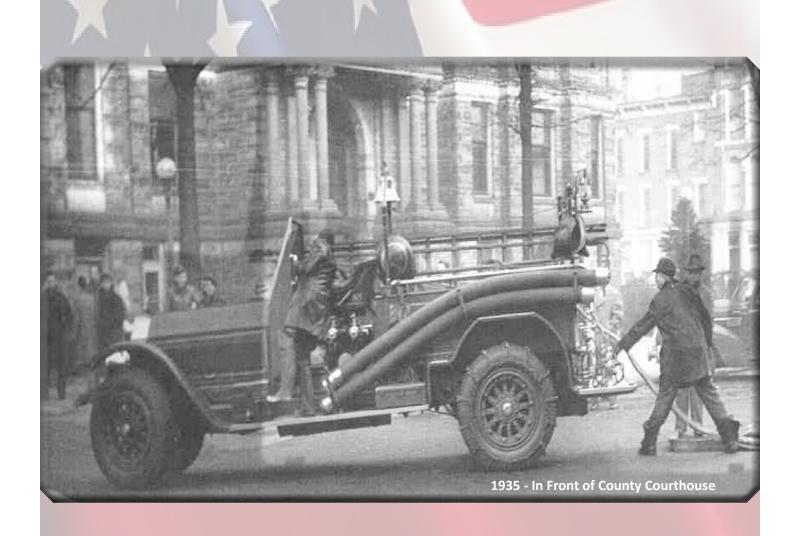
Findlay Fire Department 2014

Annual Report



Submitted by: Matthew Traver Interim Fire Chief

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Findlay Fire Department

























































































MATTHEW MORGAN





























JEFFERY MORSE FIREFIGHTER









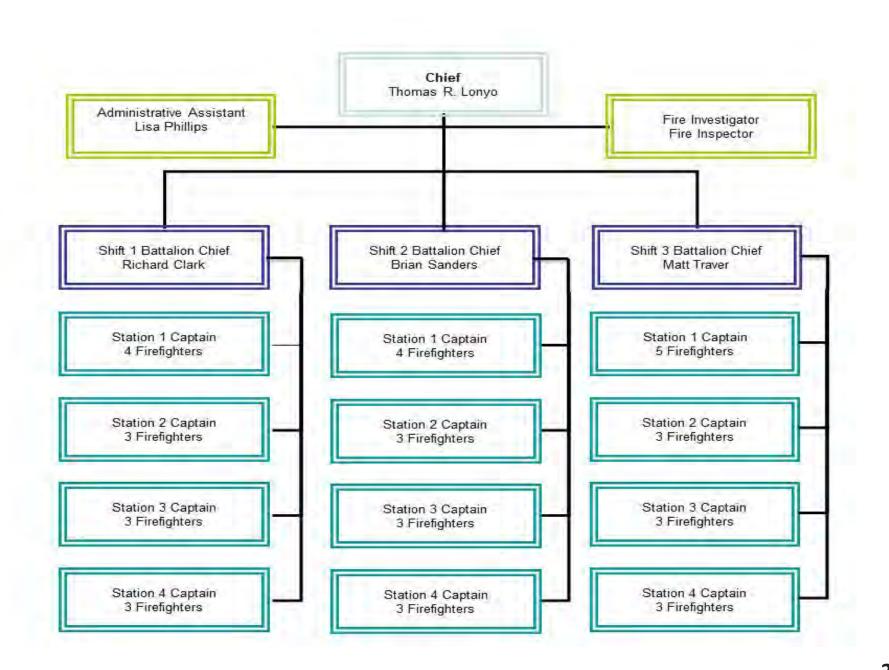






JASON WILKINS

FINDLAY FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Findlay Fire Department provides response to a variety of emergency situations including fires and explosions, rescues and medical calls, hazardous conditions (electrical, chemical, structural, etc.) and requests for special services.

A pro-active approach to reducing losses to life and property due to fire is the primary responsibility of Fire Prevention Bureau, which focuses on public fire safety education, code enforcement and arson investigation.

The Department's primary coverage area is defined by the Findlay City limits. Fire protection at times is also extended to facilities outside the City limits by private contract and through mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments. Findlay Fire Department maintains a Class 3 Public Protection Classification as provided by the Insurance Services Office.

ORGANIZATION

The authorized staffing for the Fire Department consists of 74 full time professional firefighters and a non-uniformed Administrative Assistant. These personnel staff four stations located throughout the City.

