chris Martin – Chief – July 1, 2021**



**Jack Breese – Assistant Chief – July 5, 2021**

# **CFFD 2021 PROMOTIONS (CONTINUED)**



**Alex Cheronis (center) – Lieutenant – February 22, 2021**

**Dan Grimm (left) – Lieutenant – July 5, 2021**



**Charles Kilbel (center) – Lieutenant – October 4, 2021**

**Scott Cline (second from left) – Lieutenant – October 4, 2021**



# **CFFD 2021 RETIREES AND RESIGNATIONS**

**FF (Resigned) Anthony Girardi – January 20, 2021; 2+ years of dedicated service**

**LT (Retired) Chet Hoyt – February 19, 2021; 28+ years of dedicated service**

**FF (Retired) Russ Hannan – June 28, 2021; 40+ years of dedicated service**



**Chief (Retired) Fred Jackson (above) – June 30, 2021; 35+ years of dedicated service**

**“This job as chief is the best job I’ve ever had in my entire life.”**

**“I liked the service that we got to provide and the camaraderie that came with it. It was an opportunity to do things I hadn’t done before.”**

**“I spent most of my career taking care of people. As Chief, I did my best to take care of the people taking care of people.”**

**“This department has served the citizens from day one very proudly. It will continue to do exactly the same.”**

**-Chief (Retired) Fred Jackson**

# CFFD 2021 RETIREES AND RESIGNATIONS (CONTINUED)



**LT (Retired) Ed McCullough (above center) - September 30, 2021; 24+ years of dedicated service**

**LT (Retired) Michael Stanec (above right) – September 30, 2021; 30+ years of dedicated service**

**FF (Retired) Mark Melice (above left) – October 4, 2021; 25+ years of dedicated service**



**FF (Retired) (above) Carlton Barnett – December 7, 2021; 29+ years of dedicated service**

**FF (Resigned) Daniel Lopez – December 18, 2021; 1+ years of dedicated service**

# CFFD 2021 NEW HIRES



**Firefighter Justin Wise (third from left) – February 8, 2021**

**Firefighter Landon Alderman (second from left) – February 22, 2021**

**Firefighter Nicholas Testa (first from left) – July 5, 2021**



**Firefighter Mason Reimer – July 19, 2021**

## **CFFD 2021 NEW HIRES (CONTINUED)**



**Firefighter Antonio Corriere (third from left) – October 4, 2021**

**Firefighter Trenton Donald (third from right) – October 4, 2021**

**Firefighter Patrick Tippen (second from left) – October 18, 2021**

### **CFFD Oath of Office:**

“I [STATE YOUR NAME], do solemnly swear, as a Firefighter with the City of Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department, to faithfully and impartially and to the best of my ability discharge my duties and, in doing so, uphold and support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, the Charter of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, the ordinances and laws of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and all other rules and regulations of the Fire Department, so help me God.”

**“This sacred oath is more than  
just words!”**

-Mayor Don Walters

# FIRE STATIONS

## Fire Station #1 (Fire Headquarters)

1924 Front Street

Opened in 1927

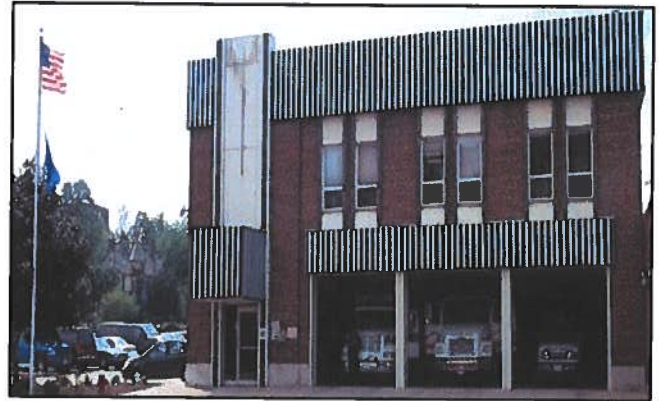
Equipment:

1 Engine

2 Squads

2 Command Vehicles

1 All-terrain vehicle



Station 1 is also home to the Department's Administrative Offices and Fire Prevention Bureau

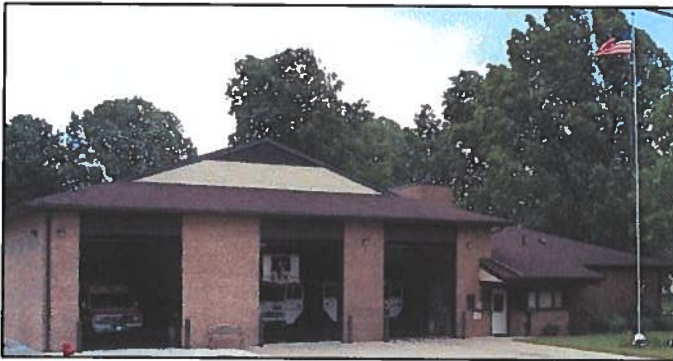
## STATION 1 TRACK STATUS NOTIFICATION

### IMPROVED



Thanks to the Tech Service Department, Station 1 crews are now able to see if there is a train on the tracks blocking access to District 2, as they are pulling out of the bays at Station 1! If the yellow lights are illuminated (solid), that indicates there is a train present and blocking Broad Blvd. This knowledge improves response times to the city's east side!

# FIRE STATIONS (CONTINUED)



## **Fire Station #2**

2121 High Street

Opened in 1949

Remodeled in 1999

Equipment:

1 Ladder

2 Squads

## **Fire Station #3**

1601 Portage Trail

Opened in 2020

Equipment:

1 Engine

1 Tower

2 Squads

1 Spare Command Vehicle



## **Fire Station #4**

3089 Northampton Rd.

Opened in 1947

Equipment:

