



Annual Report 2022



February 27, 2023

Richfield Fire Department

Authored by: George Seifert, Chief

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To: Mayor Wheeler
Richfield Village Council
Richfield Township Trustees

I want to thank Mayor Wheeler, and Village Council for the opportunity to lead the Richfield Fire Department. I am very humbled to be leading such a great group of professional men and women. Their dedication to providing the best care and service to the citizens of Richfield and surrounding communities does not go unnoticed. I present to you the 2022-year end report.

The 2022 year started out with the continuance of responding to COVID-19 medical emergencies. The pandemic had a dramatic effect on operations when many of our personnel were sick with the virus. I am proud to say that this did not affect the continuance of excellent service we provide to our citizens.

There were numerous significant events that occurred in year 2022. We had another horse rescue that took extensive equipment rigging to save the horse. We experienced three separate house fires in a three-month span. We responded to several difficult motor vehicle accidents that required extensive extrication. We kept pace with emergency medical and fire responses from 2021 and ended up with a total of 1387 emergency calls.

The Fire Department continues to remain dedicated to fire prevention, fire education and CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed courses. We perform annual fire inspections and building plan reviews of all businesses in Richfield. We take a very proactive role within our schools, teaching fire and severe weather safety. Our CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed programs helps instruct private citizens and many different businesses in Richfield on life-saving measures.

We also finished many capital projects throughout the year. Many of these projects could not have been accomplished without the support of the Mayor and Village Council. I would like to thank you all for your support. The capital projects are highlighted in this report.

We were able to overcome multiple equipment issue that we experienced throughout the year. We are extremely grateful for our relationship with the Bath Fire Department, as we had to borrow their medical squad unit and a fire truck several times throughout the year because of mechanical issues and repairs we experienced. Our initial budget for mechanical repairs was \$35,000 and we spent \$108,000 on parts and repairs to our vehicle fleet. We hope to reduce our maintenance expenditures with our newer, current medical squad unit and the purchase of our new fire engine ordered (and set to arrive in 2023.)

I would like to thank Mayor Wheeler, Village Council, Township Trustees, and the Richfield Department Directors for the support given to me and the fire department. I look forward to leading the Richfield Fire Department in 2023 and having our members provide the best services to our citizens.

Sincerely;

[Signature on File]

George K. Seifert
Fire Chief

ORGANIZATION MEMBERS [name and years of service]

George Seifert, Fire Chief (13 years)

Michael Lester, Ass't. Fire Chief (29 years)

Jason Purkey, Lieutenant, Fire Inspection and Prevention Bureau (30 years)

Shift Lieutenants

Eric Ellis, A Shift (22 years)

Tony Katzakis, B Shift (20 years)

Kevin Urban, C Shift (18 years)

Full Time FireMedic Staff

Robert Benza (13 years)

Eric Boleman (24 years)

Christien Brienza (3 years)

Michael Huminek (16 years)

Kyle Janis (16 years)

Steve Kormushoff (3 years)

Daniel Pierce (2 years)

Daisy Stiegelmeier (1 year)

Part Time Staff

Chris Najsztup (21 years)

Cody Bennett 7 years)

Tom Sullivan (17 years)

Cory Tessmer (5 years)

Steve Weinert (16 years)

Walt Hower (3 years)

Mark Willis (15 years)

DeAnne Josey (3 years)

Jeremy Parkhurst (14 years)

Trent Ware (2 years)

Dan Elbert (14 years)

David Kren (2 years)

Ted Swarski (11 years)

Kris Klang (2 years)

Geoff Kuzas (11 years)

David Crawford (1 year)

Chris Null 11 (years)

Alex Haffner (1 year)

John Hovan 9 years)

Quintin Brown (1 year)

Bruce Butler, Admin. Assistant (32 years)

