

***Brooklyn Fire
Department
2015 Annual
Report***



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.

February 5, 2016

Honorable Mayor Katie Gallagher
City of Brooklyn, Ohio
7619 Memphis Avenue
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

Dear Mayor Gallagher:

The Brooklyn Fire Department's annual report for the year 2015 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 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

**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. The Brooklyn Fire Department is an all hazards response division with a strong emphasis on serving our customers while protecting life and property.

Across the nation (and in Brooklyn in 2010 and 2012) deaths due to home fires are on a rise. In ours and others non-working smoke detectors, or no detector at all were present. We recognized a need to get out there and get as many detectors in as many residents as possible. As well as educating our residents in their importance. It has become one of our biggest priorities. Various grants have been applied for (and gotten) to make our campaign successful.

In 2015 the fire department responded to 719 fire alarms and 1,837 EMS calls, for a combined total of 2,556 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 \$373,678.39 was retrieved through EMS billing, for the General Fund. Other monies retrieved, through grants applied for, included:

\$1,908.36 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 total of \$6,250 was awarded by the State Division of EMS as a grant for medical equipment.

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 Lowes, monies were used to purchase smoke and carbon dioxide detectors to hand out to our residents.

A \$600 grant was awarded by Ellwood City Forge Company, monies were used to purchase smoke and carbon dioxide detectors to hand out to our residents.

In 2015, Fire loss in the City of Brooklyn totaled \$2,526,950. There were no firefighter or civilian injuries in 2015.

The Brooklyn Fire Department for the year 2015 consisted of twenty-five (23) total full-time members. Listed below is a breakdown.

- One (1) Fire Chief
- Six (6) Lieutenants
- Sixteen (16) active Fire Fighters
 - Lt. Matthew Beni retired as of January 31st, 2015
 - Firefighter / Paramedic Kelly Gallagher resigned her position in the third quarter of 2015.
 - Firefighter / Paramedic John Nigro retired with a permanent disability as of January 30th, 2016.
- Beyond their regular duties and responsibilities:
 - There are 3 personnel that fulfill the responsibilities of State Certified Fire Inspectors. There are two Lieutenants who are responsible to oversee all activities in the fire prevention / inspection section.
- There are members who serve on the Southwest Emergency Response Team (SERT) under various disciplines:
 - 2 members serve with the technical rescue / rope rescue unit, 1 of those individuals is also trained as a Rescue Technician and is on the Five County Region 2 Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR)
 - 2 members serve with the fire investigation unit
 - 2 members serve with the Southwest Enforcement Bureau as SWAT paramedics

PART-TIME FIRE PERSONNEL

All part-time personnel are state certified level II Firefighters and Paramedics.

Part-time personnel assist the fire department by complimenting the fire fighting and EMS staffing. Most of their shifts are scheduled when they meet in the previous month, (for the following month), allowing adequate minimum staffing to be maintained with alleviating overtime costs.

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 twenty-four hour shift 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 vehicles are checked and operated daily; oil, fuel, and water are maintained. Minor repairs and cleaning are performed daily: Waxing of all apparatus is done at specific intervals. Performance of vehicles is closely monitored.

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. We handed out (and installed) over 200 detectors without any cost to the city's budget or the resident.
- In 2015 the department joined forces with the Northern Ohio Chapter of the Red Cross. Department personnel, and volunteers from the Red Cross and Key Bank provided and installed close to 150 smoke detectors in over 100 homes. This was done on a weekend afternoon. Again there was no cost to the city or any resident.
- 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.

ALARM INFORMATION

MONTH	FIRES	AMBULANCE	TOTAL	FIRE LOSS
JANUARY	58	154	212	\$2,500
FEBRUARY	59	137	196	\$200,000
MARCH	62	160	222	\$300,000
APRIL	59	141	200	10,500
MAY	62	150	212	\$3,500
JUNE	58	201	259	0
JULY	54	160	214	\$1,000
AUGUST	60	158	218	\$2,000
SEPTEMBER	61	144	205	\$14,100
OCTOBER	56	146	202	0
NOVEMBER	69	145	214	\$5,200
DECEMBER	61	141	202	\$2,262,000
TOTAL:	719	1,837	2,556	\$2,800,800

