

RICHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT



2021 Year End Report





*Richfield Fire Department
4450 Streetsboro Road
Richfield, Ohio 44286
330-659-9400*

Chief George Seifert



To: Mayor Wheeler
Richfield Village Council
Richfield Township Trustees

I want to thank Mayor Wheeler, and the Council for the opportunity to lead the Fire Department. I am very humbled to be leading a great group of professional men and women. Their dedication to providing the best service to the citizens of Richfield does not go unnoticed. I present to you the 2021-year end report.

The year 2021 had a significant amount of change to the department. The most notable was Chief McLean retired in February after 45 years of service to the fire service. There were other numerous personnel changes through-out the year in both fulltime and part time employees. As you are aware finding good qualified candidates in both positions is becoming a harder task to meet the needs of the fire department.

There were more than a few significant events that occurred in 2021:

- We had a commercial structure fire on the docks of FedEx. The loss was over one million dollars.
- We rescued two different horses from a muddy ditch that required an extensive rescue on each one.
- There was a multiple car accident of over 30 commercial and private vehicles on April Fool's Day due to a sudden burst of snow.
- We also responded to numerous auto accidents that required extrications.
- In addition, we responded to numerous COVID-19 runs that were ever present throughout the year.
- In total, we saw an increase of emergency runs each month and had a record year of responses with 1388.

The Fire Department is dedicated to fire prevention, fire education and CPR. We do annual fire inspections and plan reviews of businesses in Richfield. We also are very active at Richfield Elementary School teaching fire and severe weather safety. Our CPR program helps instruct individuals from many different businesses in Richfield on life saving measures.



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Chief George Seifert



We finished many capital projects throughout the year. Many of these projects could not be done with the support of the Mayor and council. I would like to thank you all of you for the support. The capital projects are highlighted in this report.

I would like to thank Mayor Wheeler, Village Council, and the Department heads for the support given to me and the fire department. I look forward to leading the Fire Department in 2022 and having our members provide the best service to our citizens.

Sincerely,
George Seifert,
Fire Chief

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Fire Department Officers

Fire Chief George Seifert – 15 Years of Service – George worked for 32 years at the Bath Fire Department, and started with Richfield part time in 2007. He has worked as a Ohio State Fire Inspector. He became the Assistant Chief in March, 2020 and Chief in March, 2021. As the Chief, the operations and the budget are my main focuses for our organization. The day-to-day operations are run by the Assistant Chief and 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.

Assistant Chief (former Lieutenant) Mike Lester – 28 Years of Service – AC Lester has worked part time and fulltime since 1994. Mike assumed his role as Assistant Chief in 2021 and is acclimating to his new roles of authority and accountability. In addition to his new duties, Mike continues to manage all EMS training activities in cooperation with UH Hospital. He also monitors all certifications and continuing education requirements. He provides quality assurance for all EMS runs and patient care.

Lieutenant Jason Purkey – 29 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 Kevin Urban – 17 Years of Service – In addition to being the Officer in Command (OIC) of A shift, Kevin has taken a leadership position in many areas of the Fire Service. Kevin is a Fire Inspector and Life Safety Educator. He has organized and coordinated the Fire Prevention education program at Richfield Elementary over the past 10 years.

Lieutenant Eric Ellis – 23 Years of Service – In addition to being the OIC of B Shift, Lt. Ellis manages and plans all fire training activities. He manages, coordinates and plans training sessions. He monitors activities from training sessions to emergency call responses. He also assists in maintaining all continuing education certifications.

[C Shift Lieutenant position currently unoccupied.]

