



# **RICHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT 2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

**OUR MISSION: TO PROVIDE THE CITIZENS OF  
RICHFIELD THE BEST EMERGENCY SERVICES  
THROUGH RELENTLESS TRAINING AND  
CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE.**

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# Richfield Fire Department 2017 Year End Report

Richfield Fire Department 2017 Year End Report

Dear Mayor Beshara, Village Council, Township Trustees, local businesses and the Citizens of Richfield; we are pleased to present our year-end report.

This past year, as many of the past years, saw an increase of call volume and response to fires, emergency medical calls, specialized rescue calls and hazardous materials spills and fires.

In 2017, we saw the retirement of two long term members Lieutenant Ron Urban and Firemedic Ron Boryk. We had the promotion of Mike Lester to Lieutenant in February, and two new hires; Cody Bennett and Kyle Janis.

Our members continue to do basic and advanced training in all areas of Fire Suppression and Fire Ground Command and operations as it relates to our combination department as well as exceed the state required standards for training.

Our affiliation through University Hospitals and Medical Director Anthony Daher brings us state of the art technology and training on a monthly basis for all Medics and EMTs. Medical response and patient care is delivered on a daily basis to residents and visitors to Richfield.

In 2017, we had several new construction projects underway. They all start with the plan review process with building owners and contractors to the occupancy permit and ultimately final approval with the County Building Department. Our valuable business community is the focus of the prevention and inspection bureau. Monthly building inspections, training for local business and pre-fire planning and education in our schools, is ongoing by all shifts.

We continue to look at our calls to service and available resources. With our neighboring departments and resources, we have created an automatic response for structure fires, motor vehicle accidents on the I77 corridor and expanded our participation with the Summit County Special Operations Teams.

As stated, when I took this job in January of 2017, I am honored and humbled to serve as the Fire Chief and to work with such a talented group of individuals. I continue to look at the organization now and into the future to prepare officers and members for succession in their career. I have initiated an in-house self-study program on leadership that all members will participate in. Preparation and advancement are the key to the continued advancement of our department.

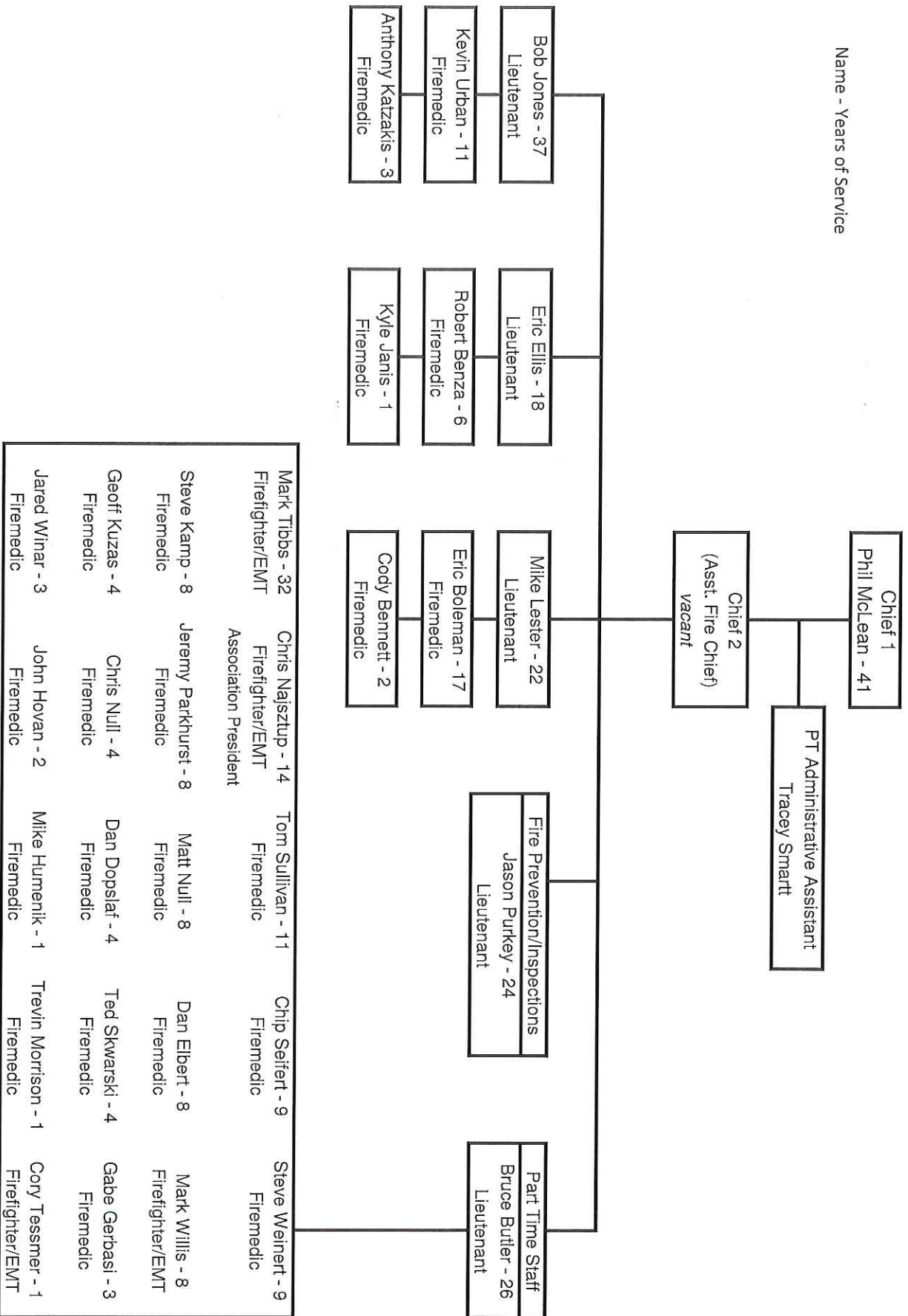
I want to thank the officers and members, the Village administration, Mayor and Council for the support and cooperation over this past year.