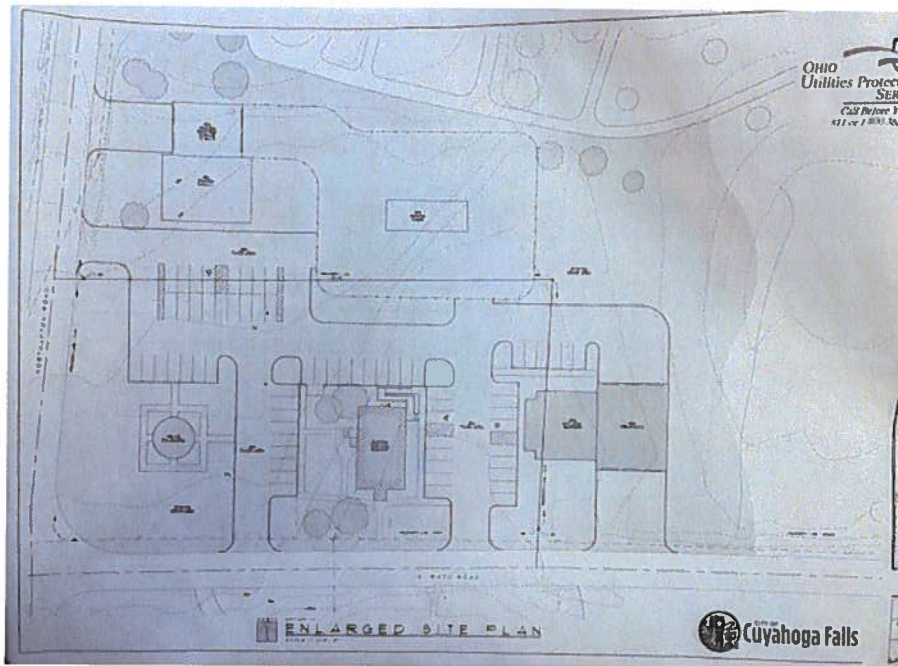
1 Engine

2 Squads

1 All-Terrain Vehicle

1 Grass Fire Truck

# FIRE STATIONS (CONTINUED)



## **Future Site Plan (still in design phase) of Station #4 (above)**

In 2021, funds were budgeted and appropriated by City Council for the construction of a new Fire Station #4 (located on Bath Road near Woodhaven Drive), a fire training facility (burn tower prop), detached garage bays with a classroom, and the demolition/relocation (new construction) of the City's Street Department maintenance building to the salt barn on Northampton Road. CFFD greatly appreciates the support of the City's Administration and City Council, and is beyond excited to begin this project. In 2022, CFFD has future plans of creating and filling a Deputy Chief ("Chief 3") position assigned as a dedicated training officer and becoming a chartered training facility! Numerous regional departments have already pledged their intent to send their firefighters our way to learn!

## **Fire Station #5**

3497 Wyoga Lake Rd.

Opened in 2006

Equipment:

1 Engine

1 Ladder

2 Squads

1 Water Rescue Truck (with boats)

1 Technical Rescue Truck

Various Summit County Heavy Rescue Equipment



# **2021 ... COVID PANDEMIC LINGERS**

## **COVID-19 Pandemic Changes Everything**

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) was not immune to the adversity presented by COVID-19. The pandemic provided an environment of significant increased risk to all that we do as an organization and many adjustments had to be made throughout the year to accommodate this challenging environment.

## **Altered Operations**

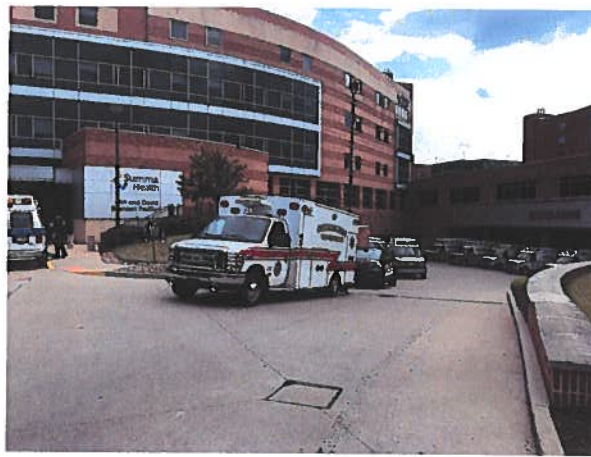
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CFFD Command Staff met on an almost weekly basis throughout the year and altered operations in every way. Daily routines in the stations included constant cleaning and disinfecting of every touchable surface in both the stations and on apparatus. Fire stations were closed to the public, Paramedic students and other visitors for most of the year and most of the office staff were forced to work from home. Additionally, CFFD made the following operational changes:

- Every patient that needed assistance was considered to be positive for the COVID-19 virus. This created an environment in which additional PPE had to be worn on every incident. This included N95 masks, face shields, gowns, gloves, and eye protection.
- EMS protocols had to be changed as hospitals prepared for patient surges.
- Priorities for daily assignments were shifted from training to cleaning and disinfecting all work areas.
- Life in the stations did not include group activities, as social distancing had to become a top priority.
- CFFD administrators spent countless hours facilitating these changes and coordinating with other agencies to stay up to date on the issues the virus presented.

## **Necessity Breeds Innovation**

In times of great need, opportunities are created for some to rise to the occasion and think outside the box for solutions to difficult problems. This was the case for the CFFD and our fight against extended wait times at local emergency departments. Chief Chris Martin, in conjunction with the Summit County Fire Chiefs' Association maintained a collaborative approach with local area hospital executives to explore options of decreasing patient care transfer wait times. These weekly "virtual" meetings resulted in regional medical directors developing and implementing "EMS Alternate Treatment and Transport" protocols and an internal standard operating procedure outlining expedited transfer of care.





### **COVID Testing for CFFD Members**

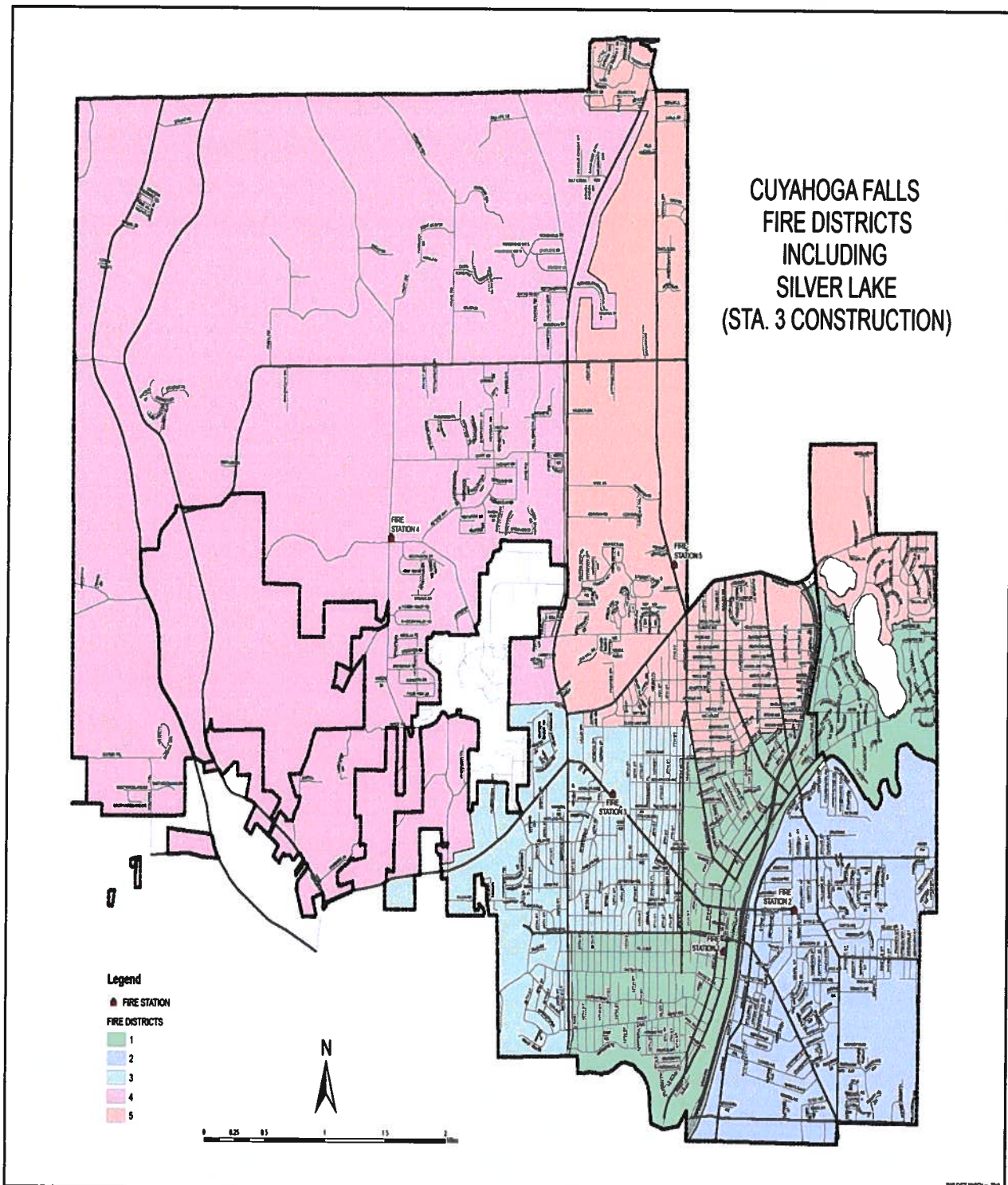
Western Reserve Hospital (WRH) proved to be an invaluable resource during the CFFD response to COVID-19. Not only did our Medical Director, Dr. Rudd “Sonny” Bare, offer constant advice and direction on all Emergency Medical Procedures in an ever-changing environment, WRH provided COVID-19 PCR testing for all members of the CFFD. Thanks to WRH, testing was easily accessed 24/7 and provided extremely quick results so our operations were minimally effected where possible. In 2021, twenty-one CFFD members unfortunately contracted the virus and tested positive.

