

***Brooklyn Fire  
Department  
2012 Annual  
Report***



### **Fire Department Mission Statement**

To provide services to our community in life and fire safety through education, innovation, commitment, and compassion.

### **Fire Department Vision Statement**

Setting the standards of excellence; guided by principles of trust, integrity, honesty, loyalty, and respect for all.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT - CORE VALUES**

### **Professional Excellence**

We believe the pursuit of excellence and demonstrated high professional standards are critical to our work. To ensure the best possible service to our community, the fire department supports continuous training and encourages professional development.

### **Health and Safety**

We believe our health and safety are essential to fulfilling the fire department's mission. We are committed to providing the best health and safety programs for our member's well being and operational readiness.

### **Integrity**

We understand the trust placed in us by the public and our colleagues is integral to the performance of our duties. We are committed to honest and ethical behavior and will hold ourselves accountable to these values.

### **Team Work and Leadership**

We know well functioning teams are more effective than individuals working separately; our lives depend on it. We believe individuals have the capacity to lead and our organization values leadership at all levels.

### **Community Service and Involvement**

We believe we have a duty to be involved in the community where we work. Our responsibility is to protect life, property, and the environment. We are committed to fulfilling our responsibility and to deepening our involvement in the community we serve. No request or inquiry will go unanswered.

### **Innovation**

We recognize and understand that the constancy of change in our community and industry impacts our business daily. We are committed to seeking out and implementing innovation and progressive thinking to address change effectively and efficiently, benefiting those we serve.



### ***THE STORY OF THE MALTESE CROSS***

The badge of a firefighter is the Maltese cross. The Maltese cross is a symbol of protection, a badge of honor, and its story is hundreds of years old. When a courageous band of crusaders, known as the Knights of Saint John, fought the Saracens for possession of the Holy Land, they were faced with a new weapon unknown to European fighters. It was a simple but horrible device of war. The Saracens' weapon was *fire*.

As the crusaders advanced on the walls of the city, they were bombarded with glass bombs containing naphtha. When they were saturated with the liquid, the Saracens threw flaming torches into the crusaders. Hundreds of knights were burned alive while others risked their lives in an effort to save their kinsmen from painful fiery deaths. Thus these men became the *first* firemen, and the *first* long line of firefighters. Their heroic efforts were recognized by fellow crusaders who awarded each other with a badge of honor similar to the cross that firefighters wear today.

Since the Knights of Saint John lived for close to four centuries on the island of Malta, in the Mediterranean Sea, the cross came to be known as the Maltese cross. The Maltese cross is your symbol of protection. It means that the firefighter that wears this cross is willing to lay down his/her life for you, just as the crusaders sacrificed their lives for their fellow man so many years ago. The Maltese cross is a firefighter's badge of honor signifying that he/she works in courage – *a ladder rung away from death*.

February 20, 2013

Honorable Mayor Richard Albier  
Director of Public Safety Edward Chessar  
City of Brooklyn, Ohio  
7619 Memphis Avenue  
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

Dear Mayor Albier and Director Chessar:

The Brooklyn Fire Department's annual report for the year 2012 is hereby respectfully submitted. The following is a compilation of statistics and reports that reflect the activities of the City of Brooklyn Fire Department during the year 2012.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**City of Brooklyn, Ohio**

**Joseph F. Zemek, Chief  
Division of Fire**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The City of Brooklyn Fire Department strives to provide the highest standard of fire response, life safety protection, and emergency medical service in response to emergency incidents; along with the prevention of such incidents through education and awareness.

In 2012 the fire department responded to 722 fire alarms (more than a 9% increase over 2011 responses), and 1702 EMS calls (a 9% increase over 2011 responses) for a combined total of 2424 alarms answered. The total responses in 2012 displays more than an 18% overall increase from 2011.

We continue to maintain a high priority on strengthening our response to severe incidents. We do this through ongoing, and consistent in house training, as well as regional training with our automatic aid and mutual aid partners. Our Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (M.A.B.A.S.) continues to be evaluated and updated for all major incidents, through monthly meetings with all participating agencies, to meet demands. This system preselects mutual and automatic response aid companies in the event of a large incident (and / or need for response to support our normal response with manpower) making it easier on both the incident commander and the dispatcher making the requests. The combination of these two programs will make sure the proper resources reach the scene at the earliest possible time during fires and other severe events.