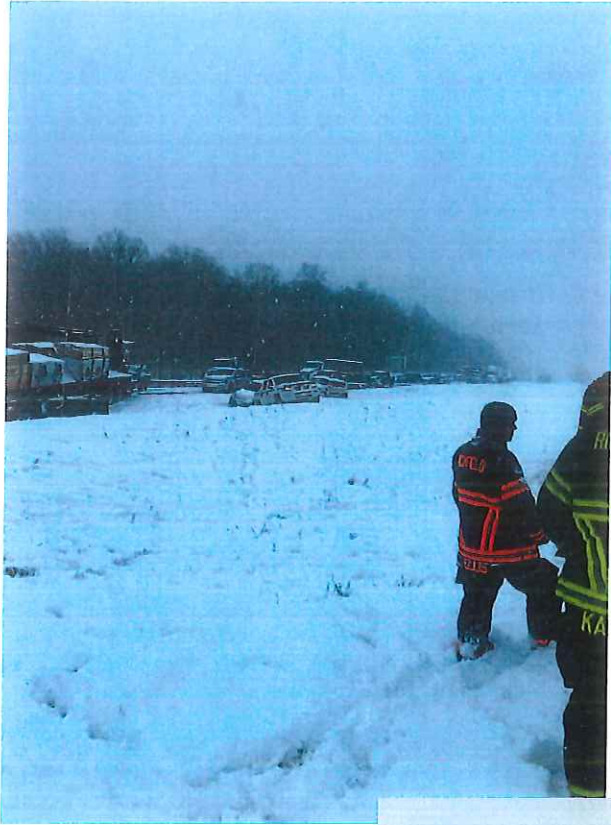
Specialized Fields of Training 2021

INSTRUCTORS:

CPR:	JANIS, LESTER
FIRE SERVICE & LIVE BURN:	SEIFERT, ELLIS, HUMENIK KUZAS, SULLIVAN


TRAINING/TEAM MEMBER:

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR:	SEIFERT, PURKEY, URBAN, ELLIS, BENZA, LESTER, BOLEMAN, HUMENIK, KUZAS, SKWARSKI, SULLIVAN, WEINERT, C. NULL
ICE RESCUE TECH:	PURKEY, URBAN, HUMENIK, ELLIS, KORMUSHOFF, KATZAKIS, LESTER, BENZA, JANIS, NAJSZTUP, SKWARSKI, SULLIVAN, WILLIS
FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM:	URBAN, ELLIS, KUZAS, C. NULL, BENNETT
METRO-SWAT MEDIC:	LESTER
COUNTY HAZMAT TEAM:	KATZAKIS, SULLIVAN, KORMUSHOFF
TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS TEAM:	ELLIS, SULLIVAN, JANIS, C. NULL
EMERGENCY VEHICLE TECHNICIAN	HUMENIK



Statistics 2021

Statistics 2019 and 2021

	2019	2021	
Total Calls	1166	1388	
Total Fire	427	379	
Village Fire	245	278	
Township Fire	87	74	
Mutual Aid Fire	95	27	
Total Rescue	739	1009	
Village Rescue	507	694	
Township Rescue	170	217	
Mutual Aid Rescue	62	98	

NURSING HOMES	2019	2021	
Total EMS	163	170	
Regina	52	58	
Blue Stream	45	31	
Renaissance of Richfield	42	42	
Inn at Apple Ridge	24	39	

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS W/INJURIES	2019	2021
Total	82	82
Highway/Toll Road	55	71
Other	27	11



ADVANCE LIFE SUPPORT (ALS) VS BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) VS OTHER MEDICAL CARE	2019	2021
Total	700	849
ALS	565	723
BLS	55	49
Other	80	77

HOSPITAL TRANSPORT DESTINATION	2019	2021
Total	544	704
Cleveland Clinic Facilities	227	264
MetroHealth Facilities	137	320
Summa Facilities	35	20
UH Facilities	129	80
Akron Children's Hosp.	15	20
St. Vincent Charity	1	0

Fire Training Hours in 2021

During the year 2021, the Richfield Fire Department was able to maintain our long-standing tradition of delivering and participating in the highest quality fire training possible for our department. The majority of training is conducted by our own staff of instructors and enhanced by attending local or regional seminars and conferences. Despite unprecedented challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic, our member's commitment to providing excellence in emergency response to the residents and businesses of Richfield Village and Township persevered.

The Division of Emergency Medical Services in Ohio is the certifying agency for all firefighter, fire instructor and fire inspector certifications. Each of these require a minimum number of continuing education hours for renewal. Richfield Fire Department meets and exceeds these requirements on an annual basis. Each of the certifications require a minimum number of continuing education hours as listed below:

- Firefighter 54 hours
- Fire/EMS Instructor 6 hours
- Fire Inspector 30 hours
- EMT 48 hours
- Paramedic 92 hours

All of the above certifications are on a three-year renewal cycle where the individuals holding the certifications must acquire the necessary training to keep their certifications current. The Richfield Fire Department in-house training division provides a valuable role in helping to meet and exceed these requirements.

