

# RICHFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



## **Richfield Fire Department 2013 Year-end Report**

Dear Mayor Beshara, Village Council and Administration, Township Trustees, and to our local community, we are pleased to present our year-end report.

The year of 2013 saw many positive and proactive changes to our fire department. We started off 2013 by looking for ways to enhance our EMS service to our community. We partnered with University Hospitals Health System to provide our medical direction. Dr. Tony Daher is our medical director as we operate under his close supervision and University Hospital's standard of care protocols. This partnership has given Richfield Fire Department the ability to provide the highest level of care to our community.

We have embraced technology as it enhances our service in our daily operations. We have transitioned to electronic report writing. This technology allows the patient record stay with the patient throughout all levels of care. Electronic report writing also satisfies the State of Ohio patient reporting mandates. We have also utilized tablets in our apparatus to provide us with critical data at all emergencies. We will continually update these tablets to provide up to date information such as pre-plans of all occupancies in Richfield.

Our heavy rescue 3016 was taken out of service and will soon be sold. We now utilize Summit County for our special operations as this is a great regional resource. We will still function with special operation skills, but if the incident expands, Summit County resources will be available as we stabilize the incident.

Fire prevention activities continue to be at the forefront as this is a proactive approach to protecting our community. Statistics from the Fire Protection Research Foundation indicate that communities with an aggressive fire prevention program are likely to be involved in 75% less structure fires, 90% less injuries, and 70% less property damage. Our goal is to minimize the risk of life and property loss from fire by controlling and eliminating hazardous conditions combined with a proactive public education program before a fire occurs.

Lastly, we would like to thank our community as we have received unwavering support for our organization as we strive to deliver the highest level of customer service. We will continue to train, keep up with all the changes in technology, continue to implement all the advances in emergency medicine, and maintain our proactive approach to delivering the high level of service our community expects. We are very fortunate to have such a highly trained and dedicated staff to provide such a valuable service to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief Jason Mihalek