TESTING METHOD	PROS	CONS
<b>POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR) TESTING</b>	Most accurate	Longer processing time
<b>ANTIGEN TESTING</b>	Rapid and inexpensive	Accuracy problems
<b>ANTIBODY (SEROLOGY) TESTING</b>	Rapid, detects disease spread	False positives/negatives

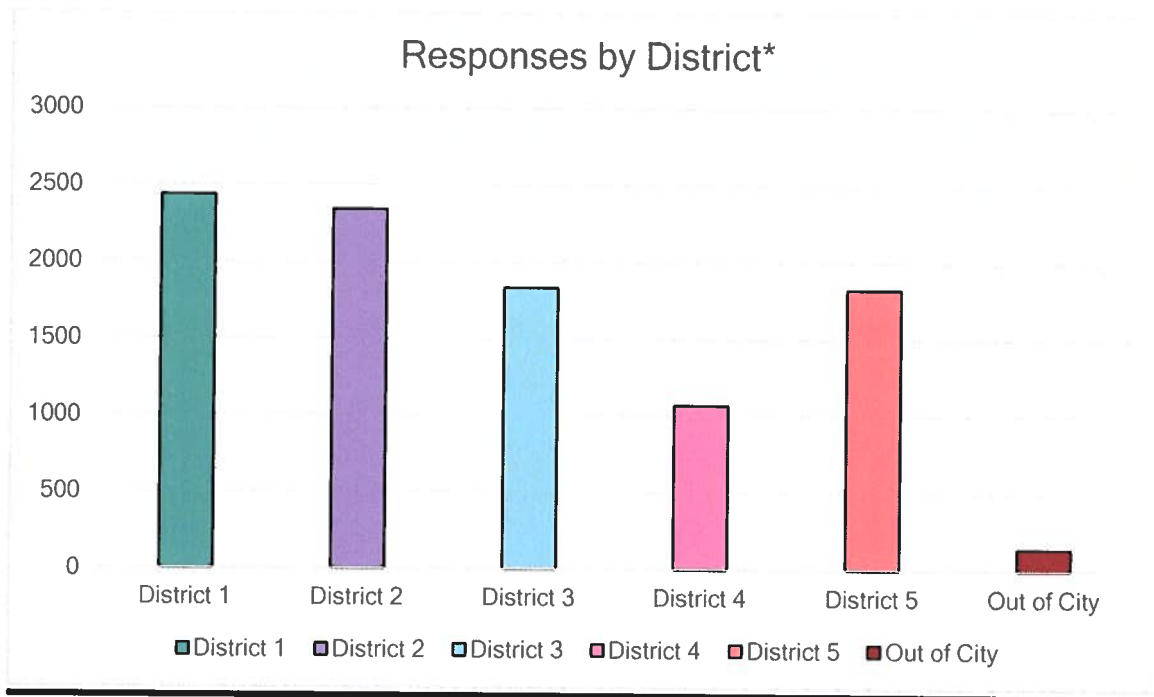
**COVID-19 Testing**

The infographic also features an illustration of a healthcare worker in full personal protective equipment (PPE), including a face shield, mask, and gown, performing a nasal swab test on a patient seated on a stool.

# RESPONSE DISTRICTS



# RESPONSES BY DISTRICT



\*Includes all Fire, EMS and Other calls for service

## Analysis of District Responses

2021 remained consistent with previous years in regards to calls for service by response districts. Districts 1 and 2, which serve the central and east side of the city, accounted for just under 50% of these calls. Included in these results are the two Silver Lake Districts, which are split between Fire Stations 1 and 5. In 2021, there were a total of 197 calls for service in Silver Lake.

In 2021, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department also responded to requests for Mutual Aid (Out of City responses) 99 times. These requests were generated from both Automatic Aid agreements that exist with neighboring Departments, and specific requests from other jurisdictions. Akron Fire Department was assisted by CFFD 63 times, and Stow Fire Department was assisted 29 times. Tallmadge, Munroe Falls, Valley Fire District, Bath Fire, and Fairlawn were also assisted in 2021. CFFD was assisted by neighboring departments via mutual aid requests a total of 31 times.

In general, Fire Department requests for service increased in 2021 – and reached a historical high! The CFFD was consistent with other agencies in the area in this regard. This increase can be attributed to the removal of restrictions on activities for the general public, and an overall consensus that hospitals were no longer generally over-crowded and at a high risk for contraction of the virus.

