



**CITY OF  
WOOSTER**  
**DIVISION OF FIRE**  
Annual Report  
2015

# Executive Summary

Honorable Mayor Breneman, City Council, and the Citizens of Wooster:

I am honored to submit the 2015 Annual Report for the City of Wooster, Division of Fire. This document provides a snap shot of last year's accomplishments and provides an overview of the all-hazard emergency service organization that serves our great City.

2015 was a dynamic year filled with significant change, which will serve as a foundation for future growth, and service level increases. Last year was marked with multiple retirements, hiring of new firefighters, and promotion of several Lieutenants. We would like to recognize Fire Chief Breneman and FF Rickett for their years of service, and congratulate them on their respective retirements. With that, we welcome a new generation of WFD firefighters, along with the enthusiasm of new leadership.



In addition to the changes in our personnel, the Fire Division, with the support of City Administration and City Council:

- Purchased a vacant structure to be renovated into Fire Station #3.
- Continued the planning process for the Wooster Safety Center (Fire Station #2).
- Fostered continued support of the Wooster-Ashland Regional Council of Governments and the development of a regional public safety dispatch center.
- Updated all firefighting personal protective equipment to NFPA standards.
- Conducted emergency preparedness activities for new businesses.
- Replaced a grass fire unit and confined space rescue trailer.
- Conducted specialized hazardous materials training.
- Redeveloped our emergency response agreement with Wooster Twp. Fire Dept.

As we look forward to 2016, the fire division will embark on a very busy and exciting year. The newly renovated fire station #3 will become operational, resulting in an updated 3 station emergency response operation. The Wooster Safety Center (Fire St. #2) will break ground and enter the construction phase. The WAR COG Regional Communication Center will begin operations and become our primary PSAP and communications center. A new Medic Unit is slated for purchase, along with a new equipment storage garage/annex at Fire St. #1.

The fire division personnel, and I, look forward to the opportunity to enhance the fire division and build upon the outstanding services we provide to the City of Wooster.

Thank you and be safe,

Barry Saley

Fire Chief

# WFD MISSION AND MOTTO

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## The Mission of the Wooster Division of Fire is:

*To prepare for, respond to and mitigate all calls for duty, in an efficient and cost effective manner. This will occur by providing an all-hazards approach to emergency services requested by the citizens, businesses and visitors of the City of Wooster.*

*To meet this mission we will aggressively provide: fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue operations, training activities, emergency preparedness and community risk reduction.*

## Fire Division Motto:



***“SAVE LIVES - FIGHT FIRES”***

# WFD CORE VALUES AND VISION

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## Core Values:

In conjunction with the core values of the City of Wooster: *Accountability, Continuous Improvement, Leadership & Management, Respect & Communication, Honesty & Integrity, Stewardship & Trust, and Safety*, the Division of Fire applies the following additional core values:

***Professionalism***  
***Service Excellence***  
***Customer Service***  
***Hard Work***  
***Trust***  
***Tradition***  
***Valor***

## Vision Statement:

*The Wooster Division of Fire strives to be a professional, efficient, community oriented, all-hazards emergency service provider, which preserves tradition as part of its future, by learning from those that served before us; as we embrace technology, research, data and innovation to become a nationally recognized leader in fire service.*

# THE FIRE DIVISION

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The Wooster Division of Fire provides emergency services to the City of Wooster and a portion of Wayne Twp., via a contractual agreement. Our primary services include: fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue operations, training, emergency preparedness, and community risk reduction. For effective management, the division is broken down into sub-divisions and specialty units that are managed by fire officers and/or firefighters. These sub-divisions include: Administration, Operations, Fire Prevention, and Training.

The Wooster Division of Fire is a career fire department staffed 24 hours a day/365 days a year with forty-five (45) uniformed and one (1) civilian personnel. The Administration Division consists of the Fire Chief, Asst. Fire Chief and Office Coordinator. The Fire Prevention Division is overseen by the Asst. Chief in conjunction with the Fire Inspector. The Operations and Training Division is overseen by the Asst. Chief and is divided into three (3) shifts. Each shift consists of one (1) Captain, two (2) Lieutenants and eleven (11) firefighters, for a total of forty-two (42) operational personnel.



The Fire Division currently operates out of two fire stations.

Headquarters (Fire St. #1) is located at 510 N. Market St. and Fire St. 2 is located at 433 E. Highland Ave. Fire St. 3 is located at