CHIEF

Jason Mihalek

ASSIST. CHIEF

Phillip McLean

LIEUTENANT

Bruce Butler

Robert Jones

LIEUTENANT

Jason Purkey

Ronald Urban

FIREFIGHTERS

Brian Abbott

Ronald Boryk

Steve Kamp

Christopher Najsztup

Tom Olechnowicz

Thomas Sullivan

Steve Weinert

Robert Benza

Daniel Elbert

Michael Lester

Chris Null

Jeremy Parkhurst

Mark Tibbs

Mark Willis

Eric Boleman

Eric Ellis

Daniel Merryman

Matthew Null

George Seifert

Kevin Urban

TRAINEES

Dan Dopslaf

Geoff Kuzas

Ted Skwarski

Chris Mynhier



## STATISTICS 2013

TOTAL CALLS 924

TOTAL FIRE 312 34%

VILLAGE FIRE 200 64%

TOWNSHIP FIRE 67 22%

MUTUAL AID FIRE 45 14%

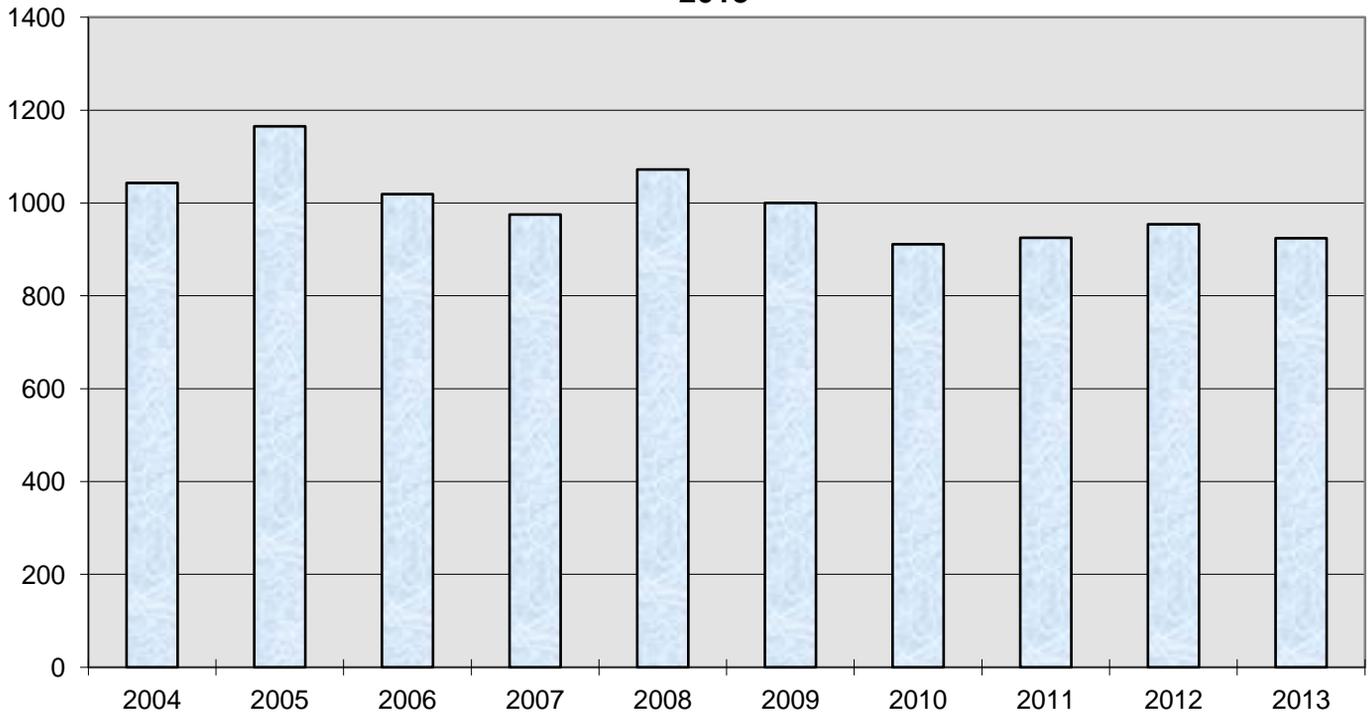
TOTAL RESCUE 612 66%

VILLAGE RESCUE 433 70%

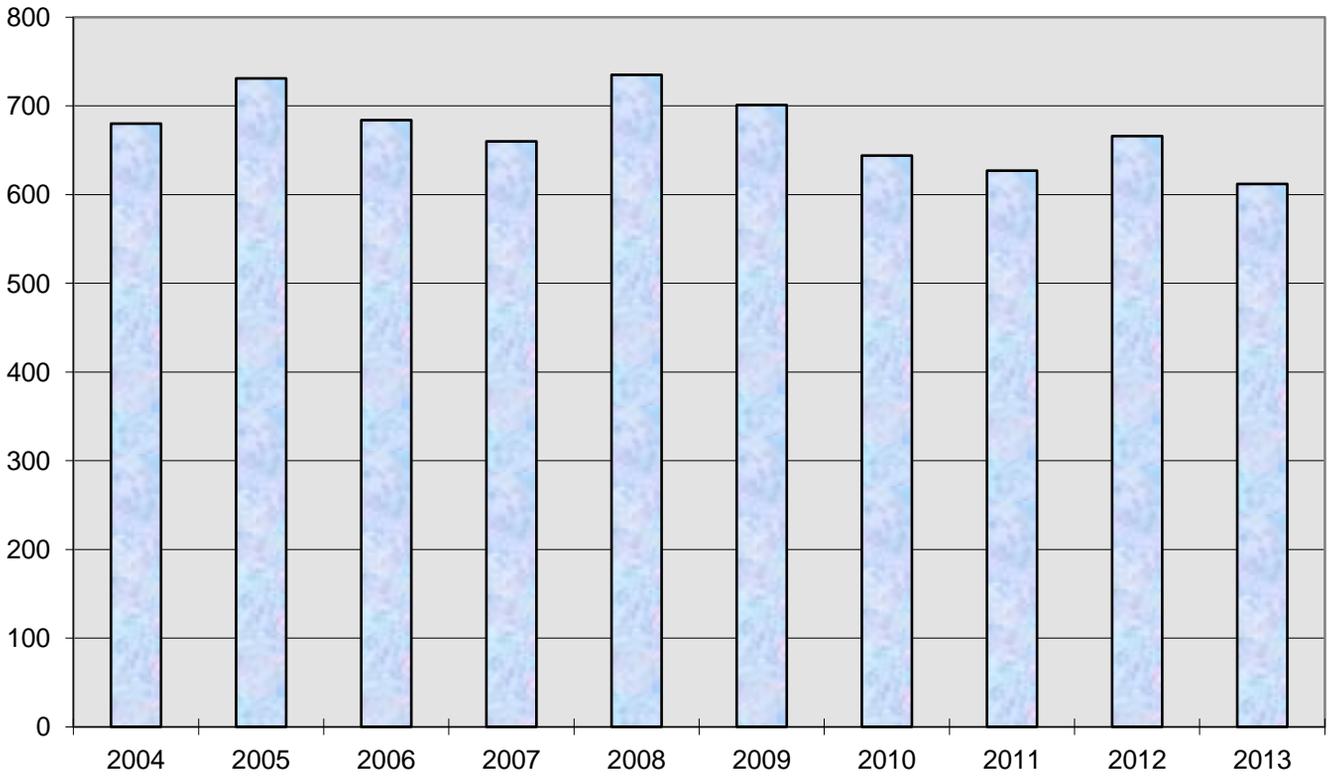
TOWNSHIP RESCUE 162 27%

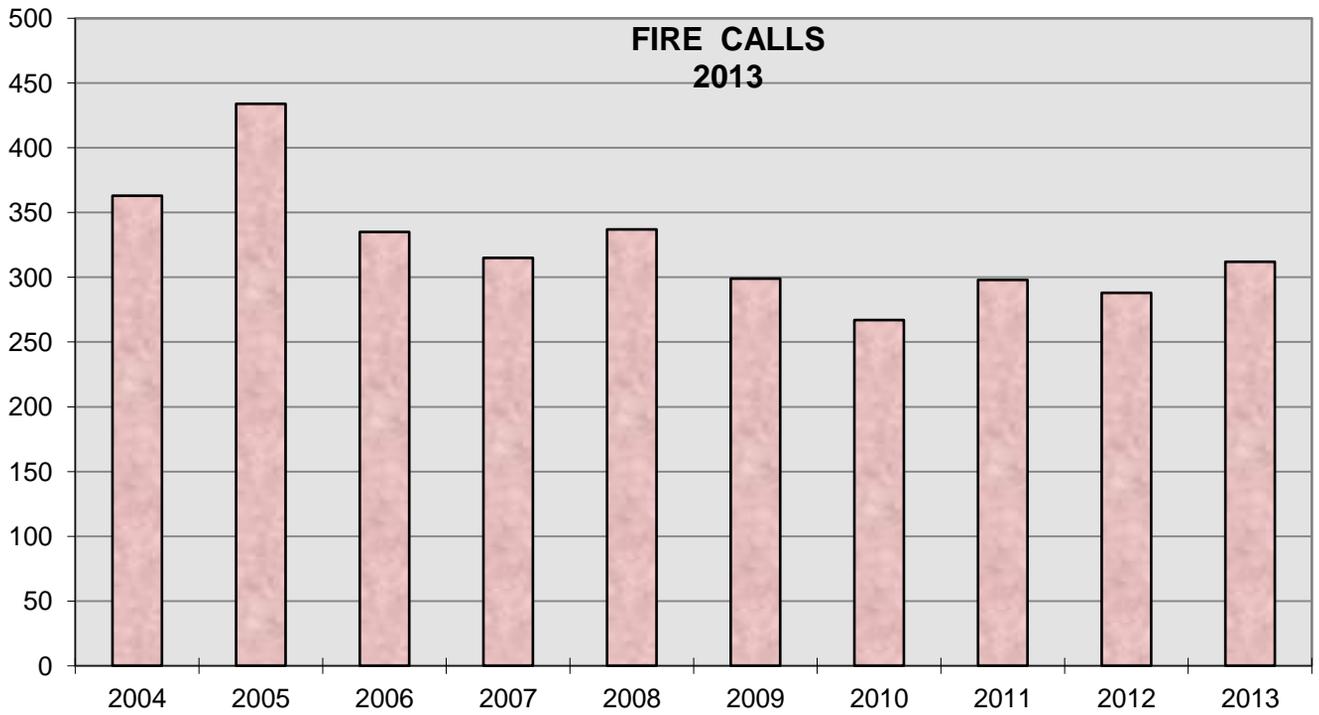
MUTUAL AID RESCUE 17 3%

# TOTAL CALLS 2013



# RESCUE CALLS 2013





# TYPE OF ALARM REPORT 2013

TYPE OF CALL	COUNT
CODE 1 – HEART	58
CODE 2 – BREATHING	60
CODE 3 – INJURY	124
CODE 4 – VEHICLE ACCIDENT	60
CODE 5 – UNKNOW MEDICAL	48
CODE 6 – POISONING	4
CODE 7 – ILLNESS	211
CODE 8 – BLEEDING	9
CODE 9 – SHOOTING	1
CODE 10 – AUTO RESPONSE	5
CODE 11 – CAR FIRE	21
CODE 12 – GRASS FIRE	4
CODE 13 – MISC. FIRE	27
CODE 13A – STRUCTURE FIRE	49
CODE 13AD – ALARM DROPS	93
CODE 14 – INVESTIGATION	111
CODE 16 – D.O.A.	5
CODE 50 – HAZARDOUS MATERAIL	2
CODE 90 – MEDICAL ASSIST	32
 TOTAL	 924

## Fire Training Report and Training Hours

To: Chief Mihalek

From: Assistant Chief Phil McLean

During the year 2012 our EMS Training Team and our Fire Training team took an aggressive approach toward training, much due to the increased budget that was dedicated toward those areas of operations. We are fortunate that we have several qualified Fire & EMS Instructors that deliver quality in service training to all our members. The State of Ohio Division of EMS is the certifying agent for all our EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians), Paramedics, Firefighters, Instructors, and Inspectors.

