

Mentor on the Lake Fire Department

Annual Report

2021



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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 2021.

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 - 2021

James Pechatsko

Fire Chief

Thomas Konitsky

Battalion Chief

Raymond Paduano

Battalion Chief

Anthony Konte

Lieutenant

Timothy Brown

Lieutenant

Dustin Langford

Lieutenant

PERSONNEL ROSTER AND SERVICE RECORD - 2021

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	32 Years
James Pechatsko	Fire Chief	7-28-1998	23 Years
Gabriel Ananea	Firefighter	4-26-2005	16 Years
Jeremy Campaign	Firefighter	7-13-2010	11 Years
Justin Corbe	Firefighter	8-19-2015	6 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	36 Years
Thomas Konitsky	Battalion Chief	7-28-1991	30 Years
Raymond Paduano	Battalion Chief	4-28-1992	29 Years
Eric Heimberger	Firefighter	1-11-1994	27 Years
Timothy Brown	Lieutenant	3-6-1996	25 Years
David Huelsman	Firefighter	12-21-2000	21 Years
Dustin Langford	Lieutenant	4-22-2008	13 Years
Aaron Husted	Firefighter	10-16-2014	7 Years
Lee Santos	Firefighter	5-26-2015	6 Years

Michael O'Connell	Firefighter	8-19-2015	6 Years
Brian Sedmak	Firefighter	8-29-2016	5 Years
Daniel Klems	Firefighter	4-7-2017	4 Years
John Padley	Firefighter	4-28-2017	4 Years
Rollin Pachinger	Firefighter	10-9-2018	3 Years
Noah Smith	Firefighter	06-03-2019	2 Years
Daniel Wheeler	Firefighter	09-11-2019	2 Years
Cody Bendlock	Firefighter	04-03-2020	1 Year
Tyrus Kovach	Firefighter	04-17-2020	1 Year
Josh Sundbom	Firefighter	04-20-2020	1 Year
Chris Fuentes	Firefighter	05-13-2020	1 Year
Steven Stokes	Firefighter	01-13-2021	1 Year
Matthew Duplaga	Firefighter	06-22-2021	6 Months
Brandon Brown	Firefighter	08-18-2021	4 Months

PERSONNEL THAT LEFT THE DEPARTMENT – 2021

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Date of Hire</i>	<i>Years of Service</i>
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Daniel Coughlin	Lieutenant	3-28-1989	33 Years
Paul Cassidy	Lieutenant	7-28-1998	23 Years
Brendan Volker	Firefighter	3-11-2014	7 Years
Thomas Gallagher	Firefighter	5-26-2015	6 Years
Eric Rosenberger	Firefighter	09-23-2019	2 Years
Michael Brant	Firefighter	07-29-2020	5 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