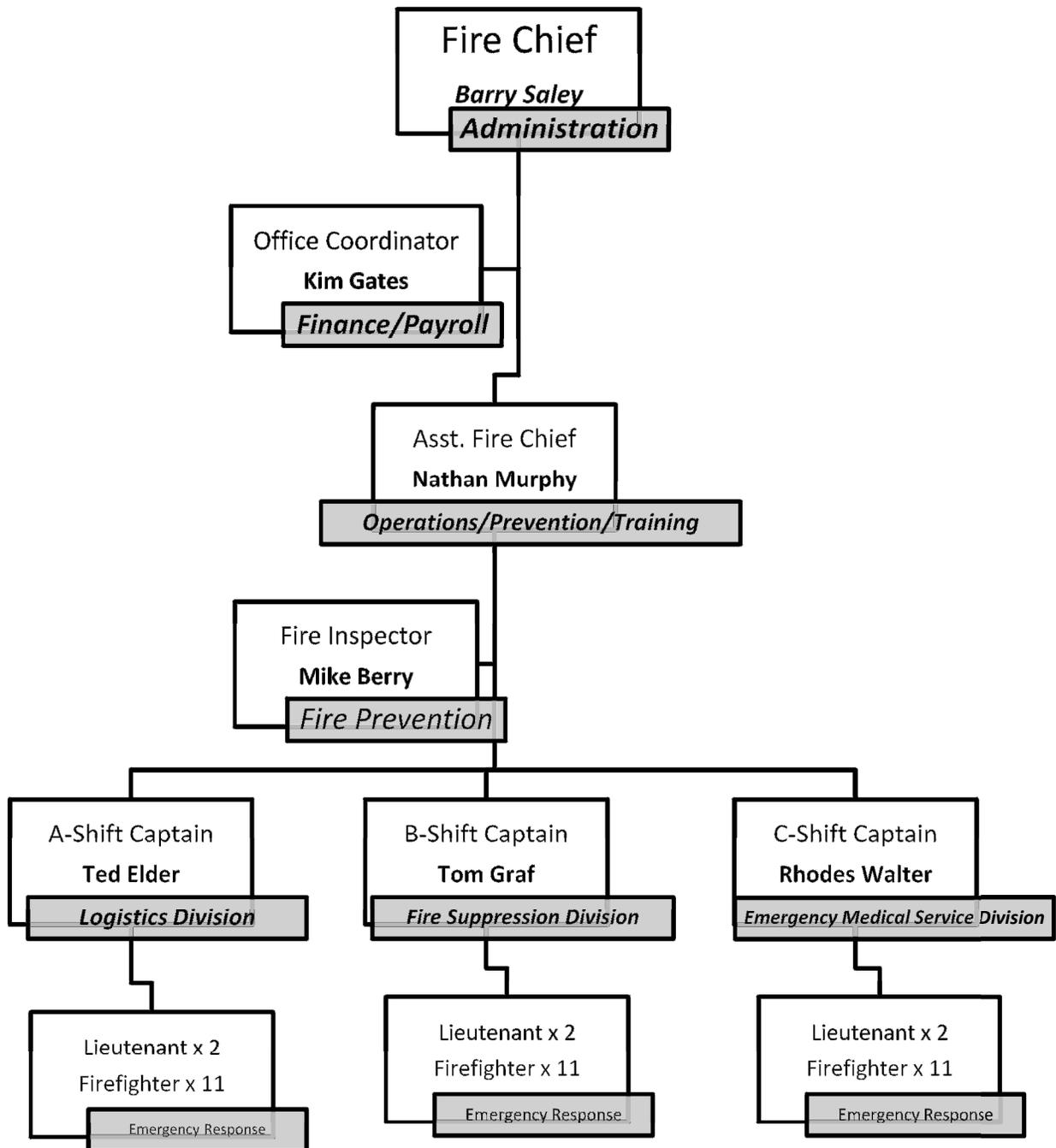
2255 Gateway Dr. and is currently being renovated with a Spring 2016 estimated completion date. The City Safety Center is in the final planning stages, with construction beginning in April of 2016 and a completion date in the Spring of 2017.

Over the last year, the division has continued to work to improve the effectiveness of the division with the purchase of Fire St. 3 and development of the WAR COG communications center. To prepare for the new three station operation, the division has developed several new Standard Operating Guidelines, departmental policies, and response methodologies. In addition to the operational updates, the division has been working to become accredited by the Center for Public Safety Excellence. .



# THE FIRE DIVISION

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# WFD OPERATIONS DIVISION

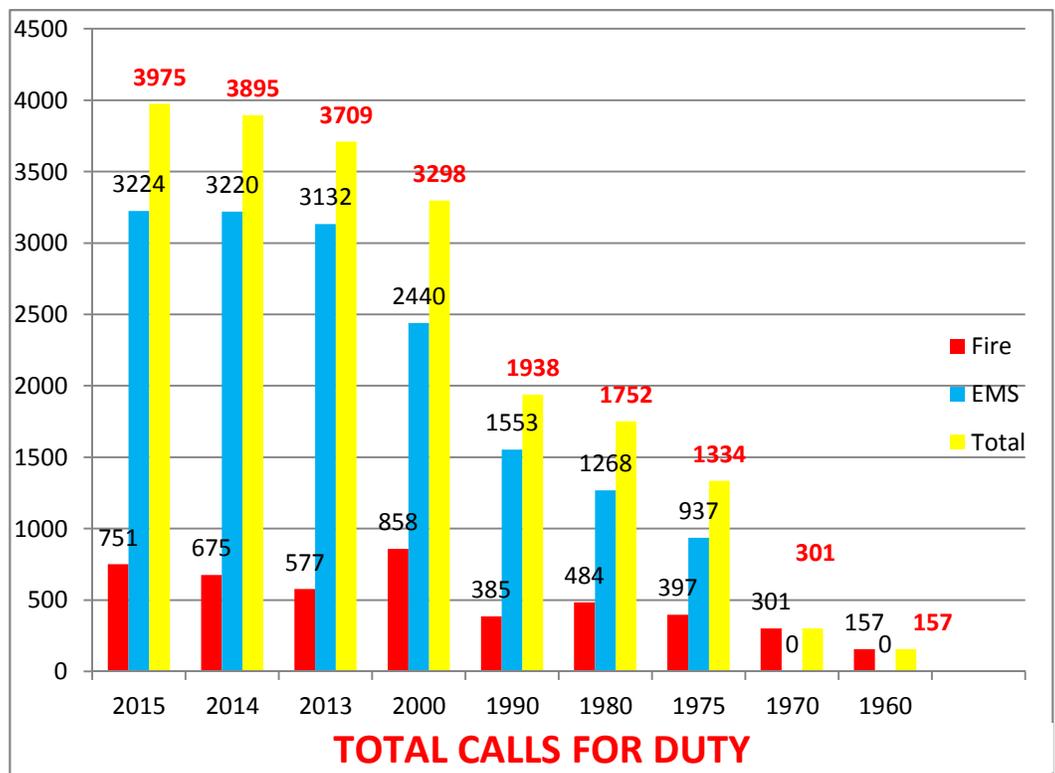
The fire division is the primary emergency service responder to all emergency incidents within the City of Wooster. As the scope of the fire service has changed, so has the fire division. We have transformed into an all-hazards emergency service organization.

