

Mentor on the Lake Fire Department Annual Report 2019



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Honorable David R. Eva

Mayor and Director of Safety
City of Mentor-on-the-Lake, Ohio



Dear Sir:

Herein submitted is the annual report of the Fire Division, Department of Public Safety for the year 2019.

This report contains the operations within the Fire Divisions for the reporting period.

Division Chief's Activity
Fire Suppression and Service Activity
Fire Prevention and Investigation Activity
Paramedic Services
Loss of Life, Injuries and Property Damage by Fire
Personnel Training Accomplishments
Maintenance of Building and Equipment
Special Projects and Public Relations

A heartfelt thank you is in order for all who support the Fire Division on a yearly basis; the Mayor and Administrative Staff, the Legislative Body, the other Operating Departments, the Boards and Commissions, and finally, our Citizens to whom we dedicate our work.
Respectfully submitted,

James A. Pechatsko
Chief, Division of Fire
Department of Public Safety
City of Mentor-on-the-Lake, Ohio

Administrative Staff - 2019

James Pechatsko	Fire Chief
Thomas Konitsky	Battalion Chief
Raymond Paduano	Battalion Chief
Anthony Konte	Lieutenant
Timothy Brown	Lieutenant
Paul Cassidy	Lieutenant
Daniel Coughlin	Lieutenant
Dustin Langford	Lieutenant

PERSONNEL ROSTER AND SERVICE RECORD - 2019

Full Time Staff

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Date of Hire</i>	<i>Years of Service</i>
Anthony Konte	Lieutenant	3-28-1989	30 Years
James Pechatsko	Fire Chief	7-28-1998	21 Years
Gabriel Ananea	Firefighter	4-26-2005	14 Years
Jeremy Campaign	Firefighter	7-13-2010	9 Years

Part Time Staff

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Date of Hire</i>	<i>Years of Service</i>
Michael Spencer	Firefighter	5-18-1985	34 Years
Daniel Coughlin	Lieutenant	3-28-1989	30 Years
Thomas Konitsky	Battalion Chief	7-28-1991	28 Years
Raymond Paduano	Battalion Chief	4-28-1992	27 Years
Eric Heimberger	Firefighter	1-11-1994	25 Years
Timothy Brown	Lieutenant	3-6-1996	23 Years
Paul Cassidy	Lieutenant	7-28-1998	21 Years
David Huelsman	Firefighter	12-21-2000	19 Years
Dustin Langford	Lieutenant	4-22-2008	11 Years

PERSONNEL ROSTER AND SERVICE RECORD - 2019

Randy Rolf	Firefighter	6-14-2011	8 Years
Brendan Volker	Firefighter	3-11-2014	5 Years
Aaron Husted	Firefighter	10-16-2014	5 Years
Thomas Gallager	Firefighter	5-26-2015	4 Years
Lee Santos	Firefighter	5-26-2015	4 Years
Justin Corbe	Firefighter	8-19-2015	4 Years
Michael O'Connell	Firefighter	8-19-2015	4 Years
Brian Sedmak	Firefighter	8-29-2016	3 Years
Daniel Klems	Firefighter	4-7-2017	2 Year
John Padley	Firefighter	4-28-2017	2 Year
Rollin Pachinger	Firefighter	10-9-2018	1 Year
Noah Smith	Firefighter	06-03-2019	6 Months
Frank Sterle	Firefighter	06-24-2019	6 Months
Daniel Wheeler	Firefighter	09-11-2019	3 Months
Eric Rosenberger	Firefighter	09-23-2019	3 Months

ADMINISTRATION & CHAIN OF COMMAND

The Fire Department Administration is responsible for all emergency and non-emergency Fire Department activities. These activities involve four major areas of responsibility: 1.) Fiscal Management; 2.) Personnel Management; 3.) Productivity; 4.) Training. These four areas can be further divided into the following:

Records and Reports

Public Information and Community Relations

Intergovernmental Relations

Budgeting

Procurement of Equipment and Supplies

Resource and Supplies

Recruitment and Hiring

Promotional Practices

Loss Control

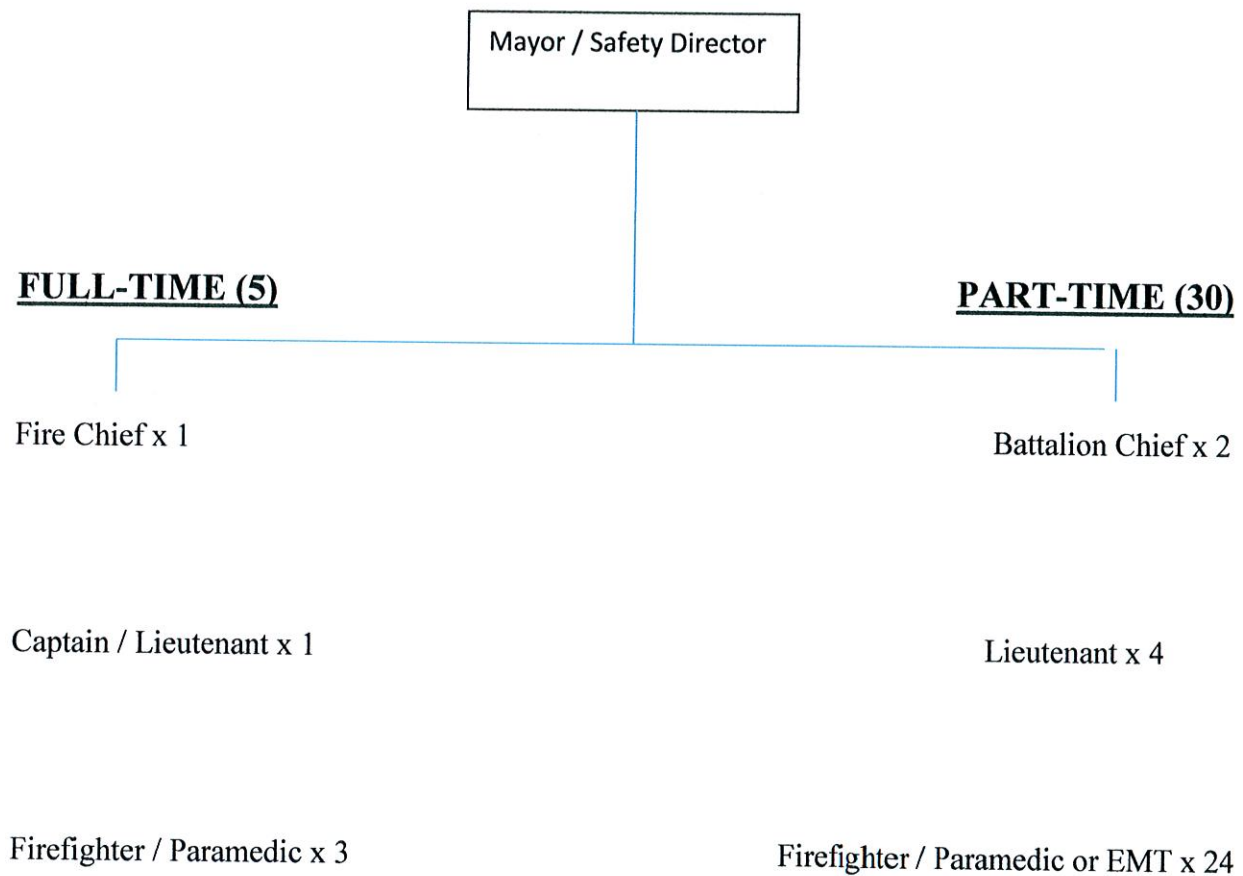
Firefighting / Emergency Medical Qualifications