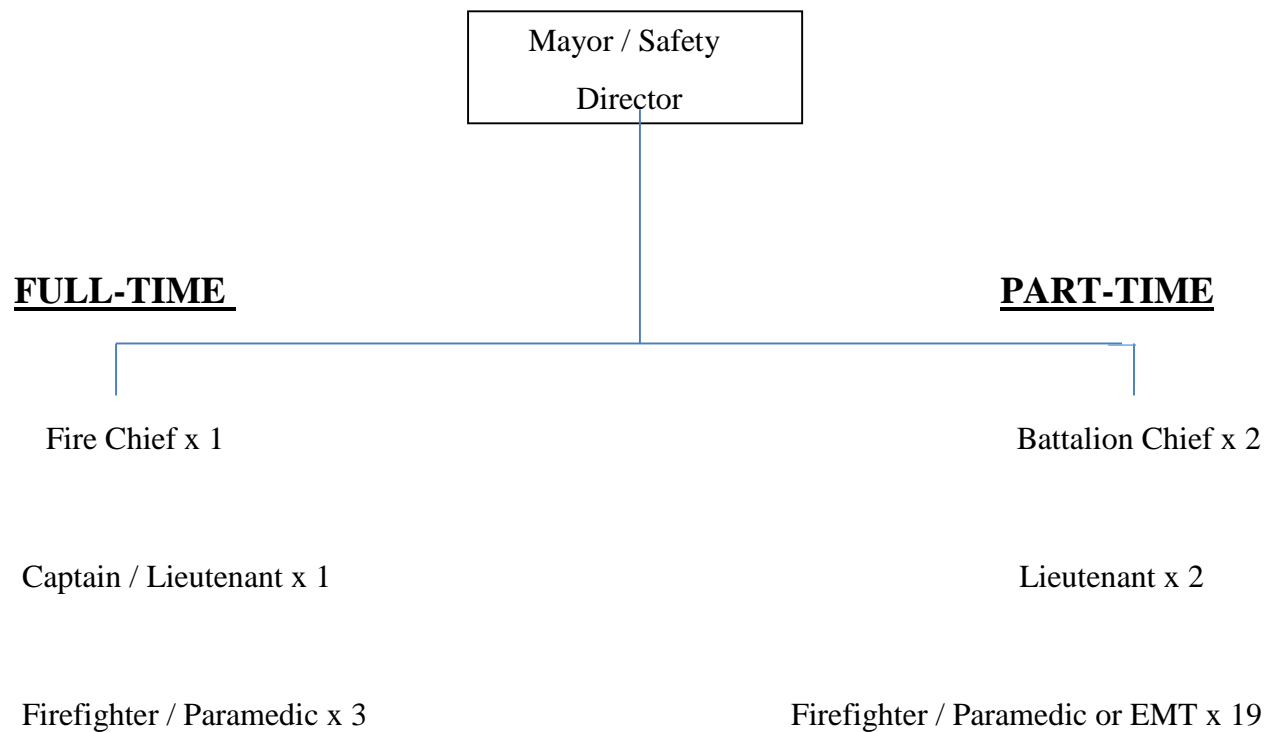
Personnel Supervision and Performance Evaluations