ANNUAL TOTAL EMERGENCY RUN

TREND COMPARISON

2022	1387
2021	1388
2020	1166

EMS/MEDICAL RUNS


2022	1008
2021	931

FIRE RUNS

2022	379
2021	352

STATISTICS 2022

Statistics 2022 and 2021 * [2022 data derived from two sources: FireHouse Software (01/01/22 – 06/30/22) and First Due (07/01/22 – 12/31/22)]

	2022	2021
Total Calls	1387	1388
Total Fire	228	352
Village Fire	179	278
Township Fire	49	74
Mutual Aid Fire	(see graph and table)	(NA)
(* Uncatagorized calls)	209	(NA)
Total Rescue	665	931
Village Rescue	618	754
Township Rescue	228	247
Mutual Aid Rescue	(see graph and table)	(NA)

NURSING HOMES		
Total EMS	(NA*)	170
Regina	(NA*)	58
Blue Stream	(NA*)	31
Renaissance of Richfield	(NA*)	42
Inn at Apple Ridge	(NA*)	39

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS W/INJURIES		
Total	(NA*)	82

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS W/INJURIES			
Highway/Toll Road	(NA*)	71	
Other	(NA*)	11	



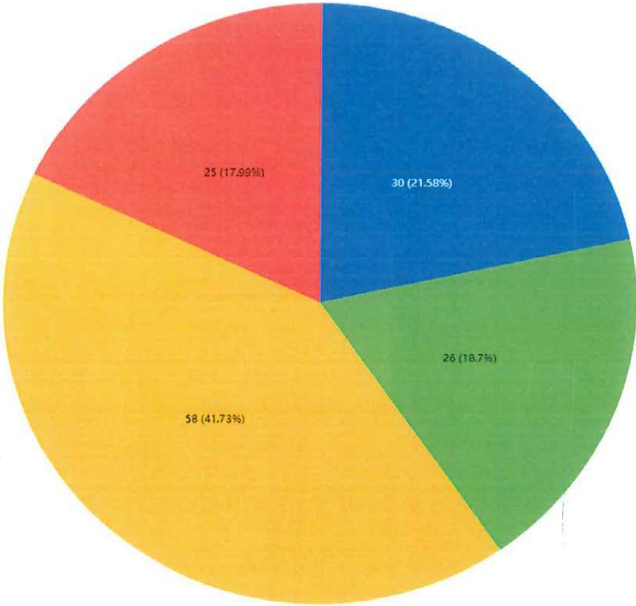
HOSPITAL TRANSPORT DESTINATION	2022	2021	
Total	673	704	
Cleveland Clinic Facilities	253	264	
MetroHealth Facilities	327	320	
Summa Facilities	12	20	
UH Facilities	67	80	
Akron Children's Hosp.	13	20	
St. Vincent Charity	1	0	

MUTUAL and AUTOMATIC AID

This is from our new reporting software. This is the number of mutual aid and auto aid we have had the last 5 months of the year.

- Mutual Aid Received
- Automatic Aid Reviewed
- Mutual Aid Given
- Automatic aid given

Total aid given and received (139)



MUTUAL and AUTOMATIC AID (given to and received from surrounding community Fire Departments)

Community	Aid Given	Aid Received
Bath FD	30	52
Brecksville FD	12	13
Broadview Hts. FD	14	3
Granger FD	12	1
Hinkley FD	18	1
Valley FD	17	2

Specialized Fields of Training 2022

Instructors:

CPR:	Janis, Peirce
Fire Service/Live Burn:	Seifert, Ellis, Huminek, Kuzas, Sullivan

Team Members:

Fire Safety Inspectors:	Seifert, Purkey, Ellis, Benza, Boleman, Humenik, Lester, Urban, Kuzas, Null, Skwarski, Sullivan, Weinert
Ice Rescue Technicians:	Purkey, Ellis, Benza, Humenik, Janis, Katzakis, Kormushoff, Lester, Urban, Skwarski, Sullivan, Willis
Fire Investigation Team:	Ellis, Urban, Kuzas, Null
County HazMat Team:	Katzakis, Kormushoff, Sullivan
Technical Rescue Operations Team:	Janis, Null, Sullivan
Emergency Vehicle Technician:	Boleman, Humenik



EMS TRAINING in 2022

In 2022, 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 and EMS symposiums 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.