Personnel Supervision and Performance Evaluations

Hazard Control

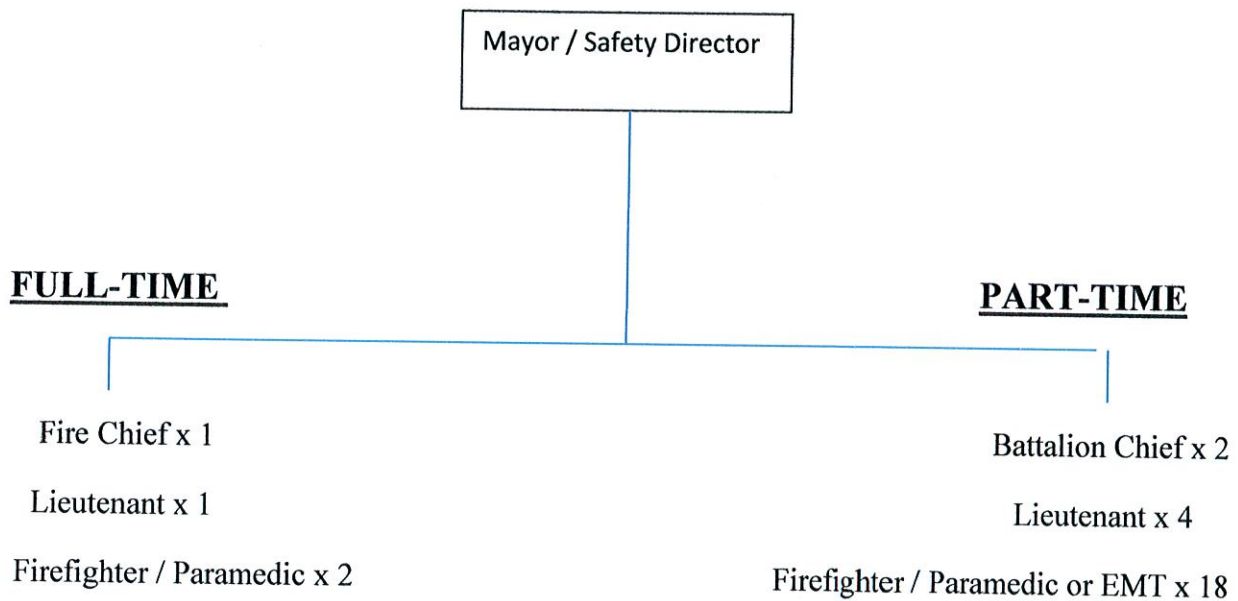
Emergency Incident Management

Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department Staff Compliment – By Ordinance