And to our citizens, please stop and visit us and thank you for your continued support.

Fire Chief, Philip W. McLean

# Richfield Fire Department Organizational Chart

Name - Years of Service



# Fire Department Officers

## Fire Department Officers

**Fire Chief Phil McLean – 41 Years of Service** - As the Chief, the operations and the budget are my main focuses for our organization. The day to day operations is run by each shift Lieutenant with regard to call response. Many duties also include interaction with the community at all events, council meetings and trustee meetings and the response to all structure fires or large-scale incidents. The Chief of the Fire Department needs to be prepared to step from the administrative environment to fire ground operations as we function as a combination department.

**Lieutenant Bob Jones – 37 Years of Service** - Bob serves as the Operations Lieutenant. He manages payroll, procedures and departmental rules and regulations.

**Lieutenant Eric Ellis – 18 Years of Service** – Lt. Ellis manages and plans all fire training activities. He coordinates and plans training sessions. He monitors activities from training sessions to call responses. He also assists in maintaining all continuing education certifications.

**Lieutenant Mike Lester – 22 Years of Service** – Mike manages all EMS training activities in cooperation with UH Hospital. He also monitors all certifications and continuing education requirements. He quality checks all EMS runs and patient care.

**Lieutenant Jason Purkey – 24 Years of Service** - Lt. Purkey manages the inspection and prevention bureau. This covers all commercial building inspections, special home and residential inspections as well as construction and modification to current commercial buildings. Plan reviews are done on all new construction by the bureau.

**Lieutenant Bruce Butler – 26 Years of Service** – Bruce coordinates First Aid, CPR and AED activities on a part-time basis. He monitors certification levels, response levels as well as fill-in shift activity levels.

**Firefighter/EMT Chris Najsztup – 14 Years of Service** – Chris is President of the Richfield Firefighters Association. The Richfield Firefighters Association history also goes back to 1934 as the creation of the Township Fire Department. The purpose of the Association is to support the Fire Department through social and community-based activities. The Association has held over its history fund raisers, steak fries, open houses, and within the past few years some new events for the community, both educationally and socially.

