The background of the entire page is a stylized, wavy American flag. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is oriented vertically, with the stars in the upper left and stripes extending downwards.

Findlay Fire Department

2017

Annual Report

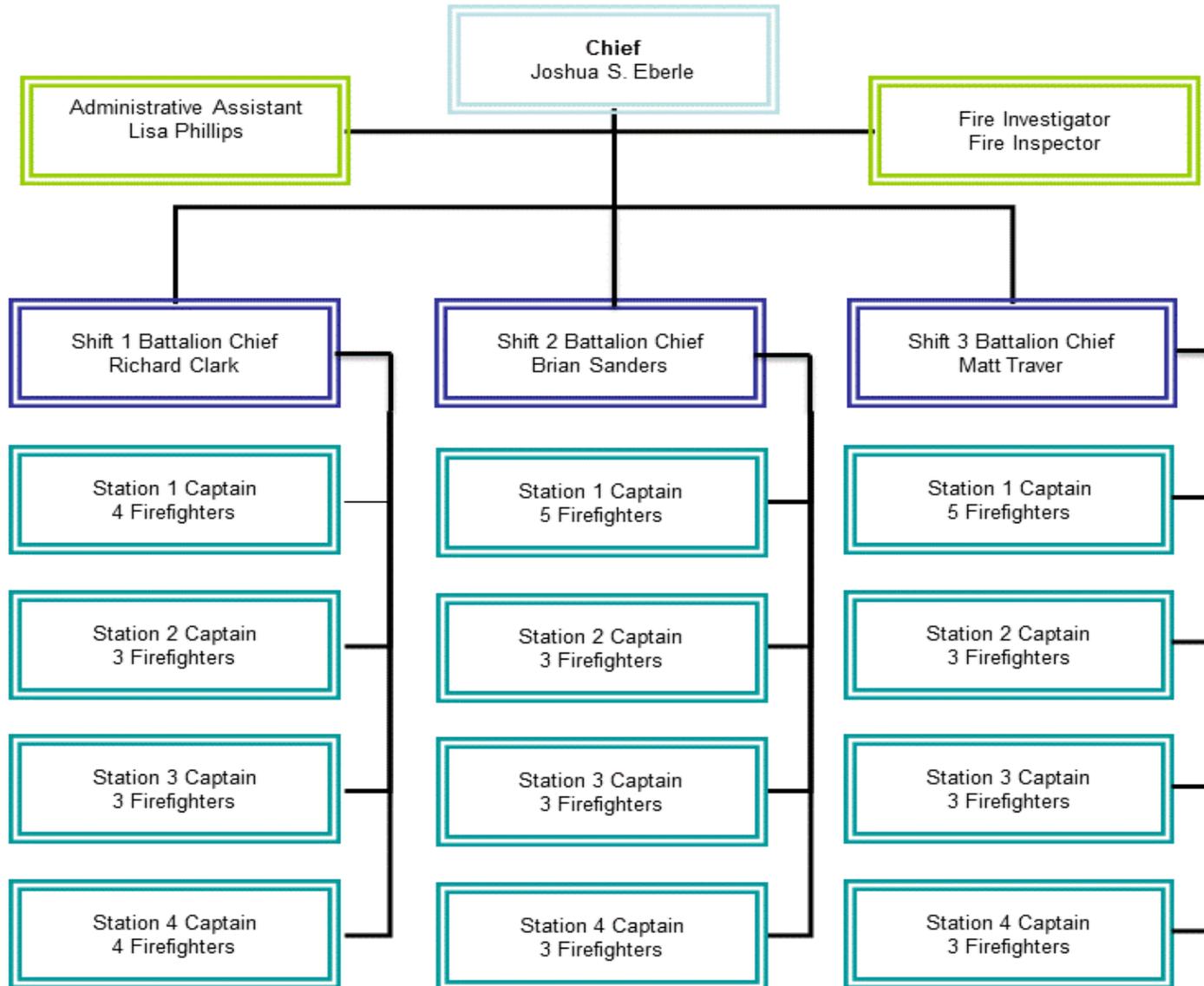
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Chief

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FINDLAY FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Findlay Fire Department provides professional response to all types of emergency situations. These include fires, explosions, rescues, medical calls, hazardous conditions (including hazmat response), vehicle accidents, and requests for special services.

The fire department has two missions: to respond to emergencies and to do everything we can to prevent emergencies from happening. The latter is done through a number of means, primarily through the Fire Prevention Bureau. Personnel assigned to this branch of the fire department focus on building plan review, fire safety inspections, code enforcement, fire investigation, and public fire education.

The primary coverage area of the Fire Departments is the 20 square miles within the Findlay City limits. There are also mutual aid contracts with all county fire departments, as well as some departments outside Hancock County. The Findlay Fire Department achieved a Class 3 Public Protection Classification at the most recent rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO).