REQUESTS FOR SERVICES ANSWERED

□ Total Fire Runs 719

□ Total Ambulance Runs 1,837

TOTAL RUNS 2,556

CAUSE OF FIRE ALARMS

<u>Type of Alarm</u>	<u>Count</u>
Actual Fires in Structures	54
Vehicle Fires	20
Outside Fires	06
Rescues and EMS Assist (Extrications, motor vehicle crashes, etc)	375
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire) (Lines down, gas leaks, flammable liquid Leaks, carbon monoxide incidents, etc.)	103
Service Calls (Lock outs, assist police, open burning, etc.)	44
Good Intent Calls (Smoke odor, cancelled Enroute, No cause, etc.)	40
False Alarms and False Calls	57
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	15
Special Incidents (Not classified, citizen complaints)	5
<i>Mutual aid given for fires:</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Mutual aid received for fires:</i>	<i>43</i>

APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

FIRE VEHICLES

With the creation of the Parma Regional Dispatch Center. Our vehicle designations have changed. Parma Fire has 5 stations so their vehicles' numbers are designated according to the stations. Parma Heights is designated as "station 6". Brooklyn Fire is designated as "station 7". Our vehicle numbers are listed with the old designators in parenthesis.

Ladder #7: 2006 E-One 2000 GPM, 100 ft. Platform, Bronto Skylift
(Tower #1)

Engine #7 2015 Pierce 1500 GPM engine / pumper (placed into service June, 2016)
(Engine #1)

Engine #7X: 1999 E-One 1500 GPM pumper
(Engine #2)

Car #72: 2015 Ford F-250 Pick-up, used by Fire Prevention
(Car #2)

Car #71 2014 Ford Interceptor SUV, used by the chief
(Car #1)

Medic #7: 2014 Freightliner, Diesel, full ALS equipped and staffed
(Rescue #1)

Medic #7X: 2009 Freightliner, Diesel, full ALS equipped and staffed
(Rescue #3)

This year the fire department used 364.2 gallons of gasoline and 4,200.6 gallons of diesel fuel.

VEHICLE MILEAGES (as of 12/31/2014)

Engine #7 – 2,062 miles, engine hours = 271

Engine #7X – 65,657 miles, engine hours = 111,131

Ladder #7 – 15,803 miles, engine hours = 2,889

Car #71 – 12,434 miles

Car #72 – 4,154 miles

Medic #7 – 27,828 miles, engine hours = 2,689

Medic #7X – 54,696 miles, engine hours = 5,715

EQUIPMENT

As required under NFPA, OSHA, BWC, and the State Fire Marshal's guidelines the following is done:

Daily inspections of all vehicles.

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 2015 the City of Brooklyn employed fifteen (15) full-time certified Paramedics (16 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 Advanced 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 University Hospitals Parma Medical Center 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 six (6) 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 36 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 2015 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, 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

Abdominal Pains	132
Allergic Reactions	16
Animal Bite	2
Assaults	26
Back Pain – non-injury	36
Back Pain - Injury	12
Respiratory Distress	116
Burn - minor	1
Burn - severe	1
CO Poisoning	3
Cardiac Arrest - Medical	22
Cardiac Arrest - Trauma	1
DOA – Non-trauma	11
DOA - Trauma	2
Chest Pain	177
Choking	7
Seizure	61
Diabetic Issues	124
Drowning	25
Fall – Non-injury	1
Fall Injuries	1
Headache – Non-Injury	1
Cardiac problems-not chest pain	111
Cold Exposure	2
Nosebleed	2
Minor Laceration	14
Major Lacerations	25
Hemorrhages	1
Overdose	42
Poisoning	1
Pregnancy – Labor	9
Pregnancy - Bleeding	3
Behavioral / Suicidal	21
Behavioral / Homicidal	9
Behavioral / Psychiatric-General	57
Sick Person - General	245
Gun Shot Wounds	4
Stroke	37
Stoke Symptoms (TIA)	19
MVC With Injuries	55
MVC – No Injuries	66
MVC – Pedestrian Struck	10
MVC - Motorcycle	5
Minor Multiple Trauma Injuries	54
Major Multiple Trauma Injuries	3
Sports Related Injury / Trauma	3
Unconscious / Fainting	88
Miscellaneous Medical	173

Culmination of Ambulance Calls 2015

Cancelled Enroute:	20
Cancelled prior to response:	03
Cancelled on scene:	01
False call:	05
Dead on scene:	13
No patient found:	38
No treatment required:	05
Patient refused care:	78
Treated, and released:	41
Treated, refused transport:	35
Treated, transported by private vehicle:	03
Treated, Transported by EMS:	1667

