

# 2015 Year End Report



# Monroe Fire Department



**“THE MIND IS NOT A VESSEL TO BE FILLED, BUT A FIRE TO BE KINDLED.”**

**– PLUTARCH**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Greetings from your Monroe Fire Department!

I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the committed staff of your Monroe Fire Department.

This report will identify statistics involving emergency response, as well as community engagement activities over the course of 2015. This report will also highlight accomplishments achieved over the last year, none of which would have been possible without the support of the City Manager, Council, and our stakeholders in the community. The modern fire service continues to deliver new challenges to our staff, and we have placed a high level of importance on meeting those challenges.

In early 2016 we will unveil new fire and EMS apparatus purchased to replace aging vehicles in our fleet. Again, without the support of the Mayor, Council, and the City Manager, this would not have been possible. We work diligently to maintain our equipment, replace it when necessary, and upgrade technology in a way that will best provide services to our public. The responsibility to manage the budget afforded us by our community is certainly not taken lightly. We cannot thank our community enough for their ongoing support and interest in the level of safety provided to them by our department and our City. To further demonstrate the commitment we have to our community, all City staff (Police, Public Works, Parks, Water, Administration) attended CPR / First-Aid / AED training in 2015. This, along with AED's placed in all city operated buildings will enhance the level of safety we can provide daily.

In retrospect, I am simply amazed at our organization and the amount of positive changes that have occurred over the last several years. As the City of Monroe continues to grow, so must we to continue a path toward continued success in the area of fire and life safety.

Respectfully Submitted,

*John P. Centers*

Fire Chief

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## ***Mission Statement***

The Monroe Fire Department's mission is to serve our community with integrity in a safe, prompt, and professional manner.

## ***Vision Statement***

Serve as role models and constantly strive to improve the overall quality of life within our community.

Embrace and foster opportunities to interact with the public.

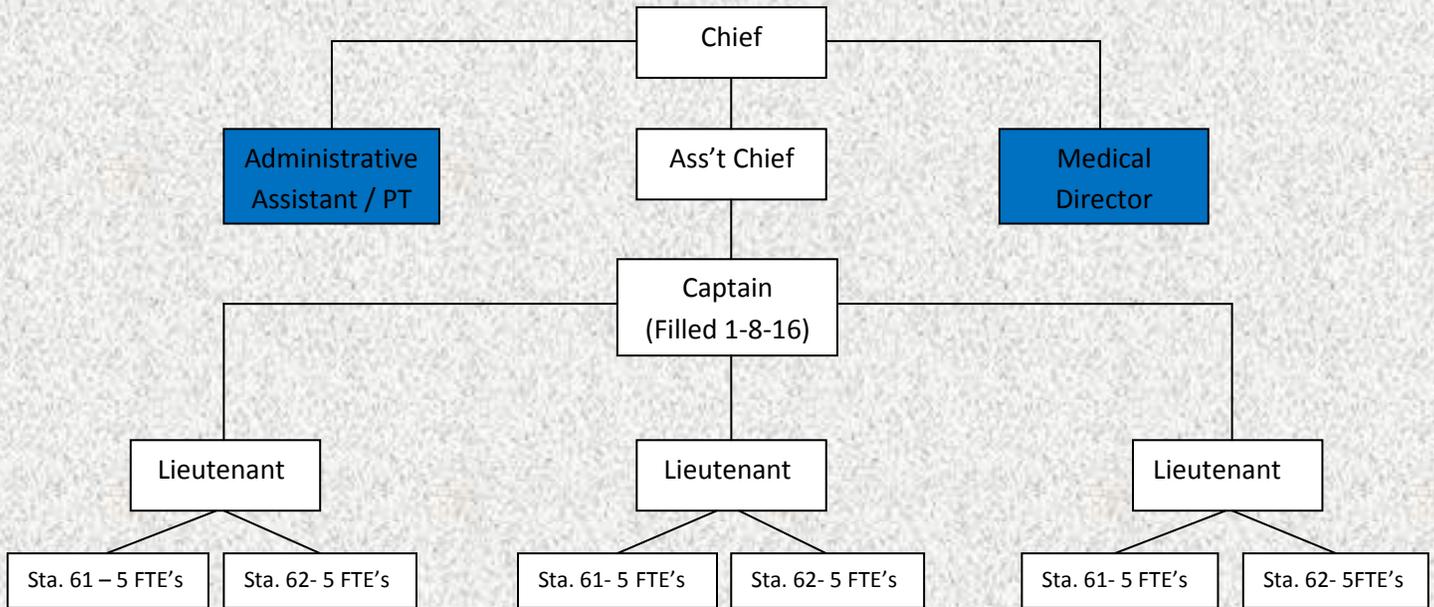
Expand our leadership role in the region and serve as a role model for other fire and emergency medical service departments.

Plan for the future through training, education, and progressive leadership, never forgetting our proud heritage and traditions.