ORGANIZATION

The current staffing of the Findlay Fire Department is 63, which includes line firefighters, officers, fire prevention personnel, and the Fire Chief. The authorized strength of the fire department is 74.

The department began 2017 with 61 personnel. The addition of three firefighters in 2017, along with the unanticipated resignation of one firefighter brought us to the current level of 63.

The fire department line personnel are broken up into 3 shifts, with each shift working a 24-hour duty day. Currently the shifts sit at 20 personnel each. These employees primarily have the responsibility for emergency response.

Each shift is supervised by a Battalion Chief, who is responsible for day-to-day supervision of the line personnel. Each shift staffs 4 fire stations throughout the city, with minimum staffing at 14 personnel per day. Station 1 houses the Battalion Chief, Station Captain, and 3 firefighters at a minimum. Fire Stations 2, 3, & 4 house one Station Captain & 2 firefighters each. The employees of the fire department, minus the Chief and Administrative Assistant, voluntarily belong to the International Association of Firefighters, Local 381.

ADMINISTRATION

Administration of the fire department is the responsibility of the Fire Chief and the Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Lisa Phillips, who acts as Office Manager for the department's 4 fire stations. The Chief's office compiles data including gross run numbers, fire loss, injury records, and property loss which are recorded annually. Personnel functions, policy development, human resources, hiring & promotion are all key aspects of the Chief's office along with resources provided by the City of Findlay Administration. Financial Administration of the fire department is another responsibility of the Chief's Office. These costs are planned, budgeted and tracked throughout the year, and a two-year budget is prepared in the fall of each year. The fire department administration also coordinates and tracks training and certification of personnel, implements and maintains an OJT program for new hires, and develops and revises employee job descriptions based on rank and responsibility.

Personnel



The department began the year with a staffing level of 61 sworn full-time firefighting personnel. With one resignation occurring during the year and three new hires, the department ended up with 63 by December 31st.

2017 was a busy year for the fire department. Our total call volume was the highest ever, with 2440 total calls. The addition of three firefighters added to the workload for our personnel, helping them to acclimate and directing the on-the-job-training program for our new recruits. The department saw an increased response to Opiate overdose calls, similar to departments around the country, and in response to this our firefighter/EMTs were trained in the use of naloxone as a life-saving medical intervention.

The department continued to address equipment needs, and signed a contract with the Sutphen Corporation to purchase a new fire engine to replace a 1997 truck. Delivery of this is expected in the third quarter of 2018. The SCBA that our firefighters use for respiratory protection was another area of concern, as the lifes-

pan of our current units runs out in 2018. A grant application to FEMA was accepted and the department was awarded approximately \$285,000 to assist in replacing our entire SCBA inventory.

Also in 2017 was an increased focus on firefighter cancer prevention. Numerous steps were taken to protect firefighters from the exposure to carcinogens, as this is quickly becoming a primary concern in the fire service. An exhaust-removal system was ordered for fire station 2, with the intent to evaluate its effectiveness and expand some form of exhaust-removal system in each station. The FFD was also able to install two commercial turnout gear extractors—washing machines specially designed for fire gear—and two dryers to help properly launder our turnout gear. The department received a grant from Ohio BWC to purchase particulate-blocking hoods, which will greatly reduce the absorption of carcinogens in firefighters' neck and head area, and each firefighter now has a backup set of turnout gear to facilitate gear cleaning after fires. The daily minimum staffing level remains at 14 suppression personnel, which staffs 4 apparatus. When staffing permits, 15 remain on duty, in which case 2 firefighters staff a dedicated Ladder Truck, bringing the total staffed apparatus to 4 Fire Engines and 1 Ladder.

Training

Responding to a wide variety of emergencies requires expertise in a similarly wide variety of disciplines. Fire suppression, emergency medical care, equipment operation, hazmat, and technical rescue are all topics that are trained upon throughout the year by Findlay firefighters. On the non-emergent side of the department, Fire Prevention personnel conduct public fire safety education, building inspection, and fire investigation, all which require specific and continuing education training to maintain certification.

The training goals for the fire department are high. Each month there is an effort to provide one formal training class in any number of fire/rescue topics, in addition to one formal EMS class. Also there are numerous company- or shift-based training sessions that are assigned, and these are the responsibility of the Captains or the Battalion Chiefs to complete with their personnel. Each member of the 3 specialized teams on the department is also expected to complete additional training related to their specialty. This is in addition to mandatory street school training, preplan scenarios and SOP review.