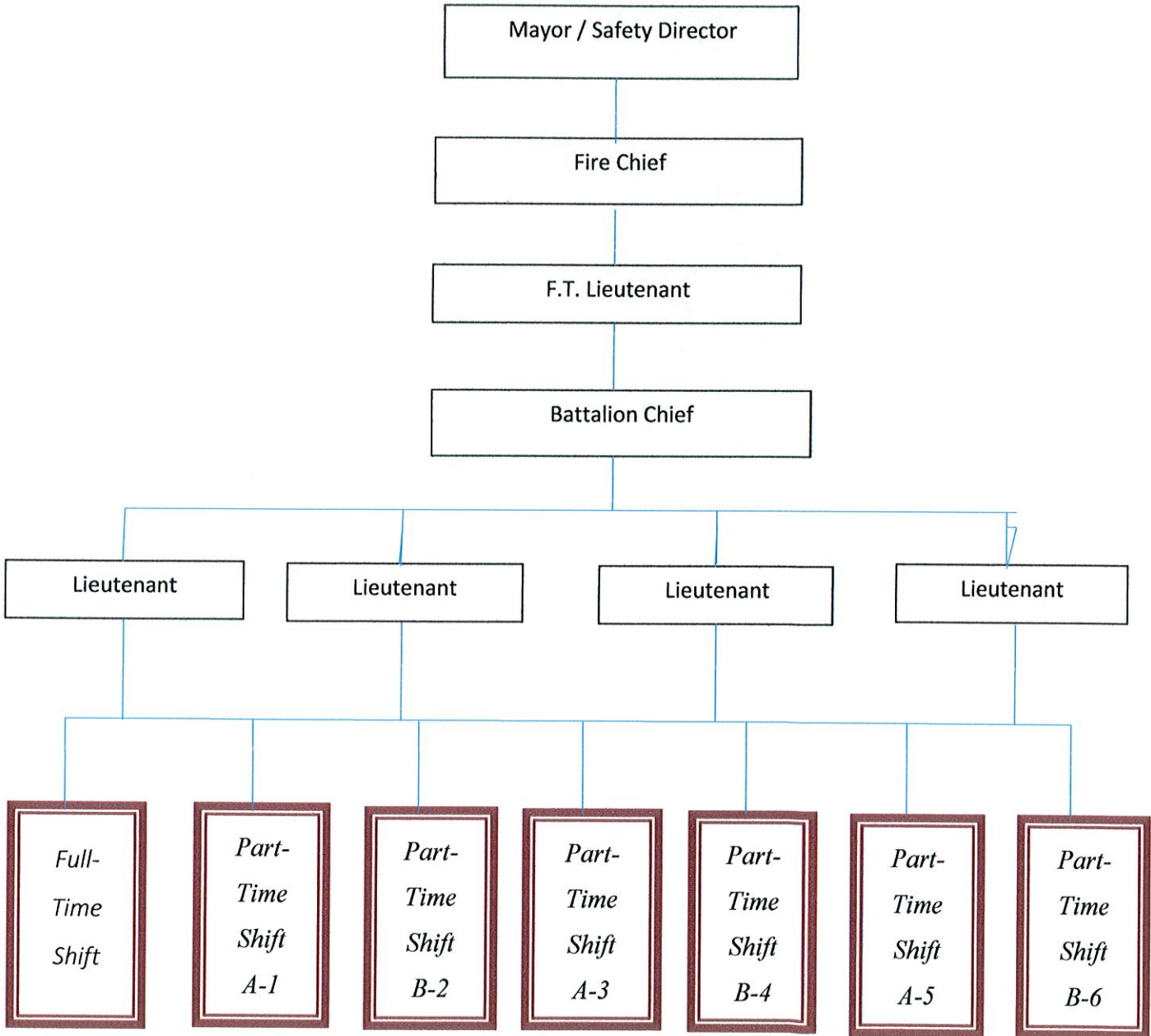


Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department

Actual Staff Compliment

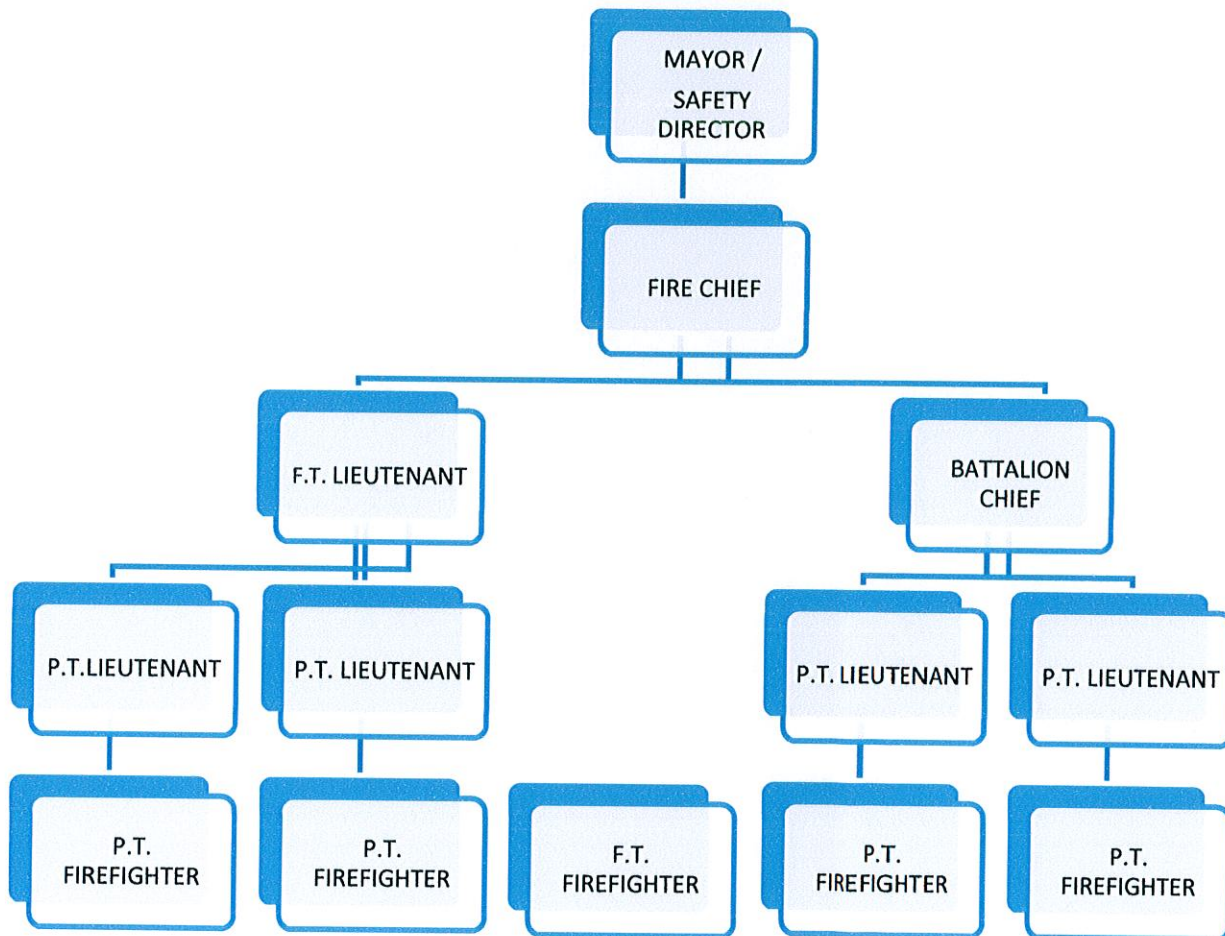


MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAIN OF COMMAND – DAILY OPERATIONS