Members of Richfield Fire Department also participate and train in various specialized fields such as technical rescue operations consisting of high-angle rope, confined space, trench and structural collapse search and rescue. Other disciplines include Hazardous-Materials response as well as fire scene investigations

Proficiencies in both residential and commercial structural firefighting tactics and strategies were routinely trained on as well as a focused attention to specialized disciplines such as ice rescue, rope rescue and automobile extrication. This is due to Richfield's diverse response areas made up of commercial and industrial areas surrounded by rural residential and parklands intersected by three major interstates. Heightened awareness of these high-risk potential incidents along with an aggressive approach to training allows Richfield Fire Department members the ability to respond and mitigate these situations quickly and safely.

The Richfield Fire Department delivers the highest level of performance and care to the residents and business community. We are able to fulfill this by following our mission statement "To provide the citizens of Richfield the best emergency services through relentless training and commitment to excellence."

Lt. Eric Ellis







EMS TRAINING 2021

In 2021, 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 on the second Wednesday of every month. There were also several other trainings that our paramedics and EMT's attended such as our recertification of Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, as well as quarterly fire chief and EMS coordinator meetings.

In September of 2021 the fire department took delivery of a new rescue squad manufactured by Life Line. This replaced our 10-year-old second out rescue squad. The Rescue squads are on a 10-year rotation at the fire department. They are used for 5 years as the first out rescue squad and then 5 years as the second out rescue squad.

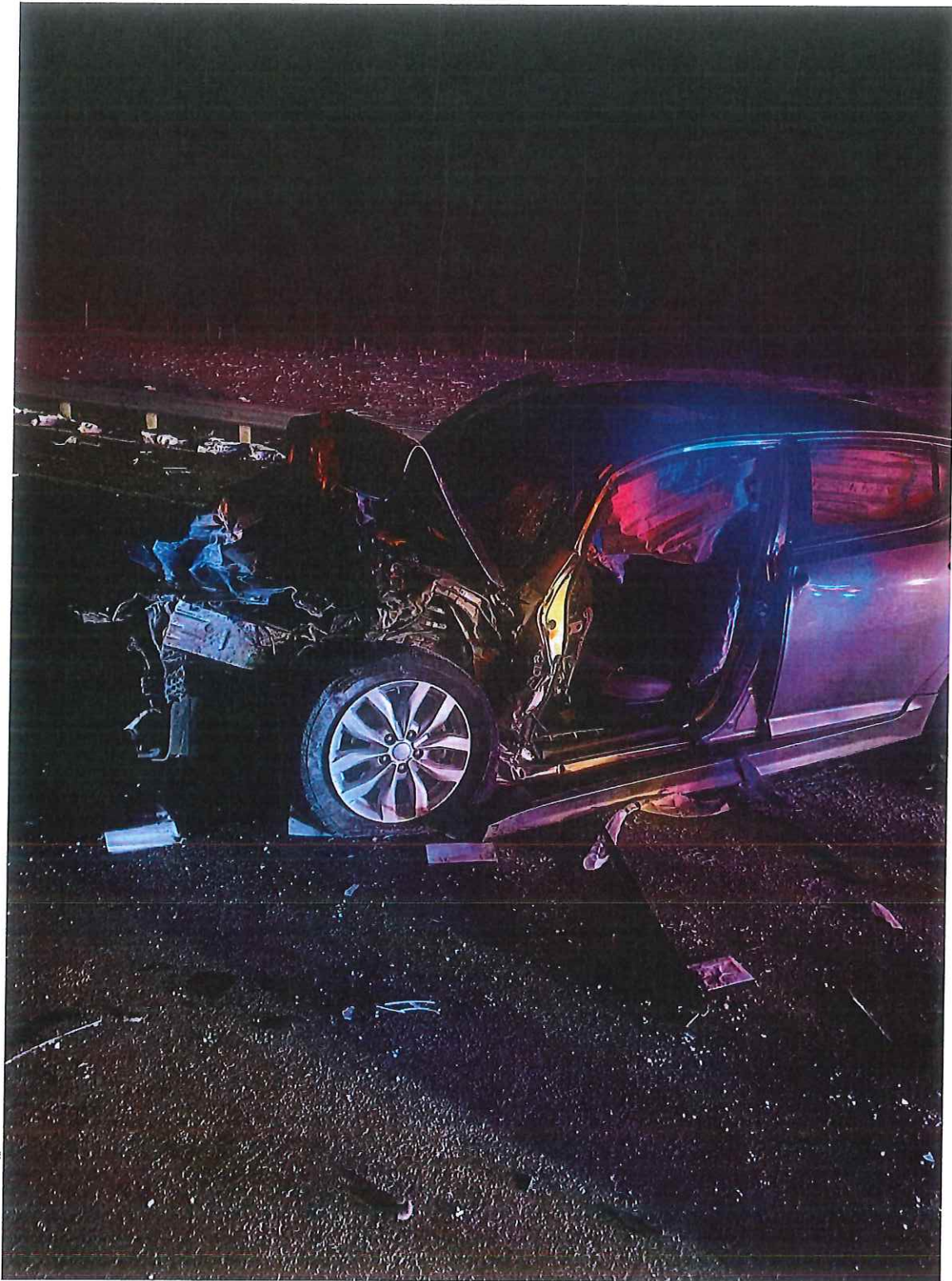
The partnership that we have with University Hospitals over the last 10 years has been outstanding. They continue to provide all of our continuing education to our Paramedics and EMT's. This summer they brought their trailer and several medical staff to Richfield community day to talk with the community about health and wellness. We look forward to many more years partnered with University Hospitals and our Medical director Dr. Tony Daher.