Emphasis was placed on instituting daily “drills” and training. Daily equipment checks, apparatus inspections, and preventive maintenance were improved with the institution of a training program and vehicle check out sheets.

The Child Safety Car Seat Installation, which was reinstated in 2010, continues to be a successful tool for community public service. The resurrection of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has proven to be an asset to the City’s safety forces with their support in non-emergency roles. We continue to strive to increase the department’s involvement in the community and build a strong awareness on “serving our customers.”

A total of \$365,102.98 was retrieved through EMS billing, for the General Fund. Other monies retrieved, through grants applied for, included:

Over \$9,000 was retrieved through applying for backfill and overtime costs incurred with personnel attending required SERT training. These monies came from a State Home Land Security Grant Fund (SHSGF) and an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant from Cuyahoga County Public Safety Services.

A \$2,500 grant was awarded by the State Division of EMS for medical equipment.

A \$650 grant was awarded by the State Fire Marshal for reimbursement of a mandatory fire inspector's course.

A \$60,616 grant was awarded from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program. This enabled us to purchase new automated external defibrillators for the City's buildings, and replace two state of the art patient care monitor/defibrillators for the EMS units.

A grant was applied for, and awarded, providing the department with six (6) new radios, totaling approximately \$30,000.

A grant was applied for, and awarded, providing the CERT Team with seven (7) new radios, totaling approximately \$2,500.

In 2012 grants were applied for, through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for:

A new engine / pumper (still waiting on outcome)

New Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), I just found out (today 2/20/13) that the Fire Department was awarded the grant for \$136,170 for these.

Three new full-time hires (through the SAFERS Grant), Grant was denied on 2/19/2013

New smoke detectors (to pass out to residents) (still waiting on outcome)

In 2012, Fire loss in the City of Brooklyn totaled \$321,150. There were no firefighter injuries in 2012. There was one civilian injury, during a residential fire, in 2012. Praise goes to the responding personnel for a successful rescue and resuscitation of the involved citizen.



## **2013 CITY OFFICIALS**

RICHARD BALBIER, MAYOR  
EDWARD CHESSAR, SAFETY DIRECTOR  
JOSEPH ZEMEK, FIRE CHIEF  
SCOTT MIELKE, POLICE CHIEF  
JENNIFER ESAREY, FINANCE DIRECTOR  
SCOTT CLAUSSEN, LAW DIRECTOR  
JOHN VERBA, SERVICE DIRECTOR  
EDWARD FITZGERALD, ACTING BUILDING COMMISSIONER  
RITA ENOVITCH, SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR  
MARIA MCGINTY, RECREATION CENTER ACTING MANAGER  
FRAN MIGLIORINO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

## **2013 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

KATHLEEN PUCCI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
KATHERINE GALLAGHER, PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE  
COLLEEN COYNE-GALLAGHER  
ANTHONY DEMARCO  
THOMAS MURPHY  
KEVIN TANSKI  
RONALD VAN KIRK  
MARY JO BANISH, CLERK OF COUNCIL

The Brooklyn Fire Department for the year 2012 consisted of twenty-four (24) total full-time members. Listed below is a breakdown.

- One (1) Fire Chief
- Six (6) Lieutenants
  - 1 of which also functions as a Paramedic and a member of SERT as a Dive Rescue Specialist.
  - 1 of which also functions as a Paramedic and as a member of the Tactical EMS (SWAT Medic), and is certified as a fire inspector.
  - 1 of which functions as a Paramedic and is certified as a fire instructor, fire inspector (in 2012), and is a member of the technical rescue response team with SERT, trained as a Rescue Technician and is on the Five County Region 2 Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR)
  - 1 of which functions as a member of the hazardous material response team with SERT.
- Seventeen (17) active Fire Fighters  
(One of the firefighter/paramedic's remains off on injury leave, and has not worked in 2012)
  - 13 of the 17 active also function as Paramedics
  - 2 of which also function as Paramedics and Fire Safety Inspectors
  - 1 of which also function as a Fire Safety Inspector
  - 1 of which is a member of the technical rescue response team with SERT, trained as a Rescue Technician and is on the Five County Region 2 Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR)
  - 1 of which function also as HAZ-MAT Technicians on the SERT Hazardous Materials Response Team
- There are also eight (8) Part-Time Personnel
  - All are certified by the State of Ohio at the level of Firefighter II and Paramedic.