# Organizational Chart

## MFD ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

2015



## **Staff Reports**

*Each of our administrative staff members retain a particular area of responsibility. These areas assist the department in meeting goals & objectives, as well as continued development of our strategic plan. In addition to these responsibilities, each staff member must maintain a budget they are given to carry out their mission in the department. These responsibilities are also a portion of our succession planning endeavors. Some of the areas we have given particular attention to are as follows;*

***Assistant Fire Chief / Risk Manager-*** *Has many roles in the Fire Department. Of the most critical tasks are risk management / risk reduction, and employee wellness. Given the high risk situations we find ourselves in on a daily basis, trends and development of policies that keep our staff members safe & healthy is of paramount importance. He also reviews / develops Standard Operating Guidelines to maintain procedural awareness in the department.*

***EMS Program Manager-*** *Responsibilities include monitoring the EMS Re-certification Program, monitoring of EMS data software, development of EMS purchasing practices & maintaining adequate supplies. He develops replacement schedules for capital purchases, design build of EMS transport units, and other duties as assigned.*

***Fire Program Manager-*** *Responsibilities include monitoring the Fire Re-certification Program, purchasing & maintaining adequate supplies, development of replacement schedules for capital purchases, design build of fire apparatus, development of fire training programs / firefighter safety programs, and other duties as assigned.*

***Special Operations Program Manager-*** *Responsibilities include monitoring hazmat & tech rescue capabilities, evaluation and purchasing of fire apparel, managing the water & ice rescue training programs, maintaining the departmental MSDS catalogs, and other duties as assigned.*

*The following pages reflect activities in each of these areas for the year 2015.*

# ***Assistant Chief Richard Mascarella***

## ***Department Risk Manager***



The Monroe Fire Department has continued to make improvements in the quality of its data management systems. In doing so, we have been able to better track emerging trends within the community and adjust training and response priorities to match those needs. The improvement in data management has also allowed us to access important information for development with regard to available water supply and response times among other common queries. Several members of the Fire Department attended training at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg Maryland in order to gain a better understanding of how and why data is used on a national level. In the next year we will continue to improve our data collection as we work toward fire department accreditation, which is a level of certification earned by less than 3% of all fire departments internationally.

Our members work hard to reduce the risk to our community through public education, child seat safety, fire safety inspections and other public safety events. These allow the members of the Fire Department to become part of the community on a non-emergent basis, thus fostering a familiarity with our stakeholders. We also work hard to reduce the risk our firefighters face on a daily basis, through improved vehicle technology, fire safety gear and continuing education.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Richard Mascarella*

Ass't Fire Chief, Risk Manager

## ***Lt. Scott Clasgens***

### ***Fire Program Manager***



As the Fire Program Manager for the Monroe Fire Department in 2015, I am honored and excited to share our year in review as it pertains to fire operations.

In 2015, the Fire Department was able to continue staffing based on NFPA guidelines 1410, 1710 and 1500. These guidelines discuss the minimum staffing for Engine and Truck Companies. This efficiency helps maintain life safety for our stakeholders, property preservation and fireground safety for all firefighters. This staffing model applies only to the Main Street Fire Station due to its location within the busiest district, with the highest number of high-risk occupancies.

Training in 2015 remained a major part in staying proficient in our existing skills. The firefighters are highly trained professionals and conduct extensive year round training activities to maintain and improve their skills in a variety of disciplines such as; firefighter survival, rescue, SCBA, fire suppression, hazardous materials, incident command, water rescue and structural collapse. In addition to regular training, the Fire Department was able to train multiple firefighters to become Fire/EMS Instructors. This training will increase the efficiency in our departments training and tracking for the State of Ohio and assist in the accreditation process. Along with the aforementioned additional training, the Fire Department enrolled several firefighters in Fire Officer I, II, and III courses. These courses assist us managing day to day operations effectively, and we benefit from additional firefighters with officer training and experience in managing personnel and fireground operations.

In late 2014, the Fire Operations Section was tasked with developing a Fire Investigation Team. In early 2015, three (3) firefighters were selected to receive Basic and Advanced Fire Investigation training. This training allows the Fire Department to investigate all fires and determine cause and origin as required by the State. Fire investigations can be a complex and time consuming task. Using proper investigation techniques, collecting and preserving evidence, and thoroughly photographing the fire scene are necessary to make a determination of accidental vs. suspicious causes. The Fire Investigation Team has been working with adjacent fire agencies to gain experience in all aspects of fire investigation.

Early in 2014, the purchase of two (2) new engines was approved by the Mayor and Council. An Engine committee was established with department staff for the first time in city fire department history. After several months of planning and pre-build meetings, the committee completed specifications for two (2) fire engines to best serve our communities needs. In late December 2015, the Fire Department took delivery of two (2) new Rosenbauer Commander Series Engine / Pumpers from the plant in South Dakota. The committee and fire department staff look forward to a traditional in-service celebration in mid February 2016. The new identical engines will be serving the community from Station 61 and Station 62.

The Honor Guard continues to grow and we have added three (3) additional personnel to the roster. This fills out the allocated positions bringing our members to ten (10) Honor Guard personnel. The Honor Guard was requested for multiple events throughout 2015. These events included multiple in state funerals, Memorial Day, September 11 and Veterans Day ceremonies. The Honor Guard also assisted in Cincinnati Fire FAO Daryl Gordon and Hamilton Firefighter Patrick Wolterman's LODD services. It is of the highest honor for our team to provide casket watch in the death of a firefighter. The Honor Guard continues to post colors for City council meetings, The Dayton Dragons and Cincinnati Reds. The Honor Guard would like to thank local businesses for their continued support through donations and the use of their establishments for fundraisers and training.

