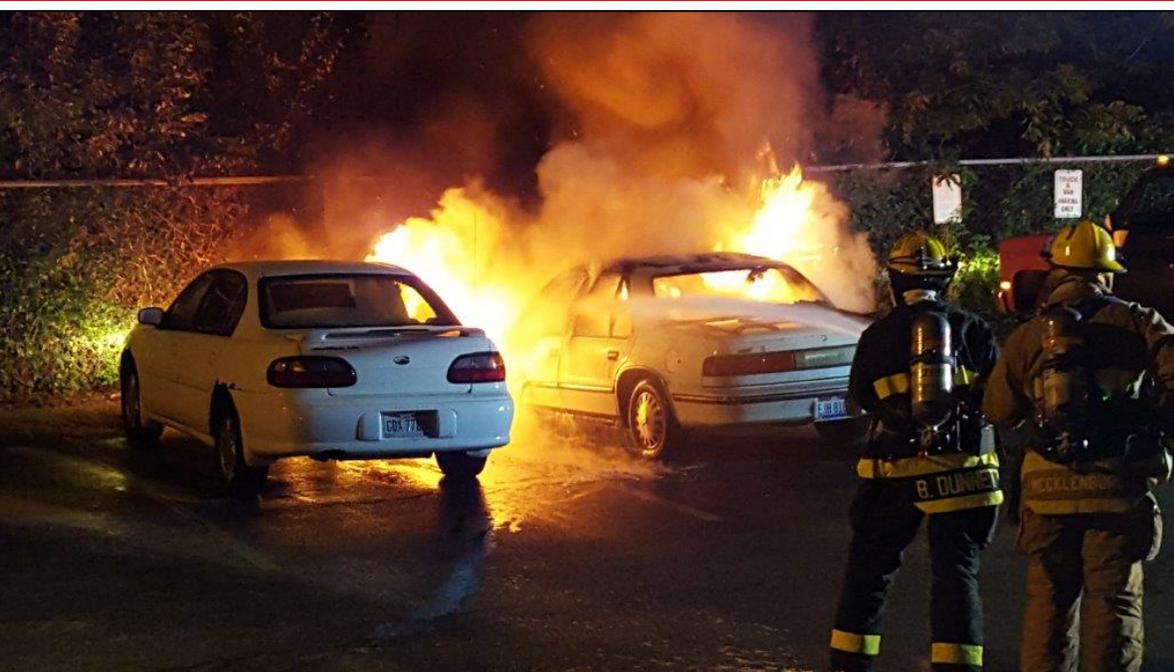


# North Olmsted Fire Department

2015

Annual Report





It is my honor and privilege to present the 2015 Annual Report for the City of North Olmsted Fire Department. The past year saw new challenges laid before our department, which were handled in a first-class manner by the professional and dedicated members of our organization. The accomplishments of this past year represent the combined hard work and commitment of the entire department.

2015 was another record year in terms of run volume. The department's run volume exceeded last year's record by 8.3 percent with a total of 4,393 total runs. Once again, calls for Emergency Medical Services were the driving force with regard to the increase. Specific successes of the past year included the hiring of four new firefighters, the promotion of two Captains, two Lieutenants, and the addition of one Fire Prevention Officer. The department was also awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant which was used to purchase new EMS squad jackets.

The members of the North Olmsted Fire Department exemplify the compassionate and professional dedication in which the Fire Service is known for. It is my privilege to be their Chief.

On behalf of those first-class individuals, I would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Mayor Kevin Kennedy, his administration, the members of North Olmsted City Council, and the citizens of North Olmsted for their unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Schepp. EFO, MSL



**MISSION**

**The Mission of the North Olmsted Fire Department is to provide the citizens of our fine community with first-class fire, emergency medical, rescue and fire prevention services. Department members will continually commit to accomplish the mission through high standards of education, leadership, and professionalism, while maintaining a passionate and dedicated resolve to safeguard the health and safety of our personnel.**

Message from the Chief	1
The Firefighter's Creed	3
Command Staff	4
Department Personnel	5
Organizational Chart	6
Department Changes	7
Department Overview	8
Fire Services	9
Emergency Medical Services	10-11
Car Seat Inspections	12
Fire Prevention Bureau	13
Department Training	14
Tactical Paramedic Report	15
Emergency Medical Services Training	16-17
2015 Firefighter of the Year	18
IAFF Local 1267	19-20
Fire Station 1 Lobby	21
Firefighter's Prayer	22

## ***The Firefighter's Creed***

*Adapted for the fire service by Chief Bobby Halton ret.  
from "A United States Coast Guardsman," by Vice Admiral Harry G. Hamlet*

**I am proud to be a firefighter.**

**I revere that long line of expert firefighters who by their devotion to duty and sacrifice of self, have made it possible for me to be a member of a service honored and respected, in good times and bad, throughout the world.**

**I never, by word or deed, will bring reproach upon the fair name of the fire service, nor permit others to do so unchallenged.**