# RESPONSES BY CFFD VEHICLE

## Total Front-Line Vehicle Responses – 2021\*

(Vehicle number represents the Fire Station each vehicle responds from)

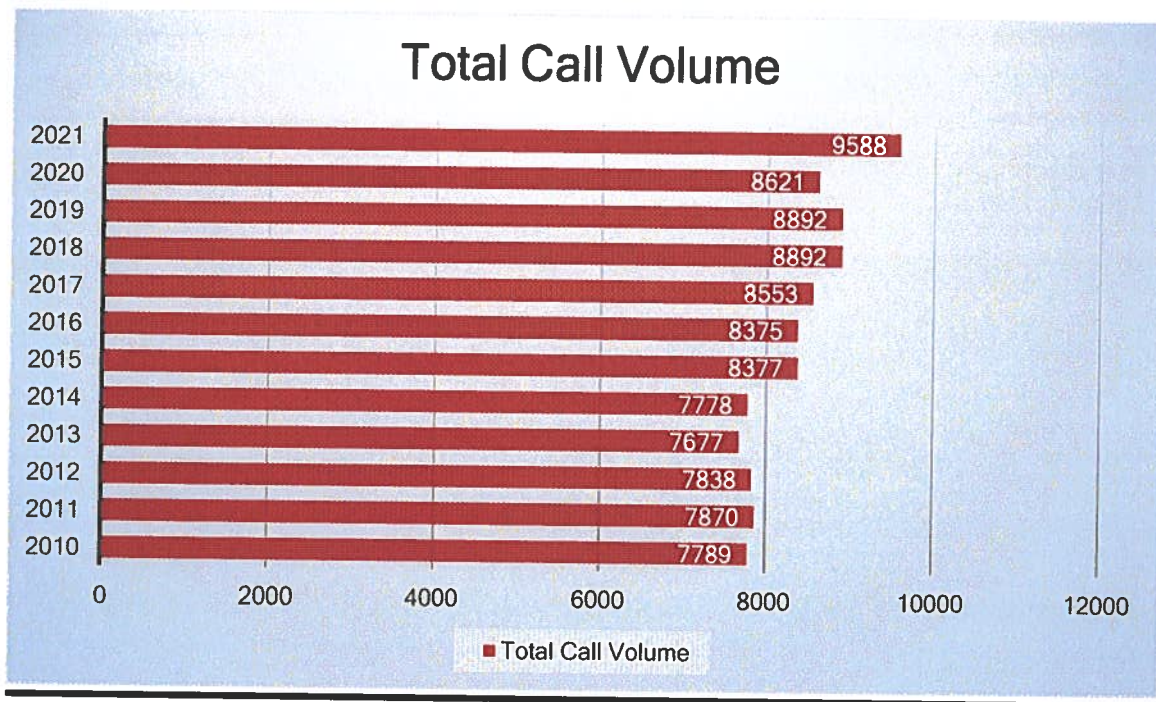
2021	Responses
C4 – Shift Commander	1035
Squad 1	2204
Squad 2	1825
Squad 3	1759
Squad 4	947
Squad 5	1604
Engine 1	397
Ladder 2	284
Engine 3	16
Engine 4	176
Ladder 5	111
Tower 3	306
Engine 5**	176

\*Includes all responses (Fire, EMS and Other calls for Service)

\*\* Engine 5 is also used as the “back-up” fire apparatus that fills in for other trucks that may be out of service for mechanical reasons



# SUMMARY OF 2021 RESPONSES

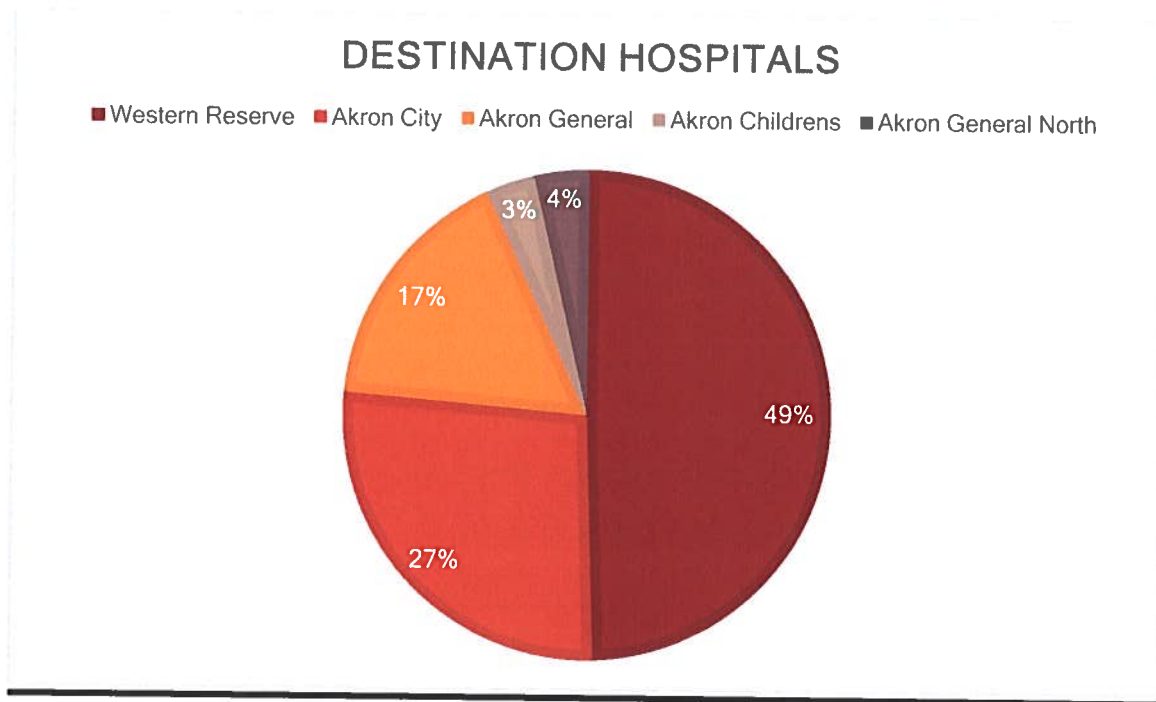


## Breakdown of Response Types

<b>2021</b>	<b>Fire Related Emergencies</b>	<b>EMS</b>	<b>False Alarms (EMS and Fire)</b>	<b>Service/Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total Responses	597	7,139	452	1,400	9,588
% of Total Responses	6%	74%	5%	15%	100%

With a total of 9,588 responses in 2021, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department experienced a marked increase from previous years. This trend was consistent throughout the area and can be attributed to the lessening impact COVID-19 had on overall public behavior. EMS responses remain the largest category of calls for service, which is consistent with national trends for comparable fire departments.

# 2021 EMS TRANSPORT DATA



## Analysis of Hospital Transports

In 2021, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) transported a total of 4,741 patients to area hospitals. Western Reserve Hospital remained the hospital of choice for the majority of patients, which is consistent with previous years. CFFD EMS crews transport patients to the hospital of their choosing within the immediate area of Cuyahoga Falls and Akron, unless the nature of the patient's illness or injury dictates otherwise (based on hospital capabilities and specialties).

Based on the severity of the illness or injury each patient is experiencing, CFFD EMS crews make a determination on each response, whether to transport patients to the hospital with lights and sirens, or without lights and sirens. In 2021, 590 patients were transported with lights and sirens to the hospital (indicating a life threatening illness or injury), and 4,151 patients were transported without lights and sirens (indicating non-life threatening signs and symptoms).

# FIRE RESPONSE DATA



2021 accounted for an estimated \$960,244 combined dollar loss to property and contents damaged as a result of fire conditions. CFFD responds to millions of dollars' worth of property value from the devastating effects of fire on a daily basis (estimated fire department response to obtainable appraised property values of \$6,219,240, in 2021). When comparing the estimated loss of property and contents against obtainable appraised property values, in 2021, 91% (an estimated \$5,639,590) was saved due to the efforts of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department!