In closing, the ability to improve our service delivery is generated through many ideas and initiatives that originate from our operational staff. It is their values, energy, commitment and compassion that drive many fire department functions, programs, and activities that support our mission to provide excellent service to our community. Again, I am honored to serve alongside our dedicated professional staff and department administration.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Scott Clasgens*

Lieutenant, Fire Program Manager

## ***Lt. Matt Grubbs***

### ***EMS Program Manager***



In 2015 the dedicated Firefighter/EMS personnel of the Monroe Fire Department continued to expand services to remain a leading edge department in southwest Ohio. We continue to modify current protocols, evaluate industry standards and bring best practices to the residents and visitors of Monroe.

At the end of 2014 and beginning of 2015 we implemented the new EMS reporting software ESO Software Solutions. This has allowed for much better data collection to see what our needs are for future trainings, equipment, and QA/QI standards. This has also improved our documentation for EMS reports to reduce departmental liability. We are able to create many reports to identify target hazards that may assist in future endeavors with the Community Paramedicine program such as targeting age groups, or areas of the community that maintain high call volume, and reasons for those calls. This software, in conjunction with the new fire reporting software, Emergency Reporting, has allowed for in depth statistical data that will only improve and streamline our services in the future.

We continue our membership with the Greater Miami Valley EMS Council (GMVEMSC). The GMVEMSC writes and evaluates our protocols and administers annual testing for our staff. Through the GMVEMSC we participate in a drug bag exchange program which saves the department thousands of dollars annually. Additionally, our medical director assists in writing additional protocols to perform advanced procedures above the GMVEMSC protocol. We have developed advanced protocols that allow our paramedics to perform Rapid Sequence Intubation procedure, administer TXA, Racemic Epinephrine, and Ketamine for pain management in our hypotensive patients, and we are also a regional cache for WMD/smoke inhalation medications.

In early 2015, the Mayor and Council approved the purchase of a new EMS unit. In May, a committee of Fire Department members began reviewing specifications for a new unit. This vehicle would replace a 2003 unit with an excess of 150,000 miles. The order was formally placed in August 2015 with Horton Emergency Vehicles in Grove City, Ohio. The hope was to take delivery of this new ambulance in early February 2016 and for it to be placed in service in mid to late February and thus far, we are on target. We have hopes of fitting this unit with our third Stryker automated lift system which has been very beneficial to our patients and staff. The Stryker Lift Systems have proven to reduce lifting injuries suffered by our staff, and give piece of mind to the patient.

In August of 2015 we held a meeting with our Medical Director, Dr. Michael Policastro. Dr. Policastro serves as a reserve Physician for the United States Air Force. During this meeting he advised us that he felt very strongly that he may be deployed with his Air Force unit in 2016. With that being the case he advised the department

to seek a new medical director. Every EMS department in the State of Ohio must operate under the guidance of a medical director. Dr. Policastro had been our Medical Director for several years and has supported our mission in becoming a leading edge EMS department. The medical director for a fire department primarily serves in an advisory role, develops protocols, signs State Pharmacy Board documents, provides training, and helps in a QA/QI process. We began seeking interested parties through Premier Health Systems immediately following Dr. Policastro's announcement. With their assistance and following a review of eligible physicians we chose Dr. Jill C. Aston, a board certified emergency medicine physician. We are very excited to have Dr. Aston come on board and assist us in continuing to provide the excellent level of care that has become our standard. Dr. Aston came to Premier Health from Mercy Health Hospital Systems in late 2015 and she will take over as our medical director in early 2016.

After months of planning and diligent work by the Fire Chief and Fire Department staff we have officially begun the first Community Paramedicine program in the State of Ohio in conjunction with Mt. Pleasant Retirement Center. Legislation was passed in October 2015 to allow paramedics to perform in a non-emergency role with the intent of illness and injury prevention. This is a proactive approach to medicine that reduces visits to hospitals for the patient by looking at a means to prevent illness or injury. Paramedics will not only be doing medical checkups on patients but will also be assisting in home safety audits with permission of the patient. We have identified a target audience for our initial trial program to collect data for future expansion of this service. We will begin seeing patients on the Mt. Pleasant campus as of the first of the year. This program has been very successful around the country and we are excited to lead the way in Ohio.

As another successful year has come to a close, on behalf of the employees of the Fire Department I would like to thank you for your continued support. Each year we face many challenges that we must overcome and we will continue to do that in the most efficient way possible. As EMS Program Manager I am very proud to work for an organization that continues to support us in being industry leaders. I look forward to pushing our Department further along in 2016!!

Respectfully Submitted,

*Matt Grubbs*

Lieutenant, EMS Program Manager

## ***Lieutenant David Leverage***

### ***Special Op's Program Manager***



This past year has come and gone very quickly. We are continuing to work hard on existing programs throughout the City and continue to develop new programs to make Monroe a safer place to live and work.

Education and training are keys to the success in providing a quality product to the community. The community expects us to be ready on a moment's notice and to be able to perform at a very high level. We continue to divide the training responsibilities amongst the three Lieutenants. On top of my duties as the Lieutenant for Platoon 3, I have been charged with construction and maintenance of a Special Operations Training Program. The main duties in this role are as follows: 1. Purchasing and monitoring of Special Operations equipment and supplies. 2. Monitoring grant opportunities and applying for them when deemed appropriate. 3. Development of Hazmat / Technical Rescue training programs. 4. Studying the potential for expansion of the Monroe Fire Department's role in the Butler County Hazmat and Technical Rescue Cooperatives.