**I will cheerfully and willingly obey all lawful orders.**

**I will always be on time to relieve, and shall endeavor to do more, rather than less, than my share.**

**I will always be at my station, alert and attending to my duties.**

**I shall, so far as I am able, bring to my seniors solutions, not problems.**

**I shall live joyously, but always with due regard for the rights and privileges of others.**

**I shall endeavor to be a model citizen in the community in which I live.**

**I shall sell my life dearly to my enemy fire but give it freely to rescue those in peril.**

**With God's help,  
I shall endeavor to be one of His noblest Works.**





**Fire Chief  
Edward M. Schepp**



**Medical Director  
Jason Glagola**



**Captain  
Tim Gut**



**Captain  
Jim Dunwoodie**



**Captain  
Brian Shlapack**



**Lieutenant  
Carl Schanz**



**Lieutenant  
Dave Boatman**



**Lieutenant  
Matt O'Donnell**



**Lieutenant  
Matt Peters**



**Lieutenant  
Adam Hudak**



**Lieutenant  
Dan Coyle**

**FIREFIGHTERS**

John Callahan, EMT-P  
Brian Dunnett, EMT-P  
Rich France, EMT-P  
Mike Fusco, EMT-P  
Bryan Gallagher, EMT-P  
Tim Gates, EMT-P  
Jeff Halsak, EMT-P  
Roger Hutkay, EMT-P  
Blake Ignasiak, EMT-P  
Shaun Kasza, EMT-P  
Shaun Kibler, EMT-P  
Todd Kirkpatrick, EMT-P  
Jim Knipper, EMT-P  
Mike Kopycinski, EMT-P  
Tony Lane, EMT-P

Dave Meadows, EMT-P  
Rich Mecklenburg, EMT-P  
Jim Penner, EMT-P  
Bob Pinkie, EMT-P  
Matt Radke, EMT-P  
Keith Rush, EMT-P  
Frank Selig, EMT-P  
Jack Sevier, EMT-P  
Dan Sparks, EMT-P  
Dave Stein, EMT-P  
Ted Vance, EMT-B  
Jim Weir, EMT-P  
Jeff Wilson, EMT-P  
Kevin Zywiec, EMT-P