CFFD is proud to have exceptionally trained, highly motivated and courageous members. This workforce, along with a high quality ongoing training program, top of the line equipment and diligent work from the Fire Prevention Bureau continue to provide the highest level of security from the risks of fire to the citizens of the City of Cuyahoga Falls.

# FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



CFFD's Fire Prevention Bureau currently consists of two sworn members: Lieutenant Stephen Lyons (Fire Marshal 1) and Lieutenant Tom Carano (Fire Marshal 2). These individuals perform daily tasks such as complaint-driven Fire Code enforcement; fire safety inspections for businesses, schools, foster homes and fireworks (pyrotechnics) launch sites; smoke detector installations; residential and commercial lock box installations; home fire safety inspections; and fire safety education. The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for reviewing permit applications for new fire protection systems; reviewing plans for new construction and building renovations; and ensuring safety at public assemblies by enforcing local, state, and federal laws pertaining to the fire and life safety codes. The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Prevention Bureau inspects all hospitals, schools, and day cares annually that are within the City limits, and additionally investigates all fires. In 2021, the Fire Prevention Bureau investigated the origin of 25 fires that occurred within the City.

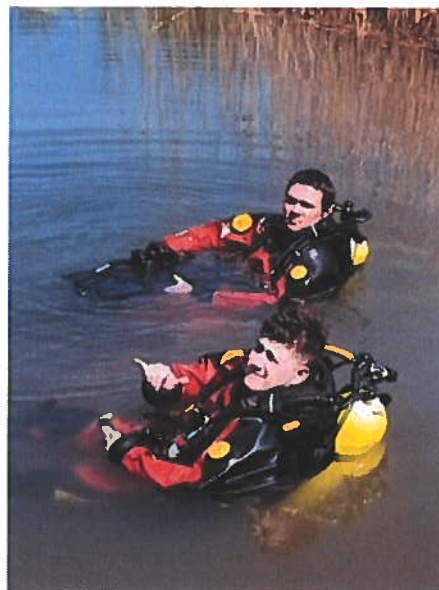




# WATER RESCUE TEAM

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department is proud to boast one of the best water rescue teams in the region. Comprised of 18 members, this team trains on a monthly basis and is ready to respond to any emergency involving water rescues (dive operations, swift water operations, ice rescue). In 2021, the team did maintain minimal amounts of training hours due to COVID-19. In spite of the limited ability to train, the team was, as always, ready to respond with no reduction in service or availability.

Every year (pictured below), team members are required to successfully complete a swim test and “pool skills” designed to mimic real-life potentially life threatening underwater conditions and situations. CFFD’s Water Rescue Team is composed of Rescue 1 (a repurposed Squad that houses water rescue equipment); numerous boats (inflatable and outboard driven); and sonar capabilities. CFFD’s Water Rescue Team is led under the direction and expertise of Firefighter Chis Bickett and Battalion Chief Luke Rychlik.



# TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS TEAM

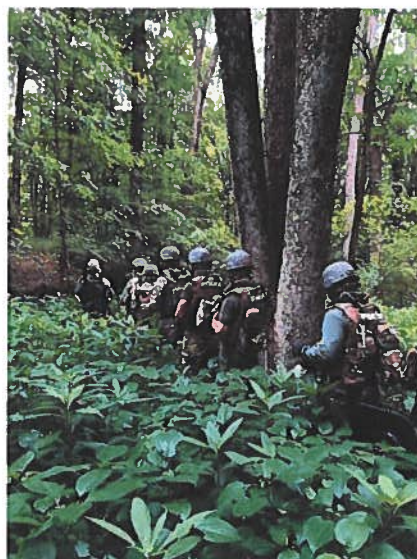
The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department's Technical Rescue Operations Team (TROT) was formed in the early 1990's as an elite group of specially trained firefighters whose additional training, knowledge, and equipment were tasked with response to the myriad of unique rescues that may occur within the community. Their areas of expertise included rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench and excavation rescue, as well as structural collapse rescue. Lieutenant Michael (Mike) Stanec passed the torch of leading the TROT team to Lieutenant Brian Krebs and Lieutenant Dan Grimm in 2021, prior to his retirement. Your knowledge and experience of TROT will be greatly missed, Mike!

Today, the CFFD TROT is comprised of eighteen members dispersed among each of the three shifts. The Team maintains a technical heavy rescue vehicle (Rescue 2) and its associated equipment at Fire Station 5. Each member must obtain certification of completion in Rope Rescue Levels I and II, Confined Space Rescue Technician, Trench/Excavation Rescue Technician, and Structural Collapse Rescue Operations. Additionally, members must be trained as Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Technicians prior to acceptance in the abovementioned courses. The training to become a fully-certified member exceeds two-hundred hours of initial training. As the second largest Department in Summit County, the CFFD TROT members are integral leaders and members of the Summit County Special Operations Response Team, a county-wide Team comprised of members from most of the departments within Summit County. Additionally, select CFFD TROT members are members of the Ohio Region 5 Collapse Search & Rescue Strike Team, which deploys to structural collapse assistance requests within a thirteen county region of Northeast Ohio (Ashland, Carroll, Columbiana, Holmes, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Summit, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and Wayne).



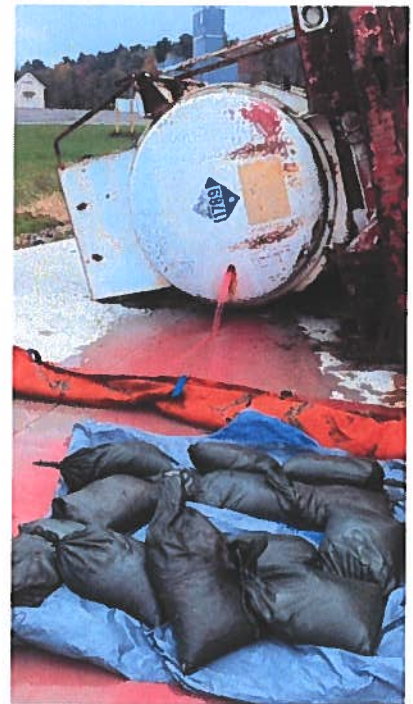
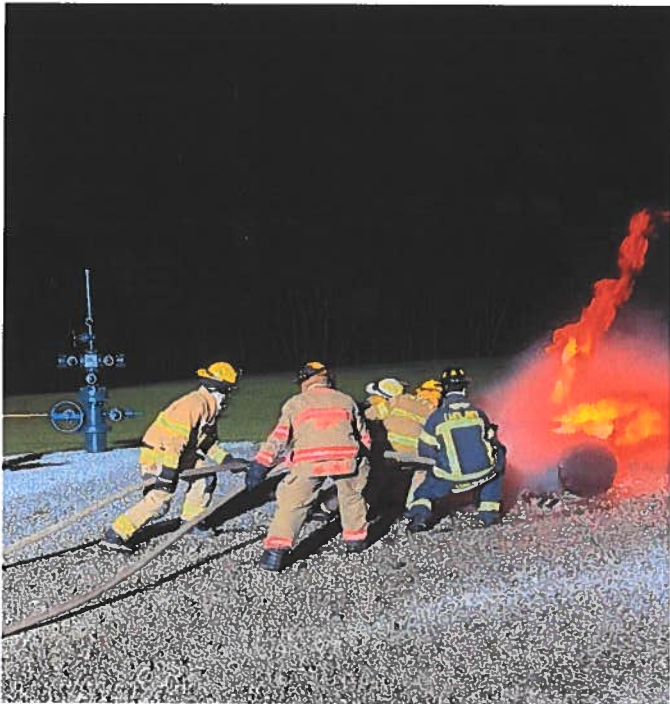
# SWAT MEDIC TEAM

The SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Medic program was started over 20 years ago at CFFD. Paramedics from the fire department who are selected by the Chief for this detail are properly trained and equipped to work alongside police officers on the team in hostile environments. The medics train monthly with SWAT Officers on tactics, weapons qualifications, and trauma care. Over the years, the team consisted of three to four medics. In 2021, a total of five medics comprises CFFD's SWAT Medic Team. The team responds in a fire department ambulance so they are capable of providing immediate treatment and transport if injury or illness occurs during SWAT operations or trainings. After successfully completing required training, Taser Guns became part of the personal protective equipment each medic carries during SWAT callouts. CFFD's SWAT Medic Team is led by Lieutenant Konrad Lenk.



# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

The Summit County Hazardous Materials Response Team was established after it was determined that it would be too expensive for each city, township, or village to equip and train their own teams. The Summit County Team is a joint effort between the Summit County Government, the local fire departments, and the University of Akron. The County provides the funding necessary for specialized hazardous materials equipment and basic operating costs. Each fire department provides the personnel to respond, and the University of Akron provides the specialized training. The team has been in service since 1986. Currently, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department has three members on the Summit County Hazardous Material Response Team: FF Andrew King (CFFD's HazMat Team Coordinator), FF Gary Huhn, and FF Mason Reimer. In 2022, CFFD plans to increase HazMat technician-level training to five sworn members.



# QUICK RESPONSE TEAM (QRT)

In 2017, the CFFD, in coordination with Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADM) and the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department (CFPD) began providing follow-up assistance to members of our community struggling with drug addiction. Once a week, a CFFD Paramedic joins a CFPD Police Officer and Social Worker from the Summit County ADM Board to visit members of the community who had experienced a drug overdose in the previous week. The goal of the visit is to educate and assist the resident with programs and services that are available to help with drug addiction and rehabilitation. CFFD's QRT is managed by Firefighter Ben Edwards, and responded to 45 follow-up visits in 2021.



# CFFD DRONE TEAM

The City of Cuyahoga Falls Drone team was started in 2017. In the first year Lieutenant Brian Krebs was assigned to be the lead for the team and work in conjunction with the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department. At this time, drones were a fairly new concept in the police and fire service. We were the first in Summit County to purchase a drone for the city. The goals of our first year were to focus on learning the rules and regulations set by the FAA for government agencies, develop policies and procedures for our city, purchase the drone and accessory equipment for successful operations, and to gather team members and get them trained on the drone and equipment. One member from each the FD and PD attended a four day class at the Ohio State Patrol academy in Columbus, Ohio to familiarize team members with rules and regulations by the FAA 14 CFR Part 107 and prepare to pass the test to be licensed.

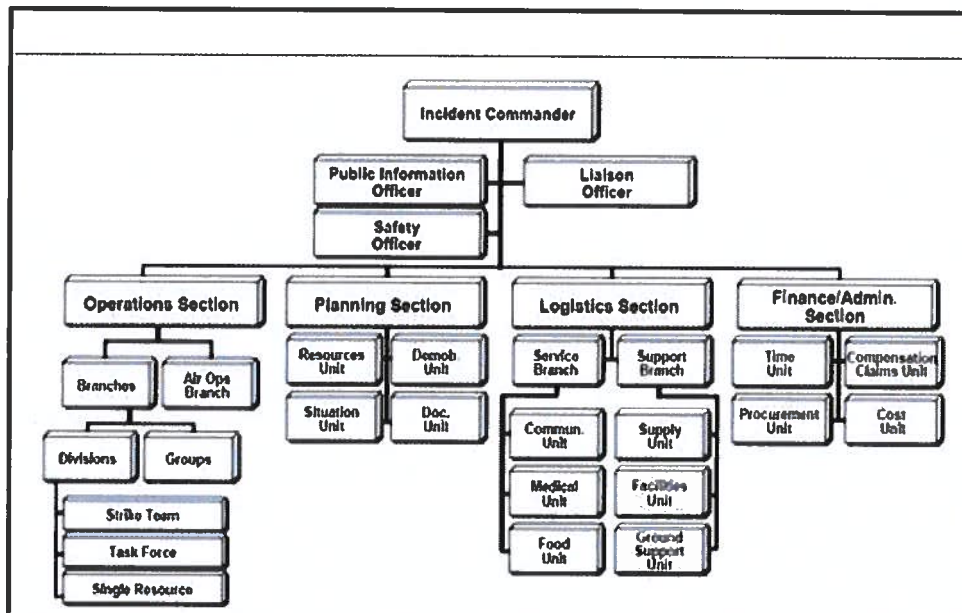
In 2018 we developed the program further and had multiple call-outs for live use. We deployed team members multiple times for missing persons within our city limits, and responded twice for mutual aid requests to assist the Akron Fire Department on hazmat operations where our aerial footage proved to be very beneficial. Three more team members were licensed on the CFFD in 2018. The CFFD drone equipment and policies were shared with the Sandusky Fire Department and the Brimfield Police Department, to assist in the development of their drone programs.

The ability to obtain aerial views and footage normally inaccessible by land can expand all of our operations, both emergent and non-emergent, and has proven to be a tremendous asset to the City of Cuyahoga Falls. In 2021, CFFD began the process of obtaining a Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) so that it could be able to train future drone pilots in-house. Tyler Boring, of Kinetic Drone Solutions, assisted immensely with this project! CFFD's drone program is being piloted by Lieutenant Carl Hayward and Firefighter Richard Patterson.



# BLOSSOM COMMAND

In 2021, CFFD continued to place an on-duty Fire Officer (serving as Incident Commander) at Blossom Music Center for all concert events. Using the National Incident Command System (NIMS) framework, this allows for the rapid deployment of necessary resources and automatic coordination with the Summit County Sheriff's Office and Blossom staff in the event of a major emergency or mass casualty event. The Fire Officer serves as an initial Incident Commander and liaison with Blossom EMS and other responding agencies. In 2019, CFFD Fire Officers were present at all 44 events held at Blossom Music Center throughout the summer concert series, including every Live Nation Concert and Cleveland Orchestra Show. Unfortunately, COVID-19 forced Blossom to cancel their season of events in 2020, as well as most of 2021. However, CFFD is looking forward to a strong continued partnership in 2022 and beyond! Since inception, Battalion Chief Matt Kee has served as our operational liaison between Blossom Music Center, the Summit County Sheriff's Office, and CFFD.