The partnership that we have with University Hospitals over the last 12 years has been outstanding. They continue to provide all of our continuing education to our Paramedics and EMT's. This summer, University Hospitals brought their trailer and several medical staff to Richfield Community Day to talk with the community residents 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 and surrounding communities through our dedication to our residents and visitors and all of our continual training and education.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Lester
Assistant Chief

FIRE TRAINING and Training Hours in 2022

Fiscal year 2022 marked another successful tradition of providing high-quality training to the members of the Richfield Fire Department. This level of training is implemented by our own instructors as well as attending both local and national conferences and seminars. The knowledge and skills gained allow the members of Richfield Fire to deliver exceptional service to the residents when called upon, and keep pace with industry standards.

The Division of Emergency Medical Services in Ohio is the certifying agency for all emergency medical service (EMS) and fire certifications that our members are required to hold and maintain. Each of the certifications require a minimum number of continuing education hours as listed below:

	<u>Hours</u>
• Firefighter	54
• Fire/EMS Instructor	30
• Fire Inspector	36
• Paramedic	86

All of the above certifications are on a three-year renewal cycle and each individual holding the certification must acquire the necessary training to keep their certifications current. The Richfield Fire Department 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.

Some training accomplishments achieved in 2022 were the following. Annual ice rescue re-certification, hazardous materials refresher, victim search and rescue, and an emergency driver training course. We were also fortunate to be able to train under live fire conditions in an acquired training house along with Hinckley Township Fire Department.

Richfield Fire Department delivers the highest level of performance and care to the residents and the 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.”

Thank you,
Lieutenant Eric Ellis

SPECIAL OPERATIONS RESPONSE TEAM (SORT) and SUMMIT COUNTY TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS TEAM (TROT) TRAINING PROGRAMS 2022

Richfield Fire members attend outside special operation trainings which includes:

- Confined Space
- Rope Rescue
- Trench Rescue
- Commercial and Residential Structural Collapse

The Richfield Fire Department upgraded many useful tools to our existing apparatus. This included, new static life safety rope, carabiniers, pre-sewn prusiks cords, anchors, and one MPD (multi-purpose device). The MPD device allows rescuers to transition from lowering a patient in a rescue scenario to raising a patient without hardware changes. The MPD's high-efficiency pulley, with an integral, rope-grab mechanism, allows it to be used as a lowering device on the main line and belay line systems and be quickly changed over to a raising system without switching out or replacing hardware. The combination of essential features into a single device simplifies on-scene rigging, expediting the patient rescue.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Janis
FireMedic

RICHFIELD FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION 2022

Many fundraisers took place this year that included a fire station open house on Halloween with trick or treat and Christmas with Santa. Both were very successful. Additionally, residents were very generous in donating a total of \$2,165 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
- Christmas with Santa





BUREAU of INSPECTIONS and PREVENTION

The Inspection Bureau inspected most of the commercial establishments in the year 2022. There have been several new businesses that moved into town during the course of the year as well as several leave. There were some serious fire code violations that were found and all have been corrected. It is important that the Richfield Fire Department continues with inspections to prevent loss of life or injury in our commercial buildings. This year we had multiple alarm system failures due to internet dialer issues. It was found in two nursing homes, two hotels, a large commercial building, and one of our largest office buildings. These incidents occurred where the alarm went off but no signal was transmitted to monitoring service. Thus, the Fire Department was never notified of the alarm. All of these have been repaired and are now working as intended. Thankfully these incidents happened during an inspection or due to false alarms when they were discovered, or the loss of life and property could have been catastrophic.