Due to recent calls for service, I have continued to concentrate on improving our Water and Ice Rescue program. The department has purchased new equipment, invested in training and is in the process of putting rescue boats into service that will allow us to provide better service to the community. As this is a step in the right direction, we are still looking to improve these services even further. It is my goal to help the department advance to the point where we are trained and proficient at making an on-water rescue from a watercraft at any location within the City. In the area of ice rescue, the department has made a necessary investment in both equipment and training. Thanks to training that both FF Brad Wargo and I attended in Wisconsin, we were able to train the entire department to the highest level possible (Technician Level). In order to complete this training and be able to affect an ice rescue, the department also invested in some new equipment. This equipment includes new Survitec Ice Rescue Suits, water rope, rescue slings and accessories necessary to perform a rescue. This equipment acquisition and training will allow us to be self-sufficient in the areas of water and ice rescue.

The Monroe Fire Department continues to support the many Butler County Cooperatives and is constantly looking into expanding our role in these Cooperatives to help improve community services. Currently the Monroe Fire Department has seven members on the Butler County Technical Rescue Team and six members on the Butler County Hazmat Team. Both of these teams have resources, both in equipment and manpower, which augment all Butler County Fire Departments in operations that exceed their capabilities. In the past year these teams have been activated for multiple emergencies, some of which have occurred here in the City of Monroe. This is an invaluable resource and the training that our members get through these teams only improves the service to the citizens of Monroe.

The members of Platoon 3 also spend multiple hours of training in the areas of EMS and Fire. This department is one of the more progressive departments in the area of EMS and requires the dedication and education that all of our members display. We have been provided multiple trainings by physicians from Atrium Medical Center, Children's Hospital and West Chester Hospital. These trainings encompassed disciplines ranging from Cardiac Emergencies to Trauma to Pediatric Emergencies. In the area of fire training, with the help of some

local businesses we have been able to train on auto extrication at Mitchell's Towing, Recovery and Salvage, wide area search in various warehouses in the City and company operations in homes set for demolition at Mt. Pleasant Retirement Village. These partnerships allow us to keep our skills up-to-date and provide the kind of service that the community comes to expect.

We have also continued our partnership this past year with the Monroe Local School District to go into the classrooms and help in many ways. Platoon 3 continues our work with Mrs. Wilhelm's classroom at Monroe Elementary School. We are assisting with students that have difficulties in the traditional classroom. We help by tutoring them with their homework, work through some self esteem issues by empowering them to do the right thing and are there to lend an ear if they have something that they need to talk about. This program started in December 2013 and we are looking forward to continuing it well into the future.

The accomplishments of the Monroe Fire Department were only possible through the ongoing dedication of each member and their commitment to our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

*David Leverage*

Lieutenant, Special Op's Program Manager

# 2015 Staff Members by Platoon

## 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon

### Station 61

Lt. Matt Grubbs

Ryan Hadley

Ryan Cox

Chris Conte

Josh Crone

Ann Brock

### Station 62

Brad Wargo

Todd Waddell

John Day

Paul Peters

Chris Marker

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon

### Station 61

Lt. Scott Clasgens

Jesse Campbell

Joe Carey

Zach Bernard

Joel Coomer

Josh Spradling

### Station 62

Tom Hill

David Hayes

Jake Garnett

Russell Ricakrd

Matt Lolli

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon

### Station 61

Lt. David Leverage

Brian Lockaby

Stuart Wilson

Brendan McCarty

Kelly Shotwell

James Fletcher

### Station 62

Aaron Vance

Jason Eaves

Dave Taulbee

Shannon Murphy

Joe Locke

## ***Fire Apparatus***



**Unit 03-011 is a 1993 Quality Pumper**

**1,000 Gallon Water Tank**

**1500 GPM Pump**



**Unit 00-022 is a 2000 Ferrara Rescue Pumper**

**750 Gallon Water Tank**

**1500 GPM Pump**



**Unit 07-032 is a 2007 Sutphen Quint**

**300 Gallon Water Tank**

**1500 GPM Pump**



**Unit 10-033 is a 2010 Rosenbauer 110' Tower**

**300 Gallon Water Tank**

**2000 GPM Pump**

***The Engine Specifications Committee spent a great deal of time in 2015 completing the build-out for the two new engines for the City of Monroe. The anticipated in-service date is February, 2016.***