Each new recruit is also required to complete 40 hours of emergency driver / operator training, which is part of the Firefighter I & II class while at the Ohio Fire Academy and at least 12 practice driving hours in a non-emergency setting once they are assigned to a shift. FFD Officers are also required to complete Fire Officer I & II courses, which total 120 hours.

Training (cont.)

In 2017, the department continued the practice of conducting as much hands-on training as possible in structures slated for demolition. This has been a cooperative effort between the fire department and the City of Findlay and Hancock County. Some of the tactics practiced in these structures are as follows:

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

2017 saw the continuation of a lease agreement between the Findlay Fire Department and the Ohio Fire Academy, where the department's Fireblast live-fire simulator trailer was used by the Fire Academy for training throughout the state. In return, the Findlay Fire Department receives a credit at the Fire Academy to be used at our discretion. This credit can be used for tuition, lodging, and meals at the Academy's Reynoldsburg, Ohio location or for direct-delivery courses here in Findlay.

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 standard 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 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, three water rescue units, 3 utility pick-up trucks, and 3 staff cars are utilized by the department.

The retirement of our part-time mechanic also necessitated a new approach for our in-house maintenance needs. Three firefighters were selected as maintenance technicians for the department and sent to "pump school" to receive Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) certification. The intent is to use these firefighters both on and off duty to address repair orders and preventative maintenance.

The firefighting apparatus of the Findlay FD is improving. Our oldest fire trucks are two 1997 pumpers, one of which will be replaced with a new Sutphen fire engine, with expected delivery in September of 2018. The department also has a 2015 model Rescue Pumper, which is Engine 1. The next anticipated purchase of a fire engine is in 2020, which is intended to replace the other 1997 pumper.

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. A new roof was put on in September 2016 along with the apparatus bay being power washed and painted; new drop tiles were also installed.

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 Hazmat Team trailer and equipment. Through the Findlay Capital Improvement plan, this station received some necessary improvements in 2017. Roof repairs were completed, the radio system was recalibrated and improved, and new building fascia was installed all around the station. This fire station also received an internal modification by our own firefighters, who transitioned the old hose-drying tower into a clean room that houses a turnout gear extractor. This improvement project continues into 2018.

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 3 received a new roof covering in 2016.

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. Station 4 also received some minor modifications in 2017, with the addition of the other turnout gear extractor and dryer. Much work was done internally by our firefighters with the help from other city employees to accommodate this addition.

Incident Profiles

Call volume amounted to 2440 calls in 2017, an increase of 13%. 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:	846	@	34.67%
Station 2:	621	@	25.45%
Station 3:	437	@	19.55%
Station 4:	496	@	20.33%

The numbers above represent the district where the emergency call was located, but it is somewhat misleading. Many of the emergencies the department responds to include multiple trucks from different stations. For instance during a structure fire, all on-duty personnel respond from all the fire stations. This response is the same for any fire alarm activation, unless it is confirmed to be a false alarm. Also, on any vehicle accident response on I-75, the department sends at least two fire trucks to increase the safety of our personnel working in the roadway.

Incident Profiles (cont.)

The following information details the general categories of emergency calls and their percentages in relation to the total number of calls handled in 2017.

# Of Calls	Type of Calls	Percentage
99	Fires	4.06
27	Assist Other Agency	1.11
1469	Medical Assists	60.20
204	Car Accidents	8.36
38	Rescues (Extrication, Water, Etc.)	1.56
124	Hazmat	5.08
48	Good Intent	1.97
113	Burning Complaints	4.63
318	False Alarms	13.03
2440	TOTALS	100%



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:

- Hanco Ambulance
- 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
- Hancock Public Health
- American Red Cross



Specialized Team Response

There are 3 specialized teams within the Findlay Fire Department. Participation is voluntary and members may receive additional training the regular firefighters do not. There is an effort to expand the capabilities and resources of the teams in 2018 with additional personnel.

Technical Rescue – The Technical Rescue Team (TRT) is a group of 13 officers & firefighters who have sought out training in technical disciplines such as high-angle rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, structural collapse, and swift water. This type of emergency response is a low-frequency/high-risk operation. This team is in need of continual training, which is often budget-driven. Firefighter Chris Saldana is the team leader.

Tactical EMS – The Tactical EMS team (TEMS) was created in 2010 at the request of the police department. Fire department firefighter/EMTs are specially-trained in tactical medicine and assist the police department when serving high-risk warrants and hostage situations. Captain Matt Cooper leads this team of 9 firefighters and they participate in training scenarios beside the PD's Emergency Response Team (ERT).

Hazmat Team – Another collaboration with the Hancock County fire departments is the county-wide Hazmat Team. This Type III team is called for hazardous material spills and releases and is trained to the technician level. Firefighter Troy Stoner is the team leader for the team, and 9 other members of the Findlay Fire Department are team members. The county-owned hazmat trailer is housed at Findlay fire station 2.