**FIRE PREVENTION**

Jerry Cifranic, EMT-P  
Mark Weston, EMT-P

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

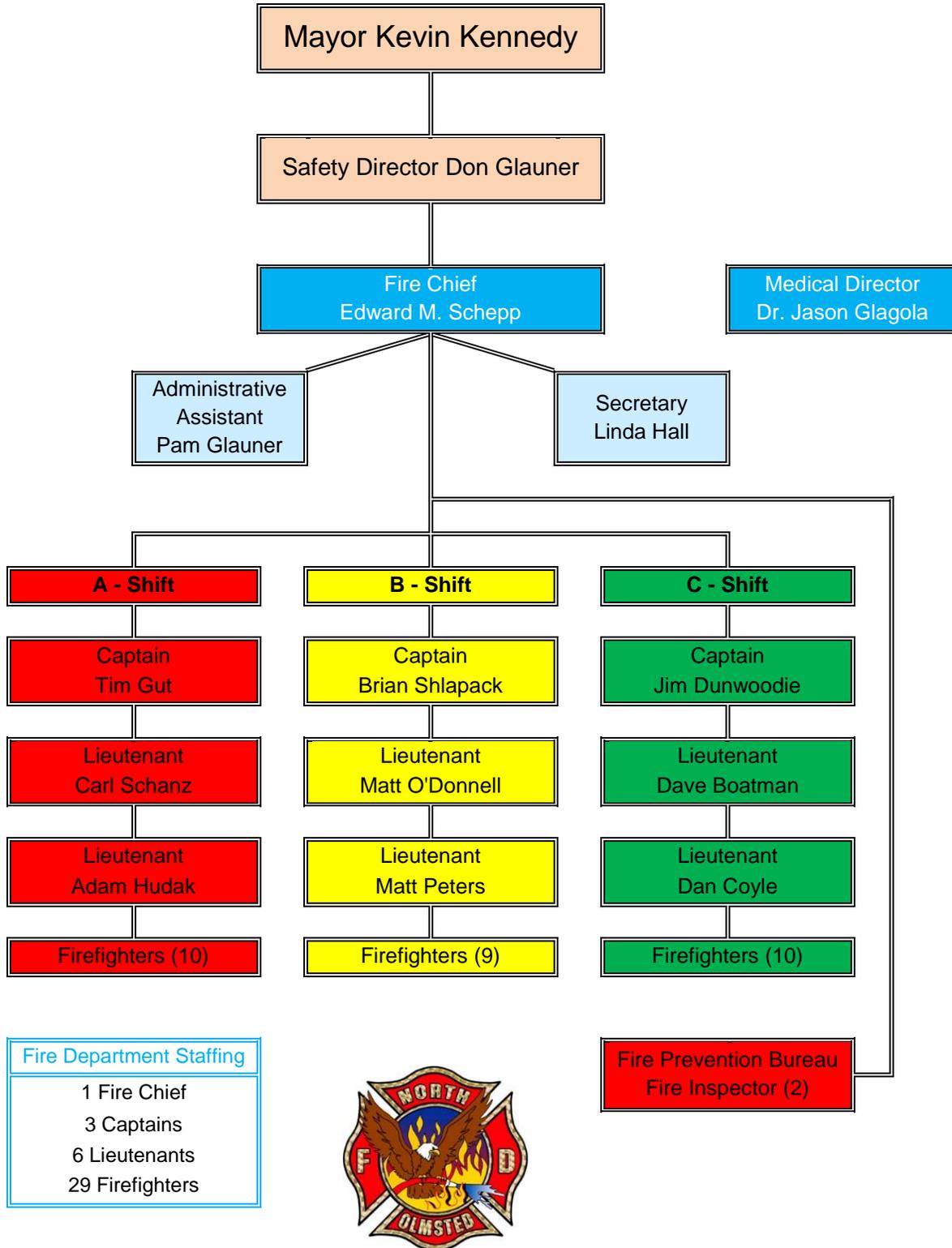
Pam Glauner

**SECRETARY**

Linda Hall

# Organizational Chart

(As of December 31, 2015)



**2015 RETIREMENTS**



Captain Jeff Hohenfeld



Captain Mike Ciarrone



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Ron Prebis

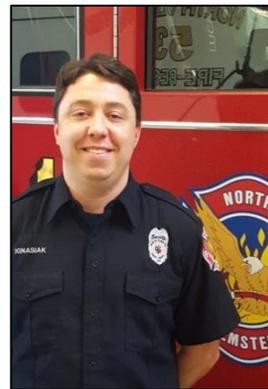
**2015 NEW HIRES**



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Brian Dunnett



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Shaun Kibler

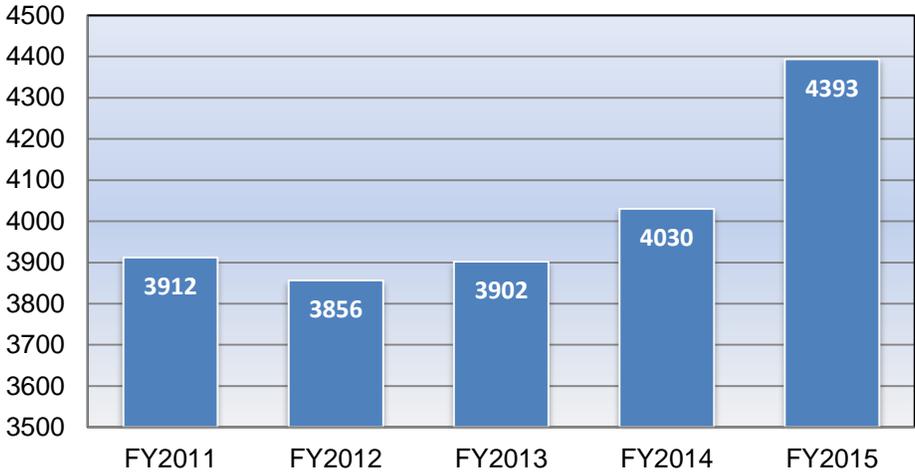


Firefighter/Paramedic  
Blake Ignasiak



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Dan Sparks

**Incident Count Trend**

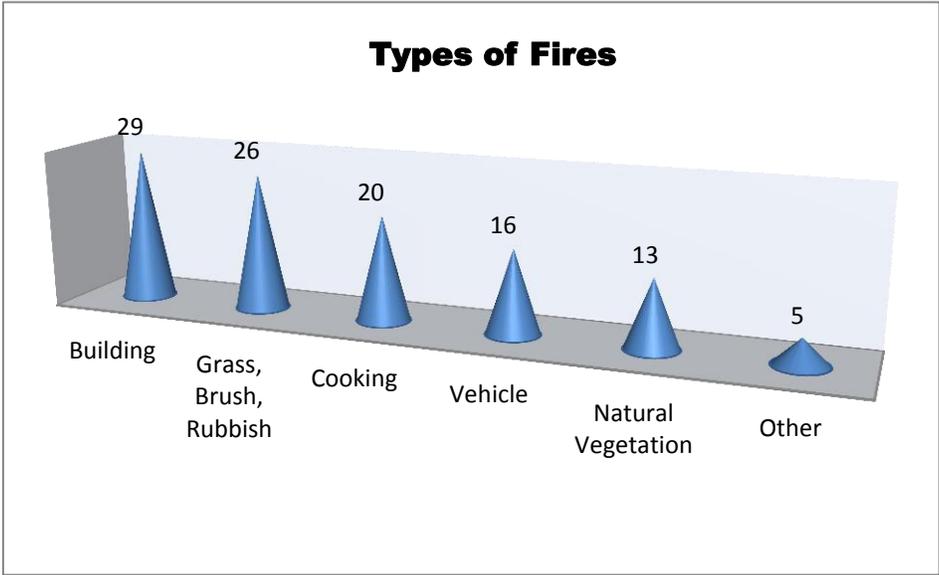


The North Olmsted Fire Department has 2 fire stations within the city which were responsible for responding to 4,393 calls for service in 2015. This number is a 9% increase from the previous year and a 12.3% increase from 2011. EMS calls comprised the majority of responses totaling 3,655 or 83.2% of all department calls of service.