Hazard Control

Emergency Incident Management

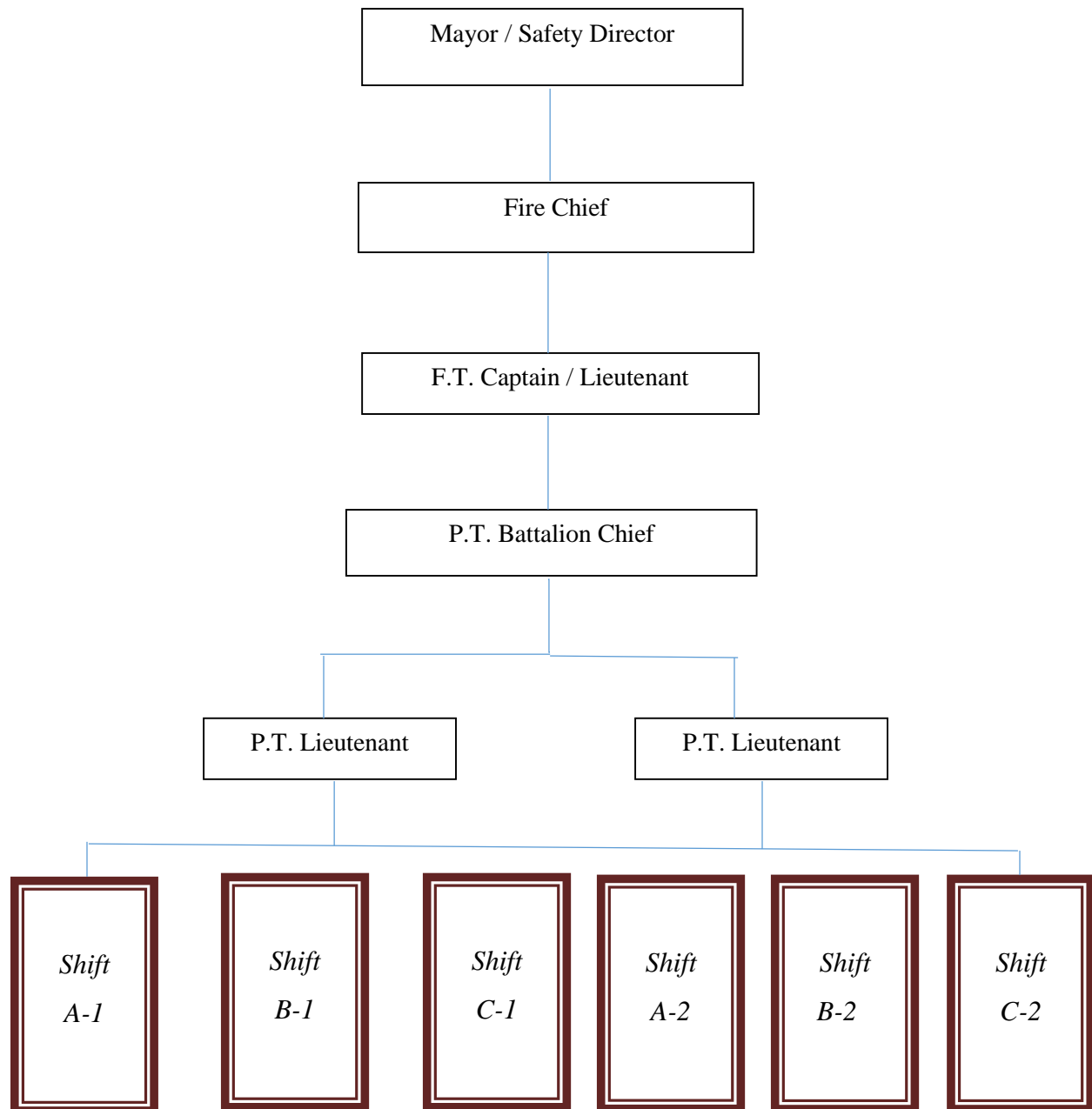
Mentor-on-the-Lake Fire Department

Staff Compliment

