Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department Annual Report 2018



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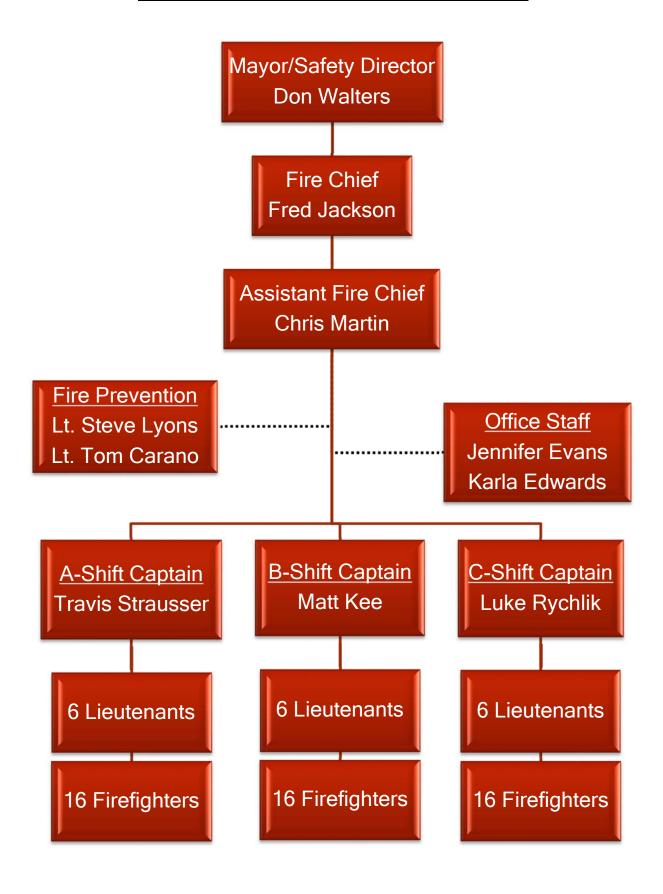
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CFFD MISSION STATEMENT

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.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CFFD PERSONNEL

Chief Officers

Chief - Fred Jackson Assistant Chief - Chris Martin

Captains

Travis Strausser - A Shift Matt Kee - B Shift Luke Rychlik - C Shift

Lieutenants

A-Shift	<u>B-Shift</u>	C-Shift	Fire Prevention
Ed McCullough	Rick Malak	Chet Hoyt	Steve Lyons
Mike Marsh	Charmaine Zawacki	Dave Tripepi	Tom Carano
Mike Stanec	Kevin Rubin	Zak Elzholz	
Jack Breese	Konrad Lenk	Bryon Barth	
Chris Bickett	Maggie Hobson	Brian Krebs	
Scott Christiansen	Tom Taylor	Kevin Roarty	

Firefighters

A-Shift	<u>B-Shift</u>	<u>C-Shift</u>
Pat Hayden	Jack Hunt	Russ Hannan
Tim Humbert	Andy Ryne	Carlton Barnett
Todd Hyde	Mark Melice	Eric Davis
Frank Yoskey	Mike Beck	Reade Allen
Chris Anselm	Tim Carey	Matt Hutchison
Rob Gipson	Don Smerk	Scott Cline
Jeff Utzler	Randy Kistemaker	Clint Snyder
Ryan Gray	Carl Hayward	Mic George
Dan Grimm	Charlie Kilbel	Josh Bell
Jacob Knight	Jason Boivin	Ben Edwards
Jessica Amato	Doug Hallahan	Addison Marable
Dan Pittman	Alex Cheronis	Paul Celinski
Ken Facemire	Joe Peters	Connor McComas
Ben Kerner	Richard Patterson	Marcus Feichtner
Rocco Mauer	Andrew King	Adan Hafer
Colin Papp	Gary Huhn	Anthony Girardi

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





Fire Station #2

2121 High Street

Opened in 1949

Remodeled in 1999

Equipment:

- 1 Ladder
- 2 Squads

Fire Stations

Fire Station #3

1601 Portage Trail

Opened in 1959

Equipment:

1 Engine

2 Squads





Station #4

3089 Northampton Rd.

Opened in 1947

Equipment:

1 Engine

1 Ladder

2 Squads

1 All-Terrain Vehicle

1 Grass Fire Truck

Fire Station #5

3497 Wyoga Lake Rd.

Opened in 2006

Equipment:

1 Engine

1 Ladder

2 Squads

1 Water Rescue Truck (with boats)

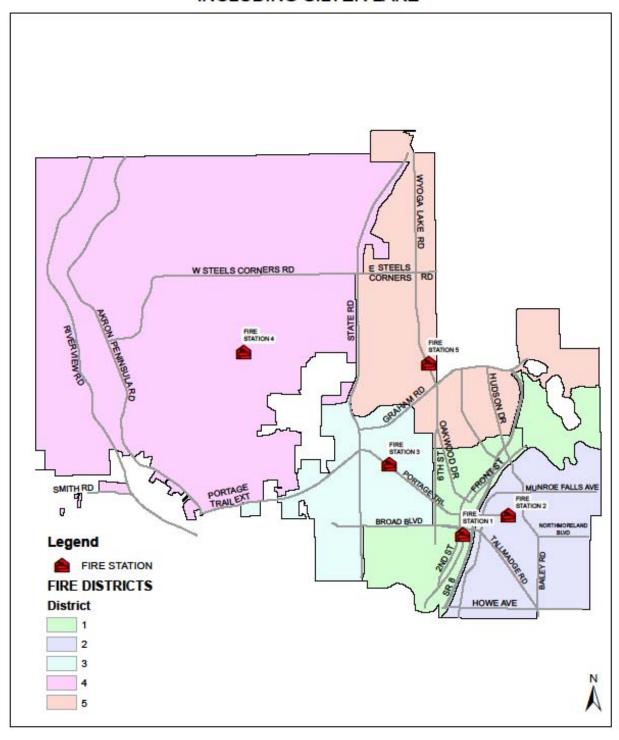
1 Technical Rescue Truck

Various Summit County Heavy Rescue Equipment

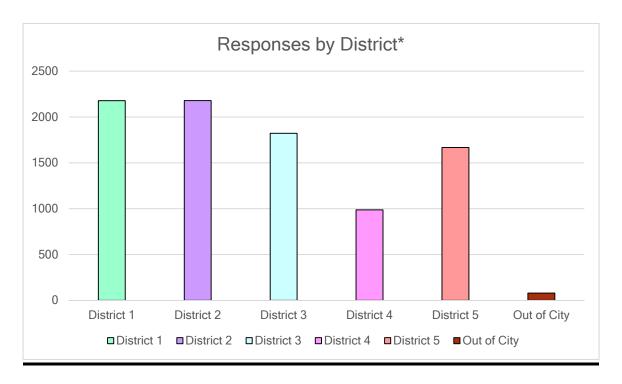


RESPONSE DISTRICTS

CUYAHOGA FALLS FIRE DISTRICTS INCLUDING SILVER LAKE



DISTRICT RESPONSES



^{*}Includes all Fire, EMS and Other calls for service

Analysis of District Responses

2018 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 49% of these calls. Included in these results are the two Silver Lake Districts, which are split between Fire Station's 1 and 5. In 2018, there were a total of 194 calls for service in Silver Lake. This represents an 11% reduction from 2017, in which there were 219 responses to Silver Lake.

In 2018, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department also responded to requests for Mutual Aid (Out of City responses) 79 times. These requests were generated from both Automatic Aid agreements that exist with neighboring Departments, and specific requests from other jurisdictions. CFFD experienced a decrease of these requests from 2017 (92 total responses) of 14%.