# Specialized Fields of Training 2017

## Specialized Fields of Training 2017

### INSTRUCTORS:

CPR:	BUTLER, HOVAN, NULL
ACLS & PALS:	PURKEY, MORRISON
FIRE SERVICE & LIVE BURN:	MCLEAN, JONES, ELLIS, DOPSLAF, KUZAS, SEIFERT, SULLIVAN

### TRAINING/TEAM MEMBER:

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR:	MCLEAN, PURKEY, JONES, URBAN, ELLIS, BENZA, LESTER, BOLEMAN, DOPSLAF, GERBASI, HUMENIK, KUZAS, MORRISON, NULL, SEIFERT, SKWARSKI, SULLIVAN, WEINERT, WINAR
ICE RESCUE TECH:	PURKEY, URBAN, KATZAKIS, ELLIS, JANIS, LESTER, BENNETT, BUTLER, GERBASI, MORRISON, NAJSZTUP, SKWARSKI, SULLIVAN, WILLIS
FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM:	URBAN, ELLIS, BENNETT, HOVAN, KUZAS
METRO-SWAT MEDIC:	LESTER
COUNTY HAZMAT TEAM:	KATZAKIS, MORRISON, SULLIVAN
TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS TEAM:	ELLIS, SULLIVAN

# Specialized Fields of Training 2017

## TRAINING/TEAM MEMBER (CONTINUED):

BUSTR:

JONES

CODE 10 COMMITTEE:

JONES – CHAIRMAN

STATE FIRE BOARD DIV. EMS:

MCLEAN

OHIO STATE FIREFIGHTERS EDUCATION

MCLEAN - CHAIRMAN



Ice Rescue Training

# Statistics 2017

## Statistics 2017

### Statistics 2016 and 2017

	2016	2017
Total Calls	1078	1141
Total Fire	295	385
Village Fire	185	234
Township Fire	64	85
Mutual Aid Fire	46	66
Total Rescue	783	755
Village Rescue	522	507
Township Rescue	220	199
Mutual Aid Rescue	41	49



Roof Ventilation Training



Wheatley Road Training Burn

# BUSTR Program 2017

## BUSTR Program 2017

During 2017 the Richfield Fire Department oversaw the abandonment of two (2) tanks. These tanks were removed from service because they were no longer being used. It is very important that the Richfield Fire Department continues to be involved in these projects as this allows us to know what is going on with the underground storage tanks in our community.

Lieutenant Jones



# Maintenance and Repairs 2017

## Maintenance and Repairs 2017

To meet the ongoing demands for service and safety the Richfield Fire Department maintained its fleet of two (2) engines, two (2) medic units, one (1) water tanker, four (4) passenger vehicles and one (1) UTV. Reserve Engine 13 was sent to Fallsway Equipment for Pump repacking and corrosion repair. Engine 13 is eleven (11) years old and has begun to show the effects of the harsh Ohio winters. Progress was made in the refurbishment of Tanker 18, which is a 16-year-old Freightliner. Many advancements in safety have been made in the past sixteen (16) years and the department is working to explore the options to update the current vehicle lighting, pumping and operations to meet the newer safety standards. The squad committee worked diligently in 2017 and placed an order for a 2018 Horton Medic unit that will replace a 2008 Horton Medic unit. We are anticipating delivery of the new unit in the first quarter of 2018. The total cost of this project was \$275,000.00

Many repairs have been made in-house by the fire department staff and the Village service department. This practice not only reduces the overall cost of repairs, but greatly limits the amount of downtime that sending a vehicle out to a vendor often causes.

The fire station itself is now fifteen (15) years old and has needed some service. Ongoing projects include: kitchen remodel, painting, garage door safety updates and training room updates. The department is looking forward to meeting the ever changing and increased demands on its equipment and members. Through the use of committees, made of the members, we are developing guidelines for all future purchases.

### Firemedic Boleman



# Fire Training and Training Hours in 2017

## Fire Training and Training Hours in 2017



### Wheatley Road Training Burn

For the year 2017, the Richfield Fire Department has once again maintained our tradition of an aggressive approach to deliver the highest quality of training to our members. We have a highly motivated instructor staff that continually strives to attend both regional and national conferences and seminars to bring back the latest knowledge and skills to share and implement in our department.

The Division of Emergency Medical Services in Ohio is the certifying agency for all of EMS and fire certifications such as firefighter, paramedic, fire inspector and fire instructor. Each of these certifications require continuing education as shown below:

- Firefighter required training hours                      54 hours
- Emergency services instructor                              6 hours
- Fire inspectors    30 hours
- Emergency medical technician                              48 hours
- Paramedic    92 hours

All of the above certifications are on a three-year cycle and the individual holding these designations are responsible for acquiring the necessary hours to keep their certifications current. Our training division at Richfield

# Fire Training and Training Hours in 2017

Fire Department provides these needed hours in addition to other valuable training hours in specialized areas such as ice rescue, hazardous materials response and other technical rescue skills.