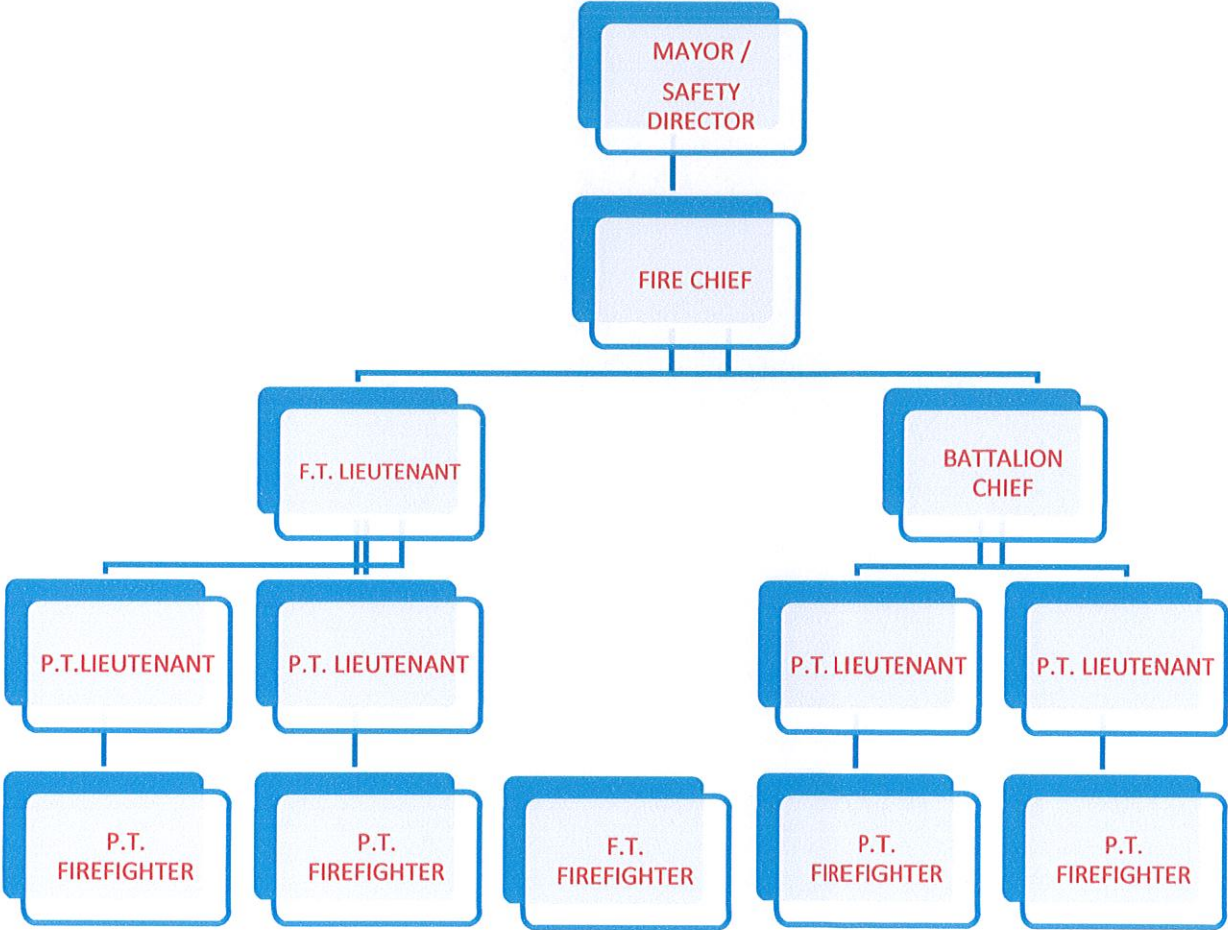


MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHAIN OF COMMAND – RESCUE OPERATIONS



MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHAIN OF COMMAND – FIRE OPERATIONS



GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department maintains fiscal responsibility while operating at the highest level possible. The Fire Department works hard to secure alternative financial resources which include applying for funds through the grant process. In 2019, the department applied for 5 Federal, State, and local grants totaling \$66,254.25. For the year, the department has received 1 grants totaling \$2,765.00. We have been turned down for 3 grants and are awaiting for grant approval on 1 other.

<u>Grant Name</u>	<u>Grant Year</u>	<u>Date Submitted</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>
MARCS Radio Grant	2019	11/20/2018	\$14,806.50
SFM Equipment Grant	2019	1/18/2019	\$17,997.75
EMS Priority One Grant	2019	2/8/2019	\$3,000.00
EMS (Board Priority) Grant	2019	2/8/2019	\$30,000.00
F.D. Training Reimbursement	2019	1/8/2020	\$450.00

EMERGENCY SERVICES



2019

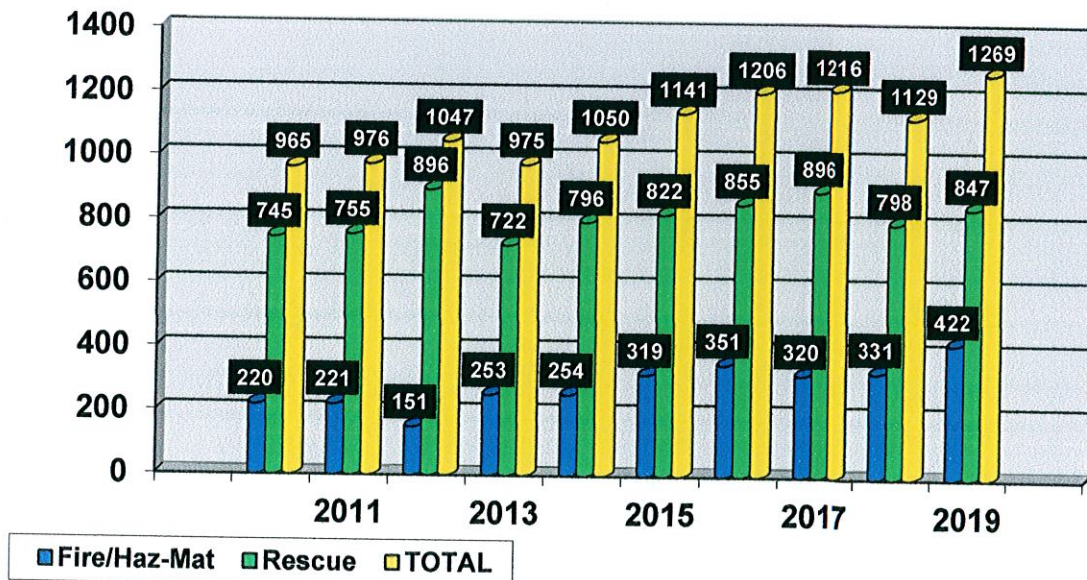
For the purpose of data overview in the total number of calls, emergency responses are entered into a statistical analysis in the following 2 pages.

In 2019, the department responded to a total of 1269 rescue, fire, and service calls. This is an increase of 140 calls from 2018

Total Calls for the 10 year period: 2010 – 2019

Service calls are defined as any non-emergent assistance response.