Number of patients transported to area hospitals:

Parma:	1123
MetroHealth:	513
HealthSpan Parma:	24
Lutheran:	02
Fairview General:	04
Southwest General:	01

Mutual Aid for EMS Calls:

Given: **29**

Received: **39**
(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 2015 accomplishments in the area of public relations and public education include:

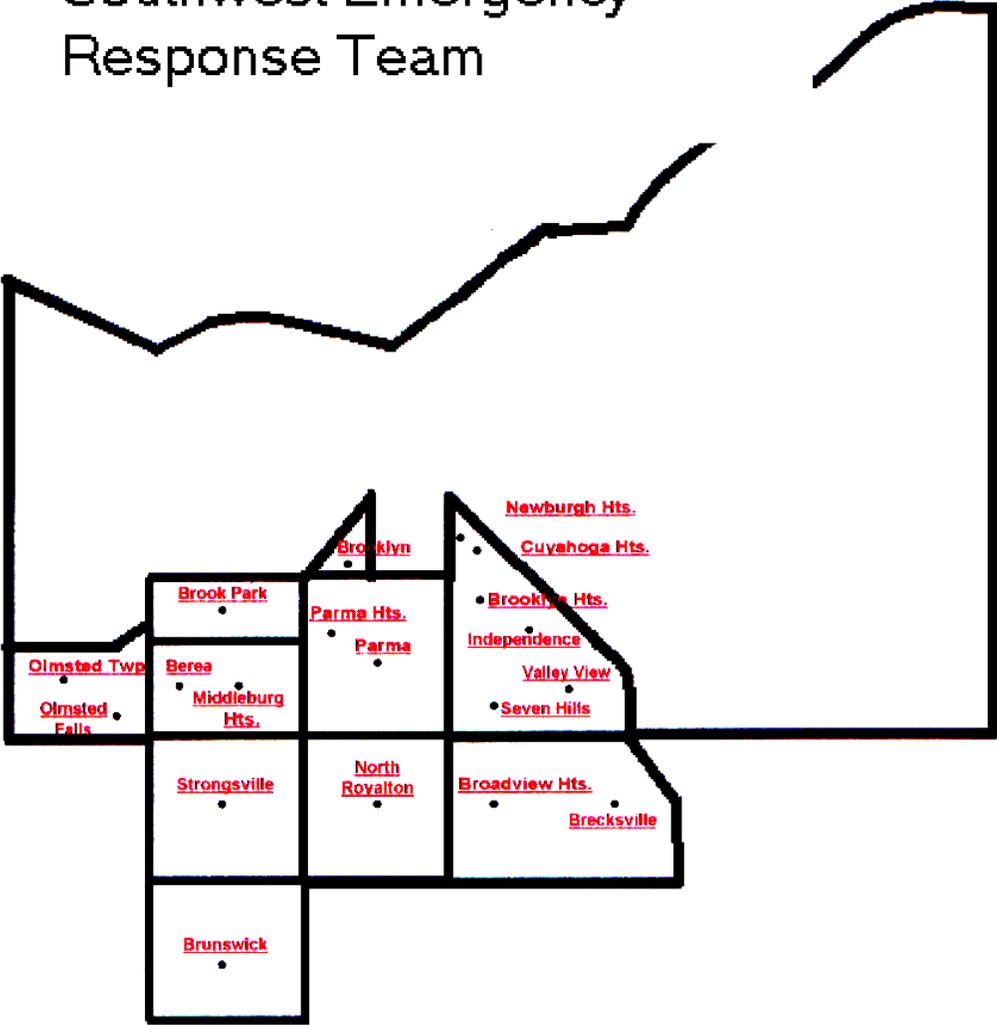
1. Blood pressure screenings were conducted at the Senior Center every second and fourth Thursday of each month.
2. Smoke detectors and replacement batteries are distributed and installed for residents.
3. Carbon Monoxide Detectors were distributed and installed for residents.
4. Fire and Tornado drills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

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The City of Brooklyn is active with 21 (Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and the Metropolitan Park Rangers have joined) 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 30 separate incidents in 2015.

Southwest Emergency Response Team



BUREAU OF FIRE SAFETY/PREVENTION

2015 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.

Through 2015; the fire prevention logged 894 inspections.

Also through 2015; the fire prevention bureau generated \$875 in revenue from the issuance of permits for fire alarm systems installations and hydrant usage permits.

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.

