

***Brooklyn Fire
Department
2014 Annual
Report***

Fire Department Mission Statement

To provide services to our community in life and fire safety through education, innovation, commitment, and compassion.

Fire Department Vision Statement

Setting the standards of excellence; guided by principles of trust, integrity, honesty, loyalty, and respect for all.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - CORE VALUES**Professional Excellence**

We believe the pursuit of excellence and demonstrated high professional standards are critical to our work. To ensure the best possible service to our community, the fire department supports continuous training and encourages professional development.

Health and Safety

We believe our health and safety are essential to fulfilling the fire department's mission. We are committed to providing the best health and safety programs for our member's well being and operational readiness.

Integrity

We understand the trust placed in us by the public and our colleagues is integral to the performance of our duties. We are committed to honest and ethical behavior and will hold ourselves accountable to these values.

Team Work and Leadership

We know well functioning teams are more effective than individuals working separately; our lives depend on it. We believe individuals have the capacity to lead and our organization values leadership at all levels.

Community Service and Involvement

We believe we have a duty to be involved in the community where we work. Our responsibility is to protect life, property, and the environment. We are committed to fulfilling our responsibility and to deepening our involvement in the community we serve. No request or inquiry will go unanswered.

Innovation

We recognize and understand that the constancy of change in our community and industry impacts our business daily. We are committed to seeking out and implementing innovation and progressive thinking to address change effectively and efficiently, benefiting those we serve.

March 19, 2014

Honorable Mayor Richard Albier
Director of Public Safety Edward Chessar
City of Brooklyn, Ohio
7619 Memphis Avenue
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

Dear Mayor Albier and Director Chessar:

The Brooklyn Fire Department's annual report for the year 2014 is hereby respectfully submitted. The following is a compilation of statistics and reports that reflect the activities of the City of Brooklyn Fire Department during the year 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

City of Brooklyn, Ohio

**Joseph F. Zemek, Chief
Division of Fire**

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Brooklyn Fire Department strives to provide the highest standard of fire response, life safety protection, and emergency medical service in response to emergency incidents; along with the prevention of such incidents through education and awareness.

In 2014 the fire department responded to **674** fire alarms and **1657** EMS calls, for a combined total of **2331** requests for services answered.

We continue to maintain a high priority on strengthening our response to severe incidents. We do this through ongoing, and consistent in house training, as well as regional training with our automatic aid and mutual aid partners. Our Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (M.A.B.A.S.) continues to be evaluated and updated for all major incidents, through monthly meetings with all participating agencies, to meet demands. This system preselects mutual and automatic response aid companies in the event of a large incident (and / or need for response to support our normal response with manpower) making it easier on both the incident commander and the dispatcher making the requests. The combination of these two programs will make sure the proper resources reach the scene at the earliest possible time during fires and other severe events.

Emphasis was placed on continuing daily “drills” and training. Compliance with daily equipment checks, apparatus inspections, and preventive maintenance continue to be improved with the participations in training programs and vehicle repair requests.

The Child Safety Car Seat Installation, which was reinstated in 2010, continues to be a successful tool for community public service. The resurrection of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has proven to be an asset to the City’s safety forces with their support in non-emergency roles. We continue to strive to increase the department’s involvement in the community and build a strong awareness on “serving our customers.”

A total of \$341,992.72 was retrieved through EMS billing, for the General Fund. Other monies retrieved, through grants applied for, included:

Over \$2,800 was retrieved through applying for backfill and overtime costs incurred with personnel attending required SERT training. These monies came from a State Home Land Security Grant Fund (SHSGF) and an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant from Cuyahoga County Public Safety Services.

A \$2,750 grant was awarded by the State Division of EMS for medical equipment.

A \$350 grant was awarded by the State Fire Marshal for reimbursement of personnel salaries to attend training classes.

A \$129,692 grant was awarded from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. This enabled us to purchase new firefighting turn-out gear, new ANSI-II traffic safety coats, and two new Lucas automatic CPR devices.