As of 2002, Service Calls were incorporated into the Fire / Haz-Mat category



Transports by Destination January 01, 2019 to December 31, 2019	
Transport Location	2019 Transports
Lake West Hospital	560
Tripoint Hospital	90
Hillcrest Hospital	9
Euclid Hospital	1
Cleveland Clinic Foundation	0
Richmond Heights General Hospital	1
Other	0
<i>Total Transports to Medical Facilities - 2019</i>	<i>661</i>

No Transports - 2019	186
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The following information provides a breakdown of the number of calls per age group.

AGE IN YEARS	NUMBER OF CALLS
0 - 18	45
19 - 30	69
31 - 40	82
41 - 50	69
51 - 60	113
61 - 70	148
71 - 80	163
81 - 90	101
91 - 100	57
101 +	0

Mutual Aid

Throughout the year, fire departments at times may need to rely on their neighboring communities to assist them during incidents where additional manpower, equipment and/or station coverage may be needed. There are established systems in place throughout Lake County that allow for the immediate dispatch of neighboring communities directly to the location that the assistance is needed.

The following are descriptions of the systems that are in place to allow for this coordinated effort.

Mutual Aid: A response to or from another community on an as needed basis. This may include a request for a vehicle, a special expertise and/or manpower.

MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System): This is a county wide established system that will allow the immediate dispatch of a pre-designated selection of equipment and manpower to the scene of an emergency when the initial amount of first responders are inadequate due to the scale of the incident. By having this pre-designated system in place, it is available to an incident commander to activate as needed, and will allow for multiple resources to be dispatched to that emergency scene at the same time. This allows for the incident commander to focus more on the strategy and tactics that may be needed at the incident scene while a large amount of resources are responding.

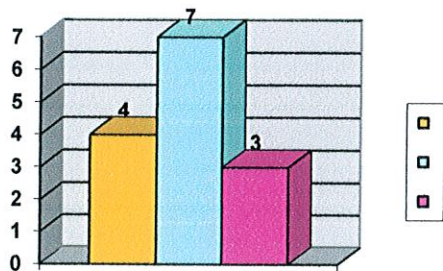
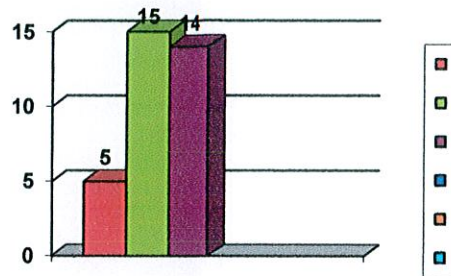
Automatic Aid – Auto Aid: A response system that is pre-designated and incorporates neighboring communities into the emergency cities initial alarm. This system allows for the dispatching of other communities to respond to the initial alarm in an emergent manner until such a time as they arrive at the neighboring scene or are cancelled by the Incident Commander of the emergency. This system is designed to be utilized with “High-Target” occupancy locations such as multi-story apartment units, commercial and/or industrial facilities, schools and large shopping center complexes.

Selective Expertise Call Outs: Selective expertise call outs are generally utilized when a certain level of expertise is required on an emergency scene for a specific purpose. This expertise could include such areas as Fire Investigators and Hazardous Materials Technicians.

The following graphics depict the types and amount of times that the Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department was involved in the mutual aid system in the year 2019.

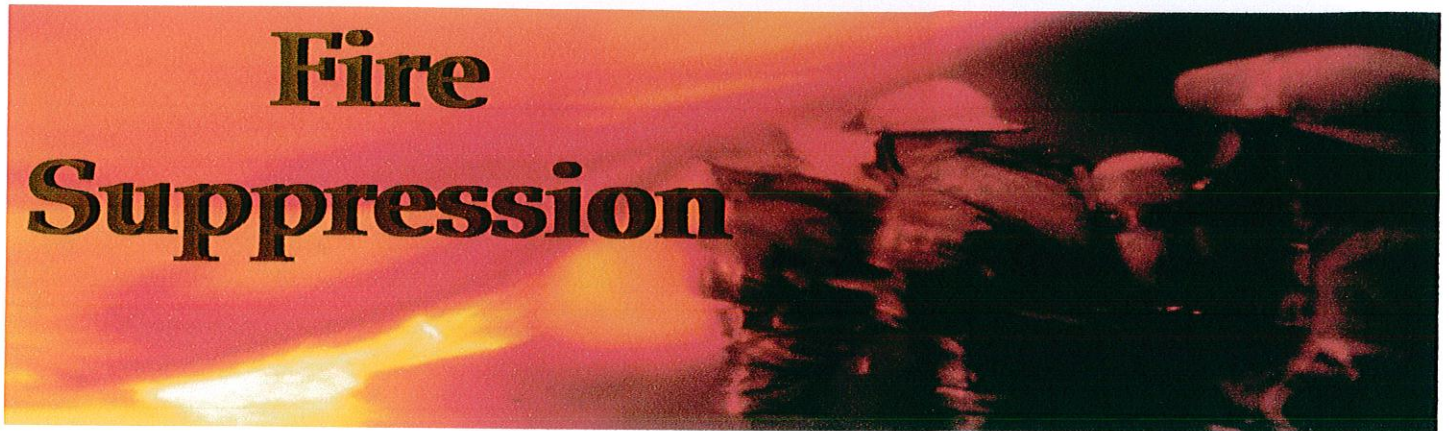
2019 Mutual Aid - GIVEN

Mutual Aid To Rescue	5
Mutual Aid to Structure Fire	15
Auto Aid	14



2019 Mutual Aid - MABAS - RECEIVED

Mutual Aid Received - RESCUE	4
Auto Aid Received	7
MABAS Received	3



IN SERVICE FIRE TRAINING – DEPARTMENTAL

Total Departmental Fire Training 2019..... 130 Hours

For the year, the Department responded to 422 fire and service calls. This is an increase of 91 calls over last year in those areas. Overall, the Department experienced a increase of 140 calls over 2018. There was an approximate \$200,000.00 decrease in total dollar loss in 2019 as indicated by the call data input into the department’s statistical database.