The basic recertification hours required are as follows:

- Firefighter required training hrs. *54 hrs. 3 year cycle*
- Emergency Services Instructor *6 hrs. 3 year cycle*
- Fire Inspectors *30 hrs. 3 year cycle*
- EMT's *48 hrs. 3 year cycle*
- Paramedic *92 hrs. 3 year cycle*

All the above Certifications are on a 3 year cycle and the card holder renews his or her certification on line every three years. We, Richfield Fire provide the needed hours for our members to maintain the certifications listed along with other valuable training related to special operations such as Hazardous Materials, Confined Space & Collapse.

Our Training Operations have a structured EMS Training plan and a structured Fire Training plan put together by each of our training teams working in these areas. University Hospital has been a great addition to our EMS system and the expanded Fire Training Budget has allowed us to travel to national conferences and bring in some outside trainers along with our in house instructors.

Total Training hours for Fire & EMS for 2012 was 1184 hours. Many of these hours were covering some basic topics but we also participated in several advanced and specialized training as follows:

- Dominion East Ohio Live Fire Training
- High Pressure Gas Incidents
- School Bus Extrication & safety operations

- Fire Inspector Restaurant hood systems
- Fire Inspector Alarms & suppression systems
- Rope Rescue with Bath Fire
- Helicopter safety and landing zone
- Water supply operations
- Building Construction & design

I would like to thank our members who participate, plan and coordinate many of our trainings. Lt. Bob Jones, Lt. Jason Purkey, Lt. Bruce Butler, Firemedic Ron Boryk, Firemedic Eric Ellis, Firemedic Tom Sullivan. Many of these members attend seminars and schools and bring back state of the art trainings and new technology to our Fire Department.

Training is the key to maintain a state of readiness and preparedness for the protection of our community and our citizens.



## EMS Training and Equipment 2013

To: Chief Mihalek

From: Lt. Jason Purkey

In 2013 the Richfield Fire department changed medical control from Akron General Medical Center to University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center for our medical direction. The department's Medical Director is Dr. Anthony Daher. Dr. Daher comes to the fire department on the second Wednesday of every month to provide the required medical training to our department. Topics cover all aspects of emergency medical care that the fire department may encounter on any medical call. The fire department is also recertified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support as well as Basic Life Support. The new medical protocol that our department operates under has proven to be beneficial to our community. The training in emergency medicine in the field is an ongoing and ever changing process. All paramedics and EMT's are required to keep up on training as required by state law.

In addition to a new medical protocol UH Ahuja and Dr. Daher have provided the Richfield Fire Department with new equipment to use in our community. This was provided at no charge to our community. Listed below are a few of the new or updated items we have added to our medical units.

- **King Vision Scopes:** These are used so our paramedics can more easily visualize the vocal chords of an unconscious patient and rapidly secure an airway.
- **EZ IO for intraosseous infusion:** These enable our paramedics to obtain peripheral IV access in situations where we are unable to obtain a normal IV to provide medications. With this device we are able to drive an IV needle into the bone and into the vascular space inside the bone to give medications.
- **CPAP DEVICE:** Continuous positive airway pressure device that provides relief to patients in respiratory distress from pulmonary edema, asthma, CHF, or COPD.
- **EMS CHARTS:** Allows electronic report writing which provides with more streamlined reporting and documentation of our patient care. It also enables the village or township to recover EMS billing faster.
- **New drug boxes:** The drugs we carry are now handled through UH Ahuja Medical center and our inventory of medications has expanded to better serve our community.
- **Online education:** UH Ahuja provides online courses which all are personnel can take while at home or on duty and receive the required continuing education required by law.
- **Hemorrhage control kits:** These were provided to enable our crews to rapidly control major bleeding in an injured patient who has life threatening bleeding and to make it more centrally located in one place in our squads.



TRANSPORTS BY FINAL DESTINATION  
2013

<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
AKRON GENERAL WEST	145	30%
AKRON GENERAL MAIN	71	15%
MARYMOUNT	57	12%
NOT APPLICALE	46	9%
AKRON CITY	31	6%
MARYMOUNT SOUTH	28	5%
UH AHUJA MEDICAL	25	5%
PARMA COMMUNITY	25	5%
MEDINA GENERAL	12	2%
SAINT VINCENT CHARITY	10	2%
CHILDRENS MEDICAL OF AKRON	9	2%
SUMMAHEALTH LAKE MEDINA	6	1%
ST. THOMAS	6	1%
CUYAHOGA FALLS GENERAL	4	1%
SAGAMORE HILLS	3	1%
AKRON GENERAL NORTH	3	1%
OTHERS	7	2%
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>488</u>	

## SPECIALIZED FIELDS OF TRAINING 2013

### INSTRUCTORS :

**C.P.R.:**

Boryk, Butler, Merryman, R. Urban

**Advanced Cardiac Life Support:**

Boryk,

**Emergency Medical Technician:**

Boryk, R.Urban

**Fire Service:**

Boleman, Boryk, Ellis, Jones, McLean, Mihalek, Sullivan

### TEAM MEMBERS :

**Rope Rescue:**

Boleman, Boryk, Butler, Ellis, Lester, Merryman  
Mihalek, Purkey, Sullivan, R. Urban,