The Richfield Fire Department Paramedics and EMT's continue to provide exceptional service to the citizens and visitors to Richfield through our dedication to our community and all of our continual training and education.

AC Mike Lester



Horse Rescue, Spring 2021



Bureau of Inspections and Prevention 2021

The year 2021 was a busy year for the Richfield Fire Department Inspection Bureau. The previous year of 2020 was a difficult time for the world with the COVID-19 pandemic and inspections were greatly reduced to limit exposure. In the year 2021 there were a lot of inspections that needed to be caught up on. Many of our businesses were impacted from the pandemic and are still not recovered or fully staffed. Fire inspections were performed at the majority of our businesses. There were hundreds of violations recorded and most of these have been corrected. The goal is to provide the owners with the knowledge and the laws to keep the public, employees, themselves, and our firefighters safe. And, to keep their business operational.

In 2021 the Best Buy building began construction. There were 164 separate plan reviews, inspections, and consultations done on just this facility alone by the inspection bureau in 2021. The project was completed and is now operational. These inspections were often completed with the Summit County Building Department, the general contractor, and multiple sub-contractors. The Richfield Fire department was present for all hydro tests, sprinkler tests, fire pump tests, alarm tests, hydrant flows, and underground fire main testing. The fire department was also present for fire extinguisher, lock box, and temporary gas line installation. The Majority of the department has been on a walk through to become familiar with the layout and operations of the facility. The contractor was in frequent consultations with the Richfield Fire Department on all life safety concerns.

The year 2021 also saw the completion of the new St. Peregrine church on Streetsboro Road. This church was issued a certificate of occupancy just before Christmas 2021 and is now open. The Richfield Fire Department was involved in plan reviews and numerous inspections at this church.

The new Allega building began construction in 2021. The Richfield Fire Department has been actively involved in the plan's reviews and inspections at the construction site. Inspections have also been done at this site with Summit County Building department.

The Richfield Fire Department has been involved with numerous consultations with owners of a proposed new daycare facility to provide requirements for the building to meet the legal requirements of the Ohio Fire Code.

Richfield Fire Department was also present with the Ohio State Fire Marshal's office at inspections of all of the hotels in Richfield Village. Together we have helped reduce some of the serious hazards that often happens in these hotels. This will be an ongoing concern in the upcoming year and those that follow.

The nursing homes in Richfield were also inspected with Both the Richfield Fire Department and the State Fire Marshal. We have had to institute a "fire watch" policy at nursing homes on a few occasions due to malfunctioning fire alarms that are required to be operational by law. The law requires this to ensure the safety of the occupants.

There have been several new businesses move into our office buildings on Kinross Lakes and Highlander Parkway. The Richfield Fire Department has completed initial occupancy fire inspections on all of these new businesses.

Fire inspections were also completed for the jail with Richfield Police Department as per state requirements.

Richfield Fire Department was present for all required fire and tornado drills at Richfield Elementary school.

In conclusion, 2021 was a busy year. It is anticipated that 2022 will be equally as busy as construction continues and the new water line project gets underway. Our call volume is increasing and we owe all our residents and businesses the same level of protection, care, and safety we have always provided.