We were fortunate in 2017 to acquire two structures for use in live fire training evolutions and search and rescue operations. All of these trainings were conducted following NFPA 1403 standard for live fire training. This enabled us to give our members, along with mutual aid departments we frequently work with on actual incidents, an opportunity to train and learn together in a unique environment. The following community's departments participated in these trainings – Bath, Brecksville, Granger, Hinckley and Valley Fire Departments.

In 2017 our department logged over 1,700 hours of fire training in various disciplines to be ready to deliver the highest level of performance and care to both our residents and the business community we serve. Training is an investment in our future and one of the core values of our mission statement to the citizens of Richfield. I would like to thank our dedicated group of instructors that have spent many hours with the goal of keeping our department one that we all can be proud of.

Lieutenant Ellis



Chief McLean Instructing Explorers on Nozzle Technique

# Smoke Detectors 2017

## Smoke Detectors 2017

In March of 2017, the Richfield Fire Department partnered with Operation Save-A-Life; which is a program of the American Red Cross Northeast Ohio Region. This program provides free smoke alarms to all Summit County residents. These smoke alarms provide early warning of fire and can increase the chances of a safe escape in the event of an emergency. The smoke alarms are installed by the members of the Richfield Fire Department, which not only assures proper installation of the detectors but allows us the opportunity to meet with our residents in a non-emergent atmosphere.

We have currently installed sixty (60) detectors in twenty-five (25) homes. The Richfield Fire Department started installing the detectors May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and has continued the installations ever since. As the Operation Save-A-Life program supplies free photoelectric sensor smoke detectors, the Richfield Fire Department has also provided the residents with ionization sensor smoke detectors. Both types of the detectors are installed in each level of the residents' home and have a ten (10) year life expectancy.

The Richfield Fire Department is hoping to expand this program to also include Carbon Monoxide detectors for all Richfield residents as well. We strive to improve and will continue to educate fire safety to everyone here in Richfield Ohio.

Firemedic Katzakis



Broadview Road Training Burn

# EMS Training 2017

## EMS Training 2017



### Wheatley Road Training Burn

In the year 2017, the Richfield Fire Department members continued the monthly medical trainings provided by our Medical Director Dr. Anthony Daher through University Hospital Ahuja campus. We conducted these training sessions on the second Wednesday of every month. There were also several off-site trainings that our paramedics and EMTs attended, as well as quarterly Fire Chief and EMS coordinator meetings.

Since early 2017, the Richfield Fire Department has been looking at new rescue squads to replace our oldest one. In November we placed the order for a new Horton Rescue squad on a Freightliner chassis. It will be delivered in late March of 2018. The Rescue squads are on a 10-year rotation at the fire department. They are used for five (5) years as the first out rescue squad and then five (5) years as the backup rescue squad.

In June of 2017, all members were recertified in CPR, Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life support, Pediatric Life Support, and International Trauma Life Support.

The Richfield Fire Department EMTs and Paramedics continue to provide Exceptional service to the citizens as well as visitors to Richfield through our dedication to our community and all of our continual training and education.

Lieutenant Lester

# Fire Inspection Bureau 2017

## Fire Inspection Bureau 2017

In the year 2017, I finished all the commercial routine fire safety inspections in the Village and Township. I began these in July, 2016 when I took over as the inspector. I then started the process of inspecting the commercial properties again. The inspection process is a very proactive way of keeping our community safe from fire. It also puts a face to the fire department within our community. Often, the business owners will only see the fire department during an emergency.

There are currently several major projects that are underway in Richfield. These projects include The Inn at Applertidge, National Interstate Insurance, GMS Headquarters, Stonegate Corporate Center 1 – Cisco Systems renovations, Nexen Tire, Ashton Village and Everett Pointe. I have reviewed plans for fire and life safety concerns at these sites and provided feedback to Summit County and the contractors. I have attended the monthly fire drills at Hillcrest School and St. Peregrines Academy. I have also monitored fire drills at Kindercare, Angel Accents and Hobbits Pre-School. There have been several new small businesses that have moved into Richfield. I have done occupancy inspections at all of the new occupants prior to them opening.