**Fire Safety Inspectors:**

Boleman, Boryk, Ellis, Jones, Mihalek  
McLean, R.Urban,

**Ice Rescue Technicians:**

Boleman, Boryk, Butler, Elbert, Ellis, Lester,  
Merryman, Mihalik, Najsztup, Purkey, Sullivan,  
R.Urban

**Honor Guard:**

Boryk, Butler, Ellis, Lester, Merryman, K. Urban  
McLean, Najsztup, Purkey

**Fire Investigation:**

Boryk, Ellis

**Metro Swat Medic:**

Lester

**County T.R.O.T./HAZ-MAT:**

Ellis, Sullivan



## NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASES FOR 2013

In order to maintain the excellent fire and rescue services for the citizens and businesses of Richfield while ensuring the safety of our fire department personnel, the following new equipment was purchased during the year 2013:

***Tempest Ultra Low Emissions PPV Blower:*** As firefighters, we use a variety of tools and techniques to extinguish structure fires. One of the most potentially effective tactics when properly used is positive pressure ventilation (PPV).

The basic principle behind PPV in structural firefighting is the movement of smoke, heat and gases through the building by utilizing a PPV Blower to move air from the exterior of the building and forcing it into the interior. This action increases the pressure on the interior of the building to a level greater than the pressure outside the building creating a path of moving air that pushes the smoke and high temperature combustion products out of the structure through the closest vent (window or door). Firefighters control this path of air by making strategic ventilation openings in the areas of the structure they wish to ventilate.

***RHYNO Windshield Cutter:*** The RHYNO Windshield cutter was purchased to assist our firefighters in freeing trapped vehicle occupants quickly and safely.

Laminated glass is standard in all vehicle front windshields and in some rear windows. The side windows and rear windows on 90% of vehicles that are currently on the road are made of tempered glass which allows easy access to the occupant using a window punch. However, in order to reduce occupant ejection from vehicles during a roll over, the Federal Government has mandated that **ALL** vehicle windows shall be required to be laminated by the year 2018.

With this new Federal mandate starting in 2018, our traditional method of using a window punch to make entry into a vehicle through the side or rear windows will be useless. A fire axe and reciprocating/hand saws are a fairly effective means to make entry through laminated glass, but the trapped occupants are exposed to glass dust and shards. The trapped occupants can also be subjected to additional dangers when using the reciprocating and hand saws since they can penetrate into the patient compartment 4 to 6 inches. The cutter blade on the RHYNO however, is designed to penetrate less than an inch and minimize the generation of glass dust making it much safer for the trapped occupants. The variable speed trigger allows for excellent control during starting and stopping especial when finesse is important, such as incidents that involve body part impalements through the glass. Other benefits of the RHYNO glass cutter are:

1. Cuts out a windshield in less than one minute.
2. Compact and lightweight.
3. Glass debris is concentrated outside the occupant compartment.
4. Work light illuminates the work area.
5. Low maintenance.

The value and the ease of operation cannot be overstated. The RHYNO windshield cutter provides solutions to most of the disadvantages of other windshield removal options.

***Husqvarna K 970 Rotary Saw:*** The rotary saw has always been an important rescue tool used in the fire service. The rotary saw is an excellent multipurpose tool that is versatile and effective **for a variety of applications such as cutting thick or heavy roof composition normally found on** older roofs, metal deck roofs, lightweight concrete roofs and metal in forcible entry.

In 2013 we replaced our aging 15 year old Stihl TS 400 rotary saw with a new Husqvarna K-970 Rescue Rotary saw. This Husqvarna K-970 rotary saw is one of the newest and most powerful hand held power cutter that is available for the fire service. The anti vibration system and fine tuned ergonomics makes this rotary saw one of the best in its class when it comes to efficiency and maneuverability. Other benefits of the K 970 Rotary Saw are:

1. Easy start Air Purge and decompression valve.
2. Poly V-belt for better transmission of power and less frequent retensioning.
3. Sealed transmission.
4. Large D handle for ease of starting.
5. Saw carrying sling.

***Stihl MS 461R Rescue Chain Saw:*** With the increased popularity of plywood and OSB sheathing used in roofs and exterior walls for new home and building construction, the chain saw has become an important ventilation tool in the fire service. The chain saw has proved to be an extremely fast and efficient tool used to ventilate roofs and exterior walls.

