

# CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Established in 1947 as a volunteer department to protect the southern most portion of Willoughby Township, WHFD has grown in to a full service all hazards fire department proudly serving the residents and visitors of the City of Willoughby Hills and the Village of Waite Hill. The department consists of 10 career and approximately 30 part time members under the direction of Chief Richard A. Harmon. Responding to over 1,700 requests for emergency service annually, WHFD also works closely with neighboring fire departments through automatic and mutual aid agreements and is an active member of the West Lake County Fire Investigation Unit, Lake County Hazardous Intervention Team, and the Hillcrest Technical Rescue



# 2013



# ANNUAL REPORT

It is my pleasure to represent the outstanding members of the Fire Department.

Our goal is to provide exceptional service to those in need. This simple statement guides all aspects of our organization, including personnel, equipment, training, and policy. The result is fast, efficient, and effective service, provided by well-trained, courteous and compassionate emergency responders.

Perhaps more than any other service, the fire department has a direct impact on the quality of life in our community. The equipment, staffing, training and range of services are directly tied to residential and commercial building insurance, economic development, quality of emergency medical assistance, fire protection, education and special services. We are best described as the “department of first resort and the department of last resort.” Because no matter what the emergency or problem, be it fire, EMS or special services. We are proud in the knowledge that our community can continue to count on us to safeguard the health and safety of our citizens.

Richard Harmon, OFE  
Fire Chief



Assistant Chief, Thomas Talcott

Fire Chief, Richard Harmon

### Emergency Services

A modern, highly trained fire department is the most diversified service a city can provide its residents. The Willoughby Hills Fire Department responds to over 1700 emergency incidents each year.

Emergency Services are any incident causing an immediate threat to life, property, and/or the environment. The following partial list, is examples of emergency services responded during 2013

Fire suppression & investigation ~ Emergency Medical Services ~ vehicle crashes & vehicle extrication ~ Hazardous Materials spills ~ Technical Rescue, rope, water, ice, river, etc.  
Smoke/Odor investigations ~ Utility emergencies including electrical, gas, and carbon monoxide incidents

### Service Area (Response District)

The City of Willoughby Hills is the primary response district of the Willoughby Hills Fire Department; we also provide contracted Fire & EMS services to the Village of Waite Hill and have done so since 1976.

Nine communities border Willoughby Hills: Euclid, Gates Mills, Highland Heights, Kirtland, Mayfield Village, Richmond Heights, Waite Hill, Wickliffe, and Willoughby. We have a great working relationship with our neighbors and provide or receive assistance as needed. The Willoughby Hills Fire Department also participates in a statewide mutual aid agreement.

While many fire departments' response districts are limited to certain types of hazards and occupancies, the district covered by the Willoughby Hills Fire Department provides an array of potential incidents. In addition to single-family and commercial occupancies, our district includes many high risks, technical and intensive response and staffing requirements. Some of the more notable response areas are: High-rise apartment buildings, Interstates 90 and 271 North Chagrin Reservation, Chagrin River and its watersheds, and the approach path to Cuyahoga County Airport.

### 1ST DUE RESPONSE DISTRICT

Willoughby Hills ~ Square Miles 10.9  
Population 9,485  
Cleveland Metroparks 2.8

Waite Hill ~ Square Miles 4.3  
Population 470

Total Resident Population 9,955  
Total Area 17.0 Square Miles

### Non - Emergency Services

Services in regard to the well-being or benefit of the community but not classified as an emergency event by definition:

Public assistance (including flood, storm, and lift assists)  
Smoke/Carbon monoxide detector checks and installations

Animal assists and rescue  
Fire Prevention Bureau  
Home fire safety “inspections”  
Community education programs  
Public relations events

Because we never know what the next incident may involve, we plan, we train, we clean, we repair, we inspect. Then we train and train again.

Because of this diverse and dynamic responsibility, it is imperative that our firefighters train every day in order to continue providing safe and effective service to the community. Here is a small list of examples of the types of certifications and training that Willoughby Hills Fire Department members hold and participate in:

- State of Ohio Firefighter certification
- State of Ohio EMS Paramedic)
- State of Ohio Fire Safety Inspector certification
- State of Ohio Fire Instructor certification
- State of Ohio EMS Instructor certification
- National Registry of EMT, Paramedic
- American Heart Association Basic Life Support
- American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- American Heart Association Pediatric Advanced Life Support
- International Trauma Life Support
- Advanced Haz-Mat Life Support
- Advanced Disaster Life Support
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Radiological Monitoring
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Fire Investigator
- Incident Command
- Building Collapse, Confined Space, Dive, Ice, River, Rope, Swift Water, Tower, Trench Rescue (operations-level, technician-level)
- Vehicle Extrication and Rescue techniques
- NFPA Fire Officer courses
- Ohio Fire Executive program OFE
- Various Ohio Fire Academy and National Academy courses
- Various FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS Fire ) courses