Emergency response duties are assigned to fifty-nine of these firefighters, divided into 3 shifts of 19-20, with each shift covering a 24-hour period. Individual firefighters are organized into 3-5 man companies, supervised by a Captain. Each shift has four Captains reporting to a shift commander, or Battalion Chief. Shift personnel currently work an average of 50.4 hours per week and belong to the Local 381 Chapter of the International Association of Firefighters.

The remaining four Department personnel, the Fire Chief, the Administrative Assistant, and two Fire Inspectors, handle administrative duties, training, record keeping, and Fire Prevention activities.

ADMINISTRATION

The key responsibilities of the administration are accomplished by the Fire Chief and Administrative Assistant Mrs. Lisa Phillips. The Chief's office compiles data including fire loss, life loss, and property loss which are recorded annually. Personnel functions, policy development, human resources, hiring and promotional activities are all accomplished through the Fire Department's administration.

Financial costs associated with the fire department are planned, budgeted and tracked by the administration. Fire department expenditures and revenue are tracked and accounted for by the administration and consistent with projected financial revenues.

The Fire Administration also tracks training certification of personnel, implements and maintains an OJT program for new hires, as well as development and revision of employee job descriptions based on rank and responsibilities.

Personnel



The Department began the year with a staffing level of 59 sworn full time personnel. The department laid off ten members in May of 2013 at the expiration of the DHS SAFER grant and with revenue projection short falls. 4 firefighters were called back to duty in late 2013. In 2014 of the remaining 6 firefighter that were laid off 3 were called back to duty and 3 decline the opportunity to return to the department as they had found other employment.

Fire department staffing ended in 2014 with 61 full time firefighters. The department has established a minimum daily staffing level of 14 on-duty firefighters. The department currently staff four fire stations with stations 2,3, and 4 with 3 firefighters on an engine. Station 1 has 4 firefighter that staff the engine or ladder depending on the nature of the call. An example of this is if station 1 is dispatched to an ems call they would responded

in engine 1. If a structure fire is dispatched station 1 would responded in ladder 1. Also responding from station 1 is the Battalion Chief. With the minimum staffing at 14 it has reduced the department's response capabilities. The department remains thirteen firefighters less than the authorized statutory limit of 74 full time firefighters.

Chief Tom Lonyo (Ret. 1/11/15), Captain Russ Mason, and Captain Ralph Brown retired in 2014. We

thank them for their service and dedication to the department and community they served.

Training

Emergency activities require expertise in areas such as fire suppression, medical care, equipment operation, technical rescue and chemical hazards, as well as a working knowledge of legal issues and governmental regulations. On the non-emergency side, the Fire Prevention Bureau conducts fire safety education, building plan review, code enforcement and arson investigation. All these areas require specific and continuing training, often mandated by State and Federal agencies.

Federal requirements including the Department of Homeland Security involve at least 24 hours of initial training. Once the initial training has been completed, firefighters must have at least 4 hours annually of continuing education. Federal requirements also mandate that new hire firefighters must complete a 144 hours of specialized training over a three year period.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety requires that firefighters complete 54 hours of continuing education in fire related topics. Firefighters are also required to complete 40 hours of EMS training every three years in order to maintain State certification. Fire inspectors must secure an additional 30 hours of training in the related field.

To meet the requirements of the Insurance Services Office (ISO), the department must have a combination of 14 single/multiple company drills of at least 3 hours each and two night drills of 3 hours each. Each member of the Department must also complete 3 hours of hazardous material training and 20 hours per month of monthly in-service training.

Each new recruit is also required to complete 40 hours of emergency driver / operator course and at least four, three hour training sessions on safe driving. FFD Officers are also required to complete 12 hours of officer training. In addition, ISO requires that each commercial structure is entered by FFD personnel and a pre-plan inspection completed twice annually.

In 2014, Captain Josh Eberle and Captain Jeff Rampe provided several sessions of hands-on training in acquired structures. Several county acquired flood properties

Training (cont.)

scheduled for demolition were utilized to provide vital training in the following firefighting disciplines:

- Hoseline Advancement
- Search & Rescue
- Forcible Entry
- Mayday Drills
- Wall Breaching
- Cellular Nozzle Use
- Rapid Intervention Tactics
- Positive-Pressure Ventilation

An average of 34 hours of formal fire training was completed by each member of the department in 2014. An average of 17 hours of formal ems training was completed by each member if the department in 2014. Steve Brown has continued to serve as the departments EMS Coordinator. Steve organizes and administers much of the EMS training for the department. Much of this training is accomplished on duty.