A \$1,000 grant was awarded by Walmart and \$300 from a private donor and monies were used to purchase smoke and carbon dioxide detectors to hand out to our residents.

\$224,000 worth of radios was gotten through the Cuyahoga County Emergency Services Advisory Board, Communications sub-committee. The request was originally made in 2013. The award included three mobile (vehicle) radios and fifty-six portable radios. Twenty-eight of the portables were given to the police. The fire department's old radios were re-programmed and given to the service department. Obtaining these, along with going on the Cleveland Radio System, has enabled the ability to communicate with all fire, police, and service agencies in Cuyahoga County.

In 2014, Fire loss in the City of Brooklyn totaled \$1,165,000. There was one firefighter injury and one civilian injury, during residential fires in 2014.



2014 CITY OFFICIALS

RICHARD BALBIER, MAYOR
EDWARD CHESAR, SAFETY DIRECTOR
JOSEPH ZEMEK, FIRE CHIEF
SCOTT MIELKE, POLICE CHIEF
DANIEL ENOVITCH, FINANCE DIRECTOR
SCOTT CLAUSSEN, LAW DIRECTOR
JOHN VERBA, SERVICE DIRECTOR
THOMAS BRUZEK, SERVICE GENERAL FOREMAN
DAVID KULCSAR, BUILDING COMMISSIONER
RITA ENOVITCH, SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR
MARIA McGINTY, RECREATION CENTER MANAGER
FRAN MIGLIORINO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

2014 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

KATHERINE GALLAGHER, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
RONALD VAN KIRK, PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE
KATHLEEN PUCCI
ANTONY DEMARCO
KEVIN TANSKI
MARY BALBIER
ANDREW CELCHERTS
MARY JO BANISH, ASSISTANT CLERK OF COUNCIL

The Brooklyn Fire Department for the year 2014 consisted of twenty-five (25) total full-time members. Listed below is a breakdown.

- One (1) Fire Chief
- Six (6) Lieutenants
 - 1 of which also functioned as a Paramedic and a member of SERT as a Dive Rescue Specialist.
 - 1 of which also functions as a Paramedic and as a member of the Tactical EMS (SWAT Medic), and is certified as a fire inspector.
 - 1 of which functions as a Lieutenant and a fire investigator
 - 1 of which functions as a Paramedic and is certified as a fire instructor, fire inspector (in 2012), and is a member of the technical rescue response team with SERT, trained as a Rescue Technician and is on the Five County Region 2 Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR)
 - 1 of which functions as a member of the hazardous material response team with SERT.
- Eighteen (18) active Fire Fighters
(One of the firefighter/paramedic's remains off on injury leave, and has not worked in 2012 or 2013)
 - 14 of the 18 active also function as Paramedics
 - 4 of which also function as Paramedics and Fire Safety Inspectors
 - 1 of which also function as a Fire Safety Inspector
 - 1 of which is a member of the technical rescue response team with SERT, trained as a Rescue Technician and is on the Five County Region 2 Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR)
- There are also eleven (11) Part-Time Personnel
 - All are certified by the State of Ohio at the level of Firefighter II and Paramedic.

Note: There were two retirements in early 2015. This brings the present manpower level down to:

- One Chief
- Six Lieutenants
- Sixteen active full-time firefighters (one firefighter continues to be on light duty and is presently seeking a disability retirement)

PART-TIME FIRE PERSONNEL

Part-time personnel assist the fire department by complimenting the fire fighting and EMS staffing. All part-time personnel are state certified level II Firefighters and Paramedics.

In case of an emergency, part-time personnel are notified by a phone text system to report for duty.

A three-hour training drill is conducted every 3rd Thursday along with one eight-hour training session monthly. At these drills, members are instructed in the duties they are required to perform at emergencies and fires.

DUTIES PERFORMED

The duties a firefighter performs during their tour are many and varied. For his/her primary duties of fire and rescue, the firefighter must be well trained and must possess good judgment to cope efficiently with any emergency. Listed below are some of the duties that the firefighters perform:

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

All systems are checked and operated daily; oil, fuel, and water are maintained. Minor repairs are performed daily: washing and waxing of all apparatus is done at specific intervals. Performance of vehicles is closely monitored. Restoration work continues on the 1941 fire truck (the second truck ever purchased and operated by the City of Brooklyn, Division of Fire).