In 2013 we also replace our aging 15 year old Stihl MS 360 Farm and Ranch saw with a new Stihl MS 461R Rescue Chain Saw. The Stihl MS 461R Rescue Chain Saw was designed specifically for fire, rescue and emergency services work and has the following firefighter friendly features:

1. Extra large starting handle (for use with fire gloves).
2. An extended chip deflector.
3. A built in tool holder and muffler.
4. Rubber covered wrap around handle that is designed for a secure grip, ergonomically angled for a secure grip and allows for operation in all positions.
5. Front and Rear Hand Guards designed to help reduce the risk of injury.
6. Winter/Summer Shutter allows the engine and carburetor to operate at optimum temperature and prevents carburetor icing.
7. An ElastoStart Starter Handle with a built in shock absorber for smoother starting.
8. An Adjustable Cutting Depth Limiter: Enables the saw cutting depth to be adjusted in just a few seconds.

Both the **Husqvarna K 970 Rescue Rotary Saw** and the **Stihl MS 461R Rescue Chain Saw** will help firefighters perform ventilation or rescue operations expeditiously and safely.

**Stryker Power LOAD System:** In the spring of 2013, the Richfield Fire Department received a 3 to 1 matching grant from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the purchase of a Stryker Power LOAD System. The new power load system was installed in our first out rescue squad this past fall.

As the number of obese people continues to grow in the United States, EMS providers and firefighters are being required to transport an increasing number of patients in excess of 350 pounds. As a result, approximately 47 percent of EMS providers have suffered back injuries nationwide and back injuries account for about half of all line of duty injury retirements. With our limited manpower, this puts all of our personnel at risk for back and other injuries. The Stryker Power LOAD system will dramatically reduce those percentages which in turn will reduce workers' compensation claims.

The Stryker Power LOAD System works in conjunction with Stryker's existing Power PRO hydraulic cot to lift and lower cots into and out of the squad with the push of a few buttons. The system weighs less than 300 pounds and draws only 5 to 10 amps during the charging process. It is designed to support the weight of the cot plus a 700 pound patient.

The Stryker Power LOAD system allows the EMS provider to maneuver the cot into position on the fastener system and then press the appropriate buttons to lift and lower the patient. It is designed to minimize "cot drops" by supporting the cot until the wheels are fully on the ground. In the event of a power loss, a back-up system allows the fastener to be operated manually.



## Maintenance 2013

To: Chief Mihalek

From: Firemedic Eric Boleman

In 2013 the maintenance division of the Richfield Fire Department was responsible for the safety, repair and preventative maintenance of nine vehicles and all equipment on each vehicle including the maintenance of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. Several changes have been made to address the issues including: securing of equipment to prevent further harm in the event of a vehicle upset, ethanol degradation in power tools, movement towards compliance of : NFPA 1915: Fire Apparatus Preventative Maintenance Program and NFPA 1901: Automotive Fire Apparatus.

All pumping equipment was service tested in accordance with NFPA 1911: Standard for Service Tests of Fire Pump Systems on Fire Apparatus.

By having this maintenance division, in cooperation with the Richfield Village Maintenance Department we can keep cost down and limit the amount of vehicle out of service time. Also, the people performing the work have a vested interest and prior knowledge of the equipment.

Looking ahead to 2014 the division has plans to create a database with *Firehouse* software to track records more efficiently. Also, the division will review any changes to NFPA standards and make corrections to meet the ever changing safety standards.



**INCIDENT TYPE REPORT  
2013**

<b>INCIDENT TYPE</b>	<b>COUNT</b>
<b>1 FIRE</b>	
111 BUILDING FIRE	19
113 COOKING FIRE, CONFINED TO CONTAINER	8
114 CHIMNEY FIRE, CONTAINED TO CHIMNEY	6
131 PASSENGER VEHICLE FIRE	12
132 ROAD FREIGHT, VEHICLE FIRE	3
143 GRASS FIRE	3
150 OUTSIDE RUBBISH FIRE	3
161 OUTSIDE STORAGE FIRE	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>2 OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE, EXPLOSION, OVERHEAT (NO FIRE)</b>	
251 EXCESSIVE HEAT, NO FIRE	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 RESCUES AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE</b>	
300 EMS INCIDENT OTHER	11
311 MEDICAL ASST.	7
320 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE OTHER	4
321 EMS CALL, EXCLUDING VEHICLE ACCIDENT	470
322 VEHICLE ACCIDENT WITH INJURIES	45
324 VEHICLE ACCIDENT NO INJURIES	12
350 EXTRICATION RESCUE	2
362 ICE RESCUE	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>552</b>