I have found several serious concerns while being present with technicians servicing hood systems at a few establishments in town. We have followed the Ohio Fire Code to attempt to fix these concerns. These facilities are places of assembly and the risk for serious loss of life or injury is great in many of the cases as there can be large amounts of people present when their operations are underway. It is the responsibility of the Richfield Fire Department to make certain that applicable fire codes are followed to ensure the safety of all those who visit businesses in our community. The first priority is life safety. The Richfield Fire Department will work with business owners to minimize any loss of commerce; however, we cannot compromise life safety.

Lieutenant Purkey



Wheatley Road Training Burn

# Richfield Firefighter's Association 2017

## Richfield Firefighter's Association 2017

The second annual 5K trail run and one-mile walk took place on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> at the RJRD park. Despite cold and rainy conditions, we had seventy-three (73) runners for the 5k event and twenty-six (26) one-mile walkers participate this year. With the help of the Fire Explorers as well as association members, pancake and sausage breakfasts were served to over 140 individuals.

\$7,338.00 in funds were raised after expenses. Proceeds from this event are used to purchase supplies for the following events and classes provided by Richfield firefighters throughout the year:

- Smoke house training material for Hillcrest and St. Peregrine schools
- American Red Cross residential smoke detector program
- CPR training materials and supplies
- Station open house with mock extrication scenario during Community Day weekend
- Trick or Treat at the Fire Department Halloween night; cider and doughnuts provided
- Christmas with Santa was held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Station.

Richfield Fire Department members got together in March for our annual dinner and awards banquet.

Richfield Firemen's Association President  
Firefighter/EMT Najsztp



Richfield Firefighters 5K Trail Run

# CPR/AED and First Aid Education 2017

## CPR/AED and First Aid Education 2017

2017 continues to be a developmental year for the Richfield Fire Department's CPR Program. The program lost one additional full time Fire Department member/instructor to retirement. Despite this loss, the program saw an increase in education classes for 2017 compared to 2016:

- 2 classes were conducted for community residents in January and April
- 7 classes were conducted for the Richfield Police members and various dispatchers in August and September
- 2 classes were conducted for one local Richfield business in September

Improvements to the Richfield Fire Department's CPR Program for 2018 will include:

1. Continued emphasis on obtaining 5-6 additional American Heart Association (AHA) -trained Basic Life Support (BLS) instructors.
2. Continued cooperation with the Bath Fire Department's CPR Program in support of education for both communities.
3. Planned purchase of new automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) training devices to support CPR/AED education.

The members of the Richfield Fire Department understand the value and support having a community of residents and employees trained to provide CPR/AED and First Aid. The Richfield Fire Department remains committed to providing high quality education to all interested individuals.