**Unit 08-094 is a 2008 Horton Ambulance**

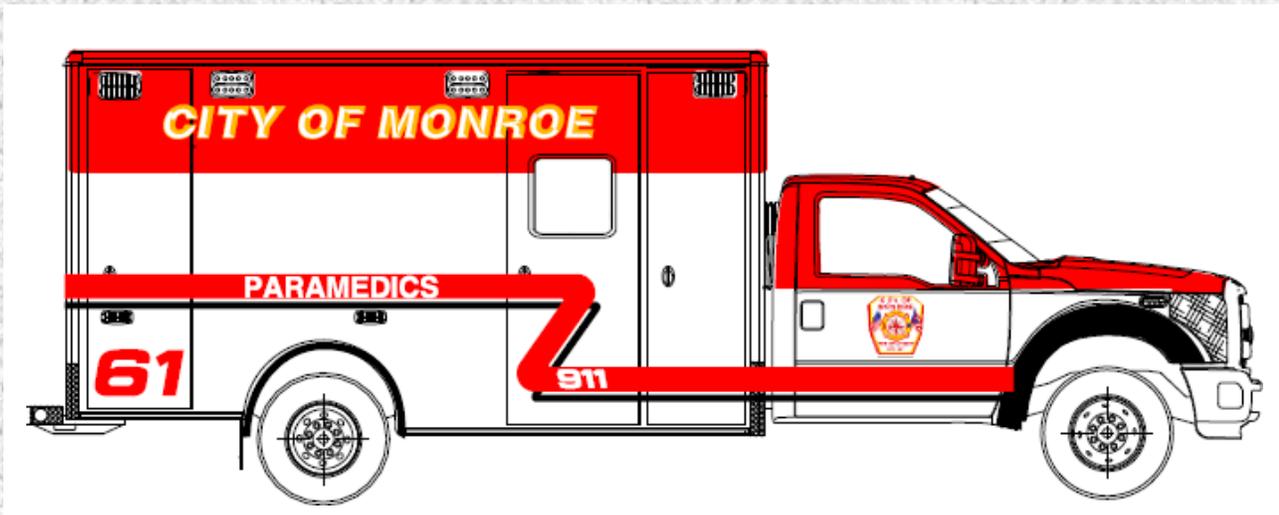


**Unit 10-091 is a 2010 Horton Ambulance**

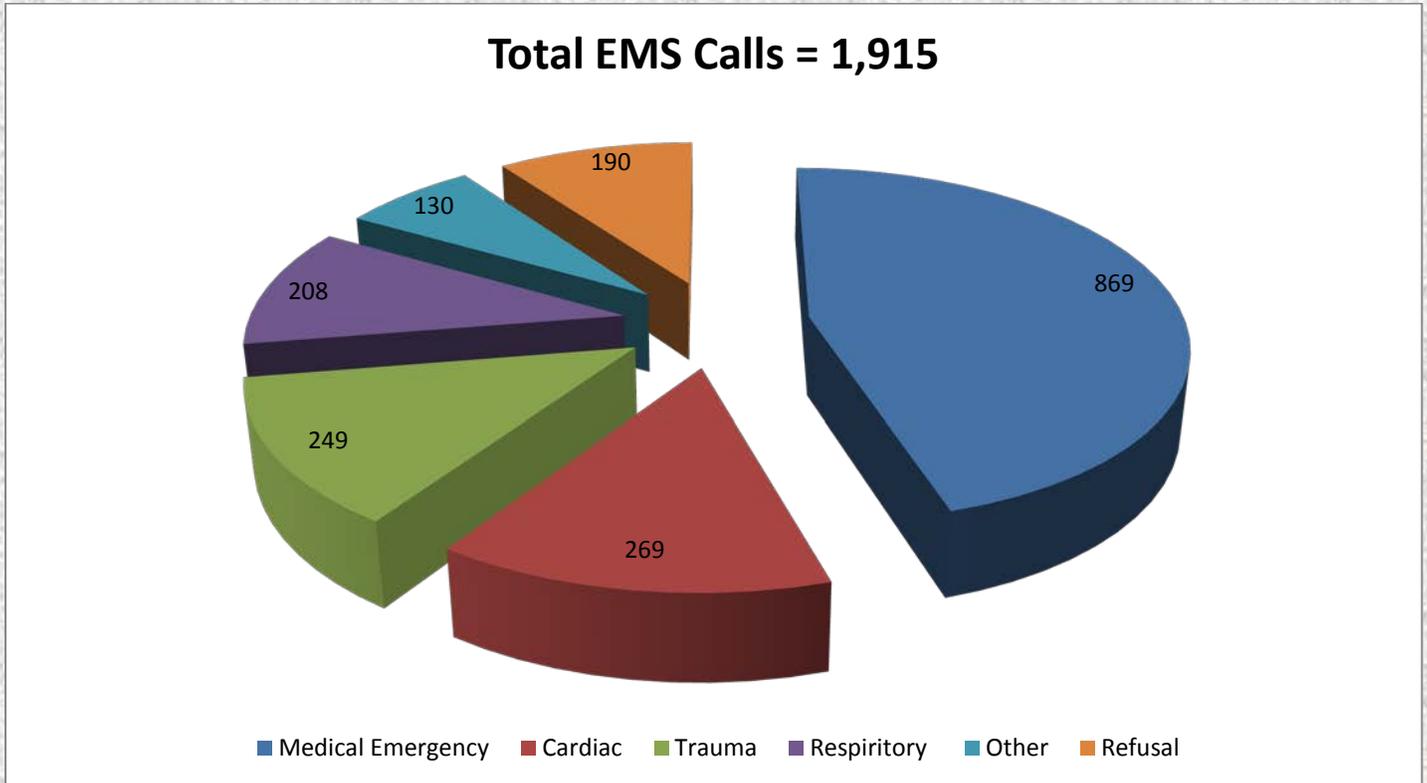


**Unit 03-092 is a 2003 Horton Ambulance**

Below is the computer rendition of the new squad we take delivery of in early 2016. This replaces a 2003 unit with over 150,000 miles.



## Emergency Medical Services



2015 logged the highest number of EMS related calls for service in department history. With a broadening scope in our calls for service, we must remain focused on our primary mission, “make things better than they were before we got there”. We continue to evaluate our protocols, equipment, and standards of care so that we are able to provide the highest level of care possible to our residents.