What does this mean? It means that the fire division does more than respond to fire and medical incidents. Our scope of responsibilities to the community and citizens include:

- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Medical Service
- Public Service
- Special Rescue (Confined Space, Water, Ice, Industrial)
- Terrorism
- Severe Weather
- Civil Unrest
- Prevention
- Emergency Preparedness
- Radiological
- Health/Infectious Disease

As the scope of our responsibilities has changed, so have our calls for duty. Over the past 25 years, our emergency calls for duty have more than doubled, yet our staffing and response methodologies have not changed.

A review of our response data indicates WFD crews responded to 77 different types of calls for duty, of which approximately 81% were medical in nature.



# A CLOSER LOOK

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The below tables & charts provide a detailed visual representation of WFD Operations and the diversity of services provided to the community

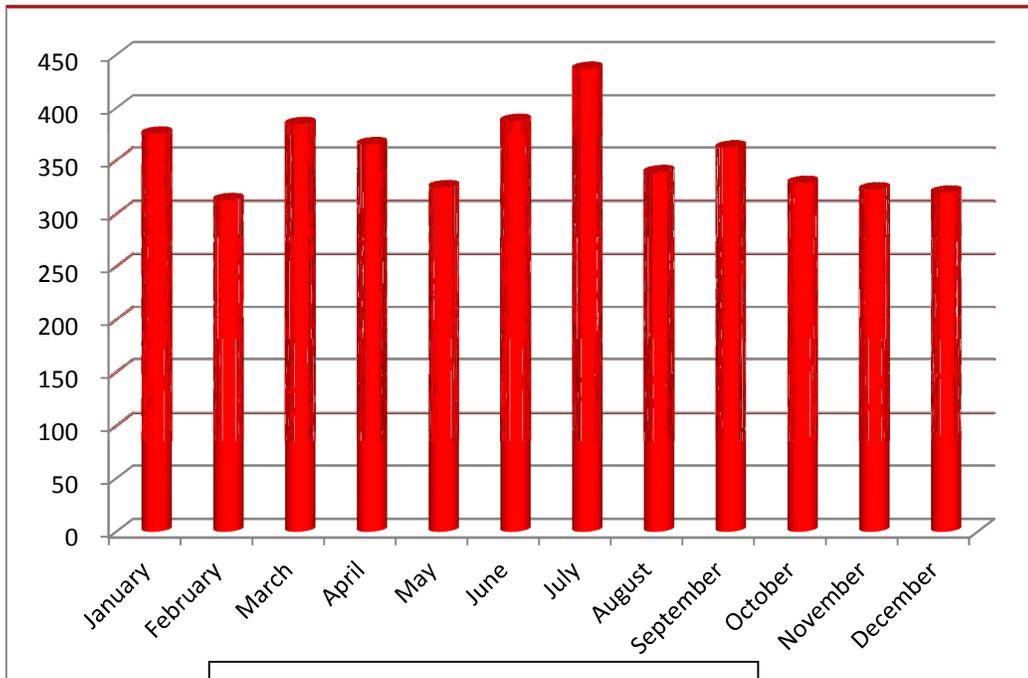
EMS	EMS Call Non-MVA	3,170
	Motor vehicle accident with injuries	54
		<b>3,224 TOTAL</b>
Non-EMS		
	Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	8
	Breakdown of light ballast	1
	Carbon monoxide incident	14
	Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	5
	Hazardous condition, other	15
	Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	23
	Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1
	Power line down	3
	Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	12
	Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	41
	Animal rescue	1
	Assist invalid	2
	Assist police or other governmental agency	7
	Attempted burning, illegal action, other	1
	Authorized controlled burning	4
	Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1
	Building fire	18
	Camper or recreational vehicle (RV) fire	1
	Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	9
	Central station, malicious false alarm	1
	Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1
	Citizen complaint	1
	CO detector activation due to malfunction	2
	Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other	1
	Cooking fire, confined to container	8
	Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	29
	Dispatched & canceled en route	77
	Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	1
	Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	1
	Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure	2
	Extrication, rescue, other	1
	False alarm or false call, other	1
	Fire, other	2
	Fires in structure other than in a building	2
	Flood assessment	3
	Forest, woods or wildland fire	1