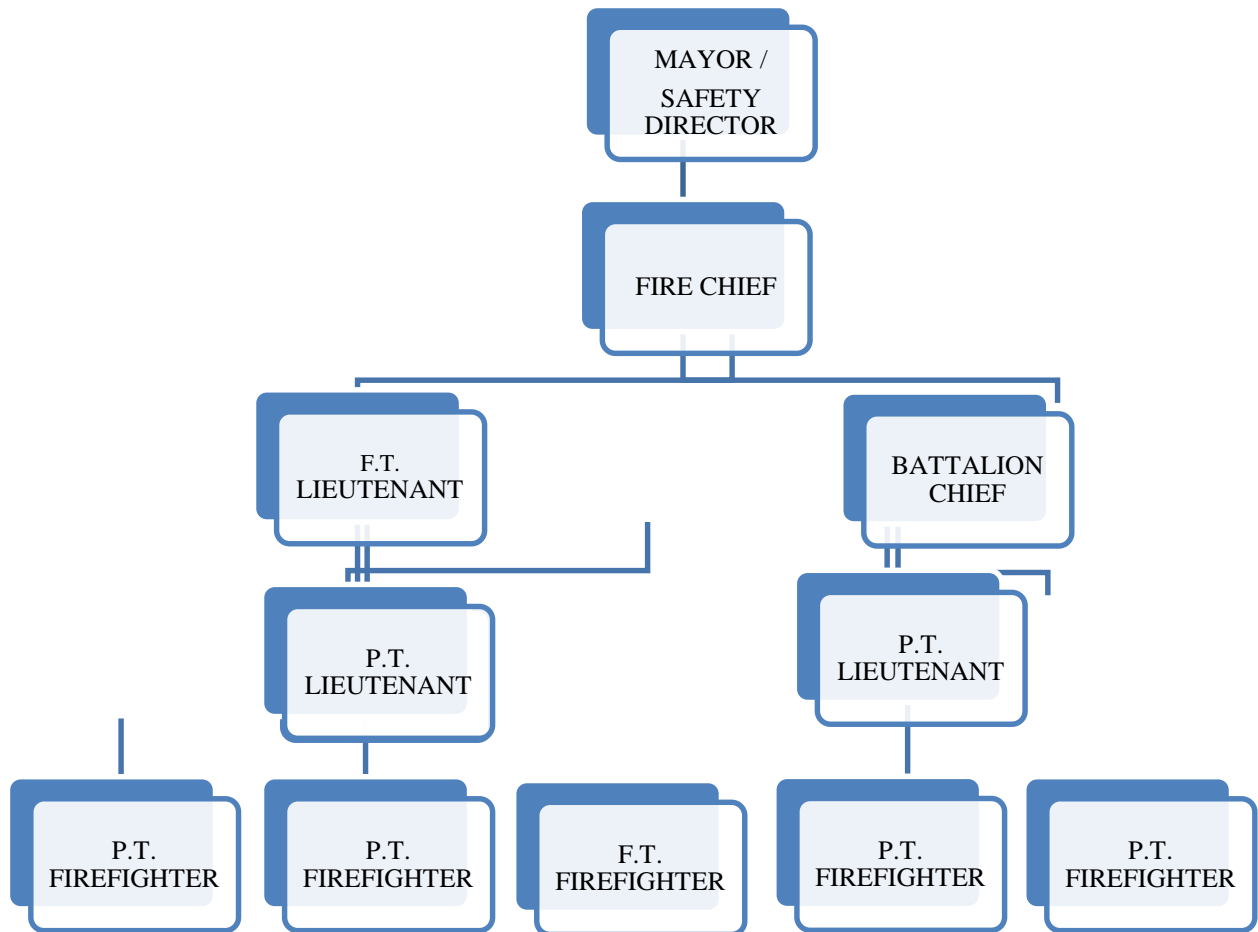


MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHAIN OF COMMAND – DAILY OPERATIONS