Dollar Loss Totals for the year 2019

Dollar Loss Type	Property Loss Amount	Content Loss Amount	Total Loss Amount
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Structure	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 4,100.00
Other Structure	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Other	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<i>Flooding</i>	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$3,000.00	\$1,100.00	\$ 4,100.00

DOLLAR LOSS FOR TEN (10) YEAR PERIOD

Year	Dollar Loss Total
2010	\$10,300.00
2011	\$104,750.00
2012	\$110,000.00
2013	\$18,000.00
2014	\$10,600.00
2015	\$40,900.00
2016	\$120,300.00
2017	\$23,300.00
2018	\$216,671.00
2019	\$4,100.00

***Collective Dollar Loss in Thousands of Dollars
2010 - 2019***

2010 - 2019	\$ 658,921.00
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RESCUE - EMS

IN SERVICE EMS TRAINING - DEPARTMENTAL

Total EMS Training 2019.....127 hours

The Fire Division responded to 847 emergency medical calls in 2019. This is an increase of 49 calls over last year in those areas. On 661 occasions we transported to various medical facilities. On 186 occasions we treated victims, but did not transport them. In total we logged 12,605 road miles on our 2 emergency vehicles.

Our current staff of 28 personnel have attained the following levels of certifications by the years end



EMT-P..... 18

EMT-B..... 10

As I have reported in the past, the most important single factor in offering paramedic service is the out of service time. With runs averaging 1 hour (plus or minus) on a normal paramedic transport call, we generally have 2 or 3 personnel and 1 medic squad out of service for that time frame. On several occasions, depending on the circumstances, this time frame exceeded 1 hour. This can be a burden on the fire service, especially during the daytime of the business week.

INJURIES AND FATALITIES - 2019

On August 4, 2019 the MOL fire department responded to a structure fire on Holly Dr.

On September 10, 2019 the MOL fire department responded to a structure fire on Campbell Rd.

On December 6, 2019 the MOL fire department responded to a structure fire on Lake Shore
Blvd.

I am happy to report there were no injuries or fatalities at any of these incidents.

Number of Fire Fatalities (FD).....0

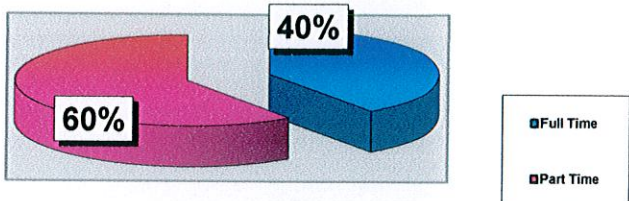
Number of Fire Fatalities (Public).....0

Number of Fire Injury's (FD).....0

Number of Fire Injury's (Public).....0

Full-time operations in the Fire Division are Monday through Friday from 06:00 hours (6 a.m.) until 18:00 hours (6 p.m.). One Full-Time Lieutenant and two Full-Time Firefighters work a 10 hour day, five days a week or 2600 hours annually. Two of the Full-Time Personnel are scheduled from 06:00 (6 a.m.) until 16:00 hours (4 p.m.) while the other one is scheduled from 08:00 (8 a.m.) until 18:00 hours (6 p.m.). All Full-Time Personnel rotate working the early and late shifts on a three week basis. Two weeks on early and one week on late. The Full-Time hours constitute approximately forty percent of the total annual in-service time.

This fluctuation of shifts allowed the Fire Department to have Personnel scheduled for a 24 hour period throughout the entire year. Prior to the implementation of the above mentioned schedule, the hours between 06:00 and 08:00 were considered uncovered hours and handled by any available Personnel.



The Full-Time staff has the following areas of responsibility:

- Administration and Records
- Budgeting and payroll Statistical Analysis
- Arson Investigation and Fire Prevention
- Building Construction, Print Review and Code Study
- Building Maintenance (i.e. Painting, Repairing, Cleaning)
- Graphics (Drawings, Graphs, and Illustrations, etc.)
- Training and Education, Private Sector Included
- Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance
- Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program
- Public Relations/Public Education
- Hose testing and maintenance
- Equipment Maintenance and Testing

During the Full-Time coverage hours in 2019, the Full-Time Personnel responded to 523 of the annual fire, rescue and service calls.

Full-Time staff Wages equated to \$205,671.67 for the year 2019.

Full-Time staff overtime equated to \$4,484.82 for the year 2019.

Part Time - 2019

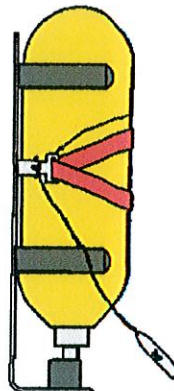
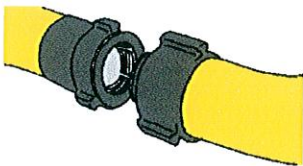
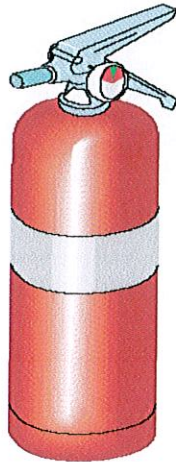
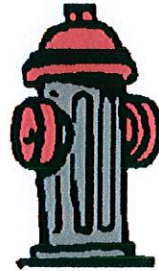
During the Part-Time coverage hours, Part-Time Personnel responded to 746 of the annual fire, rescue and service calls.

As of September 1, it will have been 21 years since the Part-Time staff began in house manning of the station which along with the Full-Time coverage previously reported allows the Department full 24 hour coverage throughout the year. Each of the Part-Time shifts is covered by 2 Firefighters and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic. Provisional Paramedic personnel have also been hired to augment the staffing levels for this coverage. There are 16,872 scheduled standby duty hours assigned to Part-Time personnel. They are daily Monday evening through Saturday morning from 1800 hours (6 pm) through 0600 hours (6 am), also Saturday and Sunday for 24 hours, from 0600 (6 am) Saturday to Monday morning 0600 (6 am).

By the end of 2019, our manpower status was at 24 Part-Time personnel. This will fluctuate as members tend to leave from year to year.

Part-Time staff Wages equated to \$307,426.78 for the year 2019.