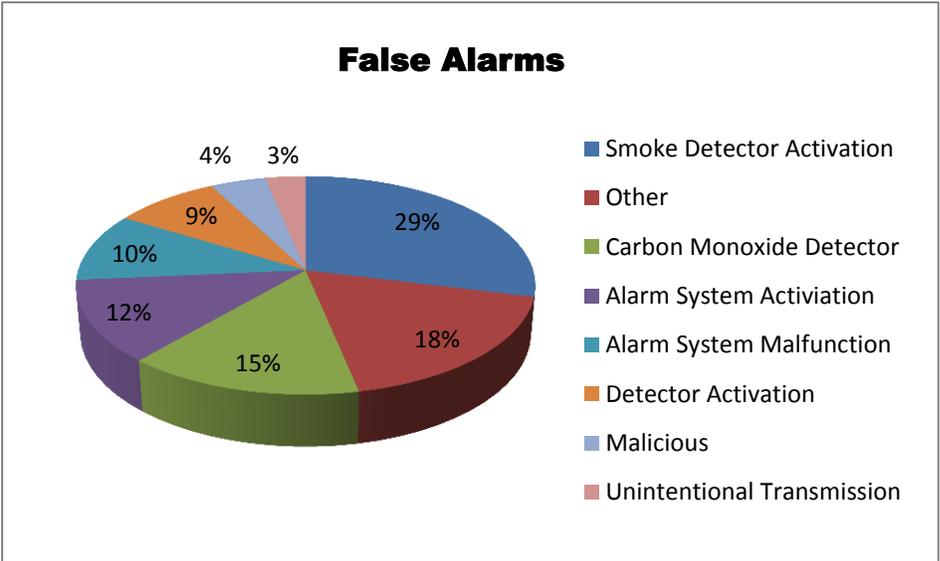
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>4393</b>
Station #1 Response	2410
Station #2 Response	1374
Both Stations Response	557
Unable to Respond	36
Skipped Run Number	16
Mutual Aid Given	209
Mutual Aid Received	146
EMS	3655
EMS Transports	2824
Fire	154
False Alarms	207
Other	343
SWAT/Hazmat	19
Sick Leave	3888
Overtime	2549
Fire \$ Loss	\$866,400.00



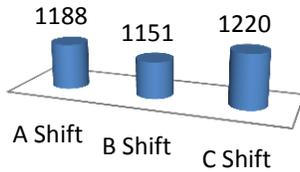
<b>Casualties</b>	<b>Total</b>
Civilian Injuries	1
Civilian Fatalities	3
Firefighter Injuries	9
Firefighter Fatalities	0
EMS Injuries	3



Fire Losses - \$10,000 and Over	Total
5750 Columbia Road	\$140,000
24811 Doe Drive	\$30,000
4427 Brendan Lane	\$19,000
23840 Gessner Road	\$62,000
4803 Columbia Road	\$180,000
20648 Lorain Road	\$13,000
24251 Ambour Drive	\$11,000
23999 Lorain Road	\$22,000