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Fuel, oil, and the operation of all power equipment - saws, generators, fans, lights, and extrication equipment are inspected on a daily basis. All hand tools are cleaned and oiled on specific days. All hose is tested and evaluated annually. All hydrants are flow tested annually.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Minor repairs are done as needed. Washing walls, floors, windows and general maintenance are performed on a daily basis. The entire building is cleaned annually.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Safety Town fire prevention classes are held yearly. Fire Prevention classes are held at all Brooklyn Schools. Talks to civic groups are given. Station tours by school groups are conducted as requested. Evacuation demonstrations are conducted using the Smoke House provided by the North-Eastern Ohio Firefighters. Second grade students are instructed in the use of 911 with a simulator.

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

All shifts conduct inspections and familiarization tours of all commercial, public, and industrial buildings within the City. Major facilities are pre-planned for fire and rescue response.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Participation in the Memorial Day Parade

Smoke detectors and batteries were installed in residents' homes and handed out to residents

Fire Department Rescue squads stand-by at all Brooklyn High School home football games

Home safety surveys

CPR / AED Classes taught

Free Blood Pressure checks are performed twice a month at the senior center

Child car seat installations

Monthly CERT meetings

RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Run reports, I.S.O. records, personnel records, certification records and training records are maintained within the department.

Presently the Brooklyn Fire Department operates under a rating of 2 from the Insurance Services Organization. This rating was awarded in 2014 after extensive records and equipment availability checks from the ISO investigator. Less than 6% of the departments nationwide have a number two rating. Businesses and property owners see a savings in their fire insurance cost.

FIRE AND RESCUE

Members respond to all calls for assistance:

- Medical emergencies
- Structure fires
- Car fires
- Auto accidents
- Haz-Mat incidents
- Assist police
- Field fires
- Trash fires
- Power lines down
- Flush streets
- Structural damage
- Explosions
- Carbon monoxide
- Home accidents
- In-home assistance
- Smoke detector installs
- Replacement battery installs

ALARM INFORMATION

MONTH	FIRES	AMBULANCE	TOTAL	FIRE LOSS
JANUARY	65	126	191	0
FEBRUARY	48	125	173	0
MARCH	62	135	197	\$35,000
APRIL	52	131	183	0
MAY	66	135	201	\$3,500
JUNE	57	131	188	0
JULY	58	142	200	\$310,000
AUGUST	58	121	179	\$419,000
SEPTEMBER	63	160	223	0
OCTOBER	34	151	185	\$370,000
NOVEMBER	60	158	218	\$2,500
DECEMBER	51	142	193	\$25,000
TOTAL:	674	1657	2331	\$1,165,000

REQUESTS FOR SERVICES ANSWERED

□ Total Fire Runs 674

□ Total Ambulance Runs 1,657

TOTAL RUNS 2,331

CAUSE OF FIRE ALARMS

<u>Type of Alarm</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Actual Fires in Structures	47	14.7
Vehicle Fires	18	2.6
Outside Fires	10	1.5
Rescues and EMS Assist (Extrications, motor vehicle crashes, etc)	350	51.9
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire) (Lines down, gas leaks, flammable liquid Leaks, carbon monoxide incidents, etc.)	83	12.3
Service Calls (lock outs, assist police, open burning, etc.)	45	1.8
Good Intent Calls (smoke odor, cancelled enroute, no cause, etc.)	61	6.6
False Alarms and False Calls	53	7.8
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	2	0.1
Special Incidents (not classified, citizen complaints)	5	0.7
<i>Mutual aid given for fires:</i>	<i>22</i>	
<i>Mutual aid received for fires:</i>	<i>44</i>	

APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

FIRE VEHICLES

- Tower #1:** 2006 E-One 2000 GPM, 100 ft. Platform, Bronto Skylift
- Engine #2:** 1999 E-One 1500 GPM pumper (this is your frontline/first due pumper)
- Car #2:** 2015 Ford F-250 Pick-up, used by Fire Prevention
- Car #1** 2014 Ford Interceptor SUV, used by the chief
- Rescue #1:** 2014 Freightliner, Diesel, full ALS equipped and staffed
- Rescue #3:** 2009 Freightliner, Diesel, full ALS equipped and staffed
- Note:** Engine 1 (1989 American LaFrance Pumper) was traded in towards the purchase of the new engine / pumper. The 1997 Ford F-150 and the 2006 Crown Victoria were both given to the Service Department for re-purposing.

*This year the fire department used **437.1 gallons** of gasoline and **4,352.2 gallons** of diesel fuel.*

VEHICLE MILEAGES (as of 12/31/2014)

Engine #2 – 63,000, engine hours = 111,000
Tower #1 – 14,330, engine hours = 2,635
Car #1 – 2,700, engine hours = 42.9
Car #2 – 1,200
Rescue #1 – 13,710, engine hours = 1,282
Rescue #3 – 50,670, engine hours = 5,280

EQUIPMENT

As required under NFPA guidelines the following is done:

Daily inspections of all vehicles are required.

All equipment is maintained on a regular basis.

All power tools used by the fire department are checked and tested weekly to assure their reliability in emergency situations.

All Hydraulic Rescue Tools are serviced annually by the manufacturer's agent.

All ground ladders and the aerial ladder undergo an annual stress test conducted by a certified testing company.

All SCBA's are tested annually by a certified testing company to assure proper operation of these vital pieces of equipment. All air bottles are inspected semi-annually.

Check lists to assure operational integrity are used on a daily basis. A more intensive preventative maintenance quarterly report is completed on each vehicle.

All turnout gear is inspected annually by a third party independent certified company.

HYDRANTS

Each spring, all the hydrants in the city are flow tested, greased, and repaired.

Throughout the year, any hydrant that is reported as damaged or leaking is immediately checked by the on duty shift and if found to be defective, is reported to the Service Director, who contracts for their repair.

A computerized Hydrant Record system is utilized in tracking each hydrants maintenance history as well as individual water flow capability throughout the city.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

The Brooklyn Fire Department provides emergency Advanced Life Support and transport for all citizens in need. Additionally first responder Advanced Life Support is provided by our engine companies.

PARAMEDICS

In 2014 the City of Brooklyn employed seventeen (17) full-time certified Paramedics (18 with the Chief). These paramedics must be recertified every three years. The present recertification program requires that all certified paramedics receive a minimum of 92 hours of continuing education over a three-year period. They must successfully complete and maintain current certification of the American Heart Association's; Advanced Cardiac Life Support Program, the Pediatric Life Support program, and the International Trauma Life Support Program. Their studies include: Defibrillation, Cardiac Monitoring, Intubation, Intravenous Therapy, Pharmacology, and the administration of Drugs. These skills are taught through Parma Hospital EMS and at the fire station by state certified instructors and skilled medical personnel. These recertification programs will ensure that quality care is being maintained by the Department.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

At present, the remaining five (5) fire fighters are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians. These members are trained to assist the paramedics, while on the ambulance, attending to the injured at a fire scene or any other varied medical emergency that might arise. The present recertification program requires that all certified EMT-Basics receive a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education over a three-year period. They must successfully complete and maintain current certification of the American Heart Association's CPR.

PARAMEDIC PROTOCOLS

The Brooklyn Fire Department's Paramedic Program functions under the medical direction of Dr. Sheldon Rose of University Hospitals, Parma Medical Center.

These protocols (both adult and pediatric) were updated in 2014 and are continuously re-evaluated and revised as needed. We must stay current with legal and medical changes in the standards of emergency care. Changes come about from; monthly meetings, training sessions, medical journals, publications, and input from the Brooklyn Paramedics and Hospital Emergency Room personnel. New laws, guidelines and standards are integrated into existing protocols through classes, seminars, and practicals. When emergency medical equipment is found to be obsolete it is retired and replaced with state of the art equipment. This continuous monitoring of standards, laws and equipment assures the best possible emergency medical care for the citizens of Brooklyn.