### Hospital Destinations

Atrium Medical Center-	1,043
Westchester Hospital-	334
Children’s Liberty-	59
Fort Hamilton-	1
Miami-Valley-	1
Refusals-	174
Other-	302
(DOA, Police Custody, Good Intent, Careflight/Air-Care)	

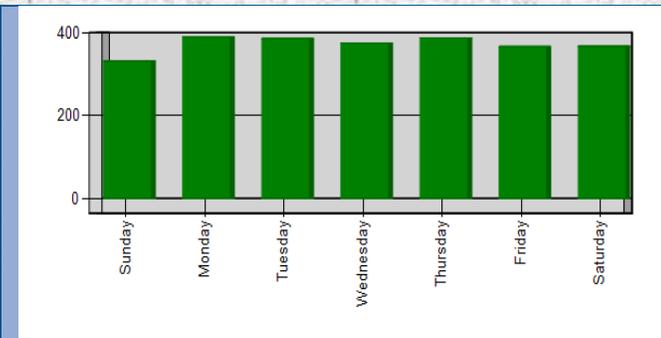
# City of Monroe Fire Department

## Medication Breakdown

1/1/2015 to 12/31/2015

Medication Breakdown		
Medication	Doses	Pct
<b>Cardiac Medications</b>		
Nitro stat	87	13%
Aspirin	82	12%
Epinephrine 1:10	42	6%
Atropine	23	3%
Adenosine	10	1%
Amiodarone	8	1%
Sodium Bicarb 8.4%	5	1%
Levophed	3	0%
Lidocaine 2%	2	0%
Epinephrine 1:1	2	0%
<b>Respiratory Medications</b>		
Albuterol	81	12%
Atrovent	64	9%
<b>Rapid Sequence Intubations Medications</b>		
Rocuronium	4	1%
Etomidate	4	1%
Ketamine	2	0%
<b>Overdose Medications</b>		
Narcan	33	5%
<b>Diabetic Medications</b>		
Dextrose 10%	24	3%
Glucagon	11	2%
<b>Allergic Reaction Medications</b>		
Benadryl	7	1%
Epi Pen	1	0%
Epi Pen Jr	1	0%
<b>Other Medications</b>		
Zofran	91	13%
Fentanyl	80	12%
Versed	15	2%
Valium	8	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Fire & Rescue Services



## # INCIDENTS



### DAY OF THE WEEK

Sunday	334
Monday	389
Tuesday	385
Wednesday	379
Thursday	387
Friday	366
Saturday	367
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2606</b>





## Total Average Response Time by Jursidiction

Zone	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME in minutes (Dispatch to Arrived)
WCT - West Chester Township	22
LEB - Lebanon	20
FFTWP - Fairfield Twp.	18
MIDD - Middletown	10.5
TCTWP - Turtlecreek Township	10.17
LIB - Liberty Township	9
DFTWP - Deerfield Township	8
TRE - Trenton	7.63
TWP - Lemon Township	6.7
<b>City Limits - Monroe</b>	<b>5.26</b>

## Type of Incident Report

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	81	3 %
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	1915	74 %
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	34	1 %
Service Call	143	6 %
Good Intent Call	295	11 %
False Alarm & False Call	137	5 %
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	1 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2606</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



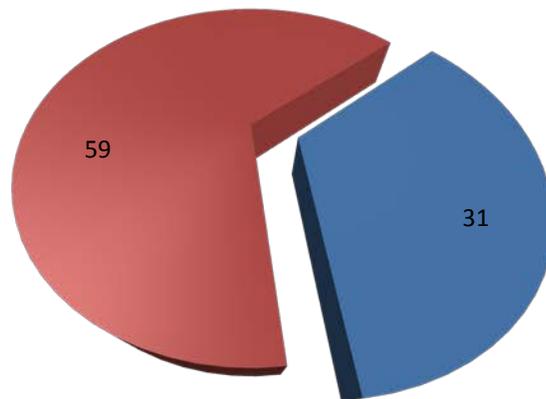
## Mutual-Aid Breakdown

### Mutual or Automatic Aid Given per Zone for Date Range

Start Date: 01/01/2015 | End Date: 12/31/2015

ZONE	INCIDENT COUNT
DFTWP - Deerfield Township Fire Department	1
FFTWP - Fairfield Township Fire Department	1
LEB – Lebanon Fire Department	1
LIB - Liberty Township Fire Department	6
MIDD – Middletown Fire Department	45
<i>Middletown FD Canceled Enroute</i>	110
TCTWP - Turtlecreek Township Fire Department	3
TRE – Trenton Fire Department	2

**Mutual-Aid Given**  
Vs.  
**Mutual-Aid Received**



■ Mutual-Aid Received

■ Mutual-Aid Given

## Public Education

One of the most significant projects for 2015 was the addition of AED's to our public buildings, and the training of all City staff members in CPR & First-aid. This is extremely helpful in providing a safe working environment for both our employees, and the people who work, play, or call Monroe home.



## Public Education Courses 2015

### # Attended

209-

10-

225-

50-

40-

18-

1000-

### Type of Course

CPR / First-aid classes

Car seat evaluations

Fire extinguisher training

Scouts attended classes to receive merit badges for first-aid

Attended classes on seat belt safety

Special events were attended including fire safety expos, block parties, fund raising events, grand openings, halloween, and Christmas events.