VEHICLE RESPONSES

Front-line Squad Responses by Month*

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

2018	Squad 1	Squad 2	Squad 3	Squad 4	Squad 5
January	171	140	163	73	131
February	145	104	112	53	66
March	179	132	141	56	102
April	164	130	121	66	123
May	162	160	143	85	114
June	158	136	124	83	117
July	178	158	151	85	141
August	201	151	139	76	126
September	155	148	133	77	124
October	179	145	152	84	132
November	140	131	122	71	119
December	170	154	156	70	133
Total	2002	1689	1657	879	1428

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



Vehicle Responses



Fire Apparatus Responses by Month*

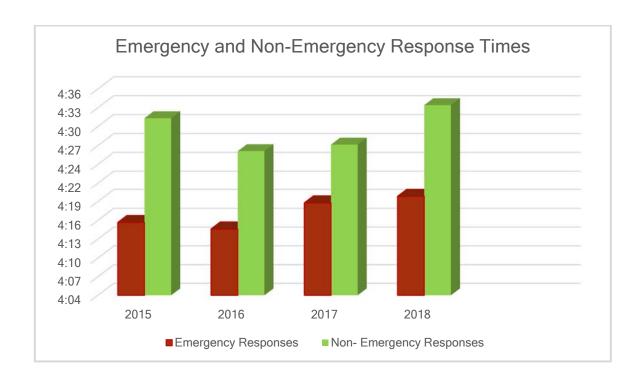
(Truck number represents the Fire Station each vehicle responds from)

2018	Engine 1	Ladder 2	Engine 3	Engine 4	Ladder 5	Engine 5**
January	48	20	41	26	19	18
February	27	9	28	8	7	13
March	39	13	26	10	15	11
April	48	20	29	14	15	18
May	31	23	46	16	16	19
June	37	22	34	21	13	13
July	57	15	22	18	28	17
August	38	35	18	14	10	22
September	39	33	35	13	21	12
October	38	24	36	16	22	18
November	36	22	24 18		18	12
December	36	11	32	11	19	11
Total	474	247	371	185	203	184

^{*} Includes all responses (Fire, EMS and Other calls for Service), and both Emergency and Non-Emergency Responses

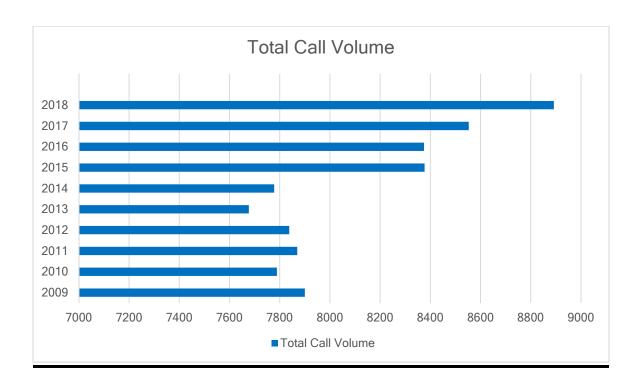
^{**} Engine 5 is also used as the "back-up" fire apparatus that fills in for other trucks that may be out of service for mechanical reasons

RESPONSE TIMES



Response times can be defined as "Emergency" versus "Non-Emergency". An emergency response (using emergency lights and sirens) has been designated upon dispatch as being a request for service that may include life-threatening elements, whereas a non-emergency request can be responded to using normal driving precautions (no lights or sirens). The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department had an average emergency response time of 4:20, and an average non-emergency response time of 4:34 in 2018. These times are within 5-8 seconds when compared to data gathered in the previous three years.

SUMMARY OF 2018 RESPONSES

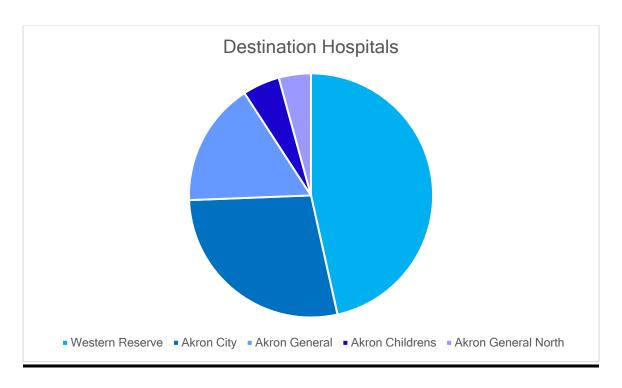


Breakdown of Response Types

	Fire Related Emergencies	EMS	False Alarms (EMS and Fire)	Service/Other	Total
2018 Responses	356	6,398	582	1,556	8,892
% of Total Responses	4%	72%	7%	17%	100%

With a total of 8,892 responses in 2018, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department experienced a higher annual call volume than any year in our history. EMS responses remain the largest category of calls for service, which is consistent with national trends for comparable fire departments.