Types of EMS calls on next two pages

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Abdominal Pains	8	9	9	4	4	9	8	4	5	11	5	2	78
Allergic Reactions	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	0	1	0	16
Animal Bite	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assaults	3	2	2	3	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	2	20
Asthma Attack	2	2	1	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	4	24
Back Pain / Injuries	2	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	3	3	3	1	20
Breathing Problems	10	9	9	10	9	8	10	9	6	8	14	10	112
Burns	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
CO Poisoning	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cardiac Arrests	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	9
Change in Mental Status	2	3	1	2	0	4	2	2	4	3	2	4	29
Chest Pains	14	9	6	10	5	9	9	10	14	7	11	8	112
Choking	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	12
Convulsions / Seizures	3	4	2	4	0	6	4	6	2	8	2	4	45
Death in the Field	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Dehydration	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
Diabetic Problems	6	1	2	1	3	3	6	0	5	4	1	3	35
Dizziness	2	4	2	8	4	5	5	3	3	5	2	4	47
Eye Injuries	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	7
Falls	9	20	10	18	12	15	19	11	12	13	19	15	173
Fractures / Dislocations	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
General Medical	13	11	12	4	10	11	6	8	17	10	15	19	136
General Weakness	1	4	6	2	3	2	5	3	6	2	7	6	47
Headaches	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	16
Head Injury	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
Heart Problems	0	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	9
Heat / Cold Emergencies	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hemorrhage / GI Bleeds	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4
Hemorrhage / Lacerations	0	0	1	2	3	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	14
Hypertension	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	5
Industrial accidents	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	6
Ingestion / Poisonings	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	9
Medical Alert Activation	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	7

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Miscellaneous Emergencies	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Nausea / Vomiting	3	2	6	1	4	0	2	4	5	10	3	5	45
No Patient Found	5	4	7	0	3	1	5	3	7	1	5	2	43
Overdose	4	1	3	0	4	3	3	4	3	6	6	6	43
Pain Complaints	2	3	3	5	7	7	6	0	7	4	5	3	52
Patient Assist Only	5	7	9	5	8	11	8	5	4	8	12	14	96
Pedestrian Struck	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5
Pediatric Emergencies	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	8
OB / Pregnancy / Childbirths	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Psychiatric Problems	0	1	9	9	3	5	5	7	10	5	4	5	63
Respiratory Arrests	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sick Person	3	2	2	3	4	1	2	4	3	2	1	6	33
Stab / Gunshot wound	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
Strokes / CVA's	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	11
Suicidal / Homicidal	0	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	1	0	1	18
Traffic Accidents	9	7	9	10	10	3	7	17	20	6	16	6	120
Traumatic Injuries	0	3	2	4	0	3	2	2	1	0	2	4	23
Unconscious / Fainting	5	5	2	7	3	4	4	4	6	5	7	8	60
TOTALS	133	126	138	133	125	131	141	121	161	132	159	157	1657

Culmination of Ambulance Calls 2014

Cancelled enroute:	17
Cancelled prior to response:	03
Cancelled on scene:	01
False call:	05
Dead on scene:	08
No patient found:	57
No treatment required:	83
Patient refused care:	222
Treated, and released:	29
Treated, refused transport:	27
Treated, transported by private vehicle:	03
Treated, Transported by EMS:	1626

Number of patients transported to area hospitals:

Parma:	1035
MetroHealth:	567
HealthSpan Parma:	20
Lutheran:	02
Fairview General:	01
Southwest General:	01

Mutual Aid for EMS Calls:

Given: 14

Received: 36
(Our squads busy on calls)

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Brooklyn Fire Department places a huge emphasis on public relations and public education. We believe the community should be familiar with what the department does and we make a strong effort to be highly visible to interact with our residents. Our 2013 accomplishments in the area of public relations and public education include:

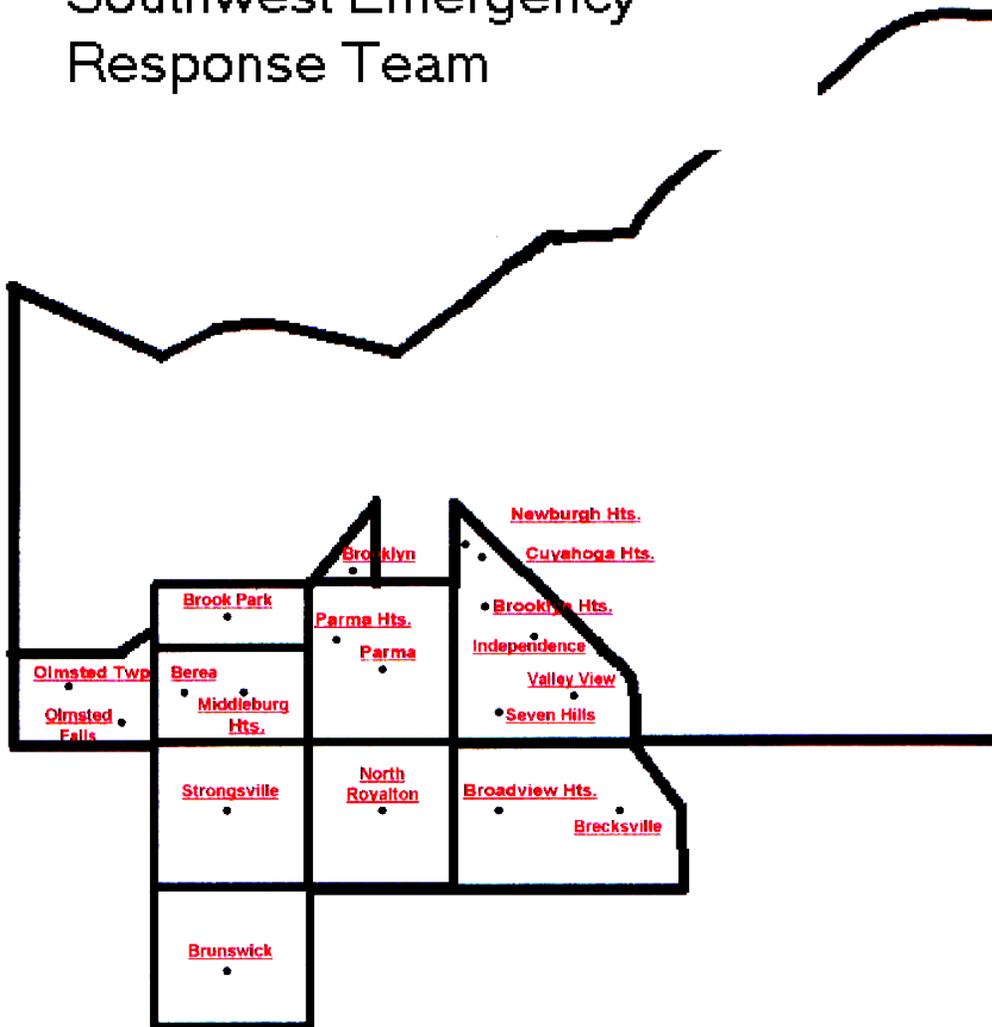
1. Blood pressure screenings were conducted at the Senior Center every second and fourth Thursday of each month.
2. Smoke detectors and replacement batteries are distributed / installed to residents upon request.
3. Fire and Tornado drills conducted at all area schools, and Key Bank
4. Career Day lectures for fifth graders at Brookridge
5. Fire Prevention demonstration held at Home Depot, Lowes, and Giant Eagle
6. Safety lecture conducted for children and parents regarding Halloween Safety
7. Attended block parties to promote fire safety
8. Participated in Safety Town graduation
9. Fire Safety Smoke House participation for third graders
10. Child care, foster home, and residential inspections
11. Fire station tours are conducted for various organizations throughout the year.
12. A fire station open house was held for the unveiling of the new ambulance
13. Fire safety classes for kids who baby-sit are held at the Brooklyn Library.
14. Members are present at all public assembly events to insure the public's safety.
15. Child safety car seat installations.