The inspection bureau conducted all fire drills, tornado drills, and assisted with lockdown drills as required by law at Richfield Elementary school. We also conducted foster home inspections for foster parents in their homes as required. The Inspection Bureau also taught fire safety to nursing home staff and workplace safety to businesses and job site safety construction crews.

The Inspection Bureau performed annual inspections for licensing with the Ohio State Fire Marshal at all of our hotels and nursing homes. We also completed all required re-inspections for any violations found at any of these facilities. The fire department was present for all inspections for any life safety or fire concerns with the Summit County Building Department

In 2022 we switched to a new reporting software. This will enable the inspector to conduct a fire safety inspection and complete pre-planning in all our commercial buildings. This is a very useful tool that enables our firefighters to know what the buildings important or dangerous features are. The plan is to have all of our commercial occupancies have a completed pre-plan before the end of 2023. This is also a crucial factor in the Village's Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating as a community.

In conclusion it is imperative that the Richfield Fire Department continues in provide this service level to our residents, businesses, and visitors that they deserve. This can only be completed through the constant dedication of our firefighters, and the education of our residents and our businesses through fire prevention. The Richfield Fire Department Inspection Bureau is looking forward to assisting or community in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Lt. Jason Purkey

RFD VEHICLE INVENTORY

Unit	Description	Year	Builder	Sub-model
M-12	Medical Squad	2021	Lifeline	FRT M2
M-11	Medical Squad	2018	Horton	FRT M2
E-14	Engine	2015	Pierce	Velocity
E-13	Engine	2006	Sutphen	Monarch
Tanker 6	Tanker/Tender	1999	US Tanker	FL112
Brush 4	Grassfire Truck	2000	Ford	F250SD
ATV- 17	All Terrain Vehicle	2016	Polaris	XP
Car 36	Pick-up Truck	2018	Chevy	Alaskan
Car 1	Chief's Car	2020	Chevy	Tahoe
Car 2	Ass't. Chief's Car	2016	Chevy	Tahoe
Car 26	Fire Inspector's Car	2013	Chevy	Tahoe

2022 saw many challenges with our fleet. As our larger apparatus are getting older, we are starting to see the fiscal repercussions.

The 2006 Sutphen engine (E-13) sustained a catastrophic failure to both a specialty PTO hydraulic pump, and the on-board A.C. generator. Due to the age of the unit, the parts all required special order and delivery; the pump took months to be manufactured after it was sourced out to a suitable vendor. E-13 also had a failure in the pump that delivers water to the fire pump discharges, this repair was preformed and the unit has now been placed back into service.

The 2014 Peirce (E-14) needed brake replacement, this was an unexpected expenditure to our budget. Fire engine vehicles require specialty “severe duty” type parts for use on heavy-weight vehicles with a single rear axle. Also, the Peirce “Command Zone” computer system which interfaces the vehicle’s electronics

failed and needed to be upgraded to a newer model, as the older computer systems are no longer supported. As budgeted, E-14's body corrosion issues were addressed by Atlantic Collision Repair.

Year 2022 saw an unprecedented shortage of parts and service technicians due to COVID-related, supply chain issues. Lead times for various replacement parts acquisition unexpectedly stretched into months. The Richfield Fire Department's certified Emergency Vehicle Technicians (EVT) worked closely with the Chief to keep these vehicles in service whenever it was safe and met safety standards set by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA.) Hopefully 2023 will see shorter wait times for delivery of both parts and service.

Respectfully submitted,

**Eric Boleman
FireMedic**



CAPITAL PROJECTS

2022 saw numerous capital projects completed. This would not have been done without the support of the Mayor and Village Council. The capital projects completed in 2022 were as follows:

- **New 4" supply large diameter supply hose for both fire engines**
- **Ordered and received two new drones**
- **Replaced FIREHOUSE computer software with FIRST DUE computer software**
- **Installed new doors on the compressor room**
- **Finished painting main lobby**
- **Installed new door in the kitchen hallway**
- **Purchased LEXIPOL policy and procedure manuals for the Fire Dept.**
- **Upgraded firefighter personnel accountability tags**
- **Purchased and installed new ice machine**

PUBLIC CPR/AED and FIRST AID EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2022

CPR/AED Courses

The Richfield Fire Department, in a partnership with University Hospitals has provided the citizens and employees of Richfield with many American Heart Association (AHA) CPR and First Aid classes this year. More than 70 citizens went through the Heart Saver and Basic Life Support Classes.