<b>INCIDENT TYPE</b>	<b>COUNT</b>
<b>4 HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS (NO FIRE)</b>	
400 HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OTHER	2
410 COMBUSTIBLE/ FLAMABLE OTHER CONDITION	1
411 FLAMMABLE LIQUID SPILL	2
412 NATURAL GAS OR LPG LEAK	12
413 OIL OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID SPILL	3
422 CHEMICAL SPILL OR LEAK	1
424 CARBON MONOXIDE INCIDENT	9
440 ELECTRICAL WIRING/EQUIPMENT PROBLEM	1
441 HEAT FROM SHORT CIRCUIT	1
442 OVERHEATED MOTOR	3
444 POWER LINE DOWN	12
445 ARCING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>5 SERVICE CALL</b>	
500 SERVICE CALL OTHER	4
510 PERSON IN DISTRESS	7
511 LOCK-OUT	0
512 RING OR JEWELRY REMOVAL	2
522 WATER OR STEAM LEAK	1
531 SMOKE OR ODOR REMOVAL	4
550 PUBLIC SERVICE ASSISTANCE	1
551 ASSIST TO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY	12
553 PUBLIC SERVICE	2
554 ASSIST TO INVALID	30
561 UNAUTHORIZED BURNING	9
571 COVER ASSIGNMENT, STANDBY	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>

<b>INCIDENT TYPE</b>	<b>COUNT</b>
<b>6 GOOD INTENT</b>	
600 GOOD INTENT OTHER	16
611 DISPATCHED AND CANCELLED ENROUTE	20
622 NO INCIDENT FOUND ON ARRIVAL	5
631 AUTHORIZED CONTROLLED BURING	4
651 SMOKE SCARE	4
652 STEAM OR VAPOR THOUGHT TO BE SMOKE	1
671 HAZMAT INVESTIGATION NOTHING FOUND	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>7 FALSE ALARMS</b>	
700 FALSE CALLS OTHER	7
710 MISCHIEVOUS FALSE ALARM	5
730 SYSTEM MALFUNCTION OTHER	10
731 SPRINKLER ACTIVATION DUE TO MALFUNCTION	3
733 SMOKE ALARM ACTIVATION MALFUNCTION	12
735 ALARMS SOUNDED DUE TO MALFUNCTION	13
736 CO DETECTOR MALFUNCTION	9
740 UNINTENTIONAL TRANSMISSION OF ALARM	6
741 SPRINKLER ACTIVATION NO FIRE	0
743 SMOKE DETECTOR ACTIVATION NO FIRE	18
744 DETECTOR ACTIVATION NO FIRE	7
745 ALARM SYSTEM ACTIVATION NO FIRE	19
746 CARBON MONOXIDE ACTIVATION NO CO	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>8 SEVERE WEATHER</b>	
813 WIND STORM, TORNADO	0
<b>9 SPECIAL INCIDENT</b>	
900 SPECIAL INCIDENT OTHER	3
911 CITIZEN COMPLAINT	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>

## RICHFIELD FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION 2013

To: Chief Mihalek

From: Pres. Eric Ellis

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Cook-off Fundraiser was sponsored by the Richfield Firefighter's Association (RFA) on September 21st. The Richfield Community support of us was greatly appreciated, as over 200 people attended. The cook-off allowed us to kick-off Fire Prevention Month and to promote fire safety. It also brought neighboring fire departments, Bath, Brecksville, Hinckley, and Fairlawn and Vally, here to compete and serve chili. We had many businesses help to make it fun and exciting.

The funds raised during this event and donations during the year allows us to purchase books, insurance costs and educational supplies for the Youth Fire Prevention Smoke House program. Additional funds were spent for dues to Summit County and Ohio State Firefighter Association. The Richfield Bandage Day Camp at the fire station, and promotional materials for Fire Prevention week are supported with these funds.

Our Honor Guard participated in the Memorial Day march, the Community Weekend parade, an Akron Areos' game, and at a funeral ceremony for well regarded, past member Tom Hooper.

The RFD Awards Banquet was held in March at the Tavern of Richfield for the first time in recent years. Members receiving awards were Eric Boleman 10yrs, Eric Ellis 10yrs, Mike Lester 15yrs, Dan Merryman 15yrs, Bruce Butler 20yrs, Mark Tibbs 25yrs, and Phil McLean 35yrs. The Firefighter of the Year Award went to Tom Sullivan. On behalf of all R.F.A. members, we look forward to continuing our tradition of community service, friendship and professionalism in the coming year.



## **Bath-Richfield Explorers Post 2542**

To: Chief Mihalek

From: Firemedic Ron Boryk

The Bath-Richfield Explorer Post completed their first full year back in operation and is a joint venture between Bath and Richfield Fire Departments. The group is comprised of 13 students and graduates of the Revere Local School District . The Lead Advisor is Tim Baker of Bath Fire with assistants Dustin Muehlfeld from Bath, Mark Tibbs and Ron Boryk from Richfield Fire.

Our group meets twice a month and has both classroom and hands-on training. We are working out of the new IFSTA Essentials Manuals that were generously donated to the group by AC Phil McLean of Richfield Fire. The members meet and discuss post issues and training needs.

The post members volunteered and took part in our fire department mass casualty training. They were moulaged victims and learned a great deal about patient care.