# A CLOSER LOOK

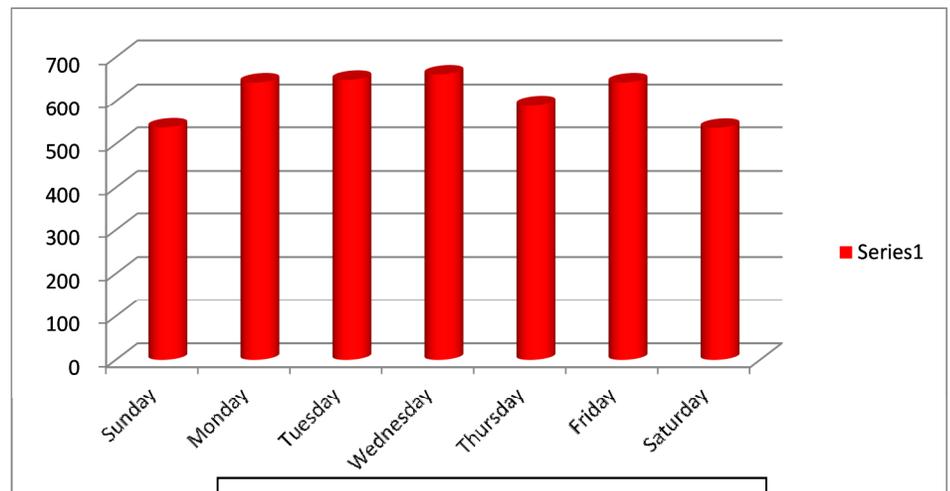
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Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	8
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1
Good intent call, other	55
Grass fire	3
HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	5
Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	1
Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1
Lock-in (if lock out , use 511 )	1
Malicious, mischievous false call, other	2
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	12
Natural vegetation fire, other	1
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	7
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1
Outside equipment fire	1
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	2
Passenger vehicle fire	8
Police matter	6
Public service	175
Public service assistance, other	43
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	5
Rescue, EMS incident, other	13
Road freight or transport vehicle fire	2
Service Call, other	1
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	11
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	5
Smoke or odor removal	5
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	2
Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	4
Trash or rubbish fire, contained	10
Unauthorized burning	37
Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	22
	<b>751 TOTAL</b>