Lt. Jason Purkey

Smoke Detector Program

In March of 2017, The Richfield Fire Department partnered with Operation Save-A-Life, a program of the American Red Cross Northeast Ohio Region. This program provides FREE smoke alarms to Richfield as a branch of all Summit County residents. These Smoke alarms provide an 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 confirms proper installation of the detectors but allows us the opportunity to meet with our residents in a non – emergent atmosphere.

We are currently installing in homes throughout Richfield! The Richfield Fire Department started installing the detectors on May 9th, 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 will be installed in each level of the residents' home and have a 10 years life expectancy plan.

The Smoke Detector program has evolved into including carbon monoxide detectors for all of the Richfield residents. We look forward to improving and educating fire safety to all of us here in Richfield, Ohio.

FireMedic Tony Katzakis

Richfield Fire Hydrants & Maintenance

In Richfield there are approximately four-hundred and five fire hydrants. The Richfield Fire Department services all of the fire hydrants in both the Village and Township of Richfield. Annual hydrant testing and repair begins early March and ends late October. The hydrant testing is achieved by the on duty crews each day until The Master Fire Hydrant sheet is completed.

Hydrant Flushing Procedure for 2021:

1. Document the start time and end time of the flushing of the fire hydrants.
2. Prior to flushing the fire hydrants, e-mail Cleveland Water Department (firehydrantflushing@clevelandwater.com) and advise them of the street(s) that you will be flushing.
3. Follow the attached Cleveland Water's Hydrant Flushing Procedure.
4. Lube the fire hydrant threads/caps as required.
5. Document all defective fire hydrants and fire hydrants that requires painting on the "Defective Hydrant" report form located on the Day Room bulletin board.
6. Place an Out of Service sign on the defective fire hydrant(s).
7. Please put the completed "Defective Hydrant" form in my mail box.
8. Update the Master Fire Hydrant flushing sheet after returning to the station with the date(s) the fire hydrants are flushed. The Master Fire Hydrant Flushing sheets are located on the Day Room bulletin board.
9. All fire hydrants are to be flushed by October 31, 2021. The Master Fire Hydrant flushing sheet in the day room must be current by this time.

After all testing is complete, Cleveland Water is then notified and begins their annual repairs. This year we had a total of 7 Hydrants O.O.S and they have all been repaired.

FireMedic Tony Katzakis

CPR/AED and First Aid Education

CPR/AED Course

Richfield FD in a partnership with University Hospitals has provided the citizens of Richfield with many AHA CPR and First aid classes this year. A total of 68 citizens went through the Heart saver and Basic Life Support Classes. Heart disease is the number one killer worldwide. 70 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest happen in homes. About 46 percent of people who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest receive the immediate help they need before professional help arrives. The purpose of this course is to improve those numbers. CPR is an important tool to help preventing or delaying cardiac arrest.

Stop the Bleed Course

Richfield Fire also provides a course called stop the bleed. Bleeding can occur anywhere. Life threatening bleeding can happen from serious accidents or disasters. This course will education the public on how to become an immediate responder in stopping the bleed.

FireMedic Kyle Janis

Richfield Firefighter's Association

Many fundraisers such as the annual 5k trail run/walk and Christmas with Santa were unfortunately cancelled this year due to COVID-19. However, many residents were generous enough to donate a total of \$1,872 to the association this year. Many of the donations went toward:

- AED Trainers
- Smoke house training materials and supplies
- Trick or treat at the fire department Halloween night
- Fire station updates including kitchen supplies

FireMedic Kyle Janis

Public Education Report 2021

Public Education Report 2021

In April, the students learned severe storm, 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. They also practiced getting into a safe position for the duration of a storm as well as what supplies to keep in the safe area.

Safety Town this year was the first of its kind when Richfield and Bath's Safety Town merged to create Revere Safety Town. Children who did not get to attend last year due to the COVID cancellation were invited to join this year. Representatives from all the safety forces help create, teach and lead Revere Safety Town. These representatives were from Richfield Police, Richfield Fire, Bath Police and Bath Fire. Because of the large number of students enrolled, two weeks were required. Each week had two sessions consisting of 126 Revere student volunteers and over 250 students. The students learned about, fire safety, stranger danger, good touch-bad touch, self-defense, 911 and dispatchers, water safety, animal safety, first aid and many other topics.