With great coordination and effort by Chief Lonyo and Lt. Lowry of FPD, a project that was completed in 2104 with the subject matter titled active shooter was accomplished. An emergency response plan was created for every school in Findlay and Hancock County. A response guide was created to assist every agency from fire, ems, law enforcement, and secondary law enforcement in their response to such an emergency. Funding was provided to purchase the FCHC active shooter emergency response plan. These guides have been distributed to all agencies involved. Training has been conducted with FFD, FPD, and Hanco. Additional training will follow in 2015.

The department in 2014 entered into agreement with the Ohio Fire Academy to lease the fire training simulator which is owned by the city. The lease provides the Ohio Fire Academy with a mobile fire simulator that it can utilize throughout the state to training firefighters. The Findlay Fire Department will have access 4 weeks out of the year to have the OFA bring our fire simulator back to Findlay for training. The department also receives training credits that can be used to attend any educational class that the OFA provides. The department is currently looking at the OFA officer development classes, technical classes and outreach classes.

The department also hosted three Ohio Fire Academy Direct Delivery Courses. Personnel attended and completed a series on managing company tactical operations, preparation, decision making, and tactics. The Instructor Steve Westcott from the OFA provided these courses at Fire Station 4. A collaborative training session was held between Hanco EMS and the Findlay Fire Department. An Auto-Extrication course was held at Fire Station 4 for these two agencies.

Emergency Operations

The Findlay Fire Department's key objectives include fire suppression, providing basic EMS response, Hazardous Material Response and Domestic Disaster Planning. The department utilizes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as a standardize response to all threats and emergencies the community faces. The department attempts to match the community's risks through the deployment of personnel and apparatus located in four fire stations.

Apparatus

The compliment of firefighting apparatus and other vehicles assigned to the Fire Department consists of four 1500 gallon per minute pumping engines and one 2000 gallon per minute engine with a 75ft elevated ladder. The department has 2 aerial trucks. One 1500 gallon per minute aerial truck with an 85 ft. platform and a 2000 gallon per minute 100 foot aerial. A rescue truck, a hazardous materials trailer, three water rescue units, 3 utility pick-up trucks, and 4 staff cars are utilized by the department.

The department's fleet maintenance is handled by firefighter Steve Rupe who is certified in several aspects of emergency vehicle maintenance. A thorough inspection of all apparatus was completed in 2014. Several costly repairs were identified and completed in 2014 which included: suspension work, brakes, tires, and springs. Additional money was budgeted in the department's 2014 operational budget to complete transmission and suspension work on Engine 2 and Engine 4. These two vehicles were purchased in 1997 and have shown a need for increased costs of maintenance. The department's only reserve engine is a 1984 Sutphen and is used in a front line role due to extensive maintenance on other apparatus. The reserve engine is reaching the end of its service life. During 2014 the department formed a truck committee for the plan replacement of Engine 4 as part of the 2015 capital improvement plan. The committee recommended a new rescue pumper built by Ferrara Fire Apparatus. The funding for the purchase of a new rescue pumper has been approved in Jan 2015. The department will continue to move forward on the delivery of a new rescue pumper. The current Engine #4 will then be used as the departments reserve pumper and the 1984 pumper will be sold. Ladder 4 was refurbished in 2002 however the snorkel the 85 foot aerial platform is an original 1974 tower and is now 40 years old. Ladder 4 should be considered for replacement and is currently included on the City's five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Facilities

Fire Department operations are conducted out of four fire stations located within the City limits:

Station 1, 720 South Main Street, serves as Department Headquarters, as well as housing an engine and a ladder company, a rescue truck, and the Battalion Chief's vehicle. Station 1 provides first due response for the area south of Howard Street and west of the CSX Railroad. Station 1 was built in 1958.

Station 2, 2610 North Main Street, was built in 1976. It houses an engine company and is first due in the area north of Howard Street and West of Crystal Avenue. The station also houses a water rescue unit and the Hancock County Hazardous Materials Response trailer and equipment.