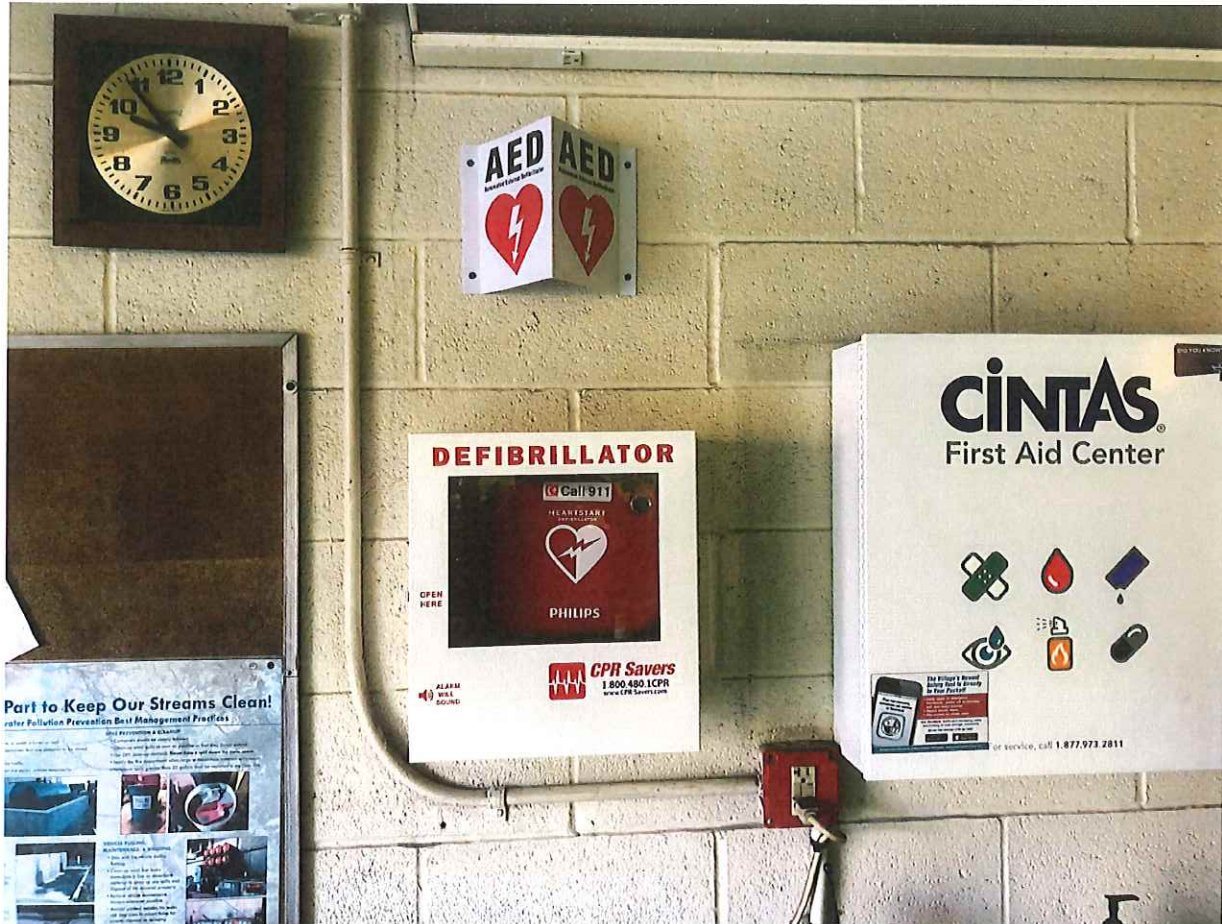
Lieutenant Butler



Broadview Road Training Burn

# AED Program 2017

## AED Program 2017



In late 2017, the Fire Department purchased and installed seven (7) AEDs and cabinets for Village buildings. Made possible through a grant, these seven Phillips HeartStart AEDs are now easily accessible throughout the Village and will provide a survival rate of over 60% to a victim in cardiac arrest. The Phillips HeartStart AED is a limited maintenance unit that is user friendly. CPR and AED training will be offered to all Village employees in 2018.

Firemedic Urban

# Health Watch Program & Lockbox Program 2017

## Health Watch Program & Lockbox Program 2017

Since 2001 the Village and Township have offered the Health Watch program for the senior citizens in Richfield. It consists of a pendant that the resident wears that when activated calls a monitoring service. The monitoring service then calls Richfield Dispatch and we respond to the resident's home. The Fire Department installs and maintains the equipment with Mindi Schaetzle, of our Finance Department, handling all the billing. At this time there are currently thirty-seven (37) Village residents and fifteen (15) Township residents using the service. The Fire Department also loans these residents a lockbox for their house at no cost to them. These are small safe-like boxes that are able to be mounted by the resident's door inside which the resident supplies a key allowing the Fire Department easy access in the event of an emergency. I strongly encourage any house that has a resident that is often alone in which a Health Watch is installed to also have a lockbox installed.

Lieutenant Lester



Future Firefighter



# Public Education Report 2017

## Public Education Report 2017

I am the Fire Department's Fire Education Specialist, and I teach the Fire Prevention program at Hillcrest Elementary and Saint Peregrine's Academy. Although the focus of the program is fire prevention, other safety topics are presented as well.

In April, the child Safety Trailer was used to teach severe storm and tornado safety and preparedness. A discussion with the children helped them to understand the importance between a fire safe or meeting place and a safe place to shelter during severe storms or tornados.

In June, students who attended Safety Town were taught the importance of never touching or playing with matches, getting outside whenever a smoke detector makes noise, having a meeting place, never hiding in a fire, crawling under the smoke and never trying to save toys or pets.

In September, the Safety Trailer was used once again to teach grades one, two, and three how to exit a smoky dwelling including using alternate exits such as a window, what it looks like to have smoke at the top of a room and cleaner air closer to the floor, crawling under the smoke, never hiding or trying to save toys or pets, how to check a closed door to see if fire may be on the other side, getting to the meeting place and only calling 9-1-1 once they are outside.