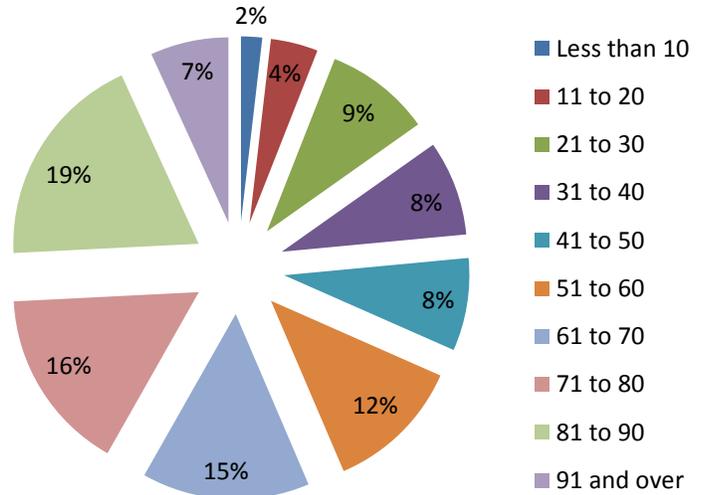


### EMS by Shifts



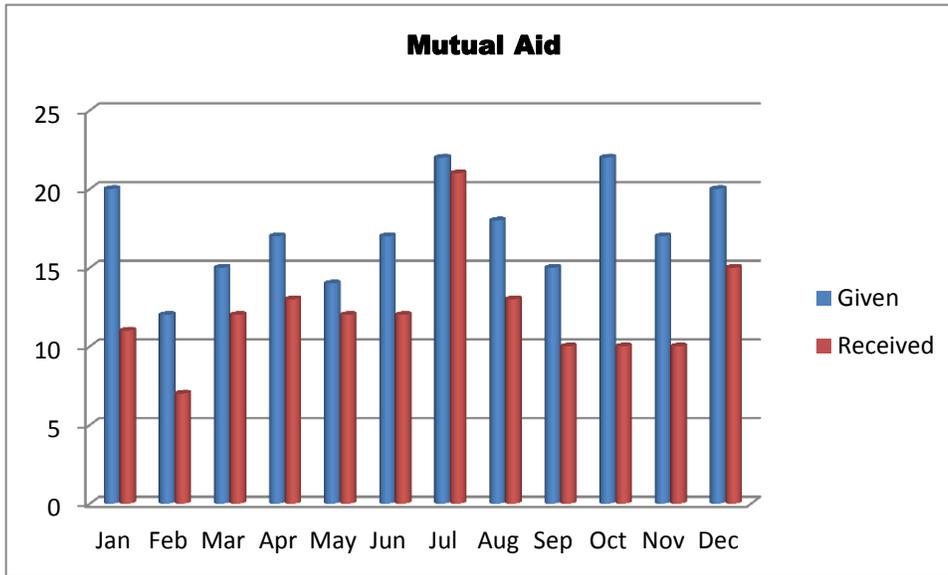
EMS by Fire Unit	Total
Engine 1	64
Engine 2	9
Ladder 1	5
Squad 51	2008
Squad 52	1458
Squad 53	11
Truck 58	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>3559</b>

### EMS Calls by Age Range



Outcomes	Total
Cancelled	63
Dead Prior to Arrival	28
No Patient Found	59
No Transport / Patient Refused Care	368
Other	86
Transported / Patient Refused Care	1
Treated / No Transport	238
Treated / Transferred Care	6
Treated / Transported by EMS	2707
Treated / Transported by Private Vehicle	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3559</b>





### Mutual Aid Cities

- Bay Village
- Fairview Park
- Lakewood
- North Ridgeville
- Olmsted Township
- Olmsted Falls
- Rocky Rive
- Westlake

Treatments Performed		Total	
12 Lead EKG Performed	581	CPR with LUCAS Initiated	21
4 Lead EKG Performed	290	Defibrillation Performed	16
ALS Assessment Completed	190	IO Needle Insertion	15
Airway Adjunct Placed	11	Immobilization	195
Apply Cold Pack	9	Initiate IV	1161
Apply Splint	35	King Airway Insertion	14
Blood Draw	65	Medication Administration	1004
Bandaging / Wound Care	40	Monitor Applied	265
CPAP Application	23	Orotracheal Intubation	8
CPR – Manual	19	Stretcher-Patient Secured	19



Receiving Hospitals	Total
Avon Richard E. Jacobs ED	2
Cleveland Clinic – Fairview	1424
Cleveland Clinic - Lakewood	3
Elyria Memorial	1
Lutheran	2
Southwest General Health Center	21
St. John Westshore	1261
UH Rainbow Babies & Childrens	1
University Hospital of Cleveland	1
No Data	843
<b>Total</b>	<b>3559</b>

There were 53 car seats installed and/or corrected in 2015, an increase of 25 inspections from the prior year. There is a lack of technicians on the west side of Cleveland, and pregnant and new mothers are always looking for guidance to make sure that their car seats are properly installed.

According to seatcheck.org:

- While 96 % of parents and caregivers believe their child safety seats are installed correctly, research shows that seven out of 10 children are improperly restrained.
- Using a booster seat is 60 % safer for kids than being restrained by a seat belt alone. However, nearly 70 % of drivers believe it is safe for children age eight or under to no longer be secured in a child safety seat or booster seat. Only 21 % of children age four to eight are "at least on occasion" riding in a booster seat while traveling in a passenger vehicle.
- Children of all ages are safest when properly restrained in the back seat. Yet, six out of 10 drivers of children age 12 or under believe it is safe for children age 12 or under to sit in the front seat in front of a passenger air bag. And, more than one in 10 children under 80 pounds are completely unrestrained when riding in vehicles.

The car seat check program at the North Olmsted Fire Department provides a valuable service to the community. I am also often afforded the opportunity to show families around the station and talk about fire safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Radke

Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician



FF Matt Radke



**MISSION: Protect life and property from hazardous conditions that may occur by providing code enforcement, inspections, education, response preplanning and investigations.**

The Fire Prevention Bureau oversees the inspections of the commercial life safety systems in the City. These include fire alarm and sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers, restaurant cooking suppression hoods, elevators and private hydrants. Fire Safety Inspections are done on all commercial buildings including all the public and private schools, day care facilities, group homes, assisted living residences, nursing homes, high rises, apartment buildings, hotels, motels and shopping mall. A residential inspection is performed for all adoption and foster care applications. Plan reviews of new commercial construction and renovations are done in conjunction with the Building Department to provide insight on life safety and first responder access. Additionally, false alarms are investigated to reduce frequency.



FF Jerry Cifranic

In 2015, much time and effort was given by members of the Bureau to convert and integrate old paper files into the MobileEyes Inspection Software. Other duties of the Bureau include gathering emergency contact information, fire safety talks, and inspecting the set-up at Homecoming and After Prom. The Bureau also oversaw the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks for the City’s bicentennial celebration; the first time the City has had fireworks in over 25 years.