Station 3, 1001 Tiffin Avenue, was located at the eastern edge of the City when constructed in 1958. Since then, the station sits in approximately the geographical center of the City. The station houses an engine company and the Department's water rescue equipment. It provides back-up to the other three response districts as well as primary coverage to the area east of the CSX Railroad, north of Blanchard Avenue, south of Crystal Avenue, and west of the Findlay Village Mall.

Station 4, 7047 County Road 236, is the newest station, built in 1997. The facility houses a staffed engine company, an unstaffed ladder company, a reserve engine and water rescue equipment. The Department's apparatus repair shop and training facilities are also located at station #4. Station 4 provides primary coverage for the rapidly growing eastern edge of the City.

Incident Profiles

Call volume amounted to 2016 calls in 2014, an increase 58 calls from 2013. The amount of total fire loss experienced in the City of Findlay in 2014, totaled \$1,416,886.00. The estimated value of properties that experienced fires in 2014 totaled \$152,311,420.00 for a property save value totaling \$150,894,534.00 or 99%.

One of the four fire stations is assigned primary responsibility, depending upon location, for each emergency call. Below are listed the primary responses made by each of the four stations:

 Station 1:
 627

 Station 2:
 522

 Station 3:
 393

 Station 4:
 474

The three largest fires the department responded to in 2014 was a house fire at 131 Olive Street on August 30, 2014, that cause approximately \$200,00.00 in damage; A factory roof fire at Ohio Logistics at 1800 Industrial Drive for



a loss of \$175,000.00 and Sinks Flower shop at 404 Second Street, with an estimated loss of \$150,000.00.

The following information details the general categories of emergency calls and their percentages in relation to the total number of calls handled in 2014.

External Relationships

The Fire Department continues to foster quality relationships with other strategic agencies within the city, Hancock County and State of Ohio. Examples of our external relationships

include but are not limited to:

- Hancock County Fire Chiefs
- Findlay/Hancock County Red Cross
- Hancock County EMA Advisory Board
- Hancock County LEPC
- City of Findlay EMS Committee
- Ohio Fire Chiefs Association
- State of Ohio Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee – Midsize City Representative
- Region 1 Communications
 Committee Vice Chair

The department continues to work with other Hancock County Fire Departments in an attempt to share and reduce costs. In 2013, Allen Township Volunteer Fire Department and the Findlay Fire Department coordinated efforts to conduct our annual pump tests at the same time. By coordinating one site to conduct the test, the third party vendor reduced the cost to each agency.

Number of Calls	Type of Calls	Percentage
107	Fires	5.31
38	Assist Other Agency	1.88
1081	Medical Assists	53.62
232	Car Accidents	11.51
12	Rescues (Extrication, Water, Etc.)	.60
142	Hazmat	7.04
47	Good Intent	2.33
102	Burning Complaints	5.06
255	False Alarms	12.65
2016	TOTALS	100%



Equipment Purchases

Several pieces of small tools and equipment were purchased in 2014 including two electric positive pressure fans for engine 3 and ladder 1. A CO gas detector for L-1 and a accountability system for FFD that matches the Fire departments in Hancock County. The training classroom at station 4 was updated with a new projector & TV and other miscellaneous items. A new treadmill and Keiser sled were purchased to continue to support the department's fitness program. 2 washing machines and 3 dryers were purchased from Whirlpool corp. A agreement with Gilbane company allowed the purchase of additional technical rescue equipment.

Projects

A number of projects were completed in 2014. P & R communications installed a VHS radio system that the department will use as a backup system. Jacks Heating, installed new heating systems for the apparatus bays at station 1 & 3 to improve efficiency. With the manpower from the street department, they completed the replacement of the concrete floor at station 1. Thanks again to the street department.

Technical Rescue

The Technical Rescue Team is a team of nine dedicated members who have sought out training in technical disciplines such as high angle rope rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, commer-

cial vehicle rescue, swift water rescue technician and structural collapse. These events are low frequency in nature but are very high risk to responders and victims. The department has adopted to train a select team of individuals versus attempting to train an entire department to a level of skill needed to safely respond to the low frequency emergencies. Four members of the technical rescue team were added in 2014. Addition training is required for these new members to improve their skills in the above disciplines. Continual training must be kept up by the Technical rescue team to ensure they are able to respond when called out to these type of rescues. The team is led by Captain Eberle.

Tactical EMS (TEMS)

The Tactical Emergency Medical System (TEMS) was created at the request of the Findlay Police Department in 2010. TEMS members assist the Findlay PD's Emergency Response Team during high risk police operations. TEMS members have received training at Owens Community College's Center for Disaster Preparedness and continue to train with the ERT unit.