Firemedic Urban



# Bath-Richfield Explorer Post 2542

## Bath-Richfield Explorer Post 2542

The Bath-Richfield Explorer Post completed another year. The group is comprised of ten (10) students from area schools with two (2) advisors. Robert Benza and Mark Tibbs are advisors. Cody Bennett, Kyle Janis and Cory Tessmer, all members of the Richfield and Bath Fire Departments, continue to assist in the training and development of the members. The group continues to receive full support of Chief Walt Hower (Bath FD), Assistant Chief Rob Campbell (Bath FD), and Chief Phil McLean (Richfield FD).

This year we added three (3) members from the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center and had two (2) members graduate out. One of those members is currently a part-time employee of the Sharon Fire Department.

The Explorers are scheduled to meet every other Thursday at one of the departments, to include some classroom learning, and then typically engage in a hands-on drill. The members are also invited to attend additional Fire Training with the Fire Department members. This training includes:

- Live Fire Training
- Ice Water Rescue
- Extrication
- Tanker Shuttle Operations

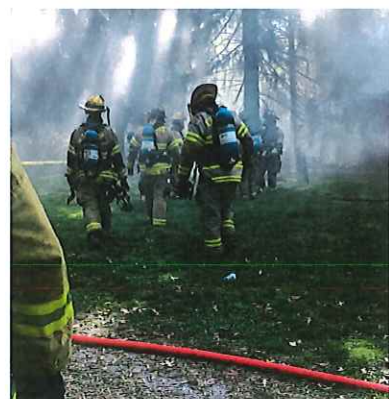
The Explorers are also involved with community relations with both departments throughout the year which include:

- Community Day in both Bath and Richfield
- Fireworks Shows in Bath and Richfield
- Pancake Fund Raiser for the Explorers Post
- 5K Trail Run/1-Mile Walk Pancake Breakfast

The Explorers have been called by Bath and Richfield Fire Departments on incidents that require manpower, such as structure fires.

Tim Baker officially stepped away from the Bath-Richfield Explorers Post 2542 after four (4) years of service. Thank you for setting the ground work to keep the program running and for offering to assist when and if needed.

Firemedic Benza



# Promotions & New Hires 2017

## Promotions & New Hires 2017

Phillip McLean – Promotion to Chief – January 2017

Mike Lester – Promotion to Lieutenant - February 2017

Cody Bennett – New Hire Full Time - February 2017

Kyle Janis – New Hire Full June - 2017



**Chief McLean Promotion**



**Lieutenant Lester Promotion**



**Firemedic Cody Bennett**



**Firemedic Kyle Janis**

## Retirements 2017

Ron Urban

## Retirements 2017

Ron Urban



Ron Urban began his career in November 1988 on the fire department. He earned his 36-hour fire card in 1990 and later got his EMT certification. He excelled in all aspects of the job specifically ropes, EMS and the Firemen's association. He ran a tight ship in the meetings with his giant gavel. Ron was appointed full time in 1998 under Chief English and later promoted to lieutenant in 1999 under Chief Stopak. Ron was instrumental in developing the doctor's extrication class and taught it for fifteen (15) years. Ron served the community of Richfield for twenty-eight (28) years and he will be missed.

## Retirements 2017

Ron Boryk

## Retirements 2017

Ron Boryk

Ron Boryk started as a volunteer with the department February 1, 1982 under Chief English. He did his fire training in Fairlawn, then also received his EMT and Medic. On April 14, 1986, Ron was hired on fulltime as a Firemedic on swing shift. He was the department's fourth fulltime person. He wrote lots of letters, speeches and fathered the Year End Report for Thirty-One (31) years. He joined the HazMat Team and was instrumental with the Richfield Rope Rescue Team (which was a pre-cursor to the County Team). Ron was always a big part of the prevention program at Hillcrest. He went on to become a Fire Inspector and EMS and Fire Instructor. He was instrumental with EMS teaching and CPR training for the public. He participated in many Ohio State Firefighting conferences. Ron was a big contributor to build the County Search and Rescue Maze Trailer in 1993. Ron was firefighter of the year in 1998 and in 2001 was County Firefighter of the year (One of only seventeen (17) in the country).