SUPPORT SERVICES



FIRE PREVENTION 2019

Fire Inspectors Report

In 2019, the Fire Prevention Division continued to support the mission of the Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department. This is accomplished through fire safety inspections of commercial buildings throughout the City of Mentor-on-the-Lake and residential fire safety inspections when requested by the resident. The Fire Prevention Division is also required to oversee the annual fireworks show that is presented by the Mentor Harbor Yacht club. In addition to the daily responsibilities, the Fire Prevention Division participates in public relations events as well. This includes the Memorial Day parade and the Mentor-on-the-Lake Safety Forces Open House to name a few.

As we look forward to 2020, the Fire Prevention Division will continue to look for additional ways to provide excellent customer service and a safer community.

Thank you for your continued support.
Respectfully submitted,
Lt. Anthony Konte
F.F. Jeremy Campaign
Fire Inspectors

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Total Incident Count</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
Building Inspection	116	232.0
Code Study / Files	2	4.0
Complaint	3	6.0
Correspondence	2	3.0
Drills Fire / Tornado	5	5.0
Suppression	3	6.0
Fire Alarms	8	10.5
Fire Lanes	0	0
Hood Testing	30	60.0
Meetings	3	9.0
Permits / Citations	0	0
Pre-Plans	0	0
Plan Review	5	12.0
Home Inspections	16	16.0
Lock Box Install	9	4.5
Smoke Detector	20	10
2019 Totals:	222	378.0

Public Education 2019

The Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department strives to educate the community on fire safety and the use of our EMS system. During this past year, we have had several events to help achieve this such as the City Fall Fest, our Open House and our Safety Talk in the Senior Living Center. We also offer CPR and AED training to our residents and businesses. We have several programs that are aimed towards safety which include our Lock Box and Smoke Detector Programs. To show the community that we appreciate them, we have hosted events such as, The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Lake Elementary and Santa Rounds in December, along with being a part of the Larkspur Drive Block Party and Roar by the Shore Annual Cruise. Please like us on our Facebook page located at facebook.com/TheMentorontheLakeFireDepartment and to keep up-to-date with safety information and events.

Mentor-on-the-Lake Lock Box Program

The fire department offers a lock box you can buy for \$35 dollars that hangs on top of your door to allow us access to your home or apartment in case of an emergency. This year we had 9 new lock box installations.

Smoke Detector Installations

We offer one free smoke detector to any of our residence in the city that cannot afford to buy one on their own. This year we had 20 new smoke detector installations. This does not include service calls to help residents replace smoke detector batteries and helping to install a smoke detector that they have purchased on their own.

CPR and AED Training

CPR and the use of an AED are a critical step in saving lives. That's why we have 2 fulltime CPR instructors that work Monday-Friday and provide training to residents. We had over 15 classes this year. The fire department received their annual training in January 2019.

Station Tours

The fire department always welcomes station tours. It gives a chance for residents to check out the equipment, apparatus and to learn about fire safety and our EMS system. In the spring, we had 3 kindergarten classes from Lake Elementary do their annual tour. Throughout the year, we had more than 18 walk-in tours and 8 scheduled tours which included our annual Cub/Boy Scout packs..

City Fest Fire department Open House 2019

On September 7th, the fire department participated in the annual City Fest and held our annual open house.



Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held in the beginning of April. We had numerous kids attended and everyone had a wonderful time. It took several of us 30 minutes to set up and the eggs were gone in minutes. Some wonderful prizes were handed out and all of the children received Easter candy.

Santa Rounds December 8th, 2019

The fire department had a beautiful day for Santa rounds in 2019. The community response was overwhelming in fact, the department had to purchase more candy canes on two occasions.



FIRE INVESTIGATION



The Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department has an integral membership with the Western Lake County Fire Investigation Unit (WLCFIU). The unit has been in existence for over 40 years, but has recently been reorganized to improve inter-city assistance and operations.



The unit consists of members from the cities of Mentor-on-the-Lake, Mentor, Eastlake, Wickliffe, Kirtland, Willoughby Hills, Willoughby and Willowick Fire Departments. Mentor-on-the-Lake currently has two members assigned to the unit. The West Lake County Unit is comprised of a group of specialists who assist with fire scene investigation when the resources of the incident Department request such assistance. Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Investigators responded to 3 calls for specialized assistance in the year 2018. Fortunately, Mentor-on-the-Lake did not need to utilize the services of the WLCFIU in the year 2019.



For a Fire Investigation Unit to be effective, many hours of training are needed. Every other month, the WLCFIU holds meetings and training sessions that keep the members of the unit honed on the latest investigative techniques, equipment and technology. This is very important so that the unit's Investigators can be accurate in conducting investigations and presenting forensic evidence



for courtroom proceedings. The unit also utilizes the services of numerous Insurance Companies, Private Fire Investigation Units, Lake County, and the State of Ohio.

MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE FIRE INVESTIGATORS – (WLCFIU)

Battalion Chief Tom Konitsky - Advanced Fire Investigator - 19 Years
Battalion Chief Ray Paduano - Advanced Fire Investigator – 17 Years

TRAINING

Year to year changes in hours of training are to be expected depending on the amount of participation and enrollment in the State of Ohio paramedic program. In house training is performed on each shift and fluctuates from 2.0 to 3.0 hours. In addition, the Department conducts two monthly drill. The total figure does vary from year to year depending on how many mandated, certification and/or recertification training programs are attended in this time frame.

Mandated training and State of Ohio required certifications are as follows:

1. Paramedic training for certification is 1200 hours.
2. E.M.T.A. training for certification is 110 hours.
3. A-E.M.T.A. training for certification is 144 hours.
4. Fire training for Full-time certification is 280 hours.
5. Fire training for Part-time certification is 40 to 120 hours.
6. Fire safety inspector training certification is 84 hours for both Full and Part-Time personnel.
7. C.P.R. Instructor certification is 12 hours. Each certified instructor must teach 2 classes annually in order to maintain American Heart Association certification.
8. State of Ohio Fire/EMT Instructor certification is 80 hours.

Recertifications and Continuing Medical Education Requirements **Mandated by the State of Ohio**

1. Paramedic training for maintaining certification is 80 - 92 hours.
2. E.M.T.-B. Recertification is 40 hours every 3 years.
3. Fire recertification training is 54 hours every 3 years for both Full and Part-time. This can be accrued through in-service training.
4. Hazardous Materials training by Federal Law is 24 hours annually.

