

WILLOUGHBY HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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The Willoughby Hills Fire Department proudly serves the residents and visitors of the City of Willoughby Hills, the Village of Waite Hill and a portion of the Cleveland Metropark's North Chagrin Reservation and Manikiki Golf course. Started as a volunteer department in 1947 tasked with protecting the southern end of Willoughby Township, the Department has evolved into an all hazards, first response agency.

The Department consists of nine career members and approximately 20 part time members under the direction of Acting Fire Chief Patricia Heller. Responding to 1,855 requests for emergency service from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, the Fire Department shares resources with neighboring fire departments through automatic and mutual aid agreements. The Fire Department is an active member of the Western Lake County Fire Investigation Unit, Lake County Hazardous Intervention Team and the Heights - Hillcrest Technical Rescue Team.

The City of Willoughby Hills is the primary response district for the Willoughby Hills Fire Department. The Department has also provided contracted Fire and Emergency Medical Services for the Village of Waite Hill since 1976.

Nine communities border Willoughby Hills: Euclid, Gates Mills, Highland Heights, Kirtland, Mayfield Village, Richmond Heights, Waite Hill, Wickliffe, and Willoughby. The Department maintains a strong working relationship with its neighboring departments and provides or receives 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 a variety 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 the Cuyahoga County Airport.

FIRST DUE RESPONSE AREA

Willoughby Hills – 10.8 square miles

Population - 9,450

Waite Hill – 4.3 square miles

Population – 467

Total Area 15.1 square miles

Total Resident Population – 9,917

EMERGENCY SERVICES

A modern, highly trained fire department is the most diversified service a city can provide to its residents. The Willoughby Hills Fire Department responds to a variety of emergency incidents each year. Emergency Services are any incident causing an immediate threat to life, limb, property and/or the environment. The following is a partial list of the emergency services provided by the Fire Department in 2016.

- Fire Suppression and Investigation
- Emergency Medical Services – including vehicle crashes and vehicle extrications
- Hazardous Materials Spills
- Technical Rescue – rope, water, ice, river
- Smoke/Odor Investigations
- Utility Emergencies – electrical, gas, and carbon monoxide incidents

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 installation
- Animal Assists and Rescue
- Fire Prevention Bureau
- Commercial/Home fire safety inspection
- Community Education Programs
- Public Relations Events

TRAINING

Because firefighting carries a diverse and dynamic responsibility, firefighters train every day in order to provide a safe and effective service to the community. The following is a list of the types of certification and training members of the Willoughby Hills Fire Department hold and participate in:

- State of Ohio Firefighter
- State of Ohio EMS Paramedic
- State of Ohio Fire Instructor
- State of Ohio EMS Instructor
- National Registry of Emergency Technician
- National Registry of Paramedic
- American Heart Basic Life Support
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Advanced Stroke Life Support
- American Heart Association Pediatric 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 Investigation
- Fire Investigation Technician (FIT)
- Incident Command
- Technical Rescue both Operational and Technician level – building collapse, confined space, dive, ice, river, rope, swift water tower, and trench
- Vehicle Extrication and Rescue
- Various Cleveland State Courses

- Various Ohio Academy and National Academy Courses
- Various FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) Courses

2016 EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN REVIEW

The Fire Department boasted an increase in call volume in 2016 totaling 1,855 calls for the year. The 189 calls were an 11% increase over 2015 and an 18% increase over 2014. While the “Rescue and Emergency Medical Service” remains the most frequented request, nearly 75%, the department responded to 40 structure fires in 2016. Pre-incident property value for these structure calls were estimated at \$17,293,140. Property loss value was estimated at \$231,900 providing our residents with a property saved value of \$17,061,240.

The following report provides an itemized account of incident type by percentage and run total.

WHAT WAS NEW IN 2016?

The Fire Department added to its firefighter safety equipment, patient care equipment, and emergency alerting system in 2016. The new equipment was either purchased by the Department, financed through grants or donated. It's important to note that some grants may be submitted the year before the award is actually granted. Grant awards may be fully funded or partially funded with the Department required to "pick up" the remainder of the cost.

PATIENT CARE EQUIPMENT

- Two RAD 57 Pulse Oximetry Units - \$1,100.00 Walmart grant – fully funded
*Measures Oxygen Saturation, Pulse Rate, Perfusion Index through motion and low perfusion
- Two EVAC-U-SPLINT vacuum mattresses – purchased
*“provides fast, effective and comfortable immobilization for the entire patient.”
“contours to the patient’s body without applying pressure” - Hartwell Medical
- LUCAS Machine – Donated by University Hospitals Health System
*Provides consistent, quality compressions during CPR

EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM

- Additional 911 Call Box added to the front of the station – purchased
*The additional call box will provide a more visible location for 911 access when passing the Fire Station.

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

- Nine Ballistic Vests - \$4,000.00 Two Wal Mart grants – fully funded

STAFFING

- Hiring of three part-time Fire Fighters
 1. Steven Drop
 2. Jake Foster
 3. Tom Panichi

2017

During the coming year the Fire Department will continue to provide exceptional care to the City's residents and visitors. The following objectives are a brief list of the Departments goals:

- Institute a monthly department training schedule to ensure exceptional on-scene service
- Continue Emergency Medical Training
- Develop a training schedule with "first due" mutual aid departments at "high hazard" areas
- Replace 1997 Sutphen engine
- Install Stryker Cot lift system in second ambulance
- Obtain second LUCAS machine for second ambulance
- Upgrade Department computers enabling crew to download mandated information to State of Ohio EMS – information required to submit for EMS grants
- Replace out dated turnout gear and accessories, SCBA's (currently submitted to AFG for nearly \$290,00.00 with the City contribution of approximately \$14,000.00)
- Increase staffing to ensure appropriate emergency response

The Department is conscious of the financial commitment needed for many of these items and will be exploring various organizations for grant money to help defer the cost.

- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant
- Walmart grant
- Community Development Block Grant
- FEMA AFG (Assistance to Firefighters grant)
- Ohio Department of Public Safety