Heart disease remains 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 these courses is to improve those survival numbers. CPR is an important tool to help preventing or delaying cardiac arrest.

Stop the Bleed Course

The Richfield Fire Department also provides a course called Stop the Bleed. Bleeding can occur anywhere. Life threatening bleeding can happen from serious accidents or disasters. This course educates the public on how to become an immediate responder in stopping life-threatening bleed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Janis
FireMedic



STAR OF LIFE REPORT



Richfield fire, police honored with Star of Life award

Amputee victim gets a chance for new career

Members of Richfield safety forces were honored November 7, 2022 at the EMS Star of Life Awards in Columbus for actions related to their collective response to a vehicle accident on I-77 on Sept. 12, 2021, involving the rescue of a gravely injured motorist.

Police and fire were dispatched to the scene of the accident, which occurred around 5:30 a.m., to find driver Tyrek Mills, 24 of Cleveland, with his legs pinned between the front driver's door and door frame following impact from a second vehicle.

Police and EMS were dispatched to the accident by dispatcher Nicole Keserich. Police officers Joel Meister and Doug McArtor were first to arrive on the scene. Due to the injuries, they requested that University Hospitals MedEvac be on standby. Paramedic/firefighters Robert Benza, David Kren, Lt. Jason Purkey and Fire Chief George Seifert soon arrived on the scene to perform a complicated extrication to remove the driver.

"We had to do an extrication to remove the gentleman's legs from the door before we could get him out of the car. Using various tools, we were able to free him in a relatively short amount of time. When using one tool, if it starts to push one way, we had to use another tool to counter push so it wouldn't do more damage to him," said Seifert.

MedEvac personnel landed at the scene and transported Mills to Akron General Hospital, with 41 minutes passing from the time of the 911 call to his arrival for emergency medical care.



The Medvac helicopter hovered overhead and then landed on I-77, several feet from where the victim was strapped onto a stretcher.

“We got lucky, because MedEvac was flying back to their base,” said Seifert. “So, there was no delay. They were literally overhead while we were still working on him, and they were able to bring the cot up to the car right when we got his legs free.”

Seifert, Benza and Purkey recently met up with Mills for dinner at an area restaurant. Mills is now able to walk with the use of prosthetic limbs.



Accident victim Tyrek Mills (front) met with some of the safety forces that saved his life: (back row, l-r) Chief George Seifert, Paramedic Robert Benza and Lt. Jason Purkey. Photo provided by Richfield Fire Department.

“He was very appreciative toward us,” said Seifert. “When he walked into the restaurant, you would have no idea that he had lost both lower legs. ... It was great to see that.”

“Firefighters are underappreciated; they’re out there saving lives every day,” said Mills. “Those guys did an amazing job that night; they really went above and beyond.”

Meister, McArtor, Keserich, Benza, Kren, Purkey and Seifert were all honored at the Star of Life Award Ceremony along with UH MedEvac personnel.

“It was a big honor for us,” said Seifert. “We’re not in it to get recognition or awards, but it is nice when it does occur and that we stood out above other departments, as in this particular instance. Across the board, Northeast Ohio has great fire departments.” ∞

Featured Photo: Patrol Officer Joel Meister, Fire Chief George Seifert, Paramedic Robert Benza, Lt. Jason Purkey and Patrol Officer Doug McArtor were honored at Ohio’s EMS Star of Life award ceremony for a complicated extraction of a victim in an automobile crash. Not pictured Paramedic David Kren and the crew of the MedEvac helicopter.

THE END