EMS TRANSPORT DATA



Analysis of Hospital Transports

In 2018, the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) transported a total of 4,589 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 2018, 508 patients were transported with lights and sirens to the hospital (indicating a life threatening illness or injury), and 4081 patients were transported without lights and sirens (indicating non-life threatening signs and symptoms). An additional 1,417 patients were evaluated by CFFD EMS crews and subsequently not transported to the hospital.

FIRE RESPONSE DATA



The City of Cuyahoga Falls had \$4,905,520 worth of property exposed to the devastating effects of fire in 2018. Of that amount, 78% (\$3,789,498) was saved due to the efforts of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department. The Department is also proud to report that there were no fire related fatalities in 2018.

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

CFFD TRAINING SUMMARY

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department had a robust 2018 training year. Our members logged over 11,992 hours of training in several disciplines. While Continuing Education is required for maintaining our member's many certifications, training is invaluable for our optimized efficiency and professionalism. Fire training topics in 2018 included incident scene size-up, fire behavior, fire control, fire ground operations, and search and rescue. Other related training topics included swift-water river rescue, active shooter emergencies, mass decontamination, and various additional related emergency medical services related topics. In addition, CFFD members completed a certification course in Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) in 2018. Each member of the CFFD averaged approximately 182 hours of training over the course of the year.



ACQUIRED STRUCTURE TRAINING

In March of 2018, live fire training events were conducted at an acquired residential structure in the 3500 block of Wyoga Lake Road. The generous donation of the house was provided by the owner of Luke's Lawn Care, Luke Gauntner. Crews from all shifts helped prepare the structure over several months. Numerous hours of training were gained by CFFD members in: Fire Development, Interior Fire Attack, Search and Rescue, Vent-Enter-Search techniques, Incident Command, as well as thermal imager use, laddering and overhaul. All trainings were conducted safely with zero fire fighter injuries. The structure was successfully burned to the ground as planned without damage to surrounding exposures. Live fire trainings are vital to the development and sharpening of fire strategy and tactics and benefit the entire community by enhancing our skills and safety.

In June of 2018, we trained at a ranch style apartment complex prior to demolition on Clyde Ave. Department members from all shifts got valuable experience practicing forcible entry on apartment doors, interior wall breach for emergency self-rescue, and vertical ventilation roof cuts with both powered saws and hand tools. This was another great learning experience that further sharpened the skill sets of our crews.





FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

2018 was a busy year for the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau. Not only was the Bureau busy with its normal duties of fire prevention and investigation, it also saw some personnel changes. Lieutenant Tim Mier, Fire Marshal, retired after a 34 year career, 17 of those years with the Fire Prevention Bureau. Lieutenant Steve Lyons joined the bureau in November.

One of the main duties of the Bureau is fire investigation. After a fire incident, it is the job of the Bureau to determine the cause and origin of the fire. The 2 members of the bureau respond to both large and small fires. The bureau also helps the victims of fire after the incident. This may be in the form of helping the victim start the process of contacting their insurance company. The Bureau also helps the victim obtain temporary housing. If the victim does not have family or friends to stay with, the Red Cross is contacted for them to obtain help.

The majority of the duties of the Fire Prevention Bureau are in fire prevention. The Bureau oversaw 1,713 Fire Safety inspections in 2018. These annual inspections are conducted for every commercial occupancy in the city. These inspections are conducted by the fire companies from all five stations during their work shifts. The Marshal's conducted inspections of Western Reserve Hospital and the 20 public and private schools that reside in the city. These schools include buildings from the Cuyahoga Falls City School District, Woodridge Local School District, Walsh Jesuit High School, Cuyahoga Valley Christian School, Redeemer Christian School, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, St. Joseph School, and Chapel Hill Christian School.