# A CLOSER LOOK



**Monthly Call Volume**

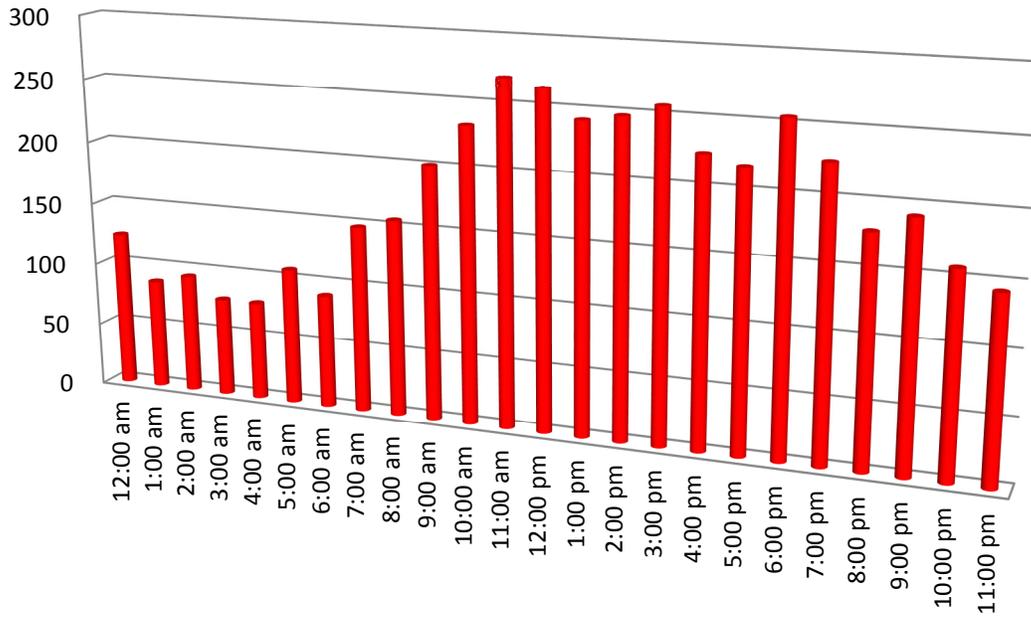


**Daily Call Volume**

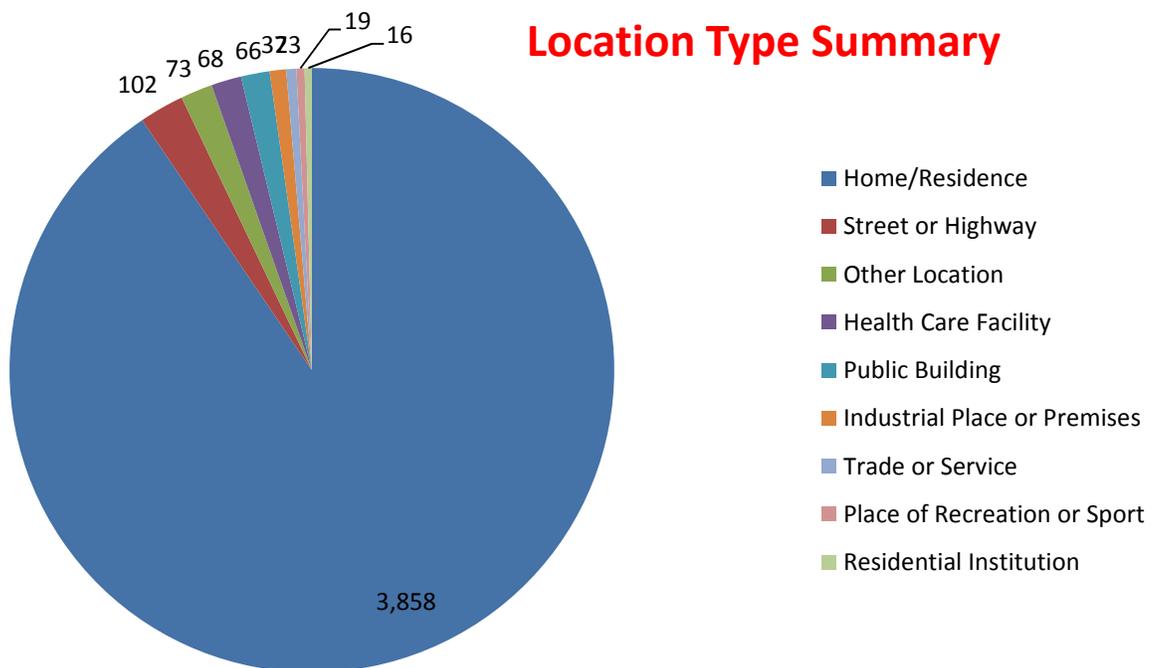


# A CLOSER LOOK

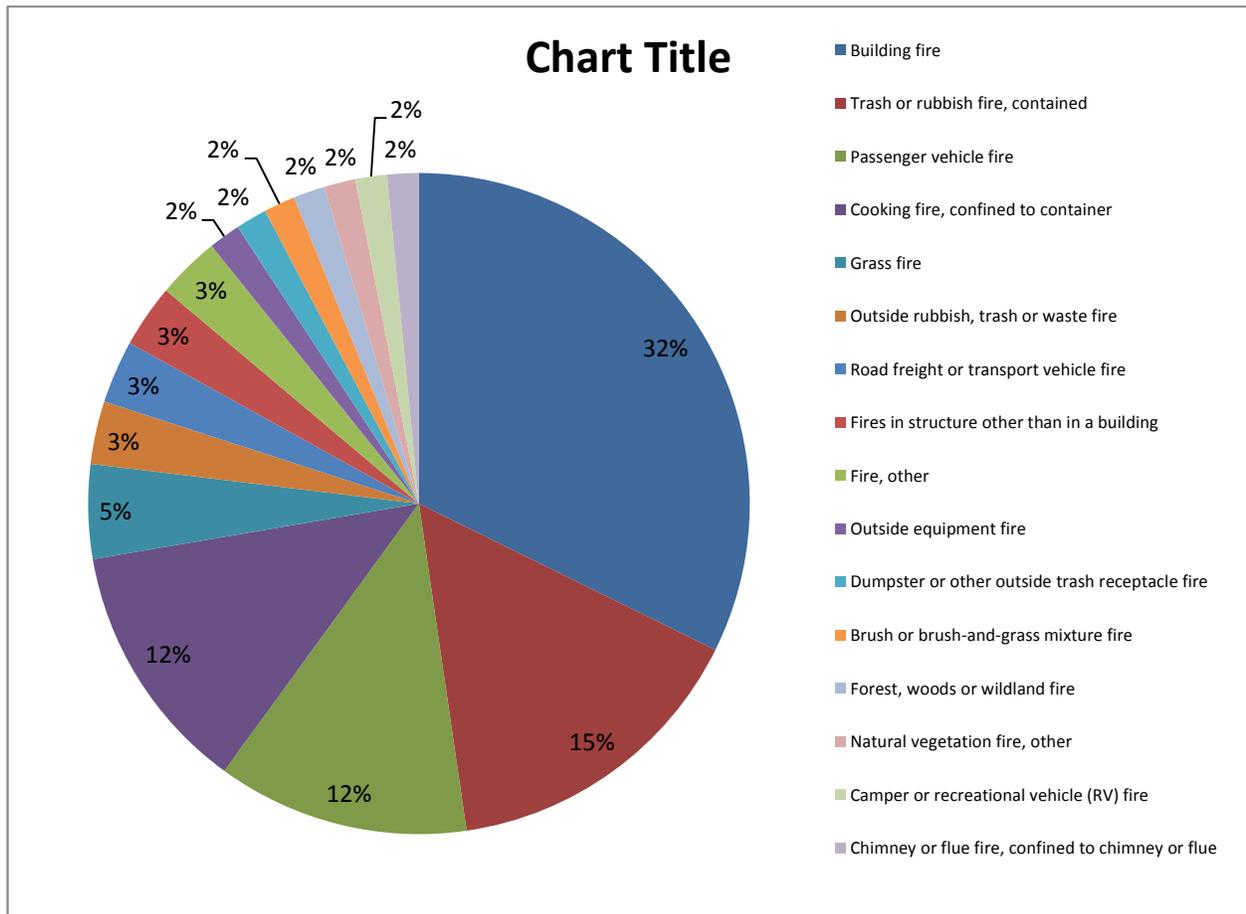
## Call Volume By Hour



## Location Type Summary



# A CLOSER LOOK



# A CLOSER LOOK

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Incident Number	Property Value	Property Loss	Contents Value	Contents Loss	Total Loss
15-00382-N	\$75,000	-\$3,000	\$50,000	-\$1,000	-\$4,000
15-00449-N	\$53,000	-\$2,500	\$20,000	-\$2,500	-\$5,000
15-00519-N	\$65,000	-\$500	\$10,000	-\$100	-\$600
15-00659-N	\$275,000	-\$50,000	\$35,000	-\$25,000	-\$75,000
15-00687-N	\$2,000	-\$2,000	\$0	-\$0	-\$2,000
15-00872-N	\$0	-\$10,000	\$5,000	-\$1,000	-\$11,000
15-00911-N	\$318,460	-\$0	\$1,200,000	-\$5,400	-\$5,400
15-01135-N	\$300,000	-\$2,000	\$8,000	-\$100	-\$2,100
15-01212-N	\$4,500	-\$4,500	\$0	-\$0	-\$4,500
15-01401-N	\$3,000	-\$500	\$0	-\$0	-\$500
15-01477-N	\$190,000	-\$0	\$20	-\$20	-\$20
15-01657-N	\$170,000	-\$0	\$25,000	-\$500	-\$500
15-01699-N	\$3,500	-\$2,500	\$0	-\$0	-\$2,500
15-01735-N	\$30,000,000	-\$0	\$10,000,000	-\$1,000	-\$1,000
15-01763-N	\$500,000	-\$5,000	\$0	-\$0	-\$5,000
15-01904-N	\$350	-\$30	\$0	-\$0	-\$30
15-01952-N	\$25,390	-\$12,740	\$0	-\$0	-\$12,740
15-02002-N	\$1,809,800	-\$0	\$5,000	-\$10	-\$10
15-02057-N	\$500	-\$300	\$0	-\$0	-\$300
15-02367-N	\$600,000	-\$40	\$120,000	-\$0	-\$40
15-02441-N	\$65,500	-\$0	\$20,000	-\$5,000	-\$5,000
15-02726-N	\$25,000	-\$0	\$25,000	-\$1,000	-\$1,000
15-02893-N	\$50,000	-\$25,000	\$0	-\$0	-\$25,000
15-02971-N	\$12,000	-\$3,500	\$500	-\$500	-\$4,000
15-03003-N	\$7,000	-\$7,000	\$0	-\$0	-\$7,000
15-03094-N	\$208,000	-\$900	\$0	-\$0	-\$900
15-03260-N	\$240,000	-\$8,000	\$5,000	-\$2,000	-\$10,000
15-03294-N	\$10,000	-\$1,000	\$5,000	-\$0	-\$1,000
15-03584-N	\$3,000,000	-\$0	\$80,000	-\$3,000	-\$3,000
15-03716-N	\$125,000	-\$500	\$25,000	-\$0	-\$500
15-03757-N	\$120,000	-\$200	\$10,000	-\$0	-\$200
