

# ANNUAL REPORT

FINDLAY FIRE  
DEPARTMENT  
2019



MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
EVERY DAY



419-424-7129

720 S. Main Street | Findlay  
[www.findlayohio.com/fire](http://www.findlayohio.com/fire)

Joshua Eberle  
Fire Chief

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF



2019 was a very busy year for the fire department. While our volume of emergency calls was similar to previous years, there were a number of administrative functions throughout the year that made 2019 unique.

First, our recent trend of retirements continued, which necessitated hiring eight new firefighters in 2019. This is a large number for our department in one year; the most since the late 1990s. Hiring new firefighters is a time-consuming process, which includes a Civil Service written test, a physical agility test, background checks, interviews, uniform & gear sizing, scheduling training and other items.

Various promotions took place in 2019 as well. The department was able to budget to fill the Assistant Chief position, which has been vacant since approximately 2009. In addition, two Battalion Chief and four Captain positions were filled. Promotions are also very time consuming. Each promotional test takes approximately 3-4 months from the beginning until the actual promotion. Seven total promotions shows a large change in leadership for our department.

2019 also saw the implementation of a new electronic records management system. The new software platform also includes Findlay Police, Dispatch and Hancock County Sheriff's Office, so that data sharing will be much easier than in the past. This project has taken over a year to implement, and it will take some time to fully realize all the benefits of the new system.

Finally, the conceptual plans for a multi-agency public safety training facility were revealed in 2019. The fire department is taking the lead on this project, but the goal is to include all public safety agencies—fire, law enforcement & EMS—in Hancock County in this project.

2019 was a year of change for our department. One thing that remains constant, however, is our department's commitment to the public. Our firefighters are proud to serve the citizens of Findlay, and we are proud of our city. In the following pages you'll find a summary of our activities from last year, and a general overview of what we do each year. Please look it over, and if you have any questions please contact us in the Fire Administration Office at 419-424-7129.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2019 we saw many achievements that we are proud to have worked through.

- Implemented new software - New World by Tyler Technologies
- Filled Assistant Chief vacancy with the promotion of former Battalion Chief Brian Sanders.
- Promoted former Captains Jeff Rampe & Matt Cooper to fill two vacant Battalion Chief positions.
- Hired 8 new firefighters to replace retirements.
- Promoted former Firefighters Chad Weaver, Dan Thomas, Eric Martin & Matt Morgan to vacant Captain positions.
- Selected Rory Ferguson to fill vacancy in the Fire Prevention Bureau.
- Continued Station improvements: Station 1 (Battalion Chief workstation), Station 2 (appliance replacement), Station 3 (LED lights), & Station 4 (LED lights & new bay heater)
- Enhanced Flood Response Truck (Unit 50) with new LED lights & permanent steps to the truck bed.
- Upgraded the mechanic bay with motor oil dispensing system & storage shelving.
- Replaced 5 aging Automated External Defibrillator. (AED)



# 2019 BUDGET



**\$7,113,382**

## **PERSONAL SERVICES**

This includes wages, overtime, pension, healthcare, etc.

**\$390,025**

## **OPERATIONS**

This includes utilities, fuel, tools etc.

**26%**

## **CITY BUDGET**

Dedicated to the Fire Service.

**2019**

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Installation of exhaust removal systems at all stations

New 2019 Ford F-250 Crew Cab for Battalion Chief Command Vehicle.

Ceiling repair project in Station 4 apparatus bay.



# STATISTICS



## STAFFING

### 65 SWORN PERSONNEL

Includes: 61 Suppression Personnel - Firefighters, Captains & Battalion Chiefs, 2 - Fire Prevention personnel, 1 - Assistant Chief, 1 - Fire Chief + 1 - Administrative Assistant (not sworn)