Children in grades K-2 attended our annual fire prevention classes

**Total Attendees**     1,552

## ***Community Paramedicine***

The Monroe Fire Department initiated a trial Community Paramedicine Program in late 2015. The program was approved through Ohio legislation in October, 2015 and was not formerly recognized in Ohio until that time. Among the many benefits of this program are follow-up care after hospital discharge, elderly assistance programs, care-plans for the critically ill, and home safety checks. While in its trial process, department staff are working within the Mount Pleasant Retirement campus to develop the program, and secure data.

### **First Ohio Community Paramedicine Program Launched**

**The program follows a new state law that allows medics and EMTs to function in nonemergency roles**

Oct 5, 2015

Ed Richter  
Dayton Daily News

MONROE, Ohio — The Monroe Fire Department is starting what could be the state's first community Paramedicine program, which allows paramedics and EMTs to assist people in non-emergency situations.

The new law was part of Gov. John Kasich's state budget that was signed June 30 and went into effect Oct. 1. The law allows paramedics and EMTs to function in non-emergency roles in addition to providing traditional 911 emergency services.

Monroe will utilize registered nurses and paramedics already on staff for a six-month trial program, according to Monroe Fire Chief John Centers.

Monroe is partnering with Mount Pleasant Retirement Community and Atrium Medical Center on the program.

Monroe Fire Chief John Centers said the community paramedic philosophy is one of proactive care rather than reactive care, and allows the city to serve an under-served population.

"Individual communities can develop target hazard groups, and offer pre-incident visits to reduce the likelihood of a 911 transport," he said. "This ultimately reduces cost throughout our health-care system."

He said one way the new program can be helpful to residents, particularly the elderly, is to check on those who have recently been discharged from the hospital. Thus, avoiding being readmitted.

"Some of these patients don't understand their discharge instructions," Centers said. "This would be a gap-filling service."

It would also be a way to help residents who may not have access to home health assistance, he said.

Other communities also taking a look at community Paramedicine include Hamilton, Middletown and Franklin.

# Community Emergency Response Team



**BUTLER COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
315 HIGH STREET, SUITE 670  
HAMILTON, OHIO 45011  
PHONE: (513) 785-5810 FAX: (513) 785-5811

6/8/2015

**MATT HAVERKOS  
INTERIM DIRECTOR  
EXECUTIVE BOARD  
MEMBERS**

CARY SALMOY  
CHAIRMAN  
TRUSTEE  
OXFORD TOWNSHIP

BRETT URDEKE  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
TRUSTEE  
MORGAN TOWNSHIP

STEVE MILLER  
FIRE CHIEF  
BUTLER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS  
ASSOC.

DONALD DIXON  
BUTLER COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER

MIKE FANOS  
CELEBRITY  
MEMBER AT LARGE

PAUL GILLESPIE  
TRUSTEE  
MILFORD TOWNSHIP

TIM MILLER  
TRUSTEE  
REELY TOWNSHIP

GEORGE LANG  
TRUSTEE  
WEST CHESTER TOWNSHIP

RAY WIRZELBACHER  
TRUSTEE  
ROSS TOWNSHIP

ALAN DANIEL  
TRUSTEE  
MADISON TOWNSHIP

JOEY OWER  
CHIEF DEPUTY  
BUTLER COUNTY POLICE CHIEFS  
ASSOC.

JOHN DEATHERAGE  
FIRE CHIEF  
CITY OF OXFORD

JOHN MCCANNES  
TRUSTEE  
FARMFIELD TOWNSHIP

SCOTT SCHNEZZI  
CITY OF HAMILTON

STEVE COURTYMAN  
TRUSTEE  
WAYNE TOWNSHIP

Monroe Community Emergency Response Team  
Chief John Centers  
Monroe Fire Department  
P.O. Box 117  
Monroe, Ohio 45050

Monroe Community Emergency Response Team:

On behalf of the Butler County Emergency Management Agency and the Butler County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), we want to thank the Monroe CERT for your time and effort to make the Butler County LEPC full scale exercise a tremendous success! We had over 125 participants, controllers, evaluators, and observers attend. Initial feedback from the evaluators is that the exercise and the emergency responders were proficient in all eight categories and all objectives were met.

During the past twelve months of planning, your organization provided logistical support, volunteers and personnel needed to make such a huge endeavor possible. A special thank you goes to MillerCoors for providing the facility while still conducting normal business and CSX for the rail line support.

Full-scale exercises such as this one continue to validate the working relationships between emergency responders across Butler County, as well as, public/private partnerships. In order to be better prepared for the "big one" everyone must work together on a daily basis and continue to build relationships. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Matt Haverkos  
EMA Interim Director  
HaverkosMR@Butlercountyohio.org

"Coordinating people and resources to protect the lives and property within Butler County by working together to achieve one goal for Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Disasters and Emergencies"



## More bones found in West Chester woods

Forensic expert says it could be a week before a biological profile is developed

By [Lauren Pack](#) and [Eric Schwartzberg](#)

Staff Writer

**WEST CHESTER TWP. —**

Investigators found more bones today at the site where children stumbled across a skull Saturday in a wooded area between Gregory Creek Lane and Tylersville Road, just east of Cincinnati-Dayton Road.