## **PART-TIME FIRE PERSONNEL**

Part-time personnel assist the fire department by complimenting the fire fighting and EMS staffing. All part-time personnel are state certified level II Firefighters and Paramedics.

In case of an emergency, part-time personnel are notified by a phone text system to report for duty.

A three-hour training drill is conducted every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday along with one eight-hour training session monthly. At these drills, members are instructed in the duties they are required to perform at emergencies and fires.

### **DUTIES PERFORMED**

The duties a firefighter performs during their tour are many and varied. For his/her primary duties of fire and rescue, the firefighter must be well trained and must possess good judgment to cope efficiently with any emergency. Listed below are some of the duties that the firefighters perform:

#### **VEHICLE MAINTENANCE**

All systems are checked and operated daily; oil, fuel, and water are maintained. Minor repairs are performed daily: washing and waxing of all apparatus is done at specific intervals. Performance of vehicles is closely monitored. Restoration work continues on the 1941 fire truck (the second truck ever purchased and operated by the City of Brooklyn, Division of Fire).

#### **EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE**

Fuel, oil, and the operation of all power equipment - saws, generators, fans, lights, and extrication equipment are inspected on a daily basis. All hand tools are cleaned and oiled on specific days. All hose is tested and evaluated annually. All hydrants are flow tested annually.

#### **FACILITY MAINTENANCE**

Minor repairs are done as needed. Washing walls, floors, windows and general maintenance are performed on a daily basis. The entire building is cleaned annually.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Safety Town fire prevention classes are held yearly. Fire Prevention classes are held at all Brooklyn schools. Talks to civic groups are given. Station tours by school groups are conducted as requested. Evacuation demonstrations are conducted using the Smoke House provided by the North-Eastern Ohio Firefighters. Second grade students are instructed in the use of 911 with a simulator.

## **FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS**

All shifts conduct inspections and familiarization tours of all commercial, public, and industrial buildings within the City. Major facilities are pre-planned for fire and rescue response.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

Participation in the Memorial Day Parade

Smoke detectors and batteries were installed in residents' homes and handed out to residents

Fire Department Rescue squads stand-by at all Brooklyn High School home football games

Home safety surveys

CPR / AED Classes taught

Free Blood Pressure checks are performed twice a month at the senior center

Child car seat installations

Monthly CERT meetings

## **RECORDS MAINTENANCE**

Run reports, I.S.O. records, personnel records, certification records and training records are maintained within the department.

## **FIRE AND RESCUE**

Members respond to all calls for assistance:

- Medical emergencies
- Structure fires
- Car fires
- Auto accidents
- Haz-Mat incidents
- Assist police
- Field fires
- Trash fires
- Power lines down
- Flush streets
- Structural damage
- Explosions
- Carbon monoxide
- Home accidents
- In-home assistance
- Smoke detector installs
- Replacement battery installs

## ALARM INFORMATION

MONTH	FIRES	AMBULANCE	TOTAL	FIRE LOSS
JANUARY	63	148	211	0
FEBRUARY	40	125	165	\$1,050
MARCH	50	153	203	0
APRIL	66	125	191	\$4,000
MAY	60	170	230	\$40,000
JUNE	67	139	206	\$1,000
JULY	61	133	194	\$28,000
AUGUST	57	130	187	\$15,000
SEPTEMBER	47	134	181	\$129,600
OCTOBER	90	133	223	\$56,000.00
NOVEMBER	56	139	195	\$45,000.00
DECEMBER	65	173	238	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>1702</b>	<b>2424</b>	<b>\$321,150</b>