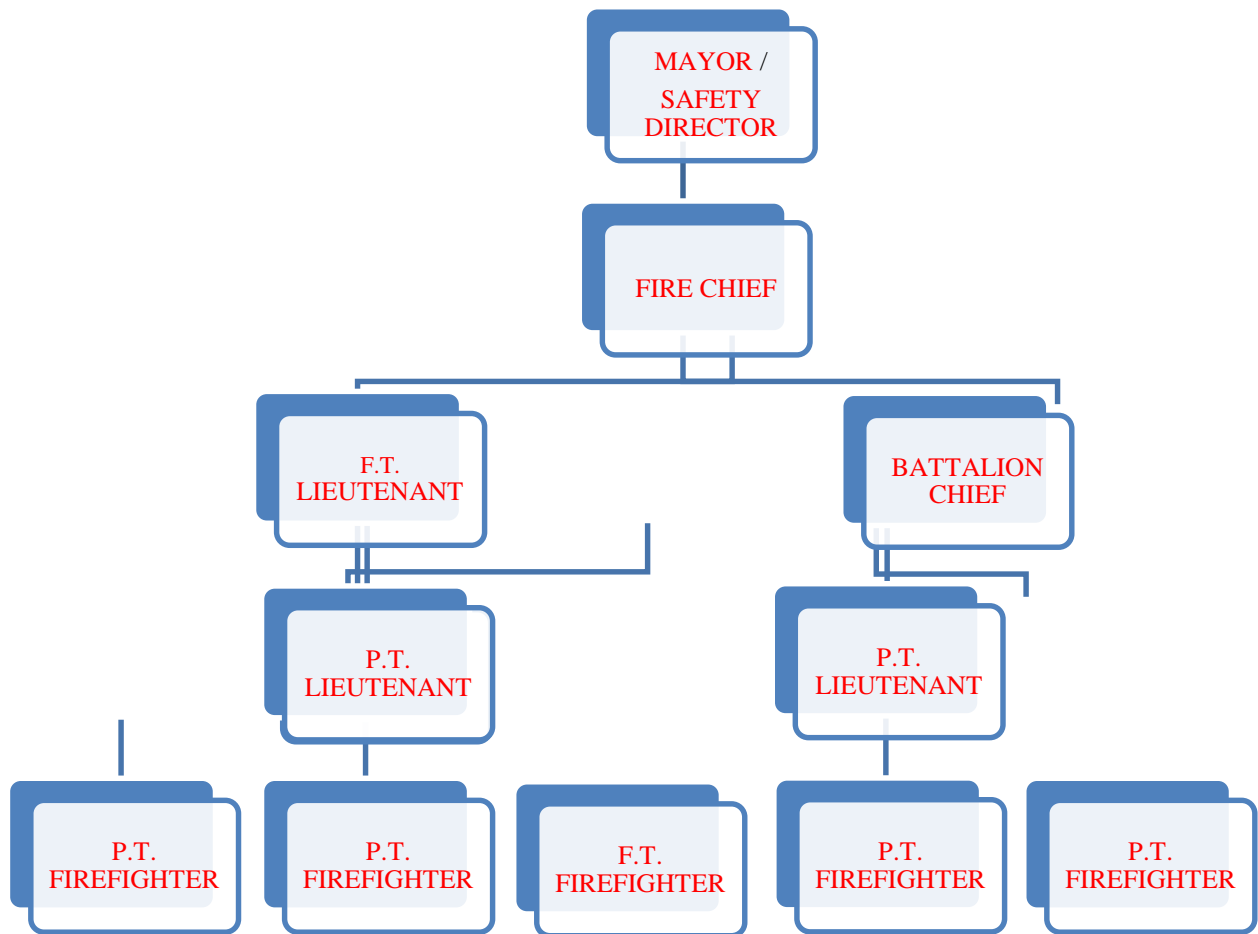


MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT
CHAIN OF COMMAND – RESCUE
OPERATIONS



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 2021, the department applied for 7 Federal, State, and local grants totaling \$929,108.00. For the year, the department received 2 grants totaling \$11,200.00. We have been turned down for 2 grants and 3 are still pending.

Grant Name	Grant Year	Date Submitted	Amount Requested
MARCS Radio Grant	2021	10/12/2020	\$19,378.20
SFM FD Equipment Grant	2021	12/17/2020	\$28,180.00
A.F.G. Grant	2020	1/13/2021	\$60,000.00
EMS Priority One Grant	2021	2/8/2021	\$1,200.00
MARCS Radio Grant	2022	10/8/2021	\$17,538.00
A.F.G. Grant	2021	12/15/2021	\$250,000.00
S.A.F.E.R. Grant	2021	1/12/2022	\$552,812.00

<u>Grant Received</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>
MARCS Radio Grant	\$19,378.20	\$10,000.00
EMS Priority One Grant	\$2,000.00	\$1,200.00

EMERGENCY SERVICES



2021

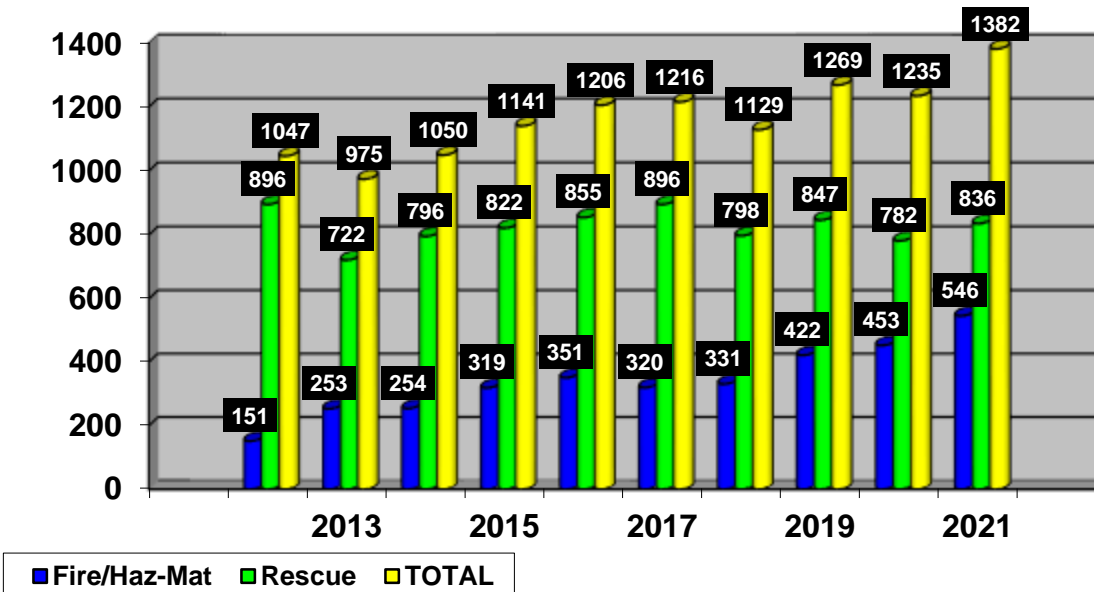
For the purpose of data overview in the total number of calls, emergency responses are entered into a statistical analysis in the following 2 pages.