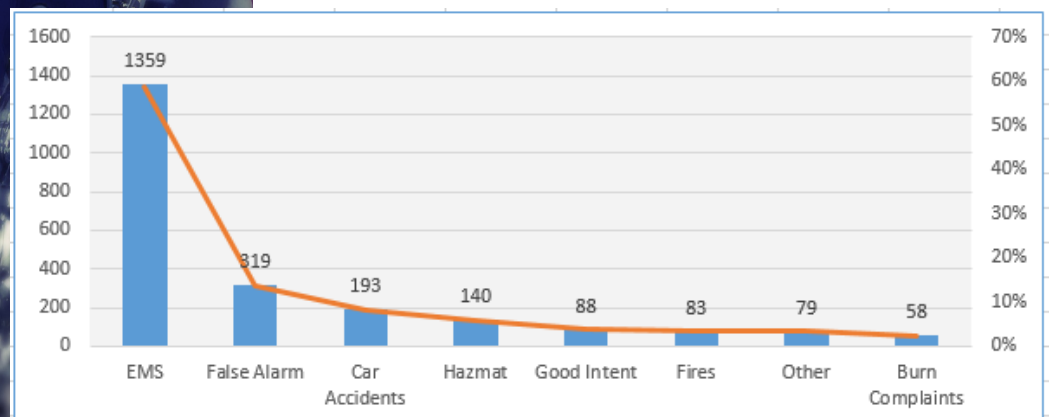
## 15

### AVERAGE DAILY MANPOWER

Of suppression personnel.

## 2319

### CALLS FOR SERVICE



# KPI'S



Our Key Performance Indicator Targets are to meet 5 minutes response time and 70 second turnout time, 90% of the time.

## 4 MINUTES

### **AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME**

Response time is defined as time from alarm at station to arrival on scene.

## 82%

### **RESPONSE TIME FIVE MINUTES OR LESS TARGET ACHIEVED**

## 76 SECONDS

### **AVERAGE TURNOUT TIME**

Turnout time is defined from alarm at station to vehicle in motion to scene.

## 56%

### **TURNOUT TIME 70 SECONDS OR LESS TARGET ACHIEVED**



# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



# 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 Night Out, Flag City Balloon Fest and other various public gatherings.

All stations host many visitors to their quarters throughout the year as well as visiting local schools.

As in years past our team also collaborated with Wal-Mart to bring an extra smile on children's faces. Working together we were able to help fill the needs of 10 children at Christmas with the Shop with a Firefighter program.

*Picture above:* Brandon Craft at Lincoln School's Field Day

*Picture to the Right:* Nick Price & Phil Hindall at Northview School for Donuts with Dudes





# PUBLIC RELATIONS



2019 was the second year that Findlay Fire teamed up with other local agencies to bring Camp 911 to 200 children entering kindergarten in Hancock County.

The group was awarded a grant from the Hancock Leadership Class which helped fund the camp and provided valuable infrastructure that can be used for years to come.

The week long camp had many visitors that taught the kids different aspects of safety. They were also able to participate along side firefighters, police officers for the week; Building long lasting trusting relationships.



*Admin. Assit. Beth Baker teaching at Camp 911*

## 24+ TRUCK VISITS AND CIVIC OUTREACH

From Paradaes to the Balloon Fest, school visits and Move with the Mayor.  
We reached over 2000 community members.

## 450+ PEOPLE CAME TO VISIT A STATION

From Scouts to 4H Groups to Homeschool groups and everyone in between.

# TRAINING

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. There are numerous company or shift-based training sessions that are assigned. On top of this there is an additional mandatory street school training, pre-plan scenarios and Standard Operating Procedures review.

Standard Operating Procedures are defined processes that our department adhere to. This practices are created through national standards and years of experience. They ensure that a task is done the same by two different people. By doing so, this reduces risks the community and firefighters.

Each new recruit is 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 driving hours in a non-emergency setting once they are assigned to a shift.



*Station 4 Pond*



*Ice Rescue Training - Jordan Johnson*

## **Sample list of 2019 training topics:**

Backboarding KED  
Hemorrhage & Bleeding Control  
Obstetrics & Childbirth  
Pediatric Assessment  
Building Construction  
Burns  
Auto Extrication  
Anatomy & Physiology  
Ice Rescue  
Driving Course  
Trauma Informed Care & Wellness



# TRAINING

## 2019 training achievements included:

- 11 firefighters attended State Fire School at BGSU
- Completed two outreach courses, including the first formal class to address firefighter mental health.
- 6 Technical Rescue Team members completed Swift Water Rescue School in South Bend, Indiana. Upon their return the team trained all firefighters and completed hands-on training in water rescue techniques.