### ANSWERED

- Total Fire Runs 722
- Total Ambulance Runs 1,702

**TOTAL RUNS 2,424**

## CAUSE OF FIRE ALARMS

<u>Type of Alarm</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Actual Fires in Structures	24	3.32
Vehicle Fires	11	1.52
Outside Fires	21	2.90
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (no fire)	00	0.00
Rescues and EMS Assist (Extrications, motor vehicle crashes, etc)	384	53.19
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire) (Lines down, gas leaks, flammable liquid Leaks, carbon monoxide incidents, etc.)	109	15.1
Service Calls (lock outs, assist police, open burning, etc.)	36	4.99
Good Intent Calls (smoke odor, cancelled enroute, no cause, etc.)	32	4.43
False Alarms and False Calls	83	11.50
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	10	1.39
Special Incidents (not classified, citizen complaints)	12	1.66

*Mutual aid given for fires 14*

*Mutual aid received for fires 08*

# **APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT**

## **FIRE VEHICLES**

**Tower #1:** 2006 E-One 2000 GPM, 100 ft. Platform, Bronto Skylift

**Engine #1:** 1989 American LaFrance, 1500 GPM pumper

**Engine #2:** 1999 E-One 1500 GPM pumper (this is your frontline/first due pumper)

**Car #2:** 1997 Ford F-150 Pick-up, used by Fire Prevention

**Car #1** 2006 LTD Crown Victoria, now being used by the chief

**Rescue #2:** 2000 Freightliner, Diesel, fully equipped, with telemetry

**Rescue #3:** 2009 Freightliner, Diesel, fully equipped, with telemetry

**It should be noted that:** The average age of all of the fire department's vehicles is eleven (11) years old

**It should also be noted that:** Engine 3 and Car 1 were sold at auction. Rescue 1 was Removed from service

*This year the fire department used 583.6 gallons of gasoline and 4,213.6 gallons of diesel fuel.*



## **VEHICLE MILEAGES**

Engine #1 - 61,030, engine hours = 8238  
Engine #2 - 56,318, engine hours = 110,249  
Tower #1 - 11,156, engine hours = 2,132  
Car #1 - 72,289  
Car #2 - 61,952  
Rescue #1 - OOS, engine hours = OOS  
Rescue #2 - 75,998, engine hours = 10,758  
Rescue #3 - 35,721, engine hours = 3,722

## **EQUIPMENT**

Daily inspection of all vehicles is required.

All equipment is maintained on a regular basis.

All power tools used by the fire department are checked and tested weekly to assure their reliability in emergency situations.

All Hydraulic Rescue Tools are serviced annually by the manufacturer's agent.

All ground ladders and the aerial ladder undergo an annual stress test conducted by a certified testing company.

All SCBA's are tested annually by a certified testing company to assure proper operation of these vital pieces of equipment. All air bottles are inspected semi-annually.

Check lists to assure operational integrity are used on a daily basis. A more intensive quarterly report is completed on each vehicle.

## **HYDRANTS**

Each spring, all the hydrants in the city are flow tested, greased, and repaired.

Throughout the year, any hydrant that is reported as damaged or leaking is immediately checked by the on duty shift and if found to be defective, is reported to the Service Director, who contracts for their repair.

A computerized Hydrant Record system is utilized in tracking each hydrants maintenance history as well as individual water flow capability throughout the city.

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE**

The Brooklyn Fire Department provides emergency Advanced Life Support and transport for all citizens in need. Additionally first responder Basic Life Support is provided by our engine companies.

### **PARAMEDICS**

In 2012 the City of Brooklyn employed seventeen (17) full-time certified Paramedics (18 with the Chief). These paramedics must be recertified every three years. The present recertification program requires that all certified paramedics receive a minimum of 92 hours of continuing education over a three-year period. They must successfully complete and maintain current certification of the American Heart Associations, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Program and the Pediatric Life Support program. Their studies include: Defibrillation, Cardiac Monitoring, Intubation, Intravenous Therapy, Pharmacology, and the administration of Drugs. These skills are taught in various hospitals and at the fire station by skilled medical personnel. These recertification programs will ensure that quality care is being maintained by the Department.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN PROGRAM**

At present, the remaining seven (7) fire fighters are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians. These members are trained to assist the paramedics, while on the ambulance, attending to the injured at a fire scene or any other varied medical emergency that might arise. The present recertification program requires that all certified EMT-Basics receive a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education over a three-year period. They must successfully complete and maintain current certification of the American Heart Association's CPR.