Captain Greer and four FFD members are assigned to the TEMS detail and are outfitted with personal protective equipment, tactical uniforms and equipment and medical supply kits. TEMS members do not carry weapons and are perimeter support team members to the ERT.

Fire Prevention

Two firefighters, certified through the State of Ohio as Fire Safety Inspectors, make up the Findlay Fire Prevention Bureau. The public has come to view the Fire Prevention Bureau as its fire protection and safety experts.

While all perform fire safety inspections within the City, each inspector focuses on a specific facet of the operation. The three specialty areas are fire investigation, code enforcement and public fire and life safety education. The Department's two inspectors work closely with other agencies and with the public in carrying out their assigned duties.

Fire Inspector Matt Pickett assumes the duties of lead Fire Investigator for the Department. In addition Inspector Pickett focuses his efforts on code enforcement and plan reviews. He is also an active member of the Planning Commission and attends regular meetings. Inspector Eric Habegger primary tasks are building inspections, live fire extinguisher training, life safety education, and code enforcement.

The Fire Prevention Bureau's comprehensive breakdown of significant activities is summarized below:

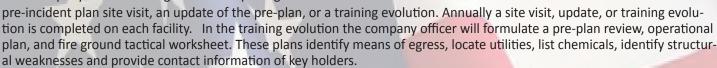
Construction	110	
Existing Structures	125	
Fire Investigations	26	
Inspections	440	
Prevention	483	
Re-Inspects	285	
Public Presentations	78	

High Hazard Occupancies

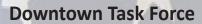
In an effort to further identify known risks to the community, the department spent a considerable amount of time in 2013 identifying High Hazard Occupancies. NFPA defines high-hazard occupancy as a structure which poses a risk to the community due to a large amount of occupants, a structure of multiple heights, a structures size, complexity and chemical storage. Examples of a high hazard structure would include a school, hospital, nursing home, warehouse and manufacturing facility.

A list of approximately 100 High-Hazard occupancies was compiled in 2013 so that the department could focus its pre-incident planning activities around these structures. In 2014 additional high-hazard occupancies were identified and added to the pre-plan list. .Battalion Chief Sanders who manages the program has divided the high hazard list into 3 components.

Each company officer is charged with completing a



This information is key component in fire suppression activities. Once a pre-incident plan is completed the information and site drawing is entered into a database and is easily accessible on a laptop carried in fire apparatus. The list of High-Hazard occupancies can be a key tool in matching fire suppression resources to identified risks to the community.



The Downtown Fire Task Force was created in 2012 following a fire which destroyed the historic Argyle building in the 600 block of South Main St. The department collaborated with downtown stakeholders, business organizations and the Findlay/ Hancock Chapter of the American Red Cross and elected officials in an effort to reduce the amount and severity of downtown structure fires.

The Task Force has focused its attention in two key areas: fire and life safety education as well as code enforcement and increased inspections. A brief description of accomplishments is as follows:

Fire and Life Safety Education: In addition to his fire suppression assignments, Captain Jerry Greer has engaged the downtown community and collaborated with the Chamber of Commerce and American Red Cross. Captain Greer and the Red Cross hosted several public events in the downtown area and provided information/discussion around disaster planning as well as fire safety. Live fire extinguisher training was also provided to attendees who also received free smoke detectors and fire prevention literature. Additionally, Captain Greer attended and represented the department at numerous meetings hosted by associations, groups and organizations.

Increased Building Inspections: Firefighter Jason Wilkins also took on additional job tasks by assisting Fire Inspector Eric Habegger in increasing the rate of downtown building inspections. Firefighter Wilkins completes inspections in business in an effort to increase the department's inspection rate in the downtown area. Wilkins was tasked with "triaging" structures for critical code violations such as blocked means of egress, emergency lighting, and working smoke detectors.

Wilkins was also tasked with identifying key structural issues, excessive fire loads and building access. Those items which might hinder firefighter safety and fire operations are relayed to fire suppression forces. An example of this is a building with an excessive amount of stored materials, this stored material would increasing the fire load and speed of a potential collapse. These concerns are photographed and noted on that building's pre-incident fire plan.