# CFFD HONOR GUARD

The purpose of the Honor Guard is to have an organized group of members of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department ready to represent our CFFD for ceremonies and other official gatherings such as but not limited to: Funeral services of past and present firefighters; participation in memorial services; parades; and presentation/posting of the flags. These functions are available to safety forces, city officials of the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and include responses to other surrounding communities, if requested. In 2021, Lieutenant Steve Lyons passed the torch to Firefighter Samuel Marable to march CFFD's Honor Guard into the future.





# **CFFD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

In 2021, CFFD established a very well received ambassador program to serve as “the face” of our organization. This team of highly motivated members (listed below) has volunteered to assist with orientation week of our newly hired firefighters; attend community parades and recruitment events; and answers any/all questions from the public with confidence, compassion, understanding, and CFFD pride! Thank you all for stepping up and stepping out to be a CFFD beacon for our community’s residents!

**Lieutenant Bryon Barth**

**Firefighter Ben Edwards**

**Lieutenant Brian Krebs**

**Firefighter Paul Celinski**

**Lieutenant Maggie Hobson**

**Firefighter Connor McComas**

**Lieutenant Dan Grimm**

**Firefighter Adam Hafer**

**Lieutenant Charlie Kilbel**

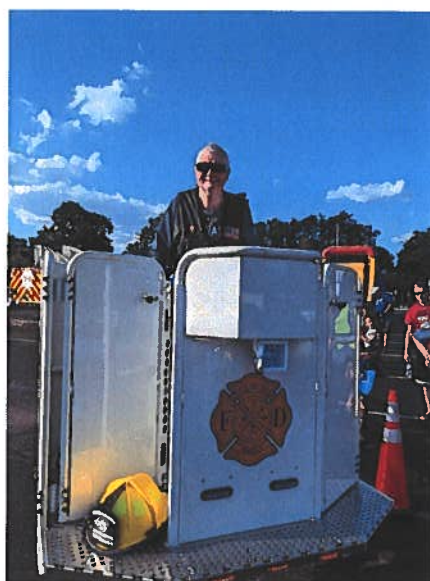
**Firefighter Colin Papp**

**Firefighter Dan Pittman**

**Firefighter Vince Sferra**

**Firefighter Jacob Knight**

**Firefighter Seth Stertzbach**



**Honorary CFFD Firefighter and Ambassador Kenny King enjoying a “Touch a Truck” event**

# CPR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department is an American Heart Association Basic Life Support Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training Center. Our training center offers certification classes in first-aid, CPR, and the use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Currently the CFFD BLS CPR training center has 60 active CPR/First-Aid instructors. Our instructors are employees of the following locations: The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department; the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department; the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium; the Summit County Sheriff's Office; the Cuyahoga Falls High School; Woodridge Schools; Walsh Jesuit High School; Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy; Copley High School; and Western Reserve Hospital. In 2021, approximately 600 people were certified in CPR, AEDs, and/or First Aid through our training center. In addition to CPR training, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department also monitors the Automated External Defibrillators that are spread throughout the city.



# WESTERN RESERVE HOSPITAL

Beginning July 2018, Western Reserve Hospital proudly partnered with the City of Cuyahoga Falls to provide 24/7 medical control and direction. This includes Dr. Sonny Bare as the Medical Director, Dr. Dan Celik as the Assistant Medical Director, and Dr. Brad Clarke as the Tactical EMS Director.

Providing the Medical Direction needs for both the City of Cuyahoga Falls and its nationally recognized event facility, Blossom Music Center is ideal for the community, as these new partnerships allow for an increased continuity of care. These new, high-profile clinical leadership roles also display in a very public way, the strong commitment shared between the community and its local hospital, which leads the region in rankings for quality, safety, and satisfaction.

Beginning in December of 2018, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department transitioned to a cutting edge Medication Drug Box Exchange Program, which allows all pre-hospital medications to be cross-checked by hospital pharmacists. We are one of the few cities in Ohio, capable of providing our own community with a Medical Drug Box Exchange program of this scope, sophistication and magnitude.

In 2021, Western Reserve Hospital partnered with University Hospitals. This required CFFD members to learn and utilize new treatment protocols, and established a gateway for members to receive top-of-the-line continuing medical education opportunities. Including airway and intraosseous placement cadaver labs; Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) classes; and paramedic refresher courses; this continued community partnership provides CFFD members with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to effectively practice emergency medicine in the field!



# 2021 VEHICLE PURCHASES

## 2022 Ford E-450 Braun Ambulance

In 2021, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department was proud to add another Braun Ambulance to our fleet. Featuring state of the art engineering and custom manufacturing, this truck was built to our exact specifications and features a mechanically powered cot and lift system to help avoid injuries and improve patient care.



## 2022 Pierce Saber Engine (Replacing Ladder 2)

In 2021, CFFD finalized the design and ordered a 2022 Pierce Saber Engine (Pumper) that will be replacing Ladder 2. CFFD anticipates to take delivery of this newest Engine in April of 2022. This fire engine is equipped with the latest in modern technology, has an elevated mid-mount pump panel to improve operator visibility of the incident scene, and was fully customized to our exact specifications. New Engine 2 will provide extraordinary tactical advantages for CFFD, and offers increased useable space (cab and exterior), improved ergonomics, and streamlined serviceability. Engine 2 is extremely similar in design and functionality when compared to current Engine 1 (pictured below).



# **SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The city marked the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, with a special program in the downtown amphitheater. Mayor Don Walters and Fire Chief Chris Martin gave opening remarks. Bell ringing started at 8:46 a.m. to signal the Last Alarm Service. The ringing of the bells signified the end of the last call of firefighters who lost their lives when they were called to service in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. The bells signaled the firefighters to return home. The Last Alarm service was followed by a moment of silence, and then the delivering of a keynote address by Battalion Chief Matthew Kee.



**FF Marable ringing the bells to signal the Last Alarm tribute**

# INAUGURAL CHARITY TRUCK PULL EVENT



The purpose of the event was to raise funds, non-perishables and raise awareness of The Pantry on the Corner, a pantry in Cuyahoga Falls that serves over 1,000 community members each month from tents on the Journey Covenant Church car park. Over \$10,000 and nine bags of non-perishable food was collected, which made the winter months seem a little less daunting for the organization.

A total of 25 teams participated, most of which were made up of sports teams from local high schools, fitness centers and first responders. Notable participants included Cuyahoga Falls Mayor Don Walters, who pulled with City of Cuyahoga Falls employees; Stow Mayor John Pribonic, who pulled with the Stow High School football team; and former Browns player Frank Stams, who pulled with candidates for Democratic club Cuyahoga Falls.

The winner of the event was the second team from the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department, who crossed the finish line in 16.21 seconds. Mayor Walters hopes to make the fire truck an annual event that can sponsor a different local organization each year.