15-03852-N	\$20,800,000	-\$0	\$88,000,000	-\$1,500	-\$1,500



# TRAINING

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The fire division training unit prepares, provides, and tracks the professional development needs for all personnel.

The training unit was headed by LT Saley until his promotion to Fire Chief. At that time, LT Maag took over the unit, and has provided strong leadership to the unit along with advocating for additional advanced training opportunities.

Annually, the training unit, in conjunction with Wooster Community Hospital, provides continuing education for our EMT-Basic and Paramedic providers. This year, the unit provided renewal of our personnel's American Heart Association Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support, and Pediatric Life Support certification

With multiple potential retirements over the next few years, the training unit's goal for 2015 was officer development. The training division coordinated the following classes/programs:

- Leadership I
- Fire Officer I & II w/ the University of Akron
- National recognized Blue Card incident management training.
- Incident Safety Officer

In addition to officer development, the training division continued to coordinate training for our special operations units, which included:

- Confined Space Rescue refresher
- Haz-Mat Operations refresher
- Haz-Mat Technician class
- Haz-Mat Specialist- Ammonia
- Ice Rescue

The unit continues to look for quality training opportunities for our members. A significant advancement for the training unit is the gain of a training room at the new St. 3 site. The ability to have a dedicated space to train will benefit all members in the future, and allow us to collaborate with the Wayne County Regional Fire Training Facility.



# Training in Detail

In 2015 the total number of training hours was 6116.25. The source for the data below is CenterLearn, the division's web-based training and records management system.