As part of the City of Cuyahoga Falls' free smoke detector program, the Bureau installed 194 smoke detectors in 48 homes during the year. These detectors are bought by the City of Cuyahoga Falls or with money from various grants the Fire Department receives. These detectors are provided free of charge to resident's who need them. Both Marshals in the bureau also go out to the residences to properly place and install these detectors for the residents.

The Bureau also installed 9 residential style key lock boxes. These boxes were donated to the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department by a Local Re/Max branch. The boxes are installed at homes where the resident either lives alone or has limited mobility. The box allows Fire and EMS access to the property without having to do any damage should the resident not be able to get to the door. These boxes are installed with a code that is known

by no one other than the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department. The resident does not know the code either. This insures the key cannot be removed or misplaced.

Part of the responsibilities of the Fire Prevention Bureau is plans examining for new commercial buildings coming into the city or existing businesses conducting renovations. In 2018 there were 9 new construction projects in the city. One of these projects is a multi-building apartment complex. There were also many new businesses that came into the city and numerous existing businesses making renovations.

The Fire Prevention Bureau also participates in many community events during the year. These events in include the Touch-A-Truck event at the Quirk Cultural Center and Safety Town at The Natatorium. The Bureau also attends the Cuyahoga Falls Career Night and the Cuyahoga Falls Community Expo. Both of these events are sponsored by the Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce.

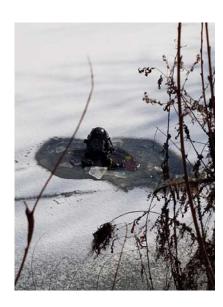


WATER RESCUE TEAM

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department is proud to boast one of the best water rescue teams in the region. Comprising of 18 members, this team trains on a monthly basis and is ready to respond to any emergency involving water rescues. Some of the highlights of 2018 include:

- Conducted 92 Open water dives to include several Ice Dives
- 24 hours of Swift-water Refresher training
- 16 hours of Boat Operations training
- 24 hours of Sonar Operations training
- 24 hours of Ice Rescue Training
- Brought 4 new members onto the team
- Recertified 6 current members
- Hosted Public Safety Diver Survival Class
 - Ice Dive Operations Class
 - Surface Ice Rescue Class
 - o Animal Rescue for Swift-water Technicians class
 - Swift-water Rescue Class
 - Basic Open Water SCUBA course
 - Public Safety Diver course
 - Dive Rescue I course
- Participated in monthly Summit County Water Zone Committee meetings and monthly State of Ohio Water Technical Advisory Council meetings.





TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS TEAM

The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (CFFD) 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 in the community. Their areas of expertise included rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench and excavation rescue and structural collapse rescue.

Today, the CFFD TROT is comprised of twenty members dispersed among each of the three Department's shifts. The Team maintains a technical rescue vehicle 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 full-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 department's 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).

In 2018, CFFD TROT Members completed in excess of 550 hours of monthly trainings and responded to incidents involving rope rescues, confined space rescue standbys, trench rescues and searches for missing persons.





SWAT TEAM

The SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Medic program was started over 20 years ago. Paramedics from the fire department who are elected 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 2018 another position was added to a total of five medics. The team responds in a fire department ambulance providing immediate treatment and transport if injury or illness occurs during SWAT operations or training. In early 2018 after going through proper training Taser Guns became part of the personal protective equipment each medic carries during SWAT callouts.



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 four members on the Summit County Hazardous Material Response Team who are Lt Steve Lyons, FF Rob Gipson, FF Mic George, and FF Andrew King.



QUICK RESPONSE TEAM (QRT)

In 2017, the CFFD, in coordination with Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADM) and 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 addiction. In 2018, the Quick Response Team responded 154 times to assist those in need.







CFFD DRONE TEAM

The City of Cuyahoga Falls Drone team was started in 2017. In the first year Lt. Krebs was assigned to be the lead for the team and work in conjunction with PD member Captain Perry Tabak. 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 goal of our first year was to focus on learning the rules and regulations set by the FAA for government agencies, develop policy and procedures for our city, purchase the drone and accessory equipment for successful operations of all kinds, 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.