Fire Prevention

Two firefighters, certified through the State of Ohio as Fire Safety Inspectors and trained in Fire Investigation, make up the Findlay Fire Prevention Bureau. These firefighters are Matt Pickett and Kevin Shenise, designated “FM-1” and “FM-2”.

While both perform fire safety inspections within the City, each inspector focuses on specific facets of the operation. The 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 Kevin Shenise’ primary tasks are building inspections, live fire extinguisher training, life safety education, and code enforcement.

The Fire Prevention Bureau was a target for change in 2017, mainly due to the increasing amount of new construction in the area. An agreement began on January 1, 2017 to mandate that the Wood County Building Department submit all fire suppression plans related to new construction or existing-structure renovation for local review as part of the approval process. This has increased the workload on the fire prevention personnel, but it has also increased our involvement and knowledge of local changes. In the past we may or may not have been provided with these plans prior to Wood County approval. Both Matt and Kevin completed a nearly year-long process to become NFPA-certified Plans Examiners to increase our department’s professional qualifications.

In addition, two of our company officers received certification as Life Safety Inspectors, with the intent to increase this number in the future. The concept is to use the company officers to complete simple building inspections, which will free up the Fire Prevention personnel to focus on the plans review and inspections in larger occupancies.

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

Construction	149	Prevention	462
Existing Structures	246	Re-Inspects	552
Fire Investigations	252	Public Presentations	165
Inspections	594		

Fire Prevention (cont.)



In an effort to further identify known risks to the community, the department has identified High Hazard Occupancies throughout the city. 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 structure's size, complexity and chemical storage. Examples of a high hazard structure would include a school, hospital, nursing home, warehouse and manufacturing facility.

Each company officer is charged with completing nearly 14 pre-incident plans throughout the year. These may consist of a physical site visit, an update of the pre-plan, or a training evolution. In the training evolution the company officer will formulate a pre-plan review, operational plan, and fire ground tactical worksheet. These plans identify means of egress, locate utilities, list chemicals, identify structural weaknesses and provide contact information of key holders.

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 tablet 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 fire prevention partnership between the local Red Cross chapter and the Findlay Fire Department that began in earnest in 2016 continued in 2017. While a planned neighborhood smoke-detector canvass event for fall of 2017 was postponed, it is planned to occur in the spring of 2018.

Instead of the neighborhood canvass event, the Red Cross provided the Findlay Fire Department with smoke detectors to provide free of charge to local residents. Each fire station has a supply of smoke alarms and anyone can request one at any time. These are also carried on the fire trucks, so if the firefighters notice that someone needs one during an emergency, they can leave one with the resident.

Smoke detectors reduce the chances of a fatal house fire by half, and we applaud the Red Cross for their program. We hope to continue this effort in the future.



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.

Public relations and community outreach will continue to be an important aspect of the Findlay Fire Department's efforts going forward.

Station Tours (# of People)	
Station 1	126
Station 2	90
Station 3	0
Station 4	41
Truck Visits (# of People Served)	
Station 1	45
Station 2	566
Station 3	385
Station 4	260
Extinguisher Training (# of People)	
Fire Prevention	625
Firefighter Phil Program	
5 Schools	240
Parades	
5 Parades	6000



EMS Committee

The department has taken an active role of participating on the EMS committee which is comprised of Findlay Police, Findlay Dispatch, Hanco EMS, Blanchard Valley Health Systems and the Findlay Fire Department. Regular meetings 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 helped improve the EMS service that is provided to the citizens of Findlay. The collaboration in 2016 took a step forward and Hanco and the fire department are combining continuing education classes, utilizing Hanco instructors at Fire Station 4.

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

The Findlay Fire Department outlook for 2018 is one of optimism. With the addition of new hires in 2017 and more anticipated in 2018, the staffing levels will be more in line with the city's goals. Changes in fire department policy will result in better command & control on emergency scenes and more responsibility and authority for our company officers.

Capital improvements planned for 2018 are being addressed by the Fire Department and Findlay city administration. The comprehensive firefighter cancer prevention plan will continue and expand even more. Two fire prevention vehicles are slated to be replaced, and mechanic tools will be purchased to increase our capability for our in-house maintenance program. The department plans to hire 3 additional firefighters in January to replace two anticipated retirements in 2018, bringing our total complement to 64 by the end of 2018.

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 firefighters through fire suppression, rescue response, emergency medical service, fire prevention, life safety education, and disaster mitigation. Like any business or organization the Findlay Fire Department's greatest asset is its people!

The department would like to thank the Mayor, Safety Director, local businesses, organizations and the citizens of Findlay for their support and commitment to our first responders.

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