13,500+

## FIRE TRAINING HOURS

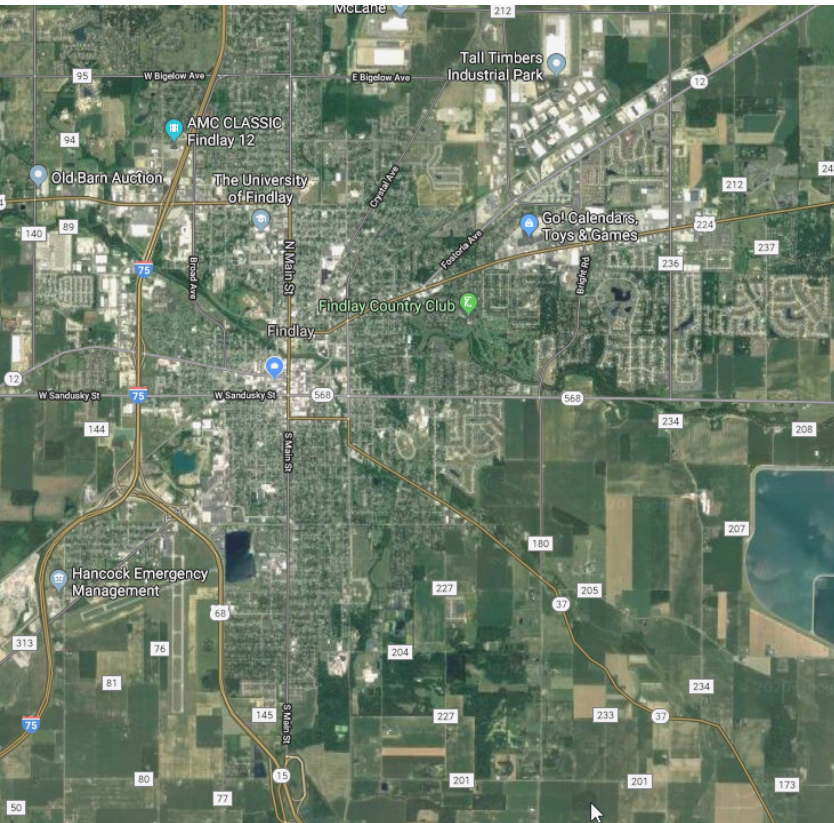
Includes Formal and Informal Training hours.

2000+

## EMS TRAINING HOURS

Formal Hours received through Hanco, VanGuard, In-house instructors and online through 24/7.

# FIRE PREVENTION



In an effort to identify risks to the community, the department has identified High Hazard Occupancies throughout the city. High Hazard Occupancies are defined as a structure of multiple heights, a certain structures size, and chemical storage types by the NFPA. These could include schools, hospitals, warehouses, etc.

Each company officer is charged with completing nearly 14 pre-incident plans throughout the year. These consist of physical site visit, updated pre-plan or a training evolution. Officers are charged with identifying means of egress, locate utilities, list chemicals, identify structural weakness and secure current key holder information.

## Reasons for Pre-Plans:

- Prevent loss of life
- Prevent / reduce exposures to firefighters
- Prevent / reduce loss of property
- Decrease response times



# FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



The Fire Prevention Bureau consists of two firefighters who are certified as Fire Investigators and Fire Safety Inspectors. This team focuses on code enforcement, public fire and life safety education, fire investigations, building inspections and plan review.

The team also participates as a member of the Planning Commission and the Crime Prevention Association. They also conduct educational programs such as live fire extinguisher training and life safety education classes.

## 715+ PEOPLE

### **WENT THROUGH FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING**

From Fast food to Senior care agencies. All took a course to learn how to use a fire extinguisher correctly to save lives and property.

## 215+ PEOPLE

### **PARTICIPATED IN SAFETY PRESENTATIONS**

From school groups to non-profit organizations. All listened to various, fine tuned topics regarding fire safety protocols.



# 2020 OUTLOOK



We are looking forward to a new year serving the community. As in 2019 we will continue to manage our budget and reduce costs as we can. We will continue work on reducing our response and turnout times. Training will continue to be a high priority to make sure all our staff are ready to handle any job that might come our way.

We have narrowed down our other key objectives to make 2020 a great year.

- Explore technology options to improve operations
  - Everbridge
  - Repair Orders & Inventory Software
  - Videoconferencing
- Training
  - 3 Firefighters to attend EMT school at the Ohio Fire Academy
  - Send new firefighters to the Fire Academy
  - Rory Ferguson - training for fire prevention & inspection disciplines.
- Hiring
  - Hire 3 new firefighters to fill known retirements in 2020
- Finalize STRICT Center plan and begin construction of a multi-agency public safety training center.