FF Mark Weston

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Cifranic & Mark Weston  
Fire Safety Inspectors

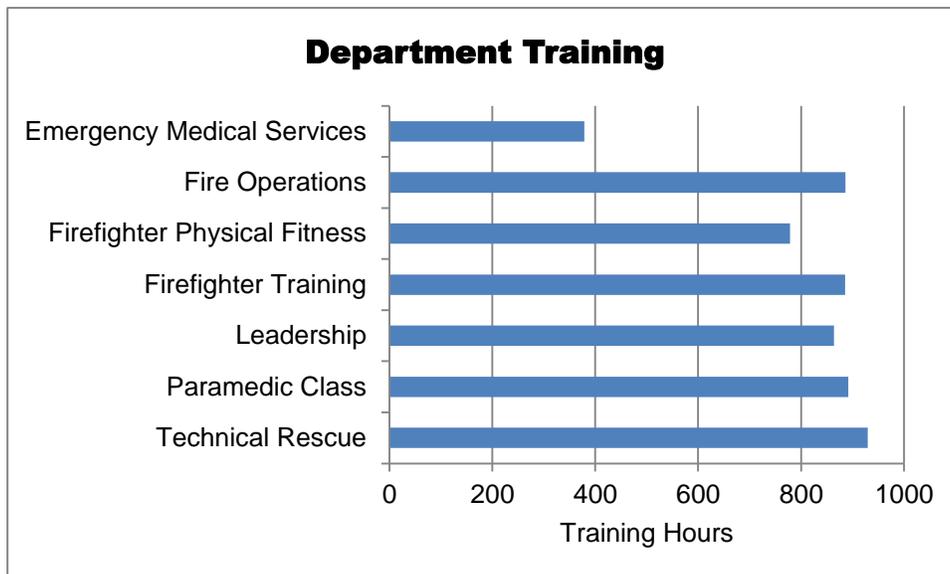
Types of Inspections	Total
Cooking Hood Suppression Systems	145
Fire Suppression Sprinkler Systems	62
Fire Alarm Systems	43
Commercial Building Fire Safety	435
Foster Care & Adoption Applications	14
Schools & Day Cares	15
Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Group Homes	13
Apartment Buildings & Hotel/Motel	14
Investigation of Complaints	10
Construction Plan Review	102
Final Occupancy	96



**GETSAFEALARMS.COM**

In 2015 the North Olmsted Fire Department's members realized 6,676.8 fire training hours, an increase of nearly 100% over 2014's 3,432.4 hours. The increase can be attributed to a number of factors. First and foremost the efforts of the Officers and members of this department in keeping up with the demanding training schedule while emergency runs hit an all-time high. Also, training documentation has improved greatly. For example, to combat the number one killer of firefighters (heart attacks) the department engages in daily physical fitness. In 2014 the members logged 274.58 hours, for 2015 the hours totaled 778.33. I believe there was some increase in member participation but mostly can be attributed to better record keeping. Also, the increased hours in the Technical Rescue disciplines of Rope Rescue, Swift Water Rescue, Search and Rapid Intervention combined for a total of 929.65 hours. And finally but equally important, Leadership Training in the form of Promotional Preparation, Certified Fire Officer I and II, Acting Officer, and Certified Fire Instructor I and II combined for a total of 888.75 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Captain Tim Gut  
Training Officer



*The chart highlights the main areas of training for the department.*

2015 was another busy year for WEB (Westshore Enforcement Bureau) SWAT. In an effort to provide the safest possible service to the entire community, the team focused their training efforts on peaceful conflict resolution and crowd control techniques. After the events in Ferguson, Missouri, WEB wanted to ensure that we would be ready if ever faced with such a horrific scene.

WEB also stayed ahead of the curve by adding five new tactical medics to the team. Included in those five is North Olmsted's own Jim Knipper. Jim attended a tactical medic class at Bowling Green State University and was welcomed to the team with open arms. With the five new additions, WEB's total of eight tactical medics is one of the largest SWAT medic teams in the state.

WEB SWAT had the wonderful opportunity to practice their RTF (Rescue Task Force) techniques at North Olmsted's old middle school and was able to hold numerous training sessions inside the abandoned school. These techniques will soon be used throughout the state in not only a SWAT capacity, but also with patrol officers and fire department members alike. These new approaches will most likely be introduced sometime in 2016.

The New Year is already looking to be a busy one for WEB SWAT. The entire team is preparing for the Republican National Convention in July as well as the OTOA (Ohio Tactical Officers Association) Conference in Sandusky in June of 2016. Along with these large events, the team is seeing a change in leadership and people stepping up into new leadership roles. With these changes, we are striving to provide the most well-trained and professional SWAT team Ohio has to offer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lt. Adam Hudak



Lt. Adam Hudak



FF Jim Knipper



**MISSION: To treat the City of North Olmsted's residents and visitors with first class emergency medical care; while extending professionalism and compassion to all.**

The year 2015 welcomed in the North Olmsted Fire Department's first full calendar year in a continued partnership with University Hospital. Through this partnership, Dr. Jason Glagola of St John's Medical Center (SJMC) oversees the delivery of Emergency Medical Services in the City of North Olmsted.



In the year 2015, the North Olmsted Fire Department responded to 4,393 requests for service. From this number, 81% were EMS related, with a total of 3,557 requests for EMS service answered by the North Olmsted Division of EMS. This number represents a marked increase of EMS related responses over 2014 of 264 additional requests for EMS service. This one year increase of over 8% represents the largest single year increase of EMS services provided in over 10 years.