# FRANK SCHUMANN MEMORIAL

On December 15th 1957, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department lost one of our own in the line of duty. While working at the scene of an MVA at the intersection of State Road and Maitland Avenue, Firefighters Frank Schumann and John Moore were unloading salt from the rear of a department pickup when a drunk driver veered left of center and struck both men, pinning them momentarily and then tossing them in opposite directions. Firefighter Moore heard Schumann asking, "Is Johnny okay, is Johnny okay?" That was the last time Moore would hear his Brother's voice; Firefighter Frank Schumann would succumb to internal injuries and massive hemorrhage, dying several hours later at Akron City Hospital. Schumann left behind his wife and two young children.

The one issue that resonated with John Moore many years after the incident was that there was no lasting memorial for his friend's sacrifice that evening. On the 61st anniversary of the incident (December 15, 2018) that was changed as a permanent sign was placed at the location. In a collaborative effort between the city and department administrations and IAFF Local 494 a ceremony was held to unveil the sign. Many thanks to Mayor Don Walters and all that helped make this memorial a reality. A memorial wreath (pictured below right) is placed annually by members of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department. Firefighter Schumann, "We have it from here – and will never forget!"



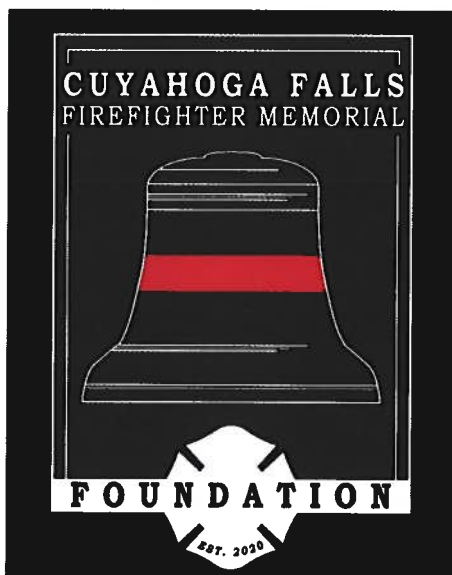
*Above Left: Captain (Retired) John Moore with his wife standing near the memorial sign in the same location where he and Firefighter Schumann were struck 61 years before.*

# CUYAHOGA FALLS FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Cuyahoga Falls Firefighter Memorial Foundation was established to honor the legacy and sacrifice of all members of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) and to create and maintain a suitable firefighter memorial in support of that mission. The new memorial will have as the centerpiece, the City's old Fire bell, which was formerly in Oakwood Cemetery.

Cast in 1888 and weighing in at over 600 lbs, the City Fire bell hung from the bell tower in the original Cuyahoga Falls town hall on Broad Blvd at Front Street, and served as a beacon to call volunteer firefighters to action when fire broke out in our City. This Fire Bell was used for several decades to call our City's firefighters until the early part of the twentieth century.

In the early 1930's bricks and other remnants began falling from the bell tower. Out of safety concerns, the bell was removed from the top of City Hall and tucked away in the empty garage floor that once housed the fire department. It was brought to Oakwood Cemetery in 1948 to be placed in a makeshift memorial. After 73 years in the cemetery, the bell began to show its age, with considerable rusting and corrosion of the crown, a missing clapper, and numerous dents in it as a result of a hammer being used to toll the bell.

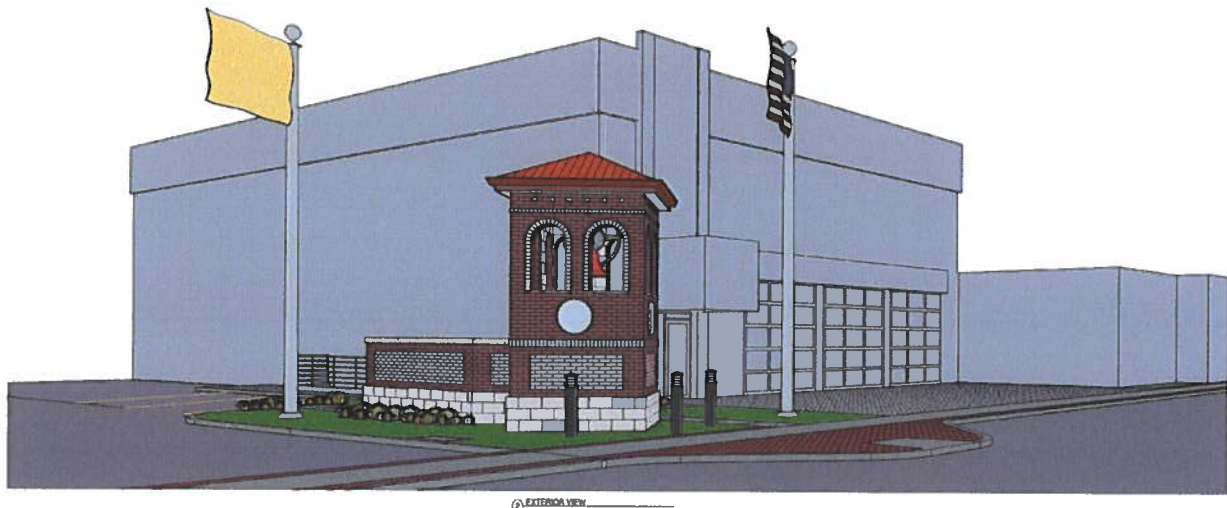




# CUYAHOGA FALLS FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)

Over the past few years, members of the Cuyahoga Falls Firefighters Local 494 expressed interest in restoring the bell in the form of a new memorial and moving it to a more visible location within the community.

We are excited to announce that we have begun the journey of bringing this bell back to Front Street. The new memorial, designed by local architect David Pelligra, will consist of a 14-foot bell tower encasing the 133-year-old bell. Our City's old fire bell will be restored at its original foundry in Cincinnati and then come home to be mounted atop a newly constructed memorial adjacent to Fire Station #1. We are excited to hear our City's Fire bell ring again soon.



*Architectural design of future CFFD Firefighter Memorial site, located at Fire Station 1.  
1924 Front Street Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221*

Find the CFFD Firefighter Memorial Foundation on Facebook!

## FIREMAN'S PRAYER

# FIREMAN'S PRAYER



WHEN I AM CALLED TO DUTY, GOD  
WHENEVER FLAMES MAY RAGE,  
GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO SAVE SOME LIFE  
**WHATEVER BE ITS AGE.**  
HELP ME TO EMBRACE A LITTLE CHILD  
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, OR SOME OLDER PERSON  
FROM THE HORROR OF THAT FATE.  
ENABLE ME TO BE ALERT AND HEAR THE WEAKEST SHOUT,  
**AND QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY  
TO PUT THE FIRE OUT.**  
I WANT TO FILL MY CALLING AND GIVE THE BEST IN ME,  
**TO GUARD MY NEIGHBOR  
AND PROTECT HIS PROPERTY.**  
AND IF ACCORDING TO YOUR WILL  
**I HAVE TO LOSE MY LIFE,**  
PLEASE BLESS WITH YOUR PROTECTING HAND  
**MY CHILDREN AND MY WIFE.**