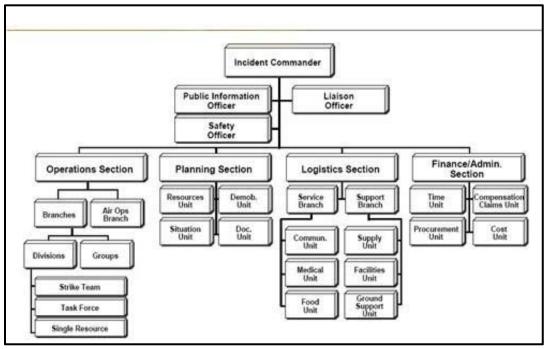
In 2018 we developed the program further and had multiple call-outs for live use. We deployed team members multiple times for missing persons within our city limits, and responded twice for mutual aid requests to assist the Akron Fire Department on hazmat operations where our aerial footage proved to be very beneficial. Three more team members were licensed on the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department (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. As we move forward, we hope to work more in conjunction with our special operations teams and other city departments for non-emergency use. The ability to obtain aerial views and footage normally inaccessible by land can expand all of our operations, emergent and non-emergent, and has proven to be a tremendous asset to the City of Cuyahoga Falls.



BLOSSOM COMMAND

In 2018, the CFFD began placing an on-duty Fire Officer at Blossom Music Center for all concert events in order to initiate the National Incident Command System (NIMS), and coordinate with the Summit County Sheriff's Office and Blossom staff in the event of major emergency. The Officer would serve as an initial Incident Commander and liaison with other responding agencies. In all, CFFD Officers were present at all 52 Events held at Blossom Music Center throughout the summer concert series, including every Live Nation Concert and Cleveland Orchestra Show.





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 Fire Department 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 other surrounding communities.

In 2018 members of the Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department Honor Guard participated in:

- The annual Cuyahoga Falls Memorial Day Parade.
- The annual Memorial Day wreath ceremony at the Oakwood Cemetery.
- The Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department Honor Guard served as casket guard, pall bearers, reading of the last alarm, and flag presentation for retired Cuyahoga Falls Firefighter Art Clark.



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 certifying classes in first-aid, CPR, and 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, Cuyahoga Falls High School, Woodridge Schools, Walsh Jesuit High School, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, Copley High School, and Western Reserve Hospital. In 2018, 548 people were certified in CPR, AED's, and/or First Aid through our training center.





Western Reserve Hospital

Beginning July 2018, Western Reserve Hospital proudly partnered with the City of Cuyahoga Falls to provide 24/7 Medical Support. 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 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.



2018 VEHICLE PURCHASES

2018 Ford E-450 Braun Ambulance

In 2018, 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.



Gravely Atlas All-Terrain Vehicle

Equipped to handle anything from off-road rescues to snow plowing, this vehicle was customized and purchased to aid the Fire Department both functionally and operationally. It is the second all-terrain vehicle in our fleet and will serve the northern response districts when trail rescues are needed, and its versatile capabilities can assist in day-to-day operations of the Department.



2018 CFFD PROMOTIONS



Fred Jackson Promoted to Fire Chief 10/1/2018



Promotional Ceremony on 12/18/2018 (pictured left to right):

Mayor Don Walters

Chris Martin promoted to Assistant Chief
Kevin Roarty promoted to Lieutenant
Scott Christiansen promoted to Lieutenant
Travis Strausser promoted to Captain
Fire Chief Fred Jackson

2018 RETIREMENTS



FF Roger Beck

Hired - 4/30/1986

Retired - 4/30/2018

Chief Paul Moledor Hired - 10/5/1983 Retired - 9/28/2018





Lieutenant Tim Mier

Hired - 4/2/1984

Retired - 11/19/2018

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

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 ok, is Johnny ok?" 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. This past year and on the 61st anniversary of the incident that was changed as a permanent sign was placed at the location. In a collaborative effort between the city and department administrations and the Local 494 a ceremony was held to unveil the sign. Many thanks to Mayor don Walters and all that help make this memorial a reality.



Capt. John Moore (Retired) with his wife standing near the memorial sign in the same location where he and FF Schumann were struck 61 years before.

FIREMAN'S PRAYER