"The skeletal remains have now been recovered and are being analyzed to develop a biological profile, which will include race, sex and approximate age and height," said Butler County Coroner Lisa Mannix in a statement issued this afternoon. "West Chester Police Department, members of the Butler County Emergency Management Agency and Community Response Teams of Butler County and the city of Monroe assisted in the search."

The coroner's office unearthed additional remains Monday, but on a rainy, overcast Tuesday, investigators did not venture to the site to make a sweep for more remains, according to Martin Schneider, administrator for the coroner's office.

One of the people unearthing that additional evidence alongside Butler County Coroner Dr. Lisa Mannix and three coroner's office investigators has been Dr. Elizabeth Murray, a forensic anthropologist from Mount St. Joseph University and one of only approximately 60 board-certified forensic anthropologists in North America.

"She's an expert," Schneider said. "She's done these kinds of cases before and knows everything to look for."

Murray has assisted in both forensic and historic skeletal investigations on the local, regional, national and international levels since 1986, work that Schneider said also included assisting the Butler County Coroner's Office on several occasions.

In 1998, Murray worked with Middletown police and the Butler County Sheriff's Office to identify a human torso found on the bank of the Great Miami River in Hamilton as the remains of a missing Middletown woman, Cheryl Durkin. James Lawson of Middletown is now serving a prison sentence for Durkin's murder.

Murray said she could not speak specifically about the West Chester Twp. case but outlined what she does when examining skeletal remains that aids coroners and law enforcement.

A biological profile of the person is developed both by visual examination and by computer calculation of measurements, Murray said. When examining a full skeleton, Murray said she can take as many as 100 measurements that can help pinpoint the biological profile.

"It narrows down the field of possibilities," Murray said, noting police agencies then know what records to pull of outstanding cases. Then adding in DNA testing and if possible dental records, "you start lighting up more and more data about who the person is and what might have occurred."

Murray said she also looks for anything unique to the person which can further lead to identification.

It'll take about a week to work up a preliminary biological profile, Murray said.

The identity of the person remains unknown at this time. An investigation into possible cause and manner of death is ongoing, as well as how long the remains have been outdoors, Schneider said.

Mannix and two of the coroner's office's three investigators were among the initial responders to the site Saturday afternoon, when three brothers found the skull while walking in the woods behind their Gregory Creek Lane home.

Police Chief Joel Herzog said all media inquiries regarding the case should be directed to the coroner's office.

"They are the lead investigative agency with our assistance at this time," Herzog said Tuesday.

Schneider said police may be waiting until the coroner's office completes its investigation before they determine whether it's warranted to conduct one of their own.

"Until it's been determined that there is a crime committed or believe that there is a crime committed, the police are operating in a support role of the coroner's office," he said.

That support role includes police securing the scene to ensure no evidence is removed before it can be determined if it is part of the scene or debris that happened to be there, Schneider said.

Police investigators may be called upon to use their expertise to examine material at the scene, he said.

Mary Jo Bicknell, president of the West Chester/Union Twp. Historical Society, said although she could not immediately determine precisely what was located on the property where the skull was found, most of West Chester Twp. once was farmland and families often buried their loved ones on their own property.

The site of established cemeteries, both past and present, are miles away, making it unlikely the remains came from such a source.

"It could be a mystery that they'll have on their hands for a while," Bicknell said.

## Training & Development



Our staff members spend a large portion of their time performing training scenarios and completing staff development courses. Following are some of the categories attended, as well as total number of hours spent training in 2015.

**Total Hours- 7,002**

Categories-

- Business pre-plans
- Driver / Operator
- EMS
- Fire
- Fire Safety Inspector
- Hazardous Materials
- Career Development
- Technical Rescue



## Honor Guard



Our Honor Guard continues to be a very popular service in the region. The team continues to attend Line of Duty funerals, Sporting events, memorials, and community holiday recognition. The team also routinely posts colors at Council meetings during swearing-in ceremonies.



## ***Special Projects***

2015 saw several in-house projects come to fruition. Some of those projects are as follows;

- A full remodel of the kitchen at the Main Street Fire Station
- A complete tear-down / refurbishment of the 1924 Model T Fire Engine, with expected completion in early 2016
- A renovation to the training room at the Route 4 Fire Station
- The purchase of AED's to be placed in all public buildings



## **Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance**

Our staff are responsible for keeping all of our basic equipment operating efficiently, and able to be utilized in a moment's notice. We wanted to note some of the behind the scenes scheduling that often goes unnoticed, yet is an integral part of the day-to-day operations.

**Hydrant Testing-** over 1,000 hydrants are checked annually

**Hose Testing-** over 5,000 feet of hose is pressure tested annually

**Ladder Testing-** over 500 feet of ladders tested annually

**Pump Testing-** 4 fire apparatus pumps are given a 2 hour pressure test annually

**Cardiac Monitor Testing-** 5 cardiac monitors are performance tested annually

**SCBA's & Face piece Fit Testing-** 29 face pieces and 35 personnel tested annually

**Rescue Tools-** 2 sets of rescue tools are performance tested annually

**Fire Inspections-** over 800 businesses require some form of inspection each year

**Sprinklers / Fire Alarms / Extinguishers-** All tested annually

*This concludes our 2015 Year-End Report. On behalf of all of us at your Monroe Fire Department, thank you for another great year and for your trust in protecting all that you hold dear.*