The North Olmsted Fire Department proudly serves our community with two front line firefighter/paramedic staffed rescue squads, as well as, paramedic level staffed and equipped first responder fire engines. The great effort and skill our firefighter/paramedics utilize while delivering first class care to those in need, is a direct result of both a genuine desire to help and a commitment to high standards of continuing education. Each month, members of the North Olmsted Fire Department receive continuing education from the highly trained educators of University Hospitals. Vital topics such as cardiac and stroke emergencies are two of many subjects regularly covered. Additionally, in 2015 our members successfully completed two specialized training courses. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) are now certifications our members proudly possess to serve our community.

## Jason Glagola, D.O.

**Dr. Jason Glagola is an Emergency Medicine trained physician who currently practices at University Hospitals St. John Medical Center. He went to medical school at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He received his medical degree (D.O.) in June of 2004. He did his Emergency Medicine residency at St. John Medical Center from 2004-2008. He worked for Metro Life Flight during his years of residency. He has worked at St. John Medical Center since graduating from residency. He is currently involved in teaching at the Emergency Medicine residency program at St. John Medical Center and teaching for Emergency Medical Services for the west side of Cleveland. Dr. Glagola became the medical director for the North Olmsted Fire Department in 2015.**

Through our partnership with St. John's Medical Center of University Hospitals, a registered nurse rider and firefighter/paramedic exchange program that was initiated in 2014 continues to flourish. In coordination with St. John Medical Center's Education Department, emergency room registered nurses continue to spend a day per nurse, riding on our rescue squad with our firefighter/paramedics. Additionally, newly hired firefighter/paramedics spend a day of orientation in the Emergency Department of St. John Medical Center. The purpose of this exchange program is to continue to cultivate our shared environment of cooperation, ultimately resulting in the highest level of continuity of patient care possible. One of the many positive results of this special relationship is our "Stroke Patient Direct to Cat-Scan" initiative. Qualifying

patients who present with stroke-like symptoms are now transported directly to the Cat-Scan Department of SJMC. When one considers the human brain loses 2 million brain cells per minute without proper blood supply, it is clearly evident to understand why this initiative is so vital to improving the outcomes of our patients.

The North Olmsted Fire Department is proud to have been awarded the American Heart Association's nationally recognized "Mission Lifeline Award". This award was presented in recognition of the excellent care delivered to patients experiencing a major heart attack. As further pertains to this excellent care of heart patients, Firefighters Timothy Gates, Bryan Gallagher, and Michael Fusco proudly represented our Fire Department as three of only a small number of firefighter/paramedics in the Greater Cleveland area invited to attend University Hospital's "Heart Hero's Dinner". This formal event recognized the lifesaving care that was administered by the attendees, while also reuniting these "Heart Hero's" with the patient to which they administered life saving.



The North Olmsted Fire Department also provides CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training throughout the community. Firefighter/paramedics Rich Mecklenburg and David Stein proudly serve as our Department's lead CPR/AED instructors. All city buildings and schools, and many private businesses are equipped with AEDs.

North Olmsted's Rescue Squads and Fire Engines are dispatched by City 911 Emergency Medical Dispatchers (EMDs). Dispatchers are trained to provide potentially lifesaving instructions to callers prior to arrival of a rescue squad or fire engine. All dispatchers complete 12 hours of continuing education each year to meet their certification requirements. Our dispatchers serve as an indispensable link in the professional care our patients receive.



Dispatchers: Mark Madden, Beth Vance, Christie Kort and Tammy Farris with North Olmsted Firefighters.

Operating in partnership with our Medical Control and the industry leading Protocols of University Hospitals St. John Medical Center, the North Olmsted Fire Department is extending to our patients in the pre-hospital setting, the greatest extension of emergency room medical care possible. EMS patients are receiving pre-hospital medical assistance that is redefining our region's standard of care. Residents of North Olmsted and visitors alike can be assured, that should they require emergency assistance, they will receive the highest quality, most evidence based, and first class medical care available from their North Olmsted Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Captain Brian Shlapack  
EMS Coordinator

Lieutenant Adam Hudak was recognized by the North Olmsted VFW Post 7647 as the 2015 Firefighter of the Year. He has been a member of the North Olmsted Fire Department since 2001, and in January 2015, he was promoted from firefighter to lieutenant. His many accomplishments include:

- Tactical medic on the Westshore Enforcement Bureau SWAT Team
- Health EMS facilitator for Health EMS program
- Active with regard to physical fitness motivation for the fire department
- Philanthropic activities within the community
- PTA contact and scout troop tour guide
- Charity volleyball tournament coordinator
- Certified ISR instructor
- Specialized survival swimming lessons for children