### **PARAMEDIC PROTOCOLS**

The Brooklyn Fire Departments Paramedic Program functions under the medical direction of Dr. Carl Schikowski of Parma Community Hospital.

These protocols are continuously re-evaluated and as needed revised. We must stay current with legal and medical changes in the standards of emergency care. Changes come about from; monthly meetings, training sessions, medical journals, publications, and input from the Brooklyn Paramedics and Hospital Emergency Room personnel. New laws, guidelines and standards are integrated into existing protocols through classes, seminars and practicals. When emergency medical equipment is found to be obsolete it is retired and replaced with state of the art equipment. This continuous monitoring of standards, laws and equipment assures the best possible emergency medical care for the citizens of Brooklyn.

# Types of Ambulance Calls

## 2012

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Abdominal Pains	6	4	2	6	8	6	4	5	8	4	7	5	65
Allergic Reactions	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	7
Animal Bite	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Assaults	2	1	2	3	5	2	1	2	1	1	2	8	30
Back Pain / Injuries	4	2	0	1	2	2	3	1	4	0	3	3	25
Breathing Problems	8	14	8	13	11	3	8	14	21	13	11	7	131
Burns	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	5
CO Poisoning / Haz-Mat	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
Cardiac Arrests	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	4	2	15
Chest Pains	12	10	13	9	9	11	10	13	10	9	9	10	125
Choking	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	7
Convulsions / Seizures	9	5	7	4	5	3	2	0	6	3	5	5	54
Diabetic Problems	4	3	4	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	3	3	33
Drowning	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Electrocutions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Eye Problems	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Falls	18	19	28	10	18	15	13	15	12	10	12	16	186
Headaches	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	2	1	11
Heart Problems	5	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	9
Heat / Cold Emergencies	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Hemorrhage / GI Bleeds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	5
Hemorrhage / Lacerations	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	1	23
Industrial accidents	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ingestion / Poisonings	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	7	18
Mass Casualties on Scene	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	4
Miscellaneous Emergencies	1	1	3	5	3	2	3	5	5	2	7	9	46
Pain Complaints	9	9	7	6	6	9	9	8	5	7	7	2	84
Patient Assist Only	6	6	5	5	5	5	7	5	7	7	8	9	75
Pregnancy / Childbirths	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	5
Psychiatric Problems	6	6	6	5	6	5	7	5	7	7	8	11	79
Respiratory Arrests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sick Person	23	19	28	14	18	15	13	15	12	38	32	24	251
Stab / Gunshot wound	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Strokes / CVA's	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	1	2	1	5	15
Traffic Accidents	11	10	11	12	9	11	11	13	5	10	8	13	124
Traumatic Injuries	6	5	2	2	1	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	31
Unconscious / Fainting	4	5	9	5	8	9	4	6	11	7	7	8	83
Unknown / Not classified	6	2	13	14	43	29	21	3	3	0	0	13	129
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>1702</b>

# Culmination of Ambulance Calls 2012\*

Cancelled enroute:	08
Cancelled prior to response:	18
Cancelled on scene:	07
Dead on scene:	10
No patient found:	26
No treatment required:	90
Patient refused care:	208
Treated, and released:	21
Treated, refused transport:	53
Treated, transported by private vehicle:	09
Treated, Transported by EMS:	1252
Number of patients transported to area hospitals:	

Parma:	730
MetroHealth:	488
Kaiser Parma:	31
Lutheran:	02
Fairview General:	01

## **Mutual Aid for EMS Calls:**

**Given:**        **10**

**Received:**    **49**  
(Our squads busy on calls)

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The Brooklyn Fire Department places a huge emphasis on public relations and public education. We believe the community should be familiar with what the department does and we make a strong effort to be highly visible to interact with our residents. Our 2011 accomplishments in the area of public relations and public education include:

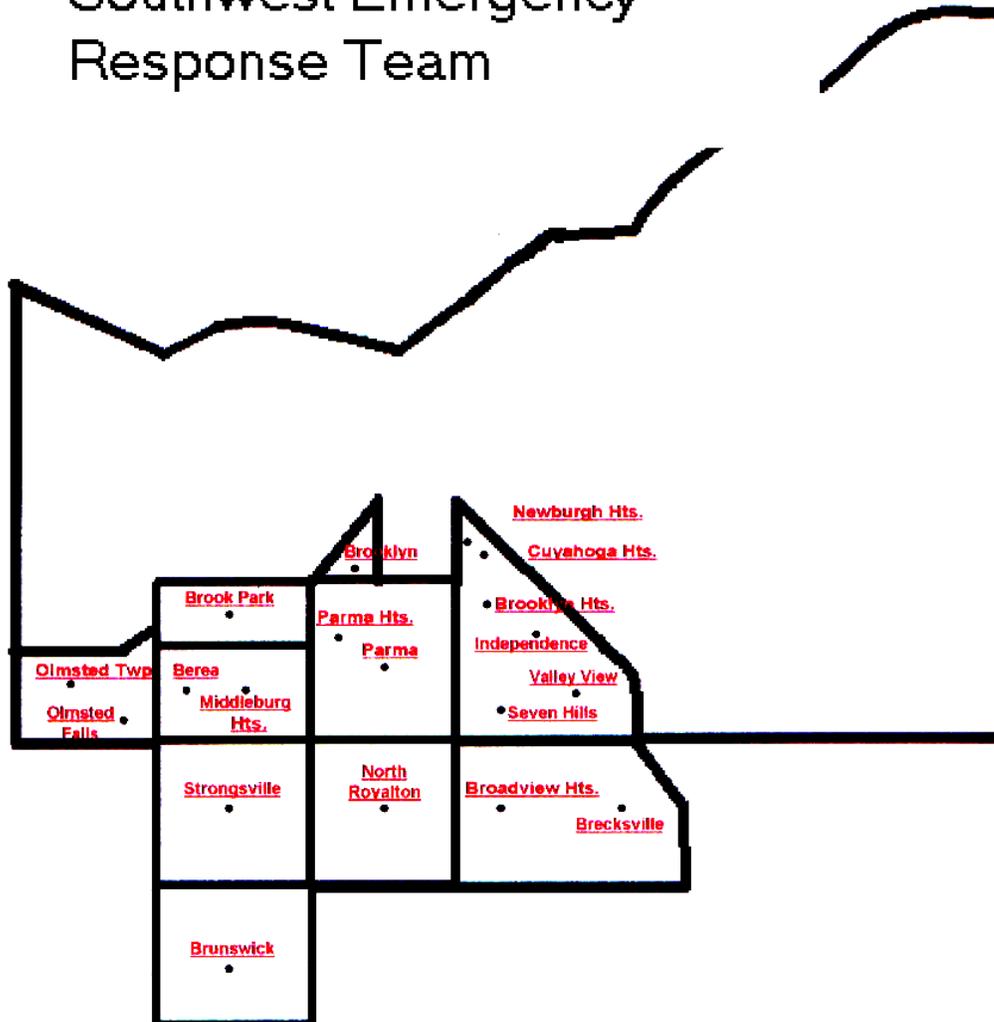
1. Blood pressure screenings were conducted at the Senior Center every second and fourth Thursday of each month.
2. Smoke detectors and replacement batteries were distributed / installed to residents upon request.
3. Fire and Tornado drills conducted at all area schools, Key Bank
4. Career Day lectures for fifth graders at Brookridge
5. Fire Prevention demonstration held at Home Depot
6. Safety lecture conducted for children and parents regarding Halloween Safety
7. Attended block parties to promote fire safety
8. Participated in Safety Town graduation
9. Fire Safety Smoke House participation for third graders
10. Child care, foster home, and residential inspections
11. Fire station tours are conducted for various organizations throughout the year.
12. A fire station open house and pancake breakfast was held, and well attended.
13. Fire safety classes for kids who baby-sit are held at the Brooklyn Library.
14. Conducts a drinking and driving vehicle crash demonstration prior to Brooklyn High Schools prom once every two years.
15. Members are present at all public assembly events to insure the public's safety.
16. Child safety car seat installations.

## SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The City of Brooklyn is active with 18 other neighboring cities to provide various emergency services that each city by itself cannot afford to invest the time and equipment necessary to provide adequate response. Through this partnership, the Southwest Region of Cuyahoga County has available to it, a regional hazardous material team, a regional technical rescue team, a dive rescue team, and a fire investigation unit. The Brooklyn Fire Department provides manpower to these units as well as Tactical Paramedics to support the Police SWAT unit.

The Brooklyn Fire Department's SERT members were called out on *thirteen (13)* separate incidents in 2012.

### Southwest Emergency Response Team



# **BUREAU OF FIRE SAFETY/PREVENTION**

## **2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

The mission of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to decrease the occurrence and severity of uncontrolled fire, increase occupant safety, and reduce property loss. This goal is achieved through fire safety inspections, code enforcement; issuance of violation notices and citations, public education, building plans review, pre-planning, and fire cause and origin investigation.

Under Ohio Law Chief Zemek assumes the duties of the Fire Marshal with the support of three shift inspectors, (one on each of the three shifts), and one Lieutenant (Lt. Kevin Paul), who has assumed the duties of overseeing the operations within the fire bureau. These dedicated inspectors (Firefighter/EMT Edward Kriausky, Firefighter/Paramedic Kenneth Beck, and Firefighter/Paramedic Kelly Gallagher) perform fire safety inspections in a wide variety of business and commercial occupancies, as well as maintaining their responsibilities as shift firefighters and paramedics. Our lack of responses to serious fire related issues speaks loudly of their hard work and dedication. The Fire Prevention folks dealt with **seven hundred and forty-four (744)** Fire Prevention related issues in 2012. **\$850** was generated through fire alarm permits being issued.

The FPB recognizes the importance of fire protection systems that provide detection, alarm, and notification of a fire while in the very early stage of development, and works to ensure that new constructions, as well as existing systems are operating properly. Life safety systems such as exit lighting, emergency lighting, means of egress, etc. are also inspected and tested, with Orders to Repair issued when necessary to ensure reliability. In buildings that lack a fire protection system, inspections are focused on reducing the risk of a fire accidentally starting.

Public education, especially for school age children, is also a priority. Fire and severe weather/tornado drills were held at all schools. The “Smoke House” was demonstrated to all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders; Firefighter Gary Husak continues to do an extraordinary job in arranging these drills (and the use of the fire safety house) every year for our community’s children. Various other lectures and demonstrations were given to interested groups.

## **BROOKLYN VOLUNTEER CORPS.**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was successfully resurrected in 2011. Brooklyn has a very rich history of being the first ever community in Northeast Ohio to have formed a CERT group. Other communities followed and patterned their CERTs using Brooklyn's model.

Presently the CERT group consists of twelve (12) active Brooklyn citizens. This group proved their professionalism in the call-out for the storm (Hurricane Sandy) in late October. Their help was invaluable.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Education and Training are an important and essential part of every Brooklyn Firefighter's workday. It is through Education and Training that firefighters stay current with new techniques, skills and practices. Training enables firefighters to respond with confidence to handle emergency situations. Proper training enables firefighters to perform tasks at a high level of proficiency and competency.

Daily training sessions are conducted by the department and also by outside agencies. These drills and exercises are recorded, documented, and kept on file for future I.S.O. inspections.

During 2012, a training consortium and relationship continued between Brooklyn, Parma, and Parma Heights Fire Departments to better facilitate joint training. It has since grown to include seven cities with the addition of Brooklyn Heights, Seven Hills, Broadview Heights, and North Royalton. Training topics are researched and presented on a rotating basis by each city.

In addition to the traditional in-house training program, a large emphasis is placed on additional outside training. This allows the fire department to gain additional knowledge from not only firefighting instructor's state wide but also local business and industry. Outside training classes held in 2012 included monthly joint fire training with Parma Fire Department. Cuyahoga Community College hosted numerous "live fire" trainings utilizing the burn evolution trailers from Parma Fire Department.

All active inspectors attended mandatory monthly training throughout the year, as well as special seminars.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

A library is maintained for all members, containing pamphlets and books from various agencies. Including, but not limited to, American Heart Association, ACLS and PALS, International Trauma Life Support, and Fire Essentials books.