In October, during Fire Prevention Week, nearly 600 students learned the functions of a smoke alarm, and how to exit a smoky dwelling including using alternate exits such as a window. As well as 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, creating and getting to a meeting place outside. Students were assigned to go home and practice the plan with members of the household.



Public Education Report, con't.

As the Fire Department's Fire and Life Safety Educator, one of my responsibilities is teaching the Fire Prevention program at Richfield Elementary and Saint Peregrine's Academy. Although the focus of the program is fire prevention, other safety topics are presented as well.

In March, 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 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 October, the Safety Trailer was used once again to teach Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades 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.



Over 200 students participated in fire extinguisher training. The training was conducted for local businesses and healthcare facilities, as well as residents. The training prop is owned and maintained by Bath, Copley, Fairlawn, and Richfield Fire Departments. It uses propane to create live fire simulation for a realistic experience as well is environmentally friendly. The training experience builds confidence as well as develops muscle memory for using a fire extinguisher.



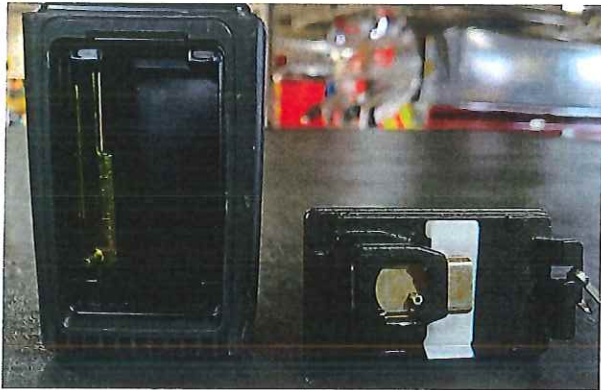
Lieutenant Urban

Health Watch Program & Lockbox Program 2021

Since 2001 the Village and Township had offered the Health Watch program for the senior citizens in Richfield. That service is now being handled by the Health Watch Monitoring Agency (contact 1-800-860-4230). It consists of a pendent that the resident wears that when activated calls, a monitoring service. The monitoring service then calls Richfield Dispatch and the Fire Department responds to the resident's home.

The Fire Department may assist in specifying lock boxes to both residents and commercial business owners. These are small safe-like boxes that are secure and are able to be mounted near the resident's door. These lock boxes store a resident or business-supplied 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 Urban



**Residential Lock Box
Examples**



Bath-Richfield Explorer Post 2542

The Bath-Richfield Explorers Post, at the end of 2021, was shut down. I want to thank all the members of both Richfield and Bath Fire Departments that have assisted over the years to help the Explorers.

I, especially, want to thank Firefighter/EMT Mark Tibbs. He remained an anchor to the Post for many years after his son, Johnathan, has graduated out. Mark was there for the training classes, live burns, and events out of his passion for educating the Explorers. Mark has hung up his fire helmet and is enjoying that free time.

Unfortunately, due to COVID early on in the year, the Explorers were not able to participate in the Departmental Trainings/Community Events that they had been involved with in the past.

Earlier in the year, we had Explorers attend outside trainings that involved other Explorer Posts. They came back with more enthusiasm to further their pursuit of the fire service profession.

I wish all the past members of the Explorers the best in their careers, and request that they remember these days and help further the education of the next "Younger Generation."

Firemedic Benza

Retirements 2021

Former Fire Chief Phil McLean retired in March of 2021 after serving 45 years in the fire service, both at the local and state level.



Firefighter/EMT Mark Tibbs joined the Richfield Fire Department in 1985 and served until his retirement in December, 2021. Mark continues to work full time for his corporation as a certified public accountant (CPA) and Certified Global Management Accountant (CGMA.) Mark (left) and his son, John, are pictured below.