In 2021, the department responded to a total of 1,382 rescue, fire, and service calls.
This is an increase of 147 calls from 2010.

Total Calls for the 10 year period: 2012 – 2021

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, 2021 to December 31, 2021	
Transport Location	2021 Transports
Lake West Hospital	515
Tri-Point Hospital	95
Hillcrest Hospital	17
Euclid Hospital	0
Cleveland Clinic Foundation	0
Richmond Heights General Hospital	2
Other	1
<i>Total Transports to Medical Facilities - 2021</i>	630

No Transports - 2020	206
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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	44
19 – 30	72
31 – 40	60
41 – 50	87
51 – 60	119
61 – 70	137
71 – 80	164
81 – 90	119
91 - 100	28
101 +	1

Mutual Aid

Throughout the year fire departments 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.

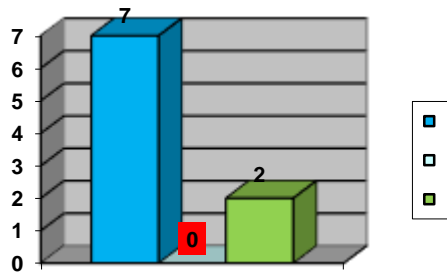
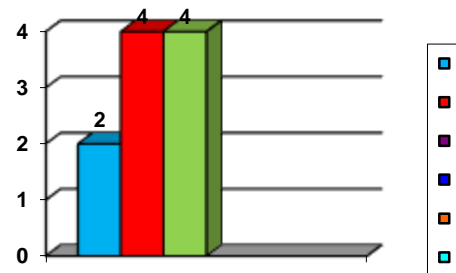
Automatic Aid – Auto Aid: A response system that is pre-designated and incorporates neighboring communities into the emergency cities initial alarm. This system allows for the dispatching of other communities to respond to the initial alarm in an emergent manner until such a time as they arrive at the 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 2020.

2021 Mutual Aid - *GIVEN*

Mutual Aid To Rescue	2
Mutual Aid to Structure Fire	4
Auto Aid	4



2021 Mutual Aid - MABAS - *RECEIVED*

Mutual Aid Received - RESCUE	7
Mutual Aid Received -Fire	0
Auto Aid Received	2

Fire Suppression

IN SERVICE FIRE TRAINING – DEPARTMENTAL

Total Departmental Fire Training 2021..... 311 Hours

For the year, the Department responded to 546 fire and service calls. This is an increase of 93 calls over last year in those areas. Overall, the Department experienced an increase of 147 calls over 2020. There was an approximate \$27,000.00 increase in total dollar loss in 2021 as indicated by the call data input into the department's statistical database.