RUN DATA		INCIDENTS PER WEEK DAY		PATIENTS TREATED TRANSPORTS	
<b>FIRE ~ TRAPPED</b>		Sunday 211		Cleveland Clinic	
<b>DANGEROUS CONDITIONS</b>		Monday 260		328	
Fire and Hazardous Conditions	376	Tuesday 249		University Hospitals 286	
Service and Investigation	182	Wednesday 249		Lake Health	
EMS ~ Trapped ~ Rescue	1,172	Thursday 273		262	
<b>Total Emergency Responses</b>	<b>1,730</b>	Friday 243		No Transport	
		Sunday 245		202	
				<b>TOTAL PATIENT CONTACT</b>	
				<b>1,078</b>	
1ST DUE DISTRICT ZONES		OCCUPANCY RUNS ~ TOP 5		AID DISTRICT RUNS ~ TOP 5	
East of Rockefeller ~ Waite Hill	1,108	Bishop Park	168	Willoughby	33
West of Rockefeller	593	Cleveland Clinic	143	Kirtland	21
<b>TYPE OF ALARM</b>		Willoughby Hills Towers	135	Richmond Hts	17
Regular	1,480	Pine Ridge Valley	126	Wickliffe	17
Double Hit	243	Interstates	113	Mayfield Village	8
Walk in	7				

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION		INCIDENT RESPONSE PER VEHICLE				
		TYPE	YEAR	UNIT	R	MAKE
Total Personnel	38	SUV	2012	1211	850	Ford
Full time	10	Medic	2006	1212	794	Ford
Part time	27	Medic	2003	1222	593	Ford
ISO Rating	4	Engine	1997	1213	231	Sutphen
		Engine	2012	1214	595	Peirce
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		Tower	2005	1219	54	Peirce
Training		Pickup	2012	1217	104	Ford
2,000+ staff hours		Total Responses			3,221	
Public Relations/Ed		<b>AID GIVEN/RECEIVED</b>				
800+ staff hours		AID TYPE		TOTAL	%	
		Mutual aid received		80	4.6%	
		Automatic aid received		22	1.3%	
		Mutual aid given		82	4.7%	
		Automatic aid given		34	2.0%	

### NEW EQUIPMENT Fire Engine

In early 2013 a new and much needed fire engine was placed in service. The design of the new engine is well suited for the needs of our community. The new design allowed us to replace two older engines with one vehicle. The retired engines were 27 years old and 24 years old.

### 12 Lead EKG & Defibrillators

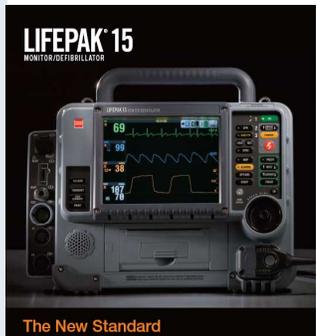
The Fire Department applied for and was awarded \$74,000.00 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The funds were used to purchase two "Life Pac 15" 12 lead EKGs and five AED's. These are the standard of care for the recognition of an acute MI. The additional AED's have been placed in first response units, police cars and within the city buildings, for rapid intervention in the event of sudden cardiac arrest.

### Public Education and Relations

During 2013 over 4,000 people participated in fire department activities or joint events with the greatest recreation department and volunteers anywhere in known universe. The following are some of the key events. Touch a Truck, Winter Fest (Toys for Tots), FD Pancake Breakfast (funds to purchase helmets for the Head Smart Program) Halloween Party, Pat O'Brien Safety Day, WVIZ Dinner, Honor Guard for the Color Run



2012 Peirce Mfg ~ Pumper  
Pumping capacity 1,500 gallons per minute; Jaws of Life, Firefighting foam, Advanced Life Support equipment



### The Color Run Cleveland ~ Willoughby Hills

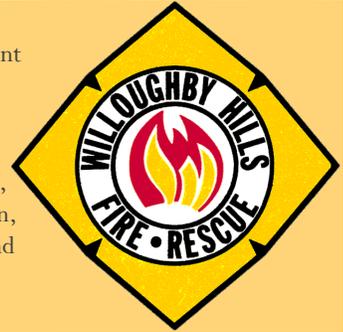
Members of the Willoughby Hills Honor Guard Presented the Colors for the Official Start of the fun... (Oops meant run)  
Leading the 6,000 plus people in the singing of the National Anthem was none other the our very own members of City Council, Ray Somich and David Fiebig, along with Fire Chief Richard Harmon. 6,000 people singing our National Anthem was a wonderful moment for our community.



Congratulations Captain Brian Hric for a well earned retirement after 33 years of dedicated service.

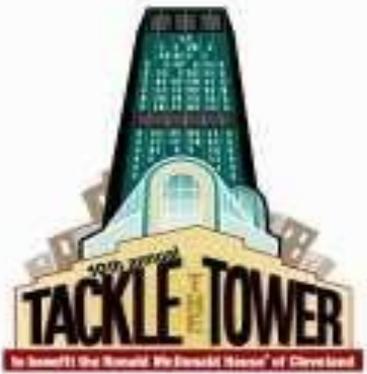
Captain Hric served as the Operations Officer and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of the Fire Department.

Captain Hric had a distinguished career, trained as firefighter, paramedic, arson investigator, Hazardous Materials Technician, maintenance expert and simply put, an exceptional Officer and Firefighter.



Photos by Bridget Gaudet  
WHFD Fire Photographer

Aircraft Crash Training, Burke Lakefront



Tackle the Tower ~ 37 Flights, full gear benefiting the Ronald McDonald House. WHFD Best Participation



Willoughby Hills Firefighter being recognized for their life efforts at the UH Survivors Dinner

Congratulations to our newest Career Member, Jeffery Planisek. Jeff is a professionally trained firefighter and Paramedic. Jeff has a B.A. In municipal mgt and an Associates Degree in Fire Science Technology and a great addition to our staff.



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