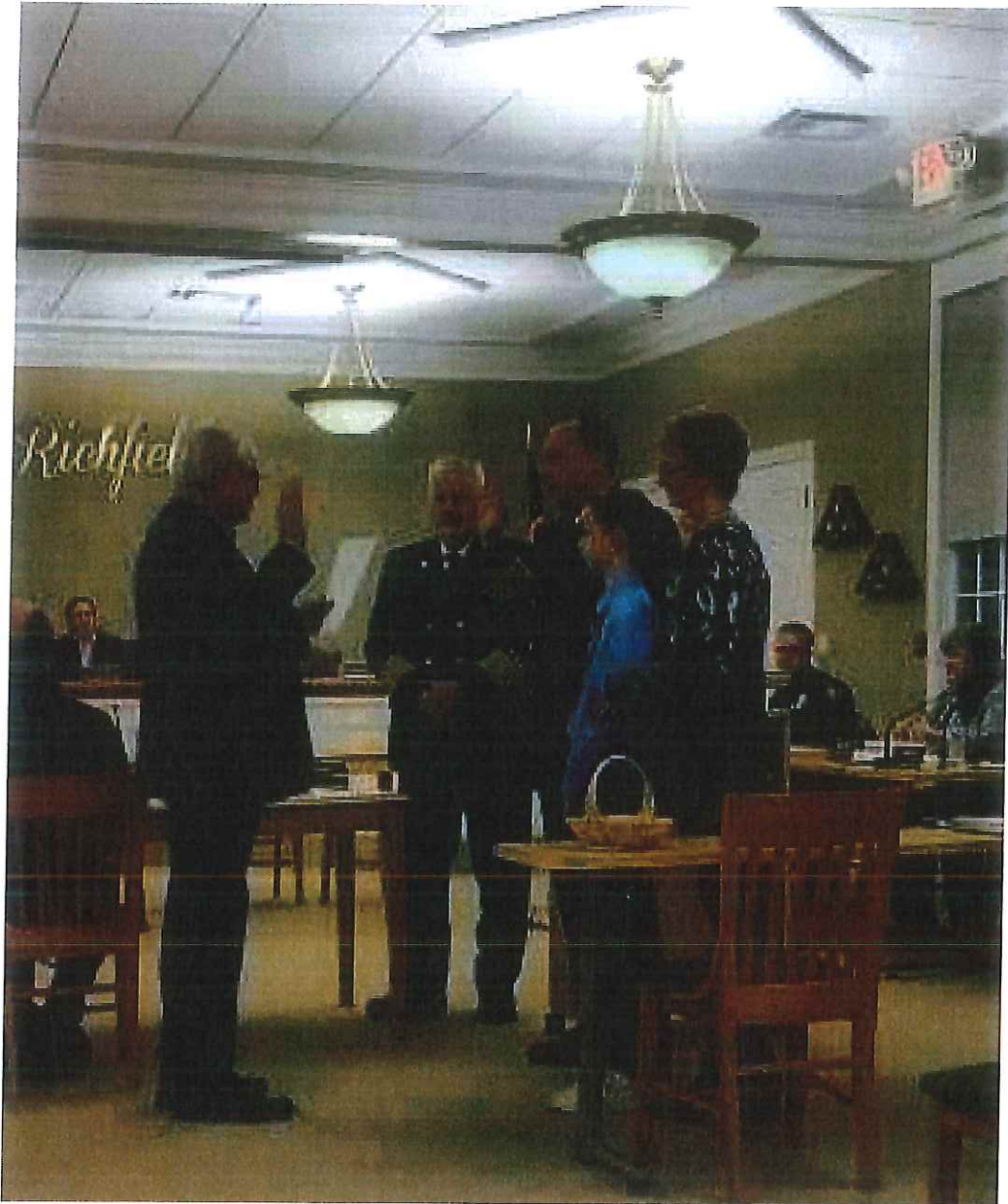


Promotions

New Fire Chief George Seifert being sworn in by Mayor Mike Wheeler on March 16, 2021.



Lt. Mike Lester being sworn by Mayor Mike Wheeler in as Assistant Chief, as new Chief George Seifert looks on.



Part Time Hires 2020-2021

Year 2020 saw the hiring of two part time Fire/Medics: Christian Brienza and Walt Hower. These part time staff were added to help staffing and help to decrease overtime.

Year 2021 saw the hiring of five additional Fire/Medics: David Foster, DeAnne Josey and Trent Ware were hired in March, 2021. Fire/Medics Kris Klang, David Kren, Daniel Pierce, and Trent Ware were hired in July, 2021.

Capital Projects 2021

The following projects were completed during 2021:

- The purchase of two replacement LifePak 15 heart Monitors
- New Flooring installed in dining room, hallways and radio room
- New Carpeting installed in the bedrooms, training room, and offices
- Replacement concrete aprons in front of the bays
- Plymovent vehicle exhaust system installed in the apparatus bays
- Took delivery of the new Medic Unit
- Three new refrigerators installed
- Order new, replacement exercise equipment
- Order new, replacement fire engine from Pierce
- Order new, replacement racking system for firefighting gear storage