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The City of Brooklyn is active with 18 other neighboring cities to provide various emergency services that each city by itself cannot afford to invest the time and equipment necessary to provide adequate response. Through this partnership, the Southwest Region of Cuyahoga County has available to it, a regional hazardous material team, a regional technical rescue team, a dive rescue team, and a fire investigation unit. The Brooklyn Fire Department provides manpower to these units as well as Tactical Paramedics to support the Police SWAT unit.

The Brooklyn Fire Department's SERT members were called out on 10 separate incidents in 2013.

Southwest Emergency Response Team



BUREAU OF FIRE SAFETY/PREVENTION

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to decrease the occurrence and severity of uncontrolled fire, increase occupant safety, and reduce property loss. This goal is achieved through fire safety inspections, code enforcement; issuance of violation notices and citations, public education, building plans review, pre-planning, and fire cause and origin investigation.

Under Ohio Law Chief Zemek assumes the duties of the Fire Marshal with the support of five shift inspectors and one Lieutenant (Lt. Kevin Paul), who has assumed the duties of overseeing the operations within the fire bureau. These dedicated inspectors perform fire safety inspections in a wide variety of business and commercial occupancies, as well as maintaining their responsibilities as shift officers, firefighters, and paramedics. Our lack of responses to serious fire related issues speaks loudly of their hard work and dedication.

The FPB recognizes the importance of fire protection systems that provide detection, alarm, and notification of a fire while in the very early stage of development, and works to ensure that new constructions, as well as existing systems are operating properly. Life safety systems such as exit lighting, emergency lighting, means of egress, etc. are also inspected and tested, with Orders to Repair issued when necessary to ensure reliability. In buildings that lack a fire protection system, inspections are focused on reducing the risk of a fire accidentally starting.

Public education, especially for school age children, is also a priority. Fire and severe weather/tornado drills were held at all schools. The "Smoke House" was demonstrated to all 3rd graders. Various other lectures and demonstrations were given to interested groups.

BROOKLYN VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was successfully resurrected in 2011. Brooklyn has a very rich history of being the first ever community in Northeast Ohio to have formed a CERT group. Other communities followed and patterned their CERTs using Brooklyn's model.

Presently the CERT group consists of ten active Brooklyn citizens. This group proved their professionalism in the call-out for the storm (Hurricane Sandy) in 2012 and last summer's wires down. Their help was invaluable.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education and Training are an important and essential part of every Brooklyn Firefighter's workday. It is through Education and Training that firefighters stay current with new techniques, skills and practices. Training enables firefighters to respond with confidence to handle emergency situations. Proper training enables firefighters to perform tasks at a high level of proficiency and competency.

Daily training sessions are conducted by the department and also by outside agencies. These drills and exercises are recorded, documented, and kept on file for future I.S.O. inspections.

During 2013, a training consortium and relationship continued between Brooklyn, Parma, and Parma Heights Fire Departments to better facilitate joint training. It has since grown to include seven cities with the addition of Brooklyn Heights, Seven Hills, Broadview Heights, and North Royalton. Training topics are researched and presented on a rotating basis by each city.

In addition to the traditional in-house training program, a large emphasis is placed on additional outside training. This allows the fire department to gain additional knowledge from not only firefighting instructor's state wide but also local business and industry. Outside training classes held in 2013 included monthly joint fire training with Parma Fire Department. Cuyahoga Community College hosted numerous trainings utilizing the burn evolution trailers from Parma Fire Department.

All active inspectors attended mandatory monthly training throughout the year, as well as special seminars.

FIRE DEPARTMENT EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

A library is maintained for all members, containing pamphlets and books from various agencies. Including, but not limited to, American Heart Association, ACLS and PALS, International Trauma Life Support, and Fire Essentials books.