The Explorer Post 2542 competed in a Fire Muster that was held at Medina County Career Center in September. They competed against 6 other posts in different fire type evolutions. Our group was responsible for difficult Combat Challenge event that day.

The experience that the kids received that day was outstanding and it gave them a chance to meet other explorers. They had a chance to see kids their ages that are also looking to become firefighters. Mackey Totten, from our group took first place in the Combat Challenge and Chris Weber took third place. For a first year group, they did quite well.

We had our first fundraiser, which was a pancake breakfast. It was held at the Richfield Fire Station during their Open House/Community Day weekend event. This fundraiser was a success and showed the members the importance of community relations and gave them a chance for the public to see what they are all about.

The group continues to meet on a regular basis and is currently in the planning stages for the next fire muster in 2014.

Post Members: Olivio Antonio, Kyle Baldridge, Alex Boryk, Derick Cherry, Chris Demko, Joe Iacobni, Jake Kasson, Sam Sherbakov, John Tibbs, Mackey Totten, Chris Weber, Charlie Wise, Justin Wodzisz



## Fire Prevention Education 2013

To: Chief Mihalek

From: Lydia Wochna

It is hard to believe that 2013 has come and gone already. It seems like the year just begins and then it is over before you know it. The Fire Prevention Education Program was presented at Hillcrest Elementary 4 times during the 2012/2013 school year. Classes included 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades and Kindergarten some months.

Because I am only in the school a limited number of months, a bulletin board has been assigned to the Fire Prevention Program. The themes for the board are related to fire safety, holiday safety, or summer safety depending on the month.

The students from St. Peregrine's Academy were seen on a monthly basis. Some months it was only the grades pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup>, and some months included the entire school with students through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**January:** Hillcrest Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students learned how a firefighter dresses when they come to save you. Students are taught how a firefighter sounds when breathing air from a tank, and the importance of never hiding in a fire or from a firefighter during a fire.

Third graders at Hillcrest and the students at St. Peregrine's learned to map their bedrooms to plan escape routes and evaluate hazard they may face. This lesson also reviews the need for smoke detectors, an escape plan, and a meeting place.

I also attended ALICE Training with the teachers from Hillcrest. ALICE Training teaches school personnel what to do in the event of a school shooting.

**February:** The lesson for the students at St. Peregrine's was a fire safety review using a Disney video called "Safety Smart at Home" featuring Pumbaa and Timon from the Lion King. They review the need for smoke detectors, calling 911 only during an emergency, crawling under the smoke, having an escape plan and a meeting place and never playing with matches.

**March:** Students at St. Peregrine's had a lesson on Poison Prevention using a guessing game which I put together for the students.

**April:** The Child Safety Trailer was at both schools in April to teach all grades what to do during a tornado or severe storm. This lesson included going to the basement as a safe place and the importance of not panicking. Students were also taught the difference between a watch and a warning and how to pick a safe location in the basement.

Kindergarten students at Hillcrest learned about water safety using the Disney video "Safety Smart in the Water".

**May:** The older children at Hillcrest and the students at St. Peregrine's learned safe behavior near water using the Disney video called "Safety Smart in the Water".

Kindergarten students at Hillcrest were in the Child Safety Trailer learning how to exit a smoky dwelling and the importance of having a meeting place.

**June:** June was Safety Town. I assisted with the lessons that were presented to the pre-k students.

I also participated at a fundraiser to help a family that has students who attend Hillcrest. The father was facing major health problems. Kodak was dressed in his fire gear. For a donation, children were then able to dress in actual fire gear and have their picture taken. Pictures were printed and given to the child to take home. We raised \$117.00 for the family.

**September:** The students at St Peregrine's had a fire safety review using a video called "Be Cool about Fire Safety." I also assisted with the Chili Cook off

**October:** Kindergarten students saw a video called "Safety Smart about Fire" that reviews all of the fire safety rules.

The Safety Trailer was at St. Peregrine's for a review of how to escape from a smoky dwelling.

I attended a 2 day class at The Ohio Fire Academy in Reynoldsburg. The topic of the class was Juvenile fire setting. The class focused on how to identify whether fire involvement by children is curiosity or a symptom of a much more serious problem. It also focused on whether a child might simply need fire safety education vs in depth mental health services.

Posters about Fire Prevention week purchased by the Richfield Firefighter's Association were hung in the schools and some community businesses. The literature that the association purchased was passed out to the students as part of their lesson in the Safety trailer in November.

**November:** The Child Safety Trailer was once again at Hillcrest, but this time it was to teach grades 1, 2, & 3 how to exit a smoky dwelling and go to their meeting place. The Kindergarten students at Hillcrest had a lesson about the importance of having a meeting place. The students used a coloring book about fire safety which was purchased for the students by the Richfield Firefighter's Association.

The older students at St. Peregrine's learned about cooking fires and why they should never put water on a grease fire. The younger students had a review about fire safety that included the importance of keeping things away from space heaters.