Dollar Loss Totals for the year 2021

Dollar Loss Type	Property Loss Amount	Content Loss Amount	Total Loss Amount
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Structure	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 142,000.00
Other Structure	\$ 0.00	\$0.00	\$ 0.00

Other	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Flooding	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$90,000.00	\$52,000.00	\$ 142,000.00

DOLLAR LOSS FOR TEN (10) YEAR PERIOD

Year	Dollar Loss Total
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
2020	\$115,020.00
2021	\$142,000.00

***Collective Dollar Loss in Thousands of Dollars
2012 - 2021***

2012 - 2021	\$ 800,891.00
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INJURIES AND FATALITIES – 2021

On February 14, 2021 the MOL fire department responded to a structure fire on Southland.

On December 24, 2021 the MOL fire department responded to a dishwasher fire on Springwood.

I am happy to report there were no injuries or fatalities at either one 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

RESCUE - EMS

IN SERVICE EMS TRAINING - DEPARTMENTAL

Total EMS Training 2021.....198 hours

The Fire Division responded to 836 emergency medical calls in 2021. This is a increase of 54 calls over last year in those areas. On 630 occasions we transported to various medical facilities. On 206 occasions we treated victims, but did not transport them. In total we logged 12,119 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..... 16

EMT-B..... 12

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.

FULL TIME 2021

Full-time operations in the Fire Division is twenty-four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week. One (1) Full-Time Officer works a twenty-four (24) hour shift on Tuesday and Thursday and three (3) Full-Time Firefighters work a twenty-four (24) hour shift every third (3) day. This type of schedule is known as an A-Shift, B-Shift, and C-Shift which is the traditional firefighter schedule where they are on duty for 24 hours and off duty 48 hours. We currently have one (1) Full-Time firefighter assigned to each shift.

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 Full-Time personnel worked Monday through Friday from 06:00 hours (6 a.m.) until 18:00 hours (6 p.m.).

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

Full-Time staff Wages equated to \$390,548.57 for the year 2021.

Full-Time staff overtime equated to \$11,813.74 for the year 2021.

Part Time - 2021

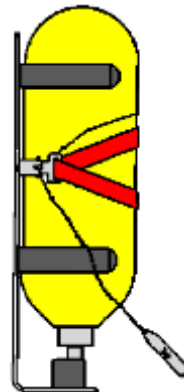
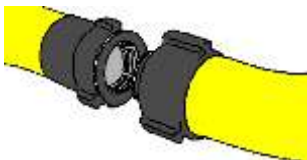
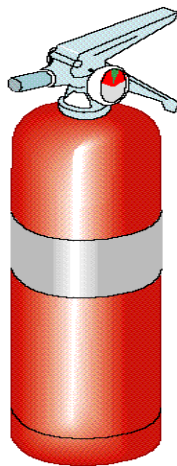
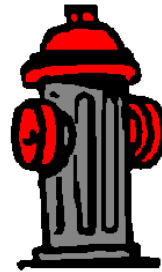
As of September 1, it will have been 23 years since the Part-Time staff began in house manning of the station which along with the Full-Time coverage previously reported allows the Department full 24 hour coverage throughout the year. There are three (3) different Part-time shifts that the personnel are assigned to.

- Dependable shift personnel work a twenty-four (24) hour shift, commencing at 0600 (6am) hours and continuing through to 0600 (6am) hours the following day every sixth day with the exception of Thursdays.
- Days shift personnel work a twelve (12) hour shift, commencing at 0600 (6am) hours and continuing through to 1800 (6pm) hours the same day every sixth day Monday through Friday, they do not work Saturday and Sunday
- Nights and weekends shift personnel work a twelve (12) hour shift, commencing at 1800 (6pm) hours and continuing through to 0600 (6am) hours the following day every sixth day Monday through Friday and a twenty-four (24) hour shift, commencing at 0600 (6am) hours and continuing through to 0600 (6am) hours the following day on Saturday and Sunday.

By the end of 2020, our manpower status was at 26 Part-Time personnel. This will fluctuate as members tend to leave from year to year.

Part-Time staff Wages equated to \$336,165.38 for the year 2021.