Project S.A.F.E. - Smoke Alarms for Everyone

Project S.A.F.E. – Smoke Alarms for Everyone was a collaborative effort which was initiated out of the Downtown Fire Task Force. The Findlay City Schools, Hancock County American Red Cross and the fire department collaborated with several private partners to establish an initiative which would provide a free smoke detector to every Findlay City School elementary student. Major sponsors for the project were Wal-Mart, Hancock-Wood Electric and the Hancock County Community Foundation.

Project S.A.F.E continues to be a tremendous success. The project was able to provide 6000 students in 2014 with a smoke detector or battery. The project purchased 3700 smoke detectors and 2300 9V batteries this year. They were given to the students during a safety presentation put on by the Fire Department and Hancock County American Red Cross. Each student was given a homework assignment which included installing a smoke detector and returning a form signed by the parent or guardian attesting the detector was installed. In 2014 the program was expanded to the County schools. Captain Greer who manages project S.A.F.E worked closely with the County fire departments to establish this program at each school. Project S.A.F.E was presented at a total of 16 schools and at the children museum for home school kids. I would like to thank Captain Greer and all members of the department that have put time and effort into this program. I would also like to thank the many sponsors and supporters of project S.A.F.E. This project continues to grow. The Elementary School which had the highest installation rate was rewarded with a pizza party and a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog (Firefighter Eric Wilkins).

Public Relations

The department continues to promote positive public relations with the residents of not only Findlay, but Hancock County as well. The department participated in numerous events such as parades, public safety sponsored events, National First Night Out at Riverside Park, the Flag City Balloon Fest, and other various public gatherings.

Additionally in 2013, IAFF Local 381 continued the long standing tradition of handing out teddy bears to children who unfortunately had to spend Christmas Eve in the Blanchard Valley Hospital. The Local 381 also collaborated with Wal-Mart and hosted a Shop-with-a-Firefighter. Ten children selected from Hope House and Job and Family services. Each child was paired up with a firefighter and was given the opportunity to purchase gifts for their families. Money for this event was provided by Wal-Mart.

Annually, Local 381 also provides the Retiree's Dinner which was well attended by former members of the department. They also participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Annual Fill-the-Boot campaign and last year they also participated in the Cancer Patient Services Chili Cook-Off and were awarded the "Best Booth" and second place overall for their chili recipe.



EMS Committee

The department has taken an active role of participating on the EMS committee which is comprised of Findlay Police, Findlay Police Dispatchers, Hanco EMS, Blanchard Valley Health Systems and the Findlay Fire Department. Regular meeting are conducted to identify deficiencies in the EMS system and to recommend and implement changes to enhance the overall quality of patient care.

Establishment of direct communications between FFD and Hanco, collaborative training sessions, and command personnel interaction/crew familiarity, have help improve the ems service that is provide to the citizens of Findlay.

The department and Hanco EMS also continue to share facilities during natural disasters such as flooding and winter storms. This reduces response times and increases patient care during disasters.

Outlook

2015 will start with the department moving forward with the promotional process for a new Chief of the Findlay Fire Department. Chief Tom Lonyo retired on January 11, 2015 after serving as Chief for over seven years. The management and leadership that Chief Lonyo provided to the department and community of Findlay will be missed. We thank Chief Lonyo for his service.

The promotion of two firefighters to the rank of Captain will also take place in 2015. The department will assess the need to request a civil service test for entry level firefighters. The department will focus on officer training and technical training for TRT, TEMS, and Hazmat teams.

The department will continue to focus on identifying threats and risks to the community and relaying this information to the Administration. Medium-Hazard structures will be identified in an effort to ensure the department's capability to respond to emergencies is adequate.

The department looks forward to the pre build conference and the delivery of a new rescue pumper expected to be in service in late 2015. The new rescue pumper purchased from the capital improvement plan will serve the department and community for many years to come. The department has requested grant funding to replace the department's self-contained breathing apparatus in 2015 along with a turnout gear washer-extractor.

Run response times will be evaluated on a monthly basis to ensure the department continues to meet nationally accepted response time standards.

The Findlay Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of service to our community in our response to all types of emergencies. This is accomplished by the dedication and preparedness of professional fire-fighters through fire suppression, rescue response, emergency medical service, fire prevention, life safety education, and disaster mitigation. Like any business or organization the Findlay Fire Departments greatest asset is its people!

The department would like to thank the Mayor, Safety Service Director, local business, organizations and the citizens of Findlay for their support and commitment to the Findlay Fire Department.



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