Training Hours by Group for date range 01/01/2015 – 12/31/2015			
<i>Class Name</i>	<i>Firefighter/EMT-B</i>	<i>Firefighter/EMT-P</i>	
NFPA – 1001 Firefighter	125	630	
NFPA – 1002 Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator	22	124	
NFPA – 1003 Airport Firefighter	0	0	
NFPA – 1005 Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Firefighters	0	0	
NFPA – 1021 Fire Officer	91.5	1105.5	
NFPA – 1031 Fire Inspector	0	45	
NFPA – 1033 Fire Investigator	4	57	
NFPA – 1037 Fire Marshal	0	10	
NFPA – 1041 Fire Service Instructor	21	87.75	
NFPA – 1407 Rapid Intervention Training	1	9	
NFPA – 1500 Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program	6.5	36	
NFPA – 1521 Fire Department Safety Officer	0	6	
NFPA – 1620 Pre-Incident Planning	1.5	31	
NFPA – 1670 Technical Search & Rescue	61	292	
NFPA – 1983 Life Safety Rope & Equipment	13	68	
NFPA – 400 Hazardous Materials	8	276	
NFPA – 5000 Building Construction & Safety Code	24	126	
CCEMT-P – Continuing Education	7	133	
NREMT – Airway, Breathing and Cardiology	7	137	
NREMT – Childbirth & Children	6	28	
NREMT – Circulation	16.75	182.75	
NREMT – Illness & Injury	30.5	134.5	
NREMT – Medical/Behavioral	14.5	93	
NREMT – Medical Emergencies	13.5	133	
NREMT – OB, Infants, Children	6	29	
NREMT – Obstetrics and Pediatrics	47.25	432.25	
NREMT – Operational Tasks	5	43	
NREMT – Patient Assessment	4	20.5	
NREMT – Preparatory	5	45	
NREMT – Trauma	23	166	
Ohio EMS – CPR	10.5	95.5	
Ohio EMS – Emergency Cardiac Care	20.25	237.25	
Ohio EMS – Geriatric	9	94.5	
Ohio EMS – Pediatrics	49.25	409.25	
Ohio EMS – Trauma	24	123	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>5439.75</b>	<b>6116.75</b>

# STAFF

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## Firefighter of the Year



### **Jeff Buzzard**

Each year the Wooster Exchange Club honors local emergency service members. This year, Jeff Buzzard was nominated and selected to receive this award. Jeff was presented with the award during a ceremony at the Wooster Inn. With dedication, Jeff has served the division and community for 18 years. Jeff coordinates and purchases all of the EMS equipment for the division, is a fire instructor, and an ice rescue technician.

## Retired

### **Fire Chief Roger Brenneman**

Chief Brenneman was hired in March of 1987 as a firefighter. During his time with the department he was promoted to Fire Inspector, then Asst. Chief, and in February of 2014, became the Fire Chief.



### **FF Keith Rickett**

Keith was hired in February of 1987 as a firefighter. During his tenure Keith worked on a variety of special units and also served as the Mayor of the Village of Shreve.

## Promotions



### **Don Keller**

Don came to the division in 2008 after a short stint with the Fairfax County Fire Department. He was promoted to Lieutenant in November of 2015. During his time at Wooster Fire, Don has continued to increase his knowledge of the job. He earned additional certifications as a Fire Instructor, Fire Officer I&II, Incident Safety Officer, and is working toward his A.S. Degree in Fire Science.

### **Les Teichmer**

Les is a long time resident of Wooster and started his career in 1991. He was promoted to Lieutenant in November of 2015. During his time at Wooster Fire, Les served as a Union Officer and President of the IAFF L-764. Les also served on the FIU team and other specialized units. Les has an A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice and has earned Fire Officer I & II.



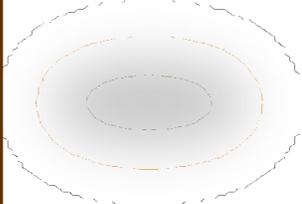
### **Barry Saley**

Barry was promoted to the position of Fire Chief in June of 2015. He started his career at Wooster in 2005 and was promoted to Lieutenant in 2010. While working full-time at Wooster Fire, Barry also held the position of part-time Fire Chief for the Village of Lakemore, from 2008-2015. Barry has an A.S. Degree in Fire Protection Technology and a B.S. Degree in Fire Administration. He holds certifications as a Fire Officer I, II, III, IV, Leadership I & II, Fire and EMS Instructor, Fire Inspector, and Fire Inspector Instructor. In addition to his work at the fire division, he works as a part time instructor for the University of Akron Fire Training Center, focusing on fire officer development.



### **Kim Gates**

Kim transferred to the fire division from the finance division to fill the newly created office coordinator position. Kim has an A.A.B. Degree in Business Administration, 3 years of service with the City, and spent 30 years with Wooster Community Hospital. Kim's experience with the City's financial software and medical terminology made her a perfect fit for the needs of the fire division.



# GOALS & OBJECTIVES ACCOMPLISHED

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In 2015 the division successfully met multiple goals and objectives.

## **Stations, Equipment and Apparatus:**

- The division replaced a grass fire unit with a John Deere Gator; with grass fire/rescue capabilities. This purchase allowed the division to expand the new grass unit's operational function, into a multi-functional apparatus. The Gator has the capabilities of grass firefighting, off-road search and rescue, and winter weather snow removal. It also plays a critical role in fire/EMS operations during the multiple festivals that take place in the City and the County fair.



- The division purchased an 18 foot enclosed trailer for our Confined Space Rescue Equipment. This purchased will allow us to utilize an old medic unit to be "remounted" into a new medic unit in 2016, while still providing the necessary space to store the specialized equipment.