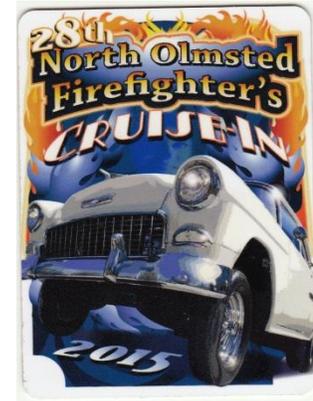


Lt. Adam Hudak



Lieutenant Hudak has not only been instrumental in numerous advancements within the department over the past year, but also with regard to raising funds for many charitable projects outside of his departmental duties. As the Health EMS facilitator, he has assisted the members of the fire department with the transition to the new Health EMS software which provides information management solutions to help our first responders and healthcare providers to easily and quickly gather data at the point of occurrence. He is also concerned about the health and welfare of his colleagues in as much as he initiated a motivational workout contest along with personally purchasing and repairing exercise equipment for the department. His special attention to children's interests is commendable. Adam arranges scout troop tours to assist with earning first aid badges along with PTA presentations and a toy collection for Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital's cancer patients. Adam is known to all as a very caring and considerate paramedic who is an excellent communicator and provides excellent patient care and understanding. His exemplary dedication and passion for his position warranted his nomination for the 2015 Firefighter of the Year.

Throughout the year, members of the North Olmsted Firefighters Local 1267 are involved in several community service and outreach projects. The North Olmsted Firefighters hosted their 28th annual benefit car show known as "Cruise-In 2015" on Wednesday July 8th. The event was again held at the Great Northern Corporate Center. Even with a very slight sprinkle of rain early on, just over 400 cars and trucks of all makes, models, years and styles from throughout Northern Ohio attended this annual event. All the proceeds, as usual, are donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This year's contribution was just over \$9,000 which brings a combined total since 1988 of approximately \$260,000. What has become unique about this car show event, besides it being one of the longest, continual and most attended shows is the community support it receives. The Great Northern Corporate Center being our biggest contributor allows the use of their facilities. There are also the grocery stores, pizza shops, restaurants, and auto stores just to name a few of the supporters. What started 27 years ago with just the Firefighters helping has grown to their children and grandchildren coming out to help the evening of the show. The North Olmsted Police Department and Service Department supply much needed support to make sure all is taken care of. Finally, for at least the past 10 years, the North Olmsted Firefighter's "Cruise-In" has always placed in the top 5 of the Cruisin Times Magazine Top Ten Regional Events and this year was no different having placed 3rd.



The North Olmsted Firefighters have spent the past eleven years collecting coats, gloves, hats and scarfs for needy children throughout the Greater Cleveland Area. The main collection site is in Fire Station #1. For the past 4 years, the residents of Victoria Plaza Apartments have joined this worthy cause. This year saw a combined amount of over 50 coats and a huge bag of gloves, mittens, hats and scarves. Over the years, the number of coats donated exceeds 650!

In July of this past year members of IAFF Local 1267 donated their time working at the now annual "Mud Volleyball" tournament. The money made at this event is given out to the locals who help with it to give to the charities of their events. This year they were able to donate \$1,800 to various charities including helping a civil servant's sister with mounting healthcare bills after being diagnosed with cancer.

For the 14<sup>th</sup> year, the North Olmsted Firefighters have held a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony in conjunction with the North Olmsted Police Department and North Olmsted VFW Post 7647. The ceremony memorializes the Firefighters, EMS Workers, Police Officers, and citizens who died in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and the soldiers who have died since. Included in the service was the “Tolling of the Bells” and “Taps” performed by trumpet player, Joe Zerucha.

These are just a few of the examples of members of Local 1267 doing things outside of their job duties to make their community a better place for all. The members of Local 1267 are dedicated to serving our community and look forward to another year of service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryan Gallagher  
Sergeant at Arms  
North Olmsted Local 1267



The lobby of North Olmsted Fire Station #1 is more than just a waiting area as visitors are welcomed into the Fire Station. This lobby has been transformed into a combination of a small museum and learning center. Visitors may take their time and learn about the history of the North Olmsted Fire Department, the men who served to provide an important service and at the same time learn about fire department equipment and tools. As visitors walk about and view the showcases, they will learn different ways to extinguish fires, view antique alarm boxes, fire nozzles, types of axes, old photos, a fire bell (which children are encouraged to ring), scenes from 9/11 in New York City and even professional art depicting the famous "Bus Garage Fire" in 1982. Many of these items have been donated by past fire department members or their families, residences of the city and even the local VFW. Visitors also may view the present staff of the North Olmsted Fire Department and the men and women who serve daily to make our community a safe and better place.



Lt. Carl Schanz

Respectfully submitted,  
Lt. Carl Schanz



**When I am called to duty God, wherever flames may rage,  
give me strength to save a life whatever be its age.**

**Help me to embrace a little child, before it's too late,  
or save an older person from the horror of that fate.**

**Enable me to be alert, to hear the weakest shout,  
and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.**

**I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me,  
to guard my neighbor and protect his property.**

**And if according to your will I have to lose my life,  
bless with your protecting hand my loving family from strife.**



**Fire Station 1**

**24291 Lorain Road**

**North Olmsted, OH 44070**

**Fire Station 2**

**29592 Lorain Road**

**North Olmsted, OH 44070**

**[www.north-olmsted.com](http://www.north-olmsted.com)**