SUPPORT SERVICES



FIRE PREVENTION 2021

Fire Inspectors Report

In 2021, 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 included the annual Santa rounds. 2021 continued to be a difficult time with the COVID pandemic however, we were able to begin our normal inspection routines. We were also able to attend the various public relations events that were scheduled.

As we look forward to 2022, 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,

Fire Inspectors

Lt. Anthony Konte

F.F. Jeremy Campaign

B.C. Ray Paduano

F.F. Mike O'Connell

FIRE PREVENTION 2021

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Total Incident Count</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
Building Inspection	50	100.0
Code Study / Files	1	2.0
Complaint	4	8.0
Correspondence	2	3.0
Drills Fire / Tornado	3	3.0
Suppression	2	4.0
Fire Alarms	12	15.0
Fire Lanes	0	0.0
Hood Testing	18	36.0
Meetings	3	9.0
Permits / Citations	0	0.0
Pre-Plans	1	1.0
Plan Review	4	8.0
Home Inspections	12	12.0
Lock Box Install	6	3.0
Smoke Detector	12	6.0
2021 Totals:	130	210.0

Public Education 2021

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, our normal schedule of events that help achieve this goal such as the City Fall Fest, our Open House and our Safety Talk in the Senior Living Center had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. This also included our CPR and AED training to our residents and businesses. We did maintain other programs that are aimed towards safety which include our Lock Box and Smoke Detector Programs. Despite the cancellation of our normal community events such as, The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Lake Elementary, the Larkspur Drive Block Party and Roar by the Shore Annual Cruise inn, we wanted to show the community that we appreciate them so, we hosted the Santa Rounds in December but were not able to pass out candy canes. It was wonderful to see the joy in the children's faces as the fire trucks drove Santa by.

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 6 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 12 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 to provide training to residents.

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. All station tours in 2021 were suspended due to the COVID pandemic. We hope to bring them back soon.

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. Unfortunately, Mentor-on-the-Lake did need to utilize the services of the WLCFIU in the year 2021.



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 - 20 Years
Battalion Chief Ray Paduano - Advanced Fire Investigator – 18 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. - Basic training for certification is 144 hours
3. Fire training for certification is 260 hours.
4. Fire safety inspector training certification is 84 hours
5. State of Ohio Fire/EMT Instructor certification is 80 hours.
6. C.P.R. Instructor certification is 12 hours. Each certified instructor must teach 2 classes annually in order to maintain American Heart Association certification.

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

1. Paramedic training for maintaining certification is 86 hours every 3 years.
2. E.M.T.-B. Recertification is 40 hours every 3 years.
3. Fire recertification training is 54 hours every 3 years. 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 Full-Time Haz. Mat Tech (L.C.H.I.T.)

Vehicle/Equipment Maintenance

A total of 4,162 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 2,914 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 1,248 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 2,396.4 gallons. Of this total, 1,816.5 gallons of gasoline were used and 579.9 gallons of diesel were used to fuel the vehicles.

VEHICLE CONDITION - 2020



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



2511:

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



2522:

ALS Unit (Advanced Life Support) 2017 Ford E-450 Modular. Engine excellent, body excellent, general overall condition excellent.



2512: ALS Unit (Advanced Life Support) 2019 Ford E-450 Modular. Engine excellent, body excellent, general overall condition excellent.



2532: BLS Unit (Basic Life Support) 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.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2021 we continued to deal with the COVID pandemic but the restrictions were relaxed and the fire department was able to participate in some of our usual community events. Despite the difficulties encountered, the fire department continued to serve our community just as we have always done and will continue to do.

March: held the annual Easter egg hunt

June: participated in the AMVETS Memorial day parade.

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

October: Lake Elementary Trunk or Treat

December: the department had its annual Santa rounds

RECOMMENDATIONS – 2022

1. Hire two (2) Full-Time Firefighter / Paramedics
2. Improve the storage areas in general (i.e. records and equipment).
3. Installation of a fire hydrant on the South side of City Hall to assist with Fire Department training, and fire protection.
4. Obtain a grant through the State Fire Marshal's office to replace some of the older firefighting equipment.

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.