In-service training means that which is done on duty in quarters, or at selected training sites within the city confines. It may also, from time to time, include bi-lateral training with surrounding communities.

TECHNICAL TRAINING



The Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department has members who are actively involved in other areas of specialty training. These members are a part of a core group of Lake County firefighters that meet numerous times throughout the year to hone and maintain their skills in each respective area. Some of the specialized areas include Hazardous Materials, Confined Space, and Water Rescue.

Mentor on the Lake Fire is a member of the Lake County Hazardous Incident Team or L.C.H.I.T. The team consists of 50 members from all Lake County Fire Departments and

includes private companies (Lubrizol) as well. The L.C.H.I.T. is certified as a Type 1 HAZMAT Team. It is thought that there are only 3 Type 1 teams in the state of Ohio. The team will offer their services to all local and neighboring counties in the event of a Hazardous Incident. The team is funded by the L.E.P.C. and fees collected from all the Fire Departments in Lake County.

Chief James Pechatsko Haz. Mat. Tech.

Lieutenant Tony Konte Full-Time Haz.Mat. Tech

Jeremy Campaign Full-Time Haz.Mat. Tech (L.C.H.I.T.)

Justin Corbe Part-Time Haz. Mat Tech (L.C.H.I.T.)

Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance

A total of 3,618 hours of labor were expended last year in all categories to maintain equipment, vehicles and quarters in an operable and livable condition. Vehicles and equipment consumed 2,529 hours, or 70% of the total time. Aside from the normal weekly check-out, fueling and house running, internal maintenance is performed by Fire Department personnel in areas such as:

A. Vehicles - Lubricate and change oil, exhaust systems, tire rotation, body work, touch up and repaint, alternators, lights, horns, wiring, batteries, door repairs, lubrication, change air and oil filters, repair brakes, trim, and seats, tune up and installation of new equipment.

B. Equipment - Maintain self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) repair/modify the same where applicable, relocate and remount equipment, mark I.D. on equipment, clean charge material and recharge air compressor, initiate hydrostatic checks of air cylinders, portable pumps and air tools, diesel tank and building where possible.

Building and quarters consumed 1,089 or 30% of the remaining maintenance time. Aside from normal routine house cleaning done weekly, other maintenance includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Bi-monthly or monthly cleaning of windows, repair of interior/exterior doors, repair faucets, commodes and plumbing, maintain clean towels for apparatus, laundry, paint, repair and mount hardware as well as fire bay maintenance.

The total fuel consumption for all Fire Department vehicles amounted to 2,638.9 gallons. Of this total, 436.3 gallons of gasoline were used and 2,202.6 gallons of diesel were used to fuel the vehicles.

There were 154 quarts of oil utilized for the maintenance of all Fire Department equipment.

VEHICLE CONDITION - 2018



2500: 2018 Ford Explorer. Engine excellent, body excellent, general overall condition excellent.

2511: 2012 Ford Taurus. Engine good, body good, overall condition good.



2522-FR (Ambulance): 2017 Ford E-450 Modular. Engine excellent, body excellent, general overall condition excellent.



2512-FR (Ambulance): 2001 Ford E-450 Modular. Engine fair, body poor, general overall condition poor.

2517-HR (Heavy Rescue): 1993 International Rescue Master. Engine good, body fair, general overall condition fair.



2513 (Engine): 2009 Sutphen - 1500 gallon per minute pump. Engine good, body good, general overall condition good.

2519 (Engine): 1993 Pierce - 2000 gallon per minute pump with a 50' telescoping ladder. Engine good, body fair, general overall condition good.



FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



The Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department in conjunction with Aqua Ohio conducts maintenance and services the fire hydrants within the city most spring and fall seasons. The spring testing typically begins around May and usually consists of flushing each hydrant to remove stagnant rust water from inside the line, lubrication of the flow valve stem and threaded inlets, inspection of any gasket leaks at the base of each hydrant, and repainting with reflective paint as needed.

This maintenance and testing is performed to ensure the proper operation of each hydrant within the City. This program can usually be completed over a one week period. Residents may experience slight water discoloration in their home around the time of the year when these procedures should be conducted and should simply allow their tap water to run for a short period of time until the water is clear to expel any dirty water from their household piping.

During the fall months, usually around September, the Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department conducts spot monitoring on the hydrants specifically geared at preparing the water system for the cold winter months.

Fire hydrants are designed so that when they are shut off, any residual water in the hydrant will drain so that water will not be exposed to the cold winter temperatures. This reduces the potential for the water to freeze inside of the hydrant, rendering it unusable until thawed. Throughout the spring and summer months, if a hydrant has been found to be retaining water, that hydrant should be re-inspected during the fall hydrant program to be sure that no water has been retained in the barrel. If water is found in a hydrant, it should be pumped of the standing water and have a special type of antifreeze added. This will allow for the hydrant to remain functional throughout the winter months.

This year, the city had a total of 367 fire hydrants that were available for immediate use within and around the city boundaries, which includes privately owned hydrants.

Any problems that are found and considered to be a potential hindrance to firefighting operations are usually reported to Aqua Ohio for further inspection. Aqua Ohio will investigate the problems at hand and correct any that need to be repaired.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

April: the department held its annual Ester Egg Hunt at Lake Elementary

May: the department participated in the Memorial Day parade sponsored by AMVETS.

July: the department supervised the fireworks show at Mentor Harbor Yacht Club.

September: the department participated in the City Fall Fest and our annual Safety Forces Open House.

December: the department had its annual Santa Claus candy cane rounds

RECOMMENDATIONS – 2020

1. Hire a fourth Full-Time Firefighter / Paramedic
2. Install an exhaust system within the fire bay to rid the area of the excessive quantities of harmful carbon monoxide produced when the diesel vehicles are started and running.
3. Improve the storage areas in general (i.e. records and equipment).
4. Installation of a fire hydrant on the South side of City Hall to assist with Fire Department training, and fire protection.
5. Obtain a grant through the State Fire Marshal's office to replace some of the older firefighting equipment.
6. Purchase a new rescue squad.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere thanks to the Officers and Personnel of the Fire Division in keeping the quality of service rendered at the highest level while working at times under trying conditions. Their ability to adjust and react to difficult circumstances reflects the training and discipline which has gradually been developed in each individual from their first day of assignment.