- In late 2015, we purchased a used Jeep Patriot to use as a Command vehicle. This purchase will allow the current chief's vehicle to be transitioned to the Battalion Capt.'s response vehicle, as the division transitions to a three station operation in Spring of 2016.

- In 2014, the fire division was awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant for the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's). In 2015, we finalized the purchase and in-service of our new MSA SCBA's. This equipment will provide our personnel the updated safety equipment to keep them safe and work more efficiently.

- The City, on the recommendation of Acting Chief Murphy, purchased a property on the corner of Gateway and Akron Rd. to be renovated into fire station #3. This location fit the recommendations, provided by a third party consulting company, on the location for a third station. The utilization of a current building, with renovations, will show a savings of approx. 2 million dollars for the city.



- The fire and police divisions finalized the plans for the Wooster Safety Center. This new building is scheduled to begin construction in 2016 and open in 2017. The selection and finalization of the design, and layout of the plot and floor plan, occurred in late 2015.

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES ACCOMPLISHED

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- The division proactively searched and applied for grants and donations to purchase needed equipment and safety devices. In 2015, the division acquired funding from the College of Wooster, Walmart, Seaman Corp., and The Wooster Elks. This funding allowed the division to continue its



smoke detector initiative and purchase training material for ST. 3's training room & kitchen. In addition to the above funds, the division operated as the host organization for the Assistance to Firefighter grant. The intent of the grant is to purchase portable & mobile radio's that are able to be used on the Ohio MARCS system. The requested amount was approx. 2 million dollars and we anticipate grant awards to be announced in the Spring of 2016.

- Throughout 2015, the division updated the protective equipment for all personnel; in order to meet current NFPA standards. This included turn-out gear, helmets, gloves, boots, and hoods.



- The Division fully implemented electronic reporting for our fire and EMS incidents. The division transitioned to IMS software, an Ohio based company. This reporting software allows division members to utilize an iPad to document all incident activities, then wirelessly sync all data to the IMS servers. This has all but eliminated paper reports and has allowed the division to more effectively report data to the State of Ohio and our EMS billing company.



# FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

The Fire Prevention division enforces state and local fire codes, performs fire safety inspections, along with plan reviews and acceptance testing. The members of the division also coordinate public education programs and our smoke detector initiative.

## *Plan Review*

The fire marshal (Asst. Chief Murphy) reviewed 92 plans in 2015. In divisional history, this was the highest number of plans reviewed over a one year time frame. This occurred even with Asst. Chief Murphy functioning as Acting Chief for three months out of this year. In addition to the plan review activity, the fire inspector had to conduct multiple on-site inspections and meetings for the majority of these projects.

Plan Review	92
Life Safety Inspections and Acceptance Tests	393

## *Life Safety Inspections & Education*

The division's fire inspector has an extremely busy position. In addition to the inspection of current business occupancies, and new construction inspection tests; the fire inspector conducts inspections on state licensed day care and residential care facilities, and all schools. Depending on the building occupancy type, each inspection can last from one hour to multiple days. This inspection activity



is in addition to responding to emergencies, conducting public education, and required departmental training activities.



In 2015 the fire inspector conducted public education to 1578 children and adults for a total of 52

hours of instruction. The topics of education include: Fire extinguisher training, station tours, "Stop Drop & Roll", fire drills at home, evacuation routes, and Calling 911.

## *New Construction*

The fire marshal consults with other city divisions on construction projects to ensure that life safety requirements are met. The fire marshal is in continuous communication with the building standards and engineering divisions to coordinate and ensure life safety hazards are prevented or corrected. This open communication process allows the City to provide a business friendly environment to our local business partners.

# LOOKING FORWARD...

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## Three Station Operations

Upon opening fire St. 3 in the spring of 2016, the fire division will transition into a three station operation. During this time, the division will have both fire and EMS apparatus at all three stations. Depending on the type of alarm, the crew will respond with the appropriate piece of equipment to the emergency incident. This type of operation will allow us to spread our resources throughout the City and provide quicker response time to our residents. By utilizing data and hazard/risk assessments, the fire division will be sending the appropriate type and number of emergency responders to the scene. This methodology should allow our division to respond more efficiently, while still providing the resources to mitigate the issue a hand.

## Staff Development and Training

By the end of 2016, the division will have 10 members eligible for retirement. Actual retirement dates may vary, but from a succession planning perspective, the division has been, and will continue to, conduct staff development training. In 2015, the division began to provide officer development and leadership classes. We plan to continue this objective by having all officers complete incident command (Blue Card), Leadership II and Fire Officer I&II training. In addition to formal training classes, the training unit is preparing an updated professional development plan for those that aspire for promotion in the future.

Over the past few years, the division has struggled to provide the required EMS training to our members. In 2016 we plan to host a fire instructor class, then transition those instructors through the EMS instructor module. This should provide each shift the required instructors to successfully educate our members. In addition to instructor training, the division plans to update our fire investigation unit and confined space unit training.

## Purchases

In addition to purchasing any required supplies to get St. 3 operational, the division has budgeted funds for the purchase of a Remounted Medic unit, a utility garage at St. 1, updated accountability system, and new iPad's w/ wireless data.

